

Friday Times

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MUHARRAM 16, 1439 AH | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

9 Speaker delivers message from Amir to Bush senior



20 'Remains of the Day' author Kazuo Ishiguro wins Nobel



47 Late penalty keeps Syria World Cup dream alive



Russia, Saudi Arabia cement friendship with king's visit

See Page 10



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Saudi Arabia's King Salman attend a welcoming ceremony ahead of their talks at the Kremlin yesterday. — AFP

Local



Local Spotlight

By Muna al-Fuzai
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Kuwaitization and expatriates

Will the Kuwaitization of the government sector succeed in replacing expats with citizens? The Civil Service Commission intends to activate a decision to increase the number of citizens versus non-Kuwaitis in government jobs, and to grant jobs to those who are registered in the central employment system, especially after the CSC disclosed that the percentage will reach 100 percent during five years in five functional groups.

There is a local demand that expat employees in many sectors of the government, including judicial, engineering and technical, be replaced by Kuwaitis. But a set of questions comes to my mind on how ready are we for this replacement and how will we deal with all the jobs that were occupied by expatriates for many years? Do we have the national elements that are technically, legally and judicially qualified to achieve this immediately or



It is unfair to discuss this issue without seeking solutions

within a year or even two?

This is if we assume that such citizens are present and ready to be hired! How will they manage the needs in those areas so that we can dispense with expats? Reducing the Kuwaitization period from five years to even fewer may seem good on paper, but the implementation will not be easy. We should not forget the efforts made by expatriates for the development of the country for decades. We are a developing country.

It is normal for any person to feel happy to see citizens working in all sectors of the country's services, but the fact is that this is difficult in all Gulf states and not just Kuwait, because while the process is possible, it requires caution and preparation. Here is my question: What have we done in the past 20 years to say we do not need expatriate labor?

I am convinced that the success of the idea of substitution and coordination is closely linked to the response to these questions. It is unfair to discuss this issue without seeking solutions to make it a success. An example of this is the fact that judicial and municipal bodies rely on many of the skills and expertise of expats, and these divisions may not be able to provide the required services in the future.

Last month I had to renew a license that needed several visits to the municipality. I noticed that most of the workers there are expatriates who have been working for many years. The question in my mind was that if we lose all these people, do we have a sufficient national workforce?

We are confronting two issues here - habilitation and development. Without working on the right preparation process and providing sufficient numbers of citizens that are ready to work in place of foreign expertise, we cannot talk about the Kuwaitization of the judiciary, for example, without providing enough alternatives and not just fill vacancies.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A woman sits weaving the traditional Sadu way at Sadu House in Kuwait City. Photo by Ghazi Qafaf — KUNA



IN MY VIEW

By Ramona Crasto

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Definitely not from Harvard

We humans are astonishing creatures. One day, someone with a lot of time on their hands decided, now that we have categorized caste, tribe, sect and beauty, let's categorize education. Because the world wasn't divided enough, we had to divide education into good colleges and bad colleges. When I was in 12th grade, I was under a lot of pressure to score high marks not because I wanted to but because I needed to get into a good college for which my parents had been saving money since I was born.

Turns out I wasn't a very bright student after all and I couldn't make it into the Harvard or Stanfords of Mumbai. And now there was a huge drama of whether I will get a good job before I had even chosen my field of interest because according to the society, "Only if I go to a well-known college, will I get a good job, whatever that means." I ended up in a 7 storey college probably at the end of the world because I could never make it on time for the lectures with a so called bad crowd and a name I couldn't spell for over a month. It sure did not have great scenery or a garden or a huge library the size of a stadium but guess what it had?

A great faculty of teachers who educated me and helped me become what I am today and I did graduate

with secondary colors, same education and affordable fees. This college took me in without breaking my self-esteem, giving education and not judging a student on the basis of their financial background was its priority.

Everyone deserves a chance to be educated, some cannot afford while some can. I sure scored less in 12th and I was judged on the basis of a mark sheet, my future clinging on that single piece of paper, but guess what after graduating from that so called "last resort of a college" I am now a news editor at Kuwait Times.

So many students force their parents into getting them into a good college even though they have scored lower marks so that they don't end up in colleges like mine, and these parents end up paying "donations" - also known as extortion money (because if you don't pay, your child won't get a seat) and reserving seats with the power of money, stealing seats from those deserving candidates who have worked really hard to get into these prestigious colleges while some of them borrow and spend their entire savings on such colleges so that their child gets a chance at a better future.

Education is above categorization

Others, like me, live in this illusion of being unsuccessful people if we didn't make it into a good college and some of us end up taking the wrong step. My point here is that it doesn't really matter which college you go to, education is above categorization. If a company judges you on the basis of your college and not your skills and talent, it's their loss. Don't force your parents into spending all of their life's savings on a big name university. Remember, education is the same everywhere.





— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

A visit to Ahmadi

By Faten Omar

As part of our occasional series exploring various areas of Kuwait, Kuwait Times visited Al-Ahmadi to discover the main features of Kuwait's famous 'oil town'.

Ahmadi Governorate is one of the six governorates of Kuwait. It is located in the southern part of the country and plays a critical role in the Kuwait economy as several of Kuwait's oil refineries are located there.

Founded in 1946, Al-Ahmadi covers an area of 5,120 km². The first oil shipment to ever leave Kuwait's shores was exported from Mina Alahmadi in 1946 and the first church ever built in Kuwait, 'Our Lady of Arabia' was built in Ahmadi Town in 1948.

Ahmadi has a population of around 394,000 including locals and expatriates. Many of the residents work either directly or indirectly for Kuwait's oil industry. Ahmadi Town is divided into North, South, East and West sections. North Ahmadi is largely residential and boasts the recreational club Hubara as well as the Kuwait Golf Club.

Ahmadi also hosts the annual lights exhibition, organized by the Kuwait Oil Company to celebrate Kuwait's National and Liberation Day holidays.

"Every year, Ahmadi is decorated with beautiful colored lights to celebrate Kuwait's National and Liberation Days. Al-Ahmadi is considered an iconic area in Kuwait," explains local resident BuKhaled.

Bu Khaled added that if a resident of Ahmadi has a problem with water, electricity or gas, they can count on quick response from local government and the KOC to fix the issue.

"I'm talking about the residents' of the KOC area. The company provides all we need. For example, today we

have a workshop about how to organize the entry and exit of heavy trucks and vehicles in the main roads of Ahmadi, since Ahmadi is both residential and industrial."

The full package

For 25 year old Fahad Al-Ajami, the area of Ahmadi is the full package. "Ahmadi is known for its beautiful parks and it is the greenest place in Kuwait. It is perfect for families where it also always clean. Hopefully it will be improved in bumps in the inner streets," Ajami pointed out.

Indeed the Ahmadi garden and zoo is one of the largest urban parks in the country, boasting several playground and picnic areas as well as a small zoo. The area also tends to be among the most well-kept and clean of public gardens in Kuwait.

Lebanese Engineer Elias Al-Khouri, 61-years-old,

expressed his happiness to live in Ahmadi "It is known in Kuwait for its greenery, British architecture, oil refineries and peaceful green surroundings."

He added "It is the most organizing area in Kuwait. Ahmadi has the European style where the people who are in charge of this area are aware of what they are doing because they are doing great." Adding that there is follow-up maintenance in the area, and residents can always find development projects and permanent reconstruction planned.

Featured on the popular social media platform Snapchat in 2015, Ahmadi is known for its active social life, community activities and events. "The Ahmadi area contains all the services needed for residents, in terms of hospitals and cooperative societies. There is also a dynamic development in infrastructure, and projects to build new homes for Kuwaitis," Khouri said.

“ Kuwait’s ‘Oil Town’ also family friendly ”



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Kuwait Times



CANADA 150

In cooperation with
Embassy of Canada
to the State of Kuwait
Canada

150!



CELEBRATE CANADA

STUDENT ART COMPETITION

October 8th till November 9th, 2017

Hello Artists

Welcome to the student art competition. We hope you are ready to produce a beautiful painting and win valuable prizes. The theme for your painting is

CELEBRATE #CANADA150

Awe-inspiring scenery, vibrant cities and a welcoming atmosphere all make Canada a popular tourist destination. As the largest country in North America, Canada is a vast land encompassing majestic mountains, spectacular coastlines, virgin forests, spacious prairies and Arctic tundra.

While much of the nation is of British and French descent, Canada is home to a mosaic of multicultural communities.

Good Luck To You..

Sponsored by



- Competition is open to students from (6 - 9 years) (10 - 13 years) (14 years and above) and students with special needs.
 - The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
 - 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
 - All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
 - All schools participating in the competition will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- Any school or individuals interested in participating are welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheet.
 - Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be permitted for use in the competition.
 - You may use any drawing material such as color pencils, paint or crayons.



For more information and updates please visit
Kuwait Times Compet
twitter/TimesComp



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150!

CELEBRATE CANADA

STUDENT ART COMPETITION

October 8th till November 9th, 2017

Kuwait Times, in cooperation with The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait under the patronage of the Education Ministry, is organizing a painting competition for students titled "Celebrate #Canada150". The competition aims to make students gain knowledge of the heritage, culture and civilization of other countries. The competition's slogan motivates students to express their knowledge of Canada through art. Participants can draw touristic, environmental or civilization pieces or icons or symbols that reflect the competition's slogan.

Canada is famous for its magnificent and beautiful places. It is one of the largest countries in the world with a unique geography, such as towering mountains, beautiful beaches, lush forests, green areas and wild and marine life. Canada is also distinguished with being a mixture of many cultures, be they indigenous, or from many other countries as its population is a melange of all the world's peoples.

Canada is located in North America, with Ottawa being its capital. Canada is the second largest country in the world after Russia. It has the longest coastline in the world as it lies between the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans. Canada overlooks the North Pole, besides having the Great Lakes. Canada enjoys an abundance of natural wealth. The name Canada comes from the native Iroquois, which

means village or community. It uses the maple leaf as its symbol as this type of tree is widespread, with beautiful colors during autumn.

Bring Canada into your imagination and express it in your paintings in a way and method you find suitable. The competition will run for 30 days, from October 8, 2017 till November 9, 2017, and is open to students in all educational stages in government and Private Arab and foreign schools, as well as special needs schools.

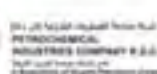
Schools and participants can collect the drawing sheets direct in Kuwait Times office. The completed drawings should be sent to the newspaper, where a panel of expert artists will select 10 winners from each age group, bearing in mind that the competition is open for students of both genders as follows:

(6-8 yrs old), (9-11 yrs old), (12-14 yrs old), (15-17 yrs old), Special needs

Valuable prizes will be given to the top 10 winners of each stage. Every participant will receive a certificate of appreciation. Participating schools will also receive appreciation certificates during a celebration to declare the winners under the patronage of Ministry of Education on 20 of November at Four Seasons Hotel.



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Local



Divorce in Kuwait: How it's done

By Faten Omar

Divorce affects everyone in a family and in Kuwait is governed by the law of the married couple's religion and sect. There are Sunni and Shia family courts as well as a means for Christian couples to divorce. The process can be lengthy but the growing number of divorce cases suggest that is no deterrent.

Divorce: By the numbers

A recent study on divorce rates in Kuwait concluded that a major cause for splits was the extra benefits received by divorcees.

The annual divorce rate among Kuwaitis increased during the period from 2005 to 2015. The highest divorce rate of Kuwaiti males was 4.5 percent in the years 2013 and 2014, while the highest divorce rate of non-Kuwaiti males was 0.9 percent in 2011. The lowest divorce rate of Kuwaiti males was 3.4 percent in 2006, and the lowest divorce rate of non-Kuwaiti males was 0.7 in the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2015.

In 2015, the number of divorce cases of Kuwaitis (men and women) was 4,435 cases. The number of divorce cases of Kuwaiti men married to non-Kuwaiti women was 870, while the number of divorce cases of non-Kuwaiti men married to Kuwaiti women was 454 cases.

The highest number of divorce cases of Kuwait men was 499 in March 2015, while the highest number of divorce cases of non-Kuwaiti men was 184 in June 2015.

By age groups in 2015, the highest number of divorces among Kuwaiti men was 1,389 cases in the age group 25-29 years, while the lowest was 32 cases in the age group of 15-19 years. The highest number of divorces among Kuwaiti women was 1,214 cases in the age group 25-29 years, while the lowest was 163 cases in the age group of 15-19 years.

Kuwait Times spoke to Dalia Al-Faraj, a divorce lawyer practicing for more than seven years. "We have a high divorce rate in Kuwait, and there is a need to address the issue promptly. Most of the cases are caused by financial disputes, but we also have 10 percent divorce cases linked to adultery," she said.

How to get a divorce

About the process of divorce in Kuwait for Muslims and Christians, Faraj said: "Islamic law allows husbands to divorce their wives by stating "I divorce you" three times before it becomes irrevocable. After the first two utter-

ances, the husband may nullify the divorce within 90 days, but the third time makes it final, and he cannot remarry her unless she first marries and is divorced by another man.

"The husband or wife can file a case against each other in the court, where the court will offer them the services of a marriage counselor for free to fix their marriage, for both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis. If both sides insist, they only have to go to a sheikh in court to be officially divorced. Or else they can file a case called damage of divorce, where one of them wins the case to get all the rights."

Shiite law stipulates that a man should appear before the judge for the divorce to be official. Sunni law makes it easier for a man to divorce, as he only needs to record the divorce with the registrar of the personal affairs court. If the wife disagrees with the nullification of the divorce, she must go to court to receive a formal divorce.

"Women in both Sunni and Shiite marriages can divorce their husbands. A divorce initiated by the wife is final. Under Sunni law, a wife may cite a variety of reasons in support of divorce, but both Sunni and Shiite laws do not allow a woman to divorce her husband solely because he married another woman, unless specified in their marriage contract," Faraj said.

The consequences

In most divorce cases, men, by law, are required to pay monthly alimony payments for each child born of their marriage. These payments are based on the husband's salary and takes into account his financial abilities and obligations. The payments continue for girls until marriage and for boys till they reach 18. The husband will also have to provide funds to cover housing, transportation and other household expenses.

Regarding Christians, Faraj said: "Christians residing in Kuwait can get married or divorced in a church or under sharia law in court. The church will offer details of documentation, fees and other requirements, but it needs the signature of a notary at the ministry of justice."

Faraj noted that divorce may take a long time depending on the circumstances. If there is physical abuse or if kids are involved, the judge usually will not look into the divorce without referring to a marriage counselor first. There is a team of experienced professional counselors that try to make both parties work on the marriage. Sometimes a partner doesn't want to cooperate or both parties agree not to go for counseling. In this case, a paper is signed by both parties and is taken back to the court, where divorce proceedings then begin.

““ Most of the cases are caused by financial disputes ””

We found Whooot!

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

On Wednesday night, around 10pm, I received an emergency text from a colleague. Our IT manager had found a young owl in the printing press warehouse. It had become trapped in the eaves and wasn't able to get out. It couldn't fly and seemed incredibly exhausted.

So I hopped in my car, grabbing a small bird cage and headed to Industrial Shuwaikh.

When I arrived, I found the poor thing tucked inside a paper bag sitting in the Editorial office. As a known rescuer of animals, Islam was doing his best to keep the owl from being hurt. So he asked me to take it home for the night until we could figure out how to save it.

And so, I carried it home with me, and began to research the owls of Kuwait. It turns out that there are more than you would think. Owls are indigenous to Kuwait. There are at least seven different types of owls native to Kuwait and the region, according to the World Birds Database.

Owls also migrate across the Arabian Peninsula, especially during the change of seasons. The owl found in Kuwait Times' printing press appears to be a young Eurasian Scops owl or one of its subspecies. These owls can be found in different geographical locations such as Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Jordan and Pakistan. Unfortunately many hunters mistake them for other birds, like Starlings and shoot them.

Owl hunting is banned in Kuwait. As there have been a few reports of wild owls lately, the local Kuwait Owls Group issued a public call asking people not to capture or keep them as they are wild and need to hunt.

"This type of owl lives on prey, and should be released back into the wild. Otherwise it can die in captivity," said explained Mohammad Dashti, Kuwait Owl Group (@q8_owl) member. Thankfully, the group reacted to our call and Dashti came to my house to take the owl. Dashti sent follow up videos of the owl eating. We hope that its strength returns soon and can be set free to wing its way home.



Local

Crimes

Trio arrested with stolen sheep

KUWAIT: Three Asians were arrested in Wafra with stolen sheep, said security sources, noting that one of the suspects was found in violation of residency laws. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities.

Mugging foiled

Two citizens rescued an Egyptian as three Kuwaiti teenagers were in the process of assaulting and robbing him in Fintas. Security sources said the three assailants were arrested and referred to the juvenile police for further investigations.

Expats arrested

Farwaniya detectives arrested 122 expats during a wide-scale inspection campaign in Khaitan. Security sources said 120 of them were not carrying any identification, while two had five packages of meth.

Bedoon 'cop' busted

A stateless person was arrested for impersonating a police detective in Jahra, said security sources. Case papers indicate that an Egyptian reported that the suspect was tailing his car and used detectives' flashing blue lights to stop him and asked for his ID. The Egyptian refused, demanding that the suspect show his own. The man added the suspect then sped away, and he reported the matter and helped police arrest him.

Auto arson

A female citizen living in Naeem in Jahra reported that her 2013-model car was set ablaze while parked outside her house, and the firemen told her that someone had set the car on fire. However, the woman stressed she had no enemies. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Brash biker

A citizen in his 60s reported that a young man riding a bike without license plates brandished a knife at him and shouted threats like "Beware" after the man made a remark on his irresponsible actions. The young man had been blocking his way at a gas station in South Surra. A case was filed.

Bootleggers held

Two Asians were arrested with 36 homebrewed liquor in Rabiya, said security sources, noting that the suspects admitted to possessing the liquor for trade.

—Translated from the Arabic press

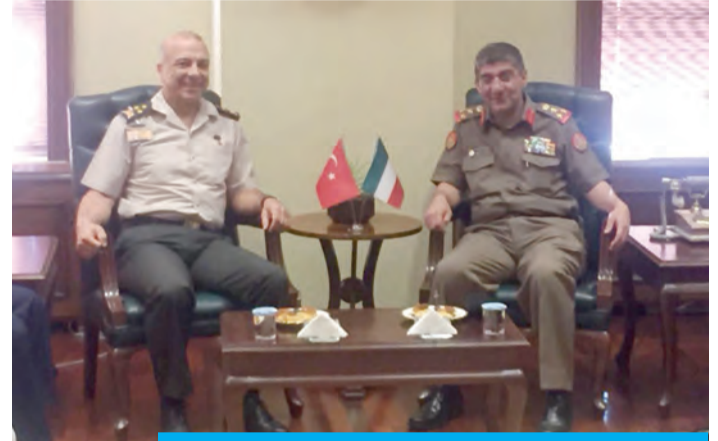
Heavy fines for camping violators: Municipality

KUWAIT: Heavy fines of up to KD 5,000 will be the punishment for those violating camping regulations, said Director General of Kuwait's Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfohi yesterday. In a statement to the press, Manfohi said that setting campsites without licensed permission, polluting and other violations are acts liable for punishment. The municipality will be cooperating with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to register violations against campsites owners, said the director, who called on all camping enthusiasts to abide by the law and avoid any acts that might harm the environment. —KUNA

Kuwait, Turkey discuss military cooperation

ANKARA: The Turkish-Kuwaiti Joint Committee for Cooperation kicked off yesterday its fourth session meetings at Turkish General Staff headquarters in Ankara to boost means of military cooperation between the two nations. The Kuwaiti General Staff's delegation was headed by Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning Brig Gen Mohammed Al-Kandari, while the Turkish side was headed by head of the foreign relations department at the Turkish General Staff.

The committee was formed out of the deep-rooted historical relations between Kuwait and Turkey, and upon the wise instructions of the political and military leaderships in both countries, a Kuwaiti military statement said. This also came to strengthen the bilateral military cooperation in all aspects. Head of strategic planning authority at the Turkish General Staff received Kandari earlier today, as both sides tackled military issues of common interest. — KUNA



ANKARA: The Turkish-Kuwaiti Joint Committee for Cooperation during the fourth session meetings. — KUNA

Firefighters battle Zahra house fire



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire recently broke out in a house in Zahra, said security sources, noting that Farwaniya firemen rushed to the scene and found that the fire had started in a third floor room. The house was evacuated and the fire was controlled before it spread to other parts of the house. No casualties were reported.

Addict rehab

The interior ministry's assistant undersecretary for correctional facilities affairs Maj Gen Yousef Al-Muhanna recently received awqaf ministry assistant undersecretary for Quran affairs Dr Waleed Essa Al-Shuaib to coordinate both ministries' cooperation on rehabilitating inmates, namely drug addicts.

Kuwait-run schools resume in Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Lebanon: Several schools run by Kuwaiti charities in northern Lebanon began their semester, according to a Kuwaiti diplomat. Speaking to KUNA, the diplomat in

charge of humanitarian affairs at Kuwait's embassy in Beirut Mohammad Al-Khaldi said that his country was keen on aiding the needy in Lebanon, affirming that Kuwaiti charities were willing to seek all venues of relief aid including the education of the less fortunate. The diplomat thanked charitable Kuwaiti entities for their relentless efforts to help those seeking education, affirming that this was reflective of Kuwait's strong desire to aid people in Lebanon and worldwide.

Head of the Kuwaiti team for

humanitarian initiatives Anan Al-Subihi affirmed that most of those seeking education at Kuwaiti operated schools were of the Syrian refugee populace. He indicated that the Kuwaiti team's main focus was to provide educational and mental support to child refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Yemen, and also within some regions in Syria. Subihi indicated that the current school year would not have happened without the intense social media campaign launched in Ramadan of this year, revealing that a sum of USD 500,000 was collected for this cause. — KUNA

Moderate weather during weekend

KUWAIT: Moderate weather will continue during the weekend with possibility of dust and a slight decrease in temperature, the Kuwait Meteorological Department said yesterday. Kuwait is affected by high altitude impact accompanied by moderate to active northwestern winds and possibility of dust in open areas with a slight and noticeable decrease in temperature, the department's Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said.

Meanwhile, he said yesterday's weather was light to moderate with northwesterly winds ranging from 10 to 32 km/h. Minimum temperatures are expected to hover between 25 and 27 degrees Celsius, and the state of the sea was light to moderate, at a high of four feet, Qarawi added. Today, the weather is expected to be hot in the daytime, with light to moderate northeasterly winds at speeds between 8 and 28 km/h. The highest temperatures are expected to be between 37 and 39 degrees Celsius, while waves will be light to moderate, at a high of four feet.

On the other hand, the minimum temperature will be between the 23-25 degrees Celsius-mark with a chance of light mist over coastal areas. As for tomorrow, it will be hot and humid with light to moderate southeasterly winds at 15-42 km/h speeds. The highest temperature will range between 39-41 degrees Celsius while the lowest will be in the 24-26 degrees Celsius range. Waves will be moderate to high, at 2-6 six feet, during the daytime and light to moderate in the evening, at 1-3 feet. — KUNA

Local

News in brief

Kuwait reiterates rejection of all forms of terrorism

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reiterated its firm stand by rejecting all forms of terrorism and extremism regardless of their causes, motives and sources, stressing that promotion of the culture of tolerance and coexistence among peoples and nations is one of the priorities of its domestic and foreign policy. This came in Kuwait's speech during the 6th legal committee meeting of the 72nd round of the United Nations General Assembly on the elimination of international terrorism.

Kuwait keen on supporting global anti-torture efforts

GENEVA: Kuwait is keen on supporting global efforts against torture, said Kuwait's delegate to the UN and international organizations headquarters in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim yesterday. Speaking to KUNA ahead of the 16th regular meeting for the United Nations Convention against Torture, Ghunaim affirmed that Kuwait was interacting positively with various accords and international agreements connected with human rights, affirming that his country stood firm against all acts of torture.

Kuwait stresses importance of implementing disarmament deals

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reiterated its firm position on the implementation of all relevant agreements related to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. This statement was delivered by Advisor of the Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to the United Nations Talal Al-Fassam, at the UN General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament and International Security on Wednesday.

Ghanem delivers message from Amir to Bush senior

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem has delivered a written message from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to US ex-President George H W Bush at his residence in Portland, Maine. Ghanem handed over the message to the former American president during a short a visit to the United States, paid in response to an invitation from the ex-president.

Emerging from the meeting with Bush, Ghanem stated, "in a manifestation of gratitude that reflects genuine origin of the Kuwaiti people toward personalities whom we will not forget, I have been honored along with my colleague, member of the parliamentary caucus Yusuf Al-Fadhalah, with handing over a written message from His Highness the Amir expressing his whole-hearted wishes (to Bush) so he may recover quickly and our appreciation as Kuwaitis for his heroic role in the liberation of Kuwait."

The speaker indicated that in contacts with the former president, during a health setback and after recuperation months ago, "addressed an (visit) invitation to us which we could not respond to at the time however we have managed to respond to it now." The former president was deeply touched during the meeting, along with the attending



PORTLAND, Maine: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem delivers a written message from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to former US President George H W Bush at his residence. — KUNA

first lady and the ex-secretary of state James Baker, who was in office during Kuwait's liberation, with "the fact that this (Kuwaiti) people have remained faithful after quarter a century".

Ghanem described the meeting as very cordial, noting that the ex-president appeared in good shape despite his old age. The speaker indicated that he heard, for the first time, from the American side, some occurrences during the flagrant Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and liberation operation. The former American president expressed

deep gratitude for the cordial sentiments, expressed by HH the Amir and the Kuwaiti people as well as their representatives in the parliament.

Ghanem has said the American people will positively eye this visit, which "affirms that we as people do not forget the personalities that have stood on our side during crises and hard days". The Kuwaiti delegation during the meeting displayed a video documentary chronicling his role during the blatant Iraqi invasion, with messages from the Kuwaiti people to His Excellency. — KUNA

Justice minister: Kuwait, PCA to deepen ties

THE HAGUE: Minister of Justice Faleh Abdullah Al-Azab met yesterday with the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Hugo Hans Siblesz and discussed ways to strengthen and deepen cooperation with the PCA. Speaking to KUNA and Kuwait TV after the meeting, Azab said he exchanged views on how we can develop relations by the presence of the PCA in Kuwait. He hoped that Kuwait would become the first country in Arab world to host the PCA on its territory.

Azab stressed that Kuwait is a state of law and hence it is capable to host international organizations. He noted that Siblesz proposed the creation of arbitration court for Islamic sharia and added Kuwait as a matter of principle and after consultation with the higher authorities in the country will look into this idea.

Siblesz told KUNA that he received the Kuwaiti minister and his delegation to discuss the ongoing cooperation between the PCA and Kuwait. "In the past Kuwait has financed the Arabic language translation of the guides to the PCA arbitration rules. We have held a conference in Kuwait early last year and we have looked at further possibility of cooperation in the future," he said.

They also discussed possible approaches and creation of specific rules for Islamic finance under the PAC auspices. "That is a project that we have discussed with the



THE HAGUE: Kuwaiti Justice Minister Faleh Al-Azab meets with the SG of the PCA Hugo Hans Siblesz. — KUNA

Kuwaiti authorities and we hope that this will lead to results to make the PCA even more visible in the Arab world with the cooperation with Kuwait," he added. After the meeting, Tareq Yusif Al-Shumaimri, Counsellor at the Kuwait embassy and chairman of the financial committee of the PCA and observer administrative council at the PCA gave a presentation to the gathering on the PCA's mandate and activities and its rulings and cases.

He noted that Kuwait contributed in cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Countries to the creation of the Arabic page on the PCA website. He explained that there is a new international trend to resolve disputes through the international arbitration as it is swifter and costs less than the traditional methods of arbitration. Shumaimri pointed out that no country can influence the decision making process of the PCA. Later speaking to KUNA, he noted that the Kuwaiti minister of justice is on a 3-day visit to the Netherlands following an invitation by Hans Siblesz with the aim to further strengthen relations between the PCA and Kuwait. — KUNA

ANSA chief welcomes ties with KUNA

ROME: Director General of the Italian News Agency (ANSA) Giuseppe Cerbone has praised KUNA's Chairman and Director General and President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah for his efforts to promote Arab-European media cooperation, as well as the focus on professionally qualifying young personnel in the field.

In an interview with KUNA yesterday, Cerbone said ANSA was proud of hosting the first Arab-European forum for news agencies, held in Rome last month, as well as of cooperating with FANA. The event is likely to help augment the role of news agencies as a reliable source for information, at the face of widely-spread "fake news," he said. News agencies are responsible for working hard to divulge the truth, and show what is false through joint methods and goals, with full respect of people's beliefs and culture, and rejection of the "Ideology of Death" or linking it to any faith, he added.

Cerbone recalled his long discussions with Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij, which mirrored the long and well-established ties with KUNA, and his being FANA chief. He said that Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij has keenness and crystal-clear vision on the prime importance of the human element, and professionalism, in media. He added that they are posed to study some practical proposals made by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij during the forum, topped



ROME: Director General of ANSA Giuseppe Cerbone meets KUNA's Chairman and Director General and President of the FANA Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah. — KUNA

with an initiative for a joint project on organizing specialized courses to qualify the Arab and European media graduates and young cadres. The initiative will come to light once the necessary measures and studies are completed, Cerbone said.

Meanwhile, the ANSA Director General welcomed an invitation from Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij to visit KUNA over the coming period. He said he is eager to make the visit that will reaffirm the particular relations with KUNA, and the agency's prominent role on the media scene. He hoped further programs would be concluded during the visit for promoting bilateral professional and technical cooperation on the long run. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij and Director General of Italian News Agency (ANSA) Giuseppe Cerbone, at the Arab-European forum, sealed a deal to ratchet up cooperation between the two news agencies. — KUNA

International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017



Sultan of bling: Brunei monarch celebrates golden jubilee in style

Serial attacker targets women; 11 stabbed

Page 18

Page 17



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) meets with Saudi Arabia's King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. —AFP

Saudi Arabia to buy Russia S-400 air defense systems

Saudi king makes historic visit to Russia

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has agreed to buy Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile systems, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television reported yesterday. The report came during a visit by Saudi King Salman to Moscow. The countries also signed a memorandum of understanding to help the kingdom in its efforts to develop its own military industries, a statement from state-owned Saudi Arabian Military Industries said. SAMI said the MoU with Russian state-owned arms exporter Rosoboronexport came in the context of contracts signed to procure the S-400, the Kornet-EM system, the TOS-1A, the AGS-30 and the Kalashnikov AK-103.

It not specify the number of each system or the value of the procurement deal. It said the procurement was “based on the assurance of the Russian party to transfer the technology and localize the manufacturing and sustainment of these armament systems in the Kingdom”, but provided no time-frame. A number of deals have been signed during this week’s trip by King Salman to Russia, the first by a Saudi monarch.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Arabia’s King Salman yesterday opened talks in the first official visit of a Saudi monarch to Russia that’s expected to focus on oil and the war in Syria. At the Kremlin’s opulent St

Andrew’s Hall, Putin in televised remarks hailed the king’s visit as a “landmark” event. Salman in his reply called Russia a “friendly nation” and said his country is committed to strengthen ties “in the interests of peace and security.” Relations between the two countries have often been strained. During Cold War times, the Saudis helped arm Afghan rebels fighting against the Soviet invasion.

The kingdom, much like Russia, has been hit by the fall in oil prices since mid-2014. Despite regional disagreements, the two major oil-producing nations found common ground on energy policy in November, when they led a deal between OPEC and non-OPEC states to cut production in a bid to shore up crude prices. So far that deal is holding. Saudi Arabia’s top energy officials are expected to take part in the talks, and the chief executive of oil giant Saudi Aramco is also visiting Moscow this week.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak told Russian news agencies earlier Friday that non-OPEC states would be willing to extend the output cut “if necessary.” Russia and Saudi Arabia are expected to announce large investments and joint ventures to further cement relations. Trade volume between the two countries reached \$2.8 billion last year,

according to official Saudi press. Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund, the kingdom’s sovereign wealth fund, announced in 2015 plans to invest \$10 billion in Russia over the next five years, though only a fraction of that has so far been put up.

The Saudis have also been eyeing Russian nuclear power technologies and appear ready to expand food imports from Russia, which is set to remain the world’s biggest wheat exporter this year. Food security is a major concern for Saudi Arabia, which stopped local production of livestock feed and wheat due to water scarcity. Analysts say Salman’s trip to Moscow is the clearest sign yet that Russia’s strategy in the Middle East, including its high-risk show of military power in Syria, has paid off. Salman’s visit caps off a number of visits to Russia over the past two years by Gulf royals, including by his heir and son.

“A number of Gulf leaders have been going with greater regularity to Moscow and I think for a simple reason: Russia has made itself much more of a factor in key parts of the Middle East as the US has taken a step back in some ways, particularly in Syria,” said Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. —Agencies

International

Troops retake Islamic State's bastion Hawija

IS' last stronghold in northern Iraq falls

HAWIJA: Iraqi forces retook one of the Islamic State group's last two enclaves in the country yesterday, overrunning the longtime insurgent bastion of Hawija after a two-week offensive. Only a stretch of the Euphrates Valley near the border with Syria remains to be retaken from the jihadists who have suffered defeat after defeat in Iraq this year. "I announce the liberation of the city of Hawija," Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi told a news conference in Paris. "All that remains is the strip on the border with Syria."

The operation's commander, Lieutenant General Abdel Amir Yarallah, had earlier announced that troops, police and paramilitaries had retaken the city center. Hawijah, 230 kilometers north of Baghdad, was at the center of a pocket of mainly Sunni Arab towns that were among the final holdouts from the territory seized by the jihadists in 2014.

The town had 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 area'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. Government forces bypassed it in their advance north to second city Mosul last year,

which culminated in the jihadists' defeat in the emblematic bastion in July.

'Victory for whole world'

Hawija lies between the two main routes north from Baghdad-to Mosul and to the city of Kirkuk and the autonomous Kurdish region-and its recapture is both a symbolic and a strategic victory for the government. "This a victory not only for Iraqis but also for the whole world," Abadi said, as he announced the town's recapture after talks in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron. France is part of a US-led coalition that has been backing the campaign against IS.

There was no immediate word on the fate of civilians in Hawija. The United Nations said this week that an estimated 12,500 people had fled since the launch of the offensive to retake the

town and surrounding areas last month. The UN's humanitarian affairs office said the number of people still in the town was unknown but could be as high as 78,000. It said humanitarian agencies have set up checkpoints, camps and emergency sites capable of receiving more than 70,000 people who could flee. The Norwegian Refugee Council said many of those arriving in the camps had little more than the clothes on their backs. "In addition to the terror they have experienced during years under the control of

tion has been criticized for civilian casualties caused in air strikes.

Rupture with Iran

In January 2016, Saudi Arabia executes 47 people convicted of "terrorism", mostly Sunnis linked to Al-Qaeda, but also including prominent Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr. His execution stirs a diplomatic crisis with regional rival Iran. Riyadh breaks off diplomatic relations with Tehran after its embassy and a consulate are attacked in the wake of Nimr's execution.

Economic reform

In April 2016, the Saudi government approves major reform plans, dubbed "Vision 2030", aimed at diversifying the oil-dependent economy. They involve privatizing part of oil giant Aramco and setting up a sovereign wealth fund of \$2 trillion. Since the plunge in crude prices in mid-2014, Riyadh has had to slash subsidies and delay major projects. In December 2016, Saudi-led OPEC and other non-member producers led by Russia agree to slash crude output to help prop up prices.

Deals with Washington

US President Donald Trump visits Saudi Arabia in May 2017 on his first foreign trip since taking office. Washington and Riyadh announce major contracts worth more than \$380 billion, including \$110 billion for the sale of American arms to Saudi Arabia aimed at countering what they see as a threat from Iran and radical Islamists.

“

Victory for the whole world

”



HAWIJAH, Iraq: Fighters from the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization units), backing the Iraqi forces, secure a street as troops advance through Hawija, after retaking the city from Islamic State (IS) group fighters. —AFP

the IS group, many of the families who are arriving are malnourished," its acting area manager, Silvia Beccacece, said.

Dwindling 'caliphate'

Coalition spokesman Ryan Dillon hailed the latest advance on Twitter, saying Iraqi forces were continuing "to crush ISIS in Hawija pocket" and that Abadi's pledge to "liberate all Iraqi territory and to cleanse it from terrorists" was "close" to being fulfilled. IS, also known as ISIS or ISIL, 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".

At one point it controlled nearly a third of Iraqi territory. Last week, it was ousted from Anna, one of three towns it still held in the Euphrates Valley, and Iraqi forces are preparing to advance upstream towards the other two, Rawa and Al-Qaim. Provincial civil defense chief General Fawzi Yassin said it had taken until yesterday to clear nearly 1,000 mines and booby-traps that the jihadists had planted in and around Anna.—AFP

Saudi under King Salman

RIYADH: King Salman has overseen some important changes in Saudi Arabia since he inherited the throne from his elderly half-brother King Abdullah nearly three years ago. As he holds talks in Moscow on the first official visit to Russia by a Saudi king, here is a look back at some of the developments during his reign.

Changes at the top

On January 23, 2015 Salman accedes to the throne at the age of 79 after the death of Abdullah, aged about 90. He makes key changes in the order of succession, choosing his nephew Mohammed Bin Nayef as Deputy Crown Prince and promoting his son Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to Defense Minister. In June the same year, he raises his son, aged 31, to the position of Crown Prince, completing a gradual removal of powers from Mohammed Bin Nayef.

War in Yemen

In March 2015, a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia launches an air campaign against Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies in Yemen in support of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. Coalition members deploy troops in Yemen. The Arab coal-



Saudi Arabia's King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud attends a meeting with Russian President at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. —AFP

Qatar crisis

In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and several Gulf allies and Egypt sever diplomatic ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting "terrorists" and being too close to Iran. They also take economic measures against Qatar, including closing air and maritime links and sealing the country's only land border. Doha rejects the accusations.

More rights for women

In December 2015, Saudi Arabia opens up elections to women as both candidates and voters for the first time. In September this year, a royal decree announces the end of a longstanding ban on women driving as of June 2018. The decree comes days after women are allowed into a sports stadium for the first time in the country's history. However Saudi women remain subject to restrictions, including requiring permission from a male family member to study and travel, among other activities.—AFP

Saudi arrests 22 for 'inciting public feelings'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has arrested 22 people, including a Qatari national, for "inciting public feelings" on social media, authorities said yesterday, following a crackdown on dissent. Those detained had posted video clips online, the official Saudi Press Agency said citing a security source, adding that authorities were investigating their motives and connections. "Their number is 22 people, one of them Qatari, and the rest are Saudis."

Their motives and links are being verified," SPA said. They were arrested for "circulation of video clips on social networking sites inciting public feelings", SPA added without any further details. Saudi Arabia last month launched a crackdown on dissenters, detaining prominent clerics and activists ahead of a historic government decision to allow women to drive. The action was seen as a show of force by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has styled himself as a reformer who will set the country on the road to modernity and civil liberty.—AFP

International

Threats to Supreme Court test the Israeli democracy

Apex court faces fierce pressure from hard-liners

JERUSALEM: Israel's Supreme Court, widely seen as a guardian of the country's founding democratic principles, is facing fierce pressure from political hard-liners who are challenging what they see as the court's overreach and liberal slant. The stepped-up rhetoric and attempts to shackle the court are testing Israel's fragile democracy at a time when members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nationalist government have led an onslaught of attacks against the country's liberal institutions, stirring up populist sentiment and deepening a rift with the country's moderates.

The court's critics want it to tone down what they see as its overt



activism and demand a rethink of the institution's role in society. But some observers see the campaign against the court as crossing a line. "The attacks, the incitement is very worrying," said Dalia Dorner, a former Supreme Court judge. "Without an independent court there is no democracy." In Israel, a country with a robust press and rowdy politics, criticism of the court isn't unusual, but its opponents rarely seek to curb its authority.

It also comes as Netanyahu's hawkish coalition government, dominated by religious and nationalist parties, has escalated criticism

of many of Israel's liberal bastions in the arts, media and civil society and pledged out legislative action against them. "The goal is clear: to dismantle, crush and destroy the foundations of the liberal Israeli democracy as we've known it, as we established it, as our forefathers dreamt it. All means are kosher," commentator Ben Caspit wrote in the Maariv daily. Israel's Supreme Court has stood as an arbiter on landmark issues, such as the balance between religion and state or controversial military tactics like targeted

assassinations of wanted militants. It is known for its independence and has been cursed by right-wing and left-wing governments

Observers see the campaign as crossing a line

alike. Palestinians and dovish civil society groups turn to the Supreme Court to rule on the legality of settlement construction or the terms of arrest of prisoners, among others. It is among the country's most trusted institutions, especially among Israel's minority Arab population. The court has also been used by lawmakers to score political points, a place where they can send popular but legally questionable laws to die.

Making its way through the court now, for example, is a challenge to a law meant to legalize hundreds of West Bank settlement



JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center) attends the weekly cabinet meeting at his office in Jerusalem. —AFP

homes built on private Palestinian land. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supported the law, which was hugely popular with his settler base, but Netanyahu's own attorney general said he couldn't defend the law in court and it is expected to be struck down. Recently, the court has ruled on a number of issues that have touched at the heart of the government's legislative agenda. Angry lawmakers have vowed to rein in the court, promising to enact legislation that would weaken its authority.

In August, the court partially ruled against

a law that allowed the state to indefinitely detain African migrants to pressure them to leave the country, sparking outrage from lawmakers from the ruling Likud party, which spent years crafting the law. Last month, the court struck down a contentious law that granted exemptions from military service to ultra-Orthodox men, in response to a challenge by secular Israeli Jews who want ultra-Orthodox Jews to participate in the mandatory service. Netanyahu's ultra-Orthodox coalition partners were livid.—AFP

For Malians, going home is a mirage

MBERA: It is hardly the most inviting place to call home—a sprawling tent city in a sea of reddish sand in southeastern Mauritania. But for the Malians who eke out a life here, the harsh Saharan desert is a haven compared to the violence and chaos back home. Tens of thousands have fled towns and villages in northern Mali to the safety of Mbera camp, 50 kilometers from the border. And for many of them, the craving to go back is offset by the wretched fate of those who have done so. Mohamed Ousmane Ag al-Khalifa arrived in the camp in 2012, fleeing Al-Qaeda-linked jihadist groups that seized key towns in northern Mali, exploiting an uprising by ethnic Tuareg-led rebels. In June 2015, the government and rebels signed a peace accord.

But—as the shepherd and his family were to discover when they ventured back to the Timbuktu region six months later—a deal on paper failed to end violence on the ground. "They had told us the peace agreement had been signed at



Malian refugees sit on a bench at the Mbera refugee camp in southeastern Mauritania. —AFP

the highest level," said Khalifa, a man in his fifties from the Tuareg tribe of Kel Tagamart, dressed in a black turban and pale green robes. "The week after we arrived back, the violence started up," he said. "Our home is on the River Niger, between Goundam and Timbuktu. There were regular rocket attacks on the army, and nomads or their cattle were frequently hit." He eventually scraped up the means to return to Mbera where despite the tough life, there is "peace and freedom". "Our dream of course is to go back, but I know

what it's like over there," said Khalifa's wife, Aichetou Walet Mohamed Ousmane, breastfeeding one of their four children. According to UN estimates, around 195,000 people have been displaced by the violence in northern Mali. Around 55,000 have fled to other parts of the country and 140,000 have gone to Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. Mbera itself houses more than 51,000 people, more than two-thirds of whom are from Mali's Tuareg and Arab ethnic groups. The urge to go home is strong.—AFP

France offers to mediate between Baghdad, Kurds

PARIS: France offered yesterday to mediate in a political crisis pitting Iraq's government against Kurdish regional authorities, and promised to maintain a military presence there until Islamic State was defeated. The offer by President Emmanuel Macron coincided with a visit by Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, his first abroad since its Kurdish-held northern regions last month voted for independence in a referendum declared illegal by Baghdad. The Iraqi government has imposed sanctions in response to the independence vote, but Abadi said yesterday he could understand the Kurds' "aspirations"—provided they were expressed in accordance with the constitution—and wanted to avoid violence.

"We do not want an armed confrontation, we don't want clashes," Abadi said, speaking alongside Macron. "But the federal authority must prevail and nobody can infringe on the federal authority." The outcome of the referendum has raised concerns in Iraq and abroad that a conflict might break out there along ethnic lines, potentially weakening a U.S.-backed campaign against Islamic State, which still holds pockets of territory in Iraq and Syria.—Reuters

International

Rape, sexual slavery are weapons of war in CAR

Women and girls whipped, tied up and gang-raped

DAKAR: Armed groups in Central African Republic are using rape and sexual slavery as weapons of war in an abuse that may amount to crimes against humanity, a rights group said yesterday. Thousands have died and a fifth of Central Africans have been uprooted in a conflict that broke out after the mainly Muslim Seleka rebels ousted President Francois Bozize in early 2013, provoking a backlash from Christian anti-balaka militias. Both the Seleka and the anti-balaka have sexually assaulted, raped and enslaved civilians as revenge against those believed to be supporting the other side, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said. Yet not a single militant on either side of the conflict has been arrested or tried for sexual violence, HRW said. "Armed groups are using rape in a brutal, calculated way to punish and terrorize women and girls," HRW researcher Hillary Margolis said following the release of a report documenting 305 cases of rape and sexual slavery against women and girls.

"Under international law, these offences ... may be considered crimes against humanity and war crimes," HRW said. Victims told HRW how militants often raped them in front of their children, and abused, attacked and killed their relatives. Many women and girls were whipped, tied up and burned, and gang-raped repeatedly while being held as sex slaves, HRW said. "Every day we could not rest - every day

there was rape, by different fighters," 30-year-old Jeanne, who was held captive by Seleka fighters for six months in 2014, told the rights group.

Stigma, impunity for attackers and a dysfunctional justice system has prevented many victims from speaking out, HRW said. Only 11 of the 296 survivors interviewed by HRW said they had tried to seek justice, with some victims blamed for their ordeal and others told to present their attackers for arrest. Most victims said they had not received post-rape medical or mental health care - such as drugs to prevent HIV and unwanted pregnancy - due to a lack of health facilities, the cost of services or transport, and misconceptions about their options.

"Every day, survivors live with the devastating aftermath of rape, and the knowledge that their attackers are walking free, perhaps holding positions of power, and to date facing no consequences whatsoever," Margolis said in a statement. Widespread killings and rapes of civilians by militants in Central African Republic - where militia violence has risen this year - have also been documented by the United Nations and other rights groups, such as Amnesty International. The United Nations is helping the government to establish a Special Criminal Court, agreed to in 2015, to try the worst crimes committed in the landlocked nation. —Reuters

Bridge of discord between Croatia and Bosnia

ZAMASLINA: Pero Brbora farms his shellfish in Croatia but has to cross the border into Bosnia, and out again, to sell them in his homeland. For years, the 57-year-old oyster and mussels fisherman has been waiting for a planned bridge to be built to ease the complicated and time-consuming trip. But the project to connect the Croatian mainland with its southernmost region via the Peljesac Bridge has run into delays and sparked a dispute with neighboring Bosnia. At the heart of the problem is the "patchwork-style" divisions across the Balkans following the bloody breakup of the former Yugoslav federation in the 1990s. The frontiers between its six former republics are now international borders between newly-emerged states.

Although Bosnia maintained its coastal access, the small outlet leading to the Adriatic



Photo shows a traffic jam at the border crossing between Bosnia and Croatia. —AFP

Sea cuts through Croatia. As a result, 90,000 people, including residents of Croatia's well-known southern resort of Dubrovnik, are split off from the rest of the country. During the busy tourist season, it takes Brbora up to four hours to travel from the small port of Zamaslina to Makarska, a town further north on the Adriatic coast. "If there were no borders, we could cross this 100 kilometers in an hour and a half," he said. —AFP



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International

Clues few and elusive for the motive of US gunman

No link to extremists or activist groups

LAS VEGAS: Those seeking to know the motive of Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock have had little more to chase than hints and shadows. Paddock led such a low-key, private life that no one seemed to know him well, and those who did had no sense he was capable of the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history. Where other mass killers have left behind a trail of plain-sight clues that help investigators quickly understand what drove them to violence, Paddock, 64, had nearly no close friends, social media presence or other clear connections to the broader world.

Even the No. 2 official in the FBI said he was surprised investigators have not uncovered more about why a man with no obvious criminal record would cause so much bloodshed.



"There's all kinds of things that surprise us in each one of these events. That's the one in this one, and we are not there yet," FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said. "We have a lot of work to do." Working with what little they know, investigators have zeroed in on a weapon-buying binge Paddock went on one year before he gunned down 58 people Sunday at a country music festival from a 32nd-floor room at the Mandalay Bay casino resort before killing himself.

They wonder if he had some sort of mental break at the time that drove him to start making plans for mass murder. They also know he

rented an apartment in a Las Vegas high-rise over another music festival the weekend before the massacre, though not why. They know he was a major gambler and are looking at related records, though even in very public casinos he played the very private game of video poker. They know he had a plan to survive the shooting and try to escape, though would not say how.

"This individual and this attack didn't leave the sort of immediately accessible thumbprints that you find on some mass casualty attacks," McCabe said. "Putting aside the somewhat dubious claims of responsibility that we see in

Looking for actual indicators of affiliation

each one of these instances, we look for actual indicators of affiliation, of motive, of intent, and so far we're not there. We don't have those sort of indicators." Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said at a news conference Wednesday night that Paddock must have had some help along the way given his huge arsenal of the explosive materials found in his car, and his meticulous plan, but they don't know who that might be.

Some who thought they knew him intimately could provide no help. "He never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen," Marilou Danley, 62, said in a statement read by her lawyer outside FBI headquarters in Los Angeles. Danley returned



LAS VEGAS: The Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino, that Stephen Paddock fired from is seen in the evening in the in Las Vegas, Nevada.— AFP

Tuesday from the Philippines, where Paddock had sent her before the attack, and was being interviewed by the FBI. Analyzing Paddock's computer, cellphone and other electronic devices, investigators have found no obvious ideological motive, no clear connection to extremists or activist groups or outward display of mental illness. Paddock wired \$100,000 to the Philippines days before the shooting, said a US official who was not authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation. Investigators are trying

to trace that money.

Danley, who was overseas for more than two weeks, said she was initially pleased when she was wired money from Paddock to buy a house for her family in the Philippines. But she later feared it was a way to break up with her. She said she loved Paddock as a "kind, caring, quiet man" and hoped they would have a future together. She said she was devastated by the carnage and would cooperate with authorities as they struggle to get inside Paddock's mind.—AP

Marilou Danley, girlfriend of the Las Vegas shooter

WASHINGTON: Marilou Danley, a petite 62-year-old casino hostess from the Philippines, is in the crosshairs of the FBI as the authorities seek to determine what led her boyfriend to carry out the worst mass shooting in recent US history. Danley was in the Philippines when Stephen Paddock rained bullets down on concert-goers on the Las Vegas Strip on Sunday night, killing 58 and injuring hundreds more, she said she knew nothing about his diabolical plan.

"I knew Stephen Paddock as a kind, caring, quiet man," Danley said in a statement read out by her lawyer. "He never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen." Reynaldo Bustos, her brother, told ABC News that he spoke to his sister following the shooting. "I called her up immediately and she said, 'Relax, we shouldn't worry about it. I'll fix it. Do not panic. I have a clean conscience.'" Bustos told ABC News in the Philippines.

Danley returned to the United States

from the Philippines on Tuesday night, according to US press reports, and was met by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Los Angeles airport. Reports say Paddock paid for her trip to the Philippines, and authorities are investigating reports that he wired her \$100,000 while she was there. "I was grateful, but honestly, I was worried, that first, the unexpected trip home, and then the money, was a way of breaking up with me," the woman said in her statement. "It never occurred to me in any way whatsoever that he was planning violence against anyone."

Police have not described Danley as a suspect but Las Vegas Sheriff Joe Lombardo said Tuesday that she was a "person of interest" and law enforcement hoped she could shed some light on the investigation. She is not under arrest or currently facing any charges. No motive has emerged yet for the deadly shooting spree by Paddock, a wealthy, 64-year-old retired accountant who liked to gamble for high stakes and owned a comfortable home at a golf course retirement commu-



Marilou Danley

nity near Las Vegas. It was through his gambling that Paddock reportedly met Danley, when she was working as a hostess at a casino in Reno, Nevada, several years ago.

"They were adorable-big man, tiny woman. He loved her. He doted on her," Eric Paddock, Paddock's brother, told The Washington Post. Paddock and Danley shared a home in the town of Mesquite, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, where the authorities found a number of guns while searching the property.—AFP

Troops die in attack on US-Niger patrol

NIAMEY: Several soldiers were killed—among them reportedly US special forces—when a joint US-Niger patrol was ambushed near the border with Mali, the first time that the presence of American troops has been confirmed in the troubled area. Wednesday's attack adds to concerns that violence in Mali is spilling over into Niger, part of the poor and politically fragile Sahel where jihadist groups are mounting an insurgency. Three members of the American special forces were among the dead, according to a New York Times report citing US military officials.

Separately, the US Africa command confirmed in a statement that a joint US and Nigerien patrol came under fire in Niger. But it said nothing about casualties, adding that officials are working to confirm details. A security official in Niger told AFP, "we lost men in an attack on Wednesday in Tillaberi," southwestern Niger, adding it was "probably a terrorist attack." The source gave no further details. A regional official in Tillaberi described the incident to AFP yesterday as "an ambush attack by heavily armed men from Mali (who) targeted Nigerien and American soldiers-instructors".—AFP

International

Facing legal limbo, 'Dreamers' line up for last chance to renew status

Despite having no papers, they all feel American

LOS ANGELES: Melissa Garcia was just three years old when she crossed the US border from Mexico in her mother's arms. She remembers almost nothing of the perilous crossing that turned her into an undocumented migrant in a country that she now calls home. She is one of thousands of so-called "Dreamers" set to be plunged into legal limbo with the phasing out of the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, a program which allowed them to live and work legally in the United States—but which can only be renewed for the last time. "Under DACA I can go out in the street without worrying that I'll be deported," said Melissa, who is 23 and works in a shop. Her mother Leticia crossed the border with Melissa and her five-year-old brother, traversing the border fence and the desert of Sonora before trying to build a new life for her family in the United States.



Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals to be phased out

"They didn't find out that they didn't have any papers until they were grown up," said their mother, who is now 43. "I wanted them to have a normal childhood. I wanted the best for them." The administration of President Donald Trump said on September 5 that it was winding down DACA in six months, and yesterday was the last chance that the Obama-era scheme's beneficiaries have to submit renewal applications if their permits expire before next March. "By March 5th they want to have

already processed all of those applications," said Luis Perez, director of legal services at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles (CHIRLA), which offers free advice to dreamers. Around 150,000 permits that are due to expire between September 5 and March 5 are to be processed for renewal. If a permit expires on March 6, there is nothing that can be done. Many other immigrant organizations have also scrambled to defend the Dreamers.

Fear of losing everything

With CHIRLA's help, Melissa spent the past week wading through the paperwork for a renewal application. When she arrived at dawn at the center, accompanied by her mother and with her pet chihuahua in a bag, she found 20-year-old university

student Bryan Soils already waiting. Thanks to DACA, he obtained credit to pay for his college and found legal employment. He, too, crossed the desert with his mother when he was just seven years old. On his forehead he still bears a small scar from when barbed wire cut him as they crossed the fence. The Dreamers brought deck chairs, blankets and coffee for their wait in line outside the legal aid center. Despite having no papers, they all feel American. "I've been able to go ahead and find a good career path, a good job here in the United States, the only country I kind of know

To rebuild trust, US cops offer coffee and a friendly ear

CHICAGO: In a diverse Chicago neighborhood where dozens of languages are spoken, two police officers are visiting a McDonald's restaurant. They have a jug of coffee in hand and are offering a friendly ear, willing to listen to anyone who wants to have a chat. Welcome to "Coffee with a Cop" day, an initiative held Wednesday in Chicago and across the United States for police to bond with the public. The effort comes at a time of deep tensions and distrust between police and the communities they serve. "It's been positive," said Officer Librada Godinez about her conversations at the Chicago McDonald's, all prompted by an initial offer of a free cup of coffee. "(It) puts a smile on their face and they're more comfortable talking to us," Godinez said.

Tensions

Law enforcement in many American cities have a lot of work to do to build public

trust. The last year and a half alone has been searing for American police, with one highly-publicized case after another of questionable police shootings, often involving minorities. Prosecutors have had difficulty securing convictions against cops, resulting in street demonstrations that sometimes turn violent—leading to even more tensions. St. Louis, located along the Mississippi River southwest of Chicago, was the most recent example. Police there clashed with protesters in September, after a former cop was acquitted in the 2011 fatal shooting of a black man. Protests have persisted for weeks, with the latest one Tuesday night.

"Across the country, between minority communities and police... there is a gulf," said Brian Jackson, a criminal justice researcher at the RAND corporation. "When the relationship is strained, you get crimes that aren't reported."

Chicago resident Rashonda Cole can understand why fellow African Americans might distrust police, due to the city's history of documented abuses targeting Latinos and African Americans. But, the 35-year-old said outreach efforts can repair the damage. "If they have stuff like this every day, and you get a chance to stop in and talk and have a cup of coffee with an officer, I think a lot of people would have a different sense of thinking when it comes to the police," Cole said. —AFP



WASHINGTON: Gustavo Torres (center) executive director, CASA de Maryland, speaks to immigrant rights supporters at the US Capitol in Washington.— AP

as home," said Pablo Gomez, a mortgage consultant at Wells Fargo bank. "Removing it, as the Trump administration is trying to do, would probably take that all away from me, and force me to go back to a country I don't know," he said. The decision by the Trump administration has forced Congress to reopen the immigration debate, which already broke down in 2001, 2006 and 2013. "It's actually really scary, because I'm afraid of losing everything I've accomplished so far. I'm hoping and praying to God that things get

resolved quickly," said Jesus Cervantes, a sales rep at a tire distribution company. "I'm hoping for the Dream Act. I'm hoping that Congress will pass the Dream Act, so that people like me and everybody at the back of the line can have a taste of the American dream," said Abby Garduque, tearing up. A resounding "no" is the usual and swift response when the possibility is raised of the Dreamers returning to the countries of their birth. Leticia's son married an American citizen and now enjoys legal status. —AFP

A taste of freedom in a Colombian women jail

CARTAGENA: Arleth Martinez smooths her clothes, kisses a photo of her twins and leaves for work. It's only a few meters from her Colombian cell to her unusually fragrant workplace, South America's first gastronomic prison restaurant. Following the example of South Africa's Pollsmoor Prison, where Nelson Mandela wound down his 27-year sentence, and another in Milan, inmates at the teeming women's prison in downtown Cartagena are getting a taste for reintegration back into society with an experience that mixes cuisine with customer service.

The photo of the seven-year-old twins is Arleth's "lucky charm"—a constant reminder of the future. Sentenced to six years for extortion in 2015, present-day life in the San Diego prison has become a little more palatable since she started working at the restaurant late last year. "Even though I'm still in prison, I feel free because it's a completely different environment," said the 26-year-old, wearing a pristine black t-shirt and apron, her hair gath-

ered in a colorful pink turban. At least around the restaurant "you don't see so many bars". Fifteen of the 150 inmates, most of them accused of murder or drug trafficking, work either in the kitchen, or in table service. The work is incentivized—two days washing dishes, preparing or serving food, gets a day of prison time reduced.

A fuchsia curtain separates the 50-seat restaurant from the cells. A mural of flowers painted by the inmates provides some colorful relief from the drab prison surroundings. Named "El Interno," which roughly translates as "The Intern," the eatery provides a little extra frisson for curious locals and tourists while they enjoy a 30-dollar menu that runs from "fish ceviche in coconut milk" to "rice with seafood" and "posta Cartagenera"—meat in black sauce typical of the city.

"When they arrive, people know that they are entering a prison, and that they will be served by prisoners," said Johana Bahamon, a Colombian television actress whose Accion Interna (Internal Action) Foundation was the driving force behind the idea. "When they leave, they are happy to have met talented, courageous and real human beings," Bahamon said. El Interno is a rare opportunity for inmates in a country that has the largest prison population in South America after Brazil. In the last 17 years, the number of those behind bars in Colombia has more than doubled from 51,500 to 119,000, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). —AFP

International

Ready to fight again: Homeless Rohingyas backing insurgency

Myanmar calls insurgents are terrorists, vows to crush

COX'S BAZAR: For 28-year-old Rohingya Muslim shopkeeper Mohammed Rashid, the evening phone call from organizers of the fledgling insurgent movement came as a surprise. "Be ready," was the message. A few hours later, after meeting in the darkness in an open field, he was one of 150 men who attacked a Myanmar Border Guard Police post armed with swords, homemade explosives and a few handguns. At the end of a short battle, half a dozen men he had grown up with in his village were dead. "We had no training, no weapons," said Rashid, from the Buthidaung area of Myanmar's Rakhine state, who had joined the group just two months earlier.

Accounts from some of those, like Rashid, who took part in attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on dozens of police posts early on Aug 25 paint a picture of a rag-tag band of hopeless, angry villagers, who were promised AK-47 rifles but ended up fighting with sticks and knives. Hundreds joined as recently as June, according to the accounts, and membership meant little more than a knife and messages from leaders on the popular mobile messaging app Whatsapp. Reuters interviewed half a dozen fighters and members of the group now sheltering in Bangladesh, as well as dozens of others among the more than half a million Rohingya refugees who have fled across the border to



escape a Myanmar army counteroffensive that the United Nations has branded ethnic cleansing. ARSA, which emerged in 2016, says in press releases and video messages from its leader, Ata Ullah, that it is fighting for the rights of the Rohingya, a stateless Muslim minority that has long complained of persecution in mainly Buddhist Myanmar. Myanmar says ARSA is a ruthless Islamist extremist movement that wants to create an Islamic republic in northern Rakhine.

Despite the massive suffering inflicted on their communities in the weeks since the August attacks, most of the fighters now stuck in dirt-poor camps said they were determined to continue their fight and some refugees voiced support for the insurgency. Other

Fighters now stuck in dirt-poor camps

refugees Reuters spoke to criticized the insurgents for bringing more misery upon them. Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's spokesman, Zaw Htay, said ARSA had killed many Muslims who had cooperated with the authorities and so "people have felt threatened and terrorized" into supporting it. He added that Myanmar's intelligence showed that religious scholars were prominent in recruiting followers. ARSA denies killing civilians, and did not respond to a request for comment this week. Analysts say the violence could galvanize ARSA members and supporters huddled in the refugee camps and among those Rohingya still in Myanmar,



TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Rohingya Muslim refugees walk toward refugee camps after crossing the border from Myanmar at the Bangladeshi shores of the Naf river in Teknaf yesterday. — AFP

as people feel they have even less to lose. "A militancy like this finds fertile ground because of the desperation of the community," said Richard Horsey, a Yangon-based analyst and former UN official. "They are willing to take suicidal steps because they don't see any other choice." Transnational Islamist groups could also try to exploit the desperation in the camps to radicalize people, Horsey added. Al-Qaeda last month called for support for

the Rohingya. Reuters could not independently verify the individual insurgents' stories, but there were broad similarities in all of their accounts. One fighter, 35-year-old Kamal Hussain from a village in Rathedaung in Myanmar's Rakhine state, said he joined ARSA when a religious teacher stood in his village square in June, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and implored a crowd of hundreds to fight. — Reuters

Walk this way: Traffic jam forces Indonesia

JAKARTA: Indonesia's notorious traffic congestion was on display for the world yesterday after the country's president was forced to walk two kilometers through the scorching heat to attend a military parade. Graft-ridden Indonesia is home to one of Asia's most inefficient bureaucracies and gridlock plagues many of the archipelago's largest towns. The country's traffic nightmares were aptly illustrated when President Joko Widodo had to walk more than two kilometers to attend a ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the Indonesian military's founding.

Widodo and senior government officials were held up by gridlock as they approached the military parade in Cilegon, a port city about two-and-a-half hours drive from the capital Jakarta, the presidential palace said. After a 30-minute wait, "the president then decided



JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo (center) greets people as he walks to a ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the Indonesian military's founding, after his motorcade was stuck in a traffic jam in Jakarta. — AFP

from inside the car that he would walk," Widodo's guard Ili Dasili said in a statement. National police chief Tito Karnavian, who was also stuck in the jam, joined the president.

Video footage shows the president walking with a phalanx of security personnel while spectators yell and chant his name. Widodo's unorthodox entrance

wasn't lost on social media users, who questioned why the leader of Southeast Asia's largest economy was compelled to walk to the event. "How come the president walked for two kilometers to the military anniversary location, why didn't they give him the privilege of vacating the road or taking him in a helicopter?" Twitter user @Pujithegooners wrote. — AFP

India struggles to rein in flows of cattle, Rohingya

NEW DELHI: Stopping Rohingya refugees from crossing India's porous eastern border with Bangladesh is straining the resources of guards battling to halt a flow of smuggled cattle in the opposite direction, security officials say. More than half a million Muslim Rohingya, a stateless ethnic minority, have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since violence erupted on Aug 25, but it is not clear how many then sought to travel on to India. Last month India ordered its border guards to use "rude and crude" methods, such as "chilli and stun grenades", to block their entry.

But that directive clashes with another task India's Hindu nationalist government has set its border guards - to keep cows, seen by many Hindus as sacred, from being smuggled into Bangladesh for slaughter, in a trade worth \$600 million a year. "It's hard to stop cows and human beings at the same time," a senior official of India's Border Security Force (BSF), which has about 30,000 troops patrolling the frontier with Bangladesh, said in New Delhi, the capital. "The collective duty to seize cattle and push Rohingyas is having a negative impact on the morale of our troops," added the official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media. — Reuters

International

Sultan of bling: Brunei monarch celebrates golden jubilee in style

Brunei is one of the world's wealthiest nations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Brunei's all-powerful and fabulously wealthy sultan marked 50 years on the throne in lavish style yesterday, travelling in a gilded chariot through the streets and holding a tradition-filled ceremony at his golden-domed palace. Tens of thousands of well-wishers waving the country's flag lined the streets and cheered as Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, the world's second-longest reigning monarch, passed by in a chariot pulled by dozens of his subjects. Marching bands took part in the colorful procession as it made its way through the streets, the highlight of about two weeks of celebrations to mark the golden jubilee of one of the world's richest men.



An absolute monarchy with strict Islamic laws, Brunei is one of the world's wealthiest nations thanks to abundant oil and gas reserves, although analysts warn it faces serious challenges to diversify the economy as oil prices fall and its reserves dwindle. Among the crowds was Melissa Ibrahim, an airline employee, who sang Hassanal's praises. "His majesty cares about the people, their welfare, education and health," she said. "Everything is subsidized by the government, so for that we are very, very thankful."

Celebrations got under way earlier at the sultan's sprawling palace, where an honor guard performed a 21-gun salute and the ruler and his wife sat on golden thrones for a royal audience. The 71-year-old ascended to the throne of the Muslim country perched on the north of tropical

Borneo island in October 1967, and comes from a royal family that has ruled the country for over 600 years. His decades ruling Brunei have seen the country gain full independence from Britain and living standards soar to among the highest in the world.

Islamic law, high-priced harem

But his reign of Brunei, which has a population of about 400,000, has also been marked by controversies. These include the introduction of tough Islamic laws in 2014, which will eventually include penalties such as severing of limbs and death by stoning, a move that sparked rare domestic criticism as well as international condemnation. The royal family was also deeply embarrassed

Sultan's reign also marked by controversies

by a sensational feud between Hassanal and his younger brother Prince Jefri Bolkiah over the latter's alleged embezzlement of \$15 billion during his tenure as finance minister in the 1990s.

During the scandal, salacious details emerged of the prince's jet-set, un-Islamic lifestyle, including allegations of a high-priced harem and a luxury yacht he owned called "Tits". There are also challenges for the younger generation, who fear their futures may not be secure as the oil-dependent country struggles to find new revenue sources. "They still have not really made any significant headway moving beyond this major sector (oil and gas)," said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert from John Cabot



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Queen Saleha wave from the royal chariot during a procession to mark his golden jubilee of accession to the throne in Bandar Seri Begawan yesterday. —AFP

University. Still, the jubilee stood out as a rare source of excitement in the sleepy sultanate, which is known for its slow pace of life and lack of nightlife-alcohol is largely banned under Islamic practice. Yesterday's festivities began with Hassanal, dressed in yellow and gold royal finery and accompanied by his wife Anak Hajah

Saleha, inspecting a guard of honor in the grounds of his palace, before the gun salute. The couple then held the royal audience in the throne room of the palace, a vast complex of resplendent white buildings with golden domes and almost 1,800 rooms, before heading to take part in the procession. —AFP

Job fair offers hope for Syria refugees in Jordan

ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP: After five years without work, Syrian refugee Mohammed Ahmad was nervous but hopeful as he registered with as many firms as possible at a unique job fair in Jordan's sprawling Zaatari camp where he lives. Around 50 companies were represented at the one-day event Wednesday as they scouted for candidates to fill some 1,000 job opportunities, compiling lists of applicants by name, age and qualification.

The EU-funded job fair, a first at the desert camp that houses some 80,000 refugees, comes after the launch in August of the only employment office at Zaatari following a decision by the Jordanian government to grant residents work permits and let them work in larger towns. For father of four Ahmad, who fled from Daraa in southern Syria just across the border, the project could provide a vital lifeline. "I've been living in this camp for five years and spend



A Syrian refugee woman registers her name at the Zaatari office for employment in the refugee camp. —AFP

most of my time sitting around or sleeping," the 34-year-old former farmer. "Living conditions are very hard here and I hope to get a job that will save us from this."

Ahmad admitted he was "in desperate need of money" as his family struggles to get by on the roughly \$30 per person they get each month in credit to spend at the desert camp's two markets. In comparison the monthly salaries for the jobs offered at the fair, also supported by the United Nations' UNHCR refugee agency and the Jordanian government, rise up to 210 dinars (\$300). Overall, since the launch of the employment office at Zaatari, some 3,000 Syrians have used the facilities to help secure work in the agriculture, industrial and food-processing sectors, organizers said. —AFP

Brunei, a sultanate

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, the world's second-longest reigning monarch, celebrated his golden jubilee yesterday with lavish celebrations, including a glittering procession and 21-gun salute. The tiny country has some of the world's highest living standards because of its energy reserves but faces major challenges due to the collapse of oil prices, and has been criticized in recent years because of a shift towards hardline Islam. Here are some facts about the sultanate:

Long history

The history of the tiny, coastal sultanate on tropical Borneo Island, which is surrounded by Malaysia, stretches back centuries. It was at its peak in the 15th century, when it had an empire controlling large swathes of Borneo. But it declined as European powers extended their colonial rule across Asia, and in 1888 became a British protectorate. However it was not subsumed into the new states that were formed during the colonial era and after World War II as many sultanates in the region were. The country gained full independence from Britain in 1984, and saw its economy grow at a rapid

Vast wealth and excesses

The sultan is one of the world's richest men and tales of the royal family's extravagant lifestyles are the stuff of legend. He is reported to have a vast collection of luxury vehicles and his official residence—a vast pile that sits on a riverbank—is one of the world's largest palaces, with about 1,800 rooms. His playboy younger brother Prince Jefri Bolkiah has however attracted the most attention. He had a spectacular falling-out with Hassanal over allegations he embezzled billions during his time as finance minister in the 1990s. Ensuing court battles and investigations shone an unwanted spotlight on the family's vast wealth and excesses. —AFP

International

North Koreans process salmon, snow crab eaten in US, Europe

N Korea workers worldwide bring in \$200-\$500 million a year

HUNCHUN: Americans buying seafood for dinner may inadvertently have subsidized the North Korean government as it builds its nuclear weapons program, an Associated Press investigation has found. Their purchases may also have supported forced labor. At a time when North Korea is banned from selling almost anything, the country is sending tens of thousands of workers worldwide to bring in an estimated \$200 million to \$500 million a year.

That could account for a sizable portion of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs, which South Korea says have cost more than \$1 billion. While North Korean workers have been documented overseas, the AP investigation reveals that some products they make go to the United States. AP also tracked products made by North Korean workers to Canada, Germany and elsewhere in the European Union.

In response to the investigation, Senate leaders said Wednesday that the US needs to keep products made by North Koreans out and get China to refuse to hire North Korean workers. "The (Trump) administration needs to ramp up the pressure on China to crack down on trade with North Korea across the board," said top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer. At Chinese factories, North Korean workers aren't allowed to leave their compounds without permission, and must step from housing to factories in pairs or groups,

with North Korean minders.

They receive a fraction of their salaries, while the rest - as much as 70 percent - is taken by the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's government. John Connelly, president of the National Fisheries Institute, urged its 300 members, including the largest seafood importers in the US, to "ensure that wages go to the workers, and are not siphoned off to support a dangerous dictator." Besides seafood, AP found North Korean laborers making wood flooring and sewing garments in Chinese factories. Those industries also export to the US, but

AP did not track specific shipments except for seafood.

American companies aren't allowed to import products made by North Korean workers anywhere in the world, and companies doing business with them could face criminal charges for using North Korean workers or materially benefiting from their work. (The AP employs a small number of support staff in its Pyongyang bureau under a waiver granted by the US government to allow the flow of news and information.) US Customs and Border Protection, responsible for enforcing the law, did not respond to requests for comment.

A repressive regime

"This is a state-sponsored scheme to export folks who are in bonded labor," said Luis CdeBaca, former US ambassador for

“
State-sponsored
scheme to
export folks
”



HUNCHUN: Workers at a seafood processing plant where North Korean workers are distinguished from the Chinese workers by blue overalls wash up after work in the city of Hunchun, in northeastern China's Jilin province. — AP

human trafficking issues. "It's supporting a repressive regime." Western companies involved that responded to AP said forced labor and potential support for North Korea was unacceptable in their supply chains. They said they'd investigate, and some said they'd already cut off ties with suppliers. Meanwhile, as many as 100,000 North Koreans continue to work in construction in the Gulf states, shipbuilding in Poland, logging in Russia and on fishing boats in Uruguay. New UN sanctions bar countries from expanding their North Korean workforce.

Despite the pay and restrictions, the jobs abroad are highly coveted among North Koreans. Roughly 3,000 North Koreans are believed to work in Hunchun, a Chinese industrial hub near the North Korean and Russian borders. At some factories, laborers work hunched over tables as North Korean political slogans blasted from loudspeakers. When a reporter approached a group of North Koreans - women in tight, bright polyester clothes preparing a meal at a garment factory - one confirmed that she and some others were from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. — AP

Row over Pakistani paramilitary unit fuels political confusion

ISLAMABAD: An unexplained dispute between Pakistan's interior minister and an elite paramilitary unit under his command is adding to political confusion in Islamabad, prompting questions about a rift in ties between civilian leaders and the powerful military. The spat comes at a moment of heightened concern over the feverish political climate in nuclear-armed Pakistan, which the United States seeks to include in its new strategy for South Asia.

Interior Minister Ashan Iqbal was taken by surprise when the elite Rangers unit, which provides security around parliament, withdrew its guards without explanation on Wednesday. "I was told the Rangers have unilaterally withdrawn from the important installations where they were on duty, which, for us, was shocking," Iqbal told domestic television channel Dawn News. "This was a gross violation."

Outside parliament on Thursday, the country's Frontier Constabulary was on guard instead. A police official on duty confirmed the Rangers were no longer stationed there. "The order for them to leave did not come from the interior ministry, it must have come from somewhere else," said the official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the topic. Rangers' officials could not immediately be reached for comment. Iqbal did not immediately respond to Reuters' telephone calls to seek comment.

The Rangers had this week denied Iqbal entry to a court



NUSHKI, Pakistan: Pakistani devotees gather around the bodies of blast victims after a suicide bombing near a sufi shrine in the Gandawa area of Jhal Magsi district yesterday. — AFP

building where matters relating to an anti-graft case against Sharif were being heard, prompting him to threaten to resign, saying he refused to be "a puppet interior minister". The moves follow July's Supreme Court disqualification of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, which he blamed on a conspiracy against him, feeding speculation about a rupture in civilian-military ties. Senior leaders from Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) party pointed fingers at the country's military after his disqualification for not declaring a source of income. The army denies playing a role. But the Rangers' departure from the area around parliament points to a persistent disagreement between civilian and military leaders, one analyst said. "They can't just leave their posts," said Zeeshan Salahuddin, communications and strategy director of the Islamabad-based Centre for Research and Security Studies. — Reuters

Serial attacker targets women; 11 stabbed

KARACHI: Pakistan police announced a reward of nearly \$5,000 yesterday for information that could help them nab a serial attacker who has stabbed 11 women so far in the port megacity of Karachi. The attacks began late last month when a man on a motorcycle began sporadically wounding women walking on streets in the eastern part of the sprawling city.

They escalated late Wednesday when the attacker targeted five women in different parts of the neighborhood, bringing the total number of women assaulted to 11 and alarming authorities. CCTV footage of one attack shows the man stabbing a burqa-clad woman from behind and then fleeing, police said. "It is the pattern that he attacks on the women from rear with some sharp pointed object... We have arrested at least eight individuals having similarities with the appearance of the attacker," Samiullah Soomro, a senior police officer said.

Police also announced a reward of 500,000 rupees (\$4,700) for information leading to the attacker's arrest. "Our full focus is on this case and we hope to find the culprit soon," Soomro said. The attacks echo a similar spree in the garrison city of Rawalpindi last year, when a man stabbed 17 women over a series of months, killing one, because he wanted "revenge" for a cruel stepmother. "I hate women," 22-year-old Mohammad Ali told police when he was finally arrested in August. — Reuters

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Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017



This file photo taken on July 29, 2011 shows singer Zack de la Rocha of Rage Against the Machine performing at LA Rising at the LA Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. — AFP

Radiohead, Rage vie for Rock Hall of Fame

Lifestyle

British author Kazuo Ishiguro wins Nobel Literature Prize

British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel "The Remains of the Day" and whose emotional uprooting from his native Japan has left an indelible stamp on his work, won the 2017 Nobel Literature Prize yesterday. The 62-year-old, "in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world," the Academy wrote in its citation. Contacted by the BBC, Ishiguro said he was "flabbergastingly flattered" by the award.

"It's a magnificent honor, mainly because it means that I'm in the footsteps of the greatest authors that have lived. So that's a terrific commendation," he said. Ishiguro has written eight books as well as scripts for film and television. In 1989, he won the Man Booker Prize for "The Remains of the Day", which



In this Saturday, Aug 8, 2017 file photo, author Kazuo Ishiguro shows his book "Nocturnals" before receiving the "Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa" prize for literature.

was published the same year, and in 1995, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his services to literature.

'An exquisite novelist'

"This year's laureate is a brilliant and even exquisite novelist," Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, told the TT news agency after the announcement. She called "The Remains of the Day" a "masterpiece". "It was huge already when it was released. The movie is good too. But it has grown with time, it's a reflection of a class society that has disappeared," she added.

Born in Nagasaki in 1954, nine years after the US dropped a nuclear bomb on the city, Ishiguro moved to Britain with his family when he was five years old. He only returned to visit Japan as an adult some three decades later. Both his first novel "A Pale View of Hills" from 1982 and the subsequent one, "An Artist of the Floating World" from 1986, take place in Nagasaki a few years after World War II. "The themes Ishiguro is most associated with are already present here: memory, time, and self-delusion," the Academy said. "This is particularly notable in his most renowned novel, 'The Remains of the

“Writings are marked by a carefully restrained mode of expression”

Day', which was turned into a 1993 film starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson. Charting the life of a painfully shy, duty-obsessed English butler, the film was nominated for eight Oscars. "Ishiguro's writings are marked by a carefully restrained mode of expression, independent of whatever events are taking place," the Academy said.

'I was taken away'

In a 1989 interview with Bomb Magazine, Ishiguro said: "I tend to be attracted to pre-war and post-war settings because I'm interested in this business of values and ideals being tested, and people having to face up to the notion that their ideals weren't quite what they thought they were before the test came." In a 1991 interview with former Nobel laureate Kenzaburo Oe of Japan, he said the Japan

he wrote about in "An Artist in the Floating World" was "very much my own personal, imaginary Japan." "This may have a lot to do with my own personal history. As a small child, I was taken away from the people I knew, like my

grandparents and my friends. "I couldn't forget Japan because I had to prepare myself for returning to it. So I grew up with a very strong image in my head of this other country, a very important other country to which I had a strong emotional tie," he said. "I'm beginning to see as I get older that my leaving Japan at the point when I did was, in complicated ways, a key defining thing," he said in a 1995 interview with the Financial Times.



Books of British writer Kazuo Ishiguro are on display at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, Sweden, where Ishiguro was announced as winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature.

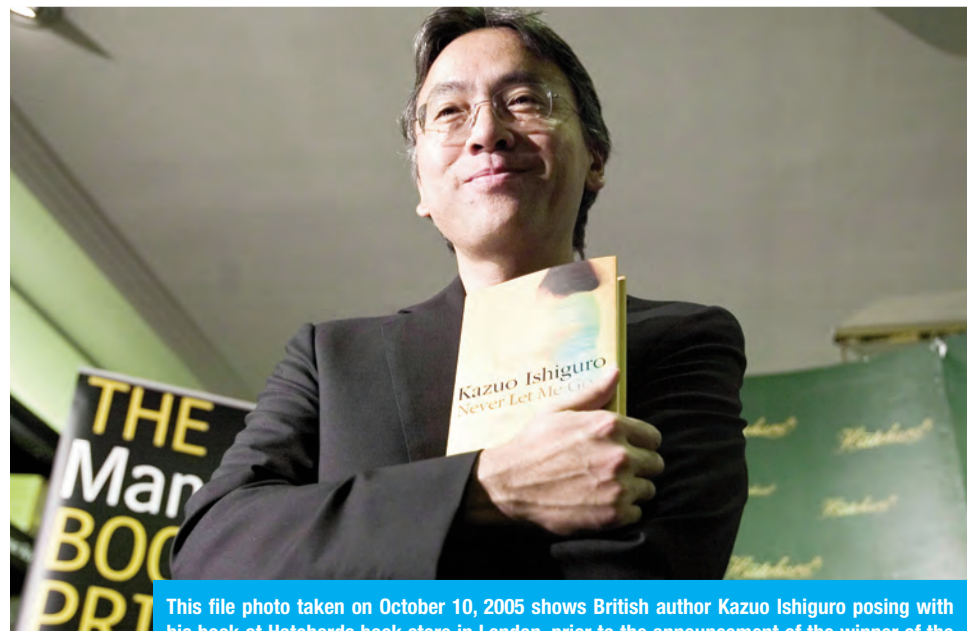
Emulating Dylan

His more recent fiction contains elements of fantasy. With the critically-acclaimed dystopian work "Never Let Me Go" from 2005, Ishiguro introduced "a cold undercurrent" of science fiction into his work. Inspired by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Marcel Proust, Ishiguro's characters often painfully come to terms with who they are without closure.

His latest novel, "The Buried Giant" from 2015 explores "in a moving manner, how memory relates to oblivion, history to the present, and fantasy to reality," the Academy noted. In the book, an elderly couple go on a road trip through an archaic English landscape, hoping to reunite with their adult son, whom they have not seen for years. His publisher Faber & Faber wrote on Twitter after

the announcement, "We're THRILLED Kazuo Ishiguro has won the Nobel Prize!"

Ishiguro, who early in his life wanted to be a rock star, "a new Dylan or something", was not among those tipped as a favorite for this year's Nobel. Now, he and Bob Dylan have something in common. Last year, the 18 members of the Swedish Academy stunned the world by awarding the prestigious honor to the American rock legend and counter-culture icon. The Nobel comes with a prize of nine million kronor (\$1.1 million, 945,000 euros). Ishiguro will receive his prize at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10. — AFP



This file photo taken on October 10, 2005 shows British author Kazuo Ishiguro posing with his book at Hatchards book store in London, prior to the announcement of the winner of the The Man Booker Prize for Fiction. — AFP/AP photos

Lifestyle

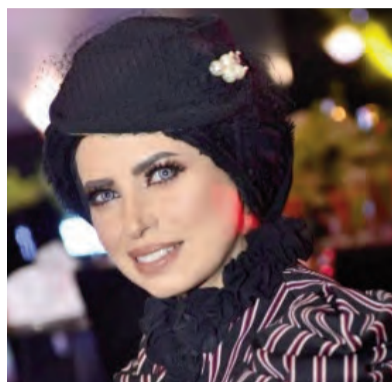
Kuwaiti designer wows Paris with 'Al-Salam' collection



Kuwaiti fashion designer Montaha Al-Ajeel recently took part in an international fashion show in Paris, displaying an outstanding collection of her designs under the name 'Al-Salam'. Speaking to KUNA yesterday, Ajeel expressed her pride in representing Kuwait at such an international convention along with the world's most famous fashion designers.

She also noted that choosing the name 'Al-Salam' for her collection emphasizes Kuwait's role in spreading peace and love worldwide through the efforts of the Humanitarian Leader. Furthermore, Ajeel pointed out that she had previously taken part in several other international events in New York, London, Dubai and other Gulf states.

Notably, Ajeel has won various international awards including The



Montaha Al-Ajeel

Middle East Businesswomen Award, the Beauty Icon Award and the International Entrepreneurship Award, for which she was honored by HH the Amir. — KUNA



Radiohead, Rage vie for Rock Hall of Fame

Vying in a field that includes legend Nina Simone

Experimental icons Radiohead and rock-activists Rage Against the Machine were nominated yesterday for the first time to enter the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, vying in a field that includes singing legend Nina Simone. Two British acts who were major cultural forces in the 1980s—New Wave duo Eurythmics and the darkly emotive Kate Bush—were also in the running for the first time for spots in the shrine to rock culture, which will induct its latest class on April 14 in Cleveland.

Radiohead and Rage Against the Machine received nominations in their first year of eligibility — 25 years after releasing their first recording—often a sign of good chances at making the cut. Winners will be announced in December after voting by more than 900 artists, historians and others in the music industry, along with an online fan poll that accounts for one ballot. Radiohead emerged in the guitar-driven alternative scene of the early 1990s but helped reshape the direction of rock with 1997's "OK Computer" and "Kid A" three years later.

On the albums, the Oxford, England-based band led by Thom Yorke presciently sensed the growing power of the internet, embracing electronics in the music all the while warning of technology's corrosive effects on society. Rage Against the Machine was a frontrunner in merging metal and hip-hop but became most identified with left-wing politics. With a punk spirit, Rage's frontman Zack de la Rocha and guitarist Tom Morello have vociferously

attacked US foreign policy and capitalism itself, while shedding an international spotlight on the campaign of Mexico's Zapatista insurgents.

The nomination of Simone comes as the Hall of Fame gradually expands the definition of rock 'n' roll. As Ice Cube said while being inducted with gangsta rap pioneers N.W.A. last year, rock "is not even a style of music" but instead "a spirit." Simone, who died in 2003 in France, brought a classical sensibility to Gospel and jazz to become one of the 20th century's defining singers. She was also a passionate advocate for racial equality, with civil rights songs such as "Young, Gifted and Black." She has enjoyed a renewed spotlight following a 2015 Netflix documentary, "What Happened, Miss Simone?"

British acts were major cultural forces

Singers who influenced generations

Another late singer nominated for the first time was Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Gospel singer of the 1930s and 1940s whose melodic voice and engaging stage presence influenced early rockers. Kate Bush in a later era also became a model for a generation of singers with the yelping cries of her dramatic soprano voice and an artistic approach that cared little about pop hits. Eurythmics, on the other hand, found worldwide success starting with the 1983 album "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of These)." Singer Annie Lennox, who performed with producer David A. Stewart, has since been outspoken as an advocate for human rights and global development.

Also receiving their first nominations were

three British bands—hit-making blues rockers Dire Straits, R&B-influenced prog-rockers The Moody Blues and theatrical metalheads Judas Priest. Ten other acts are in the running who have been nominated before. Among them is The J. Geils Band, the feel-good rockers behind the hit "Centerfold" whose namesake guitarist died in April.



In this June 27, 1985, file photo, Nina Simone performs at Avery Fisher Hall in New York.

Other rock acts in the running are arena-packing anthem-writers Bon Jovi, Detroit punk forerunners MC5, British Invasion-era group The Zombies and late guitarist Link Wray, who popularized the three-fingered "power chord" so prevalent in metal. Depeche Mode, which has generated a string of synth-pop hits while maintaining an underground appeal, was nomi-



Singer David Bowie

nated for a second straight year.

Other nominees were rapper LL Cool J, New Wavers The Cars, Chaka Khan's Chicago funk greats Rufus, and The Meters, the New Orleans funk band that backed up late R&B legend Allen Toussaint. One notable absence was disco greats Chic, who have been nominated a record 11 times without winning. But Chic's main force, guitarist and producer Nile Rodgers, was inducted this year in a special category for his supporting role in music. — AFP

Iraq flight ban halts dig for lost ancient city

Ismael Nuraddini peers into a hole in the earth of Iraq's Kurdistan region at what researchers believe could be remnants of a lost city dating back more than 2,000 years. Pointing around the Qalatga Darband site, he recounts the discoveries of two statues that may help to prove this was once a thriving hub founded by one of the ancient world's most powerful rulers—Alexander the Great. “One of them looks like Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty in ancient Greece. The other one could be Alexander,” Nuraddini, 62, tells AFP.

Until recently the dig, some 330 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, was buzzing with activity as a team of 15 archaeologists from both Iraq and abroad worked under the stewardship of the British Museum in London to uncover more invaluable treasures. But now the site is silent as the foreign experts—two Britons and a Hungarian—packed up and left last week to avoid becoming stranded after a spat between Iraq's central government and the Kurdish authorities over a disputed independence referendum that saw Baghdad cut international air links to the region. “This is the first time researchers from abroad have had to leave,” said student Rzgar Qader Boskiny, who has been working on a neighboring dig. “They even stayed here when the Islamic State group came near,” he said referring to the jihadists.

Alexander's lost city?

The sudden disappearance of foreign experts has left Nuraddini guarding Qalatga Darband. That is a major job for the self-taught man from the nearby town of Ranya who in 2013 helped to guide foreign researchers to the 60-hectare site perched on the edge of a lake. Archaeologists who have been working on the site describe the find as “exceptional”, but it will take the British Museum project years longer to determine if it genuinely was linked to Alexander the Great.

Some believe it could be a major city from Alexander's empire that was lost from historical records for millennia. But even if those hopes prove

unfounded, it is still an important find. “It was a strategic town, maybe even a provincial capital, that controlled the routes linking different worlds—Mesopotamia, Persia and Ancient Greece,” said Jessica Giraud, the head of French archaeological mission in the region. While the hunt for more clues about Qalatga Darband has ground to a halt, it was assistance from an unlikely source flying overhead that helped experts hone in on the ruins.

CIA spy images

Archaeologists used declassified images taken by the CIA's Cold War spy satellite program in the 1960s to help them survey the site and better focus their explorations. An image of the area from 1967, seen by AFP, shows the outlines of ancient walls, roads and what appears to be a large building that researchers think was a fort and a temple.

“Now we use these images for all our missions,” said Giraud. “Thanks to them we have managed to speed up our searches fivefold.” A joint French-Iraqi mission to map archaeological finds has already found some 354 sites

A major city from Alexander's empire

in the region. Experts put the density of finds down to fertility of the land and the fact that the area was at the crossroads of major kingdoms.

The British Museum project began last autumn and is set to run until 2020, but the current disruptions could mean delays in answering questions surrounding Qalatga Darband. For now only Nuraddini and student Rzgar are left pottering around the abandoned equipment at the site, their lone companion a fisherman drinking tea in the shade of his pick-up. They are hoping that the Iraqi and Kurdish authorities can patch up their differences, which will mean a lifting of the ban on flights to the region. “If this suspension lasts for a long time I fear it will have a negative impact on our work,” said Rzgar. “When the team return then the golden age of archaeology can resume.” —AFP



A picture taken on October 1, 2017 shows a man inspecting a historical site at the ancient city of Qalatga Darband, which is believed to have been founded in 331 BC by Alexander the Great, and discovered by a team of Iraqi and British archaeologists led by experts from the British Museum, in the Raniya district. — AFP photos



A picture taken on October 1, 2017 shows a man inspecting a historical site at the ancient city of Qalatga Darband.



A historical site at the ancient city of Qalatga Darband.

Lifestyle | FEATURE

Taiwan's battle with betel nut addiction

For years Huang Sheng-yi helped feed Taiwan's addiction to the betel nut, planting thousands of the trees on his mountainous farm. Today he has felled most of them, incentivized by the government to grow something else, as part of its push to reduce availability of the nut, which is a stimulant and also a known carcinogen linked to oral cancer.

But the green nut, which is often wrapped in a betel leaf spread with slaked lime to enhance the stimulative effect, is still ubiquitously available at roadside kiosks across the island and chewed by millions daily. The chance of a betel nut user developing oral cancer is 28 times the average person, according to the health ministry.



This picture taken on August 31, 2017 shows workers collecting betel nuts at a home factory in Nantou, central Taiwan.

“Betel nut chewing is deeply ingrained in society”

“Simply promoting the health risks is not enough. Betel nut chewing is too deeply ingrained in society,” says Chuang Li-chen, project manager at Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation, an NGO that offers rehabilitation services for oral cancer survivors. Since a 2003 study confirmed betel nut as a carcinogen there has been a gradual decline in popularity, although around two million people still chew the nut, according to government figures. The nut, which stains users' teeth blood red, remains popular among the working class, particularly men, who rely on its stimulant properties to better cope with long hours of manual labor.

Addictive and deadly

The government is attempting to reduce the amount of betel nut available as part of its plan to tackle the issue. It subsidizes farmers as much as Tw\$250,000 (\$8,315) per hectare if they convert to other crops. Huang now grows oil-seed camellia which produces an edible extract often likened to olive oil at his farm in Lugu town in the central county of Nantou.



A woman sorting out betel nuts.



Huang Sheng-yi, who used to farm betel nuts, inspecting his tea farm in Nantou.

However, the 57-year-old says many are still hesitant to make the leap. It will be more than two years before he can harvest the oil-seed camellia, he says, and he is only able to stay afloat because he has another tea-growing business. “Farmers are reluctant because managing a new crop is much harder,” he told AFP. “There needs to be even greater guidance and incentives to really make a difference.” Authorities concede the program has not yet made a significant dent since it started in 2014.

Of the 42,940 hectares of betel plantations on the island, only 435 have changed crops under the initiative, although more may have done so without government assistance. But Su Mao-hsiang, deputy director of Taiwan's agriculture and food agency says applications have risen this year off the back of government offers of more support. “We hope more farmers can participate in the conversion,” he told AFP.

Betel nut has been part of Taiwan's aboriginal culture for thousands of years, used in ceremonies and rituals. At the height of its popularity it was known as “green gold” because it was such a lucrative crop—second only to rice in value—and many had come to rely on it for their livelihood. Its skinny palms still pervade parts of the rural landscape and flashing signs at roadside kiosks flag down drivers, although they are lower key than in the past. Young women in skimpy outfits—known as “betel nut beauties”—often used to staff the stands are less common now after the government crackdown.

Causes oral cancer

Despite the various measures to curb production and use, campaigners say there is still too little awareness of the damage

betel nut can cause. Former addict Chen Yung-an wishes he had believed his doctor when told he had early signs of oral cancer two decades ago. “I didn't think it was possible. Other people chewed it for years and nothing happened to them,” said Chen, now 53, who had a tumour removed three years ago, taking out a chunk of his right jaw.

Chen went through 200 a day at the peak of his habit, saying it served as a social lubricant among co-workers. “In the rural areas betel nut is like fruit. We didn't have the concept that it was bad for us,” he told AFP. “It felt uncomfortable whenever my mouth wasn't moving. While driving back I would buy Tw\$200 to eat on the car.” “My mouth would only rest when I was sleeping,” he explained.

Today he is limited to eating soft and bite-sized foods to avoid choking and has not worked since the disfiguring surgery. “Of course it's hard to find a job now. I would have to face the looks people give me,” he told AFP. The disease can take 10 to 20 years to develop, which means many people do not seek treatment until it is too late, said Chuang. Only about half of the population is aware of the fact that the betel nut directly induces cancer, even without any other additives, she adds.

“We've let the betel nut industry develop for decades. We can't just ignore the livelihoods of these growers and vendors,” said Chuang. It needs more coordination between education, agricultural and economic departments, she says. “We need a comprehensive approach to effectively tackle this problem at its roots.” — AFP



This picture taken on September 1, 2017 shows Chen Yung-an, who had oral cancer, doing rehabilitation exercises at a recovery centre in Taipei.

Pumpkin Coconut Squares are scrumptious treat for Halloween

By Sara Moulton

Here's a scrumptious treat for Halloween. It happens to be too delicate to give away to the trick-or-treaters, but it's just right for y-o-u and your family and friends at a Halloween party or dinner. Preparing Pumpkin Coconut Squares takes some time, but it's mostly waiting time, not hands-on time. This beauty is four layers thick, and two of them require time to set up. There's a gingersnap crust on the bottom, a layer of pumpkin/coconut milk puree, a layer of tart cream cheese and a topping of toasted coconut flakes.

If you've ever dug into a pumpkin pie or dessert and wondered where the flavor went, I can pinpoint the problem: Pumpkin puree is terribly watery whether it's fresh or canned. It occurred to me that draining it would concentrate the flavor, and here's how to do it: First, wrap it in a layer of cheesecloth, then tie the cheesecloth like a hobo's sack to a chopstick, skewer, or dinner

knife, and finally hang the sack over a deep bowl. Let it drip, drip, drip for eight hours or overnight. Afterward, there will be a fair amount of water at the bottom of the bowl - and even more in the cheesecloth. Squeeze the cheesecloth gently to remove the additional water.

When you're done, you will have captured and eliminated anywhere from 1/2 cup to 3/4 cup water from the puree. (If you don't have cheesecloth, a coffee filter will do the trick.) Be sure to use pumpkin puree, not pumpkin pie filling, which is presweetened. If you're inclined to lighten up the recipe, swap in light coconut milk, one-third-less-fat cream cheese and unsweetened coconut flakes for the specified full-fat ingredients. Then again, it is Halloween and these Pumpkin Coconut Squares are an old-fashioned holiday treat. Feel free to enjoy the uncensored version.



Ingredients

Start to finish: 11 hours, 20 minutes (30 active)

Servings: Makes 36 squares

One 15-ounce can pumpkin puree (not pie filling)

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided, plus extra for buttering the pan

1 1/2 cups finely ground gingersnap crumbs (about 35 2-inch cookies)

2 large eggs

3/4 cup well-stirred unsweetened coconut milk

2/3 cup packed dark brown sugar

1 3/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided

1 3/4 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon table salt

6 ounces cream cheese, softened

3/4 cup confectioners' sugar

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons toasted sweetened coconut flakes

Preparation

Cut out a square of cheesecloth large enough to wrap around the puree with about a 4-inch border on all sides. Spoon the puree into the cheesecloth, tie the ends of the cheesecloth together to form a bag (like what we used to call a hobo sack) and thread a chopstick, skewer or dinner knife through the opening at the top. Place the chopstick over the top of a deep bowl and let the bag hang over the bowl. Chill for at least 8 hours or overnight. After the draining period, squeeze the cheesecloth gently to extract even more water, discard all the liquid at the bottom of the bowl and set the puree aside.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Butter a 9-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan. Melt 1 1/2 tablespoons of the butter. In a medium bowl, stir together the gingersnap crumbs and the melted butter and pat the crumbs evenly into the bottom of the pan. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven until the crumbs begin to darken, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from the oven.

Meanwhile, in the same bowl you mixed the crumb mixture,

whisk the eggs until they are beaten lightly, add the coconut milk, brown sugar, 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of the vanilla, ginger and salt, and whisk until smooth. Stir in the drained pumpkin puree and spread evenly over the crumbs.

Bake on the middle shelf of the oven, until the center has set, about 25 minutes. Remove and let cool completely on a rack. In a medium bowl combine the cream cheese, the remaining 4 1/2 tablespoons butter, confectioners' sugar, remaining 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon and 3/4 teaspoon vanilla; beat until very smooth. Spread the mixture evenly over the top of the cooled pumpkin filling and sprinkle the coconut on top of the cream cheese frosting, pressing it down lightly. Chill until firm, about 2 hours. Cut into 36 squares and serve.

COOKING ON DEADLINE:

Mongolian Beef

By Katie Workman

My family cannot get enough of Asian food, and any time I crank out a dish that announces itself with aromas of garlic, ginger and soy sauce, I pretty much know dinner will be a success. That's why I'm earmarking this dish for Halloween, since getting something hearty in my boys' stomachs before the sugar-palooza is pretty much the extent of what I can control with teenagers. This dish allows a wonderful glaze to coat the ultra-thin slices of steak. It reminds me of something you might get at an old-school Chinese restaurant.

Look for shaved beef steak: napkin-thin slices of beef that can come from any part of the cow. It might be labeled "sandwich steak" (for sandwiches like Philly subs), shabu-shabu beef (for Japanese cooking, or possibly Chinese hot-pot), Pho (used in the traditional Vietnamese soup) or braciolo beef (from that classic Italian dish where it is wrapped around a filling, usually involving breadcrumbs and cheese). It's bulgogi in Korean markets. Rouladen in German butcheries. If you have a friendly butcher, ordering this cut of meat can generate some interesting conversation about the different ways to cook it.

But back to our Mongolian beef recipe. Mongolian beef can be made with different types of thinly sliced or small-cut meat, and if shaved beef isn't an option, place a piece of flank steak in the freezer until it's quite firm but not totally frozen and then thinly slice it across the grain. It will essentially defrost as you cut it. Dusting the slices of beef in cornstarch before sauteing them allows them to brown nicely. Then, when the beef meets with sauce, the cornstarch not only helps thicken the sauce, but it also helps the sauce coat the beef deliciously.

Ingredients

Serves 6
 Start to finish: 25 minutes
 1/4 cup (approximately) plus 2 teaspoons vegetable or canola oil, divided
 2 teaspoons finely minced garlic
 1 tablespoon freshly minced ginger
 1/2 cup less sodium soy sauce
 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
 1 1/2 pounds beef shaved steak
 3 tablespoons cornstarch
 6 scallions, trimmed and thinly sliced (white and green parts)
 Hot cooked brown or white rice to serve

Preparation

In a small saucepan, heat 2 teaspoons of the oil. Add the garlic and ginger, and saute for 30 seconds. Then add the soy sauce and brown sugar and bring to a simmer, whisking frequently over medium heat. Allow it to simmer and reduce a bit, until it gets a glazy consistency, about 4 minutes. Set aside.

Meanwhile, toss the shaved steak in a mixing bowl with the cornstarch until evenly distributed. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large skillet (the bigger the better) over medium high heat. Line a counter or a large plate with paper towels. Sauté the beef in batches, taking care not to crowd the pan, and flipping it as it browns, about 1 minute on each side. Use a fork or tongs to remove the beef when it is browned, transferring it to the paper towels.

Repeat until all of the beef is browned, adding more oil as needed (make sure the oil has a chance to get hot before you add the next batch of beef so it browns up nicely). Pour off any additional oil and return the large skillet to medium high heat. Add all of the beef back to the pan, along with the sauce and scallions. Stir for about 3 minutes, until the sauce is thickened and glazes all of the meat evenly. Serve over the rice. — AP



You need some pumpkin to really ring in the season

By The Culinary Institute of America

There are some major misconceptions about brunch, like that it's just an excuse for people to drink mimosas and bloody marys before noon. And, well, yes - but the drinks are only the third-best thing about brunch. Obviously if we're discussing the merits of this late-morning, early-afternoon, weekend-only occasion, we have to address the very best things about it.

The reason that brunch is the best: dessert for breakfast. Monday through Friday, breakfast should be wholesome, nutrient-filled foods to power you through your day. But on the weekends, brunch menus all over the world are offering us many shapes of cake to break the fast, and it's just not a fair test of any person's willpower.

So if we're all going to agree that once in a while a cake covered in maple syrup is breakfast, then we ought to be prepared with the very best recipe for our at-home brunching occasions. And for that, The Culinary Institute of

America has you covered. But you have to pinky swear to eat something full of whole grains and fruit for breakfast on Monday. Pumpkin spice is a divisive subject, but whether or not you want it in your coffee (or lip balm), you need a little bit of pumpkin to officially ring in the season. So what better way to pumpkin-ify your life than with a delightfully decadent dessert-turned-breakfast?

For this Pumpkin Bread French Toast, we've reverse-engineered a pumpkin bread pudding, which is really just reverse-engineered French toast. First we start with the best pumpkin bread you'll ever make (and that is still super quick and easy). It's then sliced, lightly dried, and dunked in a maple-egg mixture. After a quick cook, it is creamy, dense, and just sweet enough to make you feel like you're breaking the rules. You can pair it with maple syrup, if you like, but if you're going to go for it, you should really go for it.

PUMPKIN BREAD FRENCH TOAST

Ingredients

Servings: 10

Start to finish: 4 hours (Active time: 40 minutes)

Pumpkin Bread:

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature, plus more for greasing

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon ground allspice

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

1 1/2 cups sugar

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1 cup unsweetened pumpkin purée

2 large eggs

1/2 cup milk

1/4 cup unsweetened pumpkin purée

2 tablespoons pure maple syrup

1/2 cup dried fruits, like cranberries and golden raisins

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-in by 5-in loaf pan with butter and set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. Set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine the 4 tablespoons butter, sugar, and vegetable oil. Mix on medium speed, scraping the bottom of the bowl occasionally, until fluffy, about 3 minutes.

Add the pumpkin and mix until combined, about 30 seconds. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing until incorporated each time and scraping the bowl as needed. Add the flour



mixture and mix just until combined, about 30 seconds. Spread the batter into the prepared loaf pan and bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 60 to 75 minutes. Place the pan on a cooling rack to cool for about 10 minutes, then remove from pan and cool completely.

To prepare the French toast, preheat the oven to 300 F. Slice the pumpkin bread into 10 slices and place on a baking sheet. Transfer to the oven and bake until the bread has dried out slightly, flipping once during cooking, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, whisk together the eggs, milk, pumpkin, maple syrup, salt, and cinnamon in a shallow dish.

Once the bread has cooled slightly, melt the butter in a saute pan over medium heat. Working in batches, soak the sliced bread in the egg mixture until it softens slightly, about 20 seconds per side. The bread is very absorbent, so be careful not to oversoak or it will fall apart. Transfer to the hot pan and cook until golden brown on both sides, about 2 minutes per side. Lower the heat as needed to prevent browning.

Combine the milk, cream, vanilla bean, and 1/4 cup of the sugar in a large, heavy, nonreactive saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat.

Prepare an ice bath if you plan to serve the sauce cooled. In a medium bowl, combine the remaining 1/4 cup sugar with the egg yolks. Whisk until thoroughly combined. Temper the eggs by gradually adding about one-third of the hot cream mixture, whisking constantly. Add the remaining cream mixture, return to the pan, and gently cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until it is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, 6 to 8 minutes. Strain the sauce through a fine-mesh sieve into a pitcher to serve warm, or into a bowl set over the ice bath to serve chilled. Stir the sauce occasionally as it cools. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 2 days. — AP

COOKING ON DEADLINE:

Linguine with Lemon, Feta and Basil

By Katie Workman

This is one of those super-fast pastas that you will be happy to add to your repertoire, especially now when many of us are getting swallowed up into back-to-school schedules. You'll even have time to make a green salad while the water comes to a boil, and prep the rest of the ingredients while the pasta cooks. You can make a complete dinner in less than half an hour. Woohoo!

People often wonder how much to salt the cooking water for pasta. The answer is probably more than you'd think. Some chefs say the water should taste like the sea, which may be a bit extreme, but a solid tablespoon of salt in a large pot of water is not overdoing it. The point is that salting the water really can let the salt absorb into the pasta while it's cooking, adding flavor in a way that adding salt later cannot. You will probably add more salt as you put together your dish and make your sauce, but this first salting step is hard to make too much of.

Then, for this particular recipe, you'll want to be judicious with additional salt. Two reasons: You will be using some of the salted cooking water to make the sauce, and you will be adding cheese to the pasta. Parmesan can be a little salty, and feta as well, so as you toss the pasta with the cooking water, cheeses and other ingredients, taste as you go. Remind yourself of the golden rule of salt: You can add more later but you can't take it out.

This pasta dish is vegetarian, but you could add some cooked shrimp or cubes of chicken (sauteed, poached, grilled, whatever you like). This would be a great way to use up a couple of leftover chicken breasts. And while linguine is the suggested noodle here, any pasta shape would work. But every once in a while, it's just plain fun to have a pasta that you can twirl - ask any kid.

Ingredients

Serves 6
Start to finish: 25 minutes
1 pound dried linguine
1/4 cup olive oil, plus more if needed
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
1/2 cup roughly chopped fresh basil
1 cup crumbled feta cheese
Freshly ground pepper to taste

Toasted pine nuts or pumpkin seeds to serve (optional)

Preparation

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and then cook the pasta according to package directions, until al dente. Before draining, remove 1 cup of the cooking water. Drain the pasta. Immediately return the pasta to the pot and add the olive oil, Parmesan, lemon zest and juice, basil, about 3/4 of the crumbled feta, and half of the cooking water. Toss to combine, add salt and pepper to taste, and toss again. If it's a bit dry and can use a touch more salt, add some or all of the remaining cooking water, and also another glug or two of the olive oil. Turn the pasta into a serving bowl and top with the remaining feta, and the pine nuts or pumpkin seeds, if using. A final grind of pepper is a nice touch both flavor-wise and visually. — AP



Havana

A great art city on the rise



A man walks past a mural in Centro Habana.



People walk in the plaza in front of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes.

It's time to hail Havana as one of the world's great art cities. The Cuban capital has never lacked artistic credentials, but a growing band of small private galleries, fresh interest in outlandish street art and the emergence of the extraordinary art collectives has sparked a creative renaissance that has truly put the city

Artistic roots

Havana's artistic roots go deep. The city is home to the oldest arts academy in Latin America, the Academia de Bellas Artes San Alejandro, housed in a colonnaded building in Marianao. Founded in 1818, the academy has bred generations of precocious talent, most notably in the 1920s when it spawned the Vanguardia, a loose collection of painters and sculptors who, rejecting the contemporary penchant for mundane landscapes, invented Cuba's avant-garde.

Where to start

For an introductory expose to the heady world of Cuban art, proceed directly to the bedrock of Havana's art scene, the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, a huge multifarious art museum spread over two campuses in Centro Habana. The 'Arte Cubano' section is the finest collection of Cuban painting in the world. Artists to look out for include Victor Manuel Valdes, executor of the haunting *Gitana Tropical*, a painting sometimes referred to as the 'Latin Mona Lisa' that today is seemingly reproduced on every shower curtain and umbrella in Cuba. Another star is Wilfredo Lam, a colleague of Picasso who absorbed his Spanish amigo's envelope-pushing spirit, but also nurtured distinctive Cuban themes such as Santeria. Lam dominates the middle section of the museum with his dark, abstract works, including his most graphic, *Tercer Mundo*.



The colorful walls of Callejon de Hamel, a project started by local artist Salvador Gonzalez



Fusterlandia's colorful tiles spread across an entire neighborhood.

Havana's gallery scene

Havana has a rich seam of smaller galleries scattered around town displaying art that hasn't yet earned its place in the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. The finest temporary exhibitions are held in the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Willfredo Lam, a diminutive gallery cum cultural center with a popular cafe that curates revolving contemporary shows and hosts the Bial de la Habana, the city's main art festival (held, somewhat bizarrely, every three years). For something even more bizarre, head up the road to Ojo del Ciclón, the artistic lair of Leo D'Lazaro where you can peruse clever interactive exhibits made out of bashed-up old cars and second-hand suitcases. It's an apt mode of expression in a country where shortages still bite.

D'Lazaro's studio isn't the only of its kind. Habana Vieja is awash with intriguing workshops where it's possible to converse with brush-wielding local artists and buy signed copies of their work. The Taller Experimental de Grafica is an engraving workshop where you can meet, join (there are courses) and purchase from top graphic artists. Even more edgy is the Taller Comunitario Jose Martí, the operations center for Yulier P, whose gaunt alien-like figures daubed on Havana's walls have forged a path where few Cuban artists have gone before - graffiti art.

Art Factory

If the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes is one bookend to Havana's art scene, the Fabrica de Arte Cubano is the other. The brainchild of respected Cuban fusion musician, X Alfonso, this multi-faceted art emporium in Vedado is less about the past and more about the future. Housed in an old olive oil factory, the Fabrica's philosophy is to make art of all types (including music and dance) more accessible to the masses. Entrance fees are thus kept low (CUC\$2) and interaction with artists is actively encouraged. A good night at the Fabrica might deliver cutting-edge t-shirt screen-printing, a male-voice choir, a jazz jam and tango dancing lessons. If the Fabrica is too crowded or pretentious for your liking, head over to Enguayabera, a similarly styled art collective that recently opened well off the tourist grid in Havana's Alamar district.

Art cafes & restaurants

In a city where international cafe and restaurant franchises are still absent, it's not uncommon to find yourself imbibing coffee in a makeshift gallery discussing Che Guevara's contribution to Cuban poster art with a bohemian barista. A number of Havana's

newer cafes (opened since the relaxation of business laws in 2011) have a strong artistic bent. Looking like a bookish nook from Paris' Left Bank, El Dandy in Habana Vieja is a fount of good coffee and even better photo art. In a street nearby, Espacios Old Fashioned displays huge abstract canvases etched with stark primary colors that get brighter the more mojitos you sink. Across the city in Vedado, Atelier is one of Havana's top restaurants where French-fusion food competes with creative wall art.

Churches

Considered anti-revolutionary during the Fidel Castro years, religious worship has re-emerged in Cuba following visits by three different popes. As a result, renovated churches have dusted off their faded canvases and made some important rediscoveries. First port of call for art historians should be Havana Cathedral where care and attention has recently been given to some early 19th-century frescos by Italian artist Giuseppe Perovanni. More revolutionary but less heralded is the interior of the Iglesia de Santa Maria del Rosario in the eponymous Outer Havana neighborhood, where you can view the religious musings of one of Cuba's earliest artists, Jose Nicolas de la Escalera, the first person to depict black slaves in his paintings.

Street art

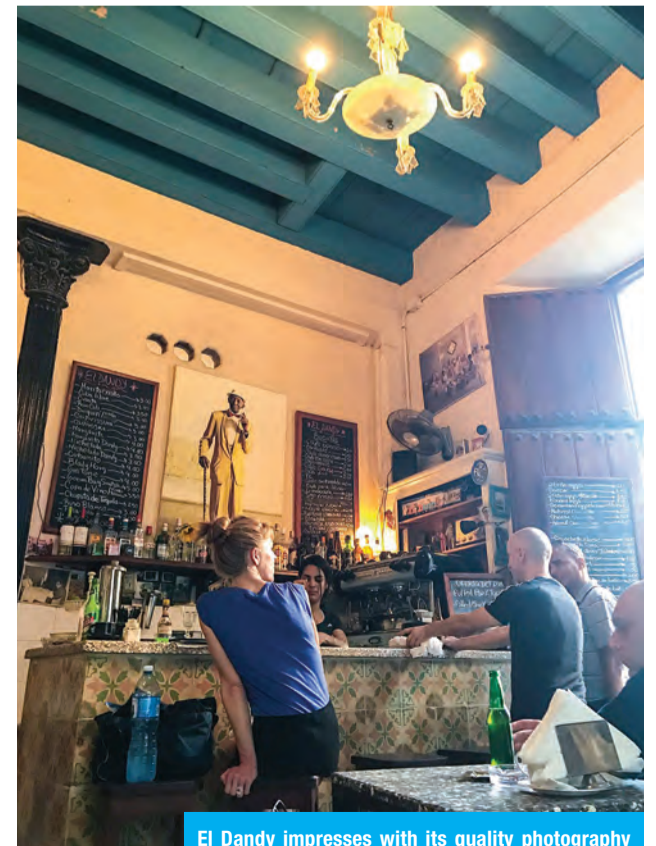
Street art is Havana's sizzling undercurrent. Visible manifestations of street art have been around since the 1950s. Check out the huge mural, Frutas Cubanas, by Vanguardista Amelia Pelaez on the facade of the Hotel Habana Libre. After the revolution, the government filled the city with propaganda-spouting billboards, some of which have artistic merit. The iconography was taken up by Cuban pop artist Ra'l Matinez in the 1960s and reached its zenith in the massive steel stencil of Che Guevara by Cuban artist Enrique Jvila Gonzalez that dominates the Plaza de la Revolución.

By the 1990s, street artists were experimenting in other genres. The Callejón de Hamel is an inspired art project set in a narrow back alley in Centro Havana that acts as the HQ for the city's Afro-Cuban community.

The adornments, including ultra-colorful murals, sculptures fashioned out of scrap metal, and objects relating to Santería, were spearheaded by surrealist artist Salvador Gonzalez, who maintains a studio on the street. Havana's best al fresco art isn't confined to a mere street - it covers an entire neighborhood. Fusterlandia in the fishing community of Jaimanitas is the crazy conception of Jose Fuster, a proponent of a folkloric artistic style

sometimes known as 'na'Ûve art', and an unashamed disciple of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí.

Fusterlandia began in the 1990s, but it's only more recently that it has started to gain international attention and become firmly entrenched on Havana's tour circuit. To date, Fuster has covered over 80 houses with mosaics, murals and curvaceous parapets heavy with Cuban themes and influences. The overall impression is at once surreal and dream-like, but also wonderfully upbeat, sunny and playful. No photo can do it justice. Just go! (www.lonelyplanet.com)



El Dandy impresses with its quality photography art and its tasty coffee

Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are a good worker, always thinking and caring for things. You are naturally service-oriented and enjoy taking care of the needs of others. You are very discriminating and can sort out the good apples from the bad. A career in one of the service or health occupations is possible—you may find yourself automatically taking care of the needs of others. Your occupation may involve a health service, food service or perhaps restoration and salvaging precious objects. You never forsake your ideals when it comes to relationships of any kind. Your imagination is at its best when you are being social or relating to others. You have a real vision of what is involved in the making of a good marriage. This evening is a great time to have a quiet dinner with a loved one.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a high-cycle day with lots of desire to compete with yourself and others. You may try and beat an invisible record of some sort. Learning to manage change—much of it arising from social or technological developments—is vitally important now. Don't be caught sleeping at the switch, thinking that things will remain the same. If you prepare yourself at this time, to go with the changes, you will find a balance is developing right before your eyes. Now is a time to gather and exchange information that prepares you to stay on top of things. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions concerning group issues. You have a natural sense of what the public wants at this time. Clear decisions affecting others could be made.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may decide that it is time to take your work more seriously than usual. A lot of energy goes into getting things scheduled and organized. You are favored today. You should see an overall improvement in your finances because of all the extra work with which you have become involved. Consider asking for a raise. Good luck and positive actions are in the forecast. Fate sends opportunity your way. New information can change your outlook, but you must be on the lookout for it. A closure can be placed on a personal matter today. Your efforts in letting go of this matter will be beneficial. Change is the easiest thing to do. Let it flow and let it go. This is one of your best overall days. Love is in the air this evening—anything is possible!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Mix-ups may occur over appointments today. Trivial matters have a way of escalating before you know it—look at what is underneath it all. So much can be transpiring on so many levels at this time. You may find yourself in the role of peacemaker although you could be in the middle of solving your own turmoil. The role of peacemaker will help you as well as the customer. Customers want your help because you have a way of knowing what is needed. Before going home this evening, pick up some lavender or lavender-scented potpourri at a florist or plant store. The aroma from this plant has a relaxing advantage. A friend that you have lost contact with may come back into your life this evening. You feel like visiting; maybe a phone call is in order.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You reap the rewards of your hard work this week—even though it may only be the good feeling that comes when you know you have done your best. This is a gratifying day. Hand-eye coordination is important—play those computer games or video games and do not feel so guilty. Balance is important, of course, and this may be a good thing to check out right now. This is the best time to join that club or group activity. The energy of a group activity that has the same interests as you do can boost your morale, add to your friendship list and give yourself opportunities to network. Someone near you needs the benefit of the doubt for now. This could be a young person just wanting to be independent. Relax with a loved one this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This could be a challenging day. However, there are wonderful opportunities to move up the corporate ladder and speaking up for your own self is a wise decision. Promote yourself by submitting a proposal to help you advance. This is truly a time to accomplish much. Your management expertise is in high focus and higher-ups are aware of your hard work. You may hesitate in requesting help for some sort of research project but it is important that you are able to allocate and encourage others to help you progress. You are able to be productive and disciplined in your work. You may appear very at-ease and loose this evening. After a tough day at work you are ready for play. You could find a loved one has ideas of how the two of you could relax.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will be pleased at the progress you have made this week—just take a look! This is a satisfying day. Achieving wholeness is the focal point of all areas of your life and this includes the physical as well as the professional, emotional and spiritual. You are ready to achieve a balance in your life. This may not, however, be a good time to make decisions about money. You may want to begin a vacation at this time. If you are not vacationing, you may want to plan some sort of fun outing this evening or for tomorrow evening. Perhaps you can get away from the city lights so you can view the sky with a loved one. Viewing the heavens should be great just now—weather permitting, of course. Good cuddling weather!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If needed, a loan can be obtained today. This is also a time to shed illusions—fast. New information can change your outlook and your life. You may be experiencing a bit of a crunch as your career direction squares off against your more personal interests. This may be a real test for you. There are opportunities for success; watch. You may find yourself more than a little acquisitive and your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend; careful. Staying in the role of observer can be much more effective when dealing with family conflicts just now. You may be right in thinking others are not ready for your input just yet. Create the opportunity for everyone around your living quarters to enjoy the evenings.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Any form of professional advice can be successfully obtained today and tomorrow. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most spontaneous. Learning about people and understanding the difficult personality are accomplishments you enjoy. You are determined to complete any required tasks and to help others with any unfinished work. You feel a love of order and you appreciate responsibilities and duty. The opportunity to interact with other people while you work is something that you also enjoy, although many people may not have your same enthusiasm. You seem to draw out the best in everyone. Much is accomplished today. Consider joining a spa or exercise group or perhaps begin one for an after-work group.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Taking care of business is a major theme where your goals are concerned. You avoid the trap of new-is-always-better and you set out to complete transactions in the most accurate and fast way possible. You may feel more confident than ever; co-workers watch and learn and higher-ups are proud to have you on the team. This evening, you may want to take a look at some new and exciting recipes that will help you on that diet you have either just started or will be starting soon. Meeting the challenge of improving your overall fitness can be more enjoyable if you have a goal. Check out the possibilities of purchasing fun and healthy tidbits for a social event. Consider making your own goodies; add your name and recipe to the goodies you share.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You could have difficulty getting your ideas across to others today. You may want to take the backseat and watch the developing outcome. You may have doubts about those who talk too much and seem long on ideas. Cooperative ventures are more advisable toward the end of this month. There could be things you would not enjoy putting up with if you push situations too fast for now. Working conditions improve considerably. Travel, publishing, teaching and education are strong interests and offer excellent opportunities for growth in many areas of your life. Romance is on your mind this afternoon. If you have been afraid to make the first move in becoming acquainted with someone new, now is the time to make your move.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Radical and inventive ideas hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your status—a shakeup is in the works. Perhaps this is a time to think and study—you have a real appreciation for creative thinking. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter or making a special phone call. Your expectations are high. It is tempting to over obligate your time or energy—keep a balance in all your affairs. Your primary influence at this time involves the need to clarify your priorities. You may find that your friends have a great need for your time and efforts this afternoon. Someone is moving and may appreciate your willing hands or wheels. All of this should go rather smoothly. Someone is in need of your praise this evening.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina Faso	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976

TV LISTINGS



ACTION

01:10 Nick Of Time
02:45 The Rock
05:00 Savage Dog
06:40 Harlock: Space Pirate
08:30 Nick Of Time
10:00 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
11:55 Larceny
13:25 The Rock
15:40 Sherlock Holmes
17:50 X-Men: First Class
20:00 Face/Off
22:15 Never Back Down: No Surrender
23:45 REC 2



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:00 Swamp Brothers
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 Whale Wars
05:02 Wildest Latin America
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Night
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 Whale Wars
12:50 Whale Wars
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Wild Animal Rescue
18:20 Dogs 101: New Tricks
18:48 Dogs 101: New Tricks
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Swamp Brothers
20:38 Swamp Brothers
21:05 Wild Animal Rescue
22:00 Dogs 101: New Tricks
22:28 Dogs 101: New Tricks
22:55 Wildest Latin America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:10 Holby City
01:05 Uncle
01:35 Agatha Raisin
02:25 Benidorm
03:15 New Tricks
04:10 Doctors
04:40 EastEnders
05:10 Agatha Raisin
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Casualty
07:50 Holby City
08:45 Doctors
09:15 Doctors
09:45 Doctors
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Doctors
11:15 Casualty
12:10 Holby City
13:00 EastEnders
13:35 EastEnders
14:05 EastEnders
14:35 EastEnders
15:10 Casualty
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
17:00 Doctors
17:30 Doctors
18:00 Doctors
18:35 Casualty
19:30 I Want My Wife Back
20:00 Top Of The Lake
21:00 Top Of The Lake
22:05 Benidorm
22:55 Uncle
23:25 Mum
23:55 Doctors



00:00 The First 48
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
03:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill

04:00 The First 48
05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 It Takes A Killer
10:30 It Takes A Killer
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 It Takes A Killer
12:00 It Takes A Killer
12:30 It Takes A Killer
13:00 It Takes A Killer
13:30 It Takes A Killer
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 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
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Monster In My Family
23:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover



00:05 Lip Sync Battle
00:30 South Park
00:55 Idiotsitter
01:20 The Half Hour
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Live At The Apollo
04:15 Urban Tarzan
04:40 Framework
05:30 Coaching Bad
06:20 Disaster Date
06:45 Disaster Date
07:10 Disaster Date
07:35 Disaster Date
08:00 Disaster Date
08:30 Tosh.0
08:55 Tosh.0
09:20 Tosh.0
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Idiotsitter
11:00 Idiotsitter
11:25 Idiotsitter
11:50 Idiotsitter
12:15 Idiotsitter
12:40 Impractical Jokers I Special - Joker's Choice
13:05 Impractical Jokers VIII Special - Unseen Scenes
13:30 Catch A Contractor
14:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
14:45 Ridiculousness Arabia
15:09 Ridiculousness Arabia
15:35 Framework
16:30 Lip Sync Battle
16:55 Lip Sync Battle
17:20 Impractical Jokers
17:45 Impractical Jokers
18:10 Impractical Jokers
18:35 Impractical Jokers
19:00 Impractical Jokers
19:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:50 Detroiters
20:12 Workaholics
20:35 Idiotsitter
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 South Park
22:00 Josh Widdicombe - And Another Thing
22:50 The President Show
23:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:05 Finding Bigfoot
00:55 Playhouse Masters
01:45 Space Dealers
02:35 Sonic Sea
03:50 Ultimate Survival
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
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 The Carbonaro Effect

11:35 The Carbonaro Effect
12:00 Superhuman Showdown
12:50 Breaking Magic
13:15 Breaking Magic
13:40 Breaking Magic
14:05 Breaking Magic
14:30 Breaking Magic
14:55 Breaking Magic
15:20 Breaking Magic
15:45 Dynamo: Live At The O2
17:00 The Carbonaro Effect
17:25 The Carbonaro Effect
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
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 The Carbonaro Effect
21:35 The Carbonaro Effect
22:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Finding Bigfoot



00:30 Ghost Asylum
01:20 I Am Homicide
02:10 The Perfect Murder
03:00 Disappeared
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 Evil Online
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 Reasonable Doubt
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 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
22:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
22:50 Evil Lives Here
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 K.C. Undercover
09:25 K.C. Undercover

09:50 Stuck In The Middle
10:40 Disney's Descendants
12:30 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
12:55 The Zhuzhus
13:10 Bizaardvark
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Jessie
14:50 Bizaardvark
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Descendants 2
18:20 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
18:30 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
18:55 The Zhuzhus
19:10 Descendants Wicked World
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Bunk'd
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracked
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 Descendants 2
22:50 Rolling With The Ronks
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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
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 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar
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 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar
23:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons



00:20 Misfit Garage
01:05 What On Earth?
01:50 So You Think You'd Survive?

02:35 Supertruckers
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 Strip The City
06:45 Abandoned Engineering
07:30 Sean Conway - Running Britain
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 Walking The Nile
09:45 Boy To Man
10:30 Storage Hunters UK
11:00 Harley And The Davidsons
12:45 Street Outlaws (Vs. Fast N' Loud Mega Race)
13:32 Street Outlaws (Vs. Fast N' Loud Mega Race)
14:17 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
15:02 Fast N' Loud
15:52 Fast N' Loud
16:42 Fast N' Loud
17:32 Misfit Garage
18:22 Storage Hunters UK
18:52 Storage Hunters UK
19:22 Misfit Garage
20:12 Misfit Garage
21:00 Street Outlaws
21:50 Carspotting
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans (Season 1b Specials)
23:30 Deadliest Catch



06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
08:35 Lab Rats Elite Force
09:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
09:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
09:50 Lab Rats Elite Force
10:20 Lab Rats Elite Force
10:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
11:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
11:35 Lab Rats Elite Force
12:00 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior
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



00:05 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
06:55 E! News
07:10 Just Jillian
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

12:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:30 Eric And Jessie
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 E! News
23:15 Famously Single



00:00 Siba's Table
00:30 Siba's Table
01:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
01:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table: 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
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
20:30 Ching's Amazing Asia
21:00 Jenny Morris Cooks Morocco
21:30 Jenny Morris Cooks Morocco
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:10 Chopping Block
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:20 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Chopping Block
07:05 The Chase
08:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
09:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
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!

TV LISTINGS

17:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
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!
22:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Weapons At War
02:00 In Search Of Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Bible Secrets Revealed
04:30 The Greeks
05:20 Ancient Discoveries
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Weapons At War
08:00 In Search Of Aliens
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
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 Bible Secrets Revealed
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 The Lost Evidence
23:00 The Lost Evidence



00:45 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
01:10 Street Food Around The World
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Places We Go
02:35 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
03:30 Around The World In 80 Dishes
04:25 Bangkok Airport
05:20 A Is For Apple
05:45 Carnival Eats
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Places We Go
08:05 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
09:00 Around The World In 80 Dishes
09:55 Bangkok Airport
10:50 A Is For Apple
11:15 Carnival Eats
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Places We Go
13:05 Places We Go
13:35 Route Awakening
14:00 Route Awakening
14:30 Around The World In 80 Dishes
15:25 Bangkok Airport
16:20 Carnival Eats
16:45 Eat Street
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 Bangkok Airport
20:00 Carnival Eats
20:30 Eat Street
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Places We Go
23:20 Places We Go
23:50 Route Awakening



00:10 Nazi Megastructures
01:00 Big Fix Alaska
02:00 Locked Up Abroad
03:00 Innovation Nation
03:30 Innovation Nation
04:00 Nazi Megastructures
05:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
06:00 The Food Files
06:30 The Food Files
07:00 Genius
08:00 Seconds From Disaster
08:30 Seconds From Disaster
09:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai

10:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
11:00 Hard Time
12:00 Maritime Silk Road Reborn
13:00 The Food Files
13:30 The Food Files
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
14:30 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
15:00 I Am Rebel
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
17:00 Hard Time
18:00 Year Million
19:00 I Am Rebel
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
20:50 Hard Time
21:40 Year Million
22:30 I Am Rebel
23:20 The Food Files
23:45 The Food Files



00:20 Future Cat
01:10 Safari Brothers
02:00 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
02:50 World's Deadliest Killers
03:45 Wild Case Files
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
06:30 World's Deadliest Killers
07:25 Wild Case Files
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Incredible Bats
11:05 Mission Critical
12:00 Ragged Tooth
12:55 Hyena Queen
13:50 Wild 24
14:45 Wild Case Files
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Wild Colombia (1x60 Cutdown)
18:25 Walking With Giraffes
19:20 Wild Case Files
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Wild Colombia (1x60 Cutdown)
22:40 Walking With Giraffes
23:30 Ragged Tooth



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 A Fairly Odd Paradise
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 Jinxed
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers

19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:01 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
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
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17:21 Zack & Quack
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18:00 Rusty Rivets
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21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine



FAMILY

00:30 Zootropolis
02:25 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
04:20 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
06:55 Tom And Huck
08:35 Home On The Range
10:00 Up
11:45 Tom And Huck
13:25 The Wild
15:00 Wall-E
16:45 A Little Game
18:25 Underdog
19:55 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
22:50 The Wild



COMEDY

01:10 Gentlemen Broncos
02:40 Sneakers
04:45 Outside Bet
06:30 Father Of The Bride Part II
08:20 Turner & Hooch
10:05 Sneakers
12:10 Outside Bet
13:55 Father Of The Bride Part II
15:45 Summer Villa
17:15 Breaking The Bank
19:05 Ride Along 2
20:50 Break Point
22:25 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything



FESTIVAL

02:25 Big Night
04:25 Antwone Fisher
06:25 Before I Disappear
08:10 All The Wilderness
09:35 Some Like It Hot
11:40 Antwone Fisher
13:40 The Portrait Of A Lady
16:10 Words And Pictures
18:10 The Yellow Handkerchief
19:55 Infinitely Polar Bear
21:25 Frankie And Johnny
23:25 Danny Collins



KIDS

01:30 The Secret Of Kells
03:00 Bunny Tales
04:20 Rainbow Valley Heroes
06:10 Amila's Secret
07:30 Free Birds
09:00 Elias And The Royal Yacht
10:30 A.R.C.H.I.E.
12:05 Scooby-Doo! And WWE: Curse Of Speed Demon
13:40 Bunny Tales
15:00 Rainbow Valley Heroes
16:40 Oops Noah Is Gone
18:15 A.R.C.H.I.E.
19:50 The Apple & The Worm
21:15 Outback
22:50 Oops Noah Is Gone



00:30 A Million Ways To Die In The West
02:30 Spectre
05:00 While You Were Sleeping
06:45 Dracula Untold
08:20 Norbit
10:05 It's Complicated
12:10 Spectre
14:40 The Theory Of Everything
16:45 Seven Years In Tibet
19:05 National Security
20:35 Mystic River
22:55 Get Rich Or Die Tryin'



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 Invent It Rich
03:00 The Future Of...
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA

06:12 Invent It Rich
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 The Future Of...
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Invent It Rich
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Food Factory USA
11:02 Food Factory USA
11:26 The Future Of...
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Invent It Rich
14:38 The Future Of...
15:26 Food Factory USA
15:50 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Invent It Rich
17:50 The Future Of...
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 You Have Been Warned
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Invent It Rich
22:00 You Have Been Warned
22:50 The Future Of...
23:40 Mythbusters



00:00 Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good...
01:30 Find Me Guilty
03:30 Nothing But The Truth
05:15 Daddy And Them
07:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place
08:45 John Rabe
10:30 King Arthur
12:45 On The Road
15:00 Find Me Guilty
17:00 John Rabe
18:30 Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good...
20:00 The Great Debaters
22:15 The Talented Mr. Ripley



00:00 Cougar Town
00:30 Cougar Town
01:00 Cougar Town
01:30 Cougar Town
02:00 Cougar Town
02:30 Cougar Town
03:00 Fashion Star
04:00 House Of DVF
05:00 MAFS: The First Year
06:00 Cougar Town
06:30 Cougar Town
07:00 Cougar Town
07:30 Cougar Town
08:00 Cougar Town
08:30 Cougar Town
09:00 Fashion Star
10:00 House Of DVF
11:00 MAFS: The First Year
12:00 Cougar Town
12:30 Cougar Town
13:00 Cougar Town
13:30 Cougar Town
14:00 Cougar Town
14:30 Cougar Town
15:00 Fashion Star
16:00 House Of DVF
17:00 Mistresses
18:00 Project Runway
19:00 Project Runway
20:00 Fashion StartUp
21:00 Grey's Anatomy
22:00 Grey's Anatomy
23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress
02:35 Oprah's Master Class
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Sister Wives
06:45 Sister Wives
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners

10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love At First Swipe
11:17 Love At First Swipe
11:40 Love At First Swipe
12:02 Love At First Swipe
12:25 Love At First Swipe
12:47 Love At First Swipe
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Oprah's Master Class
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 Finding My Twin Stranger
18:50 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
23:30 Return To Amish



00:00 Most Terrifying Places In America
01:00 Mysteries At The Museum
02:00 Mysteries At The Castle
03:00 Mysteries At The Museum
04:00 When Ghosts Attack
05:00 Most Terrifying Places In America
06:00 Mysteries At The Museum
07:00 House Hunters International
07:30 House Hunters International
08:00 House Hunters International
08:30 House Hunters International
09:00 Texas Flip And Move
10:00 Hotel Impossible
11:00 Mysteries At The Museum
12:00 Expedition Unknown
13:00 House Hunters International
13:30 House Hunters International
14:00 House Hunters International
14:30 House Hunters International
15:00 Big Time RV
15:30 Big Time RV
16:00 Texas Flip And Move
17:00 Hotel Impossible
18:00 Bizarre Foods America
19:00 House Hunters International
19:30 House Hunters International
20:00 House Hunters International
20:30 House Hunters International
21:00 Salvage Dawgs
21:30 Salvage Dawgs
22:00 Building Alaska
23:00 Ghost Hunters International



00:00 Wanted
01:00 The Unit
01:50 The Art Of More
02:40 Lethal Weapon
03:30 Wanted
04:20 Wanted
05:20 Chicago Fire
06:10 Rosewood
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Wanted
11:20 Chicago Fire
12:10 Rosewood
13:00 The Unit
13:45 Lethal Weapon
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Rosewood
19:00 Chicago Fire
20:00 The Unit
21:00 Survivor: Heroes v. Healers v. Hustlers
22:00 The Amazing Race

Comic

WORD SEARCH

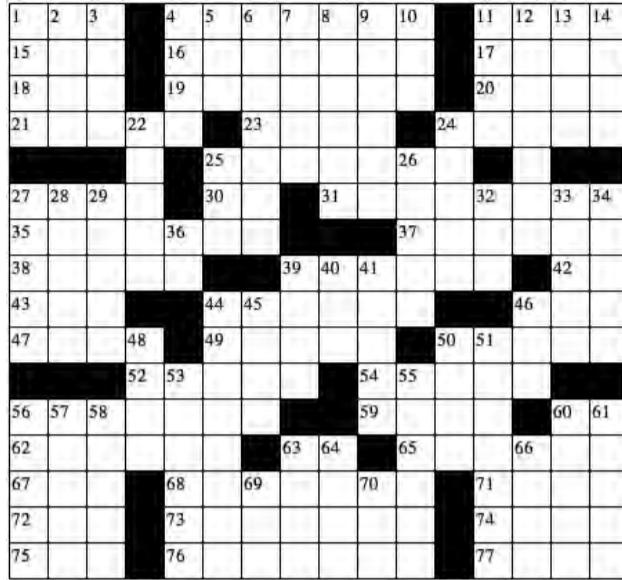
Types of Music 1

Find and circle all of the different types of music that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 14 letters spell an additional type of music.

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

- ACAPELLA
- ACID ROCK
- ACOUSTIC
- AMBIENT
- AVANT-GARDE
- BIG BAND
- BLUEGRASS
- BROADWAY
- CABARET
- CHORAL
- CHRISTMAS
- CLASSIC ROCK
- DANCE
- DISCO
- ELECTRONICA
- FLAMENCO
- FOLK
- GANGSTA RAP
- GOthic
- HEAVY METAL
- HIP HOP
- INDIAN
- INDIE
- JAZZ
- LATIN MUSIC
- LOUNGE
- MERENGUE
- MEXICAN
- NEW WAVE
- POLKA
- PSYCHEDELIC
- PUNK
- ROCKABILLY
- SAMBA
- SOUL
- TANGO
- WALTZ
- WORLD

CROSSWORD 1728



ACROSS

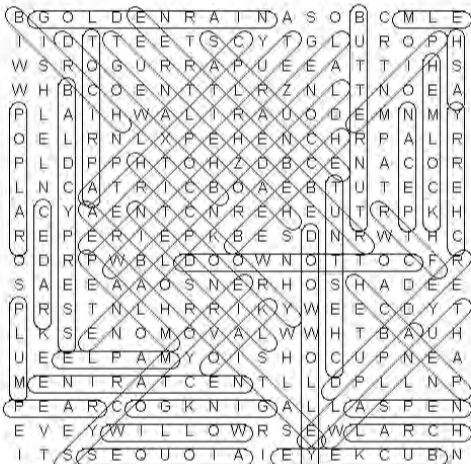
1. Mature female of mammals of which the male is called 'buck'.
4. (law) A courtroom conference between the lawyers and the judge in a trial that is held out of the jury's hearing.
11. A Loloish language.
15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
16. Down feather of young birds.
17. (informal) A bunch.
18. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
19. A passage selected from a larger work.
20. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
21. A corporation authorized by Congress to provide a secondary market for residential mortgages.
23. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
27. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
30. Modulation of the frequency of the (radio) carrier wave.
31. Lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of.
35. Fleshy tawny or reddish saprophytic herb resembling the Indian pipe and growing in woodland humus of eastern North America.
37. French film maker influenced by surrealism.
38. Idle or foolish and irrelevant talk.
42. A class of proteins produced in lymph tissue in vertebrates and that function as antibodies in the immune response.
43. A score in baseball made by a runner touching all four bases safely.
47. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
49. Greek mythology.
52. Undo the ties of.
54. French diplomat who in 1793 tried to draw the United States into the war between France and England (1763-1834).
56. United States Protestant theologian (1892-1971).
59. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
62. The ratio of reflected to incident light.
65. A former British gold coin worth 21 chillings.
67. A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.
68. The god who fathered the islands and gods of Japan with his sister Izanami.
71. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
72. Hawaiian dish of taro root pounded to a paste and often allowed to ferment.
73. (Old Testament) Son of David and King of Israel noted for his wisdom (10th century BC).
74. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
75. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
76. Pouch used in the shipment of mail.
77. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
2. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
3. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
4. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
5. Being nine more than fifty.
6. French artist who immigrated to the United States.
7. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
8. Coarse jute fabric.
9. Wool of the alpaca.
10. Of flax, hemp, or jute, so as to promote loosening of the fibers from the woody tissue.
11. United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
12. A festival featuring African-American culture.
13. An indication of radiant light drawn around the head of a saint.
14. Chief port of Yemen.
22. French impressionist painter (1840-1926).
24. A colorless flammable volatile liquid hydrocarbon used as a solvent.
25. A master's degree in fine arts.
26. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
28. A thick sweet sticky liquid.
29. Complacently or inanely foolish.
32. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
33. A social division of (usually preliterate) people.
34. The younger brother of Edwy who became king of Northumbria when it renounced Edwy.
36. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
39. A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
40. (informal) Of the highest quality.
41. God of wealth and love.
44. No alternation of generations the medusoid phase being entirely suppressed.
45. A set of two similar things considered as a unit.
46. (usually followed by 'to') Naturally disposed toward.
48. A three-dimensional shape with six square or rectangular sides.
50. Relatively small fast-moving sloth.
51. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
53. The practice of living without clothes for reasons of health.
55. Border consisting of anything placed on the edge to finish something (such as a fringe on clothing or on a rug).
57. An ancient city in Asia Minor that was the site of the Trojan War.
58. The principal evil jinni in Islamic mythology.
60. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
61. Molten rock in the earth's crust.
63. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
64. Young sheep.
66. A quantity of no importance.
69. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
70. A state of southwestern India.

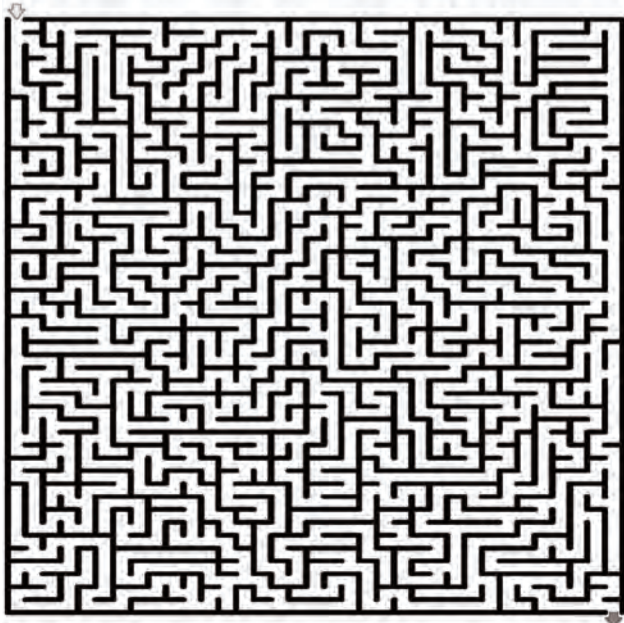
Yesterday's Solution

Trees



The hidden sentence is: A SOCIETY GROWS GREAT WHEN OLD MEN PLANT TREES WHOSE SHADE THEY KNOW THEY SHALL NEVER SIT IN

CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Health

Mental health a concern in Puerto Rico hurricane

Concern about others reaching a breaking point

SAN JUAN: Locked out of his home and with nowhere else to go, Wilfredo Ortiz Marrero rode out Hurricane Maria inside a Jeep, which was lifted off its wheels by floodwaters in the parking lot. He then endured days without enough food or running water. The lights are back on at his residence for low-income elderly people in the San Juan suburb of Trujillo Alto, and food has started arriving, but he still waits as long as he can each night to leave the company of others in the lobby. Alone in his room, he sometimes starts to shake. "You get really depressed," he said Wednesday.

The hurricane that pummeled Puerto Rico two weeks ago and the scarcity-marked aftermath are taking a toll on islanders' equilibrium. The US territory's government counted two suicides among the death toll, which now stands at 34, and with many communities still waiting for power and clean water, there is concern about others reaching a breaking point.

People need help

Students and staff at Ponce Health Sciences University are visiting shelters and people in the hardest-hit communities to provide psychological help, among other services, said Alex Ruiz, special assistant to the university's president. "People's whole worlds were taken from them," he said. "People will need the proper psychological help to get through this."

At a news conference on Wednesday, Gov.

Ricardo Rossello said the death toll jumped to 34 from 16 on the basis of a report that he commissioned to consult with hospitals and gain a more complete picture of the number of victims. He said 20 deaths resulted directly from the storm, including drownings and those killed in mudslides. The count also includes sick and elderly who died in the aftermath of the hurricane, including some who died because oxygen could not be delivered amid power outages. There were also two suicides, but Rossello did not provide details of those.

One elderly woman took her own life Sunday inside a nursing home in Rio Piedras, another San Juan suburb. While the facility's director, Maria Betancourt, said she didn't believe the woman was distressed about the storm, the home was stifling hot on Wednesday after power was wiped out nearly a month ago when Hurricane Irma sideswiped the island on Sept 7, though a generator has kept the lights on. Outside the home there were piles of garbage and fallen tree limbs piled on the side of the road.

Ortiz and other residents of the low-income housing residence in Trujillo Alto said the building administration ordered them to leave ahead of Hurricane Maria, saying the building wasn't equipped to weather the storm. Some were picked up by family, but Ortiz had no relatives to come get him and had no choice but to stay in his Jeep until the storm subsided and a chain on the building's door was removed.



TRUJILLO ALTO: Socorro Marques, 78, a resident at the Aires de Manantial home for low-income elderly people, holds hands with fellow resident Manuela Libra. —AP

'Everybody's drained'

Another resident, Felix Manuel Lopez, a 73-year-old US Army veteran, said he has seen a Veterans Affairs counselor to help with anxiety that came back after he returned from a shelter to his darkened apartment. "Everybody's drained," said Ruiz, the Ponce university official, who recently toured the city on the island's

southern coast to assess people's needs. "Spirits have been broken." On Wednesday, the governor said power has been restored to 8.6 percent of Puerto Rico's customers and the government is hoping to have power back on for 25 percent within a month. Power is being restored at hospitals, and he said the government is looking into which schools can reopen. —AP

CLINIC

PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم



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



Kuwait Times Classified

Friday, October 6, 2017

Kuwait Times
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 05/10/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 24 °C

By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h .

By Day : Hot with light to moderate northerly wind to north easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light fog forming at night	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	Hot
Min Temp °C	24	23	23	22
Max Temp °C	37	39	41	40
Wind Direction	northerly to northerly easterly	south easterly	south easterly to southerly	northerly easterly to variable
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	12 - 42	08 - 30	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 EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	25	36
KUWAIT AIRPORT	24	36
ABDALY	20	36
BUBYAN	22	36
JAHRA	23	36
FAILAKA ISLAND	25	36
SALMIYAH	27	34
AHMADI	33	35
JAL ALIYAH	22	36
QAROH ISLAND	29	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	29	34
NUWAISIB	25	36
WAFRA	24	36
SALMY	20	33
MUTRIBA	21	37

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	42
Min Temp (°C)	22
Max Rel Hum (%)	43
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:44
Sunset	17:28

Tomorrow Prayer Times

Fajr	04:25
Sunrise	05:44
Zuhr	11:36
Asr	14:58
Sunset	17:28
Isha	18:45

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



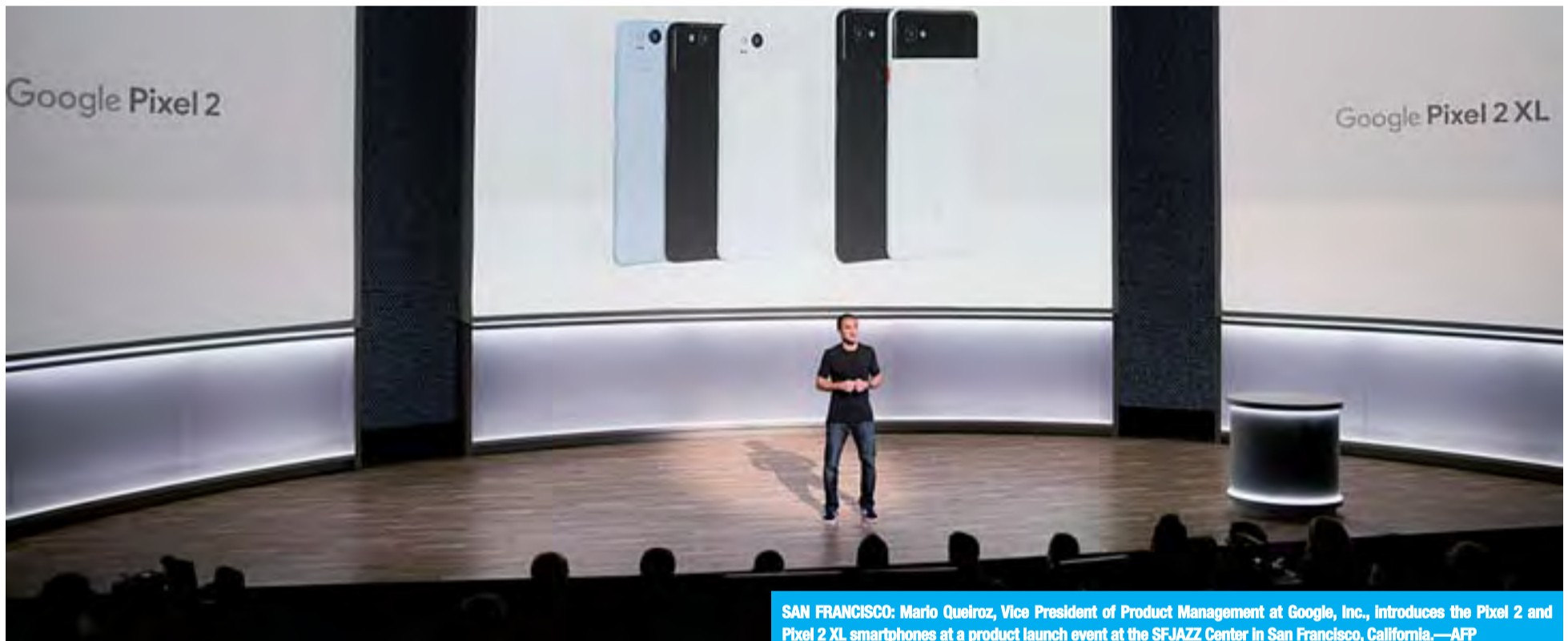
PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE PHARMACY ADDRESS PHONE

Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahael Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559

Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

38 Stock market party settles down for central bank reflection**39** Spain rivals dig in as Catalonia crisis hits banks**40** Prepare now for over-the-cliff Brexit, Germany industry says

SAN FRANCISCO: Mario Queiroz, Vice President of Product Management at Google, Inc., introduces the Pixel 2 and Pixel 2 XL smartphones at a product launch event at the SFJAZZ Center in San Francisco, California.—AFP

Google launches new phones, speakers in hardware push

Pixel phones lack brand luster, market share

SAN FRANCISCO: Alphabet Inc's Google on Wednesday unveiled the second generation of its Pixel smartphone along with new voice-enabled home speakers, redoubling its commitment to the hardware business as it competes with a surge of devices from Apple Inc and Amazon.com Inc. Google's new products, including a Pixelbook laptop, wireless earbuds and a small GoPro-like camera, showcase Google-developed operating systems and services, notably the voice assistant.

That means usage of those devices should stoke the company's core ad sales business as buyers of the hardware use Google services like search and maps. Speaking at the launch in San Francisco, Google hardware chief Rick Osterloh said the new products "perfectly demonstrate our strategy of re-imagining hardware from the inside out." The Pixel 2 smartphone comes in two sizes, with comparable features, including aluminum bodies and no traditional jacks for headphones. Prices for the base model start at \$649, while the high-end version starts at \$849. The phones will be available Oct. 19.

The Pixel phones lack the brand luster and market share of similarly priced smartphones such as the Apple iPhone or Samsung Electronics Co's Galaxy S and Galaxy Note smartphones. Still, the original Pixel's camera and software drew acclaim from reviewers, many of whom expect the line to

become a robust competitor at the high end of the Android smartphone market. Pixelbook, priced at \$999, is the first laptop powered by Google Assistant and will support Snap Inc's Snapchat, the company said. The keyboard folds behind the screen to turn the 12.3-inch touchscreen into a tablet. It will be available in stores from Oct. 31.

Google Home Mini, one of the new speakers, is priced at \$49 in the United States and would rival Amazon.com Inc's popular Echo Dot. It will be available Oct. 19. The Home Max, with dual woofers for more powerful sound, is priced at \$399 and with availability by the end of the year. The Pixel Buds, which are priced at \$149, arrive in November. Clips, which is pocket-sized camera with object detection and automatic recording capabilities, "soon" goes on sale for \$249, Google said. Videos last only a few seconds and do not contain audio.

The Pixel smartphone debuted a year ago, with analysts estimating sales of more than 2 million, pushing Google to record amounts of non-advertising revenue. Google's "other" revenue category, which includes both hardware and sales of online storage services, accounted for about 12 percent of overall sales in its most recent quarter. Last month, Google expanded its hardware development capabilities by picking up a 2,000-person smartphone engineering team at HTC for \$1.1 billion.

"It's pretty clear Google is serious about hardware," said Avi Greengart, research director at consumer data firm GlobalData. "Given that there is a Pixel 2, and given the financial investment, there must be a longer-term strategic intent."

Hardware chief has second go

Google moved into smartphones five years ago with the \$12.5-billion purchase of Motorola Mobility. But Motorola's hardware team, under Osterloh, and Google's Android mobile operating system division remained independent. Google wanted to avoid giving it a special advantage and protect its relationships with Samsung, LG and other distributors of Android. The company later sold the Motorola smartphone business.

Osterloh, now working inside Google, moved to bring in-house the HTC team Google contracted to design the Pixel. He enjoys a strong relationship with Hiroshi Lockheimer, the Android division head. The pair have been friends since working together for several years at Good Technology in the early 2000s. Protecting relationships with others in the Android ecosystem has become less of a concern. Samsung ratcheted down the rivalry with Google after the firms agreed to a major patent licensing deal in early 2014. Other vendors have seen their market share dip.—Reuters

Business

Stock market party settles down for central bank reflection

Euro falls near 7-wk low ahead of ECB minutes

LONDON: Global stocks came off record highs and the euro fell back towards seven-week lows yesterday as minutes from the European Central Bank's last meeting showed policy makers had widespread concerns about the single currency's rapid rise. The ECB's plans to map an exit from an era of ultra-easy monetary conditions could be complicated by the euro's strength, while uncertainty over who will succeed Janet Yellen at the helm of the US Federal Reserve is also keeping investors occupied.

With a number of Fed policymakers due to speak yesterday, including one of the leading candidates for the Fed Chair post, Jerome Powell, there should be more clues on how a recent batch of mixed economic data has affected their thinking. "With the Fed having indicated at the last meeting that it still intends to raise interest rates again this year, it will be interesting to hear whether the data since then has changed this view or whether the same still applies," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at currency broker Oanda.

Monetary policy stole focus from political tensions in Spain, where one of its richest regions Catalonia is set to declare independence on Monday. Spanish bonds recovered ground after firm demand at a debt sale, while its stock market was bolstered by a recovery in Catalan bank shares. Euro zone stocks more broadly steadied from a wobble on

Wednesday, but with public holidays across Asia and some key data due from the world's largest economy the United States coming up later this week, an index of global stocks edged down.

Wall Street was set to open a touch higher, however, eyeing another record high. A Reuters poll showed global stocks will rise even more over the coming year as optimism about the global economy grows, but a slim majority of equity strategists polled by Reuters also said the current eight-year bull run will end in 2018.

Bad bet?

The euro hit a day's low of \$1.737 after the release of the ECB minutes from its September meeting, down 0.2 percent against the

ECB's plan complicated by euro's strength

dollar and heading back towards a seven-week low of \$1.169 hit earlier this week. This will be uncomfortable for the many investors who have staked vast sums on its rise. The amount of cash hedge funds are staking on a rising euro is the biggest in more than five years, the latest positioning data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission showed. There were some eye-catching moves elsewhere in currency markets as economic and political concerns at one stage knocked half a percent off the Australian dollar, the South African rand and the British pound. The dollar was up 0.2 percent against a basket of major currencies on



Dollar pauses before next move; ECB eyed

LONDON: The dollar settled just below a seven-week high yesterday as investors consolidated positions though the economic outlook kept sterling and the Australian dollar under pressure. While the dollar has gained almost 3 percent over the last month against a basket of currencies, thanks to a raft of supportive news ranging from robust data to potential US tax reforms, analysts say gains have been too meagre and there is more room for gains.

"The main reason we think there's a chance we will continue to see a dollar recovery is that the market is too soft when it comes to expectations," said Richard Falkenhall, a senior currency strategist at SEB in Stockholm. Expectations of higher interest rates in the United States are more muted than other developed markets despite strong economic data. For example, markets have assigned a 40 percent probability of two US rate increases over the next year while



TEHRAN: Iranians trade money at a currency exchange office in a shopping centre in Tehran.—AFP

futures markets are predicting the same quantum of hikes over the next six months in Britain, pricing that is at odds with the overall health of the economy. The dollar's index against a group of six major currencies edged 0.1 percent higher to 93.55. It hit a seven-week high of 93.92 on Tuesday.

"The two powerful forces that have emerged - expectation of a Fed hike at the end of the year and European political challenges - appear to have reached a tentative equilibrium," said Marc Chandler, global head of currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman in New York. Despite the tiny ranges in broad currency markets, sterling and the Australian dollar were the standout losers with the former being weighed down by political uncertainty and the latter by soft retail sales numbers and growing signs of softness in commodity markets.—Reuters



TOKYO: A man is reflected on an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo.—AP

Thursday, having slipped a bit on Wednesday after a survey showed hiring slowed to an 11-month low of 135,000, partly to disruptions from hurricanes, although this was better than economists' median forecast.

Economists expect today's non-farm payrolls report, one of the most closely watched pieces of economic data in financial markets, to show a similar slowdown. They estimate a payroll increase in September of 90,000, substantially lower than the average

over the past year of around 175,000, though some say investors may need to pay attention to state data due on Oct. 20 to exclude the impact from hurricanes.

US 10-year bond yields were a tad lower at 2.32 percent, holding below multi-month peaks hit earlier this week. "Because US economic data for August to October is likely to be disrupted by hurricanes, markets may show a much smaller response to them," said Tomoaki Shishido, fixed income analyst at Nomura Securities. — Reuters

Cambodia hikes wages for garment workers

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's government yesterday hiked the minimum wage for garment workers by \$17 a month, heeding demands from unions as Prime Minister Hun Sen looks to shore up support ahead of key polls. The self-described strongman has been leading a policy charm offensive on the garment sector ahead of a national election in 2018 that will test his 32-year hold on power. Since August he has met weekly with crowds of textile employees, who prop up a multi-billion dollar industry and have often clashed with his government over working conditions and pay.

Hun Sen has been handing out cash to workers at the gatherings and also rolled out a raft of new benefits from free medical check-ups to bonuses for pregnant women who give birth. The latest gift was a pay rise that will lift the monthly minimum wage from \$153 to \$170 starting in January 2018. The ministry of labor said in a statement that

employers, union representatives and government officials yesterday afternoon had originally agreed to raise pay only to \$165.

But Hun Sen, who "always cares about the welfare and livelihood of the employees," decided to add \$5 on top, the statement said. Cambodia's more than 740,000 textile workers will also receive other monthly benefits, including \$7 allowance for transportation and accommodation and \$10 reward for regular work. Union representatives and workers applauded the news. "This is the figure that we want," Ath Thorn of the Coalition of Cambodia Apparel Workers Democratic Unions said. A 25-year-old garment worker, Bo Sorphea, told AFP the premier had successfully secured her vote.

"I am happy with the benefits promised by the prime minister. I and my family will vote for him," she said. Hun Sen's outreach to the key voting bloc comes as he cracks down on political opponents. Since he nearly lost to the opposition in a 2013 poll, the 65-year-old has used his clout over the courts to batter his rivals with legal charges. The clampdown 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, nearly half of the opposition party's MPs have fled the country.—AFP

Business

Spanish rivals dig in as Catalonia crisis hits banks

Stock market drop worst since Brexit

MADRID: Big banks threatened yesterday to abandon Catalonia over vows by regional leaders to break away from Spain after the national government rejected calls for mediation in the volatile standoff. With Catalan leaders warning they could proclaim independence in the tourist-friendly region as early as Monday, the economic stakes were rising in Spain's worst political crisis in decades. Catalonia is the country's richest region, accounting for a fifth of Spain's economy and home to thousands of domestic and foreign companies employing millions of people.

Spain's fifth-biggest bank Sabadell was set to discuss whether to shift its legal domicile away from Catalonia in response to the crisis, a spokesman said. Catalan lender Sabadell, the second-biggest bank in the northeastern region, saw its stocks plunge by 10 percent this week as the rhetoric between Barcelona and Madrid intensified.

Sabadell executives called a board meeting for 1500 GMT yesterday and a possible shift of domicile "is one of the subjects that will be discussed and will be decided today," a company spokesman said. Media reports said Catalonia's biggest bank, CaixaBank, was also considering shifting its legal domicile away from the region.

Suspend autonomy?

If Catalan regional president Carles

Puigdemont follows through on his threat to declare independence next week, Spain could respond by suspending Catalonia's existing autonomous status and imposing direct rule from Madrid. That could fan unrest in a region already shocked by a violent police crackdown against unarmed voters in Sunday's independence referendum. The European Union has urged dialogue to ease the standoff, but the sides dug into their positions yesterday.

The tone sharpened with Puigdemont accusing Spain's King Felipe VI of siding with the government in the crisis and "ignoring" the Catalan people. Shocking images of police beating voters with batons, or dragging them by the hair on Sunday sparked international concern. European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans on

Catalonia is the country's richest region

Wednesday defended Madrid's right to "the proportionate use of force" to keep the peace. But he said it was "time to talk, finding a way out of the impasse."

Markets worst since Brexit

With its own language and cultural traditions, claims for independence in Catalonia date back centuries but have surged during recent years of economic crisis. But Spanish media coverage yesterday was dominated by concerns for the eurozone's fourth biggest economy. Leading daily El Pais headlined that the stock market drop was "the worst since



BARCELONA: Picture shows 'La Caixa - Caixabank' Catalan bank headquarters in Barcelona. —AFP

Brexit" was approved in a June 2016 referendum. International credit rating agency Standard and Poor's announced it may downgrade the sovereign debt rating of Catalonia in the next three months.

"We see a risk that this escalation may damage the coordination and communication between the two governments, which is essential to Catalonia's ability to service its debt on time and in full," it said. The overall Ixex 35 index of leading Spanish shares recovered slightly by about one percent in midday trading yesterday, following a sharp fall of nearly three

percent the day before.

Catalan authorities claim that out of the 2.2 million people who voted on Sunday, 90 percent backed independence although turnout was around 42 percent. Madrid has branded the vote a "farce" and Spain's King Felipe VI sided squarely with the central government on Tuesday, accusing separatist leaders of "disloyalty."

Catalan leaders "with their irresponsible conduct could put at risk the economic and social stability of Catalonia and all of Spain", he said. —AFP

Saudis reconsidering speed of austerity plan as economy slumps

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia has told the International Monetary Fund that it is reconsidering the speed at which it imposes austerity steps to avoid slowing the economy too much and boosting unemployment, the IMF said yesterday. "The authorities indicated that they were considering the appropriate pace of fiscal adjustment given the weak growth," the fund said in a report on its annual economic consultations with the kingdom.

Riyadh has been cutting spending while raising taxes and fees to curb a huge state budget deficit caused by low oil prices. Last December it published a plan to eliminate the deficit, which was a record \$98 billion in 2015, by 2020. The deficit is shrinking but at a high cost to the economy: data released this week showed Saudi Arabia in recession during the second quarter while the non-oil sector expanded only 0.6 percent from a year earlier. Consumer prices are falling and unemployment among Saudis has edged up to 12.8 percent.

Riyadh is therefore using the deficit-cutting plan as "broad guidance" but will review and update its targets at regular intervals in response to economic and social conditions, the IMF said. "They saw merit in pushing ahead quickly with the fiscal reforms, particularly as they felt the compensation mechanisms they were developing to support households and businesses would limit the economic impact, but agreed that it is very important to monitor growth and employment and adjust



MOSCOW: A woman looks at Saudi artist Ahmed Mater's 'Magnetism IV' during an exhibition in Moscow. — AFP

the timing of reforms if needed."

The IMF has long been urging the government to slow its austerity drive to avoid damaging the economy, and it suggested in Thursday's report that Riyadh could safely delay balancing the budget until 2022. "The strong fiscal buffers, the availability of financing, and the current cyclical position of the economy mean that rapid fiscal consolidation is neither necessary nor desirable." However, the IMF said it had not so far succeeded in convincing Riyadh to delay domestic fuel and water price hikes set out in the deficit-cutting plan.

Saudi officials think a fast pace of hikes will make them easier to introduce, the fund said without specifying when the hikes would happen. The IMF also said Riyadh was considering whether to impose additional fees and charges on the public, mostly aimed at luxury goods consumption or to recoup some of the cost of state services. —Reuters

EU to single out Chinese imports

BRUSSELS: China will be singled out for special attention under new trade rules to limit excessively cheap imports into the European Union, a European Commission official said yesterday. The Commission, member states and EU lawmakers agreed on Tuesday to treat all World Trade Organization members the same in determining whether they are dumping products.

Under normal circumstances, dumping will mean selling below domestic prices, but the EU will make exceptions for cases of "significant market distortions", allowing investigators to compare export prices with international benchmarks. The Commission has said it would produce reports on major countries where it suspects such distortions prevail. For the time being, however, it will produce only one.

"China will come out first," said a Commission official who requested not to be named. "There is no clear plan to do other reports than for China. "It is resource-intensive," the official continued, adding that the absence of a report on a given country did not mean EU producers could not point to distortions there. The official did not rule out reports on other countries in the future. EU officials have regularly said that, despite the changes for anti-dumping cases, China is not a market economy. —Reuters

Business

Prepare now for over-the-cliff Brexit, Germany industry says

BDI: May lacks clear concept despite talking a lot

BERLIN: German firms with a presence in Britain should make provisions now for a “very hard Brexit”, Germany’s biggest industry group said yesterday, because the government in London does not know what it wants. The Federation of German Industries (BDI) accused British Prime Minister Theresa May’s government of lacking a clear strategy on how to exit the European Union after last year’s referendum.

“After four rounds of negotiations, German industry looks with concern at the progress of the Brexit negotiations,” BDI Managing Director Joachim Lang told reporters in Berlin. “The British government is lacking a clear concept despite talking a lot.” The annual conference of May’s Conservatives showed her party remained deeply divided on Brexit and that a lack of strategy was complicating the negotiations with the EU about Britain’s divorce talks, Lang said.

“German companies with a presence in Britain and Northern Ireland must now make provisions for the serious case of a very hard exit. Anything else would be naive.” Britain is Germany’s third most important single export destination and its fifth biggest overall trading partner. The industry group confirmed that it had set up a task force, including major companies, to prepare for a disruptive British departure from the EU.

Sources told Reuters in September that big

players such as Airbus, Siemens and Deutsche Bank were taking part. “The aim of the task force is to identify potential and acute risks arising from Britain’s departure and to present constructive proposals for solutions,” Lang said. The preparations are the result of growing nervousness after slow and acrimonious negotiations so far between Britain’s Brexit minister David Davis and his counterpart at the European Commission, Michel Barnier.

In Europe’s biggest economy, companies are now preparing for the worst, including the imposition of tariffs and the risk of a loss of access to London financial markets. Foreign direct investments from both sides amount to some 140 billion euros (\$165 billion) and German companies employ roughly 400,000 people in the UK, according to BDI.

Getting ready

The task force, established in early summer, is accelerating its work in regular meetings in Berlin, Lang said. It is expected to present conclusions in December and this could also help shape the position of the next coalition government. Chancellor Angela Merkel has repeatedly made clear that she regrets the British decision to leave the EU but that London should not expect a special deal and that keeping the remaining 27 member states together is more important for her.

Dampening hopes among some Brexiteers

“**British government lacks clear concept**”



MANCHESTER: Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May takes the stage to deliver her speech at the Manchester Central Convention Centre in Manchester, northwest England. —AFP

that London could succeed in driving a wedge between governments and companies in other European countries, Lang said German industry fully backed the EU’s negotiation strategy.

“To make it clear: Yes, German industry wants to keep a very close relationship with Britain. But have no doubt: We prioritise the further development of the EU,” Lang said. “The ball now lies in Britain’s court. The speech by the British prime minister in

Florence two weeks ago by no means brought the clarity that had been hoped for,” Lang said, referring to May’s attempt to speed up negotiations. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said on Tuesday that the fourth round of negotiations did not produce enough agreement for the EU to yield to May’s demands for immediate talks on a free trade deal and a transition to it after Brexit. —Reuters

US jobless claims fall

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell more than expected last week, but the continued impact of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma on the data made it difficult to get a clear picture of the labor market. Other data yesterday pointed to underlying economic strength despite the weather-related disruptions. The trade deficit narrowed in August as exports of goods and services rose to more than a 2-1/2-year high. Orders for core capital goods were stronger in August than previously reported. The reports suggest that trade and business spending on equipment could help to offset some of the anticipated drag on third-quarter economic growth from the storms. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 260,000 for the week ended Sept. 30, the Labor Department said.

Harvey and Irma along with Hurricane Maria affected claims for Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, a Labor Department official said. Economists had forecast claims falling to 265,000 in the latest week. Claims shot up from a low of 236,000 in late August, hitting 298,000 at the start of September. As a result, Harvey and Irma are expected to cut into job growth in September. According to a Reuters survey of economists, the Labor Department’s closely watched employment report on Friday will likely show that nonfarm payrolls increased by 90,000 jobs last month after rising by 156,000 in August. —Reuters

Alaska to make reduced payout from oil fund

ANCHORAGE: Nearly every Alaskan woke up \$1,100 richer yesterday, thanks to this year’s payout from the state’s oil wealth investment fund. The distribution from the Alaska Permanent Fund is essentially free money for residents, who already don’t pay a state income tax or statewide sales tax. But it’s just half of the expected \$2,200 windfall, which was reduced for the second straight year to help the state pay its bills amid a recession due to continued low oil prices.

Unlike previous distributions, the amount of this year’s payout was quietly announced in mid September in a short news release. Gone was the usual announcement made with great fanfare in other years. Here are some facts and history of the checks.

Shrunk checks

A record payout of \$2,072 was distributed to qualifying Alaskans in 2015. Last year, the amount was estimated to be a bit higher until Gov. Bill Walker stepped in and shrunk the amount because of the state’s multibillion-dollar budget deficit, a situation exacerbated by chronically low oil prices. Walker’s action was challenged in court, and ultimately the governor prevailed. In August, the state Supreme Court ruled that Walker acted within his authority in reducing the amount set aside for checks from the fund.



ALASKA: A sign meant to entice recipients of payouts from the state’s Permanent Fund Dividend Division, also known as PFD, advertises a sale in Anchorage, Alaska. —AP

Political repercussions?

The politically-charged court case played out as state lawmakers weigh a major shift that could turn the fund into an endowment and change the dividend program. Walker’s actions to cut the payouts could affect him at the polls, noted Jerry McBeath, a political science professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. “When people think someone wants to take something away from them, which they believe they are entitled to, they are very angry,” he said Wednesday.

“That is what the governor has done.” Walker is up for reelection in 2018. He is an independent, and will not face a primary election. There are announced Republicans in the race while no Democrats have announced their candidacy yet. —AP

Business

TransCanada cancels Energy East pipeline

Carr: 'Conditions have changed'

TORONTO: Pipeline company TransCanada said yesterday its cancelling a plan to build a pipeline that would ship 1.1 million barrels of oil per day from Western Canada to the Atlantic coast. TransCanada Chief Executive Officer Russ Girling said in a statement that "after careful review of changed circumstances, we will be informing the National Energy Board" it won't go ahead. He didn't specify reasons but Alberta's oil sands growth has slowed with the decline in the price of oil and there was stiff environmental opposition in Quebec.

Girling had previously called the pipeline a historic opportunity to connect the oil resources of Canada's west to eastern consumers. He'd noted the oil could be shipped to the US Eastern Seaboard, Asia and Europe. Supporters said the pipeline was necessary to decrease reliance on the US, which takes 97 percent of Canada's energy exports. Alberta has the world's third largest oil reserves, with 170 billion barrels of proven reserves.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, who has opposed the pipeline on environmental grounds, said he was thrilled to see it abandoned. When TransCanada first announced

the project in 2013 oil prices were neared a \$100 a barrel, but are now about half that. Conservative opposition deputy leader Lisa Raitt called it a terrible day for Canada and blamed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for not championing the nation-building project and the nation's energy sector. "Everything Justin Trudeau touches becomes a nightmare," Raitt said.

Last year, Trudeau approved one controversial pipeline from the Alberta oil sands to the Pacific Coast, but rejected another. Trudeau approved Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline to the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby, British Columbia, but rejected Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline to Kitimat,

British Columbia. His government has been trying to balance the oil industry's desire to tap new markets with environmentalists' concerns.

Natural Resource Minister Jim Carr called the TransCanada's decision to end the Energy East pipeline a business decision. "Conditions have changed," Carr said. "Commodity prices are not what they were then." Energy East would have run from Hardisty, Alberta, to

Everything Trudeau touches becomes a nightmare



OTTAWA: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks at the Families of Sisters in Spirit Vigil in support of missing and murdered indigenous women on the steps of Parliament Hill in Ottawa.—AP

Saint John, New Brunswick, and would have been most expensive project in TransCanada's history. Carr noted

TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline to Texas Gulf Coast refineries awaits some final approvals in the United States.—AP

UK car sales skid in September

LONDON: Political and economic uncertainty, not least from Brexit, sent sales of new cars in Britain falling sharply in September, a key month for the industry, data showed yesterday. New car sales fell by 9.3 percent year-on-year to 426,170 vehicles in September, industry body, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said in a statement. It is the first time in six years that new registrations fell in September, a month in which a change in number plates usually buoys the automobile industry.

But this has not been the case this year amid fallout from Britain's decision to quit the European Union. "September is always a barometer of the health of the UK new car market, so this decline will cause considerable concern," said SMMT head Mike Hawes. "Business and political uncertainty is reducing buyer confidence, with consumers and businesses more likely to delay big-ticket purchases," he said. Confusion around government air quality plans may also have contributed to the decline, Hawes



LONDON: This file photo shows second-hand cars sitting in the forecourt of MJA CarSales in Sunbury-on-Thames.—AFP

continued. Under a change in UK tax rules that came into effect in April, all new cars except for those with zero carbon dioxide emissions-are now subject to an annual flat-rate charge. Previously, low-emission models had also been exempt. Demand for petrol-fuelled cars fell 1.2 percent in September, while diesel tumbled 21.7 percent. Sales of alternatively fuelled

vehicle, including electric and hybrid cars, surged 41 percent, the industry data showed. Looking at the nine months to September, total new car sales were down 3.9 percent from the year-earlier period. The best-selling car in Britain last month was the Nissan Qashqai, followed by the Volkswagen Golf, with the Ford Fiesta in third place.—AFP

Uber competitor hits Paris roads with Chinese help

PARIS: An Estonian ride-hailing service started operations in Paris yesterday, tackling market leader Uber armed with backing from China's Didi, bigger margins for drivers and a chief executive who is only 23. The service, Taxify, already claims three million customers in 19 countries. "Paris is essentially dominated by one American company," CEO Markus Villig said. "We want to prove that European companies can also come in and gain a significant market share and show some competition," said Villig who founded Taxify when he was a 19-year old student.

Villig said Taxify had managed to capture 20 to 30 percent of market share within the first year of operations in some countries and "we hope that we can have something similar in France as well". "I'm proud to say that we are the biggest ride sharing platform now in Europe, after Uber, and the biggest European one actually headquartered in Europe," he said. Like Uber, Taxify operates via a smartphone app, allowing users to book rides and pay for them without using cash. But the company says it will take only 15 percent commission from drivers, compared to Uber's 25 percent, and will price the rides 10 percent below the American giant. And unlike Uber, which lost \$2.8 billion in 2016 on turnover of \$6.5 billion, Taxify is profitable, its chief said. It also enjoys the backing of Chinese giant ride-sharing company Didi Chuxing, which last year took over Uber China, driving its US competitor out of China.—AFP

Lewis Hamilton on the hunt for fourth Formula One title lead

Hamilton able to capitalize on Vettel's misfortune

SUZUKA: Lewis Hamilton says there will be no easing off the throttle even if he does not have to win another race after Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix to secure a fourth Formula One title. The Mercedes driver leads Ferrari rival Sebastian Vettel by 34 points in the overall standings with just five races remaining.

As long as Hamilton leaves Suzuka with an advantage of at least 29 points, with seven points the difference between first and second, he can potentially beat the German to the title without stepping on the top step of the podium again. "I think for me, the goal is to continue to win races even if I don't have to win another grand prix through the rest of the year," said Hamilton. "I think that's the best way."

"I'm still hunting for it, I'm not defending it. I'm still chasing that championship. "So until that last flag, until I've actually got it sewn up, then that's what you've got to keep doing," said the Briton, who added that he will not be taking any unnecessary risks.

Hamilton lost the title last year despite winning the last four races, with now-retired team-mate Nico Rosberg chalking up the

second-places he needed to stay ahead in the standings. Vettel crashed out on the opening lap in Singapore and finished fourth in Malaysia last weekend after starting last following a power unit problem that sidelined him in qualifying.

Hamilton has been able to capitalize on Vettel's misfortune, winning in Singapore and finishing second in Malaysia, even though Mercedes were only the third-quickest team on both occasions. The championship leader said the cooler conditions in Japan should suit his car better than the sweltering heat of Singapore and Malaysia.

But he could not be sure how the car, described as a "diva" by team-boss Toto Wolff, would stack up against Ferrari and a resurgent

Red Bull. "Me and the car I think have lots of things in common- it's got great potential but doesn't always want to do what you tell it to do," he joked.

"There's constantly something new thrown in the mix that can catch us off guard and that's the exciting thing about this sport. "If the car was perfect every weekend it would be boring." — Reuters

“I think for me, the goal is to continue to win”

”



SUZUKA: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (C) takes part in an autograph session at Suzuka circuit yesterday, one day before the start of practice sessions for the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix. — AFP

Massa wants a decision on his future by Brazil

SUZUKA: Felipe Massa wants a decision on his Formula One future before next month's Brazilian Grand Prix and has questioned the value of Williams testing would-be replacements Robert Kubica and Paul di Resta in a 2014 car.

Mercedes-powered Williams have yet to finalise their 2018 driver line-up, with Brazilian Massa's place in doubt at the former champions. Lance Stroll, the 18-year-old rookie who is backed by billionaire father Lawrence and secured the team's only podium of the season so far when he finished third in Azerbaijan, is set to stay.

Williams will assess Kubica at Silverstone after this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix and then in Hungary in a direct comparison with di Resta. The plan has yet to be confirmed officially but is an open secret in the paddock.

Former Force India driver Di Resta is the experienced reserve who stood in for an unwell Massa at this year's Hungarian Grand Prix. Kubica has been out of Formula One since a 2011 rally crash that partially severed his right forearm but is seeking a comeback, assisted by former Williams driver and 2006 world champion Nico Rosberg.

Massa told reporters yesterday he did not know about any test plans but it changed nothing for him. "Williams knows 100 percent what I can give to the team," said the 36-year-old, who briefly retired at



Felipe Massa

the end of last year only to return when Valtteri Bottas left Williams to replace retired champion Nico Rosberg at Mercedes.

"Even if they do a test in a car that is four years before (old), (that is) completely different. You cannot evaluate too much," he added. Kubica, 32, has tested already this season with Renault, his former team, completing 142 laps of the Hungaroring in August in a contemporary car.

But the French manufacturer picked Carlos Sainz to replace under-performing Briton Jolyon Palmer instead for 2018. "Definitely I think it would be good for the team and also for myself that we know what's going to happen before the race in Brazil," said Massa, who was given a touching send-off by fans at Sao Paulo's Interlagos track last year. "We'll see if this is possible but I really hope so." — Reuters

All Blacks recall big guns for S Africa clash

CAPE TOWN: Normal service has been restored to the All Blacks who will put their strongest available side on the park for tomorrow's Rugby Championship dead rubber against South Africa. While Brodie Retallick has remained at home following a family tragedy, five other senior players were recalled after being rested when New Zealand played Argentina last week.

New Zealand already have the championship wrapped up, but coach Steve Hansen said they were taking no chances against their arch enemy. Sam Whitelock returns to the second row, Liam Square and Sam Cane are back as the flankers, backline organiser Ryan Crotty will play at centre with Nehe Milner-Skudder on the right wing.

The five were sidelined for last week's match in Buenos Aires to keep them fresh for the Springboks encounter at the end of a fortnight of arduous travel from New Zealand to Argentina and then to South Africa.

Despite Springbok coach Allister Coetzee publicly writing off his side's chances, Hansen believes that behind the scenes they will be seething over

their 57-0 humiliation when they played the All Blacks in New Zealand last month.

"We know we'll be playing a proud Springbok side which will be determined to rectify what happened (in Auckland)," he said when naming his side yesterday. "Our skill execution, our physicality and our ability to play our 'triple threat' game will be critical," he added, referring to the All Blacks plan to keep the opposition guessing whether they will run, pass or kick.

Hansen is also concerned about the impact the travel over the past fortnight will have on their target of going through the Southern Hemisphere championship unbeaten. "Our preparation has been different because of the need to recover well from all the travel," he said. "This has meant that there's been less time on the park and an even greater emphasis than normal on the mental side of our preparation. "While it's necessary for us to try and anticipate what they're going to bring to the match, it's more important for us to focus on what we're going to bring to the encounter." — AFP

Sports

Cavaliers, 76ers get to see their tantalizing guard combinations

Schroder finish with 18 points, first victory for Hawks

PHI:ADELPHIA: Dwyane Wade and Derrick Rose paired in the backcourt in Cleveland. Ben Simmons finally on the floor with Markelle Fultz alongside in Philadelphia. Two Eastern Conference teams with big aspirations got to see some of their tantalizing combinations together in their preseason openers Wednesday night. Wade and Rose made their debuts for the Cavaliers, who got a great first impression from Kevin Love in the center spot. The former All-Star guards both scored seven points as Cleveland lost 109-93 to the Atlanta Hawks while LeBron James sat out while recovering from a sprained left ankle. The Cavs are making Love their starting center this season and he began the game with 3-pointers for Cleveland's



first two baskets. Philadelphia started the last two No. 1 overall picks together in its 111-89 home loss to Memphis. Simmons, who missed all of last season recovering from a broken foot, showed his versatility with six points, nine assists and seven rebounds. He shot only 2 for 8 and Fultz was worse at 2 for 13, finishing with four points in his first game.

HAWKS 109, CAVALIERS 93

Dennis Schroder had 18 points as the Hawks earned their first preseason victory. Love finished with 12 points and five rebounds in 15 minutes.

HAWKS: Taurean Prince had 15 points and eight rebounds. ... Dewayne Dedmon was 6 for 7 from the field and scored 13 points.

CAVALIERS: Jae Crowder, acquired from Boston in the Kyrie Irving trade, started and

scored eight points. ... Iman Shumpert played a little over two minutes off the bench before leaving with a foot injury. ... Kyle Korver shot 1 for 8, 1 for 7 behind the arc, against his former team. ... Rookie Cedi Osman from Turkey had six points in 16 minutes of his debut.

GRIZZLIES 111, 76ERS 89

Brandan Wright scored 16 points as the Grizzlies improved to 2-0 in the preseason. Jahlil Okafor and Robert Covington each scored 13 for the 76ers.

GRIZZLIES: Mike Conley and Marc Gasol sat out. ... Chandler Parsons played 18 minutes and had five points. ... Andrew Harrison scored 14 points and JaMychal

Former All-Star guards scored seven points

Green had 11.

76ERS: JJ Redick scored 11 points in his 76ers debut. ... Joel Embiid and Dario Saric, who finished second and third in last season's Rookie of the Year voting, didn't play. ... Emeka Okafor, the former No. 2 overall pick trying to make an NBA comeback from back injuries, had two points in 9 1/2 minutes.

HORNETS 108, PISTONS 106

Rookie Malik Monk scored 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as Charlotte spoiled Detroit's first game at Little Caesars Arena. Andre Drummond had 16 points and 15 rebounds in the Pistons' preseason opener.

HORNETS: Nicolas Batum sprained his left elbow and left 49 seconds into the game. Jeremy Lamb scored 18 points off the bench. ... Dwight Howard had 12 points and 11 rebounds.



CLEVELAND: Atlanta Hawks' Kent Bazemore (24) controls the ball as Cleveland Cavaliers' JR Smith (5) falls away during the half of an NBA pre-season basketball game in Cleveland. — AP

HORNETS: Frank Kaminsky scored 13 points and Kemba Walker, Marvin Williams and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist all had 10.

PISTONS: Avery Bradley scored 14 points in his first game since coming from Boston in a trade. ... Tobias Harris had 13 points and nine rebounds.

PACERS 108, BUCKS 86

Myles Turner and Lance Stephenson each scored 17 points in Indiana's preseason opener. Gary Payton II had 15 points for a Milwaukee team that put no players in double figures.

PACERS: Victor Oladipo, in his first game since coming from Oklahoma City in the Paul George trade, scored 15 points. Domantas Sabonis, the other player acquired in the deal, shot 3 for 11 off the bench for eight points in 14 minutes. ... Darren Collison finished with 10 points, seven steals and five assists.

BUCKS: All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo

remains out following the death of his father. Also sitting out for the Bucks were Jabari Parker, Thon Maker, Jason Terry and Matthew Dellavedova. ... Rookie of the Year Malcolm Brogdon had five points and three assists.

MAVERICKS 118, BULLS 71

Harrison Barnes scored 17 points, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. added 14 and Dallas cruised to its second victory in two preseason games. Robin Lopez and Paul Zipser each had 12 for the Bulls.

BULLS: Chicago may have run out of gas playing for the second straight night. After a 26-point first quarter, the Bulls limped to the final buzzer with quarters of 17, 17 and 11 points. ... Kris Dunn was 1 for 9 from the field and the Bulls were outscored by 21 points in his 21 minutes.

MAVERICKS: Dallas made 18 3-pointers. ... Dirk Nowitzki had eight points and nine rebounds from the starting center spot. — AP

PAS and Education Ministry meet on joint training centres

KUWAIT: The preparatory meeting for the launch of the fourth season of the joint training centers between the Public Authority for Sports (PAS), Education Ministry and clubs was held under the patronage of Acting Director of PAS Dr Humoud Fulaiteh who was represented by Director of Abdallah Al-Salem Center at the Leaders Training Center Mahmoud Abul.

Abul expressed hopes this meeting will be the true start of the future project and support of the Kuwait sports through the merger of PAS, Education Ministry and clubs and linking communications to ensure the success of this vital project and spread of sports and public health culture while gaining technical skills and achieving the sought after goals. He said international associations put forth several training programs to train the young and hoped that such programs be looked up and used in

developing skills. Waleed Ayes, the physical education general supervisor at the Education Ministry, said he was happy with the meeting with participants in this national project which serves Kuwait sports, and that there is a triangle between PAS, education and clubs to maintain the vital project towards the youth and sports movement, and the goal is not to bring students together only, rather accuracy in selection, discovering talent and polish their skills. He asked all centers to communicate to the Centers General Administration and inform them with any obstructions in the way of the ideal performance of the project.

Physical Education Supervisor Nahid Al-Fahad spoke about the role of PAS in supporting women sport and designating centers for female students for the first time. She said the number of centers was increased from 3 to 6. She said that as an emphasis on the vision of



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to care for youth, PAS is the first supporter of women sports in cooperation with

the Education Ministry in order to ensure the success of this project which is considered part of the development plan.

Nadal primed for 'huge' Isner test at China Open tennis

Cirstea stuns Karolina Pliskova in Beijing

BEIJING: Rafael Nadal said he was braced for the "huge" serve of John Isner after Spain's world number one bulldozed his way into the China Open quarter-finals yesterday.

The 16-time Grand Slam champion Nadal saw off the young Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3, 6-3 to set up a clash with Isner in Beijing. The in-form American, the sixth seed, is renowned for his booming service game and Nadal expects to come under a barrage on Friday. Isner was impressive in blasting his way past Argentina's Leonardo Mayer 6-0, 6-3 and Nadal said: "Tomorrow will be a tough one against Isner, he's playing unbelievably well. "I saw him today, he played so aggressive, having a lot of success, hitting a lot of winners, returning very well.



"Everybody knows that he serves huge and it is so difficult to break him. "But if you add that he is playing very well now from the baseline, he is one of the toughest opponents you can meet."

Nadal, 31, the top seed and coming off the back of a third US Open title, saved two match points against Frenchman Lucas Pouille in his opener in Beijing. But he was always in control on Beijing's outside hard courts against Khachanov, 21, breaking him in the fourth game of the first set on the way to a routine

victory. Andrey Rublev ensured a continued Russian presence in the men's draw as he sprang a surprise in fighting back to oust seventh seed Tomas Berdych 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.

WOZNIACKI OUT

In the women's, a heavyweight clash pitched two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova against Denmark's former number one Caroline Wozniacki. The Czech Kvitova, seeded 12, stormed through the first set 6-1 and although Wozniacki was better in the second set, Kvitova broke her for 6-4 and will play compatriot Barbora Strycova in the quarters. Another former world number one, fourth seed

'I saw him today, he played so aggressive'

Karolina Pliskova, became another high-profile casualty, going out to unseeded Sorana Cirstea. Cirstea follows fellow Romanian Simona Halep into the quarter-finals after the second seed sent Maria Sharapova packing on Wednesday. Cirstea, ranked 44 in the world, stunned the Czech Pliskova 6-1, 7-5 to reach the last eight. She will play Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko, the Roland Garros champion, after China's top player Peng Shuai retired with a knee injury at 3-0 down in the first set.



BEIJING: Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return during his men's second round singles match against Karen Khachanov of Russia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. — AFP

The 31-year-old Peng said she had been having injections to ease the pain and her right knee was heavily strapped, but she could not play on. "The doctor suggested I should take a period of rest and get it treated, but I can only rest after the season, that's the plan," said Peng, ranked 25 in the world.

World number one Garbine Muguruza and

reigning champion Agnieszka Radwanska are both out, leaving world number two Halep as the favourite in the Chinese capital. Also into the quarters is Caroline Garcia, who defeated French compatriot Alize Cornet 6-2, 6-1 and will play third seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. Garcia is in red-hot form after winning the Wuhan Open tomorrow. — AFP

Injured Pattinson ruled out of Ashes series with England

SYDNEY: Injury-prone James Pattinson has been ruled out of the Ashes series with England after aggravating a lower back stress fracture, dealing Australia's fast bowling stocks a blow. It is the same problem that kept the 27-year-old out of Australia's recent tour to Bangladesh, and he will now take an indefinite break to fully recover. "Obviously I am extremely disappointed with this setback after just getting back into a good run of playing cricket," Pattinson said in a statement late Wednesday.

"I'm especially disappointed to miss out on the possibility to play in a home Ashes series. "Over the next few weeks I will discuss all available options available to me with medical staff, to work out the best plan to prevent this from happening again."

Injuries have limited Pattinson to 17 Tests since his 2011 debut against New Zealand and he has not played since July 1 when he represented Nottinghamshire in the final of England's one-day tourna-

ment against Surrey at Lord's.

His absence leaves Mitchell Starc to lead the Australian attack alongside Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, with Nathan Coulter-Nile or Jackson Bird likely to be a fourth option. Australia's sports science and medicine manager Alex Kountouris said it was clear Pattinson's back problem was not going away. "He returned to bowling after a period of rest and unfortunately he is still experiencing pain with bowling," he told the Cricket Australia website. "During this time we have been monitoring him, including regular scans, and recent imaging has confirmed that James has begun to re-aggravate his previous lower back stress fracture.

"As such, he has discontinued bowling as part of his recovery which unfortunately means that he will be unavailable for the beginning of the Sheffield Shield and subsequently the Ashes campaign." Despite the setback, Kountouris said he was confident Pattinson would ultimately recover return to cricket.



James Pattinson

England are due to arrive in Australia in late October with the first of five Tests starting on November 23 in Brisbane. —AFP

Rabada main Test threat to Bangladesh

BLOEMFONTEIN: Having failed to take advantage of favourable first Test conditions, the Bangladesh batsmen have a chance to make amends against the least experienced bowling line-up South Africa have fielded in many years. But conditions are likely to be more bowler-friendly in the second Test starting at the Mangaung Oval on Friday and, on the evidence of Potchefstroom, the tourists are ill-equipped to counter even a South African attack stripped of four front-line fast bowlers because of injury.

Morne Morkel could not finish the first Test because of a side strain, adding to a casualty list which includes Dale Steyn, Vernon Philander and Chris Morris.

It leaves Kagiso Rabada, 22, as the leader of the attack. His tally of 92 wickets in 21 Tests dwarfs those of his likely pace partners, Duanne Olivier (13 in four Tests), Wayne Parnell (13 in five) and Andile Phehlukwayo, who took a single wicket in his debut appearance in Potchefstroom.

Balanced against that is the emergence of left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, who is being hailed as South Africa's best spin bowler of the modern era. Maharaj picked up seven wickets in Potchefstroom to take his total to 50 in just 12 Tests.

Despite a convincing 333-run win in the first Test, South Africa captain Faf du Plessis was unequivocal in calling for a pitch with more pace and bounce. "When you play countries like Bangladesh it is important to get whatever you can (in conditions) to get an advantage," he said. —AFP

Sports

Blues beat Penguins, Connor McDavid has hat trick for Oilers

Giroux and Weal score to get Flyers off to a good start

PITTSBURGH: Alex Pietrangelo beat Matt Murray 1:15 into overtime to give the St. Louis Blues a 5-4 victory over the Stanley Cup-champion Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday in the NHL season opener for both teams. The Blues recovered after letting a two-goal, third-period lead slip away when Pietrangelo's shot from the slot hit Murray and slipped under the crossbar for his second goal of the game. Paul Stastny had a goal and an assist for the Blues, Brayden Schenn and Colton Parayko also scored, and Jake Allen finished with 34 saves.

Sidney Crosby and Conor Sheary scored 54 seconds apart in the third to tie it, but the Penguins couldn't complete the comeback on a night the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions raised the franchise's fifth Cup banner to the rafters at PPG Paints Arena. Justin Schultz and Olli Maatta also scored for the Penguins. Murray stopped 28 shots.

Just 115 days after finishing off a heated challenge from Nashville in the finals, the Penguins began the quest for the first three-peat in 35 years with one last nod to the franchise's fifth championship. The players received their commemorative bling during a private ceremony on Tuesday night, coming together to pose with their respective nine-carat rings that feature nearly 400 diamonds and come engraved with coach Mike Sullivan's mantra "play the right way." On Wednesday the party grew considerably larger, with the 485th



Penguins began quest for the first three-peat in 35 years

consecutive home sellout roaring during an electric pregame ceremony that included Crosby skating to mid-ice with the Cup held aloft and the 2017 banner making its way to the rafters.

OILERS 3, FLAMES 0

Connor McDavid looks more than ready to pick up where he left off last season - McDavid had a hat trick as the Oilers shut out the Flames in Edmonton's home opener. McDavid led the NHL with 100 points last season and earned the Hart Trophy as the league's most valuable player. The Oilers captain used his speed to blow past defenders on several occasions throughout the game, scoring once in the first period and twice in the third. "It's a good way to start," said McDavid. "Everybody was making a big deal about Calgary's defense, but it was our defense that was great tonight. They were moving pucks up to the forwards so we could do what we get paid to do."

MAPLE LEAFS 7, JETS 2

Patrick Marleau scored twice in his Maple Leafs debut and Toronto beat Winnipeg. The 38-year-old Marleau signed with Toronto as a free agent after 19 seasons with the San Jose Sharks. He has 510 career goals. Nazem Kadri, James van Riemsdyk and William Nylander scored in a three-minute span in the first period. Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner also scored, and Frederik Andersen made 35 saves. Mark Scheifele ended Andersen's



PITTSBURGH: Matt Murray #30 of the Pittsburgh Penguins makes a save against Dmitrij Jaskin #23 of the St. Louis Blues at PPG PAINTS Arena. —AFP

shutout bid midway through the third period, and Mathieu Perreault also scored for Winnipeg. New Jets goalie Steve Mason was pulled after Marleau's second goal 36 seconds into the third period, having allowed five goals on 20 shots. Connor Hellebuyck stopped nine of 11 shots in relief.

FLYERS 5, SHARKS 3

Wayne Simmonds scored his second power-play goal to break a tie with 10:33 remaining and completed an opening-night hat trick with an empty-netter as the Flyers beat San Jose. Claude

Giroux and Jordan Weal also scored to get the Flyers off to a good start after missing the playoffs last season. Jakub Voracek and Shayne Gostisbehere each had three assists for Philadelphia. Brian Elliott made 32 saves in his first game with the Flyers after signing a \$5.5 million, two-year contract this summer. Kevin Labanc became the first San Jose player to score two goals in the opening period of the season but also was called for three minor penalties that all led to goals for the Flyers. Logan Couture also scored for the Sharks, who had won seven straight openers. —AP

Bradley's stunning triple helps D-backs beat Rockies 11-8

PHOENIX: Relief pitcher Archie Bradley hit a stunning triple in the seventh inning, driving in two runs with one of four three-baggers by Arizona that sent the Diamondbacks past the Colorado Rockies 11-8 in the National League wild-card game Wednesday night. Paul Goldschmidt launched an early three-run homer and the Diamondbacks built a 6-0 lead before ace Zack Greinke faltered. Colorado climbed back into it and cut it to 8-7 when Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story hit back-to-back homers in the eighth off Bradley, perhaps exhausted from hustling around the bases and shouting in excitement to giddy teammates. But then A.J. Pollock knocked in two runs with Arizona's fourth triple, this one off closer Greg Holland, as the Diamondbacks scored three times in their half of the eighth to finally put away a wild

game. Arizona moved on to a best-of-five Division Series against the NL West champion Dodgers, a team the Diamondbacks beat the last six times they played. Game 1 is Friday night in Los Angeles.

Arizona became the first team with four triples in a postseason game since the Boston Americans (now Red Sox) twice hit five during the first World Series back in 1903 against Pittsburgh. It was that kind of crazy night in the desert as the two NL West foes slugged it out. Daniel Descalso also homered for the Diamondbacks, and Ketel Marte tripled twice.

Bradley, the spirited reliever who had one hit in four at-bats all season, knocked Pat Neshek's 3-1 pitch to deep left-center with two outs in the seventh for the first triple by a reliever in postseason history.



PHOENIX: Trevor Story #27 of the Colorado Rockies hits a broken bat single during the top of the fourth inning of the National League Wild Card game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. —AFP

The lanky pitcher, a fan favorite with a bushy beard, regrouped from the two solo homers he gave up to get the final two outs of the eighth with the Diamondbacks clinging to a one-run lead. Fernando Rodney allowed a run in the ninth before closing it out.

Jonathan Lucroy doubled twice, scored two runs and drove in one for the Rockies in their first postseason appearance since 2009. Jake Lamb tied an Arizona postseason record with four hits, all singles, and scored three times. Marte, who came to Arizona with pitcher Taijuan Walker from Seattle for Jean Segura in an offseason deal,

became the first player to triple twice in a postseason game since Mariano Duncan did it for Philadelphia against Atlanta in the 1993 NL Championship Series.

The home team won for just the second time in the six NL wild-card games since the one-game format was adopted in 2012. The hosts hadn't even scored in the last three, but the Diamondbacks ended that before their first out.

Goldschmidt, in an 0-for-17 slump to end the regular season, hit the first pitch he saw from ineffective starter Jon Gray into the left-field seats for a three-run shot. —AP

Football player convicted of rape earned second chance

Richmond stood out from others because of his discipline and maturity

CLEVELAND: Youngstown State football coach Bo Pelini says a player convicted of rape as a teen has earned a second chance by staying disciplined, focused and out of trouble. Ma'lik Richmond will be allowed to remain on the team's active roster after settling a lawsuit Monday against the school, which had told him he wouldn't be allowed to play this season after he made the team.

Richmond was 16 in 2013 when he and a Steubenville High School teammate were convicted of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl during an alcohol-fueled party. Richmond served about 10 months in a juvenile prison in a case that garnered international attention through social media and included allegations of a cover-up to protect a storied high school football team.

Pelini told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he gave Richmond a chance after hearing him accept responsibility for his conviction. "I didn't make this decision lightly," Pelini said. "He was extremely remorseful. I saw a young man who was desperately wanting to better his life and those of the people around him."

Pelini, the former Nebraska coach in his

third season at Youngstown State, said Richmond stood out from other 21-year-olds because of his focus, discipline and maturity.

Richmond was released in January 2014 and attended colleges in West Virginia and Pennsylvania before transferring to Youngstown State in the fall of 2016 as a sophomore.

Richmond and his legal guardians spoke with Pelini and YSU President Jim Tressel about joining the team after he enrolled. Pelini researched Richmond's past before meeting him, then said he made no promises and told Richmond he'd have to earn good grades and stay out of trouble to be on the team.

"He stuck with it," Pelini said. "He went over and above. He knew he had no room for error." Richmond began practicing with the team as a defensive end after Youngstown State's loss in the Football Championship Subdivision title game in January. Pelini said Richmond, a walk-on player with no scholarship, showed talent but was a "work in progress."

When The Youngstown Vindicator wrote a story in August noting that Richmond was on the team, a student circulated a petition calling for the school to bar Richmond from playing

“ I didn't make this decision lightly ”



FRISCO: File photo, Youngstown State head coach Bo Pelini. — AP

football. Youngstown State subsequently sent a university-wide email that said Richmond could continue to practice but could not be on the active roster this season and would lose a year of eligibility. Richmond quit the team after learning of the email and went home to Steubenville, prompting Pelini, another coach, and three teammates to visit him and convince him to return to school. Pelini said he told

Richmond during the visit: "You need to get your butt back to campus and trust that things are gonna work out. You can't walk away from school, you've come this far. It's time to stick it out." It was a mistake not to publicize Richmond's place on the team or address concerns earlier, Pelini said. "I'm not stupid," Pelini said. "I understand that the opportunity to be a part of the team raises questions." — AP

Southgate backs Sterling to improve form

LONDON: Winger Raheem Sterling has the determination to replicate his domestic form for the England national side, manager Gareth Southgate has said ahead of the penultimate World Cup qualifier against Slovenia.

Sterling has scored six goals in nine appearances for Manchester City this season but his international form has been mediocre in recent years, with the 22-year-old scoring the most recent of his two international goals in September 2015. The former Liverpool player was withdrawn at half time in England's win over Malta last month and played seven minutes in the subsequent fixture against Slovakia.

But Sterling, who has 34 caps for England, has been backed by Southgate to raise his game. "I think Raheem is a tough lad," Southgate told reporters. "That's one of the attributes I really like about him. He bounces back from disappointments and he goes again."

"He is ready, I can see he is ready for the game and looking forward to it. He is in a good place with his club, he is working with a good coach there and we have huge belief in him as well."

"We want the crowd to be excited



BURTON UPON TRENT: England manager Gareth Southgate (left) takes part in a training session at St George's Park, Burton upon Trent. — AP

with what they're watching, and he's a player who can do that: he can beat people; his goalscoring record is improving, and he works hard for the team, chasing back and tackling. He's not just a winger." Sterling could replace Tottenham Hotspur forward Dele Alli in the England starting side after the 21-year-old received a one-

match suspension for a rude gesture during last month's 2-1 win over Slovakia at Wembley. — Reuters

England, who lead Group F on 20 points, will seal a spot in the 2018 World Cup in Russia if they beat third-placed Slovenia at Wembley. Southgate's side travel to Lithuania for their final qualifier on Sunday. — Reuters

FIFA satisfied with Russia's World Cup preparations

MOSCOW: A top FIFA official yesterday said world's football governing body was satisfied with Russia's World Cup preparations but warned a "significant" amount of work was still to be done. "In general the state of readiness is good," Colin Smith, FIFA's director of competitions, told journalists in Moscow after an inspection of host cities. But he cautioned: "There are still some risks and a significant amount of work to be done—especially in the next two or three months" to finish all the infrastructure by the end of this year.

"We look forward to the test matches because ultimately that's the first opportunity we'll get to see the facilities in action," Smith added. Smith, who heads the FIFA operational commission, said during the 10-day inspection tour his board had focused on the cities and venues that did not host matches for the Confederations Cup last summer. "We've looked at the readiness of not only the stadiums but the host cities (as a) whole, so we looked at the training sites, hotels, airports and the general road infrastructure."

The FIFA commission boss dismissed security fears, arguing that the Russian organisers' security strategy had passed a serious test during the Confederations Cup. "For the World Cup there's a detailed security concept in place," Smith said. — AFP

Sports

Syria's Omar al-Soma puts WCup play-off on knife-edge

Sets up a nerve-wracking second leg in Sydney

MALACCA: Omar al-Soma buried a late penalty as war-torn Syria drew 1-1 with Australia to put their two-legged World Cup play-off on a knife-edge yesterday.

Australia were within sight of victory after Robbie Kruse's first-half goal, but when Mathew Leckie nudged Soma on 84 minutes the towering forward made no mistake from the spot.

It sets up a nerve-wracking second leg in Sydney on Tuesday, with the eventual winners going into another play-off with a CONCACAF federation team for a spot at Russia 2018.

Syria, playing their 'home' games in Malaysia because of the civil war raging in their country, are pursuing their dream of playing their first World Cup, while Asian champions Australia are trying to reach their fourth in a row.

Both teams made a cagey start in front of a sparse but Syrian-dominated crowd in sultry conditions at the Hang Jebat Stadium, a low-key setting for such an important game. Mark Milligan's fizzing shot with the outside of his left boot tested Mahmoud al-Youssef on 19 minutes, while

Soma provided Syria's chief threat at the other end.

Matthew Leckie blasted over on 29 minutes before Soma twice set up Omar Khribin for opportunities that the in-form Al Hilal striker put wide of the Australian goal. Five minutes before half-time, Leckie created Australia's opener when he received a ball down the right from Milos Degenek, cut inside and arrowed a shot which went in off the boot of Kruse.

After the break, Tomi Juric was unlucky to see his shot come back off the woodwork-and even unluckier when, bizarrely, he crashed the rebound off the same post. But Syria were looking dangerous and Khribin had a shot blocked by Leckie, before Soma headed a good chance

over and was then denied an almost certain goal by Degenek's last-ditch lunge.

As the game headed into the final quarter, Ouday Jaffal had a close-range free kick cleared off the line and Khribin's deflected set piece sailed just wide. Syria should have been level on 78 minutes but Soma's point-blank header was deflected



MALACCA: Khaled Albayed of Syria (2L) and Mathew Leckie of Australia (C) fight for the ball during the 2018 World Cup qualifying football match between Syria and Australia. — AFP

onto the post in a reflex stop by Soccerroos 'keeper Mathew Ryan. The critical moment came with six minutes to go, when Leckie made contact mid-air with Soma and Iranian referee Alireza Faghani pointed to

the spot. In the dying moments, Trent Sainsbury had a close-range header saved and Ryan clawed away a Moayad al-Ajan shot, but they shared the spoils to set up Tuesday's tense decider in Sydney. — AFP



Syria, playing 'home' games in Malaysia

Brazil arrests Olympic committee chairman on Rio corruption charges

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian police yesterday arrested the chairman of the country's Olympic Committee as part of a probe into alleged buying of votes to secure Rio's hosting of the 2016 Games. Police said in a statement that Carlos Nuzman, 75, was arrested on suspicion of corruption, money laundering and criminal association. Twenty police officers deployed early yesterday in Rio de Janeiro on orders from a federal judge, arresting Nuzman and seizing documents. The officers also arrested the Rio 2016 committee's chief operating officer Leonardo Gryner, according to an AFP photographer. Following an investigation dubbed "Unfair Play" that spanned several countries, Brazilian officials last month said Nuzman was the "lynchpin" in a plot to bribe the International Olympic Committee into awarding Rio de Janeiro last year's Games.

At the time, Nuzman was detained and questioned and authorities confiscated his passport. Authorities allege that former Rio governor Sergio Cabral, who is serving a 14-year prison term for bribery and money laundering, was the mastermind of the plot, which saw \$2 million in bribes paid to the son of Senegalese IOC member Lamine Diack before the 2009 vote in which Rio beat Chicago, Madrid and Tokyo to win the 2016 Games. — AFP

India set to make World Cup soccer debut as participant

KOLKATA: India's team will set a benchmark regardless of its result against the United States in the Under-17 World Cup today. It will be the first time the cricket-crazy country of 1.2 billion has played in a World Cup game at any level of soccer, and the anticipation is high in the host nation.

Organizers are confident that the government's 1.2 billion rupees (\$18.5 million) investment in renovating stadiums in six cities to host the 24-team tournament will help showcase the country as a venue for major events. The Indian public is keen to put memories of the scandal-hit 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi behind them, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government hopes to promote football across the country through the Under-17 event.

The country's leading sports celebrity - India cricket captain Virat Kohli - lent a big hand with the public relations push locally by posting a video message for the team to his 18.8 million Twitter followers saying "Good Luck boys, make us proud!"

But while the infrastructure and facilities were ready well ahead of time and the anticipation is growing around the Oct. 6-28 tournament, analysts and commentators have urged football fans not to place unrealistic expectations on the team.

Luis Norton de Matos, who took over as head coach in March to replace Nicolai Adam, is among those calling for patience as his lineup takes "a first step for the future" of the game in India. In the first of their three group games in the capital, India will play a US team featuring Tim Weah, the son of the 1995 world player of the year, George Weah of Liberia, who played for PSG, AC Milan and Monaco during his career.

Games against Colombia and two-time champion Ghana



MUMBAI: New Zealand soccer coach Danny Hay speaks during a press conference ahead of their match against Turkey for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Mumbai. — AP

follow. "There is a gap between India and the other teams, say from Europe and South America," de Matos was quoted as saying last month by Press Trust of India. "So, I don't think much about the results and chances but I know my players will give their best. I see this World Cup as a step forward for the future ... India can build on this experience."

The US placed fourth in the 1999 edition. "This cycle of players is unique in terms of the quality, depth and work ethic of the group," US head coach John Hackworth said as he unveiled his squad. "The biggest challenge in selecting this roster was the competition for spots at almost every position. Our team is ... motivated to prove themselves on the world stage."

Nigeria, which has won the last two titles and five overall at the under-17 level, didn't qualify from Africa, leaving three-time champion Brazil as the most successful country in the tournament. While the event has been the starting point for the stars such as Ronaldinho and Neymar, this edition will be missing some of the brighter lights in the age group. — AP

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Mumbai: Indian policemen stand near the poster of FIFA U-17 football World trophy at The D.Y. Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai yesterday. — AFP

**India set to make World Cup
soccer debut as participant**