

Friday Times

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Local

The problems with polygamy



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Polygamy can be found in Arab societies, and in other non-Islamic societies too. Regardless of the social and familial effects of this phenomenon, some men still practice it and some women agree with it. But it remains controversial, and many women and men do not support the idea, although its debate is provocative for women and exciting for men! Polygamy raises the question: Can a married man who remarries be truly equitable and just to all his wives? Is he ever thinking of their welfare or only aiming to satisfy his desires?

This article seeks to shed light over this case based on two incidents. Newspapers recently published a report from Saudi Arabia that police arrested a woman who poured boiling oil on her husband after he married another woman. The husband appeared in a video wailing with pain after his entire back was scalded. The video circulated on social media and it was said that the attack was by his first wife as a punishment. This incident caused a lot of controversy and created fear in some polygamous men.

The second incident happened a few days ago. I was watching a program on an Arabic channel, and the question was asked to some women if they would accept their husbands taking other wives. Most of the women refused

He will be cheered by other men who fear the reaction of their wives



to answer directly, except for one old woman who said her husband had already remarried several times.

The problem here is that when a man wants to marry again, he typically raises the argument that Islam allows polygamy, so he can marry four women without being punished by the law. He will be cheered by other men who fear the reaction of their wives. But these men don't admit that Islam has set terms and conditions to the process and even reasons, especially as this entails risks and harm to women and their children and their future, in addition to the possibility of violation of their human and financial rights.

The most prominent condition in Islam for polygamy is the ability to do justice between the wives and their children in terms of providing them with all equally with adequate housing, provisions and all that they need, which is almost impossible for many men today, who are struggling with loans, housing debts and schools fees, in addition to feeding one wife, let alone four!

It is unfortunate that some men try to exploit the subject as a solution to the large number of unmarried girls in the society, but there is nothing to ensure the rights of the new wife, because it will depend on the personality of the man and his behavior, so marrying a married man can be risky. The justice that is urged by Islam will be exercised from the perspective of the man and not what Islam demands in order to preserve the dignity of women and maintenance of their future.

Polygamy is still socially unacceptable, although it is religiously accepted, and is a common responsibility between men and women. I personally don't support this type of marriage and I think that the decision remains in the hands of women. Therefore, I advise women, especially non-Muslim ones, who may agree to marry married men, that they need to think twice as there are no guarantees of protection for them and their children, and they may not be the last ones.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A popular mural in Souq Al-Mubarakiya in Kuwait City. — Photo by Jaber Abdulkhaleq / KUNA

Un(Social) media



By Nejoud Al-Yagout

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Recently, a woman I know posted a photograph of a collapsed Buddhist temple in Myanmar and she added a caption praising God. As a Muslim, she was so outraged by what is happening to the Rohingya, that she must have forgotten her innocent Buddhist brothers and sisters - who have nothing to do with the acts of fundamentalists - in her moments of fury. No human being, regardless of whether they are Muslim or not, can watch the persecution of the Rohingya without feeling heartbroken; but, if we only support victims who share our own religion, we are only perpetuating intolerance. Intolerance breeds phobia. Intolerance makes us gloat at the misery of others. When will we understand that a shared doctrine is not a precursor to love - which is all-encompassing?

Imagine a Buddhist showing a photograph of a desecrated mosque and praising Buddha for punishing the Muslims who live in that country for the act of extremists. People of all religions across the world are suffering and people of all religions (and no religion, for that matter) are inflicting suffering on others. And though Muslims are being persecuted, many non-Muslims are being persecuted in the world, especially in Muslim countries. And many of these non-Muslims are defending the plight of the Rohingya around the world, the same way many Muslims are praying for the victims of hurricanes and earthquakes globally; the same way many people of various religions come together in tragedy.

This is not about religion. If we are only defending people that inhabit our thought matrices, something is inherently wrong with us. How ignorant are we that we cannot see the irony of all this? The victim and persecutor are one in all cases - when it comes down to labels. Why does the mind keep objecting to this very obvious fact? When we finally acknowledge that everyone from all over the world plays both these roles, regardless, we can break free from the realm of divisiveness and polarization.

A week later, this same woman posted a popular quote which states that if your religion requires you to hate, then you should change your religion. She captioned it as a note to Buddhists in Myanmar. The irony of the quote was certainly, most certainly, lost on her. And for a brief millisecond I actually giggled, thinking to myself how insane we are and how we use quotes for others that really may just as well apply to our-

selves, if we dare to self-reflect. But then I became sad again, because most of us do not self-reflect. We would much rather stay in our cocoons where our families and relatives reside. What is upsetting though is that sometimes our families and relatives are not aligned with love.

Myanmar is just another example of ideological vindication: Vigilantes avenging the acts of a few. As Gandhi warned us though: An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind. We pray for the Rohingya Muslims who are being massacred and forced into exile, but we also pray for all those from other religions who face the same fate at the hands of Muslims. We pray for all of us who are suffering, whether because of religion or not.

We do not only suffer for those who share our ideologies and skin color, but for all our brothers and sisters around the world who are hurting. If we are Muslims, let us stand up for Christians. If we are Christians, let us stand up for Jews. If we are Buddhists, we can praise Sikhs. If we are Hindus, let us speak highly of Jains. If we are believers, let us speak highly of those deemed unbelievers. Let us praise whom we deem the other, until we realize there is no other.

Side-note: I will not un-friend the lady who posted the messages of divisiveness, because I know she is a victim of brainwashing, as we all are in varying degrees and in different ways.

OBITUARY

DATE OF BIRTH:
30 - 06 - 1963DATE OF EXPIRED:
19 - 10 - 2017

Mr. A. LIVINGSTON AUGUSTINE

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT - ST. JOHN'S TAMIL C.S.I. CHURCH, KUWAIT.
SECRETARY - ST. JOHN'S TAMIL C.S.I. CHURCH, AHMADI.

A beautiful soul, full of love, kindness, love and faith, ascended to heaven, away from us, but close to God. Church members families extends our heartfelt condolences to bereaved family.

Inserted by : ST. JOHN'S TAMIL C.S.I. CHURCH, KUWAIT CITY
ST. JOHN'S TAMIL C.S.I. CHURCH, AHMADI

(Prayer services will be held on 20 - 10 - 2017 at 03:00 PM at Sabah Hospital Mortuary)

Kuwait Times



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The disappearance of 1980s Kuwait



Partially demolished Kuwait Airways building in Kuwait City.

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Whether you're a Kuwaiti or an expat, if you lived here in the golden era of the 1980s (actually late 1970s until the 1990 Iraqi invasion) you will recognize most if not all of these buildings and many of them may inevitably mean something to you. Salam Building, Bayt Lothan, Kuwait Airways Building, Al-Sawaber and Pearl Marzouq ring through our ears like sweet memories of our youth.

The common evoking factor of these iconic edifices is the close link to people's memories and hearts. Plus, they're also a testimony to the era of the cultural and social openness in Kuwait. Most of these buildings and many others besides have either been demolished or are now facing demolition. Luckily, the Pearl Marzouq complex has been renovated two years

ago, in order to preserve its symbolic value, which dates back to the late 1970s.

Bayt Lothan, once a popular incubator nurturing talent of all kinds, stands empty and abandoned. Salam Building was replaced by Al-Salam mall in Salmiya and many fear Bayt Lothan will follow Salam's destiny though no one knows when. The sad state of the 38-hectare complex in central Kuwait Al-Sawaber is testimony of the failure of an entire generation of hopes and dreams and aspirations.

The country's development is a demand for equality with other nations that preceded it in modernization. But this should not be accompanied by blurring the glimpses of the past. I wonder what will remain to the future generation from the past? How will we remember our history if it keeps disappearing?



Pearl Marzouq in Ras Salmiya.



Community center Bayt Lothan was closed in 2016. Rumors circulated at the time that the iconic building in Salmiya would be demolished to make room for yet another 'food mall'. — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi



Al-Sawaber complex, where residents have been evicted by the government in preparation for plans to demolish the complex.

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Panasonic Air Conditioner CS-YC24TKF 24000 BTU/h  <p>229 249 20</p>	Panasonic Air Conditioner CS-PC24TKF 24000 BTU/h  <p>259 289 30</p>	White-Westinghouse Air Conditioner WS24K17BCCI 24000 BTU/h  <p>149 209 60</p>	White-Westinghouse Air Conditioner WS36K17BCCI 36000 BTU/h  <p>299 399 100</p>
YORK Air Conditioner YHFC24 24000 BTU/h  <p>169 249 30</p>	YORK Air Conditioner YHFC36 36000 BTU/h  <p>299 369 70</p>	Midea Air Conditioner MST1MB1-24CR 24000 BTU/h  <p>139 189 50</p>	Midea Air Conditioner MST1MB1-30CR 30000 BTU/h  <p>159 229 70</p>

SHARP Refrigerator SJ-GC3V-SL3 Refrigerator  <p>139 189 50</p>	SHARP Refrigerator SJ-K385E-GS3 Refrigerator  <p>99 129 30</p>	Midea Refrigerator HD-520FW Refrigerator  <p>89 119 30</p>	SHARP Refrigerator SJ-19T-HS3 Refrigerator  <p>65 75 10</p>	ICPTOP Gas Stove ACM90020S 50X55cm Gas Stove  <p>29 49 19</p>	FLAMEGAS Gas Stove EB-5540W 55X40cm Gas Stove  <p>69 95 26</p>
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Panasonic Washing Machine NA-107VCSWAS Washing Machine  <p>89 129 40</p>	SHARP Washing Machine ES-FE10BZ-W Washing Machine  <p>69 99 30</p>	SHARP Washing Machine ES-MM95Z-H Washing Machine  <p>64 79 15</p>	Midea Washing Machine MTEB0-P101Q Washing Machine  <p>35 42 7</p>	ORCO Gas Stove OR-9060WR 90X60cm Gas Stove  <p>99 139 40</p>	FLAMEGAS Gas Stove AL-9612GI 90X60cm Gas Stove  <p>149 199 50</p>
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150!



CELEBRATE CANADA

STUDENT ART COMPETITION

October 8th till November 9th, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

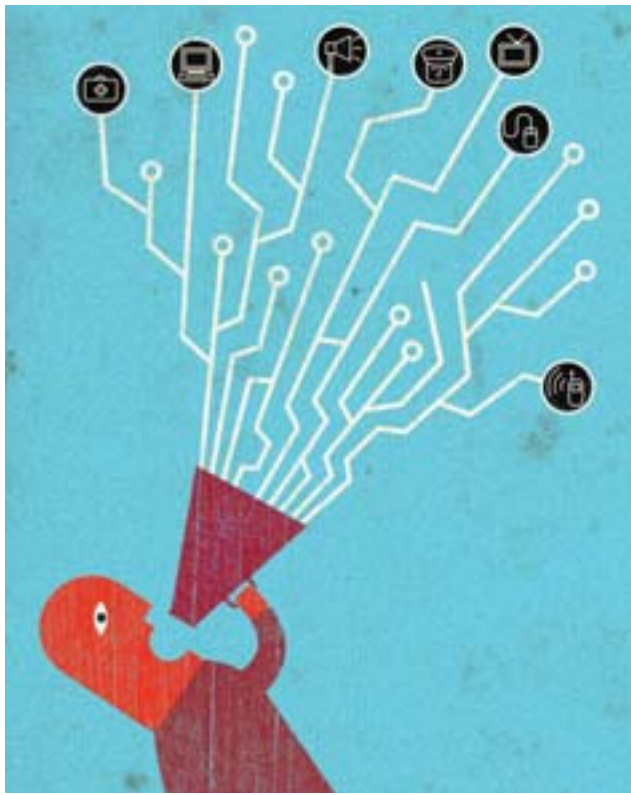


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Local



Public works ministry hotline proves effective

By Nawara Fattahova

There are a growing number of government service 'hotlines' in Kuwait where residents can call to inform government offices of problems with roadworks, violations and other matters. Kuwait Times recently investigated the responsiveness of the Municipality hotline, finding it to be variable at best. Twice Kuwait Times made complaints about debris and waste left on the roadside in Salwa and Salmiya. Both complaints have yet to be dealt with and the waste/debris remain.

The call center of the Ministry of Public Works, however, was very responsive to caller complaints. The Ministry of Public Works is responsible for fixing problems on Kuwait's roads including potholes, obstructions of view and other related matters. Anyone can call the hotline 150 to file a complaint. Kuwait Times reported three different problems, one in the Capital and two in the Hawally governorates, for resolution.

A few months ago this reporter called the hotline and reported a huge pothole on Jahra Road in Industrial Shuwaikh. Engineers visited the reported site within a day and investigated the problem. Within a week, the hole was fixed. Continuing with the investigation, Kuwait Times called a second time to report a problem on a main road in Salmiya off Salem Al-Mubarak Street. Again engineers from the ministry visited the site within a day, and this time, the problem was fixed within a month.

Kuwait Times reported a third pothole in Salmiya near Hamad Al-Mubarak Street. As in previous cases, the call center agent sent the complaint immediately to site engineers, who then followed up with a call to this reporter to get the exact location. The complaint was dealt with in a timely manner and the pothole fixed within two weeks. The swift response contrasts positively with the slow, oftentimes nonexistent response from other ministries.

MP Tabtabaei proposes exit visa for expatriates

Oil minister ready to face grilling

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei yesterday proposed imposing exit visas for expatriates to be able to leave the country, as both lawmakers and the government continue to introduce or propose measures hostile to the three million expatriates living in Kuwait. The lawmaker submitted a draft law to amend existing laws requiring that expatriates working in the private sector must obtain a special permit from the public manpower authority to be able to leave the country.

The permit can be given only after the approval of the expatriates' sponsors, giving these sponsors an additional weapon to further consolidate their control over their expatriate employees. Saudi Arabia

and Qatar are the only states in the Gulf that require exit visas from their expatriate community. Kuwait is one of the most liberal states in the Gulf over the freedom of travel of expatriates.

In the past, sponsors used to seize the passports of their expatriate employees, but following a series of rulings by the court, authorities issued strict regulations banning employers from keeping the passports of their expatriate staff. Tabtabaei proposed that the exit visa measure should apply to expatriates in the private sector and domestic helpers. Expatriates working in the government already

cannot leave without a permit from the government department employing them.

Tabtabaei's proposal is the latest in a series of actions and calls against expatriates that have so far included increasing charges of water, electricity and health services, and many more appear to be coming. Several MPs led by Safa Al-Hashem have called for imposing wide-ranging taxes on expatriates including a five-percent tax on their remittances and a KD 1,200 annual fee on those who have a driving license.

Meanwhile, Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq said yesterday he was prepared to refute charges against him in any grilling that could be submitted in the coming term opening on Oct 24. The minister said oil projects underway will not

be affected by any future grilling, adding that oil projects are being implemented in accordance with the oil sector strategy which is not influenced by political developments. A number of lawmakers have threatened to grill the oil minister over alleged financial and administrative violations that include violations in appointments to senior positions at oil companies. MP Faisal Al-Kandari yesterday threatened to grill the oil minister if he does not reform the situation in the oil sector, alleging that the volume of corruption has increased.

In the meantime, MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari yesterday supplied State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah with fresh explanations about their grilling, which the minister has requested. Adasani warned that if any points of the grilling against the ministers were removed, he will file to grill the prime minister himself.



Proposal latest in series of actions and calls against expats

CRIMES

Neighbor killed over unpaid debt

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 28-year-old citizen turned himself in yesterday after stabbing his 38-year-old Kuwaiti neighbor to death. Security sources said initial investigations showed that the motive for the murder was an unpaid debt the victim had borrowed from the murderer.



Bloodstains are seen at the scene of the murder.

Smuggling bid foiled

Kuwait International Airport custom inspectors foiled an attempt to smuggle in illicit pills hidden within a shipment of learning boards for children, said security sources. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress to identify the recipient.

Road closure

In collaboration with the ministry of public works, the general traffic department announced part of Fahahel Expressway opposite Mahboula will be closed for six hours from dawn today (Friday, Oct 20, 2017) to mount a pedestrian bridge. The department added that precautionary measures had been taken to guide motorists to a temporary detour. The department also urged motorists to drive carefully on this segment of the highway.



MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei

Kuwaiti youth can contribute to development: KUNA chief

Local media recognized for its integrity and credibility

KUWAIT: Kuwait News Agency's Board Chairman and Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah called on Kuwaiti youth to shoulder their national responsibilities and contribute to the state building and development. "We are very confident in the competence of the people of Kuwait and their ability to impressively and boundlessly contribute to various domains," KUNA chief Sheikh Mubarak said in a speech at the graduation ceremony of trainees of KUNA's Fourth Journalism Training Program for university students at KUNA headquarters Wednesday.

He stressed that: "youth are the real wealth of Kuwait". He pointed out that the journalism training program is a collaborative work carried out to support of the government plans and relentless efforts for comprehensive development. Sheikh Mubarak thanked the professors of Kuwait University and the Gulf University for Science and Technology for their cooperation in preparing for this year's edition of the program.

He said the training program launched by KUNA four years ago has achieved great success. "I hope the program will be honed in the coming years to serve a larger number of students and specialties needed by Kuwait," he concluded. In a similar speech, KUNA Deputy Director-General for the Editorial Sector Saad Al-Ali lauded the trainees' keenness to learn and enhance their journalistic skills. The reports written by the trainees during the course showed promising talents of youth, he said, noting that these reports have been greatly received by local press and social media. "Media has become a prime source of information," he said, noting that the Kuwaiti media is internationally recognized by its integrity and credibility. He urged the trainees to be the best ambassadors for this media in the world.

For his part, KUNA Deputy Board Chairman Adnan Al-Rashed stressed in a speech the need to keep pace with rapid developments in the media domain through fostering skills of students and educating

them about the latest techniques, tools and approaches in the field. Working in media and journalism professions require personal skills, which could be maximized by training to prepare them for the job market, he said.

Meanwhile, Director of Kuwait University Dr Hussein Al-Ansari said that media is a double-edged sword. "The challenge is to create a successful and constructive media that disseminates knowledge and raise people awareness," he said. He added that the Kuwait University is attempting to partner with various bodies to train university students and equip them with the required practical skills to enter a highly competitive labor market. "Investment in capacity building is one of the main pillars of Kuwait's development plan," he clarified.

He expressed pleasure to attend the graduation ceremony of a new batch of trainees of Kuwait University's mass communication students. He lauded KUNA's remarkable efforts and contributions to harness the skills of those students. On behalf of her fellow graduating



KUNA Chairman and Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah. — KUNA

trainees, Aisha Al-Kanderi expressed gladness to attend the KUNA training course. "The training program has offered us a great opportunity to meet several leading media figures who educated us about creativity, discipline and hard work and how to improve our skills and get the best out of us," she said.— KUNA

CRIMES

Prostitute arrested

A European woman was arrested and referred to the deportation department for prostitution. Security sources said the suspect confessed she had come to Kuwait on a visit visa and was making KD 1,500 daily by charging her clients KD 300 an hour.

Iqama forgers held

Two expats were arrested for forging a residency visa stamp, said security sources. Case papers indicate that an expat was stopped at the airport before departing as his residency visa had expired. The man insisted that it was renewed, and on checking the stamp on the passport, it was found to be fake. The man confessed that he had paid KD 250 to two people he named to renew it. The suspects were arrested and they confessed to faking the residency stamp, taking advantage of the man's illiteracy.

No jail for fake doc

Following up the case of a citizen who was arrested at Amiri Hospital for impersonating a doctor and a ruling family member, the court of appeal annulled a first instance rule sentencing him to five years in prison and made him sign an affidavit to show good conduct.

Bank fraud

A 'VIP' reported that an unidentified person had hacked her bank account and stolen KD 30,000 from it. Enquiring with the bank, she was told that the sum had been used for online purchases. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

— Translated from the Arabic press

New-look UAE cabinet named after reshuffle

DUBAI: UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum announced a cabinet reshuffle yesterday, according to WAM. The new-look line-up was co-ordinated with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and UAE Armed Forces Deputy Supreme Commander Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Omar bin Sultan Al-Ulama has been appointed as Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence. The 27-year old minister, who is in charge of the UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy, succeeded in organizing the World Government Summit in the UAE. Sara Al-Amiri, 30, takes over as Minister of State for Advanced Sciences. She is also in charge of the UAE Scientific Council and the UAE Mars 2117 project.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid announced the appointment of Mariam Al-Mahiri as Minister of State for Food Security. Minister of State for Higher Educational Affairs Dr Ahmed Belhoul Al-Falasi will be in charge of the portfolio of advanced skills. He will also preside over the UAE Federal Human Resources Development Authority. Nasser bin Thani Al-Hamli takes over the portfolio of Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization. Hessa bint Isa Bouhameed was given the portfolio of Minister of



Omar Al-Ulama,



Mariam Al-Mahiri



Sara Al-Amiri



Nasser Al-Hamli

Social Development, Nahyan bin Mubarak has been appointed as Minister of Tolerance and Zaki Nusaibah takes over as Minister of State. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid also announced the appointment of Noora Al-Kaabi as Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development. "The new cabinet is a government of transition to the new UAE centenary to develop knowledge, support sciences and research and engage the young generation in leading the national march," said Sheikh Mohammed.— Agencies

Security chief on security challenges in Middle East

BERLIN: Head of the Kuwait National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah gave a speech on security challenges in the Middle East region on Wednesday. This comes within the framework of a visit by Sheikh Thamer to

the German capital upon an invitation from the German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG). The speech featured a galaxy of Arab top diplomats in Berlin, including Lebanese Ambassador Mustafa Adib, Saudi Ambassador Prince Khaled bin Bandar Al-Saud, Egypt's Envoy Badr Abdel-Ati, UAE's Envoy Ali Al-Ahmad, as well as ambassadors of Bahrain, Iraq, Palestine, Morocco and the Arab League. At the end of the event, Sheikh Thamer received a certificate of honorary membership of DAFG, as Kuwait is considered the first Arab country to join the association. Sheikh Thamer and his accompanying delegation also visited headquarters of the German interior ministry. During the visit, mutual relations and issues of common concern were discussed.—KUNA

Local

Kuwait trade surplus with Japan soars

TOKYO: Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan soared 158.5 percent from a year earlier to ¥50.0 billion (\$444 million) in September, up for the ninth month on strong exports, the Japanese Finance Ministry said yesterday. Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan surged 59.7 percent year-on-year to ¥61.7 billion (\$548 million) for the ninth consecutive month of expansion, the ministry said in a preliminary report. Imports from Japan plunged 39.3 percent to ¥11.7 billion (\$104 million) for the fourth straight monthly fall. As a result, Kuwait maintained its monthly black ink with Japan for nine years and eight months, it said.

The Middle East's trade surplus with Japan jumped 39.8 percent to ¥375.7 billion (\$3.3 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region growing 14.9 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 94.9 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, expanded 14.0 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan declined 12.5 percent, chiefly due to weak shipments of automobile, machinery and steel.

The world's third-biggest economy logged a global surplus of ¥670.2 billion (\$6.0 billion) in September, marking the fourth consecutive month of black ink, thanks to a rise in shipments of semiconductor manufacturing equipment and automobile engines to the US. Overall exports gained 14.1 percent from the year before, while imports grew 12.0 percent, with value of crude oil jumping 15.0 percent. China remained Japan's biggest trade partner, followed by the US. The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors. — KUNA

Kuwait reiterates its support for the Palestinian cause



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks during a UN Security Council meeting. — KUNA

NEW YORK: Kuwait reiterated its continued support of the Palestinian cause and to exert pressure on the Israeli occupation forces to cease their practices and policies that violate international resolutions. Kuwait would like to emphasize the importance of achieving tangible progress on the Palestinian case led by relevant international bodies and the Security Council, particularly the five permanent members as well as the Quartet and international partners, said Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi in a speech to the UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday to discuss developments in the Middle East.

These efforts should be focused on setting a clear time-frame for the completion of negotiations between Palestine and Israel to reach a two-state solution that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, he said. Since more than 50 years, the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, witnessed only a continuous series of violations of the most basic rules of international law, he added.

Otaibi said the illegal Israeli policies and plans aimed at Judaizing the holy city and destroying its Arab identity as well as disrupting its population structure and isolating it from its Palestinian surroundings are still going on. The violations come despite all the resolutions of the Security Council over the past years, which in their contents condemned the Israeli practices and affirmed their illegality and illegitimacy, specially the latest resolution no. 2334. — KUNA

Qatar and Kuwait discuss efforts to resolve crisis

DOHA: Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani discussed yesterday with Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah the latest developments regarding the Kuwaiti mediation to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Qatari News Agency (QNA) said the Qatari emir and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, along with the accompanying delegation, examined the close and brotherly relations between the two countries and regional and international issues. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, in the beginning of his audience with the Qatari emir, conveyed greetings and good wishes from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the emir and his people. Sheikh Tamim asked Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to relay his tributes and good wishes to HH the Amir and the Kuwaiti people. — KUNA



DOHA: Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani meets Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

Amir commends Ghanem for IPU Palestinian stance

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday praised National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem for his pro-Palestinian stance at the

137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly, Saint Petersburg, Russia. In a cable, the Amir emphasized Ghanem's firm remarks against the Israeli Knesset delegation at the concluding session of the assembly, demanding them to leave the meeting room due to the issue of Palestinian MPs in Israeli prisons.

HH the Amir lauded the honorable stance that was highly appreciated by representatives of Arab and sister peace-loving nations, embodying Kuwait's unwavering position in support of "Palestinian brothers" until they restore their legitimate rights and secure victory for their just cause. The Amir wished Ghanem further success for serving dear Kuwait. — KUNA

Education minister visits Washington cultural office

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's Education Minister Mohammad Al-Faris visited Kuwait's Cultural Office in Washington to check on its services provided to Kuwaiti students in the US. During the visit late Wednesday, Faris discussed conditions of Kuwaiti students with head of the office Aseel Al-Awadhi. In a statement to KUNA, the minister said he learned of students' activities, procedures on scholarships and difficulties facing the office in executing its tasks. He noted that the ministry is seeking to develop an online system to connect all cultural offices directly with the Ministry of Higher Education to tackle different issues and develop the work scheme.

Awadhi said the main problem facing the Washington office is a lack of employees and the increasing numbers of students. Faris' visit is part of his meetings with the World Bank Group on



WASHINGTON: Kuwaiti Education Minister Mohammad Al-Faris meets head of the Washington office Aseel Al-Awadhi. — KUNA

Tuesday to discuss the education ministry's national program to develop education, launched in 2015 in cooperation with the bank. Meanwhile, the minister also visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston to discuss the possibility of using their systems in training teachers online. — KUNA

GCC official calls for strengthening EU cooperation

BRUSSELS: The Assistant Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg has underlined the importance of boosting cooperation between the GCC and the EU in many fields including security and political issues. "The EU is still the number one trading partner for the GCC, still the source of technical support that we get and we have been cooperating more and more on political and security

issues," he told the European Parliament's committee on international trade Wednesday evening.

He addressed a conference on "trade and economic relations between the EU and the GCC countries" held in the European Parliament in Brussels. "Today we can work on many issues together. We can try to unlock the deadlock on the FTA (Free Trade Agreement) but we can also try other things that we think can yield immediate results. One is to strengthen the EU-GCC political and security dialogue, which includes fighting terrorism, fighting human trafficking and illegal migration.

These are goals that we both share," said the top GCC official. Aluwaisheg noted that the EU-GCC cooperation agreement of 1988 established a framework for cooperation and 15 working

groups were formed to boost bilateral relations. "One of the instruments that we used was the FTA negotiations. We put all our eggs in that basket for a while. We forgot about other things. That led to a stagnation in developing the tools that we need," he said. FTA negotiations between the 6-member GCC and the 28-member EU has been on hold for a number of years. "We believe that the FTA is an excellent work. We have agreement on nearly every issue. We also agreed on the political points," he said. The GCC official noted that there was one point of dispute, which was the export duties. Have we been able to solve it, we would have signed the agreement long time ago. How did we allow a theoretical issue like export duties to affect the progress. We think we can overcome that difficulty," he said. — KUNA

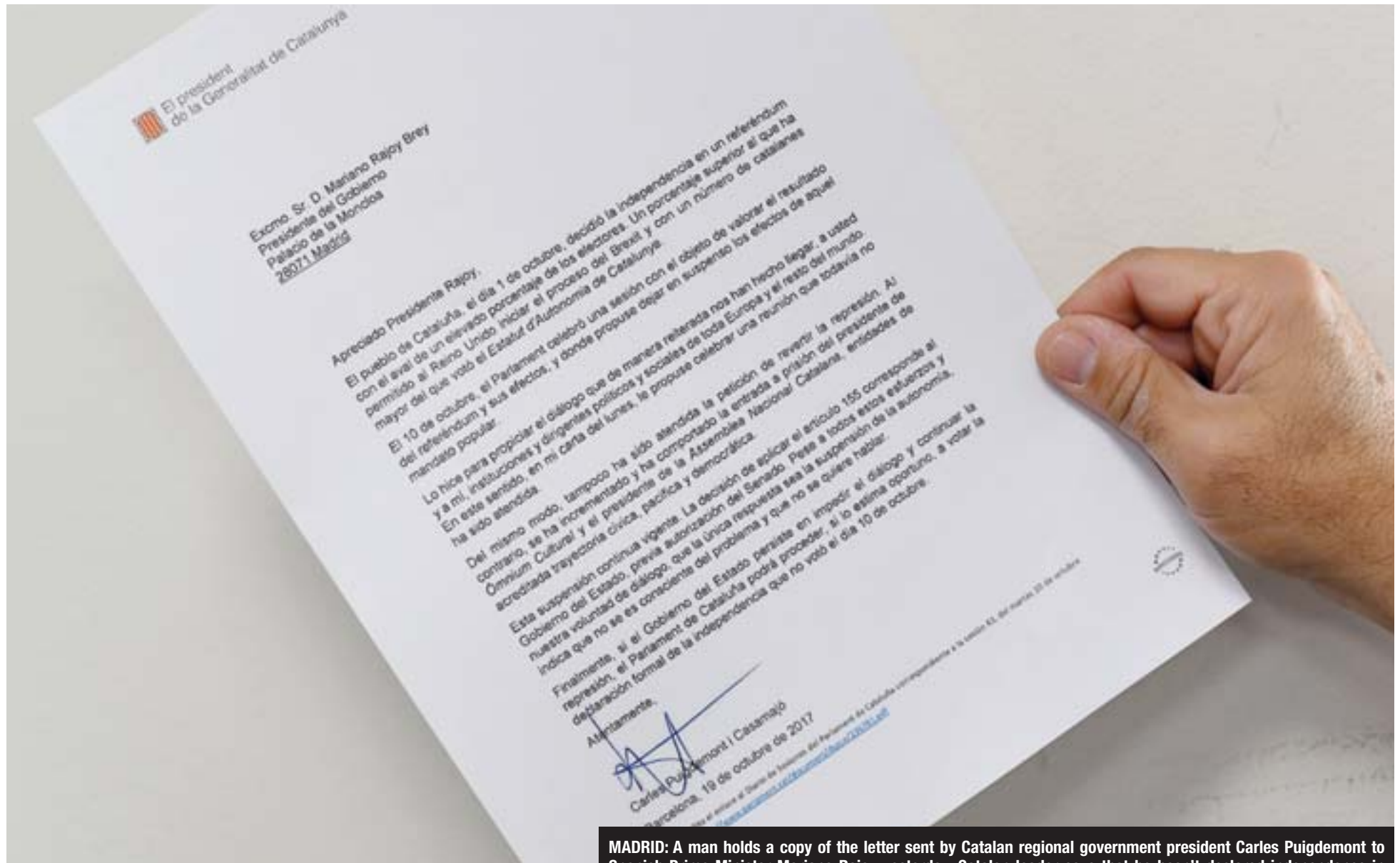


Iraq orders arrest of Kurdish VP

Delhi braces for pollution 'airpocalypse' as smog looms

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MADRID: A man holds a copy of the letter sent by Catalan regional government president Carles Puigdemont to Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy yesterday. Catalan leader says that he hasn't declared independence in Catalonia but he might do in case that Spanish government suspended the regional autonomy. — AFP

Spain, Catalonia political crisis worsens

PM threatens to trigger Article 155

MADRID: Spain said yesterday it will seize some of the Catalan regional government's powers after its leader warned he could declare independence, escalating the country's worst political crisis in decades. The central government in Madrid had given separatist leader Carles Puigdemont until 10:00 am yesterday to say whether or not he was declaring a breakaway state in the semi-autonomous region following a chaotic referendum on October 1. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy had warned he would trigger Article 155 of Spain's constitution—a never-before-used measure allowing it to impose direct rule over the wealthy northeastern region—unless Puigdemont backed down.

There are fears that such a move, allowing Madrid to potentially suspend Puigdemont's government and take over its police force, could spark unrest in a region where even Catalans who oppose independence cherish their autonomy highly. Puigdemont responded yesterday that

Catalan lawmakers could vote to declare secession unilaterally if Madrid triggers Article 155. "If the central government persists in preventing dialogue and continuing repression, Catalonia's parliament could proceed... to vote for a formal declaration of independence," he wrote in a letter to Rajoy, adding that a cryptic "suspended" independence declaration he issued last week did not amount to breaking away.

The government hit back by saying it intends to push on with triggering Article 155 — a process that would take several days—to "restore legality" in the region. It called an emergency cabinet meeting for Saturday to specify how it will take control over the region. The Catalonia crisis has prompted a series of huge street rallies, worried investors and added to the woes of a European Union already grappling with Brexit. Rajoy was heading to Brussels for a summit with other EU leaders, where the Catalonia crisis was likely to come up for discussion.

Divided region

Catalonia's 7.5 million residents are fiercely attached to their own language and culture but are divided on whether to break away from the rest of Spain. Puigdemont says his regional administration has a mandate to declare independence from what he says was a 90-percent "Yes" vote on October 1, marred by a heavy-handed police crackdown on voters. But turnout was given as only 43 percent. Many voters who oppose independence stayed away from a referendum that had been declared illegal by Spain's Constitutional Court. Madrid had on Wednesday offered the separatists a potential last-minute way out by proposing fresh regional elections sanctioned by the central government. A government source told AFP that would allow the region to "return to legality". But Joan Tarda, spokesman from the leftist ERC party which is part of Puigdemont's coalition, told lawmakers in Madrid: "The Catalan government will not call elections."

'Collective suicide'

Catalonia's La Vanguardia daily—Spain's second biggest newspaper—had urged Puigdemont in an editorial earlier to back down and call elections. "There's no dignity in collective suicide, even less so when it's decided by one person and everyone suffers," it said in an editorial. On the streets of Madrid, residents were warily eyeing the prospect of Spain entering uncharted waters with Article 155. "The 155 scares me," said Jorge Arias, a 32-year-old librarian who wants Catalonia to stay in Spain but backs voters' right to have a say on the matter. "It's an extreme measure of Rajoy's government and it won't solve anything." But Alfons Fernandez, a retired engineer, said Rajoy had no choice. "There is no other way out than Article 155 — if one person wants to talk but doesn't respect the law, then you can't talk," he said. Pro-independence protesters were due to stage a rally outside central government offices in Barcelona at 1600 GMT. — AFP

International

100,000 Kurds flee Kirkuk since Iraqi army takeover

Fear of sectarian reprisals driving out Kurds

ERBIL: About 100,000 Kurds have fled Kirkuk for fear of sectarian reprisals since Iraqi government forces took over the city after a Kurdish independence referendum condemned by Baghdad, regional Kurdish officials said yesterday. Baghdad's forces swept into the multi-ethnic city of more than 1 million people, hub of a major oil-producing area, largely unopposed on Monday after most Kurdish Peshmerga forces withdrew rather than fight.

Iraqi forces also took back control of Kirkuk oilfields, effectively halving the amount of output under the direct control of the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in a serious blow to the Kurds' independence quest. Baghdad's recapture of Kirkuk, situated just outside

the KRG's official boundaries on disputed land claimed by Kurds, ethnic Turkmen and Arabs, put the city's Kurds in fear of attack by Shiite Muslim paramilitaries, known as Popular Mobilization, assisting government forces' operations in the region.

Nawzad Hadi, governor of Erbil, the KRG capital, told reporters that around 18,000 families from Kirkuk and the town of Tuz Khurmato to the southeast had taken refuge in Erbil and Sulaimaniya, inside KRG territory. A Hadi aide told Reuters the total number of displaced people was about 100,000.

Balance of power shifts in Iraq's multi-ethnic Kirkuk

KIRKUK: With the return of Kirkuk to Iraqi control, the balance of power appears to have shifted between the ethnic communities in the Kurdish-majority city, to the delight of its Turkmen residents. "Before we couldn't proudly declare that we are Turkmen, now our flag is flying over Kirkuk's citadel again," said Omar Najat, 23. Three weeks before, the disputed city's Kurds were gleefully taking part in a Kurdish independence referendum in open defiance of Baghdad.

Today, the election posters have been torn down, as well as those of the September 25 referendum's chief advocate, Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani. Huge Iraqi flags have been strung from palm trees and across buildings, although Kurdish flags have been left flying from lampposts. In the Kurdish neighborhood of Rahimawa, business has been slow for the few shops that have reopened such as tyre salesman Abu Sima, 36, as he awaits a return to normality.

His nephews and nieces had to wait for schools to reopen in the wake of the upheaval

Hemin Hawrami, a top aide to KRG President Masoud Barzani, tweeted that people had fled "looting and sectarian oppression" inflicted by Popular Mobilization militia. "Where is @UNIraq @UNHCRIraq?," Hawrami said in another tweet, suggesting UN humanitarian agencies were doing little to help newly displaced people.

Lisa Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, had urged all parties on Wednesday to do their utmost "to shield and protect all civilians impacted by the current situation". Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said on Wednesday that security was being maintained in Kirkuk by local police backed by the elite Counter Terrorism Service, trained and equipped by the United States mainly to fight Islamic

Iraq orders arrest of Kurdish Vice President Rasul

State militants. "All other armed group should not be allowed to stay," Abadi said. Sunni Muslim Kurds comprise the largest community in Kirkuk followed by Shiite Turkmen, Sunni Arabs and Christians, according to the Iraqi Planning Ministry in Baghdad.

Iraq orders arrest

In another sign of rising tensions, Iraq's Supreme Justice Council ordered the arrest of Kurdistan Regional Government Vice President Kosrat Rasul for allegedly saying Iraqi troops were "occupying forces" in

on Sunday as Iraqi forces entered the city. In three days and with barely any resistance from Kurdish peshmerga fighters, Iraqi forces took control of the whole of the oil-rich province of Kirkuk, whose ownership has long been disputed between Baghdad and the autonomous Kurdish region in the north. For fear of violence on Sunday, Abu Sima and his wife joined thousands of other families, mostly Kurds, in fleeing the city. But like most others, they have returned.

'We had to come back'

"We had to come back because we, the Kurds, are the majority, we were the original residents of Kirkuk," he said. In his fabrics store at the heart of the market in the shadow of the Ottoman-era citadel, Omar Najat couldn't agree less with that historical assessment. "That there (the citadel) is Ottoman, Turkish, and Kirkuk is Iraqi Turkmen," he insisted. "Now that Baghdad is in charge, we have security, not like before when we had another power in place," said the young man in skinny jeans and slim-fitting shirt.

He was referring to Kirkuk's governor Najm Eddine Karim who was fired by Baghdad for bringing the referendum to the province but refused to step down, until Iraqi security forces seized control of his office on Monday. He had previously gone on television to urge Kurdish residents to take up arms to resist the entry of Iraqi forces into the city. — AFP



KIRKUK: A member of the Iraqi government forces' stands guard at a humvee turret while guarding the Bai Hassan oil field, west of the multi-ethnic northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. — AFP

Kirkuk. KRG Peshmerga forces deployed into Kirkuk in 2014 when Iraqi government forces fell apart in the face of an offensive by Islamic State insurgents, preventing the oilfields from falling into jihadist hands.

An Iraqi military statement on Wednesday said government forces had also taken control of Kurdish-held areas of Nineveh province, including the Mosul hydro-electric dam, after the Peshmerga pulled back. Iran and Turkey joined the Baghdad government in condemning the Iraqi Kurds' Sept 25 referendum, worried it could worsen regional instability and conflict by encouraging their own Kurdish populations to push for homelands. The Kurds' long-time big power ally, the United States, also opposed the vote.

With the referendum having given Abadi a political opening to regain contested land and shift the balance of power in his favor, it may prove a gamble that makes the KRG's quest for statehood more elusive. KRG Foreign Minister Fala Mustafa Bakir told broadcaster CNN that his side never meant to engage in war with the Iraqi army. He said there was a need for dialogue between the KRG and Iraq to enable a common understanding. The dispute, he added, was not about oil or the national flag but the future of two nations. Crude oil flows through the KRG pipeline to the Turkish port of Ceyhan have been disrupted by a gap between incoming and outgoing personnel since Baghdad's retaking of Kirkuk. — Reuters

More conflicts loom after IS defeat in Raqqa

BEIRUT: The Middle East may have turned a page with the defeat of the Islamic State group in its self-declared capital of Raqqa, but the future is looking even more tangled, and potentially as violent. The downfall of a common enemy could open up cracks in temporary alliances created to fight the extremists, and rivalries for influence are now likely to take center stage. Already, a multitude of players in the crowded theaters of Iraq and Syria are racing for the spoils of war. And while the group fights its last battles in what remains of its self-styled caliphate, world powers and smaller players alike are vying to create new facts on the ground.

Syrian army and allies

With the pivotal capture of east Aleppo in late 2016, President Bashar Assad's government effectively neutralized its most threatening armed opposition, allowing it to train its full attention on IS. The priority was oil-rich eastern Syria, close to the Iraqi border, and with the backing of Russia and Iranian-sponsored Shiite militias, the Syrian army has made significant advances in the area. Tehran wants to

establish a land route from Iraq through Syria, all the way to Israel's borders. Washington and Israel are wary of this expansion, and Israel has warned it will not tolerate a continued Iranian military presence in Syria.

This terrain is about to get increasingly muddled. With the fall of Raqqa, the US-backed Kurdish-led militia known as the Syrian Democratic Forces will turn its attention to Deir El-Zour province, where the race is on for control of its vital oil deposits and the border with Iraq. The Kurdish fighters have battled IS in the northeastern part of Deir el-Zour, gaining control of at least four oil fields and one natural gas installation. The rival forces are currently positioned at nearly the same distance from the largest oil field, al-Omar, which is still controlled by IS. Assad has meanwhile vowed to retake control of Raqqa at some point. For now, the city is to be administered by a local civil council supported by the US-backed SDF.

Starting as a small self-defense unit in northern Syria, the main Kurdish-led militia has become Washington's primary partner in Syria and is now a multi-ethnic force of Kurdish, Arab and Assyrian troops that boasts thousands of fighters. This alliance was cemented by the common goal of fighting IS, which at one point charged into Kurdish-dominated areas. The increasing US presence in the area also provided the Kurdish militia with international cover to push for their project of a federal system that would give them more autonomy. — AP

International

Dozens killed; Taliban launches fresh assaults on Afghan bases

At least 43 Afghan soldiers die; nine wounded

KANDAHAR: Militants launched two separate attacks on Afghan security installations killing dozens of soldiers yesterday, the latest in a series of devastating assaults this week that have left more than 120 people dead and underscored spiraling insecurity. At least 43 Afghan soldiers were killed and nine wounded in a Taliban-claimed assault on a military base in southern Afghanistan which saw the insurgents blast their way into the compound with at least one explosives-laden Humvee, the defense ministry said. A security source in Kandahar put the toll at 50 dead and 20 wounded. But the real figure is likely to be higher because Afghan officials habitually understate the actual number of casualties.

The militants razed the base in the Chashmo area of Maiwand district in Kandahar province to the ground, according to the ministry. "Unfortunately there is nothing left inside the camp. They have burned down everything they found inside," defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said. Just two soldiers were known to have survived unscathed, with six unaccounted for, the ministry said, underscoring the shocking casualties that Afghan security forces have faced in their struggle to beat back the insurgents.

Ten militants were killed, it added. US planes carried out an airstrike during a counter-terror operation in Maiwand yesterday, a spokesman for US Forces in Kabul said, though he did not specify whether the target was insurgents at the base. Provincial officials said two Humvee vehicles were

used in the attack which was condemned by President Ashraf Ghani. They said the assault may have been carried out with insider help. The Taliban claimed the ambush in a message to journalists that said all 60 security personnel on the base were killed. "We have sent a delegation to assess the situation. The base is under ANA (Afghan National Army) control," Waziri added.

Separately yesterday, militants besieged a police headquarters in the southeastern province of Ghazni, attacking it for the second time this week. Airstrikes were called in to support embattled police in the ongoing assault, which has killed two security forces so far, Ghazni provincial police chief Mohammad Zaman told AFP. The strikes were not immediately confirmed by

US Forces. Officials said the earlier assault on the headquarters, which took place on Tuesday, left 20 people dead and 46 wounded. Yesterday's attacks take the number of major suicide and gun assaults on security installations this week to four and increases the total death toll to more than 120, including soldiers, police and civilians. In three out of the four assaults this week the Taliban used a Humvee vehicle as a bomb to blast their way into their targets.

Security forces under siege

US President Donald Trump vowed earlier this year to stay the course in Afghanistan, America's longest war. But the Taliban said the recent assaults were a "clear message to the Americans and the

Union, Russia and the United Nations. "If Hamas is to play any role in a Palestinian government, it must accept these basic requirements," Greenblatt said. The statement was also similar to the Israeli government's response this week in which it vowed not to negotiate with a Palestinian unity government that includes Hamas unless the Islamist group agrees to a list of demands.

The demands included recognizing Israel and renouncing violence, but also returning the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza, among other conditions. Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim condemned Greenblatt's statement and accused the United States of adopting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's positions. "This is blatant interference in Palestinian affairs because it is the right of our people to choose its government according to their supreme strategic interests," Naim said. "This statement comes under pressure from the extreme right-wing Netanyahu government and is in line with the Netanyahu statement from two days ago."

Gaza humanitarian crisis

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement signed a reconciliation deal with Hamas in Cairo a week ago aimed at ending a bitter 10-year split. The Abbas-led Palestine Liberation Organization has recognized Israel, but Hamas has not and is blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008, and the Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli blockade for more than a decade.—AFP

Palestinians urged to disarm Hamas, recognize Israel

JERUSALEM: A top aide to US President Donald Trump said yesterday that an emerging Palestinian unity government must recognize Israel and disarm Hamas. Washington's first detailed response to a landmark reconciliation deal signed last week. A Hamas official immediately rejected the comments as "blatant interference" in Palestinian affairs, but did not say directly whether the Islamist group planned to comply with any of the demands.

Trump's special representative for international negotiations Jason Greenblatt, who has repeatedly visited the region to seek ways to restart peace talks, laid out a series of conditions. "Any Palestinian government must unambiguously and explicitly commit to nonviolence, recognize the state of Israel, accept previous agreements and obligations between the parties-including to disarm terrorists-and commit to peaceful negotiations," Greenblatt said in a statement.

The US conditions were roughly in line with principles previously set out by the Quartet for Middle East peace—the United States, the European

Assaults underscore spiraling insecurity



KABUL: Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers march during a military exercise at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC) on the outskirts of Kabul. —AFP

Kabul government, that they cannot scare us with their new so-called strategy". "We are fighting back and winning on every front. Inshallah (God willing)," spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi said. "The enemy who thought they had scared us with the new Trump strategy have now been given a lesson."

Beleaguered Afghan security forces have faced soaring casualties in their attempts to hold back the insurgents since NATO combat forces pulled out of the country at the end of 2014. Casualties

leapt by 35 percent in 2016, with 6,800 soldiers and police killed, according to US watchdog SIGAR. The insurgents have carried out more complex attacks against security forces in 2017, with SIGAR describing troop casualties in the early part of the year as "shockingly high". The attacks included assaults on a military hospital in Kabul in March which may have killed up to 100 people, and on a base in Mazar-i-Sharif in April which left 144 people dead.—AFP

Pakistan border fence to keep militants out

ANGOOR ADDA: Pakistan is betting that a pair of nine-foot chain-link fences topped with barbed wire will stop incursions by Islamist militants from Afghanistan, which opposes Islamabad's plans for a barrier along the disputed frontier. Pakistan plans to fence up most of the 2,500 km frontier despite Kabul's protests that the barrier would divide families and friends along the Pashtun tribal belt straddling the colonial-era Durand Line drawn up by the British in 1893. Pakistan's military estimates that it will need about 56 billion rupees (\$532 million) for the project, while there are also plans to build 750 border forts and employ high-tech surveillance systems to prevent militants crossing.

In the rolling hills of the Angoor Adda village in South Waziristan, part of Pakistan's restive Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), three rolls of barbed wire are sandwiched in the six-foot gap between the chain-link fences. "(The fence) is a paradigm change. It is an epoch shift in the border control management," said a Pakistani army officer in command of South Waziristan during a

presentation to foreign media on Wednesday. "There will not be an inch of international border (in South Waziristan) which shall not remain under our observation."

Pakistan's military has so far fenced off about 43 km of the frontier, starting with the most violence-prone areas in FATA, and is expected to recruit tens of thousands of new troops to man the border. It is not clear how long it will take to fence the entire boundary. But Pakistan's plans have also drawn criticism from across the border. Gulab Mangal, governor of the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, told Reuters the wall will create "more hatred and resentment" between two neighbors and will do neither country any good. "The fence will definitely create a lot of trouble for the people along the border on both sides but no wall or fence can separate these tribes," he said.

"I urge the tribes to stand against this action." Pakistan has blamed Pakistani Taliban militants it says are based on Afghan soil for a spate of attacks at home over the past year, urging Kabul to eradicate "sanctuaries" for militants. Afghanistan, in turn, accuses Islamabad of sheltering the leadership of the Afghan Taliban militants who are battling the Western-backed government in Kabul. Both countries deny aiding militants, but relations between the two have soured in recent years. In May, the tension rose when 10 people were killed in two border villages in Baluchistan region.—Reuters

International

Fire destroys landmark hotel in Myanmar largest city; one dead

Authorities launch investigation

YANGON: One person was killed yesterday in a massive fire that destroyed one of Yangon's best-known hotels, sending dark smoke billowing over the centre of Myanmar's largest city and triggering an hours-long battle to put out the flames. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire, which broke out around 3:20 am at the teak-and-stone Kandawgyi Palace Hotel overlooking a picturesque inner-city lake, authorities told Reuters. An unidentified body was found in a guest room and two people were injured, said Htay Lwin, a spokesman of hotel owner Htoo Group. Authorities were investigating the cause of the fire and the cost of the damage was not immediately clear, he added.

The fire had been mostly extinguished by 7 a.m., and more than 140 guests were shifted to nearby hotels. Htoo Group is chaired by business tycoon Tay Za, who, until last year, was on the list of United States sanctions for his close links to Myanmar's former military regime. Myanmar's civilian-led government, helmed by Nobel laureate and former dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, is grappling with the aftermath of a harsh military crackdown that has driven out more than 500,000 of the country's Rohingya Muslim minority. — Reuters



YANGON: A firefighter extinguishes a fire at Kandawgyi Palace hotel in Yangon yesterday. One person died in a pre-dawn blaze that tore through a teakwood hotel. — AFP

'Murderous repression' in Anglophone

YAOUNDE: Cameroon must urgently rethink a policy of "murderous repression" in its restive English-speaking regions or risk the crisis spiraling into an armed uprising, the International Crisis Group (ICG) warned yesterday. In a report on the political crisis in the west African nation, the NGO said the government's crackdown on the anglophone minority had failed and had only served to fuel a clamor for independence.

French-speaking Cameroon has a large anglophone minority which comprises around a fifth of its population of 22 million. Gathered mainly in two regions, many English-speakers say the suffer inequality and discrimination. Simmering resentment has fuelled a breakaway movement that on October 1 issued a symbolic declaration of independence for the putative state of Ambazonia, prompting a crackdown by a government firmly opposed to secession.

In the face of mounting protests in the runup to the declaration, the security forces "responded with disproportionate force, leading to at least 40 deaths and over 100 injured protesters between September 28 and 2 October," the ICG said. It pointed to the use of live rounds and excessive use of teargas. "Due to such murderous repression, secessionist ranks are growing by the day, and some are more firmly evoking the idea of an armed struggle or 'self defense'," it said. Cameroon's President Paul Biya, 84, must act swiftly to find a serious political solution to the crisis, and it was also crucial that the international community speak out firmly against such state violence, the ICG said. — AFP

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International

Trying to unblock Brexit impasse, UK PM makes offer to EU citizens

Move on EU citizens' rights changes focus before summit

BRUSSELS: British Prime Minister Theresa May, seeking to unblock stalled talks on Brexit, promised yesterday to make it as easy as possible for European Union citizens living in Britain to stay after it leaves the bloc. Weakened by losing her Conservative Party's majority in a June election and failing to rally support at an ill-fated party conference, May had initially hoped she would regain her footing by persuading EU leaders at a two-day summit which started yesterday to let Brexit talks move beyond matters of the divorce.

But EU leaders have ruled that out, saying London must agree to pay more as part of an exit settlement than May has said is acceptable. So, changing the focus, she will offer greater concessions for those EU citizens anxious about their rights in Britain post-Brexit. This is unlikely to alter the outcome of the Brussels summit. Continental leaders have assumed for weeks that a deal can be struck on this issue. But it indicates British officials are pursuing a new course - adopting a softer approach to try to win over the bloc's negotiators, if not all its governments.

May will say: "We are in touching distance of agreement" of securing the rights of the around 3 million people from other EU countries in Britain. "I couldn't be clearer: EU citizens living lawfully in the UK today will be able to stay," she wrote on her Facebook page, adding she would set up a group of those affected and experts to make sure the process is smooth. "I know both sides will consider each other's proposals for finalizing the agreement with an open mind. And with flexibility and creativity on both sides, I am confident that we can conclude discussions on citizens'

rights in the coming weeks."

Offering concessions, May will say that EU citizens settling in Britain will no longer need to have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance, as they currently require under EU rules. A senior government official said the aim was to get clear commitments to "swift progress on both sides for an ambitious plan to be set out for what should be achieved in the weeks ahead and particularly a shared urgency in ... reaching an agreement on citizens' rights." EU negotiators have, however, so far been wary of British offers that London refuses to back up by giving people a right to turn to the EU court to enforce if British courts do not.

Change of tack

The offer is a change of tack by the British leader, who is under increasing pressure from Conservative Brexit campaigners to pull out of the talks which hit deadlock last week. EU leaders are expected to say at the summit the talks have not yet made sufficient progress for them to open the post-Brexit trade negotiations that May wants. In an open letter to

May, pro-Brexit politicians and business people said that unless the EU agreed to trade talks, Britain should signal it was ready to be subject to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules from March 30, 2019, when Brexit takes effect. Meanwhile, the leader of Britain's main opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, arrived in Brussels yesterday to meet EU lawmakers to try to break "the Brexit log-jam" created by what he called government "bungling".

The EU leaders are expected to make a "ges-

Britain's May offers greater concessions



'Murder insurance' or protection in US self-defense cases?

ATLANTA: The National Rifle Association is offering insurance for people who shoot someone, stirring criticism from gun-control advocates who say it could foster more violence and give gun owners a false sense of security to shoot first and ask questions later. Some are calling it "murder insurance," and say that rather than promoting personal responsibility and protection, it encourages gun owners to take action and not worry about the consequences.

And, they say, it's being marketed in a way that feeds on the nation's racial divisions. Guns Down, a gun-control group formed last year, is running an ad campaign to criticize the NRA's new insurance. It's just the latest group to take aim at the NRA's offering. "The reason I call it murder insurance is because if you look at the way this is marketed, it's really sold in the context of 'There's a threat around every corner, dear mostly-white NRA member,' and that threat is either a black man or a brown man or some other kind of person of color," said Guns Down director Igor Volsky.

"So when you inevitably have to use your gun to defend yourself from this threat around every corner, you have insurance to protect you." Carry Guard insurance was launched this past spring by the NRA. Rates range from \$13.95 a month for up to \$250,000 in civil protection and \$50,000 in criminal defense to a "gold plus" policy that costs \$49.95 a month and provides up to \$1.5 million in civil protection and \$250,000 in criminal defense. The NRA isn't the only gun lobbying group offering such insurance.

The United States Concealed Carry Association has been in the business much longer and provides up to \$2 million in civil costs and \$250,000 for criminal defense. But the NRA is the most prominent gun-rights group in the country and it offered similar insurance previously. And Carry Guard is more comprehensive and being marketed more aggressively than it has been previously. It's drawing attention to a type of policy that was relatively obscure until now.

Guns Down's advertising campaign casts a spotlight on the policies and asks the two insurance companies involved with it - Lockton Affinity, which administers it, and Chubb, the underwriter to drop it. The campaign includes a video message from Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed teen shot and killed in 2012 by a neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman whose case drew nationwide notoriety. —AP



BRUSSELS: Britain Prime Minister Theresa May gestures as she talks with Luxembourg Prime minister in Brussels yesterday during a summit of European Union (EU) leaders. —AFP

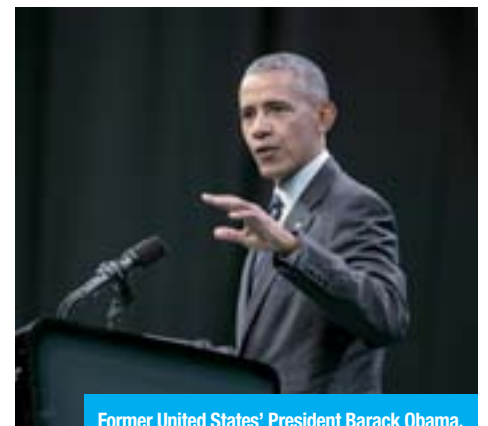
ture" and to recognize concessions May offered in a speech in Italy last month by telling EU staff to prepare for talks on a transition period needed to ease uncertainty for business. "We have to work really hard between October and December to finalize this so-called first phase and to start negotiating on our future relationship with the UK," Donald Tusk, the chairman of EU leaders, said on Wednesday. Some EU officials said Britain could unlock the talks by putting a higher figure for the divorce bill on the desk of chief negotiator Michel Barnier, something May says she cannot do until she has an understanding of the shape of future ties.

If May offers more than the around 20 billion euros she outlined in her Florence speech, she risks angering some in her party, which, according to two sources, is getting ready to line up a successor. A senior British government official said she would not change position on the financial settlement and instead would focus on the deal on EU citizen rights - an issue that the EU says must be resolved before the talks can move on. The official said the change of focus was not to try to save face at the summit, at which she will present her case over a dinner. She will then be excluded from the other 27 EU members' discussions on Friday about Britain's planned departure from the wealthy bloc. —Reuters

Barack Obama returns to the political arena

RICHMOND: Barack Obama is returning to the political arena for the first time in months after keeping a low profile and avoiding direct confrontation with his White House successor. The 56-year-old former president is scheduled to attend campaign rallies in New Jersey and Virginia on Thursday to support Democratic party candidates for governor. Voters in both states will decide the gubernatorial contests on November 7, one year after Donald Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton and stormed into the White House on a wave of anti-establishment fury.

The races are a potential indicator of voter sentiment ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, which will be a major test for Trump and his Republican party. "There are only two big elections this year, for governor in NJ and VA," political science professor Larry Sabato said. "What's at stake is bragging rights headed into the 2018 midterm elections," Sabato said. It is unclear what Obama's message will be. The former US leader has remained largely detached from the political debate



Former United States' President Barack Obama.

since leaving office on January 20, in keeping with presidential tradition.

Trump has meanwhile used his first nine months in the White House to methodically demolish key Obama administration policies. After three months of vacation Obama began writing his memoirs. He has said little in public and granted almost no interviews. The few times Obama broke his silence was to comment on issues of national importance, such as immigration, health care and climate change. But the 44th president may be tempted yesterday to take aim at Trump, who has frequently and publicly excoriated his predecessor. —AFP

International

'We're not Catalonia': Italy separatists treading softly

Lombardy region to hold referendum on Sunday

MILAN: As nervous investors retreat from Catalonia, afraid the wealthy region may secede from Spain, another European region whose politicians once campaigned for independence is looking to attract some of them - by talking of autonomy, not secession. The Italian region of Lombardy, the country's industrial engine and home to its financial capital Milan, is holding a referendum on Sunday for more autonomy, an outcome its once-proudly secessionist leader hopes will lure more investment. That could come at the expense of Catalonia, which is a rival to Lombardy in the race to attract employers fleeing another painful European divorce, Brexit. The two regions are competing to host Europe's drugs regulator which must leave the UK and find a new home inside the European Union.

"We are not Catalonia," said Lombardy President Roberto Maroni, overlooking Milan from his glass-walled office on the 36th floor of the region's recently built headquarters. "We remain inside the Italian nation with more autonomy while Catalonia wants to become the 29th state of the European Union. We, no. Not for now." He speaks of Catalonia as a competitor in some respects but says he is not deliberately courting its firms. "We are not cheering because firms are fleeing Catalonia. We will see what happens but I haven't had any

requests yet from Catalan firms."

Maroni is a leading member of Lega Nord, which began in the 1990s to campaign for an independent state of Padania, stretching across Italy's north, roughly following the Po river from around Lombardy in the west to Venice in the east. Lega Nord no longer actively campaigns for secession but as the ruling party in Lombardy and in the Veneto region around Venice, it is holding referendums in both for greater autonomy, including a better financial deal from the central government.

Money matters

A 'yes' vote would not be binding on Rome, but Maroni said it would give him a strong mandate to negotiate a better deal. "It's obvious that the more negotiating power I have, the more money I can manage to bring home," he said. Rome says the referendum is unnecessary, though permitted under

Italy's constitution, which allows regions to open talks for more autonomy. Italy's ruling Democratic Party is also neutral on the issue, though at least one of the party's mayors in Lombardy is calling for a "yes" vote. Like Catalonia, Lombardy makes up a fifth of the national economy and complains that the centre is draining its finances. But unlike Catalonia, where hundreds of firms have shifted headquar-

Vote fuels tensions



LOMBARDY: A giant poster announcing a referendum in Italy's northern region of Lombardy to request more autonomy from central government is seen on a building in Milan. —AFP

ters to other regions of Spain since an Oct 1 independence referendum there, Lombardy's boss is taking a softer line and using his autonomy push as an investment pitch. Maroni says Lombardy pays 54 billion euros (\$64 billion) more in taxes to Rome each year than it receives from the centre. He wants to reduce that difference by half.

Maroni says he would spend some of that money on research and development, nurturing family-owned businesses and start-ups — and

tax holidays to attract big international firms. For example, he said, he could tell big multinationals looking to invest in Europe: "You know that if you come to Milan, for two or three years I won't make you pay taxes." Rome, though, is in no position to allow its most economically powerful region such a windfall without risking economic collapse in the already-poor south, experts say. "It's a zero-sum game," said Professor Luca Ricolfi, an expert on federalism at the University of Turin.—Reuters

Malta rattled by shocking murder

VALLETTA: The shocking assassination of an influential anti-corruption blogger has brought to a head the public frustration at Malta's stagnating institutions, bubbling away for years beneath the Mediterranean holiday island image. Academics, lawyers, friends of Daphne Caruana Galizia and mourners alike tell a common tale of failing confidence in the tiny country's politicians, police, business culture and justice system.

Monday's fatal car bomb attack has left the country asking itself: if the most prominent critic of Malta's institutions has been silenced in such a brutal way, who now will speak up? "Who is responsible? Frankly, we all are. The whole country," said Andrew Borg Cardona, a prominent veteran lawyer who is in practice with Caruana Galizia's husband. "We've become not lawless, but the government has given the impression that you can virtually do what you like around here and get away with it," he said.

"The big fish do exactly as they please: build the buildings they want to build, launder the money they want to launder." The attack has thrown a spotlight on Malta's recent economic boom, fuelled by online gambling, offshore companies and a passports-for-investment scheme. A 4.6-percent growth rate, near-full employment and a budget in surplus helped comfortably return Labor Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to power in a June snap election—a vote he called after Caruana Galizia made detailed allegations of corruption against his inner circle, some based on the Panama Papers data leak.

Maltese at crossroads

"To the outside, Malta looks like a holiday island. To people who live



VALLETTA: Flowers and tributes lay at the foot of the Great Siege monument in Valletta, Malta yesterday which has been turned into a temporary shrine for Maltese journalist and blogger Daphne Caruana Galizia. —AFP

here, it's something we've come to live with," Matthew Demarco, 30, a designer, said of the country's practices. He was among mourners who gathered at the growing floral tributes laid to the slain journalist in the heart of the capital Valletta. Professor Andrew Azzopardi, dean of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, said the killing had brought matters to a head and the country now faced a turning point. "The moral panic it has created is phenomenal. People are uncomfortable," the academic said. "We are at a crossroads in terms of our political dialogue. It will be an opportunity or we could be messing things up further. "When you are targeting Daphne, it isn't just targeting her; it is much more than that."

He described the situation as a terrible wake-up call. "The political class have let down the people by not engaging with the issues at hand. They have allowed this sense of statelessness to creep in. There is a sense that the state is not protecting us," he said. "The institutions are under threat. All of this is creating a sense of internal instability." —AFP

Key players in Catalan crisis

MADRID: Spain is taking steps to suspend all or part of Catalonia's regional powers as Catalan leaders refuse to back down on demands for independence, escalating the country's worst political crisis in decades. Here is a look at the positions of the two leading adversaries in this crisis: Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont.

Mariano Rajoy

The 62-year-old leader of the conservative Popular Party (PP) has served as Spain's prime minister since December 2011. With a reputation as a political survivor, Rajoy is known for his strategy of playing for time to wear down his foes. He began a second term in office last November after allowing the left to tear itself apart during 10 months in which Spain remained without a government following inconclusive elections. He now heads a minority government backed by centrists Ciudadanos, who were founded in Catalonia as an anti-independence party. The premier's detractors accuse him of failing to stop separatist sentiment from surging in Catalonia. Some say he even encouraged it after his party successfully pushed for a partial annulment of a 2006 statute of Catalan autonomy. —AFP

G7 focusing on foreign fighter fallout from Islamic State rout

Fighters seek revenge for destruction of 'caliphate'

ISCHIA: The threat of fresh attacks on the West by foreign fighters fleeing the fallen Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa is set to dominate a G7 meeting of interior ministers in Italy. The two-day gathering, which kicked off yesterday on the Italian island of Ischia, comes just days after US-backed forces took full control of the jihadists' de facto Syrian capital. Most foreign fighters are believed to have fled over the past few months.

Experts say those who stayed are now likely to head for Turkey in the hope of travelling on to Europe to seek revenge for the destruction of the "caliphate". Tens of thousands of citizens from Western countries travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight for the group between 2014 and 2016, including extremists who then returned home and staged attacks that claimed dozens of lives. France, whose some 1,000 nationals were among the biggest contingent of overseas recruits to join IS, stated frankly this weekend that it would be "for the best" if jihadists die fighting.

While border crossings have since tightened making it more difficult for fighters to

return, security experts have warned of renewed possibilities of strikes as the pressure on IS intensifies. "With an Islamic military defeat in Iraq and Syria we could find ourselves facing a return diaspora of foreign fighters," Italy's Interior Minister Marco Minniti told a parliamentary committee last week. "There are an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 foreign fighters from 100 countries. Some of them have been killed of course, but... it's possible some of the others will try to return home, to northern Africa and Europe," he said.

G7 interior ministers meet in Italy



Catching boats to Europe

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the war, said a group of 130-150 foreign fighters, including Europeans, had turned themselves in before the end of the battle in Raqqa. Other reports suggested a convoy of foreign fighters had been able to escape the city towards IS-held territory, a claim denied categorically by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) officials. The SDF is expected to contact the home countries of any foreign fighters it holds, to discuss the



CAMPANIA, Italy: Police patrol in the port of Italian island Ischia yesterday before the start of the G7 summit of Interior Ministers with European Union representatives and members of the private sector as Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Twitter. —AFP

possibility of turning them over to face prosecution. But captured fighters could prove a legal headache, with questions raised over what evidence, collected by whom, would be used in a domestic court. Jihadists also become security risks in jails for their potential to radicalize.

French European lawmaker Arnaud Danjean said Wednesday there would be "negotiations with the countries concerned" over what to do

with returners. Minniti warned fighters could take advantage of the confusion and "use the human trafficking routes" to return home-raising the specter of extremists embarking on the migrant boats which regularly head to Italy. It meant controversial efforts currently spearheaded by Italy to close the land and sea trafficking routes which cross Africa into Libya and on across the central Mediterranean sea to Europe were "essential", he added. —AFP

Mexicans pick up the pieces month after earthquake

MEXICO CITY: One month after the earthquake that jolted Mexico on September 19, flattening dozens of buildings across Mexico City and leaving 369 dead, many people are only just starting to pick up the pieces. Here is a look at the recovery effort in four snapshots.

Looking the part

How do you keep going to work if your only clothes are the ones you were wearing when your home collapsed? In Roma, a trendy neighborhood devastated by the quake, a group of friends came up with an original idea to help people in that situation. They transformed an art gallery into a "boutique with a cause" that gives away crisp business clothes to those who lost everything but their jobs. "My building was condemned," said Eduardo Dominguez, 31, an employee at a bookstore that specializes in medical texts. "It's a very awkward, hopeless situation," he said with a pained look as he tried on jackets, barely able to talk about his ordeal. The boutique receives about 20 "customers" a day. "They're usually reluctant to come, but they're always smiling when they leave," said a volunteer at the shop, Jeni Tapia.

In Condesa, the bohemian neighborhood next door, another association has set up a library with 2,000 books rescued from the rubble. The library is located in an old colonial house that the association set up as a refuge for exiled writers and journalists from around the world. The books "were out in the rain for days, under the rubble. They have bad mold. —AFP

Refugees in 'deadlock' on Greek islands

SAMOS: Dozens of tents stud a hillside surrounded by olive trees, while children in flimsy sandals—the lucky ones wearing socks—play on mounds of stinking garbage as the sun rises on the Greek island of Samos. Almost two years since more than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe, thousands are still living in squalor after risking their lives crossing the Aegean sea. "We arrived last night. 42 of us on a small boat," said Naweem Rahimi, an Afghan from Kabul, who is travelling with his wife. "Some Chinese sold me a tent for 10 euros," he said, adding that he had worked as an interpreter for the American military.

Nearly 300 Afghans, Syrians, Iraqis and Africans from various countries live in this makeshift camp—just a small fraction of a recent surge in migrants arriving from Turkey. According to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), 5,000 migrants arrived on Greek islands in September, an increase of 35 percent from the same period a year earlier, according to AFP calculations. That is putting extra pressure on already overcrowded sites at a time when aid agencies are reducing their engagement on the ground.

The September figure compares to a total of 13,320 arrivals from January to 20 August, according to the International Organization for Migration. The resurgence of migrants making the journey to Europe comes despite the EU deal with Turkey in March 2016, which drastically reduced the number of arrivals, and amid political tensions between Ankara and Brussels. "I told the authorities I don't want to stay here. I want to go to London, my uncle is there," said Naweem, looking for a second T-shirt to ward off the chill October air. "It's so cold here. No shower. The situation is too bad."



SAMOS, Greece: Young refugee children fish from rocks on the Greek island of Samos. —AFP

'We are in deadlock'

A hundred meters away from the makeshift camp, barbed wire surrounds the official reception centre of Samos which is overflowing with people. There are just 700 places for more than 2,500 migrants, and journalists are banned from entering without permission. "No toilets, no water, and the food is not good for the youngest," said Saura, an Iraqi woman outside, pointing to her three shivering children, aged two to 10 years old. New arrivals travel to the centre each day to try to each get a 1.5-litre bottle of water and a portion of food, she said. They were registered in early October, but their first interview with the Greek asylum service is not until January 3.

As well as Samos, 11,722 refugees are staying in reception centers on four other Greek islands (Lesbos, Kos, Chios and Leros), well beyond the total official capacity of just 5,576. "We are in deadlock. They have to move the refugees to the Greek mainland," said Manos Logothetis, a medical coordinator at the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Keelpno), while also emphasizing the need to respect the asylum procedure. On Monday, the Greek authorities started to transfer some of the most vulnerable categories of asylum seekers from Samos and other islands to camps or apartments on the mainland. —AFP

International

New Delhi braces for pollution 'airpocalypse' as smog looms

Hindus celebrate Diwali; firecrackers banned

SONIPAT: As Hindus across India celebrate Diwali this week, scientists fear a ban on firecrackers and other emergency anti-pollution measures deployed by authorities may not be enough to prevent a repeat of last year's "airpocalypse" in Delhi. Each year, as winter descends on the Indian capital, a perfect storm of seasonal crop stubble burning, dense cloud cover and smoke generated by millions of firecrackers used in Diwali celebrations turns Delhi's skies a putrid yellow.

Last year's unprecedented pollution disaster saw heavy smog hover above the capital for weeks, forcing schools to shut as authorities scrambled to contain the crisis. This time they are taking few chances, as India's environmental watchdog shut down a coal-fired power plant on Wednesday and banned the use of diesel generators in Delhi.

On Delhi's outskirts however, farmers are busy burning crop remnants to clear their land before replanting, and the acrid smoke has already begun to drift south, casting a pall over the world's most polluted capital and leaving millions gasping for breath. The illegal practice shows no signs of ending, as low-income farmers like Devi say they have no alternative, even if it harms city dwellers miles away. "We have to burn it. We know this is

harmful but what can we do?" Devi, who only gave her last name said on her farm in Sonipat just 60 kilometers from Delhi.

"We also need to make money for our families," she said, stoking the smouldering stubble and defending the practice for being cost effective and quicker than other methods to clear her less than an acre farmland. The sharp reek of burning stubble marks the onset of the pollution season in Delhi as air contaminants soar to dangerous levels. A NASA satellite image taken early October showed widespread fires across India's northern breadbasket, with a thick grey haze streaking toward Delhi and its 20 million

inhabitants. Nearly 35 million tons of post-harvest stubble is burnt annually in Haryana and Punjab, two predominantly rural states near Delhi, despite a nationwide ban on the practice since 2015.

Chronic Lung cancer, heart disease on the rise

and Research. Government-led efforts—from shutting brick kilns to limiting cars on the road—have failed to tackle air pollution, which a US study in February found kills one million people prematurely in India every year. Last year, levels of PM2.5 — the fine particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease—soared to 778 in the days that followed Diwali, prompting the Supreme Court to warn of a public health emergency. Levels of PM2.5 between 301 and

Fight for clean air

But farmers protest that they alone are not responsible for Delhi's atrocious air, and say they need more support to shift to a different method of farming. "The farm fires in northern India certainly worsen the pollution situation, but we need alternatives for it to end," said Gufran Beig, chief scientist at state-run System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting

Anti-graft court indicts ousted Pakistani PM

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani anti-corruption court yesterday indicted ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter over allegations linked to ownership of London properties, opening a trial that could see the former leader jailed. The Sharifs have called the corruption proceedings against them a conspiracy, hinting at intervention by the powerful military, but opponents have hailed it as a rare example of the rich and powerful being held accountable.

Sharif, 67, resigned in July after the Supreme Court disqualified him from holding office over an undeclared source of income, but the veteran leader maintains his grip on the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party. Judge Bashir Ahmad of the court that tries cases registered and investigated by an anti-graft body, National Accountability Bureau (NAB), indicted Sharif, his daughter Maryam Sharif and her husband, Muhammad Safdar. They all pleaded not guilty.

Maryam and Safdar were present in court, but Sharif, who was prime minister

twice in the 1990s, sent a representative while he tends to his ailing wife in Britain as she undergoes cancer treatment. Maryam said in the court that the charges were unfounded and baseless. "This will go down in history as a travesty of justice," she said. Outside the court, Maryam again hinted at military interference in the judicial process by saying the trial was "a repeat of 1999", the year her father was toppled in a military coup led by former army chief Pervez Musharraf.

It is not clear if she was comparing the trial to the coup, or subsequent corruption accusations and investigations that Musharraf ordered into Sharif. Sharif's disqualification stemmed from the Panama Papers leaks in 2016 that appeared to show that his daughter and two sons owned offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands and used them to buy posh flats in London. The Supreme Court initially declined to dismiss Sharif but ordered an investigation into his family's wealth.

A separate Supreme Court-appointed panel said the family's wealth did not match its income, and accused Maryam and her brothers of signing forged documents to obscure ownership of offshore companies used to buy the London flats. After the probe, the top court disqualified Sharif and ordered the NAB to investigate and conduct a trial. — Reuters



SONIPAT, India: Photo shows paddy crop stubble smoldering in a field in Sonipat in the northern Indian state of Haryana. As Hindus across India celebrate Diwali this week, scientists fear a ban on firecrackers and other emergency anti-pollution measures deployed by authorities may not be enough to prevent a repeat of last year's 'airpocalypse' in Delhi. — AFP

and Research. Government-led efforts—from shutting brick kilns to limiting cars on the road—have failed to tackle air pollution, which a US study in February found kills one million people prematurely in India every year. Last year, levels of PM2.5 — the fine particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease—soared to 778 in the days that followed Diwali, prompting the Supreme Court to warn of a public health emergency. Levels of PM2.5 between 301 and

500 are classified as "hazardous", while anything over 500 is beyond the official index. "If there are no remedies, we might see a repeat of last year's situation," Beig said. Yesterday, levels of PM2.5 pollutants in Delhi were hovering around 200 still eight times the World Health Organization's safe limit of 25. In the run-up to Diwali, the government banned a host of older diesel vehicles, temporarily closed some polluting industries and prohibited the burning of waste material. — AFP

G7 to put squeeze on Internet giants at terrorism talks

ISCHIA: Tech giants including Google, Facebook and Twitter will come under pressure in Italy this week to go further and faster in helping G7 powers tackle the ever-greater threat of extremists online. A two-day meet of Group of Seven interior ministers, which kicks off on the Italian island of Ischia yesterday, comes just days after US-backed forces took full control of Raqqa in Syria, which had become a byword for atrocities carried out by the Islamic State group. Despite the breakthrough in the battle against IS, the head of Britain's domestic intelligence service said Wednesday that the UK was facing its most severe terrorist threat ever, particularly due to the spread of jihadist material online.

MI5 head Andrew Parker said attacks could now accelerate rapidly from inception to action, and "this pace, together with the way extremists can exploit safe spaces online, can make threats harder to detect". In a first for a G7 meet, representatives from Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Twitter will take part in the talks between the seven ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. "The internet plays a decisive role in radicalization. Over 80 percent of conversations and

radicalization happen online," said Italy's Marco Minniti, who is hosting the summit on the volcanic island off Naples.

'Wake up'

In June, Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube announced the launch of an anti-terror partnership, the "Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism", aimed at thwarting the spread of extremist content online. Facebook has launched campaigns in Belgium, Britain, France and Germany to develop "best practices". And in September, Twitter touted victories in the battle against tweets promoting extremist violence, saying it has been vanquishing those kinds of accounts before governments even ask. But last month top Western counter-terror chiefs said they need more support from social media companies to detect potential threats, particularly with jihadist attacks increasingly being carried out by home-grown "lone wolves".

Tough privacy laws and protections enjoyed by the largely US-based web giants are impeding authorities, they said. Some firms are using software aimed at helping them quickly find and eliminate extremist content, developed by Dartmouth College computer science professor Hany Farid, a senior advisor to the US Counter Extremism Project. But Farid told AFP it was unclear how broadly it was being deployed and urged the G7 to "give serious consideration to legislative relief" if the giants fail to "wake up and respond more aggressively" to abuses of their systems. — AFP

Nowhere to hide: N Korea missiles spur anxiety in Japan fishing town

Abe deploys anti-missile batteries around Japan

ERIMO: Ever since North Korea lobbed two missiles far above this windswept fishing town on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, seaweed farmer Mitsuyo Kawamura says she's been on edge. "Now when I hear a loud sound, I look outside, I look out at the ocean," 68-year-old Kawamura said from her seaside cottage in Erimo, where she lays out long dark strands of kombu seaweed on stones to dry in the sun. "I feel anxious, like I never know when it will come again."

As Japan prepares to vote in Sunday's national election, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has called North Korea's escalating threats—it also conducted a sixth nuclear test last month—a "national crisis" that only he can lead Japan through. Yet the missiles that flew over Erimo on Aug. 29 and Sept 15 created an eerie threat: No one saw or heard them. They streaked by several hundred kilometers above land, too high to see with the naked eye, before splashing into the Pacific more than 1,000 kilometers to the east. Warnings of the missiles spread through sirens and government-issued "J-alerts" on millions of cell phones throughout Japan, jolting some out of sleep. Kawamura has since stocked up on extra food and keeps the radio on to listen for more warnings. Like many residents here—and across Japan—she feels helpless, unsure of how to protect herself. "When it's launched, it

could land here just moments later," she said. "There's nowhere to hide." Abe's rhetoric has grown harsher as North Korea has threatened to "sink" Japan and seems intent on developing nuclear warheads that can reach the US mainland. He has repeatedly backed US President Donald Trump's "all-options-on-the-table" stance and says now is not the time for dialogue.

"They promised in 1994 and again in 2005 that they would abandon their nuclear program. But they have broken their word and developed nuclear devices and missiles," Abe said at a campaign rally last week. "We're not going to be deceived anymore." To protect

N Korea's missile tests key issue in Sunday election



itself, Japan has deployed 34 Patriot PAC-3 anti-missile batteries around the country, including one in Hokkaido, and Aegis defense systems on several destroyers. U.S. forces in Japan also have ballistic missile defense equipment that can—if all goes well—take out a missile in mid-flight.

'Fire one back'

The rockets thrust tiny Erimo, population 4,850, into the global spotlight. Maps on TV broadcasts showed the missiles' flight paths over nearby Cape Erimo, a jagged point that juts into the Pacific where seals frolic. At the town's docks, where fishermen sorted through the morning's haul of salmon, tossing them



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (center) visits the Ryuwon Footwear Factory in Pyongyang.—AFP

into vats of ice water, strong support for Abe was mixed with worries that he's too strident, putting Japan at risk.

"Right now, no one's better than Abe," said Satoru Narita, a 72-year-old fisherman. If anything, Japan has been too passive, said 23-year-old Ryosuke Kinoshita, who supports Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. "Next time they launch one, I'd almost like to see us fire one back," he said. "We can't live in peace

and safety." But Haruki Suminoya, head of Erimo's fishing union, cautioned that being overly aggressive could provoke North Korea into lashing out. "Abe's approach is too strong, too hardline," he said. "A more restrained approach is better." The recent war of words between Trump and North Korea unsettled many residents, who pointed out they were a much closer target than the United States. —Reuters

Marawi: City destroyed in the longest urban war

MARAWI: At first glance, the endless rows of devastated buildings could be the aftermath of a great earthquake. But the punctured, bullet-riddled walls tell the true story of the Philippines' longest urban war. "No one wanted this to happen," President Rodrigo Duterte said on Tuesday as he declared Marawi city "liberated from the terrorists' influence" after a nearly five-month battle with gunmen loyal to the Islamic State group. A day earlier troops had tracked down and killed the Islamic State "emir" for Southeast Asia—Isnilon Hapilon, leader of the militants.

The battle for the southern city, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, lasted more than four times longer than the US-led campaign to liberate Manila from Japanese World War II occupation forces. In the process the military literally destroyed Marawi to



MARAWI, Philippines: A Philippine soldier walks past damaged buildings in Marawi on the southern island of Mindanao. — AFP

save it from gunmen it says are intent on carving out territory for a Southeast Asian caliphate. An AFP team saw metal shutters and walls pockmarked with bullet holes, pavements piled high with twisted metal and cannibalized cars, and streets strewn with machine-gun slugs. The scenes evoked pictures of destruction in war-torn Middle Eastern cities

like Aleppo and Mosul.

New urban warfare

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana estimates the government will need \$1.1 billion to rebuild the city. On the ground floor of some buildings, soldiers peered warily at the street through holes just big enough for men to crawl through.—AFP

North Korean cloud has silver lining for South's arms makers


SEOUL: The constant missile and nuclear threats from South Korea's belligerent northern neighbor have racked regional tensions sky-high, but they are a boon for the country's burgeoning defense industry. South Korea has been one of the world's largest importers of military equipment and technology for decades—mostly from the US—but in recent years its domestic sector has grown rapidly.

Arms exports have soared tenfold in a decade, from just \$253 million in 2006 to \$2.5 billion last year, according to government data. The country's missiles, howitzers, submarines and warplanes are especially popular in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. Once a largely agricultural backwater devastated by war, South Korea now has companies that have become world leaders in fields ranging from shipbuilding to smartphones, and its arms manufacturers are starting to follow suit. Analysts say having nuclear-armed North Korea on its doorstep has focused international military attention on Seoul's forces and the equipment they use. — AFP

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An Indian child watches fireworks at the Madan Mohan Malviya stadium during Diwali Festival in Allahabad. — AFP

Syrian-American musicians raise voices as their homeland suffers

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Arab tradition glitters in Colombia



View of a silver filigree bracelet, in Mompox.



With strong yet delicate hands, Daniel Alfonso Garrido masterfully manipulates fragile threads of gold to craft fine jewelry, perpetuating an ancient Arabic art handed down by generations of Colombian goldsmiths. Lacy spindles of silver and gold have been used to make jewelry in the isolated northern Colombian town of Mompox since the time of the Spanish conquest.

Built on an island on the wide Magdalena river, the town's colonial beauty inspired Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Colombian magic-realist partly setting his "General in his Labyrinth" there. However, tourists make their way here—four hours upriver by boat, an hour's droning by small aircraft—for the magic realism of hand-crafted jewels.

"It's an Arab tradition, and the Arabs taught it to the Spaniards who, when they conquered us, brought this art to America, and especially to Mompox," the gray-haired Garrido said. Here, at a counter in his workshop, the 53-year-old goldsmith creates jewels mostly inspired by nature, weaving filigree animals and flowers from precious metals as his father and grandfather did before him.

'Art in our blood'

The skill has been handed down here through the generations, as is the case with several families across Mompox, and the town boasts 170 goldsmiths working in 13 jewelries, according to the Institute of Culture and Tourism of the Department of Bolivar (Iculture). "We have goldsmithing in our blood," said Garrido, the best known goldsmith here, with a hint of pride.

The filigree graces the windows of the 23 jewelers of Mompox, a city founded in 1540 and listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1995 for its traditions and colonial style. Its relatively isolated location far from the densely populated

Caribbean coast, 250 kilometers away, has helped Mompox preserve its culture over the years and become a jewel of Colombian architecture. "I love the drawing of their filigree pieces," said Viviana Devia, 42, a visitor from the capital Bogota. "When we go to the workshop, we realize the work that this represents and it has a real value."

The "Tito" workshop is classically styled with a patio blending wooden beams and wrought iron, reminiscent of an era when the conquistador's gold was first hauled into the town. The share to be shipped back to the Spanish crown was then calculated in the river port of Mompox.

Although its goldsmiths are world famous, Mompox is not located in a gold mining area. The locals got their skills with precious metals from its importance as a coin-minting center.

Tradition and patience

"Our added value is the tradition, the time, the fragility in our hands, the patience we have to put in," said Garrido. "Because if a silversmith is not patient, it does not work." A piece of filigree jewelry can sell here at anything up to several hundred dollars, and Mompox "yields a total of close to 2.5 million pesos (around 867,000 dollars) a year to the 23 jeweler workshops here," Iculture director Lucy Espinosa Diaz told AFP.

The creation of a filigree piece takes anywhere between half a day and two weeks, depending on the size and complexity of the design, says Jaime Florez, 27. After first defining the style of the bracelet he wanted to create, and then calculating its weight, he melted a chunk of silver and started at dawn to craft a bracelet that he hoped to finish before sunset. In Mompox, aloof from the tourist hordes, the blows of a hammer mingle with the noise of the silversmith's welding, while the great wide waters of the Magdalena murmur in the distance. — AFP

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The skill has been handed down here through the generations



A goldsmith works in the creation of silver filigree.



A goldsmith works in the creation of silver filigree jewelry.



A woman arranges silver filigree earrings for sale.

Lifestyle

You decide the plot: Social media shows shake up TV drama

Cliffhanger endings where television audiences are left holding their breath for the next episode may never be the same again. A new generation of social media-driven dramas are giving viewers the power to decide whether their favorite characters live or die as well as a big say on plots. In "If I Were You", a huge new hit show in Spain, viewers vote on Facebook at the end of each open-ended 10-minute episode on the next turn in the teen story.

They are given the choice of two scenarios for the following week, with scriptwriters taking the one with the most likes. Producers cast an Instagram star as the lead character of the series, which "massively advances a concept of audience interaction first pioneered by the New Zealand show 'Reservoir Hill'," said analyst Virginia Mouseler of research group The Wit.

That ground-breaking show won a Digital Emmy in 2010 by driving the plot of its "Twilight" meets "Twin Peaks" storyline with suggestions sent in by text. The Norwegian TV show "Where is Thea?", where a young woman desperate searches for her missing friend, has become a smash in Scandinavia by crossing dramas' usual boundaries.

Facebook gets into TV

It teases episodes online with five-minute videos of Thea's friend directly appealing for help to find her, and in-character posts updating fans on her search. "They have gone viral, and it's really quite impressive," Mouseler told some of the world's top TV executives

at the MIPCOM gathering in Cannes on the French Riviera.

The trend comes as Facebook announced that it would be showing an English version of another social network-savvy Nordic hit, "Skam" (Shame), on its new video platform, Watch. Simon Fuller, the man who brought the Spice Girls and the "Pop Idol" franchise to the world, is working on an international version of the show where the lives of a group of teenagers is continually updated on their Twitter and Instagram accounts.

The series has already become a social media phenomenon, blurring the lines between fiction and reality, with fans far beyond Norway interacting with the stars online. Facebook's creative strategy chief Ricky Van Veen told reporters at MIPCOM that "Shame" was "the perfect show for Facebook and for Watch", which

launched in the US six weeks ago. He said they want to expand "Shame" into other languages as the Silicon Valley giant starts making its own shows in a bid to rival Amazon and Apple. It has already put its toe in the water with "Make or Break Up", where couples in crisis ask Facebook users whether they should stay together.

Kids tempted off mobiles

But for the moment it is traditional broadcasters who are leading the line. In the new Portuguese series "Amnesia"—one of a wave of high-end dramas that turn on the condition—a young blogger called Joana is accused of

Viewers have the power to decide whether characters live or die



A new generation of social media-driven dramas are giving viewers the power to decide whether their favorite characters live or die as well as a big say on plots. — AFP

murdering her boyfriend while he slept. But she cannot remember what she did. Viewers can investigate the murder themselves, or speculate on her innocence or guilt, through her social media threads and those of her dead lover.

South Korea, whose dramas top the ratings well beyond Asia, has not been slow to tap the social media trend. It has teased elements of its latest K-TV blockbuster, "While You Were Sleeping", to fans of its fantasy-tinged fare worldwide. American audiences are the latest to fall for Korean series' soft-edged appeal, with a remake of "The Good Doctor" about an awkward young surgeon with autism and almost perfect recall becoming

the number one show in the US for ABC.

And the biggest hit this year in Turkey, whose homegrown dramas also have a vast global fan base, was another South Korean remake, "Tales of Innocence", Mouseler said. Snapchat versions of big US shows like "The Voice" and "The Bachelor" are also drawing teenagers back to their sofas to watch the original TV ones, according to Sean Mills of mobile content specialists Snap Inc.

Former NBC veteran Lauren Anderson, who now also works for the firm, told delegates in Cannes that the smartphone social media trend is a boon for showrunners and writers trying to reach "kids who live through their mobile". — AFP

Gimmick or game-changer: Is VR the future of film?

Virtual Reality will change the face of cinema in the next decade—but only if content keeps up with the advances in technology, industry experts at the Busan International Film Festival predict. VR is already being heavily promoted by the tech giants, with Facebook and Microsoft launching new headsets they hope will ensure the format goes mainstream. Studios and film-makers are also poised to capitalize, as cinema industry reports estimate VR could generate as much as US\$75 billion a year in revenues by 2021.

Earlier this year, the IMAX chain opened its first VR cinema in Los Angeles, while the leading film festivals—including Cannes, Venice, and Tribeca—now have sections dedicated to recognising ground-breaking work in the medium.

"Facebook and Apple are pouring billions of dollars into this industry and these hardware developments are key but it will all come down to content and we are excited by the way that is developing," explained Korean-American filmmaker Eugene Chung, whose production "Arden's Wake" won the Best Virtual Reality award at Venice in September. Chung insisted the format is going to shift

public perception and expectations of cinema. "We're really building the future," he said. But revolutions in cinema do not always play out; despite their early hype, 3D movies have struggled to rival traditional film consumption. IMAX has scaled back its 3D screenings, while box office figures in the US show declining audience interest, according to the Motion Picture Association of America.

But proponents of VR insist this time, it is different, and the format is likely to succeed because it fully immerses viewers in the imaginary environment. BIFF programmer Park Jin, who organised the event's VR section, which comprises more than 30 features, documentaries and animations, described VR as the "future of cinema".

'A strange game'

In Busan there has been a huge buzz around the VR program, with constant queues to experience what is on offer—both individual booths and a cinema are showcasing films. "It feels a bit strange at first, a bit like a game, but once I got used to the equipment it was quite exciting," said 60-year-old Kim Young-min, who had come to BIFF to



South Korean President Moon Jae-In (R) wears a virtual reality (VR) headset during a VR event at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan. — AFP

take in a retrospective of legendary Korean actor Shin Seong-il but had been lured over to the VR show by her daughter.

Experts say therein lies the catch—the "computer game" feel to some shows can be a little off-putting. "We need to find some emotion and how to engage the viewer in that," said filmmaker Che Min-Hyuk, a producer at the VR Lab run by Korean media industry giants CJ. "As filmmakers with VR we

still don't really know how far it will take us and the audience."

Chung conceded the industry needs to tread carefully—going to the movies will not be the same social experience if everyone is in their own world wearing headsets. "We think the impact of this medium is going to be incredibly powerful," he said, admitting that it would be a voyage into the unknown in terms of social impact. — AFP

Lifestyle

French film legend Danielle Darrieux dies aged 100



This file photo taken in the 30s shows French actress Danielle Darrieux posing with a dog during a photo session. — AFP

Danielle Darrieux, one of France's most enduring and glamorous film stars despite her wartime collaboration with the Germans, has died aged 100 at her home near Paris, her partner said yesterday. She became unwell "recently after a little fall", Jacques Jenvrin told AFP. With her smoldering good looks and sulky pout, Darrieux became a huge international star in the 1930s, playing opposite Douglas Fairbanks Jr in the Hollywood romance "The Rage of Paris" in 1938. But her decision to keep working after the Nazis occupied France, and to star in movies made by the studio set up by their propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels, saw her branded as a collaborationist.

However, Darrieux later said that she was forced to take part in a notorious publicity tour to Berlin in 1942 so she could free her husband, the playboy and diplomat Porfirio Rubirosa, who had been interned by the Nazis as a spy. She left the German-backed studio after he was freed and went into hiding under a false name. Three years after the war ended she returned to great acclaim in a string of striking roles in Max Ophüls' "La Ronde", "Madame de" ("The Earrings of Madame de") and playing the Queen of Spain in "Ruy Blas" by Jean Cocteau.

Whatever doubts that lingered about her wartime activities were brushed aside by her searing performance in the title role of "Marie-Octobre", a 1959 thriller about the survivors of a French Resistance network who try to discover who betrayed their murdered leader. Darrieux—who died on Tuesday—was still working at 99, and lent her voice for the grandmother in Marjane Satrapi's 2007 animated hit "Persepolis". "I went to the studio like one goes to school, I was lazy and I remained so," she once said of a life spent on set, which began in the comedy "Le Bal" when she was only 14.

She was far from lazy, however, going on to act in more than 140 films and television dramas over the next eight decades. They including some of the best-loved French postwar films, and she struck up a particular rapport with Jacques Demy, appearing in his "Les Demoiselles de Rochefort" as the mother and "Une chambre en ville" in 1982. — AFP

Yves Saint Laurent museum opens in Marrakech

The Yves Saint Laurent museum opened its doors to the public yesterday in Marrakech, the sunny, bustling, gritty Moroccan city beloved by the late French designer. The highly-anticipated opening comes less than three weeks since the inauguration of a museum dedicated to the fashion pioneer in his home city of Paris.

The Marrakech museum, designed by the French architectural firm Studio KO, sprawls across 4,000 square meters near the Majorelle Garden, which Yves Saint Laurent and his late partner Pierre Berge bought in 1980. It features a permanent exhibit on the work of the prolific French couturier who died in 2008, and includes an exhibit hall, an auditorium, a library, a bookshop and a restaurant. The museum was inaugurated Oct. 14 by the wife of Moroccan King Mohammed VI, Lalla Salma, alongside actresses Catherine Deneuve and Marisa Berenson.

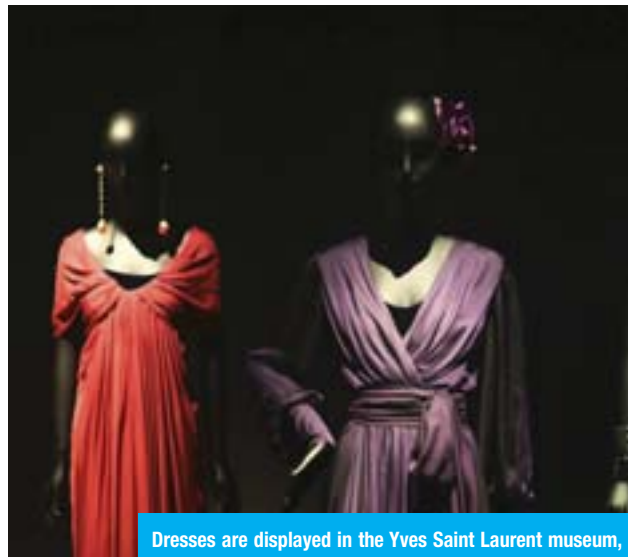
"This project finds its genesis in the temporary exhibition organized in the Majorelle Garden, which was called 'Yves Saint Laurent and Morocco,'" explained Museum Director Bjorn Dahlstrom. "(That) exhibition was so enthusiastically welcomed that Berge decided to create here, in Marrakech, a museum dedicated to Yves Saint Laurent." At the entrance to

the museum, visitors bought tickets yesterday next to a red facade of Tetuan brick and granite, which Dahlstrom said "fits perfectly in the urban environment of Marrakech."

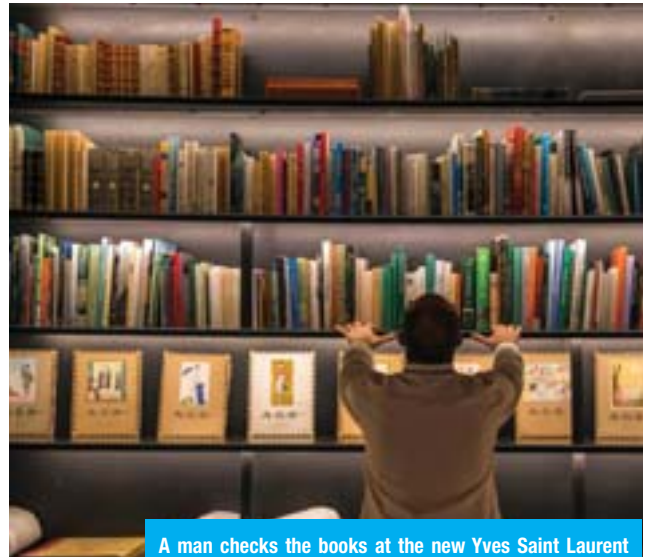
Berge, who died earlier this year and was also Saint Laurent's business partner, "often came to the construction site to see its progress," said Sanaa El Younsi, a member of the museum team. "What a pity he's not here to attend the opening." The Majorelle Garden, next to the museum, has a special significance for Saint Laurent, who would often design his collections in the shade of the city's dappled terracotta buildings with the scent of flowers in the air. Today, the Majorelle Garden is one of the most visited tourist sites in the city.

Saint Laurent would come here "as soon as he finished a collection, to rest and prepare a new collection" said Majorelle Garden Foundation head Quito Fierro. "The garden was closed to the public between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to allow Yves Saint Laurent to walk without meeting people," he remembered. "Almost all the collections were drawn on a white sheet in Marrakech." — AP

“ Fits perfectly in the urban environment of Marrakech ”



Dresses are displayed in the Yves Saint Laurent museum, in Marrakesh. — AP photos



A man checks the books at the new Yves Saint Laurent museum.



Tourists visit the new Yves Saint Laurent museum.



Visitors walk by the Yves Saint Laurent museum as it opens its doors to the public.

Lifestyle

Syrian-American musicians raise voices as their homeland suffers

When Samer Saem Eldahr finished university, he was ready to spread his wings and start his career. He planned a month away from home to discover and pursue his craft. It's a similar story to many college graduates, with a notable exception: There would be no realistic option to return from Lebanon to his home in Aleppo, Syria, which was descending into war. He left behind his music and art studio containing most of his equipment and paintings.

Five years on, Eldahr has been rebuilding his life and art as a permanent US resident, living in Minneapolis with his wife and a child on the way. Under the name Hello Psychaleppo, he recently completed an album and is playing shows, including one Friday at the Arab American National Museum in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn.

Hello Psychaleppo is among several Syrian-American acts on the road, sharing music and messages about their homeland as the conflict rages on. The Arab museum on Monday will host Amplify Peace, a national tour presented by the Syrian American Medical Society. The concert, which aims to raise money for Syrian relief efforts, includes rapper/poet Omar Offendum, funk and soul outfit Bassel & The Supernaturals and others.

Traditional artistic forms

Eldahr combines styles just as he does worlds. He describes his sound as "electro-tarab," blending electronic music with the ethos of "tarab," an Arabic word describing music's emotional, ecstatic effect often associated with traditional artistic forms. "I tried my best to separate those two worlds, my music and life ... but a certain point they do meet," he said.

Jeff Bridges: In the line of fire onscreen and off

There is a grim irony in the timing of Jeff Bridges' latest movie, the story of a firefighting crew that perished in one of the deadliest wildfires in US history. When the veteran actor sat down with AFP in Beverly Hills to discuss "Only the Brave," he could not have known California was about to suffer its own worst week for blazes, leaving at least 42 dead. But it is a hazard never far from his mind, the 67-year-old Oscar-winner revealed, as he has been losing property to destructive infernos since the early 1990s.

"I lost my house to a fire in Malibu, it burned down. I was doing a movie called 'Blown Away' and heard the news... and, sure enough, it got my house," he told AFP. "And then my wife, Sue, has evacuated our house in Santa Barbara three times while I've been out making movies, all by herself. That's a huge thing, taking everything out. We lived right up next to all this brush and everything's very crisp now."

Bridges also lost 400 acres (160 hectares) of his ranch in Montana to a fire around five years ago, and even found himself fighting to save a friend's property, armed with a shovel, in another fire a decade or so earlier. "With this climate change, things are getting crispier and crispier. We're going to be seeing more fires, I think, and thank God we've got these guys whose job and passion is to fight them," he said.

Ferocious blaze

"Only the Brave," which hits US theaters on Friday, tells the real-life story of a group of such men, sent out on a blistering June morning in Arizona in 2013 to battle a ferocious blaze

While he describes his art as expressionistic, he believes it incorporates "a certain sentiment of longing." It's a theme within his album, "Toyour," inspired by a book called "The Conference of the Birds" by 12th century Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attar. "Birds symbolize lots of stuff - freedom of expression, freedom of movement," he said. "I believe that kind of relates to our destiny as Syrians. ... We have big questions right now."

In performance, he uses synthesizers, not traditional Arab instruments, but manipulates them to provide the "micro-tones" - pitches between those found in Western scales and common in Middle Eastern music - by using an effects machine called a "talk box." "I'm trying to find the link between our music memory back home and the new modern tools and what can adapt," he said.

Bassel Almadani is a first-generation Syrian-American, born and raised in Ohio and now living in Chicago. The Bassel & The Supernaturals frontman helped organize the Amplify Peace tour, whose other stops have included Chicago, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., and New York. He wanted to support the medical society, which he said is doing "substantial" humanitarian work and can help rebuild Syria's infrastructure.

War hits home

For Almadani, the war has hit home: A cousin died on a bus a militant fired upon and many relatives have lost their homes. The conflict also has drawn him closer to his heritage: His band has a new song called "Aleppo," a soulful celebration of his ancestral homeland. He's proud of the 5,000-year-old city, once a cultural and artistic center with many kinds of musical



This image released by Andrew Cagle shows electronic artist and musician Samer Saem Eldahr, better known as Hello Psychaleppo, in Minneapolis. — AP

influences. "Our music is very multi-faceted," he said. "It's just like my own identity is a blend of my Syrian heritage and my Midwestern roots."

Offendum, a Syrian who was born in Saudi Arabia and came to the US in the mid-1980s as a young boy, also feels deeply connected to his parents' birthplace. However, he said, the crisis should concern everybody: Some 5 million Syrians have fled their homeland since conflict there erupted in 2011, including his relatives. On his new song, "Years," he intones, "Speaking about my people and what six years cost them/Syrian bodies strewn ashore/families who've lost them."

"This is the world's problem, it's not just a Syrian problem," he said, adding that the tour aims to connect cultures and he's proud to be "using hip-hop, rock-and-roll and even traditional music to bridge that gap, make it more relatable for people - more real." Hello Psychaleppo's Eldahr knows art can only go so far to help Syria. Still, he's proud to represent it and raise awareness of a place to which he longs to return. "I believe artists ... want to reach places that people don't reach," he said. "Sometimes, we just dream big." — AP



US actors Julianne Moore, Jeff Bridges, and John Goodman attending "The Big Lebowski" Blu-ray release in New York City. — AFP

threatening the town of Yarnell.

By the end of the day, all but one of the 20-man Granite Mountain Hotshots elite firefighting squad were dead. It was the largest loss of life among American firefighters since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 and the deadliest US wildfire in more than 20 years. Bridges stars alongside Josh Brolin, Jennifer Connelly and Miles Teller as Prescott Wildland Fire Chief Duane Steinbrink, a cowboy whose unpolished dignity and battle-hardened wisdom make him a mentor for the firefighters.

"In this case there's a certain tragic aspect to our story but the movie doesn't center on that," he said. "It's really, who are these guys who risk their lives like this, and what makes those guys?" Bridges is one of Hollywood's most

recognizable and consistently bankable stars-part of an acting dynasty that includes his parents Dorothy and Lloyd as well as brother Beau.

He has earned a total of seven Oscar nominations since his first role as "infant at train station" in John Cromwell's 1951 drama "The Company She Keeps." He won best actor for "Crazy Heart" (2009), demonstrating his skill as a musician to play the alcoholic Bad Blake, a man struggling with demons as he battles to recapture his glory days. Born on December 4, 1949, Bridges' career took off with his performance in Peter Bogdanovich's masterful 1971 film, "The Last Picture Show," which earned his first Oscar nod.—AFP

Ginger Tea

is a soothing drink

By Sara Moulton

With the arrival of the cold-and-cough season, you may be thinking about cooking up a big batch of chicken soup as a cure for what ails us. I love the stuff, too, but I suggest you stock up on some fresh gingerroot instead. Ginger, of course, is one of the many flavors to be found in a stir-fry Asian dish or Indian curry. But used in larger quantities than specified for those recipes, it can become quite spicy. Of all the home remedies out there, I have found tea, prepared with fresh ginger, to be the most effective.

Ginger Tea is easy to make (and is much cheaper than chicken soup). Essentially, there's nothing to do but chop up some fresh gingerroot, combine it with water and let it simmer. When you're done, you're looking at a potent, clean-out-your-sinuses beverage that's ready to sip. I've provided a recipe below, but there's no need to be so formal. You can wing it and you'll be fine.

When making the tea, you might imagine that the first task would be to peel

that gnarly gingerroot. In fact, it's not necessary. Just rinse it well and slice off any bruised spots, then chop it and pile all the chunks into a small saucepan. The more finely it's chopped, the better - but half-inch chunks are good enough. Cover the gingerroot with 1 inch of cold water, then bring the tea to a boil. (Starting with cold water pulls out more of the ginger flavor than starting with hot water.)

The longer you simmer it, the stronger it becomes. So take a sip after 15 minutes or so and, if you approve, strain out the liquid. You can drink it straight up or embellished with honey and lemon - or even a pinch of cayenne. If one pot of the tea doesn't entirely vanquish your cold, you can return the chunks to the saucepan, add fresh water and repeat the process. A single crop of chopped ginger can keep a pot going all day.



Ingredients

Start to finish: 25 minutes (10 hands-on)
 Servings: 4
 4 ounces fresh gingerroot
 1 1/2 tablespoons honey, divided, or to taste
 4 lemon wedges

Preparation

Rinse the ginger, cut off any bruised spots and cut it into (roughly) 1/2-inch pieces. In a medium saucepan, combine the ginger with 4 cups cold water and bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, cover partially and simmer for 15 minutes. Taste, and if strong enough, strain and pour into mugs. Add 1 teaspoon honey or more if desired to each portion and serve with a wedge of lemon.

Nutrition information per serving:

47 calories; 2 calories from fat; 0 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 4 mg sodium; 12 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 7 g sugar; 1 g protein.

Red lentil and chicken soup make for a cozy fall meal



By Katie Workman

I am a Football Mom. A New York City Football Mom, so Football Moms from, say, Texas or California might smirk at me a little. That's OK. I recognize the difference. But no matter how competitive the league, there is always food involved - for the kids before and after games, and at the game itself for parents and friends who show up no matter the weather. And what could be more welcome in any of these situations than a robust, hot, rib-sticking soup?

This soup has tailgating or sidelines or post-game meal written all over it. It's thick from the lentils, and fragrant with cumin and coriander. If you are familiar with Indian food, it might remind you of a soupy version of dal, with satisfying small cubes of chicken nestled throughout. And it's made in a slow cooker, which means that if you are serving it after you come home, it's right there waiting for you, like a warm hug.

Last year was the first time I made this soup, lugging it in the slow cooker to the game. My family thought I had gone one step too far - that setting up a vat of soup on the sidelines

was going to seem pretty weird. They were pretty wrong. The ladle was passed from person to person, heavy-duty paper cups were filled, and not a drop was left. The soup thickens upon sitting, and if you refrigerate it and heat it up the next day, you may want to add more broth or water. And I would definitely add the fresh parsley at the end. The football game is purely optional.

Ingredients

Start to finish: 4 1/2 hours
Serves 12
2 onions, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 large fennel bulb, cored and chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
2 large carrots, peeled and chopped (about 1 cup)
1/2 pound dried red lentils
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts, diced small
5 cups less-sodium chicken broth, plus more if needed

1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1/2 cup roughly chopped fresh parsley

Preparation

In a large (5-quart or more) slow cooker, combine the onion, garlic, fennel, carrots, lentils, cumin, coriander, chicken, broth and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper. Cook on high for 4 hours. Stir in another cup or two of broth toward the end if it's thicker than you want it to be. Taste and adjust the seasonings as needed. Stir in the parsley and serve. Sprinkle servings with additional parsley if desired.

Nutrition information per serving:

207 calories; 24 calories from fat; 3 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 55 mg cholesterol; 288 mg sodium; 21 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 25 g protein.

COOKING ON DEADLINE: Cauliflower with Sesame Drizzle

By Katie Workman

Food writers (and I include myself) are often talking about what new things you can do with that package of chicken breasts or that pound of ground beef to get out of the same-old, same-old cooking rut. But we might not spend enough time talking about what to do with that head of cauliflower or broccoli. We can all feel as uninspired looking at those stoic spheres as we do with our proteins, right?

So off we go, on the hunt for a new and simple side dish. This is definitely one to keep in mind when you're making a stir fry or other Asian-influenced dish. It's especially useful since you can make the drizzle ahead of time, pop the vegetable in the oven, and get to work at the stove making the rest of the meal. The cauliflower or broccoli needs no attention as it roasts, only the sound of the buzzer to remind you to take it out of the oven.

Ingredients

Start to finish: 30 to 35 minutes

Serves 4

1 large (1 3/4 pound) head cauliflower
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons untoasted sesame seeds (optional)
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
1 teaspoon honey
1 teaspoon Sriracha sauce

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Cut the cauliflower into florets. Place the cauliflower on a rimmed baking sheet and drizzle with the olive oil. Toss well, and then sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast for about 25 minutes, until crisp-tender and browned at the edges.

Meanwhile, if you are using the sesame seeds, heat a skillet over medium heat. Add the sesame seeds and stir frequently for about 1 or 2 minutes, until they start to become golden; don't let them get too brown. Transfer them to a plate.

In a small bowl, combine the soy sauce, sesame oil, honey and Sriracha sauce. When the cauliflower is roasted, transfer it to a serving platter and drizzle the sauce over it (or pass the sauce on the side for everyone to drizzle over their own portion). Sprinkle the top with sesame seeds, if desired, and serve hot or warm.

Nutrition information per serving:

145 calories; 87 calories from fat; 10 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 490 mg sodium; 12 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 5 g protein.



Another one bites the dust: EA, Visceral and gaming's dire straits



By Aakash Bakaya

This week's piece was supposed to be about something completely different but I felt this recent event had to be addressed. On Tuesday night, EA announced the closure of Visceral Games, adding yet another beloved game-maker to EA's discard pile. Visceral Games was the studio behind 'Dead Space', 'Road Rash' and 'Battlefield: Hardline' but it's their new work on an unannounced 'Star Wars' title that has left the gaming world shaking their head in disbelief with this rash decision. Visceral has been working on the title for over 5 years now and this year's E3 even had a video update on it.

My infuriation on this topic (and I am quite distraught) has little to do with Visceral actually closing down - but with EA's tone-deaf response that personifies mainstream gaming's corporate, behind-closed-doors culture. On a bland, all white webpage, they apologetically speak about the "changes" to their upcoming Star Wars title while only indirectly speaking about Visceral staff being "moved" to other projects. I'm not asking for EA to celebrate yet another failure on their part that has led to yet another studio closure but maybe an acknowledgment of the studio's work or a show of thanks would be a pleasant change for once. They leave those responses entirely to the media and the fans and then they wonder where the outrage comes from.

So what is the long-winding reason for this change to the Star Wars project? To quote EA's document itself they say - "In its current form, it was shaping up to be a story-based, linear adventure game. Throughout the development process, we have been testing the game concept with players, listening to the feedback about what and how they want to play, and closely tracking fundamental shifts in the marketplace. It has become clear that to deliver an experience that players will want to come back to and enjoy for a long time to come, we needed to pivot the design." What they are basically saying is their moving away from a purely single-player experience and moving towards making the game appeal to a wider "marketplace" IE yet another soulless, cosmetic micro-transaction driven multiplayer game.

Sad reality

It's hard to look at it any other way. The game director from the 'Uncharted' series was leading the project and her departure surely nails whatever original approach they were going for. Even saying a "linear adventure game" is an original



'Dead Space' was a beloved Visceral Games property published by EA.

approach is mind boggling but that is the reality of modern gaming. The success of MOBAs, multiplayer shooters and now battle-royal games are making big publishers push their highly experienced and successful talents into creative ruts that appeal only to profit margins than any long-lasting artistic appeal.

I applaud any of those talents who jumped the "AAA" ship a long time ago because except for a handful of publishers, the larger companies have seemingly lost their way. It's funny to see so many gamers shunning these "blockbuster" titles as off late because the indie and mid-tier scene is doing better than ever before. Titles like 'Stardew Valley', 'Rocket League', 'Darkest Dungeon', 'Hollow Knight' and 'Cuphead' have built fan bases on top of universal critical acclaim and none of those titles are sold for more than 20 dollars - 1/3rd of the standard retail price for major releases. The titles I've men-

tioned are only a minuscule example of just how well some of these titles are doing financially. Store-fronts like Steam and GOG are main source for finding these games and they're some of the best gaming deals you'll ever find.

Murdered potential

EA might applaud their own "independent" division every E3 but after the curtains are drawn - all the lights on these projects go off as well. You would think they would at least attempt to market them but apart from a few pre-release updates, they are quickly swept under the rug to make way for their premier showpieces. EA has always had the potential for an amazing mid-tier lineup. Maxis and Westwood studios were the talent behind 'SimCity' and 'Command and Conquer' franchises and both of those studios have been brutally shot in the head by EA's unforgiving corporate hands.

Recent titles in those respective lineups have ranged from mediocre to down-right broken (the less said about the 'SimCity' reboot the better) but reasons for those failures are evident. "C&C" barely tried to innovate the struggling RTS genre while the online implementation in 'SimCity' (a beloved single player city builder game) was one of the worst decisions in gaming history. Except for scaling back or reiterating on those decisions for future titles in their respected series - they were swiftly abandoned and now potentially lost forever. Just another childhood defining series of games left to rot by EA.

Visceral Games will be missed by fans and non-fans alike. It is an all too familiar scenario whenever EA decides enough is enough. One of the biggest names in the industry is also one of the most universally hated and that honor can only be seen in the consistently moronic games industry. As the dust begins to settle on another studio closure, one can only wonder which beloved game developer is next to find itself in EA's crosshairs. On that I say - if I was working for 'BioWare' right now, I'll be updating my CV.



The faith of Visceral's 'Star Wars' project remains unknown.

Lifestyle



DID YOU KNOW?



Mars, or the 'Red Planet' as it is sometimes known, has a dusty, rocky surface and a thin atmosphere. Its relatively calm conditions and close proximity to earth make it the most likely destination for future planet exploration by humans.

It has already been visited by a number of Mars Rovers in successful (and unsuccessful) robotic missions. These highly advanced robots gather samples and record important scientific data for scientists back on Earth to study.

Mars is nicknamed the red planet because it is covered with rust-like dust. Even the atmosphere is a pinkish red, colored by tiny particles of dust thrown up from the surface.

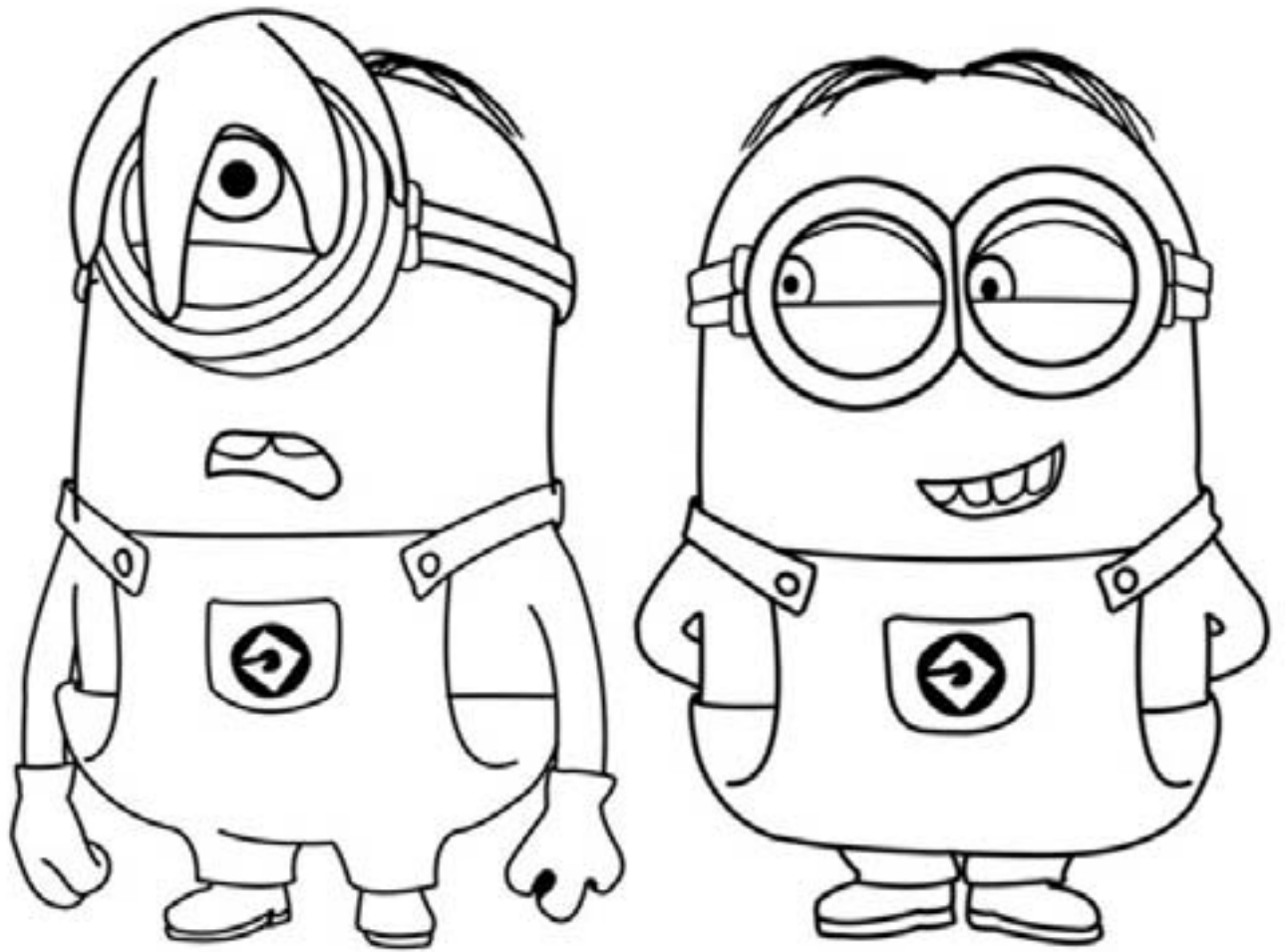
Mars experiences violent dust storms which continually change its surface.

Mars has many massive volcanoes and is home to Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in our solar system, it stands 21km high and is 600km across the base.

Mars has a very thin atmosphere made mostly of carbon dioxide. It is not thick enough to trap the sun's heat like Venus, so the planet is very cold. Temperatures range from -120 Degrees Celsius on winter nights to 25 Degrees Celsius in the summer.

Mars has many channels, plains and canyons on the surface which could have been caused by water erosion in the past.

Mars has very weak gravity which cannot hold onto the atmosphere well. The polar ice caps consist of frozen Co₂ (dry ice) which lies over a layer of ice.



COLOR ME

Recipe

Pizzadillas with red sauce

What you need:

4 whole-wheat tortillas
 2/3 cup fresh or frozen spinach, finely chopped
 2/3 cup part-skim mozzarella cheese, shredded
 1 cup marinara sauce (store-bought or home-made)
 Cooking spray

What to do:

Lay 2 tortillas on a flat surface. Divide spinach and cheese between the tortillas.
 Top with remaining 2 tortillas.
 Place skillet over medium heat. Lightly coat pan with cooking spray.
 Gently slide 1 pizzadilla into the pan and cook until light golden brown on one side (about 1-2 minutes).

Using a thin spatula, gently flip over the pizzadilla and cook for 30-60 seconds more or



until cheese is fully melted.
 Remove pizzadilla and cut into triangles.
 Repeat with remaining pizzadilla.

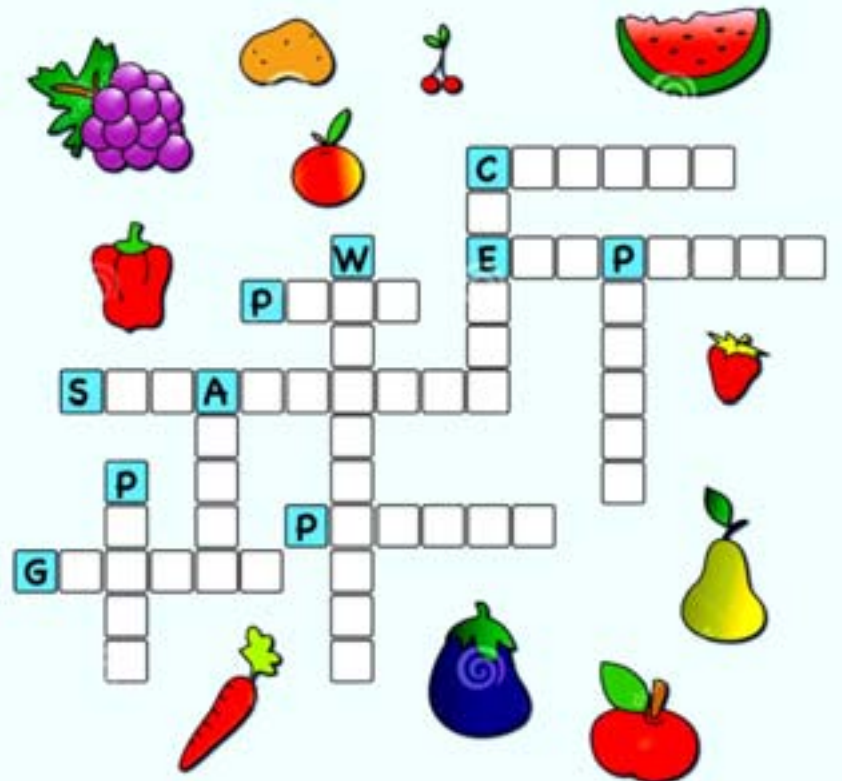
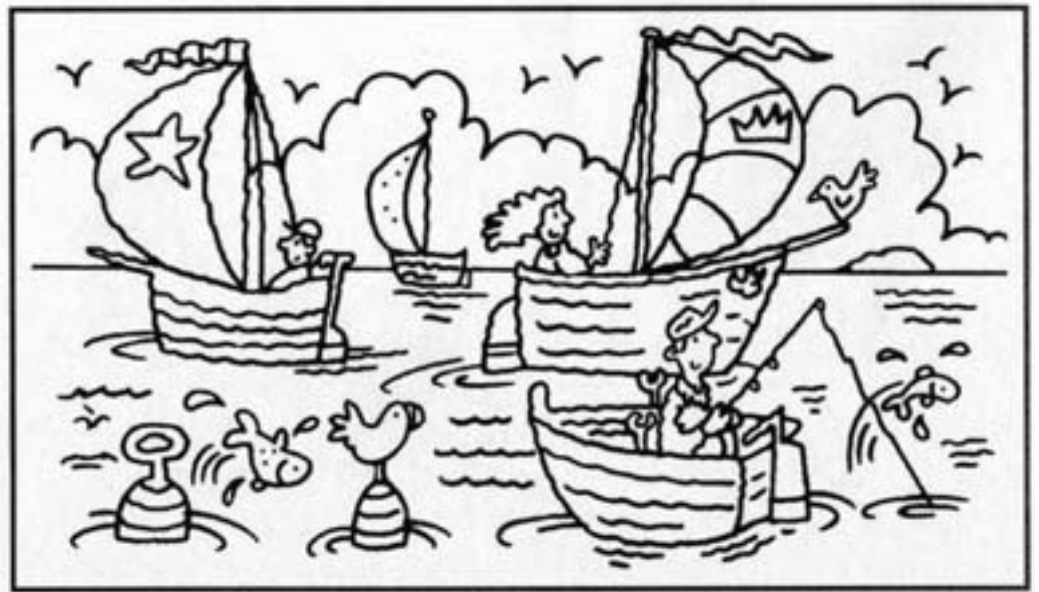
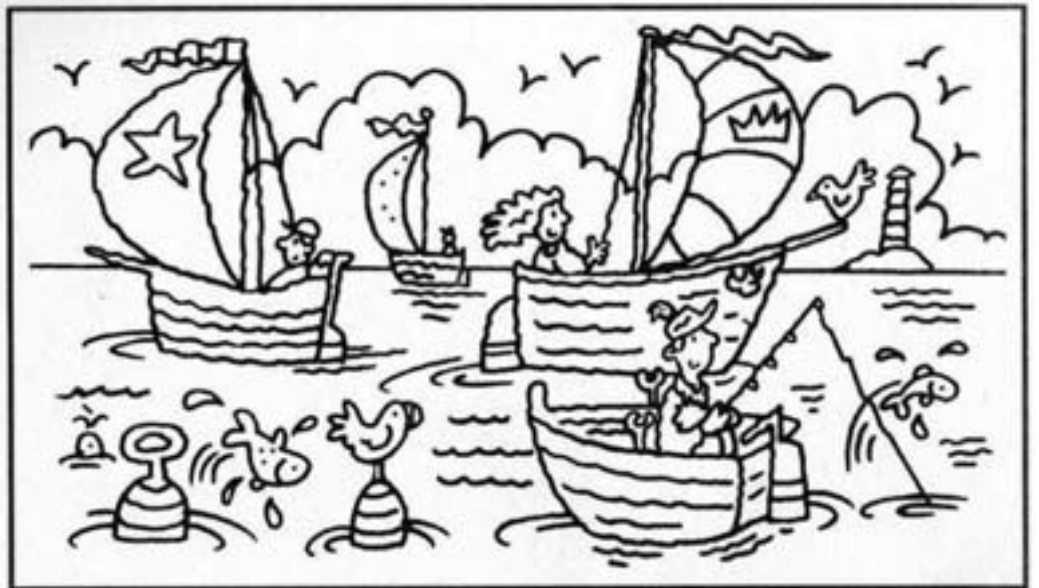
Serve with marinara sauce for dipping.
 You can wrap and refrigerate leftovers to take to school for lunch.



Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Ashe—Ashe who?
 A: Bless you!
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's there?—Nobel—Nobel who?
 A: No bell, that's why I knocked!
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's there?—Leaf—Leaf who?
 A: Leaf me alone!
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—lettuce—lettuce who?
 A: Lettuce in and you'll find out!
 Q: Knock-knock—Who's there?—Aaron—Aaron who?
 A: Why Aaron you opening the door?
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Tank—Tank Who?
 A: You're welcome!
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's there?—Hawaii—Hawaii who?
 A: I'm fine, Hawaii you?
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's there?—Orange—Orange who?
 A: Orange you even going to open the door!
 Q: Knock-knock—Who's there?—Gray Z—Gray Z who?
 A: Gray Z mixed up kid.
 Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Who—Who Who?
 A: Is there an owl in there?



Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?



5 Reasons to Pack Your Lunch



Most schools are trying hard to upgrade their lunch programs and offer the best food they can. But not every school cafeteria provides appealing, healthy lunch choices. Educate yourself when it comes to what your cafeteria has to offer.

Even if your school provides healthy options, it can be too easy to give in to temptation and pick a less healthy choice when you're feeling really hungry. How do you take control? Take a packed lunch to school!

Here are the top 5 reasons to pack your lunch - and snacks - at least twice a week:

Control

Do you ever wait in the lunch line only to

find when you get to the front that you don't like what they're serving? So you reach for pizza again. A healthy packed lunch lets you avoid the lunch line (and any temptations). Bringing your own lunch also lets you control exactly what goes into the food you eat.

Variety

It doesn't hurt to cave in and enjoy the occasional serving of pizza and hot dogs. But if you're eating these foods all the time, your body probably feels ready for a change. A packed lunch a couple of times a week means you can enjoy some favorites that you might not find at every school - like a piping hot thermos of your mom's chicken soup; hummus and

pita bread; or some crisp, farm-stand apples.

Energy

If you have a big game or activity after school, plan a lunch and snacks that combine lean proteins with carbohydrates to give you lasting energy and keep you going through the late afternoon. Some ideas: your own "trail" mix of dried fruit and nuts or sunflower seeds, whole-grain pretzels and low-fat cheese, or a bagful of baby carrots and yogurt dip.

Cold hard cash

Pack healthy snacks so you don't feel tempted to step off campus for a fast-food

lunch, or hit the vending machine or corner store for chocolate and a soda! Put the money you save on such snacks aside.

That warm and fuzzy feeling

Remember when your mom or dad used to pack your lunch? Pack yourself a retro lunch featuring healthy versions of your old faves - such as PB&J on whole-wheat bread. Whether you pack or eat in the cafeteria, what's important is that you make healthy choices. If you're concerned that your cafeteria doesn't offer enough healthy options, get involved in trying to make changes. Ask a teacher or someone in food service for advice on how to get started.

Weather Word Search

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

SUN RAIN SNOW WIND STORM HURRICANE TORNADO BLIZZARD LIGHTNING THUNDER CLOUD HAIL SLEET FOG FLOOD

SuDoku

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

Solution

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

Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A little dieting is usually all you need. Enjoy eating more fresh vegetables and fruits. Energies are present today and tomorrow that are working in your favor to begin this diet. Your timing should be perfect for whatever you would like to achieve. The people around you should find you most energetic and responsive. The situation today is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas. You may be called upon to guide or escort a visitor to your town. Communication is successful and you can exhibit your town as no other can. All of this relating to others may be for the advancement of a professional position, whether it is a particular work field or an entertainment field. Tonight you will be more involved with neighbors.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a noteworthy day. You know just what to do to in order to bring attention to your talents. Higher-ups are watching and are pleased. This day that is not too lazy or too stressful—you will be accomplishing tasks or setting things up to work in your favor. Innovations—new and possibly unconventional approaches to being productive or making money—are in order. You may discover new values that represent some sort of insight into something that has become a routine. A positive change in your financial status is possible and could lead to new directions. Home, family or real estate is of interest. If you think long-term, you will come out ahead; otherwise, you could find yourself in a tight situation. This evening is a good evening for love.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

One of the areas that can be most helpful to you now is your creative expression. Whatever your talents, this is the time to develop them more fully. Improvements in your recently earned finances inspire you to explore different options that can improve your lifestyle. Let your light shine—express yourself. You win, all the way around, especially when you seek ways to help others. Sharing responsibilities may actually improve the productivity of some project today. Also, you may find new friends and gain more secure and permanent relationships at this time. There is also an opportunity to increase your professional status now. Consider volunteering to help at a ranch, farm, forest or zoo—it will answer to your need to stay in touch with nature.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a gratifying day where you can grab a little attention. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. This may not mean a job but could mean working in a collaborative effort within a religious group. If you have been thinking about a new deal, system, project, etc., it is important to speak up about it now. You know just what to do and can act without haste. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition and practicality takes hold. Work and achievement mean a lot to you. You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in the way you communicate. If you are thinking of performing with your voice, regular diction classes will give you confidence and encouragement.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

While it would be easy to get into positions that would encourage long conversations, you will excuse yourself to tend to whatever personal project you have going today. There is a lot of energy and drive available for you in whatever you decide to achieve. You search for ways to expand your financial base and may become more effective at using whatever talents you have available. This is a strong period of self-reflection and you may enjoy getting to know more of your family background, family tree or distant relatives. You may create a family newsletter that is mailed in a round-robin sort of fashion so that everyone can partake and contribute. This is a period of restoration and appreciation when self-confidence and pride in family are increased.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There is a time of success and a time of reassessment. This is the successful day. If you think you are not making progress, stop and look at what you have accomplished. This will not slow your progress for long as you will be encouraged. Connections with people on a grand scale—for example, at a distance—play a bigger part in your life now. Education, advertising and travel could play a part in this. Law and philosophy as well as religion impact your lifestyle. This afternoon people may be needed to help with a drive to teach a language or some general education that is not given in the local schools just now: cooking, sewing, child rearing, gardening, etc. Care for your health by learning ways in which to relieve tension—a busy time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Responsibilities and outside pressures are just a part of life that keeps us moving forward. Knowing when to accept change, and maintaining that positive attitude of yours, will aid you in maintaining a sense of wellbeing. You may be particularly dynamic and assertive just now. There is a lot of energy available for you. The power of organization on a social scale seems to take on energy as you enter into a new cycle this afternoon. This could mean changes in the field of business, politics or religion. It's as if ambition and authority are answers in themselves, rather than only a means to an ideal objective. Give career changes plenty of thought—you do not have to make your decision right away. Hug or praise a child today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A balance is needed in a love relationship now, meaning... Shared responsibilities. Address issues that involve controlling types of people. Things are happening, and your life path depends on your own drive to achieve and excel—which is strong now. You are able to use good common sense and you will make all the right moves; trust in your decision-making abilities. You will prosper by pursuing your dreams of how life could be. Make contact with siblings or relatives today, perhaps by phone or letter. You are eager to have a support network and there is nothing better than your own family to make that happen. Do not hesitate to lend your own support—turnabout is fair play. Thought: how we behave is many times mirrored in our children.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It may be difficult to keep your mind on your work today. Perhaps because of some glorious changes in your home life, you would rather be home. Keep a notebook of your thoughts, feelings and ideas for goals or changes you might want to accomplish. Soon you will find yourself concentrating on the work that needs your magic touch. At the noon meal you may decide to drop by a bookstore and look through some magazines and perhaps pick up a movie. At home, you may be quite pleased with your family. Don't keep it a secret; let them know how pleased you are with whatever growth and wisdom they have displayed and the choices they make. Perhaps the young people would appreciate the ability to express their future goals.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The power of organization may become the main function of your professional life and can be quite prolific. There are ways to make this work as your main job: advisor, management or adjustment agency. Self-transformation is positive and you have the ability to change your profession. Remember that tiny causes can lead to big effects. There is some profound change on the personal level—psychologically and perhaps physically as well. It is as though you are transforming yourself into an entirely new person. A political stance about mandatory day-care or some other issue is important to you now and you will be successful in finding enough people to help create a new plan. You may decide to create a newsletter. Family matters are fun tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself in a heated discussion this morning—or so it seems. Most of the debate is a lighthearted sparring of viewpoints. You agree to disagree and respect the diversity around which you work. Writing and communication play a significant role in your life and connecting with others through new technologies can be exciting and challenging. You may find yourself at a home or at a sports show this afternoon and somehow attract a gathering of people with your questions or input. The insights that you have are helpful; however, know when to walk away. You set an example by making it your first priority to treat others as you would want them to treat you. It almost seems as though there is no problem that you cannot handle. Relax with music.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Professional advice will bring you some interesting insights today. You are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions—often. Your efforts are successful. Your thoughts are pensive at noon as you contemplate the many, many subjects about which you would like to be magically enlightened. Easy on yourself... Create some type of time plan for your learning desires and you will enjoy new and exciting experiences—often. It is impossible to quickly absorb all of the latest about science, fashion, health, technical advancement and society. Pick a subject for a time and then perhaps another subject within a reasonable time, etc. There is so much candy in the store you may feel the need to try everything at once.

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



00:25 USS Indianapolis
02:35 Dick Tracy
04:20 Judge Dredd
06:00 Batman: The Killing Joke
07:20 Face/Off
09:35 Dick Tracy
11:20 Judge Dredd
13:00 Crossfire
14:30 Face/Off
16:45 The Net
18:40 The Legend Of Zorro
20:50 Savage Dog
22:25 Swordfish



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 Whale Wars
05:02 Wildest Islands
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:50 Escape To Chimp Eden
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Rugged Justice
10:05 Wildest Islands
11:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
11:28 Escape To Chimp Eden
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 Whale Wars
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Islands
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Cats 101
18:20 Dogs 101: New Tricks
18:48 Dogs 101: New Tricks
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Escape To Chimp Eden
20:38 Escape To Chimp Eden
21:05 Cats 101
22:00 Dogs 101: New Tricks
22:28 Dogs 101: New Tricks
22:55 Wildest Islands
23:50 Lone Star Law



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 Carters Get Rich
23:55 Doctors



00:00 The First 48
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
03:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
04:00 The First 48

05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
06:00 Crime Stories
07:00 Crime Stories
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Deadly Wives
11:00 Deadly Wives
12:00 Deadly Wives
13:00 Deadly Wives
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Crime Stories
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 Crime Stories
22:00 Monster In My Family
23:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover
23:30 It Takes A Killer



00:05 Lip Sync Battle
00:30 South Park
00:55 Another Period
01:20 The Half Hour
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Hannibal Buress: Animal Furnace
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 Kroll Show
11:00 Kroll Show
11:25 Kroll Show
11:50 Kroll Show
12:15 Kroll Show
12:40 Impractical Jokers VII Special - Practically Live!
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
19:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:50 Detroiters
20:12 Workaholics
20:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 South Park
22:00 Amy Schumer: Mostly Sex Stuff
22:50 The President Show
23:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 Weather Gone Viral
02:10 Wild Mexico
03:00 Ultimate Survival
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
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
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 The Carbonaro Effect
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
20:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
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



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 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 California Investigator
08:15 California Investigator
08:40 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 Southern Fried Homicide
10:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
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 Southern Fried Homicide
15:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
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 Southern Fried Homicide
20:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
21:10 Blood Relatives
22:00 American Monster
22:50 Evil Lives Here
23:40 Ghost Asylum



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
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 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 S1 Splits
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus S1
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:25 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.

12:20 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:00 K.C. Undercover
14:50 Bizaardvark
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Tangled Before Ever After
17:30 The Zhuzhus S1
17:45 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracked
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:20 Alex & Co.
22:45 Lolirock
23:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:05 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:30 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 PJ Masks
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 Toy Hospital
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
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 Toy Hospital
20:25 Doc McStuffins
20:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:45 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
20:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 What On Earth?
01:50 So You Think You'd Survive?



02:35 Supertruckers
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Strip The City
06:45 Abandoned Engineering
07:30 Gold Rush
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 Misfit Garage
15:17 Street Customs Berlin
16:07 Street Customs Berlin
16:57 Street Customs Berlin
17:47 Street Customs 2008
18:32 Street Customs 2008
19:17 Garage Gold
19:42 Garage Gold
20:07 How Do They Do It?
20:33 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Street Outlaws
21:50 Carspotting
22:40 Misfit Garage
23:30 Deadliest Catch



06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 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
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 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
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 Elite Force
22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:10 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 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
10:10 Botched
11:05 Botched
12:00 E! News
12:15 Life Of Kylie

12:40 Life Of Kylie
13:10 Eric And Jessie
13:35 Eric And Jessie
14:05 Eric And Jessie
14:30 Eric And Jessie
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
17:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:05 Eric And Jessie
18:30 Eric And Jessie
19:00 E! News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 E! News
23:15 Famously Single



00:00 Siba's Table
00:30 Siba's Table
01:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
01:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
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 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
17:30 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Halloween Baking Championship
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



00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 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
13:45 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
23:40 Coronation Street

TV LISTINGS

H2 HD

00:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
 01:00 Patton 360
 02:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
 02:50 Ancient Aliens
 03:40 Cities Of The Underworld
 04:30 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
 05:20 America: The Story Of The U.S.
 06:10 The Universe
 07:00 Patton 360
 08:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
 09:00 Ancient Aliens
 10:00 Cities Of The Underworld
 11:00 Engineering Disasters
 12:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
 13:00 Patton 360
 14:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
 15:00 Ancient Aliens
 16:00 Cities Of The Underworld
 17:00 The Universe
 18:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
 19:00 Patton 360
 20:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
 21:00 Ancient Aliens
 22:00 Warriors
 23:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar

HISTORY HD

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
 14:20 Pawn Stars
 15:10 Counting Cars
 16:00 Alone: Lost And Found
 16:50 Alone
 18:30 Leepu And Pitbull
 19:20 Counting Cars
 19:45 Counting Cars
 21:00 American Pickers
 21:50 Pawn Stars
 22:15 Storage Wars
 22:40 Forged In Fire
 23:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald

NAT GEO people HD

00:45 Route Awakening
 01:10 Places We Go
 01:40 Places We Go
 02:05 Places We Go
 02:35 Home Strange Home
 03:30 Home Strange Home
 04:25 Around The World In 80 Dishes
 05:20 Carnival Eats
 05:45 Eat Street
 06:15 Dog Whisperer
 07:10 Places We Go
 07:35 Places We Go
 08:05 Home Strange Home
 09:00 Home Strange Home
 09:55 Around The World In 80 Dishes
 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 Street Food Around The World
 15:50 Street Food Around The World
 16:20 Carnival Eats

16:45 Eat Street
 17:15 Dog Whisperer
 18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
 19:05 Street Food Around The World
 19:30 Street Food Around The World
 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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

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
 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

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Hyena Coast
 01:10 Safari Brothers
 02:00 Tiger On The Run
 02:50 Wild 24
 03:45 Wild Case Files
 04:40 Animals Gone Wild
 05:35 Tiger On The Run
 06:30 Wild 24
 07:25 Wild Case Files
 08:20 Animals Gone Wild
 09:15 Snakes In The City
 10:10 Wild Thailand (2015)
 11:05 The Last Orangutan Eden
 12:00 Why Sharks Attack
 12:55 Lion Gangland
 13:50 Wild 24
 14:45 Wild Case Files
 15:40 Animals Gone Wild
 16:35 Snakes In The City
 17:30 Wild Indochina
 18:25 Lion Ranger
 19:20 Wild Case Files
 20:10 Animals Gone Wild
 21:00 Snakes In The City
 21:50 Wild Indochina
 22:40 Lion Ranger
 23:30 Why Sharks Attack

nick HD

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 00:36 Rabbids Invasion
 01:00 Rabbids Invasion
 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
 02:12 Winx Club
 02:36 Winx Club
 03:00 Harvey Beaks
 03:24 Harvey Beaks
 03:48 The Loud House
 04:12 The Loud House
 04:36 Breadwinners
 05:00 Breadwinners
 05:24 Get Blake
 05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
 06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 07:00 The Loud House

07:24 Rabbids Invasion
 07:48 Get Blake
 08:12 Harvey Beaks
 08:36 Sanjay And Craig
 09:00 Rank The Prank
 09:24 Henry Danger
 09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
 10:12 Game Shakers
 10:36 Regal Academy
 11:00 Winx Club
 11:24 Best Player
 13:00 Breadwinners
 13:24 Sanjay And Craig
 13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
 14:12 School Of Rock
 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
 15:00 Hunter Street
 15:24 Breadwinners
 15:48 Henry Danger
 16:12 Henry Danger
 16:36 Henry Danger
 17:00 Henry Danger
 17:24 Henry Danger
 17:48 Game Shakers
 19:48 The Thundermans
 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 21:00 The Loud House
 21:24 Sanjay And Craig
 21:48 Rabbids Invasion
 22:12 Breadwinners
 22:36 Harvey Beaks
 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
 23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

nick Jr.

00:01 Max & Ruby
 00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 00:47 The Day Henry Met
 00:52 The Day Henry Met
 00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 01:41 Zack & Quack
 02:03 Shimmer And Shine
 02:25 Olive The Ostrich
 02:30 Olive The Ostrich
 02:35 Paw Patrol
 02:58 Little Charmers
 03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 03:22 Dora The Explorer
 03:44 Max & Ruby
 04:06 The Day Henry Met
 04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
 04:35 Shimmer And Shine
 04:59 Wallykazam!
 05:21 Zack & Quack
 05:32 The Day Henry Met
 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 06:00 Rusty Rivets
 06:13 Paw Patrol
 06:37 Dora The Explorer
 07:00 Zack & Quack
 07:21 Bubble Guppies
 07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 08:07 Paw Patrol
 08:30 Shimmer And Shine
 08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
 09:15 The Day Henry Met
 09:22 Paw Patrol
 09:45 Rusty Rivets
 09:57 Wallykazam!
 10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
 10:42 Zack & Quack
 10:52 Team Umizoomi
 11:15 Shimmer And Shine
 11:39 Shimmer And Shine
 12:01 Max & Ruby
 12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 12:47 The Day Henry Met
 12:52 The Day Henry Met
 12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 13:41 Zack & Quack
 14:03 Shimmer And Shine
 14:25 Olive The Ostrich
 14:30 Olive The Ostrich
 14:35 Paw Patrol
 14:58 Little Charmers
 15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 15:22 Dora The Explorer

15:44 Max & Ruby
 16:06 The Day Henry Met
 16:11 Nella The Princess Knight
 16:35 Shimmer And Shine
 16:59 Wallykazam!
 17:21 Zack & Quack
 17:32 The Day Henry Met
 17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 18:00 Rusty Rivets
 18:13 Paw Patrol
 18:37 Dora The Explorer
 19:00 Zack & Quack
 19:21 Bubble Guppies
 19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 20:07 Paw Patrol
 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

MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:05 Alice In Wonderland
 01:55 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
 04:15 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie
 06:00 Underdog
 07:25 Finding Nemo
 09:10 Further Adventures Of Professor Branestaw
 10:15 Alice In Wonderland
 12:05 Underdog
 13:30 Mars Needs Moms
 15:00 Brave
 16:40 Pan
 18:35 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
 20:25 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
 22:25 Mars Needs Moms

MOVIES HD COMEDY

01:35 She's Funny That Way
 03:15 Clifford
 04:50 Joe Somebody
 06:30 Down With Love
 08:20 Yoga Hosers
 09:50 Clifford
 11:25 Joe Somebody
 13:05 Down With Love
 14:55 Breaking The Bank
 16:50 Dad's Army
 18:35 Liberal Arts
 20:20 The Last Shot
 22:00 Road Trip: Beer Pong
 23:40 Art School Confidential

MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:45 Some Like It Hot
 03:55 Far From Men
 05:50 Not Without My Daughter
 08:00 Rushmore
 09:45 Some Like It Hot
 11:55 I Am Bolt
 13:55 East Side Sushi
 16:00 The Apartment
 18:15 The Yellow Handkerchief
 20:00 And Justice For All
 22:00 Taxi Driver

MOVIES HD KIDS

00:10 Ozzy
 01:55 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
 03:40 Free Birds
 05:10 Zodiac: The Race Begins
 06:50 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
 08:05 Quest For A Heart
 09:35 The Emperor's Secret
 11:10 Legend Of The Sea
 12:35 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
 14:20 Free Birds
 15:50 Amila's Secret
 17:05 The Emperor's Secret
 18:40 Bunny Tales
 20:00 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
 21:20 Amila's Secret
 22:35 Quest For A Heart

MOVIES HD

01:00 Black Snake Moan
 03:00 Forces Of Nature
 04:50 Confessions Of A Teenage Queen
 06:25 When A Man Loves A Woman
 08:35 Max
 10:30 Finding Forrester
 12:50 Forces Of Nature
 14:40 Norbit
 16:25 Valentine's Day
 18:30 Bridge Of Spies
 20:55 This Means War
 22:35 St. Elmo's Fire

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:30 How Do They Do It?
 00:55 Food Factory
 01:20 Evil Knows! In The Name Of Science
 02:10 Rise Of The Machines
 03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
 03:48 Mythbusters
 04:36 How Do They Do It?
 05:00 Food Factory
 05:24 Mythbusters: The Search
 06:12 Rise Of The Machines
 07:00 How Do They Do It?
 07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
 08:14 Mythbusters
 09:02 Rise Of The Machines
 09:50 How Do They Do It?
 10:14 Food Factory
 10:38 Mythbusters: The Search
 11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
 12:14 Mythbusters
 13:02 How Do They Do It?
 13:26 Food Factory
 13:50 Rise Of The Machines
 14:38 Da Vinci's Machines
 15:26 Mythbusters: The Search
 16:14 Mythbusters
 17:02 Rise Of The Machines
 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 Rise Of The Machines
 22:00 You Have Been Warned
 22:50 Da Vinci's Machines
 23:40 Mythbusters

STAR MOVIES HD

01:45 Simon Birch
 03:45 King Arthur
 05:45 First Snow
 07:30 The Talented Mr. Ripley
 09:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds
 11:40 Still Alice
 13:25 Simon Birch
 15:15 Gangs Of New York
 18:00 The Art Of War
 20:00 Melancholia
 22:30 Mrs. Miracle

STAR WORLD HD

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 Project Accessory
 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 Project Accessory
 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 Project Accessory
 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

TLC HD

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 Little People, Big World
 04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
 04:50 Ultimate Shopper
 05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
 06:00 Little People, Big World
 06:45 Little People, Big World
 07:30 Little People, Big World
 08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
 09:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
 09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
 10:55 Love At First Swipe
 11:17 Love At First Swipe
 11:40 Love At First Swipe
 12:02 Love At First Swipe
 12:25 Love At First Swipe
 12:47 Love At First Swipe
 13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
 13:55 Oprah: 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
 22:40 Diagnose Me
 23:30 Return To Amish

travel CHANNEL

00:00 Ghost Hunters International
 01:00 Mysteries At The Museum
 02:00 Mysteries At The Museum
 03:00 Mysteries At The Museum
 04:00 When Ghosts Attack
 05:00 Most Terrifying Places In America
 06:00 Mysteries At The Museum
 07:00 House Hunters International
 07:30 House Hunters International
 08:00 House Hunters International
 08:30 House Hunters International
 09:00 The Treehouse Guys
 10:00 Hotel Impossible
 11:00 Mysteries At The Museum
 12:00 Expedition Unknown Special
 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
 16:00 The Treehouse Guys
 17:00 Hotel Impossible
 18:00 Bizarre Foods America
 19:00 House Hunters International
 19:30 House Hunters International
 20:00 House Hunters International
 20:30 House Hunters International
 21:00 Salvage Dawgs
 21:30 Salvage Dawgs
 22:00 Building Alaska
 23:00 Ghost Hunters International

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Deserts of the World

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



- ARABIAN
- ARCTIC
- ATACAMA
- ATLANTIC COASTAL
- BAHUDA
- BLACK ROCK
- BLUE
- CHILE
- CHUQUIKU
- COLORADO
- DANIELS
- DEATH VALLEY
- ESURAS
- EMPTY QUARTER
- ERITREAN COASTAL
- GIBSON
- GOSI
- GRAND BARRA
- GREAT BASIN
- GREATSANDY
- GREAT VICTORIA
- GULAN
- INDUS VALLEY
- JALAPAPO
- JUGRAAN
- KALAHARI
- KARAKUM
- KAROO
- KHARAN
- KYZYLKUM
- LAQUAZRA
- LIBYAN
- MARANJAB
- MOORVE
- NEFUD
- NEGEV
- NORTH AMERICAN
- NUBIAN
- NYRBI
- OSGREN
- OLESKNY
- ODKOS
- PATAGONIAN
- SAHARAT
- SARCSIG
- RUSLIAN
- SAHARA
- SECHURA
- SIMPSON
- SINAI
- SONORIAN
- TABERNAS
- TAKLAMAKAN
- TENARE
- TENGRE
- THOMPSON PLATERU
- WAHSEA SANDS
- WHITE

CROSSWORD 1740



ACROSS

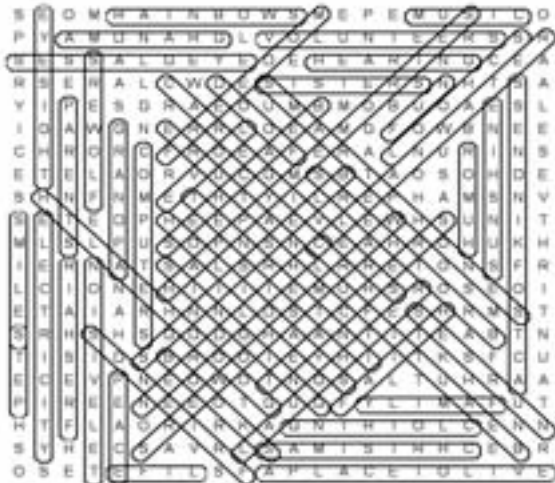
- An associate degree in applied science.
- (geology) Used of the earliest known rocks.
- To make a mistake or be incorrect.
- The ratio of the distance traveled (in miles) to the time spent traveling (in hours).
- A skirt consisting of a rectangle of calico or printed cotton.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- American frontiersman and Tennessee politician who died at the siege of the Alamo (1786-1836).
- Using speech rather than writing.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Industrial city of Belarus southeast of Minsk.
- Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs.
- A state in southeastern United States between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- Gracefully slender.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
- A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
- Type genus of the Majidae.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Someone who is morally reprehensible.
- A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or moss capsule.
- (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a large number of instructions hard coded into the cpu chip.
- A compartment in a stable where a single animal is confined and fed.
- Coming next after the first in position in space or time or degree or magnitude.
- A local computer network for communication between computers.
- English essayist (1775-1834).
- A range of mountains (usually with jagged peaks and irregular outline).
- Antineoplastic drug (trade name Elspar) sometimes used to treat lymphoblastic leukemia.
- A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
- A statement asserting the existence or the truth of something.
- (printing) Written or printed immediately following another character and aligned with it.
- Wanted intensely.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- A person who uses flattery.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
- A republic in northeastern South America on the Atlantic.
- An electrically charged particle.
- Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
- A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.

DOWN

- A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
- South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- A young pig.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
- Being five more than one hundred.
- (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
- A tortilla chip topped with cheese and chili-pepper and broiled.
- Fragrant resin obtain from trees of the family Burseraceae and used as incense.
- Amount of a charge or payment relative to some basis.
- A unit of weight used in some Moslem countries near the Mediterranean.
- A type of folk song that originated among Black Americans at the beginning of the 20th century.
- British filmmaker (born in Hungary) (1893-1956).
- Of or relating to apnea.
- The cry made by sheep.
- A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- Gracefully slender.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- (Greek mythology) The Muse of comedy and pastoral poetry.
- Small deciduous tree of southern Africa having edible fruit.
- A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
- Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- Informal terms for a mother.
- The skin that covers the top of the head.
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
- Speaking a Slavic language.
- A unit of magnetic flux density equal to one weber per square meter.
- The epithelial tissue of the endometrium.
- United States astronomer (1835-1909).
- A small horizontal rope between the shrouds of a sailing ship.
- Xerophytic evergreen shrubs.
- Mix up or confuse.
- Small shrubby African tree having compound leaves and racemes of small fragrant green flowers.
- Uttering in an irritated tone.
- A low vibrating sound typical of a contented cat v.l.
- Characteristic of false pride.
- Very dark black.
- A native or inhabitant of Denmark.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.

Yesterday's Solution

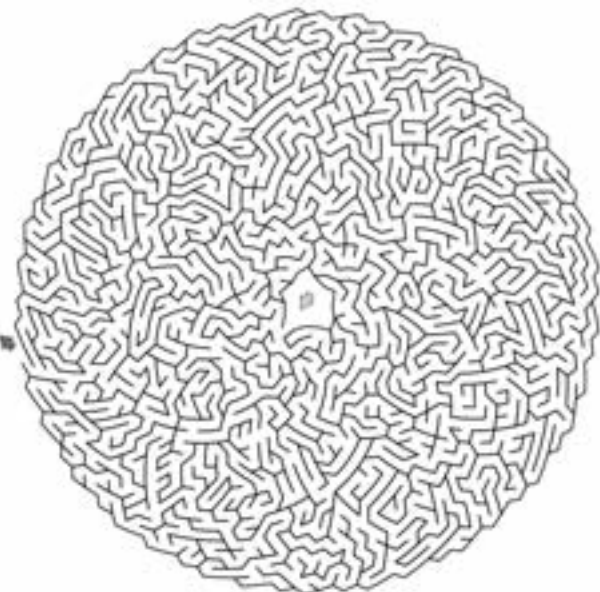
Thankful For...



- ACTS OF KINDNESS
- A PLACE TO LIVE
- BEACHES
- BEAUTIFUL NATURE
- BLESSINGS
- BOOKS
- BROTHERS
- CARE GIVERS
- CHILDREN
- CHRISTMAS
- CLEAN WATER
- CLOTHING
- COMPUTERS
- ELECTRICITY
- EYESGLASSES
- EYESIGHT
- FAITH
- FAMILY
- FLOWERS
- FOOD
- FREEDOM
- FRESH AIR
- FRIENDS
- FUN
- GOOD HEALTH
- GRANDMA
- GRANDPA
- HAPPY MEMORIES
- HEARING
- HOLIDAYS
- HUMOR
- INTERNET
- LAUGHTER
- LIFE
- LOVE
- MUSIC
- NURSES
- PARENTS
- PEACE
- PETS
- RAINYDAYS
- SCHOOL
- SINGING
- SISTERS
- SMART PHONES
- SPOLES
- SUNSHINE
- TEACHERS
- TELEVISION
- VOLUNTEERS
- WARM SHOWERS

The hidden message is: SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS GRUMBING BECAUSE ROSES HAVE THORNS; I AM THANKFUL THAT THORNS HAVE ROSES.

CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Health

The planet's deepest lake is in peril, scientists warn

MOSCOW: Lake Baikal is undergoing its gravest crisis in recent history, experts say, as the government bans the catching of a signature fish that has lived in the world's deepest lake for centuries but is now under threat. Holding one-fifth of the world's unfrozen fresh water, Baikal in Russia's Siberia is a natural wonder of "exceptional value to evolutionary science" meriting its listing as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Baikal's high biodiversity includes over 3,600 plant and animal species, most of which are endemic to the lake. Over the past several years, however, the lake, a major international tourist attraction, has been crippled by a series of detrimental phenomena, some of which remain a mystery to scientists. They include the disappearance of the omul fish, rapid growth of putrid algae and the death of endemic species of sponges across its vast 3.2 million-hectare (7.9 million-acre) area.

Starting in October, the government introduced a ban on all commercial fishing of omul, a species of the salmon family only found in Baikal, fearing "irreversible consequences for its population", the Russian fisheries agency told AFP. "The total biomass of omul in Baikal has more than halved since 15 years ago" from 25 million tons to just 10 million, the agency said.

Local fishery biologist Anatoly Mamontov said the decrease is likely caused by uncontrollable fish poaching, with extra pressure coming from the climate. "Baikal water stock is tied to climate," he said. "Now there is a drought, rivers grow shallow, there are less nutrients. Baikal's surface heats up and omul does not like warm water."

'Significant stress'

UNESCO last month "noted with concern that the ecosystem of the lake is reported to be under significant stress" and a decrease in fish stocks is just one observable effect. The Baikal omul, a well-known specialty, was for centuries the main local source of food, eaten salted or smoked, and especially important given the region has no farming.

Another peril to the lake's ecosystem is the explosion of algal blooms unnatural to Baikal with thick mats of rotting Spirogyra algae blanketing pristine sandy beaches,

which some scientists say indicates that the lake can no longer absorb human pollution without consequence.

"I am 150 percent sure that the reason is the wastewater runoff" from towns without proper sewage treatment, particularly of phosphate-containing detergents, said Oleg Timoshkin, biologist at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Limnological Institute in Irkutsk.



A handout picture provided by the Limnological Institute in Irkutsk, shows Spirogyra algae in the waters of Lake Baikal. — AFP

“**Baikal's surface heats up and omul does not like warm water**”

Fifteen years ago, some of the lake's picturesque villages had only two hours of electricity a day, but now improved power access means that "every babushka rents out rooms and has a washing machine," he said.

'Not Baikal anymore'

Indeed the lake, which is 1,700 meters deep, and its tourism now provide a livelihood for many residents to replace fishing. Foreign visitors often spend time at Baikal while doing a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway and in recent years more Chinese have been coming as Russia eased visa requirements.

Russians love the area, too, for its hiking

trails, camping and spectacular scenery. Timoshkin has travelled the length of Baikal testing for Spirogyra prevalence and said that in three critical zones near populated areas "the bottom does not look like Baikal anymore" and algae is pushing out oxygen-loving molluscs and crustaceans. Near the town of Listvyanka, the tourist hub closest to regional centre Irkutsk, "there used to be underwater forests of sponges 15 years ago, now they are all dead," Timoshkin said. Last year, Timoshkin tested 170 types of sponges throughout Baikal's coast, and "only 11 percent looked healthy," he said. "When you take a dead sponge to the surface it smells like a corpse." — AFP

CLINIC

PAGE

Kuwait Times

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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Kuwait Times Classified

Friday, October 20, 2017



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



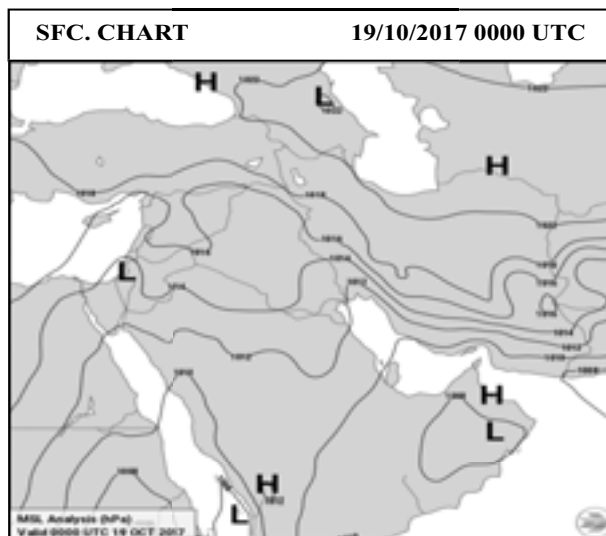
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
------------------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	25 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	37 °C	24 °C
ABDALY	35 °C	21 °C
BUBYAN	35 °C	21 °C
JAHRA	38 °C	24 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	24 °C
SALMIYAH	34 °C	26 °C
AHMADI	32 °C	27 °C
NUWAISIB	33 °C	23 °C
WAFRA	36 °C	23 °C
SALMY	37 °C	19 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	10/20	Relatively hot	36 °C	22 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h
Saturday	10/21	Relatively hot	34 °C	21 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 22 km/h
Sunday	10/22	Relatively hot	35 °C	19 °C	NE-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Monday	10/23	Relatively hot	35 °C	20 °C	VRB-SW	06 - 26 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:33
Sunrise	05:52
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:48
Sunset	17:14
Isha	18:31

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	35 %
MIN. RH	13 %
MAX. Wind	N 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel 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

CHANGE OF NAME

The public is hereby notified that Bayer Tangib Malecddan has filed with the Embassy of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, a Migrant Petition for Change of first name of his son, from Liam Malecddan Tangib to Liam in the report of birth filed with the embassy on 15 October 2017 under Registry Number KT-ROB-063-2017. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest

EMERGENCY 112

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

or may be adversely affected by said petition, file a written opposition with the Philippine Embassy within ten (10) working days. (C 5349) 16-10-2017

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

Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

39 Warning for China as US hails India partnership



40 China's central bank warns of Minsky moment as economy powers ahead



41 Scandal-hit Nissan suspends production for Japan market



SHANGHAI: In this photo, Chinese women walk by a Carrefour multinational retailer building featuring a mural depicting a lively Parisian neighborhood, in Shanghai, China. —AP

Saudi needs Aramco billions as recession slows austerity drive

Riyadh plans to abolish deficit by 2020

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's plans to sell state assets - including a stake in energy giant Saudi Aramco - are becoming even more important to its finances as a recession slows Riyadh's effort to close a budget deficit caused by low oil prices. Last December, Riyadh released a plan to abolish the deficit by 2020, cutting it from \$79 billion or 12.3 percent of gross domestic product in 2016 via steps such as domestic energy price hikes and tax rises. The plan eased investor fears about Saudi Arabia's fiscal stability and reduced pressure on its currency.

But in recent weeks, it has become clear from official statistics that the 2020 target is much too optimistic, economists said. Austerity measures so far have pushed the economy into recession, with GDP shrinking for a second straight quarter in the April-June period. The slump is a threat to ambitious

economic reforms announced by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who wants to boost private sector growth and develop non-oil industries. So the government has delayed further austerity steps that could hurt businesses or consumers.

Riyadh is reconsidering the speed at which it imposes austerity to avoid pushing up unemployment, the International Monetary Fund said this month. Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan told Bloomberg television in Washington last week that the government would not rush to lift domestic energy prices further. The result may be a fresh emphasis on raising money from the Aramco sale and other privatization exercises, until the economy recovers enough to let Riyadh proceed at full speed with austerity, economists in the region said.

"The austerity measures have a cumulative

impact on economic momentum—each stage becomes even harder," said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank. "If oil stays at \$50 to \$60 a barrel, we expect to see deficits way beyond 2020." The government faces a chicken-and-egg problem: it needs to spend more to boost growth, but finding more funds to spend is hard when growth is low. By obtaining tens of billions of dollars in funds from abroad, the privatization program could be a way out of this dilemma, Malik said.

Sources told Reuters this month that China was offering to buy up to 5 percent of Aramco directly. Consultancy Eurasia Group said it would be tempting for Riyadh to accept such a proposal in advance of a public offer and international listing of Aramco shares, which could occur in late 2018 or 2019. "An immediate cash injection through a

private placement could prove too attractive to turn down," Eurasia said. An Aramco spokesman said a range of options for a public listing of Aramco remained under active review. "No decision has been made and the IPO process remains on track," the spokesman said without elaborating.

Deficit

Many economists expect the government to hit its deficit target of \$53 billion or roughly 8 percent of GDP this year, helped by higher oil prices. Shrinking the gap further will be a slow and painful process, however, they say. One austerity step, imposing a 5 percent value-added tax, looks likely to go ahead in January; an IMF official said official preparations for it were proceeding well. VAT may raise around \$13 billion in annual revenues, the IMF has estimated. —Reuters

Business

Stocks stumble off all-time highs, kiwi takes a dive

European shares take biggest tumble in two months

LONDON: World stocks set a fresh record high before stalling in Europe yesterday, as the longest winning streak for Japanese stocks since 1998 and the first close above 23,000 for Wall Street's Dow index helped to offset nerves about Spain. Traders were marking 30 years to the day since the 1987 Black Monday stock market crash but there couldn't have been a greater contrast as equity markets continued to clock up milestone after milestone.

The Nikkei enjoyed its 13th straight daily rise, helping the MSCI index of global stock markets - now up 17.6 percent for the year - add to its long list of 2017 record highs. It wasn't all one-way traffic, though. European shares took their biggest tumble in almost two months after a batch of third-quarter results brought some disappointments, notably from Anglo-Dutch consumer goods titan Unilever, French advertising group Publicis and Germany's Kion.

They then took another lurch lower as oil hit the skids and signals emerged from Spain that Madrid was gearing up to invoke a never-before-used clause to re-impose central rule over the restive region of Catalonia. That was enough to pull the euro briefly into negative territory though it later recovered to hit a 1-week high on the dollar.



Third-quarter results bring disappointments

Spanish stocks dropped as much as 1 percent as volatility gauges woke from their recent slumber while Madrid's government bonds also sold off, but like the euro, they rebounded again.

"Everyone is watching this with great interest but it just looks like a standoff," said Saxo Bank FX strategist John Hardy, saying the situation was something of a 'catch-22' for Catalonia. A declaration of independence would see it lose its prized autonomy, while calling a regional election could mobilize Catalan voters who would prefer to stay part of Spain. "But the market is not expressing any real fear over this and I think that is justified," Hardy added.

The other big currency market move came from the New Zealand dollar. It was sent skidding to its lowest since May after the left-leaning Labor Party won the support of the minor nationalist New Zealand First party to form a ruling coalition. This ended weeks of political guessing games but fanned concerns that the Labor Party's hardline policies on immigration and foreign ownership could hurt investor sentiment. The Kiwi slid as much as 1.9 percent to \$0.7017, which as well as the 4-1/2 month low was also the biggest percentage decline since August 2015.

London Stock Exchange CEO to step down

LONDON: London Stock Exchange Group said yesterday that its chief executive, French national Xavier Rolet, would leave the company by the end of 2018 after almost a decade in charge. It gave no reason for Rolet's move, which will precede Britain's planned formal departure from the European Union scheduled for March 2019. "The board is now initiating a process to find a successor and will work closely with Xavier to ensure a smooth transition process as the group continues to execute on its successful growth strategy," a statement said.

Rolet joined LSEG in 2009 and since then, the company's market value has rocketed to nearly £14 billion from £800 million, it added. Rolet said he was "extremely proud" to have helped "turn LSEG into a truly global financial market infrastructure group". Shares in LSEG, which also operates Borsa Italiana, were down 1.2 percent at £38.75 in early deals on London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which was 0.4 percent lower overall. In a separate announcement, LSEG said that group revenues jumped by 18 percent to £442.7 million in the three months to September, compared with the third quarter of 2016. Under Rolet's stewardship, the company bought US asset manager Russell for \$2.7 billion to diversify and boost its business in the United States. It additionally bought LCH, Clearnet, the British clearing house. But also on his watch, the LSEG failed in separate attempts to merge with the Toronto stock exchange and earlier



LONDON: This file photo shows Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange.—AFP

this year with Germany's Deutsche Boerse. The EU in March blocked a proposed blockbuster tie-up of the London and Frankfurt stock markets owing to competition concerns and fallout from Brexit.

Rolet's Brexit warning

Speaking on Wednesday, Rolet warned that more British firms would move business to EU countries should Britain fail to hammer out a post-Brexit transition deal by the end of the year. "In the absence of certainty in the next few months, the businesses, the CEOs, the boards the executive committees of many companies that are based here will have to start acting on worst case scenarios," the 57 year-old said in a speech made at Britain's parliament.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has backed a two-year transition period to ease the impact on the UK economy, but she is beset by divisions within her own Conservative party and talks with Brussels are stalled over the size of the country's exit bill. Rolet became chief executive of LSEG in May 2009, replacing Dutchwoman Clara Furse who had begun the process of steering the group through the global financial crisis.—AFP



SEOUL: A currency trader walks by the screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), right, and the foreign exchange rates at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday.—AP

China focus

Wall Street was expected to restart around 0.5 percent in red. The Dow Jones closed above 23,000 for the first time on Wednesday, driven by a jump in IBM after it hinted at a return to revenue growth. But the mood was dimmed yesterday by a 1.7 percent pre-market slide in Apple on concerns about demand for its new iPhone models and as eBay tum-

bled 6.5 percent after it warned current-quarter profit could miss estimates. Among the other headlines overnight, China's economic growth cooled slightly to 6.8 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, from the second quarter's 6.9 percent. A modest loss of momentum had been expected as the government reins in the heated property market and cracks down on riskier lending.—Reuters

Spanish bonds outperform as investors look for Catalan stability

LONDON: Spanish government bonds outperformed the rest of the market ahead of a key deadline yesterday morning as investors greeted Madrid's decisive stance towards Catalonia's secessionist leadership with a measure of relief. In an unprecedented move since Spain returned to democracy in the late 1970s, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will impose direct rule in Catalonia unless the region's leader Carles Puigdemont retracts by 10 am an ambiguous declaration of independence he made last week.

Political tensions have pushed Spain's borrowing costs sharply higher in recent weeks, and though tensions are sure to ratchet up as yesterday's deadline passes, investors are hoping Rajoy's uncompromising stance will bring some stability to the region. "Investors are taking the view that if Spain takes control of Catalonia today, it is better to have some stability than the uncertainty of a potential independence bid," said DZ Bank strategist Daniel Lenz.

The euro also gained on the day, and was up 0.2 percent by 0715 GMT. The yield on Spain's 10-year government bond was 1.5 basis points lower at 1.62 percent in early trade, while other Southern European bond yields were flat to a touch lower. Analysts pointed out, however, that this outperformance only comes after two weeks of selling. The gap between Spanish and German 10-year borrowing costs, at 122 basis points, is now 23 basis points wider than at this point a month ago.

In what promises to be a more comprehensive test of investor sentiment, Spain is scheduled to sell 4-5 billion euros of bonds of various maturities in an auction at 0830 GMT; half an hour after Catalonia's deadline. "There is potential for some volatility as these auctions take place and if political headlines hit the screens as well," said Lenz of DZ Bank. Most euro zone bond yields edged lower yesterday, as the "blackout" period began ahead of next week's key European Central Bank meeting, when policymakers are expected to provide detail on the unwinding of monetary stimulus.

Most yields have dropped in recent sessions on expectations that the ECB will continue asset purchases for longer than many expected, albeit at a lower level. Germany's 10-year government bond yield, the benchmark for the bloc, was a touch lower at 0.39 percent; well off the 0.50 percent it was yielding at the start of the month.—Reuters

Business

Warning for China as US hails India partnership

Tillerson promises 'free and open' Indo-Pacific

WASHINGTON: The United States vowed Wednesday to work with India in preference to China over the next century to promote a "free and open" Asia-Pacific region led by prosperous democracies. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson delivered his unexpectedly sharp message to Beijing on the same day President Xi Jinping opened the Communist Party congress. His upbeat speech was designed to set the stage for a visit next week to China's main Asian rival India, and to lay out a vision for a 100-year "strategic partnership" between Washington and New Delhi.

But President Donald Trump's chief diplomat also took the opportunity to compare the United States and India—the world's "two greatest democracies" with China, which he said was undermining the "rules-based international order." Coming on the day Xi opened a party congress designed to further secure his long-term control of what is already one of the most powerful Chinese presidencies in history, Tillerson's address will be seen as provocative. After the speech, reporters asked a senior State Department official whether it had been intended as a warning or a rebuke to China. "It's a speech that was designed for many audiences," he said, smiling. "The fact that he mentioned China is obviously built into the speech," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But this is a speech, obviously, that we hope all countries in the Indo-Pacific region will take to heart." Washington and Delhi have been building stronger ties for some time, but Tillerson made one of the clearest cases that the "shared values" underpinning the relationship make India and the United States ideal partners. As such, the speech also amounted to a warning to great power rival China that Washington will build regional alliances to counter its ever-growing power, while promoting free trade and open sea lanes.

Provocative actions

"The United States and India are increasingly global part-

ners with growing strategic convergence," he said. "Indians and Americans don't just share an affinity for democracy. We share a vision of the future," he said, projecting the relationship into the next 100 years. Promising greater prosperity and security in a "free and open Indo-Pacific," Tillerson did push India—which has its own range of protectionist laws—to open up its borders to more regional and US trade. But his harshest words were for China, the Asian economic behemoth and the nearest rival to India's huge population or to the United States' still world-leading economy. "China, while rising alongside India, has done so less responsibly, at times undermining the international, rules-based order," Tillerson chided. "China's provocative actions in the South China Sea directly challenge the international law and norms that the United States and India both stand for." The senior US official, briefing reporters to flesh out the themes of the speech, said the idea of a "New Pacific" is a priority for both Trump and Tillerson.



India, US to set standards for trade and security

In more concrete terms this would mean a four-way arrangement of Australia, India, Japan and the United States to "anchor" the huge region and set standards for trade and security. Implicitly, this would exclude China. As it has slowly emerged as a powerful, economy India has avoided entangling alliances, preferring to maintain cautious relations with both Washington and Beijing, but Trump has built warm relations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Greatest democracies

"The secretary of state spends a lot of time dealing with problems. India is an opportunity," the senior official said. Last month, the chief of India's army warned that China had been "testing our limits" in a recent border stand-off and warned that Delhi's forces must be ready for conflict. India and China went to war in 1962 over the state of Arunachal Pradesh and China has maintained



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson answers questions at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC.—AFP

better ties with Delhi's foe Pakistan. Tillerson did not directly address August's stand-off on the Doklam plateau in the Himalayas, which is claimed by both China and Bhutan, an ally of India. But he vowed that Washington "won't shrink from China's challenges to the rules-based order, or where China subverts the sovereignty of neighboring countries." And he approvingly cited US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' declaration "that the world's two greatest democracies should have the two greatest militaries." Tillerson noted the Indian navy now flies the American P-8 surveillance aircraft alongside US forces, and promised to help India in developing a carrier-borne strike force.

The secretary was speaking to guests of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. He is due in New Delhi next week for talks with Indian leaders. Trump is also due in Asia next month, including a stop in Beijing where he will try to build on an early rapport he has developed with Xi and push for action to contain North Korea's nuclear threat—a task that may be made harder by the Indian outreach.—AFP

Thirty years ago this week, Wall Street slid into abyss

NEW YORK: Thirty years ago, before heading to work at the New York Stock Exchange, Peter Kenny left his home in lower Manhattan and made a detour to the nearby Our Lady of Victory church to pray to St. Jude, the Roman Catholic patron saint of desperate and lost causes. The reason was the stock market crash known as "Black Monday" on October 19, 1987. "Blessed mother get me through this," he prayed. Kenny, now senior market strategist at Global Markets

Advisory Group in New York, was a newly minted member of the New York Stock Exchange, having joined the exchange in February that year. He was stunned by the events that unfolded the previous day, the worst trading day in US history. "I don't think anyone was prepared for what actually transpired in the overseas markets, which led to the bloodbath on Monday," said Kenny.

When it was over, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had lost 22.6 percent in one day, equivalent to a drop of about 5,200 points in the index today. The benchmark US S&P 500 index plunged



NEW YORK: Trader Gordon Charlop works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.—AP

20.5 percent on Black Monday, equal to a drop of over 520 points today, and the Nasdaq dropped 11.4 percent, comparable to a drop of about 750 points.

In 1987 US stock prices had climbed steadily all year, as they have in 2017, with each of the three major US indexes hitting record highs in late August. But September turned into a difficult month, with each index falling more than 2.0 percent, though not by enough to raise alarm bells among investors. But as the calendar flipped to October, the selling in US equity markets intensified. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 fell more than 9.0 percent in the week before Black Monday.

On the morning of Monday, October 19, 1987, Art Hogan, then a floor broker at the Boston Stock Exchange, expected a possible rebound for stock prices. Nothing had prepared him for what was to unfold.—Reuters

Sweden to get Europe's car battery factory

STOCKHOLM: Start-up company Northvolt said yesterday it had picked its home country Sweden to build Europe's biggest factory for electric car batteries, rivaling Tesla's American "Gigafactory". The company said it had selected Skelleftea, a coastal town in the country's industrial north-east, for the site which will employ up to 2,500 people.

Sweden's main nickel, cobalt, lithium and graphite deposits are nearby. An associated research centre employing 300 to 400 people will be located in Vasteras, some 150 kilometers west of Stockholm and the original headquarters of Swedish-Swiss ABB, which has partnered up with Northvolt for the project.

"Europe is rapidly moving towards electrification," said Peter Carlsson, Northvolt's founder and CEO. "Sweden has a unique position to establish large-scale battery production to sup-

port this transition with its clean and affordable energy, proximity to raw materials, and a strong industrial tradition deep in its DNA," he said. Sweden's economy minister Mikael Damberg said it was "a great day, not just for the two chosen cities but also for Sweden and for Europe". Construction of the factory is to start in the second half of 2018, and it is expected to raise production progressively between 2020 and 2023.

Once fully operational, the site is to produce lithium-ion batteries totaling 32 Gigawatt hours (GWh) per year. The project requires an investment of four billion euros over six years for which financing is already covered. The factory comes in response to Tesla founder Elon Musk's "Gigafactory" in the US state of Nevada where production debuted in January and which Tesla hopes to eventually ramp up to 150 GWhs. In addition, Tesla is mulling plans for another such factory, this time in Europe, with several countries happy to have it, including Sweden and France. Northvolt's factory will be aimed not only at electric cars and other vehicles, but also at renewable energy producers looking for electricity storage, as well as industrial companies.—AFP

Business

China's central bank warns of Minsky moment as economy powers ahead

Efforts to curb financial risks beginning to weigh

BEIJING: China's central bank chief yesterday issued a stark warning about asset bubbles in the world's second-largest economy, which looks set to clock its first acceleration in annual growth since 2010, driven by public spending and record bank lending. Speaking on the sidelines of the closely-watched, twice-a-decade Communist Party Congress, People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan spoke of the risks of a "Minsky moment" in the economy, referring to a sudden collapse in asset prices after long periods of growth, sparked by debt or currency pressures.

Zhou's comments refer to a theory on prices derived by American economist Hyman Minsky and follow official data that showed China's economic growth slowed in the third quarter from a year earlier, as expected, but remained on track to post the first full-year pickup in seven years. Coming on the 30th anniversary of the Black Monday Wall Street crash, the comments from the governor, who is likely to retire soon, echo concerns expressed in the past by international economic bodies about relative levels of corporate and household debt in the economy.

But while hedge funds sometimes refer to Minsky in warnings about a China credit bubble threatening the global economy, China has so far proven doomsayers wrong. "I would

doubt they really think China is in for a Minsky Moment, but maybe he is trying to impress (other leaders in Beijing) on the need to start reining in credit growth," said Louis Kuijs, head of Asia economics at Oxford Economics in Hong Kong. "It's not really up to (the central bank)... We would have to look at what the leadership says about these things."

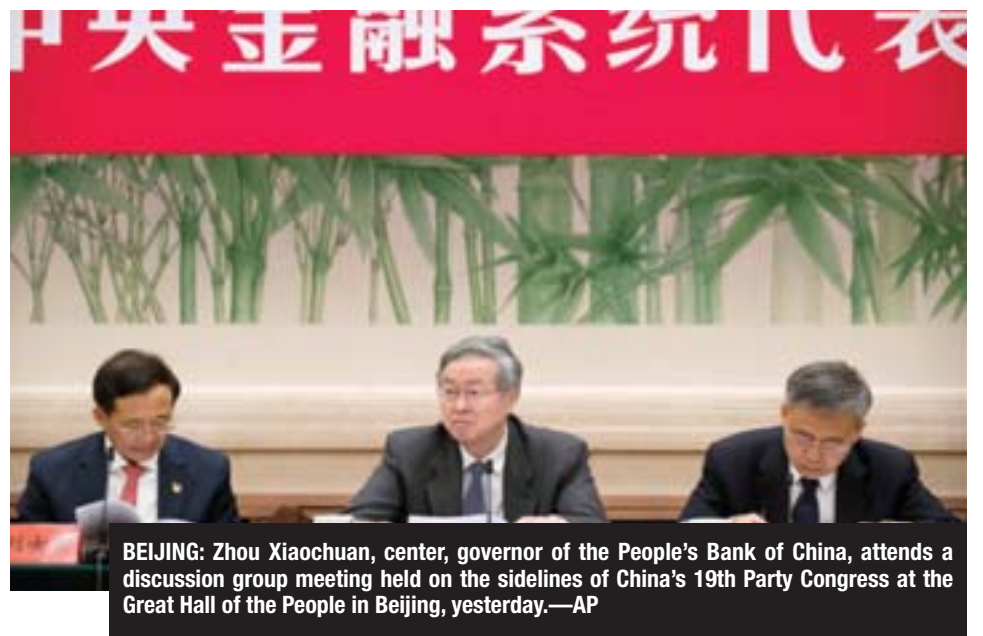
Recent efforts to curb financial risks and cool the property market are beginning to weigh. While the economy grew a solid 6.8 percent from the previous year in the third quarter as expected, growth in new construction slowed and property sales dropped for the first time in more than two-and-half years in September. In all, growth was still on track to comfortably beat the government's target of around 6.5 percent for this year and 2016's rate of 6.7 percent, which was a 26-year low.

Urgent reform needed

Analysts and global economic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund warn Beijing is stimulating credit too heavily in its aim to meet fixed growth targets. Rating agencies estimate the overall debt burden at almost three times economic output. Data on Saturday showed Chinese banks extended more loans than expected in September, backed by demand from home buyers and companies. While household loans accounted



China credit bubble threatening global economy



BEIJING: Zhou Xiaochuan, center, governor of the People's Bank of China, attends a discussion group meeting held on the sidelines of China's 19th Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday.—AP

for a smaller percentage of total new loans, their value jumped more than 10 percent to 734.9 billion yuan last month from August, according to Reuters calculations.

"China's high debt burden is an area where reform is most urgently needed but progress has been the slowest," said Chi Lo, senior economist at BNP Paribas Asset Management. There are, however, signs that policymakers are making needed changes in other parts of the economy. Beijing's push to consolidate and restructure its industrial sec-

tor has paid dividends as factory output beat expectations, while strong fiscal spending and sustained public investment helped boost domestic demand.

The economy slowed slightly from 6.9 percent in the second quarter, however, and analysts say it could ease further due to an expected softening in property investment and construction as more cities try to cool housing prices, while a government campaign against riskier lending pushes up borrowing costs.—Reuters

Mexico lawmakers to propose raising 2018 budget

MEXICO CITY: A committee in Mexico's lower house will propose changing a draft of next year's government budget by raising forecasts for oil prices and the exchange rate to help pay for reconstruction after recent earthquakes, a Mexican newspaper reported on Wednesday. The finance committee in the lower house of Congress agreed to suggest raising oil price assumptions in the fiscal plan to \$48.50 per barrel from \$46 and the exchange rate to 18.4 pesos per dollar from 18.1 in the draft budget, according to La Jornada.

A spokeswoman for the finance ministry confirmed that the committee had made the changes to the draft. The changes were aimed at increasing the budget to help with reconstruction efforts from recent natural disasters, including two large earthquakes in September that killed more than 460 people and causing around \$2 billion worth of damage. The committee's budget proposal, which amends a



MEXICO CITY: Rodrigo Diaz Mejia climbs over a crushed car into what was a second-storey apartment at 517 Tokio street, felled by the earthquake almost one month ago in the Portales Norte neighborhood of Mexico City.—AP

draft by the executive branch, will have to be approved by the lower house of Congress, then pass to the Senate. Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto said in September that funds would need to be reassigned from other areas of the government towards reconstruction efforts next year.—Reuters

China biotech's 'coming out party' masks long road ahead

LONDON: Investors are betting on China's potential to feed the global pharmaceutical pipeline, putting a multi-billion-dollar price tag on a handful of stocks, even as the country struggles to close a huge R&D gap with the West. Shares in firms such as Chi-Med, Beigene and Zai Lab have soared on international markets this year, fuelled by hopes for their drugs and recent reforms to China's regulatory system that should speed up approvals.

"It's almost a coming out party for China biotech," said Christian Hogg, chief executive of Hutchison China MediTech or Chi-Med, which presented promising data at a global medical congress this week on a lung cancer drug it discovered in China and is developing with AstraZeneca. "China is in vogue because of the positive moves on the regulatory side, as well as advances at companies. It's a big, big change versus 10 years ago and it is

accelerating." Importantly, national and provincial authorities are also moving faster to agree payments for innovative drugs, albeit after negotiating price discounts in many cases. Yet amid the euphoria it is easy to lose sight of the fact that China still has far to go. It contributes just 4 percent of global drug innovation - as measured by the number of products in development and recent launches - against 50 percent from the United States, according to an October 2016 report from four Chinese pharmaceutical associations.

"It is very apparent they are trying to transition to being more of a novel drug development environment and bring in more innovative research," Scott Gottlieb, head of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said. "I think it's going to be a long transition ... we built up an ecosystem in this country over decades and decades."

China's traditional strengths lie in generic drugs and the bulk production of active pharmaceutical ingredients that are found in pills in pharmacies worldwide. The shift in focus to original research is a change in mindset, although it builds on the success of contract research and manufacturing company WuXi Biologics, which does much of the legwork for China's budding biotechs.

Bi Jingquan, the reformist bureaucrat who has led China's drugs watchdog the CFDA since 2015, views innovative - and affordable - drugs as the key to meeting the country's growing clinical demands.—Reuters

Business

Scandal-hit Nissan suspends production for Japan market

Investigator finds misconduct at three Japanese plants

YOKOHAMA: Nissan said yesterday it was suspending all production destined for the local market, as Japan's number-two automaker grapples with a mounting inspection scandal that has already seen it recall some 1.2 million vehicles. The announcement comes weeks after the company admitted that staff without proper authorization had conducted final inspections on some vehicles intended for the domestic market before they were shipped to dealers.

Yesterday, it said a third-party investigator found the misconduct had continued at three of its six Japanese plants even after it took steps to end the crisis, something its president blamed on "old habits". "You might say it would be easy to stop people who are not supposed to inspect from inspecting," Nissan president Hiroto Saikawa told a press briefing yesterday.

"But we are having to take (new measures) in order to stop old habits that had been part of our routine operations at the factories." "What is necessary is to make our people realize that what they thought was OK was in fact bad." This month, Nissan said it was calling back around 1.2

million vehicles produced and sold in Japan between 2014 and 2017 for re-inspection, after government officials found some final inspections were being done by staff not certified to do them. Nissan produced 1.015 million vehicles in Japan in its last fiscal year to March, with about 400,000 units sold locally.

Violated their trust

"Those customers who trusted the measures that we took and purchased our vehicles, we violated their trust," Saikawa said. "This is a serious problem." Saikawa, who took over the top position from Carlos Ghosn earlier this year, has said the crisis was likely to cost the firm around 25 billion yen. "We are trying to change what has become a part of a routine," he told reporters, adding that the suspension would likely be in force for about two weeks.

He insisted that the issue did not affect the quality of Nissan's vehicles. "Rather than whether we are building good and safe vehicles, this is about whether steps that were supposed to be followed were followed," he added.

“ What they thought was OK was in fact bad ”



YOKOHAMA: Nissan Motors CEO Hiroto Saikawa bows at the end of a press conference regarding the recent inspection issue in the Japanese market at its headquarters in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture yesterday. —AFP

Nissan's original announcement in early October came just days before Japan's Kobe Steel found itself embroiled in a scandal as it admitted to falsifying quality data in products shipped to about 500 clients—including Toyota and the country's iconic bullet trains.

The back-to-back scandals tarnished Japan Inc's reputation for quality and

were the latest in a string of negative headlines for the country's firms, once the envy of the world. Airbag maker Takata went bankrupt this year after spending years dealing with defective products that were linked to 16 deaths and scores of injuries worldwide. And Mitsubishi Motors last year admitted that it had been falsifying mileage tests for years. —AFP

Japan carmakers vouch for safety of Kobe Steel's aluminum parts

TOKYO: Four Japanese automakers yesterday said they found no safety issues with aluminum parts supplied by Kobe Steel Ltd, allaying some concerns that falsified quality data on products from the steelmaker had compromised their vehicles. Kobe Steel shares surged after the car makers' statements, but the steelmaker still has to contend with a US Justice Department probe, while checks continue at hundreds of companies involved in complex supply chains spanning the globe.

Japan's third-biggest steelmaker admitted earlier this month it falsified specifications on the strength and durability of aluminum, copper and steel products, along with materials for optical disks. The falsifications stretch back for more than 10 years, a senior executive told Reuters this week. Since then, global automakers, aircraft companies and other manufacturers have scrambled to identify potential hazards in their products.

Toyota Motor Corp, Honda Motor Co, Nissan Motor Co and Mazda Motor Co said that hoods and other exterior parts used in their cars which were made from aluminum directly supplied by Kobe Steel were safe. Kobe Steel shares ended the day nearly 7 percent higher but are still down by more than a third since it announced the data falsification.

Automakers are still making checks on other parts, including those that they received through their parts suppliers.

"We confirmed that the materials satisfy applicable statutory standards, and our own internal standard, for key safety and durability requirements for vehicles," Toyota said in a statement. Toyota, one of the world's largest automakers, identified aluminum plates supplied by Kobe Steel for the hoods and rear hatches of Toyota and Lexus brand vehicles. Though outside the automaker's specifications, they were still safe to use. While Subaru and other carmakers said they were still investigating the issue, the announcements by Toyota, Honda, Nissan and Mazda suggest that Kobe Steel's cheating scandal may have a limited impact on product safety.

Serious situation

Nonetheless, the company's fate hangs in the balance while checks are being carried out. It must report to Japan's industry ministry by around the end of next week on any safety concerns and provide a more extensive account of the problems a fortnight later. Industry leaders have reached a consensus that Kobe Steel is in a "serious situation," a senior Japanese manufacturing executive told Reuters.

"For a manufacturer, quality control is the most important thing and they were cheating for many years. This was a shock to their customers, who can no longer trust Kobe Steel," the executive, speaking on condition of anonymity, said. This was the view of Japanese industry leaders, even though no safety issues have so far been identified, the executive said.

Kobe Steel customers will seek compensation for the cost of replacements and checks but "I do not think they are leaning toward lawsuits," he said, adding that as far as he had heard there will be no recalls. Overseas customers, especially those in the United States, present more of a threat though, in light of the Justice Department investigation. "I would think there will demands for quite a bit of compensation (from US companies)," he said. In Europe, aviation safety authorities earlier this week issued a directive advising aircraft manufacturers to avoid using Kobe Steel products if they can until checks are completed.

There was no manual providing guidance to staff on cheating product specifications, a senior Kobe Steel executive told reporters, on condition of anonymity. Japanese media reported that staff used such a document, but the executive said he did not know whether memos were passed around among staff. Some of the data tampering was an abuse of an industry practice known as "tokusai", a kind of special waiver, that is agreed between buyer and supplier, the executive said. —Reuters

UK retail sales drop as Brexit-fuelled inflation bites

LONDON: British retail sales fell more than expected in September, official data showed yesterday, against a backdrop of rising prices largely caused by a Brexit-hit pound. "September's retail sales saw a monthly decline of 0.8 percent, reversing August's growth," said Kate Davies, senior statistician at the Office for National Statistics. "However, there is a continuation of the underlying trend of steady growth in sales volumes following a weak start to the year, and a background of generally rising prices," she added.

Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a 0.1-percent drop in retail sales in September following an increase of 0.9 percent in August. British inflation has picked up sharply in recent months as a Brexit-hit pound raised import costs. That, in turn, has increased the likelihood of the Bank of England raising interest rates next month, according to analysts. "Five-year high inflation combined with slow wage growth has consumers feeling the pinch," said UFX.com analyst Dennis de Jong. —AFP

De Villiers finds sweet spot on South Africa return

It's a huge privilege to play for my team

PAARL: AB de Villiers feels he is hitting the ball as sweetly as he ever following his recent break from the South African side, an ominous sign for bowlers ahead of a busy season across all three formats.

South Africa were given a glimpse of what they have been missing as De Villiers flayed Bangladesh's attack with stunning ease on his way to a career-best one-day international score on Wednesday.

He smashed 176 from 104 balls, including seven towering sixes, as South Africa sealed the three-match series with a game to spare following a 104-run victory.

"I'm hitting the ball as well as ever and it felt that way out there, I could feel the ball coming off really well," he told reporters. "It's just nice to contribute."

De Villiers had been on a self-imposed exile from the side, but announced last month he would be available again in all three formats as South Africa prepare to welcome India and Australia for respective test series in the coming months.

"I just needed a couple of months away with the family, which I got," he said. "I

watched all the games the guys played and I've been in contact with them. It felt like I never really left, but I did miss being on the park and playing. "It's great to be back. It's a huge privilege to play for my team and my country. For the last few months, I've been working really hard on my game and all I wanted to do was get back into the side." De Villiers hinted in the past that he may retire

"I'm hitting the ball as well as ever"

from test cricket to concentrate on the limited-overs game, but appears to have performed an about-turn and is now hopeful of a return to the longest format for the first time since January 2016. "If selected, I will be there but I can't accept that I am going to be in the squad," he said. "I have been out of the squad for a while and guys that have come in have done well.

"You don't just walk into the test team. I am going to have to work my way back. I am prepared to do the hard work." South Africa host Zimbabwe in an inaugural four-day test starting on Boxing Day, before three matches against India in January and four versus touring Australia in March. — Reuters



PAARL: South Africa's AB de Villiers plays a shot during the second one day international (ODI) cricket match between South Africa and Bangladesh at Boland Park in Paarl.— AFP

England plot revenge in women's Ashes

MELBOURNE: England's women will hope to build on the success of their World Cup triumph and wrest back the Ashes from an Australian side shorn of talismanic captain Meg Lanning.

The all-formats tournament kicks off with a one-day international in Brisbane on Sunday and promises to be more than a curtain-raiser for the five-test men's series that begins in November.

England, captained by Heather Knight, are seeking revenge after being humbled on home soil in the previous series in 2015, while Australia are desperate to make amends for their surprise World Cup semi-final exit in July.

"We've got over (the World Cup) now," Australia pace bowler Megan Schutt told reporters this week. "We've learnt from the mistakes that were made over there and dealt with the personal issues that came with that.

"We've really worked hard at getting over that speed bump." Rachael Haynes has been named skipper of Australia in place of Lanning and will be under pressure to get the better of Knight, who replaced Charlotte Edwards last year and was a cool head during the World Cup on home soil. Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry again looms as a huge threat to England's hopes of victory after being player of the series in the past two Ashes campaigns.

She enters the tournament off the back of an outstanding World Cup where she amassed 404 runs and took nine wickets. England will lean on their formidable attack of seamers Anya Shrubsole, Katherine Brunt and young spinner Sophie Ecclestone to thwart Perry and the Australian batswomen.—Reuters

Spinner Hafeez reported for bowling action

DUBAI: Pakistan off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez has been reported for a suspect bowling action during the third one-day international against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi, the International Cricket Council said yesterday.

The ICC said the match officials' report, which was handed over to the Pakistan team management, cited concerns about the legality of the 37-year-old's bowling action during the match on Wednesday.

"Hafeez's bowling action will now be scrutinised further under the ICC illegal bowling action regulations. He is required to undergo testing within 14 days, and, during this period, Hafeez is permitted to continue bowling in international cricket until the results of the assessments are known," said an ICC release. This is the third time that his action has been reported as suspect. He was first suspended from bowling in December 2014 before he was cleared the following April. His action was reported for a second time in June 2015 and as this was his second suspension within 24 months of the initial suspension, he was suspended from bowling in international cricket for 12 months from



Mohammad Hafeez

July 2015.

On 17 November 2016, Hafeez underwent a reassessment of his bowling action at the National Cricket Centre in Brisbane and was allowed to resume bowling after his action was found to be legal.

Hafeez bowled eight overs and took one for 39 in the match which Pakistan won by seven wickets to secure an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Pakistan has a history of problems with illegal bowling actions with quick bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and

Shabbir Ahmed, as well as spinners Saeed Ajmal, Shahid Afridi and Bilal Asif all reported in the past. Ajmal's career ended after he failed to achieve the same success with a remodelled action in 2015 while Bilal's action was cleared after reassessment. Under the new ICC regulations, all bowlers are allowed to bend their arm by 15 degrees-beyond which the action is deemed illegal. Hafeez has claimed 136 wickets in 193 one-day internationals, also taking 52 Test scalps and 46 wickets in Twenty20 internationals.—AFP

Sports

Yankees blank Astros, move one win from World Series

Wood gives up 3 homers as Dodgers lose to Cubs in NLCS

NEW YORK: Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven outstanding innings and the New York Yankees scored four runs against Dallas Keuchel in a 5-0 victory over the Houston Astros in Game 5 of the American League Championship Series on Wednesday.

The Yankees lead the best-of-seven series 3-2. They are one win from their 41st pennant and the first since beating the Los Angeles Angels in 2009. Game 6 is today in Houston.

Tanaka (1-1) posted his second postseason win by allowing three hits and working out of a few minor threats. He struck out eight and walked one in a 103-pitch outing as New York improved to 6-0 at home in the postseason. Keuchel (1-1) took a 13-inning postseason scoreless streak against the Yankees into the game and it lasted one more inning before Greg Bird hit an RBI single.

Aaron Judge drove in his 10th run of the postseason with a double in the third before Gary Sanchez and Didi Gregorius added RBI singles in the fifth.

New York's final run scored on Sanchez's third postseason homer in the seventh. Keuchel lost for the first time in five postseason starts. He allowed four runs and seven hits in 4-2/3 innings, getting knocked out early after holding the Yankees to one hit in seven scoreless innings during Game 1 last Friday.

The Yankees scored their first postseason run off Keuchel with two outs in the second. After Starlin Castro doubled to deep left, Bird lined a single to right field. New York took a 2-0 lead with one out in the third as Brett Gardner raced home from first and executed a headfirst slide into the plate on Judge's double down the left field line.

The Yankees extended it to 3-0 with two outs in the fifth. After a walk to Judge that put runners at first and second, Sanchez lined a single to left field and Chase Headley scored. The lead grew to 4-0 when Gregorius placed a single up the middle just under Jose Altuve as the second baseman attempted to make a diving stop.

Sanchez capped the scoring with a long homer into the left-field seats. In between runs, Tanaka escaped a few times. With the game still scoreless,

Yuli Gurriel was on third with two outs in the second, but Tanaka retired Carlos Beltran and Marwin Gonzalez on groundouts.

Three innings later, the Astros put two on with one out, but Tanaka struck out George Springer and Josh Reddick, keeping Altuve and Carlos Correa from coming up with runners on.

CUBS 3, DODGERS 2

Javier Baez hit two home runs, and Chicago

passed off the boards created a 2-on-1 with Schwartz and Sammy Blais. Schwartz completed the hat trick with an empty-net goal.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, RED WINGS 3

Curtis McElhinney made 30 saves in his season debut and Toronto scored four times in the first period in the victory over Detroit. Starting in place of Frederik Andersen, McElhinney stopped 15 shots in the third period to hold off the Red Wings. Nazem Kadri, Zach Hyman, Auston Matthews, Connor Brown, Morgan Rielly and William Nylander scored to help Toronto improve to an NHL-best 6-1-0. The Maple Leafs were coming off a 2-0 victory at Washington on Tuesday night. Henrik Zetterberg, Tomas Tatar, Jonathan Ericsson scored for the Red Wings, and Nick Jensen had three assists. Jimmy Howard gave up three goals on four shots before getting yanked in favor of Petr Mrazek late in the first period. Toronto scored on its first two shots and four of its first five.

KINGS 5, CANADIENS 1

Adrian Kempe had his first career hat trick to lead Los Angeles over Montreal. Michael Cammalleri scored the other two goals for the Kings, who have opened their season with their best six-game start (5-0-1) in franchise history. Montreal (1-5-1) still hasn't won in regulation this season. Jonathan Quick made 36 saves for the Kings. The 21-year-old Kempe scored the go-ahead goal on a 2-on-1 break-away for the Kings at 7:34 in the third period. He scored again at 16:42 and added another at 18:24 as hats were thrown onto the ice. —AP



NEW YORK: New York Yankees' Gary Sanchez hits a home run during the seventh inning of Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the Houston Astros Wednesday, in New York. —AP

stayed off elimination with a victory over Los Angeles in Game 4 of the National League Championship Series. Willson Contreras also hit a solo home run for the Cubs, who trimmed their series deficit to 3-1. Jake Arrieta (1-0) allowed one run on three hits in 6 2/3 innings in what may have been the soon-to-be free agent's final appearance with Chicago.

Cody Bellinger and Justin Turner each hit

solo home runs for the Dodgers. The loss snapped a six-game postseason win streak for Los Angeles, which remains one victory shy of reaching the World Series for the first time since 1988.

The Dodgers' Alex Wood (0-1) allowed three solo home runs and a single in 4 2/3 innings in his first career postseason start. —Reuters

Schwartz has hat-trick in Blues' 5-2 victory over Blackhawks

ST LOUIS: Jaden Schwartz had his third career hat trick to help the St. Louis Blues beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-2 on Wednesday night. Schwartz has four goals and six assists this season and has at least one point in six of the Blues' first seven games. It was his 51st career multi-point game and fourth this season. Vladimir Tarasenko had a goal and an assist, Kyle Brodziak also scored, and Jake Allen made 22 saves. The Blues snapped a two-game losing streak Duncan Keith and Ryan Hartman had late goals for Blackhawks, and Corey Crawford made 28 saves. Schwartz opened the scoring at 4:46 of the first period, tucking in a backhand off Tarasenko's feed. Schwartz left the game eight minutes later after going awkwardly head-first into the boards after getting tangled with Richard Panik on a partial short-handed break. Schwartz returned in the second period, and gave the Blues a 2-0 lead at 5:59. Allen's outlet



ST LOUIS: Joel Edmundson #6, Colton Parayko No 55, Sammy Blais No 64, Ivan Barbashev No 49, and Jake Allen No 34 of the St Louis Blues defend the goal against Patrick Sharp No 10 and Artem Anisimov No 15 of the Chicago Blackhawks in the third period at the Scottrade Center. —AFP

Sports

Hanyu, Medvedeva start road to Pyeongchang in Moscow

Skaters compete in two assignments with top six in each discipline

PARIS: Japanese figure skating golden boy Yuzuru Hanyu and two-time world champion Evgenia Medvedeva headline the Cup of Russia starting today, the first of the six-leg Grand Prix series in this Olympic season. With Pyeongchang looming large on the horizon Olympic champion Hanyu and the rest of the ice rink stars will be out to lay down markers for the February 9-25 Winter Games.

Hanyu underlined his status as favourite to defend his 2014 Sochi crown in South Korea next year when claiming his second world title in Helsinki in April. Medvedeva also returned from Finland with gold after defending her 2016 Boston title, and will be debuting a new routine in Moscow.

"It was a bit risky to change the free programme as the season has already started,"

she explained. "But I was touched by the image of Anna Karenina and the music from the film of the same name.

"And I believe this programme will go very well with the Olympic season. I already tested it in the Japan Open and I think that my performance there proved that it has been the right decision." Other stars on view in Russia this weekend are two-time world ice dance medallists Maia and Alex Shibutani, the American brother and sister act and Russia's European champions

Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov.

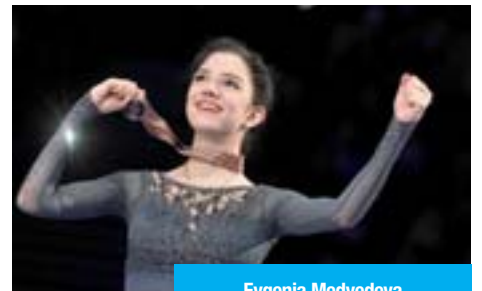
Another home grown hope is Ksenia Stolbova, who won team gold in Sochi and a silver in the pairs with Fedor Klimov. "We started to practice in full strength just a month ago after Fedor recovered complete-

ly from an injury," the 25-year-old from Saint Petersburg said.

"Of course we're not ready yet to perform at our top but we work hard day by day and hope to gain our top form for the Olympics." After Russia the Grand Prix series moves on to Skate Canada at the end of the month, then China, Japan, France and Skate America at Lake Placid in November.

Skaters compete in two assignments each with the top six in each discipline qualifying for the ISU Grand Prix Final from December 7-10 in Nagoya, Japan. That will be the last chance for skaters from Europe, Asia and North America to rub shoulders before Pyeongchang.

Moscow hosts the European championships in mid-January, with the season ending in Milan for the 2018 world championships in March. The October 27-29 Skate Canada in Regina will feature Canada's three-time world champion Patrick Chan, silver medallist at Sochi, and Japan's world sil-



Evgenia Medvedeva

ver medallist Shoma Uno. China's Helsinki gold medallists Sui Wenjing and Han Cong and France's two-time ice dance world champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron are set to light up the third Grand Prix leg in Beijing.

Four Continents champion Mai Mihara of Japan and Spain's two-time world champion Javier Fernandez are also in the Beijing mix. —AFP

Dovizioso has Marquez in title sights at Phillip Island

PHILLIP ISLAND: Andrea Dovizioso is looking to make further gains on Marc Marquez's world championship lead in Sunday's Australian MotoGP at the demanding Phillip Island circuit where he historically struggles. Dovizioso powered to his fifth win of the year at rain-swept Motegi last weekend in a pulsating final corner duel with Marquez to reduce the world champion's lead to 11 points with just three rounds left in the championship. Marquez's second place was his 100th career podium from 165 starts and he is the youngest rider at 24 to achieve the milestone. Marquez's consistency has made him the benchmark rider of this season's world championship but Italy's Dovizioso has doggedly kept in touch on his Ducati and Phillip Island looms as the pivotal race of this year's fight for the title.

"For sure Phillip Island is one of Marquez's favourite tracks and the situation will probably be a bit more difficult for us," Dovizioso said. "But last year we did a good race and so we must try and work in the best possible way throughout the weekend.

"There are now just three rounds left until the end and on paper we are not favourites for the win in Australia but we'll be fighting as hard as ever." Marquez has two victories around Phillip Island—in the 125cc class in 2010 and the 2015 Australian MotoGP—along with two podium finishes and four pole positions. —AFP

No doubting Thomas after sizzling 63 in South Korea

JEJU: World number four Justin Thomas brushed off a shaky start to fire a superb nine-under par 63 and take a three-shot lead after the first round of the CJ Cup yesterday. US PGA Championship winner Thomas is three strokes clear of five players on six-under 66 — Malaysia's Gavin Green, the US trio of Chez Reavie, Scott Brown and Patrick Reed, and Australia's Marc Leishman. Thomas came up short in his bid for a hat-trick of wins at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia last week, finishing tied 17th, and he bounced back from an early wobble at the Nine Bridges course in the first US PGA Tour event ever to be played in South Korea.

He dropped a shot "really badly" on his opening hole, the 10th, but got it back with interest by eagling the par-five 12th. That was the start of a run of eight-under par for seven holes comprising four birdies and another eagle at the 18th to reach the turn in a scintillating seven-under par 29.

"It was a weird day," said 23-year-old FedEx Cup champion Thomas, who has been in sizzling form since winning his first major in August and was recently voted PGA Tour player of the Year for 2017.

"It started off with a really badly played bogey and then I went on a seven-hole stretch where I kind of went unconscious and that was pretty much most of my round."

Thomas holed a bunker shot at 15 for the second of four birdies in a row and chipped in from off the fringe at 16 for another. "That's kind of how my day was.



JEJU ISLAND: Justin Thomas of United States watches his shot on the fourth hole during the first round of the CJ Cup at Nine Bridges, as the first official PGA Tour in South Korea, on Jeju Island, South Korea, yesterday. —AP

Hit two really bad wedge shots and got away with them to steal two bogeys," admitted Thomas. His second nine was almost boring by comparison featuring three birdies and another bogey at the seventh to finish at nine-under par.

'SUPER-RESPECTFUL' KOREANS

Reavie had a bogey-free day with a balanced card of three birdies on each nine to get into the five-way tie for second.

"It was fun trying to figure out a new course" said the 35-year-old, who finished tied 17th alongside Thomas at TPC Kuala Lumpur. "My routes are going to be different to these long bombers but the greens were great." Whee Kim shot a four-under 68 to be the highest placed of the 17-strong Korean contingent, who all received enthusiastic home support at the inaugural \$9.25 million, 78-player event on the southern Jeju Island. "The fans

were super respectful and enjoy golf," said Reavie. "When you make birdies they cheer and they were rooting all of us on, it's great." Thomas's group was followed by the biggest galleries as it contained the returning Korean hero Bae Sang-Moon who shot 71 in only his third event since military service, and last week's winner in Malaysia, Pat Perez, who carded 69. "It was awesome out there," said Thomas. "I said to Bae you probably got the best crowds out here. He's a great guy and great player and it's good to have him back."

Players Championship winner and world number 41 Kim Si-Woo went one stroke better than Bae with a 70, but admitted the pressure of playing in front of his home fans in such a high-class field had affected him. "I felt more nervous than when I played in the Masters," said the 22-year-old. —AFP

Sports

Kuwaiti shooter Saad Lafi Al-Mutairi crowned champion

Crown Prince annual shooting tournament



Shooters taking their positions during the event. — Photos by Abdellatif Sharaa



UAE shooter Dhafer Al-Aryan.



Saudi Arabia's shooter Mohammad Al-Shareeda.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait shooter Saad Lafi Al-Mutairi was crowned champion of the Double Trap event, being held during HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah annual shooting tournament.

Shooter Ahmad Mohammad Al-Afasi was second while Mishal Sanat Al-Dhafiri took third place. Saad Lafi Al-Mutairi said he was happy for winning the event at the start of the

season particularly that it carries the name of HH the Crown Prince, who has given a lot to the sport of shooting. He said competition was strong from the onset.

Al-Mutairi thanked chairman and members of the board at Kuwait Shooting Sport Club for their efforts to maintain its outstanding presence and continue its achievements. Al-Mutairi added that he is preparing from now for HH the Amir International Grand Prix to be held next January.

Meanwhile, UAE shooter Dhafer Al-Aryan lauded Kuwait shooting and that Kuwait champions placed, the name of their country on the honor boards in various championships around the world.

He said Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex is among one of the best around the world and has all that is necessary for the shooters to excel.

He said it was obvious that organization of the tournament is at its best, adding that

organizing such events contributes clearly to discovering new "shooting start".

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's shooter Mohammad Al-Shareeda said Kuwait shooting has a prominent place around the world due to the great achievements. He said participating in tournaments with Kuwaiti shooters is highly beneficial due to their high technical standards. The events to be held today, Friday will include trap, skeet, pistol and rifle, besides Olympic archer.

James Harden leads Rockets past Kings for second victory

SACRAMENTO: James Harden had 27 points and nine assists, and the Houston Rockets made it a perfect two-game road trip to start the season despite playing this one without Chris Paul, beating the Sacramento Kings 105-100 on Wednesday night. While he didn't shoot especially well, Harden hit a trio of dagger 3-pointers with 8:13, 6:00 and 5:13 left - the second of which put Houston ahead 89-79. He also had a key left-handed layup late and finished 8 for 21 and 4 of 14 from 3-point range. Sacramento forced the Rockets into a shot-clock violation and the Kings got the ball back with just less than a minute remaining and down 96-92. Willie Cauley-Stein made one of two free throws with 41 seconds left and Harden found Clint Capela for an alley-oop dunk moments later.

TRAIL BLAZERS 124, SUNS 76

Damian Lillard scored 27 points and Portland opened the season by handing Phoenix the most one-sided loss in the franchise's 49-year history. Pat Connaughton added a career-high 24 points, making 4 of 6 3-pointers. The Trail Blazers outshot, outrebounded and outthrustled the Suns from the opening tip.

The 48-point rout exceeded Phoenix's previous record, a 44-point loss to Seattle (151-107) on April 2, 1988. The Blazers dominated even though they were without one of their best players, guard C.J. McCollum, who was suspended one game for leaving the bench area during a tussle involving Phoenix's Alex Len and Caleb Swanigan in a preseason game a week ago. Portland led 60-35 at the half and outscored the Suns 64-41 in the second.

BUCKS 108, CELTICS 100

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 16 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter, and the Milwaukee Bucks opened their season with a victory over Boston to spoil the homecoming of a Celtics team coming off a late and emotional season opener. One night after a gruesome broken ankle just six minutes into the season cost Boston top free agent Gordon Hayward - perhaps for the entire season - the Celtics fell to 0-2 by giving up an 11-1 run that left Milwaukee with a 97-90 lead and under three minutes to play. Antetokounmpo added 13 rebounds, Rookie of the Year Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 points and Khris Middleton had 15 points and nine rebounds. Matthew

Dellavedova scored 15 points, hitting a 3-pointer with 45 seconds left after the Celtics cut the lead to two points. Kyrie Irving scored 17 points on 7-for-25 shooting in his Boston debut.

SPURS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 99

LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio held off Minnesota while opening the season without leading scorer Kawhi Leonard. The Spurs were without Leonard and Tony Parker, but had enough to hold off the revamped Timberwolves. Minnesota bolstered its young lineup with the addition of veterans Jimmy Butler, Jamal Crawford, Taj Gibson and Jeff Teague. The quartet helped the Wolves rally from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter, but the Timberwolves only managed two field goals after taking a 92-91 lead with 5:02 remaining.

PISTONS 102, HORNETS 90

Tobias Harris scored 17 of his 27 points in the first quarter, helping Detroit celebrate its return downtown with the victory over Charlotte. The Pistons and Hornets opened the season in Little Caesars Arena, a new facility that brought them back to the city for the first time in nearly four decades. Eminem made a surprise appearance, grabbing the microphone to fire up the crowd just before tipoff. Kid Rock, another Motor City musical artist, sat in a baseline seat near Detroit's bench. Reserve Langston Galloway scored 16 points, Avery

Bradley had 15, and Henry Ellenson added 13 points for Detroit. Reggie Jackson had 13 points and eight assists.

WIZARDS 120, 76ERS 115.

John Wall scored 28 points, Bradley Beal rebounded from a rough start to add 25 and Washington beat Philadelphia to spoil the NBA debuts of top picks Ben Simmons and Markelle Fultz. The Sixers cut their deficit to two in the final minute. A pair of Philadelphia turnovers and a 3-1 point miss by J.J. Redick allowed the Wizards to hold on. Wall shot 10 of 28 from the floor and had eight assists. Beal, who started 1 of 5 with a dunk, was 12 of 16 from the free throw line. Simmons, the 2016 No. 1 pick who missed all last season with a foot injury, had 18 points and 10 rebounds. Fultz, the 2017 No. 1 pick, came off the bench to score 10 points. Sixers forward Robert Covington had 29 points. He was 7 of 11 from 3-point range.

PACERS 140, NETS 131

Victor Oladipo scored 22 points in his Indiana debut, Darren Collison added 21 points and 11 assists in his return to Indianapolis, and the Pacers held off Brooklyn. The Pacers, in their first game since trading All-Star Paul George, had their highest point total since a 144-point game against Denver on Nov. 9, 2010. Myles Turner had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Thaddeus Young added 17 points and 11 rebounds. —AP

Pep's breathtaking City out to make it 11 in a row

Guardiola lavished with praise for his side's brilliance

LONDON: It would appear to be difficult for any team to find a more daunting examination in European football at present than a visit to the Etihad Stadium where Pep Guardiola's Manchester City have come into full bloom.

City's kaleidoscopic movement and rare skill executed at breakneck speed have made Guardiola's latest creation a familiar delight to behold but a nightmare to play against as Burnley may become the latest Premier League side to discover this weekend. City's 7-2 demolition of Stoke City last Saturday to move them two points clear of neighbours

Manchester United was followed by Guardiola's delight at seeing off "one of Europe's best teams" Napoli in the Champions League in midweek.

That was City's 10th successive win in all competitions and now to complete their perfect week at the Etihad tomorrow, they are out to add to the 22 goals they have scored there in six matches in all competitions this term. Burnley themselves have progressed admirably under manager Sean Dyche, having gone six league matches unbeaten, but he

recognises that visiting a stadium where City have won their last three league games by five-goal margins is the acid test.

Guardiola was lavished with praise for his side's brilliance last weekend as his old rival Jose Mourinho, in contrast, suffered some equally familiar criticism for his safety-first approach in Manchester United's goalless draw at Liverpool.

Not that Mourinho ever appears to worry about such barbs but tomorrow he will expect his men to get back to being flat-track bullies against a struggling Huddersfield Town who are without a win

Tottenham and Liverpool meet at Wembley



in six matches.

WEMBLEY WOBBLER

The match of the weekend sees Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool meet at Wembley on Sunday with both sides buoyed by superb away-days in the Champions League—Spurs earning a draw at champions Real Madrid while the Reds put seven past Maribor.

There feels a lot riding on the match with Spurs yet to convince their fans they are over their Wembley wobbles while Juergen Klopp



MANCHESTER: File photo shows Manchester City's Spanish midfielder David Silva talks with Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola after having his head bandaged during the UEFA Champions League match. — AFP

knows his eighth-placed Liverpool cannot afford to drift further behind in the title race.

Neither can champions Chelsea, currently nine points adrift of Man City, as they seek to bring Watford down to earth after the unfash-

ionable Hornets surged into the top four last weekend with a win over Arsenal. Stung by their loss to rock-bottom Crystal Palace, Chelsea will be grateful for the return of their striking ace Alvaro Morata.—Reuters

English FA bosses face calls to quit over Sampson affair

LONDON: English Football Association bosses were facing growing calls to quit yesterday over their "shambolic" handling of the Mark Sampson affair following a damaging grilling from lawmakers. Wednesday's session opened with the publication of a reopened investigation into Chelsea player Eni Aluko's claims of bullying and discrimination against the former England women's manager.

Unlike a flawed internal FA review and an earlier inquiry by barrister Katharine Newton, the third attempt at uncovering the truth found that Sampson had made racist remarks to Aluko in 2014 and team-mate Drew Spence in 2015. FA chairman Greg Clarke, chief executive Martin Glenn, technical director Dan Ashworth and human resources director Rachel Brace were interrogated by the lawmakers on the digital, culture, media and sport committee for two hours.

From what checks were made on Sampson before he became England women's manager, to why the FA was withholding half of an £80,000 (\$105,000) settlement from whistleblower Aluko, the MPs pulled apart the governing body's handling of the bullying, racism and sex allegations that led to Sampson's dismissal last month.

Black former Arsenal and England forward Ian Wright tweeted yesterday: "Rome is burning @FA! You know where I am. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem! I don't want to feel like that."—AFP

Villas-Boas under pressure after Shanghai loss

SHANGHAI: Chinese media piled pressure on Shanghai SIPG coach Andre Villas-Boas yesterday after their stinging defeat to Urawa Red Diamonds in the AFC Champions League semi-finals. The Portuguese coach promised silverware in his debut season but after Urawa's 2-1 aggregate win, his best remaining hope seems to be next month's CFA Cup final against city rivals Shanghai Shenhua.

SIPG spent big this year, hiring Brazilian midfielder Oscar for an Asian-record 60 million euros, but they look unlikely to overhaul holders Guangzhou Evergrande at the top of the Chinese Super League. Oriental Sports Daily quoted well-known CCTV news anchor Bai Yansong as saying: "It is time for Villas-Boas to leave. He is has been suspended again and again... If he leaves, it could be a relief for him." And the Shanghai Observer said: "It seems Villas-Boas is planning for SIPG's next season but if the Portuguese coach wants to realise his aspirations, he has to win the CFA CUP.

"After all, winning a championship was a hard target when he signed his

contract with the club." Urawa's 1-0 second-leg win in Saitama late on Wednesday deepened the problems of the ex-Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea boss, who has been in the crosshairs of both the Chinese Football Association and the Asian Football Confederation.

The AFC fined him \$14,000 for "offensive" comments following SIPG's victory over Evergrande in the Champions League quarter-finals, and he received an eight-match touchline ban from the CFA after complaining about a referee. He was also criticised yesterday by some fans posting on social media, who said he relies too much on foreign players and that his brushes with authority were affecting the team.

Villas-Boas said he was bitterly disappointed to miss out on becoming the second Chinese team to win the AFC Champions League, following Evergrande in 2013 and 2015. "We are making the right steps going forward, but we would have preferred to play in the final—it was our dream to do so—and so we are very disappointed," he said, according to the AFC website.



Andre Villas-Boas

"My players did everything, so I congratulate them for their effort and we still have the Chinese FA Cup final to look forward to. Our dreams are still alive for a trophy this season, but unfortunately we have missed out on the big one this year." — AFP

Sports

Atletico in unusual spot after winless Champions League run

Atletico will depend on other results to qualify in the group

MADRID: Atletico Madrid is on unfamiliar ground in the Champions League. After thriving in the European competition for the last four seasons, Diego Simeone's team is suddenly facing elimination in the group stage.

The scoreless draw at newcomer Qarabag on Wednesday left Atletico with only two points after three matches in Group C, and needing to win its three remaining games to advance without depending on other results. It trails Roma by three points and leader Chelsea by five points. It hosts Qarabag and Roma in the next two rounds, then closes group play at Chelsea in December. Another setback in any of

these matches will mean Atletico will depend on other results to earn one of the two qualifying spots in the group.

"I have faith in this group of players," Simeone said. "I'm staying optimistic and I think that we can overcome this situation." Atletico made it to the Champions League final in 2014 and 2016, and was a semifinalist last season and a quarterfinalist in 2015. It cruised through the group stage every time, always advancing as the group winner.

It earned 16 points in 2013-14 in a group that included Zenit St. Petersburg and FC

Porto. The following year, it got 13 points to win a group which also had eventual runner-up Juventus and Olympiakos. Atletico also won 13 points in 2015-16, finishing ahead of Benfica and Galatasaray. Last season, it ended with 15 points, ahead of Bayern Munich. Atletico can reach only 11 points this season.

"We know it's difficult," midfielder Saul Niguez said. "But we are capable of getting it done. We need to win the last three games. There is no other option." Atletico started with a positive draw against Roma in Italy, where it played well and had chances to win. Then it struggled against Chelsea at home, where it was outplayed. It scored

first but wasn't able to hold on to the lead and conceded a last-minute winner.

Atletico had difficulties imposing its game against Qarabag, the Azerbaijan team which is making its Champions League debut. It had most of the significant scoring chances in Baku but wasn't able to find the net despite playing more than 15 minutes with an extra man.

Simeone and his players have blamed poor finishing for the bad results recently. "We need to be calm in front of the goal, and we haven't been," Niguez said. "It's been difficult

I have faith in this group of players



BAKU: Atletico Madrid's Yannick Carrasco, right, struggles for the ball with Qarabag's Badavi Guseynov during the Champions League, group C, soccer match between Qarabag FK and Atletico Madrid at the Baku Olymپی stadium in Baku, Azerbaijan, Wednesday. — AP

for us to score." Atletico has 14 in 11 matches, its biggest victory 5-1 at Las Palmas in its second match. "We have to work harder in the attack so we can start scoring more," forward Antoine Griezmann said.

Atletico hasn't won in four consecutive

matches in all competitions. It was coming off two consecutive draws in the Spanish league, at Leganes and against Barcelona. Atletico's next game is at Celta Vigo on Sunday. It is fourth in the league standings, six points behind leader Barcelona. —AP

Marcelino igniting hopes at Valencia

BARCELONA: Valencia have been the butt of many jokes in La Liga in the past few seasons as they veered from one crisis to the next, but they could have the last laugh this campaign as they serve up exciting, swashbuckling football while remaining unbeaten. Highly respected Spanish coach Marcelino has given the team a radical makeover which has seen them shoot up to second in the standings with four consecutive wins. Their explosive form has reignited hopes they can return to the Champions League next season but they face a test of their mettle tomorrow against Sevilla, who have reached Europe's elite competition two years in a row.

Barcelona, who are four points above Valencia at the top of the standings, host basement club Malaga on Saturday while champions Real Madrid host Eibar on Sunday. Atletico Madrid will be looking to snap a run of four games without a win when they visit Celta Vigo.

Marcelino, who enjoyed consistent success with Villarreal until falling out with the board and leaving last year, was expected to bring some badly needed organisation to a team reeling from their worst defensive record ever after shipping 65 goals last season.

He got off to a positive start in keeping two clean sheets in his first three games but in the last month his team have transformed into an adventurous attacking outfit which has compensated for their still rusty defence.

Only Liga leaders Barcelona have scored more than their 21 goals in eight games. Last week they won 6-3 at Real Betis in a magnificently chaotic game. Valencia went 4-0 up after 73 minutes but their old propensity for disaster reared its head as



SEVILLE: File photo shows Valencia's Spanish coach Marcelino Garcia Toral gives instructions to players during the Spanish league football match. — AFP

they conceded three goals in the space of five minutes and risked blowing their lead, but instead scored twice more at the end to rise to second.

"We have to avoid scares like this because the coach is too old for it," Marcelino said after a game newspaper El Mundo described as "blessed madness". The dramatic encounter at Betis followed successive 3-2 wins, over Athletic Bilbao and then Real Sociedad where Marcelino injured a calf muscle celebrating Simone Zaza's late winning goal.

Marcelino is the club's 10th coach since 2012, when they parted ways with Unai Emery after consistently finishing in the top four. They have only returned to the Champions League once since then as they followed a bizarre recruitment process that saw disastrous appointments such as Gary Neville, who had no club coaching experience, and Cesare Prandelli, who resigned after two months in charge. — Reuters

English clubs bite back in Champions League

LONDON: After several years in the doldrums, English clubs have returned to the fore in the Champions League with a succession of attention-grabbing performances. Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur top their respective pools at the group phase's halfway point and all are currently unbeaten.

It is five years since Chelsea last brought the European Cup back to England, but the early show of force has sparked hope of an enduring resurgence. "It's not too early to say the tide is changing," said Phil Neville, a European champion with United in 1999, on BBC Radio 5 Live. "The performances alone are saying that. We could get two or three clubs into the quarters or semi-finals."

"I think the fear factor is coming back. We're taking control of games and I think the whole of Europe are starting to think English teams are powerful again." Between 2005 and 2012, England produced eight Champions League finalists and three champions in Liverpool (2005), Manchester United (2008) and Chelsea (2012). In 2007, 2008 and 2009, three of the four semi-finalists hailed from the Premier League. But since Chelsea's backs-to-the-wall triumph over Bayern Munich in 2012, only two English teams have reached the last four—Chelsea in 2014 and Manchester City in 2016. —AFP

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