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Trump acclaims Amir's influential Mideast role

Melania Trump receives Kuwait-America Foundation Humanitarian Award

Discover America Week builds upon Amir's visit to US



By Lawrence Silverman
US Ambassador to Kuwait

It's my great pleasure to launch the fifth annual Discover America Week here in Kuwait. This week of events symbolizes the close connections between the Kuwaiti and American peoples. We kicked off Discover America Week yesterday with a fun run attended by Kuwaitis, Americans and others; it will continue for the next nine days. During this time, the Embassy will organize events highlighting different aspects of American culture and expertise, including music, film, food, sports, science, technology, automobiles, education, and tourism.

Events include the Middle East premiere of a 3D film celebrating 100 years of the US National Park System and the natural beauty of the US that many Kuwaitis have experienced first-hand; the Kuwait launch of a new American car; the opening of a new US restaurant; a special Discover America menu at a leading restaurant; business seminars highlighting US technology and new areas for partnership; outreach to Kuwaiti youth and their parents on opportunities for higher education in the US, and on how to get the most out of their educational experience in the US for their future careers; and other subjects.

Last month the United States was honored to host His Highness the Amir and his delegation in Washington and a meeting and lunch with President Trump. Joining His Highness were all four deputy prime ministers, other government officials, and top leaders from Kuwait's business community. The Amir's visit coincided with an unprecedented three days of activities, including the second US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue which advanced our strategic partnership in defense, security, investment, education, consular, customs, and border protection issues, and trade. The US Chamber of Commerce hosted a US-Kuwait Economic Forum focused on creating the necessary relationships for enhancing mutual investment and prosperity. These events will produce practical benefits for the people of Kuwait and are a testament to the strength and importance of the strategic partnership between our two countries.

Several cooperation arrangements were signed on the margins of the Amir's visit and the Strategic Dialogue, including one between the US Department of Commerce's SelectUSA office and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), to work together to promote each country as an attractive and profitable investment destination.

Continued on Page 11

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump lauded HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his influential role in the Middle East region. In statements to the audience at a special ceremony held at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington for honoring the US First Lady Melania Trump for her humanitarian services, the US president thanked the Amir of Kuwait "for all that he is doing in the region", saying "there is a lot of things happening in the Middle East". He recalled his meeting with Sheikh Sabah in September, saying: "I met a man who is really helping us, really very strongly helping us in the Middle East."

The US president also thanked everyone for this special evening and thanked the Kuwait-America Foundation for honoring Melania Trump. The dazzling gala dinner for UNHCR, hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah honoring Melania Trump, the recipient of the Kuwait-America Foundation 2017 Humanitarian Award, comes less than a year since the Trumps moved into the White House, which highlights the close ties Kuwait and the US share.

President Trump described Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah "as very special people who have become friends". During the evening, the Senate passed its fiscal year 2018 budget resolution, where Trump received the news and told the crowd that the ambassador and his wife "must be good luck". "On behalf of my entire cabinet who are here



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump (second right), US First Lady Melania Trump (center), Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah (left), his wife Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah (second left) and Kuwaiti Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh (right) are seen at a special ceremony held at the Kuwaiti Embassy. — KUNA

tonight - we have a lot of them - I want to thank everybody in this room. We've all come together as a family very much. The world is actually coming together," he remarked.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in his remarks that "one reason we are here tonight is to celebrate the flourishing and always strong US-Kuwaiti partnership". He affirmed that Kuwait "is an

important strategic partner for the US in the Middle East and our relationship is growing". Meanwhile, UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres said in his remarks that the ambassador "has the privilege to serve one country and one leader that he admires", and that Kuwait under the leadership of HH the Amir "represents the most fantastic combination of wisdom and generosity". (See Page 2)

Tillerson's aim is a Saudi-Iraqi axis against Iran

DOHA: As US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visits the Middle East this weekend, he'll hope to achieve something that has eluded top American diplomats for a generation: Sealing a new alliance between Saudi Arabia and Iraq that would shut the doors of the Arab world to neighboring Iran. While the United States strives to heal the rift between the Gulf Arab states and Qatar, and resolve civil wars in Yemen and Syria, Tillerson is the Trump administration's point man on an even more ambitious and perhaps even less likely geopolitical gambit.

US officials see a new axis that unites Riyadh and Baghdad as central to countering Iran's growing influence from the Arabian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea, particularly as the Iraqi government struggles to rebuild recently liberated Islamic State strongholds and confronts a newly assertive Kurdish independence movement. History, religion and lots of politics stand in Tillerson's way. He arrived in Riyadh yesterday and planned to visit Qatar tomorrow.

The effort to wean Iraq from Iran and bond it to Saudi Arabia isn't new, but US officials are optimistically pointing to a surer footing they believe they've seen in recent months. They're hoping to push the improved relations into a more advanced phase today when



RIYADH: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is greeted as he arrives at King Salman Air Base yesterday. — AFP

Tillerson participates in the inaugural meeting of the Saudi Arabia-Iraq Coordination Committee in Riyadh.

Tillerson will seek Saudi financial generosity and political support for Iraq, its embattled northern neighbor. Two US officials said Tillerson hopes the oil-rich Saudis will contribute to the massive reconstruction projects needed to restore pre-IS life in Iraqi cities such as Mosul and lend their backing to Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. He is treading delicately among a host of powerful countries on Iraq's borders which are increasingly trying to shape the future of the ethnically and religiously divided nation. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly preview Tillerson's plans. Shiite-majority Iraq and Sunni-led Saudi Arabia, estranged

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54 Egypt police killed in ambush

CAIRO: At least 54 policemen, including 20 officers and 34 conscripts, were killed when a raid on a militant hideout southwest of Cairo escalated into an all-out firefight, authorities said yesterday, in one of the single deadliest attacks by militants against Egyptian security forces in recent years. The officials said the exchange of fire began late Friday in the Al-Wahat al-Bahriya area in Giza province, about 135 km southwest of Cairo.

The firefight began when security forces acting on intelligence moved against a militants' hideout in the area. Backed by armored personnel carriers and led by senior counterterrorism officers, the police contingent drew fire and rocket-propelled grenades, according to the officials. The officials said what happened next is not clear, but indications suggest that the force ran out of ammunition and that the militants captured several policemen and later killed them. One officer managed to escape in his armored vehicle, they added.

The officials said the police force appeared to have fallen into a carefully planned ambush set up by the militants. The death toll could increase, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

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Saudi oil minister makes Iraq visit, urges cooperation

BAGHDAD: Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih made a high profile visit to Iraq yesterday, calling for increased economic cooperation and praising existing coordination to boost crude oil prices. In a speech at the opening of the Baghdad International Exhibition, Falih said cooperation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia contributed to "the improvement and stability we are seeing in the oil market".

Falih is the first Saudi official to make a public speech in Baghdad for decades. The two countries began taking steps towards detente in 2015 after 25 years of troubled relations starting with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Tension remained high after the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, which toppled Saddam Hussein. The American occupation of Iraq empowered political parties representing Iraq's Shi'ite majority, close to Saudi Arabia's regional rival Iran.

With a thaw in relations, Falih said a joint committee is "working on measures to speed up the establishment of an economic partnership and to reactivate cooperation and economic complementarity". Iraq is seeking economic benefits from closer ties with Riyadh while Saudi Arabia hopes a stronger relationship with Baghdad would help rollback Iran's influence in the region.

Iraq lies on the fault line between Shiite power Iran and the Sunni-ruled countries that are its regional archrivals, chief among them Saudi Arabia. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi left Baghdad yesterday for a visit to Saudi Arabia, his second to the kingdom this year, his office said in a statement. His talks with Saudi officials will focus on efforts to rebuild Iraq after the war on Islamic State and fostering economic and trade cooperation, the statement said.



BAGHDAD: Iraqi Oil Minister Jabbar Al-Luaibi (left) receives his Saudi counterpart Khalid Al-Falih as he arrives to attend the opening of the Baghdad International Fair yesterday. — AFP

Abadi will visit other Middle Eastern countries after the kingdom, it said.

"The best example of the importance of cooperation between our two countries is the improvement and sta-

bility trend seen in the oil market," said Falih, to applause from the audience of Iraqi ministers, senior officials and businessmen.

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Waves crash over Newhaven harbor wall on the south coast of England yesterday as Storm Brian hits the country. — AFP

Tillerson's aim is a Saudi-Iraqi...

Continued from Page 1

for decades after Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have tried in recent years to bridge their differences. Nevertheless, the relationship is still plagued by suspicion. Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Baghdad in 2015 after a quarter-century, and earlier this year unblocked long-closed border crossings. But the emergence of arch-Saudi rival Iran as a power player in Iraq continues to gnaw at Riyadh and Washington.

Iran's reported intervention in Iraq's semi-autonomous northern Kurdish region, following last month's much criticized vote for independence in a referendum, has deepened the unease. President Donald Trump wants to see "a stable Iraq, but a stable Iraq that is not aligned with Iran," H R McMaster, his national security adviser, said this past week. He suggested Saudi Arabia could play a pivotal role.

The US view is that the alternative may mean more conflict in Iraq, which endured years of insurgency after the US-led 2003 invasion and ethnic warfare when the Islamic State group rampaged across the country in 2014. "Iran is very good at pitting communities against each other," McMaster said Thursday at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "This is something they share with groups like ISIS, with Al-Qaeda. They pit

communities against each other because they use tribal and ethnic and sectarian conflicts to gain influence by portraying themselves as a patron or protector of one of the parties in the conflict and then they use that invitation to come in and to help to advance their agenda and, in Iran's case, I think is a hegemonic design."

Trump and his national security team have framed much of the Middle East security agenda around countering Iran, which they see as a malign influence that poses an existential threat to Israel and other American allies and partners in the region. They also accuse Iran of menacing the United States and its interests at home and elsewhere in the world. Shortly after taking office, Tillerson identified improving Saudi-Iraqi ties as a priority in the administration's broader policy to confront and contain Iran. Officials say he has devoted himself to the effort.

On his second official trip abroad, Tillerson in February canceled a planned "meet and greet" with staffers at the US Embassy in Mexico City to focus on the matter, according to one of the US officials. Tillerson's decision to skip that gathering was widely criticized at the time as a sign of disengagement with his employees, but the official said Tillerson adjusted plans to speak by secure telephone to Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir on the Iraq rapprochement.

Tillerson, according to the official, implored Jubeir to visit Baghdad as a sign of Saudi goodwill and commitment to the effort to defeat IS, which then still held about half of Mosul. Jubeir agreed. Two days later, he made a surprise trip to the Iraqi capital. He was the first Saudi foreign minister to do so in 27 years. — AP

Saudi oil minister makes Iraq visit...

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia and Iraq are respectively the biggest and second biggest producers of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Iraqi oil ministry said Falih and his Iraqi counterpart, Jabbar Al-Luaibi, would cooperate in implementing decisions by oil

exporting countries to curb global supply in order to lift crude prices. OPEC, Russia and several other producers agreed a pact at the start of 2017 to cut production in order to boost oil prices. The cutbacks should continue until March 2018. Falih called for increased economic cooperation between the two countries at all levels, saying Saudi Arabia is implementing measures to facilitate the flow of goods and services between the neighbors.

A Saudi commercial airplane, operated by Flynas, arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday for the first time in 27 years. In August, the two countries said they planned to open the Arar land border crossing for trade for the first time since 1990. — Reuters

54 Egypt police killed in ambush...

Continued from Page 1

Those killed included two police brigadier-generals, a colonel and 10 lieutenant colonels. Egypt's Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, announced a much lower death toll, saying in a statement read over state television that 16 were killed in the shootout. It added that 15 militants were killed or injured.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to Egyptian President AbdelFattah Al-Sisi over the deaths and injuries of the policemen. In the cable, the Amir expressed Kuwait's deepest sympathy towards the fallen Egyptian security personnel, affirming that his country will stand in solidarity with Egypt against such heinous acts. Sheikh Sabah extended his condolences to the families of the deceased officers and offered wishes of swift recovery for those injured in the attack.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Sisi. A source at the Kuwaiti foreign ministry said that Kuwait stands in solidarity with the Egyptian people against such heinous acts, affirming that terrorism, in all shapes and forms, must be eradicated from existence.

The last time Egypt's security forces suffered such a heavy loss of life was in July 2015 when militants from the extremist Islamic State group carried out a series of coordinated attacks, including suicide bombings, against army and police positions in the Sinai peninsula, killing at least 50. However, the army said only 17 soldiers and over 100 militants were killed. An official statement issued yesterday said Friday's incident would be investigated, suggesting that the heavy death toll may have been partially caused by incompetence, intelligence failures or lack of

coordination. The officials said prosecutors will look into whether the police's counterterrorism agents failed to inform the military of the operation or include them.

Two audio recordings purportedly by policemen who took part in the operation circulated online late Friday. One policeman, apparently using a two-way radio, was heard in the nearly two-minute recording pleading for help from a higher-ranking officer. "We are the only ones injured, sir," the policeman said. "We were 10 but three were killed. After their injury, they bled to death, sir. They took all the weapons and ammunition," he added. "We are now at the foot of a mountain." The second recording was purportedly by a policeman warning others from proceeding forward. "I can't identify any direction. Only planes can see us. Take care every one," he was heard saying, adding that militants were pursuing them. The authenticity of the recordings could not be immediately verified.

The heavy loss of life will likely lead to the restructuring and streamlining of the country's counterterrorism effort, the officials said, with better coordination between the police, military and security agencies high on the list of objectives. It's also likely to be cited by government critics as a vindication of their long-held argument that suppressing freedoms, jailing opponents and cracking down on civil society does not, as the pro-government media insists, help in the war against terror.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore all the hallmarks of the Islamic State group. A local affiliate of the extremist group is spearheading an insurgency whose epicenter is in the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip. The United States condemned the attack in a statement issued by State Department, offering "profound condolences to the families of the deceased and the government and people of Egypt... at this difficult time."

The incident comes a few days after militants staged a brazen daylight attack in the heart of El-Arish, the largest city in the Sinai Peninsula, attacking a church and a nearby bank and reportedly making away with some \$1 million. Seven were killed in the Monday attack. — Agencies

Discover America Week builds upon...

Continued from Page 1

The United States and Kuwait also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote educational links - with the goal of increasing the already high number of Kuwaitis studying in the United States and boosting the number of exchanges between US and Kuwait academic and research institutions. It was a highly successful week, and our governments are committed to implementing all these arrangements to the benefit of both our peoples.

Discover America Week builds on the momentum created by the Amir's visit and the Strategic Dialogue. We will have seminars promoting healthcare innovation and highlighting how the US Embassy supports the local business community. The US Department of State will

co-host the International Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology and Engineering in partnership with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Several US universities will participate in the EduEx university fair, sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education, to share information about study in the USA. Over a dozen US restaurants and stores will offer special promotions. A US Air Force band will give several performances around Kuwait. These are just a few of the planned activities.

I encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at USEmbassyQ8 and our hashtag #DiscoverAmericaKWT to review the complete Discover America program and to participate in the events that interest you. These activities are a great opportunity to put a spotlight on the strong US-Kuwaiti friendship, and to explore areas that broaden and deepen our ties. I hope I will have the chance to meet you at the exciting events taking place this week. I encourage you to Discover America or, for many of you who already know our country, Rediscover America!

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Local

Melania Trump receives Kuwait-America Foundation 2017 Humanitarian Award

Commitment for philanthropy is who we are as Kuwaitis: Ambassador



WASHINGTON: Melania Trump receives the Kuwait-America Foundation 2017 Humanitarian Award from Rima Al-Sabah. - KUNA



WASHINGTON: (From left) Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. — KUNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and top cabinet officials gathered at the Kuwait Embassy in Washington for an intimate evening of celebration in honor of First Lady Melania Trump's humanitarian service. The dazzling gala dinner for UNHCR, hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikhha Rima Al-Sabah honoring Melania Trump, the recipient of the Kuwait-America Foundation 2017 Humanitarian Award, comes less than a year since the Trumps' moved into the White House, which highlights the close ties Kuwait and the US share.

Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah said in his speech that the deep commitment he shares with his wife Sheikhha Rima to philanthropy is "who we are as Kuwaitis. It is woven into the fabric of the nation we represent.

"Our commitment is a reflection of our leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, whom in 2014 then-UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon honored for his exemplary leadership in humanitarian affairs. The Secretary General named His Highness a great humanitarian leader of our time," he added. He affirmed "as has been the case for decades, Kuwait and the United States are working hard together, as friends and allies, to resolve disputes throughout the Middle East and to plan for a more secure and prosperous future for our peoples. I always look forward to this event, in part because it's a chance to do good, but also to celebrate the indispensable friendship between our nations," Sheikh Salem remarked.

Women empowerment

Meanwhile, the Ambassador's wife, Rima Al-Sabah indicated that "this year alone," over \$1 million has been raised for UNHCR programs that empower women and girls. She said "that money will help refugee and displaced

women receive social services, develop professional skills, find employment opportunities and obtain start-up grants. "Together, we are changing lives, and this evening is an opportunity for the Kuwait-America Foundation to show our sincere gratitude to each of you for contributing to this critical work," she added.

As she introduced Melania Trump, the Kuwait-America Foundation 2017 Humanitarian Award recipient, Rima Al-Sabah shed light on the First Lady's commitment, less than a year into her time in the White House, to "being a powerful force for good, not just in the United States, but everywhere.

"Because of her own path, she understands better than most what it is like to leave home behind. She knows what it takes to learn a new language, a new culture - to call a new land home. And she brings this understanding to the important work she does, day in and day out," she remarked.

As she accepted her award, First Lady Melania Trump said she is "honored to be here and receive this award," thanking the Ambassador and his wife for hosting "this wonderful event. "They are both exceptional examples of humanitarians who inspire us... for the benefit of others," she remarked.

Most vulnerable

She added that the measure of any society's humanity "must be judged by how it treats the weakest and most vulnerable among them and quite often it is the children who are unable to defend themselves when under attack, speak up when abused or find aid when most needed.

"Let us join together now to become their voice so they can be heard, to become their shield so they can find protection and to become their safe haven so they may find hope in the future," she remarked.

First Lady's director of communications,

Stephanie Grisham said in a statement on the event that Melania Trump is "honored by the recognition, but more importantly considers this an opportunity to continue shining a light on the fact that it is often children who bear the harshest burdens of cruelty and injustice."

In the meantime, President Donald Trump thanked everyone for this special evening and thanked the Kuwait-America Foundation for honoring Melania Trump, during which he described the Ambassador and his wife "as very special people who have become friends." In remarks he gave the crowd, Trump shed light on his meeting with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in September, saying "he met a man who is really helping us, really very strongly helping us in the Middle East." He thanked His Highness the Amir of Kuwait "for all that he is doing in the region," saying "there is a lot of things happening in the Middle East." During the evening, the Senate passed its fiscal year 2018 Budget Resolution, where Trump had received the news and told the crowd that the Ambassador and his wife "must be good luck."

"On behalf of my entire cabinet who are here tonight. We have a lot of them, I want to thank everybody in this room. We've all come together as a family very much. The world is actually coming together," he remarked.

Strong partnership

Furthermore, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in his remarks "one reason we are here tonight is to celebrate the flourishing and always strong US-Kuwaiti partnership." He affirmed that Kuwait "is an important strategic partner for the US in the Middle East and our relationship is growing."

He recalled His Highness the Amir's meeting with Trump in September, re-emphasizing they had "an extraordinary, important and valuable

meeting right here in Washington." She shed light on the "productive" strategic dialogue held between Kuwait and the US during the visit of His Highness the Amir that addressed defense, trade and a range of other issues.

"We welcome Kuwait's recent commitments to several of Trump's regional priorities," he noted, as Kuwait "responded to Trump's historic call for action" during the Riyadh Summit to defeat the so-called Islamic State (IS) and prevent terrorism and violent extremism."

He also praised the role Kuwait played "to diplomatically seek a resolution" for the ongoing Gulf crisis. He also highlighted Kuwait's generosity, saying "Kuwait has also generously provided important support to humanitarian initiatives in the wake of the (IS) related violence in Iraq and Syria.

"Kuwait remains the UNHCR's largest donor from the Middle East and North Africa and Kuwait has also contributed large amounts of money in bilateral assistance to Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq to support their efforts," as those countries host refugees from Syria and other parts of the region, he added. "The US is proud to have a partner so deeply committed to address and provide for displaced persons," he remarked.

Wisdom and generosity

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in his remarks that the Ambassador "has the privilege to serve one country and one leader that he admires," and that Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir "represent the most fantastic combination of wisdom and generosity."

He added that in the Middle East today, His Highness the Amir has been "a constant voice for reconciliation, dialogue, a bridge builder and a messenger for peace. "As the Syrian people began to suffer from a horrendous situation, where the world was largely blind and

deaf in relation to humanitarian consequences of the war, His Highness the Amir assumed the leadership during which the international community convened three successful donor conferences," he remarked. Lastly, Guterres paid tribute to Melania Trump saying he is very impressed by what she has done and what she has achieved with the center of it all being the well-being and development of children whom are the passion of her private and public life. For his part, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, who was in attendance, stressed to KUNA the importance of such-high level attendance at the Kuwait Embassy represented by President Donald Trump, the First Lady and high level members of the cabinet that ensures the "strong relationship Kuwait enjoys with the US."

He added that this reconfirms the "successful foreign policies and humanitarian efforts led by His Highness the Amir. "This also highlights the efforts of the Ambassador of Kuwait and his wife in maintaining this relationship for the best interest of Kuwait," he remarked. The gala dinner was also attended by Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, US Permanent Representative to the UN Nikki Haley, Senior Advisor of the President Jared Kushner, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, National Security Advisor HR McMaster, Chairman of Council of Economic Advisors Gary Cohn, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, several of the Congress members, a number of the Gulf ambassadors to the US, including Saudi Arabia's Ambassador Prince Khaled bin Salman and several of the Arab and foreign ambassadors. — KUNA

Zain holds internal event to raise awareness about early detection

As part of #ZainGoesPink campaign

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, held an internal event at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaik to raise awareness amongst its employees about early detection of breast cancer. The event came as part of the #ZainGoesPink annual campaign launched early October, and witnessed the presence of the executive management, including Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO-Operations, and Eaman Al-Roudhan, CEO of Zain Kuwait.

Zain's annual campaign, which went on for the past ten years, strongly reflects the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, and coincides with the globally celebrated month of breast cancer during October of every year. The campaign mainly aims at spreading positive awareness in the community about breast cancer prevention.

The internal event featured a number of recreational activities centered around the message of early detection through mammogram tests and its importance in detecting breast cancer in its early stages. Zain's campaign partner, Al-Salam International Hospital, was present during the event through a dedicated booth, where Zain female employees exclusively benefited from a 40 percent discount on mammogram, osteoporosis, as well as ultrasound tests. A medical team from the hospital was also present to offer free consultations, answering inquiries, and conduct free glucose and blood pressure tests.

Zain's campaign focuses on spreading informative mes-



sages via Zain's social media channels throughout October, including medical tips in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's National Mammography Screening Program. The campaign also features the posting of exclusive videos featuring breast cancer survivor Hebah Al-Ansari, who shared her journey into beating the disease with the public. The campaign also included a comprehensive awareness program targeted at Zain employees, which started with a visit to Hussain Makki Al-Jumma Center and Shaikha Badriya Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Center.

Zain was keen on strategically partnering with leading

healthcare providers, both public and private, such as the Ministry of Health's National Mammography Screening Program and Al-Salam International Hospital, to enrich its steps into informing the public through the expertise of these organizations' experts, specialists, and consultants.

Zain's solid Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For that reason, the company has maintained its support to all kinds of initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference. Zain has previously partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO), coop-

erated with the Ministry of Health, and partnered with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent for several awareness campaigns related to the health sector.

It is worth mentioning that Zain established Zain Hospital, specializing in ear, nose, and throat treatment. The hospital was constructed and equipped by the company to address the needs of the patients in the country, giving them the opportunity to head to a state-of-the-art health institution which is fully equipped with the latest medical equipment to serve their health issues. You can follow Zain's Breast Cancer Awareness campaign on #ZainGoesPink and #ZainCSR.

Local

Public transport best solution for traffic problem: Official

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Vice chairman of the Public Authority for Roads and Transport Saud Al-Naqi said the best solution for traffic congestions is to develop public transportation. Chronic traffic jams have been the subject of much political debate as of late. A recent report indicated that the parliament's interior and defense committee has approved a proposal by MP Safaa Al-Hashem to suspend issuing new driver's licenses to expatriates for one year, and limit the number of vehicles a foreigner can own to one as a temporary solution to the traffic problem. "Developing public transport and building trust between these means and users including citizens and residents, in addition to using new means such as a metro or trains will help solve the traffic congestion problem," Naqi underlined, noting that the authority will set an integrated plan to resolve the problem. Naqi said cooperation is in progress between the municipality and special advisors to set the state's structural plan including suggested metro routes. Naqi stressed that imposing tolls on roads will not solve the problem and that some advanced countries collect them only to pay for those specific roads' maintenance. "Those countries only do this after providing alternative roads to be used free of charge," he explained, noting that tolls could only be collected on roads with special privileges such as Jaber Bridge, which is expected to cut the time needed to reach Sulaibiya. "We at the road authority have not been appointed to collect money - we target developing roads.

Tolls could be imposed later once our roads become more secure and comfortable," he reiterated.

Marginal labor

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) will approve the manpower structural organization after merging it with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program soon, adding that all the procedures needed for the merger process had already been completed except one that is still being discussed by both sides.

Speaking on the sidelines of touring the new blood bank project in Adan along with Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi, Sabeeh said new decisions will be issued soon to limit the number of marginal laborers, but did not elaborate on that. Sabeeh also expressed joy at having another blood bank in Kuwait after only one had been operating since 1965.

Meanwhile, Harbi said that the new bank would be launched by the beginning of 2018. He also noted that the new building's tender is currently being reviewed by the Central Tenders Commission (CTC) before examination by the State Audit Bureau. Harbi explained that the new building will be built over an area of 16,400 sq m at a total cost of KD 6 million. He added that the new blood bank is close to the air ambulance center and includes 40 beds. Also speaking on the occasion, board chairman of the executing company Hussein Al-Kharafi stressed that

cooperation amongst various social sects helps execute mega projects. Also in attendance were head of the government performance follow-up apparatus Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Sabah, MSAL undersecretary Saad Al-Kharraz, MSAL assistant undersecretary for cooperation Sheikh Al-Adwani and the project's coordinator general Nouriya Al-Sadani.

Grilling motion

In other news, MPs Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei, Khaled Al-Otaibi and Nayef Al-Merdas will intensify consultations over the coming days to put the final touches on a grilling motion they intend to file against Sabeeh. Parliamentary sources noted that only three of the four MPs will file the motion. They added that Hajraf, Subaei and Otaibi had already held several preliminary meetings over the past two weeks before Subaei travelled and Merdas filled in. The sources said that the grilling motion will cover all the sectors under Sabeeh's jurisdiction in both ministries and it would probably be filed after the inaugural session of the coming parliamentary term.

Negative phenomena

Meanwhile, MP Mohammed Hayef announced plans to request the formation of the parliamentary negative phenomena committee as one of the important temporary committees formed since the 2009 parliament. Hayef also noted that in case the parliament approves the formation, the committee members will only be those who support it

and willing to help it succeed not those who want it to fail.

Revenues and expenditure

Well-informed financial sources said a new method would be followed in calculating revenues and expenditure as well as waste through the new governmental financial management system, which is expected to save considerable amounts. The sources added that all government bodies will have to do all financial settlements of their assets before the end of the current fiscal year (2017-2018) and provide auditors with copies of their budgets. They added that all revenues will have to be deposited in those bodies' accounts at the central bank before the end of May 2018.

Bottled water

Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Undersecretary Mohammed Boshehri hailed a decision by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan to ban the export of locally produced bottled water. Boshehri added that the state pays 90 percent of commodity's production cost, and stressed that it is illogical to export such a product, especially since the state pays KD 6 for 1,000 gallons. In addition, Boshehri stressed that Kuwait is ranked third worldwide in per capita consumption of water - 5,000 liters per person daily. He added that reports showed that around 20 million bottles were being exported monthly, ie 8-10 million gallons. He reiterated that it is illogical that state-subsidized water is exported.

local spotlight

Palestinian-Israeli conflict today



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

The words of Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem against the Israeli delegation at the 137th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the Russian city of St Petersburg, which lead to the Israelis leaving the meeting hall, provoked different reactions from supporters, conservatives and opponents. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has many visions, differences and interests on the Arab and international levels. I am not here to repeat the words of Ghanem as they are already on the Internet, but to talk about the Arab position on this issue today.

It is unfortunate to say that we are no longer in the 1950s and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is no longer the only Arab issue. The Arab world is facing a long list of suffocating issues, and this does not mean that the Palestinian cause is not important, but the Arabs are preoccupied with several local, regional and international issues in their homelands, such as sectarian strife, geopolitical changes and extremism. Moreover, the entry of the Arab world in a new phase in which they confront poverty, recurrent oil crises and internal conflicts among its leaders since the last 30 years has forced them to stop thinking about the Palestinian issue and focus on their own troubles.

The most important question is: Have Arabs really forgotten the Palestine case, or are they wavering on the issue? I believe to answer this query, we need to be aware of two main elements. First, the Western world is good at prioritizing and pressing the issues of its own interest, but the Arab world is not. For example, when global warming is the issue of the hour, you will find Western leaders and media easily come together in harmony to discuss, decide and draw up action plans for implementation.

On the other hand, look at the Arab world. When a call for a general meeting of the Arab League or a Gulf summit is sent, whether it is an urgent gathering or not, it will be swinging between approval and denial. Because there are countries that do not want to meet another or a subject that some do not want to discuss publicly because it causes embarrassment. This contradiction continues and exists during all the meetings to pollute the atmosphere and they often end with no agreement, no difference, no plans and no decision.

This keeps all Arab issues on hold, including the Palestinian decision. We should not blame the Arab people for being frustrated, as they live amid extremism, unemployment and poverty, because all their issues have no end with no decisions. What makes it worse in the Arab world is that most Arab countries are engaged in military disputes and are safeguarding their internal security and borders due to threats from various powers and terror groups. This is sad but true.

When we were young, the Palestine-Israeli dispute was an important subject, and it was compulsory for every student to write about this matter as the only issue of the Arabs. Today, the world is facing many complex issues. The bloody terrorism that is taking place everywhere without any sign so far of a final solution to be eradicated forever even by the countries that are affected by it is proof that there is no quick ending for this case. We cannot blame the world for forgetting the Palestinian cause. It is becoming a file that is kept within other files.

Globalization has overlapped the Arab and Western world in a wide technological space, which has caused the Arabs cultural, social, political and intellectual shocks and they forgot that scrutiny and prioritization are important for the future. The Arabs have not forgotten the issue of Palestine, but the issue has become a complex one with no decision and no imminent end.

Palestinian President praises Ghanem

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas heaped praise on Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem for his brave, firm and supportive stance to the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian official news agency (Wafa) reported that President Abbas on Friday sent a cable, on his and the Palestinian people's behalf, to Ghanem to thank him on his courageous and firm stance in the final session of the International Inter-Parliamentary Union congress which has been held recently in Russia. In his cable, the president expressed appreciation of Ghanem's statements in response to that of the head of the Israeli Knesset's delegation and his highlight the Israeli crimes against Palestinians. "On this occasion, I am pleased to convey the gratitude of Palestinian people to the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to thank the Kuwaiti National Assembly and government for their political and financial support to Palestinian cause and people," the president said in the cable. Meanwhile, Palestinians of different political hues have greatly wel-

comed Ghanem's supportive stance and his statements which shed light on the Israeli abuses against Palestinian people. They agreed that Ghanem's statements in the IPU session comes in line with the Kuwaiti government and people's support and defense of the Palestinian rights in different international events.

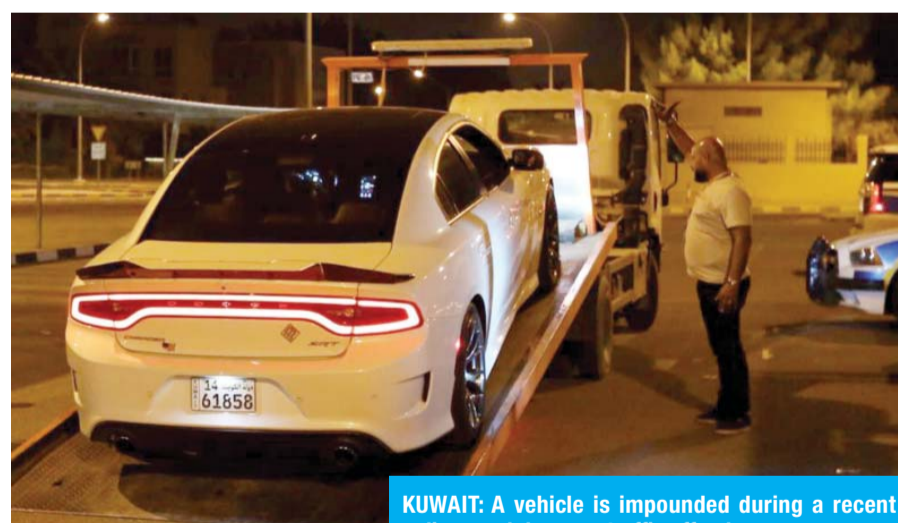
Arab conscious

In the meantime, Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub said that the speech by Ghanem, at the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Saint Petersburg, Russia, represents the conscious of all Arab countries.

In a press release, Tahboub added that Ghanem's response to the Israeli delegation at IPU, especially with regard to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, came as a natural response to the Israeli occupation, describing the delegation as a legal tool for the occupation.

The ambassador noted that the Palestinian state government and people followed closely the reaction and the speech by the Speaker at the session, noting that the speech revealed the true nature of the so-called "only true democracy" in the region, namely the Israeli legislative branch. The Ambassador also praised His Highness the Amir in a letter to Ghanem, which brings back all Arabs to the centralization to Arab issues, mainly the Palestinian case which all Arab countries should be united for. Tahboub also thanked His Highness the Amir and expressed appreciation and admiration for his sentiments and regards as a humanitarian leader and to the National Assembly Speaker for representing the Kuwaiti people. — KUNA

Large amounts of drugs seized in less than four months



KUWAIT: A vehicle is impounded during a recent police crackdown on traffic offenders.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Maj Gen Khalid Abdullah Al-Dayeen said that criminal security sector along with Drugs Control General Department and criminal detectives carried out campaigns from July 1, 2017 to October 14, 2017 during which they were able to seize 15,506 kg of shabu, 13,118 kg of heroin, 14,032 kg of hashish, 21,100 kg of synthetic marijuana, 8,270 captagon tablets, 27,635 tramadol pills, 350g cocaine, 17,365 illicit tablets and 5,445 imported liquor bottles. A marijuana farm was busted with 1,000 seedlings inside, the report adds.

In other news, the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Maj Gen Fahad Al-Shuwaie supervised a comprehensive campaign carried out around Kuwait and resulted in issuing 3,720 traffic tickets and impounding 198 vehicles. Meanwhile, 13 juveniles were sent to concerned authorities, 55 people were arrested while one person was sent for deportation.

Municipality

Jahra Municipality branch carried out a campaign on Salmiy Road to remove auctions held illegally on state property in cooperation with the general cleanliness and road occupancy department. Head of the department Engineer Mohammad Al-Aradhi said that 15 unlicensed auction sites in addition to 104 cubic meters of leftovers were removed.

Drill

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) carried out an exercise in a high rise building in which several teams participated. The exercise was held in a 38-floor building under construction in Sabah Al-Salem. The exercise aimed at using modern-day equipment in fighting fire in high rise buildings and pumping water to the 37th floor. Meanwhile, an advanced course for fighting fires in which 30 individuals participated was concluded on Thursday. The course was held under the patronage and presence of Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security at the Interior Ministry Maj Gen Shukri Al-Najjar. The course took place in three stages.

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Local

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

Hong Kong Municipality office boy

By Hassan Al-Essa

According to Robert Rotberg's 'The Corruption Cure,' Hong Kong had been full of corruption ever since its inception towards the end of the 19th century when endless organized gangs and corruption prevailed. It was ruled by several British governors but none of them managed to end corruption and some of them even helped it spread. In 1974, Governor Murray MacLehose established the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to fight and clean up corruption in the many departments of the Hong Kong government. Its aim was to investigate all corruption cases without exceptions and was the largest in the region that commenced its work by interrogating 18,000 police officers over charges of corruption.



The will to fight corruption started with the ruling politicians

In 1980, ICAC shifted to investigating private sector corruption cases and had the authority to prosecute suspects and refer them to courts. Its power expanded to spread the culture of fighting corruption amongst people. This means that it did not settle at receiving complaints but went beyond that to willingly get rid of corruption. It studied about corruption in traffic and education. Thanks to its vast powers the severity of its penal measures and the neutrality of its officials, Hong Kong was ranked 12th worldwide in terms of cities with the least amount of corruption in the period of 1995-2005. When China took over the city in 1997, the people of Hong Kong had already detested corruption and the city was the best in levels of integrity.

Corruption fighting measures were very severe in both Hong Kong and Singapore without any discrimination or leniency with suspects. Corruption fighting started from the top as they realized that ladders should be cleaned from top downwards. They never blamed the municipality office boys of corruption in Hong Kong or Singapore. ICAC did not demand a nice piece of land overlooking the seafont to build its headquarters. No law was set to grant its officials salaries in astronomical figures. The will and determination to fight all forms of corruption started with the ruling politicians. Is it too hard for those in our case to learn the lesson from Hong Kong or Singapore?

— Translated by Kuwait Times



أحمد شوان

Al-Jarida

CRIMES

Three hurt in wedding shooting

KUWAIT: Three people were shot during a wedding in Sabah Al-Salem by the groom's uncle. The dispute started when a number of men insisted on entering the women's hall with the groom. The injured men were rushed to Adan hospital. The shooter surrendered at Bayan police station.

Naked

A Gulf national who escaped from a psychiatric facility was caught running naked in Saad Al-Abdullah and was sent back to the hospital by police.

Fugitive

A citizen was sent to the civil implementation department after he was caught in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh while hanging a military uniform in his car to escape any police inspection. The arrest was made at a checkpoint when police checked his civil ID and discovered that he is wanted by authorities.

Drugs

A Kuwaiti man, Gulf national and a girl were arrested in Salmiya with shabu (meth) on them. They were sent to Drugs Control General Department. Meanwhile, two Asians were arrested with 50 bottles of homebrewed liquor in Khaitan. The two attempted to escape but police managed to put them under arrest. They were sent to the proper authorities to be held pending deportation.

— Translated from the Arabic press

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

GCC McCarthyism needed

By Salah Al-Sayer

The term McCarthyism developed during World War II. The name came from Senator Joseph McCarthy who led a campaign to immune America against communist penetration and thus called for prosecuting communist sympathizers amongst public servants and intellectuals, which led to imprisoning many innocent people and costing many others their jobs because of exaggerated accusations of treason. Thus, and according to political terminology, the term 'McCarthyism' meant 'intellectual terrorism' as most of those subjected to it were artists, writers and media figures who had highlighted the negative sides of McCarthyism and ignored its importance in protecting US homeland and promoting patriotism.

Here in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, we need an improved 'GCC McCarthyism' because, in addition to the 'hot' wars going on around us, our countries are experiencing fierce domestic cold wars that have been penetrating our societies with the excuse of 'freedom of speech' while some people still practice mental manipulation, superficial handling of various problems and ignoring the danger of political Islam. In addition, some GCC governments still fear illusionary human right organizations who have been using fake slogans and mottos. All this paved towards creating a haven for evil ideas just like the horse of troy waiting to attack.



All this paved towards creating a haven for evil ideas

Considering such critical situations, one has to initially admit that we are going through a cold war with so many enemies including ones we already know and others we cannot even identify. The next step would be establishing the principle of 'either with or against me' because nations' safety requires patriotic discipline and termination of intellectual luxuries and political opportunism. Most importantly, we need a GCC McCarthyism that calls for smart coordination amongst affected countries to detect ill practices and blacklist those spiteful 'dreamers' who are disloyal to their GCC home countries.

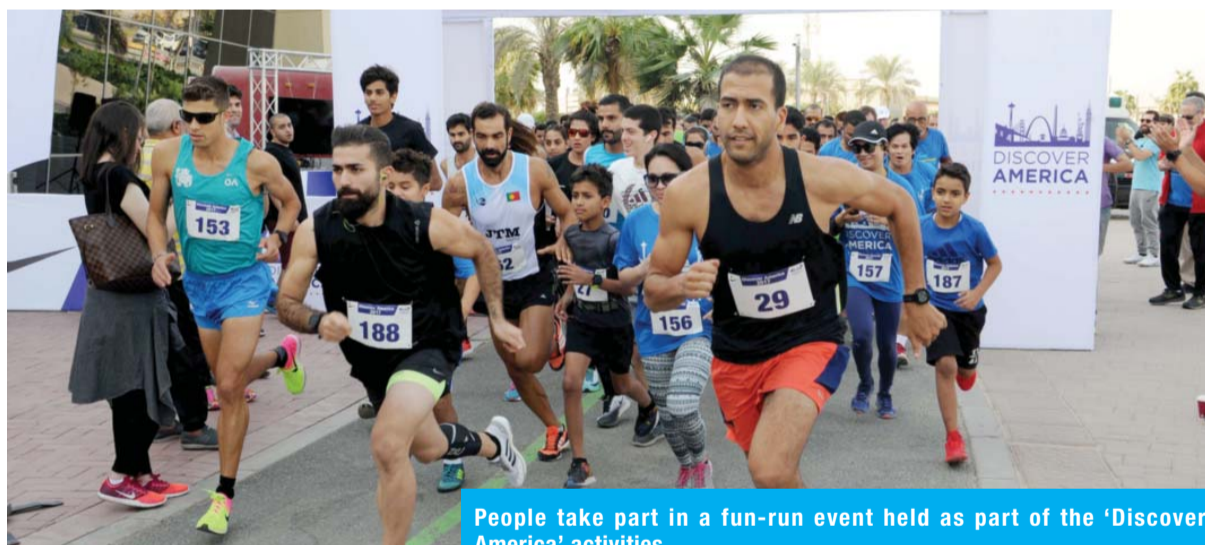
— Translated by Kuwait Times

'Discover America' event kicks off

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The 10-day 'Discover America' activities commenced yesterday with a fun-run at the Boulevard Park in Salmiya. The fun-run event saw numerous health conscious individuals from various nationalities, and was inaugurated by the US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. "In the next ten days, the US Embassy will organize many programs promoting what the United States has to offer as a venue for Kuwaitis to visit business that provides opportunities from which Kuwaitis and Americans can benefit and get quality university education in every subject imaginable," Silverman said in a speech.

The envoy also highlighted some forthcoming activities including festivals for food, fashion, music, film, automobiles and healthcare. The scheduled activities can be viewed at the US Embassy's website, Twitter and Facebook account. Discover America is organized by the US Foreign Commercial Service Office in collaboration with the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Kuwait. The events take place at venues throughout Kuwait City, including shopping centers



People take part in a fun-run event held as part of the 'Discover America' activities.

(the Avenues, Boulevard Mall, Sharq Mall, Marina Mall) in addition to the Sultan Center, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Amricani Cultural Center, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, The Scientific Center, and other locations.

"I am pleased to see you all enjoying the beautiful weather and exercising. In the next six months, we will be enjoying the beautiful weather and one of the best ways to stay healthy and promote healthy lifestyle is to exercise and eat healthy food," Silverman enthused. For the fun-run event, Ambassador Silverman thanked sponsors Ali Abduwahab Company and Pro-Vision for providing refreshments including prizes for the six winners in both male and female categories.



A winner receives his award.



KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman delivers a speech during the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KFH lecture on breast cancer



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized an awareness lecture on Breast Cancer themed 'Make Your Life Rosy,' as part of the bank's social responsibility and efforts to increase awareness about breast cancer.

The lecture was part of the campaign that coincides with the World Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The campaign included a variety of awareness events and special discussion sessions to spread awareness among women in the society. Moreover, KFH presented a number of awareness programs in social media platforms.

It is worth noting that KFH takes part in all relevant awareness campaigns such as diabetes and heart diseases. The bank inks agreement with respective bodies locally and globally in a bid to coordinate and bolster efforts that aim at preventing Kuwait society from the serious impact of these diseases.

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Inspired by Catalans, UK's island demands split from mainland

Families of jailed Morocco protesters face long road



ANKARA: Teacher Samih Ozakca lies on a stretcher inside an ambulance after he was released on parole from the Sincan prison. A Turkish court has ordered the release on parole of a teacher on hunger strike since March to protest his dismissal in a crackdown after last year's failed coup. — AFP

Political row hits Turkish schools

Tens of thousands of teachers sacked in crackdown

ANKARA: A radically changed curriculum. Teachers who vanished from one year to the next. And a greater emphasis on religion. Turkish schoolchildren went back to their classes last month not just facing the daily pressures of learning but changes that have ignited a bitter political row. Evolution theory was dropped from school textbooks, tens of thousands of teachers sacked in the crackdown that followed the 2016 failed coup and the Muslim concept of jihad introduced to some classes. Secular unions and teachers worry education will be less scientific and more religious, but the government argues the changes are needed to prepare the new generation for the modern republic's 100th year anniversary in 2023.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared at the start of the new school year his objective was to raise students "at peace with their national and spiritual values, patriotic, qualified, free". Burhanettin Uysal, deputy head of the parliamentary commission for education, said the reforms were to "simplify" the education program. "It would not have been possible to keep up with the world today with the curriculum from five, 10 years ago," said Uysal, a ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) lawmaker.

Pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) lawmaker Mithat Sancar hit back that the changes reflected the "religious and nationalist ideology of the AKP" that has "largely been incorporated into school textbooks". Just days before pupils were back at their desks in September, Erdogan called for the high school entrance school exam to be scrapped. The government, which has

yet to present the replacement, within weeks overhauled the university entrance exam after Erdogan hinted at further changes to it last month.

Teachers sacked

Over 33,000 teachers have been sacked in the purge that followed the failed coup, with critics arguing many were punished for leftist or pro-Kurdish sympathies rather than any link to the plot. Feray Aytekin Aydogan, head of secular and opposition teachers' union Egitim-Sen, said the dismissals led to "anxiety" among teachers currently working in schools. "Our job security has been taken away from us," she told AFP. "Who will fill those staff places?" Betul Ozturk, a primary school teacher in Ankara, said teachers were "under siege" in schools from special interest groups, including religious organizations. "Many students have been left without teachers, teachers left without work," Ozturk said. "(Teachers) do their job with the fear of losing it at any moment."

Latif Selvi, deputy head of the conservative union Egitim-Bir-Sen, Turkey's biggest teachers' union, said,

however, there had been no "disruptive" impact to education. But he acknowledged Turkey needed to hire more teachers. Education Minister Ismet Yilmaz has said he was addressing the gap with nearly 20,000 more teachers by 2018. Kurdish provinces in the southeast have been "intensely" affected by the purges. HDP MP Sancar said, "Many experienced teachers have been sacked."

Jihad in, evolution out?

The Islamic-rooted AKP government is often accused of working towards raising the "pious generation" spoken of by Erdogan in past speeches. This summer, Yilmaz announced that children at religious schools which follow the national curriculum would be taught the concept of jihad. A storm of controversy then raged after education ministry officials said they would also remove evolution theory because it was too complex for children under the age of 18. Jihad is usually translated in the West as a religious war. But its meaning in Islam refers to one's struggle, internal and otherwise.

Aydogan accused the government of hypocrisy by insisting on the nuanced concept of jihad while claiming

evolution was too complicated for the young. "You put in young children's minds and schoolbooks this idea of war for religion, then you say this is a meaning of it, but there is also a second, a third meaning. "(But) you say explaining evolution is too hard, 'we're taking it out, it can't be explained!'" she said. Ozturk said headteachers were speaking to teachers and telling them "your duty is to put the curriculum into practice, not to criticize it".

'New regime, new education'

Even before the current controversy, critics had accused the government of undermining the secular foundations of education in Turkey and paying less attention to the founder of the modern republic Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. The last years have seen a boom in the growth of Imam Hatip schools which specialize in religious education combined with a modern curriculum. Erdogan himself went to such a school.

Under the AKP's rule since 2002, the number of Imam Hatip students has risen from 23,000 to over 1.1 million at the start of the 2017 academic year. Most Imam Hatip schools had been shut down after the 1997 ousting of the then Islamist government by the military. But the AKP's Uysal denied his party had a problem with Ataturk. "We continue to fight for our youth to understand Ataturk better," he said. Aydogan claimed "serious problems" in the education system began after 2012 changes that saw the Turkish parliament extend compulsory education for four years. "They are trying to create a new Turkey, the construction of a new regime with a new education system," she said. — AFP



Evolution theory dropped from school textbooks

Prayers turn to a nightmare in Kabul mosque bombing

KABUL: After finishing work on Friday Jan Ali took his two sons to their local Shiite mosque in Kabul to worship, along with dozens of other ordinary Afghans. Despite the growing threats of violence against Shiite sites in Afghanistan, the 47-year-old mason took his place among the 150-strong faithful at the Imam Zaman mosque where he is a regular.

But the evening prayer session soon turned into a bloody nightmare when a suicide bomber posing as a worshipper blew himself up, causing devastation inside the cavernous room. The force of the deafening explosion threw slimly built Ali to the floor where he lay on shards of glass and debris, unable to get up due to the severity of his wounds. Scattered around him on the mosque's now blood-soaked red carpet were dozens of dead and wounded, including women and children, howling for help.

"It was a chaotic scene. Everyone was shouting and screaming for help and yelling for their loved ones," Ali said yesterday from his hospital bed, both of his hands and thighs strapped with white bandages. Broken window panes, chunks of white plaster and dust covered the floor where worshippers had been praying

moments earlier, while blood stained the walls and ceiling of the room.

Dozens of copies of the Quran, floor cushions and colorful prayer beads were scattered across the hall. Ali said he suffered burns and shrapnel wounds to his face, hands and legs, and he could no longer hear properly due to the intensity of the explosion.

His two sons, aged 12 and 17, were also wounded in the attack and are being treated at a different hospital. "I don't have any news from them about how seriously they are wounded," Ali said in a frail voice. "Everyone panicked after the blast. It was a terrible, horrifying and dreadful day." The interior ministry said at least 72 people were killed and 55 others wounded in the assault claimed by the Islamic State group—one of two deadly mosque attacks in Afghanistan on Friday. It capped one of the deadliest weeks in Afghanistan in recent memory, with around 200 people killed in the two mosque attacks and a spate of Taliban suicide assaults on security forces.

Ali said the lone suicide bomber detonated his explosives among the crowd of worshippers half way through the prayers. There is speculation the attacker may have worn a veil and slipped through the women's entrance to the mosque to avoid being body searched by security guards. "We were busy in the middle of our evening prayers when suddenly a big blast took place," Ali said, adding he had gone to the mosque in the hope of earning "more rewards". "It was a very loud blast and afterwards there were dead and wounded bodies scattered all over the mosque." — Agencies



KABUL: Afghan residents look inside the Imam Zaman Shiite mosque which was the site of a suicide attack during evening prayers yesterday. — AFP

International

In Kirkuk, Kurds' joy turns to fear after the army takeover

Turkmen and Arab residents feel safer now

KIRKUK: Turkmen and Arab shoppers stroll through an open-air food market in an ethnically mixed area of Kirkuk, haggling over the price of tomatoes and gossiping about their neighbors. Ostensibly, it's a normal day in the city of 1 million in northern Iraq. But nearby stand Iraqi Army soldiers, sent by the central government in Baghdad this week to wrest control of the city from Kurds after their vote for independence on Sept 25.

The army's recapture of oil-producing Kirkuk province and other territory across northern Iraq has dismayed the city's Kurds but brought comfort to residents from other ethnic groups. "Of course things are better now that the Iraqis have taken back the city," said Mohammad, a Turkmen butcher grinning over a large pile of ground meat. "We're all brothers, but at the end of the day, Kirkuk is not for the Kurds. It's for Iraq."

An Arab couple who have seen Kirkuk change hands several times before said they now feel safer and more comfortable. "This is our city after all," said the elderly Hajji Ahmed. Across the street in a Kurdish-owned restaurant, the mood is different. "None of my Kurdish regulars want to come to eat here anymore, they don't feel safe," said the owner, who asked not to be named for fear of retaliation. "We're all afraid because our fate in the city is unknown." Thousands of people fled Kirkuk after rumors of looting and violence against Kurds spread on social media, though residents said many later returned. No one Reuters spoke to had witnessed or suffered any aggression.



Kurds in Kirkuk afraid, feel let down by leaders

was opposed by international allies, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Massoud Barzani was confident its outcome would give his government leverage to negotiate secession. Kirkuk is seen by many Kurds as the future capital of an independent Kurdish state. Including it in the referendum was widely seen as a unilateral move to consolidate Kurdish control.

Peshmerga fighters seized Kirkuk in 2014 after Iraqi security forces fled, leaving the region's oilfields vulnerable to Islamic State militants who had swept across northern Iraq. But any notion of consolidated Kurdish power was quashed on Monday when Kurdish forces quietly withdrew, allowing the Iraqis to retake the city and other disputed territories claimed by both the central government in Baghdad and the Kurds. Kurdish flags used to hang from street lamps and buildings across the whole city but are now seen only in Kurdish areas. Roadside vendors now sell the flags of the Iraqi army and Shiite paramilitary forces. "Kirkuk has been lost forever," said a Kurdish resident of the Shorja district.

Feelings of betrayal

Kurds in Kirkuk feel betrayed by their political leaders and humiliated by Baghdad, which forcibly displaced them from the city under late dictator Saddam Hussein. Some civilians are now deployed along the highway to the regional capital, Erbil, with Kurdish Peshmerga fighters. "We brought our guns to defend against the Iraqi invaders," said one, a retired Peshmerga fighter. "We were betrayed, even by our own political leaders. So we had to come with our weapons to fight." The men have built berms and road blocks to slow traffic into the small town of Altun Kupri, or Perde in Kurdish. "Now we only have orders to defend. But if they try and come to Erbil, we will



ALTUN KUBRI, Iraq: Peshmerga fighters gathering at the Altun Kubri checkpoint, 40kms from Kirkuk. Iraqi forces clashed with Kurdish fighters as the central government said it wrestled back control of the last area of disputed Kirkuk province in the latest stage of a lightning operation following a controversial independence vote. —AFP

attack them ferociously. We have to protect our people," Bakr Razgai, a local commander, said before clashes in the area on Friday morning. Such bravado was hard to find in Kirkuk. In the Kurdish neighborhood of Shorja, a poster hanging in front of the main market and showing late Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani's face next to a Kurdish

flag has been scribbled over. "I've been up every night since Monday, afraid for my life," said Abdullah, a Kurdish clothes salesman. A friend said this was because of propaganda on social media and asked him if he had seen anything bad happen. Abdullah had not. "But I'm still afraid," he said. — Reuters

'Lost forever'

The scenes now are a far cry from the Kurds' jubilation on the day of the independence referendum, when they danced and sang in the streets. Though the referendum

Families of jailed Morocco protesters face long road

CASABLANCA: A 1,200-kilometre round bus trip taking about 22 hours: that is the weekly grind faced by families of activists arrested over a protest movement in northern Morocco if they want to see their loved ones jailed in Casablanca. "The families of those detained are exhausted, every week it's the same ordeal," complained Rachid Ahbbad, as he visited his 19-year-old son Bilal who was jailed in June. "Why do they make us go through this suffering?" The Rif region of northern Morocco, a predominantly Berber area, was gripped earlier this year by months of angry demonstrations calling for jobs, development and an end to corruption in the North African kingdom.

Originally sparked by the death of a fisherman crushed in a rubbish truck as he tried to salvage his confiscated catch, the demonstrations snowballed from grievances over local poverty into a major challenge to the authorities. In response, security forces launched a crackdown, slinging the alleged leaders of the mainly young protesters in jail in May and June. "Our youths took to the streets because of legit-

imate complaints. The protests were peaceful but they were accused of being separatists," said Ahbbad.

'Major injustice'

After 49 of those behind bars were transferred to Casablanca in western Morocco, their relatives have been forced to make the punishing journey to see them during the two hours of visiting time allowed each Wednesday. On Tuesday evenings, a bus laid on by the National Council for Human Rights, an official organization, sets off on the road from the Rif region's main town Al-Hoceima towards Casablanca, stopping to pick up passengers along the way.

The political crackdown on the protesters has attracted the attention of rights activists and sparked a sit-down protest in front of the Oukacha prison, Morocco's largest, in solidarity with the visiting relatives. "The families need support," said Amine Abdelhamid, a veteran rights activist and member of the committee backing those arrested in the Al-Hirak Al-Shaabi protest movement. As Ahmed Zefzari emerged from the prison, he gave the latest news on his 39-year-old son Nasser, who became a flagbearer for the demonstrations with his diatribes against corrupt officialdom. "Suffering destroys," he said.

A little later, the rest of the families came out through the imposing doors of the penitentiary. Soufiane El-Hani, who was visiting her brother, said that around half of a group of 38 detainees had called off a hunger strike they launched to protest the



CASABLANCA: Relatives of imprisoned members of Morocco's Al-Hirak Al-Shaabi movement leave a bus after visiting them at the Oukacha prison in Casablanca. — AFP

conditions of their detention and demand freedom. "My son has lost a lot of weight, he is pale and speaks with difficulty," said the mother of inmate Mohammed Jelloul, who had decided to push on with the strike. "I tried to convince him to start eating but he refuses."

'They did nothing'

Charged with "undermining the internal security of the state", "attempted sabotage, murder and looting" or "conspiracy" to

destabilize the country, the protesters face up to 20 years in prison if convicted. That threat has left the families in despair. "We want them to be freed, they did nothing but demand their rights," protested the mother of detainee Nabil Ahamjik.

For now, however, the long journey to and from the prison must continue. Eventually the families board the bus for the return trip home, flicking victory signs at the activists supporting them through the windows as they leave. — AFP

Student dreams shattered by war

RAQQA: They once dreamt of becoming engineers, teachers or other professionals, but for tens of thousands of Syrian students those hopes were cut short by the war in their homeland. While some managed to rebuild their lives overseas and others remain stranded in refugee camps, there are those who transformed themselves in the chaos of the conflict into fighters or journalists.

Here are the stories of two of them:

Delbrin Sadeq, a chemist battling IS: A year before jihadists from the Islamic State group turned Raqqa into their Syrian capital, Kurdish student Delbrin Sadeq was studying pure and applied chemistry at the city's university. "When IS arrived in 2014 and forced women to wear black, I left Raqqa," the 26-year-old said. Sadeq then traded books for bullets as she took the decision to sign up with the all-female Women's Protection Units (YPJ) and fight alongside male comrades from the Kurdish People's Protection Units. The YPJ was involved in some of the fiercest battles against IS as the Kurds fought a life-or-death struggle to keep the jihadists at bay.

Eventually the Kurdish fighters became the spearhead of a US-backed force to oust IS from its strongholds—with Raqqa the ultimate goal. After four months of ferocious urban combat Sadeq and her comrades finally took full control of Raqqa on October 17. "It was only the battle to recapture the city that brought me back," Sadeq said. The university where she studied was the scene of fierce fighting. As Sadeq toured its bombed-out buildings, her hair in plaits and a gun slung over her shoulder, the rifle-carrying rebel reminisced about her past life.

"When I walk around here now I believe I can still see my classmates," she said. "I don't know what happened to them, but I hope they are well." Despite the pain she feels for everything that she lost, Sadeq is adamant that she does not regret her fate. "I like military life, I will not quit it as long as there is a war going on," she said. As for her studies, if she gets the chance Sadeq would start again. "If I could resume my studies while remaining a fighter, I would do that," she said. "Life continues and education continues."

Ahmad Khatib, engineer to reporter - Ahmad Khatib was a third year civil engineering student at Tishreen University in the coastal city of Latakia when the revolt against President Bashar Al-Assad's rule broke out across Syria in March 2011. "It was my uncle who inspired me because he was an engineer but he always said I should study journalism," Khatib, 28 said. "I told him that the media in Syria was under tight control, and that is why I chose civil engineering."

It would take the heady days of protests against Assad and the bloodshed of Syria's ensuing civil war to eventually push Khatib into journalism. Security forces found out about his involvement in the early demonstrations against the regime and in November 2011 he was arrested at a checkpoint while travelling in the northwestern Idlib province. "I was in detention for 22 days in Idlib then sent before a court in Damascus on accusations of 'undermining the authority of the state'," Khatib recounted.

"They wanted to torture me into admitting that I was an armed rebel, but I wasn't." Eventually he was released and handed a pass that was supposed to let him travel through regime checkpoints. But when he tried to use it to return to university pro-regime militiamen confiscated the document and warned him to quit university and never show his face again. Left devastated by seeing his dream of becoming an engineer shredded, the straight-A student rejected the chance to take up arms and instead turned to reporting the horrors engulfing his homeland. — AFP

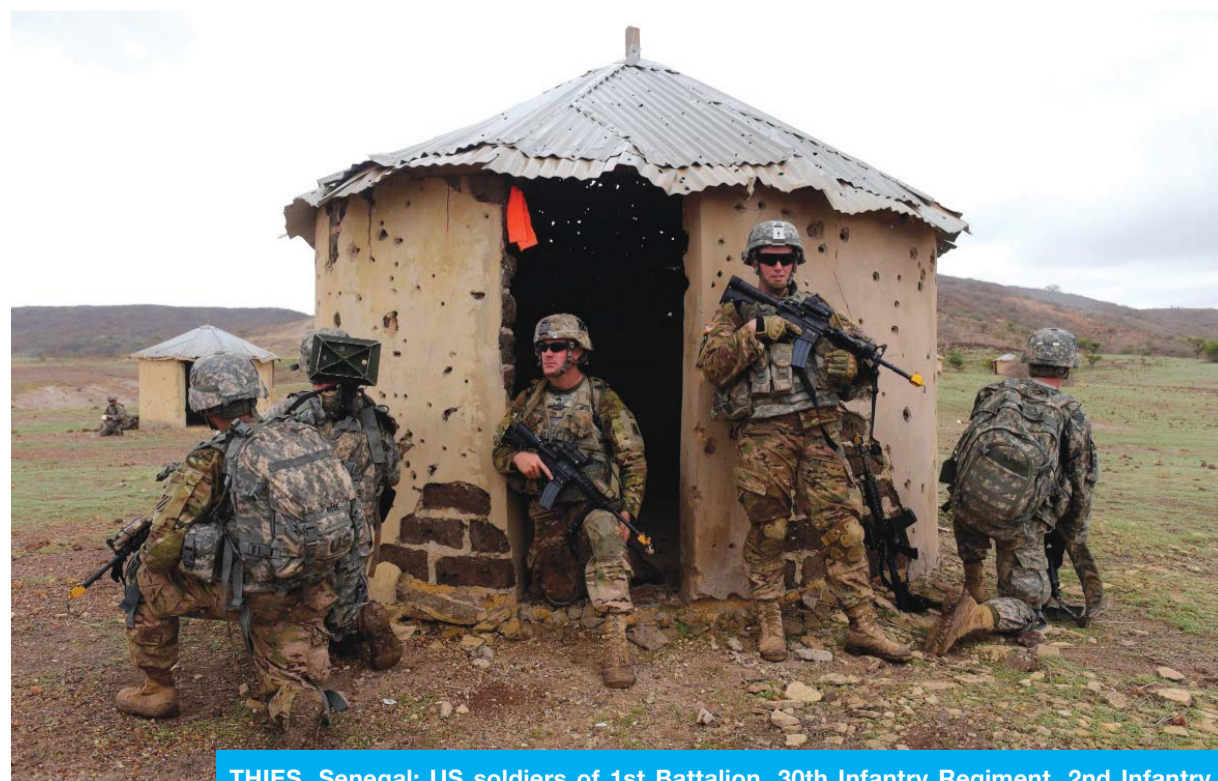
Niger raid highlights US forces' growing role across Africa

WASHINGTON: The killing of four American special operations soldiers in Niger has highlighted the increasing role elite units are playing across Africa, which is rapidly becoming a major center of US military action. Their mission is to counter the advances of a slew of jihadist movements across the continent, including Al-Shabaab in Somalia, affiliates of the Islamic State group in the Sahel region and Boko Haram in Nigeria. Of the 8,000 special forces "operators" deployed globally this year, more than 1,300 are in Africa, according to officials from the US Special Operations Command (SOCOM), which is based in Tampa, Florida.

Another 5,000 or so are in the Middle East. In five years, the number of US commandos in Africa has tripled from only 450 in 2012. "The war is morphing," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, told reporters Friday. "We're going to see more actions in Africa, not less. You're going to see more aggression by the United States towards our enemies, not less," he told reporters, adding that US forces would be getting greater leeway in their rules of engagement.

Typically, the highly trained and well-armed commandos are grouped in teams of about a dozen, who work for two or three months as instructors to classes of about 300 soldiers from an African nation. On any given day, the operators are deployed across about 20 nations, SOCOM said, though it did not provide a list of nations or the numbers of troops concerned.

According to a report to Congress by General Thomas Waldhauser, who heads the US Africa Command (AFRICOM), American forces have a notable presence in Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda and Kenya. Officially,



THIES, Senegal: US soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division take position near a hut during a combined training exercise with Senegalese 1st Paratrooper Battalion in Thies. —AFP

the United States only has one military base in Africa—Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti. But special forces outfits, including the Green Berets, the Navy SEALs and Marine and Air Force commandos, also use an air base at Moron in southern Spain for Africa operations.

'Persistent facilities'

And the United States has "persistent facilities" in host countries, according to an AFRICOM official. "We do

have persistent facilities that we conduct engagements in and when one team leaves, the next comes in to the same location," the official said on condition of anonymity. "But all this is done at the request of those nations. It's done in support of the host nation, at the invitation of those nations and it's done in coordination with our partners." The official said the goal is not to conduct unilateral operations. "We are not going out and doing stuff without the support of those nations," the official added. — AFP

International

Laptops in checked bags pose fire, explosion risk

Airlines urged to ban large, personal electronic devices

WASHINGTON: The US government is urging the world airline community to ban large, personal electronic devices like laptops from checked luggage because of the potential for a catastrophic fire. The Federal Aviation Administration said in a paper filed recently with a UN agency that its tests show that when a laptop's rechargeable lithium-ion battery overheats in close proximity to an aerosol spray can, it can cause an explosion capable of disabling an airliner's fire suppression system. The fire could then rage unchecked, leading to "the loss of the aircraft," the paper said.

The UN agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, sets global aviation safety standards, although member countries must still ratify them. The proposed ban is on the agenda of a meeting of ICAO's panel on dangerous goods being held this week and next week in Montreal. The FAA has conducted 10 tests involving a fully-charged laptop packed in a suitcase. A heater was placed against the laptop's battery to force it into "thermal runaway," a condition in which the battery's temperature continually rises.

In one test, an 8-ounce aerosol can of dry shampoo - which is permitted in checked baggage was strapped to the laptop. There was a fire almost immediately and it grew rapidly. The aerosol can exploded within 40 seconds. The test showed that because of the rapid progression of the fire, Halon gas fire suppressant systems used in airline cargo compartments would be unable to put out the fire before there was an explosion, the FAA said. The explosion might not be strong enough to structurally damage the plane, but it could damage the cargo compartment and allow the Halon to escape, the agency said. Then there would be nothing to prevent the fire from spreading.

Other tests of laptop batteries packed with potentially dangerous consumer goods that are permitted in checked baggage like nail polish remover, hand sanitizer and rubbing alcohol also resulted in large fires, although no explosions. As a result, the paper recommends that passengers shouldn't be allowed to pack large electronic devices in baggage unless they have specific approval from the airline. The paper says the European Safety Agency, the FAA's counterpart in Europe; Airbus, one of the world's largest makers of passenger airliners; the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Association, and the International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Association, which represents aircraft makers, concurred in the recommendation.

Overheat can cause explosion

The paper doesn't address whether the ban should extend to domestic flights, but points out the risk that baggage containing a large electronic device could be transferred from one flight to another without the knowledge of the airline. The FAA said it believes most devices larger than a smartphone are already being carried by

passengers into the cabin, rather than put in checked bags.

Rechargeable lithium batteries are used in consumer products ranging from cellphones and laptops to electric cars. Manufacturers like them because they pack more energy into smaller packages, but the batteries can self-ignite if they have a manufacturing flaw, are damaged, exposed to excessive heat, overcharged or packed too closely together. The fires can burn up to 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit, close to the melting point of the aluminum used in aircraft construction. Since 2006, three cargo jets have been destroyed and four pilots killed by in-flight fires that investigators say were either started by batteries or made more severe by their proximity.



NEW JERSEY: Image frame grab shows a test at the FAA's technical center in Atlantic City, N.J. The US government is urging that large, personal electronic devices like laptops be banned from airline checked luggage because of the potential for a catastrophic fire. —AP

Earlier this year, the US imposed a ban on laptops in the cabins of planes coming into the country from 10 Middle Eastern airports for security reasons. The ban was fully lifted in July after US officials said airports in the region had taken other steps to increase security. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration formerly led the US negotiations on the regulation of dangerous goods at ICAO meetings. But the Obama administration put the FAA in charge in 2009 after congressional Democrats accused high-level officials at PHMSA of being too cozy with the industries they regulate.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has now decided to put PHMSA back in charge at future ICAO dangerous goods deliberations, Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said Thursday. Both agencies are part of the Transportation Department. DeFazio called the decision "inexplicable" in a letter to Chao. "I strongly believe it has the potential to put the lives of airline passengers and crews at serious risk," he said. Chao didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Lobbyists for lithium battery makers and companies that use the batteries in their products have previously urged the change.—AP

News in brief

Copter plunges into lake

NAIROBI: A helicopter with five people on board plunged into a lake in Kenya's Rift Valley and it's likely that no one survived, officials said yesterday. The crash in Lake Nakuru occurred shortly after takeoff from a nearby hotel. Early indications showed there were no survivors, said Gilbert Kibe, director general of the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority. The helicopter was taking part in campaigns for Kenya's fresh presidential election on Thursday. Nakuru county commissioner Joshua Nkanatha said. A search-and-rescue mission was underway, said Pius Mwachi, a national disaster management official. Lake Nakuru, located 170 kilometers northwest of the capital, Nairobi, is famous for flamingo colonies that turn the shoreline pink at their peak. Environment degradation has threatened the lake and its wildlife.

Munich knife attack

MUNICH: A man injured four people with a knife in the German city of Munich yesterday and police detained a suspect matching descriptions by witnesses. Police had urged people in the Bavarian capital to stay home after a man on a black bicycle injured the four and attempted to stab two others. Five men and one woman were attacked, Munich police spokesman Marcus da Gloria Martins told reporters. "We have arrested a man who very strongly resembles the description by witnesses, but we cannot confirm that he is the attacker," Martins said. Police had described the suspect as a corpulent, unshaven man around 40 years old with medium-blond hair. Martins added that police were not sure what the attacker's motive was and that they would only name the detained suspect once they had determined that he was behind the attack. Police believe the man, who seemingly randomly attacked people at several different locations, acted alone.

3rd suspicious death

TAMPA: Police believe the fatal shooting of a 20-year-old autistic man who took the wrong bus home from work is linked to two other suspicious deaths in a Florida neighborhood. The deaths, which took place in the same neighborhood over the past 10 days, prompted Tampa police to warn residents in the Seminole Heights neighborhood not to walk alone at night. And they've asked residents to leave porch light and other external lights on at night. "Now we have someone terrorizing the neighborhood," Interim Tampa police Chief Brian Dugan said during a Friday news conference. He said the three victims have no ties to one another. Dugan asked the public to look at surveillance video of a man who was walking in the area on Oct 9 when Benjamin Mitchell, 22, was killed. On Oct 13, Monica Caridad Hoffa, 32, was found dead in a vacant lot. On Thursday night, officers were patrolling in the area when they heard gunshots.

Israel hits Syria artillery

JERUSALEM: The Israeli army attacked Syrian government artillery yesterday after fire across the armistice line hit the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and warned it would step up such retaliation in the future. The Syrian government controls only part of the territory on the other side of the line, with the rest in the hands of rebel groups, one of them affiliated to the Islamic State group. But the Israeli army said it would retaliate against the Syrian army, regardless of who was responsible for any fire and of whether it was intentional or not. The Syrian defense ministry said that rebels had deliberately fired the rounds into Israeli-held territory to provoke the response against its forces.

Inspired by Catalans, UK's island demands split from mainland

CANVEY ISLAND: A small island community in the Thames Estuary that voted massively for Brexit is now drawing inspiration from distant Catalonia for its own plans to gain independence from authorities on the mainland. Just 40,000 people live on Canvey Island in Essex, a 40-minute train ride from London but a world apart from the British capital. "We are surrounded by sea. I suppose it gives us that feeling of independence," said Edward Parkin, 39, who works at the waterfront arcade Parkins Palladium. Just two roads connect the area to the mainland and there has been resentment that decisions are being taken on the other side of the water which affect the community.

"It is always the mainland that decides. People are fed up," said Dave Blackwell, whose frustration with the situation led him to create the Canvey Island Independent Party (CIIP). The latest move seen as unacceptable by Blackwell is a proposal to turn a community centre into housing, following a decision by Castle Point borough council which governs Canvey. The septuagenarian has announced a petition on independence and, inspired by Catalonia, a referendum for Canvey to separate from Castle Point and run its own affairs.

"If we'd have a referendum tomorrow, 80 percent of the people would be in favor of independence," he said. Islanders have already tested their breakaway views at the polls, with the area voting by 72.7 percent in favor to leave the European Union in last year's referendum - one of the highest proportions in the country. Blackwell, who started his party 14 years ago, sees his ongoing bid for independence as similar to Brexit. "We have done campaigning for independence in the past. It grew," he said. "People are fed up with mainstream parties and want to be able to determine their own future."

Nine out of the 11 Canvey Island town councilors have already been convinced to join CIIP, along with 15 of 17 councilors representing the island in Castle Point council. But the leader of Castle Point council, Colin Riley, is firmly against the idea and argues the talk of separatism is taking away from the "wonderful sense of community" within the area. "At a time when all councils are facing increasing pressures on budgets and are looking at ways of working together it would be contrary to promote independence for Canvey

Catalan leaders pressured from all sides

BARCELONA: The battle between Spain's central government and the separatist leaders of Catalonia escalates day after day, forcing Catalan society to take a stand. Political parties, football clubs, businesses and civic society groups have picked their side-for or against independence, for or against holding a referendum-and they are all trying to convince Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont.

Football clubs

FC Barcelona, one of the world's most popular football teams whose motto is "more than a club", has long been a symbol of Catalan nationalism. The club says it is neutral on whether Catalans should choose independence but it has been

vocal about Catalonia's right to hold a secession referendum. Its supporters regularly chant "Independence" at matches at its Camp Nou stadium and during Barcelona's Champions League match against Olympiakos on Wednesday fans held up a nearly 50-metre banner that pleaded for "Dialogue, Respect, and Sport" Barcelona's crosstown rivals Espanyol refused to take a public stand but have said that "today, being brave means to not stir up the conflict in Catalan society." Like Barcelona, Girona, another Catalan club in the Spanish first division, backs Catalonia's right to hold a referendum.

Political parties

During the last regional election in Catalonia in September 2015, three separatist parties won a majority of seats in the regional assembly. But they are very different. Puigdemont's conservative business-friendly PDeCAT party ran together with the left-wing ERC party in a coalition called "Together for Yes". Both are moderate and cautious on

declaring immediate independence, even if ERC has a harder line than PDeCAT. But the tiny anti-capitalist CUP party, their ally which holds the balance of power in the assembly, is pressuring Puigdemont to move faster towards an independence declaration. Pro-unity parties are also divided. Ciudadanos, the main opposition party in Catalonia, along with the Socialists and the conservative Popular Party back the suspension of some of Catalonia's powers to stop independence. But the left-wing coalition "Catalunya si que es pot" maintains that dialogue is the way out of the crisis.

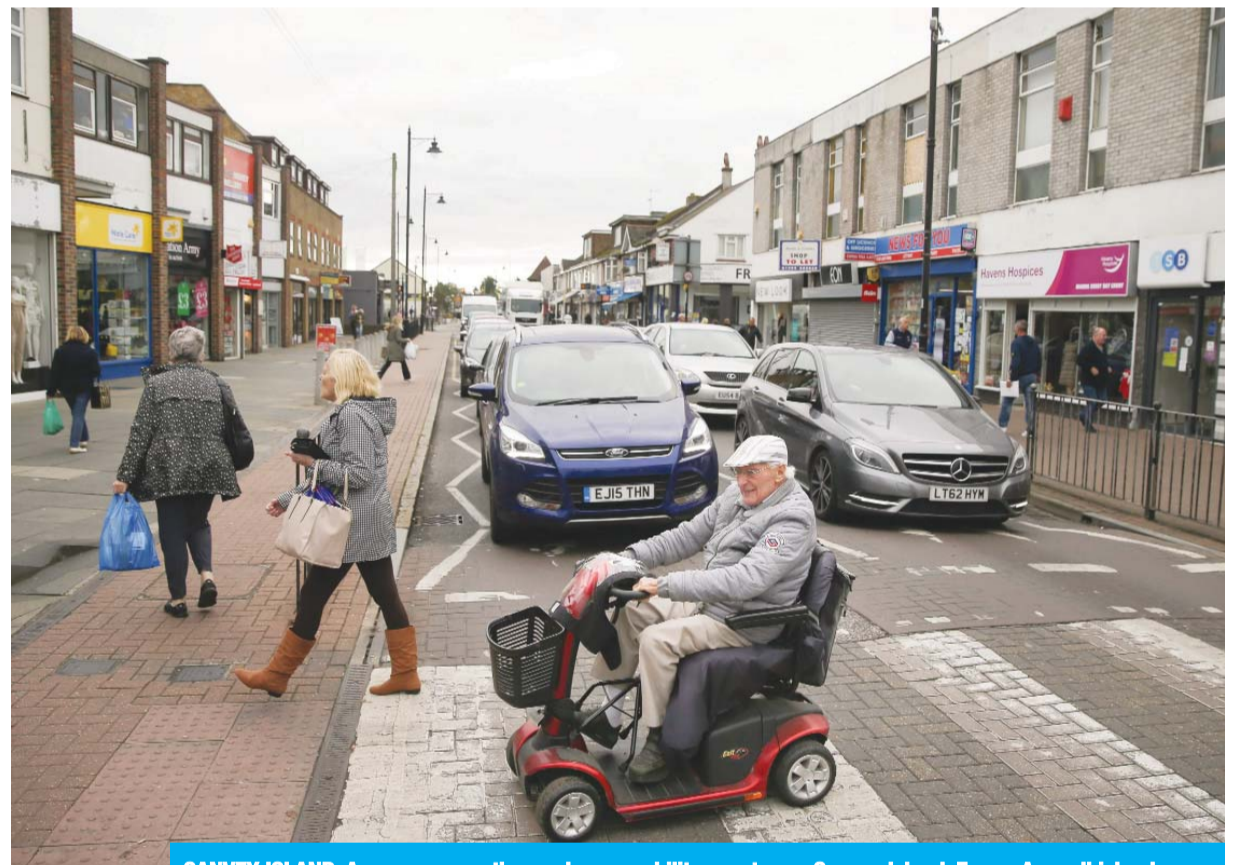
Companies

Nearly 1,200 firms have moved their legal headquarters out of Catalonia since the beginning of the month when a banned independence referendum took place, including several listed multinationals. Of the seven Catalan firms that were part of Spain's Ibex-35 index of most traded shares before the crisis started, only one-biopharmaceuticals manufacturer Grifols-has kept its head-

quarters in the region. The company's president, Victor Grifols, is one of the few major Catalan entrepreneurs to have spoken out in favor of independence. In 2014 he urged Puigdemont's predecessor, Artur Mas, to keep pushing towards independence.

Associations

The leaders of Catalonia's two major grassroots independence associations, Jordi Cuixart of Omnium Cultural and Jordi Sanchez of the Catalan National Assembly, were remanded in custody on October 16 by a court investigating them for "sedition". They are accused of encouraging protesters to block officers from Spain's Guardia Civil police from leaving a Catalan government building last month in an operation aimed at stopping the referendum on October 1. Another association, the Societat Civil Catalana, says it represents the "silent majority" of Catalans that want to remain in Spain. It staged a massive demonstration in favour of Catalan unity in Barcelona on October 8.—AFP



CANVEY ISLAND: A man crosses the road on a mobility scooter on Canvey Island, Essex. A small island community in the Thames Estuary that voted massively for Brexit is now looking to distant Catalonia as inspiration for its own plans to separate from the mainland. — AFP

island," he said. "I am hopeful that we can quickly get back to business."

Money for the island

On Canvey Island, however, residents are already coming up with ways to spend the council's budget if autonomy is returned. Ideas include a third road to the mainland to relieve congestion, a new drainage system to protect the island from flooding, or more toilets along the beachfront. Dave Taylor, tucking into a plate of bacon and mushrooms on toast at Sue's Cafe, said independence "would be a very good idea".

"The money will be spent on the island, not elsewhere," said the 74-year-old, noting unhappily that it was left to volunteers to clean Canvey's beach and repair the island's benches. Cafe owner Sue Thomas, donning a blue apron, agreed: "I think it might be a

good thing for the people of Canvey; they could make decisions for themselves and have a say." It has been more than 40 years since the creation of Castle Point borough council, in 1974.

Blackwell believes the case of Catalonia could act as a catalyst for change. "They want self-determination like we do," he said of Catalans, who earlier this month held their own independence referendum. Blackwell thinks it unlikely that if Canvey holds its own vote, locals will face the same crackdown by authorities seen in Catalonia. "We won't get the riot police come to Canvey Island, that's for sure." While the outcome for separatists in Catalonia and Canvey remains uncertain, Blackwell is at least grateful for his distant southern neighbors for giving his community a boost. "Nobody could put Canvey Island on the map before. Now they do," he said.—AFP

International

Philippine soldiers comb Marawi, hunt militants

FBI tests confirm that man killed was 'emir' of IS

MARAWI CITY: The Philippines is preparing to declare the end of fighting in a southern city seized for five months by pro-Islamic State rebels, a top military commander said yesterday, as troops continued a phased withdrawal from the devastated lakeside city. Only 20 insurgents remained in a small area in Marawi City, including five "significant" figures, and three battalions of troops were closing in on their positions, said Lieutenant-General Carlito Galvez.

"Most probably tomorrow, we can do it," Galvez told reporters when asked when the military can declare fighting is over. "We can declare it is totally complete," Galvez said troops are zeroing in on three sons of Isnil Hapilon, the slain "emir" of Islamic State in Southeast Asia, and two Malaysians, including Amin Baco, who has been central to facilitating the movement of foreign fighters in the region. "We cannot say our mission is totally accomplished or completed if the five persons are still there," he said, adding the remaining militants are "struggling to survive" and to protect their shrinking position.

Another general said they were also looking for a prominent Indonesian militant. The military is concerned Hapilon's sons and these foreign fighters could succeed core leaders of the alliance killed this week. Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute were killed by commandoes on Monday. Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, who experts say may have funded the Marawi siege, was also dead, according to a freed hostage, but his body has yet to be found.

The defense ministry said yesterday that forensic tests

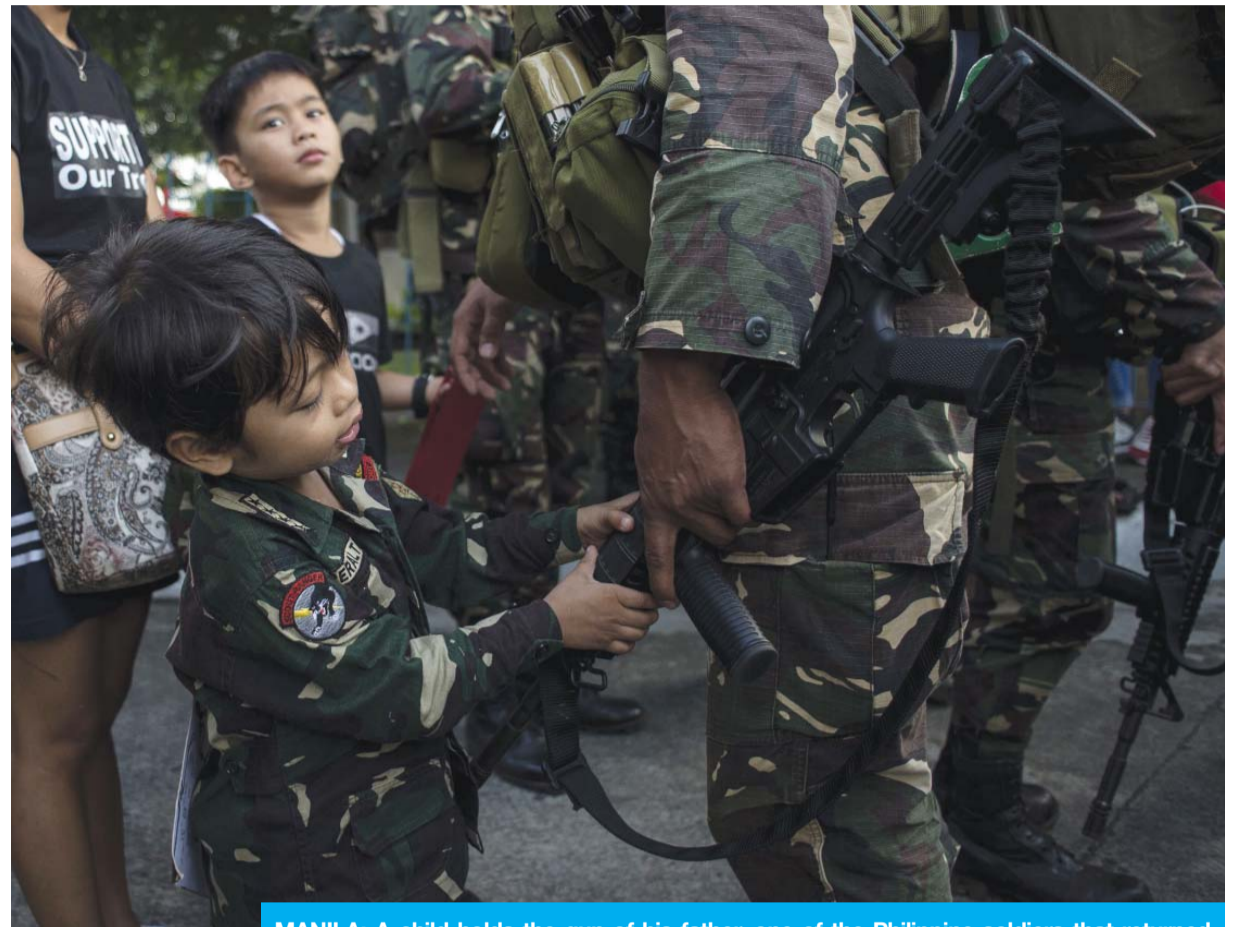
by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had confirmed that the man killed was Hapilon. The United States has provided technical support to treaty ally the Philippines, including surveillance drones. The deaths of the leaders could slow down any effort by Islamic State to establish a presence in Mindanao, a vast island with a history of rebellion and home to the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's Muslim minority.

The organization and combat capability of the rebels has stunned the military. Some experts see the siege as a prelude to a more ambitious bid by Islamic State loyalists to exploit Mindanao's poverty and use its jungles and mountains as a base to train, recruit and launch attacks in the region. Galvez, head of the Western Mindanao Command, inspected troops in Marawi and sent off a battalion of marines central to military operations. It was the second unit to leave the conflict area.

The military declined to divulge the number of troops remaining in Marawi. Elite commandoes were leading the assault, with army infantry battalions and police commandoes securing safe areas. The military said eleven hostages were "processed" yesterday to determine whether they were really captives or militant members and sympathizers trying to slip away. Galvez said rehabilitation, including retrieval of the dead, would start after the end of hostilities is declared. The Philippines estimates the rebuilding of areas battered by months of government air strikes could cost at least 50 billion Philippine pesos (\$971 million). — Reuters



High-value targets among about 20 rebels remaining



MANILA: A child holds the gun of his father, one of the Philippine soldiers that returned from Marawi, at Villamor Airbase in Manila. — AFP

Abe heads to poll in a pole position

TOKYO: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday vowed to protect the Japanese people as he wrapped up an election campaign dominated by threats from North Korea. Polls show Abe and his conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are clear favorites to win today's election, handing him a fresh mandate for his hardline stance on North Korea and "Abenomics" growth strategy. Abe's coalition is on track to win around 300 seats in the 465-seat lower house of parliament, according to a projection published by the Nikkei daily. If the polls are correct, 63-year-old Abe is on course to be the longest-serving premier in post-war Japan, the world's third-biggest economy and key US ally in Asia.

"It has been a very tough election," Abe told crowds that braved the rain in central Japan, as a typhoon barreled towards the country. "The ruling bloc... is the one that can protect people's lives and defend our happy way of life," he said, in a clear reference to North Korea, which has threatened to "sink" Japan into the sea and fired two missiles over the country. Abe has stuck to a hawkish stance on North Korea, stressing that maximum pressure should be exerted on the regime and backing the US line that "all options" are on the table. Throughout the short 12-day campaign, the premier has railed against Pyongyang, telling a crowd recently: "At a time like this... we cannot waver. Everyone, we must not yield to the threat of North Korea!"

Abe enjoys only lukewarm public support but the weak and fragmented opposition has been unable to make inroads into his poll lead during the short 12-day campaign. The two main opposition parties—the "Party of Hope" created by the media-savvy Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and the new centre-left Constitutional Democratic Party—are trailing far behind, predicted to win around 50 seats each. "You must not stick to the status quo of flaccid politics, which has failed to carry out drastic and necessary reforms," Koike said in a last-ditch appeal to voters yesterday. "If we do not use this opportunity (to oust Abe), major reforms that are truly needed will be delayed," she said.



TOKYO: Supporters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party display posters while waiting for Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to arrive for his last stumping tour for the October 22 general election. — AFP

'Koike's gambit'

Aside from North Korea, many voters regard the economy and reforming the costly social security system as their priority concerns, as Abe has not quite fully revived the once world-beating Japanese economy after five years in power. Abe says his trademark "Abenomics" strategy of ultra-loose monetary policy and big fiscal spending is the best way to pep up the economy, which is weighed down by debt and struggling with deflation. He has also pledged to use part of the proceeds from a planned sales tax hike to fund free childcare in a bid to get more women into the workplace. Koike wants to scrap the tax hike, arguing it would throttle a recovery that has seen Japan's longest stretch of growth in a decade.

But after a blaze of publicity when Koike created her new "Party of Hope", the bubble appears to have burst for the popular 65-year-old former newscaster, partly because she declined to run herself for prime minister. "Every party has to have, to be credible, a candidate for

prime minister and she would have been it but then she walked away and it is a ship that suddenly has no captain," Michael Cucek from Temple University said. Another brand-new party, the centre-left Constitutional Democrats, appears to have some momentum going into the poll and could do better than expected.

With little suspense over the overall outcome, the main tension is over whether Abe and his junior coalition partner Komeito will retain their two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament. This is significant because it would enable Abe to propose changes to the US-imposed Constitution, which effectively limits the military to a self-defence role and forces Japan to "renounce war". One less predictable factor in the election is the weather as a typhoon spirals towards Japan, expected to dump heavy rains on most of the country on polling day. This could weigh on turnout, with a lower participation rate seen as beneficial for Abe, whose supporters are more committed. — AFP

Communism is 'beyond' them, but the Chinese still flock to the party

BEIJING: Marx might struggle to recognize his heirs among the billionaires, skyscrapers and stock exchanges of modern China. But as the country's ruling Communist Party meets for its twice-a-decade congress this week, it boasts an 89 million-strong membership that still attracts people motivated by ideology—and self-interest.

"When I was younger, in the 1960s, we were told in school that being in the party signified being someone good," 53-year-old Liu Shimin, a former employee at a state-owned enterprise and long-standing party member said. "At the time, you would join it to stand up for socialism." "Today, the ideological side of it is a little beyond me. Communism is so vague, no one can say if it will come true." The Chinese Communist Party was clandestinely founded in 1921 by about a dozen revolutionaries in Shanghai.

Since coming to power in 1949, the CCP has survived near-destruction during the decade of the Cultural Revolution—which regime founder Mao Zedong launched

against his own cadres—and sweeping pro-market economic reforms. Throughout, Chinese people have continued to join the CCP in great numbers, with today's membership making it one of the largest political organizations in the world, alongside India's Bharatiya Janata Party. The Communist Party's membership comprises 6.5 percent of China's population of almost 1.4 billion people. But young recruits do not hide their intentions. They join the party not only to participate in national development, but also out of their own self-interest.

Joining the 'elite'

"At first, I never imagined joining the CCP. I only started thinking about it after university, when I had to find a job," said Xiao Wei, a 30-year-old Beijinger. Xiao is employed by the CCP in a residential area. Her work includes relaying instructions: organizing public campaigns on fire safety, the environment and health matters; and putting party slogans on display. "To be a civil servant or work in a state enterprise,



BEIJING: This combo shows several ranks of security during the Communist Party's 19th Congress in Beijing yesterday. From a volunteer, a security guard, a policeman in uniform and plain clothes and military guards. — AFP

it's almost obligatory to be in the party," Xiao said. "It's like a diploma. It opens doors." Not just anyone can join: candidates must apply or be recommended, most often by a university professor or their company's party cell.

Then, a long selection process begins: courses, dissertations, exams, interviews and a probationary period. At the end, the CCP chooses candidates based on their

high education level, political reliability, or ability to bring something extra to the table. Some are flattered to have received an invitation to join—recognition that they belong to the "elite". "Today, some join the party to enter the civil service, to have a better job or to gain respectability. There's no doubt about it," prominent pundit Sima Nan told AFP in front of a portrait of Mao hung in his spacious Beijing apartment. — AFP

High fives, bows: electioneering and Japan style

TOKYO: From campaign mini-vans staffed by "warbler birds" to "gutter lid" politics, a Japanese election has many quirks. Here are five good ways to win votes in the world's number three economy:

He who bows, wins

To an outsider, Japanese bow a lot at the best of times and rarely more often or deeper than when politicians are looking for votes. Campaigners bob up and down in campaign speeches, seeking to demonstrate the proper democratic deference towards voters. And when the big boss comes to town, there's no limit to the back-breaking amount of bowing. A 41-year-old candidate who had the good fortune to have Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stump for him took to bowing deeply every time his name was mentioned. But few took it as far as Mayuko Toyota, who was forced to resign after an audio tape emerged of her violently attacking a male secretary. She decided to run anyway as a candidate but took to standing outside a station every day, bowing deeply to commuters in apology.

Beer crates, sake, tuna

To project an image of humility towards the voters, many candidates in Japan improvise a stage to make their campaign stump speeches. Yukio Edano, 53, leader of the new centre-left Constitutional Democratic Party, stood on two overturned beer crates to address supporters. Abe himself chose to make his first campaign speech in the middle of a bucolic field in the eastern province of Fukushima, brandishing a locally made sake bottle in one hand and a microphone in the other. A few days later, he switched to seafood, drawing cheers from a crowd in a fishing port every time he mentioned the local canned tuna.

Warbler birds

An inescapable feature of an election in Japan are the so-called "warbler birds". These are employed from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to travel around constituencies in a mini-van with loudspeakers, endlessly repeating candidates' names and pleading voters to plump for them. Parties pay good money for the services of the "warbler birds"—so named after their melodious voices—up to 15,000 yen (\$133) per day under election law. The job is mainly done by women, but men can also be employed—in which case they are known as "crows". And this being Japan, one of the world's politest countries, in between stumping for a candidate, the warbler birds apologize for making such a racket.

High fives, handshakes

A veteran Japanese politician Shigeru Ishiba once said: "You get the same amount of votes as the number of hands you have shaken." This has given rise to a campaign strategy called "dobuita", or "gutter lids", which means candidates try to visit every corner of a district, as if they were stepping on every gutter. Political blue-blood Abe is by no means above this, rushing from his prime ministerial car to grab supporters' hands and touring every corner of Japan to drum up votes.

Bags of cash

Running for office in Japan costs a lot of money. It is often said that candidates must have "kaban"—a Japanese word which means "a bag" but in this case implies a bag filled with money. Candidates running in seats decided by proportional representation have to stump up a deposit of as much as six million yen (more than \$50,000). They get the cash back if they win a certain number of votes but otherwise the electoral commission keeps it. There is an upper limit on campaign expenses — 19.1 million yen plus 15 yen for every voter in the constituency. — AFP

Analysis

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Washington Watch

This fight isn't over

By Dr James J Zogby

Having come through a difficult 2016 primary campaign and a hotly contested 2017 race for party chair, what Democrats desperately need is to unify their ranks to confront the challenges they will face in the 2018 mid-term elections and beyond. What happened over the last three days of Democratic National Committee (DNC) meetings not only didn't contribute to unity, it added to our division. It hasn't been an easy three days.

There were a few personal setbacks. The new chair removed me and a few other colleagues from the party's executive committee. What we all had in common was that, earlier this year, we had been supporters of the losing candidate in the contest for chair. To make matters worse, someone started an ugly rumor that attempted to implicate me and two of my close associates from the Sanders' campaign in an effort to challenge the presence of three prominent African American women who had just been nominated to serve on the Democratic National Committee.

Both the removals and the rumors were not only wrong and hurtful, they were political blunders in that they deepened divisions and became negative news stories that cast a pall over the proceedings. The removals were referred to as a "purge". And even though the rumors, which had been cast as a fight between Sanders and Clinton loyalists, were debunked, they still left a bad taste in everyone's mouth.

Despite the upbeat tone of the speeches delivered by party leaders at public sessions, the reality is that Democrats face serious problems. Over the past nine years we've lost over 1,000 state legislative seats, 12 governorships, and nine seats in the Senate and 62 in the House, resulting in our loss of control of both houses of Congress. To recover from this disastrous decade of defeat, Democrats will need both a clear-headed honest assessment of the reasons for these losses and we will need all hands on deck.

Dialogue and Compromise

In all the years I've worked on controversial and contentious issues, I've learned that dialogue and compromise are essential ingredients for unity and progress. As a first step to secure this needed unity, Democrats must make a determined effort to engage supporters of both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Dismissing or ignoring this imperative can be fatal. The two camps are real and the wounds left from the 2016 contest are still open sores. The charge made by Clinton during her recent book tour that Sanders cost her the election only served to fan the fires of division. And the hostility in evidence on social media is pouring gasoline on these fires.

Neither side will eliminate the other. Both must find a way to engage in civil discourse and work toward finding common purpose. This is why I was delighted to accept Sanders' invitation to become part of his team working with Clinton's team on the Democratic Party's Unity and Reform Commission (URC). And this was why I was pleased to pass a resolution at this DNC meeting calling on all sides to engage in civil discourse.

Our goals on the URC are to work for reform in presidential selection process and party operations. We have sought to make both the electoral process and the party more inclusive, transparent, accountable, and democratic. We believe that if we can find consensus on these reforms, we can help make the party stronger, more unified, and ultimately better positioned to win.

Given this ongoing effort to unify, the decision to remove some of us from our posts and to then spread false rumors designed to drive a deep wedge between Sanders and Clinton supporters can only be seen as a distasteful and disappointingly short-sighted.

On a personal note, of course, I'm upset to have been removed from the executive committee and my chairmanship of the party's resolution committee. I've been on the former for 17 years and the latter for 12. But I retain my seat on the Democratic National Committee, where I've been a member for 26 years. And I am still a member of the Resolutions Committee and the URC.

I won't walk away from the challenges we now face for two reasons. First and foremost, I can't leave because it's too important that we win this fight. Jesse Jackson once told me "don't ever quit, that's what they want you to do. If the fight is worth having, then stick around and fight."

The other reason I'll keep fighting is because as an Arab American, I know the pain of exclusion. I had to fight to get into this party and secure a place for my community. All through the 1980s, the Democratic Party wouldn't accept Arab Americans. When Jackson first secured a DNC post for me, party leaders balked. It wasn't until 1993 that I secured a position on the DNC. When I was elected to the executive committee in 2001, I became the first and only Arab American to serve on that body. I know what challenges now lay before us and despite the temporary setbacks I am committed to stick around. I've known exclusion and I know how to fight back. This isn't over, by a long shot. The stakes are too high.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

PAST US PRESIDENTS
TAKE AIM AT TRUMP

Echoes of Mao: Party fawns over 'Xi thought'

As the Chinese Communist Party gathers for its most defining congress in decades, a new catchphrase is echoing through Beijing's cavernous Great Hall of the People: Xi Jinping's "new era thought". The catchphrase is being reverentially uttered by almost every one of the more than 2,300 delegates to the five-yearly congress - from the country's premier right down to village secretaries. It is more than mere lip service. Next week, the CCP's general secretary may have his name - and signature ideology - inscribed in the party's constitution - symbolizing his elevation to the pinnacle of Chinese power.

Currently, the document names only two Chinese luminaries: Modern China founder Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, the architect of the country's economic reforms. Xi's predecessors, Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, both had their own ideas written into the constitution, but without their names attached and only at the end of their respective 10-year terms. Xi, who is expected to earn a second term as the party's chief by the end of the congress, is set to get the same honor after only five years.

The new concept's full name, as reported by the official Xinhua news service, is a mouthful: "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era". Xi's six comrades in China's all-powerful seven-member Politburo Standing Committee extolled the concept during the congress, according to Xinhua reports Thursday and Friday. The new thought is "an important component" of Chinese socialism, Premier Li Keqiang told a panel Thursday, according to Xinhua. Zhang Dejiang, the head of China's rubber-stamp congress, called it "the biggest highlight" of the congress "and a historic contribution to the Party's development".

Guns, money and spelling: Tackling racism in New Orleans

After graduating from the prestigious Stanford University, Andrea Chen was shocked when she started teaching in New Orleans: seventeen-year-olds couldn't spell the word "dog" and were on edge a year after a gunman burst into their school and shot four students. Then Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, flooding 80 percent of the Louisiana city, famed for its Mardi Gras. Some 1,500 people died and 130,000 were displaced, with the poor and African Americans worst hit.

Chen resolved to do more to fight inequality and poverty in the city, where six out of ten residents are African American. "How did we get to a point where students had to go to a school like that? And what happened that they couldn't read in the tenth and eleventh grade?" asked 35-year-old Chen. "Our analysis was that it was structural racism that was feeding every single thing." And so Propeller was born: a business that funds and supports entrepreneurs in New Orleans working to tackle disparities in education, health, food and water.

Based in a 10,000 sq ft incubator building, which used to be a tyre and rim shop, Propeller offers a work and meeting space for the city's social entrepreneurs, or businesses seeking to have a positive impact. It has helped more than 130 businesses and charities since 2009 with initiatives such as coaching teachers, ensuring children receive health screenings in school, and developing vacant lots into orchards giving free produce to locals.

Black Lives Matter

Despite these successes, Chen felt she was not doing enough as statistics showed only 27 percent of businesses in New Orleans are owned by African Americans, who make up 60 percent of its population. Only 2 percent of all the money spent in the city goes through black businesses, she said, citing a

'Concentration of power'

Xi's new "thought" places a heavy emphasis on the party's role in governing every aspect of the country from the economy to what people are writing on social media. He is saying "we want to improve the quality of life, but we can only do it if we have a greater concentration of power, especially in the core leadership of the Communist Party", said Kristin Shi-Kupfer from Germany's Mercator

gress to stack the top echelons of party leadership with loyalists. But adding his name to the party's commandments would show that "he has turned the page" on Chinese history, said David Kelly, director of research at Beijing-based consultancy China Policy. "It's his assertion that 'on my watch, we became a major power,' which is something Mao could not claim," he said.

'Feeling of warmth'

While "Xi thought" may not end up in the constitution, it has certainly entered the party's vocabulary. When the concept was mentioned, eastern Zhejiang province party chief Che Jun said he was immediately filled with "a feeling of strong familiarity, warmth, and a sense of approval". At the meeting of the Tibet delegation, regional governor Qi Zhala raved about Xi's "long-term guiding ideology for our party".

Not everyone, however, appears so enamored with Xi's new thought. Hu Chunhua, party chief of the Guangdong delegation, did not mention Xi's name even once during his region's meeting. Hu, who oversees a southern economic powerhouse that includes the prosperous port of Shenzhen, has been considered a rising star within the party, with many analysts tipping him for a seat on the Politburo Standing Committee.

"In the context of so much genuflection," Kelly said, Hu's silence shows that Xi still has a long way to go before he reaches the level of adulation enjoyed by Mao. During the Cultural Revolution, "nothing could be said without invoking the Chairman. He was the Caesar and the Pope". —AFP



Xi is the most powerful leader in a generation

Institute. Its rollout is a clear signal that Xi is the most powerful leader in a generation, said Hu Xingdou, professor of economics at Beijing Institute of Technology.

The leader's rapid ascension into the party's hall of fame is because "he won the people's support through his anti-corruption campaign and at the same time consolidated power", Hu said. Xi is already expected to use the con-

report by the Urban League of Louisiana, which runs education and employment programs for African Americans. "We can work so hard and run these businesses, but if we're not actually changing the system, the outcomes that we are looking for are not going to change," Chen told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Racial discrimination has become a hot topic in the United States, with the Black Lives Matter movement protesting fatal police shootings of unarmed black men. President Donald Trump's refusal in August to condemn white-supremacist marchers in Virginia, where a protestor opposing the rally was killed, also put race issues in the spotlight. Chen said more needs to be done to change structures like the education and justice systems that disadvantage minorities.

This year, she revised Propeller's mission to focus explicitly on inequity, introducing new programs aimed at dismantling racial disparities among entrepreneurs. White households in the United States are on average 13 times wealthier than black ones, according to the Washington-based Pew Research Centre think tank. Chen enlisted the help of the Racial Equity Institute, a consultancy that trains people on racial inequity, to run more than a dozen workshops educating leaders about systemic racism to influence their work.

At the end of each session, attendees - who have included senior executives from the biotech, tourism, oil, health and education industries - commit to make changes in their workplaces. Since attending the workshop, one member of a synagogue in the city has started sessions educating the congregation on racism and white privilege. Another group that attended, the New Orleans Centre for Development and Learning, has decided to move beyond its usual remit of training teachers to push for legal reform to improve ethnic minority children's reading skills. At present 82 percent of African-American and 79 percent of Hispanic 10-year-olds in the United States are not reading proficiently according to Kids Count, which tracks the wellbeing of children in the United States. The figure for white children is 54 percent. William Snowden, a black lawyer who aims to increase the diversity of juries, joined Propeller this year after starting The Juror Project. — Reuters

Crime down but misery persists one year since Calais evacuation

For Fabien Sudry, a senior state official in the port of Calais, the evacuation of the squalid "Jungle" migrant camp 12 months ago has changed the lives of security forces and locals. The number of nightly break-ins into trucks heading for Britain has been divided by three, while intrusions at the tunnel linking France and Britain have stopped. Mass outbreaks of fighting which required police interventions have also ceased. "The pressure from migration has fallen sharply," Sudry, who as the local "prefet" is in charge of law and order, told AFP. "There are around 500 migrants today compared with 8,000 a year ago."

The mass clearance of the Jungle in October last year saw French authorities order its occupants - most of them young men from Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan or Iraq - to accommodation around France. Then the bulldozers were sent in. The move was decried as heavy-handed by some critics and activists, while pictures of the destruction were published around the world as a vivid illustration of Europe's struggle to cope with the unprecedented surge of arrivals. "I continue to think that dismantling the Jungle was a success and a model for cooperation between the state and associations," said aid worker Stephane Duval, who works for the Vie Active local association, which partnered with the state.

Controversy

The "Jungle" was the latest of a series of camps which had sprung up on the northern coast of France as a temporary home for migrants who, rather than apply for asylum in France, dreamt of reaching Britain. But after 18 months, and faced with the growing disruption at the port, an unhappy local population in Calais and criticism from the United Nations and rights groups, the then-Socialist govern-

ment decide to act. "The evacuation went very well, they (the migrants) were impatient to be accepted in France somewhere else other than here," said the head of local charity l'Auberge des Migrants, Christian Salome. Sending them to temporary accommodation and asylum centers around the country proved controversial, however, with local mayors in some towns and villages saying they had not been consulted.

A far-right major in southern France put up posters featuring the words "The state is imposing them... migrants are coming" over a picture of a crowd of dark-skinned men in front of the town's cathedral. Of the 7,400 people who left the Jungle, 42 percent have had their asylum request accepted since, 7.0 percent were rejected, while 46 percent are still waiting for a response, official figures show.

Bleak conditions

The number of arrivals in Europe has fallen sharply over the last 12 months after the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War. In 2016, a deal between the European Union and Turkey all but closed down the most popular eastern route for refugees and migrants heading towards the richest northern countries of the bloc. And a crossing point between Libya and Italy has also been restricted over recent months, with EU President Donald Tusk saying Friday that there was a "real chance" to close this central route.

In Calais, local associations put the number of migrants sleeping rough around the town at around 600-700 and they have sounded the alarm about "catastrophic" conditions. Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, who took office in the new centrist government in May, has been resolute that no camp should be allowed to spring up again, leading police to be criticized for harassing migrants and restricting the work of local charities. A few portable toilets and water taps were installed reluctantly on a road near the port, but only after the government was forced by a court order to provide basic sanitation facilities. Local associations recall a promise to build a permanent center to house refugees in Calais made by former interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve at the time the Jungle was destroyed. —AFP



Waves crash over Newhaven harbor wall on the south coast of England yesterday as Storm Brian hits the country. — AFP

Tillerson's aim is a Saudi-Iraqi...

Continued from Page 1

for decades after Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have tried in recent years to bridge their differences. Nevertheless, the relationship is still plagued by suspicion. Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Baghdad in 2015 after a quarter-century, and earlier this year unblocked long-closed border crossings. But the emergence of arch-Saudi rival Iran as a power player in Iraq continues to gnaw at Riyadh and Washington.

Iran's reported intervention in Iraq's semi-autonomous northern Kurdish region, following last month's much criticized vote for independence in a referendum, has deepened the unease. President Donald Trump wants to see "a stable Iraq, but a stable Iraq that is not aligned with Iran," H R McMaster, his national security adviser, said this past week. He suggested Saudi Arabia could play a pivotal role.

The US view is that the alternative may mean more conflict in Iraq, which endured years of insurgency after the US-led 2003 invasion and ethnic warfare when the Islamic State group rampaged across the country in 2014. "Iran is very good at pitting communities against each other," McMaster said Thursday at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "This is something they share with groups like ISIS, with Al-Qaeda. They pit

communities against each other because they use tribal and ethnic and sectarian conflicts to gain influence by portraying themselves as a patron or protector of one of the parties in the conflict and then they use that invitation to come in and to help to advance their agenda and, in Iran's case, I think is a hegemonic design."

Trump and his national security team have framed much of the Middle East security agenda around countering Iran, which they see as a malign influence that poses an existential threat to Israel and other American allies and partners in the region. They also accuse Iran of menacing the United States and its interests at home and elsewhere in the world. Shortly after taking office, Tillerson identified improving Saudi-Iraqi ties as a priority in the administration's broader policy to confront and contain Iran. Officials say he has devoted himself to the effort.

On his second official trip abroad, Tillerson in February canceled a planned "meet and greet" with staffers at the US Embassy in Mexico City to focus on the matter, according to one of the US officials. Tillerson's decision to skip that gathering was widely criticized at the time as a sign of disengagement with his employees, but the official said Tillerson adjusted plans to speak by secure telephone to Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir on the Iraq rapprochement.

Tillerson, according to the official, implored Jubeir to visit Baghdad as a sign of Saudi goodwill and commitment to the effort to defeat IS, which then still held about half of Mosul. Jubeir agreed. Two days later, he made a surprise trip to the Iraqi capital. He was the first Saudi foreign minister to do so in 27 years. — AP

Saudi oil minister makes Iraq visit...

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia and Iraq are respectively the biggest and second biggest producers of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Iraqi oil ministry said Falih and his Iraqi counterpart, Jabbar Al-Luaibi, would cooperate in implementing decisions by oil

exporting countries to curb global supply in order to lift crude prices. OPEC, Russia and several other producers agreed a pact at the start of 2017 to cut production in order to boost oil prices. The cutbacks should continue until March 2018. Falih called for increased economic cooperation between the two countries at all levels, saying Saudi Arabia is implementing measures to facilitate the flow of goods and services between the neighbors.

A Saudi commercial airplane, operated by Flynas, arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday for the first time in 27 years. In August, the two countries said they planned to open the Arar land border crossing for trade for the first time since 1990. — Reuters

54 Egypt police killed in ambush...

Continued from Page 1

Those killed included two police brigadier-generals, a colonel and 10 lieutenant colonels. Egypt's Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, announced a much lower death toll, saying in a statement read over state television that 16 were killed in the shootout. It added that 15 militants were killed or injured.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to Egyptian President Abdelattah Al-Sisi over the deaths and injuries of the policemen. In the cable, the Amir expressed Kuwait's deepest sympathy towards the fallen Egyptian security personnel, affirming that his country will stand in solidarity with Egypt against such heinous acts. Sheikh Sabah extended his condolences to the families of the deceased officers and offered wishes of swift recovery for those injured in the attack.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Sisi. A source at the Kuwaiti foreign ministry said that Kuwait stands in solidarity with the Egyptian people against such heinous acts, affirming that terrorism, in all shapes and forms, must be eradicated from existence.

The last time Egypt's security forces suffered such a heavy loss of life was in July 2015 when militants from the extremist Islamic State group carried out a series of coordinated attacks, including suicide bombings, against army and police positions in the Sinai peninsula, killing at least 50. However, the army said only 17 soldiers and over 100 militants were killed. An official statement issued yesterday said Friday's incident would be investigated, suggesting that the heavy death toll may have been partially caused by incompetence, intelligence failures or lack of

coordination. The officials said prosecutors will look into whether the police's counterterrorism agents failed to inform the military of the operation or include them.

Two audio recordings purportedly by policemen who took part in the operation circulated online late Friday. One policeman, apparently using a two-way radio, was heard in the nearly two-minute recording pleading for help from a higher-ranking officer. "We are the only ones injured, sir," the policeman said. "We were 10 but three were killed. After their injury, they bled to death, sir. They took all the weapons and ammunition," he added. "We are now at the foot of a mountain." The second recording was purportedly by a policeman warning others from proceeding forward. "I can't identify any direction. Only planes can see us. Take care every one," he was heard saying, adding that militants were pursuing them. The authenticity of the recordings could not be immediately verified.

The heavy loss of life will likely lead to the restructuring and streamlining of the country's counterterrorism effort, the officials said, with better coordination between the police, military and security agencies high on the list of objectives. It's also likely to be cited by government critics as a vindication of their long-held argument that suppressing freedoms, jailing opponents and cracking down on civil society does not, as the pro-government media insists, help in the war against terror.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore all the hallmarks of the Islamic State group. A local affiliate of the extremist group is spearheading an insurgency whose epicenter is in the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip. The United States condemned the attack in a statement issued by State Department, offering "profound condolences to the families of the deceased and the government and people of Egypt... at this difficult time."

The incident comes a few days after militants staged a brazen daylight attack in the heart of El-Arish, the largest city in the Sinai Peninsula, attacking a church and a nearby bank and reportedly making away with some \$1 million. Seven were killed in the Monday attack. — Agencies

Discover America Week builds upon...

Continued from Page 1

The United States and Kuwait also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote educational links - with the goal of increasing the already high number of Kuwaitis studying in the United States and boosting the number of exchanges between US and Kuwait academic and research institutions. It was a highly successful week, and our governments are committed to implementing all these arrangements to the benefit of both our peoples.

Discover America Week builds on the momentum created by the Amir's visit and the Strategic Dialogue. We will have seminars promoting healthcare innovation and highlighting how the US Embassy supports the local business community. The US Department of State will

co-host the International Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology and Engineering in partnership with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Several US universities will participate in the EduEx university fair, sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education, to share information about study in the USA. Over a dozen US restaurants and stores will offer special promotions. A US Air Force band will give several performances around Kuwait. These are just a few of the planned activities.

I encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at USEmbassyQ8 and our hashtag #DiscoverAmericaKWT to review the complete Discover America program and to participate in the events that interest you. These activities are a great opportunity to put a spotlight on the strong US-Kuwaiti friendship, and to explore areas that broaden and deepen our ties. I hope I will have the chance to meet you at the exciting events taking place this week. I encourage you to Discover America or, for many of you who already know our country, Rediscover America!

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Sports

Suarez to sit out Uruguay friendlies

MONTEVIDEO: Luis Suarez will play no part in Uruguay's two friendlies in Europe in November, at the request of his club Barcelona, to allow the striker to rest a nagging knee injury. Uruguay play Poland on November 10 in Warsaw before facing Austria four days later in Vienna as they begin their preparations for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. "Barcelona's medical staff are proposing a course of treatment, which will include a rest from all physical exercise and competition, for a week from November 5, to allow the player to rehabilitate his right knee," the Uruguayan Football Federation said. Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said last week Suarez had been carrying an injury to the knee since the Spanish Super Cup, but insisted that the 30-year-old player was in "perfect condition". Uruguay's team doctor Alberto Pan said Suarez "does not need" an operation, but reports in the Uruguayan press said he would need a surgical procedure to treat a cyst in his right knee. —AFP



O'Brien draws level with Frankel's top-tier record

ASCOT: Aidan O'Brien drew level with Bobby Frankel's record of 25 Group One winners in a year when the master Irish trainer sent out Hydrangea to win on British Champions Day at Ascot yesterday. The 4-1 shot's success in the Fillies and Mares Stakes came after O'Brien's Caravaggio had missed out on the record-matching feat in the Group One Sprint half an hour earlier. O'Brien typically declined to take personal credit for the achievement, instead praising his team at his Ballydoyle stables in Ireland supported by the mighty Coolmore breeding operation. "It's a credit for everyone, everyone puts in a lot of hard work, I'm so grateful to be a little link in the chain," the 48-year-old Irishman told ITV. Frankel's record has stood for 14 years, with O'Brien twice getting close, when he trained 23 winners in 2001 and 2008. O'Brien's rich harvest of winners in 2017 has included the winners of four of the five English classics with Churchill and Winter annexing the 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas, Wings of Eagles winning the Epsom Derby and Capri, his Irish Derby hero, scraping home in the St Leger. —AFP

Goerges ends 6-year title wait with victory at Kremlin

MOSCOW: Germany's Julia Goerges clinched a career third WTA title with a straight-sets romp over Daria Kasatkina of Russia in the final of the Kremlin Cup yesterday. The seventh-seeded German prevailed 6-1, 6-2 in one hour six minutes to chalk up her third victory over the 20-year-old Kasatkina in their fifth head-to-head meeting. "I just feel amazing," Goerges said on court after the match. "I've been working hard for this moment, I'm so happy and so emotional right now. "But at the same time it means a lot for me that I can share this moment with Dasha (Kasatkina). "It was my second year here and I must say that I had a great time here last year regardless of my result. And I will come here next year to defend my title." —AFP



Australia withstand late charge to stun All Blacks in Brisbane thriller

Australia fought back to claim a physical victory over the All Blacks

BRISBANE: Australia withstood a furious late charge to upset New Zealand 23-18 in a pulsating Bledisloe Cup match yesterday, piercing a fresh hole in the world champions' aura of invincibility. Reece Hodge's monster, 53-metre penalty just before the final whistle sealed victory for the Wallabies, who celebrated just their second win in 19 games against their exalted neighbours.

After trailing by one point at half-time, Australia fought back to claim a physical victory over the All Blacks, scoring three tries to two in a high-quality match. New Zealand, who had already retained the Bledisloe Cup after winning the opening two games during the Rugby Championship, dominated early and seemed certain to make it a clean sweep in Brisbane.

But the Wallabies, wearing a specially designed jersey to honour Australia's indigenous players, dug deep in the second half to take the lead before holding off the visitors' trademark late surge. "At half-time we said this game is going to come down to the last few minutes," Australian coach Michael Cheika said.

"You're not going to defeat the world champions with 20 minutes to go-it just doesn't happen." "We had some setbacks before that, but we also made some key plays." The Wallabies had come agonisingly close to ending their run of defeats against New Zealand when they conceded a late converted try to lose 35-29 in Dunedin in August. But they stood firm to hand a second defeat of the season to the All Blacks, who will be going for their third straight World Cup title in two years' time in Japan.

Cheika said he wasn't getting carried away with the win. "I've always got it in the back of my mind is our duty is to bring back the trophy, which we haven't done," he said.

"As enjoyable as the win was, the disappointment of not winning the cup still resonates with me." Although New Zealand have retained their Rugby Championship and Bledisloe Cup titles this year, they also drew their three-Test series with the British and Irish Lions and haven't exerted the same dominance of recent years. As well as their last-gasp win over Australia in August, they trailed Argentina in the second half in New Plymouth and beat South Africa by a single point this month in Cape Town.

"They deserved the win," All Blacks coach Steve Hansen conceded. "They worked hard and put us under pressure as well. "Hopefully they kick on and have a great northern tour."

FIRST BLOW

Slippery conditions in Brisbane meant both sides made plenty of errors, particularly early in the match. The home side were put under huge pressure early on as the visitors controlled the match with some superb tactical kicking. However, it was the Wallabies who struck first when New Zealand flyhalf Lima Sopoaga had the ball knocked from his grasp straight into the arms of Australian winger Hodge, who raced 70 metres to score under the posts.

The All Blacks hit back 15 minutes into the first half when an unmarked Waisake Naholo crossed in the corner. Sopoaga converted from out wide to level the scores, then put the All Blacks ahead 10-7 with a 46-metre penalty. The New Zealand flyhalf, starting in

“Not winning the cup still resonates with me”



BRISBANE: Ryan Crotty of New Zealand's All Blacks (2nd L) loses the ball as Michael Hooper of Australia's Wallabies tackles during the Bledisloe Cup international rugby match between Australia and New Zealand at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. —AFP

place of the injured Beauden Barrett, kicked his second penalty when the otherwise outstanding Wallabies flanker Jack Dempsey was caught offside in front of the posts. The All Blacks continued to look the more dangerous, but right on half-time Australia finally enjoyed some possession in the New Zealand 22 and fullback Israel Folau ghosted through the defence to score his seventh try in nine Test matches in Brisbane.

Bernard Foley missed the conversion as the visitors went into the break 13-12 up, and he also miscued a penalty attempt 10 minutes into the second half from 38 metres on the left. But six minutes later, Australian captain Michael Hooper turned down an easier penalty

attempt and opted to kick for touch. The Wallabies spun the ball wide after a rolling maul sucked in the New Zealand defenders and Marika Koroibete crossed in the corner. Foley couldn't convert but the Wallabies were well on top and Hodge extended their lead to 20-13 with a penalty from almost 40 metres out with 15 minutes remaining.

But the All Blacks came storming back and after a superb Sonny Bill Williams offload, Reiko Ioane crossed out wide to make it 20-18 with nine minutes remaining. However, there was to be no last hurrah for the All Blacks this time around as Hodge thumped his late, long penalty over the sticks to seal victory. —AFP



Al Sayer unveils 2018 Lexus LX S

Ultimate premium SUV with an amazing sports package

KUWAIT: Since inception Lexus has dared to be different, dedicated to craftsmanship and consistently looking forward to be a luxury lifestyle brand. In line with this futuristic direction Al Sayer has announced the arrival of 2018 LX S - the iconic luxury SUV with sports package.

Leading the Way Combining Sumptuous Luxury with True Off-Road Capability

The Lexus LX represents a new paradigm of automotive perfection and reflects the evolution of this iconic vehicle to offer next generation luxury, technology and elegance. Through powerfully elegant design, premium tech-loaded interior, unparalleled

performance and safety technologies, it is one of the most respected SUV's in the region.

LX S - Top of the World Experience

Unique sporty features including stylish front and rear spoilers, a revamped spindle grill and sporty foot rests and pedals, combined with all the luxury touches means this is a drive of amazing uniqueness and excellence.

Key LX Specs:

- 5.7L V8 engine
- 8 speed AT
- LSS+ Safety Package

- Off-road capabilities (KDSS, Crawl Control, Multi Terrain Select)
- 19 Mark Levinson speakers

The Lexus LX is forged for those seeking that special combination of unparalleled off-road performance and luxurious daily driving. With a powerful V8 engine, sophisticated 4WD chassis and seating for seven, the LX 570 remains one of the few luxury utility vehicles that combines sumptuous luxury with brute performance, providing a silken-smooth ride along with the capability to venture where few others can - all while surrounded in unsurpassed interior comfort and refinement. The result, unsurprisingly, is a driving experience taken to new heights.



Sports

Ball flirts with triple-double, Lakers hold on to beat Suns

Curry, Thompson, Durant lead Warriors past Pelicans

PHOENIX: Lonzo Ball had 29 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists in his second NBA game to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 132-130 win over the Phoenix Suns on Friday. Ball made only one shot and scored three points in his NBA debut on Wednesday, a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers. But Ball turned it on Friday, shooting 12 of 27 from the field and barely missing his first triple-double. T.J. Warren had a chance to tie the game with 1.2 seconds left and the Suns down by two. But he missed the first free throw, purposely missed the second, grabbed his own rebound but shot an air ball as time expired. Brandon Ingram had 25 points and Brook Lopez had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers.



Warren had a chance to tie the game

Phoenix, then continued its solid play in Bankers Life Fieldhouse. Evan Turner added 17 points for the Trail Blazers, and Damian Lillard finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. Al-Farouq Aminu added 16 points and 16 rebounds.

CELTICS 102, 76ERS 92

Kyrie Irving scored seven of his 21 points in a game-ending 18-8 run as short-handed Boston earned its first victory of the season. Al Horford added 17 points and nine rebounds for Boston, which lost newly acquired

forward Gordon Hayward, likely for the season, to a dislocated left ankle and fractured tibia in Tuesday's opener in Cleveland. The Celtics (1-2) were also without starting guard Marcus Smart, who sprained both ankles in Wednesday's home opener to Milwaukee, and forward Marcus Morris, who is out with a knee injury. J.J. Redick scored 19 points for the Sixers (0-2). Joel Embiid had 11 points and 14 rebounds, but missed his first eight shots and finished 4 of 16 from the floor. Rookie Ben Simmons had 11 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

WIZARDS 115, PISTONS 111

Otto Porter scored 28 points and John Wall had 26 points and 10 assists as Washington improved to 2-0. Bradley Beal finished with 25 points as the Wizards held on after letting a 15-point fourth-quarter lead slip away. Reggie Jackson scored 21 points and Avery Bradley had 18 for Detroit (1-1). Detroit center Andre Drummond had nine points and 12 rebounds before fouling out with 9:15 remaining with his team trailing 98-83. The Pistons immediately rallied with a 14-0 run and eventually took the lead at 104-102. Washington responded with a 9-2 run to regain the lead.

NETS 126, MAGIC 121

D'Angelo Russell scored six of his 17 points down the stretch as Brooklyn withstood a career-high 41 points from Nikola Vucevic to win its home opener. Russell made 8 of 16 shots after getting 30 points in his Brooklyn debut Wednesday in Indiana. He converted a crossover layup and then executed a nifty foul line jumper while being



PHOENIX: Lonzo Ball #2 of the Los Angeles Lakers and Mike James #55 of the Phoenix Suns battle for a loose ball during the second half of the NBA game at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona. — AFP

defended by D.J. Augustin with 83 seconds left for a 119-116 lead. DeMarre Carroll also scored 17 and grabbed eight rebounds for the Nets.

HORNETS 109, HAWKS 91

Kemba Walker scored 26 points and Dwight Howard torched his former team for 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Charlotte rallied from a 20-point deficit to win. The Hornets trailed 40-20 with 8:52 left in the second quarter, but closed the gap to 56-49 at halftime and then dominated the second half with a 24-0 run in the third quarter. They outscored Atlanta 35-17 in the period. The Hawks (1-1) were led by Dennis Schroder with 25 points.

TIMBERWOLVES 100, JAZZ 97

Andrew Wiggins scored 21 points and Karl-Anthony

Towns had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota Timberwolves in a nail-biting win over Utah. Jimmy Butler added 13 points for Minnesota, which overcame 26 turnovers and was just 7 of 22 from 3-point territory. Jamal Crawford provided the big closing flurry with 17 points, all in the fourth quarter. His 3-pointer with 27.5 seconds left was the key shot of the game.

KINGS 93, MAVERICKS 88

George Hill poured in 21 points Friday night to lead Sacramento to the road win. The key basket came when Hill grabbed an offensive rebound and scored to put the Kings (1-1) ahead 91-86 with 16.4 seconds remaining. Harrison Barnes paced the Mavericks (0-2) with 24 points. The Mavs played without rookie point guard Dennis Smith Jr., who has a left knee effusion. — Reuters

CAVALIERS 116, BUCKS 97

LeBron James scored 24 points and Kevin Love recorded his second double-double of the season as Cleveland spoiled Milwaukee's home opener. James, who admitted earlier in the week that he still wasn't fully recovered from a left ankle injury that limited him to one preseason game, played 37 minutes and hit 10 of 16 shots while dishing out eight assists. Love had 17 points with 12 rebounds while Kyle Korver also finished with 17, hitting 5 of 6 of his 3-point attempts.

TRAIL BLAZERS 114, PACERS 96

C.J. McCollum returned from a one-game suspension to score 28 points as Portland improved to 2-0 on the road to open the season. Portland (2-0) opened its season Wednesday night with a dominating 124-76 victory at

Super Bowl rematch doesn't have a real super look

NEW YORK: The rematch of the Super Bowl with a historic finish doesn't have much of a super look right now. The Patriots are 4-2 and have not cruised in any game, mainly because of a leaky defense. The Falcons are 3-2 and easily could have one win. Still, NBC must be salivating to have Tom Brady vs. Matt Ryan, particularly with both teams vulnerable when they don't have the ball.

And, of course, each side has memories - joyful and painful - of New England's rally from a 25-point second-half hole to win the championship in February. "Well, I mean those games, they live with you the rest of your life - the wins and the losses," Brady says. "I mean, I think there's obviously 18 years for me. ... There's probably some games early in my career in the middle of October that I don't really remember that well, but I would say the Super Bowl ones you always remember pretty well. "I mean, there was a lot on the line. You know, it's just the reality of it. As players, you hope you're in that position. You'd rather be in that game than not be in that game, win or lose. It's great to win and it stinks to lose, but that's playing sports." Atlanta comes off blowing a 17-point lead and losing at home to Miami. New England was down 14-0 at the Jets before rallying to win. "We obviously haven't played as well as we're capable of through five games," Ryan says. "But we're certainly close. We've done a lot of really good things at times."

The weekend began with the Oakland Raiders' 31-30 comeback victory over the visiting Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night. Derek Carr threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree on the final play after the game was extended by two straight defensive holding calls. With their season on the line following the recent slump, Carr led an 85-yard touchdown drive in the final 2:25 to give the Raiders (3-4) the thrilling comeback win that snapped a four-game losing streak.

Carr finished 29 for 52 for 417 yards and three touchdowns, with Amari Cooper catching 11 passes for 210 yards and two of the scores. The Chiefs (5-2) lost consecutive games for the first time since Oct. 11-18, 2015, and saw their 12-game winning streak in the AFC West snapped. Off this week are Houston and Detroit, both 3-3. Washington (3-2) at Philadelphia (5-1), Monday night for the NFC East lead. Yes, you hard that correctly. The Eagles have been a revelation this season, with the best record in the NFC. They already have a win at Washington and bring the top-ranked rush defense into this prime-time. But, coincidentally, the Redskins have more road wins (42) vs. the Eagles than

any other opponent. They are getting strong performances from QB Kirk Cousins and an underrated defense led by Ryan Kerrigan. Philly already is 2-0 in the division and can take solid control with a win.

DENVER (3-2) AT LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (2-4)

After four losses, most of them in close decisions, the Chargers have won two straight. With the Dodgers still playing, it's unlikely many Angelinos will notice if the Bolts win again. Denver, which beat LA in the opener, has the NFL's top-ranked defense. The Broncos have won 11 of the past 13 meetings with the Chargers. Of note: Broncos offensive coordinator Mike McCoy has his second meeting with the Chargers since getting fired as their coach. New Chargers head coach Anthony Lynn won two Super Bowls as a Broncos running back and served as assistant coach in Denver from 2000-02.

ARIZONA (3-3) VS. LOS ANGELES RAMS (4-2) AT LONDON

Cheers, Adrian. Welcome back to London. Adrian Peterson made this journey with the Saints on Oct. 1. Then he was dealt to Arizona, which lost its star running back, David Johnson, in the opener. So now the Cardinals play across the pond, though in Twickenham rather than Wembley. "It's definitely different," Cardinals quarterback Carson Palmer says of having Peterson behind him. "Adrian is one of one. There's nobody in the league like him right now, that runs the ball the way he does. Any time you add somebody who's that special or that unique, it changes things." The Rams don't want to change much of anything. One of the NFL's surprise squads under first-year coach Sean McVay - the youngest in league history at 31 - the Rams are 3-0 on the road for the first time since 2001.

NEW ORLEANS (3-2) AT GREEN BAY (4-2)

No Drew Brees-Aaron Rodgers matchup here, with A-Rod out with a collarbone injury. Brees is up to old tricks with his accuracy and finding the end zone, and he excels vs. Green Bay. New Orleans has won three straight. It won't help the Packers that their secondary is banged up - why does this team always seem to have so many injuries? - or that Brett Hundley makes his first career start behind center.

BALTIMORE (3-3) AT MINNESOTA (4-2) Minnesota has to be thinking big thoughts with Rodgers down in Green Bay. The first step for the Vikings is to not



ARLINGTON: This file photo taken on October 07, 2017 shows Aaron Rodgers (R) of the Green Bay Packers about to be tackled by DeMarcus Lawrence (L) of the Dallas Cowboys in the third quarter of a football game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. — AFP

stumble against the inconsistent Ravens. Joe Flacco is having a miserable time and ranks 31st in passer ratings. Baltimore's offense doesn't make enough big plays, and the Vikings' defense leads the NFL in third downs, surrendering 18 of 72 conversions for a league-low 25 percent. The sides have met only five times, but the previous one was a doozy. They combined for an NFL-record five touchdowns in the final 125 seconds in Baltimore as the Ravens won 29-26.

TAMPA BAY (2-3) AT BUFFALO (3-2)

Only the second time the Bucs have played at Orchard Park. They come off what could have been one of their worst defeats until they set franchise records by scoring 33 points in the second half and 27 in the fourth quarter against Arizona despite losing. The Bills must find a way to spring loose LeSean McCoy, and the Bucs are ranked 12th in rushing defense; they are only 31st against the pass. In nine seasons, McCoy has never started a season without a TD through five games. He hasn't topped 80 yards rushing since gaining 110 in a season-opening win over the Jets. He can take some solace in this: Tampa allowed Peterson to rush for 134 yards and two TDs last week in his Arizona debut.

CINCINNATI (2-3) AT PITTSBURGH (4-2)

The Bungle has become Bengals again, winning two in a row after dropping their first three. This, however, is a tough spot for Cincinnati: The Steelers have won seven of the past eight meetings between the AFC North rivals, including the past three. Pittsburgh has won all nine of the most recent October games against Cincinnati. Since Bill Lazor was promoted to offensive

coordinator for the third game of the season, Andy Dalton has come alive. In his past three outings, Dalton has seven TDs and two tipped interceptions for a passer rating of 116.2. But he's also 3-9 against the Steelers with 13 TDs, 11 INTs and a 76.5 passer rating. Pittsburgh marched into Kansas City and handed the Chiefs their first loss in a defensive showcase.

CAROLINA (4-2) AT CHICAGO (2-4)

Bears coach John Fox once took the Panthers to the Super Bowl. Panthers coach Ron Rivera played nine seasons for the Bears and later worked as their defensive coordinator. Both teams have shown some strength on defense. Carolina ranking fourth, Chicago sixth. Veteran DE Julius Peppers has 61/2 sacks in six games since his return to Carolina; he is a former Bear. Chicago's two-pronged running attack of Jordan Howard and Tarik Cohen could determine this one. Cohen last week also became the first Bears rookie RB to throw a TD pass since Gale Sayers.

TENNESSEE (3-3) AT CLEVELAND (0-6)

It just gets uglier and uglier for the Browns, who return to rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer after benching him last week. The Browns are 1-21 under coach Hue Jackson, though they seem to have a gem in top overall draft pick Myles Garrett. The defensive end has three sacks in two games after being sidelined by an ankle injury. Watching Titans QB Marcus Mariota have to stay in the pocket because of a balky hamstring figured to be painful for the team's fans. But he looked strong, especially in the fourth quarter, when Tennessee scored 21 points to beat Indianapolis. — AP

NBK annual walkathon 'We're stronger... with every step'

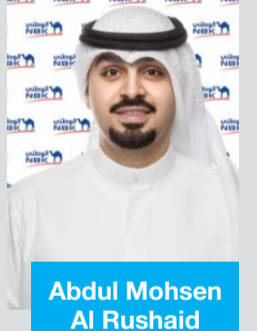
KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the launch of its 23rd Annual Walkathon titled "We're Stronger... With Every Step" that will be held on the 9th December 2017. Participants can register for this event starting from the 22nd of October, 2017 online, through NBKWalkathon.com. Online applicants can receive their assigned T-shirt and number at the NBK's registration point beside the Scientific Center on the Gulf Road in Salmiya starting from Thursday 23rd of November 2017 until Thursday 7th of December 2017. The number for each participant will contain a step-counting chip.

NBK will be giving away two new Renault cars from Al Babtain Group as the grand prizes during the Walkathon along with many other valuable prizes. Referees assigned by the Kuwait Amateur Athletic Federation (KAAF) will be present to arbitrate the race. The first ten winners from each category will be rewarded with valuable cash prizes. "As part of the bank's dedication to corporate social responsibility, NBK regularly supports events which encourage healthier lifestyle for members of the community", said Abdul Mohsen Al Rushaid, NBK Public Relations Executive Manager. "NBK's annual walkathon event is a major component of the bank's corporate social responsibility program. Over the years, it has garnered huge success and public recognition as being one of the much awaited and anticipated nationwide health and entertainment-related activity." "NBK looks forward to welcoming participants and giving away many exciting prizes. The Walkathon event will host various functions, activities and competitions", Al Rushaid added.

Ten winners will be selected from each category of participants. The walk for both the female and male participants will start from the Green Island on the Gulf Road to the Shuwaikh Beach Park, parallel to the Gulf Road, next to KPC building for a distance of 11 Km.

For the first time this year, NBK initiated a new racing category for participants aged 60 years old and above to encourage a healthier lifestyle among all members of the society. NBK strongly supports sporting events and encourages sporting activities as means to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for members of the community. Throughout the years, NBK also organized several social awareness programs including educational, environmental, health and many other active initiatives.

For more information, visit NBK's page on Facebook at NBK Official Page or follow NBK on Twitter and Instagram @NBKGroup.



Abdul Mohsen Al Rushaid

Sports

Kuwaiti women excel in strong competition in Crown Prince tourney

Skeet shooter Sheikha Al-Rasheedi wins gold



Sheikha Al-Rasheedi



(From left to right) Fatima Al-Zaabi, Sheikha Al-Rasheedi and Iman Al-Shamma. — Photos by Abdellatif Sharaa



Shooters in action.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Strong competition was witnessed during HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's annual shooting tournament in the Skeet, Trap, Double Trap, 10m Pistol and Air Rifle, 50m Pistol and Rifle and Archery which was held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Kuwaiti female shooters performed well in their respective events to win medals.

Results of the second day of the tournament are as follows:

10m Air Pistol Ladies:

Huthama Al-Baghly, Israa Bahman, Amira Awad

10m Air Rifle Ladies:

Mariam Erzouqi, Munira Al-Anjari, Mariam Al-Bughaili

Skeet Ladies:

Sheikha Al-Rasheedi, Iman Al-Shamma, Fatima Al-Zaabi

Trap ladies:

Sarah Al-Hawal, Shahad Al-Hawal, Hajar Abdelmalek.

President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his patronage of the tournament. He said this tournament is a distinguished launch of the local sports season, adding that it witnessed strong competition between shooters be them from Kuwait or other brotherly countries.

Al-Otaibi lauded the efforts of the higher organizing committee and the officiating committee, in addition to the shooters and congratulated those who won and wished others best luck in the future.

Al-Otaibi said Kuwait Shooting Sport Club board members, will start preparations for HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Grand Prix in January, as many shooters including world champions and Olympians will participate.

Meanwhile Head of the Shotgun Officials Committee Hamad Al-Ruwaisan said as this tournament is winding down, preparations are being made for HH the Amir's tournament by courses prepared for referees and lectures by experts. Al-Ruwaisan said HH the Crown Prince witnessed strong competition between shooters of both genders, adding that there were no

objections at all. Al-Ruwaisan said that the committee is keen on organizing refreshing courses for veterans and freshers, as part of preparing a second line of officials.

Skeet shooter Sheikha Al-Rasheedi who won gold medal and said she was happy with her achievements, adding this was a good start for the season which starts with a dear tournament to all, which is HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad tournament. She said that this year's tournament witnessed unprecedented competition that reflected a notable improvement at the top level, which promises us that we will be able to compete at top level in international competitions as we are used to, especially that shooting represents Kuwait under its flag as the suspension was lifted on it.

Al-Rasheedi thanked HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the government and Kuwait people for their continued support.

“Distinguished launch of local sports season”

Pakistan confirm bookie's approach to a player

SHARJAH: A top Pakistan cricket official yesterday confirmed a national team player was approached by a bookie with an offer of fixing which was reported to the anti-corruption unit. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi said the matter was being dealt with by his board and the International Cricket Council (ICC). “A player was approached,” Sethi said on Twitter. “As per rules he immediately reported to PCB who informed ICC. Matters are jointly in hand. No further comment.”

Pakistan media said the player approached was skipper Sarfraz Ahmed and it happened on October 17 before the third one-day international in Abu Dhabi a day later. Reports said Ahmed had immediately reported the matter to PCB's anti-corruption unit, who in turn informed the ICC. Under the anti-corruption code a player must report a fixing offer and failure to do so can result in a ban of a minimum of six months. The maximum punishment is a life ban.

Pakistan lead the five-match series 4-0 after a thumping seven-wicket win against Sri Lanka in Sharjah on Friday. The final match takes place in Sharjah tomorrow. Under ICC rules a player is interviewed by its anti-corruption unit to further investigate the matter, but the governing body does not make any comment on an ongoing investigation.

Pakistan cricket received a jolt in February when two of its players—Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif—were caught in a spot-fixing scandal which rocked their Twenty20 league held in United Arab Emirates. Sharjeel was banned for five years (two and a half years of which were suspended) while Khalid was banned for five years and fined one million rupees (\$10,000).

The two played for Islamabad United in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) and were accused of arranging two dot balls in return for money in the opening match of the league.

Pacer Mohammad Irfan was banned for one year, six months of which were suspended, and fined one million rupees while spinning all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz was banned for two months (one suspended) and fined 200,000 rupees (\$2,000) for failing to report fixing offers at various stages. Pakistan has a history of fixing related incidents with three of their top players—Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir—banned for five years in a spot fixing scandal on team's tour of England in 2010. A judicial inquiry on fixing ended in life bans on Salim Malik and Aatur Rehman and fines on six players Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saeed Anwar and Akram Raza in 2000. Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria is serving a life ban in a 2010 spot fixing case in a county match in England. —AFP

Alex Ovechkin scores in OT, Capitals beat Red Wings 4-3

DETROIT: Alex Ovechkin's power-play goal at 1:56 of overtime gave the Washington Capitals a 4-3 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night. T.J. Oshie forced the extra session for the Capitals, tying it with 1:01 left in regulation with a power-play goal of his own. Ovechkin drew a tripping penalty on Trevor Daley in overtime, then won it with his 10th goal of the season - a slap shot from the left circle that beat Petr Mrazek to the glove side. Tomas Tatar scored twice in the third period for Detroit. His second goal came on the power play after John Carlson was called for delay of game. But Dylan Larkin was whistled for the same penalty toward the end of the period, and Oshie was able to tie it at 3 with Caps goalie Braden Holtby pulled. Darren Helm scored a short-handed goal for the Red Wings in the second. Andre Burakovsky tied it for the Capitals in the final minute of that period, and Jay Beagle added a short-handed goal of his own in the third for Washington.

PENGUINS 4, PANTHERS 3

Conor Sheary backhanded a power-play goal past James Reimer with 2:53 left to help Pittsburgh beat Florida. Evgeni Malkin led a goal and an assist, and Sidney Crosby and Carter Rowney also scored for the Penguins. Matthew Murray stopped 28 shots, and Phil Kessel had two assists. MacKenzie Weegar scored his first NHL goal and Aleksander Barkov and Jamie McGinn also scored for the Panthers. Reimer, who came in to relieve an injured Robert Luongo with 15:14 left in the third, made 11 stops. Luongo made 33 saves before he left with a hand injury. He was hurt when Sheary backed into him, forcing his right hand hard against the post.

DUCKS 6, CANADIENS 2

Derek Grant scored the first two goals of his NHL career, getting the second while Anaheim scored three goals in a 97-second span of the third period against Montreal. Brandon Montour, Antoine Vermette and Chris Wagner had a goal and an assist apiece for the Ducks, who scored just two goals in their previous two games before shredding Montreal goalie Carey Price. Dennis Rasmussen also scored his first goal for the Ducks during Anaheim's three-goal first period. John Gibson made 49 saves for Anaheim, including a franchise-record 28 during a wild second period. Paul Byron and Brendan Gallagher scored and Price made 39 saves for the Canadiens (1-6-1), who have lost seven straight during their worst start to a season since 1941.

JETS 4, WILD 3

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) - Blake Wheeler



SUNRISE: Evgeni Malkin #71 of the Pittsburgh Penguins shoots on James Reimer #34 of the Florida Panthers during a game at BB&T Center. — AFP

scored the 200th goal of his NHL career with 6:46 left and Winnipeg held off Minnesota for coach Paul Maurice's 600th victory. The Wild turned the puck over just outside their blue line and Kyle Connor fed a pass to Wheeler, who used a deke to beat goalie Devin Dubnyk at 13:14. The former University of Minnesota star's score made up for a disallowed Winnipeg goal midway through the period. Jets center Mark Scheifele appeared to have poked in the go-ahead goal, but it was overturned on a Minnesota challenge that Wheeler interfered with Dubnyk. Patrik Laine had a pair of power-play goals and Nikolaj Ehlers added his sixth goal of the season for Winnipeg. Scheifele and Dustin Byfuglien each had two assists, Wheeler added one, and Connor Hellebuyck made 25 saves. Mikko Koivu, Mike Reilly and Chris Stewart scored for the Wild.

SHARKS 3, DEVILS 0

Martin Jones made 28 saves for his first shutout of the season and 16th overall to lead San Jose past New Jersey. Melker Karlsson, Joe Pavelski and Joonas Donskoi scored and Justin Braun had two assists to help the Sharks open a five-game East Coast trip. Keith Kinkaid, the top goalie for New Jersey with Cory Schneider on injured reserve, stopped 30 shots. The Devils had won three straight.

CANUCKS 4, SABRES 2

Derek Dorsett had two goals and an assist in Vancouver's victory over Buffalo. Daniel Sedin, Markus Granlund also scored to help the Canucks improve to 2-1-0 on a five-game trip. Brandon Sutter had two assists, and Jacob Markstrom made 15 saves. Jack Eichel and Justin Bailey scored for Buffalo, and Chad Johnson stopped 37 shots. At 1-5-2, the Sabres are off to their worst start since going 1-7-0 in 2014-15. — AP

NHL results/standings

Anaheim 6, Montreal 2; Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 3; Washington 4, Detroit 3 (OT); Pittsburgh 4, Florida 3; Vancouver 4, Buffalo 2; San Jose 3, New Jersey 0.

	Western Conference				
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA
St. Louis	6	2	0	27	21
Chicago	4	2	2	28	20
Nashville	4	2	1	19	17
Dallas	4	3	0	19	18
Winnipeg	4	3	0	22	26
Colorado	4	4	0	23	21
Minnesota	1	2	2	18	20
Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	5	0	1	21	10
Las Vegas	5	1	0	20	15
Calgary	4	3	0	18	19
Anaheim	3	3	1	18	19
Vancouver	3	3	1	19	22
San Jose	3	3	0	16	16
Edmonton	2	4	0	13	20
Arizona	0	6	1	16	30
Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
Tampa Bay	6	1	1	29	23
Toronto	6	1	0	34	22
Ottawa	3	1	3	24	18
Detroit	4	3	1	26	25
Boston	3	3	0	20	21
Florida	2	4	0	20	24
Buffalo	1	5	2	20	32
Montreal	1	6	1	13	33
Metropolitan Division					
New Jersey	6	2	0	31	24
Pittsburgh	5	2	1	29	32
Columbus	5	2	0	21	15
Washington	4	3	1	27	27
Philadelphia	4	3	0	26	17
Carolina	3	1	1	14	12
NY Islanders	3	3	1	19	21
NY Rangers	1	5	2	20	30

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

Sports

Mooy, Depoitre consign Man United to a shock 2-1 defeat

First win over Premier League giants since March 1952

HUDDERSFIELD: Aaron Mooy and Laurent Depoitre struck as Huddersfield Town stunned Manchester United 2-1 yesterday to claim a first win over the Premier League giants since March 1952. The pair scored in the first half at the John Smith's Stadium to end United's unbeaten start to the season and leave Jose Mourinho's men five points behind leaders Manchester City in second place.

Having protected their goal for 414 minutes of league action, United were rocked by conceding twice within five minutes around the half-hour mark. To make matters worse for Mourinho, both Huddersfield goals were the result of direct and disastrous defensive mistakes from his players. After 28 minutes, Juan Mata lost the ball on the halfway line to Mooy, the Australian signed from Manchester City, who sprinted into the area and slipped the ball to Tom Ince. The winger beat United substitute Victor Lindelof with a skilful touch and forced David de Gea into a fantastic save, with Mooy converting the rebound calmly from a dozen yards.

Lindelof, a £31 million (\$40.9 million, 34.7 million euros) signing from Benfica, had been brought on as a 23rd-minute substitute for the injured Phil Jones and worse was to follow for the Swedish centre-back.

Goalkeeper Jonas Lossl punted the ball the length of the field and Lindelof should have dealt with it in routine fashion. But he completely misjudged his clearance, missing the ball and allowing it to run to Depoitre, who took one touch to ease past De Gea and a second to place it in the back of the visitors' net.

A much-improved second half from Mourinho's side

finally saw them put Huddersfield under pressure. Substitute Marcus Rashford headed in from six yards following brilliant hold-up play and a cross from Romelu Lukaku on 78 minutes. But the game marked a stunning departure, given how solidly United's defence has played so far this season, although it was no more than David Wagner's promoted team deserved. The last time United

had played at Huddersfield, in October 1971, they had won 3-0 in a game memorable for the fact Bobby Charlton, George Best and Denis Law appeared on the scoresheet together for the last time.

But that kind of inspiration was sadly lacking in their play 46 years later, even with Charlton and Law sitting in the stands. It was not until first-half injury time, when a series of corners ended with Nemanja Matic's shot from the edge of the area being deflected narrowly wide, did Lossl's goal look remotely threatened. Mourinho responded in decisive fashion at the interval, bringing on Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Rashford for the culpable Mata and the ineffective Anthony Martial. It was a calculated gamble, with Lindelof having already come on, but a sign of the United manager's desperation and the fact he clearly questioned the wisdom of his own team selection. The pair's introduction brought about an improvement from the visitors, with Ashley Young just missing the target from 20 yards and Rashford shooting wide from a tight angle. But in pressing for a way back into the match, United were susceptible at the back as Huddersfield maintained their confident play.

Substitute Rajiv van La Parra had a promising shot



HUDDERSFIELD: Manchester United's Marcus Rashford scores his side's first goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Huddersfield Town and Manchester United at the John Smith's stadium in Huddersfield, England. — AP

blocked from a half-cleared free-kick and yet more errors, this time from Jesse Lingard and Chris Smalling, almost let in Depoitre for a third.

Finally, United produced a strong last 15 minutes. Just

before Rashford's goal, Lossl was called into action for the first time as he kept out a close-range Ander Herrera header. Rashford did find a path to goal for United, but Huddersfield held out. — AFP



United rocked by conceding twice within 5 minutes

Dortmund mini-slump continues in 2-2 draw at Frankfurt

BERLIN: Bundesliga leader Borussia Dortmund's mini-slump continued yesterday as it wasted a two-goal lead in a 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt. The slip allowed Bayern Munich a chance to go level on points with a win at Hamburger SV in the late game.

Nuri Sahin scored inside the first 20 minutes and Maximilian Philipp put Dortmund in a comfortable position on a counterattack before the hour-mark. It was the former Freiburg forward's fifth Bundesliga goal of the season.

But Sebastian Haller pulled one back with a coolly taken penalty minutes later - conceded when goalkeeper Roman Buerki brought down Ante Rebic - then Marius Wolf equalized with a shot inside the far corner for his first Bundesliga goal.

"It shouldn't happen," Sahin said after the side let slip a two-goal lead for the first time since November 2014. Dortmund had missed several good chances before, notably through Philipp, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Christian Pulisic, while Buerki had to be alert to deny Frankfurt as the game swung from end-to-end.

Buerki was criticized for his mistake in Dortmund's 1-1 draw at Cypriot team APOEL in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday, and Sahin ran the length of the pitch after scoring to show the goalkeeper support.

"Every player is part of something bigger. I've always said that. I wanted to just show him that everyone can make mistakes and that we're a team," Sahin said. Jadon Sancho came on for his Bundesliga debut but the 17-year-old English prospect was denied in the final minute by Frankfurt goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky, before Sahin's effort from the rebound was cleared off the line.

It was Dortmund's fourth game without a win from five matches across all competitions. Coach Peter Bosz had reshuffled his defense with Neven Subotic coming in for



FRANKFURT: Frankfurt's Prince Boateng, left, and Dortmund's Mario Goetze challenge for the ball during a German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Dortmund in Frankfurt. — AP

the suspended Sokratis. It was the Serbian's first game for Dortmund since March 2016.

Bosz will also face questions after making changes with the side 2-0 up. Dortmund has now conceded in six games across all competitions - after starting the league clean in its first five games.

Bayer Leverkusen stunned Borussia Moenchengladbach with five second-half goals to

recover from a halftime deficit in its 5-1 win. American Fabian Johnson fired the home side into an early lead but Sven Bender equalized after the break and Leon Bailey and Julian Brandt scored in quick succession before Kevin Volland added another. Joel Pohjanpallo completed an afternoon to forget for Dieter Hecking's side. Also, Leipzig defeated Stuttgart 1-0 at home, and Hannover won 2-1 at Augsburg. — AP

Merino's late winner lifts Newcastle

NEWCASTLE: Mikel Merino capped an encouraging week for Rafael Benitez as the Newcastle midfielder's late goal clinched a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace yesterday. After 10 troubled years in charge, Newcastle owner Mike Ashley put the club up for sale this week.

Ashley never won over Newcastle's long-suffering fans and his announcement was greeted with relief on Tyneside, while Benitez would have taken heart from the news after bemoaning the lack of backing he received in the transfer market. Thanks to the dramatic contribution from Merino at St James' Park, Benitez's side ended a three-match winless run and climbed to sixth place as they look optimistically towards the post-Ashley era. Having endured the worst ever start to an English top-flight season, Palace finally ended their seven-match losing streak with a shock 2-1 victory over Chelsea last weekend. But an eighth defeat in their nine league

games this season leaves Roy Hodgson's men bottom of the table and five points from safety. Yohan Cabaye was fortunate to escape with an early yellow card for an ugly scissor-tackle on DeAndre Yedlin that left the Newcastle defender writhing on the turf while his team-mates rushed over to remonstrate with the Palace midfielder.

Newcastle's Christian Atsu came close to exacting retribution for Cabaye's offence when he blasted into the side-netting after pushing Joel Ward off the ball. It took Newcastle 72 minutes to have a shot on target through Mohamed Diame's hopeful effort.

But Julian Speroni had to save well from Newcastle's Jonjo Shelvey moments later and the hosts' late pressure was rewarded in the 86th minute. Matt Ritchie curled over the corner and Merino brought Benitez to his feet as he rose highest to head home. — AFP

Appleton makes winning start to Leicester stint

SWANSEA: Leicester City won 2-1 at Swansea City yesterday in their first match since the dismissal of manager Craig Shakespeare. Caretaker manager Michael Appleton was in the dug-out at the Liberty Stadium to see his side end a run of six Premier League games without victory. The visitors went 2-0 up either side of half-time through a Federico Fernandez own goal and a Shinji Okazaki effort, with Alfie Mawson replying for Swansea.

It was Leicester's first away win since April and took them out of the relegation zone. Shakespeare was dismissed just four months after succeeding the sacked Claudio Ranieri, architect of Leicester's fairytale title triumph in 2016. Appleton made one change to the team that had drawn 1-1 at home to West Bromwich Albion in Shakespeare's last game, with Okazaki replacing Kelechi Iheanacho.

The visitors made a storming start and

Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski was obliged to save from Okazaki, Marc Albrighton, Jamie Vardy and Wilfried Ndidi in the early stages. Leicester duly went ahead in the 25th minute when Fernandez headed Riyad Mahrez's cross into his own net. Okazaki added a second early in the second half, tapping in after Albrighton's cross was steered into his path by Mahrez. Mawson reduced the arrears in the 56th minute when he hooked in from close range. Earlier, winger Junior Stanislas was involved in two early goals as Bournemouth collected their first points on the road with a 2-1 victory over Stoke City in the Premier League yesterday.

Eddie Howe's side went ahead when Stanislas set up a neat layoff for midfielder Andrew Surman, who found the net with a left-footed drive from the edge of the box. The visitors doubled their lead inside 20 minutes at the bet365 stadium after Benik Afobe was unceremoniously hacked down in the box by Stoke captain Ryan Shawcross and Stanislas stepped up to convert the resulting penalty for his first goal of the season. Mark Hughes's Stoke switched to a more direct style of play in the second half and were rewarded with a goal through striker Mame Biram Diouf, but the lack of meaningful chances in the final phase meant the hosts suffered their fourth league defeat in last five games. — Agencies



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Everton v Arsenal	beIN SPORTS HD 2	15:30
Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool	beIN SPORTS HD 2	18:00
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Villarreal v Las Palmas	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00
Celta de Vigo v Atletico de Madrid	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:15
Leganes v Athletic de Bilbao	beIN SPORTS HD 3	19:30
Real Madrid v Eibar	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:45
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Chievo Verona v Hellas Verona	beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30
Atalanta v Bologna	beIN SPORTS HD 9	16:00
Milan v Genoa	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00
Torino v Roma	beIN SPORTS HD 7	16:00
Benevento v Fiorentina	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	16:00
spal v US Sassuolo Calcio	beIN SPORTS	16:00
Udinese Calcio v Juventus	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:00
Lazio v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:45
GERMAN LEAGUE		
Koln v Werder Bremen	beIN SPORTS HD 5	14:30
Freiburg v Hertha Berlin	beIN SPORTS HD 5	16:30
Wolfsburg v TSG 1899 Hoffenheim	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:00
FRENCH LEAGUE		
OGC Nice v Strasbourg	beIN SPORTS HD 6	16:00
Troyes v Olympique Lyonnais	beIN SPORTS HD 6	18:00
Olympique Marseille v Paris Saint-Germain	beIN SPORTS HD 6	22:00

EPL table

LONDON: English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Man City	9	8	1	0	32	4	25
Man Utd	9	6	2	1	22	4	20
Tottenham	8	5	2	1	15	5	17
Chelsea	9	5	1	3	17	10	16
Watford	9	4	3	2	15	17	15
Newcastle	9	4	2	3	10	8	14
Arsenal	8	4	1	3	12	10	13
Liverpool	8	3	4	1	13	12	13
Burnley	9	3	4	2	8	9	13
Huddersfield	9	3	3	3	7	10	12
Brighton	9	3	2	4	9	10	11
West Brom	8	2	4	2	7	9	10
Leicester	9	2	3	4	12	14	9
Southampton	8	2	3	3	7	9	9
Swansea	9	2	2	5	6	10	8
Everton	8	2	2	4	5	13	8
West Ham	9	2	2	5	8	17	8
Stoke	9	2	2	5	10	20	8
Bournemouth	9	2	1	6	6	13	7
Crystal Palace	9	1	0	8	2	19	3

12 Australia withstand late charge to stun All Blacks



14 Kuwaiti women excel in Crown Prince tourney



15 Mooy, Depoitre consign Man United to a shock 2-1 defeat



Batshuayi brace gets Chelsea back on track

LONDON: Michy Batshuayi stepped off the bench to inspire Chelsea's fightback as Antonio Conte's side eased the pressure on their manager with a hard-fought 4-2 victory over Watford yesterday. Conte's position has come under scrutiny after back-to-back Premier League defeats and claims of player unrest over his training methods. The Italian appeared set for another difficult afternoon when Watford's Abdoulaye Doucoure and Roberto Pereyra overturned Pedro's glorious opening goal for the hosts.

But Batshuayi, on for Alvaro Morata, kickstarted the comeback in the 71st minute before completing the win with a second in the fifth minute of added time after Cesar Azpilicueta had restored Chelsea's lead. A difficult week would have got a lot worse for Conte had Chelsea suffered a third successive league defeat for the first time since the final months of Jose Mourinho's second spell in charge two years ago. Pedro's 12th-minute effort provided the perfect start for the champions, although Watford were convinced the opportunity should never arise. Referee Jon Moss

awarded a corner after the ball appeared to go out off the foot of Eden Hazard.

Hazard collected a short corner from Cesc Fabregas and pulled the ball back into the path of Pedro, who whipped in a curling, right-foot shot that clanged into the net off Heurelho Gomes's right-hand post. Chelsea should have doubled their lead in the 17th minute when Morata's cross sent Fabregas clear with only Gomes to beat, but he managed only to chip the ball into the keeper's arms. Watford were fortunate to escape, but having survived, they began to gain a foothold in the game.

RICHARLISON MISS

Confirmation Conte's side had lost their grip came in the second minute of first-half injury time when Doucoure fired home with a first-time shot after David Luiz failed to clear Jose Holebas's long throw. The equaliser shifted the mood inside the stadium and there were sounds of dissent from the home supporters as the two teams left the pitch. The opening moments of the second half suggested worse was to come, with Richarlison somehow managing to steer Kiko Femenia's excellent low cross wide from just six yards out.

Fortunately for the highly rated Brazilian, he atoned quickly by teeing up Pereyra for a goal that put Marco Silva's men ahead. Tiemoue Bakayoko had been a doubt before the game and the Chelsea midfielder, poor throughout, was slow to react when he was dispossessed by Pereyra in the middle of the pitch. —AFP

Aguero ties club scoring record, Man City leads EPL by 5 points

MANCHESTER: Manchester City took a five-point lead in the English Premier League with a 3-0 win against Burnley yesterday and Sergio Aguero became the club's joint top goal-scorer. The Argentina striker started the game one behind Eric Brook's record of 177 which has stood for 78 years.

After nine rounds, City has 25 points - five more than rival Manchester United which lost at Huddersfield 2-1. Aguero, back in the starting lineup after breaking a rib in a car crash three weeks ago, converted a penalty kick in the 30th minute at Etihad Stadium.

That brought him level with Brook, who scored his goals for City from 1927-39. Aguero has made 262 appearances for City in all competitions to reach the record mark, compared to Brook's 493. Aguero has 129 Premier League goals, third highest among active players - behind Wayne Rooney (201) and Jermain Defoe (159). Nicolas Otamendi and Leroy Sane

added second-half goals for City against hard-working Burnley. Aguero had a controversial penalty to thank as City reached a club record-equaling 11th successive win in all competitions, despite Burnley proving tough opponents amid torrential rain for Pep Guardiola's free-flowing side.

But Aguero will have to wait to claim the record outright after being substituted in the 76th minute. The Claret's created the first serious opportunity when Chris Wood broke clear of Kyle Walker and raced into the box.

Ederson dived at his feet and quickly rose to prevent Scott Arfield following up with a shot but Wood was injured in the collision and was forced off soon after. City played a patient game and gradually began to create chances. Bernardo Silva should have opened the scoring after Sane skipped around a challenge and pulled the ball back but the Portuguese shot straight at Nick Pope.

Controversy erupted after Pope reacted quickly to deny Kevin De Bruyne the chance to shoot. The ball ran free and Pope was adjudged to have brought down Bernardo Silva in the rush to regain possession.

Burnley contested that Silva had made the most of any contact and there was some arguing and shoving among players. Aguero remained calm throughout the confusion and, having missed from the spot on his last appearance, made no mistake to put City ahead and equal the record.

City continued to dominate after the break, and the second goal eventually came after 73 minutes as Otamendi got forward for a corner and met Sane's cross with a powerful header.

Moments later the points were wrapped up as De Bruyne picked out Sane with a characteristic defense-splitting through-ball. The German raced into the area and lashed a low shot past Pope. — AP

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Business

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US deficit hits \$666bn; lawmakers eye tax cuts

'Growth in spending outpaces growth in tax receipts'

WASHINGTON: The US budget deficit grew to \$666 billion in just-ended fiscal year 2017, according to official data released Friday, after lawmakers took a step toward enacting \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts. The deficit climbed 13.6 percent from a year ago, or by \$80 billion, with much of the nearly \$4 trillion the US government spent last year associated with caring for the country's ageing population.

The deficit now accounts for 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), up from 3.2 percent in 2016. "Growth in spending outpaced growth in tax receipts for the second year in a row as a result of historically subpar economic growth," the Treasury Department said.

But the deficit came in \$36 billion lower than forecast halfway through the fiscal year, which ended September 30, officials said. "Today's budget results underscore the importance of achieving robust and sustained economic growth. Through a combination of tax reform and regulatory relief, this country can return to higher levels of GDP growth, helping to erase our fiscal deficit," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

"These numbers should serve as a smoke alarm for Washington, a reminder that we need to grow our economy again and get our fiscal house in order. We can do that through smart spending restraint, tax reform, and cutting red tape," added Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget. Spending grew 3.3 percent to

\$3.98 trillion while revenue fell 0.9 percent to \$3.32 trillion, while the total federal debt rose to \$14.67 trillion.

Higher outlays for social security, Medicare (a government medical program for the elderly), and Medicaid (for the low-income and disabled Americans) as well as interest on the public debt all contributed to the rise in outlays. Spending on the military rose one percent to \$569 billion, and 45 percent in education to \$112 billion. "Higher spending by the Federal Emergency Management Administration for hurricane relief and recovery also contributed to the increase," it added.

Trump pushes tax cuts
President Trump's administration has championed tax cuts which it says will spur economic growth, leading to future tax revenues. The US Senate narrowly passed a 2018 federal budget Thursday that includes special instructions that allows Trump's party to pass historic tax reforms with a simple majority vote.

Fiscal conservatives worry a tax cut will add to the national debt, but the Trump administration argues that it will give businesses more money to create jobs and boost tepid economic growth, eventually turning in to higher tax receipts. The Tax Policy Center, a Brookings Institution-Urban Institute joint venture, says the reforms will cost \$2.4 trillion in lost federal revenues during their first decade, which raises questions about how they will be financed. —AP

rent Fed policy. Following is a summary of possible markets reactions to the nomination of each name in Trump's shortlist (in alphabetical order):

Gary Cohn

A Cohn nomination would "be met positively," said Walter Todd, chief investment officer at Greenwood Capital Associates in Greenwood, South Carolina. "The perception is that he is market friendly." Cohn is currently director of the White House National Economic Council and is a former president of investment bank Goldman Sachs. "If (Cohn) were to reach that position I think the market would trade the dollar lower and you'd see a steepening of 5-30s in the US yield curve, because he'd be viewed as having the biggest impact on inflation expectations moving forward," said Kay Mirza, global head of FX trading at Goldman Sachs.

Jerome Powell

A governor on the Federal Reserve board since 2012, Powell has yet to cast a dissenting vote against the Federal Open Market Committee's decisions on monetary policy. His appointment would remove uncertainty and would likely see Fed policy continue little changed.

"Powell would follow very close to Yellen and would be a great choice for the market," said Paul Zemsky, chief investment officer, Multi-Asset Strategies and Solutions at Voya Investment Management in New York.

Importantly, Powell is seen as unafraid of reversing the current plan to wind down the Fed's \$4.5 trillion balance sheet if the economic or market outlook changed.

John Taylor

Famous for a formulaic approach to monetary policy, including the so-called Taylor Rule, he is seen as likely to tighten monetary policy more quickly.

"Taylor would be a negative surprise for the stock market," said Voya's Zemsky. "Applying rules-based policy would bring closer the risk of a recession before the economic expansion plays out entirely." His nomination could also boost the US dollar since by his own formula the Fed Funds rate, now at 1.25 percent, should be closer to 3.0 percent.

Kevin Warsh

"If you are looking for something disruptive, put Kevin Warsh at the top of the Fed," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Wunderlich Securities in New York. Analysts do not think investors have priced in the probability of a Fed that raises interest rates more quickly and a Warsh appointment would likely trigger a spike in Treasury yields, a rise in the dollar and a fall in stocks.

Formerly Bernanke's right-hand man on financial markets, Warsh quit the Fed in 2011 as he disagreed with the central bank's second round of bond-buying and is seen unlikely to pursue a policy path of extraordinary measures if faced with another crisis.

"The balance sheet reduction program is the key policy tool for next year," said Lee Ferridge, head of macro strategy for North America at State Street. "If (stock) markets started to come off Warsh would be less inclined to change the path." — Reuters

Qatar crisis delays sale of Gulf shipping firm

LONDON/DUBAI: Qatar's diplomatic crisis is holding up the sale of a shipping company it part owns, one of the latest signs of an emerging corporate fall-out that Doha is facing after Arab countries cut relations in June, sources familiar with the matter said.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt severed diplomatic, trade and transport ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of supporting terrorism - a charge Doha denies.

The dispute has hit Qatar's financial sector, with banks in neighboring Arab states withdrawing billions of dollars from Qatari lenders. Now there are signs that deal-making in the region is also running into difficulties. Qatar was the biggest shareholder in Gulf con-

tainer line United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), followed by Saudi Arabia. UASC merged with Germany's Hapag Lloyd in May, to create the world's fifth biggest container group.

Dubai-based United Arab Chemical Carriers (UACC) - in which UASC held the biggest stake - was to be sold as part of the merger. But four finance sources say the cut in trade ties between Qatar and Saudi Arabia is holding up the sale of UACC, which is estimated to have a company valuation of \$200 million. For Qatar, the sale of UACC is the responsibility of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). But for any sale to go ahead, the UACC board would need to discuss the matter together with Saudi partners, and that is not happening, the sources said.

"The sale of UACC is now in the hands of QIA," one source said. "There is no indication of any movement towards a sale as there is no dialogue between the Qataris and the Saudis."

Another source added: "Until the sale is done, UACC cannot start on any new projects or buy any new ships. At the moment, everything is on hold and the focus (for UACC) is on cost savings." —Reuters

Stock market's future in Trump's hands as Fed chair pick looms

NEW YORK: Investors awaiting the nomination of the next Federal Reserve chair are hoping whoever is nominated pursues the same monetary policy that has supported rising stock prices for the past nine years. Led by Janet Yellen since 2014, the Fed is about to allow its \$4.5 trillion portfolio of securities to shrink, and in late 2015 it began raising interest rates from the low levels seen after the 2008 financial crisis. A new Fed chair who argues for tightening monetary policy more aggressively is seen putting economic growth at risk, along with corporate earnings, and the long stock market rally.

A faster rise in short-term interest rates would likely flatten the yield curve, narrowing the gap between short and long term debt yields, which could crimp bank profits and strengthen the US dollar, hurting exporters' sales.

US President Donald Trump has selected a pool of five candidates from which to choose the next Fed chair: current Fed Chair Janet Yellen; Trump's chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn; former Fed Governor Kevin Warsh; current Fed Governor Jerome Powell, and Stanford University economist John Taylor.

Cohn and Powell are the two most likely to follow current Fed policy, while Taylor and Warsh are seen likely to push for raising interest rates at a faster clip and to argue for a quicker run-down in the bond portfolio accumulated after the 2008 crisis. Most important to stock investors is the continuation of the so-called "Fed put", or the expectation of easy monetary policy as stock prices fall that first came into prominence under former Fed Chair Alan Greenspan.

For years investors in stocks have assumed the Fed granted them a put option, effectively providing insurance against a market fall, by flooding money markets with cash and buying government bonds to keep interest rates low whenever economic growth slumped or geopolitical risks rose.

Under Bernanke, the Fed helped to navigate the economy out of the 2008 financial crisis until 2014 when he was succeeded by Yellen. During that time the US benchmark S&P 500 stock index rose nearly 40 percent. Since Yellen took over from him in February 2014, the index has gained a further 45 percent.

"I think in their hearts every modern Fed chair knows that the institution's mandate has to include stock prices," said Nicholas Colas, co-founder at DataTrek Research in New York.

President Trump has praised the record highs in US stock prices, perhaps making it less likely that he would nominate someone who would deviate markedly from cur-



"Al Hossam Legal awarded the prestigious "Rising Star Law Firm" Award in the Middle East by IFLR"

Al-Hossam Legal (Al Turqi & Partners) Legal Consultants & Attorneys received the "Rising Star Law Firm" award in Middle East by the International Financial Law Review (IFLR) at its annual ceremony in Dubai at the Burj al-Arab Hotel on October 18, 2017.

The firm was also nominated for three cross border mergers and acquisitions and restructuring transactions. The IFLR, based in London, recognizes the region's most outstanding law firms and innovative deals. Awards are given on the basis of the significance of the contributions and influence of law firms to the legal practice and financial markets. IFLR judges recognized the depth of the performance and commitment to innovation and quality of Al-Hossam Legal.

With a team of qualified legal attorneys offering several decades of significant experience gained in landmark matters and through 4 integrated working groups, Al-Hossam Legal serves clients in the areas of corporate, banking & finance, capital market, and major commercial disputes.

KIPCO Tower, 44th Floor, Sharq, Kuwait City
Email: general@hossamlegal.com | Tel: +(965) 2290 9261
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40
YEARS
LEGAL
EXPERIENCE

Business

Japan's recovery not felt at street level despite growth

Deflation and a mountain of debt plague economy

TOKYO: Like every day for the past 40 years, Kunihiko Kato dusts down the shelves at his electrical goods shop and meticulously lays out his selection of batteries. But the customers have long since gone as Japan's economy languishes. "We used to sell a lot of TVs, but now..." tails off the 76-year-old glumly, as he recalls Japan's world-beating "bubble" economic boom in the 1980s.

"We have been going downhill for a long time," Kato tells AFP. Reviving the once-great Japanese economy is the key domestic battleground of Sunday's election, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe touting his trademark "Abenomics" policy as the best way to secure the country's future. Abe says his "Abenomics", a combination of ultra-loose monetary policy and big fiscal spending, has resulted in strong growth and solid business confidence in the world's third-largest economy.

On the face of it, the Japanese economy is in relatively robust health, enjoying its longest period of expansion in more than a decade, with low unemployment and the stock market at a 21-year high.

But this masks a seemingly unwinnable fight against deflation and a mountain of debt twice the entire economic output of the country. And at Kato's shopping area in Tokyo, there is precious little sign of the benefits of "Abenomics".

One shop owner, 67-year-old Kojo Ito, says that visitors to the "Shotengai" or traditional Japanese shopping street-think there is a bank holiday because so many shops are shuttered. "I tell them: 'No, they have just shut down,'" he says. Like Kato, Ito reflects wistfully on the post-war boom times that extended into the 1970s and 1980s.

Ito tells AFP that he now makes in one month what he used to make in a day at his butcher's shop, opened by his father in the year he was born. He snorts at the idea that "Abenomics" has improved lives for ordinary people. "I

don't feel it's real. There is a widening gap between workers at big companies and those on temporary contracts."

'I miss those days'

Throughout the street, elderly shopkeepers told AFP the same story, of a steady decline, reflecting a pattern seen in the wider economy. Michiko Hachiman, 72, said her clothes shop used to be packed in the evenings but complained that young people cannot afford her boutique offerings, preferring to pick up fashion items at cheaper stores.

"On a good day, when I was just married, we had lots of customers here in the evening because there were many meat and deli shops. I miss those days but they will not come back," she said.

She said the effects of "Abenomics" were not trickling down to street level. "The economy might be good for big companies but they are keeping all the profits and aren't sharing them with the employees, right? She said her sons "don't really see their pay rising for all their hard work."

Hachiman put her finger on another key election battleground-in fact the reason Abe called the vote-a lack of support for childcare provision that is keeping many young women out of the labor force. Young people nowadays simply cannot afford to have children, she argued. Despite the economic expansion, median household income stood at 4.28 million yen (\$38,000) in 2015, according to the latest available figure, a drop of 20 percent compared to two decades ago.

'If not now, when?'

Abe has vowed to use part of a planned sales tax hike to make some childcare facilities free of charge, arguing that a declining working-age population faces having to support a rapidly ageing society. His main opponent, pop-



TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister and President of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party Shinzo Abe, center, delivers a speech in support for his party's candidate during an election campaign for the upcoming lower house election in Tokyo. —AP

ular Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike, has called for a freeze in the sales tax hike, arguing it could throttle growth. Yuichiro Yanai, an economist at Barclays, noted Japan had a rare opportunity to raise taxes, given a strong economy, low unemployment and solid government.

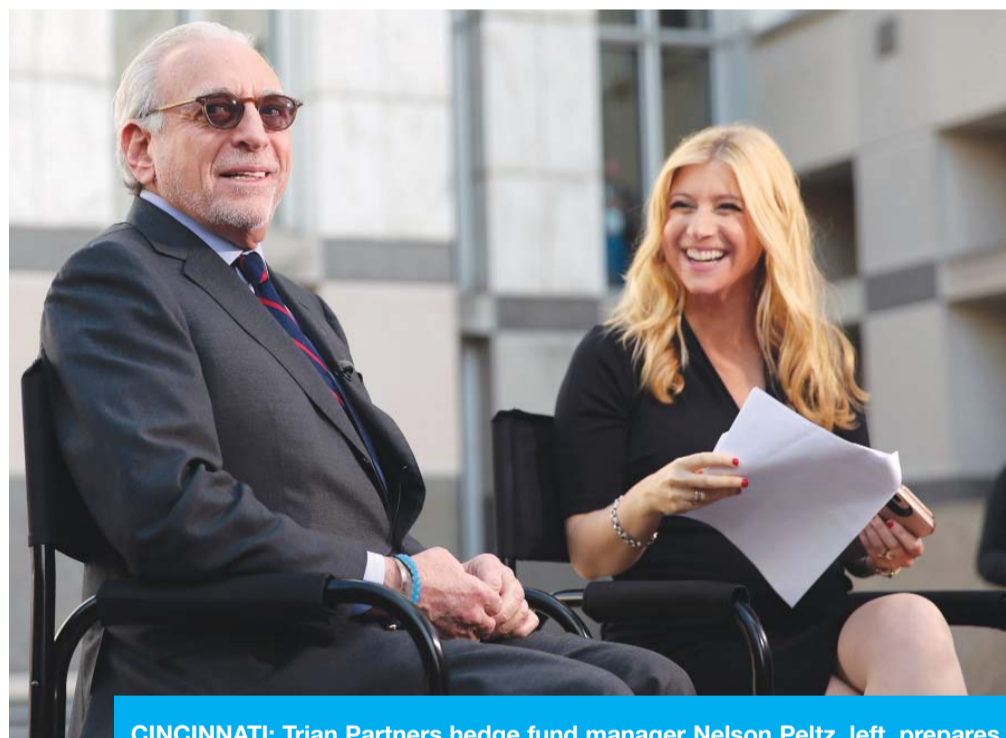
"If not now, then when?" said the economist, adding that there was a clear need to swell the coffers. Abe says

he will start a "productivity revolution" through measures ranging from deregulation to tax reform in order to boost people's income. But for Kato, the electrical goods shop owner, these are nothing but empty slogans. "We may not be making enough efforts on our own... but they can't say how they (the reforms) could reach us," he said. "It always sounds like somebody else's business to me." —AFP



'Abenomics' improves lives for ordinary people

effort to coax more sales. Chief financial officer Jon Moeller told analysts it was too soon to see results from the investment but that shaving in the US is "operating as we expected it would." The weakness in Gillette was among the trouble spots highlighted in a campaign by activist shareholder Peltz of Trian Fund Management in which Procter has claimed a narrow victory after a hard-fought and costly campaign.



CINCINNATI: Trian Partners hedge fund manager Nelson Peltz, left, prepares for an interview by CNBC's Sara Eisen after Procter & Gamble's annual shareholders meeting in Cincinnati. Initial voting results show P&G successfully fending off an attempt by Peltz to capture a seat on its board. —AP

Peltz still considers the vote too close to call and said he will wait until final results are certi-

fied by an independent inspector. Goldman Sachs characterized the results as disappointing overall, pointing to a weaker-than-expected gross profit margin and downcast commentary from chief executive David Taylor on "decelerating" market conditions.

"All-in, we expect results to be met with disappointment and would be surprised if the stock does not trade-off," Goldman said. P&G shares tumbled 4.0 percent in afternoon trading to \$87.98. —AFP

P&G shares tumble after lackluster earnings

NEW YORK: Wall Street frowned on earnings Friday from Procter & Gamble that showed continued sluggishness in overall sales and another drop in grooming due to anemic US demand for shaving products.

The earnings, the first since the consumer products giant claimed a narrow win over activist Nelson Peltz in a shareholder vote earlier this month, are "unlikely to silence dissenters," said Morningstar analyst Erin Lash. Net income for the fiscal first quarter of 2018 came in at \$2.9 billion, up 5.1 percent from the year-ago period.

Sales edged up 0.8 percent to \$16.7 billion. Results were pressured by a string of hurricanes in the US and Puerto Rico and an earthquake in Mexico, which dented sales in those regions and lifted prices of some commodities used in P&G products.

Leading P&G brands include Crest toothpaste, Bounty paper towels and Oil of Olay soap. Strong categories included beauty—which was boosted by strong growth in Chinese premium skin products and health care—where the sale of electric toothbrushes was again a bright spot. But P&G saw no relief from the continued slump in shaving, where competition from newer US e-commerce brands has bruised the performance of Procter's Gillette brand. Sales in grooming sank five percent from the year-ago period. P&G has slashed prices on Gillette products by an average of 12 percent in an

European business deals with Iran are safe: Tillerson

WASHINGTON: The United States does not intend to disrupt European business deals with Iran, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in comments published Friday. Tillerson, speaking one week after President Donald Trump refused to certify the Iran nuclear deal and left its fate to the US Congress, said that he would address European allies' business concerns.

"The president's been pretty clear that it's not his intent to interfere with business deals that the Europeans may have under way with Iran," Tillerson told The Wall Street Journal.

"He's said it clearly: 'That's fine. You guys do what you want to do,'" Tillerson said that after working with the Europeans for six months, "we will start a more formalized process with them now that the policy's been adopted."

Trump has threatened a "total termination" of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran unless Congress tightens sanctions on the country and European allies address US concerns. A week ago, he announced new sanctions on Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), describing them as "the Iranian supreme leader's corrupt personal terror force and militia."

On Thursday, two top American intelligence officials suggested that European and other companies who are seen doing busi-

ness with entities tied to the Guards could themselves run into US sanctions problems. "The (US) intelligence community struggles mightily to figure out which companies are controlled by the IRGC," CIA Director Mike Pompeo said at a forum organized by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

"It is a difficult, complex intelligence undertaking to sort out which entities are controlled by the Guards, which ones have shareholders," Pompeo said, estimating the Guards control as much as 20 percent of the Iranian economy. "But imagine you're a European CEO, or board of directors or a lender... Imagine that you're a businessperson deciding whether it was appropriate to take that risk or not, whether the return was there for your company. I think we can make it even more difficult."

'Don't do business with IRGC'

At the same forum, White House National Security Advisor HR McMaster echoed that point, saying the United States is working hard to investigate the IRGC networks and money flows.

"The message would be: don't do business with the IRGC; don't enrich the IRGC, don't enable their murderous campaign, don't enable their threat to our friends in the region," McMaster said.

European trade with Iran has surged since the nuclear deal went into effect in January 2016. Last year, EU trade with Iran was around \$16 billion (14 billion euros), but most large European banks are reluctant to invest, fearing huge US fines or being locked out of the US market.

In the interview, Tillerson said little about the fate of lucrative Boeing contracts to sell passenger planes to Iran, or General Electric agreements to sell equipment and technologies to Iran's energy sector. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.698
Indian Rupees	4.660
Pakistani Rupees	2.874
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.967
Nepali Rupees	2.931
Singapore Dollar	224.330
Hongkong Dollar	38.783
Bangladesh Taka	3.694
Philippine Peso	5.887
Thai Baht	9.172

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.814
Qatari Riyal	83.235
Omani Riyal	787.032
Bahraini Dinar	804.700
UAE Dirham	82.509

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.075
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	123.610
Jordanian Dinar	427.450
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.635

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.850
Euro	357.820
Sterling Pound	403.240

Canadian dollar	244.470
Turkish lira	83.310
Swiss Franc	311.250
Australian Dollar	239.250
US Dollar Buying	301.650

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.500
Canadian Dollar	242.060
Sterling Pound	402.500
Euro	357.870
Swiss Frank	297.040
Bahrain Dinar	802.860
UAE Dirhams	82.752
Qatari Riyals	83.572
Saudi Riyals	81.527
Jordanian Dinar	427.936
Egyptian Pound	17.180
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.970
Indian Rupees	4.668
Pakistani Rupees	2.871
Bangladesh Taka	3.716
Philippines Peso	5.899
Cyprus pound	18.000
Japanese Yen	3.695
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.928

Malaysian Ringgit	72.590
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.275
Thai Bhat	10.130
Turkish Lira	83.270

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.392866	0.402866
Czech Korune	0.005901	0.017951
Danish Krone	0.044177	0.049177
Euro	0.352286	0.361286
Georgian Lari	0.135000	0.135000
Norwegian Krone	0.034173	0.039373
Romanian Leu	0.081730	0.081730
Russian ruble	0.005268	0.005268
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039
Slovenia Krona	0.033239	0.038239
Swedish Krona	0.301943	0.312943
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.229082	0.241082
New Zealand Dollar	0.205378	0.214878
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.235000	0.244000
US Dollars	0.299000	0.303420
US Dollars Mint	0.299500	0.303420
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003303	0.003887

Chinese Yuan	0.044249	0.047749
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036839	0.039619
Indian Rupee	0.004294	0.004982
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002608	0.002788
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067914	0.073914
Nepalese Rupee	0.003024	0.003194
Pakistan Rupee	0.002688	0.002978
Philippine Peso	0.005795	0.006095
Singapore Dollar	0.218075	0.228075
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001630	0.002210
Taiwan	0.010014	0.010194
Thai Baht	0.008793	0.009343

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796984	0.805484
Egyptian Pound	0.014380	0.020288
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207	0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.422896	0.431896
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021978	0.045978
Omani Riyal	0.780853	0.786533
Qatar Riyal	0.078964	0.083904
Saudi Riyal	0.079740	0.081040
Syrian Pound	0.001285	0.001505
Tunisian Dinar	0.118681	0.126681
Turkish Lira	0.077506	0.087806
UAE Dirhams	0.081098	0.082798
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Business

China still on track to hit target of 6.5% GDP growth

Smog war, industrial curbs unlikely to hurt growth

BEIJING: China's economy is on track to meet its official growth target for 2017, the head of the state planning agency said yesterday, despite a punishing war on pollution which is expected to slash industrial output over the winter months.

China has forced 28 cities in smog-prone northern regions to reduce emissions of airborne particles known as PM2.5 by at least 15 percent from October to March 2017, with some cities expected to cut steel production by as much as 50 percent. But officials with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said the world's second-largest economy will remain on track. "We expect to achieve the full-year growth target of about 6.5 percent," He Lifeng, chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), told a briefing on the sidelines of China's Communist Party Congress.



Country cuts steel capacity by 110m tons

Most economists believe China's actual growth should easily beat the target. The economy grew 6.8 percent in the third quarter of the year, and 6.9 percent in the first half. Last year's growth rate of 6.7 percent was a 26-year low. China's economy has surprised global markets and investors with robust growth so far this year, driven by a renaissance in its long-ailing "smokestack" industries such as steel and stronger demand from Europe and the United States.

But economists with Societe Generale said in a recent note that the winter output cuts could slash industrial pro-

duction growth by 0.6-0.8 percentage points and GDP growth by 0.2-0.25 percentage points in the next six months. Industrial growth slowed to 6.3 percent in the third quarter, from 6.6 percent in the previous period, data showed last week, with the services sector taking up much of the slack.

Prices of commodities like steel, copper and iron ore have turned wildly volatile in China and in global markets recent weeks on fears of possible winter shortages.

China's steel output dropped 3.7 percent in September from a record high the previous month as mills reduced production in line with Beijing's campaign, and analysts predict further declines as winter curbs set in. However, Zhang Yong, vice-chairman of the NDRC, told reporters that the direct impact was likely to be limited.

"Measures to fight pollution don't have a big impact on economic growth," he said. "Measures to treat pollution have a positive impact on economic development in the long term."

The government has been pushing a restructuring program designed to "upgrade" its heavy industrial economy, cut pollution and tackle profit-sapping capacity gluts in sectors like steel and coal.

China says it has cut annual crude steel capacity by as much as 110 million tons over the last five years, with coal capacity slashed by as much as 400 million tons, though some analysts say much of the outdated, inefficient plants



BEIJING: A general view shows the Great Hall Of The People during the Communist Party's 19th Congress in Beijing yesterday. —AFP

are merely being replaced with leaner, cleaner ones.

Ning Jizhe, vice head of the NDRC and also head of China's National Bureau of Statistics, said the country

would continue to crack down on steel overcapacity, prevent obsolete plants from restarting and promote more mergers in the sector. — Reuters

Canada's Liberals look to economy to guide them past ethics scandal

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has been badly shaken by a conflict-of-interest controversy about his finance minister, but the Liberal government's upcoming fiscal update offers an opportunity to reset the public focus on Canada's strong economy, political observers say.

The government has been plagued all week about questions about the finance minister, Bill Morneau, the multimillionaire former chief executive officer of human resources management firm Morneau Shepell. Some have questioned whether Morneau would be forced to resign.

The focus has been a rare stumble for Trudeau's government, which marked two years in office this month and has mostly maneuvered its way out of political trouble partly because of Trudeau's personal popularity and the youthful momentum of the Liberals after 10 years of Conservative rule.

"They're politically very astute in a whole bunch of areas but in issues management and parliamentary management they seem to be ham-fisted," said Andrew Graham, professor at the school of policy studies at Queen's University.

With Trudeau's strong defense of Morneau, and the finance minister likely to unveil a smaller budget deficit in Tuesday's fall fiscal update, Liberals have a temporary chance to refocus on good news.

"Economic conditions are a bedrock of whether peo-

ple feel good or bad about how politicians are performing, and the economy is doing very well for most people," said Abacus Data pollster Bruce Anderson.

Morneau said on Thursday he will put his assets in a blind trust and divest stock in a publicly traded family business. That comes after weeks of backlash over tax reform that has become a major obstacle for Trudeau's government.

Opposition parties from both the political left and right have seized on the ethics scandal, trying to tie Trudeau's team to what they say is an entitled Liberal Party that has previously faced corruption charges.

"The opposition has changed the focus from substance to ethics, and they won't let that go that easily," said Genevieve Tellier, a political professor at the University of Ottawa.

But Tellier said Trudeau's decision to fill his cabinet with political rookies - including Morneau - rather than turning to the old Liberal guard, could limit the ability of the opposition to land many ethical punches.

Moreover, Morneau is respected by markets.

"I think the prime minister would be very cautious about changing his finance minister. ... (Morneau) presents a reassuring image, he doesn't scare the markets," Tellier said.

Ipsos Public Affairs pollster Darrell Bricker put it more bluntly: "They really don't have a choice but to tough it out and hope some event will transpire to distract the hyenas."

The expected budget improvement in Tuesday's fall fiscal update could also give Morneau the leeway to woo voters with more spending or debt reduction.

"The way the numbers are playing out, they are in a fairly favorable fiscal position," said Paul Ferley, assistant chief economist at Royal Bank of Canada.

Morneau spokesman Dan Lauzon said the finance minister has no plans to change his strategy, and would keep focus on fiscal stimulus matters: "He is in this for the long run, and he won't let distractions get in the way." — Reuters

Risk limit may cause sharp drop off in EBRD's Kazakhstan lending

LONDON: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is hitting its lending limit with Kazakhstan's sovereign wealth fund, risking a sharp drop off in its annual 1 billion euro lending program to the country. Kazakhstan became the EBRD's second-largest country of operation by volume last year behind Turkey, as investments in mines to solar parks took its exposure there to a record 2.7 billion euros (\$3.2 billion).

The EBRD expects to pump in another significant amount this year, but thereafter the amount could fall back. The reason is a unique one. Many of the EBRD's larger Kazakh investments have been made with the country's sovereign wealth fund, Samruk-Kazyna, which oversees over \$67 billion of state-owned assets and infrastructure.

Data provided to Reuters shows that the development bank now has a total of 10 projects with Samruk-Kazyna, worth a total of 881 million euros (\$1.04 billion), as well as a slice of a Eurobond.

That adds up to more than a third of the EBRD's total Kazakhstan portfolio and means it is now close to its "single obligor limit", a risk management rule designed to stop it building up too much exposure with any one counterparty. "The way we have reached the limit is because we have been investing quite significantly in recent years," the EBRD's head of Kazakhstan operations, Agris Preimanis, told Reuters.

"Inevitably the fact we are constrained on investing in Samruk-Kazyna will have some effect on the volume

(of investments) this year." Kazakhstan, an exporter of oil and metals, is the only former Soviet republic that is still run by its communist-era leader, the 77-year old President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The EBRD, set up in 1991 to help former communist bloc members transition to market economies, has seen its lending in Kazakhstan explode, virtually quadrupling since 2011 from 289 million euros to almost 1.1 billion euro last year. Preimanis wouldn't say how much it was likely to fall next year.

It could lend with others, but Samruk-Kazyna is so omnipresent in the country's main industries Preimanis acknowledged it will be difficult to do so, especially as investing in state-controlled assets to prepare them for privatization was one of the EBRD's central tasks. "You cannot take away an important counterparty and immediately replace it, so we just have to manage that," Preimanis added. "But it's important that this is not interpreted as a negative signal of where the country is going (politically or economically)." Samruk-Kazyna had no immediate comment on Friday. A banker at Mitsubishi UFJ, another lender which works with the sovereign fund and coordinated Samruk-Kazyna's \$1.5 billion syndicated loan in 2015, said it "continued to see a strong demand for this credit among investors".

"This does not affect our view of Samruk-Kazyna," said Aiman Mukanova, executive director at MUFJ's EMEA corporate banking division. "For the right opportunity, there is still ample liquidity."

Though the single obligor issue is a specific problem for the EBRD, it is only the latest headache for the bank as it tries to maintain lending levels having stopped new investments in Russia, once a 10 billion euro market for the bank. China-led "Belt and Road" projects and greener energy drives could help make up some of the gap in future but in the nearer-term neighboring Uzbekistan could be a beneficiary. It has begun to repair relations with the EBRD this year after a decade-long absence and though it is only a fraction of the size of Kazakhstan it is Central Asia's most populous nation and is largely untapped from the EBRD's point of view. — Reuters

Joyalukkas celebrates Diwali with brand new showroom in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: Joyalukkas brings Madinat Zayed residents more reasons to celebrate Diwali, with a million choices in jewelry, a dazzling festive collection, up to 500,000 gold coins to give away and a delightful new showroom at the heart of the UAE capital's western most region. Standalone Joyalukkas showroom in Madinat Zayed, just behind the Gold Souk, opens its doors a day before the main celebration of Diwali.

The showroom was inaugurated by Joy Alukkas, Chairman & Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group in the presence of John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group; Sonia Alukkas, Director, Joyalukkas Group; Antony Jos, Director, Joyalukkas Exchange; other eminent personalities and Joyalukkas Group Management Staffs.

Joyalukkas Madinat Zayed features tasteful and spacious interiors as backdrop to a stunning array of jewelry along with the brand's signature award-winning customer service.

The inauguration, was a festive affair led by local dignitaries, VIPs and chief executives of the Joyalukkas Group.

"The Joyalukkas Group has a lot to be thankful for in 2017," said Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director of Joyalukkas Group. "We're celebrating 30 years of ornamenting the world, expanding our network to over 130 showrooms in 11 countries, as well as



ABU DHABI: Showroom is inaugurated by Joy Alukkas, Chairman & Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group in the presence of John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group; Sonia Alukkas, Director, Joyalukkas Group; Antony Jos, Director, Joyalukkas Exchange; other eminent personalities and Joyalukkas Group management staff.

introducing Kajol as our latest brand ambassador. As a thank you for our loyal customers who've made it all possible, we're giving away up to 500,000 gold coins as gift on purchase this Diwali. At this prime location in Madinat Zayed, we look forward to welcoming residents and offering them the very best jewelry shopping experience the world has come to expect from Joyalukkas." The Joyalukkas Madinat Zayed showroom showcases a mix of traditional, ethno-contem-

porary and international influences. It will carry the limited edition Diwali Collection, as well as an exclusive line of Joyalukkas brands, such as Veda Temple Jewelry, Pride Diamonds, EleganzaPolki Diamonds, Masaaki Pearls, Zenina Turkish Jewelry, Li'l Joy Kids Jewelry, the Apurva Antique collection & Ratna Precious Stone Jewelry, along with renowned names in gold, diamond, precious stones, platinum and pearl jewelry.

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at
Abou Halifa Region Facing the National
Park and the Sea

Great opportunity for having special offers on our villas, 8 out of 22 available

Duplex & Triplex Villas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms +Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas 	<div style="display: grid; grid-template-columns: repeat(3, 1fr); gap: 5px;"> </div>

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6 6 8 0 4 2 2 2

Business

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

Boursa Kuwait mixed amid fluctuations, profit-booking

Small cap stocks witness random purchasing

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 6,633.07 points, up by 0.07 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.01 percent after closing at 431.52 points, whereas the KXSX-15 Index closed at 1,004.88 points down by 0.01 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 45.54 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 14.07 million, whereas trading volume average was 78.87 million shares, recording a decrease of 39.86 percent.

The fluctuation witnessed by the Boursa indices by the end of the week came as a result to the differences in the traders' preferences, as some small-cap listed stocks witnessed random purchasing operations at one end and quick speculative operations at the other end, which positively reflected on the Price Index that was able to end the week with limited gains, while some leading stocks were subject to profit collection operations, which pushed the Weighted and KXSX-15 indices to end the week in the red zone.

Boursa Kuwait lost during the last week around KD 65 million of its market capitalization, which reached by the end of the week to KD 28.82 billion, down by 0.22 percent of its level at a week earlier, where it reached KD 28.89 billion, to contract by this the market cap gains of the market since the beginning of the year to 13.45 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the official market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial data. Also, the amount of KD 77.28 million was deducted from the total market cap during the last week, which is the market cap of the company that was delisted from the market on Thursday).

The market is witnessing this period a general state of watch for the listed companies results for the nine months of the current year, amid a refrain of some traders from trading, waiting for the listed companies disclosures of its fiscal financial

results, which is expected to be declared in the coming days.

As per the daily trading activity, the market declined during the first session of the week as a result to the control of the selling pressures over the trading activity, which was accompanied by the drop in the cash liquidity level to reach its minimum levels during the current month, as it reached KD 13.7 million; and the Price Index closed the session down by 0.09 percent, while the Weighted Index decreased by 0.25 percent, also the KXSX-15 Index recorded a daily loss of 0.24 percent. The market was able on Monday's session to realize good gains for its three indices to compensate its previous session's losses, which came as a support from the return of the purchasing activity once again amid concentration on the leading stocks, especially the Banks stock after the disclosure of some banks of good financial results for the nine months of

the current year. The Price Index ended the session with a growth of 0.21 percent, while the Weighted and KXSX-15 indices recorded gains of 0.35 percent and 0.46 percent respectively.

On the mid-week session, the market continued recording gains for the second consecutive session, however relatively limited, supported by the random purchasing operations executed on some stocks of different weights, amid a larger concentration on the small-cap stocks being traded at low values, which was reflected on the cash liquidity that dropped by the end of the session by around 30 percent, as the Price Index closed by the end of the session up by 0.19 percent, while the Weighted Index increased by 0.06, and the KXSX-15 Index's gains reached 0.13 percent.

On Wednesday's session, the market returned to the red zone once again, as all its indices ended the session with some losses, amid a noticeable activity of selling pressures and profit collection operations that concentrated on small-cap stocks, which was negatively affected on the Price Index in particular, to end the session with losses reached 0.45 percent, while the Weighted Index losses reached 0.20 per-

cent, and the KXSX-15 Index recorded a very limited loss of 0.004 percent. On the end of week session, the market ended its session with mixed closings for the three indices, whereas the Price and Weighted Index were able to realize limited increase by the end of the session reached 0.22 percent and 0.03 percent respectively, while the KXSX-15 Index went against the current and recorded by the end of the session a drop of 0.35 percent.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 15.40 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 13.53 percent, and the KXSX-15 recorded 13.54 percent growth.

Sectors' indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, four recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the previous week. The Basic Materials sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 0.87 percent to end the week's activity at 1,287.64 points. The Telecommunications sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.59 percent, closing at 596.09 points, followed by the Insurance sector, as its index closed at 1,103.29 points at a loss of 0.45 percent. The Banks sector was the least declining as its index closed at 961.88 points with a 0.08 percent decrease.

On the other hand, the highest gainer was the Oil & Gas sector, achieving 2.12 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,034.77 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Real Estate sector's index closed at 955.03 points recording 0.75 percent increase. The Consumer Services sector came in third as its index achieved 0.57 percent growth, ending the week at 923.83 points. The Consumer Goods sector was the least growing as its index closed at 1,016.84 points with a 0.08 percent increase.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 160.43 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 40.68 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 25.51 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 100.60 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of



Boursa Kuwait sheds KD 65m of its market cap

Wall St hits record highs; tax plan hopes fuel optimism

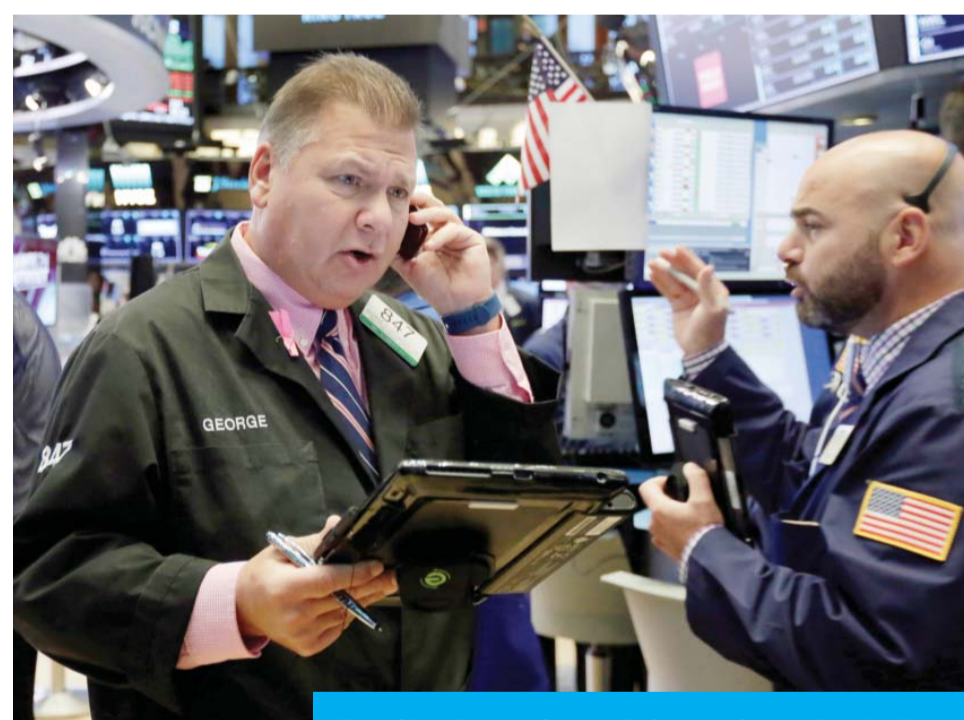
NEW YORK: US stocks hit record closing highs on Friday and the S&P 500 posted a sixth week of gains after the US Senate passed a budget resolution, lifting hopes that President Donald Trump's tax-cut plan may move forward. Shares of General Electric reversed an early drop of 6.3 percent to end 1.1 percent higher, and the S&P industrials index also finished up 1.1 percent.

The company's new chief executive vowed to shed more than \$20 billion worth of assets after the company's quarterly results badly missed Wall Street's expectations. The Senate's approval late Thursday of a 2018 budget blueprint could pave the way for Republicans to pursue a tax-cut package without Democratic support. "It's just a reaction to the thought that just maybe there might be something coming from Congress in the way of tax reform," said Paul Nolte, portfolio manager at Kingsview Asset Management in Chicago.

"Everybody had kind of given up hope, and after the comments over the last 24 hours, people are like, shoot, this may actually happen." Stocks rallied following the November election of Trump, partly on his promises to cut taxes and reduce regulations.

The S&P index of financials, which are expected to benefit from the administration's proposed policies, rose 1.2 percent and its components were among the day's best performers. The small-cap Russell 2000 index gained 0.5 percent. Small-cap companies are likely to get a boost from tax reform.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 165.59 points, or 0.71 percent, to end at



NEW YORK: Traders George Ettinger, left and Fred DeMarco work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

23,328.63, the S&P 500 gained 13.11 points, or 0.51 percent, to 2,575.21 and the Nasdaq Composite added 23.99 points, or 0.36 percent, to 6,629.05. All three indexes posted all-time closing highs, extending their recent run of records, and the Dow, which broke above 23,000 this week, rose 2 percent for the week.

The Dow also registered a sixth week of gains while the Nasdaq posted its fourth. The S&P 500 was up 0.9 percent for the week while the Nasdaq added 0.4 percent.

Some investors saw little reason to worry about the extended climb. "This has been a healthy advance. It has been a slow, steady grind upward. There's been extraordinarily low volatility," said Hank Smith, co-chief investment officer at Haverford Trust in Radnor, Pennsylvania. Investors continue to monitor news on potential candidates for the Federal Reserve chair position.

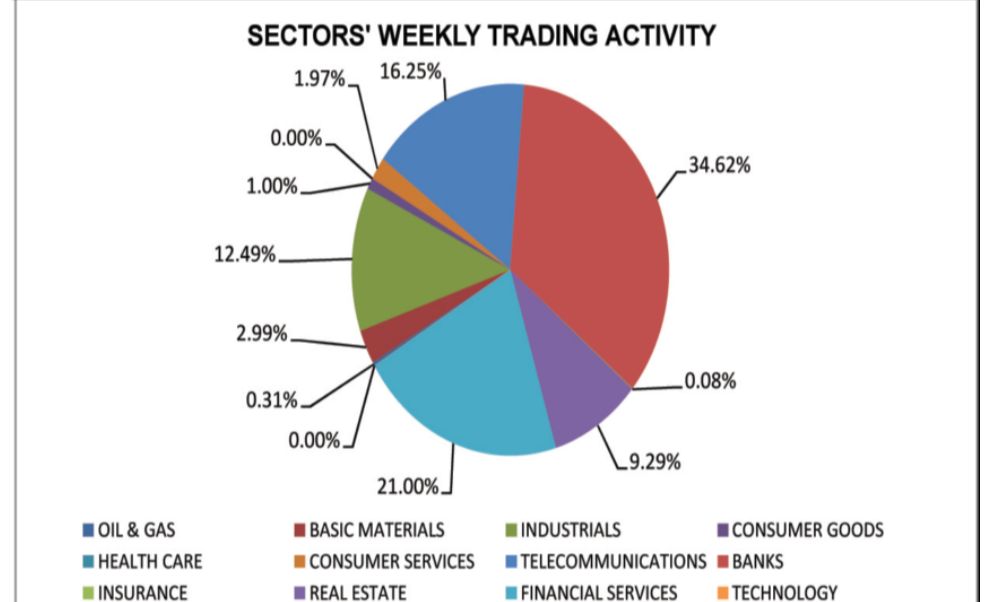
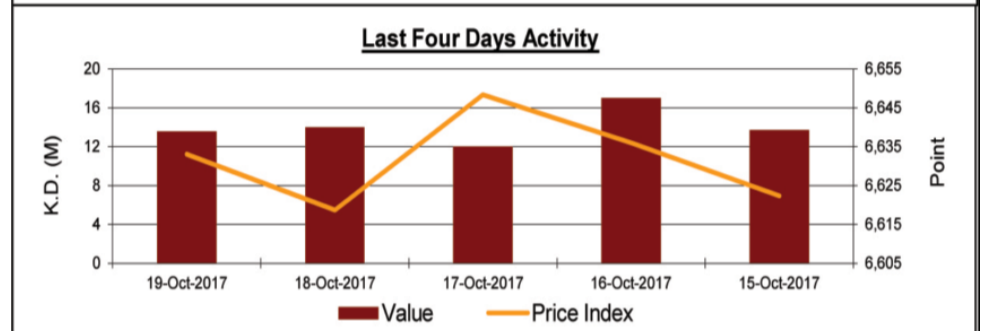
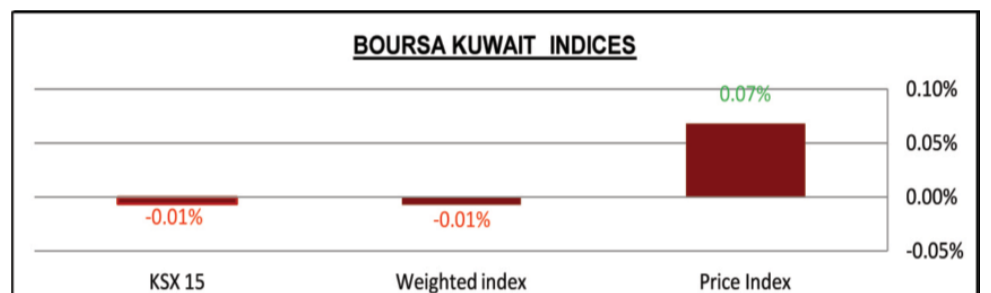
Boosting stocks late Thursday, Politico

reported Fed Governor Jerome Powell is the leading candidate to become Trump's nominee, which many would consider a continuation of the current stock market-friendly monetary policy. Trump said in an interview with Fox Business Network on Friday he was considering tapping both Powell and Stanford University economist John Taylor for the central bank's top two posts.

Also on the earnings front, PayPal's stock rose 5.5 percent after upbeat earnings. The pace of third-quarter reports should pick up next week, with results from Caterpillar and other big names.

Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 1.55-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.58-to-1 ratio favored advancers. About 6.2 billion shares changed hands on US exchanges. That compares with the 5.9 billion daily average for the past 20 trading days, according to Thomson Reuters data. — Reuters

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KXSX 15
Weekly	Last week	6,633.07	431.52	1,004.88
	Previous week	6,628.54	431.55	1,004.94
	Change (Point)	4.53	-0.03	-0.06
	Change (%)	0.07%	-0.01%	-0.01%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	884.98	51.43	119.86
	Change (%)	15.40%	13.53%	13.54%



around KD 24.35 million or 34.62 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover

was approx. KD 14.77 million representing 21 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

GE chief vows turn-around after 'unacceptable' results

NEW YORK: General Electric's newly-installed chief executive vowed Friday to do whatever it takes to turn around the industrial giant after weak quarterly results initially sent shares plunging. "It's clear we need to make some major changes," John Flannery said. "Our results are unacceptable to say the least."

Flannery, who replaced Jeff Immelt over the summer, faced tough questions from analysts after GE reported lower third-quarter earnings and cut its full-year forecast due to continued weakness in the power and oil and gas businesses. Flannery has vowed a comprehensive plan at a November 13 investor day for rousing growth at the 125-year-old company. He described 2018 as a "reset year."

The market's reaction Friday suggested investors were open to Flannery. After falling by more than seven percent in pre-market trading after the report's release, GE finished up 1.1 percent at \$23.83.

Slump in oil, power

Net profit for the quarter ending September 30 was \$1.8 billion, down 9.7 percent from the year-ago period. Revenues were \$33.5 billion, up 14.4 percent, reflecting the effects of the Baker Hughes oil services acquisition. The company slashed its full-year operating profit forecast to \$1.05 to \$1.10 per share from \$1.60 to \$1.70 in a July forecast.

Revenues and profits tumbled in the power division, where the market for gas turbines remained weak and the company wrote down \$1.2 billion of assets.

Chief financial officer Jeff Bornstein, who will step down at the end of the

month, said GE had misread the power market, overinvesting in capacity that didn't sell and not moving quickly enough to cut costs. "We have a tough 2018 in front of us but feel optimistic about the business beyond that," Bornstein said of power.

Oil and gas was another burden, as GE booked \$267 million in one-time restructuring expenses amid sluggish investment from exploration and production companies. Better-performing divisions included aviation, healthcare and renewable energy. "Operationally, this result was much worse than we expected," said a note from Goldman Sachs.

Belt-tightening ahead

Under Immelt, GE sought to reposition the company as more of a pure-play industrial conglomerate, selling off the NBC media division and radically cutting back GE Finance. But critics say GE is now currently too exposed to cyclical industries and that there is little prospect for near-term growth in many of its most important businesses. Analysts at JPMorgan Chase have been among the harshest, alluding to deep-seated structural problems.

"Anyone who thinks this story is about high level platitudes and a simple slide deck with pictures and inaccurate numbers simply is not doing any work," JPMorgan said. The company has come under fire for profligate spending under Immelt. The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that Immelt regularly took two corporate jets for travel in case one broke down.

GE said last month that it plans to sell its corporate jet fleet. The company plans to pare back its global research efforts and may shut down research centers in Shanghai, Munich and Rio de Janeiro, The Wall Street Journal said. Other cost-cutting is expected to figure heavily at the November presentation, but analysts are also expected to press Flannery on divesting assets, a move taken by other conglomerates. GE said Friday would divest \$20 billion in assets in the next two years. — AFP

Business



Another successful model from Audi Kuwait: All-new Audi Q5

SUV with four rings is more powerful, sporty and efficient

KUWAIT: Audi Kuwait presents another successful model: the new generation of one of Audi's best-sellers, the all-new Audi Q5. The SUV with the four rings is more powerful, sporty and efficient, combining the sportiness of an Audi sedan with a multifaceted character and a highly flexible interior. With its connectivity, efficiency and driver assistance systems - the new Audi Q5 once again sets standards in its segment with new features including quattro drive with ultra-technology, infotainment and safety systems. Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company recently introduced one of its newest models, the all-new Audi Q5. During the launch ceremony of the car, the Dealer Principle and General Manager, Tarek Al-Shafie, said "The Audi Q5 is considered to be one of the most important production models of this year, as it fulfills all of the diverse needs required by its owners, in everything related to sporty, recreational and family activities."

The highly-efficient engine of the Audi Q5 with quattro all-wheel drive and a dynamic gearbox capable of quick shift 7-Speed S-tronic transmission, ensures excellent

driving performance on the road. The car also has a spacious interior equipped with a wide variety of smart functions and innovative technologies, such as the Audi Drive Select feature, which changes the driving dynamics of the car at the touch of a button from comfort to dynamic or all road performance.

The SUV offers class-leading features within its segment, including an aerodynamic shape with a drag coefficient of 0.30, and this, together with a weight reduction of 90kg in comparison to the previous generation, contributes to optimum efficiency. Some of the new technology features offered on the new Q5

include a sensor that allows the ESP program to adapt to the higher center of gravity resulting from heavy loads on the roof, as well as intelligent driver safety features, such as Audi's advanced park assist with a rear view camera, Audi side assist for blind spot monitoring, and Audi pre-sense, which helps to maintain a distance between the Audi Q5 and the vehicle in front of it.

Other driver convenience features now offered include the Audi virtual cockpit with a navigation system that displays 3D maps, and a high-beam assist feature that automatically switches between high and low light lumina-

nce for the headlights.

In terms of infotainment, the multimedia options available in the Audi Q5 include MMI Navigation Plus with intelligent voice command, Apple Car Play, and a Bang & Olufsen Sound System with 3D sound.

The Q5 features a spacious interior with room for up to five people, providing ample luggage space equivalent to a volume of 1550 liters. Wheel options available range from 19 to 21 inches.

In the Middle East, the Audi Q5 is available with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine that produces 252 HP from its 2.0 liter capacity. The Audi SQ5 is offered with a turbocharged six-cylinder engine that produces 354 hp from its 3.0 liter capacity. Both engines feature turbocharged fuel stratified Injection (TFSI), which maintains a comfortable engine start and high fuel efficiency.

The all-new Audi Q5 is currently available at the Audi Kuwait Showroom, represented by Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company. Working Hours: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Saturday to Thursday.



Audi Q5 sets standards in its segment

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons and Panasonic launches New 'IT' twist cordless vacuum cleaner

KUWAIT CITY: Easa Husain Al-Yousifi Company and Panasonic have launched the new 'IT' twist cordless vacuum cleaner MC-BJ870 in The Kuwait market. With the new revolutionary twist nozzle design that is ultra-flexible, MC-B870 features a slim body and trendy looks, blending elegance and high-end technology to provide in-depth cleaning.

As the name suggests the nozzle turns into I and T shape with a twist. It cleans unreachable areas like gaps between the furniture and corners of the wall. Cleaning these areas is a herculean task with your conventional cleaner, where you have to move furniture and change accessories to clean different areas in the house. Whereas, the 'IT' Twist easily reaches gaps as narrow as 5 cm and the Powered Full Capture nozzle, automatically flip opens against wall-edge to give the best cleaning at corners.

The Panasonic IT Twist is also equipped with special dust sensors that can detect dust particle as small as 20microns, with its automatic suction control. Suction power changes according to the amount of dust allowing saving power while in operation. In addition, the

unique full-speed cleaning nozzle of MC-BG870 is equipped with a special 3 in 1 brush head and can clean different surfaces including floor, stairs and furniture tops. The vacuum cleaner weighing mere 2.2 Kg can clean dust from large areas, with a continuous operation of 30 minutes on 3 hours of charging in the automatic mode.

"We incessantly innovate in various areas to design products that cater to the evolving lifestyle of our customers. Our new IT Twist is designed keeping in mind urban lifestyle, where more and more people demand products that are compact and flexible. The rechargeable vacuum cleaner will solve all cleaning woes by reaching every nook and corner which are hard-to-reach otherwise. The right balance of technology and functionality, with Panasonic's reliability, is what makes MC-BJ870 unique," commented Mr. Keisuke Nakagawa, Director- Consumer Marketing Division, Panasonic Marketing Middle East and Africa (PMMMAF). MC-BJ870 body comes in bright silver color, and can be easily attached to a wall frame for charging.



Ooredoo launches 'Enjoy the Internet' campaign

KUWAIT: As part of its continuous efforts to make the internet accessible and enjoyable for everyone, Ooredoo has launched a new advertising campaign designed to encourage customers across its footprint to take advantage of the company's superfast network and the great variety of 'tailor-made' plans it offers to cater to their daily needs.

Customers in both mature and emerging markets increasingly demand speed, reliability, and affordability from their mobile network providers, and Ooredoo's 'Enjoy The Internet' campaign is intended to help customers better use the network to their own specific purposes, based on their own specific personalities and usage patterns.

The campaign includes a fun and inviting video featuring social media celebrity, Bibi Al-Abdulmohsen and showcases just a few of the many ways the internet helps everyone stay con-

nected and up-to-date with the people, places, and passions they love.

Ooredoo has also created a dedicated microsite (enjoytheinternet.com) that contains an interactive quiz designed to reveal to participants which 'internet personality' they have. Depending on the results, new and existing customers will be able to find out which Ooredoo plan suits them best.

Ooredoo builds and maintains world-class networks across its footprint, and its network modernization program has brought 4G services to customers in eight of its 10 markets. The company has also launched 4G+ services in a number of key markets, and is already testing 5G solutions to ensure Ooredoo's network continues to evolve with customer needs. To take part in Ooredoo's Enjoy The Internet campaign, and watch the company's latest video, head to enjoytheinternet.com.

Update your personal contact details via NBK online banking for a chance to win new GAC Motor GS4

KUWAIT: Enter a draw for a chance to win a new car when you update your contact information via NBK Online Banking. NBK customers will be rewarded for their efforts with a chance to win the new GAC Motor GS4 when they update or confirm their email and/or mobile phone number via the NBK Online Banking. NBK Online Banking provides customers with an easy-to-use, convenient, safe and secure way to bank.

"NBK Online Banking provides our customers with round-the-clock convenience, security and access they need to suit their modern lifestyles," notes Mohammed Al-Othman, Deputy General Manager, National

Bank of Kuwait. "Customers can do their banking, open accounts online whenever, wherever they want including but not limited to opening Al-Jawhara and Term Deposit account online."

Customers with updated contact information will receive the latest promotions, offers and free monthly e-statements and can sign up for NBK's up-to-date SMS service on account activity.

Terms and conditions: The draw is exclusive to customers who have updated and/or confirmed their contact information through the NBK Online Banking website. Customers who have already updated their contact



information can still enter the draw by confirming their information through NBK's Online Banking.

Only individuals 18 years and older are eligible for the draw. Central Bank of Kuwait's Guidelines for Customer Protection requires customers to provide banks with their most up-to-date contact details. Updates until 31 December 2017 will be eligible for the draw. NBK will announce the winner in January 2018 under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce.

"We are excited to partner with NBK to give away the GAC Motor GS4," said Omar Alkazi, CEO of Mutawa Alkazi. "Customers can test drive the GAC Motor GS4 SUV, to learn more about this wonderful and valuable prize."

NBK Online Banking provides convenient, safe and secure benefits for customers including: 24/7 availability, payment and transfer transactions locally and internationally, account management and much more. Visit NBK Online Banking at nbk.com to access your account and update your contact details today.

Fitch affirms KFH Rating at 'A+' with Stable Outlook

KUWAIT: Fitch Ratings has affirmed Kuwait Finance House's (KFH) Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A+'; the outlook is stable. It also affirmed KFH's Support Rating (SR) at "1" and Support Rating Floor (SRF) at "A+". Fitch has also upgraded the bank's Viability Rating (VR) to 'bb+' from 'bb'. The VR upgrade incorporates KFH's reduced risk appetite to non-core banking assets, especially equity securities and investment properties. It also includes an improvement in the bank's asset quality and profitability, supported by a more transparent strategy and good execution.

Group Chief Executive Officer at KFH, Mazin Al-Nahedh said that the Global Rating Agency affirmed in its report several strengths and privileges at KFH mainly its robust financial position and the level of government and private sector ownership, indicating the authorities' readiness to provide support. He added that the bank improved its asset quality and enjoys a large market share. KFH is a leading Islamic financial institution spanning different countries in the world. The benefits of KFH's improving risk controls, supported by additional group integration, KFH has

good liquidity management and achieved good profitability and stability in all indicators, including the total operating revenues and the investment revenues. He said that KFH-Group increases coordination among the Group units, indicating that KFH constantly endeavors to improve its asset quality while continuing its prudent policy in risk management as per best practices.

The bank has a strong management team, well experienced in local and regional banking. KFH's strategic objectives are increasingly well articulated and consistent, balancing between domestic and regional/international growth. Management has proven capability to execute in a challenging environment.

KFH has a strong franchise as the largest Islamic bank in Kuwait and the country's second-largest bank, with market shares of about 23% by assets at end-1H17. The geographical footprint, large branch network, diversified banking and investment services, and brand strengthen the bank's distribution capabilities, deposit collection and profit margins.

KFH's financing quality is improving. The Fitch calculated impaired financing ratio is continuously declining. KFH's higher-than-peers net special commission margins (due to its regional and international presence and large low-cost retail deposit base), cost efficiency and optimization across the group have supported the group's profitability.

The capital's risk absorption capacity is adequate, supported by improving asset-quality and concentration. Fitch believes that KFH has the capacity to raise capital if needed and that expected divestments from non-core assets will continue to underpin capitalization.

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Technology

G7, tech giants agree on plan to block militant content online

EU to offer support for Italy's work with Libyan authorities

ISCHIA, Italy: G7 countries and tech giants including Google, Facebook and Twitter on Friday agreed to work together to block the dissemination of Islamist extremism over the internet. "These are the first steps towards a great alliance in the name of freedom," Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti said after a two-day meeting with his Group of Seven counterparts, stressing the role of the internet in extremist "recruitment, training and radicalization." French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said the goal was to ensure jihadist content "is taken down within two hours of it going online."

"Our enemies are moving at the speed of a tweet and we need to counter them just as quickly," acting US Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke said. While acknowledging progress had been made, Britain's Home Secretary Amber Rudd insisted "companies need to go further and faster to not only take down extremist content but also stop it being uploaded in the first place". Senior executives from the internet giants and Microsoft attended the ministerial session devoted to the issue but did not offer any explanation of how they might go about clamping down on web extremists.

“ Our enemies are moving at the speed of a tweet ”

Jihadists fleeing Syria

The meeting on the Italian island of Ischia off Naples also focused on ways to tackle one of the West's biggest security threats: jihadist fighters fleeing Syria. The European Union has promised to help close a migration route considered a potential back door for terrorists. Tens of thousands of citizens from Western countries travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight for the Islamic State group between 2014 and 2016.

Some then returned home and staged attacks that claimed dozens of lives. Minniti warned last week that fighters planning revenge attacks following the recent collapse of the IS stronghold in Raqqa could hitch lifts back to Europe on

migrant boats from Libya. The United States and Italy signed an agreement on the sidelines of the G7 meeting to share their fingerprint databases in a bid to root out potential extremists posing as asylum seekers.

De-radicalization

Earlier, EU President Donald Tusk promised the bloc would fork out more funds to help shut down the perilous crossing from Libya to Italy—a popular path for migrants who hope to journey on to Europe. The EU would offer "stronger support for Italy's work with the Libyan authorities", and there was "a real chance of closing the central Mediterranean route", he said. Italy has played a major role in training Libya's coastguard to stop human trafficking in its territorial waters, as well as making controversial deals with Libyan militias to stop migrants from setting off.

Minniti said the G7 ministers had discussed how to go about "de-radicalizing" citizens returning from the IS frontline, to prevent them becoming security risks in jails. The ministers had also brainstormed on how to tackle the legal headache of prosecuting returnees, amid questions over

what sort of evidence, collected by whom, could be used in a domestic court.

Malware of terror

The Group of Seven — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US—said it had also called on the web giants to work with their smaller partners to bolster the anti-extremism shield. "IS took to the technology world like a fish to water," Minniti said, adding that it was time to unleash the antidote to its "malware of terror".

Rudd said the UK government would do its part by changing the law so that those accessing and viewing extremist material on the web could face up to 15 years



ITALY: (From left) Head of Public Policy and Government for the UK and Israel at Twitter Nick Pickles, Counterterrorism Policy Lead at Facebook Brian Fishman and Vice President for Public Policy at Google Nicklas Lundblad, attend before a working session of the G7 Interior Ministers with European Union representatives and members of the private sector, at Punta Molino Hotel in Ischia island.—AFP

behind bars. But Julian Richards, security specialist at BUCSIS (Buckingham University Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies), said the rest of the G7 was unlikely to get behind her on that front.

"The UK's fairly hard approach of introducing legisla-

tive measures to try to force companies to cooperate... and suggestions that people radicalizing online should have longer sentences, are often considered rather unpalatable and too politically sensitive in many other advanced countries," he told AFP.—AFP

Applying for a credit card? 'Take a selfie'

NEW YORK: The selfie is everywhere - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter - and soon your bank could be asking for one in order to approve your purchase or credit card application. Payment processing giant Visa Inc. is launching a platform to allow banks to integrate various types of biometrics - your fingerprint, face, voice, etc. - into approving credit card applications and payments. Consumers could experience Visa's new platform in a couple different ways. If a person were to apply for a credit card application on their smartphone, the bank app could ask the applicant to take a selfie and then take a picture of a driver's license or passport.

The technology will then compare the photos for facial similarities as well as check the validity of the driver's license, all happening within seconds. The selfie could also play a role in an online purchase. With the wider acceptance of chip cards in the last couple of years, in-person fraud at retailers is on the decline. But online fraud is still a concern, with as many as one of six transactions being declined due to suspicious activity, according to Mark Nelsen, senior vice president for risk and authentication products at Visa.

Instead of a bank call center autodialing a customer when they have a concern about a transaction, this new technology could allow the customer to use Apple's Touch ID or other fingerprint recognition technology, or take a selfie or record their voice, to verify they made the transaction. With voice recording, a customer may have to speak a certain phrase. "Customers will be able choose their own preference for biometric authentication: voice, face, finger print. Any manner that they want," said Tom Grissen, CEO of Daon, one of the companies that Visa is partnering with to launch the platform.

The announcement comes at a time when a huge amount of personal information on 145.5 million Americans was recently accessed or stolen from the credit bureau Equifax. The information - birthdates, Social Security numbers, addresses, last names - is also information that could be used tomorrow or 20 years from now to potentially commit identity fraud. Financial companies are particularly interested in biometrics, not surprisingly, as mostly a fraud protection measure.

While a birthdate, Social Security number or last name can be more easily stolen or mimicked - as anyone who has been a victim of identity fraud will tell you - it's much harder to fraudulently mimic a person's face, fingerprint or voice. A bank's traditional defense against stolen personal data has been a customer creating a password or four-digit personal identification number. But few people change their passwords regularly and make each one complex enough.

Often people use the same password for multiple sites, so if it's stolen from one location, multiple other locations become at risk.—AP



BALTIMORE: In this file photo, credit and debit cards are displayed for a photographer in Baltimore.—AP

Viral smartphone game lets ordinary Chinese 'clap' for Xi

BEIJING: Ordinary young Chinese may not have paid close attention to Xi Jinping's 3 1/2-hour speech this week, but they're happy to "applaud" the president in the newest viral phenomenon to sweep China's internet. Tencent, the internet giant behind the WeChat messaging app, rolled out a game this week that lets users clap for Xi by pressing on their phone screen as many times as possible in 19 seconds. In just three days, the game has racked up 1.2 billion plays, as many shared their scores on social media and challenged friends.

Xi kicked off the ruling Communist Party's 19th national congress this week and declared a "new era" of China's rise on the world stage. Delegates next week will grant him a second five-year term as party leader and select new members of the nearly 90-million-strong party's leading bodies. Xi has amassed more power than any Chinese leader in decades and frequently receives public displays of loyalty from party cadres, prompting warnings from his critics that China is sliding dangerously toward one-man rule.

A populist leader who has spearheaded a sweeping anti-corruption campaign, Xi's face appears prominently on billboards and trinkets sold in tourist areas. Top officials frequently invoke his name and gush over his political thought in ways that have drawn comparisons to the Mao Zedong era. In the Tencent game, users are shown a brief snippet of Xi's speech on topics such as improving the lives of poor farmers or regulating the housing market to protect young homebuyers, and then encouraged to tap the screen to applaud.

Some users reported high scores attained by tapping more than 80 times a second. The game is an



BEIJING: A woman poses as she playing a Tencent's smartphone game called 'A Great Speech, clap for Xi Jinping' in Beijing.—AP

example of how the party has leveraged the internet and popular culture to spread its message, encourage patriotism and instill loyalty to the leadership, especially Xi. At the same time, Xi has called for tighter party control over Chinese industry, including the tech sector that has traditionally thrived with relatively little government interference.

Several reports over the past year indicated that the

government is considering buying stakes in tech giants, including Tencent.

One of China's most powerful internet companies, Tencent was fined by regulators in September for failing to regulate content being shared on WeChat, a ubiquitous app that is used for chats, payments and everyday shopping. The Shenzhen-based company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.—AP

Kids, screens and parental guilt: Time to loosen up?

NEW YORK: Parents of small children have long been hearing about the perils of "screen time." And with more screens, and new technologies such as Amazon's Echo speaker, the message is getting louder. And while plenty of parents are feeling guilty about it, some experts say it might be time to relax a little. Go ahead and hand your kid a gadget now and then to cook dinner or get some work done.

Not all kids can entertain themselves quietly, especially when they are young. Try that, and see how long it takes your toddler to start fishing a banana peel out of the overflowing trash can. "I know I should limit my kid's screen time a lot, but there is reality," said Dorothy Jean Chang, who works for a tech company in New York and has a 2-year-old son. When she needs to work or finds her son awake too early, "it's the best, easiest way to keep him occupied and quiet."

Screen time, she says, "definitely happens more often than I like to admit." She's not alone. Common Sense Media, a nonprofit group focused on kids' use of media and technology, said in a report Thursday that kids aged 8 and under average about 2 hours and 19 minutes with screens every day at home. That's about the same as in 2011, though it's up from an hour and a half in 2013 - the last time the survey was conducted - when smartphones were not yet ubiquitous but TV watching was on the decline.

While the overall numbers have held steady in recent years, kids are shifting to mobile devices and other new technologies, just as their parents are. The survey found that kids spend an average of 48 minutes a day on mobile devices, up from 15 minutes in 2013. Kids are also getting exposed to voice-activated assistants, virtual reality and internet-connected toys, for which few guidelines exist because they are so new.

Mixed message

Some parents and experts worry that screens are taking time away from exercise and learning. But studies are inconclusive. The economist Emily Oster said studies have found that kids who watch a lot of TV tend to be poorer, belong to minority groups and have parents with less education - all factors that contribute to higher levels of obesity and lower test scores. For that reason, it's "difficult to draw strong conclusions about the effects of television from this research," Oster wrote in 2015.

In fact, the Common Sense survey found that kids whose parents have higher incomes and education spend "substantially less time" with screens than other children. The gap was larger in 2017 than in previous years. For more than a quarter century, the American Academy of Pediatrics held that kids under 2 should not



NEW YORK: In this file photo, a child plays with an iPad in his bedroom.—AP

be exposed to screens at all, and older kids should have strict limits. The rules have relaxed, such that video calls with grandma are OK, though "entertainment" television still isn't. Even so, guidelines still feel out of touch for many parents who use screens of various sizes to preserve their sanity and get things done.

After all, what's the point of putting on an episode of "Daniel Tiger" so you can do laundry if the nation's pediatricians insist you sit with your kid while she's watching it? "My kids are not any more or less crazy

than your average toddlers because we watch a little TV," said Jenny Hopf, a mother of two who co-founded Momidarity, an online video service for moms to connect with each other. "When used at the right time, it's a lifesaver."

Jen Bjorem, a pediatric speech pathologist in Leawood, Kansas, said that while it's "quite unrealistic" for many families to totally do away with screen time, balance is key. "Screen time can be a relief for many parents during times of high stress or just needing a break," she said.—AP

Health

Steady hand: How to do open-heart surgery during an earthquake

David Arellano operates during an earthquake

MEXICO CITY: When the ground started shaking in Mexico City on September 19, many people ran out into the street. Not David Arellano. In the middle of performing open-heart surgery on a newborn, the pediatric surgeon just concentrated harder. "The shaking was very violent, very intense. We had to hold down our equipment in the operating room," he said of his experience during the 7.1-magnitude earthquake that hit Mexico a month ago, killing 369 people.

Arellano, 57, knows a thing or two about working under pressure. He was also in open-heart surgery when a previous earthquake hit on September 7, and managed to save the life of his nine-year-old patient despite the violent shaking. The second earthquake hit Mexico City even harder, causing 39 buildings to collapse—including one across the street from Arellano's hospital. He watched as it came crashing to the ground in an enormous cloud of dust.

Then he got back to work operating the apparatus keeping his patient's blood flowing. "If you let yourself panic, you'll probably do something stupid. It helped knowing we had a patient connected to a machine" that her life depended upon, he said in his office at the La Raza Medical Center, a public hospital. Video footage from the operating theater that day shows Arellano and his team bracing themselves and the table where their tiny patient lies, their calm literally unshakable despite the tremors pitching the room back and forth.

Arellano performs seven to eight operations a week.

He says he has to go in prepared for every possibility, including an earthquake—something Mexicans, who live atop five tectonic plates, are all too used to. His hospital's earthquake protocol is to evacuate the first two floors. From the third floor up, people are supposed to stay inside and gather at designated meeting points. But the seventh-floor operating room is another story: everyone has to stay exactly where they are. "Shaking or not, these patients are depending on extracorporeal circulation (with a machine) to stay alive. And keeping the machine working depends on the people in the room," he said.

Control your fear

Arellano's second priority that day was to talk to the newborn's parents and reassure them everything was fine—just as he did on September 7 with his nine-year-old patient's father, Ricardo Garduno. "We were already a nervous wreck because of the operation. It had been five hours and we had no news. Then this powerful earthquake hit. But the worst part was not knowing how she was doing," said Garduno, 34. He remembers the relief that washed over him when Arellano came out after the quake and told him, "Everything went fine." "The fact they remained so calm and professional, I find that very admirable," Garduno said, unable to contain his smile knowing that his daughter is due to be released soon with a clean bill of health. The newborn girl's mother was equally touched. "They just kept



MEXICO CITY: Handout picture released by the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS in Spanish) press office showing doctor David Arellano, center, conducting a surgery at the La Raza hospital in Mexico City. —AFP

operating. They never left," she told Mexican media. Her baby came through surgery fine, but is still under observation for congenital heart defects. Arellano learned the value of keeping a cool head 32 years ago when, fresh out of medical school, he lived through the worst earthquake in Mexican history.

That quake—which, improbably, also struck on September 19 — killed more than 10,000 people. He was a resident at the time at Mexico General Hospital,

where dozens of people were killed, including several of his colleagues. "What I learned that day is that you have to control your panic, because it can kill you," he said. He recalls he was working that day in an annex of the hospital. He walked out as calmly as he could. Other residents who ran reached the main building first—and were crushed when it came crashing down. "A lot of my colleagues probably would have made it out alive if they hadn't panicked," he said. —AFP



Arellano performs seven to eight operations a week

Soda tax supporters try to pivot from Chicago setback

NEW YORK: US public health advocates are hoping to pivot after a major setback in Chicago, where local lawmakers repealed a soda tax after only two months following fierce industry-backed lobbying. On October 11, the Cook County Board of Commissioners, which includes Chicago, nullified the penny-an-ounce levy, which was seen as a means to discourage consumption of sugary drinks that can lead to obesity, diabetes and other ills. "It's a setback," said Jim O'Hara, director of health promotion policy at the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"It's a step back in the continuing efforts to improve public health," said Nancy Brown, chief executive of the American Heart Association. Backed by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has spent millions backing television ads promoting local soda taxes, the American Heart Association pushed hard to defend the Chicago measure out of worry a defeat could weaken other campaigns. Soda consumption in the US hit a 30-year low in 2016 amid greater public awareness of the health costs of the drinks.

About 20 percent of American girls and 23 percent of

the boys are now obese, according to the World Health Organization. Cities that have adopted soda taxes include Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle and Boulder, Colorado. O'Hara said one lesson out of the Chicago defeat was the need for political supporters and NGOs to be "very clear" in how money raised from the tax will benefit public health. After having been caught off guard by early victories of soda tax supporters, the carbonated beverage industry has found its footing.

The industry has enlisted trade associations and local merchants such as convenience stores to oppose the measures, while at the same time directing campaign contributions to key lawmakers. The campaigns have resulted in soda-tax defeats in several places, including the states of West Virginia and Michigan and the city of Santa Fe in New Mexico. "People have recognized that this is a bad idea because it goes after working-class people," said William Dermody, a spokesman for the American Beverage Association, whose members include Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

Hitting the consumer

In Chicago, the Can the Tax Coalition argued the soda tax was an ill-advised penalty on consumers and small business that would do nothing for public health. "I am living on a budget, it's becoming extremely expensive" said Detrice, an African-American woman in one of the spots. "I just can't take it anymore." Opponents of the taxes are now taking the battle to Philadelphia, raising similar issues about higher prices, lost jobs and the hit to small business,



PARIS: This file photo in Paris shows cans of soft drinks. —AFP

in an effort to derail the levy, which took effect in January. But public health advocates aren't backing down. "We will continue the fight to pass sugary drink taxes across the country," said Brown of the American Heart Association. Supporters of the measures can also take solace in shifting consumer tastes that have led to new product launches by Coca-Cola and PepsiCo of juices, bottled water and low

calorie soda while cola sales languish. Keith Ayoob, director of the nutrition clinic at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, said the answer to the problem is more public awareness of the ills of drinking soda. "People see it as intrusive," Ayoob said of the taxes. "I would much rather focus on empowering and motivating consumers to make better choices rather than wait for legislation." —AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

WHAT'S ON

Suad Adbullah visits Syrian refugee camp in Lebanon

After returning from a visit to Al-Faour Syrian refugees camp in Lebanon with LOYAC's delegation, veteran Kuwaiti actress, Suad Abdullah stressed that it was an unforgettable experience. "It was an act of humanity that would benefit us all and make us feel comfortable for sharing others miseries and trying to alleviate their sufferings", she underlined. Responding to question why she joined LOYAC on the trip, she added that LOYAC is a Kuwaiti foundation that everybody should be proud of.

She added that she had been supporting LOYAC's activities for 15 years because she strongly believes in voluntary work and using art in charity with discrimination based on race or doctrine. "I wish LOYAC would get more support from both governmental and non-governmental bodies to carry on representing Kuwait", she underlined. Further, Abdullah said that this was her first visit to the camp and that it was very touching and emotional.

She added that despite their miseries in the camp, the children had a strong will to live and that they took part in art lessons LOYAC provided in three caravans. Abdullah also urged her colleagues to follow her footsteps and support refugees. She also noted that she made an agreement with LOYAC's chairperson, Fareah Al-Saqqaf to add more caravans to teach the children how to read and write in addition to some math.



AUK student council holds 2nd session of inspirational talks

Following a successful first session of a series of talks hosted by AUK's Student Council, the second session was held last week which included actor Khaled Al-Muthafar and singer Humood Al-Khodr.

Held in the auditorium, Al-Muthafar kicked off the event by recalling his early days of acting. The fun spirit that was present within his family propelled him to further explore his acting and comedic abilities. Giving many auditions and experimenting with different roles helped develop Al-Muthafar's talent.

He eventually found a mentor in Abdulaziz Safar, who taught him the basics of acting and improved his presence onstage. Al-Muthafar also credited several other well-known actors for supporting him, which ultimately led to his

solidified position in the Kuwaiti acting community. The session continued with a speech from singer Humood Al-Khodr, who began by stating that he was always adamant that his music spread positivity amongst all of his listeners. His family-particularly his uncle-played a vital role in his pursuit of a career in music.

Al-Khodr received many opportunities to sing in various concerts and events. He did not believe in giving critics any attention; rather, he stuck to his path to further improve his skills. Al-Khodr ended his speech by clarifying that one does not become successful because of fame, but talent and perseverance is what makes a difference. The series of talks will continue throughout the month of October with many more talented guests and speakers.



Kids International Preschool reopens

Kids International Preschool started their second term on September 10, 2017 welcoming their unique stars and little pearls after summer vacation. The tiny tots' faces beamed

with delight on seeing their favourite cartoon character "Barney" at the entrance of the school ready to receive them with open arms. Children enjoyed their first day after the

vacation with coloring activities and by showing off their cool headgears, prepared by their doting teachers.



TV

AM MOVIES ACTION

01:15 The 5th Wave
03:05 6 Ways To Sundown
04:45 The Darkest Hour
06:15 The Last Rescue
08:00 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
09:55 Compadres
11:35 The 5th Wave
13:25 Black Rose
14:45 The Last Rescue
16:30 Beyond Redemption
18:00 Compadres
19:40 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
21:55 In Time
23:45 Montana

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Dark Days In Monkey City
01:13 Dark Days In Monkey City
01:40 Dark Days In Monkey City
02:08 Dark Days In Monkey City
02:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
05:02 Rugged Justice
05:49 Rugged Justice
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Whale Wars
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Treehouse Masters
11:55 Treehouse Masters
12:50 The Lion Queen
13:45 Cats 101
14:40 Dogs 101: New Tricks
15:08 Dogs 101: New Tricks
15:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
16:03 Escape To Chimp Eden
16:30 Escape To Chimp Eden
16:58 Escape To Chimp Eden
17:25 Dark Days In Monkey City
17:53 Dark Days In Monkey City
18:20 Expedition Mungo
19:15 Catching Monsters
20:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
21:05 Wildest Islands
22:00 Wildest Islands
22:55 Lone Star Law
23:50 Lone Star Law

BBC FIRST

00:00 EastEnders
00:30 The Durrells
01:20 The Durrells
02:10 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
03:05 The Collection
04:00 Doctors
04:30 EastEnders
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 Father Brown
06:50 EastEnders
07:20 Stella
08:10 New Tricks
09:10 Doctors
09:40 EastEnders
10:10 Father Brown
11:00 The Coroner
11:50 Stella
12:35 New Tricks
13:30 Doctors
14:00 EastEnders
14:30 Father Brown
15:25 Stella
16:10 New Tricks
17:10 The Coroner
18:00 Doctors
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
21:00 Luther
21:50 Unforgotten
22:40 Unforgotten
23:30 Doctors

crime & investigation network

00:00 Paranormal State
00:30 Paranormal State
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 Paranormal State
04:30 Paranormal State
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
09:00 Cold Case Files
10:00 Cold Case Files
11:00 Evil Up Close
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Cold Case Files
19:00 Cold Case Files
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Measuring Evil Britain's Worst Killers
23:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:43 Michael McIntyre's Showtime
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Krill Show
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Framework
07:15 Lip Sync Battle
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 I Live With Models
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Framework
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Lip Sync Battle
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 I Live With Models
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 I Live With Models
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:00 Lip Sync Battle
19:25 Impractical Jokers

Discovery Family

19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 South Park
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Detroiters
23:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
03:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Storm Chasers
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
13:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
15:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
15:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
16:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
16:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:00 How It's Made
17:25 How It's Made
17:50 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
18:40 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
19:30 Serious Desert
19:55 Serious Desert
20:20 Weather Gone Viral
21:10 Wild Hawaii
22:00 Storm Chasers
22:50 Storm Chasers
23:40 Storm Chasers

ID

00:30 Alaska Haunting
01:20 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery
02:10 Murder Calls
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 American Monster
04:36 True Nightmares
05:24 Disappeared
06:12 Fatal Encounters
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 Disappeared
08:40 Disappeared
09:30 Disappeared
10:20 Disappeared
11:10 Blood Relatives
12:00 I Almost Got Away With It
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 Fatal Encounters
14:30 Fatal Encounters
15:20 Fatal Encounters
16:10 Fatal Encounters
17:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
17:50 Obsession: Dark Desires
18:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
19:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
20:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
21:10 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special
22:00 Disappeared
22:50 Devil In The Details
23:40 Alaska Haunting
Disney HD
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles

Disney Channel HD

01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30 Binnie And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:40 Hank Zipzer
04:15 Alex & Co.
04:40 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binnie And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
06:55 The Zhuzhus S1
07:20 Tangled Before Ever After
07:25 The Zhuzhus S1
08:30 Bizaardvark
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Disney Cookabout
09:50 K.C. Undercover
10:15 Bunk'd
10:40 Descendants 2
12:30 The Zhuzhus S1
12:45 Austin & Ally
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Austin & Ally
14:25 K.C. Undercover
14:50 K.C. Undercover
15:15 Jessie
15:40 Jessie
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Disney Cookabout
16:35 Girl Meets World
17:00 Austin & Ally
17:25 Austin & Ally
17:50 Tangled Before Ever After
18:50 The Zhuzhus S1
19:05 Best Friends Whenever
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Disney Cookabout
21:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:25 Alex & Co.
22:50 Liloalock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binnie And The Ghost
Disney Junior
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero

Disney Junior

00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopydoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:50 Loopydoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopydoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopydoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopydoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 Sofia The First
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 Puppy Dog Pals
11:30 Puppy Dog Pals
12:00 Puppy Dog Pals
12:30 Puppy Dog Pals
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
16:30 Puppy Dog Pals
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 Sofia The First
18:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:00 PJ Masks
19:25 Harry And Hip
19:35 Puppy Dog Pals
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:05 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
21:35 Miles From Tomorrow
21:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:20 Sofia The First
22:50 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:40 Loopydoo

Discovery Channel HD

00:15 Supertruckers
01:00 Fast N' Loud
01:45 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:30 Street Customs Berlin
03:15 Fast N' Loud
04:00 Ed Stafford: Left For Dead
04:50 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Street Customs 2008
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
09:00 Garage Gold
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Alaskan Bush People
10:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier
11:40 Supertruckers
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Garage Gold
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Customs 2008
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Garage Gold
18:20 Garage Gold
18:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Gold Rush: The Story So Far
21:50 Gold Rush
22:40 What On Earth?
23:30 Fast N' Loud

Disney XD

06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:30 Gravity Falls
08:55 Kirby Buckets Warped
09:25 Kirby Buckets Warped
09:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 Supa Strikas
10:45 Mech-X4
11:10 Mech-X4
11:35 Right NOW Kapow
12:00 Right NOW Kapow
12:30 Walk The Prank
12:55 Supa Strikas
13:20 Kirby Buckets
13:45 Marvel's Spider-Man
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 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 Gravity Falls
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Milo Murphy's Law
19:00 Lab Rats
19:25 Right NOW Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
21:48 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

00:00 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:40 Mariah's World
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:50 El News
07:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 El News

09:05 WAGs Miami
10:00 WAGs Miami
10:55 WAGs Miami
11:55 WAGs Miami
12:50 WAGs Miami
13:40 WAGs Miami
14:30 WAGs Miami
15:20 WAGs Miami
16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 El News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

food network

00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Stakeout
02:00 Mystery Dinners
02:30 Mystery Dinners
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:25 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:50 Man Fire Food
07:15 Chopped
08:05 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:55 The Pioneer Woman
09:20 The Pioneer Woman
09:50 Siba's Table
10:20 Siba's Table
10:50 Bake With Anna Olson
11:20 Chopped
12:10 Man Fire Food
12:35 Man Fire Food
13:05 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:05 Barefoot Contessa
15:30 Barefoot Contessa
16:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:30 The Pioneer Woman
17:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
17:30 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
18:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
18:30 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
19:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
19:30 Man Fire Food
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Siba's Table
21:30 Siba's Table
22:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
22:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy

itv HD CHOICE

23:00 Chopped
00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 The Chase
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Catchphrase
04:25 Catchphrase
05:00 Jekyll And Hyde
05:55 Jekyll And Hyde
06:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
07:50 Midsomer Murders
09:30 Victoria
10:25 Grantchester
11:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
12:20 Catchphrase
13:00 Catchphrase
13:35 Doc Martin
14:35 Grantchester
15:30 Victoria
16:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:25 Midsomer Murders
19:00 Catchphrase
19:45 Doc Martin
20:40 Victoria
21:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:25 Midsomer Murders
H2 HD

H2 HD

00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 Ancient Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Aliens
07:00 Ancient Impossible
08:00 Ancient Impossible
09:00 Serial Killer Earth
10:00 Serial Killer Earth
11:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
12:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
13:00 Ancient Impossible
14:00 Ancient Impossible
15:00 Serial Killer Earth
16:00 Serial Killer Earth
17:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Decoding The Past
20:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
20:30 How The States Got Their Shapes
21:00 In Search Of Aliens
22:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
23:00 Frankie Fraser's Last Stand History HD
00:20 The Curse Of Oak Island
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Leepu And Pitbull
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars Australia
03:40 Pawn Stars Australia
04:05 Leepu And Pitbull
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Duck Dynasty
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Duck Dynasty
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone
16:00 Time Team
16:50 Swamp People
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers

HISTORY HD

21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers Best Of
22:40 Counting Cars
23:05 Counting Cars
23:30 Mountain Men
Nat Geo People HD
00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 Chasing The Sun
01:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Croatia's Finest
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:50 Mega Food
05:45 Croatia's Finest
06:15 Restoration Man
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

NAT GEO people HD

07:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
08:05 Rustic Adventures Argentina
08:30 Rustic Adventures Argentina
09:00 Cesar To The Rescue
09:55 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
10:20 Places We Go
10:50 Places We Go
11:15 What's For Sale?
11:45 What's For Sale?
12:10 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
12:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:35 Dog Whisperer
14:30 My Pacific Quest
15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
16:20 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
16:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
17:15 Croatia's Finest
17:40 Croatia's Finest
18:10 The Wine Show
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
21:00 Croatia's Finest
21:30 Croatia's Finest
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
Nat Geo HD
00:10 Highway Thru Hell
01:00 Nazi Megastructures
02:00 Big Fish, Texas
03:00 Wicked Tuna
04:00 Pond Stars
05:00 Future China 2049
06:00 Sea Patrol
07:00 Highway Thru Hell
08:00 Hard Time
09:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

10:00 Witness: Disaster In Japan
11:00 The Next Mega Tsunami
12:00 Positive Energy
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Big Fish, Texas
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Future China 2049
18:00 Seconds From Disaster
18:30 Seconds From Disaster
19:00 Big Fish, Texas
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Future China 2049
21:40 Seconds From Disaster
22:05 Seconds From Disaster
22:30 Big Fish, Texas
23:20 Taboo Compilations

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Lion Ranger
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown
02:50 Man v. Monster
03:45 South Africa
04:40 India's Lost Worlds
05:35 Boss Croc
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild Case Files
09:15 K-9 Border Wars
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 World's Weirdest Animal Faces Compilation
12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown
13:50 Man v. Monster
14:45 South Africa
15:40 Seconds From Disaster
16:35 Bandits Of Selous
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Wild Indochina
19:20 South Africa
20:10 Speed Kills
21:00 Bandits Of Selous
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Wild Indochina
23:30 World's Weirdest Animal Faces Compilation

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 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

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 The Day Henry Met
01:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:46 Team Umizoomi
02:09 Team Umizoomi
02:31 Paw Patrol
02:55 Paw Patrol
03:19 Shimmer And Shine
03:42 Shimmer And Shine
04:05 Nella The Princess Knight
04:27 Nella The Princess Knight
04:50 Rusty Rivets
05:14 Rusty Rivets
05:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:24 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Bubble Guppies
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 The Day Henry Met
13:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:46 Team Umizoomi
14:09 Team Umizoomi
14:31 Paw Patrol
14:55 Paw Patrol
15:19 Shimmer And Shine
15:42 Shimmer And Shine
16:05 Nella The Princess Knight
16:27 Nella The Princess Knight
16:50 Rusty Rivets
17:14 Rusty Rivets
17:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:24 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
23:39 Shimmer And Shine

sm MOVIES HD FAMILY

01:35 Tom And Huck
03:15 The Game Plan
05:05 Storm Rider
06:55 Ratatouille
09:00 Up
10:45 Snow Dogs
12:35 Hercules (1997)
14:20 Atlantis: Milo's Return
15:50 James And The Giant Peach
17:20 Frankweenie
18:55 Hercules (1997)
20:45 Hercules (1997)
22:25 Atlantis: Milo's Return
23:55 Frankweenie

sm MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:05 Good Kids
01:40 The Hot Chick
03:30 Babe: Pig In The City
05:10 Love The Coopers
07:00 A Thousand Words
08:35 Camp Nowhere
10:15 Babe: Pig In The City
11:55 Love The Coopers
13:45 A Thousand Words
15:20 Hello Carter
17:00 Junior
18:55 Hearts Of Spring
20:25 Barbershop 2: Back In Business
22:15 Screwed

sm MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

00:05 Boys Don't Cry
02:05 The Portrait Of A Lady
04:40 The Shamer's Daughter
06:25 Oleanna
08:45 Wards And Pictures
10:15 The Portrait Of A Lady
12:50 Oleanna
14:30 The Quiet Hour
16:05 The Flying Scotsman
17:55 A Country Called Home
19:25 The Age Of Adaline
21:25 Lucky Them
23:10 Carol

sm MOVIES HD KIDS

00:25 Winnie The Pooh
01:35 Izzie's Way Home
03:05 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
04:30 The Wheelers
06:00 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
07:30 Bunny Tales
08:50 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville
10:20 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's

Quest
12:05 Izzie's Way Home
13:35 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
15:00 Mia And The Migoo
16:40 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville
18:10 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
19:40 A.R.C.H.I.L.E.
21:15 Mia And The Migoo
22:55 Bunny Tales

sm MOVIES HD

00:05 Higher Learning
02:20 The Invention Of Lying
04:10 We Bought A Zoo
06:20 Eddie The Eagle
08:15 It's Complicated
10:40 Up Close And Personal
12:40 The Invention Of Lying
14:30 Rocky
16:35 Kicking And Screaming
18:20 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
20:00 Dragonfly
21:45 Sommersby
23:45 This Boy's Life

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:30 Da Vinci's Machines
01:20 Da Vinci's Machines
02:10 Da Vinci's Machines
03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
03:48 How Do They Do It?
04:12 How Do They Do It?
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:24 Food Factory
05:48 Food Factory
06:12 Food Factory
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
08:14 Da Vinci's Machines
09:02 Da Vinci's Machines
09:50 Da Vinci's Machines
10:38 Da Vinci's Machines
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 Mythbusters
13:50 Mythbusters
14:38 Mythbusters
15:26 Food Factory
16:14 Food Factory
16:38 Food Factory
17:02 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 How Do They Do It?
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
20:20 NASA's Unexplained Files
21:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:00 Rise Of The Machines
22:50 Rise Of The Machines
23:40 Rise Of The Machines

STAR WORLD HD

00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Project Runway
03:00 MAFS: The First Year
04:00 Three
05:00 MAFS: The First Year
06:00 Three
07:00 MAFS: The First Year
08:00 MAFS: The First Year
09:00 Fashion Star
10:00 Project Accessory
11:00 MAFS: The First Year
12:00 Cedar Cove
13:00 Cedar Cove
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Fashion Star
16:00 Project Accessory
17:00 House Of DVF
18:00 Who Lives Here?
19:00 Who Lives Here?
20:00 Along For The Ride
20:30 Along For The Ride
21:00 Fashion Star
22:00 Project Accessory
23:00 House Of DVF TLC HD

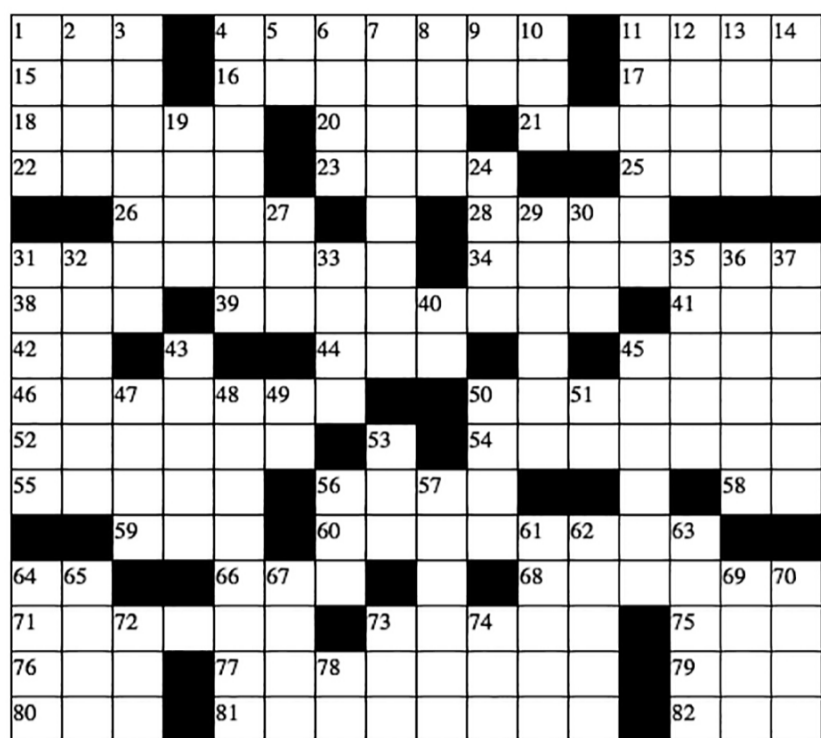
TLC HD

00:20 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
01:05 Botched Up Bodies
01:50 This Is Life With Carissa Cupido
02:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Toddlers & Tiaras
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 7 Little Johnstons
07:30 Sister Wives
08:15 Little People, Big World
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners

sm MOVIES HD COMEDY

10:55 The Undateables
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:10 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Little People, Big World
15:25 The Undateables
16:10 Love At First Swipe
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Outdaughtered:

CROSSWORD 1741



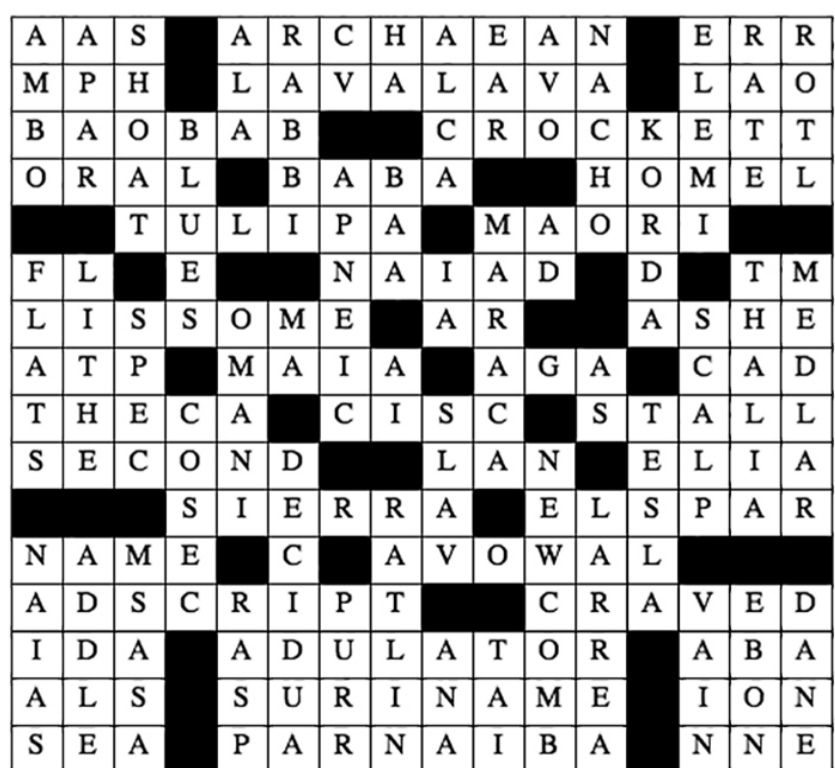
ACROSS

- 1. A former monetary unit in Great Britain.
4. An explosion that fails to occur.
11. Highly recommended.
15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
16. With no protection or shield.
17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
18. A style of glazed earthenware.
20. The address of a web page on the world wide web.
21. A small measure (usually of food).
22. Muslim name for God.
23. A notable achievement.
25. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
26. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
28. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
31. (Greek mythology) The god of the underworld in ancient mythology.
34. French royal architect who built the Tuileries Palace and Gardens in Paris for Catherine de Medicis (1515-1570).
38. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
39. Form a mental image of something that is not present or that is not the case.
41. The longest division of geological time.
42. A doctor's degree in optometry.
44. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
46. (Old Testament) Wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau.
52. A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
54. (Greek mythology) A maiden who was first a sculpture created by Pygmalion and was brought to life by Aphrodite in answer to Pygmalion's prayers.
55. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
58. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
59. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
60. Marked with or as if with stripes or linear discolorations.
64. A state in northwestern North America.
66. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
68. Having a woven pattern.
71. A rosid dicot genus that includes moon carrots.
75. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
76. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
77. City in central Iran.
79. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
80. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
81. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 1. English monk and scholar (672-735).
2. German industrialist who was the first in Germany to use an assembly line in manufacturing automobiles (1871-1948).
3. A poem consisting of 3 stanzas and an envoy.
4. A colorless odorless gas used as a fuel.
5. Denoting a quantity consisting of one more than eight and one less than ten.
6. An edible tuber native to South America.
7. Used of legal argumentation.
8. A small island.
9. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
10. A doctor's degree in education.
11. The capital and largest city of Equatorial Guinea on the island of Bioko in the Gulf of Guinea.
12. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
13. Wearing footgear.
14. A long thin piece of cloth or paper as used for binding or fastening.
19. A card game in which players bet against the dealer on the cards he will draw from a dealing box.
24. An informal term for a father.
27. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
29. A journey by a large group to escape from a hostile environment.
30. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
32. A colorless liquid hydrocarbon extracted from petroleum or coal tar and used in making synthetic resins.
33. The part of the eye that contains the iris and ciliary body and choroid.
35. Show a response or a reaction to something.
36. United States chemist and physicist who collaborated with Michelson in the Michelson-Morley experiment (1838-1923).
37. Make attractive or lovable.
40. A white trivalent metallic element.
43. Of or relating to punishment.
45. An ornamental jeweled headdress signifying sovereignty.
47. A small cake leavened with yeast.
48. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
49. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
50. A fit of shivering.
51. A soft gray malleable metallic element that resembles tin but discolors on exposure to air.
53. Explosive consisting of a yellow crystalline compound that is a flammable toxic derivative of toluene.
56. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwestern North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
57. A large fleet.
61. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
62. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
63. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
65. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
67. A Loloish language.
69. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
70. God of love and erotic desire.
72. A male human offspring.
73. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
74. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
78. An informal term for a father.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Expect support and goodwill from those around you today; this is a time of cooperation and getting things accomplished on a large scale. Planting of trees, bushes and perhaps a few winter vegetables can all be done in a small amount of time, particularly when several people work together. Perhaps the plants have been decided upon but each contributor might like his or her own little piece of garden to care for this winter, therefore promoting the whole picture. Projects are more interesting and satisfying when each person has an interest in the outcome: yum. Friendships and involvement in group activities play a more important part in your life now, not just in a garden. A fun entertainment activity can be enjoyed later today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Consider the needs of others as you work on your financial plans. Losing sight of the practical and mundane can make you very artistic, but may not be so good for the bankbook. There is a need for caution and practicality on the material and financial level. Use your influence when it comes to teaching others what you have learned—especially the young people in your life. If you need any professional advice, today and tomorrow will be the best days to seek your answers. You will find the remainder of this month to be rather social. There are opportunities to attend reunions, homecomings, socials and gatherings of all sorts, particularly this week. You have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts and you enjoy most socializing.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This morning will bring with it good luck and positive opportunities. If you are not learning about better nutrition, today and tomorrow are good times to begin. Normally, you are a very eager person—you may be encouraged to push beyond your strengths or be inclined to tax yourself this day. You could be a bit pushy about your own belief system or style of doing things—careful. If you do not get your message across the first time, make it a point to take a step back, in order to see issues from a different perspective. There is a lot of energy and drive available to accomplish whatever you want to accomplish today. Expect a sense of support from those around you. Talking with a friend this evening may give you a new investment idea.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your mind is quite clear and natural. Ideas are flowing and come with ease. You can talk, talk and talk. Decisions and new beginnings are possible at this time; for the next three days try to avoid rash decisions. Running to and fro with no set plan or ideas can cause problems, physically and mentally. Any group activity will have much success. Perhaps a garage sale, auction or bazaar is in the works and can be planned now. You can grab attention or profit at this time. This is a day you should find everything running in a smooth manner. Working with—rather than against—the flow should be easy to do. An opportunity to take on a part-time job has positive possibilities. If you have a mate, discuss this opportunity before making a decision.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Circumstances may block you or bring you to a standstill. Fortunately, this is what makes today lucky—because you stay in one place longer than usual, amazingly, the good luck comes to you. You have a sense of serenity and inner harmony. You attract others to you because of your good attitude. Spiritual concerns achieve an added importance now. You could be tempted to overindulge in food and drink later today when friends include you in some sort of commemoration. You enjoy the work you do to help build family relations; however, now it is time to create a little area for yourself so that you can create and enjoy your own private space. Some form of music, laughter and exercise is in order this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. Communicating feelings becomes important. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation or feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. Someone may compliment you on your tastes or belongings. You are in a great mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. Getting away from the old routine may help you with a love relationship now. Perhaps a fun time at a nearby tourist park, concert or a nice restaurant dinner could be planned for this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

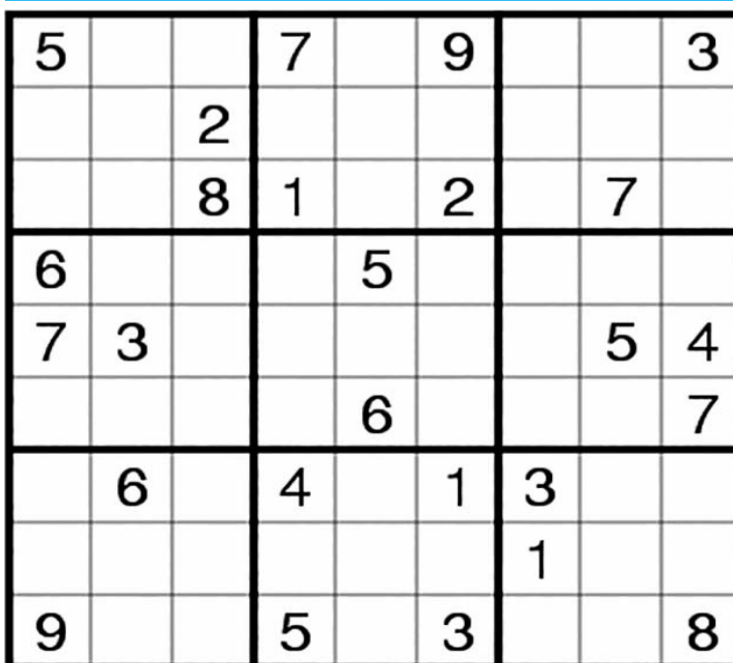
Delicious Desserts

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



- AMBROSIA, APPLE CRISP, APPLE PIE, BAKED ALASKA, BAKLAVA, BANANA SPLIT, BREAD PUDDING, BROWNIES, BUTTER TARTS, CARROT CAKE, CHEESE CAKE, CHOCOLATE CAKE, CINNAMON ROLLS, CREME BRULEE, CREPES, ECLAIRS, EMPANADAS, FLAN, FRUIT CRUMBLE, GELATO, GINGERBREAD, ICE CREAM, JELLY ROLLS, LEMON BARS, MACAROONS, MERINGUES, MONKEY BREAD, MOUSSE, NUT BRITTLE, FUDGE, PASTRIES, PAVLOVA, PEACH COBBLER, PINEAPPLE DELIGHT, PLUM SQUARES, RAISIN PUDDING, RUM BALLS, SORBET, STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE, STRUDEL, SUNDAE, TIRAMISU, TORTESS, TRIFLE

Daily SuDoku



Libra (September 23-October 22)



Put a closure on any old business or personal concerns today. Events may make it easy for you to just enjoy the day. Independence, originality and eccentricity are in the forefront now. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general receive attention and encouragement. Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. Shopping and collecting things of beauty and value play a big role in your life. Provided you do not spend it all on the fancy things that catch your eye, this can be a financially favorable period. Visiting with friends takes priority today and you may find yourself arranging for a get-together this evening that may include a barbecue. Laughter and a lighthearted frame of mind keep your spirits positive.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Encourage your mate—it will benefit you! A natural transformation of your values and the way you appreciate and love is taking place. You may cease to waste time and money acquiring that which is worthless and may develop an eye for that which is lasting and worthwhile. Emotional beginnings, a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns—make sure they are good ones—because they will set the tone for you for quite some time to come! Your friends and family will support what you do; you may have to make a gentle effort to stand alone. Perhaps a new you is budding. Whatever you decide to do will have the support that you need. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others. Social situations are favorable.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Easy does it: there could be a tendency to act suddenly, without thought or consideration. Give yourself time to think through the options as they occur today. Perhaps you can work in the yard or enjoy a bicycle trip with a friend. Many of your professional and personal dreams are near the realm of possibility and you are happy with your accomplishments. A kind of midas touch is signaled by the new cycle now dawning in your life. Prosperity and security take center stage in your thoughts: a gentle but committed conservatism brings you all kinds of good things. It may occur to you that you should be thinking seriously about where you want a permanent home and in what neighborhood. A bicycle journey with friends this afternoon will take you a long way.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your loved ones may have plans for the day that do not include you. You may remember that you wanted to go in a different direction anyway—so the feeling of being left out does not last long. Your own plans keep you busy and the day moves rather quickly. Emotional beginnings, a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns will set the tone for you for quite some time to come! Your creative abilities are primed and ready for whatever project you have in mind. Whatever you decide to do will have your own personal signature. Someone is impressed with the progress you have made in such a short amount of time—celebrations are in order. Perhaps this includes painting a room or redecorating a house. Romance is in the air this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Take advantage of this weekend by planning fun things to do. If others are busy, take this opportunity to play! Busy yourself with one of the many hobbies you have. Do not push issues. This is certainly an unusual time—you may be ready to move forward with tough decisions. You know how, what and where you want to navigate. You will notice that the energies around you work with you, instead of against you, for a change. There are positive new beginnings in connection with family and friends. This is the perfect day to get close to your other half or a special friend and talk over anything under the sun, so to speak. You could gain an understanding and feel totally compatible with each other by keeping an open mind.

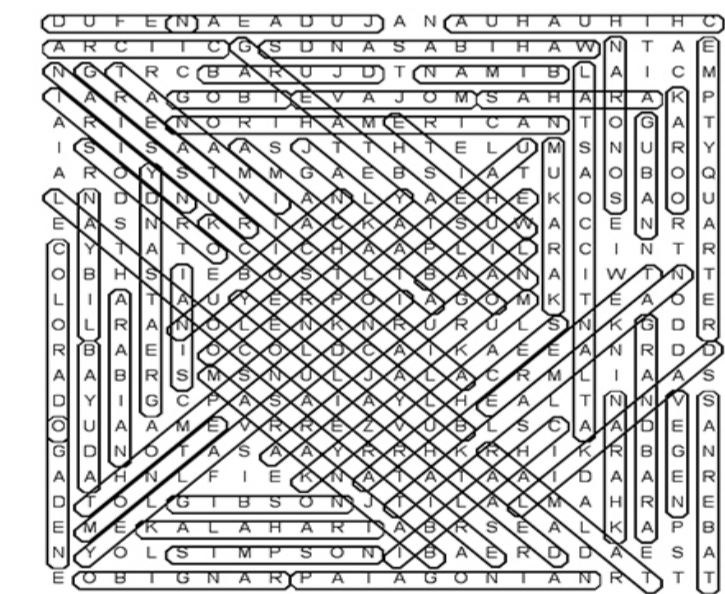


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life at this time. Take a little trip today. Enjoy getting away from your regular routine. Travel and education are ways to expand your life experiences and open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal now; transmitting ideas on a broader scale brings gain. Support and recognition from family and friends are available. You feel at home in the world and it takes care of you. You could have deep insight into your own feelings and inner spiritual nature. There is some open time this evening to express your thoughts in some most creative ways, through poetry or music.

Friday's Solution

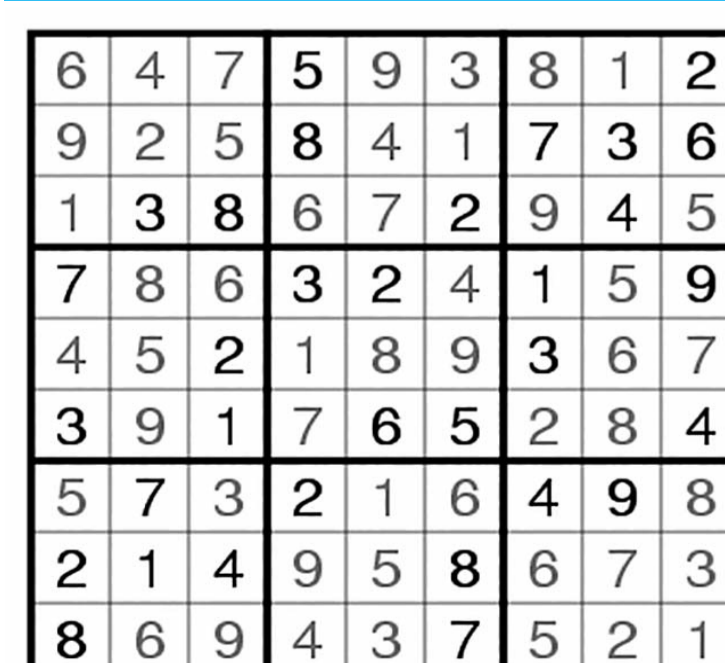
Deserts of the World



- ARABIAN, ARCTIC, ATACAMA, ATLANTIC COASTAL, BAYUDA, BLACK ROCK, BLUE, CHALBI, CHIHUAHUA, COLORADO, DANAKIL, DEATH VALLEY, DJURAB, EMPTY QUARTER, ERITREAN COASTAL, GIBSON GOBI, GRAND BARA, GREAT BASIN, GREAT SANDY, GREAT VICTORIA, GUBAN, NEGUV, JALAPAO, JUDEAN, KALAHARI, KARAKUM, KAROO, KHARAN, KYZYLKUM, LAGUAJIRA, LIBYAN, MARANJAB, MOJAVE, MONTE, NAMIB, NEFUD, NEGEV, NORTH AMERICAN, NUBIAN, NYIRI, OGDADEN, OLESHKY, ORDOS, PATAGONIAN, RAMLAT, RANGIBO, RUSSIAN, SAHARA, SECHURA, SIMPSON, SINAI, SONORAN, TABERNAS, TAKLAMAKAN, TANAMI, TENERE, THOMPSON PLATEAU, WAHIBA SANDS, WHITE

The hidden message is: ANTARCTICA IS THE LARGEST DESERT IN THE WORLD AND IS CLASSIFIED AS A POLAR DESERT.

Friday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, October 22, 2017

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

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



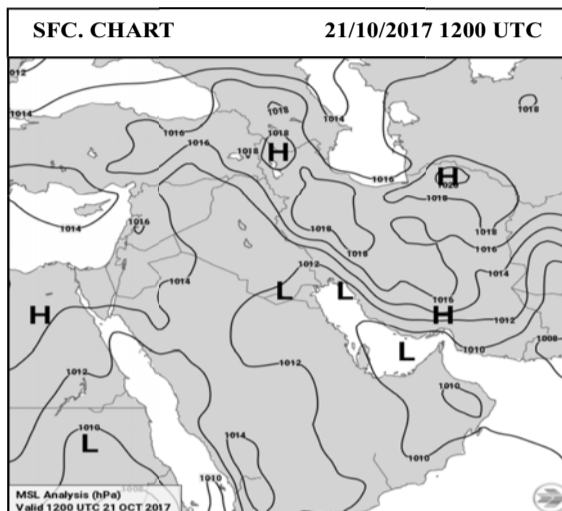
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

BY DAY: Relatively hot with light to moderate northerly wind to north easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

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

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	34 °C	24 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34 °C	19 °C
ABDALY	34 °C	19 °C
BUBYAN	31 °C	19 °C
JAHRA	35 °C	20 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	33 °C	24 °C
SALMIYAH	31 °C	24 °C
AHMADI	30 °C	27 °C
NUWAISIB	33 °C	22 °C
WAFRA	35 °C	19 °C
SALMY	35 °C	19 °C



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	10/22	Relatively hot	34 °C	19 °C	N-NE	08 - 28 km/h
Monday	10/23	Relatively hot	35 °C	18 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Tuesday	10/24	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	36 °C	18 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	10/25	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	35 °C	19 °C	SE-SW	10 - 30 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:34
Sunrise	05:54
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:46
Sunset	17:11
Isha	18:28

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	32 %
MIN. RH	11 %
MAX. Wind	N 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

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

DRIVER REQUIRED

to work at
 Kuwaiti Family
 Resident transfer,
 speaks Arabic / English
 Know the use of
 Google Maps

Contact: 97286044

LUXURY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Two rooms, lounge,
 bathroom and kitchen

69996992 - 66804222

ACCOMMODATION

EMERGENCY 112

Sharing accommodation available in Farwaniya, only for family/bachelors single working ladies. Contact: 66625901. (C 5350) 22-10-2017

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 22/10/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 22/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
KAC	514	Tehran	13:10	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:35	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
ICV	675	Luxembourg	13:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KAC	618	Doha	14:20	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	ICV	675	Hong Kong	15:20
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:40
KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	562	Amman	15:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
RJA	640	Amman	16:00	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	801	Damascus	16:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	118	New York	16:25	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	WAN	115	Bahrain	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	CJR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	776	Dubai	19:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	104	London	20:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	620	Doha	20:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	166	Rome	20:55	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	564	Amman	21:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:30
KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	241	Amman	22:55	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
JZR	185	Dubai	23:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
WAN	806	Sarajevo	23:30	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
THY	764	Istanbul	23:45				

Lifestyle | Gossip

Pink reignites feud with Kim Kardashian

The 38-year-old singer believes the way the reality star - who attempted to break the internet with a racy nude bathroom selfie in 2015 - treated the acting legend was wrong, and has confirmed her comments at the time urging women to use their "brains" not their "t*s and a*s*s" were directed at the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star. During her appearance on 'Watch What Happens Live', the 38-year-old singer said: "Honestly she went in on Bette Midler and if you go in on Bette Midler, you're going to hear from me. "Just don't talk to Bette Midler about anything." Following Kim's selfie, Bette tweeted: "Kim Kardashian tweeted a nude selfie today. If Kim wants us to see a part of her we've never seen, she's gonna have to swallow the camera." But it didn't

impress Kim, who snapped back: "hey @BetteMidler I know it's past your bedtime but if you're still up and reading this send nudes #justkidding. (sic)" And she added: "hey @BetteMidler I really didn't want to bring up how you sent me a gift awhile back trying to be a fake friend then come at me #dejavu. (sic)" However, the legendary performer poked fun at the 35-year-old reality TV star, for not taking a 'joke' when she mocked her for stripping off for a shot. Taking to her Twitter account, she wrote: "I never tried to fake friend you. Looks like anyone can take a selfie but not everyone can take a joke... (sic)."



Winona Ryder lucky to date someone less famous

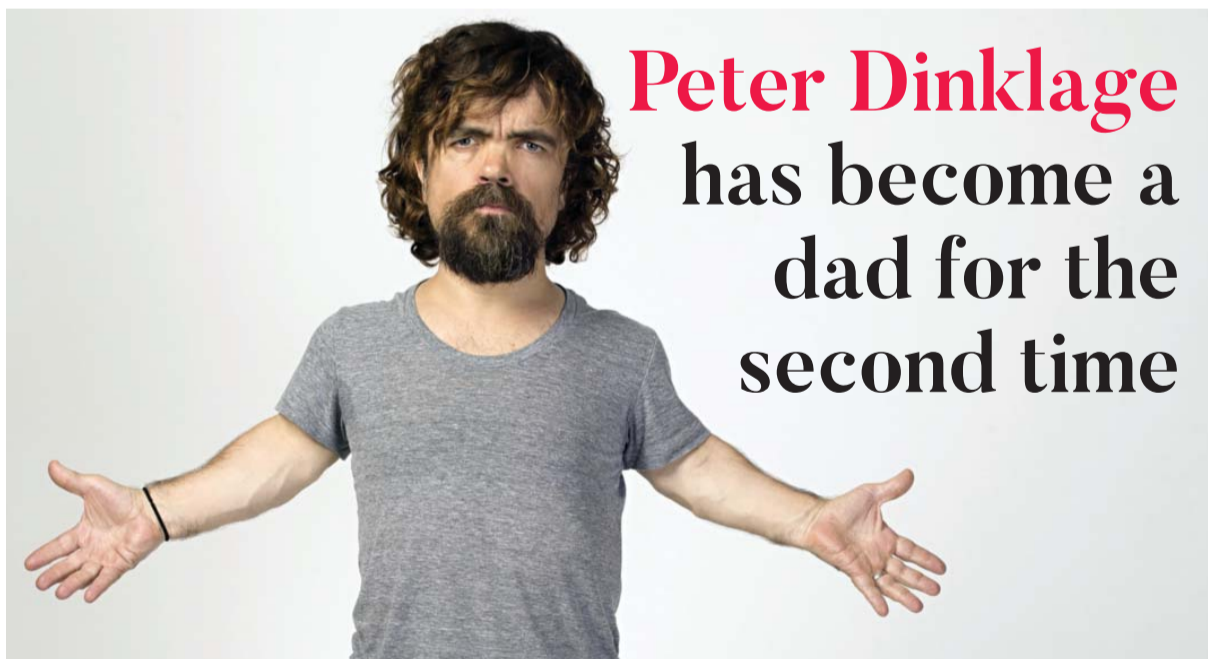
The 'Stranger Things' actress previously had high-profile romances with Matt Damon and Johnny Depp, but these days she feels more "settled" than ever before, thanks to her six-year relationship with fashion designer Scott Mackinlay Hahn. She said of him being in a different industry: "I think it's healthy, and I enjoy feeling a bit more settled now." The 45-year-old star's parents are still happily married and she admits it has been tough to find a relationship that reaches the "gold standard" of theirs. "They are madly in love, they're like teenagers. It's embarrassing sometimes. I've had relationships that haven't worked out. But when you have that as your gold [standard], and you know that's the way it should be... Oh, man!" Winona - who grew up on a commune with her writer parents - remains very close to her mother and father and thinks of them as her "best friends". She said: "We didn't have a lot of money. But the love compensation was amazing. My dad would make little things exciting, like bringing home Rolos. There's that saying, 'You find your family', but I would have chosen them even if they weren't my parents. They're my best friends." And when it comes to her work, the 'Heathers' actress turns to her father, who is an antiquarian bookseller for help researching her roles as he often finds out-of-print books to help her. She said: "When I did 'Girl, Interrupted', my dad got me this amazing Mary Ellen Mark book [showing photos of women in the maximum security section of Oregon State Hospital]."



Susan Sarandon finds the Oscars a 'chore'



The 'Feud' actress likes "beautiful things" but struggles to know what to wear on the red carpet, though over the years she's found some designers whose work suits her. Speaking to her 'Feud' co-star Kiernan Shipka for ELLE magazine, she said: "I enjoy beautiful things but I don't know [if I enjoy fashion]. "If I had your body then everything would look fabulous. The Oscars are a chore every time. "I've known designers who've been a great help to me, Donna Karan Diane Von Furstenberg, and Todd Oldham all came of age as I did. "I'm not a good movie star in that sense." But the 71-year-old actress admits her fashion choices were much worse when she was younger because she didn't have much money and designers didn't want to loan her items or offer her a discount in return for showcasing their work. She said: "In the beginning, I didn't have any money. The first time I was nominated for an Oscar, nobody would give me a discount. I would wear vintage dresses I'd find at thrift shops "I got on the worst-dressed lists. My biggest faux pas was in Cannes. "I brought a little vintage black dress. In those days, no one was wearing bras. I learned the hard way that when people take flash photos of dress, it becomes an x-ray. There were many pictures of my nipples. "I got a couple of awards in Rome and had this Dolce & Gabbana dress on with the bra showing. The papers thought I looked like a bad woman. It was too ahead of its time." When it comes to choosing her movie roles, the 'Lovely Bones' star is always on the lookout for something that scares her so she doesn't get "sloppy".



Peter Dinklage has become a dad for the second time

The 'Game of Thrones' actor and his wife Erica Schmidt - who already have five-year-old daughter Zelig together - have become parents for the second time after welcoming their new arrival into the world, according to Us Weekly magazine. The notoriously private couple have yet to announce the news themselves, and the publication did not include an exact birth date for the new tot. As of the time of writing, the baby's name and gender are also unknown. Peter, 48, and Erica, 42 - who tied the knot in 2005 - did not confirm the pregnancy in an official announcement either, and instead let fans know they were expecting when Erica showed off her burgeoning baby bump during the opening night of 'All the Fine Boys', an off-Broadway show which the playwright wrote and directed. Meanwhile, in 2011, shortly before their daughter's birth, the 'X-Men: Days of Future Past' actor paid tribute to his wife during his acceptance speech when he picked up the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his portrayal of Tyrion Lannister in 'Game of Thrones'. He said: "I love you, Erica. You're amazing." And the following year, the couple had one of their first nights out since becoming parents at the Golden Globe awards. Speaking at the time, Peter laughed: "Everything's fine - so far. She's a baby. Crying never killed anyone. Well, maybe that's not true."

Liam Payne has praised girlfriend as a 'fantastic' mum

The 24-year-old singer and the former Girls Aloud member welcomed their son Bear into the world back in March, and whilst Cheryl revealed recently that she "hated" the process of being pregnant, Liam has said she couldn't be a better mother to their tot. He said: "She didn't enjoy [pregnancy] as much as she thought she would. There's a lot of things people don't tell you about this pregnancy business that happen. "She went through different things with it, especially coming out of it, but she did great. "She's the most fantastic mum, which was no shock to me. I knew she was going to be incredible. "When I look back on it, it was crazy that I went back to work really early on." The 'Bedroom Floor' singer went back to working on his hotly anticipated debut solo album shortly after Bear's birth, and now that his 34-year-old partner is gearing up to head back into the studio herself, Liam is supporting her in any way he can. He added to The Sun newspaper: "She's got to do what she's got to do. Honestly, she's been so supportive of everything I've done so far. "We're all edging for her to get back to work, it's just

finding the right time and the right way to do things. "This is the first time she's been away from the industry for a long period of time in her whole career and sometimes that's a beautiful thing to have. "She's got the opportunity to choose exactly what she wants to do and I think it's great." Meanwhile, Cheryl recently admitted she disliked being pregnant, but insisted the past six months of motherhood have been "amazing". She said: "It changes your life completely but in the most amazing way. But I've had the best six months of my life. Really. "I hated being pregnant. A lot of stuff went on and I just didn't enjoy it... "I didn't stop for 14 years - literally on the roller coaster. And then when I got pregnant I thought, 'Right, I just don't need this stress.' So I relaxed."



James Packer 'low point' was when he dated Mariah Carey

The Australian billionaire, 50, has broken his silence on his whirlwind engagement to the 47-year-old superstar - which he called off in October 2016 - and confessed the romance was a "mistake" for them both. The father-of-three said: "I was at a low point in my personal life. She was kind, exciting and fun. Mariah is a woman of substance. But it was a mistake for her and a mistake for me." James also admitted that his "biggest regret" was getting divorced from his ex-wife Erica Baxter, who later dated chart topper Seal for 12 months. He added in an interview with The Australian: "It is my biggest regret that I let my marriage to Erica fail. It is what it is and she is doing an incredible job with the kids and we are in a great place." Mariah was left devastated when James ended their nine-month romance this time last year and she reportedly blamed Scientology for the split when their engagement was suddenly called off. Insiders

claimed at the time that she believed James - who was a Scientologist between 2002 and 2006 - had been influenced by his business manager and former Church of Scientology spokesperson Tommy Davis, who Mariah believed poisoned his mind against her. James' camp denied Scientology had anything to do with their split and instead, sources claimed he blamed it on Mariah's excessive spending and the drama surrounding her as she filmed her reality show 'Mariah's World'. The pair were first introduced by mutual friend Brett Ratner at the premiere of Hercules in 2014. In January 2016, the billionaire got down on one knee and proposed with a jaw-dropping 35-carat diamond engagement ring, which was rumoured to be worth £8million.



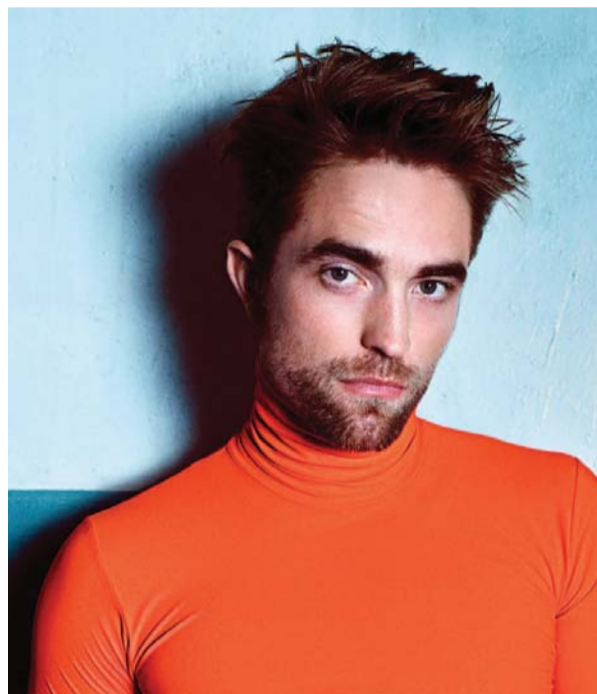
Harington cried when he read final 'Game of Thrones' script



The 30-year-old actor stars as Jon Snow in the hit HBO fantasy drama series which will air its final ever episode when season eight - which is believed to be airing in 2019 - comes to a close, and he has now revealed he "knows everything" there is to know about the upcoming season, including how it all ends. Speaking on UK television show "The One Show" on Friday, Kit said: "We had the read-through last week in fact, so I know everything now. I cried at the end. You have to remember that eight years of it no one really cares about it more than us. I think, no-one really cares about [the show] more than us... It's been an institution longer than any other institution I've been in. School, drama school, anything. "I get a bit weepy thinking about it. It's going to be a strange year saying goodbye to everyone and having last scenes with this person and that person. Not only you're attached to it, loads of people around the world are

attached to it." And Kit - who recently got engaged to his partner and former on-screen love interest Rose Leslie - says the cast and crew of the drama are forbidden from even telling people when they're filming, as the show bosses want to keep the production as top secret as possible, in order to prevent plot rumors spreading. Kit added: "[I was told], 'Don't tell them when you're filming. Don't take pictures in Belfast. Don't do all of that'. It's on lockdown!" Despite shedding a tear at the thought of his time in the fictional land of Westeros coming to an end, Kit previously admitted part of him was pleased to be finishing his run on the show, as it will give him the time to pursue other projects.

Pattinson 'still loves' FKA Twigs despite split



The 31-year-old actor parted from his musician girlfriend - and rumoured fiancée - earlier this month after sources claimed the pair had "drifted" apart, but insiders now believe a reconciliation could be on the cards as the star is struggling to move on. A source told People magazine: "They did break up. It was very recent. He is on a press tour and she is working on her new album. And I think it's timing. They've been all over the place. They have not seen each other in probably two months. It wasn't vicious. "I think they will eventually get back together. He still loves her and I think that's the girl he wants to marry. It's not out of the realm of possibility that they could get back together and it's more like they are taking a break. It's not like he asked for the ring. She still has it." The news comes after it was previously reported that their split came as Robert was "tired" of being unable to spend time with his beau. An insider said: "They were almost inseparable for their first two years together. But in recent months they have really started to drift apart and have been spending less and less time together. "Rob is tired of it, has called off their engagement and told friends they have split. With so much history between them, though, there are still strong feelings there. It's a difficult situation but things have become tough between them for some time and they both know they were no longer working as a couple." The "Twilight" actor and the singer, 29, had been dating since 2014, and rumors of an engagement between the couple had been circulating since 2015, when rapper T-Pain let the news slip.



Ed Sheeran had 'slipped' into substance abuse

The 'Castle on the Hill' hitmaker took a year-long break from his career prior to the release of his third studio album 'Divide' earlier this year, and has now admitted his hiatus came as a result of needing to "adjust" to life in the public eye, as he found himself starting to succumb to the "pitfalls" of fame. He said: "I think you need to, when you get into the industry, adjust to it - and I didn't adjust because I was constantly working on tour. All the pitfalls that people read about, I just found myself slipping into all of them. Mostly, like, substance abuse. I never touched anything. I started slipping into it, and that's why I took a year off and buggered off." And Ed, 26, knew he needed to step back and take some time to work on himself when he realized the "fun" had stopped. Speaking during an appearance on "The Jonathan Ross Show" which aired yesterday, Ed said: "It just started gradually happening. Some people took me to one side and were like, 'Calm yourself down'. It's

all fun to begin with, it all starts off as a party and then you're doing it on your own and it's not, so that was a wake-up call and taking a year off." Previously, the 'Shape of You' singer - who went travelling during his break - said his 12 month hiatus helped him find his "life balance again". He said: "I had as much time in the world as I needed to make a record. It was a nice safety blanket to have because I could really take my time with it. Whereas the previous two albums I've made on the road and tours. I did four months of travelling at first and six months living in my house in Suffolk making the record there. "Finding my life balance again was the best. I hadn't really adjusted completely to my new lifestyle so having a year off to balance it all out was quite important."

Julia Louis-Dreyfus completes second round of chemo

The 56-year-old actress announced last month she had been battling with the disease, and has now given her fans an update on her health, as she says she's "not f***ing around" when it comes to fighting the illness. Julia posted a picture on social media on Thursday of herself with a draw-on moustache, and quoted musician Katy Perry's hit single 'Roar' in the caption. She wrote: "Chemo #2: finito. We are NOT f***ing around here. "I've got the eye of the tiger. The Fighter dancing through the fire cuz I am a champion and you're going to hear me ROAR." Thanks to @mrtonyhale & @timothysimons & @katyperry for their hilarious and loving inspiration. (sic)" And on Friday (20.10.17) the 'Veep' star shared a video of her co-stars Tony Hale and Timothy Simmons dancing and miming to Katy's track, which they sent to Julia to cheer her up. She captioned the video: "How lucky am I that these bozos have my back? What a moving inspiration to my day. I've watched it a gazillion times. Thanks to @mrtonyhale @timothysimons & @katyperry (sic)" Julia - who has two sons, Henry, 25, and Charles, 20, with her husband Brad Hall - revealed her diagnoses in a social media post in September, where she also called on her fans to help her in the fight to end "all cancers", and "make universal health care a reality". She wrote: "I in 8 women get breast cancer. Today, I'm the one. The good news is that I have the most glorious group of supportive and caring family and friends, and fantastic insurance through my union. The bad news is that not all women are so lucky. So let's fight all cancers and make universal healthcare a reality."



Legend thinks men have a 'responsibility to do better'



The 'All of Me' hitmaker has spoken out in defence of the multiple women who have accused the disgraced producer of sexually harassing them over a period of 30 years, as he thinks the conversation surrounding the scandal is "crucial" in bringing an end to such behavior. Speaking to AOL.com, John, 38, said: "First of all, sexism is awful and affects people all the time in the workplace and school and in so many other circumstances. What we're seeing right now with the conversation around sexual assault and harassment is crucial. This really needs to change, because it affects so many people - particularly women - and it's perpetrated the vast majority by men. We have a responsibility to do better as men. Hopefully we can improve the way that young men are thinking and behaving in regards to that. "We could really

affect the conversation when it comes to a lot of the issues we're talking about in the press today that have to do with politics and culture and society and criminal justice. If we could have an impact on this issue early on with young people, it could really change the way they move in the world and make it better for all of us. "It's cool when people with social capital use it to make the world more free and loving and empathetic. I feel like we're giving these young people that chance." It isn't the first time John - who has 18-month-old daughter Luna with his wife Chrissy Teigen - has spoken out against Weinstein either, as earlier this week he called his alleged actions "despicable".

Aniston hopes 'Friends' will inspire people



The 48-year-old actress starred as Rachel Green in the hit sitcom - which ran for a decade from 1994 to 2004 - and has said that the influx of younger people discovering the show for the first time through streaming services such as Netflix is "so nice", but hopes it will encourage them to get together with their loved ones more often. She told People magazine: "A 'Friends'-assance? That's so nice. "What I kind of feel is quite comforting is that it's actually speaking to people today, when so much has changed in terms of technology and how far we've come - that Friends is still relatable in the sense that there were no cell phones, it was just friends sitting, communing together. "I hope that it actually will inspire people to remember that connection and speak with each other. People spend a lot of time on their phones and miss out on a lot [these days]." It isn't the first time the 'Horrible Bosses' star - who is married to Justin Theroux - has spo-

ken about the increased use of mobile phones in today's society, as she previously admitted she shuns social media in order to stay sane. She said: "Any hardworking job that demands a lot of your time, whether you're running a corporation or you're an actor or a mom full-time, 24-7, it's all about trying to find the balance and the time to refuel and recharge. "We have so many screens: TVs, computers, phones... I worry we're filling the days up with too much and it's hard to focus on ourselves." And asked if that's why she doesn't use social media, she replied: "Sanity! Honestly, when I look around and see people constantly on their phones, I feel like we're missing so much. And it's something we created. — Bangshowbiz

Lifestyle | Features

In year of Wonder Woman, comes the remarkable tale of her creation

Superman and Batman were born, like brothers, in 1938 and 1939, respectively. But psychology professor William Moulton Marston had grander and more progressive aspirations for his comic creation. "Frankly, Wonder Woman is psychological propaganda for the new type of woman who should, I believe, rule the world," Marston said around the character's launch in 1941.

The female-empowerment ideals Marston intended Wonder Woman to espouse have perhaps - as plenty of recent events in Hollywood and elsewhere have attested - not advanced as much as he and his feminist wife and colleague Elizabeth Holloway would have hoped. But 76 years later, worldwide domination has indeed arrived for Wonder Woman. Just months after Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" became a worldwide box-office smash - making Jenkins the first female filmmaker to helm such a massive blockbuster - the story behind the lasso-wielding superhero has also landed on the big screen.

Angela Robinson's "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women," which Annapurna Pictures released in theaters last Friday, charts an origin story to beat them all: the creation of Wonder Woman by the free-thinking Marston (played by

Luke Evans) and his unorthodox family. Marston lived with both Holloway (Rebecca Hall) and Olive Byrne (Bella Heathcote), a researcher who moved in with the couple in 1926. They were a threesome who harmoniously raised four children together.

Early feminists

The Marstons were collectively influenced by early feminists and suffragettes. (Olive's aunt, Margaret Sanger coined the phrase "birth control" and opened the first birth-control clinic in the US) Marston studied gender, behavior and sexuality, and his studies later filtered into Wonder Woman. He brought bondage imagery to the early comics, for one. Wonder Woman's lasso, which forces people to tell the truth, was a version of the lie-detector test Marston helped invent.

When Robinson ("D.E.B.S." "Herbie: Fully Loaded," "The L Word") came across the back-story to the sole superhero to ever capture her heart, she was floored. "It just blew my mind. I literally couldn't believe the story," says Robinson. "I became totally obsessed." Since Robinson first encountered the Marstons, their story has been notably recounted by author Jill Lepore

in "The Secret History of Wonder Woman." But the tale has, Robinson says, been a passion project for a decade - long before a "Wonder Woman" movie was a reality.

Hall was brought to Robinson's project initially after she, herself, sought the rights to Lepore's book. Robinson's desire to make the film, Hall says, was overwhelming.

"She wanted to make a romance about three people filled with love and hope," says Hall. "It's quite brave to try to make in some sense a conventional romance where you ask your audience to accept that the romance is legitimately happening between three people - and not only ask them to accept it, but to root for it." "Professor Marston" was shot last fall when Hillary Clinton was presumed by many to be on the cusp of the presidency. Robinson initially worried that the film's ideas might be "passee" by the time it came out.

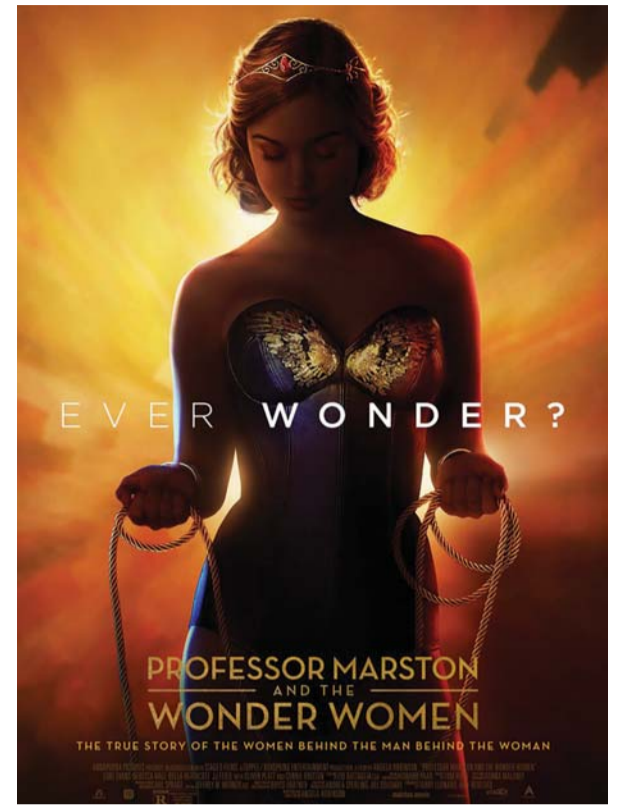
"What struck me to begin with was how contemporary a story it is," says Robinson. "The Marstons were ahead of their time and they're still ahead of their time." In a 1937 press conference, Marston declared that women would one day rule the world. The Associated Press picked up the story, and articles ran nationwide reporting: "Feminine rule declared fact."

Mixed feeling

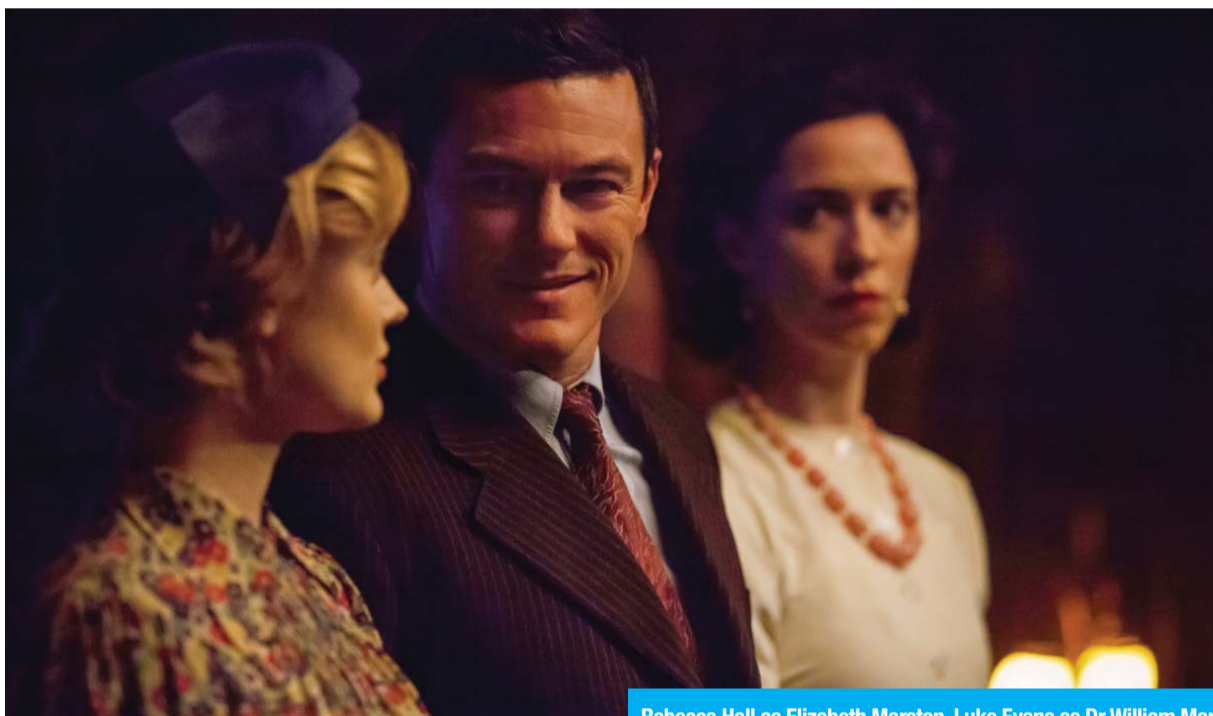
Robinson initially had mixed feelings about some of Marston's teachings but she's "come to love him," she says. What most won her over was Marston's 1928 book "Emotions of Normal People." Published while he was teaching at Columbia (and before disapproval of his family's arrangement would damage his career), Marston argued that what many consider "abnormal" in relationships and sex is quite natural.

"I as a filmmaker came to a conclusion that this movie does, which is that he was on to a lot of stuff, and the core of his message was about love and being true to who you are," says Robinson. "The first line of 'Emotions of Normal People' is: 'Are you normal?' And that just stayed me. He himself was grappling with what that means."

Audiences didn't initially respond to the much lower budgeted, more lightly marketed "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women" as eagerly on opening weekend quite like



they did to Jenkins' "Wonder Woman." (The film debuted poorly with \$737,000 on about 1,200 screens.) But its makers believe strongly in the relevance of the story behind the superhero iconography. "Their story seemed to be so metaphorically significant to so many other things, like the history of 20th century feminism, the changing ways we look at conventional relationships and family values," says Hall. "There's just too much in this story." — AP



Rebecca Hall as Elizabeth Marston, Luke Evans as Dr. William Marston and Bella Heathcote as Olive Byrne in "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women." — AP photos



George RR Martin mixes business and politics

Author and film producer George RR Martin waded into the politics of movie-industry tax breaks on Thursday while endorsing a prominent Democratic candidate for governor of New Mexico. Martin, a longtime Santa Fe resident and author of fantasy novels behind the "Game of Thrones" television series, made a plea to raise or eliminate New Mexico's \$50 million annual limit on the state's tax incentive for film production.

At an hour-long forum about New Mexico's film industry, Martin sat alongside Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democratic candidate for governor in 2018 who this week announced she would seek to expand tax incentives for film and television production and look for ways to encourage the construction of new production studio space.

Martin described a cutthroat competitive environment of the film industry, and his own budding efforts to attract more movie production to Santa Fe by offering low-cost office space at a building provided to him posthumously by an estate. Filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen currently are utilizing the building through Martin's nonprofit Stagecoach Foundation.

"We're in competition with Texas and Arizona and Utah," Martin said. "How do we compete? ... Obviously the incentives are a big part of it. We have to get rid of this (state tax incentive) cap," Martin quipped that he like caps - "but only on my head." He said that limiting the tax credit is "like saying, 'We have enough jobs, we don't need any more jobs. We're going to cap the number of jobs?'"

Intangible benefits

Earlier this year, a bill to raise the annual limit on the film tax credit and link future annual increase to inflation failed to win

approval in the Democratic-led Legislature. Analysts with the nonpartisan Legislative Finance Committee have cautioned against film tax incentive increases that could outpace tax revenue growth and put new pressure on the state general fund. New Mexico state government has slashed spending at several agencies and public universities this year, after depleting financial reserves amid a downturn in tax revenues linked a tepid economy and weak oil prices.

Measured in terms of direct job creation per dollar - without considering indirect economic benefits - the film tax credit scored poorly in comparison with other state subsidies, analysts found. Martin and Lujan Grisham highlighted the sometimes intangible benefits of the film production, as tourists are drawn to the state by on-screen images, from the Robert Redford's 1988 "The Milagro Beanfield War" shot in Northern New Mexico, to the "Breaking Bad" series that still draws steady streams of cult fans to Albuquerque shooting locations. "The film industry is one of those bright spots that we can focus on immediately and it's pretty easy," Lujan Grisham said. "We want to double the number of films that we're doing. ... We want to lift the cap. If you're really going to be open for business, be open for business."

She described film as an industry that "pays for itself." Public funds have contributed to the construction of production studios in New Mexico. The discussion took place at a downtown art-house cinema that Martin restored and owns. The discussion was joined by Tesuque resident Tony Mark, executive producer of "The Hurt Locker," and producer and documentary filmmaker Andrea Meditch. — AP

Is Weinstein scandal a watershed for French women?

It took the fall of a US movie mogul to breach the culture of silence around sexual assault and harassment in France, but French feminist Caroline De Haas believes the country has turned a corner. "There will be a before and an after #balancetonporc," she told AFP. The #balancetonporc (expose your pig) hashtag is the French variant of the #metoo campaign launched in response to the plethora of abuse allegations that toppled movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

Over the past week, social media accounts in France-like in the US-have been awash with accounts of harassment or assault, with tens of thousands of women (and some men) adding their names to the list of alleged victims. In a country long seen as soft on sexual harassment-where the predatory style of ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was an open secret before he was brought down by a US assault case brought by a hotel maid-feminists see the flood of testimonies as a turning point.

"Even if many women didn't share their stories they will certainly have been impacted," Haas said. "They (the accounts) give voice to a legitimate anger that has been contained for too long." The French campaign was started by US-based French journalist, Sandra Muller, who shared a story on Twitter of a humiliating advance from a top French executive. "You have big breasts. You are my type of woman. I will make you orgasm all night," she quoted him as saying in a tweet urging others to also out tormentors or aggressors.

Similar stories of harassment or abuse-on the street, on public transport, at work-flooded in immediately. One woman described an "old man in his 70s who undressed me with his eyes in the metro." Another noted that "the saddest thing, in fact, is that we all have similar anecdotes". Christine Bard, a professor of feminist history at Angers University in western France, described the outpouring as unprecedented. "All these women, from all over, saying the same thing, breaks the silence and the individual logic which makes you think you're the only one afraid," she said. Over half of the French women surveyed for an Odoxa-Dentsu poll published Friday - 53 percent-said they had been victims of sexual assault or harassment.

Rape reporting 'explosion'

While the French film industry has so far avoided being caught up in the fallout from the Weinstein scandal, the host of a French TV talent show has been taken off air over allegations of misconduct involving a leading jury member. M6 broadcaster said it had decided to pull France's

answer to "America's Got Talent" after several women came forward with allegations of harassment or assault against Canadian impresario Gilbert Rozon.

The chauvinistic world of French politics has also been thrust back into the spotlight. This week, the daughter of a former conservative minister accused an elderly former Socialist minister of having sexually assaulted her at the Paris Opera-allegations he denied. An MP in President Emmanuel Macron's party is facing claims of harassment by his former parliamentary assistant, Franceinfo radio reported Friday, while a member of the greater Paris regional council has been excluded by his party after claims made by two female associates.

In a sign of the momentum behind the cam-

paign, the government has announced plans for tougher sanctions against offenders. Gender Equality Minister Marlene Schiappa said she aimed to introduce on-the-spot fines for the victims of harassment on the street by early 2018 - after a taskforce comes up with a definition of harassment.

"Today, all too often, people don't complain because they don't dare," Macron said last Sunday. French associations for the victims of sexual assault have meanwhile reported a sharp rise in calls since #balancetonporc went viral. Emmanuelle Piet, head of the French Collective against Rape said the group's hotline had "exploded".

Feminists like De Haas hope that many of the women who shared their stories will dare to show their faces at a November 25 rally to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Odoxa poll showed most women-and a small majority of men-supporting the #balancetonporc hashtag.

But a sizeable minority - 38 percent of women and 47 percent of men-said they feared it would serve as a conduit for "unverified complaints that can lead to all sorts of abuses". And as with other social media campaigns that mobilize millions online, the proof of its effectiveness will be in whether it succeeds in changing behavior in the real world. — AFP



Author and film producer George RR Martin, left, speaks in Santa Fe. — AP



Attorney Gloria Allred (L) and her client Heather Kerr speak during a press conference regarding the sexual assault allegations that have been brought against Harvey Weinstein. — AFP



Models display the creations from ZIN KATO, designed by Zin Kato, during the Amazon Fashion Week Tokyo 2018 spring/summer collection in Tokyo. — AFP photos



Models display the creations from Yukihero Pro-Wrestling, designed by Yukihiro Teshima.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017



An environmental studies graduate, Ingrid, greets Nina, one of the two dolphins bred in captivity at the dolphinarium, on September 27, 2017 at the Natural Science Museum Complex in Constanta, on the Romanian Black Sea Coast. Between January and the end of September, an ecologist of the Romanian NGO Mare Nostrum, has listed 136 dead dolphins who died accidentally due to the fishing for most of them: a record number since 2012. — AFP

Art brings 'peace' to battle-scarred districts in Lebanon

From the street below it's easy to miss the workers daubing rooftops as part of an ambitious art project in two battle-scarred neighborhoods of Lebanon's Tripoli. But the Ashekman street art duo behind the project say that once they're done, the pistachio-green rooftops they are painting will spell out the word "salam"—Arabic for "peace"—on a scale visible from space.

The project, three years in the making, is the brainchild of 34-year-old twins Mohamed and Omar Kabbani. They researched and rejected multiple locations in their native Lebanon before settling on Tripoli. They chose a site spanning the Bab Al-Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen neighborhoods, which have fought successive rounds of armed clashes in recent years.

"We jumped from one location to another and finally we decided to do it here in Tripoli, specifically in Bab Al-Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen, an area that has been in conflict," said Omar Kabbani. "We're painting the word 'salam' across 85 building rooftops over 1.3 kilometers... to convey that people here are peaceful," he said. "And Lebanon in general, we want peace."

“Two years ago they were hiding from bullets, now they're painting”

From bullets to brushes

Peace has been elusive in Sunni-majority Bab Al-Tebbaneh and the adjacent Alawite-majority Jabal Mohsen. Fighters from the two areas have battled each other periodically for decades, and the war in neighboring Syria, pitting a Sunni-dominated uprising against Alawite President Bashar Al-Assad, has further stirred existing enmities.

The clashes have gouged hundreds of bullet holes into building facades, while mortar fire has blasted through walls, rendering some homes uninhabitable. Fighting between the neighborhoods has eased in the last two years, but photos of those killed in the most recent violence remain plastered across both areas. Ashekman's project runs on either side of the infamous Syria Street separating the two neighborhoods. The duo hired workers from across the divide to help them complete the project.

"All of the workers live here in the neighborhood, they lived the conflict, some of them got shot," Omar Kabbani said. "Two years ago they were hiding from bullets... now they're painting their rooftops proudly." The brothers are sensitive to



An aerial view of the word "Peace" in Arabic painted on the roofs of 85 buildings in Tripoli's Syria street which separates the Sunni neighborhood of Bab Al-Tebbaneh from the Alawite neighborhood of Jabal Mohsen. — AFP photos

the observation that their project does little to address the most obvious scars of fighting or the area's desperate poverty, often identified as a catalyst of the violence. They say they chose paint that will seal rooftops against rain and reflect ultra-violet rays, cooling the homes below.

And in order to paint the rooftops, they had to negotiate with residents and often had to clear large amounts of trash and debris. "It took us around 10 days just to remove all the garbage on the rooftops," said Kabbani. "With the garbage came a couple of rats, and we fought with some rats. It wasn't an easy task," he said, laughing.

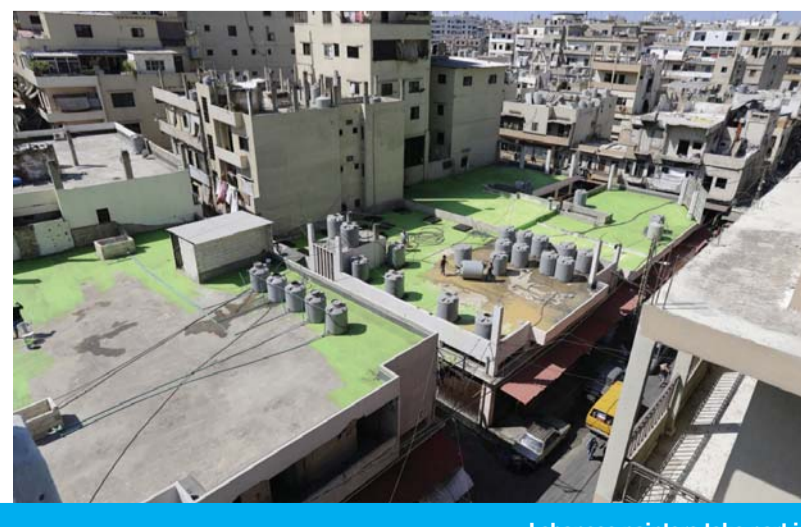
'Peace, a great word'

Walid Abu Heit, 29, joined the project as a painter after hearing about it from March, a Lebanese NGO that has worked on reconciliation and rehabilitation in the rival neigh-

borhoods. He was born in Bab Al-Tebbaneh and worked at a dairy, but lost his job after violence erupted.

"It was very difficult when fighting broke out," he said. "Darkness engulfed the neighborhood. People stopped coming here."

He and other workers lugged heavy tubs of paint up seven floors and began plastering a roof with the fluorescent green, which flecked his hands and boots. "It's an amazing project," he said, smiling and shading his eyes from the blazing sun. "The word peace, it's a great word... we haven't seen it for a long time, now we're seeing it again." — AFP



Lebanese painters take part in the project.