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7 Turkey troops, militants clash ahead of incursion



16 Nadal punishes Kyrgios; Garcia stuns Halep to win China Open



Visit visas to be issued to 7 restricted nationalities

More health fee exemptions announced

Egypt qualify for World Cup; Amir congratulates feat

CAIRO: Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah converted a stoppage-time penalty to give Egypt a dramatic 2-1 win over Congo Brazzaville yesterday and a place at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Salah put Egypt ahead during the second half in Alexandria only for Arnold Bouka Moutou to equalize two minutes from the end of regular time. Victory gave Egypt an uncatchable four-point lead over Uganda in Group E with one round of fixtures remaining. Uganda were held 0-0 by Ghana in Kampala Saturday.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Egyptian President Abdelattah Al-Sisi to congratulate him for the national team's qualification. The Amir commended the dedication and performance of the Egyptian players and the overwhelming support they got from the Egyptian fans. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Egypt last qualified for the World Cup in 1990 with the record seven-time African champions suffering numerous heartbreaking failures since. The desperation to qualify was so great ahead of the Congo match that Argentina-born Egypt coach Hector Cuper admitted he was taking medication for high blood pressure.

"I am taking hypertension medicine due to the stress I suffer from continuing criticism," he told reporters without specifying who his critics were. Life is full of stress, but the challenge of reaching the World Cup is the toughest stress I have faced." Egypt also beat Congo away and Ghana and Uganda at home to accumulate 12 points, with the only loss away to Uganda. — Agencies



ALEXANDRIA: Egypt's Mohamed Salah vies for the ball during a World Cup 2018 qualifying match between Egypt and Congo at the Borg El-Arab stadium yesterday. — AFP

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Well-informed sources said Deputy PM and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah has instructed the citizenship, passports and residency affairs sector to prepare a full study on the total numbers of expats belonging to seven nationalities on whom entry restrictions have been imposed, pending granting visit visas to their first-degree relatives.

The sources added that the office of the interior ministry's assistant under-secretary for citizenship, passports and residency affairs Maj Gen Mazen Al-Jarrah has already started calculating the number of expats belonging to these seven nationalities who are living in the country and have applied for family visit visas for reunion purposes.

The sources said that the study showed that 14,000 residents, mainly Syrians, have applied for such visas and were asked to check with the department three months later. The study also recommended installing new forgery detectors at the airport to prevent the entry of passengers with fake passports. The study stressed that only first-degree relatives would be given family visit visas and that dependent visas will be restricted to certain humanitarian cases only.

Separately, following up the increase in health fees for expats, several 'explanatory decisions' have been issued to exempt expats from the fees or from the fee increases, to include husbands of

Kuwaiti women holding valid residency visas. The decisions also include collecting the old fees from domestic helpers without any increases.

Another decision exempted patients admitted to ICUs based on medical reports from their doctors, a recommendation from the head of department and the hospital manager's endorsement. In addition, examination of non-Kuwaiti patients suffering from infectious diseases, those mingling with them or those arriving from stricken countries will be done according to the previous fees.

Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi yesterday reiterated that the increase in the fees is due to the high expense burden of healthcare on the ministry. Those exempt from the fees include children under the age of 12, cancer patients, non-Kuwaiti women married to Kuwaitis, non-Kuwaiti mothers of Kuwaitis and the daughters of a Kuwaiti mother married to a non-Kuwaiti.

Other exemptions include people receiving care at welfare homes, Gulf Cooperation Council citizens, illegal residents (bedoons), members of official delegations, transit travelers, non-Kuwaiti prisoners and students on a Kuwaiti-funded grant. Also, non-Kuwaiti blind patients will be exempt from overnight hospital stay fees, while non-Kuwaiti special needs cases will be given the same treatment as their Kuwaiti counterparts with regards to prosthetic amputee rehabilitation.

Trump, Corker in testy tweet battle

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump blamed Senator Bob Corker for the Iran nuclear deal yesterday in a series of derisive Twitter posts that drew a sharp comeback from the lawmaker, an influential fellow Republican and onetime ally. The senator, who announced his retirement last month, was a national security adviser to Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign and on Trump's shortlist last year for both vice president and secretary of state.

More recently, he has criticized Trump, taking issue with the president's response to a white supremacist demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August. Critics assailed Trump for saying rival protesters were also to blame for violence. "Senator Bob Corker 'begged' me to endorse him for re-election in Tennessee. I said 'NO' and he dropped out (said he could not win without my endorsement)," Trump wrote. "He also wanted to be Secretary of State. I said 'NO THANKS.' He is also largely responsible for the horrendous Iran Deal! Hence, I would fully expect Corker to be a negative voice and stand in the way of our great agenda. Didn't have the guts to run!"

An hour later Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, tweeted back: "It's a shame the

White House has become an adult day care center. Someone obviously missed their shift this morning." Corker's chief of staff, Todd Womack, said Trump called the senator last Monday, asked him to reconsider his decision not to seek re-election in 2018, "and reaffirmed that he would have endorsed him, as he has said many times."

Trump is expected to disclose within days a plan to decertify the 2015 international nuclear agreement with Iran, putting its future in the hands of Congress, where Corker would play a central role in determining its fate. Trump has long criticized the pact, a signature foreign policy achievement of Democratic former President Barack Obama in which Iran agreed to reduce its

Continued on Page 11

Kuwait 'ice ladies' lace up for world hockey tourney

KUWAIT: In their red, white and blue uniforms, Kuwait's first female ice hockey team is training hard in the desert ahead of their debut world tournament later this month. Affectionately dubbed the "ice ladies" by local media, athletes in hijab or with their hair hastily tied in topknots pull on their helmets before taking to the rink in the Kuwaiti capital - where temperatures top 40 degrees Celsius on a sunny October afternoon.

"It's totally new, girls playing this sort of demanding sport here in Kuwait and in the Gulf, but it goes to show that in

sports there is truly no difference between men and women," said team player Bahar Al-Harban. Women on ice have grabbed headlines in the Gulf this year, with UAE national Zahra Lari gaining popularity on social media - and through a Nike campaign in the Middle East - as the Emirates' first female figure skater and the first international figure skater to compete in hijab.

Kuwait's women's ice hockey team will play their first international game on Oct 30 at the Ice Hockey World

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: Members of Kuwait's women's ice hockey team take part in a training session at the ice-skating rink on Sept 29, 2017. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Saudis tackling border spillover from Yemen war

AL KHUBAH, Saudi Arabia: Gas masks lie abandoned among rusting debris in a shell-pocked Saudi military outpost on the border with war-torn Yemen, an enduring flashpoint in more than two years of fighting against Houthi rebels. The post in Al Khubah, a deserted village framed by barren mountain ridges, is one of several border guard bases the rebels have targeted since a Saudi-led coalition began its military intervention in Yemen in 2015.

The Iran-backed insurgents' hit-and-

run incursions and rocket barrages have not jeopardized Saudi control of the vast frontier, but they have underscored how the raging conflict in Yemen is spilling across the border, threatening scores of villages like Al Khubah. "The Houthis thought we will withdraw," Saudi border guard Colonel Mohammed al-Hameed said as he gave AFP a rare tour of the battered base. "But we are still very much in control," he added, broken glass and bullet casings crunching under his feet.

Continued on Page 11



AL-KHUBAH, Saudi Arabia: Saudi border guards keep watch along the border with Yemen in this area in southern Jizan province on Oct 3, 2017. — AFP

News in brief

New law to tackle monopoly

KUWAIT: The minister of commerce and industry has laid out executive regulations of a law seeking to break long-standing commercial monopolies, paving the way to economic reforms. The law seeks to "establish a closer rapport between agents and clients" through eliminating a monopoly in place since 1964, which in turn would lead to economic development, a statement by Khaled Al-Roudhan said. Roudhan, who is also acting minister of state for youth affairs, said that the law states that agents are contractually obligated to distribute, sell or promote goods and services in adherence to state rules. Meanwhile, as per the new regulations, all businesses and companies involved in illicit transactions will face legal action, the law warns. The National Assembly endorsed a law in Feb 2016 aiming to regulate commercial agencies.

Progress on paperless procedures

DUBAI: Kuwait is making tangible progress towards embracing a full-fledged e-system to be activated across government bodies and institutions, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. In remarks to KUNA on the sidelines of the 2017 GITEX Technology Week conference and exhibition, Deputy Director General of Kuwait's Central Agency for Information Technology Qusai Al-Shatti spoke of earnest efforts to establish a reliable database for numerical computation. "We continue to offer e-government services that make peoples' lives much easier," he pointed out. He added that Kuwaiti participation in the GITEX event was solid, where government bodies such as the ministries of finance and interior are among the participants.

Quality standardization vital

KUWAIT: Achieving a quality standard in Kuwait will play a vital role in the economic and commercial development of the country, a number of experts said yesterday. Head of the Kuwaiti Society for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights Sheikh Salman Al-Dawood Al-Sabah and development and planning researcher Dr Abdulaziz Al-Turki had similar views on the importance of quality standards. They said that the leadership should focus on quality standards and use it as a measurement for the success of Kuwait's vision 2035, affirming that the concentration on topnotch quality must go hand in hand with plans for progress.

Local

Speaker Ghanem, MP Fadhalah brief Amir on visits to United States, Geneva

Amir condemns terror attack on Saudi forces

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. Ghanem was accompanied by member of the parliamentary caucus MP Yousef Saleh Al-Fadhalah following his return from the United States after handing in a letter from His Highness the Amir to former US President George W Bush. Ghanem also briefed His Highness the Amir on the outcomes of his visit to Geneva and his meeting with Saber Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Ghanem and Fadhalah later visited His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah accompanied by visiting Foreign Minister of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Deputy Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, as well as His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, as well as Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Condolences

In other news, His Highness the Amir strongly condemned the "heinous terrorist" attack that killed two Saudi forces and injured three others in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday. His Highness the Amir, in a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, said the State of Kuwait stood firmly behind Saudi Arabia in all measures it deemed necessary to confront the terrorist acts to restore security. His Highness the Amir reiterated rejection to all forms of terrorism and terror financing. He prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow his blessing upon the deceased and wished speedy recovery for the wounded.

His Highness the Crown Prince sent a cable to King Salman to express condolences over the attack against a check point outside the West Gate of Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, while His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a similar cable. Also, Speaker Ghanem sent a condolences cable to Chairman of the Saudi Shura Council (Consultative Assembly) Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh condemning the



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and MP Yousef Saleh Al-Fadhalah. — KUNA

attack. He expressed his strong condemnation of the attack that killed two guards and injured three others. He reaffirmed that the State of Kuwait stands firmly behind Saudi Arabia in all measures it deemed necessary to confront all terrorist acts and restore security.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the shooting attack that targeted a checkpoint of the Saudi Royal Guard in front of the western gate of the Peace Palace in Jeddah. The State of Kuwait reaffirms its full solidarity with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and supports all measures it might take to defend its security and stability, a senior official at the

Ministry said in a press release on Saturday night. Kuwait, renewing its principled stand against all forms of terrorism, calls for doubling the international efforts to combat terrorism, according to the statement. It expressed condolences for the leaders and people of Saudi Arabia as well as the families of the two security guards who were martyred in the attack, and wished the three wounded others quick recovery. The assailant, identified as Mansur bin Hassan bin Ali al-Fahid al-Amiri, 28 years, was shot dead by the security forces, the Saudi SPA reported, citing sources of the Ministry of Interior. — KUNA



Kuwait stands behind Saudi Arabia in confronting terrorism

Prime minister returns home



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak is seen shortly after his return back home from New York. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah returned home Saturday after chairing Kuwait's delegation to UN General Assembly's (UNGA) 72nd session, held in New York. His Highness the Prime Minister was received at the airport by His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Parliament Speaker Essa Al-Kanderi, First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh and senior officials. —KUNA

Kuwait, Cyprus ink energy memo

KUWAIT: The foreign minister, who inked a memo for energy cooperation with his visiting Cypriot counterpart yesterday, lauded 50 years of close bonds with the friendly Mediterranean republic. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also the First Deputy Prime Minister, praised continuing growth of bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the friendly Republic of Cyprus, during a meeting with his Cypriot counterpart, Ioannis Kasoulides, at Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's bureau.

Minister Kasoulides is currently on an official visit to Kuwait marking the 50th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled has expressed congratulations on the occasion, affirming that these bonds have been deep and quite solid. Meanwhile, Kasoulides voiced great satisfaction at the level of the historic and friendly relations between the two countries.

The two ministers, during the meeting, examined means of boosting further the close relations and exchanged views over a host of



KUWAIT: Foreign minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Cypriot counterpart ink a memo for energy cooperation yesterday. — KUNA

regional and international affairs. They signed, at end of the meeting, a memo between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil and the Cypriot energy ministry for cooperation in the hydrocarbon field. They also inked a protocol and minutes for correcting the tourism cooperation accord, signed in Kuwait on October 8, 2013. Kuwait and Cyprus established relations at ambassadorial level in 2005.

Earlier yesterday, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received Kasoulides, and they discussed bilateral relations, issues of common interest and the

latest regional and international developments. The meeting was also attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi. Ghanem also received Kuwait Ambassador to New Zealand Ahmad Al-Wuhaib. Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo Enver Hoxhaj. The letter tackled bilateral ties between both nations and means to boost and enhance them in various domains, as well as the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. —KUNA

EPA endorses 'disaster risk' awareness

KUWAIT: Environment Public Authority (EPA) chief Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Homoud Al-Sabah stressed the importance of enhancing the concept of disaster risk awareness to achieve sustainable development. "Disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness measures, are necessary in the light of the latest developments in the international arena," said the EPA Board Chairman and Director-General.

He made the remarks in his opening speech yesterday at a workshop, entitled 'Disaster Risk Reduction,' on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction. He underlined the importance of cooperation between the EPA and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, which he said would aim to help the society to reduce the risks of disasters. Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi said that the subject of disaster risk reduction is receiving great attention at the global level. — KUNA

KFH participates in Kuwait University's new academic year festivals

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated in the new academic year festivals organized by Kuwait University to celebrate the start of the new academic year. This participation comes as an appreciation from KFH of the significance of education for society and the economic development in general as well as the role of Kuwait University.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of university officials and professors headed by Kuwait University Director Dr Hussein Al-Ansari. Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh and the public relations team represented KFH at the event.

Latest updates on the educational process were viewed in the ceremony including all preparations made to make the new academic year a success. It was reiterated that all means and tools must be provided to achieve the highest level of academic education and assist both students and professors to achieve their ambitions and distinctions in education.

Kuwait University Director Dr Hussein Al-Ansari praised KFH role in sponsoring and supporting stu-



KUWAIT: Kuwait University Director Dr Hussein Al-Ansari honors KFH's Yousef Al-Ruwaieh.

dents and their projects. KFH is also appreciated for its great interest in the educational process which is considered as a highly significant pillar in the society development in general. The educational process is also considered as one of the main elements of a robust economy while coping with the latest developments worldwide. He reiterated that KFH presence in such ceremonies and its practices in this field are con-

sidered as a model for all private sector entities to show more interest in educational centers and spread knowledge.

Meanwhile, Ruwaieh confirmed KFH ongoing commitment towards assuming the social responsibility while supporting students and the university officials and professors who are the main pillar in achieving the comprehensive development in the country.

Zain launches fourth edition of Zain Great Idea (ZGI) Boot Camp

Over 130 entrepreneurs submitted their ideas



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of the first phase of its Zain Great Idea (ZGI) accelerator program in its fourth edition, the ZGI Boot Camp. The program aims at identifying and fostering hi-tech entrepreneurs in Kuwait.

The accelerator program, launched last September, is a Zain initiative in partnership with Brilliant Lab, a startup accelerator service from Kuwait, and Mind The Bridge, a Silicon Valley-based organization specializ-

ing in entrepreneurship education for startups, enterprises and investors. The previous three successful two-year programs (2010-11, 2013-14, and 2015-16) has seen the empowerment, training, and investment in hundreds of creative and driven young Kuwaitis, of which many now own thriving Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The program witnessed overwhelming participation since its launch in mid-September, with over 130 entrepreneurs submitted their ideas for the fourth edition.

Zain held the first orientation day for the participants at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh, where the first phase, ZGI Boot Camp, was launched. Furthermore, the terms and guidelines were shared with the participants in preparation for the judging panel that will select those who will participate in the next phase of the program.

During the boot camp phase, participants will learn about the tech startup culture and workings from leading mentors from Stanford University, IE Business school, entrepreneurs and regional and international

venture capital firms. Participants will then be required to prepare pitch decks and present to a panel of judges who will determine the top 10 finalists to enter phase 2 of the program.

Encouraging and providing the proper resources for the local entrepreneurial community is a top priority for Zain. Through its active corporate sustainability program, the company is keen to contribute to Kuwait's economic and national development, much of which will be driven by the country's youth.

Ministry hiring teachers to cover shortages

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoE) will open local hiring today to cover shortages in teaching staff members in subjects such as English, Arabic, Mathematics, Music and Craft for both male and female teachers. In addition, MoE still has shortages in male biology and physics teachers and female physical education teachers. Applications will be open for bedoons, GCC nationals and all other nationalities provided they hold valid residency visas in Kuwait. In other news, the finance ministry issued a

detailed table on foreign currency exchange rate compared to Kuwaiti dinars with the aim of subsidizing the salaries of diplomats deployed abroad so that they can maintain stable living standards, said informed sources. The sources explained that the US dollar rate was fixed at \$4.6 per KD, while the euro rate was fixed at €3.4 per KD taking into consideration that many foreign currencies had dropped by 10-15 percent, which had a negative impact on officials representing Kuwait abroad. For example, the Swiss franc was valued at 4.22 francs per KD and is now valued at 5.5 francs per KD. The sources said some currencies have been stable for years compared to the Kuwaiti dinar, such as the Chinese yuan and Japanese yen. In addition, the sources said the finance ministry was considering paying overseas diplomats' salaries quarterly or biannually to avoid the fall and rise in the currencies of the countries they are designated to.

KIB celebrates International Day of Older Persons



KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently organized a visit to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Elderly Care Center, to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons with the elderly residents. The visit came as part of an Open Day for residents, and featured several fun activities and the distribution of gifts and mementos, in an effort to bring joy and happiness into their lives.

"We have always been keen on organizing initiatives and activities that reflect the important role KIB plays in supporting the local community," said Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia. "We believe that these international celebrations present the perfect opportunity for us to give back to all the different segments of our community. The

older generations in particular are an integral part of our society, and celebrating them on this day is just a small way in which we can show them our gratitude."

Najia further added "We are fully appreciative of institutions, such as the Elderly Care Center, which are dedicated to serving the older segment of the community, and providing them with all the well-deserved comfort and best possible care they need. It is important that we as a society do not forget our elders, and that we focus on strengthening social ties across our entire community. Under the umbrella of KIB's leading social responsibility program, the Bank always strives to participate in events and organize initiatives that are designed to give back to all segments across the local community."

Petroleum studies to be introduced to schools

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Oil plans on adding "petroleum studies" to school cur-

ricula in the future, said the ministry's public relations acting Director Sheikha Tamader Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

This step aims to teach students methods on the best use of oil resources, said Sheikha Tamader in a press statement yesterday, on the occasion of 15 years since the launch of the ministry's petroleum education project. The ministry "wants to spread awareness on the importance of developing our country's resources and investing in oil for the benefit of future generations," she noted. — KUNA

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Local

ABK sponsors Teddy Bear Hospital initiative for second straight year

KUWAIT: Building on a successful partnership last year, and with a view to engage with its community, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) sponsored the 'Teddy Bear Hospital' initiative for the second consecutive year. The event, held at The Avenues Mall from 5th - 7th October, was organized by student volunteers from the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University.

ABK's support for the worldwide 'Teddy Bear Hospital' initiative aims to promote early-learning-through-play, in an impactful manner for children of all ages. This year's event saw a large number of children interacting with young doctors in an approachable and interactive environment over a three-day period.

These students were given the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a hospital and understand the compassion and knowledge required to become a medical



KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait staff attend the 'Teddy Bear Hospital' event at The Avenues Mall.

professional, without being patients themselves. The Teddy Bear Hospital Kuwait is a local version of an inter-

national project, which aims to reduce childhood anxiety and fear factor about medical environments, procedures

and professionals, through an educational, fun and interactive project.

In my view

Equal powers

By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net



After six month of waiting, Russia has finally taken some action and the Russian foreign ministry made some decisions to counter the US Senate's approval of a bill to impose stricter sanctions on Russia. Nonetheless, people still feel that Russia is weak despite the 'late vengeance.' Energy industries, finance, railways, shipping and mining have always been major lines of Russian business in the United States though many analysts thought that Donald Trump's presidency would create something more like a 'honeymoon' between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

However, the consequences of this diplomatic crisis with all the unusual reactions on both sides and the continuation of both countries' fear of each other asserts that they have become equally, or closely, powerful. Such signs can be subject to testing either through direct or indirect challenges. If any given country wishes to examine their status amongst world nations, it can do so by reviewing reports about financial, military attack and defense potentials. Several European and Asian countries are still closely watched and avoid dangers that might result from old ambitions of domination or superiority, which can be the roots of racism.

CRIMES

Bedoon arrested for faking identity

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives sent a bedoon (stateless) man to the public prosecution for posing as a Kuwaiti official and meeting several senior officials. He is also wanted to serve a three-year jail sentence. The man claimed to be a Kuwaiti citizen and formed a specialized committee, met the senior officials and gained support for the committee. Investigations revealed that he had formed a bogus committee related to the environment and sea, conducted TV interviews and received financial support. The suspect confessed he is a bedoon and used to issue statements using a different name than his real one.

Mystery resolved

Farwaniya detectives solved the mystery behind the theft of a container loaded with electric equipment worth over KD 50,000, as a Syrian man was arrested and the name of a Pakistani national was placed on the wanted list as he had fled to his country. The Syrian had sold 30 percent of the container's contents at prices 60 percent cheaper than the actual price. Detectives became involved when a bedoon complained to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police about the theft of truck with the container loaded on it that contained electric equipment. An undercover agent told police that a Syrian was selling electric equipment in Rai, so he was followed and arrested in Sulaibiya near a fenced-off yard that belonged to him, and the container's contents were found there. The Syrian said the thief was a Pakistani, and he only sold the equipment.

Illegal sale

An undercover agent told Shuaiba Port security that two diesel trucks were on Mina Abdullah Road, with one transferring diesel to the other. A patrol went to the scene, and two people, Egyptian and Pakistani who work for two different companies, were arrested. Investigations revealed that the Egyptian man sold the diesel to the Pakistani national - 640 liters for KD 45. It was also discovered that the Egyptian man was being helped by another compatriot. The sale was illegal and done without the knowledge of the company. Both were sent to criminal detectives.

Thefts

A fireman told Qairawan police his dog was stolen from the garden of his father's house in Nahda. He said his dog is ferocious and it is very difficult to steal it, adding the dog may have been drugged. Meanwhile, an Egyptian pharmacist told a Hawally police station that his car was broken into and two tablets were stolen from it. Separately, a thief entered a mobile phone store and stole covers and accessories valued at KD 600, according to the owners, who filed a case at Jleeb police station.

— Translated from the Arabic press

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Ghost of Thatcher haunts May as she fights ouster plot

Bangladesh police hunt for man who married Rohingya

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BARCELONA: People on a rooftop wave Spanish flags during a march in downtown Barcelona, Spain, to protest the Catalan government's push for secession from the rest of Spain yesterday. — AP

Thousands protest in Barcelona against Catalan independence

Catalan leader to declare independence tomorrow

BARCELONA: Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Catalonia's capital Barcelona yesterday to express their opposition to any declaration of independence from Spain, showing how divided the region is on the issue. The protesters rallied in central Barcelona, waving Spanish and Catalan flags and banners saying "Catalonia is Spain" and "Together we are stronger", as politicians on both sides hardened their positions in the country's worst political crisis for decades.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said on Saturday he would not rule out removing Catalonia's government and calling a fresh local election if it claimed independence, as well as suspending the region's existing autonomous status. The stark warning came days before Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont is expected to address the region's parliament tomorrow, when he could unilaterally declare independence.

"We feel both Catalan and Spanish," Araceli Ponze, 72, said as she rallied in Barcelona. "We are facing a tremendous unknown. We will see what happens this week but we have to speak out very loudly so they know what we want." The wealthy northeastern region of 7.5 million people, which has its own language and culture, held an independence referendum on Oct 1 in defiance of a Spanish court ban. More than 90 percent of the 2.3 million people who voted backed secession, according to

Catalan officials. But that turnout represented only 43 percent of the region's 5.3 million eligible voters as many opponents of independence stayed away.

The Spanish government sent thousands of national police into the region to prevent the vote. About 900 people were injured when officers fired rubber bullets and charged crowds with truncheons in scenes that shocked Spain and the world, and dramatically escalated the dispute. Losing Catalonia is almost unthinkable for the Spanish government. It would deprive Spain of about 16 percent of its people, a fifth of its economic output and more than a quarter of its exports. Catalonia is also the top destination for foreign tourists, attracting about a quarter of Spain's total.

The political stand-off has pushed banks and companies to move their headquarters outside Catalonia. Concern is growing in EU capitals about the impact of the crisis on the Spanish economy, the fourth largest in

the euro zone, and on possible spillovers to other economies. Some European officials are also worried that any softening in Spain's stance towards Catalan independence could fuel secessionist feelings among other groups in Europe such as Belgium's Flemings and Italy's Lombards.

thousands of people gathered in 50 cities across Spain on Saturday, some defending Spain's national unity and others dressed in white and calling for talks to defuse the crisis.

Until this weekend, Rajoy has remained vague on whether he would use article 155 of the constitution, the so-called nuclear option which enables him to sack the regional government and call a local election. Asked if he was ready to trigger article 155, Rajoy told El Pais newspaper: "I don't rule out anything that is within the law ... Ideally, we shouldn't have to take drastic solutions but for that not to happen there would have to be changes." The conservative prime minister ruled out using mediators to resolve the crisis - something Puigdemont has said he is open to - and said the issue would not force a snap national election.

Rajoy added the government would "prevent any declaration of independence from materializing in anything." "Spain will continue being Spain," he said. Nicola Sturgeon, the pro-independence leader of Scotland, which voted to remain part of the United Kingdom in a 2014 referendum, said: "Everyone has to accept reality, this will not be resolved by both sides going to extreme positions." "You can't simply say in a democracy there is no legal or legitimate way for people to decide their own future, that would be an absurd position," she added. — Reuters



Organizers say protest represents 'silent majority'

Spanish," said 40-year-old engineer Raul Briones, wearing a Spanish national soccer team shirt. "We like how things have been up until now and want to go on like this." It was a second day of protests after tens of

Tropical storm Nate lashes the US Gulf Coast

NEW ORLEANS: Tropical storm Nate moved quickly inland from the US Gulf Coast yesterday after making landfall twice as a powerful hurricane, triggering widespread flooding and power outages. After leaving a trail of death and destruction in Central America, the storm hit the southern United States—the third hurricane to hit the region in less than two months as part of an especially active hurricane season. More than 100,000 people were without power.

Ahead of the storm, officials urged residents to evacuate some vulnerable areas before the storm first made landfall on the southeastern tip of Louisiana on Saturday evening and later hit along the Mississippi coast.

At 5:00 am, the storm had top winds of 70 miles per hour and was moving north-northeast at 23 miles per hour, according to the National Hurricane Center. "Rapid weakening anticipated," the NHC said as the storm moved further inland over Mississippi and Alabama. It was expected to track further north. It has since been downgraded to a tropical storm and hurricane warnings were discontinued.

'The worst behind us'

"This is a life-threatening situation. Persons located within these areas should take all necessary actions to

protect life and property from rising water and the potential for other dangerous conditions," the NHC said. "The combination of a dangerous storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline."

Some areas saw storm surge flooding of up to eight feet. The storm was expected to produce rainfall of up to 10 inches, according to the NHC. In Alabama, Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier said it appeared that most of the local residents had chosen to stay home. "We have had some homes flooded, numerous vehicles, things of that nature... We don't believe we have had any types of injuries from this," he told CNN. "Fortunately, I can say that in the last hour, I think the worst is now behind us."

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey tweeted that she had asked President Donald Trump to issue an emergency declaration "to ensure we have all possible resources in place to respond to #HurricaneNate." Trump has released federal aid to help mitigate the storm's impact in Louisiana and Mississippi. New Orleans, which was ravaged in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina, leaving 1,800 people dead in the region, appears to have largely escaped Nate's wrath. The mayor's office lifted a mandatory curfew that had been imposed as a safety measure, saying the hurricane warning for the city was no longer in effect.

Stocking up on supplies

As the storm approached, multiple shelters were opened for evacuees from low-lying areas, and officials urged residents to stock up on several days' supply of food and water. "I lived through Katrina and I know what that was like," said Jackie Daigre, 69, who was buying groceries in preparation for the hurricane at a busy Walmart

store, where the shelves of bottled water were picked almost completely bare.

Officials said the recent hurricanes, devastating as they were, actually helped with preparations for Nate, since emergency supplies and assets deployed for the earlier storms were still in place. Still, the resources of the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have

been stretched. The New Orleans levee system has been considerably fortified since Katrina, but authorities warn that it has not completely eliminated flood risks. Unlike Hurricane Harvey, which dumped record amounts of rain as it hovered over neighboring Texas for a week, fast-moving Nate was expected to pass through quickly along a northerly path. — AFP



GOASCORAN, Honduras: Photo shows the damages caused by the passage of Tropical Storm Nate, near Goascoran, in Valle department, Honduras. — AFP

International

Citing religious freedom, Trump backs off Obama-era regulations

'An all-out assault, on women, LGBT people'

WASHINGTON: In a one-two punch elating religious conservatives, President Donald Trump's administration is allowing more employers to opt out of no-cost birth control for workers and issuing sweeping religious-freedom directions that could override many anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people and others.

At a time when Trump finds himself embattled on many fronts, the two directives - issued almost simultaneously on Friday - demonstrated the president's eagerness to retain the loyalty of social conservatives who make up a key part of his base. Leaders of that constituency were exultant. "President Trump is demonstrating his commitment to undoing the anti-faith policies of the previous administration and restoring true religious freedom," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Liberal advocacy groups, including those supporting LGBT and reproductive rights, were outraged. "The Trump administration is saying to employers, 'If you want to discriminate, we have your back,'" said Fatima Goss Graves, president of National Women's Law Center. Her organization is among several that are planning to challenge the birth-control rollback in court. The American Civil Liberties Union filed such a lawsuit less than three hours after the rules were issued.

"The Trump administration is forcing women to pay for their boss' religious beliefs," said ACLU senior staff attorney Brigitte Amiri. "We're filing this lawsuit because the federal government cannot authorize discrimination against women in the name of religion or otherwise." The Democratic attorneys general of California and Massachusetts filed similar suits later Friday. Both directives had been in the works for months, with activists on both sides of a culture war on edge about the timing and the details.

The religious-liberty directive, issued by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, instructs federal agencies to do as

much as possible to accommodate those who claim their religious freedoms are being violated. The guidance effectively lifts a burden from religious objectors to prove that their beliefs about marriage or other topics that affect various actions are sincerely held. "Except in the narrowest circumstances, no one should be forced to choose between living out his or her faith and complying with the law," Sessions wrote.

In what is likely to be one of the more contested aspects of the document, the Justice Department states that religious organizations can hire workers based on religious beliefs and an employee's willingness "to adhere to a code of conduct." Many conservative Christian schools and faith-based agencies require employees to adhere to moral codes that ban sex outside marriage and same-sex relationships, among other behavior.

The Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian law firm, called it "a great day for religious freedom." But JoDee Winterhof of the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT-rights group, depicted the two directives as "an all-out assault, on women, LGBT people and others" as the administration fulfilled a "wish list" of the religious right. The new policy on contraception, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, allows more categories of employers, including publicly traded companies, to opt out of providing no-cost birth control to women by claiming religious or moral objections - another step in rolling back President Barack Obama's health care law that required most companies to cover birth control at no additional cost.

Employers with religious or moral qualms will also be able to cover some birth control methods, and not others. Experts said that could interfere with efforts to promote modern long-acting implantable contraceptives, such as IUDs, which are more expensive. The top Democrat in the House of Representatives, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, said the birth-control rollback was despicable. "This administration's contempt for women reaches a new low with this appalling decision to enable employers

and health plans to deny women basic coverage for contraception," she said. On the Republican side, however, House Speaker Paul Ryan welcomed the decision, calling it "a landmark day for religious liberty." The new policy took effect on Friday, but its impact won't be known immediately and may not be dramatic. "I can't imagine that many employers are going to be willing to certify that they have a moral objection to standard birth control methods," said Dan Mendelson, president of the consulting firm Avalere Health.

Nonetheless, he worried that the new rules would set a precedent for undermining basic health benefits required under federal law. The administration has estimated that some 200 employers who have already voiced objections to the Obama-era policy would qualify for the expanded opt-out, and that 120,000 women would be affected. Since contraception became a covered preventive benefit, the share of female employees paying with their own money for birth control pills has plunged to 3 percent, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

services and restaurants. It is also near a high school and the University of Ghana campus. The country's deputy minister of information, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, said the government deployed about 12 fire trucks and 200 police personnel to cordon off the scene and manage traffic. "A lot of people quickly rushed away, which is what saved a lot of lives but also caused a lot of panic," he said.

Online petition

Fire crews were still at the scene yesterday morning, dousing down the stricken tanker with water. A number of cars and a minibus near the site were burned out. Ghana's capital was the scene of a similar fire and explosion at a petrol station in June 2015 which killed more than 150.

In May this year, scores of people were injured when a tanker discharging natural gas exploded in the western city of Takoradi. The latest incident sparked outrage among some Ghanaians on social media about the safety of filling stations, many of which are located near schools, hospitals and businesses.

A petition was created addressed to Akufo-Addo, demanding better regulation and inspection of existing and proposed facilities. Nearly 1,500 people had signed it by late morning yesterday. Proposals include siting filling stations at least 50 metres from homes and 100 meters from schools and hospitals. Abena Awuku, a Ghanaian living in the Netherlands, proposed the measures on the change.org site, saying fuel stations were "all disasters waiting to happen and the time to act is now".

"There was a similar incident two years ago and we were fed lies and empty promises about regula-

"second day" and it was not immediately clear what the Turkish military's next move would be.

'HTS warns'

Yesterday morning, HTS jihadists opened fire on Turkish forces removing part of a wall along the border between Turkey and Idlib, witnesses and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. The Observatory reported "heavy exchanges of fire", but said the incident did not appear to mark the start of the operation Erdogan described on Saturday. Turkish armored vehicles and troops were waiting on the border, from where smoke could be seen from the mortar fire, an AFP photographer said. Television images showed locals in the Turkish border town of Reyhanli in Hatay province cheering as more armored vehicles were driven through the town overnight. Ankara appears keen to oust the HTS from Idlib in order to create a de-escalation zone into which it can send military monitors to implement a ceasefire. Turkey, along with Syrian regime allies Russia and Iran, earlier this year agreed a deal to implement four such ceasefire zones in Syria as a prelude to talks on a peace deal.

The zone encompassing Idlib is the last one to go into effect, and its implementation has been held up by fierce opposition from HTS. On Saturday, the group warned "treacherous factions that stand by the side of the Russian occupier" should only enter the area if they want "their mothers to be bereaved, their children to be orphaned, their wives to be widowed".



GREENSBORO: US President Donald Trump holds an umbrella as he walks down the stairs of Air Force One in the rain upon his arrival at Piedmont Triad International Airport yesterday in Greensboro, NC. —AP

and health plans to deny women basic coverage for contraception," she said.

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Many Catholic hospitals now rely on an Obama-era workaround under which the government pays for the cost of birth control coverage. That workaround can continue under the new rules. Despite that workaround, there have been extensive legal battles waged by religious institutions and other parties challenging the birth-control mandate. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops hailed the new policy as a "return to common sense" that would enhance "peaceful coexistence" between church and state.

Doctors' groups that were instrumental in derailing Republican plans to repeal Obama's health law outright expressed their dismay. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said the new policy could reverse the recent progress in lowering the nation's rate of unintended pregnancies. "Instead of fulfilling its mission to enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans," HHS leaders under the current administration are focused on turning back the clock on women's health," said the organization's president, Dr Haywood Brown.—AP

Ghanaians fume after 7 die in fuel station explosion

ACCRA: Ghanaians yesterday pushed the government to improve safety at fuel stations after seven people were killed when a tanker truck carrying natural gas caught fire in the nation's capital, triggering explosions. The fire and blasts gutted a liquefied gas filling station and a nearby petrol station in the Atomic Junction area of the Legon suburb of Accra on Saturday night, sending local residents fleeing. President Nana Akufo-Addo tweeted: "The news of last night's gas explosion at Atomic Junc, resulting in the loss of lives & injuries to several others, has left me devastated."

"My deepest condolences to the families of the bereaved, and I wish the injured speedy recovery." Vice-President Mahamadu Bawumia was visiting the scene of the tragedy yesterday. Akufo-Addo said, adding: "Government is resolved, now more than ever, to ensure such an incident does not occur again." Ghana National Fire Service spokesman Billy Anaglate said earlier that two of the victims died at the scene of the incident and the third in hospital. There were also 35 injured and five were in intensive care overnight.

One of those who died was killed after jumping from a flyer on the busy Atomic Junction roundabout, where there are three fuel stations, transport



ACCRA: Photo shows burnt vehicles on the site where a gas tanker caught fire, triggering explosions at two fuel stations. —AFP

tions going to be put in place but then we had to witness this," she said later. "These deaths could have easily been prevented, so let's prevent them from ever occurring again in the future." Nkrumah said regulations already existed about the siting of

fuel stations but the initial focus of the authorities was taking care of those injured in the incident. "There's an investigation that's starting. It will determine whether it's a failure of regulations, it's an accident or something else," he added.—Agencies

Turkish troops and Syria militants clash

REYHANLI: Turkish troops yesterday exchanged fire with Syria-based jihadists as Ankara massed military vehicles on the frontier ahead of an expected operation to oust Al-Qaeda's former Syrian affiliate from Idlib province. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday announced the launch of an operation by pro-Ankara Syrian rebel forces, backed by the Turkish army, to reimpose security in Idlib. Most of the northwestern region is controlled by Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS), a group led by Al-Qaeda's former Syria affiliate, which ousted more moderate rebels in recent months. Turkey has massed special forces and military hardware including tanks on the border but the operation has yet to begin in earnest, monitors and sources on the ground said. But Turkish forces fired seven mortars over the border with the aim of easing the passage of the pro-Ankara Syrian forces, the Dogan news agency reported. Turkish forces have also been seen removing parts of the security wall Ankara has built on the border so that military vehicles can pass through into Syria. Pro-government media said that the operation was now into its

'Tomorrow Afrin'

Turkey earlier this year wrapped up its half year Euphrates Shield operation against jihadists and Kurdish militia in Aleppo province that involved both the Turkish army and Syrian rebels.

The Hurriyet daily said the pro-Ankara forces involved in this operation, which Turkey calls the Free Syrian Army (FSA), would be the same as in Euphrates Shield. "Since summer, Turkey has been reorganizing those rebels and pulling them into a new politico-military structure that is supposed to be more cohesive," said Aron Lund, fellow with The Century Foundation think tank. Turkey is working in cooperation with Russia, even though they have been at loggerheads throughout the over six-year Syrian civil war, with Moscow backing the regime and Ankara the rebels seeking to oust President Bashar Al-Assad.

After meeting Erdogan in Ankara on September 28, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared the right conditions now existed to end the war that has killed an estimated 330,000 people since 2011. Turkey has also long warned it could also move against the People's Protection Units (YPG) Kurdish militia who control Afrin to the east and which Ankara considers a terror group. Erdogan on Saturday warned that "new initiatives" would follow after the Idlib operation. "Today Idlib, tomorrow Afrin," said the headline in the Yeni Safak daily, describing the deployment as a "peace operation". —AFP

Long-term truants make nery school return in Mosul

MOSUL: After three years of forced truancy due to the Islamic State group's seizure of the Iraqi city of Mosul, teenager Ali Salem waited nervously outside school to sit an English exam. Before heading out bright and early from a camp for the displaced in Hajj Ali, 60 kilometers away, he had had a last look over lessons that were interrupted in 2014.

"On the evening of June 10, 2014, we heard that Daesh (IS) had taken over the city. I had a maths exam the next day but school stopped," Salem said in front of the gate of the Hikma school in west Mosul's Mansur district. "I'm 18 now and I've lost three years because of IS. I'm so glad we're back at school to be able to pass exams because all this will determine the course of my life," he said, with disheveled hair and a schoolbag strapped across his shoulder.

When the jihadists burst onto the scene, Salem was in the third form and taking exams for the Iraqi school system's certificate, a process he is now having to repeat. —AFP

International

Britain's May signals FM Johnson could be sacked

Turmoil adding to uncertainty over Brexit

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May has signalled that she could sack Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a Sunday newspaper said, as she tries to reassert her authority after a series of political disasters. The Sunday Times said it asked May about her plans for Johnson, who has professed loyalty but is accused by some of the prime minister's allies of undermining her by putting forward his own vision for Britain's exit from the European Union.

"It has never been my style to hide from a challenge and I'm not going to start now," it quoted May as replying, in what it called a signal that she was prepared to bring in new ministers to her cabinet and axe those who had caused her problems. "I'm the PM, and part of my job is to make sure I always have the best people in my cabinet, to make the most of the wealth of talent available to me in the party." May has seen her authority over her Conservative Party erode since she called a snap election in June in which she lost her majority in parliament.

Johnson, seen as a potential successor to May, said that Conservative lawmakers pushing to unseat her were "nutters", adding that a change would lead to demands for another election that could bring a resurgent Labour party back to power. "Are we really going to be stampeded myopically over the edge of the gorge, with an election that no one wants?" he said in the Sunday Telegraph. Johnson wrote a newspaper article last month outlining his vision of Brexit just days before May made a major speech on the subject.

While professing loyalty, his interventions have been seen as undermining May and causing unnecessary unrest ahead of the party's conference last week that culminated in a disastrous speech by the prime minister, marred by a

coughing fit and letters falling off the slogan on the set behind her. Johnson made a plea for loyalty with a typical rhetorical flourish yesterday. "Quo quo scelesti ruitis?", as Horace put it at the beginning of a fresh bout of Rome's ghastly civil wars, and which roughly translates as: "What do you think you are doing you nutters?"

Gone by Christmas?

On Friday, former Conservative Party chairman Grant Shapps said he had garnered the support of 30 lawmakers who wanted to remove May from the party leadership, short of the number needed to launch a formal challenge.

Former Prime Minister John Major said he was increasingly dismayed by the plotting in the party by those driven by their own personal agenda.

"The country has had enough of the self-absorbed and, frankly, disloyal behavior we have witnessed over recent weeks," he said in the Mail yesterday. The speculation about May's position comes ahead of crucial

Brexit talks between Britain and the EU, and the political uncertainty has led to growing concern that no deal would be agreed by March 2019 when Britain leaves the bloc. Britain's Sunday newspapers were brimming with briefings from unnamed Conservative figures suggesting May's days in Downing Street were numbered.

The Sunday Times said three cabinet ministers had discussed the need to replace May. "It's a 'when' question now," one of the unnamed ministers told the paper. "It feels to me that this is over before Christmas." A fourth minister was quoted as saying there needed to be an orderly transition to a new leader and there was no prospect of May being in



LONDON: Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson collects his baggage at London Stansted Airport, north of London yesterday. Newspaper reports yesterday suggested that May is considering a reshuffle of her cabinet in which she would promote a younger generation of MPs. — AFP

charge for the next election due in 2022. The Observer newspaper said unnamed senior Conservative figures said while May had no long-term future they were

pressing her to shake up her team, hoping new blood would re-energize the party as well as frustrate Johnson's ambitions. —Reuters



PM's comments seen as threat to Johnson

Could an independent Catalonia stay in EU?

BRUSSELS: Catalan leaders say they want to remain part of the European Union in the event of independence from Spain, but the path to continuing membership or rejoining the bloc is not clear. Brussels has stuck to its line that an independent Catalonia would automatically be out and have to reapply to join, but some experts say pragmatism may yet trump dogma.

Would EU recognize Catalonia?

Last weekend's referendum produced a 90 percent vote for secession, but because it was held in defiance of Spain's Constitutional Court rulings that it was unlawful, from the EU's point of view it amounts to a deeply flawed mandate. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has made it clear Brussels would only respect a vote for independence if it was held in line with the Spanish constitution. EU members "will not recognize Catalonia as a state if it is created in violation of the law and particularly the Spanish constitution", said Jean-Claude Piris, an expert in European law.

'Prodi doctrine'

The EU's treaties do not specifically state what happens if part of a member state secedes, but since 2004 the commission has stuck to the "Prodi doctrine", named after former president Romano Prodi. This says that a region breaking away from a member state would automatically cease to be part of the EU on the day of its independence, and would have to follow the usual membership process to rejoin. Membership talks for Catalonia would likely be different from those currently under way for candidate countries such as the Balkan states and Turkey, which have to harmonize their legislation and foreign policy as well as bring human rights standards up to EU standards.

Catalonia has sought to get ahead on this point by passing a law last month that said all EU laws would apply in its territory even if it was no longer a member. Questions have also been raised about the legal solidity of the Prodi doctrine and whether the relevant treaty clauses could be open to different interpretation. A European Commission spokesman said Friday that "this is the way we read the treaty, this is our position" but acknowledged that "everybody has his or her right to his or her own opinion".

Room for pragmatism?

Senior French judge Yves Gounin warned in a 2014 article on independence movements that taking a hardline approach-kicking a newly seceded territory out of the bloc-could backfire on the EU. "Europe would have everything to lose by putting these states in quarantine its investors could no longer invest there, its young people could not study there, its workers could not move freely," Gounin wrote. Instead, he suggested that "realism" should trump "orthodoxy", arguing that "the most reasonable solution would be to negotiate independence and EU membership simultaneously". But something like a precedent for this exists from the Scottish referendum of 2014 - which was held with London's blessing-and it is not promising for Catalan separatists. To avoid a rupture, the Scottish government said that in the event of a "yes" vote, it would start pre-independence talks with the EU "to settle the terms of an independent Scotland's continuing membership". This notion was slapped down by then European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso, who warned it would be "extremely difficult". However, Scotland voted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Could Catalonia keep euro?

There are numerous non-EU countries which use the single currency. Kosovo and Montenegro, which both separated from Serbia in the last 11 years, use the euro as their national currency with no formal agreement with the EU. Monaco, San Marino, Andorra and the Vatican also use the euro and have agreements with the EU allowing them to produce limited quantities of their coins with their own designs. —AFP

Refugee issue complicates Merkel's bid to form govt

BERLIN: Two weeks after winning elections with a reduced majority, German Chancellor Angela Merkel took a first step yesterday toward forming a government by trying to unite her bitterly divided conservative camp. Merkel met for closed-door talks with her Bavarian CSU allies led by Horst Seehofer, who blames her open-door refugee policy for the rise of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

Seehofer-who faces internal challenges, and state elections next year has revived his calls to cap refugee numbers at 200,000 a year, a demand Merkel has consistently rejected as unconstitutional. In an opening salvo yesterday, the CSU published a 10-point list of demands, including a refugee "upper limit", a broad return to the conservative roots of the centre-right alliance, and a commitment to "healthy patriotism". "We must fight the AfD head-on and fight to get their voters back," said the text published in mass-circulation Bild am Sonntag, which suggested that "conservatism is sexy again".

The talks were expected to last deep into the night, with CSU general secretary asking journalists whether they had "brought their sleeping bags". Merkel's CDU too is nervous ahead of a Lower Saxony state poll next Sunday, where it is running neck-and-neck with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) a party badly in need of a win after their bruising defeat in September 24 elections. SPD leader Martin Schulz, gleefully watching the family squabbles in Merkel's conservative

camp, charged that the "madhouse" CDU-CSU dispute showed that "in reality, they are enemy parties".

Odd bedfellows

The emergence of the anti-immigration AfD, which scored 12.6 percent, has stunned Germany by breaking a long-standing taboo on hard-right parties sitting in the Bundestag. Its success came at the expense of the mainstream parties, making it harder for Merkel to form a working majority. Her best shot now-if she wants to avoid fresh elections that could further boost the AfD-is an alliance with two other parties that make for odd bedfellows, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and the left-leaning Greens.

Such a power pact-dubbed a "Jamaica coalition" because the three party colors match those of the Caribbean nation's flag-would be a first at the national level in Germany. In the talks to come, likely to take weeks, all players will fight for ministerial posts and issues from EU relations to climate policy. All must give a little to reach a compromise-but not too much, to avoid charges from their own party bases that they are selling out in a grab for power. The smaller parties will seek to avoid the fate of Merkel's previous junior coalition partners: both the FDP and SPD have suffered stunning losses after governing in the chancellor's shadow.

Poker games

Until the high-stakes poker games



BERLIN: Activist display placards urging leaders of the Christian Social Union (CSU) to keep their electoral promise to introduce more referendums nation-wide outside the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in Berlin yesterday. —AFP

between party chiefs result in a working government, Merkel will be restrained on the global stage and in Europe, where French President Emmanuel Macron is pushing for ambitious reforms. EU and euro politics, in turn, are shaping up as another divisive issue. Merkel and the Greens have cautiously welcomed Macron's plans, but FDP chief Christian Lindner, who is eyeing the powerful finance minister's post, has assumed a far more skeptical tone.

He rejects any kind of "transfer union"-code for German taxpayers' money flowing to weaker economies-and said Europe must grow through "solidarity and competitiveness, not a failed policy of redistribution". Lindner has praised, however, Seehofer's tougher stance on

migration, declaring that refugee numbers "must be reduced".

The Greens, for their part, reject an upper limit for refugees, want to stop deportations of rejected asylum seekers to war-torn Afghanistan, and favour steps to help Syrian refugees bring their families. Even if these issues can be resolved, the Greens will also push their ecologist core demands in talks with the pro-business parties-including phasing out coal plants and fossil fuel vehicles. The Greens' co-leader Cem Ozdemir, voicing some impatience with the divided conservatives, urged them to "quickly settle their dispute" and warned that they "must not block the formation of a government for weeks". —AFP

Ghost of Thatcher haunts May as she fights ouster plot

LONDON: A devastating election and a high-profile speech strewn with mishaps have ignited a leadership crisis for British Prime Minister Theresa May at a critical time as Brexit negotiators push for a deal in Brussels. A plot by a group of Conservative MPs to oust May was exposed on Friday, reviving memories of the backstabbing that led to Margaret Thatcher's ouster in 1990.

Many colleagues publicly condemned the attempt and backed their leader, but the Sunday Times reported that at least three cabinet ministers had discussed the need to replace her this week. Parliament returns on Monday and May is expected to announce a number of policy initiatives in a bid to reassert her authority, while there are also rumors of a cabinet reshuffle. But she will also need some progress in the deadlocked Brexit negotiations which resume today.

The prime minister has struggled since June when her gamble in calling an election to cement her power backfired spectacularly and she lost her parliamentary majority. For many Conservatives, it is now a question of when, not if, she steps down ahead of the next election in 2022 - and the date most often mentioned is 2019, when Britain is expected to leave the European Union. "Getting rid of her is like going to the dentist," a government minister was quoted by The Sun as saying. "You keep putting it off because it's going to be painful but you know you have to do it eventually."



READING: British Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Philip May leave after attending the Sunday morning service at a church in her Maidenhead constituency in Berkshire yesterday. —AFP

Reshuffle rumors

There have been reports of bitter divisions for weeks and speculation has swirled over whether Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson might mount a leadership bid after his contrary interventions in the Brexit debate. Johnson pledged his loyalty to the prime minister this weekend, but his erratic behavior has drawn widespread criticism and accusations of betrayal. Other potential successors include Home Secretary Amber Rudd, while Brexit Secretary David Davis and First Secretary of State Damian Green are seen as possible place-holders until after Brexit. Newspaper reports yesterday suggested that

May is considering a reshuffle of her cabinet in which she would promote a younger generation of MPs.

"Part of my job is to make sure I always have the best people in my cabinet, to make the most of the wealth of talent available to me in the party," she told the Sunday Times. The paper said Johnson could be demoted in the reshuffle, which it said was planned for after the European summit on October 19 and 20. Britain had hoped EU leaders would use that meeting to agree to the next stage of talks on future Britain-EU trade ties, but this seems unlikely. EU officials say Britain has so far not made sufficient progress on preliminary negotiations centring on the divorce bill, despite May's push for a breakthrough with her Florence speech last month.

'This cannot go on'

Thwarted in Brussels, May had hoped to revive her fortunes at last week's party conference. But her keynote speech was disrupted by a serial prankster who handed her an end of employment form, and she then suffered a series of coughing fits that made her combative message barely audible. The sense of chaos only heightened when letters from the slogan "Building a Country that Works for Everyone" started falling off the board behind her. "The sense that this cannot go on may now overwhelm her," wrote Times columnist Philip Collins, one of a growing number of commentators saying that the leadership crisis has finally come to a head.

Pro-Brexit MPs do not want another leadership election to slow down the process, and there are fears the lack of party unity could hand power to opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. But Iain Begg, a politics professor at the London School of Economics, said the current climate had "an echo" of the 1990 demise of Thatcher at the hands of Conservative plotters. That ouster was in turn followed by recriminations over Europe in the 1990s under John Major that eventually led to Labor's Tony Blair taking office in 1997. —AFP

International

Bangladesh police hunt for man who married Rohingya

Marriages between Bangladeshis, refugees banned

COX'S BAZAR: Bangladesh police were yesterday searching for a man who defied a ban and married a Rohingya refugee, hundreds of thousands of whom have fled across the border to escape violence in Myanmar. More than half a million Rohingya refugees have flocked to Bangladesh since an army crackdown began on August 25 in Myanmar's Rakhine state, a process the UN has described as ethnic cleansing.

Shoab Hossain Jewel, 25, and his 18-year-old Rohingya bride Rafiza have been on the run since marrying last month, said police in Jewel's home town of Singair. "We heard he married a Rohingya woman. We went to his home at Charigram village to look for him," Singair police chief Khandaker Imam Hossain said. "But we did not find him there and his parents don't know where he has gone," he said, adding they were investigating the case.

In 2014 Dhaka banned marriages between Bangladeshis and Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim refugees following claims that members of the persecuted community were attempting to wed to gain citizenship in the mainly Muslim nation. Jewel's father Babul Hossain said citizenship was not the motive this time and defended his son's marriage to Rafiza. "If Bangladeshis can marry Christians and people of other religions, what's wrong in my son's marriage to a Rohingya?" Hossain said. He married a Muslim who took shelter in Bangladesh."

The Dhaka Tribune newspaper said Jewel, a teacher

in a madrasa or religious school, fell in love with Rafiza after her family fled the latest bout of violence in Myanmar and took refuge at a cleric's house in Singair. In a police crackdown, the family was forced to move back to the main refugee camp in the southeastern district of Cox's Bazar—some 265 miles from Singair.

A lovestruck Jewel rushed to Cox's Bazar, running from one camp to another in search of Rafiza. He finally found her and asked her parents for their daughter's hand in marriage. Their wedding in Cox's Bazar was the first known one between a Bangladeshi and a Rohingya refugee since the August flare-up, the newspaper reported.

Rohingya refugees accused of marrying to gain citizenship

'Act of charity'
Many Bangladeshi men have travelled to the refugee camps since the influx began in hopes of marrying young Rohingya women, according to local media reports. An AFP correspondent met a Bangladeshi man at

Balukhali makeshift camp who came from a neighboring village to find a bride for his elder brother. "My brother wants to marry a Rohingya woman just to help her. He thinks marrying a girl from the distressed Muslim community will be treated as an act of charity," he said.

A senior police officer said they have stepped up surveillance in the camps to stop any such marriages and to combat trafficking of refugee girls or children, many of whom fled to Bangladesh unaccompanied by



UKHIA, Bangladesh: Rohingya refugee women sit by the side of the road at the Thangkhal refugee camp in Ukhiya district yesterday. —AFP

parents. "We are taking all preventive actions to ensure there are no marriages between Bangladeshis and Rohingya," Cox's Bazar's deputy police chief

Mohammad Kazi Humayun Rashid said. He said authorities have banned any Bangladeshi or foreigner from entering the settlements after 5:00 pm.—AFP

Indonesia police raid gay sauna arrest 58 men

JAKARTA: Indonesian police have detained 58 men including several foreigners in a raid on a gay sauna, an official said yesterday, the latest sign of a backlash against homosexuals in the Muslim-majority country. Police late Friday raided a building in the capital Jakarta that houses a sauna and a gym after they received information from the public that it was being used for prostitution.

"We secured 51 and seven employees for allegedly providing pornographic services," Jakarta Police spokesman Argo Yuwono said in a statement. Six foreigners were among those detained, including four men from China, one from Thailand and one from Holland. Homosexuality and gay sex are legal everywhere in Indonesia except in conservative Aceh province, but police have used the country's tough anti-pornography laws or drugs charges to criminalize

LGBT people in the past. Yuwono said six of those detained would be charged under Indonesia's anti-pornography law, and could face up to six years in prison. It is not clear what—if anything—the remaining 52 would be charged with. Friday's raid comes at a time of growing hostility towards Indonesia's small lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Ministers, hardliners and influential Islamic groups have lined up to make anti-LGBT statements in public recently.

In similar incident in May, 141 men were detained for allegedly taking part in a sex party in Jakarta promoted as "The Wild One". Andreas Harsono, senior Indonesia researcher at Human Rights Watch, condemned the arrests. "This is part of the ongoing anti-LGBT campaign in Indonesia that has been going on since January last year," he



JAKARTA: Indonesian Police shows men detained in a raid on a gay sauna during a press conference in Jakarta. — AFP

said, "Human Rights Watch demands police release them and not make up charges against them." He said the

increase in discrimination towards LGBT Indonesians was related to the rise of conservative Islam.—AFP

Liberians choose new president as Sirleaf steps aside

MONROVIA: Liberians head to the polls tomorrow to elect a successor to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, with hopes for a leader who will kickstart the economy and safeguard a fragile peace. Sirleaf will step down after 12 years at the helm of Africa's first republic, whose back-to-back civil wars (1989-2003) and Ebola crisis (2014-16) have stunted growth and left Liberia among the world's poorest nations. Twenty candidates are vying to replace Sirleaf, with footballing icon George Weah, incumbent Vice President Joseph Boakai, longtime opposition figure Charles Brumskine and soft drinks millionaire Alexander Cummings considered front-runners.

Just one woman is seeking to follow Africa's first elected female head of state—model-turned-humanitarian MacDella Cooper—but she has near-zero chance of winning, diplomats and analysts said. The elections of a president, vice president and members of the House of Representatives are a "crucial test for the democratic process in Liberia," Maria Arena, chief observer of the European Union, told journalists in Monrovia this week. "A peaceful transition from one elected president to another is important not only for Liberia but also as an example for the region," she said. Such a transition would be the first in living memory after seven decades of coups, assassinations and exiled dictators.

Infrastructure, aid dependency

While ordinary Liberians are grateful that peace has held through Sirleaf's two terms in office, living standards in Liberia remain dire for most and have become the focus of the campaign. "We are doing everything ourselves to survive," Emmet Garokapee, a market trader, said as his head was shaved with a single razor blade at a backstreet barber for lack of electricity. Liberia ranks 177 of 188 countries in the UN's Human Development Index and 174 of 190 nations in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, and every candidate has laid out their plans to change the nation's gloomy outlook. Vice President Boakai has made infrastructure, especially road building, central to his campaign.

But he faces accusations his government did too little on corruption and spent two terms pressing for donor funds abroad rather than innovate at home. Sirleaf, in her defense, said in an October 2 speech that "if we did not have those (UN) agencies and those programs here, with our limited resources we would not have achieved the



MONROVIA: Supporters of Liberian presidential candidate Alexander Cummings arrive atop a car to attend a campaign rally in Monrovia yesterday. — AFP

things we wanted." But candidates such as telecoms tycoon Benoni Urey have lashed out at what he calls a "dependency" on foreign aid.

A former executive vice president at Coca-Cola, Cummings cites handling a budget larger than that of Liberia's government as evidence of his competence to lead, and he is seen as the dark horse of the campaign. Development, Cummings said at a rally on Thursday, "is not too much to ask of ourselves after 170 years," in reference to the nation's founding by freed African-American slaves in 1847.

Liberia's most famous son, footballer-turned-senator George Weah, attracts huge crowds and has a faithful youth following in a country where a fifth of the electorate is aged 18 to 22, but is blamed for issuing vague promises and for his long absences from the country. Liberians have praised the nation's first presidential debates, which were held in Weah's absence. Some also question his pick for vice president—Jewel Howard-Taylor, the ex-wife of Liberian warlord and former president Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor is currently serving time in Britain for war crimes committed in neigh-

boring Sierra Leone, and rumors swirl he is issuing orders by phone from his jail cell. Weah denies contact with him.

Praying for peace

While campaigning has been "largely peaceful" according to the NEC, with just one clash between Weah and Brumskine supporters, some Liberians remain worried after sparks of violence at the last elections in 2011 that killed two people. "We are just praying for free and calm elections," said Tina Davis, a wigmaker working at a stall in the Joe Bar market of Monrovia.

One women's group has even held fasting and prayer sessions for three weeks in an echo of their actions towards the end of the civil war, when they forced warring parties into dialogue. The group coordinator Delphine Morris told AFP several premature "victory marches" could turn violent if there is a disputed result. The election is the first national-scale test for Liberia's police and army since the war after taking back control of national security from the country's UN peacekeeping mission just last year. —AFP

News in brief

5 Qaeda suspects killed

ADEN: A drone strike yesterday killed five suspected Al-Qaeda militants in the Yemeni province of Marib, east of the capital Sanaa, security officials said. One official said a US drone had probably carried out the strike, which targeted a car in the province's Saoud district. The United States considers the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to be the radical group's most dangerous branch. AQAP has flourished in the chaos of the country's civil war, which pits the Saudi-backed government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi against the Houthi rebels. A long-running drone war against AQAP has intensified since US President Donald Trump took office in January. An air raid he ordered that month killed a US Navy SEAL and several Yemeni civilians in Baida province, just south of Marib. More than 8,000 people have been killed since a Saudi-led coalition joined the Yemen war on Hadi's side in 2015.

3 journalists arrested

CARACAS: An Italian, a Swiss and a Venezuelan journalist have been arrested as they prepared a report on a prison in northern Venezuela, human rights and press freedom groups said. The trio includes Roberto Di Matteo (Italy), Filippo Rossi (Switzerland) and Jesus Medina (Venezuela). Rossi had previously been misidentified as Italian. Critics say Venezuelan prisons are overpopulated and inmates are malnourished, despite government plans to reduce inmate populations. "The Swiss Embassy in Caracas is in contact with the appropriate authorities and is assisting this Swiss national in accordance with the consular protections afforded him," the Swiss foreign ministry said. The Italian foreign ministry said its mission "has been following from the very beginning the arrest of Italian national Roberto Di Matteo, and is in close contact with local authorities". Di Matteo, Rossi and Medina were arrested Friday after entering Tocoron prison in northern Aragua state with a television crew, according to the rights group Foro Penal.

Jihadist's extradition

MANILA: A Filipino suspect in a thwarted jihadist plot targeting New York's subway and Times Square will face legal proceedings seeking his extradition to the United States, the Philippine Justice Secretary said yesterday. Russell Salic and two others have been charged with involvement in the plan to stage the attacks in the name of the Islamic State group during the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan in 2016. Salic was arrested in the Philippines in April 2017 and Washington had requested his extradition, the US Department of Justice said. "It only means that we have to begin the extradition proceedings being requested," Philippine Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre said in a statement without giving a timeframe. "We have a process to be followed and this has been done many times in the past." The Philippine military chief, General Eduardo Ano, said on Sunday that Salic was in the custody of the country's National Bureau of Investigation.

Car crashes near museum

LONDON: Eleven people were injured when a car mounted the pavement and ploughed into pedestrians near London's Natural History Museum, leading to the driver's arrest, although officials ruled out a terrorist link. Police said it was a traffic incident after three attacks in the British capital this year in which vehicles were deliberately driven into people on the street. Crowds in the area, which is popular with families and tourists, fled screaming in panic when the car veered onto the semi-pedestrianized Exhibition Road in South Kensington. Witness accounts and footage posted on social media showed a man being pinned down on the ground by passers-by, next to a black car with a smashed bonnet. "The incident is a road traffic investigation and not a terrorist-related incident," London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "Whilst enquiries continue it is believed a car mounted the pavement and collided with a number of pedestrians."

Analysis

Kuwait Times
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

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DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

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ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
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FOCUS

Nigeria tries Boko Haram suspects behind closed doors

More than 2,300 suspected members of the militant group Boko Haram were expected to appear in court in Nigeria from today in unprecedented mass trials to be held behind closed doors. The defendants have all been picked up and held in detention since the start of the conflict eight years ago, which has left at least 20,000 dead in the country's remote northeast. To date, just 13 people have been put on trial and only nine convicted for their links to the Islamist insurgency, according to official figures.

The most high-profile current case is that of Khalid Al-Barnawi, a leader of the Boko Haram offshoot Ansaru, who is charged with the abduction and murder of 10 foreign nationals. Nigeria's justice ministry announced the start of the trials at the end of last month, saying four judges had been assigned and that defendants would have legal representation. Some 1,670 detainees at a military base in Kainji, in the central state of Niger, will be tried first followed by 651 others held at the Giwa barracks in the capital of the northeastern state of Borno state, Maiduguri.

"It's the first significant trial of Boko Haram suspects," said Matthew Page, a former US State Department analyst and a specialist on Nigeria. But he told AFP that while "positive" it was still a "very small step", as many of the detainees had been held in custody for years, without access to a lawyer or ever having appeared before a judge.

'Wrong signal'

How the long-awaited trials will be held also raises questions, particularly about transparency. A justice ministry source said no media would be allowed on security grounds and that although civilian courts, they would be held in military facilities. Umar Ado, a defence lawyer based in Nigeria's biggest northern city, Kano, said that was "as good as denying the public the right to know how the trial is carried out". "It sends the wrong signal that justice is not served or the process is compromised," he added.

There have also been questions about the ability of Nigeria's justice system to handle so many cases at once and even of simple procedural details such as whether defendants will be tried on their own or together. The justice ministry itself has already highlighted the potential pitfalls facing judges, such as poor investigation techniques, lack of forensic evidence and "over-reliance on confession-based evidence".

International pressure

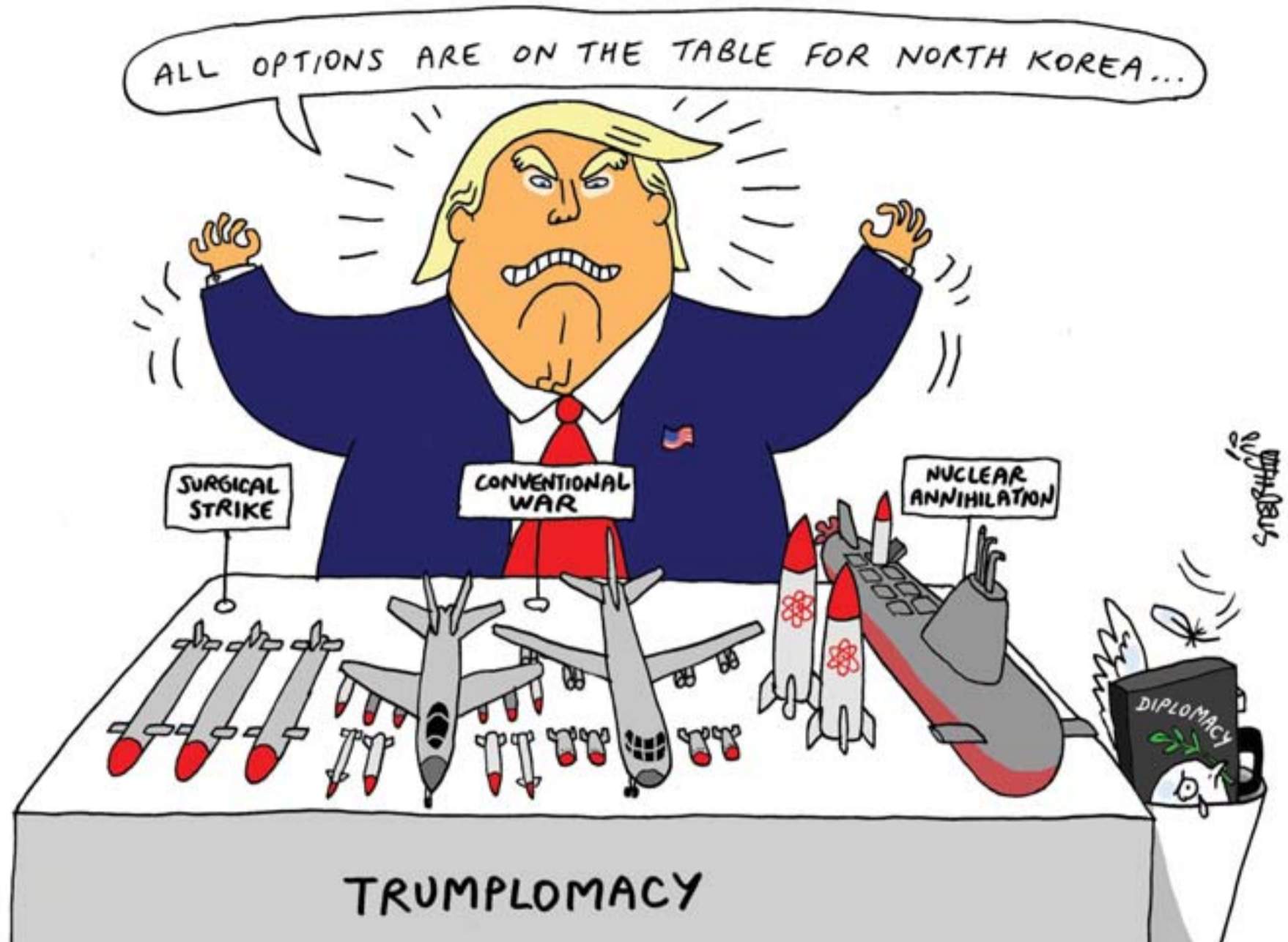
To what extent those on trial are connected to the group will likely come under scrutiny. "There are good reasons to believe that large numbers of the detainees have very little or no connection at all to the group," said Matthew Page. Amnesty International said in a damning June 2015 report that more than 20,000 people had been arbitrarily arrested as part of the fight against Boko Haram.

It highlighted appalling conditions at military detention facilities and claimed at least 1,200 people had been summarily killed and 7,000 died in custody since 2011. The group's spokesman in Nigeria, Isa Sanusi, said: "Nobody knows exactly how many people are detained, if they are still alive and where they are."

President Muhammadu Buhari, who was elected in 2015, has promised to look into repeated accusations of human rights violations, including against high-ranking officers. At least two commissions of inquiry have been established but the army announced in June this year that no action would be taken against top brass accused by Amnesty. Such revelations have made Western countries cautious about responding to repeated Nigerian requests for more military support in the conflict, particularly in terms of weapons and other hardware.

The US administration of former president Barack Obama blocked a nearly \$600 million deal with Nigeria for 12 fighter planes after a botched air strike that killed more than 100 civilians. The deal finally went through in August. Britain's foreign minister, Boris Johnson, said on a recent visit that London was considering a Nigerian request for more military hardware.

Amnesty's Sanusi believes the mass trials of Boko Haram suspects were the result of international pressure on the Nigerian government as it "desperately wants to procure arms". — AFP



Saving morale, one boss at a time

Entrepreneurship is in fashion in France with President Emmanuel Macron spreading a vision of a nation rejuvenated by the energy of startups, but being the boss can be a crushing burden when things go wrong. Company heads often feel they need to cultivate an aura of omnipotence when dozens of people depend on them to be in top shape. But that also often prevents them from sending out an SOS when things are looking down.

"We are tempted to ignore the CEO, associated to an image of invulnerability and who has the mission to take care of the employees," says the Apesa association on its website. The group was founded by employees of commercial courts frustrated at being unable to provide the human help needed by increasing number of failing business owners suffering psychological distress in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis.

Isolation tends to be worst for owners of small businesses who also have the fewest resources at hand, quickly making their situation feel hopeless. Hundreds of French bosses, seeing no way out, are estimated to commit suicide each year. But volunteers are stepping in, helping businessmen find solutions before it's too late. On a recent afternoon, the owner of small construction firm stepped into an office just a stone throw from the skyscrapers of Paris' business district.

The money ran out

Awaiting him at the CIP center which consults bosses facing difficulties were three experts: An accountant, a retired commercial court judge and a lawyer. His story was all too familiar: anxious clients postponed orders during the presidential election campaign, and unpaid bills and taxes were piling up. "We've suspended payments," said the head of the business with seven employees who is foregoing his own salary as the firm built up an overdraft of 35,000 euros and a debt of 27,000 in social security contributions.

He sees no clear way forward as orders are once again falling, and the advice of the experts wasn't heartening. "I

don't see any option other than court-supervised restructuring," said the accountant. "But you need to prepare as much as possible ahead of time to improve your chances," added the lawyer, who walked the businessman through all the steps needed to continue operating and avoid the restructuring process ending with the liquidation of his firm.

Helping bosses with the legal, social as well as psychological issues needed to avoid the businesses going bust is the job of the roughly 60 CIP centers in France. Each year they welcome around 3,000 bosses seeking information, advice and support. "Mostly it is heads of small companies,



Hundreds of French bosses commit suicide each year

who are alone and don't have any resources," said William Nahum, who founded the first CIP 22 years ago and heads up the national network.

Don't judge

These bosses often find themselves overwhelmed by keeping their business from sinking only to face equally daunting administrative procedures to try to save it. The latest data by the firm ARC, which specializes in recovering overdue bills, suggests the CIPs won't be lacking in clients anytime soon. The average overdue payment for small and medium-sized businesses in France jumped to 14.5 days overdue this year from 10.4 days in 2016.

And the bills overdue more than 30 days nearly tripled to 11 percent of the total. "The idea is that these meetings are less formal than those at court, that we talk openly," said Francoise Spiri, one of the volunteers at the CIP in Nanterre on the outskirts of Paris. "Often the companies are out of cash, you have to determine their situation and which procedure is most adapted to their case," said Spiri, who works as both an accountant and auditor.

With his industrial firm of three employees facing serious financial difficulties, Christopher Woodley turned to a CIP two years ago. "They were reassuring at a time when I had doubts," he said. "They have competent people who look at things in a completely neutral and objective manner," said Woodley, whose business has now recovered. The absence of judgment is important for the success of the meetings, said Laurence Duvigneaud, a medical doctor and psychiatrist who is part of the Apesa network that provides counselling to managers suffering psychological crises.

'Personal failure'

Apesa has been working with the CIP centers for two years, helping to train volunteers to spot signs of emotional distress and how to encourage troubled executives to seek psychological counselling. "The suffering of an entrepreneur connected with the shutting down a business can lead to suicide," said Duvigneaud, putting the number of bosses who take their own lives at around 650 per year. By listening to business owners and providing support, the CIPs help bosses to "take a step back and gain some perspective on what happened", allowing "an earlier handling of suicide risks".

Duvigneaud said "business owners are considered as being the strong men of society" and thus those around them often don't pick up on warning signals. Another difficulty, she said, is that for many a professional failure provokes "a feeling of personal failure" as "owners of small and medium-sized businesses have invested everything in their firms: their lives, their pride, their savings..." — AFP

ACLU fighting for US civil rights for nearly a century

The night Donald Trump took the White House in a shock electoral victory ushered in a new US political reality - and drove the American Civil Liberties Union into the resistance. Since then, the venerable non-profit group has been riding a wave of anti-administration anger to position itself as one of the most high-profile adversaries of the US president. It was among the favorites this week for the Nobel Peace Prize that was eventually won by the nuclear disarmament campaign group ICAN.

The ACLU has been at the forefront of historic liberal struggles, from the internment of Japanese-Americans to abortion rights. Long a thorn in the side of the US establishment, the organization got a shot in the arm after Trump's victory. Three days after the real estate magnate's stunning win, the ACLU took out a full-page advertisement in The New York Times, warning the then president-elect it was "ready to fight" with "full firepower" against policies seen as an encroachment on rights.

Since then, the non-profit group has been riding the wave of anti-administration anger to position itself as one of the president's most high-profile adversaries. "Candidate Trump had promised to engage in various actions that we concluded were unconstitutional and we titled it: 'We'll see you in court,'" said David Cole, the group's legal director. "It became kind of our moniker." Indeed, the popular New York Times crossword even included the slogan as a clue in one of its puzzles: "Group that

promised Trump 'We'll see you in court.' Answer? "A-C-L-U."

From Trump's travel ban to a decree barring transgender troops and the president's controversial probe into election integrity, the ACLU has invited the commander-in-chief to the ring, gloves raised. "The fight is on," reads the banner on the website of the organization, which has hit Trump with some deafening blows in his first year as president. When a federal appeals court maintained injunctions against his controversial anti-immigration measure - which targeted citizens from several predominantly Muslim countries - Trump lashed out with the Twitter equivalent of a shout: "SEE YOU IN COURT." "He had stolen our moniker," Cole remembers.

Since the 2016 election, the ACLU - which boasts some 300 lawyers - has quadrupled its membership from 400,000 to 1.6 million, and watched donations to the tune of over \$80 million fill its coffers.

'Freedom can't protect itself'

That war chest has allowed the group to expand its initiatives working for those sectors of society targeted by the Republican president's policies: minorities, migrants, detainees and Muslims, among others. Officially, the ACLU supports causes including the right to abortion, religious liberties and equal rights regardless of gender, and opposes the death penalty and lengthy prison sentences. On other issues, its stances can be less predictable: The ACLU is opposed to campaign finance limits or establishing a national registry of



Camila Cabello performs onstage showing her support for DACA while wearing an ACLU ribbon on NBC's "Today" at Rockefeller Plaza on Sept 29, 2017 in New York City. —AFP

firearms owners. The group also stood with veterans who wanted images of the Confederate flag - considered by many Americans a racist symbol - on the license plates of their cars.

The ACLU is based in Manhattan, with local branches nationwide but its legal headquarters are located on Washington's major artery K Street, where lobbyists, think tanks and defense groups are concentrated. Founded in 1920 by a small group of activists opposed to the mass deportations of leftists and anarchist militants under US attorney general A Mitchell Palmer, the ACLU's national logo includes an image of Lady Liberty's crown. "Because Freedom Can't Protect Itself," reads its motto.

The organization's nearly century-long

history is punctuated by key trials, victories and struggles fundamental to civil rights in the United States: the right to teach evolution theory (1925), the fight against Japanese-American internment camps (1942), the end of racial segregation in public schools (1954) and the right to have an abortion (1973).

More recently, the ACLU has been battling for LGBTQ rights, to expose CIA torture, keep classrooms secular and against government surveillance enabled under former president George W Bush following the attacks of Sept 11, 2001. And the group has courted criticism, too, for defending the right of neo-Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan group to demonstrate, or backing the refusal of Jehovah's Witnesses to salute the American flag. —AFP



(Left) An Emirati police officer stands next to a drone motorcycle at the Gitex 2017 exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Center in Dubai yesterday. (Right) A visitor looks at a spherical monitor. — AFP

Tehran warns US against imposing further sanctions

BEIRUT/DUBAI: Iran warned the United States against designating its Revolutionary Guards Corp as a terrorist group and said US regional military bases would be at risk if further sanctions were passed. The warning came after the White House said on Friday that President Donald Trump would announce new US responses to Iran's missile tests, support for "terrorism" and cyber operations as part of his new Iran strategy.

"As we've announced in the past, if America's new law for sanctions is passed, this country will have to move their regional bases outside the 2,000 km range of Iran's missiles," Guards' commander Mohammad Ali Jafari said, according to state media. Jafari also said that additional sanctions would end the chances for future dialogue with the United States, according to state media, and issued a stark warning to American troops. "If the news is correct about the stupidity of the American government in considering the Revolutionary Guards a terrorist group, then the Revolutionary Guards will consider the American army to be like

Islamic State all around the world particularly in the Middle East," Jafari said.

The Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) are Iran's most powerful internal and external security force. The Quds Force, the IRGC's foreign espionage and paramilitary wing, and individuals and entities associated with the IRGC are on the US list of foreign terrorist organizations, but the organization as a whole is not.

Iran sees the Sunni Muslim militants of Islamic State as an existential threat to the Islamic Republic where the majority of the population are Shiites. On June 7, Islamic State claimed an attack on Tehran's parliament and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, killing 18 people. The Guards fired missiles at Islamic State bases in Syria on June 18 in response.

Guards commanders have framed their military involvement in Iraq and Syria, where they are fighting to support the government of President Bashar al-Assad, as a fight against Islamic State. Dozens of members of the Guards, including senior commanders, have been killed in Syria and Iraq.

The website for state TV reported Jafari as adding that the United States was mistaken if it thought it could pressure Iran into negotiating on regional issues. Jafari also said that Tehran would ramp up its defense capabilities, including its missile program, if the US undermined a nuclear deal between Iran and Western powers. — Reuters

Trump, Corker in testy tweet battle

Continued from Page 1

nuclear program in exchange for easing of international sanctions. During the US political fight over the agreement, which was opposed by every Republican in Congress, Corker co-wrote the law that required congressional approval for the deal and required the president to certify that Iran was complying every 90 days. Some critics on the far right have blamed Corker for

that measure, which they say helped push the pact through Congress. The two-term senator's retirement is a blow to a Republican Party struggling to balance divisions between mainstream and more populist wings.

Asked last week about reported tensions between Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Corker responded with what was seen as a jab at Trump. He described Tillerson, Secretary of Defense James Mattis, and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly as "those people that help separate our country from chaos". After Charlottesville, Corker said, "The president has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability, nor some of the competence, that he needs to demonstrate in order to be successful." — Reuters

Saudis tackling border spillover from Yemen war

Continued from Page 1

The base showed signs of close-range combat. The scorched walls were scarred with shrapnel and the metal ceiling was pitted with bullet and shell holes. A cat prowled behind a mountain of wrecked furniture. Gas masks had been procured for fear of potential chemical attacks, Al-Hameed said. He described the Saudi base on the edge of the frontier as an "arrowhead", directly exposed to Houthi mountain posts on the other side that give the rebels a strategic vantage point. The rebels, well-versed in the region's rugged topography, have mounted numerous cross-border raids in retaliation against Saudi airstrikes on their Yemeni strongholds.

Saudi Arabia led a 2015 intervention in Yemen to prop up the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi after Houthi rebels forced him into exile. But two years later, the kingdom appears to be in a quagmire. Hoping for a quick victory against what it saw as Iranian expansionism in its backyard, it has so far been unable to remove the Houthis from capital Sanaa. It has also been hit repeatedly by the rebels' cross-border incursions, raising fears the conflict could drag out yet further.

"It's been extraordinarily difficult to prevent Yemeni infiltrations across the border," Lori Boghardt, from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told AFP. "The Saudis are not just trying to protect civilians and... infrastructure from the tens of thousands of projectiles and ballistic missiles being launched over the border," she said. "There's also the broader strategic issue of trying to secure the basic territorial integrity of the kingdom."

The rebels have posted numerous propaganda videos purporting to show their incursions into Saudi territory, including one inside Al Khubah showing border guards

beating a hasty retreat. "The Houthis are liars, liars, liars," Hameed said, claiming there had only been a handful of Saudi casualties and no fatalities in rebel assaults at the site.

Saudi Arabia does not officially disclose military fatalities, but state media has frequently featured funeral notices for "martyred" soldiers. Unofficial figures show that cross-border attacks by rebels have killed at least 140 soldiers and civilians in Saudi Arabia since March 2015. Given Saudi Arabia's large military presence along the border and its superior air power, the Houthis would struggle to hold any territory they might seize.

But their campaign of incursions represents a public relations win, experts say. "The definition of military success for the under-resourced Houthis is significantly different from that for the Saudis," said Adam Baron, a Yemen expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "Even if faced with high casualties, the Houthi breach into Saudi territory is a way to tell their supporters: 'Look, we are beating back the mighty enemy, we are invading their territory.'"

Ordinary Saudi civilians have also been affected by the fighting. Thousands of residents have been evacuated from border towns across the southwest to create a buffer zone. In the frontier provinces of Jizan and Najran, thousands of mortar shells and crude rockets have slammed into schools, mosques and homes. But a constant refrain among border guards is that life remains normal. "City hall. Normal. Hospital. Normal. School. Normal," Hameed said as he drove past the sites en route to Al Khubah. "You are near the war but you will say 'where is the war?' We have successfully sealed the border."

But around a bend, the convoy entered what looked like a ghost town. Thousands of residents living in border communities have been moved to safer ground. Crashing mortar shells have left large craters in the ground. "Houthis are a cancer," Hameed said. "If you have power, target us. Why kill civilians, women and children?"

Saudi Arabia has faced repeated accusations of targeting civilians in Yemen. But for border guards, the threat emanating from Yemen is existential. Hameed ducked slightly as he got out of his armored vehicle, for fear of Houthi snipers and fighters lurking in the hills. He described the area as a "kill zone". — AFP

Kuwait 'ice ladies' lace up for world hockey tourney

Continued from Page 1

Championship in Bangkok, according to the state-run KUNA news agency. Fifty-six Kuwaiti women between the ages of 15 and 30 are now the proud owners of team jerseys emblazoned with their names on the back - some of them mothers who frequently bring their children to training. But while the athletes have the support of their teammates and, increasingly, of their communities, what they lack is their own training facility. For now, they still rent the ice rink in a state-run ski lounge.

"We need facilities dedicated to training women to convince families that their daughters need to be involved in sports," said Sheikha Naima Al-Sabah, president of the Kuwaiti Women's Sports Authority. "We initially faced some resistance due to social traditions, but the culture of women in sports is spreading

and we're not regular faces at Asian tournaments," she told AFP. "So we are progressing, but slowly, because some of our girls immediately marry at a certain age - or because they choose to wear hijab in a world where you're not allowed into certain sports if you choose to wear hijab".

International basketball governing body FIBA in May rescinded a ban on hijab and other forms of religious head covers, which on the grounds that they could potentially fall off and pose a risk to players. But with its oversized jerseys, shin guards and helmets, hockey is a good fit for many of the Kuwaiti national team players. "As you see, the uniform totally covers everything," said team player Khaleda Abdel Karim during a break in practice. "So I personally find no difficulties at all in that sense," she smiled, adding that the team had received strong support from both Kuwait's government and the public.

Despite the warm welcome the team has received, the women are still fighting to both secure the best for their athletes - and to overcome culture challenges both at home and abroad. "In order to get the best results, you need to be given the best training," said Sheikha Naima of the sports authority. "What we need are good coaches, professional trainers. I don't want... just any coach for my girls". — AFP

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Sports

Flu-victim Draxler to miss final Germany qualifier

BERLIN: Julian Draxler will miss Germany's final World Cup qualifier yesterday against Azerbaijan with flu as the hosts chase a record 10 straight wins on the road to Russia. Paris Saint-Germain star Draxler played on the right wing in Germany's 3-1 win against Northern Ireland in Belfast on Thursday which confirmed the world champions' place at next year's World Cup in Russia. The Germans can finish with a perfect record of 10 victories from their qualifying games with a victory against Azerbaijan in Kaiserslautern (kick-off 1845 GMT). Germany has never qualified for a World Cup finals before with a 100 percent record. If they beat Azerbaijan, they will become only the second country to win all 10 games in a European qualifying campaign after Spain first achieved the feat on the road to the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.—AFP



Reynolds wins Australia's high-profile motorsport race

BATHURST: David Reynolds and his co-driver Luke Youlden won the most high-profile race in Australian motorsports yesterday, finishing the Bathurst 1000 in his Holden in an unofficial time of 7 hours, 13 minutes in slick and rainy conditions on Mount Panorama. Scott Pye, also driving a Holden, was four seconds behind in second, followed by Fabian Coulthard in a Ford. After a succession of crashes and safety cars in the closing stages, it was Reynolds who had the inside running to win the 1,000-kilometer race over 161 laps of the 6.2-kilometer course at Bathurst, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of Sydney. "I've got nothing left to give," Reynolds said. "I am absolutely spent. This bloke (co-driver Youlden) drove unbelievably all day. My crew was faultless. Man, it was just a perfect day." It was Youlden's 18th Bathurst. "It's taken a long time, but tell you what - to do it with Dave and this team, it's an unbelievable feeling," he said.—AP

India's Sadhu takes first Asian Tour win in Taiwan

TAIPEI: India's Ajeetesh Sandhu shot a two-under-par 70 to claim his first Asian Tour victory at the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship in Taiwan yesterday. Sandhu edged American Johannes Veerman to the title after trading three birdies against one bogey and ended with a total of 12-under-par 276 at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club. "I'm still shaking from the last putt but now that I'm thinking about it, it is absolutely amazing," Sandhu said. "I'm proud of myself that I was able to focus on my own my game. I was just trying to hit the next shot the best that I could and I won." He became the tenth first-time Asian Tour winner in 2017. Veerman almost forced a play-off when his eagle chip on the 18th hole hit the pin but ended up a runner-up for the second time in his career on the Asian Tour.—AP



Ruthless Hamilton wins Japanese GP to move closer to F1 title

Vettel's title hopes suffer huge blow in Japan

SUZUKA: Championship leader Lewis Hamilton won the Japanese Grand Prix yesterday, taking a major step toward winning his third Formula One title. The Mercedes driver crossed the finish line 1.2 seconds ahead of Malaysia GP winner Max Verstappen to claim his eighth F1 victory of the season and third at the Suzuka circuit. Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Daniel Ricciardo was third.

"The track was fantastic today and the team did an unbelievable job," Hamilton said. "Max drove an outstanding race. Obviously, it wasn't easy for us." Hamilton moved 59 points clear of title rival Sebastian Vettel with four races left.

Starting from pole position next to Vettel, Hamilton held the lead through the first turn. With Vettel out of the race, it quickly became a showdown between Hamilton and Max Verstappen. Hamilton built up a four-second lead over the Red Bull driver through the first 15 laps and made his only pit stop on the 23rd lap.

Verstappen pitted a lap earlier than Hamilton, then produced some good laps to cut the lead to 1.7 seconds midway through the race. Verstappen closed to within a second at the start of the final lap but traffic allowed Hamilton to escape once more

and seal the narrow win.

"I was able to hold him behind me but he got very close," Hamilton said. "We had a bit of traffic but it was very close at the end." Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was fourth followed by Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen. The Force India duo of Esteban Ocon and Sergio Perez was sixth and seventh, respectively.

Haas driver Kevin Magnussen was eighth followed by teammate Romain Grosjean. Williams driver Felipe Massa rounded out the top 10. Vettel's early retirement put a serious dent in his fading hopes of coming back to win the championship. He also had mechanical issues at Malaysia and started at the back of the grid before working his way to a fourth-place finish.

"It is obviously a pity the last two races with the reliability issues," Vettel said. "But you know, it's like that sometimes. Of course it hurts, and we're all disappointed." Sauber driver Marcus Ericsson also retired early when he ran across the gravel and dived nose-first into the barriers.

Carlos Sainz lost control of his Toro Rosso, spinning across the gravel into the wall on the outside and retiring after the second lap. Mercedes also increased its lead in the Constructors' standings to 145 points over Ferrari. Red Bull is in third place with 303 points. The next race is Oct. 22 in the United States.—AP

“Track was fantastic today”

Australia beat Argentina to finish runners-up

MENDOZA: Australia scored 17 unanswered points in the last quarter of the match to beat Argentina 37-20 Saturday in the final game of the 2017 Rugby Championship. Scrum-half Will Genia and winger Reece Hodge both scored late tries as the Wallabies pulled away to snuff out any chance of another Argentine comeback after the Pumas had clawed their way back to 20-20. The result enabled Australia to leapfrog South Africa and finish runner-up to New Zealand in the final championship standings with two wins, two draws and two losses for 15 points.

Argentina finished bottom after losing all six championship matches and failing to secure any bonus points for the first time since joining the southern hemisphere competition in 2012. Australia triumphed despite a mixed kicking performance from star fly-half Bernard Foley, who came into the match on a streak of 18 successful kicks at goal.

He slotted his first attempt, then fluffed four in a row before regaining his composure and nailing the next four for a 17-point personal tally that included a try. It

lifted his championship total this season to 80 points, making him the leading individual scorer ahead of New Zealander Beauden Barrett and South African Elton Jantjies. Foley opened the scoring at the 40,000-capacity Estadio Malvinas Argentinas in the west of the country by slotting a close-range penalty on 15 minutes. Australia increased their lead to 8-0 when winger Marika Korobete raced over for his third try in two Tests before Argentina hit back with a try from lock Matias Alemanno.

Fly-half Nicolas Sanchez landed a conversion then added a penalty to briefly put the Pumas in front. Genia threw a long pass from a maul and Hodge darted over unchallenged as the Wallabies regained the lead but a late Sanchez penalty tied the scores at 13-13 at halftime. Foley converted his own try 13 minutes into the second half but the Pumas again got back on level terms, with centre Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias scoring a converted touchdown.

But as the second half progressed, the Wallabies steadily began to dominate territory and possession, opening up cracks in the Argentine defence. Genia scored just past the hour and Foley, who had rediscovered his accuracy, converted then added a penalty after a dangerous tackle saw Argentine lock Marcos Kremer yellow-carded.

Hodge then went over after a brilliant pass by replacement centre Samu Kerevi just before being bundled into touch and the Foley conversion wrapped up a convincing triumph.—AFP



SUZUKA: Winner Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton gestures with his trophy at the podium following the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka yesterday. — AFP



Toyota clinches podium finish in FIA World Endurance Championship

TEXAS: Toyota GAZOO Racing secured a podium finish in the sixth round of FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), held at the 'Circuit of the Americas' in Texas, United States. The #8 TS050 Hybrid, led by crew Sebastien Buemi, Stephane Sarrazin and Kazuki Nakajima, finished third at the end of 1,058km of fierce racing.

The #7 TS050 Hybrid of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez crossed the chequered flag seconds after the #8 to take the fourth spot.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "The 5.5-km race track in Texas is a tough challenge for even the best drivers in the world. The Toyota teams competed fiercely; I am proud of their achievement and congratulate them for their well-deserved podium finish. Racing events such as the WEC put our people and cars to the ultimate test, providing us with learnings and invaluable insights that inspire our thoughts and efforts in making 'ever-better' cars. I also take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to fans across the world who cheer for our teams." Hisatake Murata, Team President, said, "The team worked very hard to recover from a disappointing qualifying, and I am pleased that we could challenge the other competing teams and give the fans an exciting race. Everyone could see our fighting spirit today, so thank you to the team for their big effort; we had a good strategy, quick pit stops and tough racing from the drivers in the difficult, hot conditions.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Congratulations to the winning team on their victory. Even though we are disappointed not to win, today's performance gives us a lot of encouragement for our home race; we will go to Fuji Speedway aiming for the middle of the podium." The #8 TS050 Hybrid, with Sebastien Buemi in the driving seat, started strong by taking the second spot towards the end of the second lap. Mike Conway followed suit by driving the #7 TS050 Hybrid and ensuring that the Toyota cars were in a strong position right at the outset. WEC regulations required the teams to change drivers at each stint due to the hot weather. Hence, the first pit stop saw Kazuki Nakajima and Jose Maria Lopez get behind the wheels, and both cars proceeded without a tire change. Kazuki led the race from the #7 after one hour, but Jose, using soft compound tire sun like the sister car, suffered higher degradation, and slipped to fourth despite fighting wheel to wheel over two laps with competitor car #1. At the next round of pit stops, when Stephane and Kamui took over, new tires of the same compound were fitted to both cars, which handed the lead back to a competitor car, courtesy of its shorter fuel-only pit stops. Kamui's impressive stint saw him pass Stephane for third and eliminate the gap to competitor car #2.

On the three-hour mark, after another driver change and refueling stop for both cars, a 10-minute safety car period for barrier repairs brought all four LMP1 cars together at the front, with Mike in second and Sebastien third. When the race restarted, the #7 and #8 TS050 Hybrids, running on used tires, were facing competitor car #2 on new rubber. Mike dropped to fourth while Sebastien temporarily defended his second place until the next pit stops when the #8 car slipped to third. With two hours still to go, the drivers kept the pressure on the competitor cars, despite the uncomfortable heat, but ultimately the leaders proved just out of reach with Kazuki and Kamui taking the chequered flag in third and fourth, respectively.

The Toyota teams will now assess their past performances in the run-up to their home race at Fuji Speedway on October 13th, 2017.



MENDOZA: Australia's Israel Folau is tackled by Argentina's Pablo Matera during a rugby Championship match in Mendoza, Argentina, Saturday. — AP

Sports

Ovechkin leads Capitals with hat-trick, Flyers beat Ducks

Brodie has 2 goals, 2 assists in Flames' win over Jets

WASHINGTON: Alex Ovechkin scored four goals to become the first NHL player in 100 years with back-to-back hat tricks to open a season as the Washington Capitals beat the Montreal Canadiens 6-1 on Saturday night. Ovechkin had three goals in the third period in Thursday's victory at Ottawa, and then matched the feat while helping chase Montreal goalie Carey Price in the first period Saturday. He added his fourth goal at 16:46 of the second against Al Montoya. It was the fourth four-goal game of his career and second against the Canadiens. Three players had hat tricks in the first two games of the 1917-18 season: Cy Denneny of Ottawa, Joe Malone of Montreal and Reg Noble of Toronto, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Braden Holtby stopped 38 shots and T.J. Oshie also scored for Washington, as did Nathan Walker - the first Australian to play in the league - on his NHL debut.

PENGUINS 4, PREDATORS 0

Evgeni Malkin scored and Matt Murray stopped 26 shots as the Penguins beat the Predators in a Stanley Cup Final rematch. Olli Maatta, Ryan Reaves and Jake Guentzel also scored in Pittsburgh's first win in its third game of the season. The two-time defending champion Penguins were coming off an ugly 10-1 loss at Chicago at Thursday night. Reaves, acquired in a June trade with St. Louis, also fought Austin Watson and Cody McLeod, finishing with 24 penalty minutes. He skated on a line with Sidney Crosby when the game turned chippy in the third period. Murray, who allowed 11 goals on 65 shots in his first two games, posted his sixth career shutout. Juse Saros, who earned his first NHL win last October against Pittsburgh, stopped 30 shots for Nashville.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2, COYOTES 1, OT

James Neal's goal at 3:46 of overtime gave expansion Vegas its second win in two games. Neal, who scored twice in the Golden Knights' first regular-season game Friday at Dallas, completed a comeback that saw Vegas tie the score at 1 with 1:12 to play in regulation. Anti Raanta, in his first game as the new No. 1 goaltender in Arizona, stopped 42 shots. Vegas, unable to put a shot past Raanta for nearly the entire game, drew even at 1 on Nate Schmidt's goal. The Golden Knights had pulled goalie Marc-Andre Fleury with 2:18 to play for an extra attacker, and the move paid off. Fleury made 27 saves.



Ovechkin, first NHL player to score 4 goals

BLACKHAWKS 5, BLUE JACKETS 1

Brandon Saad, Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews each had a goal and an assist to lead Chicago over Columbus. Richard Panik also scored and Jan Rutta got his first NHL goal as Chicago followed up on a season-opening 10-1 rout of Pittsburgh with another solid performance. Sonny Milano scored for the Blue Jackets, who blanked the New York Islanders 5-0 in their opener Friday in Columbus. Corey Crawford made 32 saves for Chicago, while Joonas Korhonen blocked 24 shots.

DEVILS 4, AVALANCHE 1

Hobey Baker Award winner Will Butcher set up three

power-play goals as the Devils opened the season with a victory over the Avalanche. Adam Henrique, Jimmy Hayes, rookie Jesper Bratt and John Moore scored for New Jersey, and Cory Schneider made 40 saves. Carl Soderberg scored for Colorado, a second after a power play expired. Jonathan Bernier had 35 saves for the Avs, who opened their season on Thursday with a win over the Rangers. Butcher became the first player in franchise history to get three assists in his first game.

HURRICANES 5, WILD 4, SO

Jacob Slavin scored in the shootout, sending Carolina to the win. Victor Rask scored late in regulation and Sebastian Aho had two key assists while Noah Hanifin, Joakim Nordstrom and Derek Ryan also scored to help Carolina win its opener. Mikko Koivu sent it to overtime by scoring in the final second of regulation. Jason Zucker, former Carolina captain Eric Staal and Chris Stewart also scored for the Wild. Scott Darling made 23 saves in his debut as a full-time starter in the NHL and his first game with the Hurricanes. Alex Stalock stopped 38 shots for the Wild.

ISLANDERS 6, SABRES 3

John Tavares scored twice to lead New York over Buffalo in its home opener. Casey Cizikas had two goals and an assist, and Josh Bailey and Anthony Beauvillier also scored for the Islanders, who won a night after losing 5-0 at Columbus. Jaroslav Halak stopped 26 shots. Evander Kane scored twice and Jack Eichel had a goal and an assist for the Sabres, who are still seeking their first win under new coach Phil Housley. Robin Lehner gave up four goals on 16 shots and was pulled early in the second. Chad Johnson finished with 15 saves.

MAPLE LEAFS 8, RANGERS 5

Tyler Bozak, Leo Komarov and Nazem Kadri scored third-period goals as the Maple Leafs held off the Rangers in their wild home opener. It was an adventure in defending for both teams at times, with Toronto pulling ahead 5-1 in the first period and chasing Henrik Lundqvist before the Rangers scored four straight to quiet the Air Canada Centre crowd. Bozak made it 6-5 Toronto at 7:17 of third, redirecting a pass from Jake Gardiner over Ondrej Pavelec's glove. The Rangers lost a challenge that the play was offside, earning a minor penalty in the process. Zach Hyman scored twice, and Dominic Moore, Jake Gardiner and Nikita Zaitsev added goals for Toronto. J.T. Miller, Kevin Shattenkirk, Mika Zibanejad, Marc Staal and Mats Zuccarello scored for the Rangers.

BLUES 4, STARS 2

Jake Allen made 38 saves and the Blues used three first-period goals to beat Dallas and spoil coach Ken Hitchcock's return to St. Louis. Carl Gunnarsson, Joel Edmundson and Jaden Schwartz each scored in a five-minute span in the first, and Vladimir Tarasenko added a power-play goal in the third. John Klingberg and Mattias Janmark scored for Dallas. Kari Lehtonen made 17 saves. Hitchcock coached the Blues for six seasons,

Basketball great Connie Hawkins dead at 75

PHOENIX: Connie Hawkins, basketball's dazzling New York playground great who soared and swooped his way to the Hall of Fame, has died. He was 75. His death was announced Saturday by the Phoenix Suns, the team with which he spent his most productive NBA seasons in a career delayed for years by a point-shaving scandal that led to the league blackballing him, even though he was never directly linked to any wrongdoing. The Suns did not disclose the cause of Friday's death. Hawkins, who lived in the Phoenix area, had been in frail health for several years and was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2007. "We lost a legend," said Jerry Colangelo, the Suns general manager when Hawkins played and later the owner of the franchise, "a player I had a very deep affection for who kind of put us on the map." "The Hawk," as he came to be known for his soaring repertoire, was born on July 17, 1942, in Brooklyn, where he could dunk by age 11 and ruled the asphalt playgrounds, tales of his basketball feats spreading across the boroughs. He was a decent shooter, but he was at his masterful best should anyone dare to try to cover him one-on-one. "One of the first players to play above the rim," Colangelo said, "and kind of set the tone for those who followed, Julius Erving in particular, in

terms of charisma on the court and the ability to do things on court." Hawkins would blow by defenders and, gripping the ball in one hand, finish with breathtaking wizardry or a thunderous slam, seemingly defying laws of gravity. "Someone said if I didn't break them, I was slow to obey them," he once said. Before there was the persona of "Dr. J," Hawkins produced his own brand of basketball theater, although for many years he played before decidedly smaller houses. "The Hawk" revolutionized the game and remains to this day an icon of the sport and one of basketball's great innovators," the Suns said in their statement. "His unique combination of size, grace and athleticism was well ahead of its time and his signature style of play is now a hallmark of the modern game." Hawkins toured the world with the Harlem Globetrotters then played two seasons in the ABA and was the league's Most Valuable Player in 1968, helping the Pittsburgh Pipers to a title. He didn't play in the NBA until he was 27, the league keeping its distance because of a college point-shaving scandal in New York City while Hawkins was a freshman at Iowa in 1961. Hawkins was never directly associated with the scandal and the principals always contended he had nothing to do with it, but the

NBA barred him nonetheless. "It was totally devastating," Hawkins said in a 2009 interview with NBA.com. "I was innocent, but no one would listen to me. Plus, coming from a poor family, no one even thought about trying to get a lawyer to fight it. We just weren't that sophisticated." Hawkins eventually sued the NBA for banning him and, according to his biography on NBA.com, reached a settlement of more than \$1 million. Finally, in 1969, then-commissioner J. Walter Kennedy lifted the ban. The Suns, a 1-year-old franchise at the time, lost a coin flip with Milwaukee for the rights to Lew Alcindor that year but won a separate coin flip with Seattle for the rights to Hawkins. "I was the happiest guy in the world," Hawkins said. "Once I became an NBA player, I never looked back. People still to this day ask me if I was bitter about that, and I still tell them the same thing. Hell no. I'm just glad I was able to play." He was an NBA All-Star for four straight seasons. His best season in the NBA was his first, when he averaged 24.6 points, 10.4 rebounds and 4.8 assists. He also played for the Los Angeles Lakers and Atlanta Hawks before retiring in 1976. Colangelo has said that if Hawkins would have come into the league through college at the normal age, "he could have been one of the top 10 or 15 players to ever play the game." Hawkins was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1992. An original member of the Suns Ring of Honor, he was a community representative for the Phoenix franchise for many years after his retirement. He was, Colangelo said, "a very warm, compassionate guy who was very humble in his own way." —AP



CALGARY: The Winnipeg Jets stop a shot from the Calgary Flames during an NHL game at Scotiabank Saddledome on Saturday in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. — AFP

going 248-124-41 before being fired last February. He was hired as the Stars coach in April.

KINGS 4, SHARKS 1

Anze Kopitar had two goals while Dustin Brown and Nick Shore also scored as Los Angeles beat San Jose. Jonathan Quick stopped 24 of 25 shots to earn the victory. The Kings won their road opener for first-year coach John Stevens. Mikkel Boedker scored for the Sharks, who have lost their first two home games. Martin Jones, a former Kings goalie, turned back 25 of 29 shots before he was replaced by Aaron Dell with 5:55 left in the second period.

FLYERS 3, DUCKS 2, OT

Wayne Simmonds scored 44 seconds into overtime to give Philadelphia a victory over Anaheim. The puck ricocheted off Ducks forward Andrew Cogliano's skate and directly to the open Simmonds. He quickly gained control and snapped a shot past goalie John Gibson for the Flyers' second victory in three games. Ivan Provorov and Sean Couturier also scored for Philadelphia, and Nolan Patrick got his first NHL point assisting on Provorov's goal. Patrick was the second-overall draft pick this summer. Brian Elliott stopped 21 shots. Antoine Vermette and Cam Fowler scored for Anaheim. Gibson had 34 stops.

FLAMES 6, JETS 3

Defenseman T.J. Brodie had two goals and two assists and Calgary scored the final five goals to beat Winnipeg in its home opener. Johnny Gaudreau scored the go-ahead goal and had three assists for Calgary, down 3-1 after the first period. Brodie and Gaudreau each tied career highs with four-point games. Micheal Ferland, Kris Versteeg and Mikael Backlund also scored, and Mike Smith made 25 saves for his first victory with Calgary. Brandon Tanev, Mark Scheifele and Patrik Laine scored for the Jets. Steve Mason, pulled after giving up five goals in a 7-2 loss to the Toronto

Rabada spearheads South Africa's biggest victory

BLOEMFONTEIN: Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada led a ruthless bowling performance as South Africa completed an innings and 254 run win on the third day of the second Test against Bangladesh at Mangaung Oval yesterday. It was the biggest win in South Africa's Test history, surpassing the innings and 229 run victory over Sri Lanka in Cape Town in 2000/01. Rabada took five for 30 as Bangladesh were bowled out for 172, a slight improvement on their first innings of 147 in reply to South Africa's 573 for four declared. Rabada, 22, who had match figures of 10 for 63, became the youngest of 16 South Africans to take 100 Test wickets. He was playing in his 22nd Test. Only Vernon Philander (19) and Dale Steyn (20) of his compatriots have achieved the feat in fewer matches. It was Rabada's third 10-wicket haul in Tests. He took his tally of Test wickets in 2017 to 54, the most by any bowler this year. It was another poor performance by Bangladesh on a pitch which had bounce but was not especially bowler-friendly. A small group of Bangladesh supporters cheered during a bright fifth wicket stand of 43 between Mahmudullah, who top-scored with 43, and Liton Das, who made 18. But their team gave them little else to applaud. Rabada and Duanne Olivier were aggressive from the start of play, when Bangladesh resumed on seven for no wicket. They sent down numerous short-pitched deliveries and three

batsmen were struck on their batting helmets, including captain Mushfiqur Rahim, who had lengthy treatment on the field after ducking into a bouncer from Olivier with his score on 11 soon after the mid-morning drinks break. He was hit on his helmet near the temple area. Rahim was dazed and lay down next to the pitch while the Bangladesh team physiotherapist and South African team doctor attended to him. He carried on batting for another 50 minutes until he was leg

before wicket to Wayne Parnell for 26 in the last over before lunch. Rahim was stretchered off the field after being hit behind the left ear by a bouncer from New Zealand's Tim Southee in Wellington in January but was released from hospital the same day. Mominul Haque was hit by a bouncer from Rabada two balls before hooking the same bowler to be caught at deep square leg for 11, while Mahmudullah was hit by Olivier before he had scored. — AFP



BLOEMFONTEIN: Bangladesh's batsman Mahmudullah (R) is watched by South Africa's wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock as he plays a shot during the third day of the second Test cricket match between South Africa and Bangladesh in Bloemfontein yesterday. — AFP

Sports

France on brink of World Cup, Dutch hopes hang by a thread

Cristiano Ronaldo sets up Swiss showdown

PARIS: Blaise Matuidi's early goal saw off Bulgaria 1-0 on Saturday and kept France top of European World Cup qualifying Group A, while the Netherlands' hopes are hanging by a thread despite a 3-1 win in Belarus.

France took the lead in only the third minute as midfielder Matuidi curled home a fantastic shot from a tight angle into the far top corner.

Bulgaria more than held their own in Sofia, though, as they looked to repeat the famous win over France that sent them to the 1994 World Cup, and Hugo Lloris was forced into a point-blank save to deny Georgi Kostadinov.

But Didier Deschamps's side closed out the vital win, and three points at home to Belarus on Tuesday would book their ticket to Russia. "It was a difficult match with lots of mistakes, commitment," said coach Deschamps.

"We're still first-that's important-we've got one match left and (qualification) remains in our hands, so we have to win on Tuesday." The Dutch needed a victory in Barysaw to keep alive any hopes of a top-two finish, but despite a third goal in two games from Brighton and Hove Albion midfielder Davy Propper, Belarus equalised through Maksim Volodjko.

Captain Arjen Robben came to his side's rescue by netting a penalty with only six minutes remaining, before Memphis Depay added some gloss in injury-time. The Netherlands are looking to avoid failing to qualify for successive major tournaments for the first time since 1986, having also missed out on Euro 2016.

But they now face a near impossible task, as Sweden thrashed Luxembourg 8-0 earlier on Saturday, with forward Marcus Berg scoring four goals, to extend their advantage over Dick Advocaat's men on goal dif-

ference to 12. Trailing the Scandinavians by three points, only a massive victory over Sweden in Amsterdam next week will save the three-time World Cup runners-up.

RONALDO SPARES PORTUGAL'S BLUSHES

Portugal struggled for long periods in Andorra, needing the rested Cristiano Ronaldo to come on as a half-time substitute and help them stumble to a 2-0 win and set up a winner-takes-all showdown with Switzerland in Lisbon tomorrow.

The European champions had to wait until the 63rd minute for Ronaldo to break the deadlock on the artificial pitch, before Andre Silva finally put their nerves to bed. Real Madrid star Ronaldo, who started on the bench to help avoid collecting a yellow card that would have seen him suspended for tomorrow's game, is now level on 15 goals for the campaign with Poland's Robert Lewandowski, a record for European World Cup qualifying.

"Thank God that he scored," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos. "Cristiano Ronaldo was decisive for us in this match, but that's why he's the best player in the world." "On that type of pitch, we were not able to really play our game, but we took advantage of the best player in the world." Steven Zuber scored twice in Basel as Switzerland made it nine wins from nine by thrashing Hungary 5-2. Switzerland lead Portugal by three points but have an inferior goal difference.

In Group H, Greece moved into second place with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory in Cyprus after Bosnia and Herzegovina had suffered a stunning 4-3 home defeat by already-qualified Belgium.



ANDORRA LA VELLA: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) falls while challenging Andorra's midfielder Victor Rodriguez during the FIFA World Cup 2018 football qualifier between Andorra and Portugal at the Municipal Stadium in Andorra la Vella, on Saturday. — AFP

FC Copenhagen striker Pieros Sotiriou put Cyprus ahead early on as they looked for a win to maintain hopes of a play-off place, but two goals in three first-half minutes from Kostas Mitroglou and Alexandros Tziolis sent Greece two points clear of Bosnia.

Michael Skibbe's side are almost certain to finish second as they host pointless Gibraltar in their last game tomorrow, although they could still miss out on

the play-offs as the worst second-placed team.

Goals from Haris Medunjanin and Edin Visca put the Bosnians ahead in Sarajevo after Belgium full-back Thomas Muenier's early strike, but Michy Batshuayi and Jan Vertonghen turned things around.

Dario Dumić's 82nd-minute equaliser gave Bosnia hope, but Atletico Madrid winger Yannick Carrasco struck to break the hosts' hearts. — AFP



Greece moves into second place with 2-1 victory

tomorrow's game, is now level on 15 goals for the campaign with Poland's Robert Lewandowski, a record for European World Cup qualifying.

Alex Iwobi sends Nigeria to Russia, Ghana eliminated

ABUJA: Alex Iwobi's goal saw Nigeria become the first African team to qualify for next year's World Cup in Russia, while Ghana were eliminated in the qualifiers. A 73rd-minute strike by Arsenal forward Iwobi handed the Super Eagles a 1-0 success over Zambia in Uyo, ensuring top spot in Group B with a game to spare.

"It was my goal to qualify this team to an amazing tournament like the World Cup," said Nigeria captain Mikel Obi. "I'm proud to captain this team of great players and coaches. My wife is Russian and she and the kids will be in Russia to cheer us at the World Cup." Nigeria now have 13 points with second-placed Zambia on seven. Cameroon are on six points after defeating Algeria 2-0.

Ghana, quarter-finalists at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, were eliminated after managing only a goalless draw in Uganda when needing a win to keep their slim hopes alive. It means Egypt can join Nigeria with victory at home to winless Congo yesterday.

Failure to do so would mean Uganda can still pip them to top spot in Group E, with both facing away trips next month. Uganda, who were promised \$3,000-a-man to beat Ghana, created the better first-half chances in Kampala but William Kizito spurned the best of those.

Derrick Nsibambi could have headed the Cranes ahead in the 64th minute, but somehow missed the target from inside the six-yard box. South Africa recorded their first win in Group D with a 3-1 success against Burkina Faso despite losing Bongani Zungu to a red card in the second half for retaliation.

Bafana Bafana raced to a 3-0 first-half lead with a highly controversial Percy Tau goal, followed by strikes from Themba Zwani and Sibusiso Vilakazi. Burkina Faso's consolation was a superb free-kick by Bertrand Traore



ABUJA: Nigeria's forward Mikel John Obi (L) fights for the ball with Zambia's midfielder Simon Silwimba during the FIFA World Cup 2018 qualifying football match between Nigeria and Zambia. — AFP

three minutes from time. Senegal top group D after late goals from Diafra Sakho and Cheikh N'Doye earned them a 2-0 win at Cape Verde.

They now need to win one of next month's double-header against South Africa to qualify, but all four teams remain in contention. Senegal have eight points with Burkina Faso and Cape Verde on six and South Africa on four. Senegal and South Africa have an extra game left because they must replay a match originally won 2-1 by Bafana Bafana that was annulled over match manipulation

by the Ghanaian referee.

DR Congo's 2-1 win in Libya ensured Group A will go down to the wire, although Tunisia need only a point at home to Libya to secure qualification after Youssef M'Sakni's hat-trick fired them to a 4-1 win at Guinea.

In Group C, Khalid Boutaib's hat-trick sent Morocco top with a 3-0 win over Gabon, who were eliminated. Ivory Coast dropped to second after drawing 0-0 in Mali on Friday but they host Morocco in a winner-takes-all clash next month. — AFP

Wales, Ireland face World Cup shootout

LONDON: Wales manager Chris Coleman says his side will embrace the pressure of today's knife-edge World Cup qualification shootout against the Republic of Ireland in Cardiff. Victory for either team will guarantee them a play-off berth at their opponents' expense and could yield an automatic qualifying spot if Group D leaders Serbia falter in their last game at home to Georgia. For Wales, a draw at Cardiff City Stadium would be enough to finish above Ireland in the table, but Coleman says his players will only be thinking of victory.

"We're on dangerous ground if we go in with a game plan of trying to soak the pressure up for 90 minutes," said Coleman, who will be without his attacking talisman Gareth Bale due to injury.

"We are too good to do that. We'll go and attack, go and score goals. We have to do that-it's our strength." A point may be OK, but we'll go for three points. That's the way it's set up. "I think it will be a sensational atmosphere in Cardiff and these are the games you want to be involved in.

"We always seem to play other countries who are involved and celebrating, but we welcome the pressure." Celtic cousins separated by the Irish Sea, Wales and Ireland are more accustomed to facing off on the rugby pitch and have never previously tackled each other in a football match of such magnitude. Surprise semi-finalists at Euro 2016, Wales have not played at a World Cup since 1958 and could finish a qualifying campaign unbeaten for the first time in their history.

A damaging run of five successive draws appeared to have nixed their qualification hopes, but consecutive wins-and clean sheets-against Austria, Moldova and Georgia have got them back on track.

'LET'S GO FOR IT'

In Bale's absence, Derby County forward Tom Lawrence scored a fine first international goal to give Wales a 1-0 win away to Georgia on Friday. A draw against Ireland should allow Wales to claim one of the eight play-off spots in the European section and if they win and Serbia fail to beat Georgia, Coleman's men will go to Russia next year as group winners. After successive participations at the European Championship, Martin O'Neill's Ireland are attempting to reach a first World Cup since 2002. Ranked 34th in the world by FIFA, they trail Wales by 21 places, but have not lost against them in seven encounters, stretching back to a 1-0 defeat in a friendly in Dublin in February 1992.

O'Neill will welcome back wingers Robbie Brady and James McClean after the pair missed Friday's 2-0 win over Moldova through suspension. While Wales are without Bale, O'Neill believes the absence of right-back Seamus Coleman—who suffered a ghastly double leg break against Wales in March's 0-0 draw at the Aviva Stadium—is "as big a loss to us". Wales have not lost at home in a competitive international since a 3-0 defeat by Serbia in September 2013, but O'Neill believes his side have the beating of them.

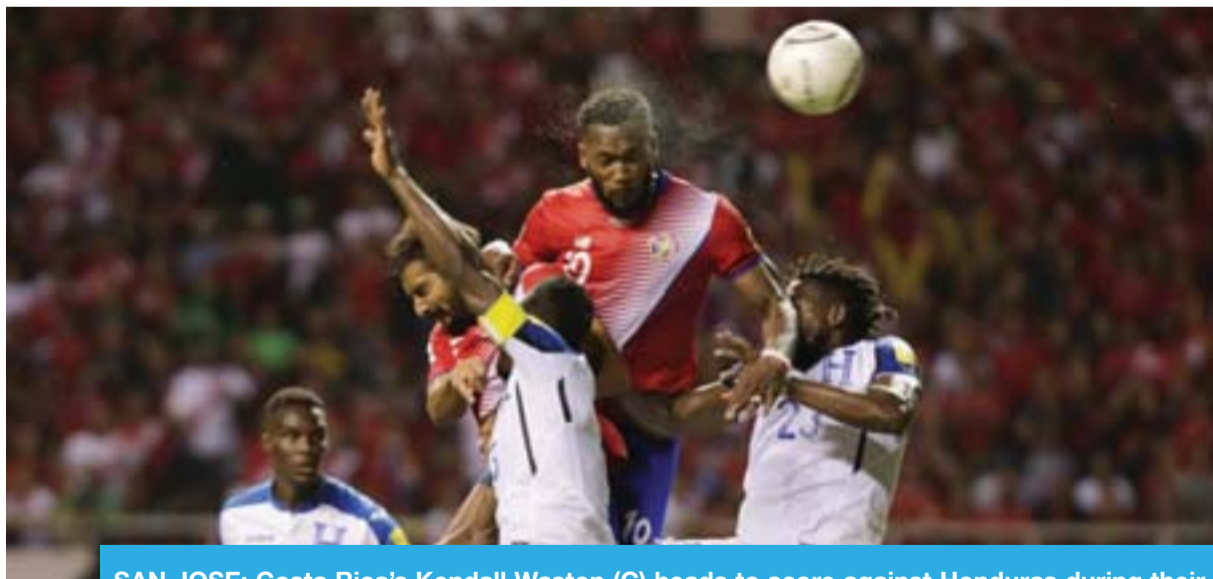
"I think we can win the match," he said. "I felt it was always going to be like this. When we get off to a decent start, the mindset changes a little bit in terms of points. "But if you had said to me right at the beginning when the group was drawn that we'd have to go to Wales and win—and we were down as fourth seeds—I would have taken it. So let's go for it." —AFP

Costa Rica clinch World Cup berth with draw against Honduras

SAN JOSE: Kendall Watson's header deep into injury time gave Costa Rica a 1-1 draw with Honduras on Saturday and a berth in the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Eddie Hernandez had headed Honduras ahead in the 66th minute, and it appeared that Costa Rica would have to put their Russia plans on hold. But five minutes into stoppage time, Watson rose in the center of the area to head in Bryan Ruiz's cross and spark joyful celebrations at the National Stadium in San Jose, where the match was postponed from Friday due to the effects of Hurricane Nate.

Costa Rica had a golden chance to take the lead in the 60th minute. Honduran goalkeeper Donis Escobar had pushed a shot back into the middle of the area only for Marcos Urena to fire over the empty net. Six minutes later, Romell Quioto sprinted down the wing and crossed into the box where Hernandez connected with a thundering header to put the visitors in front.

Costa Rica, with 16 points, joined Mexico (21) in advancing from the North and Central America and Caribbean (CON-



SAN JOSE: Costa Rica's Kendall Watson (C) heads to score against Honduras during their 2018 World Cup qualifier football match, in San Jose. — AFP

CONCACAF) region with three final matches to play on Tuesday. Three CONCACAF teams advance directly to the finals in Russia with a fourth to play off against either Syria or Australia for a berth. The United States moved into third place on 12 points on Friday with a 4-0 romp over Panama.

Panama are on 10 points in fourth and have the advantage on goal difference over Honduras, also on 10.

CONCACAF's six-nation final round of qualifying concludes tomorrow, when the United States travel to lowly Trinidad and Tobago, Honduras host Mexico and Panama host Costa Rica. Costa Rica will be playing in their fifth World Cup finals. They were quarter-finalists in Brazil in 2014 and reached the knockout stage in Italy in 1990. The Ticos also played in 2002 and 2006. —AFP

13 Ruthless Hamilton wins Japanese GP to move closer to F1 title

14 Ovechkin leads Capitals with hat-trick, Flyers beat Ducks

15 Alex Iwobi sends Nigeria to Russia, Ghana eliminated



BEIJING: Rafael Nadal of Spain holds the trophy after winning the men's singles final match against Nick Kyrgios of Australia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Nadal wins 6th title, Garcia beats Halep

Rafael picks up his 75th career singles trophy

BEIJING: Rafael Nadal beat Nick Kyrgios of Australia 6-2, 6-1 yesterday in the China Open final to win his sixth ATP title of the year, and Caroline Garcia defeated soon-to-be-No. 1 Simona Halep 6-4, 7-6 (3) in the women's event.

Top-ranked Nadal, who was tied with Roger Federer and Alexander Zverev at five titles this season, picked up his 75th career singles trophy with the win in Beijing. The 15th-ranked Garcia, who lost to Halep the two previous times they played, won her second consecutive WTA title. The 31-year-old Nadal's six trophies this year include a record 10th title at the French Open and a third at the US Open. The last time the Spaniard won at least six titles in a year was in 2013 when he captured 10 trophies for the season.

Kyrgios started yesterday struggling with his serve and never found a confident range throughout the match. His first-serve percentage mostly languished under the 50 percent mark. In contrast, Nadal always looked in charge and saved all four break points he faced. Kyrgios offered Nadal eight break points in the first set with Nadal taking two service breaks. Kyrgios didn't make it onto the board in the second set until he was serving with Nadal already leading 5-0.

Garcia also won in straight sets. "She played amazing tennis," Halep said of Garcia. "She deserved to win today. She

was better." For Halep, the loss was particularly disappointing as she was unable to back up her guaranteed debut in the No. 1 ranking on Monday. She secured the top spot on Saturday with her semifinal victory over French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Halep's best opportunity to rebound against Garcia ended when she failed to make good on any of the nine break points she had at 3-3 in the second set. "For sure it definitely turned the second set," Garcia said. "This game was definitely very important."

In the second-set tiebreaker, the unseeded Garcia jumped out to 4-1, and on a first match point at 6-3 with Halep serving, the Romanian netted a fore-

hand. Garcia fell to her knees in celebration. She is enjoying an 11-match winning streak, having captured her first title of the season at Wuhan last week. This is the second time she's won a career-best 11 straight matches. "It was such an amazing two weeks," Garcia said. "It went so fast." Garcia saved a match point in her three-set quarterfinal victory over third-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. The last time Kyrgios played a No. 1 it was also against Nadal. In that 2014 Wimbledon fourth-round encounter, the then 144th-ranked Kyrgios emerged a four-set winner. This was Nadal's second China Open title in four trips to the final. He won his first in his Beijing debut in 2005.

Nadal leads Kyrgios 3-2 in career meetings, and 2-1 this season. —AP

“ This game was definitely very important ”



BEIJING: Caroline Garcia of France holds the trophy after defeating Simona Halep of Romania in the women's singles final match in the China Open tennis tournament at the Diamond Court in Beijing. — AP

Kyle Kempt leads Iowa's shock win over Oklahoma

NORMAN: Kyle Kempt passed for 343 yards and three touchdowns, including a 25-yarder to Allen Lazard that put Iowa State ahead with 2:19 left and Joel Lanning made plays on offense and defense to lead the Cyclones to a stunning 38-31 victory over No. 3 Oklahoma on Saturday. The loss snapped Oklahoma's nation-leading 14-game winning streak and the Sooners' 18 game run against the Cyclones that dated to 1990. It was just Iowa State's second victory over Oklahoma since 1961, and the Cyclones (3-2, 1-1 Big 12) did it without their starting quarterback.

Kempt, the senior who had thrown just two passes in his career before Saturday, played because regular starter Jacob Park went on leave for undisclosed personal medical reasons late this week. The Cyclones had lost 20 straight against ranked opponents. Iowa State's last win over a Top 25 team came against TCU in 2012. It was Iowa State's first road win over a Top 5 team.

NO. 2 CLEMSON 28, WAKE FOREST 14

Kelly Bryant threw for 200 yards and a touchdown before leaving with an ankle injury as Clemson beat Wake Forest to reach to 6-0 for a third straight season. There was no immediate word on the severity of Bryant's injury. He left in the third quarter after Travis Etienne's 1-yard touchdown run put Clemson ahead 21-0. Bryant did not re-enter the game as Clemson (6-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast

Conference) beat the Demon Deacons (4-2, 1-2) for a ninth straight time.

NO. 5 GEORGIA 45, VANDERBILT 14

Nick Chubb ran for two touchdowns and 138 yards, and Georgia routed Vanderbilt despite missing three players from the Bulldogs' stingy defense. Georgia (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) is off to its best start since 2005 when the Bulldogs won their first seven games and longest winning streak since reaching the SEC championship in 2012. The Bulldogs also avenged a 17-16 loss to Vanderbilt last year by beating the Commodores for the 20th time in the past 23 games in this series.

NO. 8 TCU 31, NO. 23 WEST VIRGINIA 24

Kenny Hill avoided a defender in the backfield and lunged forward through two more for a 3-yard touchdown run with 2:53 left and TCU remained the Big 12's only undefeated team. Hill also threw a 45-yard touchdown pass and was on the receiving end of a 48-yard score for the Frogs (5-0, 2-0). His winning TD run came only five plays after an apparent interception was reversed on a replay review. Will Grier threw for 366 yards and three TDs for West Virginia (3-2, 1-1), including two long catch-and-run scores in a span of about 2 1/2 minutes late in the third quarter. It was tied at 24 after Grier hooked up with David Sills V on a 64-yard scoring play and then

Business

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017

19 US dollar shrugs off poor jobs report**21** NBK awarded 'Best Corporate for Investor Relations in Kuwait'**22** Global technology firms bet on Indonesia as next startup frontier

PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron (center) poses for a photograph prior to meet construction businessmen in Paris on Friday. —AP

Macron faces litmus test amid strikes

French lawmakers plan to amend wealth tax proposals

PARIS: Emmanuel Macron may have won the opening salvo in his battle to reform France's economy, but a nationwide strike by public workers this week will put more pressure on a leader struggling to shake off criticism that he is "president of the rich".

Strike notices have been lodged in schools, hospitals, airports and government ministries. Tomorrow's protest over plans to axe 120,000 jobs and reduce sick leave compensation will be the first time in a decade that all nine unions representing 5.4 million public workers have united behind a protest call.

The walkout comes as Macron, 39, looks to reverse damaging headlines after a week in which he scrapped a wealth tax and was recorded making unsympathetic remarks about workers at a struggling factory. Opponents reacted by branding him out of touch with ordinary voters.

"It should be a massive mobilization of workers," Mylene Jacquot, a senior official from France's largest trade union, the moderate CFDT, told reporters. Macron says France's economy needs re-shaping to lure investment and rein in spending, as he strives to

persuade Berlin that Paris can be a credible partner with whom to drive European reform.

Public sector workers say they are bearing the brunt of the government's effort to tame its fiscal deficit. Macron defied tens of thousands of protesters—far fewer compared with demonstrations of the past—last month to drive through labor reforms that simplify employment rules and give companies more power to set working conditions.

Civil servants, retired people and students are not giving up as they look anxiously towards a proposed overhaul of the employment insurance and pension systems.

So far, Unions have been unable to speak with a single voice. Among workers there are signs of mounting

agitation for a tougher stance, notably from the CFDT and Force Ouvriere union which both shunned the labor reform strikes. "You can hear it in the room. The rank and file is saying 'we've got to act, we've got to give a different answer'," Norbert Raffolt told union bosses at a CFDT convention.



Govt plans to cull 120,000 public jobs

opponents and drawn attacks from left-leaning media. "Robin Hood robbed from the rich to give to the poor. Macron is more cold-hearted, more ruthless: he takes

School closures, flight disruption

Government measures to cut housing aid and increase certain social security contributions while reducing corporate tax and scrapping a levy on wealth have infuriated socialist

from the poorest to give to the wealthiest," wrote one commentator in Liberation newspaper.

Lawmakers from Emmanuel Macron's party will propose an amendment to France's 2018 budget to tax luxury yachts, supercars and precious metals, a senior party official said, after opponents attacked the president's move to scrap France's wealth tax. Macron last week made good on a campaign pledge to abolish the wealth tax, a symbol of social justice for the left but blamed by others for driving thousands of millionaires abroad.

Left-wing opponents said the move was proof Macron was a "president of the rich", a label the former Rothschild banker has been struggling to shake off since taking office in May. A planned nationwide strike by public workers tomorrow will put more pressure on Macron. The wealth tax, introduced by the Socialists in the 1980s, was levied on individuals with assets above 1.3 million euros (\$1.5 million). It was to be replaced by a real estate tax but yachts, jewelry and luxury cars were to escape, even if the finance minister left the door open to a change of heart. — Reuters

Qatar orders aid to private sector as sanctions bite

DUBAI: Qatar's government announced measures to help private sector businesses on Saturday after its economy was hurt by sanctions imposed by other Arab states.

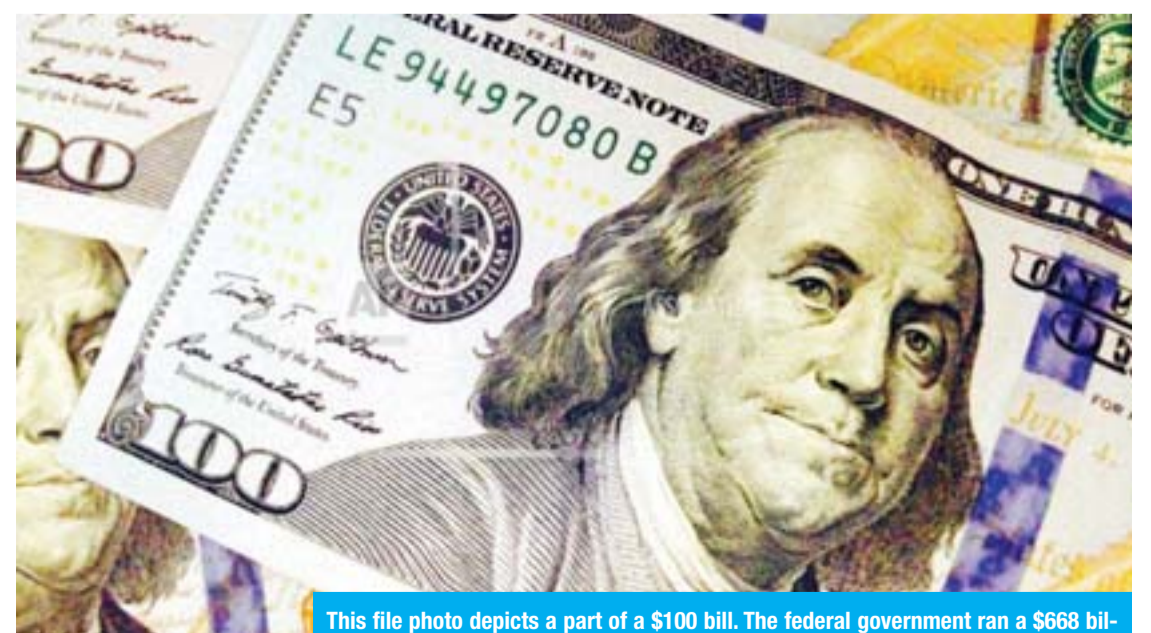
Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani decided to cut rents paid by companies in Qatar's logistics zones in half during 2018 and 2019, official news agency QNA reported. New investors in the zones will be completely exempt from paying rents for a year if they obtain building permits by certain deadlines. Qatar Development Bank, a state-founded body which lends to firms, will postpone receiving loan installments for up to six months to facilitate industrial sector projects.

Sheikh Abdullah also told all ministries and government departments to increase their procurement of local products to 100 percent from 30 percent, if the local products meet necessary specifications and the purchases obey tender rules. — Reuters

US budget deficit rises to \$668bn

WASHINGTON: The federal government ran a \$668 billion budget deficit for the just-completed 2017 fiscal year, according to a new government report. That's \$82 billion more red ink than the government produced last year. The Congressional Budget Office based its findings on preliminary Treasury reports. The worsening deficit picture comes as Congress digs into its pockets for tens of billions of dollars more for hurricane relief. Lawmakers are also working toward a round of tax cuts that could add \$1.5 trillion in debt over 10 years on top of already grim projections.

Washington isn't focusing much on the deficit these days, following the lead of President Donald Trump. The president has ruled out cuts to big benefit programs that drive the deficit's growth, and Congress has rejected most of Trump's other spending cuts. The national debt is \$20 trillion and CBO projects it would grow to about \$30 trillion within 10 years. Many analysts, including CBO, worry that the nation's deficit path is unsustainable and will harm the economy by sopping up investment and pushing



This file photo depicts a part of a \$100 bill. The federal government ran a \$668 billion budget deficit for the just-completed 2017 fiscal year. —AP

up interest rates. Republicans controlling Congress are working on companion nonbinding budget plans that promise sharp spending cuts and shrinking deficits, but they aren't likely to actually try to carry

out the cuts. Instead, the GOP budgets are aimed chiefly at easing the way for follow-up legislation to overhaul the tax code. Treasury will issue the official deficit figures in a week or two. —AP

US dollar shrugs off poor jobs report, continues to rebound

Euro subdued amid rising Catalonia tension

The US dollar continued its rebound this week on the back of positive economic figures heading into the fourth quarter of 2017. The labor market proved to be resilient despite the damages caused by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. While the economy lost 33,000 jobs unexpectedly, a rebound is anticipated as the displaced Americans return to work. Furthermore, the unemployment rate fell to a new low of 4.2 percent and wages jumped 0.5 percent above expectations. Analysts believe a 3.0 percent annual wage growth is needed to reach the Fed's 2 percent inflation target. Wages now stand at 2.9 percent year on year enforcing market expectations for a Fed hike in December.

US equity markets and treasuries yields rallied in tandem this week as positive figures were released and multiple Fed members echoed Janet Yellen's bullish remarks stating inflation does not need to move any higher to warrant another rate hike. With that sentiment, and a labor market near full capacity, there is nothing holding the Fed back from an interest rate increase in December. The US 10 year benchmark yield reached a 5 month high of 2.40 percent on confidence before retreating slightly.

The US dollar opened the week at 93.222 climbing steadily higher before jumping on Thursday and Friday to a high of 94.255 after the jobs report was released. The index then closed the week lower at 93.919.

The euro was subdued throughout the week with markets cautious after the regional government of Catalonia announced on Wednesday that they will declare independence from Spain today, adding to tensions in the region. Furthermore, the ECB meeting minutes released on Thursday was unexpectedly dovish suggesting that the economy may still need substantial stimulus for a little longer period of time. The EUR/USD opened the week at 1.1816 and closed at 1.1736. The British pound had the worst performing week in a year dropping to a monthly low amid growing concerns over Prime Minister Theresa May's control of the leadership and as the economy feels more of Brexit's negative effects. The latest Purchasing Manager's Indices indicated that rising inflation is increasing the cost burdens on businesses while Brexit uncertainties are delaying new projects and orders. The GBP opened the week at 1.3387 and dropped 2.4 percent to a close of 1.3063.

The Japanese yen traded sideways throughout the week despite an optimistic manufacturing report that showed business confidence at the highest in a decade. Furthermore, a Friday report showed wages rose in both nominal and infla-

tion-adjusted real terms which may have helped off-put the US dollar employment report gains. The USD/JPY opened the week at 112.54 and closed 112.63.

In commodities, Russian President Vladimir Putin hinted at a deal between OPEC and rival oil producers to extend the production curb to the end of 2018. The current agreement to cut output by 1.8 million barrels a day is set to expire in March. The Russian energy minister said he had discussed this pact with fellow ministers from Venezuela, Qatar and Iran. Saudi Arabia's energy minister responded saying he was "flexible" about the pact. However, Oil futures plunged 3 percent on Friday, and were set to end Brent's longest multi-week rally in 16 months. Brent Crude was last 55.62 and West Texas Intermediate closed at 49.29. US manufacturing activity surged to a more than 13-year high in September amid strong gains in new orders and raw material prices. This pointed to underlying strength in the economy even as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma are expected to dent growth in the third quarter. The ISM said Harvey and Irma led to disruptions to the supply chains that resulted in factories taking longer to deliver goods and boosted raw material prices. A lengthening in suppliers' delivery time is normally associated with increased activity, which is a positive contribution to the ISM index. As a result, the ISM's manufacturing index rose to a six year high of 60.8. Disregarding the hurricanes' impact, the outlook for manufacturing remained bullish with 17 out of the 18 manufacturing industries reported growth last month.

US labor market resilient

The US monthly employment report showed that the economy unexpectedly lost jobs in September while the unemployment rate ticked lower and wage inflation rose more than expected. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma undercut economic activity in the third quarter, delayed hiring and left displaced workers temporarily unemployed resulting with 33,000 less jobs last month. Combined with the rebuilding and clean-up crews, returning workers should lead to a

recovery in the coming months. The hurricanes however, did not have an effect on the unemployment rate, which fell to a sixteen year low of 4.2 percent. Furthermore, average hourly earnings rose again in September by 0.5 percent from 0.2 percent in August. That pushed the annual increase in wages to 2.9 percent, the largest gain since December of last year. Analysts believe an annual wage increase of 3.0 percent is needed to raise inflation to the Fed's 2 percent target.

European CB meeting

In the European Central Bank's September meeting, the council believed economic improvement continued to be solid and broad based, with staff projections pointing to faster growth for 2017. The ongoing economic expansion also supported confidence that inflation would gradually head towards levels in line with the Governing Council's inflation aim. The projections however, also indicated a somewhat slower path for inflation due to the appreciation of the euro. In regards to monetary policy, members generally agreed that the ECB's policy measures had contributed significantly to the ongoing economic expansion and that a sustained momentum in economic growth was still dependent on monetary accommodation. In the meantime, it was proposed to maintain the monetary policy stance and all elements unchanged including the extension of asset purchases beyond 2017 if needed.

Wall St rallies on Yellen's bullish remarks

Wall Street rallied on Fed Chair Janet Yellen's bullish remarks during her testimony to Congress on Wednesday. She said the economy is "strong" and that the Fed is "on track" to raise rates in December.

Manufacturing in the UK continued to expand at a solid rate during September with production and new orders both rising above long-run average rates. The pound sterling's depreciation was widely expected to benefit manufacturers as their goods become more competitively priced for foreign buyers. However, inflationary pressures have increased the cost of imported materials used in the production process to a six month high. As a result, Markit's Manufacturing PMI recorded a level slightly below expectations and the previous month at 55.9.

UK weaknesses

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Reserve Bank of Australia

The Reserve Bank of Australia has left the official cash rate on hold at its historic low of 1.5 percent for the 14th month in a row. RBA Governor Philip Lowe said that recent data is consistent with the Bank's expectation that growth in the Australian economy will gradually pick up over the coming year. He also said that there have been more consistent signs that non-mining business investment is picking up and that a "large pipeline of infrastructure investment" is also supporting the country's economic outlook. On the other hand, Lowe said slow growth in real wages and high levels of household debt are likely to constrain growth in household spending while the appreciating Australian dollar will weigh on the outlook for output and employment. Finally, policy makers said that low inflation is supporting the economy and that holding the stance of monetary policy unchanged at this meeting would be consistent with sustainable growth and achieving the inflation target over time.

Japan optimistic

In Japan, the Tankan survey showed that activity at Japan's major manufacturers grew well beyond expectations in the third quarter to the highest level in a decade. The survey, prepared by the Bank of Japan, indicated that the country's economic recovery may be gathering steam thanks to robust global demand. The headline reading on business conditions at large Japanese manufacturers climbed to 22 in the September quarter from 17 in the three months ended June above forecasts of 18. Meanwhile, big firms expect to increase capital expenditure by 7.7 percent in the current fiscal year ending in March 2018.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30225
The USDKWD opened at 0.30225 yesterday morning.

Equity investors should keep an eye on bond yields

By Hayder Tawfik



At present, there are no strong fundamental reasons to be worried about equity market valuation unless we see a big sell off in global bond prices. Those who are looking for reasons for a sell-off in the stock markets may not find the answer in equity valuations. They may find their excuse in bond yields. Luckily for equity investors

this reason is well looked after by major central banks, led by the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan. As long as any selloff in bond prices are gradual as we are experiencing it now and based on economic fundamentals then the risks to stocks are minimal.

The US Federal Reserve Bank is well aware of the impact of a big selloff in US Treasury bonds and it has been gradually preparing the market for a gradual rise of US interest rates. Also, it is working on unwinding its expanded balance-sheet. Also, the European Central Bank has been indirectly forcing banks to buy into their national debts by offering negative rates on bank deposits at the central bank. This has created continuous demand for European and US government bonds. How long this can last is all depends on economic growth and inflation outlook. Neither is threatening the central bank policies.

I understand that real long-term interest rates are much low and they might not be sustainable but we all

know that there are strong fundamental reasons for the unusual situation. At some point in the future the very low unemployment rates that are seen in the developed economies might lead to higher wage pressure but to counter that there has been a dramatic change in the way businesses price their products nowadays. The technological revolution in the retail industry has been continuously capping prices. I believe the market has already priced in higher bond yields, in particular in the US.

While the consensus of Wall Street forecasters is still for low rates to persist, some economists have been warning about yields rising on US Treasury bonds. The yield on 10 years US Treasury bond is around 2.3 percent and could reach around 3 percent by next year. This kind of higher movement in yield is not a threat to the stock market unless it is accompanied by much higher inflation rate. Dividend yields on the S&P 500 is around 2.3 percent which is still attractive relative to bond yields even if it reaches 3 percent. I think as long as bonds are rallying faster than stocks, investors are encouraged to invest in less or attractive assets that has low inflation built into them.

If the US Federal Reserve's model is anything to go by then the model is showing that US stocks are at one of the most compelling levels ever relative to bonds. Using 10-year inflation-adjusted bond yields, currently around 0.35 percent, the gap with the S&P 500's earnings yield at around 3.95 percent, is 19 percent higher than the 20-year average. So, this could easily justify most indices hitting record highs. Yes, the Price Earnings Ratio is a bit stretched but investors should look forward for the next couple of year. This is supported by healthy corporate earnings in the US and now even in the euro-zone. For interest rates to move much higher inflation is the key. Persistently low inflation is supporting low interest rates, bond yields and higher stock valuations.

I believe a sudden shock to the bond market will be short lived as US economic growth, low inflation, low interest rates and the weight of money will cap any big correction. That is if the Federal Reserve and the European Central bank do not change their policies in a manner that take the market by surprise. Again, the chance of this happening is very low. Equity investors are recommended to overweight stocks and enjoy the ride. They are not going to miss the sell signal. @Rasameel

Protests test tribal authority on South Africa's platinum belt

MOGALAKWENA, South Africa: A new power struggle is unfolding in South Africa's old homelands between global mining giants, traditional leaders and an impoverished rural populace.

Parts of an industry long used to labor unrest are now contending with community protests that have cut production of the country's largest mineral export earner, platinum, and may shut some operations down altogether. At the heart of the conflict are tribal leaders who have royal titles and feudal-style control over the homelands, poor rural areas designated to South Africa's black majority by its former white minority rulers during apartheid. Tribal

leaders are also key allies of President Jacob Zuma, whose political base has become increasingly rural, and his African National Congress party has drafted a law that would cement their control. But with protests spreading across the homelands, the communities, mining companies and some within the ANC itself are moving to change what they see as an anachronistic system.

The traditional leaders have acted as intermediaries with companies which have discovered chrome and coal as well as platinum in the homelands and hope to find shale gas. Many locals say they are seeing none of the proceeds. "If they don't give us that 175 million rand (\$13 million), we are going to shut down the mine," said Chippa Langa, a leader of the community around the Mogalakwena platinum mine, referring to a community fund set up by Anglo American Platinum (Amplats). To avoid such an outcome, a leading human rights lawyer is negotiating with the local royal house to allow community representatives more control over the fund. "We are renegotiating the agreement to make it more accountable," said the lawyer, Richard Spoor, whose work has included spearheading a class action suit against gold producers over the fatal lung disease silicosis which miners contract. — Reuters

كيبكو
KIPCO
شركة مشاريع الكويت
Projects Company (Holding)



CONDOLENCES

The Management and staff of
Kuwait Projects Company (Holding)
wish to offer their heartfelt condolences to

Mr Pinak Maitra
(Group Chief Financial Officer)
on the sad demise of his

Father

May his soul rest in peace and may
God grant comfort and strength
to the bereaved family members

Business

Boubyan Bank records KD 34m in net profits with an EPS of 13.9 fils

15% growth in profits until September 2017

KUWAIT: Boubyan Bank has recorded a net profit growth until the end of Q3 2017, at a growth rate of 15 percent. The bank's net profits amount to KD 34 million, while the earning per share amounts to 13.9 fils compared with 13 fils for the comparative period of 2016.

Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, the Bank's Vice-Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, stated: "By the end of Q3 and while approaching the end of another year of our journey, we can say that we are pleased and fully satisfied with our achievements for the past period of 2017 despite the various challenges we faced whether in terms of competition or the economic and geopolitical challenges experienced by the region".

"We said it before, and still reiterate, that our successes over the past years are attributed, after the Grace of Allah, to the confidence of clients in our products and services, and how they are assured day after day of our ability to provide them with outstanding service, coupled with the confidence of shareholders in us and the distinction of our human resources whose majority is formed by national manpower", he added.

Al-Majed added that all of the bank's main indicators witnessed a remarkable growth until the end of the past quarter where the total assets increased to KD 3.8 billion at a growth rate of 10 percent while the finance portfolio increased to KD 2.8 billion at a growth rate of 17 percent and the operational revenues increased to hit KD 91.5 million at a growth rate of 20 percent.

He further added that the total equity of the bank increased to KD 364 million compared with KD 337

million for the last year and that there was an increase in customers' deposit up to KD 3.3 billion with a 15 percent growth in addition to the continuous growth of the bank's customers' base.

Al-Majed stated as well that the market share, in financing, increased generally to approximately 7.7 percent in the meantime, while Boubyan's share of the retail finance increased specifically to approximately 11 percent.

Remarkable awards

Al-Majed also stated that the beginning of the current year has also witnessed the continuity of the Bank's receipt of a number of remarkable prizes, the most prominent of which was the "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" award from Global Finance for the third year in a row due to the bank's achievements whether in terms of increasing the profitability rates or increasing its market share.

He further added: "The Bank further

received the Best Digital bank Award in Kuwait from Global Finance as well for the third year in a row, which stresses that the bank invested in the right direction by making more investments in digital banking channels".

Al-Majed went on to add: "The bank managed to establish itself as one of the best institutions in the Kuwaiti private sector in the field of customer service, evidenced by continuing to receive the first place award, for the seventh year in a row atop all Islamic Banks in customer service from Service Hero, the international consumer-driven customer satisfaction index,



Adel Al-Majed

in addition to being named the Best Private Sector Institution in Customer Service in Kuwait for the 2nd time."

He further stated: "This kind of awards once more reiterates our bank's superb competitive abilities, and its ability to provide its customers with the highest levels of services and the best products customers may seek, whether they are exist-

ing customers or potential customers targeted in the Kuwaiti market."

Expansion of branches, technology services

On the other hand, Al-Majed stressed the continuity of the Bank's plans to expand in the local market by opening new branches which have now reached 39 branches compared with 15 branches only 5 years ago.

He went on to add: "In line with our domestic geographical expansion to be closer to our clients, we are continuing our investment in e-services and e-banking products which placed us ahead of other local banks. We are doing that in order to cater for the various needs of our clients."

Al-Majed stated that the bank's success is attributed to the Grace of Allah and then to the efforts of the bank's human resources who are the secret behind the success achieved over the past years. He further explained that the percentage of national manpower exceeded 76 percent which is considered one of the highest percentages in the private sector in general.



Success of strategy and expansion plan in local market

Boubyan Bank's Key Financial Indicators In KD Million

Indicator	September 2017	September 2016	Growth
Net profits	34	29.6	%15
Operational revenues	91.5	76.3	%20
Customers' deposits	3,298	2,871	%15
Financing portfolio	2,848	2,443	%17
Assets	3,830	3,471	%10

NBK awarded 'Best Corporate for Investor Relations in Kuwait'

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) was awarded "Best Corporate for Investor Relations" in Kuwait by the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) and the Head of Investor Relations at NBK, Amir Hanna, was awarded "Best Investor Relations Professional" in Kuwait. The awards were distributed in the ceremony held recently in Dubai to honor leading companies and individuals who demonstrated best practices in investor relations (IR) across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

The awards are based on the votes of hundreds of analysts and investment managers from the world's largest investment banks who took part of Extel Thomson Reuters' survey. In addition to the award of best corporate for investor relations in Kuwait, NBK has also been selected among the top five institutions in the MENA region for Investor Relations practices.

The voting and the awards reflect NBK's adoption of the highest standards in transparency and governance, in addition to the bank's efforts to improve its outreach to investors around the world. MEIRA conference focused this year on accelerating efforts toward industry best practices. This year's conference ran under the theme "The IR hyperloop: Driving Transformation to Unlock Tomorrow's Value" and examined the latest trends and developments in the industry.

"The award categories included: the top performing IR Officers, leading Corporates, CEO's, CFO's in IR in the ME region, leading corporates and professionals on a country level across the region, and companies that demonstrated the best year-on-year improvement in IR practice overall, best annual report, and best IR website."

"The rigorous selection process is run every year with leading global benchmarks assessors, including

Extel, Merchant Cantos and Comprand, providing the leading standard for the region in industry recognition for outstanding performance".

Investor's Trust and Management Support

"NBK's selection as the Best corporate for investor relations in Kuwait and among the top five in the MENA region reflects the Bank's advanced institutional framework. This is the outcome of best-in-class transparency and professionalism in the communication with the investment community around the world which is also reflected in NBK's relationship with the investment community" said Amir Hanna, Head of Investor Relations at NBK.

Hanna also added that "NBK is among the first institutions in the region to adopt a full transparency policy in its external communications while adhering to the highest international standards in corporate governance. This was clearly demonstrated by the establishment of one of the first fully dedicated Investor Relations departments in the region which emphasizes the effective role of the executive management to adhere to best standards in transparency and dedicated commitment to the Bank's shareholders as well as the investment community."

Honoring the distinguished

Commenting at the Awards Ceremony, Alex MacDonald Vitale, Chairman of MEIRA, said: "Each year, we acknowledge our peers in the industry who have truly demonstrated leading excellence in IR practice either at an individual or industry level. Through these awards, we have established a competitive benchmark for professionals and organizations in the ME to further advance best practice in IR across the region. It is very encouraging to see continuous improvement



year-on-year, with an ever broader cross-section of industry participants and winners represented in each of the categories".

At the Conference, MEIRA launched the ME IR Practitioners Survey report, in partnership with recruitment specialists Hanson Search, which looked in detail at the role of IR in the region today and career related aspects for the profession of IR in the ME, including compensation, team structure, reporting, gender parity and other Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

MEIRA is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the role of investor relations and industry standards in corporate governance. Its mission is to enhance the reputation, efficiency and attractiveness of capital markets in the ME and seeks to foster increased dialogue among its members. MEIRA also encourages its members to exchange and adopt best practices in the field of IR and in partnership with financial markets, regulatory bodies and other market participants.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Mohammad Ahmad Mohammad Al-hanafi
2. Talal Jassem Mohammed Al-Khurafi
3. Raied Shaban Saqout
4. Mohammad Saeed Mohammad Al-ghamdi
5. Sulaiman Dawoud Sulaiman Al-Houti

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENA region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

CBK announces winners of Al-Najma Account draw

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" yesterday at the bank's head office to select five winners to win a cash prize of KD 7,000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Nawal Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa
2. Hashem Ali Bagher Zadah
3. Aziza Mossa Al-Foudari
4. Mohammad Adel Al-Mutawa
5. Fatima Adel Ahmed Dashti

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7,000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role and its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launch 3 stores in a day in UAE and Kuwait

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 190 retail outlets spread across nine countries has launched three new stores on October 5, 2017. The brand has extended its presence in Kuwait by opening a new showroom in Al-Salam Mall, Salmiya on Thursday. The brand new showroom in Kuwait was inaugurated by Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Malek Al-Sabah from Royal family in the presence of Major Ali Hamdan Zaid Al-Daihani, Chief Adviser, Farwaniya Governorate, Afsal Khan - Zonal Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds Kuwait, management team members, well-wishers, media and invited guests.

Having six outlets spread across Kuwait, this is Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 7th outlet in Kuwait. By opening the new showroom in Al-Salam Mall, Salmiya, the total number of showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds will jump to 190 globally. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also launched two showrooms on the same day in Dubai, UAE. Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has inaugurated the new showrooms.

This new outlet unveils a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelries. The exquisite range of collections in the new outlet can hold



KUWAIT: Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Malek Al-Sabah inaugurates the 190th global showroom of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Kuwait in the presence of Major Ali Hamdan Zaid Al-Daihani, Afsal Khan and management team members on October 5.

you spell-bound with their awe-inspiring beauty and classic designs. Like all their other outlets, this outlet also will exhibit a wide range of diverse and trendy designs in gold (18K, 22K & 24K), IGI certified diamonds and precious gem jewelry from Italy, Singapore, Bahrain and India.

New store will participate in the biggest offer in the market which was recently announced by Malabar Gold & Diamonds which is giving an opportunity to win 100 kilos of gold. With every purchase of gold & diamond jewelry worth KD 40, customers get a chance to enter raffle draws to win 1/4 (Quarter) kg gold each in 6 raffle draws. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin on diamond jewelry purchase of KD 400 and a one gram gold coin on purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 250. Not

only that, customers can protect the gold rate at Malabar Gold & Diamonds by paying 10 percent of the entire amount on the selected gold jewelry until 17th Oct 2017. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled a huge collection of jewelry in gold, diamonds and precious gems from different parts of the world to enthrall the jewelry lovers.

Malabar Group has established its presence in the Kuwait market in a surprisingly short span of time. The group strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding in the near future. In Kuwait, Malabar Gold & Diamonds operates in Al-Rai - Lulu Hypermarket, Souk Al-Watya - Maliya, Dajej - Lulu Hypermarket, Fahaheel, Hawally - Grand Hypermarket and Mahboula.

Technology

Global technology firms bet on Indonesia as next startup frontier

Expedia, Alibaba pumping billions of dollars

JAKARTA: Big-name investors including Expedia and Alibaba are pumping billions of dollars into Indonesian tech start-ups in a bid to capitalize on the country's burgeoning digital economy and potential as Southeast Asia's largest online market.

Indonesia has seen a surge of cash into its technology sector over the past two years, helping support dozens of homegrown start-ups ranging from ride hailing apps to e-commerce firms.

And with a population of more than 250 million, a swelling middle class and growing availability of cheap mobile devices, firms from across the world are piling in.

"We believe that Indonesia is poised for a huge leap forward for its digital economy, following China's growth and becoming the leading tech destination in the Southeast Asia region," Adrian Li, a partner in Jakarta-based Convergence Ventures, told AFP. Last year \$631 million in disclosed venture capital was ploughed into the country, according to research firm CB Insights, up from \$31 million in 2015. But that figure has already been shattered in 2017, with \$3 billion worth of deals clinched as of September 2017, said Meghna Rao, a tech industry analyst at the firm.

Tokopedia — a marketplace that allows users to set up online shops and handles transactions—won \$1.1 billion in capital from China's Alibaba in August. Motorbike on-demand service Go-Jek secured \$1.2 billion from Chinese tech giants JD.com and Tencent Holdings in May, according to data from Crunchbase.

In another sign of confidence, Koison became Indonesia's first e-commerce service to go public in

October. "While it's too soon to say that this investment is indicative of a larger pattern of Indonesian startups pulling in many big ticket investors, it is part of a growing clutch of mega-rounds," Rao said.

A golden opportunity

Internet use is growing faster in Southeast Asia than any other region in the world, with 124,000 users coming online every day over the next five years, according to a 2016 report from Google and Singapore's Temasek Holdings. By 2020 an estimated 480 million people are expected to be connected to the internet, up from 260 million in the region last year.

Indonesia's mobile-first market will comprise more than half of Southeast Asia's e-commerce market by 2025, with an estimated value of \$46 billion, the Google report said.

"When you do startup business in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, the cost, effort and time that you spend is almost even. But when you go to Indonesia (growth) is unlimited—the market is so big," said Willson Cuaca, whose venture capital firm East Ventures specializes in early-stage investments. As a result, big names like US venture capitalist Sequoia Capital, Japan's Rakuten Ventures and travel company Expedia—as well as Chinese tech giants have all made investments in the country.

Navigating challenges

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has been a vocal supporter of digital innovation, most notably in his plan to create 1,000 local tech start-ups worth \$10 billion by 2020. But the sector still faces a number of challenges. A

Challenges of cultural disparities

limited pool of engineering talent to draw from, low rates of internet penetration outside densely populated Java, bureaucratic delays, and poor quality infrastructure are all obstacles to growth.



JAKARTA: Entrepreneurs working at the EV-Hive event space, a co-working space, in Jakarta. — AFP

For e-commerce companies, the large number of "unbanked" Indonesians limits the scope of online transactions, and logistics problems make it hard to move goods. While young entrepreneurs and small businesses are flocking to co-working spaces springing up in major centers, it is a decidedly different scene in most parts of the country.

Farid Naufal Aslam, the chief executive of Aruna, an e-commerce company that links fishermen to buyers, said navigating Indonesia's disparate communities is a challenge too. "One of the biggest challenges faced is on social approach," Aslam, 23, said. "Indonesia is a unique country with diverse communities and different customs in each region." Yet many venture capitalists and entrepreneurs remain optimistic. "The window of opportunity is there," Cuaca said. "As long as you can innovate and solve real problems using technology, you can be successful." — AFP

Huawei ranks 70 on Interbrand's 2017 Best Global Brands Report

DUBAI: The world's leading brand consulting firm Interbrand, has announced its 2017 Best Global Brands Report and confirmed Huawei's move to number 70—two spots up from its ranking in 2016. Brand valued at approximately \$6.676 billion; Huawei has grown by 14 percent over the past year.

This is the third consecutive year where Huawei has climbed Interbrand's list, following its debut as the first mainland Chinese brand to be recognized as a Best Global Brand in 2014. Founded in 1974, Interbrand is the world's largest integrated brand consultancy firm with a customer base encompassing approximately two-thirds of Fortune 100 companies. Its annual 'Best Brands Ranking' is highly regarded around the world and is commonly used as an indicator of global brand value.

Technology brands continue to dominate Interbrand's Best Global Brands Reports this year, holding the greatest proportion of the Top 100 rankings. As a technology company committed to excellence in research and development, Huawei's continued recognition in Interbrand's rankings is testament to its technological leadership and growing global influence.

According to Interbrand, Huawei is accelerating global digital transformations and building a better-connected world by creating enhanced networks. This has contributed to rapid growth of 14 percent in brand value and further highlights the strength of the world-wide company.

Huawei's brand value continues to increase, largely due to steady performance growth and its breakthrough into the consumer electronics market. In the first half of 2017, Huawei's smartphone shipments rose to 70.01 million, delivering a year-on-year increase of 20.6 percent—outperforming the industry average. Huawei's premium flagship HUAWEI P



and HUAWEI Mate smartphone series has become increasingly popular around the world, strengthening its influence in high-end markets.

According to industry analysts IDC, shipment volumes of Huawei smartphones made it the largest manufacturer in China and third largest worldwide in Q2 2017. Huawei's smartphone global market share has also grown to 11.3 percent, up from 9.8 percent over the same period last year—placing the company within 1 percent of Apple.

In addition to its range of smartphones, Huawei also introduced a trio of new MateBook PC products, combining stylish and portable design with powerful performance. Since its launch, the new HUAWEI MateBook range has received significant praise and recognition from media and consumers alike. Huawei continues to be recognized by numerous esteemed institutions and included in the world's most respected brand rankings lists.

In the latest Fortune 500, Huawei was placed in the Top 100 list for the first time, leaping from 129 to 83. Moreover, the company was named as the only Chinese brand in Forbes' most valuable global brands list in 2017.

Future of news: Bracing for next wave of technology

WASHINGTON: If you think technology has shaken up the news media—just wait, you haven't seen anything yet. The next wave of disruption is likely to be even more profound, according to a study presented Saturday to the Online News Association annual meeting in Washington.

News organizations which have struggled in the past two decades as readers moved online and to mobile devices will soon need to adapt to artificial intelligence, augmented reality and automated journalism and find ways to connect beyond the smartphone, the report said.

"Voice interface" will be one of the big challenges for media organizations, said the report by Amy Webb, a New York University Stern School of Business faculty member and Founder of the Future Today Institute.

The institute estimates that 50 percent of interactions that consumers have with computers will be using their voices by 2023. "Once we are speaking to our machines about the news, what does the business model for journalism look like?" the report said.

"News organizations are ceding this future ecosystem to outside corporations. They will lose the ability to provide anything but content."

Webb writes that most news organizations have done little experimentation with chat apps and voice skills on Amazon's Alexa and Google Home, the likes of which may be key parts of the future news ecosystem. Because of this, she argues that artificial intelligence or AI is posing "an existential threat to the future of journalism." "Journalism

itself is not actively participating in building the AI ecosystem," she wrote. One big problem facing media organizations is that new technologies impacting the future of news such as AI are out of their control, and instead is in the hands of tech firms like Google, Amazon, Tencent, Baidu, IBM, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft, according to Webb. "News organizations are customers, not significant contributors," the report said. "We recommend cross-industry collaboration and experimentation on a grand scale, and we encourage leaders within journalism to organize quickly."

The study identified 75 technology trends likely to have an impact on journalism in the coming years, including drones, wearables, blockchain, 360-degree video, virtual reality and real-time fact-checking.

Webb's study said some changes in technology will start having an impact on the media in the very near future, within 24 to 36 months. "In 2018, a critical mass of emerging technologies will converge, finding advanced uses beyond initial testing and applied research," the report said.

Some of these new technologies—the ability to interpret visual data, develop algorithms to write or interpret news, and collect and analyze increasing amounts of data—will allow journalists "to do richer, deeper reporting, fact checking and editing," the report said.

"These technologies will give journalists superpowers, if they have the training to use these emerging systems and tools," Webb writes. — AFP



Finding ways to connect beyond smartphone

Big Tech has plans to help reconnect Puerto Rico

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook and Google once aimed to connect the world. Now they would be happy just to reconnect part of it. In the wake of Hurricane Maria, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg pledged to send a "connectivity team" to help restore communications in ravaged Puerto Rico. Google parent company Alphabet offered to send its Wi-Fi balloons. They were among several tech companies proposing disaster response ideas, most aimed at getting phone and internet service up and running. Some of these plans, of course, are more aspirational than others.

Battery power

Tesla CEO Elon Musk often takes to Twitter to mull over ideas, but on Friday his musings about sending his company's solar-powered batteries to help restore Puerto Rico's power attracted the attention of the island's governor. "Let's talk," said Gov. Ricardo Rossello in a Friday tweet. Musk agreed. Hours later, he announced he was delaying the unveiling of Tesla's new semi-truck and diverting resources, in part to "increase battery production for Puerto Rico and other affected areas."

The need for help in restoring power and communication after Hurricane Maria is great: The Puerto Rican energy authority reported Saturday that about 88 percent of the island is still without power. The Federal Communications Commission said Saturday that 82 percent of cell sites remain out in Puerto Rico; 58 percent are out of service in the US Virgin Islands.

The FCC's daily status report also shows significant wireline, TV and radio outages remain in both US territories. The agency formed a task force this week and

approved an advance of \$77 million to support carriers working to restore telecommunications services.

Vague promises

But many offers of help from big companies remain somewhat vague. Google parent company Alphabet has proposed launching balloons over the island to bring Wi-Fi service to hard-to-reach places, as it has in other parts of the world. The FCC announced Saturday that it's approved an experimental license for Project Loon to operate in Puerto Rico. But that doesn't mean it will be able to get them in the air anytime soon.

"We're grateful for the support of the FCC and the Puerto Rican authorities as we work hard to see if it's possible to use Loon balloons to bring emergency connectivity to the island during this time of need," said Libby Leahy, a spokesman for Alphabet's X division. But there are limitations, she said Saturday.

"To deliver signal to people's devices, Loon needs to be integrated with a telco partner's network—the balloons can't do it alone," she said, adding that the company is "making solid progress on this next step."

Collaborative efforts

Cisco Systems has sent a tactical team and says it is working with local government, emergency responders and service providers to facilitate restoration and recovery efforts. The company, along with Microsoft and others, backs the NetHope consortium, which specializes in setting up post-disaster communication networks and has field teams now operating in Puerto Rico and several other Caribbean islands.



HUMACA0: In this Sept 20, 2017 file photo, power lines are down after the impact of Hurricane Maria, which hit the eastern region of the island in Humacao, Puerto Rico. — AP

"Communication is critical during a disaster," Zuckerberg said after the hurricane hit, announcing that employees from his company's connectivity team—the same group working to build high-altitude drones that can beam internet service down to Earth—were heading to Puerto Rico. But with its aircraft still in the testing phase, the company said Friday that the engineers it's sent to Puerto Rico are focused on providing support to NetHope's teams.

Much of the ground work is being spearheaded by nonprofit organizations and small firms with expertise in rural or emergency communications. Lexington, Massachusetts-based Vanu Inc., which sets up wireless communications networks in rural parts of the United States, Africa and India, is sending dozens of its small, solar-powered cellular base stations to volunteer crews on the ground in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. — AP

AOL Instant Messenger to be discontinued

NEW YORK: AOL announced Friday that it is discontinuing its pioneering Instant Messenger chat platform after 20 years of service. An article on AOL's website posted Friday says AOL Instant Messenger will be discontinued on Dec. 15. In a blog post, a spokesman for AOL's parent company explained the platform's demise as the casualty of the evolving way people communicate.

"AIM tapped into new digital technologies and ignited a cultural shift, but the way in which we communicate with each other has profoundly changed," wrote Michael Albers, vice president of communications at Oath. The program will still function until Dec. 15. After that date, users won't be able to sign in and all data will be deleted. AOL says people with an aim.com email address will still be able to use it.

Launched in 1997, AOL Instant Messenger was at the forefront of what was called at the time the biggest trend in online communication since email. The platform, which provided instant access to friends and contacts on a user's "buddy list," was wildly popular for the first few years after its launch. It claimed more than 100 million registered users in 2001. — AP

Health

Pesticides in 75% of honey worldwide

Concern about the survival of crucial crop pollinators

MIAMI: Traces of pesticides that act as nerve agents on bees have been found in 75 percent of honey worldwide, raising concern about the survival of these crucial crop pollinators, researchers said Thursday. Human health is not likely at risk from the concentrations detected in a global sampling of 198 types of honey, which were below what the European Union authorizes for human consumption, said the report in the journal *Science*.

However, the study found that 34 percent of honey samples were contaminated with "concentrations of neonicotinoids that are known to be detrimental" to bees, and warned that chronic exposure is a threat to bee survival. Bees help pollinate 90 percent of the world's major crops, but in recent years have been dying off from "colony collapse disorder," a mysterious scourge blamed on mites, pesticides, virus, fungus, or some combination of these factors.

"The findings are alarming," said Chris Connolly, a neurobiology expert at the University of Dundee, who also wrote a Perspective article alongside the research in *Science*. "The levels detected are sufficient to affect bee brain function and may hinder their ability to forage on, and pollinate, our crops and our native plants."

Neonicotinoids have been declared a key factor in bee decline worldwide, and the European Union issued a partial ban on their use in 2013. For the *Science* study, the European samples were collected largely before this ban took effect, Connolly said. Further research is needed to gauge the effectiveness of the EU steps.

Five common pesticides

Bees collect nectar as they pollinate plants, and over time this sugary liquid accumulates into the thick syrup of honey. To test contamination levels, samples of honey were taken from local producers worldwide, and researchers tested for five commonly used neonicotinoids: acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, and thiamethoxam. These pesticides, introduced in the mid 1990s, are based on the chemical structure of nicotine and attack the nervous systems of insect pests.

"Overall, 75 percent of all honey samples contained at least one neonicotinoid," said the study, led by Edward Mitchell of the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland. "Of these contaminated samples, 30 percent contained a single neonicotinoid, 45 percent contained two or more, and 10 percent contained four or five."

The frequency of contamination was highest in the North American samples (86 percent), followed by Asia (80 percent) and Europe (79 percent). The lowest concentrations were seen in South American samples (57 percent). "These results suggest that a substantial proportion of world pollinators are probably affected by neonicotinoids," said the study.

Serious concern

Our planet is home to some 20,000 species of bees, which fertilize more than 90 percent of the world's 107 major crops. The United Nations warned in 2016 that 40 percent of invertebrate pollinators—particularly bees and butterflies—risk global extinction. Experts said that while the findings are not exactly a surprise, the threat posed by neonicotinoids should be taken seriously.

"The levels recorded (up to 56 nanogram per gram) lie within the bioactive range that has been shown to affect bee behavior and colony health," said plant ecologist Jonathan Storkey, who was not involved in the study. "Scientists showed earlier this year that levels of less than 9 ng/g reduced wild bee reproductive success," he added.

"I therefore agree with the authors that the accumulation of pesticides in the environment and the concentrations found in hives is a serious environmental concern and is likely contributing to pollinator declines." According to Lynn Dicks, natural environment research

Friday to discuss the 2010 law known as "Obamacare," which Trump said "is badly broken, big premiums. Who knows!" Trump said he wanted "to see if the Dems want to do a great HealthCare Bill."

In remarks Saturday evening on the South Lawn before a trip to North Carolina, Trump said he was willing to consider "a temporary deal." What that might involve was not clear, but Trump referred to a popular GOP proposal that would have the federal government turn over money for health care directly to states in the form of block grants. "If we could do a one-year deal or a two-year deal as a temporary measure, you'll have block granting ultimately to the states, which is what the Republicans want. That really is a repeal and replace," he said. In an interview taped earlier this week and aired Saturday night on Trinity Broadcasting Network, the president assured host Mike Huckabee that "we'll have health care before the election."

Schumer said through a spokesman Saturday that Trump "wanted to make another run at repeal and replace and I told the president that's off the table." Schumer said if Trump "wants to work together to improve the existing health care system, we Democrats are open to his suggestions." Trump has suggested before that he would be open



WASHINGTON: This file photo shows honey bees that produce raw Wildflower honey in their hive at an outdoor Farmer's Market in Washington, DC. —AFP

council fellow at the University of East Anglia, the findings are "sobering" but don't offer a precise picture of the threat to bees.

"The severity of the global threat to all wild pollinators from neonicotinoids is not completely clear from this study, because we don't know how the levels measured in honey relate to actual levels in nectar and pollen that wild pollinators are exposed to," she said. The levels of exposure to harmful pesticides may be far higher than what can be measured in honey, said Felix Wackers,

a professor at Lancaster University who was not involved in the research.

"This shows that honeybees are commonly exposed to this group of pesticides while collecting neonicotinoid-contaminated nectar from treated crops or from flowers that have come into contact with spray drift or soil residues," he said. "The actual level of exposure can be substantially higher, as the honey samples analyzed in this study represents an average of nectar collection over time and space." —AFP

Trump reaching out in new bid for 'great' health law

WASHINGTON: Trying to revive health care talks, US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he had spoken to the Senate's Democratic leader to gauge whether the minority party was interested in helping pass "great" health legislation. The answer back: Democrats are willing to hear his ideas, but scrapping the Obama health law is a nonstarter.

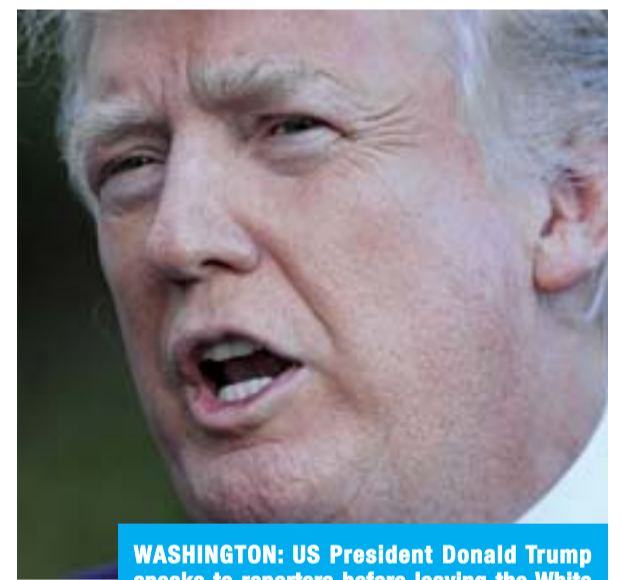
Trump's latest overture to Democrats followed GOP failures so far to fulfill the party's yearslong promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. In spite of controlling the White House and Congress since January, Republicans have not passed the legislation. The president tweeted that he called New York Sen. Chuck Schumer on

to negotiating with Democrats on health care, but there have been no clear signs of a compromise between Republicans who have sought to scrap President Barack Obama's law and Democrats who want to protect it.

Irritated leaders

Schumer said a starting point could be negotiations led by Sens Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn, and Patty Murray, D-Wash who have been discussing a limited bipartisan deal to stabilize state-level markets for individual health insurance policies. People covered under the health law represent about half of those who purchase individual policies.

Trump irritated GOP leaders in Congress when he reached a deal with Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on a spending bill and the debt ceiling. The president has referred to those two Democrats as "Chuck and Nancy." But the Trump administration announced Friday that it would allow more employers to opt out of no-cost birth control to women by claiming religious or moral objections. The move was one more attempt to roll back Obama's health overhaul, prompting Democrats to question whether Trump is committed to avoiding sabotaging the law. —AP



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before leaving the White House in Washington, Saturday, Oct 7, 2017 for a brief stop at Andrews Air Force Base. —AP

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What's On

BSK students in scholarship to Germany



As a Partner School of the German Government, every year a number of students of Germany at the British School of Kuwait (BSK) are awarded a three-week scholarship in Germany, organized by the Goethe Institut. The scholarships are only offered to dedicated, hard-working students. This year's three proud recipients were Narrayan Raam Sankar, Martin Nakouzi and Alya Aly. In

August 2017, they travelled to Schwabisch Hall in Baden Wurttemberg, where they took part in a number of cultural and sightseeing activities, as well as German language classes. Highlights included city tours of Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Nurnberg, a visit to the Mercedes Benz museum, lessons in traditional dancing, cooking classes and a tasting session sampling local German

cuisine. Later in 2017, the students will have the opportunity to sit German language examinations as proof of their progress. The scholarships mark the end of yet another successful year of cooperation between the German Government and the British School of Kuwait. BSK looks forward to further collaborations during the academic year 2017-18.

Transact and get triple your salary with Al-Mulla Exchange

Three times your salary just by doing a transaction? Yes, that's not a dream anymore because Al-Mulla Exchange is running an exciting marketing promotion by which the customer will get three times their salary.

Always coming out with new and out of the box marketing promotions, the customers get automatically enrolled for the program so there are no coupons to filled or cast for the draw. Customers doing the transaction for the period will be selected for the electronic draw. The promotion runs from October 5, 2017 January 5, 2018. The first draw will be in November 7, 2017, the second in December 7, 2017,

and the third in January 7, 2018.

Speaking about the promotion, the General Manager of Al-Mulla Exchange, Rakesh Joshi explained: "We always work hard to surprise our customers with different competitions and promotions like this one so that our engagement level with our customers are high. Who would not want to get three times their salary." About the details of this initiative he added: "The name of one winner will be announced every month. The terms and conditions of the promotion can be found on our website, www.almullaexchange.com. I wish luck to all our customers."



Tafseer class at TIES

You are cordially invited to our Tafseer class (Divine Wisdom from the Last Testament) today at 7:00 pm. In this class, we will focus on Surat Al-Qalam (The Pen) from verse 20 till 24. We will discuss Allah's description of the young men's garden who betrayed their father's generosity. We will also shed light on some of the rights of the poor and the needy and the punishment that will be meted out to those who trample on those rights. We will also discuss some virtuous acts that bring Allah's sustenance and victory to believers. Finally, we will learn who the successful minorities are.

MILSET Asia launches Kuwait's robotics, industry contests

The International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology (MILSET) announced launching Kuwait's annual competitions on robotics and industrial applications for students. In a press statement yesterday, MILSET's Regional Office for Asia at the State of Kuwait said the two competitions held throughout October and December will involve intermediate schools students. The industrial applications contest involves skills of measuring distance, using different tools in building objects and electric circuits projects, MILSET said. The robotics contest involves designing and programming robots that can follow trails to reach a certain target, it added. — KUNA



TV

AM MOVIES ACTION

01:00 Big Game
02:40 The Darkest Hour
04:15 Batman: Return Of The Caped Crusaders
05:40 The Legend Of Zorro
07:55 6 Ways To Sundown
09:40 Batman: The Killing Joke
11:00 Compadres
12:45 The Legend Of Zorro
14:55 Batman: Return Of The Caped Crusaders
16:15 The Net
18:10 The 5th Wave
20:05 The Huntsman: Winter's War
22:00 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
23:30 Mercenaries

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Treehouse Masters
02:35 Treehouse Masters
03:25 Treehouse Masters
04:15 Treehouse Masters
05:02 Rugged Justice
05:49 Rugged Justice
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 Wild Animal Rescue
12:50 Dogs 101: New Tricks
13:18 Dogs 101: New Tricks
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Expedition Mungo
18:20 Catching Monsters
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Dark Days In Monkey City
20:38 Dark Days In Monkey City
21:05 Expedition Mungo
22:00 Mountain Monks
22:55 Wildest Latin America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

BBC FIRST

00:00 EastEnders
00:35 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
01:25 Luther
02:20 Unforgotten
03:15 Unforgotten
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:10 The Coroner
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 Stella
08:20 New Tricks
09:15 Doctors
09:45 EastEnders
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 Casually
12:00 Stella
12:45 New Tricks
13:45 Doctors
14:15 EastEnders
14:45 Father Brown
15:35 Stella
16:25 New Tricks
17:25 Casually
18:15 Casually
19:10 Father Brown
20:05 Doctor Foster
21:00 Doctor Foster
22:00 Class
22:50 Class
23:35 Casually

crime & investigation

00:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
01:00 Homicide Hunter
02:00 I Didn't Do It
03:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
04:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
05:00 Homicide Hunter
06:00 The First 48
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
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 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 Cold Case Files
23:00 Crimes That Shook Britain

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Live At The Apollo
00:55 The Alternative Comedy Experience
01:20 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The President Show
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 IdiotSitter
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.O
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Bondi Ink
07:25 Catch A Contractor
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 Brotherhood
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 IdiotSitter
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.O
10:35 Bondi Ink
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salvage
12:17 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Catch A Contractor
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 Brotherhood
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salvage
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 Brotherhood
17:45 IdiotSitter
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Catch A Contractor
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends

Discovery Family

20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The President Show
21:30 Josh Widdicombe - And Another Thing
22:25 The Alternative Comedy Experience
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Tosh.O
23:40 The President Show

Discovery Family

00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 Destroyed In Seconds
01:45 Destroyed In Seconds
02:10 Playhouse Masters
03:00 Playhouse Masters
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Finding Bigfoot
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
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 Free Ride
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Playhouse Masters
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Free Ride
17:50 Dirty Jobs
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
20:45 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 Free Ride
22:00 Dirty Jobs
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Storm Chasers

ID

00:30 Kindred Spirits
01:20 Haunted Towns
02:10 Forbidden: Dying For Love
03:00 Adnan Syed: Innocent Or Guilty?
03:48 True Nightmares
04:36 I Am Homicide
05:24 The Perfect Murder
06:12 Betrayed
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 Fatal Encounters
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 Betrayed
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 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
21:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
22:00 Adnan Syed: Innocent Or Guilty?
23:00 Sin City Justice
23:45 Ghost Brothers

Disney Channel HD

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 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Descendants 2
10:25 The Zhuzhus
10:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Lolirock
12:45 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:00 K.C. Undercover
14:25 K.C. Undercover
14:50 Bizaardvark
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Bizaardvark
16:35 Bunk'd
17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
18:15 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:30 K.C. Undercover
18:55 Walk The Prank
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracke
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 K.C. Undercover
21:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:20 Alex & Co.
22:45 Lolirock
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney Junior

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:30 The Lion Guard
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Goldie & Bear
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
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 Doc McStuffins
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 PJ Masks
17:25 Puppy Dog Pals
17:55 Sofia The First
18:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:55 PJ Masks
19:25 The Lion Guard
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:25 Doc McStuffins
20:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:45 Doc McStuffins
22:15 Goldie & Bear
22:45 Puppy Dog Pals
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopdidoo

food

00:00 Chopped South Africa
01:00 Siba's Table
01:30 Siba's Table
02:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Chopped South Africa
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
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
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 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 Restaurant Stakeout
21:00 Mystery Dinners
21:30 Mystery Dinners
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Misfit Garage
01:05 Idris Elba: No Limits
01:50 Mega Trains
02:35 What On Earth?
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Kings Of The Wild
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Misfit Garage
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Kings Of The Wild
09:00 Garage Gold
09:25 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Street Outlaws
10:55 Carspotting
11:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans (Season 16 Specials)
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Garage Gold
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Kings Of The Wild
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Misfit Garage
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Garage Gold
18:20 Garage Gold
18:50 Deadliest Job Interview
19:40 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Sean Conway - Running Britain
21:50 Deadliest Catch
22:40 Walking The Nile
23:30 Fast N' Loud

Discovery Channel HD

00:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
08:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Walk The Prank
10:20 Walk The Prank
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:10 Gravity Falls
11:35 Lab Rats
12:00 Lab Rats
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:20 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
10:10 Mech-X4
10:15 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:30 K.C. Undercover
18:55 Walk The Prank
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracke
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 K.C. Undercover
21:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:20 Alex & Co.
22:45 Lolirock
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

HD

00:00 WAGs Miami
00:55 Eric And Jessie
01:20 Eric And Jessie
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story

NAT GEO people HD

00:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
01:10 Street Food Around The World
01:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
02:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
03:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
03:30 Places We Go
03:55 Places We Go
04:25 Chasing The Sun
04:50 Route Awakening
05:20 My Pacific Quest
06:15 Mega Food
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14:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
14:30 Places We Go
14:55 Places We Go
15:25 Chasing The Sun
15:50 Route Awakening
16:20 My Pacific Quest
17:15 Mega Food
18:10 Rustic Adventures Argentina
18:35 Rustic Adventures Argentina
19:05 Chasing The Sun
19:30 Route Awakening
20:00 My Pacific Quest
21:00 Mega Food
22:00 Rustic Adventures Argentina
22:25 Rustic Adventures Argentina
22:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
23:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen

food

00:00 Chopped South Africa
01:00 Siba's Table
01:30 Siba's Table
02:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Chopped South Africa
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
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
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 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 Restaurant Stakeout
21:00 Mystery Dinners
21:30 Mystery Dinners
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv CHOICE

00:10 Chopping Block
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:40 Tracey Ullman's Show
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!
09:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
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
14:10 Guess This House
15:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
15:25 Catchphrase
16:00 Victoria
16:55 Grantchester
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Coronation Street
20:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:25 Catchphrase
21:00 Victoria
21:55 Grantchester
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

HD

01:00 The Lost Evidence
02:00 United Staff Of America
02:50 Atlantis Found
04:30 DB Cooper: Case Closed?
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Ancient Aliens
08:00 United Staff Of America
09:00 In Search Of Aliens
10:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
11:00 The Lost Evidence
12:00 United Staff Of America
13:00 Ancient Aliens
14:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
15:00 In Search Of Aliens
16:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
17:00 The Lost Evidence
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 Weapons At War
20:00 In Search Of Aliens
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Ancient Discoveries
23:00 Heroes Of War

HD

00:20 Mystery Pickers
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Storage Wars
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Pawn Stars
05:40 Swamp People
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:48 Rabbids Invasion
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Harvey Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Game Shakers
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
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22:25 Rustic Adventures Argentina
22:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
23:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 Future China 2049
02:00 Seconds From Disaster
02:30 Seconds From Disaster
03:00 Big Fish, Texas
04:00 Wicked Tuna
05:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
06:00 The Known Universe
07:00 Locked Up Abroad
08:00 Year Million
09:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
10:00 Hard Time
11:00 Highway Thru Hell
12:00 Big Fix Alaska
13:00 The Known Universe
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18:00 Nazi Megastructures
19:00 Mega Factories
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22:30 Mega Factories
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NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Man v. Monster
01:10 Savage Kingdom
02:00 Black Mamba: Kiss Of Death
02:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown
03:45 Caught In The Act
04:40 Walking With Giraffes
05:35 Black Mamba: Kiss Of Death
06:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
07:25 Caught In The Act
08:20 Walking With Giraffes
09:15 Freaks & Creeps
10:10 Safari Brothers
10:55 Cameramen Who Dare
12:00 MegaFish
12:55 Wildebeeste: Born To Run
13:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown
14:45 Caught In The Act
15:40 The Last Orangutan Eden
16:35 Wonderfully Weird
17:00 Wonderfully Weird
17:30 Safari Brothers
18:25 Animals Gone Wild
19:20 Caught In The Act
20:10 The Last Orangutan Eden
21:00 Wonderfully Weird
21:25 Wonderfully Weird
21:50 Safari Brothers
22:40 Animals Gone Wild
23:30 MegaFish

nick HD

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
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03:00 Harvey Beaks
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04:12 The Loud House
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05:00 Breadwinners
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21:00 The Loud House

nick jr.

00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:35 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:21 Paw Patrol
09:44 Rusty Rivets
09:56 Wallykazam!
10:19 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:41 Zack & Quack
10:53 Team Umizoomi
11:16 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:02 Max & Ruby
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

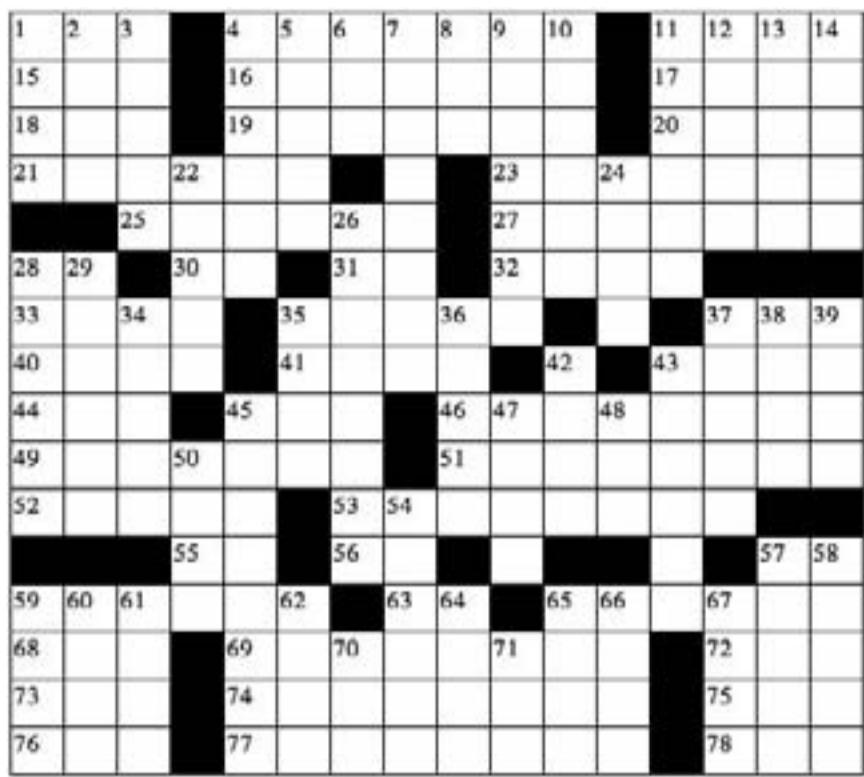
00:10 Wicked Tuna
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08:20 Walking

Stars

CROSSWORD 1730



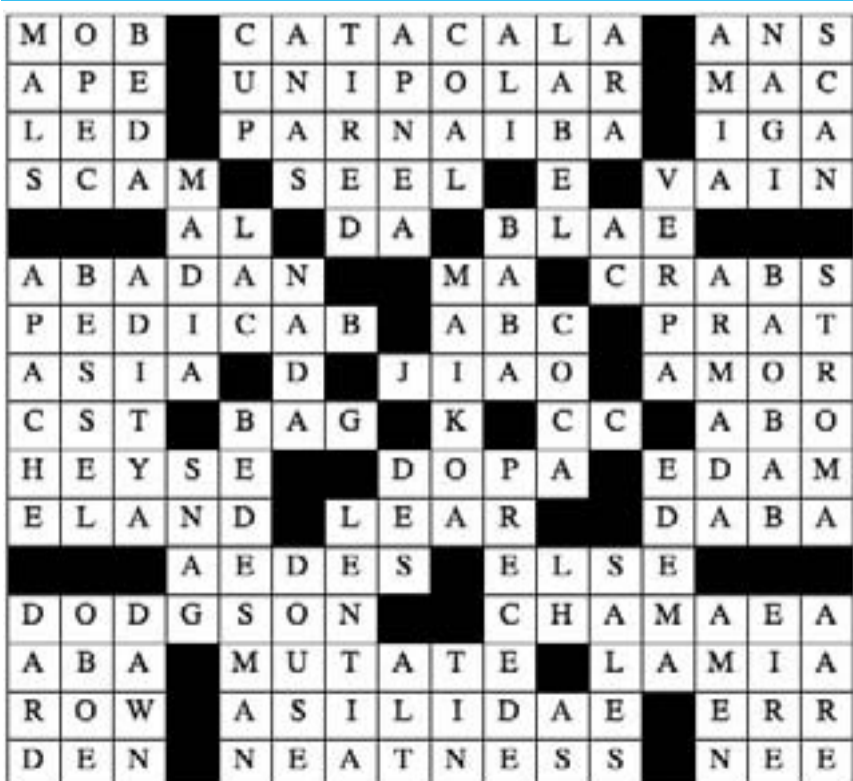
ACROSS

- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- (of an infant) Breast-fed.
- A rare chronic progressive encephalitis caused by the measles virus and occurring primarily in children and young adults.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- The wife or widow of a czar.
- Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
- A pilgrimage to Mecca.
- (of tempo) Moderately slow n.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- An authoritative person who divines the future.
- Proceed or issue forth, as from a source.
- When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
- Situated in a particular spot or position.
- Before noon.
- A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
- The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
- A town in north central Oklahoma.
- A thin coat of water-base paint.
- Being three more than fifty.
- A material effigy that is worshipped as a god.
- A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
- Capable of being isolated or disjoined.
- A source of oil.
- A large entrance or reception room or area.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Mature fruiting body of an ascomycetous fungus.
- A bachelor's degree in science.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- Mar or spoil the appearance of.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Minute sedentary marine invertebrate having a saclike body with siphons through which water enters and leaves.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- The compass point midway between south and southeast.
- Chipmunks of western America and Asia.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Widely distributed lichens usually having a grayish or yellow pendulous freely branched thallus.
- Someone who is morally reprehensible.
- A small volcanic island in Indonesia between Java and Sumatra.
- United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
- A genus of evergreen shrub that grows in New Zealand.
- One of the evil spirits of traditional Jewish and Christian belief.
- The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
- Egyptian statesman who (as President of Egypt) negotiated a peace treaty with Menachem Begin of Israel (1918-1981).
- Idle or foolish and irrelevant talk.
- Having come or been brought to a conclusion.
- A mountain in the Andes in Argentina (22,047 feet high).
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- Alternative classification for the thrushes.
- South American plant cultivated for its large fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers.
- (Norse mythology) Wife of Loki.
- Small short-eared burrowing mammal of rocky uplands of Asia and western North America.
- (anatomy) Of or relating to the ilium.
- An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
- (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
- (cosmology) The original matter that (according to the big bang theory) existed before the formation of the chemical elements.
- A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
- Without offspring.
- A view of the sea.
- A person regarded as arrogant and annoying.
- A unit of length of thread or yarn.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Small low-growing annual or perennial herbs of temperate and cool regions.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food.
- A golf shot that curves to the right for a right-handed golfer.
- (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
- Type genus of the Anatidae.
- Offering fun and gaiety.
- A vacuum tube in which a hot cathode emits a beam of electrons that pass through a high voltage anode and are focused or deflected before hitting a phosphorescent screen.
- Being one more than two.

DOWN

- The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
- South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
- (British) Seating in the forward part of the main level of a theater.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Communication and ideas are emphasized now. This could mean travel and other contacts with faraway people and places that play a bigger role for you. Such things bring love and gain in one way or another. Higher education or philosophical or religious contacts could have a part in making good things happen. Romance becomes an end in itself just now. Love, creativity and self-expression satisfy a deep yearning to be appreciated and admired. There is a flashy, flirty, stylish splash of color and warmth. Discovering what you truly believe in—fighting for it, even—is a high personal priority now. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this takes place. You or others could be testing your limits this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a day of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. There are opportunities to be with people you have not seen in a while—perhaps a neighbor that moved out of town, or a family member that was away on a long trip. There are long conversations and visits with plenty of laughter and a renewed appreciation for just about everything. You may find yourself becoming intensely personal and passionate in the way you appear or come across to others. Others may notice you have, perhaps, developed a more direct method of communication and you get to the very heart of things quickly. Probing conversations find you at your intellectual best.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons: these are some of the focal points in your life at this time. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizon will open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal for you. You see positive results happen as you transmit ideas on a broad scale such as radio, lecturing or teaching. Take time to enjoy where you are right now. Fun, personal pleasure and sensual delights are at your fingertips. Communications of all kinds are encouraged. A committed relationship deepens now; however, if you are unattached, there is a chance to meet up with your potential future love this day. Advice from a friend is helpful.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may have allowed the young people, or the students around you, too much freedom or become too relaxed when it comes to guiding the young. Now you will find yourself making changes and these young people may not like the restrictions you put on them; they will quickly learn that they can test you just so far and no farther. This can involve a class in some upcoming winter sports, taxidermy, creative art or some other ability that others want to learn. Practicality takes on a special importance now. You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech and communication. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular creative talents. You enjoy a surge of enthusiastic ideas and plans.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A loved one may mention your intensity and you would be wise to involve yourself in some fun activity, perhaps to lessen your worries. Learning a musical instrument or involving your energies in some hobby or art will help you become more patient or relaxed or just put a smile on your face. You do know what it feels like to lose yourself in some fun activity and that activity could be enjoyed. Being more actively involved with family and domestic matters will bring people close. It is always good to take on the unique ability to listen with compassion. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized at this period in your life. Some kind of healing process is at work in your life and in your family life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Stress seems to have magically been taken away—you feel as though you could run and play all day! Pay attention to how you direct your energies—wasted or scattered energy can cause physical problems as well as an inability to focus. Take precautions with expenditures and you will have a great day with no repercussions later. A natural transformation of your values and the way you appreciate and love yourself and others is taking place. There is much energy and drive now—perfect for starting something or taking care of business. You could be cleaning out closets and getting things ready for the winter months ahead. A phone call may lead to an interesting story but the story may need research—check out the story in a diplomatic way. Romance is in.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Connections with people on an impressive scale play a big part in your life now. This could involve education, advertising, lecturing or travel. Writing for a travel company and photographing the city streets are just a few of the possibilities that await you. These types of jobs will allow you to work in your own time frame. Your talents in being scrupulous and clear create a continued workflow. When the next weekend comes around and a day such as today is available, your time would be best spent in the company of family or friends. Family and friends are the beauty that becomes lasting. Later, a visitor pays you many compliments for you and your home. An afternoon sports show or card game puts a pleasant end to this weekend.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Your thoughts and ideas may not mesh with the plans and methods of someone you visit with today. A careful compromise may have to be found. Playful recreational activities provide the best outlet for enhancing fitness this afternoon. A child or young person may join you in your exercise or practice routine today. You have an opportunity to mentor this young person and before you know it, others will join you. Perhaps regular times can be set aside each week for a bit of exercise work. Before you know it you will reach your goal and help others to do the same. You are coming into a creative and competitive phase and you may dive into a creative adventure this evening. You could be surprised at how the time escapes you as you create lovely pieces.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Progressive people and idealistic groups or concepts play a more important role in your life now, as a new energy begins. During a get-together with friends or loved ones this morning you may gain ideas of how the trends in business will be moving this winter. Today, however, is full of opportunities to rest and relax in your own private environment. It looks as if this afternoon will be the best time to catch up on any reading, cooking, mending, cleaning and whatever else has been nagging at you to be attentive lately. The good life and all that is fine and luxurious may be what you value just now. You put your feet up and just lie back to relax later today. You find solutions to whatever problems you have. This evening someone else cooks for you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You will find this an easy day with much communication. Friends, neighbors or relatives from long ago may be contacting you this afternoon. A short trip or two may bring you long-forgotten memories. Long conversations about the past can be fun and enlightening. Viewing old photographs brings about fond memories as well. See the light of love when people come together in joyful gatherings: marriages, births, religious ceremonies, holidays and vacations. There is much to review and the feelings of home and hearth are strong. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. Rethink the idea of living together. You and a loved one may decide to plan a marriage instead.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A vacation or perhaps a little trip is favored this Monday. This may only be a trip to the country, fishing or perhaps reading a book, but today is the perfect time to spend in pure relaxation. If you are working, take more time to prepare yourself for work. Putting your best foot forward takes on greater importance. Appearances and style may count more than substance. Romance, the arts and other pleasures of life seem to take center stage this afternoon. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation or feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. This evening you may want to share time with your beloved or with close friends. You enjoy the company of your loved ones and may be feeling reflective rather than expressive.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A social gathering brings out the light in your eyes! You enjoy the communication and the socializing that comes with these special times. You will have a grasp for theoretical and spiritual ideas and the ability to present or communicate these to others can be fun and insightful. You exhibit great understanding and sensitivity and you may find that many people just enjoy being near you. You have a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. You draw emotional sustenance and a sense of security from ideals, friends and social involvement. This afternoon could be the perfect time to enjoy a play or musical with your friends or a loved one. It is good that you are careful with your money while shopping this afternoon.

Wordsearch Puzzle

USA Presidents

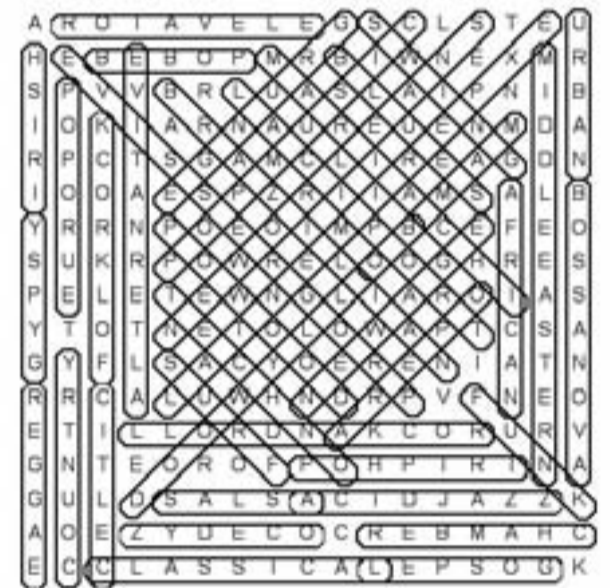
Find and circle all of the United States Presidents that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.



- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| WASHINGTON | TAYLOR | B HARRISON | KENNEDY |
| J ADAMS | FILLMORE | MCKINLEY | L JOHNSON |
| JEFFERSON | PIERCE | T ROOSEVELT | NIXON |
| MADISON | BUCHANAN | TAFT | FORD |
| MORRIS | LINCOLN | WILSON | CARTER |
| J Q ADAMS | A JOHNSON | HARDING | REAGAN |
| JACKSON | GRANT | COOLIDGE | G H W BUSH |
| VAN BUREN | HAYES | HOOVER | CLINTON |
| W HARRISON | GARFIELD | F D ROOSEVELT | G W BUSH |
| TYLER | ARTHUR | TRUMAN | OBAMA |
| POLK | CLEVELAND | EISENHOWER | |

Yesterday's Solution

Types of Music 2



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| ACID JAZZ | CLASSICAL | GYPSY | REGGAE |
| AFRICAN | COUNTRY | IRISH | ROCK AND ROLL |
| ALTERNATIVE | DOO WOP | MAMBO | SALSA |
| BEBOP | ELEVATOR | MARACHI | SHRIMP |
| BLUES | EUROPOP | MIDDLE EASTERN | SHWING |
| BOLLYWOOD | EXPERIMENTAL | NEW AGE | TECHNO |
| BOSSA NOVA | FOLK ROCK | NEW ORLEANS | TRIP HOP |
| BRAZILIAN | FUNK | POP MUSIC | TROPICAL |
| CELTIC | GOSPEL | OPERA | URBAN |
| CHAMBER | GRUNGE | PROGRESSIVE | ZYDECO |

The hidden message is: ALTERNATIVE ROCK

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Monday, October 9, 2017

Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 08/10/2017 07:00 LT UTC +3H

Max Temperature 40 °C

By Day: Hot with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 20 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 20 km/h with a chance for rain falling over some areas.

Four Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Hot and	Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	Hot	Hot with a chance for heavy drizzle over some areas
Min Temp °C	33	33	34	33
Max Temp °C	39	38	40	38
Wind Direction	Northerly to northerly westerly	Northerly to south westerly	Northerly westerly	Northerly westerly to northerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 20	10 - 20	12 - 40	13 - 40

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

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/
	2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait seeks a full time term (Nov - Aug)

Trade Commissioner

The applicants must speak English, and Arabic and be legally residing in Kuwait.

please consult our website
www.kuwait.gc.ca

for more information and instructions on how to apply prior to the closing date: 15/10/2017

Please note that only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

ACCOMMODATION **SITUATION WANTED**

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

Indian, male, Architecture & MEP Draftsman with 12 years' Experience in UAE & Kuwait. Proficient in AutoCAD-2000 to 2016, Knowledge in REVIT-2014, MEP-Electrical, 3D-MAX, is looking for similar post for immediate placement. Call: 99076506. 5-10-2017

EMERGENCY 112

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

EMERGENCY 112

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 9/10/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 9/10/2017			
Airlines	Flight	Route	Time	Airlines	Flight	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
KAC	102	London	00:55	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PQT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	1442	Doha	02:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1073	Mumbai	05:50
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	FEG	954	Asyut	05:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	173	Munich	06:55
BRZ	211	TBS	05:00	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	RBG	557	Alexandria	07:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
JZR	1433	Doha	05:45	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:35
RBG	557	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	161	Geneva	09:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	117	New York	09:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	165	Rome	09:20
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	101	London	09:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	561	Amman	09:55
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
AZQ	4565	GYD	10:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:05
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	VIZ	201	TQD	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	BRZ	212	TBS	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	AZQ	4566	GYD	13:00
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	413	Bangkok	13:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
WAN	984	TBS	13:40				
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10				



Nelly 'confident' he will clear his name

The 42-year-old rapper - whose real name is Cornell Iral Haynes Jr - was "beyond shocked" to be arrested on Saturday morning after a woman claimed he had sexually assaulted her on his tour bus after a gig at the White River Amphitheater in Auburn, Washington, on Friday and after being released without charge, he has apologized to his family and friends for the "embarrassment" of the "false and defaming" allegations. He tweeted: "Let me say that I am beyond shocked that I have been targeted with this false allegation. I am completely innocent. I am confident that once the facts are looked at, it will be very clear that I am the victim of a false allegation. I do want to apologize to my loved ones for the embarrassment and for putting myself in a situation where I could be victimized by this false and defaming allegation (sic)" And the 'Hot in Herre' hitmaker suggested he will be taking legal action against his accuser. He added: "I also want to thank my fans for

their unwavering support. They know me. "I assure you I will be vindicated. And I assure you, I will pursue every legal option to address this defaming claim. Thank you. "In other words y'all know damn well I ain't do no dumm S^*t like this.!! Love ..!!!! (sic)" Nelly was booked on second-degree rape charges after a woman reported the alleged incident at 3.48am on Saturday, but the 'Dilemma' hitmaker's lawyer insists her claims are "completely fabricated". The lawyer said in a statement: "Nelly is the victim of a completely fabricated allegation. "Our initial investigation clearly establishes this allegation is devoid of credibility and is motivated by greed and vindictiveness. "I am confident, once this scurrilous accusation is thoroughly investigated, there will be no charges."

Madonna's love letter from Tupac was 'personal'

The 59-year-old singer can vividly recall reading a 1995 note from her former lover - who died in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas in 1996 - after it was hand-delivered by a friend when he wrote the missive while behind bars. In an affidavit filed at Manhattan Supreme Court and seen by the New York Daily News newspaper as part of a legal bid to prevent an auction house selling her personal items, including the letter, Madonna recalled: "I have a specific memory of receiving that letter because I had a close personal relationship with Tupac Shakur and I specifically remember receiving a phone call from him while he was in jail. "My

recollection is that he had one of his friends hand deliver the letter to my home in Manhattan. "I also have a specific memory of reading the letter. In particular, I remember that he apologized to me. I never gave this letter away. It is intensely personal." However, in a deposition last month, Madonna's former friend, Darlene Lutz, insisted she had been given the note as part of a pile of fan mail given to her by the 'Hung Up' hitmaker's late manager, Caresse Henry, because the star didn't "save, store, or archive" any of her letters.



Russell Brand has given away most of his fortune

The 42-year-old comic - who has 11-month-old daughter Mabel with wife Laura Gallacher - claims he will have to work for the rest of his life because his luxury lifestyle and generosity towards others have left him living from one pay cheque to the next. Russell - who is estimated to be worth around £10 million - is quoted by the Mail on Sunday newspaper as saying: "I live hand to mouth. I gave people too much money. I gave too much to charity. I bought too many good things. I didn't look at the contracts. Now I've got to work for the rest of my life." Meanwhile, Russell - who was also previously married to Katy Perry - recently opened up about his long battle with various addictions and admitted his obsession with sex got particularly bad when he quit drugs, but he feels "lucky" he never had any "weird tastes". He said: "By the time I took heroin, I was just a person who really liked things that affected the way I felt, that changed the way I felt. And it felt good. People don't take drugs because drugs are bad. People take drugs because drugs are fantastic. The problem is that drugs don't deal with the root problem. It doesn't treat the pain. You can't take heroin all day everyday like I did. It got me into trouble. "When I became sexually aware as a teenager, I got very obsessive about sex and women and pornography. So the problem around sex was present back then. I was very uncomfortable with my body, so my problems were around porn and food."



Louise and Jamie Redknapp are living apart



The couple have been dogged by rumors that they have separated in the past few months and the Eternal singer has confirmed they are no longer sharing a home, though they are not planning to divorce and still speak every day. Louise admitted she still lives with her 44-year-old husband - the father of her sons Charley, 13, and eight-year-old Beau - but she needed to take some time out to focus on herself and her own needs. She said: "It's so hard because I love him. He's an amazing man and we've had 20 good years together. "I know he's trying to understand that I do need to do this. People might look at me and think I've got everything, but a sweeping staircase and designer handbag doesn't really do it for me. "Being fulfilled, being true to yourself, following your passion, they are the things that make you happy. "I have no idea what is going to happen, all I know is that I fought for this, it's taken everything, but this is something I need to do - for me." In a candid interview with the Sunday Telegraph's Stella magazine, she said: "I feel I'm coming back to who I really am. "I have spent most of my life pleasing everyone else, worrying about being judged and thinking I should always do the right thing by staying at home, looking after my kids and my husband. I lost myself. "Looking after my family was my reality. I became a sort of Stepford Wife, wanting to be perfect at it."

Orlando Bloom hates being famous

The 40-year-old actor - who has six-year-old son Flynn with ex-wife Miranda Kerr and is rumoured to have rekindled his romance with Katy Perry - is a practicing Buddhist and finds meditating daily helps him to cope with his "celebritydom" with grace and integrity. He said: "I meditate every day, it allows me to set my intention for the day. "It helped me to cope with my sudden rise to celebritydom, a process a little bit like getting inside a burning car. "You see these victims all around you - 15 minutes of fame, a YouTube sensation, whatever it may be. "They don't realize what it takes. "What you want to do is learn how to suit up and get out of that burning car with grace, ease, and integrity." Orlando is very excited about being in his 40s because he thinks it is a great time of life. He explained to Britain's OK! magazine: "There's a wisdom that comes with age and finding joy in simple pleasures. "I have a child, a few scars, a bit of living behind me, I'm impatient to know the next chapter, to become the man I'm supposed to be." The 'Lord of the Rings' actor is an avid user of Instagram and sees it as a brilliant option to communicate with his fans. He explained: "I see it as a great way to connect with my fans. I avoided it for years. "I don't have a Twitter account but last year I signed up to Facebook too."



Karen Elson feels 'lucky' to have White as an ex

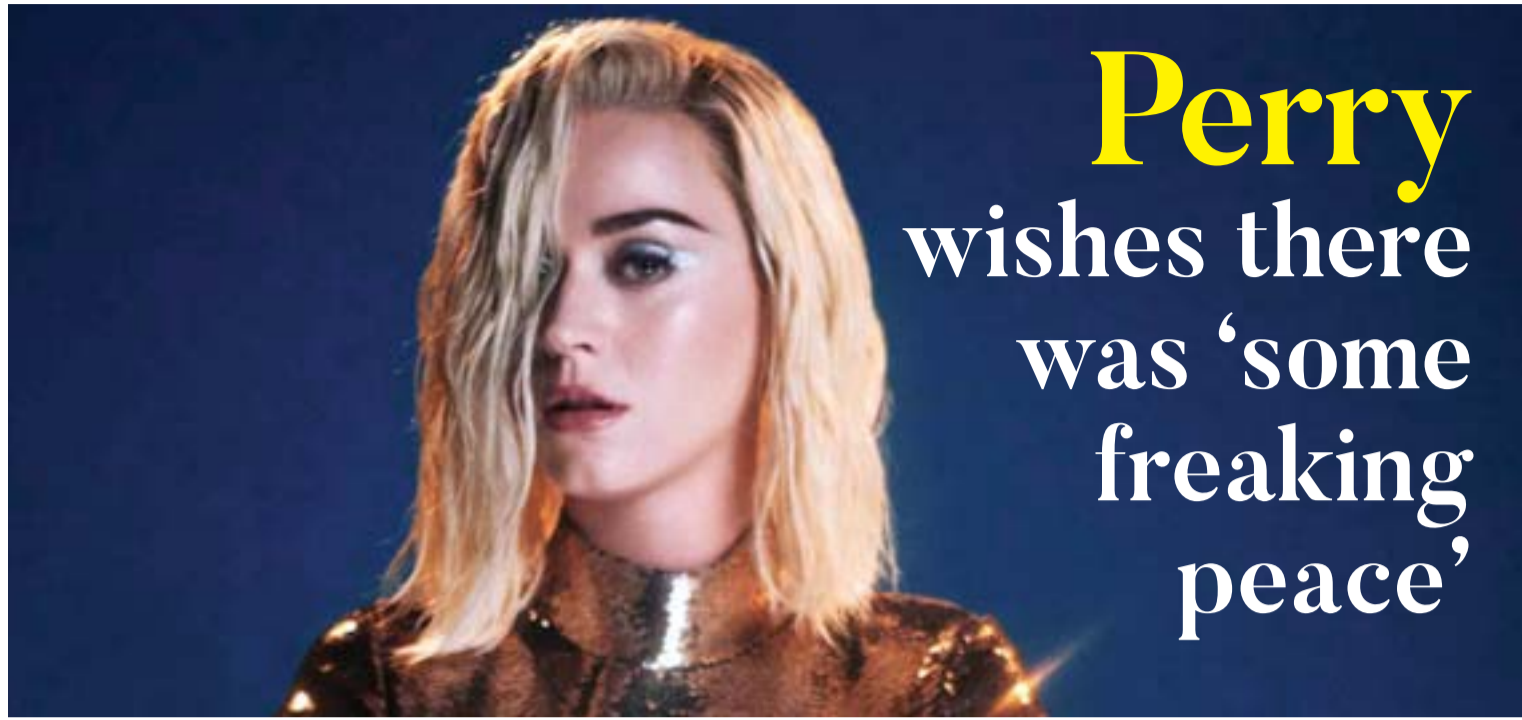


The model-turned-musician divorced the former White Stripes star - the father of her kids Scarlett, 11, and 10-year-old Henry - in 2013 but they get along well and she feels very fortunate that he is such a big part of their children's lives. She said: "Jack's an incredible father, he really is, an absolute class-A father. "As ex-husbands go, I'm really lucky in that sense. As the kids get older, I realise how fortunate I am to have him as a co-parent I really give massive props to Jack in that sense." Though they are not together any more, the 38-year-old beauty will always keep a "special place" in her heart for Jack, but she admits she still has bad days over their divorce. She said: "I think there's no easy way around it. You can have the best intentions, and there will forever be a special place for Jack in my heart. "But as anyone who has been through a divorce knows, there are good days and bad days. And my advice is, 'This too will pass.' I know it sounds so basic, but the truth is, whenever you are going through anything hard, time and perspective really help. "I want to say that I am a powerhouse of strength, but we've all been on our bathroom floor sobbing, wondering why our life is the way our life is. "Thank God I have such a tight core of women friends. They have kept me sane in the darkest of times." Karen has found the separation easier as time has gone on and the main priority for both her and Jack is for their children to feel secure. She told Red magazine: "Jack and I have been divorced a few years now and it's a lot easier."

Noel Gallagher thinks brother needs a psychiatrist

The 50-year-old rocker has blasted his younger sibling for a lack of "respect" after the 'Wall of Glass' hitmaker publicly hit out at Noel for not performing at Ariana Grande's charity concert, which was staged a few weeks after a terrorist attack at her concert in their home city of Manchester. Explaining how his decision to donate the profits from Oasis' song 'Don't Look Back in Anger' - which became an anthem of defiance for the area in the wake of the bombing - to the charity became public knowledge, Noel said: "It was meant to be private) until Mr Angry bombarded the internet with his hate. "So I'm getting calls saying, 'Surely you want to do an interview?' No. People died. This is not about me or some other idiot. A woman's just woken up from a coma to find her daughter's dead. Have some respect." Noel - who insists he wasn't asked to perform at the star-studded-concert - found himself under attack by Liam again when he headlined the reopening of Manchester Arena last month and appeared emotional while singing 'Don't Look Back in Anger'. And the 'Ballad of the Mighty I' singer thinks Liam needs to seek help after accusing his brother of turning the occasion into a "PR stunt". Noel fumed to the Sunday Times Culture magazine: "He needs to see a psychiatrist. I don't say that as a joke. Because young Mancunians, young music fans, were slaughtered, and he, twice, takes it somewhere to be about him. He needs to see somebody." But Noel refused to criticise Liam for his decision to play his own comeback single, 'Wall of Glass', at the Manchester tribute concert.





Perry wishes there was 'some freaking peace'

The 32-year-old singer has said she wants nothing more than to put an end to violence, in light of the tragic events of last week when a gunman opened fire on crowds attending the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas, killing over 50 people and injuring more than 500 others. Katy was performing in New York City's Madison Square Garden as part of her 'Witness: The Tour' on Friday when she dedicated her hit single 'Part of Me' to her fans who had "overcome this dumb fear" and chosen to attend her concert. She said on stage: "My wish is for some freaking peace! Don't you think? "This is one of my favorite songs to sing - I want to dedicate it to you guys. You chose to come out and overcome this dumb fear. You chose to come into the community of music and to be together ... and be inspired. "This week has been crappy. This whole year has been crappy. We're stronger than that. No one's gonna steal our joy, are

they? We've come together tonight just to escape it all a little bit." And the 'Bon Appetite' singer isn't the only artist to have spoken out the horrific incident recently, as fellow singer Celine Dion broke down in tears during a performance in the Nevada city. Speaking on stage at the time, Celine said: "I hope that you're doing OK ... before we start the show, I need to talk to you for a moment. "I never start the show like this but tonight is very different. For me it's: 'Can I still do my show?' Should I still do my show only two days after the nightmare?" The audience fell completely silent as the 'My Heart Will Go On' songstress wiped tears away from her face as she revealed that all the proceeds from the concert would go directly to the families affected by the horrendous attack.

Kris Jenner is a 'second mom' to Malika Haqq

The showbiz matriarch always looks out for the 'Dash Dolls' star - who has been Kris' daughter, Khloe Kardashian's best friend since they were 15 - and the 34-year-old star knows she can always turn to her for help and support. Malika said: "Kris is my second mom. She helped raise me alongside my own mother. "I'm passionate about what she goes through and what she struggles with, as I am with my own mom." And Malika will be seen pouring her heart out to Kris in the new season of 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', although she won't be too happy to see her "ugly cry face" on screen again. She said: "I cry all the time. I have a really ugly cry face and I always tell myself I Won't cry on camera but I can't help it. "My one emotional moment is probably one coming up in the new series. "I have a heart to heart with Kris - but I won't give away spoilers. Watching other people go through heartbreaking things is always hard." Just as Malika has a familial bond with Kris, she also admitted her relationship with Khloe is very sisterly - and they squabble a lot. She said: "We bicker like sisters do and then we get over it. "For as long as we've been friends, we've been through different stages and our friendship has evolved with that. "Yes, we fight but we also patch it up and move on."



Garner left tough movie roles for her children's sake



The 45-year-old actress has Violet 11, Seraphina, eight, and Samuel, five, with her estranged husband Ben Affleck, and has said that whenever she takes on a character who is "going through something" - such as her role as a single mother in new movie 'The Tribes of Palos Verdes' - she always has to remember not to bring that drama home with her, because she needs to "raise [her] kids". Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', she said: "Anytime that you're playing someone who is going through something, you have to just figure it out, and you actually - believe it or not - don't use your own life as much as you might think. It really is its own bear to get through. "You just get into that place. That's your job, and then you shake it off, because you have to go home and raise your kids. It's just like any other time I do a scene with an emotional place." It isn't the first time Jennifer has made sure to put her

brood first, as after news of her filing for divorce from Ben broke in April this year, the pair were said to be "100 percent committed" to co-parenting their children. A source said: "Everything today couldn't have been done more amicably. The divorce filing was only a matter of time. Ben and Jen are both still 100 percent committed to co-parenting their children and making sure their family situation works for them all. You can't have anything better than that." And a second source insisted they were "die-hard committed" to raising their brood. They said: "They have maintained such a strong and beautiful united front to stay lovely and classy towards each other for their kids. They spend so much time working on their relationship - whether it's a friendship or anything - for their kids ..."

Sofia Vergara urges fans to get mammograms

The 45-year-old actress took to Instagram on Friday to share the importance of going to the doctors to receive the specialized x-ray system - which allows doctors to see inside a woman's breasts - in order to help with the early detection and diagnoses of breast diseases, such as breast cancer. Posting a picture of herself at the doctor's preparing to undergo such a scan, she wrote: "You have to do it!!! #mammogram #medicalimaging-women's imaging. (sic)" The 'Modern Family' actress - who is married to fellow actor Joe Manganiello - is no stranger to being vocal about her health and taking care of her body either, as she earlier this year she strives to "look great", but isn't too worried about looking "younger". She said: "I'm 45. Even if you want to, at this time in your life, you can't be perfect. It's not that you hate it, or that you're upset about it, but it is our reality. We're changing. I see it happening to me. I want to look my age, but I want to look great. I think if you are obsessed with this 'I want to look younger' thing, you're going to go crazy." Meanwhile, Sofia recently revealed her 40-year-old spouse is in love with her "independence", and the fact she doesn't "ask anyone for anything". She said: "He supports me in everything. I think he realizes how important it is for [women to have] opportunities, for women to have [their] own thing going [on]. He always, actually, tells me, he's like, 'You know, one of the things that draws me so much to you is that you were, like, the first woman [who] I went out with that is really, really, like, independent.'"



Cattrall 'creating drama' between the 'Sex and the City' cast

The 61-year-old actress starred as Samantha Jones in the hit HBO TV show and its subsequent two movie spin-offs, and was recently accused of making "diva demands" which are said to have caused the hotly anticipated third movie to be cancelled by Warner Bros. Kim has since denied making such demands, and after her co-star Sarah Jessica Parker - who played Carrie Bradshaw - said she was "disappointed" the project wouldn't be going ahead, Kim claimed she "could have been nicer" and stuck up for her amid the rumors. And now, it has been reported that the star is making things difficult for her other co-stars Cynthia Nixon and Kristen Davis - who played Miranda Hobbes and Charlotte York respectively - as it has been claimed that whilst the girls "genuinely did care about each other" before, tensions caused by Kim have tested their patience. A source told People magazine: "They genuinely did care about each other and worked very hard to protect their relationship. Every relationship has its ups and downs and they worked very hard to protect fans from moments that weren't ups. "It's amazing Kim is saying she wasn't negotiating because she was absolutely asking for many demands, some of which have already been quoted. When she said the relationship was toxic, it's interesting because she is the one who creates the drama, but she won't take honest responsibility for her actions. She's been protected by their silence for so long I think she just expects that."



Vin Diesel doesn't think it's 'anyone's fault' that 'Fast and Furious 9' has been delayed



The ninth instalment of the popular franchise was recently delayed until 2020, and whilst rapper and actor Tyrese Gibson recently placed blame on co-star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson - as a spin-off movie starring him and Jason Statham is slated for a 2019 release - 50-year-old Vin thinks it's "unfair" to put any of the cast members at fault. Vin - who has long been feuding with Dwayne since the former wrestler slammed some unnamed co-stars in 2016 - took to Instagram on Friday to share a still of himself and Dwayne from the franchise, in which he hinted that the three-year wait for a new main series movie would act as "maintenance" for the franchise. His lengthy caption read: "Brotherhood... and all it's complexities. This scene was filmed in Puerto Rico, I can remember it like it was yesterday. Such a beautiful island, the people were so warm and welcoming. I turned 43 that summer... and my son Vincent was born. "A woman named Jan Kelly responded to a question I

had asked on Facebook, 'who they would like to see me work with?' She said would love to see me work with Dwayne... I listened to her request and he became Hobbs. "I know there has been a lot of speculation as to why the Fast 9 release date was pushed... but it would be unfair to say it is anyone's fault. "As we plot the course to expand the Fast & Furious universe, one must be mindful to take stock of the roads we took to get here. The pillars of authenticity, family and most importantly, our loyal fan's perspective has been instrumental in procuring success. "However, like any vehicle that has run around the globe 8 times, the franchise is in need of maintenance. My good friend and the godfather of Universal, Ron Meyer has granted me the time to do just that. We have some very exciting news to share soon... stay tuned. "Yours truly, Dom "#FamilyAlways (sic)" — Bangshowbiz

Italy's high-rise forests take root around the world



Milanese architect Stefano Boeri's leafy project is now being exported around the world. — AFP photos

As balconies bristle with tree branches and sunshine dapples the leaves of thousands of plants, two apartment buildings in the heart of Milan have almost disappeared under lush forest. The brainchild of Milanese architect Stefano Boeri, the Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest) uses more than 20,000 trees and plants to adorn the high-rise buildings from top to bottom - a project now being exported all over the world, from China to the Netherlands.

The two original leafy towers dominate the skyline in the northern Italian city, giving residents-including celebrities like footballer Ivan Perisic-an enviable view over the new district of Porta Nuova and beyond. Cherry, apple and olive trees spill over balconies alongside beeches and larches, selected and positioned according to their resistance to wind and preference for sunlight or humidity.

Boeri said the idea came from his obsession with trees and determination to make them "an essential component of architecture," particularly as a weapon to combat climate

change. "I was in Dubai in 2007 and I watched this city growing in the middle of the desert, with more than 200 glass towers multiplying the effect of heat," he recalls. He wanted instead to create something that "as well as welcoming life, can contribute to reducing pollution, because trees absorb microparticles and CO2".

"Cities now produce about 75 percent of the CO2 present in the atmosphere. Bringing more trees into the city means fighting the enemy on the spot," he said. Opened in 2014, the Vertical Forest won the prestigious Frankfurt International Highrise Award, and the Chicago Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat named it Best Tall Building Worldwide. "It's a unique thing to live here, we're in direct contact with the plants while being in the city centre and in a super modern skyscraper," says Simona Pizzi, who can see the mountains from her 14th floor apartment. "The plants have developed a lot over the past three years, and we see them changing with the seasons," adds the proud owner of an apple tree, where

the white flowers contrast magnificently with the green foliage.

Boeri worked closely with botanists to create a nursery of a thousand trees that have been trained to grow under specific conditions. The team faced numerous challenges, from how the balconies should be structured to take the weight of the plants, to how to secure the tree roots and what needed to go into the soil. They even carried out resistance tests at a hurricane centre in Miami. "For every human being living in the building, there are about two trees, 10 shrubs and 40 plants," Boeri said.

The future of housing?

The vegetation soon transformed into a veritable wildlife park: 9,000 ladybirds brought over from Germany to eat parasites-to leave the plants pesticide free-multiplied over the space of a few weeks. "The extraordinary thing that we did not expect was the incredible amount of birds that nested here. We have small hawks on the roofs, and swifts that had previously disappeared from Milan," Boeri said.

The architect and his team are now working on a dozen or so Vertical Forest projects around the world, including Lausanne in Switzerland, Utrecht in the Netherlands, Sao Paulo in Brazil and Tirana in Albania. The aim in Eindhoven in the Netherlands is to swap the sort of luxury pads seen in

the Milan project-which go for some 11,000 euros (\$12,900) per square meter-for social housing, a project Boeri says he's particularly keen on.

And because the cost of the trees is low, it's not an unreasonable ambition, he says. He is also thinking big in China, where not only are two towers under construction in Nanjing and a hotel in the works in Shanghai, but there are plans for a "Forest City" of some 200 buildings in Liuzhou. "China is now realizing it faces the dramatic problem of air pollution, but also of uncontrolled urbanization, with cities growing out of suburbs, creating megacities," he said. "Every year fifteen million peasants abandon the countryside to come to the city, we have to come up with some answers, with new green cities," says Boeri, who took part in the COP21 conference on climate change in Paris in 2015. The architect has not patented the Vertical Forest and has even written a book revealing the secrets and techniques behind it, which he hopes will encourage a new, greener way of developing cities. — AFP

“An essential component of architecture”

S Africa revives groundbreaking apartheid-era musical

The rise and fall of flamboyant, ferocious Ezekiel Dlamini, a black South African boxer known as "King Kong" who was jailed for murder, inspired a 1959 musical whose black cast performed for multi-racial audiences, testing the apartheid system of that era. Now the musical that helped to propel the careers of singer Miriam Makeba and trumpeter Hugh Masekela is back on the stage in South Africa.

"King Kong: Legend of a Boxer" highlights the jazz infused with indigenous influences that flourished in some black urban areas, particularly Johannesburg's Sophiatown, in racially segregated South Africa in the 1950s, as well as the underworld of gangsters and bars known as shebeens accompanying the creative ferment. The backdrop, while not explicitly addressed in the play, is the white minority rule that systematically marginalized the country's black majority.

The show, which ends a run at the Joburg Theatre on Sunday and returns to The Fugard Theatre in Cape Town on Dec. 12, is a cautionary tale. In 1957, Dlamini fatally stabbed girlfriend

Maria Miya, an act that resonates in a country whose high rate of violent crime counts many women among its victims.

One theme in the musical is "the importance of understanding and owning your power but also taking responsibility for it," said Nondumiso Tembe, a Los Angeles-based South African actor playing the role of Joyce, a host at a bar called Back o' the Moon who becomes romantically entangled with the boxer. Tembe noted that the killing of women "has sort of become an epidemic in our society today."

In a reminder of that scourge, President Jacob Zuma last week condemned the fatal shooting of eight women and girls, reportedly members of the same family, in a village in KwaZulu-Natal province and said curbing violence against women is a priority for his government. Police are investigating whether the killings were the result of a family feud or were linked to political rivalries that periodically turn violent in the region.—AP



In this photo provided by the Fugard Theatre taken on Monday, Oct 2, 2017, the cast perform in a production of "King Kong" in Johannesburg. — AP

Hear them roar: Afghan female football fans show their support

Shiba Rahimi, a demure pale pink hijab covering her hair, sits forward in her seat and does a shrill two-finger whistle at the male footballers darting around the all-weather field in Kabul. The university student is one of dozens of football-mad women sitting in the female section of the Afghan capital's main stadium enjoying a rare opportunity to have fun in public in patriarchal Afghanistan. "Women are not harassed or bothered by anyone here. It is a good place for women," 21-year-old Rahimi tells AFP, as she sits with her family watching the Afghan Premier League (APL) clash between Toofan Harirod and Simorgh Alborz.

A cross section of women-students, professionals and grandmothers-hold red "Goaaal!" posters and wave Afghan national flags as they scream the names of their favourite team, their faces beaming. Women, some partially veiled to only show their eyes, trickle into the stadium throughout the game. To reach their segregated seating next to the VIP section they must walk past a men's stand under the gaze of scores of eyes.

It is a scene that would have been unthinkable during the Taliban's repressive and misogynistic regime when women were largely confined to their homes and, when they did venture outside with a male escort, hidden from view under burqas. The ground where the game is under way is close to the old stadium where matches held under the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule featured public executions with criminals hanged or shot and thieves' hands cut off.

Unafraid

In the sixteen years since the Taliban was toppled by a US-led invasion, women have been allowed to attend men's matches and even play the sport. Only a few female supporters went to games in the beginning but as memories of the Taliban years faded and women footballers and fans appeared more frequently on television they began showing up in greater numbers-but only with the permission of their husbands and families. Still, that is greater freedom than women in some other Muslim countries, such as neighboring Iran and Saudi Arabia, enjoy.

Morsal Sadat is one of the lucky ones. The 16-year-old high school student says her family lets her play and watch football. "I came here to watch and learn some new tricks from our players," Sadat says. Despite being vastly outnumbered by men in the 6,500-seat stadium, the enthusiastic female fans overshadow their male counterparts with their exuberant support.

The men do not appear bothered by their female counterparts-some even use their proximity to girls to flirt through the barrier. Afghanistan has made strides to promote female football-it has a national side and three years ago launched its first all-women's football league that ran in parallel with the men's APL. But this year the female teams were sidelined by a lack of funding.

Security is a major concern for spectators attending sporting venues in Afghanistan where large gatherings of any kind are often targeted. During last month's Shpageeza Cricket League a suicide bomber blew himself up meters from the stadium, killing three people. But in a country where daily life is often interrupted by deadly attacks by insurgents the female football fans say they refuse to be intimidated into staying home. Khatira Ahmadi, 20, says: "It is true that there is widespread insecurity in Afghanistan, and we witness one blast or two blasts every day, but we don't get frightened. (We) cannot ignore the sport we love." — AFP



In this photograph taken on September 21, 2017, Afghan football fans watch a Roshan Afghan premier league match between Toofan Harirod and Simorgh Alborz at the Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) stadium in Kabul. — AFP photos

Lifestyle | Features

Beyond Beyonce: Boston Symphony taking it to the streets



Beyonce

Wander Boston's more diverse neighborhoods and you're more likely to hear Beyonce than Brahms or Drake than Dvorak. The Boston Symphony Orchestra says that's about to change. Starting this month, the renowned orchestra is reaching out to Jamaica Plain, Roxbury and Dorchester - culturally vibrant corners of the city that haven't fully embraced classical music - to get a better grasp of their musical roots and needs.

Thomas Wilkins, the BSO's youth and family concerts conductor, said the goal is "to build deep and meaningful relationships with people ... alongside the rich cultural offerings of their unique neighborhoods." "We must share this amazing music that touches so many of us with those who may not otherwise be able to experience it," said Wilkins, the 136-year-old orchestra's first black conductor. "It's the right thing to do."

It's part of a growing trend of US symphonies taking it to the streets. Florida's Jacksonville Symphony, New Jersey's Newark Symphony, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and others are bringing the classics to audiences whose musical traditions have favored other genres. The "BSO in Residence"

initiative kicked off last weekend in Jamaica Plain with a free outdoor concert in Franklin Park, the city's largest green space, followed by a question-and-answer session at Margarita Muniz Academy, a dual English-Spanish language high school.

'A good concept'

Next up: appearances and workshops at other schools to give young Bostonians of color a chance to meet and play with key orchestra members. For years, the Boston Symphony and its sister orchestra - the Boston Pops - have worked to expose residents of the city's ethnic neighborhoods to classical music. But those efforts mostly have involved bringing people to Symphony Hall or to the orchestra's summer home at Tanglewood in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts.

"Maybe we shouldn't ask them to come to us - maybe we should go to them" is a good concept," said David France, executive director of Revolution of Hope, a world-class youth orchestra in Roxbury. France, a classical violinist who's performed with Quincy Jones and John Legend but also plays in the subway, said he's learned the value of bringing music to places where people can enjoy it on their own terms.

"People connect to it," he said. "They'll stop to dance the latest moves to Bach. People have been beatboxing and freestyle rapping to my music. It's become the soundtrack to their lives."

The symphony's three-year road trip sprang from a cultural study commissioned by Democratic Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Community leaders complained that predominantly black and Hispanic neighborhoods don't have equal access to the fine arts.

Kelley Chunn, acting president of the Roxbury Cultural District - a new nonprofit promoting arts and culture in the neighborhood - said the symphony's decision to venture beyond its gilded walls "will broaden the cultural boundaries for the community." And by going grassroots, Chunn said, the orchestra will also be enriched. "There's a lot of culture going on in our neighborhoods," she said. "We can all find common ground through classical music." — AP



Getting a better grasp of their musical roots



In this Oct 1, 2017 photo released by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Thomas Wilkins, the BSO's youth and family concerts conductor, directs the symphony during a free outdoor concert in Franklin Park, Boston's largest green space. — AP photos

Cindy Crawford: Daughter's entry into modeling 'inevitable'



In this Sept 29, 2017 file photo, model Cindy Crawford, right, poses with her daughter Kaia Gerber for photographers upon arrival at a party for Omega in Paris. — AP photos



Kaia Gerber models the first look at the Alexander Wang Spring 2018 fashion show held on a street in the Bushwick neighborhood of Brooklyn during New York Fashion Week.

Cindy Crawford says she's more concerned about her 16-year-old daughter sitting behind the wheel of a car than walking a runway. The supermodel's daughter, Kaia Gerber, made her New York Fashion Week debut last month. Her 18-year-old son, Presley Gerber, also is a model. "My daughter just got her driver's license. I'm a lot more concerned about her driving by herself than her entering the world of modeling," Crawford told The Associated Press during an interview at a charity event near Detroit. "The great thing for my kids is that I know a lot about that world. I feel like: Who better to help guide them than me?"

Crawford says she understands it's inevitable that Kaia Gerber would enter the modeling world. Gerber bears a striking resemblance to her 51-year-old mother. "In some ways, I wish I could have pushed it off a year or two. But she's 16. That's how old I was when I started, which is young, but in fashion that's kind of the normal age when people start," Crawford said Thursday. Gerber already has made a splash walking the runway for a number of top designers, including Versace.

At Milan Fashion Week in September, Donatella Versace hosted a runway tribute to her brother, Gianni Versace, 20 years after his slaying in Miami. The show brought

together the supermodels that Gianni Versace helped create - Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, Helena Christensen and yes, Crawford. But it also featured the new generation of celebrity models, including the Hadids - Gigi and Bella; plus Kendall Jenner and Gerber.

"I didn't know my daughter was doing that show," Crawford said. "The models themselves don't really get booked until the day before or two days before. And finally Kaia got booked for it, and I said, 'You know I'm doing that show, right?' "She's like, 'Wait, do we have to walk down together?' I said, 'No. I don't even want to walk down with you. I'm going to walk down with the ladies that are my age. You can go with the girls that are your age.'"

Crawford says she was proud to take part in Thursday's ceremony honoring five people who have made a difference in their communities. It was held at an Art Van Furniture store in Warren, Michigan. Crawford has served for the past few years as the official ambassador of the Art Van Charity Challenge, a charitable giving initiative that has donated \$8 million and raised more than \$24 million for 359 charities. — AP



Bollywood-style dancers perform during the Diwali at a Times Square celebration Saturday, Oct 7, 2017, in New York.

Diwali celebrations in New York City



A traditional Rajasthani dance group performs.



Dancer Terence Lewis performs during the diya lighting ceremony.



Dancers Sahana Madabhushi, left, Deeya Patel, and Harshita Shet, watch the performances during the Diwali festival at a Times Square celebration.



"Mr Paanwala" Mehul Patel makes paan, a combination of nuts and pastes folded into a betel leaf.



Dancers from the Shiamak Davar Dance Academy pose during the Diwali celebrations. — AP photos

Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017



Sotheby employees hang up the acrylic and oilstick on canvas painting, *Cabra* by Jean-Michel Basquiat at Sotheby's auction house in London, Friday, Oct 6, 2017 ahead of New York sales for Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern Art by Monet, Cezanne, Miru, Magritte, Picasso, Basquiat, Dubuffet & Lichtenstein. The painting is estimated to fetch US\$9-12 million. — AP

'All winners' at inaugural Miss Wheelchair World pageant

In her elegant evening dress and perfectly styled hair and make-up, Maria Diaz looks like any beauty pageant contestant—except for the wheelchair she has been confined to since being shot by a stranger ten years ago. Maria is one of 24 young women who gathered in Warsaw on Saturday to compete for the first-ever title of Miss Wheelchair World.

"It doesn't matter who wins the crown. We are all winners," said the 28-year-old from Chile, who is a professional wheelchair tennis player. "It's our first opportunity of its kind to show the world that we can do anything we want," she added. Belarussian psychology and social pedagogy student Aleksandra Chichikova won the crown at a gala evening in the Polish capital.

The contestants presented themselves in national costumes, cocktail and evening dresses. They also performed elaborate dance routines, some by moving their wheelchairs on their own and others with the help of assistants. They talked mostly about their personal experiences, including the challenges of life in a wheelchair. Finland's Kati van der Hoeven can only talk to her husband by moving her pupils, while Mirande Bakker from the Netherlands is the victim of a doctor's mistake.

Polish kinesiologist Beata Jalocha has been confined to a wheelchair since 2013 when a suicide jumper landed on her. "It's the first initiative of its kind in the world," jury president Katarzyna Wojtaszek-Ginalska told AFP. The goal is to "change the image of women on wheelchairs so they would not be judged solely by" their disability, added the 36-year-old handicapped mother.

Wojtaszek-Ginalska is head of the Only One Foundation, which has organised the contest drawing on experience from Polish beauty pageants for the handicapped. "It is not the looks that matter the most," said Wojtaszek-Ginalska. "Of course, good looks count but we have focused especially on the personalities of the girls, their everyday activities..." she added. Another goal was to show that a wheelchair is a luxury in many parts of the world. "It's a common saying of handicapped women that we didn't ask to be handicapped, that we would happily get rid of our handicaps, that we want to be considered ordinary people after all," she said. "Of course we are on wheelchairs, but that is a fate that can hit anyone, anytime."

'Raise your right hand!'

To finance the pageant, the small foundation has collected money from private sponsors. But the biggest portion of aid came from the city of Warsaw, which provided the infrastructure, logistical support

and helpers. "The girls only paid for their trip here," said Wojtaszek-Ginalska.

The contestants were chosen either in national rounds or, in countries with no such pageants, by non-governmental organizations contacted by the Polish foundation. Each country could send a maximum of two contestants, who spent eight days in the Polish capital, busy with rehearsals, photo sessions, conferences and visits. One rehearsal required them to dance to fast music, a task some found impossible to do.

At one moment, a professional choreographer showing them the movements they were to imitate, cried: "Raise your right hand!" "I don't have the right hand," American contestant Jennifer Lynn Adams protested from her electric wheelchair, driven with the help of a joystick, to an applause from all hands at the rehearsal. "I was born with partial limbs so I have to be adaptive to the music, to

the choreography but that's okay. I live my life adaptively," said the Miss Wheelchair America 2014. "That's actually my message to the world: that we all have something that limits us but we can adapt beyond it and we can shine beyond our limitations." — AFP

“It's the first initiative of its kind in the world”



Miss Belarus Aleksandra Chichikova (C), winner of the Miss Wheelchair World contest beauty pageant, first runner-up Lebohng Monyatsi from South Africa (R) and second runner-up Adriana Zawadzinska of Poland react after the awards.



Second Vice Miss Polish Adriana Zawadzinska (R) smiles during the final.



Miss Belarus Aleksandra Chichikova (3rd-R), winner, Second Vice Miss Adriana Zawadzinska of Poland (4th-L), first Vice Miss Lebohng Monyatsi (2nd-R) from South Africa and other participants smile during the final gala of the Miss Wheelchair World contest beauty pageant.



First Vice Miss Lebohng Monyatsi (C) from South Africa smiles.