

Friday Times

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Local

PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: A woman walks up the stairwell in the Al-Qurain Martyrs Museum, where the walls are visibly pockmarked by bullet holes. The Al-Qurain museum was as the site of one of the most fiercest and well-known battles between the Iraqi occupying forces and the Kuwaiti Resistance.

The museum aims to memorialize Al-Qurain battle which occurred on Feb 24, 1991. The battle led to the death of 12 of 19 Kuwaiti youth fighting with the Resistance. The museum is under supervision of the Ministry of Information, and consists of three houses; one for the administration, another is the house of martyr Bader Al- Aidan, and the third is where the cinema, library, and documents departments are located, said the secretary. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

E-bracelet, not prison



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Abu Dhabi Police have launched an electronic system to monitor those convicted of misdemeanors through the use of an electronic bracelet as a substitute for imprisonment for small and minor offenses. Police will install a GPS electronic wristband and the person will be monitored 24/7 throughout the sentence period.

Police officials said the new system is based on the use of an electronic bracelet by the convicted person to determine the geographical scope, times and rules imposed on the sentenced person. When I read about this initiative, I felt happy and secure, because security authorities in UAE are clearly and transparently seeking to limit crimes in a civilized manner, aimed at protecting the society and achieving stability and happiness of individuals without harming or violating anyone's rights and dignity.

I always believed and called for such initiatives in Kuwait, like community service and ankle monitors, as successful methods that are widely used in the West. Now we have Abu Dhabi taking the lead in implementing it. Imprisoning traffic offenders, for



It can monitor the compliance of the sentenced person

example, with drug traffickers and criminals, means physical and psychological torture and death. The person may go to prison due to a violation of traffic regulations, but end up as a drug addict. So, what is the benefit to the society and the offender? Prison may be a way to get rid of some criminals, but rehabilitation should be the goal.

This service provides effective options in the process of rehabilitation and social reintegration to maintain positive ties, by replacing prison sentences with social measures that serve the interests of the society and provide the opportunity to reform and improve behaviors in the future.

The Abu Dhabi attorney-general said police surveillance using tracking bracelets accurately analyses the data provided by the convicted person in terms of the detainee's compliance with the restrictions during the probation period and ensures the prevention of crime and contributes to accelerating reintegration into society.

Abu Dhabi police stated that this system applies a non-custodial measure in a flexible manner, taking into account the personality of the convict, the nature of the offense, the seriousness of the offense and the requirements of the protection of the community. It can monitor the compliance of the sentenced person and obedience of the order of the court to stay at a specific address or not to go somewhere, which enables the sentenced person to practice his daily life routines in a normal manner according to a program determined by the court and the prosecution and followed up by the police follow-up department and subsequent care in the community security sector.

This issue is simply a societal message aiming to understand the importance of dealing with perpetrators of minor misdemeanors, because the objective is to reform and modify the behavior of convicts and ensure that they do not return to crimes, and rehabilitate them to be productive individuals in society.

Thank you Abu Dhabi for such a humanitarian initiative that seeks the happiness of the community. You made me happy too with this news.



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Local

Touted ban on Filipina domestic helpers not approved



By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A proposal to ban Filipino domestic helpers working in Kuwait has not been approved by the Philippine government, confirmed Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa. Speaking with the reporters at the Philippine embassy in Sadiq area, Villa noted the ban is tied to the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on domestic helper concern and even if it gets approved, it would only be temporary.

"The House Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs has called for the temporary suspension but it hasn't approved by the congress as yet. Once it is approved they will instruct us here to implement the ban. We are the implementer-the embassy, together with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment (Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). To date, there is no finality as to the ban issue," the envoy stated.

There is no guarantee that the ban will be approved. The ambassador noted that it was due in part to the continued

maltreatment and abuse of Filipina domestic helpers. Currently, there are about 250 domestic helpers at the embassy shelter awaiting repatriation. Most of them are domestic helpers running away from their sponsors - some due to maltreatment, unpaid salaries, unfair working conditions, excessive working hours, no day off, or other forms of abuse or exploitation. Some also run away rather than work as housemaids. Of the 240,000 total population of Filipinos in Kuwait 150,000 of them work as domestic helpers.

The timing of the proposed ban, however, suggests that Manila may also be concerned by plans in Kuwait for the establishment of a government-run recruitment agency that would dictate differing terms - and lower fees - for the recruitment of domestic helpers.

Several embassies of labor importing countries, including the Philippines and Sri Lanka, have opposed the new government-backed agency, arguing that the fees it proposes will be too low. Many recruiting firms in both Kuwait and labor exporting countries do a brisk business and may bring pressure to bear on governments to prevent the shift to a government-controlled recruiting process.

Minister praised efforts by Pakistan and WHO for making the event a success. He said, "Kuwait is an active member of EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) and we are keen not only to exchange the experience but also to share our success story with other member states."

In his statement at end of his mission, Dr Harbi congratulated Pakistani Minister of Health Sara Afzal and Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Mahmoud Fikri on the success of the regional meetings hosted by Pakistan on 9th-12th October. He expressed his gratitude over meeting with President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain, applauded Pakistan's political commitment to the health issues where many projects, including Pakistan Epidemiological Eradication Document; Pakistan Polio Eradication Document; and Islamabad Declaration of Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Devices for the Disabled, have been signed.

During the four-day conference, the regional director, Dr Mohammed Fikry praised the presence and interventions of the Kuwaiti delegation including the proposal of the Minister to prepare a time plan for the region to fight smoking in accordance with the International Framework Convention and urged the countries of the region to ratify the Convention on Illicit Trade in Tobacco. The organization also adopted a proposal by Kuwait delegation to bring together the ministers of health and ministers of environment in the region to activate the road map for the next five years. — KUNA

Kuwait: Need to rid region of polio, fight smoking

ISLAMABAD: The State of Kuwait, during participation in a regional health conference, underscored need to rid the region of polio and it called for timeframe for effective combat of tobacco. "The world is waiting to eradicate poliomyelitis from the region to declare the globe free of the disease, and it is expected that the number of people needing assistance products will exceed two billion by 2050," said Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi, in a statement before departing the country. Dr Harbi led a delegation that actively participated in the 64th session of World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in Islamabad that concluded yesterday.

The delegation affirmed support for efforts to eradicate poliomyelitis from the region in the near future and spotlighted efforts by Ministry of Health (MoH) against the disease that includes organizing awareness campaigns and annual vaccination of polio.

In a statement during the four-day session, the Kuwaiti

The origins of the Kuwaiti dialect



Local Spotlight

By Jeri Al-Jeri

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Understanding a people's language is pivotal to understanding how the community thinks and develops its ideology. Kuwait was a "kout" - a storage place for goods, rising from humble beginnings. Early on, it had an independent and tax-free government system made up of various tribes. Kuwait's mostly bilingual people use Turkish, English, Persian and Indian words in their homes and business meetings without realizing how much of a "cocktail" their dialect has become. It made me wonder how much lesser Arabic we use.

Unfortunately, the randomness of our dialect's formation arouses many parents' fears and anxiety that the lack of "Arabness" will damage our religiosity or our inherent Arabian way of life. Our "rainbow" argot began as a fusion of multiple languages used by multicultural merchants, even before the "kout" struck black gold, mainly due to Kuwait's coastal nature. Needless to say, we speak Persian peppered with some Hindi, with a lot of Turkish sweetness added to the mix. Certainly,



It made me wonder how much lesser Arabic we use

English and French had their effects as well.

So when a Kuwaiti - whether bedouin or hathari - points to a window, he will say "jam" or "banjara", which are both Persian for "glass" and "window". When we hop on our bicycles, we call them "gari", which is Hindi for "vehicle", and when we want to reverse our cars, we say we are going "geri", which is Turkish for "reverse". Due to the limited space and regulated format of the newspaper, it is difficult to create an entire dictionary of non-Arabic words in our dialect, yet if they are gathered, it would be a 101 in Persian and advanced course in Turkish, merely for the fact that the Turkish method of formulating novel Turkish words is synced with Turkish grammar itself.

The (J/Ch) principle dictates that if a noun or a verb is related to a certain individual, it will attribute to the person by using either (J/Ch) to his name. Baklava, which is a very famous treat, will become "baklavji" when its business is associated to an individual; same for footballji, coffeeji etc, keeping in mind that the spelling is modified to fit the English pronunciation. And in Kuwait, we use this very principle: **إشكركم منديكي، بشاري**. All in all, it is my belief that these non-Arabic influences are seemingly fading away, due to the fact that our education system, since the 60s during the oil boom, is giving more weight to the authentic linguistical nature of Arabic, while the Ottoman Empire is resting in history books. Not to mention the technological Arabization of all the devices that the Arab world has learned to use and hopefully will soon manufacture. Until now, let us enjoy the randomness while it lasts.



Gargoor:

A fishing trap from the past

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

In the vast open areas beyond Fahaheel, the air smells of the sea. The sun has nearly set, and it's time for fishermen to return to their homes. But before doing so, you can see them gearing up their fishing kits for another day. Thousands of huge fish traps - known in the region as gargoor - are neatly placed in a way that attracts the attention of passersby.

Other fishermen hang traps on their boats, and a little ahead are two fishermen assembling new fish traps with strong ropes. "All the fish traps are imported from the UAE unassembled," Saldoq, one of the fishermen, told Kuwait Times. "I've been working here for five years on fish trap assembly. It may look easy, but it takes a lot of tensile strength to ensure it withstands the crush of fish inside," he added.

Fishing with fish traps is banned in some countries. On the other hand, some governments do not want to wipe out the history of traditional ways of fishing, which is considered an ancestral heritage. So strict conditions have been imposed to make it more environmentally friendly. For instance, all fish traps must be made of eco-friendly materials. Secondly, traps should have small gaps to allow smaller fish to escape; and finally, fishing should be done at a certain distance from the shore.



Saldoq said he has been fishing here for over 15 years. The boat is owned by a Kuwaiti who sells the fish caught at the fish market of Fahaheel. "We go fishing twice a week - 15 hours each time. We separate the fish and return the young to the sea," he explained.

So, what attracts fish to the gargoor? It's the ready-to-eat fish placed inside - nicely cut and salted as if marinated for a BBQ! And just like those fish, your eyes will be caught by the splendor of the scene.





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Under Kuwait's big blue

By Nawara Fattahova

Mixed feelings of excitement and concern washed over me when I first got under water with an oxygen cylinder on my back and a mask on my face. It was the first time I'd experienced scuba diving, as I had only tried snorkeling before. I was given this opportunity by the Kuwait Sea Sports Club's diving center during a trip to Kubbar Island.

I felt excited to dive and felt like a mermaid or fish, able to breathe underwater. I didn't mind getting up early on my day off for this experience. When I first dunked my head under water and couldn't breathe the real oxygen and depended on the mask, I felt a bit constrained and concerned if I would be able to remain underwater for a long period. But after a few seconds, I felt more comfortable.

Instructor Jasim Al-Harban accompanied me on this dive, giving me instructions on what to do, along with teaching me the basic signs I would need under water. One of the most important instructions was to breathe slowly and inhale and exhale deeply to save oxygen and dive better.

Best diving spots

The best place for diving in Kuwait is Qarouh Island, as it has the best coral reefs. Although our trip was planned for Qarouh, we had to change the destination to Kubbar due to strong waves and unstable weather.

But diving here too was exciting, and I saw many different types of fish. Four instructors went on this trip with their students to give them practical training after classes in a swimming pool. Every student dived with their instructor to ensure their safety, as these were students of the 'open water' basic course.

"This course is seven days long. It includes five lectures and five dives in the swimming pool. Then the student experiences diving in the sea, which includes four dives over two days. The main condition is to be fit from the health perspective. Children from age 10 can take this course. There is no age limit if the per-

son is in good health," Captain Shukri told Kuwait Times.

There are more courses available. "If a student loves diving, they can continue training and participating in advanced courses that include adventurous diving, deep diving, night diving, wreck diving and many other specialties. Each of the 13 courses has a special excitement level, so for instance, during night diving, you can see certain kinds of fish that only appear at night, such as lionfish or mollusks. During this dive, we use head-mounted lights and special signals," explained Shukri.

Dive from May to November

The diving season starts in May and ends in November. "Apart from the summer season, we can organize a diving trip on demand. Although this is rare, we have organized such dives for Westerners. Also, this is only available for advanced divers and not for beginners. The divers wear thick suits to stay warm in the water, yet many on winter diving trips complain of feeling cold," Harban said.

As mentioned earlier, Qarouh is the favorite Kuwaiti island for diving. "It's rich in coral reefs and different kinds of fish of all colors. Also, the depth is suitable for both beginners and professionals, as the sea is six meters deep for beginners and up to 17 meters for advanced divers. The view there is nice and more beautiful than other islands. The second suitable island is Kubbar, which also has coral reefs. Our center only goes to these two islands," he pointed out.

These classes also teach other important things and not just scuba diving. "We care for protecting the environment, especially the marine environment. Many people throw waste into the sea, and plastic waste is the most dangerous for sea creatures. Many fish eat the plastic and die. So we teach our students not to throw anything in the sea from the first day of the course," Harban said.

Divers have found many strange objects on the seabed. "During our diving trips, we have found boat batteries, anchors, plates, nets, bags and many other items. The most affected island is Kubbar due to it being the most popular getaway for weekend trips. There are special diving courses for environment protection, which include awareness, reef conservation, fish identification, underwater naturalism and others," he noted.

Some advice

Captain Ali Al-Saffar has some pieces of advice for divers. "Divers should drink water or other liquids all the time, so the body remains hydrated. A dry body absorbs nitrogen much faster, which is harmful. Also, they should eat bananas, as it is rich in potassium and the diver doesn't feel thirsty," he said.

After passing the course, the student diver gets a certified license from PADI, which is the international organization that issues diving licenses. "The diving license is valid forever and doesn't require renewal. The basic course results in a license to dive to a depth of up to 18 meters. Many international diving locations require an advanced diving license, which is for up to 30 meters. The level of concentration of a person and not their

age determines the length of the course. Some students complete the course in only five days, while others take it for two weeks," added Saffar.

Captain Shukri said diving conditions in Kuwait are more difficult. "Diving in Kuwait gives divers more experience, as it's more difficult here compared to the Red Sea for instance. Here the water is mostly not clear, so they have a bad view, and there are strong water currents," he concluded.



Divers want coral reef and environmental protection



Spaniards are one people, will remain so: Spanish Ambassador



KUWAIT: Spain's Ambassador to Kuwait Carlos Saenz de Tejada and Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah cut the cake during the Spanish embassy's ceremony marking the Kingdom's national day. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Spain's Ambassador to Kuwait Carlos Saenz de Tejada welcomes Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan

KUWAIT: Spain's Ambassador to Kuwait Carlos Saenz de Tejada affirmed that the Spanish people will remain united, hoping dialogue would ease tension and find solution to the current standoff with the Catalan provincial government. "We are one people and it's impossible to be separated," Tejada told reporters on the sidelines of a function held by the Spanish Embassy here to mark the Kingdom's national day.

"What happened was not acceptable from all, and the gov-

ernment's stance of the independence issue is clear and backed by friendly countries," he added. He expressed hopes that the regional government's suspension of independence declaration would open the door for dialogue and ultimately reach a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

On Spain's relations with Kuwait, Tejada described the bilateral relations as strong and deeply rooted. He pointed out that Spain cooperates with Kuwait in various domains, mainly

politics, economy and culture. Moreover, a growing number of Kuwaitis are visiting Spain every year and many are setting up own businesses there, he said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said Kuwait has diverse commercial, economic and investment relations with Spain. On political issues, Kuwait and Spain share similar stances of many regional and international issues, Jarallah said. — KUNA

Foreign Minister meets diplomats



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the newly-appointed Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait Trinh Minh Manh. — KUNA

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah was handed the credentials of the newly-appointed Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait Trinh Minh Manh yesterday. The Foreign Minister wished the new Vietnamese ambassador success in his mission, and for bilateral relations to witness further progress and prosperity. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also met, separately, with outgoing ambassadors Yasser Atef of Egypt and Sunil Jain of India, who had just completed their tenure. He commended the Egyptian and Indian diplomats' efforts and significant contributions in bringing their countries and Kuwait closer together. The meetings were held in presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Ceremonial Affairs Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, and other senior Foreign Ministry officials. Separately, Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met the Mexican and Turkish ambassadors to Kuwait, Miguel Angel Isidro and Murat Tamer respectively. — KUNA

Kuwaiti, Japanese ties stretch back 50 years: Official

KUWAIT: Kuwait's cordial ties with Japan date back to half a century, the Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil Sheikh Talal Nasser Al-Sabah said yesterday. Speaking on the sidelines of a visit to the ministry by a Japanese delegation, the Kuwaiti official pointed out that it was imperative for both nations to ratchet up cooperation in the oil sector, given that Kuwait is among Japan's biggest crude oil suppliers. On the visiting Japanese contingent, Sheikh Talal noted that they included the hon-



KUWAIT: A group photo showing Kuwaiti oil officials and members of a visiting Japanese delegation following their meeting in Kuwait yesterday. — KUNA

orary adviser for Mizuho Financial Group Hiroshi Saito and the secretary general of the Japan Cooperation Center for the

Middle East Seiji Hirota, all of whom met with a number of senior officials from the Kuwaiti ministry of oil. — KUNA

Kuwait treats 180 Mosul's civilians with prostheses

IRBIL: Kuwait continued its humanitarian aid through adopting the treatment of 180 injured civilians from Mosul city, those with prostheses, in a private hospital in Irbil yesterday. This is part of a medical projects carried out by Kuwait to help displaced Iraqis and those affected by the recent military operations, in support with the Kuwait Relief Society and the Kuwait Red Crescent, the Consul General of Kuwait Dr Omar Al-Kandari said. There are large sectors benefiting from the Kuwaiti medical aid, where there were many surgical operations and other assistance such as delivery of about 400 tons of medicines to hospitals in Mosul. Kuwait has also provided in August about 55 tons of medical aid of dif-



ferent medicines to hospitals in Mosul and the Kurdistan region and has treated more than 500 Iraqis through Kuwaiti charities. It has also funded the construction of five medical centers in the camps for displaced Mosul in Irbil and Dohuk. — KUNA

Local

Efforts to 'Kuwaitize' Education Ministry jobs

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) wrote to the Education Ministry about the rules and procedures of 'Kuwaitization' of government jobs, and asked for a list containing the number of jobs that can be dropped from the budget of the 2018/2019 fiscal year, and are mostly occupied by expatriates. The ministry was given a two-week notice to provide the list, otherwise the Finance Ministry will be told to cancel the contracts of non-Kuwaiti employees.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi told MPs that the CSC approved a proposal to replace non-Kuwaiti employees in treatment overseas offices with Kuwaiti workers. MP Salah Khoursheed said this decision will reflect positively on the performance of health offices abroad and will provide job opportunities for medical staff, adding that this issue was among the recommendations made by the parliament's investigations committee in health ministry violations.

The CSC had agreed earlier to send Kuwaiti doctors and accountants to work in health offices abroad instead of signing contracts with local employees in each country where the health offices are located. The CSC stipulated that in case a doctor is sent to work in an office abroad, he will have the designations of 'technical employee' and will be treated financially like members of the diplomatic core. Meanwhile an accountant will be treated like foreign ministry employees who are sent to work abroad.

UNHCR commemorates Kuwait's humanitarian achievements

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at his office yesterday, Dr Hanan Hamdan, Head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Kuwait. This meeting coincided with the third anniversary of the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as world humanitarian leader and the naming of Kuwait as a global humanitarian center. The meeting also came to celebrate Kuwait's selection as a non-permanent member in the UN Security Council for the term 2018-2019.

Dr Hanan has presented to the First Deputy Prime Minister a 'commemorative shield' to honor him for his comprehensive support to UNHCR, in addition to his humanitarian response to the refugees' problems. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled showed appreciation for this honoring and he hailed the strong ongoing cooperation between the UN and State of Kuwait. Meanwhile, Dr Hanan conveyed UNHCR gratitude for the support given by Kuwait, along with its contributions to ease the pain and suffering of refugees all around the world. —KUNA

Four workers injured in fire at KOC's Burgan field

KUWAIT: Four construction workers were injured when a fire broke out in one of the work sites in Burgan oil field, a Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) official said yesterday. KOC's official spokesman and acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Finance and Administration Menahi Al-Enezi said in statement posted on KOC's Twitter account that a fire occurred at 6:50 pm on Wednesday evening at a work site in Burgan field, leaving four workers injured. He added that the injured workers are now being treated in Ahmadi hospital. He stressed that the relevant teams from Kuwait Oil Company immediately rushed to the site and controlled the fire in a timely manner in accordance with the procedures followed by the company. — KUNA

Woman perishes in Dhaher house blaze



KUWAIT: Firefighters inspect the scene after tackling a blaze inside a Dhaher area house yesterday.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti woman died while her husband and son were injured in a fire that engulfed their Dhaher area house yesterday. Firefighters from three different fire stations rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call, and discovered that the flames had spread through the ground floor of the house. Three people were found inside; a couple and their son. The woman was nonresponsive and pronounced dead on the scene, while her husband and son were rushed to the hospital in a stable condition. An investigation was opened to find out what started the fire.

Employee assaulted

A citizen allegedly assaulted a member of a hiring committee at a local insurance company after failing a job interview. The man had attended the interview but became enraged after he was not offered a position due to not having a diploma or university degree. The man verbally insulted the members of the hiring committee and then physically attacked one of them. Security guards apprehended the man and called police. The man was taken to Sharq police station and the injured employee

was treated by paramedics.

Hit-and-run driver caught

A driver involved in a hit-and-run accident was caught an hour later in Al-Rai. A security source said that while the citizen hit an elderly Syrian while driving recklessly in Nugra, then drove off. Police and paramedics rushed to the area and took the injured man to Mubarak Hospital as he suffered from a broken foot. Patrolmen arrested the offender on Fourth Ring Road and he was taken to Industrial Shuwaikh's police station.

Policemen attacked

Police arrested a citizen who held his family members hostage and threatened to harm them. He also attacked policemen and made indecent gestures toward them. Police received a call about the man's actions, so a patrol was sent. Upon their arrival, police found the man in a hysterical condition, and while they were trying to convince him to release his family members, he attacked some policemen with a knife before being restrained. The injured officers were taken to hospital. Police discovered that the man is an ex-convict and uses drugs.

Court hearing

The criminal court sat a hearing Monday for the trial of Hamid Bu-Yabes, who was arrested last weekend after posting tweets found insulting to His Highness the Amir. The public prosecution had ordered Bu-Yabes jailed for 21 days and sent him to central prison.

Indebted people arrested

Three men wanted on a KD 100,000 debt were arrested. Patrol officers stopped a man in Kuwait City and found out that he is wanted for a KD 54,000 debt. Meanwhile, another citizen was arrested in Abdullah Al-Salem after he was discovered to be wanted on a KD 27,000 debt. In the meantime, a third citizen was arrested in Bneid Al-Qar on a KD 23,000 debts.

At large

Police are looking for three persons who rammed their vehicle into a police patrol and escaped after running a red light. A security source said police had asked the driver to pull over but he did not, so he was chased after running a red light, and the car was forced to stop, but the three men left it and ran on foot. It is not known what prompted them to escape.

Moderate temperatures affected by high-pressure

KUWAIT: Temperature will reach moderate levels in Kuwait affected by the high-pressure atmosphere, Kuwait Meteorological Department official Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said yesterday. Qarawi said that the high-pressure atmosphere would result in moderate northwestern winds, which

will lead to dust in open areas and decreasing humidity levels.

The weather in the daytime will be a bit warm while in the evening the temperature will drop, said Qarawi. The maximum temperature yesterday reached 37 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature reached 23 degrees.

Today's weather is expected to be a bit warm with minimum temperatures between 22 to 25 degrees Celsius while the maximum is expected to reach 36 to 39 degrees, said Qarawi. During daytime, light to moderate northwestern winds are forecasted to prevail at speeds between 15 to 38 km/h while in the evening, the speed are expected to be between

eight to 28 km/h as variable to light northwestern will dominate, said the official who added that the status of the sea would have waves between one to three feet.

As for tomorrow, Qarawi indicated that the weather would be predominantly hot with maximum temperatures of 36 to 39 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperatures would reach between 22 to 25 degrees. Wind movement for tomorrow are expected to have light to moderate northwestern wind at speeds of eight to 28 km/h during the daytime, said Qarawi, adding that in the evening the speeds is expected to be between six and 20 km/h. The status of the sea will witness waves of one to two feet. — KUNA

International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017



US pulls out of UNESCO, citing 'anti-Israel' bias

Spain marks national day with show of unity

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GAZA CITY: A Palestinian youth poses in front of his national flag during celebrations in Gaza City after rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah reached an agreement on ending a decade-long split. — AFP

Hamas, Fatah sign on Palestinian reconciliation

Ends decade-long split following Egypt mediated talks

CAIRO: Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah signed an agreement yesterday on ending a decade-long split following talks mediated by Egypt in Cairo, with president Mahmud Abbas calling it a “final” accord. Under the agreement, the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority is to resume full control of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip by December 1, according to a statement from Egypt’s government.

Abbas welcomed the deal in comments to AFP and said he considered it a “final agreement to end the division”—though many details remain to be resolved and previous reconciliation attempts have repeatedly failed. It was signed in Cairo by new Hamas deputy leader Salah Al-Aruri and Azzam Al-Ahmad, the head of the Fatah delegation for the talks, at the headquarters of Egypt’s intelligence service, which oversaw the negotiations.

Celebrations broke out in the Gaza Strip after the announcement of the deal, with residents waving flags of Egypt, Palestine, Fatah and Hamas. Negotiations are now expected to be held on forming a unity government, with the various Palestinian political movements invited to another meeting in Cairo on November 21.

An official from Abbas’s Fatah movement said the Palestinian president was planning to soon travel to the Gaza Strip as part of the unity bid in what would be his first visit in a decade. Sanctions taken by Abbas against Hamas-controlled Gaza will also soon be lifted, the Fatah official said. The deal includes 3,000 members of the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority’s police force redeploying to Gaza, a

member of the negotiating team told AFP on condition of anonymity. The figure is however a fraction of the more than 20,000 police officers employed separately by Hamas.

‘End very shortly’

Another party to the negotiations, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the agreement would see Palestinian Authority forces take control of the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt. One of the key issues has been punitive measures taken by Abbas against Gaza in recent months, including reducing electricity payments that left the territory’s residents with only a few hours of power a day.

“All the measures taken recently will end very shortly,” Zakaria Al-Agha, a senior Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip, told AFP. The two sides had been meeting in the Egyptian capital this week with the aim of ending the crippling decade-old split between the rival factions. Hamas seized Gaza from Fatah in a near civil war in 2007 and the two factions have been at loggerheads ever since. Multiple previous reconciliation efforts have failed. Egypt has been keen to improve security in the Sinai Peninsula which borders Gaza and where jihadist rebels have fought a long-running insurgency. An Egyptian source close to the talks said intelligence chief Khaled Fawzi had followed the negotiations closely.

Fate of armed wing

Last month, Hamas agreed to cede civil power in Gaza to the Palestinian Authority but the fate of its vast military wing

remains a significant issue for the two sides. Islamist movement Hamas is blacklisted as a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union.

It has fought three wars with Israel since 2008 and the blockaded Gaza Strip has seen deteriorating humanitarian conditions. Faced with increasing isolation and a severe electricity shortage, Hamas has reached out to Egypt for help, hoping to have the Rafah border opened.

The crossing has remained largely closed in recent years. Egypt has also agreed to provide fuel to the Gaza Strip for electricity generation. In return, Cairo pressed Hamas to move forward on reconciliation with Fatah. Previous attempts at reconciliation have repeatedly failed, and many analysts are treating the latest bid with caution, waiting to see if actual change will occur on the ground.

Last week, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah visited Gaza for the first time since 2015 and his ministers took formal control of government departments in the territory. But the move was seen as mainly symbolic, with Hamas still effectively in charge in the Palestinian enclave of two million people bordered by Egypt, Israel and the Mediterranean Sea. One of the key sticking points will be the fate of Hamas’s 25,000-strong military wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades. Reconciliation could also pose a dilemma for international efforts to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal since Hamas has not recognized Israel, unlike the Abbas-led Palestine Liberation Organisation. —AFP

International

Saudi Arabia's imminent revolution: Female taxis

Company plans to hire up to 100,000 female chauffeurs

KHOBAR: Hunched over platters of dates and Arabic coffee, Saudi women raring to drive once a government ban ends next June signed up for another revolution—to be the kingdom's first female cab drivers. King Salman last month decreed that women will be allowed driving permits, a historic reform that could put not just millions of women behind the wheel but potentially many more into the workforce.

Sensing a lucrative opportunity, ride-hailing company Careem says it plans to hire up to 100,000 female chauffeurs to lure new clients in the gender-segregated kingdom. This week, the company invited AFP to its first recruitment session in the coastal city of Khobar, which attracted a diverse crowd—from housewives to working women—who already have foreign driving licenses. “For years I felt helpless. My car would be parked outside and I could not drive,” said Nawal Al-Jabbar, a 50-year-old mother of three, sipping coffee from a thimble-sized cup.

A chorus of hoots and claps erupted in the auditorium as the women, who learned about the recruitment by word-of-mouth, watched news footage on a projector screen of last month's royal decree. “It felt like we had woken up in a new Saudi Arabia,” Jabbar said. An instructor stood next to the screen, holding up a smartphone to show the inner workings of the app.

The firm plans to add a new “Captinah” button to the app next June that would allow customers to choose women chauffeurs. The option will only be available to other women and families, Careem spokesman Murtadha Alalawi said. Around 30 women registered for the event in Khobar. Many arrived unaccompanied by men, something not commonly seen in a country where male “guardians” have arbitrary authority to make crucial decisions on behalf of women.

‘Rite of passage’

“This is a rite of passage for women,” said Sarah Algwaiz, director of the women chauffeurs program at Careem, referring to the reform. “For women to drive their own cars signals autonomy, mobility and financial independence.” The Gulf kingdom was the only country in the world to ban women from taking the wheel, and it was seen globally as a symbol of repression. For decades, hardliners cited austere Islamic interpretations to justify the ban, with some maintaining women lack the intelligence to drive and that allowing them to would promote promiscuity. “Society portrays women to be strong when it's convenient and weak when it's convenient,” said

Iraq PM denies attack plan as tensions rise with Kurds

ARBIL: Iraq's prime minister yesterday denied an attack on the Kurds was imminent, in a bid to defuse tensions that had prompted Kurdish peshmerga fighters to temporarily seal off road links with the rest of the country. “We are not going to use our army to fight our people or to make war on our Kurdish citizens or others,” Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said. “Our duty is to preserve the unity of our country, to implement the constitution, and to protect citizens and national forces,” he told a meeting of tribal leaders from the western province of Anbar.

The rise in tensions came two weeks after Kurdish voters overwhelmingly backed independence in a non-binding referendum that the central government condemned as illegal. Iraqi Kurdish forces closed the two main roads connecting Arbil and Dohuk with the northern city of Mosul for several hours, a Kurdish military official said. “The closure was prompted by fears of a possible attack by Iraqi forces on the disputed areas,” held by Kurdish forces but outside the autonomous Kurdish region in the north of the country, the official said.

Kurdish authorities said late Wednesday they feared Iraqi government forces and allied paramilitary units were gearing



KHOBAR CITY: An employee of Careem, a chauffeur driven car booking service, talks during a training session for new female drivers, known in the company as “captains” at their Saudi offices. —AFP

up to launch an assault on the autonomous region. “We're receiving dangerous messages that the Hashed al-Shaabi (paramilitary forces) and federal police are preparing a major attack from the southwest of Kirkuk and north of Mosul against Kurdistan,” the Kurdistan Regional Government's Security Council said.

‘We are fighting a single enemy’

Security sources said Thursday that Iraq's elite Counter Terrorism Service and Rapid Response Force had deployed more forces near peshmerga positions around Rashad, a village some 65 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk city. The oil-rich province of the same name, areas of which took part in the referendum, is disputed between the Kurds and Baghdad.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command, which groups all pro-government forces, played down the tensions, expressing confidence that dialogue would resolve the problem. “Our mission is clear: we are fighting a single enemy, Daesh,” Brigadier General Yahiya Rassul said, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. “All that interests Iraqis... is to liberate our country and beat the terrorist group,” he said. “We do not forget the role played by the peshmerga.”

He said Iraqi government forces had previously operated close to peshmerga lines near the northern city of Tal Afar. Asked if there had been movements of Iraqi forces close to peshmerga positions, Colonel Ryan Dillon, spokesman for the US-led coalition battling IS in Syria and Iraq, said: “We don't see that.” The coalition has worked with both peshmerga and Iraqi pro-government forces in the battle to oust IS from areas of Iraq it seized in mid-2014.

Cultural backlash

The reform is in line with the kingdom's Vision 2030 program that seeks to elevate women to nearly one-third of the workforce, up from about 22 percent now. Authorities have highlighted the economic benefits of the reform as the kingdom reels from a protracted oil slump; Saudi families would no longer need foreign chauffeurs, often a major source of financial strain. Riyadh is moving to bring female driving instructors from abroad, local media reported, and Princess Nourah University said it will inaugurate a women's only driving school. Authorities this week warned against violations of the ban until it is formally lifted after a woman was filmed driving out of a luxury hotel in Riyadh. Careem said it would wait for government regulations to be formally announced before putting female recruits behind the wheel. —AFP



ANKARA: People run away from tear gas as riot police disperse demonstrators who were going to take part in a march marking the second anniversary of the 2015 deadly suicide bombing near the main train station. —AFP

“Our mission is clear—to defeat Daesh,” Dillon said. “We have done that throughout Iraq. We will support the Iraqis in the same way we have in the last three years to make sure that Daesh is defeated”. Central authorities severed ties between the Kurdish autonomous region and the outside world after the referendum by cutting international air links. Neighboring Turkey and Iran, which fear that Iraqi Kurdish moves towards independence could fuel demands from their own sizeable Kurdish communities, have also threatened to close their borders to oil exports. —AFP

International

US pulls out of UNESCO, citing 'anti-Israel' bias

Move criticized by head of Paris-based organization

PARIS: The United States said yesterday that it was pulling out of the UN's culture and education body, accusing it of "anti-Israel bias" in a move criticized by the head of the Paris-based organization. Following years of tension at UNESCO, which is in the process of electing a new director-general, US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert announced that Washington planned to withdraw. "This decision was not taken lightly, and reflects US concerns with mounting arrears at UNESCO, the need for fundamental reform in the organization, and continuing anti-Israel bias at UNESCO," she said in a statement.

The United States—one of the body's founding members—has withdrawn once before under president Ronald Reagan, who quit in 1984 over alleged financial mismanagement and anti-US bias in some of its policies. President George W Bush announced America's return in 2002, but relations soured again in 2011 when Washington pulled the plug on funding to the body after its members voted to admit Palestine as a full member. Washington opposes any move by UN bodies to recognize the Palestinians as a state, believing that this must await a negotiated Middle East peace deal. But President Donald

Trump's administration is also reviewing many of its multilateral commitments, pursuing what he calls an "America First" policy. The head of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, voiced "profound regret" over the decision, calling it a "loss to multilateralism".

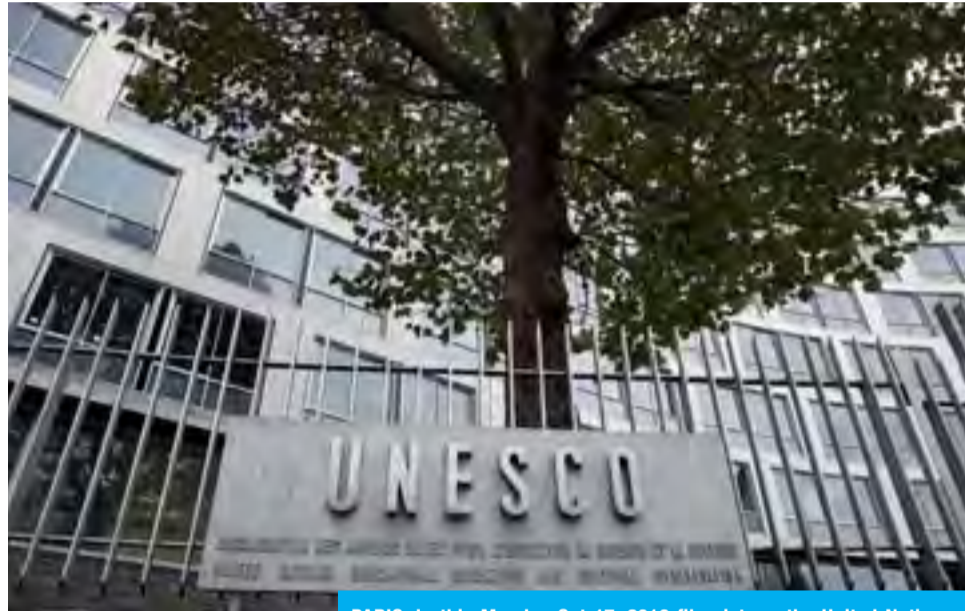
"At the time when conflicts continue to tear apart societies across the world, it is deeply regrettable for the United States to withdraw from the United Nations agency promoting education for peace and protecting culture under attack," she said. In a statement, Bokova said that "despite the withholding of funding, since 2011, we have deepened the partnership between the United States and

UNESCO, which has never been so meaningful."

'Observer mission'

UNESCO, which is best known for producing the list of World Heritage sites that includes the Grand Canyon and other US attractions, has been the scene of diplomatic flare-ups in recent years after Arab countries succeeded in passing a number of resolutions critical of Israel. In May this year, Israel was infuriated by a resolution identifying Israel as "the occupying power" in the divided city of Jerusalem and calling on it to rescind any move changing the city's "character and status".

The scene of diplomatic flare-ups in recent years



PARIS: In this Monday Oct 17, 2016 file picture, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization logo is pictured on the entrance at UNESCO's headquarters. —AP

The text denounced "all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem." In July, the agency again delighted Palestinians when it declared the Old City of Hebron in the occupied West Bank an endangered World Heritage site. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the vote "another

delusional decision" by UNESCO, which promotes education, cultural development and free media initiatives around the world. The agency's board members are set to vote this week to elect a new director-general, with candidates from Qatar, France and Egypt in a three-way race for the position. Washington said it would establish an "observer mission" to replace its representation at the agency. —AFP

Syria forces take part in eastern IS bastion

BEIRUT: Syria regime forces have retaken four neighborhoods of Mayadeen in their latest assault on the eastern jihadist bastion, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said yesterday. The Islamic State group had last week succeeded in expelling Syrian forces from Mayadeen two days after they entered the town, which lies about 420 kilometers east of Damascus and is one of IS's main remaining bastions. The latest Russian-backed regime push has isolated the jihadists defending Mayadeen, cutting off the main road to their stronghold of Albu Kamal on the Iraqi border, and leaving the Euphrates river as their only escape. "Regime forces, led on the ground by Russian forces, took control of at least four neighborhoods of Mayadeen," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said. —AFP

N Korea looms large as Trump challenges Iran

WASHINGTON: As President Donald Trump prepares to decide on certifying the Iran nuclear deal, the White House has come to see a rapidly escalating standoff with North Korea as both a complicating factor and a cautionary tale. By the close of business today, Trump is expected to declare that a landmark agreement curbing Iran's nuclear program is no longer in the US interest.

That would not kill the deal outright, but it would pass that decision on to Congress—a gambit full of risk for the greater Middle East. During months of debate about regional repercussions from Aden to Kabul, indeed, since the hours after Trump was elected, a gathering storm with North Korea has weighed heavily.

The weight of office

When Trump met president Barack Obama for the first time on November 10, 2016, the outgoing leader had an ominous warning for the president elect. Sitting feet from each other in the storied Oval Office, Obama told Trump he would face a fateful

decision on North Korea in the first months of his presidency.

Trump would have to decide whether to allow Kim Jong-Un to develop the capability to nuke almost any city in the continental United States. Presidents from Obama back to George Bush Sr. had tried inducements and coercion to prevent North Korea from breaking through a series of ominous proliferation thresholds. But year after year, as the Kim dynasty passed through three generations, North Korea marched ever closer to mastering what Winston Churchill once called the "lights of perverted science."

Pyongyang covertly separated plutonium, withdrew from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and developed a medium-range ballistic missile that could hit Alaska or Hawaii. It perfected an atomic bomb. By November 2016, US intelligence believed that Pyongyang would—in a matter of months rather than years—be able to marry intercontinental ballistic missile technology with the ability to produce a miniaturized thermonuclear device, putting the United States within reach. The United States had three basic choices: military action, diplomacy or acceptance.

According to aides familiar with the Oval Office conversation last November, Obama felt he had conveyed the gravity of the situation to the neophyte president. Trump came away feeling like such a serious a situation should have been dealt with long ago. "Look,

this should have been taken care of by four or five previous administrations," Trump told Forbes recently. "I feel strongly you cannot allow him to have nuclear weapons."

Under Trump's tough-guy doctrine, an unbending message to Iran would make North Korea take notice. But several White House officials described the choice in more historical terms. They have come to believe that tackling Iran today offers an opportunity akin to that which was squandered with North Korea a decade or more ago. Getting tough on Tehran, they argue, affords Trump a chance to prevent a foe from developing nuclear weapons and jamming the next president with a litany of bad choices.

Walking away from talking?

Proponents of the deal argue there is no evidence Tehran is breaching the deal, so it remains the best way to prevent an Iranian bomb. For them too, North Korea looms large. "There would be no more crippling a blow to the prospects for a peaceful outcome with North Korea than walking away from the Iran deal," Ned Price, a spokesman for Obama's National Security Council who spent a decade at the CIA, recently wrote.

They argue that Washington's willingness to risk an agreement it signed barely two years ago—which Iran seems to be adhering to—and which is still strongly supported by longstanding European allies, sends a terrible message to Pyongyang. —AFP

International

South Africa finally rules that police murdered apartheid opponent

A historic ruling for campaigners

PRETORIA: An anti-apartheid activist who died in police custody 46 years ago did not commit suicide but was murdered by officers, a South African court said yesterday in a historic ruling for campaigners. The court called for an officer involved in covering up the circumstances of the 1971 death to be investigated as an accessory to murder.

The packed courtroom in Pretoria burst into applause after the judge delivered a damning indictment of how police treated those who opposed white-minority rule. Ahmed Timol, a 29-year-old campaigner against apartheid, was arrested in Johannesburg in October 1971. After five days in detention, he died after plummeting from the city's police headquarters.

Officers from the feared security branch that held Timol said at the time he took his own life—a verdict endorsed by an inquest in 1972. But his family fought the ruling for decades and campaigned to secure the legal review, which finally began in June. “Timol did not jump out of the window but was pushed out of the window or off the roof,” said judge Billy Mothle, reading a summary of his 129-page judgment.

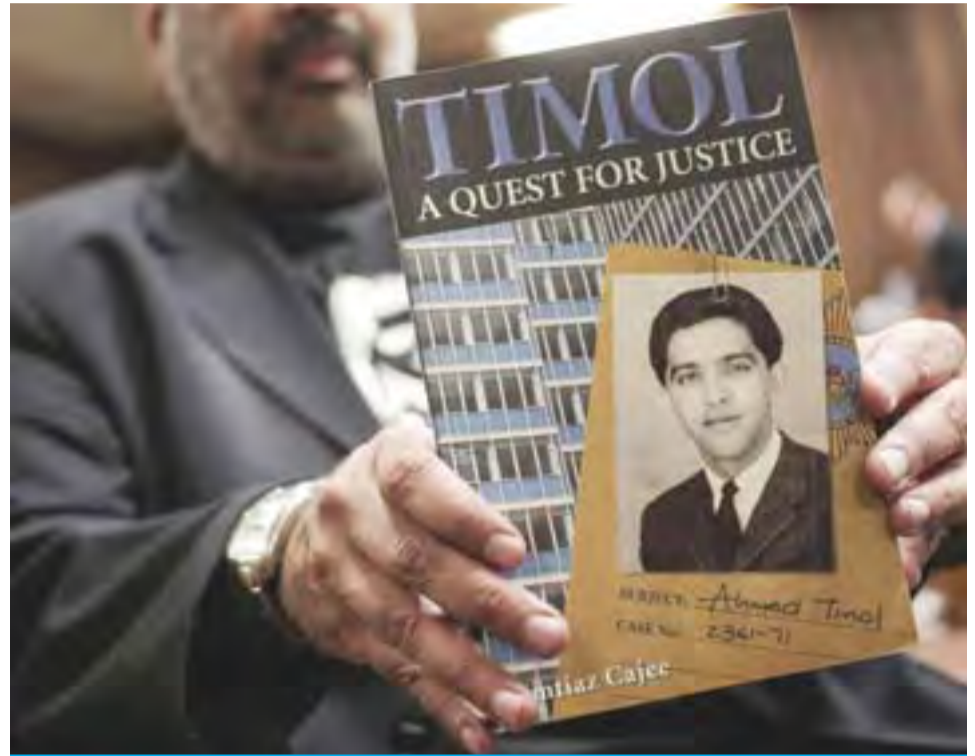
“Members of the security branch... murdered Timol.” The judge called for security branch officer Joao Rodrigues, who admitted helping cover up the murder, to be prosecuted. But he acknowledged that the men who were directly responsible have since died.

“Most of the main perpetrators have since passed on (but) all security branch officers responsible for guarding and interrogating Timol are collectively responsible for his injuries,” said Mothle.

‘Viva Ahmed Timol!’

Members of the South African Communist Party to which Timol belonged who were present in court shouted “Viva Ahmed Timol!” as the judge adjourned the hearing and the public gallery burst into applause.

“Judge Billy Mothle delivered a fine—a superb-judgment,” said Salim Essop who was arrested, detained and tortured alongside Timol in 1971. “He concluded that the police were responsible for his death... they did have the risk of killing him by torturing him and in that respect they were responsible for his murder.” Mothle called for families who lost relatives in circumstances similar to Timol’s to be assisted in reopening their cases—especially where suicide was recorded as the cause of death. Between 1963 and 1990, human rights activists say 73 people died in police detention, sometimes in circumstances strikingly similar to Timol. George Bizos, an anti-apartheid icon who was close friends with Nelson Mandela, welcomed the outcome and said the case showed that police were still unaccountable for their actions under white rule. —AFP



PRETORIA: In this Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017 file photo, Imtiaz Cajee, nephew of Ahmed Timol, poses with his book “Timol, A Quest for Justice” in the North Gauteng High court. —AP



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International

Spain marks national day with show of unity in Catalan crisis

Separate pro-unity rallies organized in Barcelona

MADRID: Spain celebrated its national day yesterday with a show of unity in the face of Catalan independence efforts, a day after the central government gave the region's separatist leader a deadline to abandon his secession bid. The country is suffering its worst political crisis in a generation after separatists in the wealthy northeastern region voted in a banned referendum on October 1 to split from Spain.

To mark the national holiday, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and King Felipe VI attended a traditional military parade in central Madrid. Armed forces marched along Madrid's Paseo de la Castellana boulevard to commemorate the day that Christopher Columbus first arrived in the Americas in 1492. But events were overshadowed by the crash of a Eurofighter jet, which went down on its route back to base after taking part in the display, killing its pilot. Separate pro-unity rallies, including one by members of a far-right movement, were organized in the Catalan capital Barcelona.



Worst political crisis in a generation

Rajoy has vowed to do everything in his power to prevent Catalan secession. His government says it is ready to take control of the region after Catalan president Carles Puigdemont's announcement Tuesday that he accepted a mandate for "Catalonia to become an independent state." But he quickly asked regional lawmakers to suspend it to allow for dialogue with Madrid. Rajoy responded that Puigdemont had until next Monday to decide if he planned to push ahead with secession and then until next Thursday to reconsider, otherwise Madrid would trigger constitutional steps that could suspend Catalonia's regional autonomy.

'Disobedience, illegality'

World leaders are watching closely and uncertainty over the fate of the region of 7.5 million people has damaged business confidence, with several listed firms already moving their legal headquarters out of Catalonia. The region itself is deeply divided on the issue, with polls suggesting Catalans are roughly

evenly split on whether to go it alone.

While Puigdemont insists the October 1 referendum gave him a mandate for independence and has said he still wants dialogue with Madrid, Rajoy has rejected calls for mediation and refuses to negotiate on anything until the separatists abandon their independence drive. "It is not peaceful, it is not free, it will not be recognized by Europe and now everyone knows it will have costs," he told lawmakers.

Rajoy's announcement of the deadline was a preliminary step towards invoking



MADRID: Spain's "Patrulla Aguila", the acrobatic demonstration team of the Spanish Air Force, performs a fly-by during the Spanish National Day military parade. —AFP

article 155 of the Spanish constitution, which allows Madrid to impose control over its devolved regions—an unprecedented move that some fear could lead to unrest. "We ask for dialogue and they answer by putting article 155 on the table. Understood," Puigdemont tweeted late Wednesday.

Far-right demonstrators

Spain's defense ministry said the Eurofighter had crashed around 300 kilometers southeast of Madrid after taking part in the military show. "Rest in peace, comrade. Thank you for helping us to celebrate the day you have given your life for. We won't forget you," an official ministry account tweeted, posting an image of the

Spanish flag pinned with a black ribbon. While separatist leaders say 90 percent of voters opted to split from Spain in the banned October referendum, less than half of the region's eligible voters actually turned out.

Several rallies were called Thursday in Barcelona, including one by far-right activists. Around 150 gathered to march against secession from Barcelona's Plaza de Espana, flanked by Catalan police and waving Spanish and far-right nationalist flags. "There has been a coup d'etat," said a man who gave his name only as Eduardo. "The Spanish have to react to defend the nation," he told AFP. Marchers chanted: "Puigdemont, go to jail". —AFP

Crowds hurl abuse at South African cannibalism suspects

ESTCOURT: Police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades to break up crowds hurling insults at a group of men accused of cannibalism in a South African farming town. More than 500 people gathered outside the magistrates court in eastern Kwa-Zulu Natal province yesterday as the men sat inside, hiding their faces with their hooded tops and their hands. Authorities originally charged seven men after police said one of them had walked into a police station in August with a human leg and a hand. Police spokeswoman Col. Thembeke Mbele told Reuters on Thursday he had confessed that he was tired of eating human flesh. The court acquitted three of the men on Thursday on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder, saying there was a lack of evidence. —Reuters

Moscow accuses US of adding troops in Poland

MOSCOW: Russia's defense ministry yesterday accused the US of adding troops in Poland in violation of an agreement between Moscow and NATO, a charge the military alliance denied. A set of US troops were sent to replace another group of soldiers in Poland but the original squadron never left, Moscow said in a statement which accused the Eastern European nations of "hysteria". The accusations came as tensions between Russia and NATO have soared to their highest since the Cold War.

The US Third Squadron and Second Squadron were due to rotate as joint Russian-Belarusian war games named Zapad 2017 (West 2017) were taking place last month, defence ministry

spokesman Igor Konashenkov said. "The Second Squadron arrived in Poland quietly with its military equipment. And, during this time, the military equipment of the Third Squadron did not leave Poland and the Baltics," he said in the statement.

The presence of both squadrons violated the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act, Konashenkov added. He said the Zapad military exercises were "accompanied by unprecedented hysteria in European media", singling out newer eastern EU members for accusations of "Russophobia". "This whole Baltic and Polish hysteria about a 'Russian threat' posed by Zapad 2017 is a fraudulently played information smokescreen part of the Pentagon's operation," he said. "So who is, in fact, preparing for aggression?" Konashenkov asked.

NATO's deputy spokesman Piers Cazalet dismissed the accusations, saying that "NATO fully abides by the NATO-Russia Founding Act." "Any accusation that NATO is violating the act or breaking its promises, is untrue," Cazalet said

in a statement. He said NATO's deployment of 4,000 troops to Eastern Europe following Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and "additional bilateral deployments by the United States are well below any reasonable definition of 'substantial combat forces' mentioned in the NATO-Russia Founding Act."

The alliance's actions are "defensive, proportionate and fully in line with international commitments," he added. The US embassy in Poland said that the Third Squadron had replaced the Second, and that there had been no violation of the agreement. The embassy said the presence of American troops was rotational, with the soldiers replacing each other every nine months. Polish media reported that a departure ceremony for the American soldiers took place on September 29 in Zagan, the southwestern Polish town where they were stationed. After Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimean peninsula, the US created a European Reassurance Initiative that increased the number of American troops in Europe. —AFP

International

Winds expected to drive next wave of deadly California fires

Going to continue to get worse before it gets better

SONOMA: Wildfires already well on their way to becoming the deadliest and most destructive in California history could gain momentum and erase even the modest gains firefighters have made. Steady winds with gusts up to 45 mph with nearly non-existent humidity are expected to descend on the areas north of San Francisco where at least 23 people have died and at least 3,500 homes and businesses have been destroyed. "It's going to continue to get worse before it gets better," state fire Chief Ken Pimlott said Wednesday.

Entire cities had evacuated in anticipation of the next wave, their streets empty, the only motion coming from ashes falling like snowflakes. They included Calistoga, the historic resort town of wine tastings and hot springs, whose 5,300 people are all under evacuation orders. Tens of thousands more were also driven from their homes by the flames. A few left behind cookies for firefighters and signs that read, "Please save our home!"

Out of control

The 22 fires spanned more than 265 square miles as they entered their fourth day, many of them completely out of control. Modern, strategic attacks that have kept destruction and death tolls low in recent years just haven't worked against their ferocity. "We are literally looking at explosive vegetation," Pimlott said. "Make no mistake," he later added, "this is a serious, critical, catastrophic event."

The community of Boyes Hot Springs in Sonoma County also was told to clear out Wednesday, and the streets were quickly

lined with cars packed with people fleeing. "That's very bad," resident Nick Hinman said when a deputy sheriff warned him that the driving winds could shift the wildfires toward the town of Sonoma proper, where 11,000 people live. "It'll go up like a candle."

The ash rained down on the Sonoma Valley, covering windshields, as winds began picking up toward the potentially disastrous forecast speed of 30 mph. Countless emergency vehicles sped toward the flames, sirens blaring, as evacuees sped away. Residents manhandled canvas bags into cars jammed with possessions or filled their gas tanks.

State fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said 22 wildfires were burning Wednesday, up from 17 the day before. As the fires grow, officials voiced concern that separate blazes would merge into even larger infernos. "We have had big fires in the past. This is one of the biggest, most serious, and it's not over," Gov. Jerry Brown said at a news conference Wednesday, alongside the state's top emergency officials. They said 8,000 firefighters and other personnel were battling the blazes and more resources were pouring in from Arizona, Nevada, Washington and Oregon.

Wine-growing region

Flames raced across the wine-growing region and the scenic coastal area of Mendocino farther north, leveling whole neighborhoods and leaving only brick chimneys and charred appliances to mark where homes once stood. In Boyes Hot Springs, residents had watched the ridges over the west side of town for days to gauge how

February was captured on hours of surveillance camera footage from inside the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house. He writhed in pain and went in and out of consciousness, without anyone calling for help, prosecutors said.

A survey by researchers at the University of Maine found a pervasive problem, with 55 percent of students involved in college organizations saying they had experienced hazing practices such as "alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep-deprivation, and sex acts." The beginning of the school year is a particularly dangerous time, especially as initiation activities "ratchet up right around the end of October," said Hank Nuwer, author of a book on hazing published by Indiana University Press.

Initiation rituals can escalate to stomach-churning levels of abuse. One applicant to a Princeton University fraternity was made to drink a 20-ounce bottle of tobacco spit, was whipped at a strip club and required to swim naked in a frozen pond, according to the tell-all book "True Gentlemen." Injuries and deaths are far too common. Maxwell Gruver, an 18-year-old Louisiana State University freshman, was another fatality this year. He died in mid-September taken to a hospital directly from a campus fraternity with what US media reported was six times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.



SANTA ROSA: Homeowner Phil Rush looks at the remains of his home destroyed by wildfire. —AFP

close the billowing smoke and orange flames of the wildfires had come. On Wednesday, the ridges were obscured by the growing clouds of smoke.

With fires advancing from several sides in Sonoma Valley, law enforcement officers on loan from other areas of Northern California barred residents of evacuated communities from returning to see how the homes and businesses had fared. Manned roadblocks were set up between Sonoma and devastated areas of Santa Rosa. Alejandro Rodriguez had been evacuated from one tiny Sonoma Valley town, only to have deputies come to the neighborhood to where he had relocated and tell residents there to pack up and go.

"I want to see my house, see if anything's

left," Rodriguez said, gesturing at officers at one roadblock. "They won't tell us nothing." Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano said hundreds of people were still reported missing. But officials believe many of those people will be found. Chaotic evacuations and poor communications over the past few days have made locating friends and family difficult. The sheriff also expects the death toll to climb. "The devastation is enormous," he said. "We can't even get into most areas." Helicopters and air tankers were assisting thousands of firefighters trying to beat back the flames. Until now, the efforts have focused on "life safety" rather than extinguishing the blazes, partly because the flames were shifting with winds and targeting new communities without warning.—AP

Hazing nightmares: Abuse pervasive at US colleges

CHICAGO: From sex abuse to sleep deprivation to unexpected deaths of very young men and women: hazing has become shockingly common for university students across the United States. By the time 19-year-old Timothy Piazza died of a ruptured spleen and internal bleeding, he had been injured for nearly 12 hours, authorities say. Piazza had become so drunk during initiation rituals at a Penn State University fraternity, that he twice tumbled down stairs—with the violent impacts causing severe injuries.

The hazing death shocked America's higher education system, and has spurred reform efforts to address a problem American universities have been slow to tackle, according to experts. His slow death in



Wheaton College in suburban Chicago

Part of culture

Experts say the challenge for college administrators is the deeply ingrained nature of hazing in college life, in which students may hear administrators say hazing is banned, but nevertheless continue the prac-

tice. "It's difficult to stamp out," said Peter Lake, director of the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at Stetson University. "It's probably the more frustrating safety issues that I've encountered." —AFP

International

Indian court acquits dentist couple of killing daughter

Court finds no evidence against parents

NEW DELHI: An Indian court yesterday overturned the conviction of a dentist couple for the murder of their teenage daughter and the family servant for lack of material evidence, their lawyer said. Aarushi Talwar was found with her throat slit at the family home in the Delhi suburb of Noida in 2008. A day later, the body of the servant, Hemraj, was found on the roof of the house. A trial court convicted the girl's parents, Rajesh and Nupur Talwar, after police alleged Rajesh had murdered his daughter and the servant in a rage when he found them in a compromising situation. The couple, both dentists, were jailed for life.

But a high court overruled the decision saying it was not satisfied with the evidence and ordered the couple be freed, their lawyer Tanveer Ahmed Mir said. "The court found no forensic or material evidence to prove that the Talwars had killed their

daughter," Mir told reporters outside a packed courtroom in the northern city of Allahabad. Both parents had denied the murder and insisted they were victims of botched investigations and unfair media coverage, damaging their defense.

Aarushi's case was labeled as a kind of crime more often associated with rural, conservative parts of India where "honor killings" are not uncommon. Every twist in the investigation was extensively reported by the Indian press, turning the Talwars into household names. "Finally my family can

lead a dignified life. The court has upheld the facts and truth," said Rajesh Talwar's sister, Vandana, after the decision. In 2015, a journalist who covered the murder wrote a book arguing that the couple were innocent. The double murder case and faulty probe were used as a theme for a Bollywood movie the same year.—Reuters



The couple, both dentists, were jailed for life



ALLAHABAD: Indian lawyer Tanveer Ahmed Mir, center, leaves Allahabad high court after the acquittal of his clients Rajesh and Nupur Talwar over the 2008 double murder of their daughter Aarushi and servant Hemraj Banjade in Allahabad. —AFP

Pakistan rescues US-Canadian couple, three children from terrorist custody



PARACHINAR: This file photo shows Pakistani soldiers standing guard at a checkpoint in Parachinar, capital of the Kurram tribal district.—AFP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani military rescued a kidnapped US-Canadian couple and their three children after receiving intelligence from the United States, Pakistan said yesterday, nearly five years after the couple was kidnapped in Afghanistan. American Caitlan Coleman, her Canadian husband Joshua Boyle and the children born in captivity were believed to be held by the Taliban-allied Haqqani network, which the United States has long accused Pakistan of not doing enough to fight.

Coleman and Boyle were kidnapped while backpacking in Afghanistan in 2012. Coleman was pregnant at the time, and a video released by the Taliban in December showed their two sons born while they were hostages. Yesterday's statement from the Pakistani army was the first mention of a third child. The res-

cue came as Pakistan and the United States, uneasy allies in fighting Taliban and other Islamist extremists in the region, are experiencing one of the worst lows in relations.

Pakistan touted the success of the operation as proof of the strength of the alliance. "The success underscores the importance of timely intelligence sharing and Pakistan's continued commitment towards fighting this menace through cooperation between two forces against a common enemy," the Pakistani army statement said. The family was released from "terrorist custody".

US intelligence agencies had been tracking the hostages and on Wednesday shared that they family had been moved across to Pakistan through Kurram tribal area border, the army said. No other details were immediately available.—Reuters

Afghan civilian casualties from air strikes rise more than 50%

KABUL: Civilian casualties from Afghan and American air strikes have risen more than 50 percent since last year, the United Nations said yesterday, as troops increase attacks on militants under a new strategy announced by US President Donald Trump in August. As of the end of September, at least 205 civilians had been killed and 261 wounded this year in air strikes in Afghanistan, UN investigators said in a quarterly report.

At least 38 percent of those casualties were caused by international military forces, while the majority were attributed to the Afghan Air Force, which has begun to conduct more attacks on its own. More than two thirds of the civilian victims were women and children, the report said. In September, US warplanes dropped more bombs than in any single month since 2010, driven largely by Trump's strategy of trying to reassert pressure on militants after several years of drawdown by foreign troops.

A spokesman for the US military command did not immediately comment on the report. General Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, rejected the findings and said the government took civilian casualties seriously. "It is quite obvious that Taliban and other insurgent groups cause more civilian casualties," he said, adding that insurgents also "use civilians as human shields and hide in residential areas".—Reuters

Indian Zoroastrians say Mumbai metro will desecrate fire temples

MUMBAI: Thousands of Indian Parsis have called for the route of Mumbai's new multi-billion-dollar metro to be changed so trains and commuters don't pass under fire temples where the Zoroastrians worship. More than 7,000 people have signed an online petition saying that building tun-

nels under two temples, which contain "holy fire", would desecrate their sanctity, forcing nature to exact its revenge. It claims that part of a tunnel will pass directly below the "Sanctum Sanctorum where the holy fire is enthroned" of the Wadia temple in the south of India's commercial capital.

The Change.org petition, which has received upwards of 7,290 signatures since being posted on Wednesday, says the fires are "consecrated entities; living vibrant beings who are intermediaries between God and mankind". "To keep these holy entities safe from physical and spiritual pollution, they are segregated from the outside world by magnetic circuits which are drawn at the time of their enthronement," it explains.—AFP

International

Pope to visit Myanmar as anti-Rohingya hatred seethes

Pope to hold talks with Aung San Suu Kyi

YANGON: Pope Francis will push for peace during his visit to mainly-Buddhist Myanmar, a church official said yesterday, a trip that plunges the pontiff into the centre of a simmering religious conflict which has sparked an exodus of Muslim Rohingya. Myanmar's western Rakhine state has been torn apart by communal bloodshed, sending more than 520,000 Rohingya racing over to neighboring Bangladesh since late August.

The leader of the world's Catholics will visit both nations on a highly charged trip in late November—although there are currently no plans to stop in strife-torn Rakhine or the refugee camps in Bangladesh. “We don't know yet what will be in his speech... but he is coming for the sake of the country and he will be talking about peace,” Father Mariano Soe Naing, a spokesman for the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar, said.

“There won't be any interfaith meetings (in Myanmar) because of the lack of time,” he added. He will talk with de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace prize laureate who has sparked international dismay for her perceived lack of sympathy towards the Rohingya and unwillingness to condemn alleged atrocities by the army. The UN has accused Myanmar's military of using a crack-

down on Rohingya militants to violently expel the entire Muslim minority—a persecuted group the Pope has previously called “brothers and sisters”.

Authorities have denied that charge and accused Rohingya insurgents of terrorizing ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Hindus in Rakhine. Any further comments from the Pope seen as expressing support for the Rohingya could provoke a backlash from the Buddhist-majority public, who loathe the Muslim minority and have railed against global support for the group. Some 200,000 people are expected to attend a mass led by Francis in Kyaukkasan Grounds, a stadium in Yangon, Father Mariano added. After Myanmar the Pope will head to Bangladesh, which has had to absorb more than half a million Rohingya refugees in squalid border camps, putting a significant strain on the two countries' ties.

Good and peaceful people

Myanmar has a small roughly half a million Catholic population, mainly in the remote north. The Southeast Asian nation and the Vatican only established full diplomatic relations in May, shortly after Suu Kyi met Pope Francis during a European tour. That visit was overshadowed by her country's treatment of

After Myanmar Pope will head to Bangladesh



ROME: Pope Francis leads a mass on the occasion of the Centenary of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, at the Santa Maria Maggiore basilica in Rome. —AFP

the Rohingya, who are denied citizenship and have previously been displaced in huge numbers by communal violence and army campaigns. Only weeks before the meeting Francis described the Muslim minority as “brothers and sisters” who were being tortured and killed for their faith. He added they were “good and peaceful people who have suffered for years”. That puts Francis at odds with many inside Myanmar, where anti-Rohingya hatred has festered for years.

Many, including the army and government officials, refuse to use the term Rohingya and instead insist the group are illegal “Bengali” immigrants. “This is a Buddhist country so I don't understand why the Pope should come here,” Maung Thway Chon, the founder of a newly-formed ultra-nationalist political party, said. “People are very angry about what he said about Bengalis,” he added. Others in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, welcomed the pontiff as a potential ally. —AFP

In the chaos of Bangladesh's refugee camps, a baby is born

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh: Mohammed Jubayed came into the world shortly after mid-day in a baking hot military tent in the chaos of a vast refugee camp in Bangladesh, now home to nearly a million Rohingya. Just an hour earlier, a cycle rickshaw had pulled up carrying his young mother Hasina Aktar clutching her stomach and moaning in pain in the throes of labor with her second child. The United Nations says pregnant or breastfeeding women account for one in 10 of the estimated 520,000 Rohingya who have arrived in Bangladesh over the last six weeks after fleeing an upsurge in violence in neighboring Myanmar.

Victims of one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 21st century, these women and their newborn babies are even more vulnerable than most to the desperate conditions in the camps, where even getting food and clean water is a battle. Many expectant mothers have walked for days to reach safety in Bangladesh, often without adequate food or water. Aid workers say some are bleeding to



BANGLADESH: Bangladeshi doctor Mahzabin Hoque holding newborn baby Mohammed Jubayed in Kutupalong refugee camp. —AFP

death in the camps, where most endure child birth without medical help.

Two older women help Hasina, 20, walk the few steps from the rickshaw to the tent, a makeshift delivery clinic that has just been put up by Bangladeshi soldiers in Kutupalong, the largest of the camps on the border with Myanmar. Inside, the heat is almost unbearable. Hasina lies on a single mattress on a lino floor, her hands gripping the side of the tent as she writhes in pain, small beads of sweat gathering on her skin. One nurse holds her down by the feet when the pain becomes too much; another fans her with sheets of paper. Hasina's mother-in-law Fatima, who is 40 but looks much older, is the only relative present. She crouches by Hasina's side and strokes her hair to try to calm her. —AFP

Bangladesh bans three Islamic charities from giving Rohingya aid

DHAKA: Bangladesh has banned three Islamic charities from working with Rohingya refugees, a lawmaker said yesterday, amid concerns displaced Muslims in camps along its border could be radicalized. Mahjabeen Khaled, an MP from the ruling Awami League, said the international charities Muslim Aid and Islamic Relief, and Bangladesh-based Allama Fazlullah Foundation, had been blacklisted from the Rohingya refugee camps in southernmost Cox's Bazar district.

Khaled, who sits on the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs, said no specific allegations had been leveled at the charities. But authorities were “scrutinizing and screening” all aid agencies wanting to contribute to the massive relief effort in Cox's Bazar, where more than half a million refugees had fled to squalid camps since August. “We want to monitor who is giving aid, and why, for security reasons. Who are funding them, and what they are going to do with the money?” Khaled said.

“They (Rohingya) are vulnerable. A lot can

be done with this Rohingya people. We want to be careful,” she said, adding it would be “easy” to lure the refugees to militancy. Waseem Ahmed, a director of Islamic Relief, said any allegations of misconduct by the charity were “baseless and misguided”. “Since we are still awaiting approval from the government and haven't started any projects yet in the camps, it would be completely unwarranted to tag us with any activities that we haven't conducted,” he said.

Bangladesh has heavily curtailed access to the Rohingya camps in recent years, but eased restrictions last month after more than 520,000 new refugees poured across the border. The government's NGO Affairs Bureau approved 30 local and global aid groups to meet “emergency needs” in the overwhelmed camps, which already housed about 300,000 Rohingya before the latest influx.

Before that, just four international charities—including Doctors With Borders (MSF) and Action Against Hunger (ACF) — were permitted to operate in the sensitive border district. Khaled said Muslim Aid had also been banned from working in the refugee camps in 2012, when tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled a separate surge of violence in neighboring Myanmar. Bangladesh authorities are reluctant to discuss their reasons for curbing access to the camps, but fears prevail that anger among the displaced Rohingya could be exploited by extremist networks. —AFP

International

Model village shows cracks in Xi's fight to end China poverty

Lankao County undergoes Cinderella-like transformation

LANKAO, China: When President Xi Jinping last came to central China's Lankao county, it was famous for two things: poverty and the government official who reputedly died trying to end it. Three years later, the hardscrabble area has undergone a Cinderella-like transformation, waltzing across the national poverty line just in time for the Communist Party's twice-a-decade congress on October 18. With its freshly paved roads, modern community centre and memorial to Xi's visit, Lankao's Zhangzhuang village has become a showpiece for the president's ambitious and politically critical campaign to wipe out rural poverty by 2020.

But a drastically different picture emerges on the outskirts, where farmers still live in ramshackle homes and move along rutted lanes. The contrast highlights the difficulty of spreading the wealth of the world's second-largest economy, a central mission for Xi as he prepares to accept a second five-year term as general secretary of the Communist Party, which came to power promising a radical redistribution of the nation's wealth, and would help solidify Xi's stature as the most powerful leader in decades.

A bubble economy

In the three years since Xi's visit, Lankao's official poverty rate dropped from 12 percent to under two, making it just the second county to be removed from a national registry of almost 600 poor areas. Officials attribute the success to better directed aid and low-interest micro-loans that have helped needy families increase their income by buying livestock and farming equipment. But Xi also took personal responsi-

bility for the area of more than 760,000 in 2014 as part of a programme that paired top party leaders with local governments.

He chose Lankao-and Zhangzhuang specifically-for its association with Jiao Yulu, an official who became a national hero after famously working himself to death helping farmers eke out a living along the flood-prone Yellow River five decades ago. The president's visit "gave us encouragement and inspiration," said local official Wang Qifu, speaking by a massive monument to

Jiao in the bustling county seat. After the leader came, "doing poorly wouldn't do." But life in Xi's dream village is surrounded by another reality. While everyone agrees Lankao has changed enormously since Xi's visits in March and May 2014,

those on Zhangzhuang's outskirts complain the gains have not been equitable.

The backs of houses along the road to the village have been whitewashed to give the appearance of wealth, but on the other side, narrow, muddy streets run past homes with broken windows and crumbling bricks. "We haven't seen any changes here," said one elderly woman, a farmer who declined to give her name. "The people with connections to the village government have all shaken off poverty. Those without connections haven't." Many residents still feel poor, complaining there is little money in farming and earning more means moving to urban areas.

To tackle the problem, the county has encouraged cooperatives to grow more profitable crops such as melons, established



LANKAO: This photo shows a billboard featuring a photo of China's President Xi Jinping visiting residents in Zhangzhuang village in Lankao in China's central Henan province.—AFP

industrial parks, and also dedicated several large memorials to Jiao-and its own Xi-fuelled success-hoping "red tourism" will create much-needed jobs. A busload of foreign ministry employees sporting Communist Party lapel pins recently made the pilgrimage, stopping at Jiao's memorial hall and a village that has prospered by making traditional Chinese instruments.

In May, 27-year-old Peng Biao-a village official-and his wife turned their family home near the Yellow River into a small, stylish restaurant, hoping to cash in on the tourism boom. Three dishes cost about 40 yuan (\$6.50), almost a week's income for one of the 23 households still on the village's

poverty list. Lankao has made good progress, Peng said, but if the county cannot create more jobs "it's just a bubble economy. On the surface, people may seem well-off, but actually, they won't have even a single yuan in their wallet."

Ahead of the party congress, state media have heavily promoted the "Lankao Model" and the "Jiao Yulu spirit" to combat poverty. According to official figures, around 700 million have escaped poverty since China began its economic reforms in 1978. But the gap between rich and poor "has become quite alarming" for Beijing, said Cheng Li, an expert on Chinese leadership at Washington's Brookings Institution.—AFP

Australia tightens English language requirements for foreign students

SYDNEY: Australia is tightening English language requirements for foreign students in what it said yesterday is a bid to improve standards across the country's Aus\$28 billion international education market. There are more than 550,000 international students in Australia, according to government data, which lists the lucrative sector as the country's third-largest export earner. Currently, prospective overseas students can take an intensive English course to prepare for further studies if they do not already have other qualifications showing their ability to study in the language.

Now they will also have to take a new official test of their language skills before they can start such university or vocational studies to ensure they have reached the required standard, said Education Minister Simon Birmingham. "The vast majority of language courses are providing high quality outcomes... but some slip through the cracks and it's unacceptable for that to occur," Birmingham told reporters. No details were provided on what the test would include, but Birmingham said its standard would be enforced by the national education regulator.

He added he did not believe the measure would hurt



SYDNEY: Students from China pose for family photos after graduating from a course in commerce at Sydney University.—AFP

international student numbers but would instead strengthen the integrity of the education system, making it more appealing to potential arrivals. Some 16 percent of the country's international enrolments are for pre-studies language courses, according to July figures from the education

department. The top three nationalities enrolled in pre-studies language courses are Chinese (27 percent), Brazilian (12 percent) and Colombian (8.7 percent).—AFP

President Duterte threatens to expel EU ambassadors

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte threatened yesterday to expel European ambassadors within 24 hours, accusing their governments without citing evidence of plotting to have Manila expelled from the United Nations. Duterte signaled in a fiery speech he would not tolerate European criticism of his drug war, which has seen police kill at least 3,850 people since he took office 15 months ago and led rights groups to warn of a potential crime against humanity.

Duterte accused the European Union of interfering in the Philippines' domestic affairs, and alleged it wanted to get the country removed from the UN. "Just like that you tell us: 'You will be excluded in the UN'. Son of a w**** go ahead," Duterte told reporters, adding European nations were taking advantage of the Philippines being poor. "You give us money then you start to orchestrate what things should be done and which should not happen in our country. You bullshit. We are past the colonisation stage. Don't fuck with us."

Duterte said he was prepared to kick European ambassadors out of the country if their governments tried to expel the Philippines. "You think we are a bunch of morons here. You are the one. Now the ambassadors of those countries listening now, tell me, because we can have the diplomatic channel cut tomorrow.—AFP

www.kuwaittimes.net

Friday Times

lifestyle

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

A model displays a creation designed by Syrian Fashion Designer Manal during her fashion show 'Jasmin Goddess' in Beirut. —AFP

Gaza Instagram stars want world to get the picture

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Lifestyle

Gaza Instagram stars want world to get the picture

They may not be able to leave Gaza without Israeli or Egyptian permission, but their photos can. The two women are among a small number of Instagram stars in the blockaded Palestinian enclave, showing followers a different side of their homeland from what much of the world may be used to hearing or seeing. "I see Instagram as a window," says Kholoud Nassar, 26, wearing a pink hijab and fiddling with a toy car that features in many of her pictures.

Fatma Mosabah, 21, agrees, saying that "when I open the internet I can talk to people across the world." Both have more than 100,000 followers on the social platform and say they get recognized multiple times a day in the tiny territory that is home to two million people. In the enclave sealed off by Israel to the east and north, Egypt to the south and the Mediterranean Sea to the west, it is impossible for Gazans to leave without permission. Neither of the women has left Gaza in more than a decade.

Israel also refuses to give permits for tourists to visit the strip, leaving most people outside to imagine life there. And with three wars since 2008 between the strip's rulers Hamas and Israel, many people's ideas of Gaza centre on devastation, poverty and suffering. The women use Instagram, with its focus on pictures over text and political arguments, to show another side. "War is a part of Gaza, but it is not all Gaza. I wanted to show there was more to Gaza-as in any country," Nassar tells AFP in a cafe near the coast in Gaza City.

"Take America: there is poverty, there are destroyed homes, but at the same time there are beautiful places. Gaza is the same." "Through these pictures I want people to see Gaza, how people live, eat and work." Nassar's pictures range from young children to harvests, all bathed in a range of colors, while Mosabah shows all sides of daily life. Both women feature heavily in their own pictures, with wide smiles. Mosabah agrees that the aim is to "change the perception of Gaza" away from political matters. "To show its beautiful side, that's the most important thing. Far from the destruction, blockade and the wars."

Trying to live

A United Nations official recently said the strip may already be "unlivable". Despite Gazans receiving only a few hours of electricity a day in recent months, social media outlets remain popular. Ali Bkheet, president of the Palestinian Social Media Club, estimates that around 50 percent of Gazans have Facebook, though numbers on Instagram and Twitter are significantly smaller. He said the decade-long Israeli blockade had made Gazans particularly keen to use social media "to express ourselves and communicate our voice". Nassar started before the last war in 2014 and documented the human toll of the conflict. In the three years since, she has sought to focus on how Gazans struggle through terrible conditions-including creating a "trying to live" hashtag to show how people were putting their lives back together after the war. The toy car, an old Volkswagen Beetle Nassar carries in her bag at all times and which features in dozens of her photos, has become a trademark helping her connect with others.

“ I see Instagram as a window ”

nature of what is published helps or hinders efforts to gain a fuller picture. "I believe in my conversations with university students. They seem to imply they are more aware about parts of the world than certainly their parents were. But whether or not they are more accurately informed I don't know." Instagram is of course a selective version of life, with the women taking dozens of pictures before deciding on their favorite to show



Fatma Abu Mosabah, 21, uses her mobile phone to take pictures for her social media account in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza strip. — AFP photos



the world. But despite the thought that goes into their selections, they aren't protected from the bane of social media-trolls. Islamist group Hamas has conservative attitudes towards women, as do many Gazans. Mosabah says she blocks between five and 20 people a day on Instagram who make inappropriate comments.

"Maybe I take a picture with someone, they say the picture is shameful because I was with a

man. I do a lot of blocking," she laughs. For Nassar, it has even strayed into the real world. Once she was taking pictures in Beit Lahia, one of Gaza's most conservative areas, when women started screaming at her. "There are people here who criticise me-they say 'you are going out, taking pictures. You should stay at home and cook'," Nassar says. "Maybe because I wear a hijab they criticize me more." — AFP



Palestinian Kholoud Nassar, 26, uses her mobile phone to take pictures for her social media account.

Busan film festival opens with freedom of speech plea

An impassioned plea for freedom of speech launched Asia's biggest film festival yesterday, after a lengthy, damaging row over artistic freedom that had threatened the future of the annual event. Internationally acclaimed South Korean director Shin Su-Won, whose thriller "Glass Garden" opened the 10-day Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), said restrictions on expression—and on artists—"should never happen".

"Freedom of speech should not be trampled upon for any reason whatsoever," said Shin, winner of the Canal+ Prize at Cannes Critics' Week in 2012 for her short film "Circle Line". BIFF has been embroiled in controversy since 2014, when festival chiefs refused to remove a controversial documentary about the Sewol ferry disaster from the programme, despite political pressure. The film—"Diving Bell: The Truth Shall Not Sink With Sewol"—was critical of the way the administration of then-president Park Geun-Hye—now on trial for corruption following her impeachment—had handled the tragedy.

After it was shown, state funding for the 2015 BIFF was nearly halved and BIFF director Lee Yong-Kwan, who was instrumental in getting the documentary screened, became the target of a series of probes by authorities. Lee was forced to step down in the face of embezzlement charges and was con-

victed of accounting fraud in October last year. Critics said the case was politically motivated.

It later emerged that the distributor of "Diving Bell" was among thousands of artists secretly blacklisted by Park's conservative government for voicing "left-wing" thoughts—meaning criticism of the authorities. Speaking before the world premiere of her film opened the festival, Shin said she believed the blacklist was "irrational and unreasonable behavior." "Even for minor issues some artists were made to suffer. We must make sure it doesn't happen again," she said.

BIFF organizers called for unity among filmmakers following their recent troubles and festival founder Kim Dong-ho was a very visible presence outside the Busan Cinema Centre as the rain fell Thursday evening, the 80-year-old shaking hands with every star gathered to walk the red carpet. While some Korean industry groups have boycotted BIFF this year—citing reports of continued outside interference—the festival's considerable pull in the film world was evident as the likes of Oscar-winning American filmmaker Oliver Stone and Japanese superstar Miho Nakayama ("Love Letter") turned out in support of the event.

Other noted stars in town for this year's edition of BIFF



South Korean actor Jang Dong-Gun, right, and actress Im Yoon-Ah, left, pose on the red carpet during the opening ceremony of the 22nd BIFF at the Busan Cinema Center in Busan. — AFP

include Oscar-nominated American director Darren Aronofsky ("Black Swan") and veteran Hong Kong action director John Woo, while the local legion was led by opening ceremony hosts Jang Dong-gun and Im Yoon-ah. BIFF will screen around 300 films from 75 countries, including 100 world premieres, across its 10-day run. Early highlights include the world premiere of Nakayama's latest film, the Jeon Jae-Eun-directed romance "Butterfly Sleep". BIFF continues until October 21.—AFP

Battle with Thor kicks off three movie arc for Marvel's Hulk

Marvel's big green Hulk may not be getting his own standalone movie but actor Mark Ruffalo, who plays the current iteration of the superhero, said the character will get a mini arc within three upcoming Marvel movies. Hulk, the muscle-bound, larger-than-life green alter-ego of scientist Bruce Banner, appears in the upcoming "Thor: Ragnarok," out in US theaters on Nov 3, as a gladiator trapped on a futuristic planet and forced to fight Thor.

The Hulk will also appear in 2018's "Avengers: Infinity War" and its sequel, 2019's yet-to-be-titled Avengers 4. "We've taken the arc of a standalone Hulk movie and put it into those three movies, consciously," Ruffalo said. Ruffalo, who has spent more time as scientist Banner than as the Hulk in the past two Avengers films, said he relished the opportunity to be in character as the Hulk for the majority of "Thor: Ragnarok." "This movie is about just breaking free of the forms and rules, and so I got to break free from what we thought Hulk was to a slightly more fleshed-out character," he said. The Hulk, who first appeared in comics in 1962, has had his own standalone television shows and movies in the past, notably 2003's "Hulk" and 2008's "The Incredible Hulk" films, both from Universal Pictures. —Reuters



Actor Mark Ruffalo and wife Sunrise Coigney arrive for the premiere of the film "Thor: Ragnarok" in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Weinstein allegations swell as film industry faces scrutiny

The avalanche of assault accusations against Harvey Weinstein grew as more actresses came forward with explosive charges against the movie mogul, whose lurid behavior has opened a Pandora's Box of Hollywood harassment and hypocrisy. The new claims landed as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as the Cannes film festival organization declared the abusive behavior repugnant, but also as film figures warned that such actions have gone virtually unchecked in an industry that for years has seen itself in a progressive light.

The Weinstein revelations are just "the tip of the iceberg," comedy actor and director Rob Schneider told TMZ. "There's not one actress who doesn't have a story," he said, adding that he himself experienced sexual harassment by a male director when he was younger. Amid the gravity of the situation, the Academy, which has awarded 81 Oscars to Weinstein films produced by Miramax and then the Weinstein Company, announced it would convene a meeting on Saturday to "discuss the allegations against Weinstein and any actions warranted by the Academy."

Weinstein, 65, has denied all charges, according to a statement from his spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister. On Wednesday she offered "no comment" when asked about reports Weinstein was heading to Europe to enter a rehabilitation facility. His company, The Weinstein Company, has insisted it knew nothing of the mogul's alleged misconduct.

But the New York Times reported Wednesday night that it was in fact aware as far back as 2015 of settlements paid to three or four women. The Times quoted a lawyer, David Boies, who represented Weinstein when his contract was up for renewal in 2015. The Times also said that last week Weinstein sent members of the company board an email saying they knew about those payoffs. The paper quoted what it called people who spoke on condition of anonymity about the confidential communication.

The scandal has rocked Hollywood, with the list of the Oscar-winner's harassment victims also reportedly now including Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie, Rosanna Arquette and French actress Judith Godrèche. But a new angle to allegations emerged Tuesday when three women, including an Italian film



This file photo shows British model and actor Cara Delevingne posing as she arrives to attend the European premiere of the film Suicide Squad in central London. — AFP

star, claimed that Weinstein raped them. The Weinstein Company board has sacked him, and his wife Georgina Chapman told celebrity magazine People she was leaving Weinstein, with whom she has two children.

'Everyone knew'

"I am profoundly devastated. I have lost my wife and kids, whom I love more than anything else," Weinstein told The New York Post, adding that: "I hope one day we can reconcile." The latest allegations portray Weinstein as a ruthless sexual predator, who on at least one occasion sought to engage an actress in a threesome with another woman. "He asked us to kiss and she began some sort of advances upon his direction," actress Cara Delevingne, who is also a fashion model, said in an Instagram post detailing an encounter at a hotel. When Delevingne got up to hurriedly leave, she wrote, "he walked me to the door and stood in front of it and tried to kiss me on the lips."

The bluntest accusation came from Lea Seydoux, an award-winning French film star who wrote a devastating first-person account of her run-ins with Weinstein and others in an industry that essentially turned a blind eye to the abuse. "That's the most disgusting thing. Everyone knew what Harvey was up to and no one did anything," Seydoux wrote in The Guardian. She said she quickly figured out Weinstein's motives when they met. "He had a lecherous look. He was using his power to get sex," she wrote.—AFP

“ Weinstein revelations are the tip of the iceberg ”

Beyoncé charity song 'Mi Gente' dethrones 'Despacito'



Beyoncé's Spanish-language remix of "Mi Gente" for hurricane relief opened Wednesday on top of the US Latin song chart, finally dethroning the global mega-hit "Despacito." "Mi Gente," which Colombian reggaeton star J Balvin created from the African dance rhythms of French DJ Willy William, had lingered for 11 weeks at number two on the Billboard Latin song chart underneath the colossus of "Despacito."

"Mi Gente" finally reached the top spot for the week through October 5 in the track's new version starring Beyoncé, who sings partially in Spanish in her first music since giving birth to twins in June. Beyoncé said that all proceeds of the remix of "Mi Gente," which means "My People," would support victims of the trio of powerful hurricanes that have ravaged the Caribbean and southern United States.

"Despacito"—led by Puerto Rican star Luis Fonsi with rapper Daddy Yankee, and later with a contribution by Justin Bieber—spent 35 weeks on top of the chart. It was the second longest reign ever, trailing Enrique Iglesias' "Bailando" which topped the chart for 41 weeks. "Despacito" earlier also made history by tying the record for most weeks at number one of the mainstream Hot 100 chart of all songs in the United States, ruling for 16 weeks. "Mi Gente" jumped to number three on the Hot 100 with Beyoncé, but breakout rap star Cardi B held firm at number one with "Bodak Yellow."—AFP

On Beck album, pop sets an ironist free

If there's a word to sum up Beck's musical style, it is eclecticism. Over two decades he has become an alternative rock icon by swerving among genres, from folk to hip-hop to the mariachi tunes he heard in the streets of Los Angeles. Yet his underlying thread was irony. Besides two albums that made pit-stops for somber self-reflection, Beck has flummoxed three generations of listeners with fantastical wordplay, creating a lyrical universe in which in the time of chimpanzees he was a monkey, and in which Satan gave him (at separate times) a taco and a haircut.

For his 10th studio album, "Colors," released on Friday, Beck switched gears again. But this time, he has stitched together the closest he has come to a straightforward pop album. "Colors" is Beck's follow-up to 2014's "Morning Phase," one of his career's two melancholic turns. "Morning Phase" won the Grammy for Album of the Year, perplexing Beck as well as much of the music industry as he faced much better-selling artists including Beyoncé.

While "Morning Phase" was stripped-back and lonesome, "Colors," true to its name, is about vividness. And the 47-year-old Beck feels liberated. "I'm so free!" Beck exclaims in a song of the same name in a theme that comes up repeatedly on "Colors." "The way that I walk is up to me now," he explains.

'It's like, wow!'

Beck's poetic surrealism has not completely vanished. He still sings of cruising the city "in the typical noise with the suntan ellipse" and spotting the "girl in a bikini with a Lamborghini Shih Tzu." But the Beck of "Colors" is one of euphoria rather than irony. "It's like, wow! It's like, right now!" he sings on "Wow." If not always with his lyricism, Beck on "Colors" keeps his complexity as a composer. The pop production is packed with multiple layers, with serpentine counter-melodies and seamless transitions among stylistic influences.

"I'm So Free," a track that sounds destined to become a live crowd-pleaser, opens with a pop beat before an anthemic chorus that explodes with Nirvana-like guitars. "Dear Life" builds off a jazzy piano melody before more textured pop rhythms. The title track on "Colors" brings together a forest of synthpop effects, while "Wow" is driven by a gritty trap beat.

Beck's closest-sounding previous venture was 1999's "Midnite Vultures," a playful adaptation of Prince-inspired funk that had marked his follow-up to "Odelay," the album that defined his quirkiness and made him a hipster hero. Beck had announced that his latest album would come out in October 2016, but held "Colors" for a full year without explanation.—AFP

Bikini power: Japan's lady body builders smashing stereotypes

Glistening with sweat, Satoko Yamanouchi's biceps ripple and the veins in her neck throb as if about to pop as she strikes a fearsome pose at the Japan bodybuilding championships. An hour later, the pint-sized Nagoya housewife is close to tears after narrowly failing to retain her title from a field of 34 bronzed and impressively buff ladies, most of them in their fifties. "I was pathetic!" the 56-year-old Yamanouchi told AFP backstage at the close of the event earlier this week, sporting a skimpy gold bikini.

"A silver medal means nothing to me," sniffed the sinewy ex-champ, who stands just 1.58 meters tall and weighs 50 kilograms. "It just means you're the best loser." A self-confessed gym rat, Yamanouchi is the poster girl for Japan's growing number of female bodybuilders, helping break down gender stereotypes in a country obsessed with the "kawaii" (cute) fluffiness of its ubiquitous pop culture.

"I want to help change perceptions so that more people can appreciate the beauty of a muscular woman," said the five-time national champion after a punishing two-hour workout a week before the competition. "When I tell people I'm a bodybuilder, it freaks them out," added Yamanouchi, who became hooked on the sport in her late forties after looking for a way to keep fit. "My husband didn't like it when I started either, his wife wearing a bikini in public, but he came around."

Regular housewife

The number of bodybuilders registered with Japan's national federation has almost doubled over the past six years to around 3,000, with women making up 10 percent as part of a nationwide fitness boom, officials said. In ageing Japan, female bodybuilding is dominated by women in their forties and fifties, as many usually only start after their children have grown up.

Yamanouchi, who takes around 10 different supplements a day to boost muscle growth and aid recovery, insists she knows where to draw the line, despite her bulging physique. "I don't want to look like the Hulk," she said, taking a gulp of protein shake. "I want to look beautiful and keep my femininity. I just don't feel like a regular housewife," added Yamanouchi. "I'm always striving to create the

perfect body."

Women's bodybuilding is a serious business. The oldest competitor at the Japan championships, 64-year-old Mariko Takamatsu, stormed off after failing to make the top 12. The eventual winner, Megumi Sawada, struck a series of eye-popping poses to the theme tune of Godzilla, stunning Yamanouchi to take the title. "It's unbelievable I've won," gasped the 56-year-old gym instructor, who used to compete in secret to avoid upsetting her mother.

"I want to create the kind of body that stops people in the street," laughed Sawada, sporting a bob hairstyle and silver nail polish. "I don't care what people think—you can express feminine beauty with this kind of body."

Horsemeat for breakfast

Other bodybuilding sub-genres have sprung up in Japan, including "bikini fitness"—a category that has turned Yuri Yasui into a magazine cover girl. A two-time Japan champion, the statuesque 33-year-old is another who caught the workout bug after initially wanting to lose weight. "When I started training seriously, my parents were dead against it—even

my friends were," said Yasui, a bank employee from Nagoya, a city southwest of Tokyo, who won her first national title less than a year after taking up the sport.

"They didn't want me up there in front of strangers in a bikini flashing my bottom." "At long last women are starting to work out regularly, but Japanese men still don't really accept muscle-bound women," added Yasui after lifting weights at a Tokyo gym. "It's important to change attitudes. The way to a feminine body—getting that tiny waist and a round bum—is by building muscle."—AFP

Yasui eats horsemeat for breakfast and lunch to help keep her body fat low and models her striking figure on an American feminist icon. "Ever since I was at college, I adored Wonder Woman," said the 1.73 meter tall Yasui, who even wears a star-spangled bikini.



In this picture, Japanese trainer and champion Masashi Suzuki, right, helps bodybuilder Yuri Yasui during a workout session at a gym in Tokyo.



In this picture, Japanese bodybuilder Yuri Yasui works out at a gym in Tokyo. — AFP photos



Syrian Fashion Designer Manal Ajaj, center, poses on the catwalk with male models wearing Syrian Army uniforms at the end of her fashion show 'Jasmin Goddess' in Beirut., — AFP photos



Models display creations by Syrian fashion designer Manal Ajaj during her fashion show 'Jasmin Goddess' in Beirut



Recipe

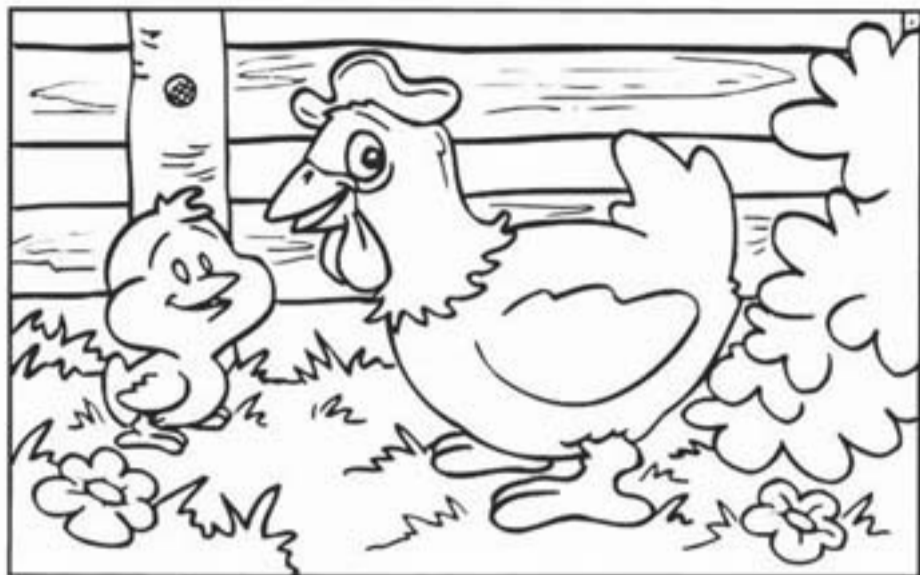
Spicy rice

Ingredients

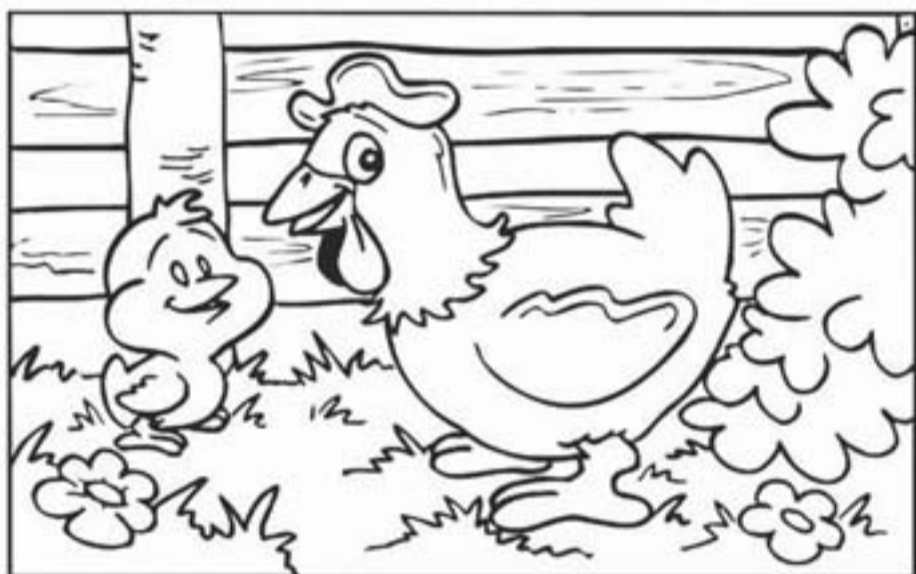
1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup long-grain rice, uncooked
3 tablespoons jalapeño peppers, finely chopped
2 cups vegetable broth
3/4 teaspoon cumin
2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, minced
Salt to taste (optional)

Directions

Spray saucepan with nonstick butter spray.
Sauté onion and garlic in saucepan until tender.
Add rice, jalapeños, broth, and cumin to saucepan and bring to a boil.
Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes or until liquid is absorbed and rice is tender.
Remove from heat and stir in cilantro.
Add salt to taste (optional).



Find the 7 differences



DID YOU KNOW?

Wolves are excellent hunters and have been found to be living in more places in the world than any other mammal except humans.

The wolf is the ancestor of all breeds of domestic dog. It is part of a group of animals called the wild dogs which also includes the dingo and the coyote.

Most wolves weigh about 40 kilograms but the heaviest wolf ever recorded weighed over 80 kilograms.

Adult wolves have large feet. A fully grown wolf would have a paw print nearly 13 centimeters long and 10 centimeters wide.



Wolves live and hunt in groups called a pack. A pack can range from two wolves to as many as 20 wolves depending on such factors as habitat and food supply. Most packs have one breeding pair of wolves, called the alpha pair, who lead the hunt.

Wolf pups are born deaf and blind while weighing around 0.5 kg. It takes about 8 months before they are old enough to actively join in wolf pack hunts.

Wolves in the Arctic have to travel much longer distances than wolves in the forest to find food and will sometimes go for several days without eating.

When hunting alone, the wolf catches small animals such as squirrels, hares, chipmunks, raccoons or rabbits. However, a pack of wolves can hunt very large animals like moose, caribou and yaks.

When the pack kills an animal, the alpha pair always eats first. As food supply is often irregular for wolves, they will eat up to 1/5th of their own body weight at a time to make up for days of missed food.

Wolves have two layers of fur, an undercoat and a top coat, which allow them to survive in temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius! In warmer weather they flatten their fur to keep cool.

A wolf can run at a speed of 65 kilometers per hour during a chase. Wolves have long legs and spend most of their time trotting at a speed of 12-16 kilometers per hour. They can keep up a reasonable pace for hours and have been known to cover distances of 90 kilometers in one night.

Sudoku

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

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

Solution

Flexible Frittata

is thick, satisfying omelet

By Sara Moulton

What to do on a busy weeknight when you poke your head into the fridge and discover a variety of souvenirs left over from previous meals - including veggies, protein and starch? Just reach for a carton of eggs and turn the whole thing into a one-skillet meal. Leftovers? Not at all. The Flexible Frittata is a thick, satisfying omelet.

And just as with a French omelet, you can toss almost anything into a frittata. There are only a few rules. The first is to make sure that every ingredient has already been cooked - a frittata spends so little time in the oven that an uncooked piece of meat or a raw vegetable will never be cooked through. Secondly, all the ingredients must be chopped up before they're added to the frittata so that they can be evenly distributed.

Otherwise, have fun. I've specified red bell pepper in this recipe, but you're welcome to swap in broccoli, green beans, cauliflower, carrots, or mushrooms. Instead of sausage, you can roll with leftover pork chops, steak, rotisserie chicken or shrimp. No cartons of cooked rice sitting in the refrigerator? How about potatoes, pasta, quinoa or farro? Similarly, if you happen to be rich in scraps of various flavorful cheeses, use them to replace the Parmigiano-Reggiano. And, happily, because most of its parts have been cooked ahead of time, making the frittata takes very little time and effort - about 40 minutes from start to finish, only 20 minutes of which is hands-on. Serve with a simple salad and some crusty bread. Ultimately, you might decide to add a frittata like this to your weekly line-up. It's the perfect vehicle for leftovers ... but nobody digging into it will be thinking of leftovers.



Ingredients

Start to finish: 40 minutes (20 minutes active)
 Servings: 6 to 8
 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
 1 1/2 cups chopped red bell pepper
 2 cups chopped, Italian sausages
 Dozen large eggs
 1/2 cup sour cream
 1 1/2 cups cooked rice
 1 1/2 ounces grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large nonstick skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion and red bell pepper, reduce the heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the sausage and cook, stirring occasionally, until the pieces are lightly browned, about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs and the sour cream. Add the rice, cheese, salt and pepper; stir well. When the sausages are browned, pour the egg mixture over the meat, shaking the pan to make sure it is evenly distributed. Cook the frittata until it is just beginning to stick and set up at the edges, 5 to 8 minutes. Transfer to the oven and bake on the middle shelf until just set, 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from the oven, preheat the broiler and return the frittata to the middle shelf to brown briefly before serving.

Enliven the Day of the Dead this year with a rich mole

By The Culinary Institute of America

The Day of the Dead is a holiday observed in Mexico and other Latin American countries that celebrates and honors the memory of deceased loved ones. Falling on Nov. 1, just a day after Halloween celebrations, the holiday shares some of the sentiment of Halloween, but it is a very different occasion. Where Halloween views the dead as spooky haunts, the day known locally as Dia de los Muertos remembers them as beloved citizens of the afterlife. Through the building of altars, lively fiestas, and offerings of the departed's favorite foods, Dia de los Muertos is a true celebration, shared between the living and the dead.

And while there are many ways to celebrate, here at The Culinary Institute of America we have a habit of focusing on the dinner table. Luckily, the rich cultures surrounding the day are a wealth of traditional recipes and ingredi-

ents. Day of the Dead bread and tamales are a good place to start, but we especially love the ritual involved in creating flavorful and traditional moles, as in CIA Chef Sofia Sada's recipe for Mole Poblano.

Today, Mexico has identified more than 50 different moles, but a mole is really whatever you want your sauce to be. Of course, this traditional Mole Poblano is the most well-known variety, and so it's a perfect representation of Mexico's culinary tradition. If you're looking at the ingredient list and thinking, "Wow, that's a lot of ingredients," you're right. This complex sauce is not something you can throw together quickly on a Wednesday night, but for a special occasion, it is well worth the effort. Luckily, the sauce can be made well ahead of time and frozen, which means any weeknight can be that special occasion.

MOLE POBLANO

Ingredients

Servings: 8

Start to finish: 2 hours, 45 minutes (Active time: 2 hours)

1/4 cup lard or unsalted butter (1/2 stick)

4 mulato chiles, wiped clean, seeds and veins removed, seeds reserved

2 Roma tomatoes, quartered

3 tomatillos, quartered

1/4 cup pumpkin seeds

1/4 cup sesame seeds

2 tablespoons peanuts

2 tablespoons pecans

1 stale corn tortilla

1/2 white onion, halved

2 garlic cloves, unpeeled

5 black peppercorns

1 whole clove

1/4 teaspoon coriander seeds

1/4 teaspoon anise seeds

3 tablespoons canola oil

2 cups chicken broth

Preparation

Heat the lard in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the mulato chilies and fry until the chilies begin to blister and change color, about 2 minutes on each side. Use tongs to transfer to a large heat-safe bowl. Repeat the process with the ancho, pasilla, and chipotle chilies. Fill the bowl with enough hot water to cover the chilies and set aside to soak for 15 minutes.

Drain the chilies and transfer to a blender. Blend, adding water as needed, until a smooth puree forms. Strain the mixture through a fine sieve and set aside. In the same pot, add the tomatoes and tomatillos and fry until soft, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside. Add the raisins and fry until plump, about 1 minute. Transfer to the bowl with the tomatoes. Repeat the process with the almonds, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, peanuts, pecans, tortilla, and reserved chili seeds. Set aside 1 tablespoon of the lard.

Meanwhile, in a dry skillet over medium-high heat, cook the onion and garlic until the papery skin of the garlic turns brown, about 3 minutes. Carefully remove the skin, then return to the skillet and cook until the vegetables are soft and blackened all over, about 4 minutes.

Add the reserved lard to a small skillet over low heat. Add the black pepper, cloves, canela, coriander, and anise seeds and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside. Transfer the reserved vegetables, seeds, tortilla, and spices to a blender and puree, adding water as needed, until smooth. Strain through a sieve and set aside.

Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the reserved chili puree and cook until it deepens in color and you can see the bottom of the pan when scraped with a wooden spoon, about 15 minutes. Add the strained vegetable and spice mixture. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until the mole thickens, about 45 minutes. Add chicken broth and continue cooking until the mole coats the back of a spoon, about 30 minutes. Add the chocolate and continue cooking, about 30 minutes. Add 1/2 of the sugar, the remaining to your taste. — AP



Exploring **Delhi's**
Eight Historic Cities



The Qutb Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world, towers over the remains of ancient Mehrauli.



Students and couples kick back in the arches of Feroz Shah's madrasa at Hauz Khas

At first glance, Delhi embodies all that is exasperating and chaotic about modern India. It can take nerves of steel to face the frenetic pace at which it whirls through daily life. But grant Delhi a more discerning gaze and you'll uncover a host of redeeming features. Topping the list is Delhi's historical legacy, with the ruins of eight ancient cities peeking out through the city streets, from Islamic citadels and the mausoleums of Sufi saints, to the colonial flourishes of Edwin Lutyens in New Delhi. Taking the Delhi Tourism HoHo Bus is a handy way to time-travel across this ancient octet, but the Metro runs close to most of the historic sights.

Delhi's first foundations at Lal Kot

Early records link Delhi to the mystical city of Lal Kot, founded by the Hindu king Anangpal Tomar in the eighth century, but apart from remnants of an easily missed fort wall beyond the Qutb Minar, little remains of the city that thrived here for over 300 years. More can be seen of Qila Rai Pithora, established by King Prithviraj Chauhan, who seized, rechristened and expanded Lal Kot in the 11th century. Punctuated by bastions, the once impenetrable walls today enclose a well-maintained public park along the Saket-Mehrauli Road. A circular building across from the main gate contains a small library, crowned by a massive statue of the legendary Rajput ruler.

The Qutb Minar and mighty Mehrauli

In the 12th century, the Mamluks, first of four consecutive Turkic dynasties to rule Delhi, arrived on the scene, founding another new capital at Mehrauli. To celebrate, the victorious sultan Qutbuddin Aibak commenced with the construction of the Qutb Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world at 73m - sadly, it can no longer be climbed after a deadly stampede in 1981. One of Delhi's top tourist attractions, the sprawl of ruins also

includes the Quwwat ul Islam, reportedly north India's first ever mosque. More Mamluk-era buildings are dotted around the Qutb Minar complex, but the Mehrauli area is going upmarket, with high fashion design stores, lifestyle boutiques, buzzing fine-dining and hip casual cafes. In September, Mehrauli is the focal point for Phoolwalon ki Sair, when flower vendors offer floral offerings at shrines, praying for an efflorescent Spring.

Seeking Siri at Hauz Khas

Sultan Alauddin Khilji is credited with building the third city of Delhi, to the northeast of Mehrauli, at the end of the 13th century. Siri was long ago consumed by the urban sprawl, but some extant ruins, reminiscent of Turkish forts, are visible along Khel Gaon Marg. You'll pass them en route to the Siri Fort Auditorium, site of many a film festival premier. The neighbouring village of Shahpur Jat offers up plenty of trendy eateries. For more prominent Khilji footprints, you'll need to head to the ancient reservoir and Islamic seminaries of Hauz Khas village. When you tire of exploring ruins, fall back on countless cafes, boutiques, nightclubs and watering holes in this hip and happening neighbourhood.



Tomb of Iltutmish emblazoned with Islamic script



Dusk falls over India Gate, the centrepoint of Lutyens' Delhi

The towering walls of Tughlaqabad

On assuming power at the turn of the 14th century, the founder of the next dynasty, Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, built yet another citadel in the hills to the southeast of Delhi. The ruins today are overgrown and largely forgotten; even the imposing Tughlaqabad Fort - home to some impressive Tughlaq-era tombs - is overrun by goats and weeds. The next sultan, Mohammad bin Tughlaq, was prone to flights of fancy, and shifted his capital to Maharashtra soon after, but he returned to build Jahanpanah, another mighty city now lost to history. The Khirki Mosque, a geometrical marvel accessed from a narrow alley across the road from Select Citywalk Mall in Saket, is one of few tangible surviving relics.

Fascinating Firoz Shah Kotla

Firoz Shah, last of the Tughlaq monarch, moved his seat to the banks of the Yamuna River in the middle of the 14th century, but unlike in most of Delhi's vanished cities, the ruins he left behind are still an active place of worship. Every Thursday, the gardens enveloping the atmospheric palace ruins teem with worshippers headed to the mosque at the heart of the compound. A pillar carved on the orders of the emperor Ashoka in the 3rd

century BCE hints at far older history. Within bowling distance on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, the Feroz Shah Cricket ground was built in 1883, making it the second oldest cricket ground in India, after the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Towards the end of the century, the Tughlaqs made way for the Sayyids and Lodis, who left a lavish legacy of elegant tombs and mausoleums, scattered around the peaceful grounds of the Lodi Gardens near Khan Market. Look out for the uncharacteristically plain tomb of Ibrahim Lodi, whose defeat at the hands of Babur finally ushered in the Mughal era in 1526.

The Purana Qila, heart of short-lived Shergarh

The rule of Humayun, the second Mughal Emperor, was interrupted briefly by Sher Shah Suri, a feisty Afghan soldier who stormed into town in 1540. Humayun's half-finished fort, Dinpanah, was captured and renamed Shergarh, but just 15 years later, Sher Shah tripped down the stairs of his private library and died from his injuries, putting the Mughals firmly back in the saddle. Sher Shah's architectural efforts, collectively referred to as the Purana Qila, are mostly in good repair, set in expansive grounds off

Mathura Rd, near the National Stadium.

The octagonal jewel box of the Sher Mandal was the site of Sher Shah's fatal fall, and nearby is the magnificent Qila-e-Kuhna Mosque, finished in red sandstone and gleaming white marble. A sound and light show illuminates the ruins daily (except Fridays) from February to April. While here, you can duck south to the green surrounds of Delhi Zoo, or check out what is taking place at the Pragati Maidan, a 150-acre exhibition space that hosts the annual India International Trade Fair every November.

Finding Shajahanabad in the streets of Old Delhi

In 1648, Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal emperor, built Delhi's seventh city and called it Shajahanabad, now popularly known as Old Delhi. An aesthete by nature, he bequeathed Delhi many of its most majestic monuments. The Red Fort, from whose sandstone ramparts Indian Prime Ministers address the nation on Independence Day, is Delhi's signature building, the seat of the Mughals until the last emperor was exiled by the British in 1858.

To see more Shajahanabad wonders, duck into the bazaars of Chandni Chowk. At the

heart of the maze of bustling alleyways and wholesale markets is the landmark Jama Masjid, arguably the most perfectly proportioned mosque in India, and also its largest. The street food of Chandni Chowk is legendary amongst Delhiites, with Karim's topping the list for meaty Mughlai meals, and Gali Paratha Wali for Punjabi paratha breakfasts.

Navigating the colonial corners of New Delhi

If Old Delhi was the soul of the Mughal city, New Delhi was where the British stamped their identity onto India. Mughal power was already in decline when the British Resident arrived in 1803, but it was only in 1911 that King George V anointed Delhi as the capital of British India - a rather lonely obelisk inside Coronation Park marks the spot where he made the announcement. Shortly after, the construction of New Delhi, the eighth and last city developed under foreign rule, began.



You may have the sprawling ruins of forgotten Tughlaqabad all to yourself.

Named for the British architect credited with fashioning the Delhi order of architecture, Lutyens Delhi is where the seat of Indian democracy lies today. Most visitors know Connaught Place and India Gate, but the surrounding district is an orderly spread of leafy boulevards lined with elegant bungalows, stately homes, grand offices, museums and art galleries. With the exit of the British in 1947, Indian politicians took over control of the grand civic buildings along Rajpath. Today, the flag of independent India flies proudly over Parliament House and Rashtrapati Bhawan, but tucked behind is another reminder of Delhi's richly layered history, the Mughal Gardens, created by Lutyens but inspired by the grand civic gardens of the Mughal empire. -(www.lonelyplanet.com)



Delhi's Jama Masjid floats in the haze



Purana Qila, the walled citadel of Sher Shah

Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today and tomorrow are your best times for a vacation. There is introspection and contemplation and you may find yourself letting go of plans and projects started in a more outward phase but as yet uncompleted. You may take an interest in your own psyche, religion and spiritual ideas. You may take the time to absorb and take in new impressions and information. In summary, here is a natural breaking point in life—you let go of what has been occupying you for the last years and assume a new attitude. This is a period that emphasizes an enhanced sense of personal possibilities and potential. There is tremendous psychological growth, which can lead to great personal success if you follow through with it. A romantic evening is ahead.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a low-cycle day that allows you to take the time to revise some of your plans, straighten out problems and refurbish your energies. You will work best if you take your allocated breaks and get outside during the noon break or find somewhere for a little solitude. Is there a library nearby you may find that both your personal growth and your career may depend on how you can handle some sensitive psychological material from your co-workers this afternoon. You will benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. Today and tomorrow are the two best days to seek a loan. Your timing should be perfect for whatever you want to accomplish today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Any challenges you have today will bring you insight into plans that are needed for the future. This means personal as well as professional challenges. You gain new insights and realizations. Positive results are just a matter of time. Today is a good time to seek whatever guidance you think you may need. Think through your own ideas and motives. Come from the long-term effects instead of the short-term process. A little exercise before dinner this evening is a fun way to create a change of pace—perhaps bicycling. Over dinner tonight, friends of yours may talk about crop circles, or some other fascinating subject—think about time travel. You find their ideas interesting. Stimulating ideas are created in your mind. This evening is for love.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a good time to buckle down and focus on your career. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will guide you and direct you to success. Radical changes in self-care may be helpful. You may learn to cut through the unessential and superficial and get to the core in matters of food and health—attending to the details of your life. You are driven to conserve and take care of yourself. This is a good day to start a new and positive habit. All the energies are working in your favor. Work, health, diet and the other things that take care of us if we take care of them can provide a lot of satisfaction as a new life phase begins. These things can lead to love and a new self-image. A phone call this evening may become passionate.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There are many rewarding days this month. You will be reaping the rewards of your hard work, even though it may only be the good feeling that comes when you do your best. This is a rewarding day. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You gain new ideas through listening and helping others. It is easy for you to see which path is the right one for you. There are plenty of opportunities to grow and improve in any area you want. You may find yourself wanting and able to do almost everything. While success is important, don't go overboard—your friends and family may begin to forget who you are—just kidding. You could easily talk a loved one into being romanced this evening—dancing may be in order.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Now is the time to buckle down and concentrate on your career. Your directorial abilities and sense of responsibility will prove to be successful. Your career could assume a much more determined form—a firm foundation. You appear charming and sophisticated. Now could also be the best time to make that date, apply for a particular job or otherwise make yourself known. Ambition and achievement are qualities you hold in special regard. Progress in your professional life gains your recognition. You will enjoy your career and savor its rewards. A career in the category of coordinating events or conducting a well-coordinated party may involve catering, entertaining, etc. The social graces pave your path to success.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will be pleased at the progress you have made recently—just take a look! This is a satisfying day. You may feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Problems are valued for the lessons learned at this time. This afternoon there is an opportunity for some future planning to examine the changes you may want to make in your profession—changes are needed. This may mean that you will not want to change the company for which you work necessarily but you may want to change your position within the company. The climb up the corporate ladder can be fun and you are willing to do whatever it takes to make the bigger income. Related courses could find you quite enthusiastic to expand your education.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Other people, or the general circumstances in which you find yourself at present, may unite to call upon your imagination and your creative insights in a work session. If you included all the people around you in solving particular work difficulties you could find that there is more than one answer. Now what you have to do is find an acceptable answer that will be pleasing and have financially favorable results. Today is the challenge you have been waiting for that will give you the opportunity to be acknowledged and appreciated. An authority figure could be hard to connect with now—wait awhile. You will benefit from diagnostic insights and getting to the heart of things—penetrating. There is an opportunity to become fully absorbed in a romantic evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Remember—when you get into a battle of wills, it is time to regroup, rethink, look for the motivating factor and deal with it instead of the surface tension. The battle of wills is also an indication that someone is taking the small things in life much too seriously. This day does turn into a gratifying one and will afford you the opportunity to correct any negative thinking. This is a great time to understand your own situation, just how you feel about yourself. Emotions and feelings, whether they are yours or someone else's, may be very clear now. The energies to gain attention and support for what you want to accomplish are strong. You will certainly feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others. This is a good day and much is accomplished.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Extra effort put forth in your career brings greater satisfaction and definitely can gain the attention of those who can influence your success. Beginning new projects or programs now will be favorable at this time. Special interest groups or professional associations provide excellent support, although you must take an active part to profit from the situation. Romance is what you yearn for now. We're not talking just lukewarm. Passion and jealousy may present you with some experiences if you allow it—careful. Break away from habits or attitudes that undermine your happiness. Get rid of any negative energy so that you make good choices. . . Perhaps through reading a romantic book, taking in a movie or some form of exercise.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This could be a tough day to solve problems or to look for insights. You may feel that your independence is stifled or just not available to you at this time. Being on the go and keeping in tune with the changes that happen all over the world keep you in touch. You are not fond of delays but that is what much of today is about; easy does it. This energy will pass and communication and delays will be corrected. If you think about what you want to say first, your communication to others can be very clear. You have a lot of energy and may come across as one that can be in control. This is a period of great mental activity. Changes in the neighborhood inspire you. Perhaps dinner away from home would be the best choice of activity tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A higher-up is keeping up with your career and may be of great help to you in your profession. This is a real time to bring a focus into your career. Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a much more determined and solid form—a firm foundation. You may find that there is an increasing need to change the way you appear to others in the business world—perhaps a new suit is in order. This is a good time to purchase, select colors, etc. Circumstances may stimulate appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your systems of values deepen, providing you with discrimination.

COUNTRY CODES

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

TV LISTINGS

OWN MOVIES
ACTION

01:40 Independents' Day
03:15 Virtual Revolution
04:50 Grosse Pointe Blank
06:40 Insurgent
08:40 Mission To Mars
10:30 Diggstown
12:10 War Of The Worlds
14:05 Insurgent
16:05 The Viral Factor
18:05 I Am Number Four
19:55 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
22:10 Jason Bourne

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Dark Days In Monkey City
03:00 Dark Days In Monkey City
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 Whale Wars
05:02 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Night
07:25 Dark Days In Monkey City
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Rugged Justice
10:05 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
11:00 Dark Days In Monkey City
11:28 Dark Days In Monkey City
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 Whale Wars
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Wild Animal Rescue
18:20 Dogs 101: New Tricks
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Dark Days In Monkey City
20:38 Dark Days In Monkey City
21:05 Wild Animal Rescue
22:00 Dogs 101: New Tricks
22:28 Dogs 101: New Tricks
22:55 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
23:50 Lone Star Law

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Lip Sync Battle
00:30 Lip Sync Battle
00:55 Idiotsitter
01:20 The Half Hour
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The President Show
03:25 Live At The Apollo
04:15 Urban Tarzan
04:40 Framework
05:30 Coaching Bad
06:20 Disaster Date
06:50 Disaster Date
07:15 Disaster Date
07:40 Disaster Date
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Tosh.0
08:55 Tosh.0
09:20 Tosh.0
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Idiotsitter
11:00 Idiotsitter
11:25 Idiotsitter
11:50 Idiotsitter
12:15 Idiotsitter
12:40 Impractical Jokers VIII - Fan-Tastic Countdown
13:05 Impractical Jokers IX Special - All Aboard Special
13:30 Catch A Contractor
14:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
14:45 Ridiculousness Arabia
15:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
15:35 Framework
16:30 Lip Sync Battle
16:55 Lip Sync Battle
17:20 Impractical Jokers
17:45 Impractical Jokers
18:10 Impractical Jokers
19:00 Impractical Jokers
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Detroiters
20:12 Workaholics
20:35 Idiotsitter
21:00 The President Show
21:30 South Park
22:00 Hannibal Buress: Animal Furnace
22:50 Lip Sync Battle
23:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
23:40 The President Show

BBC FIRST

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

crime investigation network

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

04:00 The First 48
05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 The First 48
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Monster In My Family
23:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover

ID

00:30 Ghost Asylum
01:20 I Am Homicide
02:10 The Perfect Murder
03:00 Disappeared
03:48 Disappeared
04:36 California Investigator
05:01 California Investigator
05:24 I Almost Got Away With It
06:12 Beauty Queen Murders
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 California Investigator
08:15 California Investigator
08:40 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 Beauty Queen Murders
10:20 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
11:10 Murder Calls
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 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
16:10 Reasonable Doubt
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 California Investigator
18:15 California Investigator
18:40 I Almost Got Away With It
19:30 Beauty Queen Murders
20:20 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
21:00 Grave Secrets
22:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
22:50 Evil Lives Here
23:40 Ghost Brothers

Discovery Family

00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 Space Dealers
02:10 Mermaids: The New Evidence
03:00 Ultimate Survival
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 The Carbonaro Effect
11:35 The Carbonaro Effect
12:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
12:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand

12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 The Carbonaro Effect
17:25 The Carbonaro Effect
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:40 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 The Carbonaro Effect
21:35 The Carbonaro Effect
22:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Storm Chasers

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 Puppy Dog Pals
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 Puppy Dog Pals
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 Puppy Dog Pals
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
20:45 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

Discovery Channel

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 Jesse
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 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
09:25 Lolirock
09:50 Lolirock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

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 Invisible Sister
17:45 Girl Meets World
18:10 The Zhuzhus
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracked
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 Sunny Bunnies
21:05 Descendants 2
22:55 Rolling With The Ronks
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney XD

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

Discovery Channel

00:20 Street Customs Berlin
01:05 What On Earth?
01:50 So You Think You'd Survive?

02:35 Supertruckers
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Deadliest Job Interview
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Strip The City
06:45 Abandoned Engineering
07:30 Sean Conway - Running Britain
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 Strip The City
09:45 Boy To Man
10:30 Garage Gold
11:00 How Do They Do It?
11:25 How Do They Do It?
11:50 How Do They Do It?
12:17 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Street Outlaws
13:37 Carspotting
14:27 Street Outlaws: New Orleans (Season 1b Specials)
15:17 Street Customs Berlin
16:07 Street Customs Berlin
16:57 Street Customs Berlin
17:47 Misfit Garage
18:32 Misfit Garage
19:20 Street Customs Berlin
20:10 Misfit Garage
21:00 Street Outlaws
21:50 Carspotting
22:40 Misfit Garage
23:30 Deadliest Catch

food

00:00 Siba's Table
00:30 Siba's Table
01:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
01:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
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
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Halloween Wars
20:00 Extreme Cake Wars
21:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped


EHD

00:05 Botched
01:00 Botched
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:10 Botched
10:10 Botched
11:05 Botched
12:00 E! News

itv CHOICE

00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Jekyll And Hyde
04:20 Jekyll And Hyde
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Guess This House
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Jekyll And Hyde
09:00 Jekyll And Hyde
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Britain's Spending Secrets
17:00 It's Not Rocket Science
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Britain's Spending Secrets
22:00 It's Not Rocket Science
22:50 Emmerdale

TV LISTINGS



00:00 Decoding The Past
01:00 Weapons At War
02:00 In Search Of Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Heroes Of War
05:20 Decoding The Past
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Weapons At War
08:00 In Search Of Aliens
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Engineering Disasters
12:00 Decoding The Past
13:00 Weapons At War
14:00 In Search Of Aliens
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Decoding The Past
19:00 Weapons At War
20:00 In Search Of Aliens
21:00 Missing In Alaska
22:00 Monster Quest
23:00 Heroes Of War



00:20 The Warfighters
01:10 Mystery Pickers
02:00 Mountain Men
02:45 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Hunting Hitler
06:50 Time Team
07:40 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
08:30 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
09:20 Swamp People
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 Mystery Pickers
12:40 American Restoration
13:30 Pawn Stars South Africa
13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
14:20 Pawn Stars
14:45 Pawn Stars
15:10 Counting Cars
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Alone: Lost And Found
16:50 Alone
17:40 Alone
18:30 Leepu And Pitbull
19:20 Car Nation
21:00 American Pickers
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Storage Wars
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald



00:45 Route Awakening
01:10 Rustic Adventures Italy
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Places We Go
02:35 Route Awakening
03:00 Route Awakening
03:30 Around The World In 80 Dishes
04:25 Bangkok Airport
05:20 Carnival Eats
05:45 Eat Street
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Places We Go
08:05 Route Awakening
08:30 Route Awakening
09:00 Around The World In 80 Dishes
09:55 Bangkok Airport
10:50 Carnival Eats
11:15 Eat Street
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Places We Go
13:05 Places We Go
13:35 Home Strange Home
14:30 Home Strange Home
15:25 Around The World In 80 Dishes
16:20 Carnival Eats
16:45 Eat Street
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 Around The World In 80 Dishes
20:00 Carnival Eats
20:30 Eat Street



21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Places We Go
23:20 Places We Go
23:50 Home Strange Home

00:10 Mega Factories
01:00 Nazi Megastructures
02:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
03:00 Innovation Nation
03:30 Innovation Nation
04:00 Mega Factories
05:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
06:00 The Food Files
06:30 The Food Files
07:00 I Am Rebel
08:00 Seconds From Disaster
08:30 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
09:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
10:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
11:00 Hard Time
12:00 Future China 2049
13:00 The Food Files
13:30 The Food Files
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
14:30 Seconds From Disaster
15:00 I Am Rebel
16:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
17:00 Hard Time
18:00 Taboo Compilations
19:00 I Am Rebel
20:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
20:50 Hard Time
21:40 Taboo Compilations
22:30 I Am Rebel
23:20 The Food Files
23:45 The Food Files



00:20 The Jungle King Compilation
01:10 Safari Brothers
02:00 Hyena Queen
02:50 Wild 24
03:45 Wild Case Files
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Hyena Queen
06:30 Wild 24
07:25 Wild Case Files
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Wild Colombia (1x60 Cutdown)
11:05 Walking With Giraffes
12:00 Orca Killing School
12:55 Tiger On The Run
13:50 Wild 24
14:45 Wild Case Files
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Wild Thailand (2015)
18:25 The Last Orangutan Eden
19:20 Wild Case Files
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Wild Thailand (2015)
22:40 The Last Orangutan Eden
23:30 Orca Killing School



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before

High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Legends Of The Hidden Temple
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 Henry Danger
15:24 Henry Danger
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Game Shakers
18:12 Game Shakers
18:36 Game Shakers
19:00 Game Shakers
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:35 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
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18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
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19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine



01:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
02:35 The Odd Life Of Timothy Green
04:20 Eight Below
06:20 Tarzan
07:50 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
09:25 Mary Poppins
11:45 Eight Below
13:45 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure
15:10 Cars
17:15 White Fang
19:10 White Fang 2: Myth Of The White Wolf
21:05 Tuck Everlasting
22:45 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure



01:15 Hot Pursuit
02:55 Perfect Match
04:30 Meet Dave
06:10 Big Momma's House
08:00 Other Plans
09:40 Meet Dave
11:25 Big Momma's House
13:15 Other Plans
14:55 Wayne's World 2
16:40 Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks
18:30 Big Momma's House 2
20:10 Guess Who
22:00 Vacation
23:00 The Night Before



00:25 The Birdcage
02:30 Suffragette
04:25 My Old Lady
06:20 5 Flights Up
08:00 An Inconvenient Truth
09:45 The Manchurian Candidate
11:55 Suffragette
13:50 A Birder's Guide To Everything
15:20 Roger Waters: The Wall
17:30 The Best Of Me
19:35 What's Love Got To Do With It
21:45 Stand By Me
23:25 JFK




00:40 Get Squirrelly
02:10 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
03:30 Catcher: Cat City 2
05:05 The Secret Of Kells
06:30 Funny Little Cars
07:35 The Emperor's Secret
09:10 Mia And The Migoo
10:50 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
12:35 Get Squirrelly
14:05 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
15:25 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
16:40 Mia And The Migoo
18:20 Legend Of The Sea

19:45 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
21:25 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
22:40 The Emperor's Secret



02:30 The Internship
04:30 Chloe And Theo
05:55 The Horse Whisperer
08:45 The Bad News Bears
10:40 Baby Mama
12:20 Rocky II
14:20 The Core
16:45 Changeling
19:10 Jurassic World
21:15 Lucy
22:50 Sex And The City The Movie



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 How We Invented The World
03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 How We Invented The World
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 How We Invented The World
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Food Factory USA
11:02 Food Factory USA
11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 How We Invented The World
14:38 Da Vinci's Machines
15:26 Food Factory USA
15:50 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 How We Invented The World
17:50 Da Vinci's Machines
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 You Have Been Warned
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 How We Invented The World
22:00 You Have Been Warned
22:50 Da Vinci's Machines
23:40 Mythbusters



01:15 What Just Happened
03:00 When In Rome
04:30 02:22
06:15 Teaching Mrs Tingle
08:00 Dom Hemingway
09:50 The English Patient
12:25 Frailty
14:00 What Just Happened
15:40 Ali
18:05 Kate & Leopold
20:00 Cloud Atlas
22:45 Jane Eyre



00:00 The Fashion Fund
01:00 The Fashion Fund
02:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
02:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
03:00 Fashion Star
04:00 Three
05:00 MAFS: The First Year
06:00 The Fashion Fund
07:00 The Fashion Fund
08:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
08:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
09:00 Fashion Star
10:00 Three
11:00 MAFS: The First Year
12:00 The Fashion Fund
13:00 The Fashion Fund
14:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
14:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
15:00 Fashion Star

16:00 Three
17:00 Mistresses
18:00 Project Runway
19:00 Project Runway
20:00 Fashion StartUp
21:00 Grey's Anatomy
22:00 Grey's Anatomy
23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Sister Wives
06:45 Sister Wives
07:30 Sister Wives
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
10:55 Love At First Swipe
11:17 Love At First Swipe
11:40 Love At First Swipe
12:02 Love At First Swipe
12:25 Love At First Swipe
12:47 Love At First Swipe
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 The Undateables
18:50 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
23:30 Return To Amish



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

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Volleyball

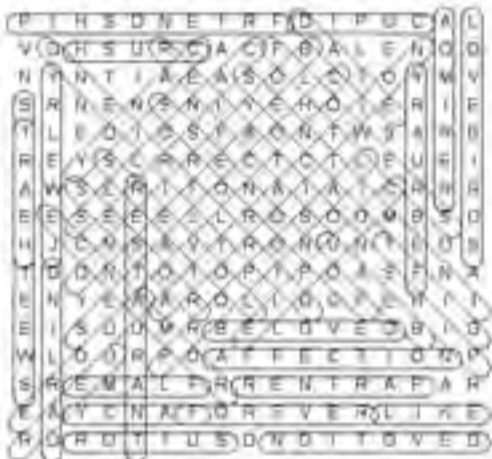
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 39 letters spell a secret message.



- APPROACH
- ASSIST
- ATTACK
- BLOCKING
- BUMP
- CAPTAIN
- COACH
- EDDIE
- OFFENSE
- DOUBLE HIT
- DUMP
- FAULT
- FLATER
- FOOTWORK
- FORMATION
- FOUL
- GAME
- HITTER
- KILL
- KNEE PACE
- LIBERO
- MATCH
- OFFENSE
- PASS
- PLAYERS
- POINTS
- QUICK HIT
- RALLY
- REFeree
- ROTATION
- SAVE
- SCORE
- SETS
- SETTER
- SHANK
- SHOT
- SIDELINES
- SIDE OUT
- SKY BALL
- SLIDE
- SPONGE
- SPOT
- SUBSTITUTION
- TANDem
- TEAMS
- TOPSPIN
- TRAJECTORY
- VERTICAL JUMP
- WEAK SIDE
- WIDE

Yesterday's Solution

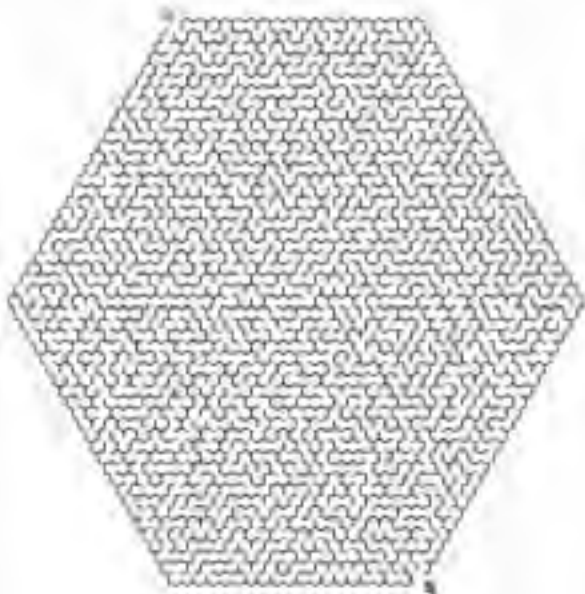
Valentine's Day



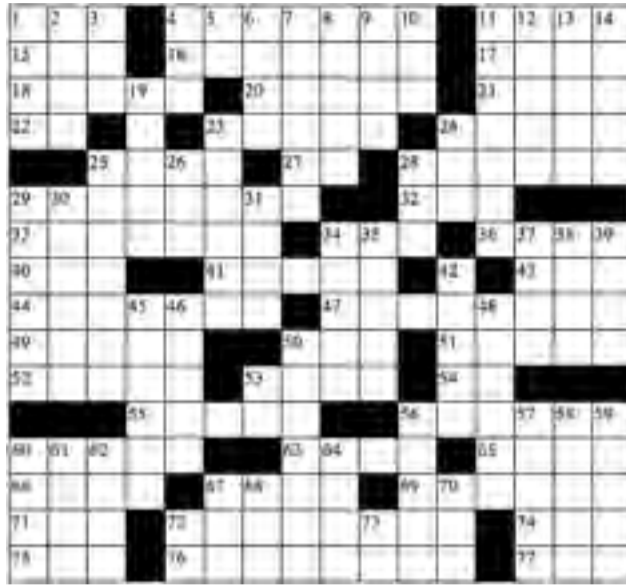
- NONSENSE
- SCORE
- AFFECTION
- ATTRACTION
- BEAU
- BELOVED
- BOYFRIEND
- CANDLES
- CANDY
- CHOCOLATES
- COURT
- CRUSH
- CLIPS
- DARLING
- DATE
- DEAR
- DEVOTION
- FANCY
- FEBRUARY
- FLAME
- FLOWERS
- FONDNESS
- FOREVER
- FRIENDSHIP
- GIFT
- HEARTS
- SEWERY
- LOVE LETTERS
- LOVERS
- PARTNER
- PROPOSAL
- RELATIONSHIP
- RESTAURANT
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SENTIMENT
- SUITOR
- SWEETHEART

The hidden message is: VALENTINE'S DAY CARD

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1734



ACROSS

- 1. A human limb.
- 4. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
- 11. Upright consisting of a vertical side member of a door or window frame.
- 15. The airforce of Great Britain.
- 16. A yellow viscous animal oil extracted from wool.
- 17. Absent without permission.
- 18. Squash bugs.
- 20. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- 21. The work of caring for or attending to someone or something.
- 22. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 27. Before noon.
- 29. A vain and talkative person (chatters like a parrot).
- 32. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- 33. Relating to or characteristic of an apogee.
- 36. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
- 40. A wooden pin pushed or driven into a surface.
- 41. Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
- 43. Nocturnal mouse-like mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
- 44. A habitual liar (after a New Testament character who was struck dead for lying).
- 47. A flammable hydrocarbon oil used as fuel in lamps and heaters.
- 49. A republic on the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula on the Indian Ocean.
- 51. A woman of refinement.
- 52. Of or relating to the former Indo-European people.
- 54. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- 55. (archaic) The emperor of Japan.
- 60. Having or showing keen interest or intense desire or impatient expectancy.
- 63. Fertility goddess in ancient Greek mythology.
- 65. Advanced in years.
- 66. The act of scanning.
- 69. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- 71. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- 74. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- 75. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- 76. (anatomy) Of or related to an ampulla.
- 77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

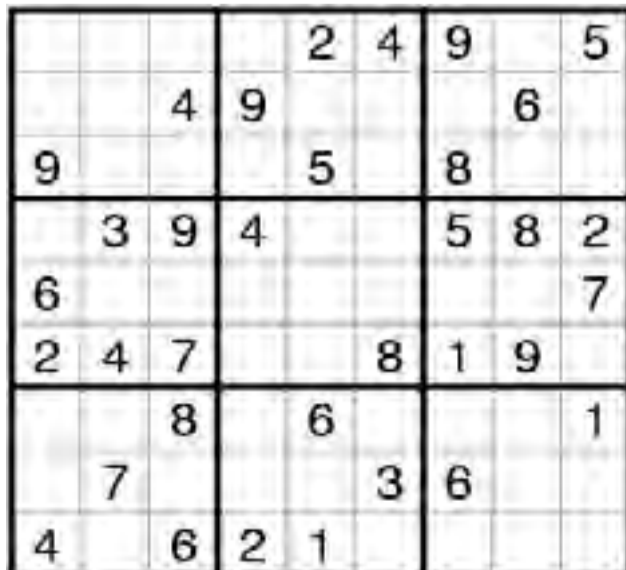
- 1. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 2. Type genus of the Ranidae.
- 3. A master's degree in fine arts.

- 4. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 5. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- 6. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- 7. A city in western India just off the coast of the Arabian Sea.
- 8. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
- 9. Tropical Asian starlings.
- 10. Black tropical American cuckoo.
- 11. Common black-and-gray Eurasian bird noted for thievery.
- 12. (sometimes followed by 'of') Having or showing realization or perception.
- 13. A person of subnormal intelligence.
- 14. An occurrence of thorough mixing.
- 19. Small branch or division of a branch.
- 23. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
- 24. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- 25. (botany) Development of an embryo without fertilization.
- 26. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
- 28. A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
- 30. The first event in a series.
- 31. Type genus of the Anatidae.
- 34. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
- 35. A person of unquestioning obedience.
- 37. In bed.
- 38. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 39. A distinct part that can be specified separately in a group of things that could be enumerated on a list.
- 42. A city in southern Malawi.
- 45. Put (things or places) in order.
- 46. Located inward.
- 48. Of or relating to or near the sacrum.
- 50. United States writer and social critic (1817-1862).
- 53. An associate degree in nursing.
- 56. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- 57. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 58. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 59. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- 61. A book of the New Testament.
- 62. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- 64. A set of tags and rules (conforming to SGML) for using them in developing hypertext documents.
- 67. A barrier constructed to contain the flow of water or to keep out the sea.
- 68. A transuranic element that has not been found in nature.
- 70. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 72. An informal term for a father.
- 73. Being nine more than forty.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Health

Judge won't order officials to allow abortion for immigrant

SAN FRANCISCO: A federal judge in San Francisco said Wednesday that the government cannot prevent a pregnant 17-year-old at a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children from getting an abortion, but declined to issue an order that would bar federal officials from interfering in the girl's access to the procedure.

US Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler said the legal challenge on behalf of the girl by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California was not filed in the right court. The ruling allows the girl's attorneys to file a new lawsuit seeking the same order in another federal court district. A lawyer for the US Department of Justice, Peter Phipps, said at a hearing Wednesday that the government might propose having Jane Doe's case heard in Texas or Washington, DC.

Brigitte Amiri, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU, said the group hadn't decided its next step, but would continue to fight for the girl's right to an abortion. "A first-year law student understands that it is unconstitutional for the government to ban abortion," she said. "The legal claim is pretty straightforward." The ACLU says the US Department of Health and Human Services is refusing to let the girl be taken for an abortion. The girl may be up to 14 weeks' pregnant, Rochelle Garza, a lawyer appointed to represent the girl's legal interests, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Texas law prohibits most abortions after 20 weeks.

No justification

In her ruling, Beeler said there was "no justification" for restricting the girl's access to an abortion. "The government may not want to facilitate abortion," Beeler wrote. "But it cannot block it. It is doing that here."

Beeler, however, said the girl's legal challenge belonged in a new lawsuit, noting that the girl - identified only as Jane Doe - was in Texas, not in Northern California. The ACLU had sought to amend an existing lawsuit pending before Beeler to include Jane Doe's case.

US lawyers representing HHS argued against that, saying the original lawsuit claimed the agency was violating the Constitution by allowing religious groups to refuse access to abortion. In this case, government lawyers said the 17-year-old was not being held in a facility with a religious affiliation.

Unaccompanied Central American children apprehended at the US-Mexico border are generally turned over to facilities run by private operators on behalf of HHS, and many facilities are affiliated with religious organizations that oppose abortion. HHS said in statement that it was providing "excellent care" to the 17-year-old girl and her unborn child.

Garza said the teen is from Central America, like most people caught crossing the US-Mexico border without legal permission. She declined to give the girl's name or identify the specific country where she was from, citing the girl's privacy, but said that the girl wanted an

abortion in part because her parents had abused another sibling who was pregnant.

Judicial waiver

With Garza's help, the girl obtained a judicial waiver under a Texas law requiring a minor seeking an abortion to get consent from a parent. But staff at the facility where she's being held refused to take her to appointments or let the attorney take her, even though private groups that support abortion rights have raised money for the procedure, Garza said.

Instead, she was taken to a crisis pregnancy center. Such centers encourage pregnant women not to have an abortion. "I feel like they are trying to coerce me to carry my pregnancy to term," the girl said in a declaration filed in court last week.

Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a strident opponent of abortion rights, argued in a court filing that people in the US illegally without some type of established ties to the country do not have a "constitutional right to an abortion on demand."

A ruling in the girl's favor would "will create a right to abortion for anyone on earth who enters the US illegally," Paxton said in a statement. "And with that right, countless others undoubtedly would follow. Texas must not become a sanctuary state for abortions." Paxton was joined in filing the brief by the attorneys general of Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. —AP

Asteroid grazes past Earth in 'critical' rehearsal

PARIS: A house-sized asteroid grazed past Earth yesterday, passing harmlessly inside the Moon's orbit, as predicted, to give experts a rare opportunity to rehearse for a real strike threat in future. Dubbed 2012 TC4, the object's passing allowed scientists to practice spotting incoming objects, predicting their size and trajectory, and tracking their passage with a global network of telescopes and radars.

"We pretended that this was a critical object and exercised our communication," said Detlef Koschny of the European Space Agency's Near-Earth Object program. The trial run was "a big success," he said, despite some instruments not working as planned. A radar system in Puerto Rico, for example, was out of service due to damage from the recent hurricane there. "This is exactly why we do this exercise, to not be surprised by these things," Koschny told AFP. The asteroid flitted past around 0541 GMT at less than 44,000 kilometers (27,300 miles) from Earth's surface—just above the 36,000 km plane at which hundreds of geosynchronous satellites orbit our planet.

This was about an eighth of the distance between the Earth and the Moon. Scientists had predicted that TC4 was between 10 and 30 meters (33-99 feet) wide. In the end, it measured some 10-12 meters—the smaller end of the range. "This means it must be very bright," to make it appear bigger, said Koschny. Observations also revealed that TC4 spins around its axis in about 12 minutes, "which is quite fast."

When it comes back

The asteroid was about half the size of the meteoroid that exploded in the atmosphere over Chelyabinsk in central Russia in 2013 with the kinetic energy of 30 Hiroshima atom bombs. The resulting shockwave blew out the windows of nearly 5,000 buildings and injured more than 1,200 people. While the Chelyabinsk event caught everyone unawares, TC4 is one of thousands of space rocks whose whereabouts are known. — AFP

CLINIC

PAGE





248 33 199





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Kuwait Times Classified

Friday, October 13, 2017

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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 12/10/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 25 °C

By Night: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h.
By Day: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	Hot and causing rising dust
Min Temp °C	25	25	23	24
Max Temp °C	38	38	38	37
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	northerly to variable	south easterly to variable	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 38	06 - 26	10 - 32	20 - 45

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

Warnings & Weather Watches
 no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	26	36
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25	36
ABDALY	22	36
BUBYAN	23	35
JAHRA	25	36
FALAKA ISLAND	26	35
SALMIYAH	26	33
AHMADI	27	32
JAL ALIYAH	21	35
QAROH ISLAND	29	33
UMM AL-MARADIM	29	32
NUWAISIB	25	34
WAFRA	23	35
SALMIY	21	34
MUTRIBA	21	36

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	38
Min Temp (°C)	25
Max Rel Hum (%)	38
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:48
Sunset	17:20

Tomorrow Prayer Times

Fajr	04:29
Sunrise	05:48
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:52
Sunset	17:20
Isha	18:37

ACCOMMODATION

One room available in C-A/C flat from 25-10-2017, Airport road, Khaitan, for couple/working lady. Contact: 51614467. (C 5348) 12-10-2017

EMERGENCY

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

Kuwait Times
 Get your news any way you want it
 Kuwait Times is the top daily in the Arabian Gulf providing all the news and information on business, politics, health, sports and entertainment in Kuwait.

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

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

Business

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39 US producer prices increase; weekly jobless claims drop



40 With French down on strikes, Macron reforms get easier ride



41 IMF sounds alert over debt in largest economies



BRUSSELS: British cartoonist Madeleine Kay, an anti-Brexit activist wearing a costume of Superwoman, speaks to journalists as she tries to attend a press conference.—AFP

Brexit talks in deadlock on cash

Barnier rules out trade talks anytime now

BRUSSELS: Brexit talks are deadlocked over money, the EU's Michel Barnier said yesterday as he ruled out discussions on future trade being launched by EU leaders next week but spoke of possible progress by December. Barnier and his British counterpart, Brexit Secretary David Davis, told reporters there had been some progress this week on the other two issues around Britain's March 2019 withdrawal from the bloc on which the EU demands "sufficient progress" before it will agree to discuss a transition and future relationship.

Davis renewed his call for EU leaders to give a green light to those talks when they meet Prime Minister Theresa May at an EU summit in Brussels next Thursday. Barnier made clear, however, that despite new momentum from concessions given by May in a speech at Florence last month 22, British proposals on expatriate citizens' rights and the Irish border still failed the EU test, while London's refusal to spell out a detailed cash offer was "very worrying" for business.

May said Britain would ensure the other 27 countries did not lose out financially from Brexit in the current EU budget

period to 2020 and would honor commitments—but Barnier said London was failing to spell out just what it was ready to pay. "Regarding that question, we are at an impasse, which is very worrying for thousands of projects everywhere in Europe and also worrying for those who contribute," he said.

Nonetheless, he offered hope: "I am still convinced that, with political will, decisive progress is within reach in the coming two months. With David Davis, we will organize several negotiating meetings between now and the end of the year." With signs that nerves are fraying on both sides and some hardline Brexit supporters demanding that May just walk out of talks, both negotiators repeated that they were ready for any eventuality including a collapse. But, Barnier warned, "no deal would be a very bad deal".

Progress on transition, future ties

Residence rights

Davis announced a "streamlined" new system for the 3 million EU citizens in Britain to claim residence rights, answering EU concerns, and said he expected good further progress on other issues. Barnier repeated that Brussels stills wants them



BRUSSELS: European Union Chief Negotiator in charge of Brexit negotiations with Britain Michel Barnier gestures in Brussels yesterday.—AFP

to have recourse to EU judges to safeguard their rights and said there were still differences on rights for future family members. A British demand for its million or so citizens on the continent to have lifetime rights to move to any of the bloc's 27 countries after Brexit is held up by doubts among the member states. Barnier said those are rights to do with post-Brexit decisions and should be dealt with in the next phase of talks. "I make no secret of the fact that to provide certainty we must talk about the future," Davis said, stressing his demand for trade talks. "I hope the leaders of the 27 will provide Michel with the means to explore ways forward with us on that." — Reuters

Business

Evergrande boss is wealthiest as China's rich get richer

Xu Jiayin's \$43 billion fortune catapults him to top

SHANGHAI: The net worth of China's ultra-rich surged this year with Evergrande real estate mogul Xu Jiayin's \$43 billion fortune catapulting him to the top, a survey released yesterday said.

An all-time high 2,130 people made the annual ranking of China's richest individuals compiled by Shanghai-based luxury magazine publisher Hurun Report, which lists all those in China with a net worth of \$300 million or more. An additional 74 people made the list this year, Hurun Report said, adding that the size of the average fortune rose 12.5 percent to \$1.2 billion while those in the elite 100 saw their values surge 60 percent.

But not everyone fared so well, with last year's richest person Wang Jianlin, the head of conglomerate Wanda, tumbling to fifth. Wang's estimated wealth was slashed by a third to \$28 billion after authorities began targeting his sprawling business empire over worries of excessive debt from an overseas acquisition binge. Xu's net worth nearly tripled over the past year as shares of Evergrande, one of China's biggest real estate developers,

zoomed around 450 percent. The 59-year-old Xu moved up nine places. He was followed by Pony Ma, head of communications giant Tencent, which owns China's ubiquitous social networking app WeChat.

The 46-year-old Ma's worth grew 52 percent to \$37 billion after Tencent shares nearly doubled this year, allowing him to overtake last year's No. 2, Jack Ma of e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Alibaba's Ma slipped to third with a worth of \$30 billion, down two percent due largely to a major reduction in his ownership share of affiliate Ant Financial, which operates popular Chinese online payment system Alipay, Hurun Report said.

In a testament to Alibaba's growing e-commerce dominance, 43 individuals from Alibaba or Ant Financial made the list. Concerns over China's slowing economic growth have eased this year as GDP continued to expand at a steady pace, while some sectors such as real estate, manufacturing, and internet-related businesses boom, with their share prices soaring.

"This year we found more than 2,000 individuals with \$300 million, double that of five years ago and four times that of ten years ago," said Rupert Hoogewerf, chairman and chief researcher of Hurun Report. Among the biggest movers were Wang Wei, head of delivery firm SF Express, which has thrived amid China's e-commerce boom.

Wang, 47, wasn't even on the list previously but the firm's IPO early this year launched him to number six at \$22 billion. Moving in the other direction was Jia Yueting, founder of troubled conglomerate LeEco, which has run into deep supply chain and cash-flow problems after expanding too fast into a range of high-tech industries.

Jia plummeted all the way from 31st down to 1,978th—this year's biggest fall—to a net worth of \$300 million.

China's Top Ten

- 1 Xu Jiayin (Evergrande) \$43bn
- 2 Pony Ma (Tencent) \$37bn
- 3 Jack Ma (Alibaba) & family \$30bn
- 4 Yang Huiyan (Country Garden) \$24bn
- 5 Wang Jianlin (Wanda Group) & family \$23bn
- 6 Wang Wei (SF Express) \$22bn
- 7 Robin Li & Melissa Ma (Baidu) \$19bn
- 8 Yan Hao (China Pacific Construction) & family \$17bn



In this June 12, 2015 photo, Evergrande China founder Xu Jiayin attends a news conference for the Guangzhou Evergrande soccer team in Guangzhou in southern China's Guangdong Province. —AP

- 8 He Xiangjian & He Jianfeng (Midea) \$17bn
- 10 Ding Lei (Netease) \$16bn
- 10 Li Shufu & Li Xingxing (Geely) \$16bn —AFP

UK ask regulator to set price cap to mend 'broken energy market'

LONDON: The British government put some flesh on its plans to cap consumer gas and electricity prices for millions of households, ordering the industry regulator yesterday to come up with curbs that will initially last until 2020. Prime Minister Theresa May first proposed a price cap on the energy sector earlier this year, the biggest market intervention since its privatization almost 30 years ago. She said her center-right government was trying to fix a market that punishes customers for their loyalty to a supplier. Her announcement last week that the plan would go ahead initially wiped more than 900 million pounds (\$1.2 billion) off the value of the two British listed companies Centrica and SSE alone.

"I have been clear that our broken energy market has to change - it has to offer fairer prices for millions of loyal customers who have been paying hundreds of pounds too much," May said yesterday.

The draft bill published yesterday said the price cap would initially last until 2020, with the potential to be extended by up to three years if needed. But, it gave no precise detail for businesses keen to see how much it would cost them, other than to say it would be an absolute price cap, as opposed to a relative one based on the

difference between the cheapest and most expensive tariff. Ofgem will set the terms. Britain's energy market is dominated by the so-called big six providers—Centrica's British Gas, SSE, Iberdrola's Scottish Power, Innogy's npower, E.ON and EDF Energy, which account for about 85 percent of the retail electricity market.

Shares in SSE added 1.5 percent by 1215 GMT on Thursday, while Centrica was up by 0.4 percent.

Rising costs

Energy bills have doubled in Britain over the past decade to an average of about 1,200 pounds (\$1,500) a year, putting the biggest providers in the sights of politicians. More than 18 million customer accounts in Britain are currently on a standard variable tariff (SVT) or other default tariffs. Many of these offer poor value to customers because they are priced higher than the fixed-rate deals available to consumers who actively seek them out. "This draft bill ... requires Ofgem to modify the standard license conditions for gas and electricity suppliers, so as to include conditions that impose a price cap for standard variable tariffs and default tariffs offered to domestic customers," explanatory notes accompanying the legislation said.

It set out exceptions covering tariffs already benefiting from protection and tariffs with environmental benefits. "Ofgem will work alongside Government to provide price protection to all standard tariff customers as soon as possible, if legislation is passed," an Ofgem spokeswoman said.

The cap is seen as a way to appeal to those voters who, after seven years of public spending cuts, are struggling with rising inflation and weak wage growth. —Reuters



COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan vendor waits for customers for dresses at a street market in Pamunuwa, a suburb of Colombo yesterday. —AFP

Business

US producer prices increase; weekly jobless claims drop

Boost to claims from Harvey and Irma continues to unwind

WASHINGTON: US producer prices rose in September as the price of gasoline recorded its biggest increase in more than two years amid hurricane-related production disruptions at oil refineries in Texas. Other data yesterday showed applications for unemployment benefits dropped to a more than one-month low last week as the boost to claims in Texas and Florida from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma continued to unwind.

While the storms impacted the data, there were signs of underlying strength in both wholesale inflation and the labor market, potentially leaving the Federal Reserve on track to raise interest rates again in December. The Labor

Department said its producer price index for final demand increased 0.4 percent last month after rising 0.2 percent in August. Wholesale prices were also lifted by an increase in the cost of services. In the 12 months through September, the PPI jumped 2.6 percent. That was the biggest gain since February 2012 and followed a 2.4 percent jump in August. Wholesale gasoline prices soared 10.9 percent in September after increasing 9.5 percent in August. The increase was the largest since May 2015 and accounted for two-thirds of the 0.7 percent rise in the price of goods. The Labor Department said higher energy prices were likely the result of "reduced refining capacity in the Gulf Coast area due to Hurricane Harvey."



Cost of health care services remain unchanged

It said Harvey and Irma, which devastated Florida, had "virtually" no impact on the collection of PPI data or survey response rates. Harvey and Irma, which struck in late August and early September, caused the economy to shed jobs last month for the first time in seven years.

The storms have also restrained consumer spending and undercut industrial production, homebuilding and home sales. Last month's gasoline-driven surge in the PPI, however, is likely to be temporary amid ample crude oil supplies. The US dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies after the data. Prices of US

Treasuries pared gains while US stock index futures were trading lower.

Core inflation firming

A key gauge of underlying producer price pressures that excludes food, energy and trade services rose 0.2 percent last month after a similar increase in August. The so-called core PPI increased 2.1 percent in the 12 months through September after climbing 1.9 percent in August. Inflation has remained relatively low, with the main measure tracked by the Fed retreating further below its 2 percent target in August. Price pressures remain benign despite the labor market nearing full employment, with the jobless rate at more than a 16-1/2-year low



WASHINGTON: In a Tuesday file photo, Kevin Moe, a Syngenta seed representative, holds an ear of sweet corn at one of the company's test sites near Pasco, Washington. The Labor Department reported on US producer price inflation in September. — AP

of 4.2 percent. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said that temporary factors such as one-off price cuts by wireless telephone companies are holding back inflation. Minutes of the Fed's Sept. 19-20 meeting published on Wednesday showed a vigorous debate among policymakers over inflation, with "several" expressing concern that "the persistence of low rates of inflation might imply that the underlying trend was running below 2 percent."

Despite tepid inflation, US financial markets have largely priced in a rate increase for

December. The Fed has increased borrowing costs twice this year. Last month, the cost of services increased 0.4 percent, driven by a rise in margins for final demand trade services, a measurement of changes in margins received by wholesalers and retailers. Services edged up 0.1 percent in August. The cost of healthcare services was unchanged after advancing 0.3 percent in August. Those costs feed into the Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding food and energy. — Reuters

JP Morgan 3Q profits rise, helped by consumer banking

NEW YORK: JPMorgan Chase & Co third-quarter profits rose 7 percent from a year earlier, as the bank was able to increase revenue in its consumer banking business even though the company saw a sizeable drop in trading revenue in the quarter.

The biggest bank by deposits and assets said Thursday that it earned a profit of \$6.73 billion, or \$1.76 per share, compared with \$6.29 billion, or \$1.58 a share, in the same period a year earlier. The results beat analysts' forecast of \$1.65 a share, according to FactSet.

JPMorgan's consumer bank was the driver of this quarter's growth, reporting a 16 percent rise in net income. The bank saw higher deposit and loan growth and higher revenue in its credit card division, which the bank has been expanding aggressively in the last year with a new high-end credit card known as Chase Sapphire Reserve. Charge-offs in that business have been creeping steadily higher for several quarters, however, and the bank had to set aside an additional \$223 million to cover potential losses. Despite the creep up in delinquencies, "the US consumer remains healthy," JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon said in a statement.

The bank was able to grow loans across the board in its consumer business: credit cards, business loans, auto loans as well as mortgages.

The gains in JPMorgan's consumer banking division were more than enough to make up for declines corporate and investment banking, its other major business. That division



NEW YORK: This file photo shows a Chase bank branch in New York. JPMorgan Chase & Co reported earnings yesterday. — AP

reported a 13 percent decline in profits from a year earlier, mostly due to lower trading revenues. Bond trading revenue was down 27 percent and stock trading revenue fell 4 percent, the bank said.

Stock and bond trading revenue has languished this year at major banks because markets have been relatively quiet. JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America and Goldman Sachs all saw trading revenue drop in the second quarter this year, and analysts have been anticipating another decline this quarter. JPMorgan's total revenue was \$26.2 billion on a managed basis, which was more than the \$25.19 billion that analysts had been looking for. The firm's return on common equity, a measure of how well a bank is performing, was 11 percent in the quarter, up from 10 percent a year earlier. Major banks like JPMorgan try to keep that metric above 10 percent.

JPMorgan's stock was down 24 cents in pre-market trading to \$96.60. It's up 12 percent this year. — AP

US raises fears that leaving NAFTA could hurt economy

WASHINGTON: The North American Free Trade Agreement is in its 23rd year. But there are growing doubts that it will survive through its 24th. President Donald Trump has threatened to withdraw from the agreement if he can't get what he wants in a renegotiation. But what he wants - from requiring that more auto production be made-in-America to shifting more government contracts to US companies - will likely be unacceptable to America's two NAFTA partners, Mexico and Canada.

Round 4 of NAFTA talks began Wednesday in Arlington, Virginia. In a sign of how contentious things could get, the countries extended the negotiations for two extra days, through Tuesday. "What is the administration going to do? Are they going to be patient and work through these things?" asks Phil Levy, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. "Or are they going to take this as a pretext and say, 'We tried negotiations; they failed. Now we need to blow this up?'" "Blowing up the deal appears to be Trump's favored choice. On the campaign trail, he called NAFTA a job-killing disaster. And in an interview with Forbes magazine published Tuesday, Trump said: "I happen to think that NAFTA will have to be terminated if we're going to make it good. Otherwise, I believe you can't negotiate a good deal." — AP

Business

With French down on strikes, Macron reforms get easier ride

Turnout for rallies to protest economic reforms down sharply

PARIS: There was a time when angry French workers could down tools and take to the streets en masse to force ministers to back down. But things have changed, making President Emmanuel Macron's job of pushing through labor reforms that much easier.

Barely 26,000 attended one Paris rally on Tuesday to protest against the reforms, a fraction of the hundreds of thousands who went on strike in the heyday of French industrial action freezing activity in swathes of the economy. French strikes are not what they used to be, reflecting a cooling in national attitude to union militancy plus a change in approach by Macron who flagged his reforms well in advance to union leaders who have in turn seen their powers decline. This means the 39-year-old former investment banker has the best opportunity in generations to overhaul France's labor laws in his strategy to invigorate the EU's second-largest economy.

"Fundamentally it is not a very strike-prone country anymore," said Bob Hancke, a labor relations expert at the London School of Economics. "In the mid-1990s, the joke was practically everyone had been a trade union member but no one ever stayed."

In 2015, companies in France lost 69 days to strikes per 1,000 workers. That was barely a fifth of what it was in the late 1990s and a far cry from the 1,000 days lost to strikes per 1,000 workers in the late 1980s. The decline

has accelerated since conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy passed a law in 2007 banning wildcat walkouts and forcing public transport unions to guarantee a minimum service during strikes. While it is possible that protests will gain momentum when Macron unveils more hard-hitting reforms over the next year, including changes to unemployment benefits and pensions, things have so far played in his favor.

Shift in power

Unionists and labor experts interviewed for this story said one critical factor is that big, nationwide strikes have achieved little for the average worker in the past two decades.

"Governments eventually realized they could just force things through," said Stephane Sirot, a professor at the Cergy-Pontoise university. An important point came in 2003, when a mass public-sector protest against pension reform failed to convince the government to budge, he said.

The last significant nationwide success enjoyed by unions was in 1995, when weeks of protests, also over pension reform, virtually brought the economy to a halt. Since those strikes, which forced newly elected President Jacques Chirac to yield, major standoffs with successive governments have had mixed results.

"That's the main difficulty for unions," said Sirot. "They don't win anymore." Taking part

French cool to union militancy



PARIS: French president Emmanuel Macron (left) gestures as French Force Ouvriere (FO) labor union General Secretary Jean-Claude Mailly leaves the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday after a meeting for talks on professional training, apprenticeship and universalisation of unemployment insurance as part of the labor law reforms. —AFP

in a march in Paris against Macron's reforms on Tuesday, Sarah, an activist for 20 years in the Sud Nettoyage cleaners' union, said it was harder to get colleagues to strike. "Many have been demotivated," she said. "With their heart they are with us but it's more difficult to mobilize them," she said, adding that the young were particularly ambivalent about the effectiveness of strikes and street protests.

Around 10 percent of French workers are unionized, according to labor ministry data, with the average member more likely to be older and with a permanent job.

At the same protest rally in Paris on Tuesday, Marie-Josée da Silva, a 49-year old hospital care-worker, said she was marching on principle rather than out of any real hope that the rally would convince the government to change course. Tuesday's strike shut down some French schools and led to about a third of flights being cancelled at some airports but overall disruption was minimal. A lack of unity among unions also dented protests against Macron's reforms, with many voters saying they believe the changes are vital to restore the health of the French economy. — Reuters

Deutsche Telekom premiers Europe's first 5G antennas

BERLIN: Deutsche Telekom tested Europe's first ultra-high speed 5G antennas in a real world setting yesterday, a milestone in the race to provide the fast response times needed for virtual reality and autonomous driving. Europe's biggest telecoms provider said showed it was ready for a global launch of the technology by 2020, but it still leaves the continent lagging behind South Korea and Japan.

Telekom said it was the first use of the technology in a real world setting in Europe, with speeds of more than 2 gigabits per second to a customer device, as well as a latency of 3 milliseconds on commercial sites. 5G networks, which are expected to provide speeds some 10 to 100 times faster than today's 4G networks, should remove one of the main obstacles to virtual and augmented reality, which need fast response times to stop users feeling queasy. "This is a very decisive developmental step on the way to the global launch of 5G, which is planned for 2020," Telekom board member Claudia Nemat told an event in Berlin. "5G is so important for digitization and for the economy." — Reuters

Kobe Steel CEO warns of deepening quality scandal

TOKYO: The head of Japan's Kobe Steel warned yesterday that a quality control scandal engulfing his firm was likely to widen at home and abroad, as he acknowledged that trust in the steelmaker has "fallen to zero".

The comments came as a growing list of customers, including major automakers Toyota, Nissan and Honda, scramble to assess the safety of vehicles containing products supplied by the company, which has admitted falsifying quality data for products sold to some 200 clients.

The head of Japan's number three steelmaker said yesterday that his firm was checking with more Japanese clients as well as foreign buyers including General Motors.

"We deeply apologise," Hiroya Kawasaki told a press briefing as he bowed deeply—a common act of contrition for Japanese executives. "Trust in Kobe Steel has fallen to zero."

There were more "suspicious cases" that could hike the number of affected products, he added.

"There's a possibility that there will be new cases of wrongdoing," Kawasaki said. Kobe Steel's stock plunged by about 40 percent this week after the manufacturer on Sunday first admitted falsifying data linked to the strength and quality of products, a practice that may have started a decade ago.

It is the latest in a string of quality control and governance scandals to hit major Japanese businesses in recent years,



TOKYO: Kobe Steel President Hiroya Kawasaki (L) bows to economy, trade and industry officials during a meeting at the ministry in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

undermining the country's reputation for quality. The affected products include aluminium found in Japan's iconic bullet trains as well as materials in high-speed trains in Britain, although it is not clear whether the scandal affected product safety.

Japan's industry ministry has pressed Kobe Steel to work with its clients, spread over a wide range of industries, to conduct urgent safety analysis. On Wednesday, the firm admitted that it was in talks with one client who received steel powder that did not match specifications.

However, it declined to comment on a media report that materials used in semiconductors were also impacted by the scandal. Toyota has already said Kobe Steel supplied materials to one of its Japanese factories, which used them in hoods, rear doors and surrounding areas of certain vehicles. — AFP

Business

IMF sounds alert over debt in world's largest economies

Fund largely optimistic about global growth

WASHINGTON: For the first time in years the International Monetary Fund is optimistic about global economic growth. But it sees a new problem: mounting debt in the world's largest countries.

"Debt levels are increasing in G20 economies," Tobias Adrian, who heads the IMF's monetary and capital markets division, said Wednesday.

Among private businesses in those countries, leverage is higher than before the financial crisis.

And the weight of debt service has also jumped in several top economies, he noted. With central banks in the United States and Europe expected to tighten monetary conditions, he said,

"This poses greater risks over time from sharp increases in interest rates." Introducing the IMF's newest assessment of risk in the world's financial system, Adrian noted that the extremely low interest rates of the past several years have allowed countries to borrow easily to finance their rebound from recessions.

And recovery is not yet complete, he noted, saying low rates are still needed. At the same time, he said, "this environment is breeding complacency," with risks building on several fronts.

That is true especially for the super-

stars of the emerging economies like China, Brazil, and Turkey. China continues to fund growth with the expansion of credit, he noted, particularly "shadow" credit-lending outside the regulated banking system. Another side of the problem is the dependence of emerging market and lower-income economies on external funding, especially portfolio investment inflows.

Around \$300 billion in such funds will flow into these countries in 2017, supporting their growth.

"This is broadly good news," said Adrian. "But this greater reliance on foreign borrowing may at some point become a vulnerability, particularly for low-income

countries, if those resources are not put to good use."

Systemic risk?

That leaves such markets vulnerable to shocks like geopolitical turmoil and jumps in interest rates, which would increase the cost of debt, and could spark sharp outflows in portfolio investment.

Sonja Gibbs, of the Institute of International Finance, said emerging economies are on the whole better off than they were just a few years ago. Growth is stronger and many show other

Geopolitical crises, rate hikes pose risks



WASHINGTON: People pass by outside of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) building in Washington yesterday during the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings. —AP

fundamental economic strengths. However, she acknowledged, "there is a potential for problems."

"It's going to be a challenge especially when you move to a world where the Federal Reserve is going to raise US interest rates, global rates will rise, and debt service will rise."

At a round table discussion at the IIF, a number of officials stressed the need for countries to take advantage of the relative quiet to implement reforms that will protect them if there is a sudden shift in global capital markets. "There is

no silver bullet. It's about having a sound fiscal policy as always," said Alberto Torres, Deputy Undersecretary for Public Credit in Mexico's Finance Ministry.

Ludovic Subran, chief economist of French insurer Euler Hermes, said he does not rule out a sovereign debt crisis, "especially in the emerging markets where growth is being financed by public deficits," he told AFP. "It is a real issue, actually, and could be systemic for the world economy," a senior European official warned. —AFP

Italy's bond yields fall as govt wins confidence votes

LONDON: Italy's borrowing costs fell to their lowest level in almost three weeks yesterday after the government won the last of three confidence votes on a contested electoral law that is likely to penalize the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement. The votes pushed the premium investors demand for holding Italian debt over top-rated German peers to its lowest since late September.

They also boosted sentiment towards peripheral bonds in a week that has seen tensions ease between Spain's government and the wealthy region of Catalonia pushing for independence.

For now, bond investor focus turned from Spain to Italy, where a third confidence vote on the disputed electoral bill was passed after two on Wednesday.

The proposed voting system is backed by three of the country's four largest parties, with the center-left government looking to rush it onto the statute books ahead of an election that is due by

May 2018. Unlike the current rules, the new system would allow the formation of multi-party coalitions before the ballot, a factor likely to hurt 5-Star, which is topping most opinion polls and refuses to join alliances.

The bill now faces a secret ballot by the same parliamentarians in the lower house, giving dissident parliamentarians of all colors a chance to shoot it down, as happened in June to a previous electoral proposal. Election uncertainty in Italy, the euro zone's third biggest economy, has been cited by analysts as one of the main risks facing regional bond markets.

"Election risks"

"This law does help to a degree in that it reduces the probability of an anti-establishment government, so that could be a slight positive for Italy," said ING senior rates strategist Benjamin Schroeder. "It does also cast a light on election risks coming up." Italy's 10-year bond yield fell as much as 4 basis points to around 2.124 percent, its lowest level since September 25.

The gap between Italian and German bond yields

- often viewed as a gauge of how investors view relative risks
- narrowed to around 168 basis points, its tightest in almost three weeks. —Reuters

Irish court gives \$1bn Apple data center green light

DUBLIN: Apple may proceed to build a 850 million euro (\$1 billion) data center in Ireland, the High Court ruled yesterday, bringing relief for the government after a two-year planning delay which it feared could hurt its reputation with investors.

Apple in February 2015 announced plans to build the data center in a rural location in the west of Ireland to take advantage of rich green energy sources nearby. Planning permission was granted by the local council six months later, but a series of appeals blocked Apple from beginning work.

High Court judge Paul McDermott yesterday dismissed two separate appeals against the planning permission, clearing the way for the project to proceed.

Ireland relies on foreign multinational companies for the creation of one in every 10 jobs across the economy and sees major investments such as data centers as a means of securing their presence in the country. A similar Apple center announced at the same time in Denmark is due to begin operations later this year and Apple has announced it will build a second data center there.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar met Apple executives last month and said they had made clear their frustration with the planning and judicial delays and warned the process would color decisions that they might make about future investments.

The government has said it is considering amending its planning laws to include data centers as strategic infrastructure, thus allowing them to get through the planning process much more quickly.

It has said it will be one of the biggest capital investment projects in the west of Ireland, providing 300 construction jobs and 150 on-site permanent jobs. —Reuters

Sports

Yanks complete comeback, beat Indians 5-2 in Game 5

CLEVELAND: These young Yankees were unshaken, resilient and as tough as the city they represent. The baby Bronx Bombers have grown up fast. Didi Gregorius, following in the October footprints left by Derek Jeter, homered twice off Corey Kluber as New York beat the Cleveland Indians 5-2 in Game 5 on Wednesday night to complete its comeback from a 2-0 deficit in the Division Series and dethrone the AL champions.

The bend-but-don't-break Yankees, way ahead of schedule, staved off elimination for the fourth time in this postseason and advanced to play the Houston Astros in the AL Championship Series starting Friday night at Minute Maid Park. With a blend of young stars and older veterans coming up big, the Yankees rocked Cleveland and bailed out manager Joe Girardi, who failed to challenge a key call in a Game 2 loss that threatened to sabotage New York's season.

"These guys had my back and they fought and fought," Girardi said. "They beat a really good team. What those guys did for me, I'll never forget it. "The Yankees went 2-5 against the AL West champion Astros, led by 5-foot-6 dynamo and MVP candidate Jose Altuve. But none of that matters now to this group of New Yorkers.

'Screwed up'

After winning twice at home, and after Girardi said he "screwed up" and felt horrible about it, the Yankees - with little offensive help from rookie star Aaron Judge - came

into Progressive Field and finished off the Indians, who won 102 games during the regular season, ripped off a historic 22-game winning streak and were favored to get back to the World Series after losing in seven games a year ago to the Chicago Cubs. Cleveland's Series drought turns 70 next year - baseball's longest dry spell.

"Nobody wanted the season to be over," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "It doesn't wind down, it comes to a crashing halt. It's disappointing. We felt good about ourselves. We made it harder to win, especially in the last two games." The Indians closed to 3-2 in the fifth against starter CC Sabathia before David Robertson pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings for the win. Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman, who faced Cleveland in last year's spine-

tingling World Series and signed an \$86 million free agent contract in December, worked two innings for the save.

Chapman went to the mound with a three-run lead in the ninth after Brett Gardner battled Cody Allen for 12 pitches before hitting an RBI single, with New York's fifth run scoring when Todd Frazier raced home on right fielder Jay Bruce's throwing error. Gardner's gritty at-bat was symbolic of these Yankees. They wouldn't give in. "We can win a lot of different ways," Gardner said. When Austin Jackson was called out on strikes to end it, the Yankees rushed to the mound to celebrate with a wide-eyed Chapman. An elated Girardi hugged his coaches. The Yankees became the

The bend but don't break Yankees



CLEVELAND: Aroldis Chapman #54 of the New York Yankees celebrates with teammates after their 5 to 2 win over the Cleveland Indians in Game Five of the American League Divisional Series at Progressive Field. — AFP

10th team to overcome a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-five playoff series. New York also did it in 2001, rallying to beat Oakland - a series remembered for Jeter's backhand flip to home plate. Gregorius, who took over at shortstop following Jeter's retirement after the 2014 season, hit a solo homer in the first off Kluber and added a two-run shot in the third off Cleveland's ace, who didn't look like himself during either start in this series.

One win shy of a Series title last year, the Indians had only one goal in mind in 2017. They came up short again, and have now lost six consecutive games with a chance to clinch a postseason series. The skid dates to last

year's World Series, when they squandered a 3-1 lead to the Cubs. Cleveland is the first team in history to blow a two-game series lead in consecutive postseasons. Everything was set up for the Indians: Kluber on the mound, Game 5 at home, sensational setup man Andrew Miller rested.

The Yankees, though, wouldn't be denied. They battled back from a 3-0 deficit in the first inning of their wild-card game against Minnesota and then had to overcome a crushing loss in Game 2, when Girardi's decisions led to him being booed at Yankee Stadium. But these Yankees displayed pin-striped pride. They're moving on. — AP

Unbeaten Devils end Leafs' perfect start

TORONTO: The Toronto Maple Leafs had a big shots advantage and even two more skaters on the key play. The New Jersey Devils put up the only big numbers that mattered - on the scoreboard. Brian Gibbons had a rare 3-on-5 goal, Miles Wood and Pavel Zacha each scored twice and unbeaten New Jersey beat Toronto 6-3 on Wednesday night to end the Maple Leafs' perfect start.

Blake Coleman also scored, and Cory Schneider made 47 saves to help New Jersey open 3-0-0 for the first time since 2014-15. Tied 2-2 after 20 minutes, New Jersey scored twice in the second period despite being outshot 17-12. The key moment came late in the period after the Devils took two minor penalties on one play. Rather than Toronto taking advantage, New Jersey killed off the penalties and scored short-handed to make it 4-2.

Jake Gardiner was unable to keep the puck in at the New Jersey blue line and two Devils broke in. William Nylander's backcheck swept the puck off Adam Henrique's stick, and the puck went off goalie Frederik Andersen to Gibbons in front. "That's a huge one," Toronto's James van Riemsdyk said. Auston Matthews, with his third of the season, cut it

to 5-3 with 6:26 remaining and the Maple Leafs on a two-man advantage. Van Riemsdyk and Dominic Moore also scored for Toronto. The Maple Leafs dropped to 3-1-0. "We didn't have any snap, we didn't have any juice, we didn't win any battles," Toronto coach Mike Babcock said. "We talked quite a lot about this game coming up and how it was going to be. And that's exactly what I expected. But I expected us to compete and that didn't happen. Hockey's fair. You get what you deserve. That's what we deserved tonight. ... I can't remember the last time we played with that kind of effort."

Van Riemsdyk opened the scoring on a power play at 8:33 of the first, stuffing the puck past Schneider. New Jersey answered 34 seconds later when Wood tipped in Steven Santini's shot from the point. Wood scored again 1:38 later, taking advantage of a handling error by Calle Rosen before ripping a shot past Andersen. Moore tied it with 6:27 to go, redirecting Nikita Zaitsev's shot as New Jersey's Marcus Johansson, serving Stefan Noesen's instigating penalty, exited the penalty box.

New Jersey went ahead 3-2 at 9:58 of the second on the power play, with rookie Jesper Bratt finding Zacha left alone in front of goal to complete a tic-tac-toe passing sequence. Van Riemsdyk was in the box for slashing. Toronto came into the contest having scored 19 goals through its first three games to start the season, the second-most in franchise history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The 1917-18 team scored 27. The Devils have 16 goals in their three outings, one off the franchise record set in 1991-92. — AP

Thomas falters in CIMB Classic title defense

KUALA LUMPUR: Two-time defending champion Justin Thomas got off to a shaky start at the CIMB Classic yesterday with a two-under-par 70, which left him languishing at the back of the pack. Australian Cameron Smith, ranked number 151 in the world, took the lead with a sparkling eight-under-par 64. Thomas was in tied 23rd place and other favorites also fared badly at the PGA Tour event in Malaysia, with both Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and India's Anirban Lahiri trailing the leaders.

Thomas is coming off the back of a breakthrough season during which he racked up five wins including a maiden major victory and was named the 2017 PGA Tour Player of the Year. The world number four is hoping for a third consecutive win at the CIMB Classic, and opened his campaign with three birdies in the first nine holes at TPC Kuala

Lumpur. But the American, who started on the 10th, faltered after his promising start and hit three bogeys, leaving him to play catch-up against Smith.

It was his second-worst round in his CIMB Classic career. Smith scored eight birdies to become the solo overnight leader. "It was pretty simple really, hit a lot of good shots today and made a lot of good putts," he said. "Same plan tomorrow. Really smart off the tee and just try and get in the fairway and then really aggressive into the greens and obviously hole some putts."

One shot behind Smith are Thailand's Poom Saksansin, American Keegan Bradley and freshly crowned Tour Championship winner Xander Schauffele, also from the U.S. Schauffele, who hit a course low of 65, said he had "hit a lot of fairways and kind of made an easy day out of it". India's Lahiri, in tied eighth place with a five-under 67, said he was "a little disappointed". "Obviously got off to a red hot start and then couldn't capitalise on the (higher) scoring part of the golf course," he said. The golfers could be in for a tough day Friday, with thunderstorms set to descend on Kuala Lumpur. The \$7 million CIMB Classic is jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and PGA Tour. — AP

Sports

India's Nehra to quit internationals, IPL

NEW DELHI: Indian fast bowler Ashish Nehra yesterday announced his retirement from international cricket and the Indian Premier League yesterday after an injury-plagued career. Nehra, 38, who is part of India's Twenty20 squad in the ongoing series against Australia, will bow out after the first T20 against New Zealand on November 1 at his home ground in New Delhi.

Nehra, who has suffered a series of injury problems and last played for India in February, said he wanted to go out on top and in front of his home fans. "It is always good to retire when people are asking why, rather than why not," he told reporters in Hyderabad ahead of the third T20 against Australia on Friday. "I have spoken to the team management as well as the chairman of selection committee. It can't get bigger than getting to retire in front of your home fans where I played my first Ranji Trophy game 20 years ago," he added.

India will host New Zealand for three one-day internationals and three T20 matches starting October 22. The left-arm quick has collected 157 ODI wickets plus 44 Test and 34 T20 scalps during his 18-year career, since making his debut in the five-day format in 1999. The Delhi native was a vital part of India's 2003 World Cup campaign in South Africa, where the team ended up as runners-up to Australia. He is

best remembered for his figures of 6-23 against England at Durban during the 50-over tournament. Nehra was also a part of the 2011 World Cup-winning squad.

Black Caps coach wary

Elsewhere, New Zealand coach Mike Hesson said yesterday his players need to hit the ground running in India if they want to challenge the world's top-ranked one-day international team on their home turf. New Zealand, rated fifth in the world, play the first of three one-dayers against India in Mumbai on October 22.

Hesson said the Virat Kohli-led Indians showed their potency in the recent 4-1 ODI series win over Australia. "Look, their record at home has been phenomenal in the last two or three years," he told reporters as the team departed New Zealand. "You know going over there that you have to perform,

otherwise you get taught a pretty harsh lesson. It's important for us to adapt really quickly."

Hesson travels to India with a core of nine players, including captain Kane Williamson and batting stalwarts Martin Guptill and Ross Taylor. He will pick a further six players from the New Zealand A side currently touring India. "The beauty of an A tour means we've already got people in India, adapting to conditions, so when they come in there should be as familiar as they're

Vital part of 2003 World Cup campaign



England can't win Ashes without Stokes - Waugh

SYDNEY: Test great Steve Waugh says England can't win the Ashes without Ben Stokes and the bad boy allrounder would have been dumped immediately if he was Australian. England vice-captain Stokes was arrested last month in Britain on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and suspended from internationals until further notice following an apparent fight outside a nightclub.

He was included in their Ashes squad but the England and Wales Cricket Board last week said he would not travel with the rest of the players when they leave on October 28. No final decision on his involvement has been made. Former Australian captain Waugh, at the helm in 57 Tests for 41 victories, said England will not be the same threat without Stokes. "If he doesn't come, I don't think they can win the Ashes," Waugh told Sky Sports Radio late Tuesday.

While Stokes is yet to be charged, he remains under investigation, and Waugh hit out at England's failure to immediately drop him from the Ashes squad. "I think if it was anyone in the Australian side, they wouldn't be picked. You can't do that these days in public. It just didn't look good

and it's a bad image for the game," he said. "I think they (England selectors) are pretty keen for him to play in Australia... he's probably their best player, so it would be a real shame if he's not out here."

Stokes' absence from the five-Test tour, starting in Brisbane on November 23, would be a huge blow for Ashes holders England, who have lost two out of their past three tours Down Under 5-0. He is an explosive middle-order batsman and a dangerous right-arm fast medium bowler, and not being in Australia will pile more pressure on the likes of the experienced Stuart Broad and Jimmy Anderson. "Without Ben Stokes, we'll win," said Waugh. "It's too much pressure on Broad and Anderson, and they're getting a bit older, and I can't see them playing five Test matches straight. "I think Australia will win 3-1."

Mocking impersonation

England cricketer Ben Stokes has lost his sponsorship contract with sportswear giant New Balance following his arrest. Stokes, who was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm, also issued an apology after video emerged of him mimicking the disabled son of British celebrity Katie Price. American firm New Balance said it "does not condone" behavior by Stokes, who is also believed to be the subject of a damning video showing a man throwing multiple punches outside the Bristol nightclub. "New Balance does not condone behavior by our global athletes that does not match our brand culture and values, and therefore we have ended our relationship with Ben Stokes, effective October 11, 2017," the company said, in a statement which was widely reported by British media. —AFP



MOHALI: This file photo taken on May 15, 2016 shows Sunrisers Hyderabad bowler Ashish Nehra bowling during the 2016 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium. —AFP

going to be," he said. Hesson said India presented unique challenges to touring players.

"Obviously there's the dew factor, the conditions are all very different depending on the grounds you go to," he said. "We're going to rely a lot of the experience of our senior players." He confirmed one-time opener Tom Latham would be moved down

the order and handed wicketkeeping duties as New Zealand look for more firepower at the top. "It would be fair to say Martin (Guptill) and Tom, although they have had some really good performances individually, haven't really clicked at the top and certainly haven't generated a strike-rate as a pair that we'd like." —AFP

ICC urges higher pay to stop women leaving

NEW DELHI: A top ICC official has urged cricket bodies around the world to follow Australia's lead and dramatically raise wages for women's players to stop them dropping out of the sport. Clare Connor, the former England captain who now heads the International Cricket Council's women's committee, told AFP that other countries must match Australia's eight-fold increase in wages.

"We are all going to think very seriously of how well our players are remunerated," she said in a phone interview. "Because if we don't look after them they will go and choose other sports or other professions and that will be a tragedy." The women's World Cup this year won by England was hailed as a breakthrough for the women's game, with full stadiums and high TV ratings around the globe. But many top players have said there has to be follow-up from the cricket hierarchy to acknowledge what is a growth area for the sport.

Connor said higher pay was a key area for women's cricket as it moves mainstream and generates increasing commercial opportunities. Cricket Australia's new pay deal ensured a windfall for its women players, whose total payments have increased from \$7.5 million to \$55.2 million. India's cricket board, the world's richest, has also prom-

ised a salary increase for women players, but no details have been announced. "Obviously the men get in significant commercial revenues to the game," Connor said. "We are just starting out on our journey, hence there is a lot of discrepancy or difference how players are paid in various corners of the globe," she added.

'Captured the imagination'

Tony Irish, chief executive of the international players' association, also told The Guardian that the women's game is at risk from match-fixers, who often prey on players on low pay. "They (Australia) are certainly setting the bar very high and this is a key issue for lots of countries. It is amazing that international women can earn that sort of money," Connor said. "(India) have got a team that has captured the imagination and they have obviously got huge number of girls that could be attracted to the game as a result," she added.

India captain Mithali Raj, who became the top run-scorer in the women's one-day game at the World Cup, is hoping the Board of Control for Cricket in India will make good on its pledge for higher pay. "Recently there was news that the BCCI is looking into it and we are hoping that it would be positive," the 34-year-old batswoman said.

In what is now a packed women's calendar, the second edition of the world championships started this week with a one-day series between West Indies and Sri Lanka. The world championships will act as qualifiers for the 2021 World Cup in New Zealand, while the women's Twenty20 World Cup will take place in West Indies in November next year. —AFP

Sports

LeBron aggravates injury; In doubt for Celtics start

CLEVELAND: LeBron James won't play again this preseason, and there's a chance he'll miss Cleveland's hyped opener with Boston. James didn't practice Wednesday, a day after he made his exhibition debut after being slowed by a sprained left ankle sustained Sept 27. Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said the four-time MVP is sore and has been ruled out of Cleveland's final preseason game Friday night in Orlando.

As for James' status for Tuesday night's game against the Celtics and former Cavs All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, Lue was non-committal. "Not sure," Lue said. "Got treatment all day today, so I'm not sure if we should be concerned or not. But it's pretty sore today so we'll just see what happens." Lue said James is upset that his ankle is still an issue. "Pretty mad, pretty pissed off," Lue said "But I mean, it is what it is."



The group was mostly out of sync

ing lineup featuring James, Derrick Rose, Dwyane Wade, Jae Crowder and Kevin Love. James scored 17 points and had eight turnovers, but the defending Eastern Conference champions fell to 0-4 and it's apparent their new lineup is going to need a lot more time together. There were few sparkling moments as the group was mostly out of sync.

Lue said JR Smith will rejoin the starting lineup while James is out and guard Jose Calderon will enter the rotation. For now, James' injury will prevent the Cavs from working out their offensive kinks. Lue said he's had to alter some plans already. "It's a challenge when you've got a new team and you want to incorporate stuff, but you don't want to go too fast, you don't want to go too slow," he said. "You want to see what works. So we kind of scrapped some of the stuff we've been doing and we're going to just go in a different direction offensively with that first unit."

James wanted to play even though he wasn't at full speed. Following the game, he hinted that he might need more time off. "I



CLEVELAND: Dwyane Wade No 9 of the Cleveland Cavaliers talks with LeBron James No 23 while playing the Chicago Bulls during a pre season game at Quicken Loans Arena. —AFP

definitely wanted to test it tonight knowing that at least if I tested it tonight, I have a week until the regular season started if I don't play in the game on Friday," he said.

The 32-year-old James has never

missed an opener in 14 seasons, and this one has some special sizzle. Irving demanded to be traded during the summer and he and James have taken some shots at each other in the past two months. —AP

Coe calls for track and field revolution

RABAT: World athletics chief Sebastian Coe has told AFP he wants a radical review of track and field to ensure it survives as a spectator sport. With the sport's biggest star Usain Bolt retired, IAAF president Coe said he was considering anything from franchised teams bidding for athletes to pop-up tracks in streets and football stadiums to attract new fans. "Nothing's off the table now. Let our imagination run wild," the two-time Olympic gold medalist said in an exclusive interview as he warned the candid discussions will be "uncomfortable" for purists.

Following the success of the World Championships in London this year, there are fears the next edition-in Qatar in 2019 — will not draw the same crowds or worldwide interest, particularly as Bolt hung up his spikes after London. The Jamaican sprinter has been a shining light in recent years for a sport in danger of losing its appeal because of the Russian doping scandal, lengthy championships and over-complex formats for spectators. "We are in the entertainment business and we have to look at it in that way," Coe said at a meeting of African athletics federations in the Moroccan capital Rabat.

He laid out plans for a "strategic review" to show "what our sport will look like for the next 30 or 40 years". Voted president of the International Association of Athletics Federations in 2015, Coe led London's successful bid to host the 2012 Olympics. The former



MONACO: This file photo taken on February 6, 2017 shows International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) President Sebastian Coe looking on during a press conference following the 208th IAAF Council meeting. —AFP

middle-distance runner said track and field bosses could draw inspiration from cricket's Indian Premier League (IPL) — in which players are auctioned and divided among franchises representing cities—or the NFL, where teams pick players through a draft system. "I think we've just got to allow some really open discussion about what our sport looks like. And yes, maybe it's cities, maybe it's franchises, maybe it's auctions like the IPL, maybe it's the pick."

'Pop-up tracks'

Coe, who won Olympic gold medals in the 1,500metres in Moscow in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984, said tinkering with individual track and field events would not be enough to

bring about the fundamental change that is needed. He said his association was already working with different formats, such as holding events in the mountains, trail-running and even parkour-or street-running-where participants leap from buildings and scale walls.

"I think there is a need for probably a two-year deep, deep dive because the risk in the past is that we have looked at different elements in isolation," he said. "We've looked at one event and spent a lot of time talking about one event... but we haven't brought it together." He said although it was important to "have the purist argument" and keep the sport's multi-disciplined "philosophy", it can be moved away from its traditional arenas. —AFP

Del Potro overcomes Zverev in Shanghai

SHANGHAI: Juan Martin del Potro advanced to the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals by overcoming third-seeded Alexander Zverev 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 yesterday. Del Potro required four match points - two on Zverev's serve in the ninth game, two on his own serve in the 10th - to win this first encounter career against the German.

Del Potro, who lost his serve for the only time in the match in the second game, won nine of his 15 service games at love. "I'm happy with my success as I played one of the good guys on tour, he's been playing so good this season," del Potro said. "This was a positive for me looking to the future." Zverev, who was in the hunt for a sixth ATP title of the season, lost his composure after netting a backhand to surrender his serve in the fifth game of the third set to the Argentine.

Zverev whacked his racket on the court. That didn't satisfy his anger so he kept smashing the racket courtside until it was a mangled mess. "For me, it's impossible to lose a match when I've only been broken one time," Zverev said. "The game where he broke me I was up 40-15 and I was just unfocused there." Del Potro, a 2013 Shanghai finalist, was aware he made a likely permanent impact by breaking Zverev's serve. "I saw his frustration, for sure," he said. "He's still very young and has to keep learning. —AFP

Sports

Iraqi football fans united by love of European teams

BAGHDAD: Iraqi football supporters decked out in red cram into a cafe in Baghdad to cheer on their shared love—Manchester United. Shouting, cursing and—eventually—celebrating, they watch as the team from the north of England notches up a win half way around the globe. “United! United! United!”, they chant with joy in accents that are far from Mancunian.

While revered arenas such as Old Trafford or the Camp Nou may be thousands of kilometers away, supporting some of Europe’s best-loved teams offers a rare chance for Iraqi fans to come together and forget the troubles roiling their homeland. Across the violence-wracked country, where some 400,000 people have been killed since the US-led invasion in 2003, there are 13 supporter groups officially recognized by clubs in Britain, Italy, Spain and Germany.

In a nation that has been torn apart by years of bloodshed and bitter division, a mutual passion for the beautiful game often helps to bridge differences. “We all come together for Manchester United,” says Alaa Saadi, who heads Iraq’s largest fan group of some 450 members. “Young and old, Shiites and Sunnis, Arab and Kurds, Christians and Muslims.”

Fans targeted

Ali Anab, president of the Bayern Munich supporters club, says that watching the German champions offers “a respite, a chance to forget daily life”. But even during those brief 90 minutes of distraction the violence in Iraq can still come bursting in brutally. Last year, the Islamic State group claimed a gun, grenade and suicide attack that left 16 dead at a cafe popular with fans of Spanish giants Real Madrid in a provincial town.

For Anab that makes safety a priority, and his club regularly changes venues to avoid trouble and has stepped up security checks. But this still does not dampen the enthusiasm of the supporters, Anab insists, as “students, graduates, the unemployed and workers tired from the traffic jams on their way home” flock to a cafe to watch the matches.

“The moment they kick off all other worries disappear,” he says. Liverpool supporters’ chief Ali Kazem, 29, agrees, and says that members “come from far despite difficulties” to support the Reds. The fan club for the five-time European champions was set up in 2011 and is the oldest in Iraq, Kazem points out proudly. This season they received 50 official membership cards sent from the United Kingdom, each one costing some \$40 (34 euros) per fan.

For the fan clubs to retain their official status there is a raft



BAGHDAD: A group of Iraqi Inter Milan football supporters gather at a cafe to watch a match. — AFP

of strict requirements, says Arsenal head Ali Al-Bahadli. A club has to have at least 50 regular members, democratically elect a president and general secretary and update a log of its activities on social media.

Fields of dreams

Each year, 32-year-old doctor Ahmed Mazen sends off his report to Inter Milan on the latest activities of the club he set up with six friends. Mazen says he turned to supporting a European team because of the dearth of quality in the Iraqi league. He complains that “infrastructure is weak” in the country and that “the question of security” puts off many support-

ers from going to games. Earlier this year, Iraq played its first match at home since 2013 after world governing body FIFA lifted a ban on the national team playing in the country. For most lovers of foreign football in Iraq, the dream of seeing their teams play in the flesh remains distant. Bayern Munich fan Anab says that last year the club offered him two places to watch the team take on Atletico Madrid in the Champions League. But while there was no shortage of takers, German bureaucrats had other ideas. “Unfortunately no member managed to get a visa to go to Germany,” he laments. “The authorities were scared that they would demand asylum there and never return.” —AFP

Coaching continuity finds home in Serie A

ROME: Silvio Berlusconi can no longer order AC Milan’s manager to change the lineup to his preferred “Christmas tree” 4-3-2-1 formation and fire the coach if he refuses. Maurizio Zamparini, another notoriously impatient owner who has made more than 40 coaching changes in 15 years, still presides over Palermo, but which is in Serie B.

Maybe it’s a coincidence but in the first season since Berlusconi sold Milan to a Chinese-led consortium, there have been no coaches fired in Serie A through seven rounds - the longest the league has gone without a sacking in nearly 20 years. There were already two coaching changes by this time a year ago and 12 by the end of the season, including caretakers. There was a record 17 changes in the 20-team league in 2011-12, and that doesn’t include Stefano Pioli’s firing by Palermo before the season even began. The last time there were no changes this far into the season came in 1998 when Luigi Simoni was fired by Inter Milan after the 11th round.

While AC Milan has gotten off to a rocky start after a summer spending spree that brought in 11 new players, the new ownership has given constant support for coach Vincenzo Montella. Montella is the sixth manager since current Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri was fired by Berlusconi in January 2014.

‘Respect and trust’

“(Montella) has our respect and trust,” Milan CEO Marco

Fassone said this week. “We’ve created a long-term project with him. We kept him with the knowledge that it was going to take a while before things work like we want them to.” Patience of the sort that Fassone expressed lies in direct contrast to the way Berlusconi, the three-time Italian premier, used to order his coaches around, removing them at the first hint of a problem.

That was the fate for the likes of Clarence Seedorf, Filippo Inzaghi, Sinisa Mihajlovic and Cristian Brocchi, each of whom coached the seven-time European champion in rapid succession recently. France’s Ligue 1 is the only other major European league without any coaching changes so far this season. In La Liga, Alaves, Villarreal, and Las Palmas have made changes. In the English Premier League, Frank de Boer was replaced by Roy Hodgson at Crystal Palace less than a year after De Boer was fired by Inter.

The most high-profile firing in Europe came when Carlo Ancelotti was ousted at Bayern Munich. “Firings are part of my job,” said Ancelotti, who was previously sacked by Parma, Juventus, Chelsea and Real Madrid. While there is speculation Milan might rehire Ancelotti as an eventual replacement for Montella, it’s at the bottom of the table where the first firings are more likely to occur. Last-place Benevento visits basement rival Hellas Verona on Monday with Marco Baroni and Fabio Pecchia each at risk. Ivan Juric is also wavering at winless Genoa, which is second from the bottom. But the big clubs all seem comfortable with their coaches, including AC Milan, which goes into the derby against Inter on Sunday following consecutive 2-0 losses to Sampdoria and Roma. Maurizio Sarri is approaching saint-like status with Napoli leading the league. Allegri has led Juventus to two Champions League finals in three years, and Luciano Spalletti has restored confidence at Inter. — AP

‘Relieved’ India seal Asian Cup return

BANGALORE: Captain Sunil Chhetri expressed joy and relief after India sealed their place at the 2019 Asian Cup, underlining football’s rising fortunes in the country. India, better known for their successful cricket team, beat Macau 4-1 in Bengaluru on Wednesday to guarantee their spot at the tournament in the United Arab Emirates following four straight wins in Group A.

The early qualification, with two games to go in the final round, comes as India host the Under-17 World Cup and follows the increasing success of the Indian Super League competition. India, ranked 107th, have only played the Asian Cup three times, in 1964, 1984 and 2011, and striker Chhetri said he was still haunted by their failure to qualify for the last edition in 2015.

“I was there when we missed out in 2015 and that still hurts me,” said Chhetri, 33, who scored India’s second goal. “This is the tournament we play for. We get to rub our shoulders against the best in Asia which we don’t get many times,” he added. Chhetri also tweeted: “Earned our right to battle against Asia’s best... Happy, proud, relieved and more.”

Coach Stephen Constantine said the team would now target finishing first in their group by gaining at least a draw in their next game against Myanmar. “If not the best, this Indian team is surely one of the best Indian teams in history and the credit goes to all,” said the Englishman, according to the Asian Football Confederation website. —AFP

US World Cup failure prompts call for soccer 'revolution'

COUVA: When soccer holds its world's fair in Russia next June, the American pavilion will be glaringly absent. A bumbling, stumbling, tumbling World Cup qualifying campaign ended Tuesday night with a calamitous 2-1 loss to already eliminated Trinidad and Tobago, the 99th-ranked nation in the world, when merely a tie was necessary to eke out the final automatic World Cup berth from one of soccer's weakest regions.

"Unacceptable," tweeted former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, a US Soccer Federation board member. "For us in US Soccer more than a wake-up call. Time for revolution. Need long term plan that is smart." After American soccer's Waterloo, the fallout almost surely will lead to a new coach and possibly a new USSF head.

There also figure to be calls for a reexamination of the player development structure, from youth teams through academies designed with the hope of producing elite prospects.

"There is no denying that this is a setback for all of us involved with the game in our country," Major League Soccer said in a statement. New York Cosmos owner Rocco Commisso, chairman of the lower-level North American Soccer League that has sued the USSF, called for federation President Sunil Gulati to resign along with board members and senior administrators he put in place.

"In the almost 12 years during which Sunil Gulati has been the USSF's president, little or nothing has been done to enhance our

prospects," Commisso said in a statement. "The leadership of U.S. Soccer has failed all of its stakeholders: players, fans, sponsors and those of us who have invested in professional soccer. Getting back on track requires fundamental change in the structure and management of the sport in our country, starting with a change in the federation's leadership."

While fans fulminated over the front office, the next national team coach must instigate a ruthless roster purge. The Tim Howard/Clint Dempsey/Michael Bradley era is over, and pretty much any player older than 26 will be past his prime when the World Cup in Qatar kicks off in November 2022. The Americans won't even play a competitive match for nearly two years, until the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

By then, Christian Pulisic, at 19 already the top American, should be surrounded with other players on the rise, such as 19-year-old midfielder Weston McKennie, who has started Schalke's last three games in the German Bundesliga. Haji Wright, a 19-year-old winger loaned from Schalke to second-division Sandhausen, is another top prospect along with forward Josh Sargent, who agreed last month to sign with Werder Bremen on his 18th birthday in February. Matt Miazga and Cameron Carter-Vickers should be tested in defense as the team reorients to 2022. A shocked Gulati was measured in his reaction.

"You don't have wholesale changes based on the ball being 2 inches wide or 2 inches

Fallout surely will lead to a new coach



Inside Germany's football factory

GELSENKIRCHEN: Schalke 04 are a sleeping giant in the German league, yet their youth academy is one of Germany's most successful, producing World Cup winners, Bundesliga stars and Premier League exports. Germany has just qualified for Russia 2018, where they will defend the World Cup title they won in Brazil when four former members of Schalke's academy were in the squad.

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, Arsenal playmaker Mesut Ozil, Juventus defender Benedikt Hoewedes and Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Julian Draxler all came through the Gelsenkirchen club's youth set-up. Schalke 04 are nicknamed "The Miners" due to Gelsenkirchen's industrial setting and their youth academy, called the "Miners' Forge", has a long list of talented alumni.

Manchester City winger Leroy Sané, 21, Liverpool defender Joel Matip, 26, and Arsenal left-back Sead Kolasinac, 24, are just some of its graduates. The latest starlet to rise from the academy to Schalke's senior squad is 19-year-old Weston McKennie, a future US international in the making. But what attributes make a future professional or a World Cup winner? "Talent is important, but that only gets you through the door,"

Norbert Elgert, coach of Schalke's Under-19 team, told AFP.

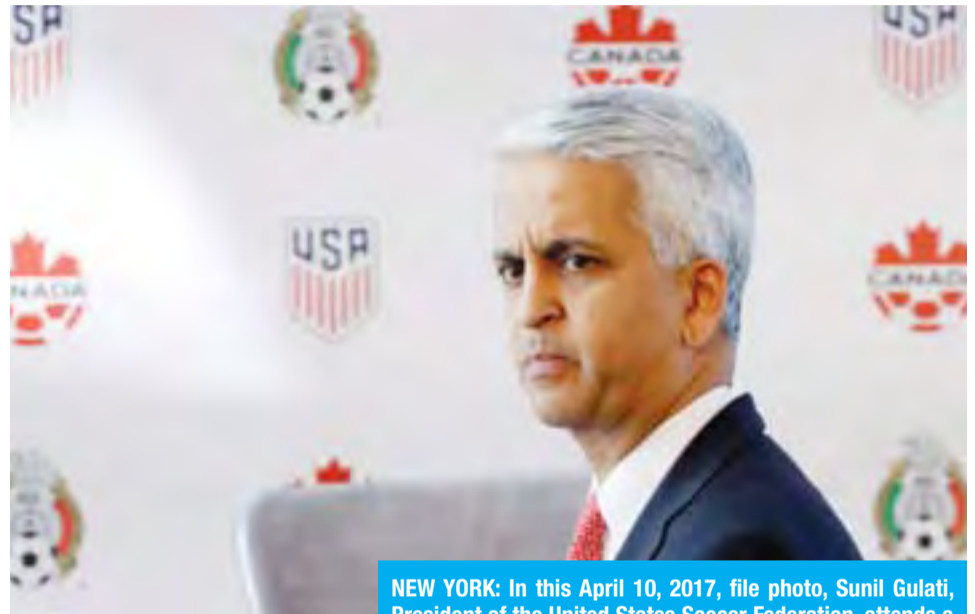
Have a 'Plan B'

"Athleticism and skills as a team player are all important. Then there are also things which are often overlooked—character, personality, desire to improve. "You have to have the confidence to elbow your way up in a squad of 25 to 30 players, or you have no chance, but then you still have to be a team player."

The 60-year-old has seen an impressive list of names roll off the production line at Schalke since 1996. Elgert is passionate about coaching and, with his flowing grey locks, adopts a father-figure role. "We put a lot of emphasis on education, right up to 'Abitur' (university entry qualifications)," he said. "We encourage that because what percentage actually make it? — Four or five percent maximum will be Bundesliga footballers."

"Whenever I speak to a player about their future, I always ask, 'what is your Plan B?' "We have to look past football, for those who don't make it, get injured or get sick." His success with Schalke attracted an offer a few years ago from Bayern Munich, but Elgert, who was born in Gelsenkirchen, opted to stay. He said Germany's ability to produce talented young players stems from the lessons learnt from mistakes in years gone by—namely Euro 2004, when die Mannschaft failed to qualify from their group. "It was important for us to learn from the past," said Elgert.

"It wasn't just enough for German teams to



NEW YORK: In this April 10, 2017, file photo, Sunil Gulati, President of the United States Soccer Federation, attends a news conference. — AP

in," he said. "We will look at everything, obviously, and all of our programs, both the national team and all the development stuff. But we've got a lot of pieces in place that we think are very good and have been coming along." The US returned to the World Cup in 1990 after a 40-year absence, and soccer grew at an exponential rate, helped by the US hosting the tournament in 1994. Major League Soccer launched two years later; cable television and the Internet brought top European clubs to American televisions and later laptops and cell phones. European clubs discovered there was huge money to be made by playing

preseason exhibitions across the pond, growing the sport's audience.

American sponsors started treating soccer like a major sport, if not at the level of the NFL, baseball and the NBA, at least as prominent as the NHL, golf and tennis. Still, the national team peaked with its quarterfinal appearance at the 2002 World Cup. The US failed to qualify for the 2012 and 2016 men's Olympic soccer tournaments, a generational talent gap evident when a creaky defense repeatedly broke down during qualifying. There were no young goalkeepers considered challengers to Howard and Brad Guzan. — AFP



GELSENKIRCHEN: German coach Norbert Elgert, in charge of the Under-19 team at the Schalke's youth academy, poses at the football club's training grounds. — AFP

be organized, we were overtaken by countries like Spain, Holland or Italy. "The German Football Association (DFB) has been very innovative with the academies and always kept an eye on what is going on in other countries." He clearly has strong links to his former players and eagerly asks how Ozil and Kolasinac, who joined Arsenal in June, are regarded in England.

His eyes light up when he describes spot-

ting talent—like the teenage Ozil. In fact Elgert receives a text message during the interview—he smiles as he shows the caller ID that reads "Ozil, Mesut". "He was playing an Under-17 trial here, which I was overseeing as part of a school project," said Elgert. "It wasn't just the way he controlled the ball with great technique, it was the way he could read the game. "He was always looking where his players were and making good decisions." — AFP

Sports

After Argentina miracle, Messi to lead Barcelona at Atletico

Star forward will have little chance to rest

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi has willed Argentina into the World Cup. Now he can exhale and get back to what he does best: Keeping Barcelona atop the Spanish league. Just when the stakes couldn't have been higher, Messi struck three goals to bring Argentina back for a 3-1 win at Ecuador on Tuesday and seize a last-minute ticket to Russia. The star forward will have little chance to rest, however, with Barcelona counting on him to lead the team in its visit to Atletico Madrid tomorrow in the Spanish capital.

Messi has won a combined 17 trophies for Barcelona in the Champions League, Spanish league and Copa del Rey. But his success with Barcelona has only increased the pressure on him to deliver silverware for Argentina. So far, he has lifted Argentina to only finals in the World Cup and Copa America. Argentina struggled to produce goals throughout South American qualifying for the World Cup heading into the must-win match in Quito. And its chances looked grim when Ecuador scored in the first minute. "It would've been crazy if Argentina didn't play the World Cup," Messi said after his hat trick.



Playing one of his best periods of football

Forget Neymar
When Neymar bolted for Paris Saint-Germain in August, Barcelona entered into panic mode and scrambled to buy players to fill the gap left by the Brazil striker. It had to break a club record for spending on a transfer to pry Ousmane Dembele from Borussia Dortmund, only for the France forward to tear a tendon in his left leg in just his third appearance.

But throughout the turmoil and turnover, Messi has responded by playing one of his best periods of football. The 30-year-old Messi has 11 goals in seven league matches, including one four-goal outing and a treble. That has helped Barcelona outscore opponents 23-2 in the league. He has also netted twice in the Champions League in wins over Juventus and Sporting Lisbon.

Atletico is the most serious test yet for Barcelona in the league. Yet, despite its reputation as one of the toughest defensive sides in Spain, Atletico is one of Messi's favorite victims. Messi has scored against Atletico 27 times in 34 matches across all competitions, including 12 at its former stadium.



QUITO: Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring against Ecuador during their 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match at the Atahualpa Olympic Stadium. — AP

Atletico hosts Barcelona for the first time at its new Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.

Atletico is unbeaten in the league, although it lost to Chelsea 2-1 at home in the

Champions League. Barcelona leads second-place Sevilla by five points. Atletico is fourth and trails the pacesetter by six points. Real Madrid is seven points adrift before visiting Getafe on Saturday. — AP

Ozil, Sanchez may leave in January, says Wenger

LONDON: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger conceded yesterday he may have no option but to sell star players Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil in the January transfer window. The pair are both out of contract at the end of the season and are yet to agree new deals. As things stand, they will be able to leave the Emirates Stadium for free, meaning January will be Arsenal's last opportunity to cash in on their two most high-profile players.

"It is possible," Wenger told a press conference ahead of his side's trip to Watford on Saturday. "Once you're in our kind of situation, we have envisaged every solution, yes." Asked if Arsenal had set a deadline for contract negotiations with the pair to conclude, Wenger replied: "No. Not at the moment." Chile forward Sanchez, 28, joined Arsenal from Barcelona in July 2014, a year after 28-year-old Germany playmaker Ozil's arrival from Real Madrid.

The signings electrified Arsenal's fan base, but for all their quality, the duo have thus far been unable to end the club's 14-year wait for the Premier League title. Sanchez has been linked with a number of major clubs, among them Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain. Ozil, meanwhile, is reported to have attracted interest from Manchester United, who are managed by his former Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho. Earlier this week, Ozil's agent, Erkut

Sogut, indicated talks with Arsenal were progressing positively. "That's my understanding, yes," said Wenger. "I always said the fact that we didn't find an agreement last year doesn't mean the player will necessarily leave. Both players look happy here and overall I hope the situation can be turned around."

Wilshere in 'best form'

Ozil could feature at Watford, having returned to training following a knee injury. But Sanchez is due to be assessed after playing in Chile's 3-0 loss to Brazil on Wednesday, which ended their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup. "I will have to speak to him," Wenger said. "Yesterday afternoon I watched the whole Brazil against Chile game to see how difficult the game was. 'I must say he got some special treatment—it was a very physical game and mentally I will have to assess the situation when he comes back tomorrow.'"

Centre-back Shkodran Mustafi also endured a miserable international break, the Germany international suffering a thigh injury against Azerbaijan that will sideline him for four to six weeks. But his absence will soon be offset by the return of Laurent Koscielny, who is closing on a comeback from an Achilles injury. "Koscielny has a definite final test tomorrow," Wenger said. "At the moment, he's not available. He trained on his own and the first signs are positive, so we decided to give him a test tomorrow." Striker Danny Welbeck is back in contention after a groin injury, while left-back Sead Kolasinac faces a late fitness test on a hip complaint. Jack Wilshere is yet to play a minute of Premier League football and has lost his place in the England squad, but Wenger believes the midfielder is on course to go to next year's World Cup in Russia. — AFP

Mourinho's United set for biggest test yet

MANCHESTER: Jose Mourinho's unbeaten Manchester United face the biggest test yet of their title credentials when they visit Liverpool at Anfield tomorrow—a fixture that always has a little extra spice. United are second in the Premier League, level on 19 points with neighbors Manchester City, but so far Mourinho's side have yet to face any of last season's top five.

Six wins from their opening seven games, with 21 goals scored and only two conceded, have raised expectations at Old Trafford, but the coming weeks should give a stronger indication of just how ready United are for a real push for the title. Spurs visit Old Trafford on Oct 28 and then a week later United travel to Stamford Bridge to take on defending champions Chelsea, Mourinho's former club.

The North West derby has always had an extra edge and even though the lack of local players for both clubs could take away some of the needle from the game, the passion from the stands continues to create a special atmosphere. "Anfield away is the ultimate test, mentally and physically with the intensity," former United captain Gary Neville told Sky Sports. "There's obviously less home grown talent but the

atmosphere will be brilliant and it is a game which you dare not lose as a player."

Particular focus will be on United's 75 million pounds (\$98 million) Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku, who has been in prolific form, scoring in 12 of his last 13 games for club and country. The powerful forward joined United from Everton during the close-season and has been an instant success - but there are still some who question whether he can be just as effective against better opponents.

While Lukaku - and United - will want to prove that they are the real deal, Liverpool badly need to kick-start their campaign after a shaky beginning. Juergen Klopp's side have taken just five points from their last four games, leaving them seven points behind the Manchester clubs. The exciting attacking talent in the team, despite the loss to injury of Sadio Mane who is out for six weeks with a hamstring injury, should test the United defence that has had a relatively comfortable campaign so far.

Former Liverpool striker and manager Kenny Dalglish expects Mourinho to protect his defence with a cautious approach, similar to how they played in last season's 1-1 draw on Merseyside. "Last year, when United came to Liverpool, Jose Mourinho parked the bus. But it wasn't just the one bus, I think it was a couple of double deckers he put there," said Dalglish. "I think United will come and set up quite defensively... 'I think Jose will try to make sure the pressure is on Liverpool, but the pressure is on everyone when it comes to a game like that.'" —Reuters

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