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in lieu of war compensation



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Saudi king in Russia with oil, investment, Syria on agenda

Iran, Turkey vow to halt Iraqi Kurds' secession



RIYADH/MOSCOW/ANKARA/TEHRAN: The leaders of Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world's biggest oil exporters, are expected to discuss cooperation on oil production and differences over Syria and Iran today during the first visit to Moscow by a reigning Saudi monarch. King Salman arrived in Moscow late Wednesday. A slew of investment deals, including on a liquefied natural gas project and petrochemical plants, could also be signed during King Salman's trip and plans for a \$1-billion fund to invest in energy projects are likely to be finalized.

The visit, including talks in the Kremlin with President Vladimir Putin, reflects a rapid deepening of ties between Russia and Saudi Arabia, driven by a mutual need to stem a drop in global oil prices. The two countries helped secure a deal between OPEC and other producers to cut output until the end of March 2018, but back competing sides in Syria's civil war. Riyadh supports rebels fighting President Bashar Al-Assad's forces while Russian troops and Iranian militias have sided with Assad.

Continued on Page 11

MP urges debate over scrapping petrol hike

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari yesterday began collecting signatures of other lawmakers on a request to debate a report by the financial and economic affairs committee over scrapping the hike in petrol prices. Kandari demanded in his request that the report of the committee be debated urgently and approved during the National Assembly's opening session of the next term on Oct 24.

The government raised the petrol prices last year by up to 80 percent, and

its decision was met with strong opposition by the previous Assembly and later by the current Assembly elected in Nov 2016. The government utilized a loophole in a law issued in 1995 that bans the government from raising prices of charges on public services, except all types of fuels.

Several months ago, a number of MPs submitted an amendment to the law to plug the loophole by making any increase in fuel prices to be carried out in accordance with the law and after the approval of the Assembly. An attempt to get the government decision scrapped by court has failed, after top courts rejected the move.

Meanwhile, Islamist MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei yesterday sent a series of questions to Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh about reports of an imminent merger between two Islamic banks. Tabtabaei asked the minister if the two banks have submitted an application for their impending merger either to the Central Bank or the Capital Markets Authority.

Continued on Page 11

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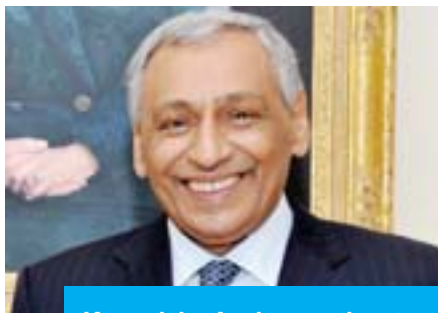
KUWAIT: The new Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Piet Heirbaut presented his credentials to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday.

UK plays integral role in Middle East stability: Duwaisan

MANCHESTER: The United Kingdom plays an integral role in maintaining stability and welfare in the Middle East region, said Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan yesterday. In statement on the sidelines of a dinner banquet gathering Arab diplomats and British officials, Ambassador Duwaisan affirmed that the event was a good chance to convey Arab views in regards to the Palestinian cause as well as other issues of regional importance.

The Arab world and the UK share "unique historical" relations that would facilitate the exchange of views on issues of grand importance, said Ambassador Duwaisan who hoped that regional crises in the Middle East will be solved in a peaceful and just manner.

UK Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa, Alistair Burt said that his country was keen on coordinating



Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan

efforts with the Arab world to sustain peace and security. Burt affirmed that Britain was also hopeful to take cooperation with the Arab world to the next level, adding that there were various opportunities to develop relations post EU pullout in 2019. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the newly appointed under-secretary at the ministry Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah as well as Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares. Furthermore, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received the newly elected Director of the Arab League Education, Culture, and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) Dr Saud Al-Harbi. In the meantime, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour, Dr Mohammad Al-Fares and Dr Saud Al-Harbi.

Condolences

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of condolences to Iraq's President Fuad Masum and Prime Minister Dr Haider Al-Abadi. His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow over the death of former President Jalal Talabani. His Highness prayed



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the newly appointed undersecretary Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon the deceased, place him in his heaven, and inspire his family with patience and solace. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to Iraq's Speaker of the Council of Representatives Salim Al-Jabouri. — KUNA

Kuwait keen on achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals



Advisor of the Kuwaiti permanent mission in the UN Nawaf Al-Ahmad



Diplomat at the Kuwaiti permanent mission in the UN
Sarah Al-Zouman

NEW YORK: Kuwait is keen on achieving the UN development goals through its efforts in supporting economic cooperation with regional and international partners as well as via reaching social welfare for all societies, a number of Kuwaiti officials said yesterday.

Speaking at the second economic meeting held within the 72nd UN General Assembly, Advisor of the Kuwaiti permanent mission in the UN Nawaf Al-Ahmad said that Kuwait was keen on partaking in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. He noted that despite his country's small stature, Kuwait was keen on holding conferences and events by the UN aimed at speeding up global development, enhancing economic cooperation amongst nations, and also helping people overcome humanitarian as well as natural crises.

Ahmad indicated that Kuwait continued to provide around 2.1 percent of its national income to help in the development of around 106 countries. He called on developed nations to abide by its com-

mitments to provide 0.7 percent of its national income for the cause of global development. Touching on Kuwait's national development plans, Ahmad said that the country's highest authority had launched the Kuwait vision 2035, a strategy aimed at transforming the country to a highly developed nation. He noted that there were around 279 projects within Kuwait's development plan with 25 projects done, 152 projects underway, and 91 in preparation phase. Meanwhile, diplomat at the Kuwaiti permanent mission in the UN Sarah Al-Zouman stressed the importance of social development of SDG,

No nation would be developing without taking care of its human resources, said the Kuwaiti diplomat who indicated that cultivating the needs of global youth will help the UN achieve its goals. Kuwait took heed of this important factor and included it in its vision 2035, affirmed Zouman. She revealed that all sectors of Kuwaiti society were under the care of the government, which is keen on social welfare and development. — KUNA

Kuwait Times

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Local

Only govt can cancel fees' increases

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The ministerial health and social affairs committee said increasing fees for various services, such as health services for expats and the fuel price increase and others, were only up to the government to decide and that no other party has the right to discuss or call for cancelling them. Sources within the committee stressed that suing the government to cancel the fees is everybody's right and that the judiciary had already issued a verdict about the fuel price increase and that the same is expected concerning the health fees. "The government has thoroughly studied these health fee increases and came up with the decision to increase them with some exceptions," the sources stressed, noting that the Ministry of Health is authorized to cancel such exemptions or exceptions in the future, except for bedoons, domestic helpers and Kuwaitis' spouses and children.

Education reform

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) educational sectors are currently going through a number of structural reforms to meet changing market demands. Speaking at the Gulf International Schools Forum in Dubai, PricewaterhouseCoopers' education manager Roland Hancock stressed regional educational sectors have to

undergo five main changes, emphasizing the links between major ministries seeking the provision of interconnected services and focusing on early education. Hancock also said that GCC states depend on increasing private sector contributions, including public-private-partnership education projects.

Head of Middle East and India Research at ISC Research Nalini Cook said the UAE was ranked first amongst regional countries in terms of the number of international schools, followed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Kuwait. Cook also said that UAE came first in the total number of students registered in English-speaking schools, with around half a million students. She added that regional international school fees were around \$8,000, with an average of \$7,747 in the UAE, \$6,325 in Saudi Arabia, \$8,069 in Kuwait and \$9,235 in Qatar.

Pharmacists' demands

Manpower and Government Restructuring Program's (MGRP) Secretary General Fawzi Al-Majdali met a delegation from the Kuwait Pharmacists Society for the second time in three weeks to discuss a number of topics related to Kuwaiti pharmacists' demands and rights in the private sector. The society's secretary general Ali Hadi said the meeting focused on discussing co-ops' condition to only hire male pharmacists to work in pharmacies located in various co-ops, in an attempt to cancel it to achieve gender equality, especially since females make up two-thirds of newly-graduated pharmacists. Hadi said the meeting also discussed job opportunities for Kuwaitis in various pharmacies and setting a minimum salary for Kuwaiti pharmacists in the private sector in order to encourage more of them to move from the public to the private sector.

Kuwait's Public Authority for Manpower, pointed out that labor recruitment can only be productive with cooperation between exporting and importing nations.

On the ILO meeting, he said that Kuwait and Egypt are exploring labor opportunities using "new and unconventional methods," where both countries have formed ad hoc committees to inspect new labor systems. Ali added that Kuwait continues to revamp guidelines to recruit expatriate workers from countries such as India and Sri Lanka. The two-day ILO meeting delves into labor recruitment in the Middle East, including strategies to curb illegal practices in that field. — KUNA

Kuwait eyes efficient labor recruitment

BEIRUT: A Kuwaiti official said yesterday that his country has made significant progress in foreign labor recruitment, which proves beneficial for exporting and importing nations alike. Speaking on the sidelines of an International Labor Organization (ILO) meeting, Jaber Al-Ali, the head of international relations at

Ooredoo announces partnership with Flying Start Triathlon Kuwait



(From left) Hamed Al-Hazim, Ahmad Al-Majed, Yousef Al-Shallal, Sarah Al-Qabandi and Ahmed Al-Huzami.

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait announced its strategic partnership of the tenth edition of the Flying Start Triathlon at a press conference held yesterday at its headquarters in Kuwait City as a testament to its support of Kuwaiti youth and athletes.

The triathlon will take place during the weekend on October 27th and 28th at Green Island. The activities will be launched on October 27th and will include exciting activities such as swimming, running, and biking.

Commenting on this, CSR, Sponsorships and Social Media Senior Manager at Ooredoo Kuwait Yousef Al-Shallal said: "This strategic partnership goes in tandem with our belief in supporting youth initiatives and athletes in Kuwait. We are proud to be sponsors of the Flying Start Triathlon, and we wish all the participating athletes the best."

"After following triathlons for a while now, especially after our sponsorship of Kuwaiti champion Abdulaziz Al-Rashed, we noticed that there is a great deal of engagement from the youth in these types of athletic activities," Shallal added.

Also commenting on this, CEO at Provision Sport

Management, Ahmed Al-Huzami said: "We consider the strategic partnership between Ooredoo and Provision as ideal due to its leadership position in the private sector and its support towards the youth. We are looking forward to a long relationship with Ooredoo."

CSR and Sponsorships Manager at Ooredoo Kuwait, Sarah Al-Qabandi reiterated the company's dedication and support towards the youth segment and she praised Ahmed Al-Huzami and Ahmad Al-Majed's passion towards this sport.

Commenting on this partnership, Executive Manager at Provision Sport Management, Ahmad Al-Majed said: "We consider the triathlon to be the biggest races in the Middle East, and our goal today is to create a new sports culture built on ethics, discipline, and sportsmanship. We are expecting 600 participants this year from all over the world to join us in the tenth edition of the Triathlon. It is also worth mentioning that we have added two new segments to the sport, which are the children's segment and the beginner's segment. The aim of adding the aforementioned segments is to give everyone the opportunity to participate in this sport."

detectives discovered 15 closed companies that were sponsoring 110 laborers. Case papers indicate that detectives were tipped off concerning a number of companies that were officially closed down but still had commercial licenses, which they used to sponsor 110 employees. Further investigations revealed that the companies were fake, and accordingly, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's inspection department was contacted to take proper measures against those companies.

Fake companies sponsor 110 workers

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's relations and security media department said residency affairs

Kuwait, Iraq mull gas for compensations swap

Kuwait ready to host forthcoming GCC summit

KUWAIT: Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq unveiled that talks are going on between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi governments over a proposal to barter the remaining war compensations for Kuwait with gas supplies from Iraq. "Part of the talks is related to a proposal to import Iraqi gas," the minister told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held by the German embassy in Kuwait to mark their national day.

Marzouq, also Minister of Electricity and Water, said that the two sides are negotiating the price of Iraqi gas. He projected that the Kuwaiti imports of Iraqi natural gas would start with 50 million cubic feet and then the imports would increase to reach 200 million cubic feet. He added that an agreement in this regard would be signed soon.

Common understanding

Kuwait hoped Tuesday it would reach a common understanding with Baghdad over options to pay \$4.6 billion, the last payment of compensations of damage caused by Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The Geneva-based UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) approved request by Kuwait and Iraq to extend compensation payment negotiations for two months, to allow both countries reach an agreement over payment options, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah told reporters while attending the reception.

Jarallah said the approval was a "positive" sign, "and we are confident we will reach a common understanding with the Iraqis regarding the possible payment options." The options are the sale of natural gas at an "agreed price" between the two countries, negotiating the decrease of Iraqi oil and derivative imports, lessening the dues according to the Paris Club sustainable solutions or transforming the amount to a bilateral debt.



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah (center right) attends the German embassy's national day ceremony. — KUNA

However, said Jarallah, the natural gas sale option was "the most preferable."

GCC summit - Al-Jarallah

Meanwhile, Jarallah indicated that Kuwait is ready to host the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit next December, hoping that the high-level meeting would be held on time. "There are no contacts with the leaders of the GCC about convening the summit, but naturally we are ready

for it and hope it will convene on time," Jarallah told reporters.

Asked about Kuwait's mediation to solve the Gulf dispute, Jarallah said "the mediation by Kuwait is ongoing and will continue until we see an end to this dispute." Jarallah, meanwhile, described Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz's upcoming visit to Russia as "historic and important." This is the first visit by a Saudi King to Russia, he said, and it would benefit security of the region. — KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), spotted in Jahra Pools Nature Reserve, is a bird of prey and one of the largest species of Buteo. Its length can range from 50 to 66 cm and wingspan from 115 to 160 cm. —KUNA photo

Early breast cancer diagnosis raises recovery chances to 80%

CAN spreads breast cancer awareness

By Abdellatif Al-Sharaa

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of the National Campaign for Fighting Cancer (CAN) Dr Khalid Al-Saleh said early diagnosis is the best way to fight breast cancer especially that discovering it in the first or second stages raises recovery chances to over 80 percent. He said the main message of CAN to women is that "you hold your fate in your hands and can rescue yourself by early diagnosis and recognizing symptoms of the disease."

Dr Saleh was speaking during a press conference held Tuesday to launch the 'You Deserve Our Care' campaign for fighting breast cancer. He hoped that the current 40 percent of early diagnosis can be increased significantly in the coming future.

The CAN campaign, which began its activities nine years ago, includes more than 12 initiatives to spread awareness of various types of cancer, Dr Saleh said. It also focuses on changing the negative social stigmas about cancer, spreading awareness about its risks and causes which include smoking and unhealthy nutrition, as well as the importance of early diagnosis. The campaign also highlights the important role each of these topics play in the success of any treatment plan.

Dr Saleh further credited the Ministry of Health for providing all necessary means to carry out early diagnosis, which are available for both citizens and expatriates. The min-



istry has designated five medical centers for this purpose.

Meanwhile, CAN Board Member Dr Hussa

Al-Shaheen said the current campaign will continue until October 27, 2017, and will be concluded with a horses parade on Arabian

Gulf Road, then a lecture will be presented to patrons of the army officers' club. Dr Shaheen urged women who are above the

age of 40 to go for early diagnosis so that she can be cured completely if she was diagnosed with cancer.



Kuwaiti surgeons perform rare heart pump transplant

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti surgical team, assisted by a German team, performed the first surgical operation in the Middle East to transplant an artificial heart pump with a minimal invasive technique. Head of the surgery team at Sulaiman Al-Dabous Heart Center, Dr Riad Al-Tarazi, said that with the help of a German team from Hanover University, the artificial heart pump was successfully installed for a Kuwaiti patient in his fifties who was suffering from severe failure in heart function and blood circulation.

He added that the operation was conducted in a unique minimally invasive technique, which is the first of its kind type of operations to be performed in the Middle East.

This technique helps to avoid the complications associated with the traditional surgical method and



KUWAIT: The team of Kuwaiti and German surgeons who conducted the operation. —KUNA

helps the patient recover faster, he said. He added that the patient is currently in the intensive care unit in Dabous center, pointing out that ventilators have been removed in less than 24 hours from the conclusion of the surgery. —KUNA

KFH launches 'Make Your Life Rosy' campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched Breast Cancer Awareness campaign themed 'Make Your Life Rosy' in collaboration with the Kuwait Cancer Control Center and Al-Salam Hospital. This comes as part of the bank's social responsibility and efforts to increase awareness about breast cancer.

The campaign that coincides with the World Breast Cancer Awareness Month included a variety of awareness events and special discussion sessions to spread awareness among



women in the society. Moreover, KFH presented a number of awareness programs in social media platforms.

It is worth noting that KFH takes part in all relevant awareness campaigns such as diabetes and heart

diseases. The bank inks agreement with respective bodies locally and globally in a bid to coordinate and bolster efforts that aim at preventing Kuwait society from the serious impact of these diseases.

Al-Anbaa

Um Saleh's golden chair

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

I belong to the old generation who suffered from high expenses of marriage when the state only gave KD 2,000 as marriage allowance, half of which as a gift and the other as a loan to be collected through KD 10 installments. At that time, most expenses went to precious items a groom had to purchase such as six large pieces of golden jewelry and a piece of furniture known as "Jaber's Chair," which was very comfortable especially to the back. Yet, that golden chair usually broke the backs of newly wedded grooms due to its cost.

Thanks be to Allah, I have a very wise and cooperative wife who is worth all the costs I paid for our marriage. She never hesitated to allow me

Lawmakers who made such proposals are seeking voters' satisfaction

to sell a piece of those precious jewelry I had bought her whenever I needed money. The last of those precious items I had to sell was the same one that broke my back when we first got married. I promised to make it up to her when days got better and since then, my poor wife has been waiting for that day to come for years now. "Am I not enough compensation for you." I always tell her whenever she inquires about her golden chair.

That chair came to my mind while I was reading a statement made by Hamad Al-Humaidhi, Director of the Public Institute for Social Security, saying that MPs' suggestions to reduce the maximum age of retirement would cost the state budget around KD 4 billion. I know for sure that lawmakers who made such proposals are seeking voters' satisfaction which would keep them in their offices and protect their parliamentary 'seats'.

I only wish they had asked themselves if maintaining their own seats was worth costing the budget losses worth billions of dinars. They ought to learn a lesson from my story with Um Saleh's golden chair as she sacrificed it in order to keep our life together. May Allah save those who would give up their positions for public interest and not those who would sacrifice Kuwait for the sake of a seat or chair. —Translated by Kuwait Times



‘Naked’ Jleeb woman escapes abusive sponsor

KUWAIT: An Ethiopian woman was sent to the psychiatric hospital to evaluate her condition after she was found naked in a Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh street. A security source said the woman was on the ground unconscious, with people around her. Officers covered her up, and the woman later told investigators that her sponsor, an Arab teacher, was mistreating her, and this made her hysterical and she ran out naked.

Under the influence

A car carrying two citizens collided with a traffic sign on Fahaheel Road, and the two fell unconscious

after the accident. Police patrols later arrested them for being under the influence of drugs. They also had the drug 'chemical,' a local variety of Spice (synthetic marijuana) with added chemicals, on them, and one of the suspects was found wanted on 11 various cases. A passerby saw the car rammed against the pole with its lights on, so he called the police. Both were sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Drunk man arrested

A citizen was walking with an imported bottle of liquor and waving it in front of motorists. He was arrested and sent to Naeem police station. The man was drunk and harassed people before his arrest.

KD 600 stolen

An Egyptian man lost KD 600 he had saved to send to his family. The man withdrew the money from his bank account, then went home to get the account number to transfer the funds. He returned to his car 30 minutes later to find out that the window was broken and the money was gone. Detectives are investigating. — Translated from the Arabic press

Al-Qabas

Where are the Kuwaiti nurses?

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) aims at providing national technical and professional labor to meet the needs of development in the country in all fields, and in order to achieve progress and prosperity for the state. Among the goals of the authority is to improve the Kuwaiti youth, who are the hope of tomorrow, and on who we rely to build our country. This is done by preparing qualified national labor for the middle technical and professional labor levels that Kuwait needs, and who can compete with expat labor in many production and service sectors where they can bear their national responsibilities in social and economic development.

This can be found in the authority's website and its close to being a chitchat than real, as nothing was achieved from what is mentioned over half a century. PAAET is considered the most failing government entity in its work, and was the reason behind the occurrence of educational catastrophes, administrative corruption and waste of millions of dinars, without succeeding in reaching any of its goals. The nursing institute which belongs to the authority is one of the examples of failure.

This college was opened in 1962 under the name of the 'college of nursing.' It used to be part of the health ministry, under the supervision of the Education Ministry, before being put under the applied education sector in 1988. This college did not succeed after 50 years of graduates in providing the medical service with any significant needs of the state from nurses of both genders. It is rare to find a Kuwaiti nurse who works in an actual nursing house. Joining the institution was only a ladder to get a qualification in a short period of time and get a higher salary.

Where are the Kuwaiti nurses? Why do we still see Indian nurses paying up to KD 10,000 per person to get a job in Kuwait? Bearing in mind that tens of thousands have been appointed based on this corrupt system, and all those who work in the health ministry know the truth of this matter for years, and the reason is that the Indian nurse happily pays such a huge amount because the salary for three years for example is nearly KD 40,000. In addition, the training they get in hospitals qualifies most of them to get jobs in European and American hospitals. This issue caused a silent crisis between the Indian and Kuwaiti governments. It was the subject of a parliamentary question, and one of the corruption aspects that surrounded one of the former health ministers. We cut the story short and say we are with the society's call to strike if the rights of the Kuwaiti nurses are not served, but before that, where are the Kuwaiti nurses? —Translated by Kuwait Times

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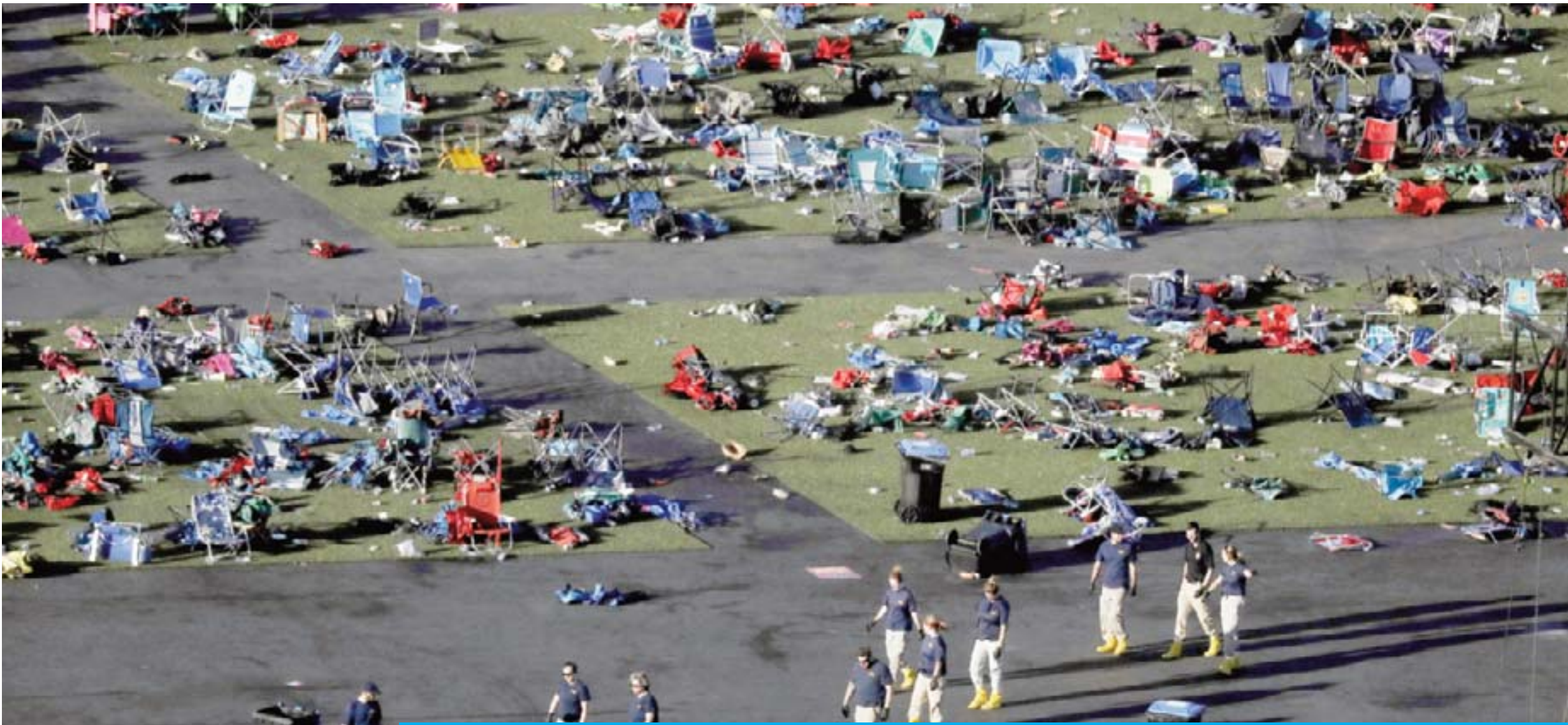


All 3 billion Yahoo accounts ‘hacked’ in 2013 data theft

Prankster, coughing fits mar Theresa May’s speech

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LAS VEGAS: Investigators work at a festival ground across the street from the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Authorities said Stephen Craig Paddock broke windows on the casino and began firing with a cache of weapons, killing dozens and injuring hundreds at the music festival on Sunday. — AP

Gunman wired \$100,000 to partner in Philippines

Las Vegas gunman’s girlfriend returns to US for questioning

LAS VEGAS: The Las Vegas gunman's girlfriend, back in the United States after a weekslong trip abroad, will be at the center of the investigation into the shooting deaths of 59 people as authorities try to determine why a man with no known record of violence or crime would open fire on a concert crowd from a high-rise hotel. Stephen Paddock's girlfriend Marilou Danley, 62, who was in the Philippines at the time of the shooting, was met by FBI agents at the airport in Los Angeles late Tuesday night, according to a law enforcement official.

The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, who has called Danley a "person of interest" in the attack, said that "we anticipate some information from her shortly," and said he is "absolutely" confident authorities will find out what set off Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and retired accountant who killed himself before police stormed his 32nd-floor room.

Danley first arrived in the Philippines on Sept 15, according to immigration documents there. She departed on Sept 22 then returned three days later on a flight from Hong Kong. She was traveling on an Australian passport. Philippines immigration bureau spokeswoman Antonette Mangrobang said authorities there had been working with US officials.

"From the very beginning, we have been providing them necessary information that would aid their investigation," Mangrobang said. Danley's Australia-based sisters say

they believe Paddock sent her away so she wouldn't interfere with his plans. Australia's Channel 7 TV network interviewed the sisters with their faces obscured and their names withheld. They said they believe their sister couldn't have known about his ideas. The woman said Danley is "a good person" who would've stopped Paddock had she been there.

One of the sisters, who live near Brisbane, Queensland, said they believed Marilou knew Paddock had guns, but not as many as he had. "She probably was even (more) shocked than us because she is more closer to him than us," her sister said. Paddock traveled at least twice to the Philippines, where his girlfriend was born, according to a Filipino official who was not authorized to discuss the trips publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Paddock visited the Philippines in 2013 and 2014, around his birthday, staying for five to six days on both occasions. There were no immediate details available about those trips, according to the official. Paddock transferred \$100,000 to the Philippines in the days before the shooting, a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement

but not authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Investigators are still trying to trace that money and also looking into at least a dozen financial reports over the past several weeks that said Paddock gambled more than \$10,000 per day, the official said.

Psychological autopsy

As for what may have set Paddock off, retired FBI profiler Jim Clemente speculated that there was "some sort of major trigger in his life - a great loss, a breakup, or maybe he just found out he has a terminal disease." Clemente said a "psychological autopsy" may be necessary to try to establish the motive. If the suicide didn't destroy Paddock's brain, experts

may even find a neurological disorder or malformation, he said. He said there could be a genetic component to the slaughter: Paddock's father was a bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list in the 1960s and was diagnosed a psychopath. "The genetics load the gun, personality and psychology aim it, and experiences pull the trigger, typically," Clemente said.

Paddock had a business degree from Cal State Northridge. In the 1970s and '80s, he worked as a mail carrier and an IRS agent and held down a job in an auditing division of the Defense Department, according to the government. He later worked for a defense contractor. He had no known criminal record, and public records showed no signs of financial troubles. Nevada's Gaming Control Board said it will pass along records compiled on Paddock and his girlfriend to investigators.

His brother, Eric Paddock, said he was at a loss to explain the massacre. "No affiliation, no religion, no politics. He never cared about any of that stuff," he said outside his Florida home. Eric Paddock said his brother did show a confrontational side at times: He apparently hated cigarette smoke so much that he carried around a cigar and blew smoke in people's faces when they lit up around him. Lombardo said the investigation is proceeding cautiously in case criminal charges are warranted against someone else. "This investigation is not ended with the demise of Mr. Paddock," the sheriff said. "Did this person get radicalized unbeknownst to us? And we want to identify that source." Yesterday, President Donald Trump is set to arrive in Las Vegas to meet with public officials, first responders and some of the 527 people injured in the attack. At least 45 patients at two hospitals remained in critical condition. All but three of the dead had been identified by Tuesday afternoon, Lombardo said. Some investigators turned their focus Tuesday from the shooter's perch to the festival grounds where his victims fell. — AP



Paddock’s father was a bank robber on the FBI’s most-wanted list

Tension mounts; Catalan leaders defy Spanish king

BARCELONA: Tension mounted in Spain yesterday after Catalonia's leader vowed that the region would declare independence within days, defying a stern warning from the country's king that national stability was in peril. The courts meanwhile placed Catalan police officials and pro-independence civil leaders under investigation for alleged "sedition" as Spain sank deeper into its worst political crisis in decades.

King Felipe VI branded the independence drive illegal and undemocratic, throwing his weight behind the national government. But Catalan leaders dug in, buoyed by anger at a violent police crackdown against voters during Sunday's referendum on independence which had been banned by Madrid and the courts. The Catalan government will "act at the end of this week or the beginning of next" to declare independence, its leader Carles Puigdemont told the BBC in an interview. He was scheduled to give a further televised address at 1900 GMT.

Independence declaration

The Catalan government's spokesman Jordi Turull said that regional authorities had "nearly finished counting the votes." The result will be submitted to the regional parliament which will have two days "to proclaim the independence of Catalonia," he said in a television interview. The move would intensify the standoff with the central government, which along with the national courts has branded the referendum illegal.

Madrid has the power to suspend the semi-autonomous status that Catalonia currently enjoys under Spain's system of regional governments. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has yet to respond publicly to Sunday's vote, but the king's intervention could clear the way for him to act. "It is the responsibility of the legitimate state powers to ensure constitutional order," Felipe said. Hundreds of thousands of Catalans rallied in fury on Tuesday during a general strike over violence by Spanish riot police against voters taking part in the referendum on Sunday.

Madrid has the power to suspend the semi-autonomous status that Catalonia currently enjoys under Spain's system of regional governments. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has yet to respond publicly to Sunday's vote, but the king's intervention could clear the way for him to act. "It is the responsibility of the legitimate state powers to ensure constitutional order," Felipe said. Hundreds of thousands of Catalans rallied in fury on Tuesday during a general strike over violence by Spanish riot police against voters taking part in the referendum on Sunday.

'Fuel to the fire'

Felipe's dramatic intervention late Tuesday was a gauge of tension in Spain. Catalan leaders "with their irresponsible conduct could put at risk the economic and social stability of Catalonia and all of Spain," he said. Felipe repeated his earlier calls for harmony between Spaniards. But after Sunday's violence, his address risked further fanning resentment in Catalonia. "It was awful. It was a mistake whichever way you look at it," Turull said of the king's speech. "Instead of calming things, what it did was throw fuel on the fire."

Catalans 'sedition' probe

Adding to tensions, a judge yesterday placed Catalonia's regional police chief Josep Luis Trapero and three other suspects under investigation for an alleged



BARCELONA: President of the Catalan parliament Carme Forcadell (center) attends a meeting with parliament representatives at the Parliament in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

"crime of sedition." The force has been accused of failing to rein in pro-independence protesters during disturbances in Barcelona last month.

Catalans split

A rich industrial region of 7.5 million people with their own language and cultural traditions, Catalonia accounts for a fifth of Spain's economy. Spain's key IBEX 35 stock index fell by 2.3 percent yesterday on the ongoing turbulence,

with some big Catalan banks down more than six percent. Catalan claims for independence date back centuries but have surged during recent years of economic crisis. Puigdemont's regional government claimed that 2.26 million people took part in the poll, or just over 42 percent of the electorate, but the vote was held without regular electoral lists or observers. The regional government said 90 percent of those who voted backed independence, although polls indicate Catalans are split. — AFP

Turkey sentences 34 to life in jail over Erdogan death plot

Judge finds 43 soldiers guilty of trying to kill President

MUGLA: A Turkish court yesterday found 43 former soldiers guilty of attempting to kill President Tayyip Erdogan during last year's failed coup, and handed most of them life sentences in the highest profile case related to the attempted putsch so far. Judge Emirsah Bastog read out guilty verdicts for 43 of the 47 defendants, according to a Reuters reporter at the court in Mugla, southwestern Turkey. Mugla is near the luxury resort where Erdogan and his family narrowly escaped a team of rogue soldiers who stormed his hotel during the night of the coup.

The trial, which started in February, is part of a sweeping crackdown that followed the July 2016 failed putsch and is the biggest such case to reach a verdict so far. "I hope the verdict today is beneficial to everyone," Bastog said, as he sentenced 34 of the accused to "aggravated" life sentences, the harshest punishment possible under Turkish law because it lengthens the minimum sentence required for parole.

Another seven defendants were given life sentences while two others were given lesser sentences. "(Several) defendants have been found guilty on the charge of attempting to assassinate the president," Bastog told the packed courtroom. One was acquitted. No verdict was given for the three who were tried in absentia, including US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for orchestrating the coup. The court heard final statements from the defendants just before Bastog delivered his verdict. Some of the accused said they did not believe the court could deliver a

fair verdict and had been under political pressure.

"From the moment I was arrested at the air base on July 16, I was treated like a criminal," Ergun Sahin, a former air force lieutenant, told the court. Pictures released in the aftermath of the coup showed some suspected coup plotters - including high-ranking military officers - stripped to their underpants, handcuffed and their faces bruised. "Words don't mean anything here as we didn't have chance to a fair trial," said another defendant, Gokhan Sen. "We are just the grass that elephants trampled on during their fight."

More than 240 people were killed on the night of July 15 last year, when putschists commandeered tanks, warplanes and helicopters, attacking parliament and attempting to overthrow the government. The government blames the network of Gulen, a former ally of Erdogan. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, has denied involvement and condemned the coup. A total of 47 defendants

were on trial, 43 of whom have been held in detention during the 7-1/2 month hearing. Gulen was being tried in absentia. Most of the defendants were soldiers.

In another development, four Turkish soldiers were killed yesterday in a bombing blamed on Kurdish militants in the restive southeast, the local governor's office said. Another four soldiers were injured when a hand-made bomb detonated as an armored vehicle drove past in the Yuksekova district of Hakkari province, the gover-

norate said in a statement. It blamed a "separatist terrorist organization"-the official term for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The PKK has waged an insurgency in Turkey since 1984, during which over 40,000 people have been killed. The group is blacklisted



ANKARA: Relatives grieve during the funeral held for a killed Turkish soldier Mustafa Erdal, who died during fighting against members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the Cizre district of Sirnak. — AFP

norate said in a statement. It blamed a "separatist terrorist organization"-the official term for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The PKK has waged an insurgency in Turkey since 1984, during which over 40,000 people have been killed. The group is blacklisted

as a terrorist organization by Ankara, the United States and the European Union. After the collapse of a two-year ceasefire in 2015, Turkish military operations intensified while there are frequent PKK attacks on soldiers in the southeast. — Agencies

Hamas, Fatah reconciliation?

GAZA: For three days it was all smiles as the Palestinian prime minister held talks in Gaza with Hamas but as the symbolic visit draws to a close the real work for reconciliation is just beginning. The two sides will meet again for in-depth negotiations next week. After a decade of division, are there reasons to believe the rival Palestinian factions might finally come together?

What happened?

On Monday, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah arrived in Gaza for the first time since 2015, describing it as a "historic" moment. He met with the leaders of Hamas Ismail Haniya, as well with the head of Egyptian intelligence, while also convening his cabinet in Gaza for the first time in nearly three years. Hamas has ruled the territory since 2007, when it seized it from the PA in a near civil war and multiple previous reconciliation attempts have failed. But after Egyptian mediation, last month the Islamists of Hamas agreed to hand over civil power to the internationally recognised PA, which is based in the West Bank.

What is at stake?

The most immediate issue is the suffering of the two million Gazans, who have faced three devastating wars with Israel since 2008, as well as crippling blockades by both Israel and Egypt. They suffer from desperate shortages of electricity and high unemployment. The decade-long division has also been a key obstacle to peace talks with Israel. Gaza and the West Bank are supposed to form a future independent state but internationally recognized president Mahmud Abbas, long the negotiating partner for Israel, has been undermined by Hamas'a control of Gaza. "The division cripples the Palestinians from being able to move forward in a constructive manner in achieving the goal of returning back to negotiations and imple-



GAZA: Senior Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh (center right) meets with Egyptian Intelligence Minister Khalid Fawzi at his office in Gaza City. — AFP

menting a two-state solution," UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov said.

Reasons for belief?

Past failures have inevitably sparked skepticism about the latest reconciliation effort. But on Monday, Hamdallah's ministers took the keys to government offices in Gaza. Nour Odeh, a political analyst based in the West Bank, contrasted this with the previous reconciliation attempt in 2014, when ministers of a unity government were often not allowed to leave their hotels by Hamas. "This is the first time the ministers of this government have assumed their roles in their own ministries. It is a completely different dynamic on the ground," she said. "These things are important-they help to create an atmosphere that is a snowball that can continue rolling." Palestinian media were

broadly supportive of the reconciliation effort, although few concrete measures were publicly announced.

What now?

If this week's visit was about symbolism, next week the details begin. The two sides will meet in Cairo on Tuesday to start in-depth negotiations that could take months. A key stumbling block is control of security in Gaza. Hamas has an armed wing with an estimated 25,000 members and is loath to give up control. Senior Hamas officials have already said it is out of the question, but Abbas has insisted the Palestinian Authority must have full control. Hamas could not "copy or clone Hezbollah's experience in Lebanon," he warned on Monday, referring to a situation where an independent armed group exerts major influence on national politics. — AFP

Iraq forces push into Islamic State bastion Hawija

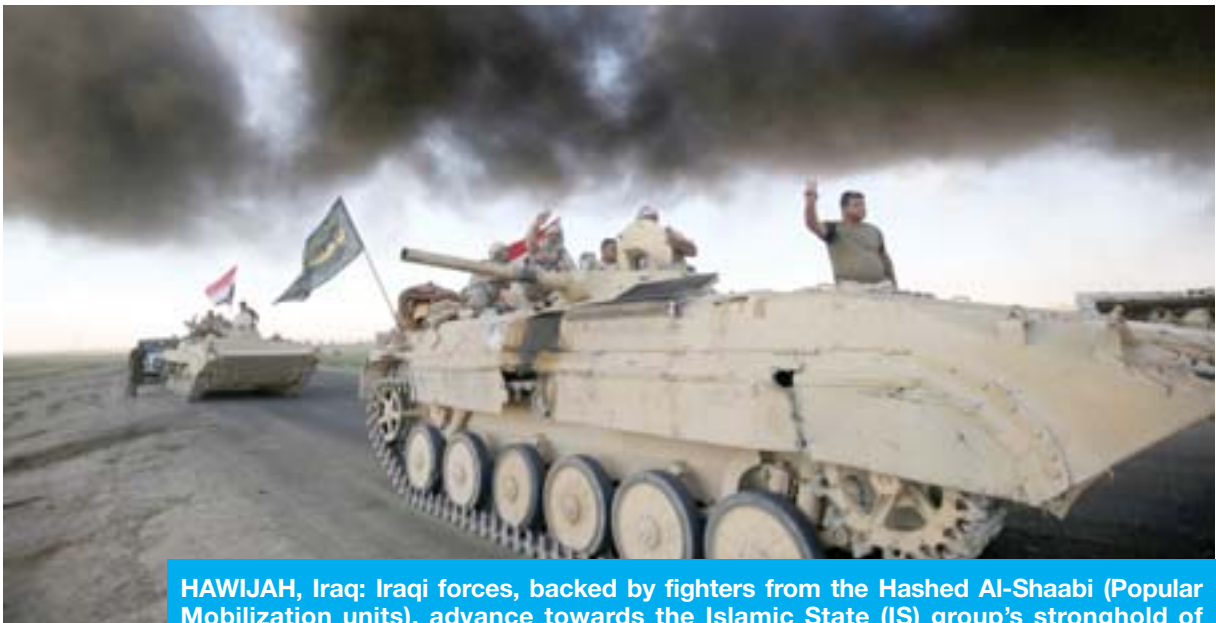
HAWIJA: Iraqi forces pushed into the Islamic State group stronghold of Hawija yesterday, commanders said, stepping up their assault against one of the jihadists' last enclaves in the country. Government and allied forces backed by a US-led coalition launched an offensive last month to oust IS from Hawija, a longtime insurgent bastion. The town is among the final holdouts from the territory seized by the jihadists in 2014 and its recapture would leave only a handful of remote outposts in IS hands.

The Hawija operation's commander, Lieutenant General Abdel Amir Yarallah, said the army, federal police and rapid response force had begun a major operation "to liberate the centre of Hawija and the neighboring town of Riyadh". Federal police chief Raed Shakir Jawdat said in a statement that elite units had entered the city from the northwest amid artillery and missile bombardments of jihadist positions.

"They are advancing and the goal is to take seven neighborhoods of Hawija and 12 vital objectives," he said, without providing more details. The operation involves the army, the federal police, elite units, as well as tribal volunteers and the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force, mainly made up of Iran-trained Shiite militia. The Hashed said its engineers were demining the route into Hawija and that IS fighters had retreated to the town centre after "their defenses were breached".

12,500 flee offensive

The militia said it had evacuated several dozen families from villages close to Hawija after they escaped jihadist



HAWIJAH, Iraq: Iraqi forces, backed by fighters from the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization units), advance towards the Islamic State (IS) group's stronghold of Hawija yesterday. — AFP

attempts to use them as human shields. The United Nations announced on Tuesday that an estimated 12,500 people had fled the town since the launch of the offensive to retake Hawija and surrounding areas last month. The UN's humanitarian affairs office (OCHA) said the number of people still in the town was unknown but could be as high 78,000.

It said humanitarian agencies have set up checkpoints, camps and emergency sites in the area capable of receiving more than 70,000 people who could flee. Hawija, 230 kilometers north of Baghdad, is one of just two areas of Iraq still held by IS, along with a stretch of the Euphrates Valley near the Syrian border which is also under attack. Hawija has been an insurgent bastion since soon after the US-led invasion of 2003, earning it the nickname of "Kandahar in Iraq"

for the ferocious resistance it put up similar to that in the Taliban militia's citadel in Afghanistan. The town's mainly Sunni Arab population is deeply hostile both to the Shiite-led government in Baghdad and to the Kurds who form the historic majority in adjacent areas. The town lies between the two main routes north from Baghdad-to second city Mosul, recaptured from IS in July, and to the city of Kirkuk and the autonomous Kurdish region. IS has been forced out of most of the territory it seized in Iraq and Syria during a lightning offensive in the summer of 2014 that was followed by its declaration of a cross-border "caliphate". The US-led coalition is also backing an Arab-Kurdish alliance, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), that is battling to oust IS from its de facto Syrian capital Raqa. — AFP

News in brief

Giraffe helps man propose

SPRINGFIELD: A man in southwest Missouri proposed to his girlfriend with the help of a very, very tall friend. Zookeepers at the Dickerson Park Zoo on Sunday attached Cody Hall's engagement ring to a lanyard and hung it around the neck of a giraffe at the zoo on Sunday, the Springfield News-Leader reported. Hall's girlfriend, Makayla Blakey, thought she was getting a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo when the couple approached the giraffe enclosure. "They gave us this spiel about how we are going to feed the giraffe and help participate in a training exercise," Hall said. "They showed us the training exercise, getting Mili (the giraffe) to point at a big tennis ball with her nose."

Prisoners to serve judges

ROME: Jailbirds in northern Italy will soon be able to offer judges a sweeter-though serving up an extra smooth cappuccino is unlikely to be enough to get time off their sentences. The coffee shop in the courthouse of Turin is seeking unusual barristas: prisoners or former prisoners looking for a way to pay their debt to society or start afresh. The city council signed off Wednesday on the plan for the cafe, which serves some 900 court employees as well as hundreds of magistrates, lawyers and members of the public. The bar, currently closed for management issues, will re-open in a few months, council spokesperson Michele Chicco said. "This is part of efforts to humanize the detention of prisoners: having a job during the day, being in contact with clients, helps reintegrate offenders at the end of their sentences," he said.

Robbers tunnel into bank

SAO PAULO: Brazilian robbers tunneled nearly 2,000 feet in a daring attempt to rob a bank in Sao Paulo where they hoped to nab millions of dollars, police said. After a three-month operation, police nabbed 16 suspects late Monday. They swooped just before the alleged gang was able to use its impressively equipped tunnel to enter the safe at a Banco do Brasil branch in the country's financial capital. According to the authorities, the men said they were after one billion reais, or about \$317 million. "It would have been the world's biggest heist," said police chief Fabio Pinheiro Lopes on Globo television. Police said work on the tunnel began four months ago, starting from a house several blocks from the bank. It had sophisticated supports, fans and light.

Woman kills boyfriend

CAMDEN: A New Jersey woman accused of using two metal frying pans to fatally beat her boyfriend at a convenience store has been charged with murder. Camden County prosecutors say federal marshals arrested Maleia Cole on Monday in Camden, two days after the charge was filed. It wasn't known Tuesday if the 33-year-old Camden resident has retained an attorney who could comment on the accusations. Prosecutors say the attack occurred Sept 2 in Woodlynne. Police found 35-year-old Jason Lewis bleeding from head and facial injuries. They say Lewis told them Cole - who lives near the store - had followed him across the street and into the store while beating him repeatedly with the pans. Lewis was hospitalized and underwent emergency surgery. He died from his injuries on Sept 26. Authorities haven't said what spurred the attack.

Prankster and coughing fits mar Theresa May's speech

Critics, Twitter posters deride her performance

MANCHESTER: British Prime Minister Theresa May's bid to reassert her dwindling authority was marred yesterday by a calamitous keynote speech interrupted by repeated coughing fits, a prankster and even letters of her slogan falling off the stage. May had wanted to use the Conservative Party's annual conference to bring her divided party together and pitch herself as the only person able to deliver Brexit and keep opposition Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn out of power.

She started by apologizing for her botched bet on a snap June election which stripped her party of its majority in parliament, then pitched a revitalized "British Dream" for which she proposed fixing broken markets and uniting the country. But her flow was interrupted by British comedian Simon Brodtkin, who handed her a P45 letter, a document given to employees when they leave their job. The document had been "signed" by the comedian using the name of her ambitious Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

Then May began a coughing fit and was repeatedly forced to take drinks of water, even coughing into her glass, and was proffered a lozenge from her finance minister, Philip Hammond. While she was speaking, several letters fell off the slogans behind her on the stage. Some Twitter users seized on images of the missing letters to poke fun at the Conservatives: one said their glue was even failing to hold the party together.

The 61-year-old May won standing ovations for pressing on with the hour-long address, in which she took a more personal tone - saying she did not mind being called the "Ice Maiden" and describing her "great sadness" at not having children. Her speech sought to offer party activists a renewal of Conservative values while making new promises to a younger generation and those "just about managing".

"This is a Conservatism I believe in, a Conservatism of fairness and justice and opportunity for all, a Conservatism that keeps the British dream alive for a new generation," she told the cheering crowd. "That's what I'm in this for," she said, in a phrase she repeated at least eight times.

"That's what we must all be in this for," Brexit minister David Davis told Reuters it had been "a very good speech, it hit all the issues people care about". Other cabinet ministers also applauded May.

Many in the audience said her coughing fit and the sudden appearance by the comedian had helped to win them over. "Actually, if all that stuff hadn't happened, it would have just been another kind of wooden presentation," said Pippa Smith, a 26-year-old party member from London. "It was a good speech, but I think actually it did her a favor."

Opponents were less kind. Nigel Farage, the former leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party, said May was so useless that if she remained as leader then Labor's Corbyn would soon be in power. Labor lawmaker Seema Malhotra said: "It just couldn't get worse than this. What a disaster. It's a shambles, not a government." But there are few obvious successors yet visible besides Johnson, who is unpopular with some Conservative lawmakers. Some activists fear that a divisive leadership contest would pave the way for an election that Corbyn's Labor could win.

May diminished

The conference in the northern English city of Manchester was a somber affair, light on policy and heavy on self-doubt. Despite coming second in the June election, the opposition Labor Party's annual meeting a week earlier was celebratory. After Labor's assault on some elements of capitalism, the backbone of Conservative policy, May sought to make the case for free markets and fiscal prudence. "The free market - and the values of freedom, equality, rights, responsibilities, and the rule of law that lie at its heart - remains the greatest agent of collective human progress ever created," she told members.

"Because there has rarely been a time when the choice of futures for Britain is so stark. The difference between the parties is so clear." She tried to compete with Labor on its pledges to voters, offering 2 billion pounds to build



MANCHESTER: Protester comedian Simon Brodtkin (right) gives a piece of paper written as a mock P45 (employee leaving form) to Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May as she was delivering her speech on the final day of the Conservative Party annual conference yesterday.—AFP

cheaper houses, proposing a cap on what she called "rip-off" energy prices and to ease the burden of student debt. Labor leader Corbyn said May had simply taken a few Labor policies and watered them down.

But most party members said that, rather than policy, they wanted to see a return of May's confidence, crushed in the June election, when she earned the nickname "Maybot" for repeating catchphrases. "We did not get the victory we wanted because our national campaign fell short," she told members. "I hold my hands up for that. I take responsibility. I led the campaign. And I am sorry." But she also told her party to unite, as divisions over Brexit

UK's Boris Johnson under fire for 'dead bodies' Libyan gaffe

MANCHESTER: British foreign minister Boris Johnson came under fire yesterday for saying Libya could become a magnet for tourists and investors - if it can "clear the dead bodies away" first. Reflecting on his August visit to Libya, strife-torn since the toppling of longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Johnson said British businesses wanted to invest in the city of Sirte.

"They have got a brilliant vision to turn Sirte into the next Dubai," he told Conservatives attending the party's annual conference in Manchester, talking up its "bone-white sands, beautiful sea" and "brilliant young people". "The only thing they have got to do is clear the dead bodies away," he added, before laughing. Johnson's political career has been characterized by outspoken comments and personal controversy, which have won voters over but also led to despair among both detractors and colleagues.

His comments on Sirte, from where Islamic State militants were driven out in December, were slammed by shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry. "For Boris Johnson to treat those deaths as a joke-a mere inconvenience before UK business people can turn the city into a beach resort-is unbelievably crass, callous and cruel," said Thornberry, a Labor MP. "There comes a time when the buffoonery needs to stop, because if Boris Johnson thinks the bodies of those brave government soldiers and innocent civilians killed in Sirte are a suitable subject for

throwaway humor, he does not belong in the office of foreign secretary," she added.

'Unbelievably crass'

Johnson travelled to Tripoli and Benghazi, becoming the first British foreign minister to visit the latter city since 2011, the year Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in a NATO-backed uprising. MP Jo Swinson, the Liberal Democrats foreign affairs chief, said Johnson lacked the diplomatic skills necessary for his role and called on Prime Minister Theresa May to fire him.

"This latest unbelievably crass and insensitive comment about an issue of such importance is further proof Boris is not up to the job. May needs to get her house in order and sack him," Swinson said. Johnson later turned to Twitter to defend his comments, accusing people "with no knowledge or understanding of Libya" of wanting to "play politics with the appallingly dangerous reality in Sirte". "The reality there is that the clearing of corpses of Daesh (Islamic State) fighters has been made much more difficult by IEDs and booby traps.

"That's why Britain is playing a key role in reconstruction and why I have visited Libya twice this year in support," he said in a series of tweets. Tory minister Damian Green said that "lessons needed to be learned" from Johnson's comments.—AFP



MANCHESTER: Protester comedian Simon Brodtkin gives a thumbs-up towards Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (right). —AFP

Eyeing more states in EU

PARIS: Catalonia, which has threatened to declare independence from Spain, is only one of several regions in the European Union demanding more autonomy or even independence. Here is a rundown of some of the others.

Scotland, Britain

An historic 2014 referendum on leaving the United Kingdom shook the country to the core and resulted in a narrow 55 percent vote against a split. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, head of the pro-independence Scottish National Party, wants a second referendum once the outlines of the deal for Britain's exit from the European Union become clear. Scotland, home to 5.2 million people, has been semi-autonomous since 1998 with a devolved parliament that handles matters of education, health, environment and justice, while diplomacy and defense remain the domain of London. After scores of people were injured in Catalonia during its banned referendum on independence on Sunday, Sturgeon called on Spain to "change course" and condemned the police intervention.

Flanders, Belgium

Born in 1830 as an independent state to act as a buffer between France and Germany, Belgium is an uneasy mix of a Flemish-speaking, conservative north and a French, left-leaning south. With Flemish nationalist sentiment more powerful than ever, the separatist New Flemish Alliance (N-VA) has emerged as the biggest party in the country and a key partner in the coalition government. Aiming

Basques, Spain

The separatist group ETA was founded in 1959 to promote the culture of the Basque region straddling the French-Spanish border but veered into a violent independence campaign blamed for 829 deaths. The group carried out its last attack in 2010 and disarmed in April this year. Some former ETA members have joined a Franco-Spanish Basque political party called Sortu that is working for "full freedom" for the region's 2.2 million people. On Sunday 40,000 people demonstrated in Bilbao in support of Catalonia's referendum. The regional president, Inigo Urkullu, called on September 24 for the recognition of the Catalan and Basque nations.

New Caledonia, France

The South Pacific archipelago with a population of around 280,000 is due to hold a referendum by November next year on independence from France. A French possession since 1853, it reached an agreement in 1998 with Paris for greater autonomy although activists say this has yet to yield concrete results. New Caledonia boasts a quarter of the world's known resources of nickel but wealth is not evenly spread and backers of independence want major economic reform.



BARCELONA: A woman wrapped in a Catalan pro-independence 'Estelada' flag listens to Spain's King Felipe VI address to the nation on a television set in a bar on Tuesday during a general strike in Catalonia. —AFP

Corsica, France

The Mediterranean island of 330,000 people is a part of France with its own language and a troubled history. The separatist National Liberation Front of Corsica (FLNC) ended its armed struggle in June 2014 in favor of a political process and since 2015 nationalists have been leading the island's assembly. Corsica today has a special administrative status that grants its certain powers and retains a strong sense of autonomy. On September 22 the Corsica assembly underlined "the indisputable legitimacy of the government of Catalonia".

Faroe Islands, Denmark

Denmark's Faroe Islands, home to 48,000

people, will hold a referendum in April 2018 on a new constitution that would grant self-determination. The islands have been autonomous since 1948, although foreign affairs and defense are still the domain of Copenhagen.

Lombardy, Veneto, Italy

These wealthy regions in northern Italy are to hold non-binding consultative referendums on October 22 to ask voters if they favor more autonomy from Rome. Politicians in Lombardy and Veneto, which together account for nearly a third of Italy's economy, are fighting for a bigger share of tax income and, in some cases, for secession. —AFP

'Christ-like' Che Guevara wanted to die a martyr

PARIS: Ernesto "Che" Guevara was not just a guerrilla fighting for his ideals, he was a man "haunted by death" according to Argentine-born author and academic Marcela Iacub. Her psychological study of one of history's most celebrated revolutionaries "Le Che a mort" (roughly translated as "Che to the Death") - has just been published in France to mark the 50th anniversary of his death.

Guevara a legend?

"There are two legends about Che: the Castro legend and the 'Christ' legend which you see in Steven Soderbergh's 2008 Hollywood film 'Che,'" Iacub said. "For many Che became a Christ-like figure through the photograph of his body taken after he was killed. Maybe the myth would never have existed without those shots taken a few hours after his execution by the Bolivian army (in 1967).

"Because the photographers who had arrived at the scene were using flashes, Che's eyes seemed full of light," she said. "The whole world saw this perfect photo, where Che seemed like a Christian martyr because it appeared that he had been delivered to his executioners in a state of grace and serenity." But in fact his corpse "had been cleaned up", Iacub said, (his hair was cut and formaldehyde injected into his face). However, other photos taken "just after his execution were hidden for 20 years", Iacub said. "They are horrible and would never have led to such a cult."

Was Guevara idealistic?

"When he was a teenager he was neither a Communist nor politically engaged but he had decided to die very young as a martyr, and you can see that from some of his poems. 'He has condemned himself to die as hero. In 'The Motorcycle Diaries', which Guevara wrote about his 8,000-kilometre trip through Latin America in 1952, "he already imagined his destiny. "I based my psychological analysis of him on his writings. I wanted to let him speak for himself all the more so because he was a good writer. I think he invented this idea of himself very early from reading adventure stories. "He set the bar high for himself probably because his family had been aristocratic but had fallen on hard times. First he wanted to save humanity by becoming a great scientist. When that didn't work out, he studied to be a doctor. He wanted to save humanity and was ready to die in doing so."

What is his legacy today?

"We are a much more pacifist society now than we were in the 1960s and 1970s. It is no longer accepted that armed struggle is a way of imposing political ideas," Iacub argued. "What remains of him is the myth of the martyr, the idea that if he killed and eliminated his opponents, it was to stop something worse happening. If it is not that, you have to ask why have so many other Communists been forgotten but not him?

"In his relationship with death I believe that Che had perhaps something in common with today's jihadists-the hunger for glory, the idea that he was already dead..." "The two phenomena are not exactly the same but there are resemblances, the idea that death is an act of propaganda to send a message. "He was looking for a total and definitive war with capitalism... he felt humanity should die fighting even if that combat ended in defeat."— AFP

International

Austria puts the squeeze on refugees with benefit cuts

Three regions reduced benefits for newcomers

VIENNA: Ahmed Ali, a 34-year-old teacher, fled the war in Syria two years ago and settled in a quiet Austrian town on the hilly border with the Czech Republic. He was hoping to raise a family there. But voter attitudes towards immigrants have hardened due to concerns about security and the economy after Austria took in more than 1 percent of its population in asylum seekers in 2015. This fuelled support for the far-right party Freedom Party and its candidate came close to winning last year's presidential election. Immigration is still the dominant political issue ahead of the Oct 15 parliamentary election.

In January, lawmakers in Lower Austria, where Ali lived, reduced benefits for new arrivals. They said the benefits system needed protecting from being overstretched by the influx of refugees. Ali and his pregnant wife moved again to Vienna in July, where their benefits would still be paid in full. "Most of us fled when the letter came telling us our social benefits would be cut. At first we didn't believe it but then we saw it on our bank balance," said Ali, who says his German is not yet good enough to find work.

Three of Austria's nine provinces-Lower Austria, Burgenland and Upper Austria-have reduced benefits for new arrivals. Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, leader of the conservative People's Party which is leading in the polls, wants to make similar cuts apply to the whole country. Chancellor Christian Kern, whose Social Democratic Party polls show competing with the Freedom Party for second place, has resisted the idea but said he could support them in cases where new arrivals turn down job offers.

Legal challenge

So far, the cuts have primarily impacted migrants like Ali who sought asylum in Austria when it opened its border in 2015 although some Austrians returning home have also been caught. In Burgenland the rules apply to all peo-

ple seeking help who have spent fewer than five years of the six preceding their application for benefits in Austria.

A statement accompanying the Upper Austrian bill painted the cuts as a way to tackle the problem of "welfare magnetism" in the context of refugees. The Lower Austrian government declined to comment due to a legal challenge against the cuts. In a case brought by a charity, Austria's Constitutional Court is expected to rule next year on whether the cuts by Lower Austria, decided in late 2016 and implemented since early 2017, are illegal. The 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention says host countries must grant refugees "the same treatment with respect to public relief and assistance" as their own nationals. A 2011 EU directive sets a similar rule. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR), which has denounced "xenophobic debates" in Austrian poli-

Constitutional Court looks into legality of cuts

tics ahead of the election, has described the cuts as breaches of international and European law but no international cases have been started. A Burgenland spokeswoman defended the benefits changes, saying they targeted Austrian nationals as well. "Therefore there is no violation of ... the EU directive and the refugee convention," she said. A spokesman for Kurz said legislation to expand the cuts would be passed and phrased in such a way "that no doubt for the highest courts will emerge".

Bare minimum

The three provinces have cut benefits for new arrivals, even after obtaining asylum, to around 570 euros (\$669) a month, less than half the poverty threshold of 1,200 euros, compared with around 850 euros for an Austrian who has never lived abroad. Benefits for a household have been capped at 1,500 euros. Rather than live off less than what is considered the bare minimum for most Austrians, many of those affected have moved, particularly to the capital. Ali moved to an apartment with his uncle and aunt in a



SAINT-OMER: Afghan and Pakistani migrants gather for a cricket training session in Saint-Omer, northern France.— AFP

dilapidated building on the outskirts of the city costing 1,100 euros a month. "They don't care how many children you have. And maybe they'll cut again," Ali said in his living room with two sofas, a television set and a picture of Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani.

He found more affordable apartments but the landlord did not want refugees as tenants. One landlady was concerned social benefits for refugees might be cut in Vienna, too. "Instead of cutting the social safety net, integration and independence should be supported. We fear that language learning, training and the search for work will suffer if those affected don't know how to pay their rent any-

more," said the chief the UNHCR's Austria office, Christoph Pinter. Although the Freedom Party and Kurz's conservatives have been the most vocal about cutting benefits for new arrivals, the three provinces that have put cuts in place are governed by various two-way combinations of all three main political parties. But most of those affected who spoke to Reuters fear an election victory for Kurz. "If Kurz wins, it will be a big problem," said 24-year-old Basel from Deraa in Syria. He moved from Lower Austria to Vienna in July, leaving behind friends and a job as a hairdresser. He says the cuts paralyze people like him with fear. "You stop thinking about the future." — Reuters

Cambodian opposition parliamentarians flee

PHNOM PENH: Nearly half of Cambodia's opposition parliamentarians have fled abroad in the past month to escape a government crackdown that has battered their party with legal cases ahead of crunch polls, an MP said yesterday. The exodus further imperils the prospects of a party that poses the only viable challenge at the ballot box to premier Hun Sen, who has clung on to power for 32 years. The strongman has smothered dissent in the lead-up to the 2018 national election and is accused of picking off his critics through a series of dubious court cases.

The crackdown was ramped up last month when opposition leader Kem Sokha was thrown into a remote jail on treason charges, a dramatic arrest that sent fear rippling through the embattled opposition movement. Since then, more than 20 opposition politicians have fled the country, MP Mao Monyvann said of his Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), which has 55 members of parliament. "Now there are only a few more than 10 (MPs) still in the country," he told AFP, with others having

fled before Kem Sokha's arrest.

Many have left for the US or European countries where they have family or dual citizenship. Mu Sochua, an outspoken deputy to Kem Sokha, was the latest to bolt on Tuesday, a day after Hun Sen said there would be no let-up in his crackdown. The bellicose premier has ratcheted up his rhetoric in daily speeches to the public, with threats to dissolve the CNRP if they continue to "protect" their leader. "I don't intend to continue to live under the continuous and open threat by the PM of arrest," Mu Sochua told AFP through Facebook, without sharing her whereabouts.

Human Rights Watch's Phil Robertson said the departure of MPs could spell the "death of Cambodian democracy" at the hands of Hun Sen. "Hun Sen wants to run in a 2018 election in which he will not face any meaningful opposition," said HRW's Deputy Asia Director, adding the poll would not be "free nor fair under these circumstances". In a message sent through his lawyers on Monday, Kem Sokha denied the treason charge as "total slander", a view



PHNOM PENH: Lawmaker from the National Rescue Party Mu Sochua smiles from her car window. Mu Sochua has fled the country. — AP

echoed by the US and other democratic countries which have called for his immediate release.

Hun Sen loomed over the impoverished democracy for more than three decades, using a mix of political wits and hard power to undermine his rivals and secure the loyalty of the bureaucracy, courts and security forces. But his popularity slipped in a 2013 election and he has since moved

to silence critics in politics, the media and NGOs. Around a dozen opposition politicians have faced prosecutions since that poll, with Kem Sokha's predecessor Sam Rainsy forced to flee abroad to avoid a string of convictions which he says are politically motivated. Last week the UN's human rights envoy to Cambodia warned the country was "moving inexorably towards a precipice".— AFP

All 3 billion Yahoo accounts 'hacked' in 2013 data theft

CALIFORNIA: Yahoo yesterday said that all 3 billion of its accounts were hacked in a 2013 data theft, tripling its earlier estimate of the size of the largest breach in history, in a disclosure that attorneys said sharply increased the legal exposure of its new owner, Verizon Communications Inc. The news expands the likely number and claims of class action lawsuits by shareholders and Yahoo account holders, they said.

Yahoo, the early face of the internet for many in the world, already faced at least 41 consumer class-action lawsuits in US federal and state courts, according to company securities filing in May. John Yanchunis, a lawyer representing some of the affected Yahoo users, said a federal judge who allowed the case to go forward still had asked for more information to justify his clients' claims. "I think we have those facts now," he said. "It's really mind-numbing when you think about it."

Yahoo said last December that data from more than 1 billion accounts was compromised in 2013, the largest of a series of thefts that forced Yahoo to cut the price of its assets in a sale to Verizon. Yahoo on Tuesday said "recently obtained new intelligence" showed all user accounts had been affected. The company said the investigation indicated that the stolen information did not include passwords in clear text, payment card data, or bank account information.

But the information was protected with outdated, easy-to-crack encryption, according to academic experts. It also included security questions and backup email addresses, which could make it easier to break into other accounts held by the users. Many Yahoo users have multiple accounts, so far fewer than 3 billion were affected, but the theft ranks as the largest to date, and a costly one for the internet pioneer. Verizon in February lowered its original offer by \$350 million for Yahoo assets in the wake of two massive cyber attacks at the internet company.

Some lawyers asked whether Verizon would look for a new opportunity to address the price. "This is a bombshell," said Mark Molumphy, lead counsel in a shareholder derivative lawsuit against Yahoo's former leaders over disclosures about the hacks. Verizon did not respond to a request for comment about any possible lawsuit over the deal. Verizon, the likely main target of legal actions, also could be challenged as it launches a new brand, Oath, to link its Yahoo, AOL and Huffington Post internet properties.

In August in the separate lawsuit brought by Yahoo's users, US Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, ruled Yahoo must face nationwide litigation brought on behalf of owners accounts who said their personal information was compromised in the three breaches. Yanchunis, the lawyer for the users, said his team planned to use the new information later this month to expanding its allegations. Also on Tuesday, Senator John Thune, chairman of the US Senate Commerce Committee, said he plans to hold a hearing later this month over massive data breaches at Equifax Inc and Yahoo. The US Securities and Exchange Commission already had been probing Yahoo over the hacks.

The closing of the Verizon deal, which was first announced in July, had been delayed as the companies assessed the fallout from two data breaches that Yahoo disclosed last year. The company paid \$4.48 billion for Yahoo's core business. —Reuters

Dark nights in power-starved North Korea

WONSAN: At the turbine hall at North Korea's Wonsan Number 5 hydropower station, a placard mounted on a wall proclaims: "Prosperous and Powerful Nation". But when it comes to electricity the North is anything but. The country has made rapid progress in its weapons program under leader Kim Jong-Un, detonating what it said was an H-bomb last month and launching intercontinental missiles that apparently bring much of the US mainland into range.

However, nearly 70 years after it was founded, the North suffers from perennial energy shortages, epitomized by satellite photos of the country at night, showing it as a largely dark quadrilateral between the bright lights of China and the South. Pyongyang is unusually dim for a capital city, the pale glow emerging from apartments often outshone by the moon. Solar panels are ubiquitous across the city's balconies and students gather under streetlights at night to read their books.

At the Wonsan power station, the turbine hall is dominated by a giant mosaic portraying the mythical birthplace of Kim Jong-Il, Kim's father and predecessor as North Korean leader, a hut on the sacred Mount Paektu. Several meters below, thousands of liters of water thunder through the generators every hour, spinning the turbines to produce electricity for a region on the east coast, chief engineer Choe Yong-Jun says, adding that while the complex's total capacity is 60,000 kW/h, actual production is a fraction of that.

"We have normalized our production rate at 25,000 kilowatts per hour," he told AFP-little more than 40 percent. Officials acknowledge the scarcity, with the state KCNA news agency quoting prime minister Pak Pong Ju referring to "the nation's acute shortage of electricity" while attending the groundbreaking earlier this year for



PYONGYANG: Photo shows an image of the sun broadcast on the illuminated screen of a giant television in a public square in Pyongyang. North Korea suffers from perennial energy shortages. — AFP

the new Tanchon hydropower station.

Citizens in the dark

It was not always thus. Under Japanese colonial rule northern Korea was developed as the industrial hub, with the southern part regarded as a agrarian backwater, and when the North designed its national emblem in the 1940s it gave pride of place to the Suphung hydroelectric dam on the Yalu river. "Back then, they had the best generation capacities in east Asia, probably better than in Japan, definitely better than anywhere else," said Andrei Lankov of Korea Risk Group.

But after the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, the North lost its access to heavily subsidized spare parts and technical expertise, and electricity generation nosedived. It has crept up more recently, but Lankov added:

"It seems that their power generation is roughly half of what it used to be in the early 1990s. It has gone down significantly."

According to the latest available figures from the International Energy Agency, hydroelectricity accounted for 73 percent of the North's power production in 2015, with coal in second place. Average consumption per capita was 0.46 megawatt hours, it says-less than a twentieth of that in the neighboring South. World Bank statistics say barely one in three North Koreans has access to electricity. Authorities ration power according to priority, with staff at important factories or prestige projects such as the Taedonggang brewery and the capital's Kaeson Youth Park funfair-whose bright lights contrast with the gloomy blocks nearby-telling AFP they never experience power cuts. —AFP

Analysis

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FOCUS

If attacks aim to divide US-Cuba, they're working

When Americans started falling ill last year in Havana, the victims of eerie, invisible attacks, investigators seized on a key question: Who had the motive to drive the United States and Cuba apart? Nearly a year later, the US hasn't unraveled the riddle. But whoever is to blame, the plot appears to be working. Less than three years have passed since the longtime enemies began an ambitious diplomatic experiment, restoring formal ties despite lingering resentments and potent political opposition on both sides of the Florida Straits. Despite all that, a delicate detente took hold in 2015 and has slowly but steadily progressed.

Now the experiment has been abruptly upended. Each country will soon have but a fraction of the diplomatic presence in the other's capitals that they've had in recent years. The United States, fearful about diplomats' safety, will leave behind a skeleton staff for emergencies. Cuba, ordered to withdraw 15 diplomats, will maintain roughly a dozen in Washington - far fewer, even, than worked in its "interests section" that took the place of an embassy for decades when the countries didn't officially speak.

For some 2 million Cuban-Americans and their relatives still in the homeland, the distance suddenly seems much wider than the mere 90 miles of water separating the nations. Visa processing will grind to a halt for the 20,000 Cubans who seek permission each year to emigrate to the US and thousands more applying to visit family. "The only thing I can do is wait," said Carlos Sierra, a 31-year-old restaurant worker in Havana. His hopes for a family re-unification visa to join his parents in the US have been dashed.

But what other choice did Washington have? Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and other US policy-makers struggled deeply with how to respond to the attacks, Trump administration officials said. They weren't authorized to discuss internal deliberations and requested anonymity. There was reluctance to punish Cuba when the US still hasn't blamed anyone. There were also concerns that if some entity - perhaps Russia, or a faction of Cuba's government - is trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Havana, cutting back diplomatic ties would play directly into their hands.

Yet Americans in Cuba these days may not be safe - at least as far as US security officials can tell. Twenty-two Americans are confirmed to have suffered medical ailments from the attacks, and the figure keeps growing. Loath to succumb to the still-nameless aggressor, most US diplomats in Havana argued against pulling out, as did their union in Washington and much of the State Department ranks, officials said. But leaving Americans in harm's way presented a moral dilemma that, ultimately, the administration decided it could not stomach.

"It's a wrenching decision," said Mark Feierstein, the former White House official who shepherded the detente with Cuba in the final years of the Obama administration. "There's clearly some entity out there that wants to damage relations between the two countries, and unfortunately, they've been successful."

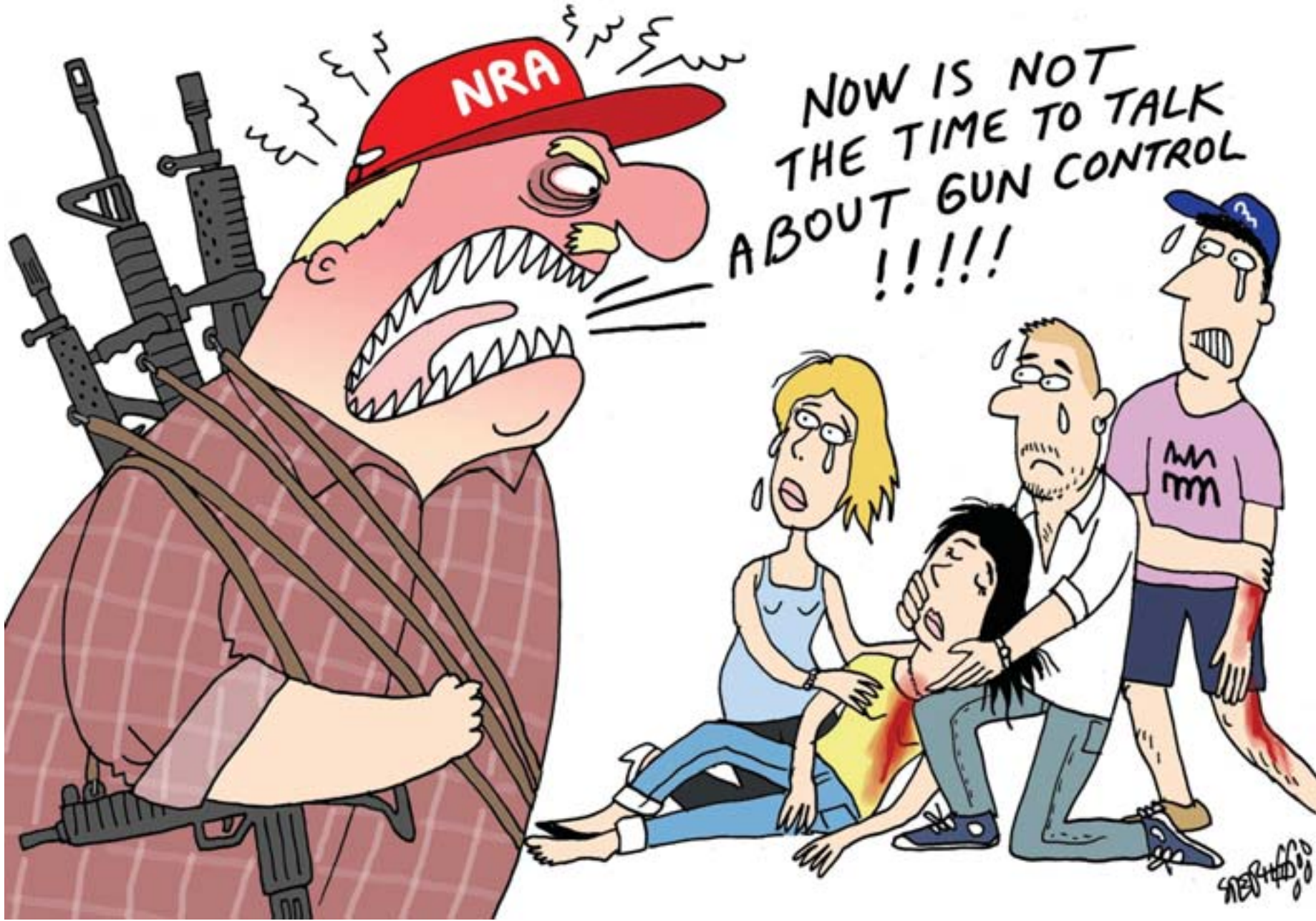
For Americans, the issue carries emotional baggage and fraught politics stemming from the saga over Benghazi, Libya, where four Americans were killed in 2012. In the years after, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her aides were pilloried over accusations they knew Americans were unsafe in Benghazi and failed to act in time. For President Raul Castro's government, the crisis has posed an entirely different challenge: If the attacks are still a mystery, how can Cuba exonerate itself?

Good Faith

Havana felt it had shown good faith by letting the FBI fly down and operate on its soil for what Cuba said was the first time in more than 50 years. The United States has praised its willingness to cooperate, but also has avoided sharing sensitive details about the investigation. At first, Cuba's communist government was judicious in its public comments about the matter, letting Washington do the talking. But then the US started suggesting Havana bore some responsibility - if not culpability - because Americans had been harmed on Cuban soil.

The United States has never explained what, if any, steps Castro's government could but won't take to stop the attacks, considering no culprit and no device have been identified. Rather, the US has merely said it's Cuba's responsibility to keep diplomats safe, and left it at that. So on Tuesday, hours after the US expelled its diplomats, Cuba finally went on offense. In a lengthy statement read to reporters in Havana, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez detailed everything his country has requested to help Cuban authorities investigate: immediate notification of attacks, access to injured Americans and their doctors, and technical data about what potential weapon might be at play, to name a few.

His argument: If Cuba is kept in the dark, how can it be expected to solve the crime? Supporters of warmer US-Cuba ties argue the Trump administration ultimately bowed to political pressure from opponents of rapprochement, such as Florida Sen Marco Rubio. Many of the same US lawmakers had tried unsuccessfully earlier this year to persuade Trump to revert back to the chillier state of affairs before 2015. —AP



Russia stymying N Korea regime change

Russia is quietly boosting economic support for North Korea to try to stymie any US-led push to oust Kim Jong Un as Moscow fears his fall would sap its regional clout and allow US troops to deploy on Russia's eastern border. Though Moscow wants to try to improve battered US-Russia relations in the increasingly slim hope of relief from Western sanctions over Ukraine, it remains strongly opposed to what it sees as Washington's meddling in other countries' affairs.

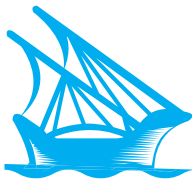
Russia is already angry about a build-up of US-led NATO forces on its western borders in Europe and does not want any replication on its Asian flank. Yet while Russia has an interest in protecting North Korea, which started life as a Soviet satellite state, it is not giving Pyongyang a free pass: it backed tougher United Nations sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear tests last month.

But Moscow is also playing a fraught double game, by quietly offering North Korea a slender lifeline to help insulate it from US-led efforts to isolate it economically. A Russian company began routing North Korean internet traffic this month, giving Pyongyang a second connection with the outside world besides China. Bilateral trade more than doubled to \$31.4 million in the first quarter of 2017, due mainly to what Moscow said was higher oil product exports.

At least eight North Korean ships that left Russia with fuel cargoes this year have returned home despite officially declaring other destinations, a ploy US officials say is often used to undermine sanctions against Pyongyang. And Russia, which shares a short land border with North Korea, has also resisted US-led efforts to repatriate tens of thousands of North Korean workers whose remittances help keep the country's hard line leadership afloat.

"The Kremlin really believes the North Korean leader-

ship should get additional assurances and confidence that the United States is not in the regime change business," Andrey Kortunov, head of the Russian International Affairs Council, a think-tank close to the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Reuters. "The prospect of regime change is a



Moscow playing a fraught double game

serious concern. The Kremlin understands that (US President Donald) Trump is unpredictable. They felt more secure with Barack Obama that he would not take any action that would explode the situation, but with Trump they don't know." Trump, who mocks North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a "rocket man" on a suicide mission, told the United Nations General Assembly last month he would "totally destroy" the country if necessary. He has also said Kim Jong Un and his foreign minister "won't be around much longer" if they made good on a threat to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States.

Strategic Border

To be sure, Beijing's economic ties to Pyongyang still dwarf Moscow's and China remains a more powerful player in the unfolding nuclear crisis. But while Beijing is cut-

ting back trade as it toughens its line on its neighbour's ballistic missile and nuclear program, Russia is increasing its support. People familiar with elements of Kremlin thinking say that is because Russia flatly opposes regime change in North Korea.

Russian politicians have repeatedly accused the United States of plotting so-called color revolutions across the former Soviet Union and any US talk of unseating any leader for whatever reason is politically toxic in Moscow. Russia's joint military exercises with neighboring Belarus last month gamed a scenario where Russian forces put down a Western-backed attempt for part of Belarus to break away. With Russia due to hold a presidential election in March, politicians are again starting to fret about Western meddling.

In 2011, President Vladimir Putin accused then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of trying to stir up unrest in Russia and he has made clear that he wants the United States to leave Kim Jong Un alone. While condemning Pyongyang for what he called provocative nuclear tests, Putin told a forum last month in the eastern Russian port of Vladivostok that he understood North Korea's security concerns about the United States and South Korea.

Vladivostok, a strategic port city of 600,000 people and headquarters to Russia's Pacific Fleet, is only about 100 km from Russia's border with North Korea. Russia would be fiercely opposed to any US forces deploying nearby in a reunited Korea. "(The North Koreans) know exactly how the situation developed in Iraq," Putin told the economic forum, saying Washington had used the false pretext that Baghdad had weapons of mass destruction to destroy the country and its leadership. "They know all that and see the possession of nuclear weapons and missile technology as their only form of self-defence. —Reuters

Independence or bust: Catalan leader boxed in

Catalonia's pro-independence leader Carles Puigdemont has called for the European Union to mediate with Spain over the region's future, but for many Catalans the intensity of a police crackdown on a banned referendum may mean it is too late for compromise. Across Catalonia's separatist heartland of Osona county, politicians said police action, using rubber bullets and batons against voters in the independence vote, left little room in the independence camp for anything short of secession.

"People here have completely disconnected from the Spanish state," said Joan Coma, a councillor for the Popular Unity Candidacy (CUP), a small anti-capitalist party which has an outsized influence on Puigdemont's Catalan government. "Independence will be unilateral," said Coma, who police arrested last year and released in June on charges of inciting civil disobedience and who is councillor in Osana's capital Vic.

Before Sunday's vote, members of Puigdemont's PdeCat party said they would be ready to accept greater fiscal and political autonomy without full independence for Catalonia, a region with its own language and an industrial and tourism powerhouse that accounts for a fifth of Spain's economy. But widespread anger over the crackdown on the referendum, declared illegal by Madrid, now makes any such strategy politically risky, given it would be unlikely to sustain broad support from independence supporters and from within Puigdemont's own ruling coalition in the Catalan parliament.

The pro-independence Catalan National Assembly (ANC), which has organised protests of hundreds of thou-

sands of secessionists in the past, interpreted Puigdemont's push for mediation as essentially a call for EU recognition of a new Catalan state. "It would be the EU that offers to mediate talks to reach an agreement which, I insist, would include Catalonia's independence," ANC spokesman Adria Alsina said. Puigdemont on Tuesday evening said his government would ask the separatist-controlled Catalan parliament to declare independence within 48 hours of tallying votes from the referendum, which he said could be as soon as this weekend.

This would leave Rajoy with the option of invoking the constitution to suspend the Catalan government and to bring on regional elections. This so-called "nuclear option" could reignite unrest in a region where secessionists are invoking the name of late dictator Francisco Franco in describing Rajoy's tactics. Before Franco's death in 1975, the Catalan language was suppressed.

Constitutional Crisis

An EU spokesman declined to say whether the Union would mediate, although it would be unusual for Brussels to take such a step within one of the bloc's own member states. The EU executive voiced trust in Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's ability to manage this "internal matter", but also called for dialogue between the sides and reminded Madrid of a need to respect citizens' basic rights.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Catalonia on Tuesday to protest against Sunday's violent crackdown by Spanish police. The referendum has plunged Spain into its worst constitutional crisis in decades, and is a political test for Rajoy, a conservative who has taken a hard



Catalan President Carles Puigdemont is reflected on a window during a press conference in Barcelona on Oct 2, 2017. —AFP

line stance on the issue. Outside of Catalonia, Spaniards mostly hold strong views against its independence drive.

Spain's King Felipe VI, in a rare intervention, accused secessionist leaders on Tuesday of shattering democratic principles and dividing Catalan society. Interviews with five pro-independence politicians in Osona county, a patchwork of farming towns, reveal an uncompromising mood after Sunday's violence which, according to Catalan officials, injured around 900 people across the region.

'We Have Lost Our Fear'

"We have lost our fear," said Jordi Casals, a 39-year-old councillor for the centre-left Esquerra Republicana party in the town of Torello. "To go back now is impossible." Casals said that when he entered politics over a decade ago, separatist rallies attracted just a few thousand people. On Sunday, 2.26 million people out of 5.34 million registered voters managed

to vote with about 90 percent backing independence, according to Catalan government figures. However, unionists mostly boycotted the referendum.

Puigdemont used vague language open to interpretation when asked what he wanted to achieve from EU-mediated talks. On Monday, he said: "It would be a mediation in which there must be a commitment to re-establish the institutional normalcy." Coma said Sunday's turnout - greater than that of an informal ballot in 2014 according to Catalan officials - made the referendum result binding and the CUP was now mobilizing local assemblies to begin the process of splitting with Spain.

The CUP is crucial to the survival of a separatist Catalan government since it enabled larger parties to form a pro-independence coalition in 2015. As a condition, it forced out Artur Mas as Catalan leader for Puigdemont due to the lack of progress towards independence since the 2014 vote. —Reuters

News

‘Battle of the sexes’: Saudi men react to women driving



RIYADH: A Saudi man checks his mobile as women wait for their drivers outside a hotel in the Saudi capital on Sept 28, 2017. — AFP

RIYADH: With many carrots and some sticks, ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia seeks to tackle entrenched male attitudes towards women drivers before millions take the wheel, many for the first time, next June. For decades, hardliners cited austere Islamic interpretations to justify the ban on women, with some maintaining that they lacked the intelligence to drive and allowing them to do so would promote promiscuity.

The ban finally ended last week, but many women fear they are still easy prey for conservatives in a nation where male “guardians” have arbitrary authority to take decisions on their behalf. “You can revoke the ban, but you cannot force men to allow their sisters and wives to drive,” said a Saudi man with a private taxi company in Riyadh, declining to be named. “As head of my family, I make the decisions - not the women,” he told AFP, expressing an aversion to his wife driving as that would mean more contact with unrelated men.

Such views are hardly an anomaly in the gender-segregated kingdom, despite Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s stunning reform push that has sought to liberalize the kingdom and add more women to the workforce. “Expect more accidents” because of women drivers, remarked one Saudi, echoing an avalanche of sexist comments on Twitter. Saudi authorities last week arrested a man who threatened a violent backlash against any female driver whose car breaks down. “I swear to God, I will burn her and her car,” the man, wearing a traditional white robe, said in an online video.

‘Modern-day camels’

Such attitudes have prompted fears among some women that they will struggle to get licenses or could be deliberately failed in driving tests. The government has preemptively addressed such concerns, with the interior ministry pledging to enforce the law by any means necessary. Riyadh is already moving to bring female driving instructors from abroad and establish driving schools exclusively for women. Authorities are also moving to criminalize sexual harassment with a new law, with flogging and jail terms as possible penalties.

The Saudi media is also taking on conservative opposition - with a dash of humor. “Driving has always been a minefield in the battle of the sexes... Sorry fellas but women are the better drivers,” declared a recent graphic published in the English-language daily Arab News, citing research that male drivers are involved in more accidents. Newspaper editorials have argued that if women were allowed to ride camels in the time of Prophet Muhammad

(PBUH), then they should be allowed to drive “modern-day camels” - cars.

Others have highlighted the economic benefits of the reform: Saudi families would no longer need foreign chauffeurs, often a major source of financial strain. Sabq online newspaper published a cartoon comparing the merits of two drivers: A scraggly dressed foreign man and a veiled Saudi woman. “Man: Salary. Housing. Bad Tempered. Knows your deepest secrets. Ruins your car,” it said. “Woman: Love. Care. Consideration. Commitment.”

‘Village mentality’

But authorities are careful not to antagonize the sensitivities of hardline clerics. The Council of Senior Scholars, the kingdom’s highest religious body that is close to the royal family, announced the majority of its members found that lifting the ban was “permissible”. Experts say their approval - after decades of opposition - symbolizes the government’s tightening grip on the religious establishment that has long dominated Saudi politics.

“It’s unlikely that the scholars who consistently maintained that driving would damage ovaries, deprive (women) of their virginity and integrity had a sudden epiphany that their decades-old beliefs were wrong,” said James Dorsey from Singapore’s S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. When the ban was lifted, several women’s rights activists who long fought it alleged that authorities warned them not to make any public comments - seemingly not to highlight that activism can lead to reform. The government denies the claim.

Ali Shihabi, from the Washington-based think tank Arab Foundation, said on Twitter that the government did not want activists to “further provoke the conservatives who were already provoked by (the) driving decision”. The decision was led by Prince Mohammed, who styles himself as a reformer who will set the country on the road to modernity and civil liberty.

But some experts have called the decision pure tokenism until the kingdom dismantles its rigid guardianship system. “Women still face a number of other hurdles,” said research firm Capital Economics. “It may take many years for Saudi society to fully accept a greater role for women.” A Saudi executive at a multinational company in Riyadh said the main obstacle remains a prevailing “village mentality”, although some patriarchs prefer having women drive themselves than be chauffeured around by unrelated men. “Women drivers will become a new normal and then people will say: ‘How come we didn’t allow this to happen sooner?’” — AFP

MP urges debate over scrapping petrol hike

Continued from Page 1

He demanded a copy of the request if any, and if the two banks have not filed any request, what would

Saudi king in Russia with oil, investment, Syria on agenda

Continued from Page 1

This leaves Moscow aligned with Saudi Arabia’s archrival Iran, whose influence Riyadh fears is growing in the region. “The Saudis want help on Iran, and Russia wants trade and investment,” said Mark N Katz, an expert on Russia-Middle East relations at George Mason University. “In the Saudi mind, they’re definitely linked and the Russians are going to try to separate these.” Billboards have been erected on the road from the airport to central Moscow welcoming King Salman in Arabic and Russian. His son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, visited in May just before his elevation to crown prince, and in 2015 the countries’ sovereign wealth funds agreed to \$10 billion in investments. A business forum will include speeches by top ministers and the heads of state-owned energy giants Saudi Aramco and Gazprom as well as a presentation of Saudi’s Vision 2030 reform program, which aims to end the kingdom’s dependence on oil. Moscow sees the trip as a payoff for its two-year-old intervention in Syria and recognition of its growing Middle East clout.

“Even 12 months ago, Riyadh was highly critical of Russia’s involvement in Syria and the relationship looked as frozen as ever,” said Chris Weafer, senior partner at economic and political consultancy Macro-Advisory Ltd. “Today that has changed 180 degrees. Both countries now see political and economic advantages from a closer, albeit pragmatic, relationship. This visit is intended to make sure it stays on track.”

Discussion of Syria is likely to focus on what the country will look like once Islamic State is defeated, Assad’s future, what peace talks between Saudi-backed opposition activists and Damascus can achieve and the creation of new de-escalation zones. The king may also seek assurances that Iran will not have a permanent role in Syria. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow hoped the king’s trip would breathe life into a relationship with huge potential and was interested in maintaining dialogue with Riyadh “about the Middle East and Syria in particular”.

Any discussion of the oil market and the efficacy of moves to prop up prices by cutting supply will be closely watched. The oil price fall in the last three years has overstretched both producers’ budgets, making an extension of joint cuts beyond March 2018 more likely. Moscow said last month it had discussed with Riyadh extending the deal but no specific decisions had been made ahead of a Nov 30 producers’ meeting in Vienna.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said in an interview broadcast on Monday that the planned \$1-billion fund to invest in energy projects was part of efforts to strengthen cooperation in oil, gas, electricity, renewable energy and other projects. Russian firms are also discussing deals with Saudi Aramco, such as providing drilling services in Saudi Arabia, and Russian oil giant Rosneft’s interest in crude trading, he added.

Separately, the presidents of Iran and Turkey vowed during talks in Tehran yesterday to work closely together to prevent the disintegration of Iraq and Syria and to oppose the Iraqi Kurds’ drive for independence. Shiite Iran and mainly Sunni Turkey, a NATO member, have tradition-

ally had cool relations but both have been alarmed by the Iraqi Kurds’ vote for independence in a Sept 25 referendum, fearing it will stoke separatism among their own Kurdish populations.

“We want security and stability in the Middle East ... The independence referendum is a sectarian plot by foreign countries and is rejected by Tehran and Ankara,” Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani said, according to state TV. “We will not accept a change of borders under any circumstances.”

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said after meeting Turkey’s President Tayyip Erdogan that the two countries should prevent Iraq’s Kurdistan from declaring independence, state TV reported. “Turkey and Iran must take necessary measures against the vote,” Khamenei was quoted as saying. He also said the United States and foreign powers planned to create a new Israel in the Middle East by supporting the vote in Kurdistan, according to state TV. “America and Israel benefit from the vote ... They want to create a new Israel in the region ... The Iraqi Kurdish secession vote is an act of betrayal toward the entire region,” Khamenei said.

Iran and Turkey have already threatened to join Baghdad in imposing economic sanctions on Iraqi Kurdistan and have launched joint military exercises with Iraqi troops on their borders with the separatist region. Erdogan, who is on a one-day trip to Tehran, said Ankara was considering taking further measures against Iraqi Kurdistan. “We have

already said we don’t recognize the referendum in northern Iraq... We have taken some measures already with Iran and the Iraqi central government, but stronger steps will be taken,” he said. Iraq’s autonomous Kurdistan region announced on Tuesday it was calling presidential and parliamentary elections for Nov 1. Baghdad has responded with further punitive measures. Iraq’s central

government, its neighbors and Western powers fear the vote in favor of secession could spark another, wider conflict in the Middle East region to add to the war in Syria, and fear it could derail the fight against Islamic State. The Kurds are the region’s fourth largest ethnic group, spread across Iran, Turkey, Syria and Iraq, all of which oppose any moves towards a Kurdish state.

Erdogan, whose security forces are embroiled in a decades-long battle with Kurdish separatists in southeast Turkey, repeated in Tehran his accusation that Israel was behind the Iraqi Kurds’ referendum. “There is no country other than Israel that recognizes it. A referendum which was conducted by sitting side by side with Mossad has no legitimacy,” he said, referring to the Israeli intelligence agency. Israel has denied Turkey’s previous claims of involvement in the vote, but has welcomed the Kurds’ vote for independence.

Rouhani also said yesterday that Tehran and Ankara planned to expand their economic ties. “Turkey will import more gas from Iran... Meetings will be held next week to discuss the details,” he said. Rouhani and Erdogan underlined the goal of tripling two-way trade to \$30 billion in 2018, to be processed in their own currencies, easing the pressure on Iran whose banking sector is subject to US sanctions. The atmosphere for the talks was a far cry from Erdogan’s last visit to Tehran in April 2015 when a speech he gave just days before sparked demands from some Iranian lawmakers for it to be cancelled. The Turkish leader had accused Iran at the time of seeking to “dominate the region” and demanded that it withdraw its troops from Iraq and Syria. — Agencies

Moscow sees trip as recognition of its growing Middle East clout



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Sports

Bale recovery boosted by diagnosis of calf muscle

LONDON: Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale has been diagnosed with a swollen left calf muscle but has not torn it, his club said yesterday, boosting the player's chances of facing former club Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League later this month. Confusion has clouded the extent of Bale's latest injury with Real initially saying he had only suffered cramp towards the end of their 3-1 win at Borussia Dortmund on Sept. 26. Coach Zinedine Zidane said the player was not seriously injured and was happy to see him go on international duty with Wales, despite omitting him from the squad for last Sunday's La Liga game against Espanyol. Bale, however, had to leave the Wales camp on Tuesday because of the injury, forcing him out of his country's crucial World Cup qualifiers with Georgia and the Republic of Ireland. —Reuters



Leicester dealt transfer blow as FIFA rejects Silva appeal

LONDON: Leicester City's attempts to sign Adrien Silva from Sporting Lisbon were dealt a blow yesterday, with FIFA saying it had rejected an FA petition to grant the midfielder an international transfer certificate. Leicester bought the 28-year-old just before the transfer window closed on Aug. 31, but FIFA, who handle international transfers, received the paperwork moments after the deadline for registration ended. FIFA refused to sanction Silva's transfer, prompting the English FA to write to the world governing body in early September, but that appeal has now been rejected. "The petition made by The Football Association for permission to request the International Transfer Certificate for the player Adrien Silva and subsequently register the player for its affiliated club, Leicester City FC, is rejected," FIFA said in a statement. Leicester will now only be able to sign the player when the transfer window reopens in January, unless they take their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. A Leicester spokesman declined to immediately comment on the matter. —Reuters

Cilic pummels Uchiyama to reach Tokyo quarters

TOKYO: Top seed Marin Cilic crushed local favourite Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-3, 6-4 yesterday to reach the Japan Open quarter-finals. The towering Croatian, runner-up to Roger Federer at this year's Wimbledon and a former US Open champion, needed just over an hour to complete the rout in Tokyo. Cilic, the current world number five and a semi-finalist in Japan last season, hit 14 aces and dropped only four of 34 points on his first serve as he advanced to play American Ryan Harrison in the last eight. Harrison upset fifth seed Kevin Anderson of South Africa—who reached last month's US Open final, where he was beaten by Rafa Nadal — 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 in a see-saw match. Elsewhere Argentina's Diego Schwartzman advanced, the eighth seed thumping Bernard Tomic of Australia 6-3, 6-1, while Frenchman Adrian Panatta overpowered Czech Jiri Vesely 6-3, 6-2. —AFP



Crown Prince annual shooting tournament begins from Oct 19

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sports Club announced the start of its 2017-2018 season with the tournament of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah annual shooting tournament from 19-21 October. The tournament will be at Olympic shooting events in the trap, double trap, skeet, 10m air pistol and rifle, 50 meter pistol and rifle and Olympic archery.



Shooters from Kuwait, Saudi, UAE will compete

Shooters from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE will compete in the tournament to be held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Meanwhile President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi thanked, on behalf of KSSC board members and the shooting community, HH the Crown Prince for his support and continued encouragement of shooters and the shoot-

ing sport, as shooters exert their efforts to represent their country and have Kuwait flag in prominence during all international events. He said this tournament plays a major role in the participation of a large number of athletes from Gulf and Arab countries due to the importance of winning its title at the start of the season.

Al-Otaibi said the organizing committee made all preparations to have this tournament come out at its best, as all ranges at the Olympic

complex were made ready. Registration for shooters planning to participate in the HH the Crown Prince Shooting Tournament will be opened from Saturday October 14th and will be closed on October 17th, and then officiating committees will make the draw and distribute the groups.

Al-Otaibi said any shooter who breaks the world record during this tournament will get double prize.



KUWAIT: Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Hamilton, Mercedes in search of lost speed at Suzuka

SUZUKA: Lewis Hamilton and his Mercedes team will be looking for lost speed as Formula One wraps up its Asian leg in Japan this weekend. The championship leader is thankful to have extended his advantage over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel to 34 points with five races remaining but he is also conscious that there is work to be done.

Mercedes were slower than Ferrari and Red Bull for the second successive race in Malaysia after similarly struggling for pace in Singapore. That represented unfamiliar territory for the reigning champions, even if they came away with a tidy points haul as Ferrari self-destructed.

Hamilton has won twice before at Suzuka, and three times in Japan when Fuji is included in the reckoning, while Mercedes are unbeaten there in three years. On paper it should suit them again, but there is also an air of uncertainty with Red Bull very much in the mix after Max Verstappen's victory at Sepang.

"There are a lot of question marks generally which we need to assess," said

Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff. "I think we should have been quicker than we were (in Malaysia) but Suzuka should be much more in the window.

"I'm very much looking forward to Suzuka to see how the car behaves there because it should be completely different." Last year, Hamilton arrived in Japan ill at ease and still feeling the agony of an engine failure at Sepang while leading from pole position—a blow that ultimately cost him the championship.

He played around on Snapchat and then moodily refused questions from 'disrespectful' media who criticised his behaviour. This time he is riding a run of good fortune, with an opening lap crash for Vettel in Singapore dealing the German a significant setback in a race that the Briton went on to win.

In Malaysia he finished second after his rival raced to fourth place from last on the grid due to a power unit problem in qualifying. Vettel had a new engine for Sepang and the four times winner in Japan will expect to be quick on Sunday, with fears



Lewis Hamilton

for his car's gearbox subsiding since he and Canadian Lance Stroll collided on the post-race slowing down lap.

"It's been a difficult weekend, but nevertheless the speed is there," said the four-time champion, who has four wins this year to Hamilton's seven. But both he and Hamilton also have to contend with a resurgent Red Bull.

"The Red Bulls are right in it now," said former racer and television commentator Martin Brundle. "You think of Suzuka, it's just one corner after another. You always want power but they should be mighty in

Suzuka, the Red Bulls."

Sunday's race will also be Honda's last home grand prix as power unit suppliers to McLaren, with the Japanese manufacturer set to tie up with Toro Rosso next year. The Woking-based team head into the weekend having chalked up their first consecutive points finishes of the season.

A third race in the points this weekend, at a track owned by Honda, will see McLaren, who are switching to Renault power next year, equal their best successive run of top-10 finishes since joining forces with the Japanese firm. — Reuters

Black leads all-around qualifying

MONTREAL: Canada's Ellie Black grabbed the early lead in qualifying for the women's all-around final at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday, leading the standings after two subdivisions.

The 22-year-old from Halifax, who finished fifth in the all-around final at last year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics, led the way with 55.766 points with three more subdivisions to come later. Russia's Elena Eremina was second with 54.999pts while Belgium's Nina Derwael was third in the standings with 53.598pts. Amy Tinkler of Britain meanwhile continued her strong comeback from a torn calf muscle after finishing the day in fifth, with 52.831. Tinkler, a bronze medallist in the floor routine at the Olympics last year, only resumed training in August after undergoing surgery to repair her injury earlier this year.

The 17-year-old from Durham has also battled illness in the build-up to this week's championships. "I'm really buzzing with my performance," she told reporters. "With the build-up, it's been a rough week. I've been really ill. I'm still not 100 percent but I'm a lot better than I was last week. I'm really happy to be out here representing again."

Tinkler now faces a nervous wait to see if she will finish among the 24 who will qualify for Friday's all-around final. "It's quite hard waiting," Tinkler said. "Waiting is more nervous than competing to be honest."

The women's competition is relatively open, with reigning Olympic and world champion Simone Biles of the United States skipping Montreal as part of a year-long competitive break.

In the men's qualifiers meanwhile, the final line-up was confirmed with Cuba's Manrique Larduet the top qualifier. Larduet had led after Monday's qualifying session which was overshadowed by the shock withdrawal of defending Japanese champion Kohei Uchimura, who limped out with an ankle injury.

China's Xiao Ruoteng booked his place in the final in second, ahead of Russia's David Belyavskiy in third. Rio silver medallist Oleg Verniaiev of Ukraine qualified in fifth spot.

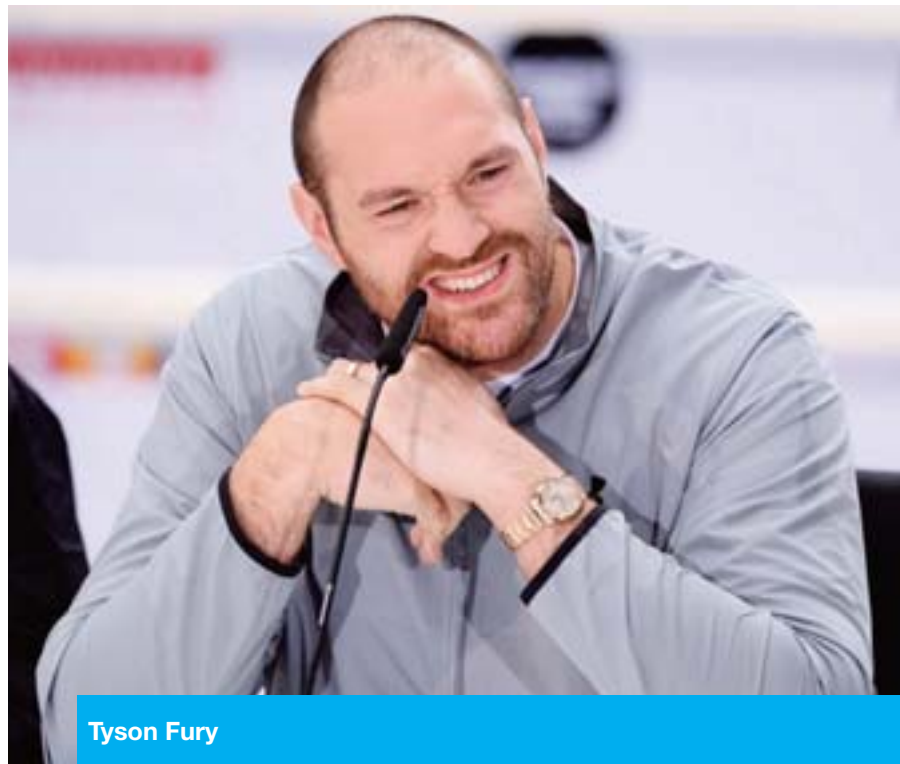
The men's all-around final takes place today with the women's medals decided tomorrow. The apparatus finals medals take place over the weekend. There is no team event at the world championships in the year immediately following an Olympics. —AFP

Tyson Fury 'will not apply' for new licence

LONDON: Britain's troubled former heavyweight world champion Tyson Fury said yesterday he will not be applying for a new boxing licence. The 29-year-old has not fought since his shock defeat of Wladimir Klitschko to win the WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight titles in November 2015.

Having twice postponed rematches with Klitschko, the 29-year-old had his licence suspended last October when he admitted he was using cocaine and struggling with depression. Fury had hoped to return to the ring earlier this year but that plan was scuppered when

his UK Anti-Doping hearing was adjourned in May. Not for the first time, the British boxer now appears to have announced he is quitting by saying on Twitter that he will not apply to the British Boxing Board of Control for a licence. "After thinking long & hard about my return I will not be applying for aBBBOCboxinglicense. After the way they have handled stuff. No thanks," he tweeted. Fury was at ringside last month when his cousin Hughie Fury came up short in his bid to take the WBO heavyweight title from champion Joseph Parker in Manchester. — AFP



Tyson Fury

Sports

IAAF head Coe seeks radical change to keep athletics relevant

IAAF is now an example for all sports in terms of transparency

LONDON: The 2019 Doha World Athletics Championships could have a very different look to this year's event, IAAF head Sebastian Coe said yesterday as he explained how the sport is embracing radical change in the fight to "stay relevant". Established track and field events could be cut from the programme - though the former British politician was careful not to name any in the firing line - while some of the basic presumptions that have underpinned the sport for over a century are up for debate.

"Everything is on the table. Frankly, I'm not ruling anything out," Coe told journalists at the Leaders in Sport conference. "The London World Championships was fabulous but is it sensible that it runs over 10 days anymore? Do we have fewer athletes? Do we concertina the World Championships to semis and finals? "These are the things that are on the table and I don't want to remove them until we've had a possibly uncomfortable set of conversations. You're going to have to challenge a lot of the orthodoxies." Coe addressed the conference on the subject of sports governance and said that he had been forced to spend his first two years in office as IAAF President "securing the foundations" of an organisation shattered by corruption issues that had dogged it for years and remain the subject of a French judicial investigation. He said that the IAAF is now an example for all sports in terms of transparency and ethics and that now changes, which included him giving up many of the powers previously

attached to the Presidency, had been put in place he is free to address athletics' external problems. The former double Olympic 1500 metres champion has long recognised the shortcomings of the Diamond League and promised changes for next season. He also said he had concerns over the sport's obsession with times, recognising that fans were more engaged by great racing. "There has got to be drama, nobody wants to watch a procession," he said.

A fan of city-centre events Coe said he was happy to look at suggestions from anywhere in his new crusade of keeping the sport "relevant" to the next generation. "Over the next year our relentless focus on formats and the changes that we make in the sport has to be absolutely laser-like," he said. "Our season needs to make sense, we need a rhyme and reason to it. We really need a deep dive over the next two years so that we really do understand what that sport can look like and set it on the way for the next 30 years. "For example, why are we wedded to a 400-metre track? Why can we not have pop-up 300m or 200m tracks in football stadiums? "What about teams, cities, franchises? What about having the excitement of the draft, the IPL (cricket's Indian Premier League) auction? Those are the things that I really want to have on the table.

"We need to have some early moments of unease about what we are prepared to do and I think we have to be radical." — Reuters



IAAF head Sebastian Coe (centre) with officials.

Superstar Bolt can inspire young, says Sebastian Coe

LONDON: Jamaican track superstar Usain Bolt can play a key role in inspiring youngsters to get involved in athletics even though he has hung up his running spikes, IAAF president Sebastian Coe said yesterday. Bolt, the world record holder in the 100m and 200m, brought down the curtain on his glittering career at the London world championships in August. Coe, himself a two-time Olympic gold medalist, said he was due to meet the 31-year-old Jamaican before Christmas to discuss what he could do. "I had conversations with the Jamaican prime minister when I went to watch Bolt run his final race there," Coe told reporters at the Sport Business Summit, held at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground in London. "Jamaica's challenges aren't dissimilar to ours in figuring out all the inspirational things he can do in Jamaica and for us on a global scale," he said.

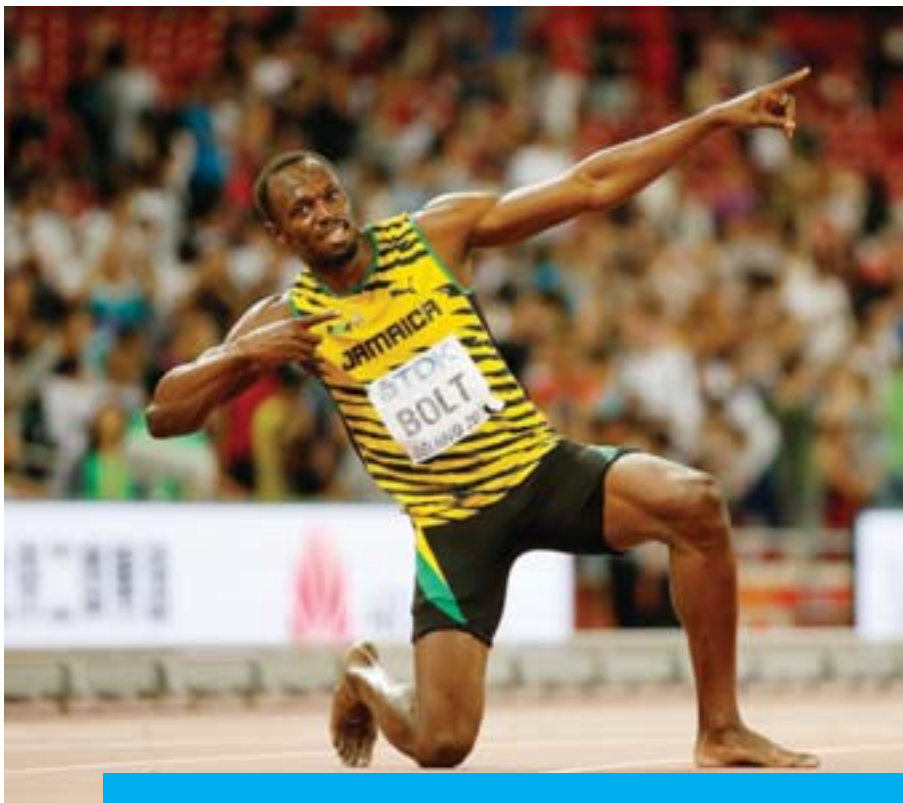
"At the moment it is difficult for me to say what he can do beyond engagement with young people. I don't think I have ever witnessed anyone in any sport apart from Muhammad Ali who has had that ability to engage with the young."

International Association of Athletics

Federations chief Coe said it was difficult to see the enormous vacuum left by Bolt on and off the track being filled immediately. "Nobody will fill the boots straight away," he said. "This is not just simply about someone who will dominate sprinting for the next three Olympic Games.

"It is maybe not being philosophically or politically correct but we are in the entertainment business. "The athletes have to have an opinion, they must be able to dominate a room and a stadium and sometimes I sit there at athletes' press conferences and I wonder are you really offering as much as you should? "I want to feel like I wasn't expecting that response, they have to be interesting, take the sport beyond the stadium, they have to reach out." Coe backed the right of American sports stars to "take a knee" in protest during the playing of the US national anthem following a tirade against them from President Donald Trump.

"I believe in personal freedoms, always," said Coe. "You have to be. Sport is rarely a mirror image of society. Sport sets the trends. "For instance Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin (who exploded the myth of Aryan superiority) or the raised fist



Usain Bolt

salute in the 1968 Games (involving 200m medalists Tommie Smith and John Carlos). "Sport will always take a view, sometimes makes one uncomfortable but we all have an individual view.

"I have never felt under pressure from political leaders, not even 1979/80," added

Coe with a trace of a smile, referring to pressure put on him and his father by a minister in Margaret Thatcher's government to boycott the 1980 Olympics in Moscow over the then Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan—he declined and went on to win his first gold. — AFP

Doping bans leave North Koreans set for glory in US

NEW YORK: Weightlifting's new hardline approach to doping has not only led to one-year bans for China, Russia and seven other nations, it has also opened the way for North Korea to register its biggest sporting triumph in US President Donald Trump's backyard.

Tensions between the US and North Korea have escalated in recent months, with Trump vowing to halt the country's nuclear ambitions, but the North Korean lifters will be welcomed. Despite Trump's travel ban against several nations, including North Korea and Iran, the World Championships organising committee do not foresee any visa problems.

"We look forward to welcoming DPR Korea, one of the top teams in the sport, to Anaheim, (California)" said Phil Andrews, chief executive of USA Weightlifting. North Korea have never topped the medals table at a world championship in any major sport but excel at weightlifting.

In recent years it has become the most successful sport for North Korea, who came second in the weightlifting medal count at the London 2012 Olympics and fourth in Rio last year. They have also made the top four at the past three worlds. North Korea are huge favourites to win most medals at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships being staged by the U.S. from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. There are 16 weight categories, eight each for men and women, in Anaheim and in seven of them a North Korean tops the revised world rankings, after banned countries are discounted. No other nation has more than one lifter in first place.

NINE BANNED

China, which has been top of the World Championship or Olympic medals count 19 times in the past 20 years, will have to stay at home this time along with Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Turkey.

Those nine nations had three or more of the 49 weightlifting positive tests announced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) when samples from the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games were re-tested, bringing a one-year ban from mid-October. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gave weightlifters pride of place when his nation's 11 gold medalists from the 2014 Asian Games - staged in South Korea - had a victory parade on their return to Pyongyang. Four of the 11 were weightlifters and Kim was photographed with one on each arm, the 56kg world record holder and multiple champion Om Yun-chol, and 62kg winner Kim Un-Guk, both of whom are national heroes.

Kim is thanked by the winners every time they speak to the world's media. When Om won gold at London 2012 he said his medal was "due to the warm love and consideration" of his supreme leader, while Rim Jong-Sim, after her 75kg gold medal in Rio last year, said: "The first thing I thought when I knew I had won was that I had made our beloved leader happy." Om and Rim will be two of the strongest favourites to win on American soil, while Kim will be missing, having been banned for four years when he tested positive along with three other North Koreans at the 2015 World Championships.

Despite those positives, North Korea have a comparatively good record on doping, with eight lifters banned in the past 10 years compared to 29 in the same period from Kazakhstan, the worst offenders. —Reuters

NBA players Marcus and Markieff Morris acquitted of assault

PHOENIX: A Phoenix jury acquitted NBA players Marcus and Markieff Morris in their aggravated assault trial Tuesday. The twin brothers were accused of helping three other people beat 36-year-old Erik Hood in January 2015 outside a high school basketball game in Phoenix.

At that time, the 28-year-old brothers played for the Phoenix Suns. Marcus now plays for the Boston Celtics and Markieff is with the Washington Wizards. After the verdict was read in Maricopa County Superior Court, the Morris brothers said they were relieved and ready to get back to their teams. They have missed the start of the NBA preseason because of the trial.

Another defendant, Gerald Bowman, also was found not guilty on two counts of aggravated assault. Two other co-defendants pleaded guilty to the charges on Sept. 13. Jurors got the case Monday afternoon. They began hearing testimony Sept. 18.

Defense attorney James Belanger said in closing arguments that the case was inexcusably tainted by Hood's mentor trying to solicit two witnesses to implicate the Morris brothers for a cash payment in return.

Two witnesses testified about the mentor's attempt and their refusal to lie. They both went to break up the fight and placed the Morris twins near the site but not as part of the altercation. Prosecutor Daniel Fisher had urged jurors to convict the brothers, saying Marcus Morris kicked Hood in the head and Markieff Morris acted as an accomplice because "they had an axe to grind" with him.

Defense attorneys pressed Hood during his testimony about his financial motives in the case and his



PHOENIX: File photo, NBA players Markieff, left, and Marcus Morris arrive at Superior Court for their aggravated assault trial in Phoenix. — AP

knowledge of the NBA players' substantial financial assets. They also repeatedly said Hood lied to police nine times when he said both twins were involved in the assault. Hood later changed his statement to say Markieff did not beat him but had been in the vicinity.

Timothy Eckstein, a lawyer for Marcus Morris, said Hood knew he had to "double down on Marcus" beating him because the case wouldn't be worth anything without one of the brothers involved. Hood testified he

wanted justice for the incident that left him with a broken nose and other injuries. He said he has known the Morris brothers since their youth basketball days, but they had a falling out in 2011.

Hood testified that his relationship with the twins became strained because of a misinterpreted text message he sent their mother. But he said there was nothing "improper" happening with him and their mother. — AP

Sports

Sri Lankans target Pakistan record for final Test in Dubai

Day-night affair with pink ball starts tomorrow

DUBAI: Sri Lanka will hope their left-arm spinner Rangana Herath maintains pressure on Pakistan when the second and final Test-a day-night affair with pink ball-starts at Dubai stadium tomorrow. The 39-year-old took 6-43 on the final day to fail Pakistan's modest 136-run chase in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Monday. The narrow 21-run win gives Sri Lanka a unique chance for a series win over Pakistan on their neutral venues of United Arab Emirates where they have never lost a series in nine attempts.

They have won five and drawn four series in the UAE ever since the 2009 terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus forced them to play home matches out of Pakistan. Herath exposed the new batting line up of Pakistan, playing without their batting greats Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq for the time since they retired in May this year.

Sri Lankan skipper Dinesh Chandimal described Herath as "a team man and an asset." "I have no idea how long he is going to play, but I am sure he will do what he can for the team," said Chandimal of Herath who completed 400 wickets in his 84th Tests in Abu Dhabi. "He is a team man and an asset." The left-arm spinner also reached 100 wickets against Pakistan during the first Test.

"We need to be at our best again and can't underestimate Pakistan because we know they are a good team," said Chandimal whose team will rise one spot to replace Pakistan on sixth, even with a 1-0 result. Chandimal anchored the batting with a polished 155 not out in Sri Lanka's first innings total of 419, ably filling in for the more experienced Angelo Mathews who didn't come with the squad due to a calf injury. Sarfraz

Ahmed hopes Pakistan team moves on from the defeat in his first Test as captain.

"We will do our best to be more positive against Herath," said Ahmed. "We have never lost in UAE so it's also important to keep that record intact." Pakistan will be assessed pacer Hasan Ali in the next two days after he had fitness issues while they also hope spearhead Mohammad Amir returns to form with the pink ball after going wicketless in the first Test. Debutant Haris Sohail provided a positive in the batting after scores of 76 and 34 while Azhar Ali scored 85.

The match will be the sixth day-night Test after the innovation was first adopted by Australia when they took on New Zealand at Adelaide in 2015. Pakistan beat the West Indies in their first day-night Test at the same venue last year but this will be the first time Sri Lanka feature in a pink ball Test.

Squads (from):

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (capt), Azhar Ali, Shan Masood, Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Usman Salahuddin, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Asghar, Bilal Asif, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Amir, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Abbas, Wahab Riaz Sri Lanka: Dinesh Chandimal (capt), Lahiru Thirimanne, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Roshen Silva, Niroshan Dickwella, Rangana Herath, Lakshan Sandakan, Dilruwan Perera, Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Pradeep, Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Gamage Umpires: Nigel Llong (ENG) and Richard Kettleborough (ENG) Tv umpire: Sundaram Ravi (IND). ICC match referee: Andy Pycoft (ZIM). —

“

Herath is a team man and an asset

”



ABU DHABI: File photo shows Sri Lanka players celebrating after they beat Pakistan during their fifth day at First Test cricket match in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday. — AP

Govt decision to pump \$10m for baseball divides Venezuelans

CARACAS: Baseball-mad Venezuelans are bitterly divided over a government decision to pump millions into the game while basic food and medicines are in short supply in the crisis-rocked South American country.

President Nicolas Maduro is making \$10 million available to the Venezuelan Professional Baseball League (LVBP) as the season gets set to open next week. The money is being used to subsidize the transfer of players and purchase equipment ahead of the start of the popular eight-team national league.

But the move has angered many fans who believe the money should go to help alleviate shortages caused by the deep economic and political crisis after months of protests cost at least 125 lives.

"They should instead opt to buy medicines, food, things we don't have. The fact that the government is giving money to the league is absurd," said Javier Hernandez, 45, at a fan shop in the capital dedicated to the Caracas Lions. Others, like Leonardo Perez, 39, think that even a hint of normal life is badly needed in Venezuela, where baseball is the most popular sport. "Despite so much crisis, I think we also need recreation, and baseball runs in the veins of Venezuelans," said Perez, after buying tickets to a Lions game at the same shop.

NEW SEASON

The debate was being played out as Caracas Lions players practiced on their lush green pitch at the Universitario Stadium, the air filled with the thock of wood on leather as batters honed their skills. Hernandez, one of the fans in the shop, thinks the League "should be suspended"-an idea supported by baseball figures such as Alfredo Pedrique, a manager with Major League experience.

"We should be conscious. We should have no baseball. For human reasons, for the children who are dying for lack of food and medicines," Pedrique, who coached the Lions last year, told local radio.

However Leonardo, with his tickets in hand, stressed that "you need to disconnect once in a while," from so many problems. Strict exchange controls are in place in cash-strapped Venezuela as foreign reserves have trickled away in a country that has been in economic freefall under Maduro's rule. Most Venezuelans are subject to an official exchange rate of 3,345 bolivars to the dollar as they struggle to feed their families. But dollars are hard to come by. Many have to resort to the abyss of the black market, where dollars are available for 28,000 bolivars to the dollar. The government rate given to the baseball league is 10 bolivars to the dollar, the same preferential rate as for food and medicine importers.

League officials consider that the championship would not survive without the subvention, because it allows teams to pay foreign players and import balls, uniforms and even teams' medical supplies.

Without the government preferential rates, the private sector has to import products and supplies on the black market, lifting inflation into the stratosphere. The IMF forecasts inflation will reach 720 percent this year.— AFP

IOC, Tokyo organizers aim to cut costs for the 2020 Olympics

TOKYO: The International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo organizing committee wrapped up a two-day project review yesterday vowing to cut costs for the 2020 Games and address concerns over water pollution in Tokyo Bay.

IOC vice president John Coates said the IOC needs to see cuts of \$1 billion from the \$12 billion budget. Coates said he saw potential for cost reduction in 11 of the 14 areas that were discussed during the meetings.

"That's the target that we think should be achievable not just by Tokyo but by all summer organizing committees," said Coates, who chairs the IOC's Coordination Commission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "What we are trying to do is create a situation where there is no strain on the public purse."

For example, Coates said IOC data from previous games shows that Olympic family lounges operate at only 40 percent capacity, meaning Tokyo organizers could save money on staffing such facilities. The IOC is seeking to make the games more affordable as part of President Thomas Bach's "Agenda 2020" reforms. In a bid to cut costs, Tokyo organizers have moved several events to existing facilities in neighboring prefectures.

In late May, local governments outside Tokyo that are to host competitions agreed with the Tokyo metropolitan government, the Japanese government and games organizers on basic principles concerning cost sharing.

Yoshiro Mori, the head of the 2020 Tokyo Games organizing committee who also took part in the meetings, said it will be important to explore cost cutting "based on the framework" reached in May.

Mori said that while there have been some heated debates on the cost-cutting efforts, all sides agree that the ultimate goal of delivering the best possible games should be adhered to. Meanwhile, a recent water quality survey at the venue for marathon swimming and triathlon found E. coli bacteria at concentrations up to 21 times the level permitted by the sport's governing body, the Tokyo metropolitan government said.

The metropolitan officials attributed the excessive reading to a record rainfall in the Japanese capital in August when there were 21 consecutive days of rain. Precipitation exceeding the processing capacity of sewage facilities can cause sewage water diluted by rain to be discharged into the ocean.

Tokyo organizers have ruled out moving the venue and said they plan to implement water quality improvement measures in advance of the games. "We are conscious that due to exceptionally bad weather this summer, the readings were not

what they should be," Coates said. "We are looking for reports from the Tokyo municipal government as to what



IOC vice-president John Coates

they are planning to do to ensure that even in worst of conditions those matters will be addressed and the health of the athletes in those two sports will not be prejudiced in anyway." — AP

Man City's Stones keen to repay Guardiola faith

LONDON: Manchester City centre-back John Stones says he is determined to repay manager Pep Guardiola for the faith he showed in him during his difficult first season at the Etihad Stadium. Stones, 23, produced several error-strewn displays last season after joining City from Everton in a £47.5 million (\$62.9 million, 53.6 million euros) move that made him the world's second most expensive defender. But Guardiola stuck by the England international and has been rewarded this season as Stones has contributed to six clean sheets in City's last seven games, helping the club to top spot in the Premier League. "Really good," Stones said when asked how Guardiola had helped him last season. "Always positive and wanting me to do better and that's what I try to repay him on the pitch."

"The games this season speak for themselves: clean sheets both in the Champions League and Premier League. I feel like I'm developing as a player and a person under him. "That's all down to the players around me, him and the staff that are there. All I want to do is keep this run going and see where it takes us." Stones produced a strong performance in City's 1-0 win at defending champions Chelsea last Saturday and he agreed it was one of his most impressive displays in City's colours.

"I think I've always been moving in the right direction. Everyone has their ups and downs," he told journalists ahead of England's penultimate World Cup qualifier at home to Slovenia today. "We've started this season well as a team. It was an important match against Chelsea. They won the league last season. "It was an important game to keep the run going and keep another clean sheet. Defensively, on a personal note, it was maybe one of the best games I've played in." — AFP

Kuwait Airways signs sponsorship contract with KFA referees

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Company signed a sponsorship contract for Kuwait Football Association referees yesterday morning. A press conference was held in the presence of Chairman of Temporary Committee running KFA

affairs Ibrahim Al-Shihab, KFA Secretary General Dr Mohammad Khalil, Vice-president of Marketing Committee Abdallah Al-Jeeran and KAC Public Relations and Information Director Fayez Al-Enezi. KFA's Ibrahim Al-Shihab said the decision of KAC to sponsor referees is a confirmation of the company's care for sports and athletes, hoping that other companies do the same. Meanwhile, PR Director at KAC Fayez Al-Enezi said the decision to sponsor referees is an important move towards more steps to reach a permanent partnership with the association, especially that there is a wide-ranging cooperation between the two sides. He said KAC works towards developing Kuwait society through four strategies: Environment, health, education and youth, which the company supports.



Kuwait Airways and KFA referees' officials during the signing ceremony.

Age cheats under scanner at FIFA Under-17 World Cup

MRI scans determine whether player is below 17 with 99% accuracy

NEW DELHI: The Under-17 World Cup starting in India tomorrow should feature only players born this century, but officials are taking no chances after defending champions Nigeria were caught in a major age-cheating scandal.

All players at the competition, which has helped launch the careers of Neymar, Ronaldinho, Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez, will have their wrists scanned by MRI to check they weren't born before January 1, 2000.

The measure was confirmed after Nigeria, who have won the tournament a record five times, bombed out of qualifying after they lost 26 squad members who were found to be over-age ahead of a key clash in August.

Age fraud is also rampant in other countries, according to football officials, prompting FIFA to bring Magnetic Resonance Imaging equipment to the 17th edition of the tournament, which is taking part in six Indian cities.

MRI scans can determine whether a player is below 17 with 99 percent accuracy, experts say, as they can show whether he or she has stopped growing — which usually happens after 17.

“While it is the responsibility of each member association to ensure that their players meet the age requirements, FIFA has decided to conduct magnetic resonance imaging of the wrist at its U-17 competitions,” said a FIFA spokesperson.



Play gets underway on Friday in New Delhi, where two-time champions Ghana play Colombia at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, while New Zealand clash with Turkey in Mumbai.

With the absence of Nigeria, and with three-time winners Brazil weakened, the tournament is regarded as open and unpredictable. Brazil coach Carlos Amadeu said that it won't be easy for the South American giants to break their 14-year-old trophy drought with “too many title contenders” in fray.

“All the European teams are very strong, including Spain and England, while Mexico, United States and the South American sides will pose a threat,” Amadeu told reporters in Mumbai. “It's always difficult to face an African side in this age group,” the 52-year-old added. Brazil have been dealt a severe blow after star striker Vinicius Junior, who has drawn comparisons with Paris-Saint Germain's Neymar, was denied release by his club Flamengo. India, hosting their biggest football event yet, will also be keen to mark their debut with a strong showing. They are in Group A with USA, Columbia and Ghana. But India's manager Luis Norton de Matos, a former Portugal forward, did not mince his words when he said that India have just a five percent chance of winning a game. The 23-day event culminates on October 28 with the final in Kolkata, the eastern city known as the hotbed of football in cricket-obsessed India. — AFP

Age fraud is rampant in other countries



NEW DELHI: A Delhi policeman stands guard at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, one of the venues for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in New Delhi, India, yesterday. — AP

Coming out still taboo for players, says Gay Gooners

LONDON: The first active footballer to come out as gay will be an “icon” who could reap huge financial rewards but the British game remains a hostile environment for homosexual players.

That's the view of gay British comedian Matt Lucas—best known for the series “Little Britain”—who spoke to AFP in his role as patron of Arsenal's Gay Gooners supporters' group.

“I don't think we are about to have anyone come out but when he finally does there will be challenges,” said Lucas, who also played Tweedledee/Tweedledum in “Alice in Wonderland” and “Alice Through the Looking Glass”.

“I don't know 100 percent what they are, but what I will say is the first player who comes out will be a superstar who will speak to people in the game who aren't spoken to—and speak to those beyond the game.

“They will get every advertising contract out there and be really iconic.” Lucas, 43, concedes football stadiums are less scary places for gay supporters than they were when he was growing up but says it is not yet an environment in which players can feel confident enough to admit they are homosexual. “It is tough,” said Lucas, who took part in a penalty shootout between the Gay Gooners and their Brighton counterparts the Proud Seagulls at Arsenal's community centre before Sunday's Premier League clash at the Emirates in north London.

“There are so many things that can go against you in football, so you don't want to embrace anything that can be seen as a weakness.

“We are not yet at that place inside football where people feel strong enough to come out but I think it will happen in the next five to 10 years.”

'PETRIFIED'

Jonathan Green, a member of the Gay Gooners, agrees with Lucas that coming out is not an option for players at the moment, although he believes if the support structure were put in place by employers, the situation would change.

“Football matches are a bit like pantomime—the booing and the hissing and ‘he's behind you’ sort of remarks,” said Green, who works in IT for an oil company. “But if you find something out about a player's private life you will use it to get under their skin.

“What are they (the Premier League and the Football Association) doing about it? Not a lot until recently. “Arsenal can't be more supportive. They come to Pride and are heavily involved in loads of other activities.” Green, who featured in Sunday's match programme that was carried the title “Arsenal for Everyone”, says it would be tough for a player who came out.

“There is a groundswell, even a tsunami of homophobia which will wash over clubs if a player comes out,” said Green, who says common remarks he hears aimed at players include “does your boyfriend know you are here” and “why are you holding hands”?

He says football authorities should appoint people to carry out a “gay audit” and ask clubs whether they have a support mechanism in place for players who might want to come out.

“Those playing who are gay are petrified of coming out. There are a lot of players who are gay, some in the Premier League, but they are not supported by the people who employ them, the clubs,” he said.—AFP

Syria's Khatib responds to 'call' for WCup glory

KUWAIT CITY: Firas al-Khatib never imagined he would abandon Syria's national colours for years only to return in search of World Cup glory for his war-battered country. The striker from the central city of Homs, regarded as a cradle of the Syrian conflict that broke out in 2011, announced in July of the following year he would not don the national team's colours until the guns fell silent. This year, Khatib, now 34, who plays his club football in Kuwait for Al-Salmiya, has made his return despite the conflict, which has cost more than 330,000 lives, showing no sign of ending.

Without going into too much detail about his change of heart, Khatib told AFP he wants “to give the Syrian people some joy after a long, difficult period”. “All Syrians would be happy if we qualify for the World Cup” finals being hosted by Russia next year, he said. “If the country is calling us, we must respond to that call.” But qualification is still a long shot, with two legs of Asian play-offs to come against highly-fancied Australia this month. The winner of that showdown will still have to take on a team from the CONCACAF region in home and away matches in November to finally seal qualification.

DREAM STILL ALIVE

September 5 was a day of joy for Syrians across the board, from supporters of President Bashar al-Assad to his sworn foes, when their team snatched a place in the play-offs with a dramatic 2-2 draw away to Iran. Omar al-Soma is another Syrian international who plays in the Gulf, for Al-Ahly in Saudi Arabia, and who had deserted the team, probably because of his support for the opposition. It was Soma's last-gasp equaliser in Tehran that kept alive Syria's dream of a first appearance at the most prestigious tournament in

Three from Africa on brink of World Cup qualification

CAPE TOWN: Nigeria, Egypt and Tunisia could all book their spots at next year's World Cup in the penultimate round of African qualifiers at the weekend but the other two slots will only be decided next month.

A home victory over Zambia - a side they beat away at the start of the group phase - will be enough to see Nigeria return to the finals after reaching the second round in Brazil in 2014.

Last month's convincing 4-0 win over Cameroon, inspired by the return of Victor Moses to the team, saw them eliminate the reigning African champions and establish a three point advantage, with two games to play, at the head of Group B.

“We must wrap this race up on Saturday. Our team has shown professionalism, dedication and determination to be in this position,” captain John Obi Mikel said in the build-up to the match in Uyo.

Zambia's young side upset Algeria away in their last game to stay in the race and give themselves hopes of an unlikely turnaround after picking up a solitary point from their opening two matches.

Egypt play on Sunday against Congo in Alexandria



DOHA: This file photo taken on January 13, 2011 shows Syria's forward Firas al-Khatib celebrating after scoring a goal against Japan during the 2011 Asian Cup group B football match in the Qatari capital Doha. — AFP

football. “For my part, I hope to be able to bring something to the team with my experience,” said Khatib, who is taking part in his fifth qualification campaign. His international career dates back to 2002, scoring 29 goals in 73 appearances since. He has played for clubs in Iraq, Qatar and China as well as Kuwait.

Apart from a thunderbolt shot, being a good header of the ball and able to play with both feet, Khatib's main asset is his influence on teammates. “It's above all psychological: he's forever encouraging teammates,

in a match expected to produce a routine win and which follows 24 hours after their two rivals in Group E - Uganda and Ghana-go head-to-head in Kampala.

Uganda are two points behind Egypt and Ghana four points adrift of the group leaders, as they face missing out on the World Cup after appearing at the last three finals.

For Egypt, World Cup qualification has been something of a Holy Grail since their last appearance at the tournament in Italy in 1990 with several heart-breaking failures since.

STRESSFUL

French lose Kurzawa for qualifiers

PARIS: Having already lost Bernard Mendy and Laurent Koscielny France saw another defender pull out of their crucial World Cup qualifiers after PSG's in-form Layvin Kurzawa cut his knee in training.

The left back would likely have started for France as they take on Bulgaria on Saturday and Belarus three days later knowing they may still need all six points to book a direct berth for the 2018 World Cup.

The French football federation said Kurzawa had clashed with Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud in Monday's training session, and has been replaced in the squad by Marseille's Jordan Amavi. The 23-year-old Amavi joins the France squad for the first time but the left back role is likely to be filled by Barcelona's Lucas Digne.

Manchester City's Mendy has a knee injury while Arsenal's Koscielny has an Achilles problem. Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba and Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele are also out with long-term injuries.

France top Group A with 18 points, one ahead of Sweden, while the Netherlands are third on 13 ahead of Bulgaria (12), Belarus and Luxembourg (both 5). The Group winner goes to the finals whilst the runners-up face a play off. — AFP

12 Mercedes in search of
lost speed at Suzuka



13 Superstar Bolt can inspire
young, says Sebastian Coe



15 Syria's Khatib responds
to 'call' for WCup glory



BEIJING: Simona Halep of Romania hits a return shot against Maria Sharapova of Russia during their women's singles match of the China Open tennis tournament at the Diamond Court in Beijing, yesterday. — AP

Halep dumps Sharapova out of Beijing

Kyrgios smashes racket, advances to China Open q-finals

BEIJING: Maria Sharapova opened up on the despair she feels in defeat after she was ruthlessly knocked out of the China Open in the third round by Romania's Simona Halep yesterday. The world number two was an emphatic 6-2, 6-2 winner to leave five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova still searching for her first title since returning from a doping ban in April.

It was the 26-year-old Halep's first victory over the Russian in eight meetings. Sharapova, a former number one now at 104 in the world rankings following her 15-month suspension for taking meldonium, gave an insight into the rollercoaster of emotions in top-level tennis.

"Hard work is not good enough any more, maybe it was-I don't know how many years ago-but that's just not a factor anymore," said the 30-year-old, asked about comments in a book she recently released.

"The reason I say that is there's some incredible moments, very high moments, and there are very low moments. "There have been times where I get off the

court and you think, I don't wish this on my future child.

"The feeling is so tough and disappointing." Halep, the second seed on Beijing's outdoor hard courts, is the first woman into the quarter-finals, where she will play either defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska or Daria Kasatkina of Russia.

With world number one Garbine Muguruza exiting in the first round with a virus, Halep is now favourite. Sharapova said it was the best Halep had played against her-and Halep agreed.

The two met in the first round at the US Open a few weeks ago and Halep said she was delighted to finally

taste victory against Sharapova: "I'm really happy that I could do this.

"It's my first victory against her and I just want to enjoy the moment."

Halep's first win over Russian in eight meetings

where he argued with the crowd and appeared to give away points in caving in to the German journeyman.

The enigmatic Australian, seeded eighth in the Chinese

capital, smashed his racquet on the floor in anger, bending the head in half, when he conceded the opening set yesterday. That earned the world number 19 a warning from the umpire and raised the spectre of one year ago.

But the 22-year-old returned for the second set with renewed determination and coasted into the quarter-finals 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Kyrgios said facing Zverev-older brother of rising star Alexander-a year after Shanghai, and again in China, was the perfect opportunity to show how far he has come. "I just wanted to go out there today and kind of redeem myself a little bit from last year," he said, adding: "I just wanted to prove to myself how much I have improved." During one changeover the Australian appeared so relaxed that he sat back on his chair, arms behind his head, and sang along with a pop hit being played over the stadium loudspeakers.

"Nothing really, just chilling out," Kyrgios said afterwards, asked about his behaviour. He plays the Belgian qualifier Steve Darcis in the last eight. — AFP

England bank on 'hot' Kane to deliver WCup spot

LONDON: England will look to red-hot Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane to fire them to the World Cup finals when they tackle Slovenia in their penultimate qualifying match today. After a barren August, 24-year-old Kane hit brilliant form in September, scoring 13 goals in eight matches for club and country. Victory over Slovenia at Wembley will give England a place at next year's World Cup in Russia and with Kane scoring goals so freely, his team-mates will take to the field buoyed by an extra measure of belief. "He is hot, isn't he?" goalkeeper Joe Hart said to journalists at England's St George's Park base earlier this week.

"He is scoring just as many goals as the people we have related to as world-class and he has been doing it for many seasons. Harry gets put in that bracket and deserves to be. "He has (Mauricio) Pochettino, one of the hottest managers in the world, who regards him highly and there are reasons for that. "Harry is just brilliant at what he does

and he is just one of the best out there. He keeps scoring goals and you cannot ask for any more than that. Long may it continue in an England shirt."

Since Kane returned to the international fold at the end of last season following a spate of injuries, his goals have helped to keep Gareth Southgate's England side on course for qualification. His 93rd-minute equaliser prevented England from falling to a first defeat against Scotland since 1999 in June's 2-2 draw in Glasgow and he netted twice as Southgate's men won 4-0 away to Malta last month. Kane and Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson have shared the captaincy between them in England's last four games and the wearer of the armband on Thursday will give a clue as to Southgate's long-term thinking on the matter.

SLOVENIA 'NOT AFRAID'

Kane's Spurs team-mate Dele Alli is unavailable due to suspension after being given a one-match ban by FIFA for flashing his middle finger during England's 2-1 win over Slovakia last month. Manchester United centre-back Phil Jones and Manchester City midfielder Fabian Delph have both withdrawn from the squad, joining Spurs left-back Danny Rose, Liverpool's Adam Lallana and Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy on the sidelines.

Drafted into the squad to take Delph's place, 21-year-old Spurs midfielder Harry Winks will hope to get his first taste of senior international football. Five points clear of Slovakia at the top of UEFA qualifying Group F, England

need just two points from Thursday's game and Sunday's trip to Lithuania to reach the World Cup for the sixth time in succession. But having been held to a 0-0 draw in the reverse fixture against Slovenia a year ago, they know that completing the job at the first time of asking will be no foregone conclusion. Third in the group, Srecko Katanec's Slovenia trail Slovakia by a slender point and are above Scotland on goal difference in a knife-edge battle for a play-off berth. While Slovenia captain Bostjan Cesar is

conscious of the threat posed by Kane and his team-mates, he says his team will approach the game with no sense of inferiority. "I saw Kane is in great form, but England have several other quality players too," said Cesar, whose side complete their qualifying campaign at home to Scotland on Sunday. "We respect England, but we are not afraid of them. Last time we played them at home and it was easier. Now we have to be focused for the whole match, otherwise we could be punished." — AFP



ENFIELD: England's manager Gareth Southgate (R) addresses a press conference, as England's Harry Kane looks on at the Tottenham Hotspur Training Ground in Enfield. —AFP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

18 British PM orders energy price cap, sending shares tumbling



19 Al-Sayer and Toyota unveil new 2018 Hilux TRD



21 NBK's website wins award for excellence



SWEETWATER: Job-seeker Alejandra Bastidas fills out an application at a job fair on Tuesday at Dolphin Mall in Sweetwater, Fla. US private sector job creation fell in September to its lowest level in nearly a year, the payrolls firm ADP reported yesterday. — AP

India cuts growth forecast amid slowdown

Central bank holds rates as high-profile reforms backfire

MUMBAI: India's central bank held interest rates at a seven-year-low yesterday as it downgraded growth forecasts for Asia's third largest economy amid a slowdown following recent high-profile reforms.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the benchmark repo rate-the level at which it lends to commercial banks-would remain unchanged at 6.0 percent.

"The decision was in line with analysts' expectations. "The MPC has decided to keep the policy rate unchanged and decided to keep policy stance neutral and monitor incoming data closely," RBI said in a statement following a meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee in Mumbai. The decision is likely to disappoint the Indian government which had sought a cut to help boost flagging growth, according to local media reports. India was the fastest growing major economy in the world last year, clocking 7.1 percent GDP growth during the first quarter.

But since then Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rolled out two large economic reforms-the introduction of a goods and services tax (GST), and the snap withdrawal of most of India's high-value banknotes from circulation. Economic growth slumped to 5.7 percent for the first quarter of the current financial year with analysts blaming the controversial note ban and citing the transition to GST. The new tax aims to transform the nation of 1.3 billion people and its \$2 trillion economy into a single market. Experts say it is likely to spur economic growth in the long run but has posed an initial shock to the economy as businesses adjust.

"Teething problems linked to the GST... may get resolved relatively soon, allowing growth to accelerate," the RBI said as it trimmed India's expected growth for the year.

"The projection of real GVA growth for 2017-18 has been revised down to 6.7 per cent from the August 2017

projection of 7.3 per cent," the statement said. GVA is different from GDP, the measure typically used to show a country's economic growth. However, it is indicative of how the GDP could move, although not by the same amount.

The downgrade comes after global ratings agency Fitch trimmed its GDP forecast from 7.4 to 6.9 percent. The RBI said it was committed to keeping inflation close to four percent and cited a recent spike as a reason to sit tight on rates.

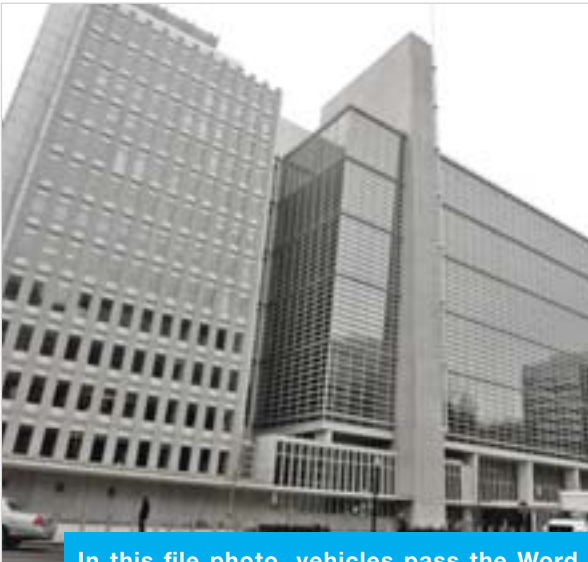
"India's inflation has gone up in recent months and the economy has slowed down, therefore narrowing room for any rate cuts," Sujan Hajra, chief economist at Anand Rathi Securities, told AFP. The RBI cut the main interest rate by 25 basis points to 6.0 per cent in August, the lowest level since September 2010. A survey by Bloomberg News this week found that economists expect the rate to remain unchanged for the rest of 2017. — AFP

World Bank raises Asia growth outlook, warns of N Korea risk

HONG KONG: The World Bank raised its growth forecast for the developing economies of East Asia and the Pacific yesterday but warned that risks included rising protectionism and escalating tensions over North Korea. In an update to its annual economic outlook, the bank forecast economic growth of 6.4 percent for the region this year, then easing to 6.2 percent in 2018.

The World Bank said it tweaked its forecasts to reflect stronger than expected growth this year in China - Asia's biggest economy - before a gradual slowdown next year. In its previous forecast in April, the Washington, D.C.-based lender projected a 6.2 percent expansion in 2017 and 6.1 percent for 2018. The report covers 15 countries including China, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

While the outlook is broadly positive, the bank said growing protectionism could chill world trade, citing proposals for changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement that would restrict or discourage imports and increasing uncertainty about access to the British market as Brexit talks get underway. Furthermore, "geopolitical tensions in the region are rising and could escalate into armed conflict," the report said, referring to United Nations sanctions on North Korea in response to its nuclear and missile tests. Some world powers are urging even tougher measures, including possible military action, to stop Pyongyang from developing its nuclear capabilities, it said.



In this file photo, vehicles pass the World Bank building in Washington. — AP

"Escalation of these disputes could have serious economic consequences," the World Bank said. East Asia's crucial position in global shipping and manufacturing supply chains means flaring tensions could disrupt trade flows and economic activity, it said, adding that the tendency for global investors to pull their money during political crises could pressure exchange rates and raise world interest rates. Commodity prices could also spike because of worries about supply disruptions, the report said. — AP

Kuwait Energy sells shares in Egyptian oilfield

KUWAIT: Kuwait Energy announced yesterday the official approval on its Farm-Out Agreement (FOA) for 25 percent of its shares in the Abu Sennan concession in Egypt to GlobalConnect Ltd (GlobalConnect). Kuwait Energy CEO Sara Akbar said "We are very pleased to have the farm-out agreement finalized with GlobalConnect in our Abu Sennan concession and to welcome an esteemed peer to our group of partners."

She added that Kuwait Energy is confident this partnership with GlobalConnect will further enhance exploration activities in Egypt. Kuwait Energy now holds a 25 percent revenue interest, and remains the operator of the Abu Sennan concession.

GlobalConnect can officially now assume its duties and responsibilities as a full partner in Abu Sennan Concession holding 25 percent participating interest alongside Dover Investment Ltd, Rockhopper Exploration plc who hold 28 percent, and 22 percent respectively.

Kuwait Energy is an independent oil and gas company actively engaged in the exploration, appraisal, development and production of hydrocarbons Kuwait Energy's MENA portfolio consists of 10 oil and gas assets across Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, and Oman of which it operates seven assets. — KUNA

News in brief

KUFPEC cancels Thai deal

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) canceled a contract to purchase a gas field in Thailand from Royal Dutch Shell, it said yesterday. KUFPEC said in a statement that the cancellation of the deal, signed last January, would not have any financial repercussions on the company. Despite the move, KUFPEC will continue to seek ventures with other global companies, it added. Established in April 1981 by its parent state-owned company Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, KUFPEC is an upstream company, engaged in worldwide oil and gas exploration and production.

Warba Bank joins \$1.2bn JV

KUWAIT: Warba Bank announced yesterday that it will be participating in a \$1.25 billion five-year joint venture with the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Warba Bank said that subscription for the deal had attracted regional and international financial institutes, adding that the amount of issued bonds have reached over 136 percent, around \$1.7 billion. The bank indicated that Warba would reap around 2.6 percent of annual income due to the deal. The IDB had issued around 53 percent of the bonds to investors from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as well as Europe while 47 percent of the bonds target investors from Asia.

Saudi funds to boost crown prince

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday announced the consolidation of development funds under a unified body led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, cementing the powerful prince's position in the Gulf kingdom's affairs. The new National Development Fund joins industrial, agricultural and social development funds under a board headed by Prince Mohammed who is also defense minister, deputy premier and head of the kingdom's investment fund. The National Development Fund will also "undertake the overall supervision" of "any development fund or bank" if and as ordered by the prime minister, the state-run SPA news agency said.

Business

British PM orders energy price cap, sending shares tumbling

Price cap will apply to most common tariffs

MANCHESTER: Britain Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday she would impose a price cap on the energy market to help millions of households, sending stocks in the country's largest energy provider, Centrica to a 14-year low. May had proposed a price cap on the sector earlier this year, the biggest market intervention since it was privatized almost 30 years ago, but the plan was thrown into doubt after her ruling Conservative Party lost their parliamentary majority in an election in June.

Needing to win back voters who are struggling with rising prices, she returned to the theme yesterday. Energy bills have doubled in Britain over the past decade to an average of about 1,200 pounds (\$1,500) a year, putting the biggest providers in the sights of politicians.

"While we are in favor of free markets we will always take action to fix them when they are broken, we will always take on monopolies and vested interests when they are holding people back," May told the Conservative Party's annual conference. "One of the greatest examples in Britain today is the broken energy market," she said, adding that a price cap would help end "rip-off energy prices".

Britain's energy market is dominated by the so-called big six providers-Centrica's British Gas, SSE, Iberdrola's Scottish Power, Innogy's npower, E.ON and EDF Energy, which account for about 85 percent of the retail electricity market.

The announcement wiped more than 900 million pounds off the value of the two British listed companies Centrica and SSE alone. Shares in Centrica hit a near 14 year low of 177.8 pence per share. Shares in SSE, Britain's second largest sup-

plier, fell around 4 percent. SSE said it would look carefully at the proposals. "SSE believes in competition not caps, so if there is to be any intervention it should be simple to administer, time-limited, and maintain the principles of a competitive energy market to best serve customers' interests," the company said.

No one from Centrica was immediately available to comment. May's office said the cap would apply to so-called standard variable tariffs (SVTs) which are basic rates that energy suppliers charge if a customer does not opt for a specific plan.

Around 70 percent of households are on SVTs and data published by energy regulator Ofgem in December showed 91 percent of SSE's customers were on a SVT, along with 74 percent of Centrica's British Gas customers.

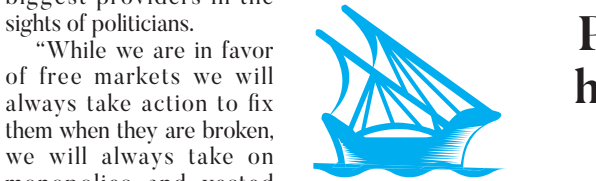
Ofgem said SVTs offered by the big six in August were on average almost 320 pounds (\$424) per year more expensive than their cheapest tariffs. Earlier this year the government ordered Ofgem to act on the issue of high bills and the regulator is in the process on consulting on a measure which would impose a price cap for the most vulnerable households.

Prime Minister May's office said Ofgem would be responsible for setting the new cap which would be a temporary measure kept under review. British business groups criticized the cap, with blue-chip lobby group the CBI calling it "an example of state intervention that misses the mark."

However the challenger small energy firm OVO Energy, which has around 800,000 customers, welcomed the decision. "This intervention will stimulate innovation and promote efficiency that will benefit millions of customers," said Stephen Fitzpatrick, OVO chief executive. —Reuters



MANCHESTER: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May delivers her speech on the final day of the Conservative Party annual conference at the Manchester Central Convention Centre in Manchester, northwest England yesterday. —AFP



Price cap could help end rip-off energy prices

Shares suffer

NBK Treasury Group newsletter

Equity markets forge ahead

KUWAIT: Equity markets continued the trend of setting fresh records, as the S&P closed at an all-time high of 2,534.58. Asia-pacific markets followed suit, as regional developments drove trading. Meanwhile, Asia-Pacific currencies rose against the dollar, with the dollar index down to a level of 93.430. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury was flat at 2.319 percent, still down from 2.371 percent on Monday.

Britain's construction industry has contracted for the first time since the immediate aftermath of the Brexit vote, as rising political uncertainty led to a sustained drop in new work. September data revealed a difficult month for building companies, as new projects planned before the referendum failed to materialize. The drop in work-

Major Currencies			Major Crosses		
CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.1742	11.96	EUR/GBP	0.8870	4.09
GBP/USD	1.3234	7.60	GBP/JPY	149.37	3.68
USD/JPY	112.84	0.00	EUR/JPY	132.52	0.00
USD/CHF	0.9736	(4.51)	EUR/CHF	1.1433	0.00

load was attributed to a loss in confidence and subdued appetite for risk, especially in the commercial building sector. The headline reading on the Markit UK construction PMI report fell to 48.1 last month from 51.1 in August.

Producer prices increased better than expected showing good signs of inflationary pressures in the Eurozone. The release is welcomed as markets await the ECB's decision on

reducing their QE program later in the month. Reports show that prices increased by 0.3 percent in August against a 0.1 percent expected. Annually, prices are now 2.5 percent higher.

In commodities, gold prices rose yesterday after hitting a 7-week low in the previous session, supported by a dollar pull back from a monthly high against a basket of currencies. Gold was up 0.3 percent to 1,275.34.

Social businesses bring Thai hill products to IKEA

DOI TUNG, Thailand: Since leaving behind conflict and poverty in their native countries, Kam Kampun and Nittaya Soponprakobkit have not ventured beyond the forested hills in northern Thailand they now call home. Without Thai ID cards, their movement is restricted. Their hand-

made creations, however, are set to travel the world.

Kampun, 60, makes beautiful paper from mulberry bark and Nittaya, 32, has woven striking black, white and grey textiles which are now on sale in IKEA stores across Europe. The pair work for the Doi

Tung Development Project, one of Thailand's oldest and most established social enterprises, which employs hill tribe communities, many of whom are stateless. From this month, their products can be bought at IKEA stores in six European countries, including Britain and Sweden, as part of a limited-edition collection called EFTERTANKE ("reflection") launched by the world's biggest home furnishings retailer. This is the sixth and largest collection Doi Tung has produced for IKEA in a decade-long partnership. Some 200,000 products - made of textiles, pottery and paper - have been

crafted by about 330 artisans, three quarters of them women. "I cannot go anywhere (in) or outside the country, but my products can be sold in other countries," Nittaya, a native of Yunnan in China who started helping her family farm opium aged six, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation proudly.

In Thailand, a middle-income country of 66 million people, about 7 million live in poverty and one-third of 15-year-olds are illiterate, according to the World Bank. There are nearly half a million stateless people, who are not recognized as nationals of any country, government figures show. —Reuters

Major companies fail to disclose slavery risks, say UK experts

LONDON: Some of the world's top brands including confectioners, jewellers and cosmetics giants are failing to disclose slavery and trafficking risks in their operations and supply chains, British anti-slavery experts said yesterday.

Under Britain's 2015 Modern Slavery Act, all businesses with a turnover of more than 36 million pounds (\$48 million) must produce an annual statement outlining actions they have taken to combat slavery in their supply chains. CORE, a watchdog on corporate accountability, said a study of 50 big name brands showed many statements were short on detail and lacked transparency. Five appeared not to have filed any statement.

An estimated 24.9 million people are in forced labour globally, according to the International Labor Organization. "The level of complacency from major companies, particularly those that trumpet their corporate social responsibility, is startling," CORE's director, Marilyn Croser, said in a statement.

"Genuine transparency about the problems is needed, not just more PR." The study looked at statements from companies sourcing raw materials linked to labour exploitation, including cocoa from West Africa, mined gold, mica from India, Indonesian palm oil and tea from Assam.

Not meeting legislation

It also examined those involved in high-risk sectors such as clothing, hotels, con-

struction and Premier League football clubs, which are considered high-risk partly because of their hospitality and merchandising operations.

Although child labor and forced labor are endemic in West African cocoa production, CORE said Mars was the only chocolate company of those studied to specifically acknowledge possible risks in the supply chain. Other companies, including Ferrero and Lindt & Sprungli, failed to provide information on their supply chains, it said.

Cosmetics giants, including L'Oreal and Estee Lauder, also made no mention of the risks of slavery associated with mica, a sparkly mineral used in make-up, the report said. Most mica comes from northeast India where around 20,000 children are estimated to work in hundreds of mica mines.

Researchers said leading jewelry firms, including Tiffany and Pandora, had also failed to include any detail on slavery and trafficking risks linked to gold-mining, despite estimates suggesting close to one million children work in gold mines. Pandora told the Thomson Reuters Foundation it focused as much as possible on using recycled gold. "We take this issue very seriously - 86 percent of our gold is recycled and 100 percent is certified," said Claus Teilmann, the company's vice president of ethics.

None of the other companies were immediately available for comment. The report also said only one of the five tea companies studied referred to Assam in northeast India, a region where low wages have been linked to human trafficking on tea estates. CORE said just over 3,000 companies had met a Sept. 30 deadline for filing statements under the Modern Slavery Act, meaning thousands had failed to comply. It added that many of the statements in its study were not signed by a director as required by legislation. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.689
Indian Rupees	4.636
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Nepali Rupees	2.902
Singapore Dollar	223.710
Hongkong Dollar	38.786
Bangladesh Taka	3.702
Philippine Peso	5.944
Thai Baht	9.090

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.827
Qatari Riyal	83.249
Omani Riyal	787.162
Bahraini Dinar	804.840
UAE Dirham	82.523

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.850
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.125
Yemen Rial/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	124.650
Jordanian Dinar	427.520
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.465

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.900
Euro	358.030
Sterling Pound	403.160

Canadian dollar	243.980
Turkish lira	85.560
Swiss Franc	313.240
Australian Dollar	239.590
US Dollar Buying	301.700

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.100
Canadian Dollar	244.875
Sterling Pound	408.660
Euro	359.530
Swiss Frank	293.695
Bahrain Dinar	801.800
UAE Dirhams	82.640
Qatari Riyals	83.465
Saudi Riyals	81.420
Jordanian Dinar	427.375
Egyptian Pound	17.133
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Indian Rupees	4.631
Pakistani Rupees	2.866
Bangladesh Taka	3.721
Philippines Peso	5.947
Cyprus pound	17.979
Japanese Yen	3.705
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.902

Malaysian Ringgit	72.835
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.145
Thai Bhat	10.105
Turkish Lira	85.730

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.394959	0.404959
Czech Korune	0.005723	0.017723
Danish Krone	0.043798	0.048798
Euro	0.350810	0.359810
Georgian Lari	0.121953	0.121953
Norwegian Krone	0.033961	0.039161
Romanian Leu	0.077530	0.077530
Russian ruble	0.005222	0.005222
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Swedish Krona	0.033220	0.038220
Swiss Franc	0.304937	0.315937
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.229620	0.241620
New Zealand Dollar	0.211070	0.220570
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.237449	0.246449
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303220
US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303220
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003247	0.003831

Chinese Yuan	0.044012	0.047512
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036699	0.039449
Indian Rupee	0.004201	0.004889
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002606	0.002786
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.0067952	0.0073952
Nepalese Rupee	0.003022	0.003192
Pakistan Rupee	0.002747	0.003037
Philippine Peso	0.005844	0.006144
Singapore Dollar	0.217230	0.227230
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001599	0.002179
Taiwan	0.009843	0.010023
Thai Baht	0.008734	0.009284

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796454	0.805954
Egyptian Pound	0.014216	0.020124
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000193	0.000253
Jordanian Dinar	0.422613	0.431613
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021209	0.045209
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.078909	0.083849
Saudi Riyal	0.079687	0.080987
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.118979	0.126979
Turkish Lira	0.079931	0.090231
UAE Dirhams	0.081043	0.082743
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064

Business

Style with attitude: Al-Sayer and Toyota unveil new 2018 Hilux TRD

Hilux TRD redefines tough performance



KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies launched the tougher and bolder yet cool new 2018 Hilux special edition powered by Toyota Racing Development (TRD) accessories. The launch press conference held at Toyota Al-Rai Showroom was attended by Scott McNicol General Manager, Toyota Sales, Hamad Al-Fouzan, Product Planning Manager, representatives from Toyota Group Sales and Marketing along with distinguished members from press and media.

Hilux TRD redefines tough performance highlighting tough yet emotional design with enhanced exterior appearance and comfortable interiors. The latest edition of Hilux has a refined contemporary look as well as excellent on and off road capability. It will also appeal to active young individuals, private and family customer base. With generations of success behind, a Hilux is always the best choice.

According to Scott McNicol "This event is dedicated to Kuwait community of motoring enthusiasts, as we are going to unveil the new 2018 Toyota Hilux TRD, carrying the true spirit of Toyota racing, featuring an exclusive accessories pack from Toyota Racing development TRD." The impressive TRD accessories available in 2018 Hilux include TRD Front bumper spoiler, Daytime Running Lights, TRD Sports bar, TRD Bed liner under rail A-Deck, TRD Alloy Wheels R17 inch which will be available in striking colors Pearl White, Nebula Blue, Crimson Spark Red. TRD render each car instantly recognizable as unique examples, with sharper designs.

"The new Hilux is tougher than ever. High powerful engine 4000 cc - 235 HP with Tiptronic 6 Speed Transmission. You will find Hilux stunning in design and amenity - outside and inside. Performance and safety are greatly upgraded, with a new frame and suspension



and range of features. All of this with the impressive accessories package from TRD. TRD reflects Toyota brand promise to drive stylish, youthful, and innovative" commented Hamad Al Fouzan.

2018 Hilux TRD specifications

- * Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) - Trailer Sway Control (TSC) - Hill-Start Assist Control (HAC)
- * Tiptronic Transmission (ECT) 6 Speed
- * Keyless entry
- * Start / Stop button to start engine
- * Special Fabric seats
- * Navigation system + Bluetooth + DVD
- * Electronic side mirror with chrome and signal light
- * Rear Glass retractable
- * Available in striking colors

Since the introduction of the first Hilux in 1968, over 16 million have been sold in more

than 180 countries and regions. The name Hilux, a combination of the words "high" and "luxury", was given to underline the truck's splendor and superiority over the competition, and the new slogan best illustrates its reputation as a sturdy, all-conquering vehicle constantly evolving to set new benchmarks for comfort and performance.

To truly understand the expectations of customers and the challenges they face on a daily basis, Toyota's development teams travelled the globe, getting direct feedback from customers and driving on a wide variety of different roads to get a feel for different usage conditions.

The development process also benefitted from invaluable feedback received directly from Hilux drivers. Some wished they could make long transcontinental trips without worrying about running out of fuel. Others described how hard it is to stay alert and drive safely during grueling long-distance journeys

with extended stretches of rough driving. Above and beyond conventional ideas of toughness, the eighth-generation Hilux provides ride comfort that make long, tough drives less grueling, a quiet cabin that allows communication in any conditions, and enhanced cruising range thanks to improved fuel efficiency.

What is unique to TRD is that the company was founded by a group of engineers who enjoy a great passion for motorsports and were truly eager to spread the excitement and essence of motoring. All of TRD products are designed and developed by those engineers who have deep understanding and passion for all kinds of races - from competitive and endurance, to autocross, drifting and grass-roots - both in Japan and overseas. For over half a century, they have worked hard to improve the car's performance as well as the driver's connection with his car.

"TRD will do what others cannot do". This

was and still is their motto. They try to continuously polish their skills and craftsmanship to give customers the joy of not just striking good looks, but also good performance.

These are just a few of the reasons of why they have earned the "Racing Development" signature in the brand name. Every bit of their racing DNA is poured into each of the part, making their products extraordinary in the most emotional and inspirational way.

Commitment to customer service

"Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer is committed to the strategy of steady development in market with promising expansion plans to offer greater value for our customers. In the future, in addition to the new model launches from Toyota, we will continue to open new Toyota facilities in Fahaheel, Jahra and Abu Futeirah. With Toyota and Al-Sayer you are always guaranteed the best products, services" added Scott McNicol.

Ahli United Bank makes a customer's dream come true with KD 250,000 prize

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank 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, yesterday. 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 Hasan Jaffar Alhamad.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Mohammed Hasan Abdullah, Shuwaireb Fahad Alajmi, Ashraf Raji Tawfeq, Eid Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Abdullah A R Aljulaib, Hussein Ali Ksar, Ahmad Mohammad Ata Allah, Kamal Aldeen Hussain Ibrahim, Mohammad Sabah Albuloushi, Mohammad Salem Saeed, Nasser

Karem Obaid, Mariyam Abraham, Abdul Rahman Hamad Alajmi, Ahmed Ali Alsultan, Rasha Atallah Huwailah, Bassam Salah Aldeen Alhamawi, Khaled M Y Boodi , A Aziz Husain Dashti, Nader Mahdi Ahmed, Nawaf Jassim Mohammed, Husain Ali Dashti, Hasan Ebrahim Hussain, Hamza Jaffar Mohammed, Sha Noor Khalifa and Yasemeen Ali Hamad.

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.

central bank about raising rates were intended to push up sterling and cool inflation. Sterling rose after the services PMI report, gaining about 0.4 percent.

Most economists polled by Reuters have said they expect rates to rise in November, even if they consider such a move premature.

Mood darkens

The PMI picked up to 53.6 in September, slightly better than expectations in a Reuters poll of economists for it to hold at August's level of 53.2. But it also contained some discouraging signs: new orders increased at the weakest pace since August of last year, inflation pressures rose at the fastest pace for several months and confidence sagged.

Services companies cited Brexit-related uncertainty and worries about the economy as reasons for their darker mood. Britain's economy initially withstood the shock of the June 2016 vote to leave the European Union. But growth began to slow this year as inflation rose following the pound's post-Brexit vote plunge, which hit the spending power of households. — Reuters

Survey: US services sector improved at best pace in 12 years



In this Oct 2, 2017 photo, a construction worker on a scaffold works on a high-rise condominium project in Miami. — AP

WASHINGTON: US services companies in September expanded at the strongest rate in dozen years as a measure for new orders climbed sharply. The Institute for Supply Management said yesterday that its services index rose last month to 59.8 from 55.3 in August. The September reading was the highest since August 2005. Any reading above 50 signals growth. The services sector has expanded for 93 straight months.

The gains point to a potentially faster economic growth - which could help to spur more hiring and stronger pay raises. The US economy has gone through a steady but slow recovery from the Great Recession that entered its ninth year this summer. The index suggests that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma disrupted many businesses without derailing overall growth.

"Very strong report, very surprising it came in at such a high level," said Anthony Nieves, chair of the ISM's non-manufacturing

business survey committee. "Business conditions look good, even with the recent weather-related catastrophic events."

September's reading corresponds with annualized economic growth of 4.2 percent, roughly double the pace of the average gains in the recovery. Many economists - including officials with the Federal Reserve - expect growth to stay near that 2 percent level in the coming years.

New orders and business activity both rose last month, while a measure for employment improved slightly. Private service-sector workers account for more than 70 percent of American jobs - making this a valuable sign that the government's jobs report out Friday will show that hiring was positive in September. Fifteen services industries reported growth, including retail, real estate, health care and social assistance and lodging and food services. But two sectors contracted last month: mining and entertainment. — AP

UK economy stuck in low gear, worries grow as BoE readies rate hike

LONDON: Britain's economy remains stuck in low gear but price pressures are rising again, according to surveys yesterday that will probably keep the Bank of England on track to raise interest rates soon.

The IHS Markit/CIPS Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) also showed businesses were increasingly worried as Britain's departure from the European Union approaches with little clear sign of its future trading relationships. The PMI showed growth in services activity unexpectedly sped up a little last month, compensating for weaker readings in manufacturing and construction reported earlier in the week. Even so, growth among British companies lagged behind that of their peers in a resurgent euro zone.

Taking the three surveys together, Britain's economy probably expanded at a quarterly rate of around 0.3 percent in the third quarter, matching its second-quarter performance, survey compiler IHS Markit said. While economists said they expected the BoE would probably follow through on its rate hike signals in November, many also urged caution.

"Given the weakening outlook for growth it may be wise for the (Monetary Policy Committee) to wait until next year before beginning to raise rates, once the future path for UK business becomes clearer," said Yael Sellin, chief economist at KPMG UK

Ratings agency Standard & Poor's said it was skeptical about the need for a BoE rate hike. It suggested recent comments by the

Business

Nasdaq, S&P slip; Dow hits another record high

NEW YORK: The Nasdaq and the S&P fell yesterday as investors likely took profits on tech stocks, the best performing sector in the recent rally, while the Dow touched a record high. Seven of 11 major S&P indexes were down, led by the information technology and Industrials.

The S&P information technology index, up about 26 percent this year, was on pace to post its first losses in seven sessions. "The market has been on a slow drift upward, in anticipation of the earnings season coming and the hopes about tax reform," said Rick Meckler, president of investment firm LibertyView Capital Management in Jersey City.

"I think you're just seeing some small profit taking in the absence of new news," The dollar was off seven-week highs on speculation that US President Donald Trump's choice for the next head of the Federal Reserve could be a

less hawkish candidate than had previously been expected. US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is scheduled to address the Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The rest of the week is loaded with heavy economic data, culminating in Friday's nonfarm payrolls report for September.

The ADP National Employment Report indicated that private jobs increased by 135,000 in September, the smallest increase since October 2016 as Hurricane Harvey and Irma "significantly impacted smaller retailers." At 9:57 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 6.21 points, or 0.03 percent, at 22,647.88, while the S&P 500 was down 1.9 points, or 0.08 percent, at 2,532.68. The Nasdaq Composite was down 12.65 points, or 0.19 percent, at 6,519.06.

Shares of Mylan NV surged 16.7 percent and was the biggest boost to the S&P 500 after the US FDA approved the company's copycat version of Teva's blockbuster multiple sclerosis drug. Shares of Teva Pharmaceutical slumped 14 percent. PepsiCo shares were down 2 percent after the company cut organic revenue forecast for the year. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,230 to 1,221. On the Nasdaq, 1,171 issues rose and 1,107 fell.

Madrid stocks slump

The Madrid stock market tumbled by two percent yesterday on intensifying concerns over the deepening Catalan independence crisis in Spain, dealers said. European indices also mostly fell but Frankfurt saw a modest rise as investors in Germany played catch-up after the

country's public holiday Tuesday. The dollar fell across the board as attention begins to focus on the likely make-up of the new US Federal Reserve board. European investors were held back by "ongoing jitters following the unofficial independence referendum in Catalonia," NFS Macro analyst Nick Stamenkovic told AFP. "Spanish stocks, particularly banks have been the main casualty."

In London, the benchmark FTSE 100 index dipped as traders brushed off a survey showing activity in the British services sector, a key driver of the UK economy, rebounded last month. "The focus may also be brought to the next Fed chair with Fed's Yellen's speech," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore. "Although the names on the list may be of little surprise to the market, the conversation is expected to further heat up on this development." — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

جولبل

Wednesday 04 October 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price index	▲ 27.74	6,692.56	6,664.82
Weighted Index	▲ 0.57	437.43	436.86
KSX 15	▲ 2.22	1,023.53	1,021.31

Volume	168,338,941
Value (KWD)	30,340,244
Number of Trades	5,205

Security	High	Low	Trades				Change
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345	— 0.0
NAPESCO	821	802	5,020	4,026	3	821	▼ -2.0
ENERGYH	37.0	34.9	3,300	118	7	37.0	▲ 1.0
GPI	37.4	36.9	1,296,708	48,108	35	37.4	▲ 0.3
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,305,028	52,252	45	997.96	▲ 1.50

KFOUC	300	300	19,000	5,700	1	300	— 0.0
BPCC	870	865	190,500	127,006	14	865	▼ -8.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620	— 0.0
ALQURAN	336	336	270,218	91,050	20	337	▼ -1.0
Basic Materials			479,718	223,755	35	1316.54	▼ -6.70

KCEM	459	459	25,000	11,475	1	459	— 0.0
CABLE	530	518	367,579	193,357	26	530	▲ 10.0
SHIP	217	217	58,414	12,676	6	217	▲ 2.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	995	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	— 0.0
MRC	110	100	520	52	2	110	— 0.0
ADICO	275	275	12	3	1	275	▲ 7.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
NICBM	186	186	200	37	1	186	▲ 11.0
EQUIPMENT	47.8	45.9	149,649	6,902	19	46.0	— 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	— 0.0
ADLTY	915	900	969,742	879,142	136	905	▼ -8.0
EDU	310	309	19,100	5,902	4	309	— 0.0
CLEANING	52	51	380,000	19,657	5	52	— 0.0
KGL	63	61	605,050	36,926	15	62	▼ -0.1
KGPC	160	148	166,300	25,164	15	150	▼ -10.0
HUMANISOFT	4,100	4,085	121,722	497,987	6	4,090	▲ 10.0
NAFAIS	396	396	10	4	1	396	▲ 66.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	— 0.0
SHOOTING	25.7	25.6	22,270	570	6	25.6	— 0.0
CGC	515	507	46,300	23,519	8	515	▲ 5.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	— 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0.0
ALAFCO	367	361	415,958	151,652	40	365	▲ 3.0
MUBARRAD	74	73	161,000	11,753	10	74	▼ -0.3
LOGISTICS	55	54	7,630,569	417,648	231	55	▼ -0.3
SCEM	83	83	1,000	83	1	83	— 0.0
OCCEM	83	80	60,477	4,900	4	83	▲ 0.6
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	— 0.0
FCCEM	75	73	281,634	19,399	11	74	▼ -0.4
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	— 0.0
SPEC	94	87	122,400	10,780	15	88	▼ -1.0
Industrials			11,584,946	2,329,586	554	1771.76	▲ 27.10

PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	— 0.0
DANAH	71	70	55,101	3,891	6	71	▲ 0.5
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,980	— 0.0
Consumer Goods			55,101	3,891	6	1024.75	▲ 1.20
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	— 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	— 0
Health Care			0	0	0	1510.51	— 0.00

KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,340	— 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	— 0
CABLETV	25.6	25.5	139,454	3,559	2	25.5	▼ -1
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	— 0
OUJAFUEL	122	120	30,952	3,733	15	120	▼ -2
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	— 0
JAZEERA	579	579	20,852	12,073	5	579	— 0
SOOR	122	120	55,178	6,700	9	121	— 0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	123	— 0
ALRAI	122	120	84,974	10,226	6	122	▼ -3
Jiyad	49.1	42.1	102,550	4,816	8	46.9	▲ 0
Mazzan	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	— 0
Consumer Services			434,630	41,107	45	930.68	▼ -3.90

ZAIN	534	518	16,198,338	8,534,863	547	532	▲ 13
QOREDOO	1,172	1,170	9,043	10,588	4	1,170	▼ -20
AAN	36.0	35.9	1,144,275	41,163	39	36.0	— 0
VIVA	817	801	43,326	34,929	43	802	▼ -4
Telecommunications			17,394,882	8,621,543	633	613.47	▲ 0.60

NBK	789	786	1,381,677	1,087,267	64	789	▲ 1
GBK	252	248	6,272,534	1,566,799	106	250	▲ 1
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	— 0
ABK	311	309	1,000,198	495,731	29	310	▲ 1
ALMUTAHED	420	417	11,288	4,707	5	417	— 0
KIB	257	250	5,437,292	1,378,302	132	255	▲ 4
BURG	363	360	907,817	327,656	52	360	▼ -1
KFIN	620	616	4,458,247	2,751,144	234	617	▼ -2
BOUBRYAN	451	447	542,914	244,092	51	448	▼ -4
AUB	212	208	12,177,682	2,546,823	241	209	▼ -4
ITHMR	38.4	37.0	1,783,416	66,828	60	38.4	▲ 1
WARBABANK	252	250	746,373	187,916	97	251	— 0
Banks			35,322,738	10,657,266	1,571	968.34	▲ 0.70

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	278	— 0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	— 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	425	— 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	— 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	— 0.0
FTI	65	60	85,800	5,320	5	65	▼ -1
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0	— 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			85,800	5,320	5	1123.75	▼ -8.10

Security	High	Low	Trades				Change
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
SOKOLK	49.6	48.5	2408800	118,253	78	48.9	▲ 0.1
KRE	65	64	1,207,730	78,426	49	64	▼ -1.0
URC	99	93	200,279	19,787	4	99	▲ 8.8
NRE	137	134	688,776	93,700	25	136	▼ -1.0
BRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	— 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	402	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	— 0.0
MASSALEH	36.0	37.1	488,592	18,544	33	36.0	— 0.0
ARABREC	37.6	36.2	2,685,473	99,680	65	37.6	▲ 0.9
ERESCO	40.4	39.5	1,067,909	42,761	31	40.3	▲ 0.1
MABANEE	806	796	230,503	184,223	34	806	▲ 10.0
INJAZZAT	87	84	71,000	6,015	7	87	▼ -0.1
INVESTORS	23.4	23.1	369,170	8,596	14	23.4	— 0.0
IRC	33.8	32.6	37,000	1,217	4	32.6	▼ -1.4
ALTUARIA	98	97	1,204,760	117,265	43	97	▼ -0.1
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.5	— 0.0
AAYANRE	83	82	310,208	25,571	13	83	— 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	— 0.0
ALQAARIA	38.6	38.6	100	4	1	38.6	▲ 0.2
MAZAYA	118	116	1,704,927	196,756	36	117	▼ -1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	— 0.0
TUJARA	58	58	238,451	13,831	10	58	▼ -3.5
TJAMEER	37.7	36.5	1,013,900	37,466	21	36.6	▼ -0.6
ARKAN	85	85	30,000	2,535	1	85	— 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.0
ABYAR	27.8	27.1	2,833,949	78,047	64	27.2	▼ -0.6
MUNSHAAT	64	61	4,577,242	287,043	115	64	▲ 2.6
FIRSTDUBAI	48.4	46.5	873,810	41,041	15	48.4	▼ -0.8
KBT	51	49.4	877,000	44,169	33	51	▲ 1.6
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	304	— 0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.3	— 0.0
ALMUJON	38.5	38.5	100,000	3,850	2	38.5	▼ -1.0
MARAKEZ	38.5	37.9	600	23	2	37.9	▼ -0.2
REMAI	69	63	4,900	320	3	69	— 0.0
Mashar	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	— 0.0
Real Estate			23,225,081	1,521,134	703	962.37	▲ 1.10

KRW	107	106	85,500	9,044	4	106	▼ -2.0
FACIL	189	189	30,000	5,670	4	189	— 0.0
IFA	38.8	37.8	725,330	27,905	24	38.8	▲ 0.2
NINW	117	111	10,530,615	1,201,737	256	117	▲ 6.0
KPROJ	358	355	130,773	46,492	14	358	— 0.0
COAST	48.9	46.0	6,242,610	296,041	135	48.2	▲ 2.2
BECH	65	61	19,310,343	1,208,181	473	62	▼ -3.0
ARZAN	34.8	34.0	580,460	19,181	18	34.4	▼ -0.1
MARKAZ	104	104	413	43	1	104	▼ -0.9
KMEFIC	26.1	26.1	100,000	2,610	2	26.1	▼ -4.0
ALAMAN	59	57	693,991	40,199	16	59	▼ -1.0
ALDUA	48.0	46.2	1,717,337	80,903	41	47.7	▲ 1.5
ALMAL	33.6	33.0	2,854,260	95,129	123	33.7	▲ 0.2
GRI	25.0	23.5	563,727	13,479	37	24.0	▼ -1.2
AAYAN	46.8	45.6	1,286,954	59,338	62	46.3	▲ 0.3
BIYANINV	48.1	47.3	1,278,207	61,105	45	48.1	▲ 0.5
OSOLU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	— 0.0
KPIC	48.8	47.0	17,700	836	4	47.0	▼ -1.5
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	— 0.0
NIH	76	76	500	38	1	76	▲ 3.0
UNICAP	42.0	42.0	13,355	561	1	42.0	— 0.0
MADAR	24.4	24.0	97,100	2,331	8	24.0	— 0.0
ALDEERA	31.9	29.7	31,385	953	8	30.5	▼ -1.5
ALSALAM	50	48.0	725,300	36,173	20	50	— 0.0
EKITITAB	34.6	34.0	582,351	19,887	24	34.2	▼ -0.5
ALMADINA	45.6	43.0	92,800	4,179	9	45.6	▲ 0.2
NOOR	69	66	2,099,450	142,250	106	68	▲ 0.8
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	— 0.0
EKCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	— 0.0
KSHC	36.6	35.7	985,708	35,742	41	36.5	▲ 0.7
ASIRA	42.2	41.2	114,578	4,797	18	42.1	▲ 0.1
GNAHC							

Global equities rallied in September; emerging markets, UK stocks down

Kuwait upgraded to emerging market status by FTSE

Oman led GCC markets' gain; Kuwait flat

China's imports increased in August by 13.3 percent

The Eurozone's Markit Manufacturing PMI for September increased to 58.1 compared to August's reading of 57.4. The Markit Services PMI for September on a

Gulf Bank invites customers to visit their booth at The Avenues

TRANS & WATT

KD 250,000

THE BIGGEST SALARY ACCOUNT PRIZE IN KUWAIT

GULF B

25,000 will be held on 6 November 2017. The big draw for the largest prize of KD 250,000, is planned to take place on 8 February 2018.

NBK's website wins award for excellence



Hanadi Khazal

The Web Marketing Association was founded in 1997 with the goal to help set a high standard for Internet marketing and to develop the best websites on the World Wide Web. The Web Marketing Association is the producer of the WebAward Competition. Now in its 20th year, the WebAward program is the longest running annual website award competition dedicated to naming the best websites in 96 industries while setting the standard of excellence for all website development. For more information, visit www.webaward.com.



about the methodology used by the Web Marketing Association for the award, please visit www.webmarketingassociation.org/wma/. NBK provides world class innovative digital banking solutions that are safe and secure including online, mobile and one tap payment options.

Citi Foundation, International Rescue Committee partner to mentor refugee youth in entrepreneurship

A photograph showing two men in dark suits and purple ties seated at a long wooden conference table. They are both looking towards the left side of the frame. On the table in front of them are several water bottles and glasses. The background consists of large windows with horizontal blinds.

(From Left) David Miliband and Jim Cowles

positively impact community wellbeing and economic growth.” The Citi Foundation is a longstanding supporter of the IRC, helping to fund their Research & Development and emergency work in recent years. This year saw the expansion of the Citi Foundation’s Pathways to Progress initiative globally with a \$100million commitment to reach 500,000 young people with entrepreneurship and employability training before 2020.

Technology

Panasonic's business solutions to open new frontiers at GITEX 2017

Japanese technology leader creates immersive experience

DUBAI: Panasonic Marketing Middle East and Africa (PMMAF) will introduce its latest range of business solutions at GITEX 2017, which will run from October 8th to 12th, 2017, at Dubai World Trade Centre.

Panasonic's path-breaking solutions at GITEX will attract diverse audiences and deliver immersive and interactive visitor experiences.

The Japanese manufacturer will be showcasing their innovative display solutions that will be cached with a selection of revolutionary products like Stadium Mapping, Dome Mapping, 360 degree Camera, Transparent screen and much more. GITEX, one of the most influential, exciting and high-energy technology event opens the mind to experience some of the latest global trends, cutting-edge



Better quality, innovative future on show

products, savvy gadgets and unique services in the tech industry, and Panasonic, through a variety of innovation led demos will be hosting interactive sessions of immersive technology experience directly from the show floor.

Yasuo Yamasaki - Director, System Solutions & Communications Division, PMMAF commented, "For all these years, GITEX Technology Week has been inspiring visionaries and tech pioneers, to showcase and witness first-hand technology that impacts the future. With Panasonic's commitment of Japanese

products and solutions that cater to projects of all magnitudes. Panasonic has also been dedicated in showcasing next generation technology solutions which are vertical specific. Our customers will be amazed to discover new frontiers of solutions at our GITEX booth."

GITEX provides a platform for technology players to put their best foot forward in a bid to showcase the latest B2B technology products for businesses across industries. Panasonic will exhibit its full end-to-end business portfolio at the show, covering corporate office space, education, leisure, transportation, retail and hospitality.

Nearly every vertical suite will comprise of innovative display solutions, visual solutions, and communication solutions that will come together to amplify business outcomes and meet business requirements, such as securing enterprise operations or making the in-store experience come alive for customers.

Panasonic will have its presence at GITEX Technology Week at Dubai World Trade Center in Hall 3-Stand # B3-1 from October 8th to 12th, 2017.



EU hammers Amazon, Apple over taxes

BRUSSELS: The EU turned the screw on US tech giants yesterday, ordering Amazon to repay Luxembourg 250 million euros in back taxes and taking Ireland to court for failing to collect billions from Apple.

Europe's competition chief Margrethe Vestager accused tiny Luxembourg of an illegal deal with internet shopping giant Amazon to pay less tax than other businesses.

The two cases are part of a wider offensive by the EU on Silicon Valley behemoths as Europe seeks ways to regulate them more tightly on issues ranging from privacy to taxation.

"Luxembourg gave illegal tax benefits to Amazon. As a result, almost three quarters of Amazon's profits were not taxed," Vestager said in a statement. The tax demand comes a year after the hard-charging Vestager ordered tech icon Apple to repay 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) in back-taxes to Ireland in a decision that shocked the world.

In a sign that it was not letting up, the EU yesterday referred Ireland to the EU's highest court for failing to collect the bill. "The European Commission has decided to refer Ireland to the European Court of Justice for failing to recover from Apple illegal state aid," the EU's anti-trust regulator said in a statement.

Vestager's announcement comes days after the EU said at a special digital summit that it was drawing up a special tax targeting Google and Facebook, a policy championed by French President Emmanuel Macron. Vestager denied that the cases singled out tech giants from the US.

"It's not about the nationality of the companies. I take it very seriously. No bias, no matter your flag," she said.

'Extremely disappointing'

Ireland said the referral to the EU court



was "extremely disappointing", calling the decision "wholly unnecessary". For its part, Amazon sharply rejected the allegations, arguing that it employs 1,500 people in Luxembourg and that its business remains unprofitable in Europe.

"We believe that Amazon did not receive any special treatment from Luxembourg and that we paid tax in full accordance with both Luxembourg and international tax law," it said in a statement, adding that it would study its legal options. Launched in 2014, the European Commission's probe into Amazon's deals with Luxembourg was part of several investigations into sweetheart tax arrangements between major companies and several EU countries. The Amazon case hinges on the belief that a tax deal between Luxembourg and Amazon in 2003 constituted illegal "state aid", giving the company an unfair advantage over competitors.

The arrangement, which has since been discontinued, "enabled Amazon to shift the vast majority of its profits from an Amazon group company that is subject to tax in Luxembourg to a company which is not subject to tax." The latter was an "empty



BRUSSELS: EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Pierre Moscovici addresses a press conference in Brussels yesterday. The EU turned the screw on US tech giants, ordering Amazon to repay Luxembourg 250 million euros in back taxes. — AFP

shell" with no employees, no offices and no business activities, the commission said.

Once found at fault, a country must recover the amount granted in illegal state aid, potentially a huge amount of money given that some of the tax deals date back many years.

Junker questions

Many of the Brussels probes came in the wake of the "Luxleaks" scandal which revealed details of tax breaks given by the wealthy duchy to dozens of major US firms. The revelations came as a particular embarrassment for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who was prime minister of Luxembourg at the time when the tax deals were made.

In similar cases against tax deals for coffee-shop chain Starbucks in the Netherlands and Italian automaker Fiat in Luxembourg Vestager ordered both companies to pay roughly 30 million euros.

But Vestager's biggest decision by far was against Apple in Ireland, which

shocked Washington. The iPhone maker, as well as Ireland, have appealed the decision. Under Vestager, the European Commission has taken the lead in questioning the dominance of US tech giants.

In June, the EU slapped Google with a record 2.4-billion-euro (\$2.8-billion) fine for illegally favoring its shopping service in search results. But there are signs politicians are now following her lead, with Macron leading the charge in a landmark speech last month on his vision for the future of Europe after Brexit.

Macron called for a new type of tax on technology giants like Facebook and Google based on how much value they create in a country rather than the profits, and has also proposed a single corporate tax band for all EU countries by 2020.

Juncker announced at the EU digital summit in Tallinn last week that he would propose the new tax on internet giants next year, despite opposition by low-tax states like Ireland and Luxembourg. — AFP

Uber board reaches peace with SoftBank, governance deal

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber Technologies Inc's fractured board declared peace on Tuesday, attempting to put months of strife behind it by unanimously passing a series of measures to shore up corporate governance, bring in major investor SoftBank and diminish the power of former Chief Executive Travis Kalanick. The agreement could shore up Uber's reputation after a series of scandals and a legal battle between Kalanick and an Uber investor group led by Silicon Valley's Benchmark Capital. The deal could be subject to a lawsuit and is contingent on the multi-billion dollar investment by Japan's SoftBank Group Corp closing in the coming weeks.

The terms preserve Uber's \$69-billion valuation, highest among the world's venture-backed startups, as SoftBank and others invest about \$10 billion. "SoftBank's interest is an incredible vote of confidence in Uber's business and long-term potential," the board said in statement.

Benchmark General Partner Bill Gurley, who was replaced by a colleague on Uber's board in June, said by email, "It was a good day for Uber, a good day for Uber's employees, and good day for Uber's new CEO." Kalanick described Tuesday's actions as "a major step forward in Uber's journey to becoming a world class public company." He added that the governance changes should serve Uber well under Dara Khosrowshahi, who is a month into the chief executive officer job since leaving the same post at Expedia Inc.

Governance policies adopted by the board would make it difficult for Kalanick to return as CEO. He resigned in June under pressure from the Benchmark-led investor group over employee sexual harassment investigations, a trade-secrets misappropriation lawsuit by Waymo and efforts to interfere with government probes.

A two-thirds majority vote of the board would be required to hire a replacement for Khosrowshahi before the San Francisco start-up holds an initial public offering, according to a person familiar with the matter. The board set a deadline for an IPO of autumn 2019, the sources said.

Uber's board will expand from 11 directors, including a pair of Kalanick appointees seated on Monday, to 17 directors, the person and another source said.

The increase would include four new independent directors for a total of seven. Five board seats would go to company insiders or co-founders, and five would be representatives of investors. The chairperson would be one of the independent directors.

Two of the six new seats would go to SoftBank, the sources said. The other four would be selected by a nominating committee of the board. Kalanick and other early shareholders also are sacrificing voting power, as Uber adopts a one vote per share policy, the sources said.

Threat of lawsuit

Early Uber investors Shervin Pishevar and Steve Russell said in a statement after Tuesday's vote that they would sue to block the change, which cuts the super-voting rights that give them 10 votes per share. If successful, such a lawsuit could threaten the other terms of the boardroom compromise.

"Today's action by the board was the culmination of a blatant bait and switch, essentially robbing loyal employees, including the more than 200 early founding Uber employees and advisors, of their hard earned shareholder rights," Pishevar and Russell said.

For Kalanick, agreeing to drop his voting power could enable him to resolve his dispute with Benchmark. The changes decided Tuesday would prompt Benchmark to end a lawsuit and arbitration proceedings against Kalanick, the two sources and another said.

Benchmark sees gains in the agreement, too. Should Uber not go public by autumn 2019, the venture capital firm and other large, early shareholders would be free to divest shares without company approval, two of the sources said. A consortium of SoftBank, Dragoneer Investment Group and General Atlantic plan to invest \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion at the valuation of \$69 billion, two of the people said. The investment firms also plan to buy 14 to 17 percent of existing Uber shares from employees and current investors at a discounted valuation, bringing the maximum value of the total package to around \$10 billion. — Reuters

Sputnik, the tiny sphere that launched the space race

MOSCOW: When the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite 60 years ago, it marked both the beginning of space exploration and the start of a race between Moscow and Washington.

Sputnik, the tiny silver sphere with four spider leg-like antennae, showed off Soviet technological prowess. But German scientists—who had worked on Adolf Hitler's rocket projects and had been brought to the USSR after the war—were the ones who stood at the forefront of space achievement.

The founder of the Soviet space program, Sergei Korolyov, worked with German scientists and fragments of the German FAU rocket to develop a new military missile, said Nikolai Shiganov, one of the scientists behind Soviet rocket R-7 which put Sputnik into orbit.

"The Korolyov bureau had to create an intercontinental rocket capable of carrying a hydrogen bomb to any point on the planet," Shiganov, now aged 97, told AFP in an interview. As he worked for the military, Korolyov—who spent six years in the Gulag-dreamt of space conquest. But time was running out: one of the principal German engineers, Wernher von Braun, was already working for the Americans. After three years of work and three rocket accidents, the fourth R-7 with a dummy warhead successfully hit its target in Kamchatka, in the Far East, in August 1957. The test was hailed as successful although the rocket head disintegrated in flight.

Creating a new rocket head would take six months, much too long as the Soviets wanted to pre-empt the launch of a US satellite in 1958. So Korolyov suggested creating a simple satellite made of two hemispheres containing sensors, a radio and a battery pack.

In just two months, the apparatus measuring 58 centimeters (22 inches) in diameter and weighing 83.6 kilograms (184.3 pounds) was ready, remembered Shiganov, whose lab created the aluminum alloy and came up with a new welding technique used to make the Sputnik and the R-7.



MOSCOW: Children walk past a full-scale replica of the world's first artificial satellite Sputnik, launched by the Soviet Union from a testing range in Kazakhstan yesterday, at the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics (or Memorial Museum of Space Exploration) in Moscow. — AFP

'A tiny dot'

Though the satellite captured imaginations, with radio amateurs tuning in around the world to hear its simple calls, Sputnik was secondary to its inventors, Shiganov said. "The most important thing was that it proved the effectiveness of the R-7 rocket." The secrecy around the project meant Shiganov didn't learn of the actual launch until he heard on the radio that the first Earth satellite was put in orbit on October 4, 1957 from a testing range in Kazakhstan, the future Baikonur cosmodrome. On a sunny October Sunday, Shiganov was able to see the glint of Sputnik with his naked eye. "It was a tiny dot which shone in the sun because of its glossy surface," he said.

Sputnik was in orbit for 92 days, making 1,440 circles around Earth, before losing speed and burning up in the

atmosphere. Several replicas are now on show in museums.

Shiganov's colleague Eduard Bolotov, 84, actually saw Sputnik as a young rocket trajectory engineer of 24, even gaining access to the depot where the rocket stood during final preparations.

The minuscule satellite sat atop the rocket and Bolotov, with other young specialists, patted the rocket's side and signed his name on the inside of the nozzle.

"I watched the actual launch through a gap from my post," Bolotov said. Although workers were summoned to the launchpad with secret letters, crowds of people also turned up, he said. "Their relatives had told them about the launch." "Only at 3 am we found out that Sputnik was in orbit, and radios all over the world started to register its beeps." — AFP

Health

Trio takes chemistry Nobel for new, 'cool' method to study molecules

Method uses electron beams to examine tiniest cell structures

STOCKHOLM: A revolutionary technique dubbed cryo-electron microscopy, which has shed light on the Zika virus and an Alzheimer's enzyme, earned scientists Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson the Nobel Chemistry Prize yesterday. Thanks to the international team's "cool method", which uses electron beams to examine the tiniest structures of cells, "researchers can now freeze biomolecules mid-movement and visualize processes they have never previously seen," the Nobel chemistry committee said.

This has been "decisive for both the basic understanding of life's chemistry and for the development of pharmaceuticals," it added. The ultra-sensitive imaging method allows molecules to be flash-frozen and studied in their natural form, without the need for dyes. It has laid bare never-before-seen details of the tiny protein machines that run all cells. "When researchers began to suspect that the Zika virus was causing the epidemic of brain-damaged newborns in Brazil, they turned to cryo-EM (electron microscopy) to visualize the virus," the committee said. Frank, a 77-year-old, German-born biochemistry professor at Columbia University in New York, was woken from his sleep when the committee announced the prize in Stockholm, six hours ahead.

"There are so many other discoveries every day, I was in a way speechless," he said. "It's wonderful news." In the first half of the 20th century, biomolecules—proteins, DNA and RNA—were terra incognita on the map of biochemistry. Because the powerful electron beam destroys biological material, electron microscopes were long thought to be useful only to study dead matter.

But 72-year-old Henderson, from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, used an electron

microscope in 1990 to generate a three-dimensional image of a protein at atomic resolution, a groundbreaking discovery which proved the technology's potential. Frank made it widely usable between 1975 and 1986, developing a method to transform the electron microscope's fuzzy two-dimensional images into sharp, 3-D composites.

Dubochet, today an honorary professor of biophysics at the University of Lausanne, added water. Now 75, he discovered in the 1980s how to cool water so quickly that it solidifies in liquid form around a biological sample, allowing the molecules to retain their natural shape even in a vacuum. The electron microscope's every nut and bolt have been optimized since these discoveries.

The required atomic resolution was reached in 2013, and researchers "can now routinely produce three-dimensional structures of biomolecules," according to the Nobel committee. The trio will share the prize money of nine million Swedish kronor (around \$1.1 million or 943,100 euros). "Normally what I'd do if I was in Cambridge, we will have a party around tea-time in the lab but I expect we'll have it tomorrow instead," said Henderson.

'Beautiful pictures'

The prize announcement was praised by the scientific community and observers around the world. "By solving more and more structures at the atomic level we can answer biological questions, such as how drugs get into cells, that were simply unanswerable a few years ago," Jim Smith, science director at the London-based biomedical research charity Wellcome, said in a statement.

Daniel Davis, immunology professor at the University of Manchester, said details of crucial molecules and proteins



STOCKHOLM: Members of the Nobel Committee, sit during a press conference as they announce - Jacques Dubochet - from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Joachim Frank from Columbia University, USA and Richard Henderson, from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, in England as the winners of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, at the Royal Academy of Sciences. — AP

that make the human immune system function, can now be seen like never before. "It has been used in visualising the way in which antibodies can work to stop viruses being dangerous, leading to new ideas for medicines—as just one example," he said. John Hardy, neuroscience professor at University College London, said Dubochet, Frank and

Henderson's technique has transformed the field of structural biology. It has been used, for example, to compile a detailed identikit of an enzyme implicated in Alzheimer's. "Knowing this structure opens up the possibility of rational drug design in this area," Hardy said. "And as a biologist, I can say that the pictures are beautiful." — AFP

Panic in Madagascar as plague spreads

ANTANANARIVO: Crowds of fearful residents flock to their local pharmacies before dawn, desperate to buy masks and antibiotics to stave off a plague outbreak sweeping Madagascar. In just the past few days, the highly infectious disease has wreaked havoc in the poor Indian Ocean island nation, claiming six lives in the capital city Antananarivo and causing widespread panic.

Like many of his neighbors, 50-year-old Johannes Herinjatovo quickly became overwhelmed by fear as news of the outbreak spread. He too joined the long lines forming outside the capital's chemists. "I'd already visited six this morning and at each one they told me that they didn't have any more masks," he said as he left a pharmacy empty-handed. His wife Miora Herinjatovo, 55, had better luck, success-



ANTANANARIVO: Rat-traps are pictured in a primary school at Andraisoro, a district of the Antananarivo on October 2, 2017. Rats disseminate fleas which are carrier of the plague bacterium. — AFP

fully locating a mask in a hospital. "Everyone is looking for one," she said. "Some pharmacies are saying that there won't be any more in the city. Others are telling us to wait. We just don't know." Having failed to get hold of a mask, her husband instead collected a handful of generic antibiotics. The health ministry has advised against using the treatment preventively against

the plague, but that has done little to deter worried members of the public. "We are scared-all of these deaths show that the situation is serious," said Herinjatovo. Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly Solonandrasana dropped a bombshell on national TV on Saturday when he announced that 24 people have so far died from the plague since the end of August. — AFP

Cats kill one million birds a day in Australia

SYDNEY: Feral and pet cats kill more than one million birds in Australia every day, new research showed yesterday, with the staggering slaughter driving the decline of many species. The study, published in the journal Biological Conservation, estimated that wild cats wiped out 316 million every year, while pets killed 61 million annually.

"Everyone knows that cats kill birds, but this study shows that, at a national level, the amount of predation is staggering," said lead researcher John Woinarski from Charles Darwin University. "It is likely to be driving the ongoing decline of many species." The numbers are based on results from nearly 100 studies across the country by environmental scientists, each sampling cat population density. Another

set of almost 100 studies assessed feline diet. Woinarski said that while previous research had looked at the impact cats had on Australia's mammals, this was the first nationwide assessment on birds.

It found the highest rates of predation were on Australia's islands and in remote arid areas, where the number of birds killed each year could reach 330 per square kilometer.

Feral cats, which number in their millions across the country, are also considered the main culprit behind Australia's high rate of mammal extinction.

They have wiped out entire populations since being introduced by Europeans who settled in the country two centuries ago, with efforts to cull or sterilise them so far failing to slow their march. The researchers found evidence of cats killing 338 bird types—almost half of Australia's native species, including 71 threatened species such as the spotted quail thrush, the squatter pigeon, and the night parrot.

"We found that the birds most likely to be killed by cats are medium sized birds, birds that nest and feed on the ground, and birds that occur on islands or in woodlands, grasslands and shrublands," said Woinarski. — AFP

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What's On

Perfect weekend getaway at Kuwait Marriott Hotels



Kuwait Marriott Hotels have launched exclusive weekend deals on rooms and restaurants. The special weekend promotion offers GCC nationals and residents special discounts on rooms and suites at JW Marriott Kuwait City, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait and Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City. In addition, the package also includes complimentary buffet breakfast, free WIFI, and free meals for children under six years of age.

To add to the exclusive benefits, guests can enjoy free access to the swimming pool and health club. Free valet parking and shared airport transfers will also be available along with early check-in and late check-out, subject to availability. It is also worthy to note that JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait and Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait have a direct exclusive

entrance to "Salhia" and "Arraya" Shopping Malls, where guests can shop between an array of world-class retail brands.

A superb dining experience can be enjoyed at The Terrace Grill restaurant at JW Marriott Kuwait, known to be one of the best steakhouses in Kuwait. The restaurant offers an extensive menu of the finest meat cuts and seafood. Other interesting cuisines can be tried at the Japanese Kei restaurant offering sushi and Teppanyaki. The much-celebrated Indian restaurant Soul and Spice in Courtyard by Marriott is well known for serving flavorful Indian dishes, in addition to Sushi restaurant which offers a wide array of mouth-watering Japanese delicacies.

In addition, Crossroads restaurant at the JW Marriott Kuwait has also launched new theme nights, including the Mediterranean Night every

Monday, which offers a wide selection of the most popular dishes from different Mediterranean cuisines. And the Seafood Night every Wednesday, with a wide range of fresh seafood buffets.

Moreover, Blendz restaurant, located at the lobby of Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City, offers its guests a unique flavor of modern recipes in a very relaxed ambience making it a perfect place to spend time with family and friends.

George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Kuwait Marriott Hotels said, "With everything from the finest dining to value-oriented hotels and ultimate shopping experiences, our goal is to offer great value for money deals and the highest level of customer service to our guests."



Get healthy with Hilton Kuwait Resort

Hilton Kuwait Resort is putting fitness first this autumn with a wide-range of recreational activities for kids, families and individuals. Through this special initiative and in commemoration of the hotel 15 years anniversary, both members and non-members of the Hilton Fitness Club can take advantage of the activities on offer.

By beginning of October, Hilton Kuwait Resort will be hosting the Premier Sport Football Academy in association with Everton FC. Offering professional football coaching for both boys and girls, Premier Sport Academy coaches young footballers to develop more talent and become better all-round players. The academy will take place every Sunday and Wednesday from 4:00pm till 6:30pm.

Besides, The Kids Tennis Academy takes place every Wednesday and Friday. Coaching sessions are designed to train beginners and develop professional talent,

culminating in the annual Hilton Kuwait tennis tournament, taking place in the month of December. Both kids and adults can join the Tennis Academy and participate in the annual tennis tournament, with some exciting prizes on offer to be won by the Hilton Tennis Academy Champion.

The heart-healthy activities continue with a fun packed, energetic weekly schedule of fitness and wellness classes to suit all levels. Hilton Fitness offers a variety of classes to suit all energy levels and fitness goals - participants can choose from a variety of high intensity workout sessions such as Zumba, Iron Fit spinning, power pump, Aqua Zumba for a low-impact workout, or body and mind relaxation through yoga. Hilton Fitness members can enjoy unlimited free aerobics activities at the Health Club, whilst non-members can join in by taking advantage of the unbeatable prices on offer.



Take your corporate vision to new level of power and influence

Knowledge Club's 2017 first seminar of season 2 is a one-day session titled Business Success: Powering Leadership on the 17th of October 2017, in Hilton Hotel Mangaf in Al-Dorra Ballroom. It will be conducted by Dr John Demartini, human behavioral specialist, educator, author and founder of the Demartini Institute.

This practical and informative seminar is designed to empower and inspire business leaders and managers to be able to more masterfully, effectively and efficiently achieve their overall

business mission, vision and primary objectives.

Leaders will gain insight into human behavior and corporate social dynamics which is the key to building and inspiring corporate teams and boosting sales and productivity to achieve their greatest business potential.

Attendees will learn to overcome the fear of failure in business or career, map out a corporate social dynamic, master the art of communication and resolve conflicts quickly and teach their teams to do the same.

Dr John Demartini is dedicated to expanding

human awareness and potential in all markets and social sectors and travels over 360 days a year to over 56 countries to share his research and findings across the globe. He has written over 40 books and appeared in numerous national and international radio, television and print interviews as well as appeared in movie documentaries such as "The Secret" and also shared the stage with noted speakers such as Richard Branson, Steven Covey, Steve Wosniak, Brian Tracy and Deepak Chopra.

The Knowledge Club(tm) 2017 series is organized by Vigor Events and Co-Organized by ALGAS Events Company. Members of the Knowledge Club(tm) this year include Hadi Clinic as Gold Member, Warba Bank and Kout Food Group as Silver Member and media support from the International Advertising Association Kuwait.

Study in Canada exhibition

Organized by the Embassy of Canada, the 12th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour will be visiting Kuwait from October 29-30, 2017. Representatives of around 10 leading Canadian institutions will be available to meet students, parents, teachers and guidance counselors to present the advantages of studying in Canada. On Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 6:00 pm, a Study in Canada exhibition will be held at Symphony Style Hotel, Symphony Style Mall, Arabian Gulf road, Salmiya, for potential students and their parents to attend.

TV

AM MOVIES ACTION

00:10 Green Street 3: Never Back
Down
01:50 Echo Effect
03:30 Survivor
05:10 Bermuda Tentacles
06:45 Beyond Redemption
08:15 Echo Effect
09:45 Survivor
11:25 Bermuda Tentacles
12:55 Harlock: Space Pirate
14:45 Savage Dog
16:20 Nick Of Time
17:50 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
19:45 The Rock
22:00 Universal Soldier: The Return
23:25 The Green Inferno

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:40 Swamp Brothers
03:25 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
03:45 Treehouse Masters
05:02 Wildest Latin America
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Night
07:25 Swamp Brothers
07:50 Swamp Brothers
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Rugged Justice
10:05 Wildest Latin America
11:00 Swamp Brothers
11:28 Swamp Brothers
11:55 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
12:50 Treehouse Masters
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Whale Wars
18:20 Whale Wars
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Swamp Brothers
20:38 Swamp Brothers
21:05 Whale Wars
22:00 Whale Wars
22:55 Wildest Latin America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

BBC FIRST

00:20 Doctors
00:50 EastEnders
01:20 Poldark
02:20 Last Tango In Halifax
03:15 Born To Kill
04:05 Father Brown
05:00 Doctors
05:30 EastEnders
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 Stella
08:20 New Tricks
09:15 Doctors
09:45 EastEnders
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 The Coroner
11:50 Stella
12:40 New Tricks
13:35 Doctors
14:05 EastEnders
14:40 Father Brown
15:30 Stella
16:15 New Tricks
17:40 The Coroner
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Uncle
21:30 Agatha Raisin
22:20 Benidorm
23:20 Doctors
23:40 EastEnders

crime & investigation network

00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Escaping Evil: My Life In A Cult
04:00 Escaping Polygamy
05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
06:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 The First 48
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
19:00 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
23:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Inside Amy Schum
00:30 Inside Amy Schum
00:55 Broad City
01:20 South Park
01:45 Inside Amy Schum
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schum
03:50 Another Period
04:15 IdiotSitter
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Sweet Inc.
07:15 Impractical Jokers UK
07:40 Impractical Jokers UK
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 Brotherhood
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 IdiotSitter
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Sweet Inc.
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy 3alwagef
12:18 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Impractical Jokers UK
13:05 Impractical Jokers UK
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 Brotherhood
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy 3alwagef
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 Brotherhood
17:45 IdiotSitter
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Impractical Jokers UK
19:00 Impractical Jokers UK

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 Comedy Central Presents
22:00 Comedy 3alwagef
22:00 Problematic With Moshe Kashner
22:25 The Half Hour
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Broad City
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

00:30 Playhouse Masters
01:20 Don't Drive Here
02:10 Animal Nation With Anthony Anderson
03:00 Ultimate Survival
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Playhouse Masters
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Playhouse Masters
07:50 Finding Bigfoot
08:40 How It's Made
09:00 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Space Dealers
12:00 Bermuda Triangle Exposed
12:50 Strip The Cosmos
13:40 Strip The Cosmos
14:30 Strip The Cosmos
15:20 Strip The Cosmos
16:10 Strip The Cosmos
17:00 Space Dealers
17:50 Sonic Sea
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
20:45 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 Space Dealers
22:00 Sonic Sea
23:15 Ultimate Survival

ID

00:30 Ghost Asylum
01:20 Evil Online
02:10 I Am Homicide
03:00 Sin City Justice
03:48 Disappeared
04:36 California Investigator
05:01 California Investigator
05:24 I Almost Got Away With It
06:12 Beauty Queen Murders
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 California Investigator
08:15 California Investigator
08:40 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 Beauty Queen Murders
10:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
11:10 Unravell
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 California Investigator
13:15 California Investigator
13:40 I Almost Got Away With It
14:30 Beauty Queen Murders
15:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
16:10 Evil Online
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 California Investigator
18:15 California Investigator
18:40 I Almost Got Away With It
19:30 Beauty Queen Murders
20:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
21:10 Reasonable Doubt
22:00 I Am Homicide
22:50 The Perfect Murder

Disney Channel HD

23:40 Ghost Brothers
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Bunk'd
09:00 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
09:25 K.C. Undercover
09:50 Stuck In The Middle
10:15 Stuck In The Middle
10:40 How To Build A Better Boy
12:10 Rolling With The Ronks
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Bizaardvark
13:35 Bizaardvark
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Jessie
14:50 Bizaardvark
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Descendants Wicked World
16:35 Bunk'd
17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
17:50 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
18:15 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracke
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 K.C. Undercover
21:25 Stuck In The Middle
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Bunk'd
22:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:45 Lollipop
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

00:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:00 Good Luck Charlie: The Road Trip Movie
13:30 Phineas & Ferb
13:45 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats Elite Force
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Right NOW Kapow
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney11
19:00 Lab Rats
19:25 Right NOW Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

00:10 Second Wives Club
01:00 Second Wives Club
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched By Nature
04:40 Botched By Nature
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
06:55 El News
07:10 Just Jillian

EHD

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

Disney Junior

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

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Misfit Garage
01:05 Strip The City
01:50 Abandoned Engineering
02:35 Breaking Magic
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Kings Of The Wild
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Misfit Garage
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Kings Of The Wild
09:00 Garage Gold
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Strip The City
10:55 Abandoned Engineering
11:40 Breaking Magic
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Garage Gold
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Kings Of The Wild
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Misfit Garage
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Garage Gold
18:20 Garage Gold
18:50 Kings Of The Wild
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
22:40 Supertruckers
23:30 Fast N' Loud

XD

06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
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19:25 Right NOW Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
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20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Weapons At War
02:00 In Search Of Aliens
03:00 Ancient Aliens
04:00 United Stuff Of America
05:00 Ancient Aliens
06:00 United Stuff Of America
07:00 The Universe
08:00 Weapons At War
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 United Stuff Of America
11:00 The Greeks
12:00 Ancient Discoveries
13:00 Weapons At War
14:00 In Search Of Aliens
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 United Stuff Of America
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 Weapons At War
20:00 In Search Of Aliens
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
23:00 The Greeks

H2 HD

00:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 Mountain Men
02:45 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Big Easy Motors
06:25 Big Easy Motors
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Alone
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:40 Swamp People
14:20 Alone
16:00 Time Team
16:50 Cars That Made America
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Mystery Pickers
21:00 New Age Of Terror
22:40 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
23:30 Mountain Men

NAT GEO people HD

00:15 Carnival Eats
00:45 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
01:10 Street Food Around The World
01:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
02:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
02:35 Access 360 World Heritage
03:30 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
04:25 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
04:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
05:20 Route Awakening
05:45 Route Awakening
06:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
06:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
07:10 Rustic Adventures Italy
07:35 Rustic Adventures Italy
08:05 Access 360 World Heritage
09:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
09:55 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
10:20 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
10:50 Route Awakening
11:15 Route Awakening
11:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
12:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
12:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
13:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
13:35 Access 360 World Heritage
14:30 Mega Food
15:25 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
15:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
16:20 Route Awakening
16:45 Route Awakening
17:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
18:10 Restoration Man
19:05 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
19:30 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
20:00 Route Awakening
20:30 Route Awakening
21:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
21:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Rustic Adventures Italy
23:20 Rustic Adventures Italy
23:50 Access 360 World Heritage

08:10 El News: Daily Pop
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 El News
20:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 El News
23:15 Botched

food network

00:00 Chopped
01:00 Chopped South Africa
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:25 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Siba's Table
20:30 Siba's Table
21:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
21:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv CHOICE

00:10 Chopping Block
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Midsomer Murders
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Chopping Block
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Midsomer Murders
09:30 P O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Chopping Block
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Chopping Block
15:10 The Chase
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
16:55 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
21:55 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

IT2 HD

00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Weapons At War
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H2 HD

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Lost In The West I
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street

00:15 Catcher: Cat City 2
02:45 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville
04:10 Frog Kingdom
05:45 Hocus Pocus Affke Atkins

18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

nick jr.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Nazi World War Weird
01:00 Last Days Of Man
02:00 Last Days Of Man
03:00 Dark Secrets Of The Lusitania
04:00 Nazi World War Weird
05:00 Street Monkeys
06:00 Highway Thru Hell
07:00 Genius
08:00 Incredibly Small World
09:00 Street Monkeys
10:00 Mega Factories
11:00 Dark Secrets Of The Lusitania
12:00 Year Million
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Salvage Code Red
15:00 Innovation Nation
15:30 Innovation Nation
16:00 Nazi Megastructures
17:00 Big Fix Alaska
18:00 Locked Up Abroad
19:00 Innovation Nation
19:30 Innovation Nation
20:00 Nazi Megastructures
20:50 Big Fix Alaska
21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 Complications
22:55 Innovation Nation
23:20 Incredibly Small World

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Dragon Island
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Boss Croc
02:50 India's Lost Worlds
03:45 World's Weirdest (2015)
04:40 Unlikely Animal Friends
05:35 Boss Croc
06:30 India's Lost Worlds
07:25 World's Weirdest (2015)
08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends
09:15 Predator Fails
10:10 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
11:05 Safari Brothers
12:00 Search For The Giant Octopus
12:55 Future Cat
13:50 Safari Brothers
14:45 Freaks & Creeps
15:40 The Blind Monkey
16:35 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
17:30 Predator Fails
18:25 South Africa
19:20 Freaks & Creeps
20:10 The Blind Monkey
21:00 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
21:50 Predator Fails
22:40 South Africa
23:30 Search For The Giant Octopus

nick HD

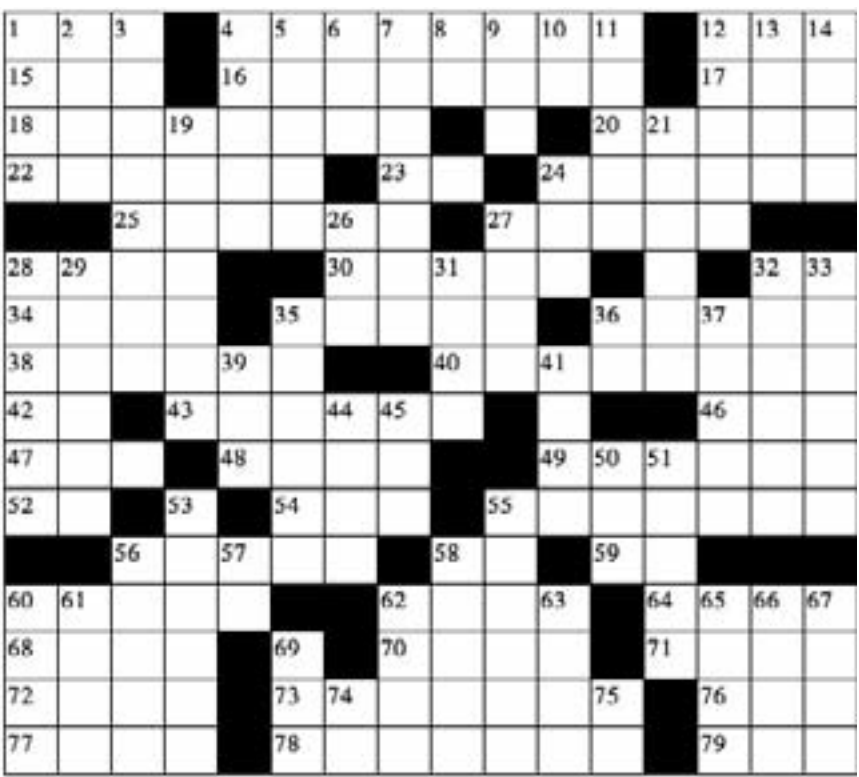
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street

07:05 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
08:50 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
10:35 Free Birds
12:00 The Secret Of Kells
13:25 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville
14:50 Frog Kingdom
16:25 Amila's Secret
18:00 Free Birds
19:25 Bunny Tales
20:45 Rainbow Valley Heroes
22:25 Amila's Secret

nick jr.

00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:35 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:2

CROSSWORD 1727



ACROSS

- 1. A shape that sags.
- 4. A nation in Asia.
- 12. What you can repeat immediately after perceiving it.
- 15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- 16. Of or relating to Albania or its people or language or culture.
- 17. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 23. Grown for its thickened edible aromatic root.
- 20. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- 22. (Greek mythology) A sea god.
- 23. One thousand periods per second.
- 25. The 12th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- 28. Give a certain impression or have a certain outward aspect.
- 30. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
- 34. The basic unit of money in China.
- 38. An enzyme that occurs in gastric juice.
- 40. Represented as greater than is true or reasonable.
- 42. Half the width of an em.
- 43. An implement used to erase something.
- 46. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
- 47. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
- 48. Inspired by a feeling of fearful wonderment or reverence.
- 49. A native of ancient Troy.
- 52. (Sumerian) Goddess personifying earth.
- 54. Late time of life.
- 59. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 60. A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
- 64. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
- 68. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
- 70. The sixth month of the civil year.
- 71. A Chad language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 72. American novelist (1909-1955).
- 73. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 76. A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- 77. A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
- 78. A city of east central Mexico (west of Veracruz).
- 79. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans.

DOWN

- 1. A subdivision of a larger religious group.
- 2. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
- 3. Of or relating to Galileo or his works.
- 4. A glancing rebound.
- 5. Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
- 6. A master's degree in business.
- 7. An excavator whose shovel bucket is attached to a hinged boom and is drawn backward to move earth.

- 8. In operation or operational.
- 9. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
- 10. A state in midwestern United States.
- 11. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- 12. A burn caused by hot liquid or steam.
- 13. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
- 14. Any of various minerals consisting of hydrous silicates of aluminum or potassium etc. that crystallize in forms that allow perfect cleavage into very thin leaves.
- 19. A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
- 21. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
- 24. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 26. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- 27. Speaking a Slavic language.
- 29. A member of the people inhabiting an area of northern Mongolia and eastern Siberia.
- 31. Little known Kamarupan languages.
- 32. Wildly disordered.
- 33. An earth color containing ferric oxides.
- 35. Relatively small gnawing animals having a single pair of constantly growing incisor teeth specialized for gnawing.
- 36. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- 37. A large number or amount.
- 39. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- 41. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- 44. Combining form.
- 45. A doctor's degree in education.
- 50. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 51. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
- 53. Greek philosopher and astronomer (who predicted an eclipse in 585 BC) who was said by Aristotle to be the founder of physical science.
- 55. 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.
- 56. Commodities offered for sale.
- 57. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- 58. An ancient port city in southwestern Spain.
- 61. A feeling of intense anger.
- 62. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
- 63. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
- 65. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
- 66. In bed.
- 67. A kiln for drying hops.
- 69. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public.
- 74. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- 75. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You tend to be radical when it comes to self-analysis, which includes health care, food and physical wellbeing. Serving and caring for yourself and others is a primary source of inner growth and change. You are sensitive to criticism. Today, at work, you may have to make some adjustments—someone could be in a criticizing mood. Decide to make whatever changes you need and then move forward. This evening a loved one or friend is receptive and will listen to your words. You love social life and relationships of all kinds—partners, marriages, teachers and such. You are very responsive yourself and value this in others. You do not play favorites and are quite impersonal when it comes to your responsibilities. Young people learn from you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a high-energy day where many doors of opportunity are opened and many unfinished projects can be completed. When you least expect it, there will be a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. You may feel that you are in touch with others and everything is working in your favor. The support you need is available. You develop a knack for organizing things and people as a sense of ambition and practicality takes hold. Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you. Take a little trip, or get outside during the day. You may want to break your routine. This will take you away from the stress and help you to regain a focus. Be more involved in recreational activities each evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your positive outlook is catching! Your intuitive powers are strong toward making things work in your favor. This is a good time to ask for a raise. Your ideas are very well-received at this time. Your enthusiasm is strong and can win the support of a valuable supporter. There are upcoming opportunities to meet your special love this week. Those of you that have experienced problems in your love relationship will find answers soon. A more concrete foundation is in the works. Find ways that you can appreciate just who you are and what you are doing with your life now. The happier you are with your life and your accomplishments, the happier the people around you will become. Give careful attention to the everyday relationships.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The energies are right today for team effort. People just want to add their energy to a project... Everybody wants to be included! It is easy for you to make correct decisions. Problems seem manageable and easy to solve. Even though the intensity of this period diminishes fairly soon, you will continue to feel that easy manner you have now, throughout the rest of this year. Exercise or some team sports competition may not go as well as you expected this afternoon. You may feel that you are not able to hold up to the stamina that is required of you just now. Set reasonable fitness goals and concentrate on releasing tension and stretching. A good conversation with those you love is possible this evening. This is a satisfying day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may feel that a co-worker is absent this morning and this person usually does not miss work. This is a temporary situation, so at the noon break you may call and chat. This workday is stuffed with projects, meetings and communication with complicated customers. Your intuitive and psychic abilities are enhanced at this time—you may find it easier to understand different types of personalities. Challenges help to improve problem-solving skills and by the time work is over this day, you may feel as though you have gained in your work experience. Keep notes on your accomplishments so that you can improve your resume. You may be invited to a community social this evening and you could be quite pleased at how this busy day is all forgotten.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Vacation time will be the most comfortable if taken or begun sometime this month. It is possible that you will be traveling in order to tend to business. Who owns what, who owns what and who decides these things are some of the major issues now. Understanding inner motivations and seeing through to the core is your real path of power. You may find that you can really use your mind to think through things and make clear choices. Career decisions are straightforward. You make your way through ideas, concepts and your ability to communicate and express them to others. Make this evening a time of relaxation—a massage could be quite enjoyable. Pay attention to community activities where you could volunteer your creative talents.

Wordsearch Puzzle

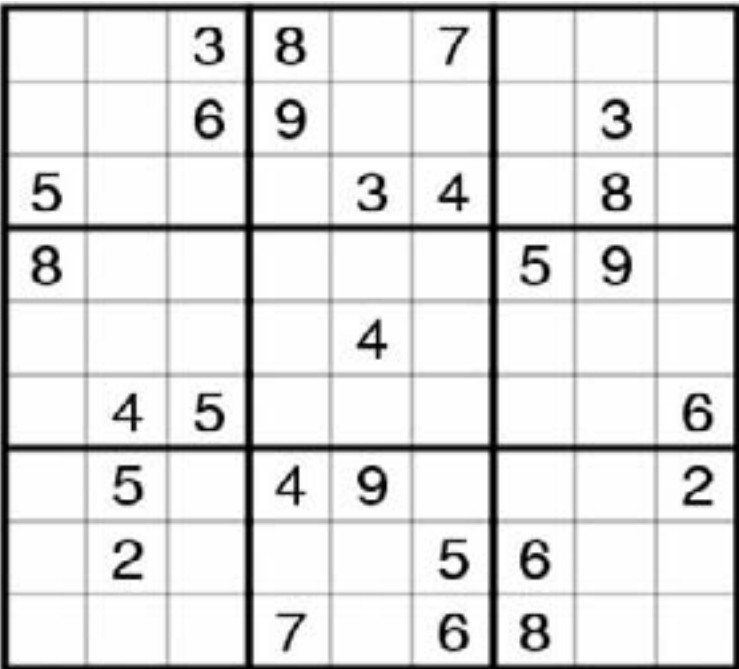
Trees

Find and circle all of the Trees that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Greek Proverb.

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

APPLE	CE	LINDEN	POPLAR
APRICOT	CHERRY	LONDON PLANE	REDBUD
ASH	CHESTNUT	MAPLE	RUBBER TREE
ASPEN	COTTONWOOD	NECTARINE	SEQUOIA
ARBOVITAE	ELM	OAK	SPRUCE
BALD CYPRESS	FIR	PALM	SYCAMORE
BEECH	GINKGO	PEACH	TULIPTREE
BIRCH	GOLDENRAIN	PEAR	WALNUT
BOKWOOD	HAZELNUT	PECAN	WITCHHAZEL
BUCKEYE	HEMLOCK	PLUM	WILLOW
BUTTERNUT	HICKORY	PINE	YELLOWWOOD
CATALPA	LARCH		

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution

Treasure Island

ADMIRAL BENBOW INN CAPE ISRAEL HANDS QUARTERMASTER
APPLE BARREL CAPTAIN FLINT ISRAEL HANDS SAIL
ASHORE CAPTAIN SMOLLETT JIM HAWKINS SCHOONER
BEACH CHEST JOLLY ROGER SEAFARING
BEN GUNN COAST LOGBOOK SEAMEN
BILLY BONES COMPASS LONG JOHN SILVER SHIP
BLACK DOG COVE MAROONED SKELETON
BUCCANIER CREW MUSKET SPY-GLASS
BURIED GOLD CUTLASS MUTINY SQUIRE TRELAWNEY
CABIN BOY DR. LIVESY PARROT THE BLACK SPOT
CANNON BALLS GUINEAS PIRATES TREASURE
CANNONS HISPAGOLA PISTOL WALRUS

The hidden message is: TREASURE ISLAND WAS WRITTEN BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Yesterday's Solution



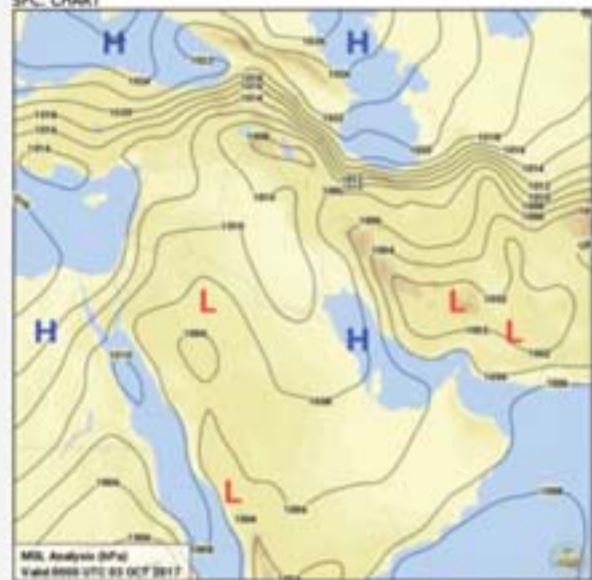
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 03/10/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 41 °C





By Day : Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust.

By Night : Fair with light to moderate freshening over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h .

SFC CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	Hot	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas
Min Temp °C	24	25	23	25
Max Temp °C	42	39	39	41
Wind Direction	northerly westerly to variable	variable to northerly westerly	northerly westerly to northerly easterly	variable to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	10 - 40	10 - 32	06 - 26

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	29	40
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28	41
ABDULY	24	41
BUBYAN	25	41
JAHRA	27	41
FAILAKA ISLAND	28	39
SALMIYAH	29	38
AHMADI	34	36
JAL ALYAH	23	41
QARAH ISLAND	32	36
UHM AL-MARADEM	32	36
NUWASSIB	27	37
WAFRA	26	40
SALMIY	24	39
MUTRIBA	24	41

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	41
Min Temp (°C)	26
Max Rel Hum (%)	38
Min Rel Hum (%)	11
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	05:42
	Sunset	17:32

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:23
Sunrise	05:42
Zuhr	11:37
Asr	15:00
Sunset	17:32
Isha	18:49

ACCOMMODATION

Immediate sharing accommodation available for a small Indian Christian family in Salmiya, blk 10, near Garden. Contact 66195097. (C 5347)
5-10-2017

**Automated
enquiry about the
Civil ID card is
1889988**

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 5/10/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 5/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
BRZ	211	TBS	00:05	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	PAL	404	Asyut	12:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JZR	176	Manila	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:15	JZR	786	Dubai	13:10
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	JZR	176	Riyadh	13:10
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	413	Bangkok	14:05
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	FDB	8054	Dubai	16:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
JZR	1433	Doha	05:45	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	851	Doha	06:35	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	NIA	162	Cairo	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55

Lifestyle | Gossip

Gosling finds it ‘hard’ to talk about new movie

The 36-year-old actor admits it is strange to be promoting his film at a time when the US has been left in turmoil thanks to the impact of devastating hurricanes, and the tragic shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas on Sunday which saw 59 people killed and hundreds injured - but understands why people also need to focus on lighter subjects. Speaking to talk show host Jimmy Kimmel on Tuesday a day after the presenter gave a heartfelt monologue about the mass killing in his home city - Ryan said: "I really appreciate what you said the other night about want-

ing to come out and tell jokes and be light, but it is getting harder and harder to do that."You think about all the, so many people suffering right now and all the victims of all these hurricanes and obviously this shooting and the earthquakes. "It's strange to be out talking about a film. I can't imagine how you must feel like being from Las Vegas." The pair then traded stories about time in Las Vegas, with the host admitting he hadn't realized what an "interesting" place it was until he moved away. He said: "I never realized it was an interesting place to be from until I moved away from

there and people said, 'Wow, what an interesting place to be from.' "The 49-year-old presenter insisted he had largely had a normal childhood, but with few exceptions. He explained: "Instead of 9:00 to 5:00, your mom or dad might work midnight to 8:00 a.m." Jimmy was reduced to tears on his show on Monday as he called for tighter gun control laws in the wake of gunman Stephen Paddock opening fire with an arsenal of weapons. He said: "It's the kind of thing that makes you want to throw up or give up."



Celine Dion broke down on stage

The 49-year-old singer has called Nevada home since kicking off her residency at Caesars Palace in 2003, so it was hardly surprising that she was reduced to tears on Tuesday night as she paid tribute to the victims of the shocking incident, which claimed the lives of 59 people, at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival. Speaking to the crowd, the 'Think Twice' hitmaker said: "I hope that you're doing OK ... before we start the show, I need to talk to you for a moment. "I never start the show like this but tonight is very different. For me it's: 'Can I still do my show?' Should I still do my show only two days after the nightmare?" The audience fell completely silent as the 'My Heart Will Go On' songstress wiped tears away from her face as she revealed that all the proceeds from the concert would go directly to the families affected by the horrendous attack, which left over 500 injured. As she belted out song after song, Celine - who sadly lost her husband Rene Angelil to cancer last year - told the concert goers that the victims were looking down on



them. Celine may have continued with her shows for the fans, but Jennifer Lopez has decided to take a different approach as she has postponed three dates of her Las Vegas residency at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in the wake of the shooting.

Liam Payne ‘hated’ life in One Direction at times

The 24-year-old singer - who starred in the popular boy band alongside Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, and previously, Zayn Malik - has admitted he broke down in tears when a family meal was disturbed by a clumsy cameraman, who pushed his mother over by accident. Recalling his lowest ebb, the 'Strip That Down' hitmaker told the Daily Star newspaper: "I just wanted a burger with my parents. "I cried my eyes out. I thought, 'I can't do this' and I really hated my life." Meanwhile, Liam previously revealed that he struggled during his time in One Direction, because the band members could rarely leave their hotel while touring. The

singer admitted that their fans were so passionate about the group, it made it virtually impossible for them to step outdoors when they were on the road. He shared: "It sent me a bit AWOL at one point, if I'm honest. I can remember when there were 10,000 people outside our hotel. We couldn't go anywhere. It was just gig to hotel, gig to hotel. And you couldn't sleep, because they'd still be outside. "People were speaking to me about mental health in music the other day, and that's a big issue. Sometimes you just need some sun, or a walk."

Sam Smith has been spotted kissing actor



The 25-year-old singer-songwriter was seen locking lips with Brandon Flynn the '13 Reasons Why' star on the streets of New York City, where they were also spotted grabbing dinner together at Catch NYC and enjoying the sights and sounds of the Big Apple. Sam and Brandon, 23, held hands and enjoyed the sunshine as they walked around Greenwich Village. The duo have also recently been liking each other's posts on social media, with Sam leaving a kiss underneath one of Brandon's posts which spoke out in support of the LGBTQ community. Despite this, Sam claimed in a recent interview that he's still "very, very single". In fact, the British star said he is more single now than he was prior to the release of his debut album 'In the Lonely Hour', which came out

in 2014. Speaking last month, Sam shared: "I think I'm even more single than I was when I released 'In the Lonely Hour', so I'm insanely single." He revealed, too, that his single 'Too Good at Goodbyes' was inspired by a recent relationship. But Sam said that he's become a stronger person due to his past heartaches. The chart-topping star explained: "What I've been through relationship-wise the last year has made me a lot stronger and I feel like I've learned some lessons from it." In another recent interview, Sam revealed he almost walked away from the music business entirely in 2015, after he was dumped by his partner.



Charlotte Church has secretly got married

Mila Kunis is determined to raise kids right

The Hollywood actress has a three-year-old daughter called Wyatt and a ten-month-old son called Dimitri with her husband Ashton Kutcher, and Mila has joked that the world-famous couple have a fairly modest ambition as parents. Mila quipped: "We're not gonna raise a**holes. There's enough a**holes in this world! "We don't need to contribute. But, you know, there's some nice people." The 34-year-old beauty also acknowledged that she's grown to accept the stresses of strains of parenthood over the last three years. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I'm a little bit less stressed over what to anticipate.

"You're still stressed out and there's still the idea of the guilt of leaving your kids, but you know that they'll be OK. Because I've already done it once and the kid doesn't resent me, so I was like, 'OK, I think I can do this.'" Despite this, Mila said that she and Ashton needed to "enlist help" in order to balance their working lives with the responsibility of raising their two young children. The 'Bad Moms' actress shared: "I also need to enlist help. Working full-time, my husband has moved his company here, so he works full-time. We needed help." Away from movie sets, Mila and Ashton now spend a sizeable portion of their

time trying to entertain their kids with fun family activities. And Mila joked that she's quickly become something of an expert in that area. She said: "I can write you a book on kid-friendly activities anywhere in the world. Because that's what we do. "We used to be like, 'What's the coolest club?' and [now] I'm like, 'Let me tell you about the zoo in Atlanta and the bouncy house.' There's not one kid activity that I haven't done yet with my child!" — Bangshowbiz

Alicia Keys sings for Tiffany & Co's new commercial



The 36-year-old singer has partnered with the luxury brand and as part of her collaboration with the label the brunette beauty has recorded an a capella version of her 2007 hit single 'No One', which will be the soundtrack to their Believe in Love campaign. And the musician is "proud" she has teamed up with the company for their "beautiful" advertisement. Speaking about her latest venture, the 'Fallin' hitmaker said: "Love and commitment is as unique and individual as we are, and every relationship deserves to be recognized and celebrated. We need more love than ever right now, and I'm proud to lend my voice to something beautiful that is so true to the spirit of my music." The Tiffany & Co commercial "honors commit-

ment" and features a "diversity of real couples". In a statement about the commercial, it read: "[The campaign] honours commitment in its many forms and features a diversity of real couples in intimate, personal gestures that capture the emotional connection of each couple." And Alicia has admitted she is "even more in love" with her husband Swizz Beatz - whose real name is Kasseem Dean - every day. Speaking previously about her partner, with who she has sons Egypt, six, and two-year-old Genesis with, she gushed: "We've been married for 7 years today and I'm like SO excited!!!!

Tanning camp keeps Canada’s indigenous heritage alive

Smoked caribou and bison skins are strewn over old pine logs among the teepees at a tanning camp in Yellowknife, northern Canada, where indigenous youth are preserving their heritage by learning ancestral skills.

“Basically anywhere where there is an animal, you need to learn how to tan its hide for clothes or shelter, or things like that,” says Mandee McDonald, the twenty-something co-founder of the Dene Nahjo community group. “Strong, resilient, indigenous.” The three words printed on the front of her black t-shirt represent for the young woman pride in her community and its customs, which are under threat. “Our ancestors—even some of our grandmothers, and great grandmothers—knew this practice very well, but colonialism... really created a barrier to intergenerational knowledge acquisition,” she explains.

Popularizing tanning among Dene youth helps to keep those traditions alive. Last summer, the tanning camp with its teepees, picnic tables and log frames to affix animal hides was set up on the shores of Frame Lake, a stone’s throw from Yellowknife city hall and the Northwest Territories’ legislative assembly. The Dene used to fish in the lake, but it has become contaminated by nearby gold mine tailings.

Pushing back against colonialism
For members of the Dene Nahjo, which was creat-

ed to advance social and environmental justice for northern peoples, foster indigenous leaders and lobby Ottawa on policy matters, the camp represents an act of defiance against colonialism. Several tattooed youths, some with silver face piercings and feather earrings, recall how family members had been forced to attend boarding schools hundreds of kilometers away, and were stripped of their language and customs in an effort to integrate them into society.

Each tanned skin, they say, helps to erase more than a century of abuses at the schools run by Christian churches on behalf of the federal government. Outside a teepee, elders scrape hairs off a moose hide laid out on a big blue plastic tarp. Every stroke is methodical and timed. The hair will later be used to decorate baskets made of birch bark. In most

North American indigenous cultures all parts of a hunted or trapped animal must be used.

For Tania Larsson, another co-founder of the group who has mixed Gwich’in and Swedish ancestry and grew up at the foot of the French Alps, prodding elders for advice can be intimidating. “You can’t just walk up and say ‘Hey, teach me your culture,’” explains the young artist.

“Tanning animal skins is not just about learning a skill, it’s about connecting with your heritage, it’s about going into the wilds, collecting wood and moss, everything you need provided by nature,” she says.



People stand in a Dene Nahjo camp, open to the public, at Somba K’e Park, near Frame lake and a playground for kids at the urban hide tanning camp.

Working the hides alongside your elders and peers also helps to build relationships with them, she adds.

Share culture and knowledge

The Dene Nahjo’s aim is to share their cultural knowledge with as many people as possible, not just aboriginals, but also school groups and jetliners full of Asian tourists who come for the Aurora Borealis. Yellowknife resident Jennifer Skelton is grateful for the instruction as her husband recently came back from a hunting trip with a moose, and she wasn’t sure what to do with it. “I think it’s great that they set up here and

provide an opportunity for anyone to learn how to work the hides,” she said.

The small, tightknit Dene Nahjo group receives support from local aboriginal leaders, but according to Tania’s sister Nina Larsson it’s the dynamism of its young founders that drives members. “There’s no hierarchy, we are all equal,” she said. “Making decisions (by consensus) can take a bit longer, but we all grow together and have become closer,” she says. — AFP



Tania Larsson, co founding member of Dene Nahjo and moosehide tanning instructor, ties a moose skin to a wooden pole in Yellowknife. — AFP photos



Meagan Wohlberg and Melaw Nakehk’o flesh a moose hide with moose leg bones at the urban hide tanning camp organized by Dene Nahjo.



Visitors and Dene Nahjo members scrap a moose hide at the urban hide tanning camp in Yellowknife.

Plus-size for men: Sites offer trendy looks for bigger guys

Chris Cyr doesn’t like much about the big and tall clothes he finds in stores: They’re “not very adventurous,” he says, and the fit can be too baggy. And then there’s the array of odd prints: “A lot of Hawaiian shirts with sailboats and golf balls tend to pop in.”

But the startup comic from St. Louis says he is finding more fashionable threads for bigger guys online, as a crop of internet retailers are finally catering to the long-ignored group. The companies are making larger sizes of slim-cut jeans, bomber jackets and other trendy clothes that shoppers say are hard to find elsewhere. Bigger-sized models are used when designing the clothes, which the companies say helps make sure the proportions are right. Rather than just making a pair of jeans larger, for example, they also adjust the back pockets and other details.

Asos, the hip online clothing seller, launched a line for plus-sized men late last year. MVP Collections, founded a year ago, sells velour hoodies in sizes up to 6XL and motorcycle jeans that go up to a size 54. And The Winston Box, which calls itself a clothing subscription service “for guys with some junk in the trunk,” sends up to four items a month to members. “There’s a lot more options,” says Cyr. He pays \$75 a month for The Winston Box, and says the 3XL shirts he receives fit better than what he finds elsewhere. He also recently bought a blazer from Asos that he wears to his startup shows.

Trendy clothes

Men have long had big-and-tall shops to turn to, but young shoppers say they don’t find the trendy clothes they crave there. Kyle Gammon, a college fashion student who lives near Savannah, Georgia, says Asos has become his go-to after he discovered its plus-size line earlier this year. While fit can sometimes be a question for anyone buying online, Gammon has bought a couple of print shirts from the site. He likes the way they fit, giving him just enough room around his midsection without a lot of extra fabric in the arms. He’s also a fan of the colors and styles the site offers.

“They have a really good variety,” says Gammon, “which

I’m not used to getting.” Former baseball player Mo Vaughn, who co-founded MVP Collections, says he could find T-shirts and suits in his size in stores, but nothing in between. Now his company sells items such as gray sport jackets and deconstructed jeans made with a bit of spandex for stretch.

“Why can’t we be fly like everybody else?” Vaughn says. Daniel Franzese, an actor who starred in “Mean Girls,” joined The Winston Box as creative director earlier this year after seeing an ad for the company on Facebook. He says stylists often had trouble finding clothes for him to wear for TV roles or for red carpet events. “Fashion forgets about the bigger male,” Franzese says.

That’s still generally true, even with the new options. Several market research firms said they didn’t track or have estimates of the value of the men’s big-and-tall clothing market. And startups say that to promote their brands, they go to conventions and events around the country aimed at curvy or plus-size women - because there aren’t any for big men.



Comedian Chris Cyr stands in a green room as he waits to go on stage at Helium comedy club in Richmond Heights.



The Winston Box is a monthly subscription box that designs and makes its own clothes for big guys.

Rush for tickets as Springsteen hits Broadway

Eager to see her musical hero Bruce Springsteen in the intimate confines of a Broadway theater, Laura Effinger quickly registered online as a verified fan who would supposedly have dibs on seats. When tickets went on sale, the website told her she was on standby and to watch her phone for a code. And so she waited. The notification never came—but tickets were already being advertised on resale sites for thousands of dollars.

“This is such a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience that it’s a very valuable ticket right now. I think it’s unfortunate that people are taking advantage of that,” said Effinger, who owns a photo studio in South Carolina. Effinger, who has seen “The Boss” three times before, said she would still fly to New York “in a heartbeat” with her mother if she were able to snag tickets.

Springsteen—one of rock’s most legendary performers who for decades has packed arenas with marathon, fatigue-defying concerts—on Tuesday starts four months of shows at Broadway’s Walter Kerr Theatre which has just 960 seats. Tickets instantly became some of the most coveted in the United States. Hours before Tuesday’s opening, seats on leading resale site StubHub were going for as high as \$6,000. Springsteen had been selling the tickets between \$75 and \$800. Ticket buyers have come from nearly every US state and 30 different countries, according to StubHub.

Trying to verify fans

Hoping to curb exorbitant resale prices, Springsteen joined leading seller Ticketmaster for its new “verified fan” program—which uses algorithms to determine if a person will likely go, and then sends a one-time code when tickets go on sale. Ticketmaster, part of concert giant Live Nation, said it had been successful and that fewer than three percent of Verified Fan tickets wound up on the secondary market.

But that doesn’t mean there were enough for everyone who wanted to go. Springsteen needs to play more than 20 Broadway shows to reach the same number of fans he does in a night 15 blocks away at Madison Square Garden. And no one can stop fans, no matter how devoted to The Boss, from deciding they would rather earn thousands of dollars by selling their tickets.

Effinger, the photographer from South Carolina, said she was not angry with Springsteen—in contrast to some livid com-

ments seen in online Springsteen fan forums. “He is trying so desperately to get tickets into the hands of people who want to see him, like myself. Unfortunately, it’s failing,” she said. Springsteen already extended his Broadway run once and, reaching out to disappointed fans, started a last-minute lottery for \$75 tickets.



Bruce Springsteen performs during the closing ceremonies of the Invictus Games in Toronto. — AP

The 68-year-old “Born in the U.S.A.” singer, whose songs speak of the struggles of working-class Americans, said he decided to go to Broadway after performing in January at the White House—a solemn concert that then president Barack Obama arranged as a gift to departing staff. Springsteen told The New York Times last week that he liked the greater intimacy. Unlike his high-octane shows with his E Street Band, Springsteen will perform alone with a piano and guitars. — AFP

The making of Hong Kong’s famous ‘fire dragon’



In this picture taken on October 3, 2017, a “fire dragon” has its head held up as participants take part in the annual Tai Hang “fire dragon” event, one of the highlights of the city’s mid-autumn festival, in Hong Kong. — AFP photos

Thousands of festival-goers packed a historic neighborhood of Hong Kong to watch a “fire dragon” lit with incense sticks dance through the streets in a century-old ritual. The 67-metre long dragon snakes around the network of narrow paths in the village of Tai Hang each year to the sound of roaring drums, and is one of the highlights of the celebrations for yesterday’s mid-autumn festival.

Around 300 performers carry the dragon through the neighborhood for three consecutive evenings as it billows smoke, shaking and dipping its head and tail to the beat of the drums. Only men — former and current Tai Hang residents of all ages — can be part of the dragon’s body, but in recent years women have cracked through the all-male spectacle to become lead drummers. The tradition is said to have started around 1880, after the once sleepy coastal village was hit by a typhoon, followed by a plague.

Desperate to change its fortunes, villagers created a “fire dragon” and paraded it for three days and three nights, chasing away the plague, according to local lore. After years of land reclamation and gentrification, Tai Hang now lies

inland from Hong Kong’s Victoria Harbour and is home to upmarket restaurants and luxury condominiums, though a flavor of the old days remains. “The community now is very different. Many old residents have left the neighborhood. The mid-autumn festival every year is a good opportunity for all of us old residents to have a gathering,” said Cheung Kwok-ho. A Tai Hang native, Cheung is a maker of the dragon, planted with tens of thousands of burning incense sticks during the festival — now on China’s list of intangible cultural heritage.

Making the dragon

Work to assemble the dragon starts weeks in advance, its body consisting of a hemp rope “spine” wrapped with heaps of straws which are then tightly secured by metal wires. Its makers say the humble but resilient materials for the dragon can, with expertise, be sculpted into a mighty creature.

“It requires skills to bend the rattan and create its shape before you strap on the straws, which are very thin,” Chan Tak-fai, the dance’s chief commander, told AFP. “It’s important to show its

vigor,” Chan said as he pointed to the dragon head’s skeletal features, which would be guided during the dance by two swiveling “pearls” — Chinese grapefruits also studded with glowing incense sticks. Chan, 71, inherited the trade from elders after he began observing the dragon’s making in the streets of Tai Hang when he was five. He joined the team in the 1970s when he was in his twenties.

The materials for the dragon are increasingly hard to source, Chan said, with the bulk of it now imported from mainland China. But the methods for creating it remains the same as the festival enters its 138th year. The spectators cheering on the fire dragon Tuesday said they were electrified by the atmosphere, not to mention the fiery and smoky effects. “You can see the veterans speeding about tirelessly and working very hard to preserve this tradition... It looks magnificent,” said Ventus Siu, 27.



Participants take part in the annual Tai Hang “fire dragon” event.

Balkan pepper relish stirs appetites and pride

It’s a source of Balkan rivalry but one ubiquitous smell: the wood-fire roasting of peppers wafting through towns and villages each autumn as families prepare the region’s best-loved relish. Slathered on bread, nibbled with cheese or served alongside meat dishes, “ajvar” has for generations filled the shelves of winter pantries-and the rich spread’s production is a matter of no little pride. “We women all exchange recipes, but everyone thinks theirs is the best,” said Vesna Arifovic, 44, in Belgrade’s Zeleni Venac market, where she sells hundreds of kilogrammes of seasonal red peppers each day.

Making ajvar (pronounced “eye-var”) begins with this juicy fruit, which is roasted and peeled, minced or chopped and simmered with sunflower oil, giving the relish its deep rusty color. Flavors diverge across the former Yugoslavia: while Macedonians add aubergine to their much-loved ajvar mix, many Serbian devotees stick to salt, sugar and vinegar.

“There are two kinds of people, the ones who tasted ajvar and the ones who haven’t been to Serbia yet,” declared Serbia’s tourist board on Twitter in September. Bosnian producer Ivo Lukenda-whose recipe includes all of the above, plus garlic-believes his country’s ajvar is superior. “We consider our product to be the best,” the 65-year-old said proudly, over a grill of blackened peppers in his central village of Ljetovik.

Team effort

Ajvar creation is a labor-intensive rite performed with gusto in kitchens and yards as the leaves begin to turn, although some is now mass-produced throughout the year. Neighbors gather for a tippie of homemade

rakija (fruit brandy) before the painstaking task of peeling peppers begins. “It seems to me that ajvar and peppers bring people together... this red color seems to make them happier,” said Stevica Markovic in his village near the town of Leskovac, a southern Serbian area famed for its peppers.

Markovic’s ajvar has become a source of income: he and his family produce up to 3,000 jars a year from their rural kitchen and sell them for 280 to 550 dinars (2.40 to 4.60 euros) each. He and his wife Suncica sit on low stools by a vat of the warm orange mush, filling and briskly stirring dozens of glass jars.

“What makes Leskovac’s ajvar stand out is the raw material, the pepper that grows in the Leskovac basin. We have 280 sunny days a year, very good land and enough water,” said the 44-year-old, who heads a local association of ajvar producers. Homemade Leskovac Ajvar and Macedonian Ajvar are both now registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization in order to protect their brand names.

Battle of branding

A Slovenian company’s bid to patent ajvar in the 1990s sparked outrage in the Balkans, according to media reports. Love of the relish stretches southwest to coastal Montenegro, while the Croatian company Podravka is among the best-known mass manufacturers. “The truth is that all the big noise about ajvar started with the idea of food branding” in the former Yugoslavia, said Tamara Ognjevic, a specialist in gastronomic heritage and director of the cultural Arts Center in Belgrade.

What was once the preserve of households “became interesting to the food industry... and every-

body-Macedonians, Bulgarians, Serbs, even Slovenians-in one moment started claiming it was theirs”. Ognjevic said that a form of vegetable relish most likely came to the Balkans with the Ottomans, who ruled much of the region for around 500 years and imported New World crops such as peppers. The first known use of the name ajvar was by 19th-century restaurant owners in Belgrade, most of whom were from northern Macedonia, she said.

The next hummus?

“Ajvar” is thought to derive from the Turkish word “havyar” for sturgeon caviar. The name was probably meant to denote a similarly exclusive product, said Ognjevic, given the complex preparation and then-costly ingredients such as sunflower oil. Ajvar’s modern-day makers are now trying to expand its loyal fan base.

Philip Evans, a British resident of Skopje, in 2011 co-founded Pelagonia, a Macedonian food range exporting ajvar to more than a dozen countries, including Britain and France. “We felt that this was a product that had never found its place in world food,” the 36-year-old said. “Look at products like harissa or pesto or hummus for example, they’ve really become mainstream food items for people, and we just felt that ajvar really had that potential.” A proponent of Macedonia’s sweet and sun-ripened peppers, Evans is aware of the “very, very passionate” feelings that ajvar evokes across the Balkans. “Everybody’s auntie makes the best one,” he said. — AFP



This picture shows a jar of homemade “ajvar”, popular relish made of red peppers.



Bosnian women peel roasted red peppers as they prepare ajvar.



A Bosnian woman bakes red peppers to prepare ajvar.



Bosnian people bake red peppers to prepare ajvar on September 24, 2017, in Ljetovik, near the Central-Bosnian town of Kiseljak. — AFP photos



Paris Fashion Week



Models present the creations of Junko Shimada during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP/AP photos



Models present the creations of Junko Shimada during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP/AP photos

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017



A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork by Moroccan artist, Hassan Hajjaj entitled 'M.R.S. Hats' (L) and 'M.R.S. Socks' (R) prior to the fifth edition of the 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, at Somerset House in London. — AFP

Bugs by design at Bangkok fine dining bistro



Chef Thitiwat Tantragarn cooks a giant water beetle at Insects in the Backyard restaurant.

Ants and beetles in the kitchen? Normally that'd close down a restaurant immediately, but for a unique eatery in Bangkok, bugs in the beef ragu and pests in the pesto are the business plan. Tucking into insects is nothing new in Thailand, where street vendors pushing carts of fried crickets and buttery silkworms have long fed locals and adventurous tourists alike. But bugs are now fine-dining at Insects in the Backyard, a Bangkok bistro aiming to revolutionize views of nature's least-loved creatures and what you can do with them.

"In Thailand, there is a long history of local populations, of people consuming insects and they continue to do, in large amounts. But it's essentially as a snack, not a part of dishes, not a part of cuisine," said Regan Suzuki Pairojmahakij, a Canadian partner at the eatery. "We are interested in moving people away from seeing insects from purely as a snack to be a part of a gourmet and a delicious cuisine."

That's the responsibility of executive chef Thitiwat Tantragarn, a veteran of some of Thailand's top restaurants. Together with his team he's designed a menu that features seven different insects, including ants, crickets, bamboo caterpillars, silkworms and giant water beetles. "It's a new thing," Thitiwat said. "You live in the world, you need to learn the new thing." He said he's cooked with pork and chicken for a long time, but insects are "a new world of cooking (and a) new lesson."



Revelation of taste
For Kelvarin Chotvichit, a lawyer from Bangkok, the menu has been a revelation of taste and texture. "When I taste this, it's opened my new attitudes about foods: that insects are one of the foods that's edible," he said. "And it's tasty too. It's not weird as you thought. And the feeling - it's crispy: it's like a snack. Yeah, I like it."

Studies show they're high in protein, good fats and minerals

United Nations food experts have pushed insects as a source of nutrition for years. Studies show they're higher in protein, good fats and minerals than traditional livestock. Even when commercially farmed, their environmental impact is far lower, needing less feed and emitting less carbon. Wholesaler Amornsri Sompornsuksawat is one the suppliers to Insects in the Backyard. The prospect of a new market - the fine-dining sector - is enough to make her salivate.

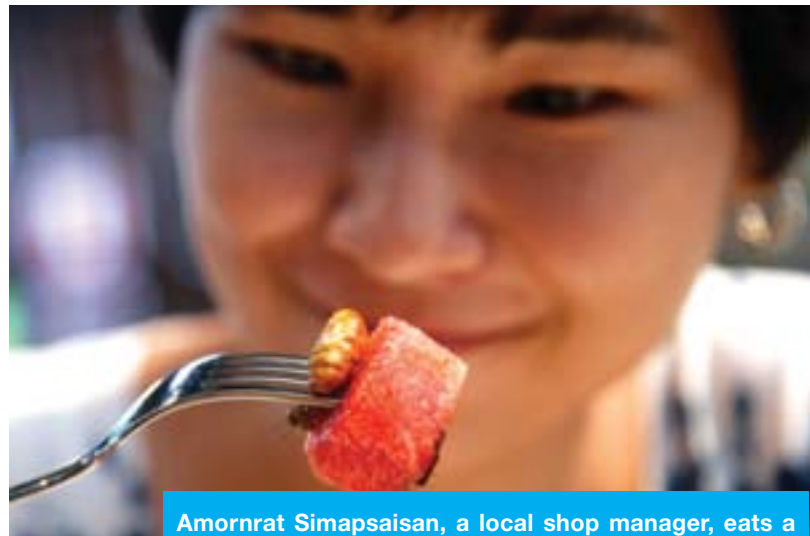
"I hope that people will eat more of my bugs and I can sell more of them," she said. "We can have new menus, replacing the old familiar ones. It's great." Insects in the Backyard has only been open a matter of weeks, so it's too early to tell whether its mission to metamorphose insect cuisine is on track. Amornrat Simapsaisan, a local shop manager, tucked in quite happily to her watermelon and cricket salad on a recent evening.

"It's tasty. It's munchy," she said. But her dining partner exemplified the biggest problem the restaurant faces: that lingering feeling of disgust. "I still have a barrier, something on my mind to stop me from eating it," said Patr Srisook, a free-

lance photographer. "But, yes, it kind of tastes like normal, nothing, like normal food." And that is the message from the restaurant itself: Judge us on our food. "There is obviously the shock value with insects and that might bring some people into through the door," Pairojmahakij said. "But, essentially, for the longevity or sustainability of the restaurant, and, for the sector of the edible insects as a whole, it has to stand on its on legs, so to speak. It has to be attractive. It has to be delicious. And it actually has to add something to the cuisine as we know it." — AP



From left to right, bamboo worms, silkworms and giant water beetles are some of the ingredients used at Insects in the Backyard restaurant, in Bangkok, Thailand. — AP photos



Amornrat Simapsaisan, a local shop manager, eats a watermelon salad with bamboo worms.



Spaghetti with silkworm and cricket



A bamboo worm, silkworm and fried crickets are displayed on a fork before being eaten.