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Amir warns of complications from prolonged Gulf dispute

Sheikh Sabah vows to protect constitution as new Assembly session opens

KUWAIT: Kuwait, the main mediator in a near-five month political crisis between Qatar and its Gulf rivals led by Saudi Arabia, warned yesterday that the dispute could escalate. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in an address to the National Assembly, also said that Kuwait's goal was to save the Gulf Cooperation Council union from "cracking and collapsing".

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, as well as Egypt, severed all diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar, accusing the gas-rich emirate of supporting extremist groups and having too close ties to Iran. Kuwait has led mediation efforts since then, but without success. "Everyone should know that Kuwait's mediation is based on a keen awareness that this crisis risks escalation," Sheikh Sabah said. The worsening of the breakdown between Doha and the Saudi-led bloc leaves Gulf states vulnerable to foreign interference, he warned.

"An escalation would be an explicit invitation for regional and international intervention, which would have serious consequences for the security of the Gulf

nations and their people," HH the Amir said. "History and future generations will not forgive anyone who contributes, even one word, to fuelling this dispute." Kuwait is the host of the next GCC summit due in December and has so far not sent out invitations to Gulf leaders before resolving the crisis. Reports have said that the summit will most likely be delayed.

Sheikh Sabah also affirmed that the commitment to the constitution in Kuwait is stable and belief in parliamentary work is firmly established, saying "I am the one who protects the constitution and will not allow it to be prejudiced", because it is the basic guarantee after God Almighty. During the opening of the second ordinary session of the 15th legislative term of the Assembly, HH the Amir said regional developments and challenges have made parliamentary work a national benefit to "strengthen our most important national gains". He underlined the importance of security as the bedrock of Kuwait's welfare and development, affirming that uniting people around the concept of national unity will bring upon a bright future. —Agencies

SEE PAGES 2 & 3



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) and Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem (left) listen on during the opening ceremony of the new legislative session of the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News in brief

Traffic penalties toughened

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah issued a decision to toughen administrative procedures towards some traffic violations from next week, reported Al-Jarida. Sources said the most notable penalties include impounding vehicles for two months for using mobile phones while driving or not using seatbelts. Cars parked in no-parking areas or on the pavement, besides those obstructing traffic and blocking other vehicles, will also be impounded for two months. Cars driving over the speed limit will be impounded for two months too.

Negative expat growth

KUWAIT: A government report showed a reduction in non-Kuwaitis' population growth in 2017, after an increase of 65 percent last year. This negative growth of the non-Kuwaiti population is the first since 1992, reported Al-Qabas. A table comparing growth indicators between 2016 and 2017 prepared by the population structure committee of the Cabinet showed the annual increase in the non-Kuwaiti population in 2017 was 125,694, while the annual increase in 2016 was 358,719. Informed sources said this reduction is due to the decision issued by the interior ministry and the manpower authority to curb marginal labor.

Info minister grilled; no-confidence motion filed by 10 MPs

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly began its new term by debating a grilling against State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah yesterday, who unexpectedly said he was ready for the debate immediately. After the interpellation, 10 MPs filed a no-confidence motion against the minister. Voting on the motion will take place in the next Assembly session, expected to be held next week, and if 24 lawmakers vote against him, he will be automatically dismissed from his post.

Opposition MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari explained the alleged violations the minister has committed in both the ministries and in departments under his supervision. They particularly accused the minister and the government of covering up and refusing to answer questions about the legal status of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, saying that since its establishment in 1959, the chamber has no legal status and its officials are not held accountable.

They also charged that the minister committed or failed to prevent financial and administrative violations in the ministry of information. The lawmakers also



KUWAIT: MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari (left) and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah (right) are seen at the National Assembly yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh

accused the minister of unnecessarily appointing expatriates in several state departments with lucrative salaries, thus depriving Kuwaitis of much-needed jobs. Adasani said he submitted a large number of questions to the minister but he did not answer them.

The minister categorically denied the charges and stressed that he has sharply reduced the amounts of unpaid debts in his ministries by a big margin. He said he received 17 questions from the lawmaker and answered 16 and informed him that he was not author-

ized under the law to reply to the last question.

Sheikh Mohammad defended the appointment of expatriate senior legal advisors, saying that they were appointed in accordance with the laws and regulations and praised their work. He also regretted that MPs have started criticizing people based on their nationality, which is something new in Kuwait. After that the two lawmakers responded to Sheikh Mohammad's answers and said he had failed to refute their charges.

Continued on Page 11

Singapore set to freeze number of cars on roads

SINGAPORE: Singapore, one of the most expensive places in the world to buy a vehicle, will freeze the number of private cars on its roads for at least two years, a rare move in Asia where many cities are increasingly gridlocked. The city-state said the growth cap for all passenger cars and motorcycles will be cut to zero from 0.25 percent a year in February, while pledging a new multi-billion-dollar investment in the public transport network.

The measure, to be reviewed in 2020, is an extension of Singapore's already tough controls on vehicle ownership, which have helped the nation of 5.6 million avoid the traffic jams that choke other Asian cities. As well as controlling the number of vehicles on the roads, special



SINGAPORE: Motorists enter the financial district area yesterday. —AFP

certificates valid for 10 years must be purchased along with a car, pushing the price of an average sedan to over Sg\$110,000 (\$80,000) - about four times the price in the US. Nevertheless many have still paid the hefty price for

Continued on Page 11

Crown prince vows 'moderate' Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: Powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pledged a "moderate, open" Saudi Arabia yesterday, breaking with ultraconservative clerics in favor of an image catering to foreign investors and Saudi youth. The Saudi strongman, 32, did not mince words in declaring a new reality for the kingdom, hours after announcing the launch of an independent \$500 billion megacity - with "separate regulation" - along the Red Sea coastline.

"We want to live a normal life. A life in which our religion translates to tolerance, to our traditions of kindness," he told international investors gathered at an economic forum in Riyadh. "Seventy percent of the Saudi population is under 30, and honestly we will not spend the next 30 years of our lives dealing with destructive ideas. We will destroy them today and at once," the crown prince said. "We will end extremism very soon."

Prince Mohammed, known by his initials



RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Klaus Kleinfeld shake hands following the Crown Prince's appointment of Kleinfeld as NEOM's Chief Executive Officer yesterday. - AFP (See Page 17)

MBS, said he would see to it his country moved past 1979, a reference to the rise of political Islam in the years following the assassination of King Faisal in 1975. The early 1970s had ushered major change into the oil-

rich kingdom, including the introduction of television and schools for girls. But that came to a halt as the Al-Sheikh family, which controls religious and social regulation

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Local

National Assembly Speaker stresses importance of resolving Gulf crisis

Regional challenges require unity, joint action: Prime Minister



KUWAIT: Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks during the opening ceremony.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah speaks during the opening ceremony.



Kuwaiti members of parliament attend the opening ceremony of the new legislative year at the National Assembly. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: People in the region should focus on efforts to bring upon an end to the Gulf crisis as a step to safeguard regional welfare and security, said the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday. In his speech to the second session of the 15th legislative term, Speaker Ghanem said that people living in the GCC countries should unite and work together for their own interest and good, affirming that the current status quo will bring upon grave consequences for the region.

He further reflected on the crisis, saying that it was a mere misunderstanding amongst brothers and expressed his confidence that the problem will be resolved soon. Speaker of the National Assembly lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts in this regard, adding that the Kuwaiti leader always took the initiative in trying to find a solution for any problems that might face the GCC countries.

His Highness the Amir went from capital to capital and country to country trying to bring viewpoints together, said Speaker Ghanem who affirmed that this was in the pure nature of His Highness the Amir, a man known for his endless desire to find solutions for any conflicts facing the GCC.

Rohingya's plight

Speaker Ghanem hoped that the efforts by His Highness the Amir would be fruitful. Meanwhile, the National Assembly Speaker commended His Highness the Amir's directives concerning issues connected with the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya and the crises in Syria and Iraq. His Highness the Amir took the necessary political steps to highlight the humanitarian problems in these respective regional and international issues, calling for global efforts to help those in need, affirmed the speaker. He added that the National Assembly took notice of His Highness the Amir's efforts and put on the forefront the recent plight of the Rohingya as a minority abused by the Buddhist majority of Myanmar.

The world should stand in opposition to the atrocities committed against the Rohingyas, said Ghanem who indicated that the National Assembly had focused upon this issue during regional and international participations.

Economic reforms

Returning to the local scene, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ghanem stressed the importance of embarking on economic reforms. Reforms will ensure the existence of a reliable infrastructure, multiple services, an attractive investment and business atmospheres, as well as many other aspects that will bring on welfare to Kuwait, said the speaker. He noted that the responsibility of economic reforms was in the hands of the people's representatives of the National Assembly and the leaders of the cabinet who should cooperate to realize the country's dreams.

Members of the Parliament should focus on serving the people and not bicker on issues that would waste time and energy, said Ghanem, adding that the government had an equal responsibility in cooperating with the National Assembly to ensure that plans for development run smoothly.

Regarding the responsibilities of the people, Ghanem affirmed that people living in Kuwait should focus on bolstering national unity and avoid the promotion of hatred and bigotry in all of their shapes and forms.

The speaker ended his speech welcoming His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the opening of the parliament's current legislative term, hoping that National Assembly would be up to the task of achieving the people's dreams and desires.

Freedoms and democracy

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah highlighted the need of concerted efforts to protect the gains made in the areas of promotion of freedoms and democracy, security, stability and economic development.

In his address to the opening session, he said the democratic atmospheres in Kuwait are a source of pride for all citizens that materializes the cultural values of the people. His Highness the Prime Minister extolled His Highness the Amir for his keenness on the efforts to realize the aspirations of the people for a bright future.

"The recent developments in the Arab region and rampant chaos have negative impacts on the security of Kuwait which require us to stand united and work together in order to protect our national unity and ward off the risks of section," he stated. "The Arab region undergoes a chal-

lenging period and numerous threats in the security, political, economic, social and cultural areas. Kuwait is at the core of this region. "Therefore, we are required to have wise, responsible and practical vision for protecting our homeland and overcoming this delicate stage," His Highness the Prime Minister stressed.

Addressing the lawmakers, he said, "As the second term of your honorable Assembly opens, we hope for continued cooperation between the Assembly and the government based on mutual trust and respect to protect the security, stability and prosperity of the country."

"All of us, as government and parliament, share formidable tasks and responsibilities for honoring our undertakings in the framework of the constitution. "We have no choice other than working together and maintaining our complementary relationship as per the provisions of the constitution and the parliamentary regulations and responsible practices," he made clear.

Regarding the foreign policy of the country, he said Kuwait has always been committed to the principles of respect for the sovereignty and independence of, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of, other countries. Kuwait maintains neighborly ties with the countries in the Gulf region and supports the fair issues of the Arab nation as well as the causes of freedom, justice, peace and human rights around the globe.

Kuwait's recent selection as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council reflects the confidence of the international community in its constructive role worldwide under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, he pointed out. In this regard, His Highness the Prime Minister commended the efforts made by His Highness the Amir to contain the Gulf row and protect the stature of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Development projects

Dealing with the domestic affairs, His Highness the Prime Minister said the government is determined to pursue its drive to implement the vital development projects, upgrade its performance, end the bureaucratic complexities and assert the rule of law.

The government will thoroughly pursue the economic reforms and help the private sector assume a leading role in the economic activities, His Highness the Prime Minister pledged. The national economic development plan envisages turning the state role into a supervisory one through alleviation the tasks of operating the development projects and overhauling the labor market.

The government plans to build the capacity of the national workforce through comprehensive educational reforms, which will reflect positively on the country's international ratings, he revealed. The plans aim to secure sustainable finances of the state, introduce new methods of developing the state budget, setting specific ceilings for the funding for the state projects, maximize benefit from the state's financial resources and highlight the role of private investment in the mega projects.

To do so the government launched the "New Kuwait" campaign with a view to attracting investors from inside and outside the country to invest in these projects, he went on. "The government is also working to leverage the policy of knowledge economy as shown in the draft bill on economic activities, which will be tabled to your honorable Assembly in the near future. "It plans to launch the knowledge chair, an initiative meant to promote the role of human resources in the knowledge economy, in addition to the launching in next February of the knowledge economy index at the state institutions under the kind patronage of His Highness the Amir," he disclosed.

His Highness the Prime Minister noted that the Kuwait Expo 2018, to be held between February 6 and 10, will give a quantum leap to the transfer of technology and knowledge to the small and medium enterprises.

Recalling the policy statement presented in last January by his government to the first legislative term of the 15th National Assembly (2016-2020), he said it included 14 development projects of high priority that are in keeping with the national development plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The policy statement sets forth the plans for efforts to engage actively in the implementation of the UN-sponsored Agenda for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the civil society institutions, the private sector and international monitors, he said. "The structural imbalances in the national economy had negative impacts on the state's financial position, thus necessitating innovative approaches and responses. The new policies are set forth in the national program for economic and financial sustainability that was developed in collaboration with our partners in the National Assembly



Ambassadors of foreign countries to Kuwait attend the opening ceremony of the new legislative year at the National Assembly.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (top left) attends the opening ceremony.



MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari (right) speaks during the debate of a grilling motion filed jointly with MP Riyadh Al-Adasani (left) against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

and economists in non-profit organizations," His Highness the Prime Minister said.

He noted that these efforts eventually bore fruit in adjusting the public spending and curbing extravagant practices without affecting funding for investment projects. "These efforts helped spare up to KD 1 billion, created more job opportunities, improved the business atmosphere, and promoted the country's sovereign credit rating," he said, citing Fitch Ratings.

The decision, made by the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) Russell late last month to promote Boursa Kuwait to an emerging market, boosted the investor confidence in the Kuwaiti stock market; it culminated enormous efforts by the competent bodies, he stated.

Food security

On food security, His Highness the Prime Minister said Kuwait was rated as the first Arab country and the world's 26th on the Global Food Security Index. The State of Kuwait was also rated as the best Arab country in terms of access to safe water, adequate sanitation and proper

hygiene education, according to the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). The oil sector made headway in the eco-friendly fuel initiative which will encourage Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to unveil this achievement next year, His Highness the Prime Minister disclosed. KNPC, acting to realize the vision of His Highness the Amir to replace 15 percent of the country's consumption of conventional energy by renewable energy, started building and operating a solar-power station.

A remarkable progress has been made in the development of infrastructure projects, including road building. Sheikh Jaber Causeway project is 80 percent complete and will open for traffic in late 2018, His Highness the Prime Minister said, expecting the new Kuwait airport to open next year too according to the set timeframe. He expressed hope that the lawmakers, while exercising their constitutional right to legislate and supervise the performance of the executive authority, will work with the government to overcome the challenges and materialize a fruitful and constructive partnership for the sake of the country. — KUNA

Local

I am the one who protects the constitution: Amir

Kuwait's mediation to protect Gulf House: Sheikh Sabah



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah waves during the opening ceremony. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman (right) and French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle attend the opening ceremony.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is seen during the debate of a grilling motion filed against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has affirmed yesterday that the commitment to the constitution in Kuwait is stable and belief in parliamentary work is firmly established, saying "I am the one who protects the constitution and will not allow it to be prejudiced," because it is the basic guarantee after God Almighty.

During the opening of the second ordinary session of the 15th legislative term of the National Assembly, His Highness the Amir said that regional developments and challenges have made parliamentary work a national benefit to "strengthen our most important national gains."

Gulf House

His Highness the Amir meanwhile stressed that everyone should realize that the only objective of the Kuwaiti mediation is to reform the 'Gulf House which is our home

and protect it from collapse." His Highness the Amir said that the mediation of Kuwait is not merely a traditional mediation by a party between two parties. "We are not a party but one party with two brothers," expressing hope that everyone would be fully aware of the risks of escalation with resulting implications of regional and international damage to the Gulf and its peoples.

He pointed out that the history and future generations of the Gulf and the Arabs will not forgive anyone who contributes, even with one word, to fuel this dispute or be part in it, stressing that the GCC is a promising glimmer of hope in the darkness of Arab action and the candlelight that illuminates the long tunnel and a model to be followed in cooperation.

He stressed the need to adhere to the approach of calm and avoid the conflict in an attempt to overcome this crisis, saying "what brings us together is stronger than what

divides us.. Let us ask God to calm the souls because the GCC is a solid castle and a banner of security, dignity and prosperity."

Welfare for all

His Highness the Amir also indicated that Kuwait will continue the road for development and welfare for all people living on this land. During his speech, His Highness the Amir said that the road towards achieving sustainable development was not an easy path because they are grave internal and external challenges that should be met with great resolve.

Kuwait's security and peace are of paramount importance; therefore, people should band together and safeguard these blessings, said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah. He went on saying that the National Assembly should work hard towards fending off dangers that might

harm Kuwait and its people.

His Highness the Amir underlined the importance of security as the bedrock of Kuwait's welfare and development, affirming that uniting people around the concept of national unity will bring upon a bright future.

Also during his speech, His Highness the Amir touched on the necessity of executing plans for economic reforms, indicating that Kuwait must transform from an oil-based economy to an economy, which is diversified and dynamic. Investing in human resources is necessary in order to realize economic development, said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah who indicated that parliament had a huge responsibility in this regard. His Highness the Amir concluded his speech with a vow that he would work with all his might to ensure that the Kuwaiti people live a prosperous and happy life, asking the National Assembly and the cabinet to partake and join in this noble cause. — KUNA

Lawmaker decries 'opposition to new sports law'

By A Saleh and Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Chairman of the parliamentary youth and sports committee MP Saadoun Hammad Al-Otaibi lamented the presence of some opposition to passing the new sports law and stressed that such an attitude reflects some parties' hidden wishes to keep Kuwait sports activities suspended. Otaibi added that everything related to this issue will soon be declared to the Kuwaiti public after holding the parliament's urgent session to be held to discuss this issue.

Brother's murderer

The court of appeals yesterday adjourned till Nov 20 hearing a case filed against a non-Kuwaiti for murdering his brother in Andalus. Yesterday's hearing was attended by attorney Talal Al-Enezi, representing the victim's mother, who demanded capital punishment as per article 149 of the penal law on grounds that the defendant disregarded kinship with the victim and unlawfully killed a human being. Enezi also explained that the defendant and the victim were half-brothers and that his client had always been nice to his siblings and helped them financially, including the defendant. Notably, the criminal court had sentenced the

defendant to death for first-degree murder, and ordered him to pay the victim's mother KD 5,001 in compensation.

Nurseries

Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh issued ministerial decision number 36/T/2017 pertaining co-op societies' support to nurseries, in which she set six conditions for these nurseries to receive support. The decision conditioned that nurseries should be licensed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL), operate within the co-op's jurisdiction, support is approved by the board of directors, that the co-op's funds dedicated for social services allows it, that the sum is divided equally over two semesters, that each shareholder sends two children at most, that subsidies do not exceed 50 percent of the nursery fees and that applications should be filed at least two weeks before the school year commences.

China's visa

The interior ministry's residency affairs department announced that China's foreign ministry decided to use the new version of the entry visa sticker starting from Sept 2017. The new sticker has a place for a picture, besides other information about the applicant. The department said that the new visa was introduced in a bid to fight forgery. Meanwhile, the old stickers are still valid, it added.

Campaigns

Farwaniya municipality branch carried out several campaigns at stores, supermarkets and restaurants in the governorate, resulting in issuing 114 citations for food violations, while 450 signs were removed.

transferring large amounts of money to Islamic State. The three were detained over the case, Al-Qabas reported. An informed source quoted in the report said the prosecution charged the suspects with money laundering, though they denied the charges. The suspects claimed they collected the money from Syrians to send it to their families, as they make money from the transfer operations in dollars. The source said investigations showed otherwise, as the officer handling the case said the suspects sent the money to IS.

On the voluntary action day, Lt Gen Dousary said the decision-makers at the ministry adopted a range of measures to facilitate service for the elderly people and people with special needs. These include exemption from residency fees and opening offices at all traffic and security service departments to help those people get service as fast as possible, he added. Lt Gen Dousary thanked the organizer of the event for encouraging the youth, males and females, to help the elderly people get government service and training them to tackle any emergency in the future.



Lt Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary

Ministry constantly assesses threats: Official

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary said Monday the ministry is constantly assessing the terror threats in order to prepare the proper responses. "There is a security team who are tasked with analyzing the level of security risks," he said, affirming the preparedness of the security forces to address any emergency that could face the country.

Lt Gen Dousary made the press remarks while attending the first voluntary action day to help the elderly people. The event is organized by the Kuwaiti Charitable Society for Elderly Care and Rehabilitation under the slogan of "your kids at your service."

The terrorist threats are a matter of concern for all countries of the world that requires joint action and close collaboration," Lt Gen Dousary pointed out. His statements came amid reports indicating that the public prosecution launched an investigation against three Syrians for

Kuwait Times

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Local

Zain participates in opening ceremony of 6th Youth Empowerment Symposium

As part of its strategic partnership for the sixth consecutive year

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, participated in the opening ceremony of the sixth edition of the Youth Empowerment Symposium held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center as part of its strategic partnership for the sixth consecutive year. The event comes under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The opening ceremony witnessed the attendance of HH the Amir's representative the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait Eaman Al-Roudhan, Chief Enterprise Business Officer of Zain Kuwait Hamad Al-Marzouq, as well as a number of local leaders from the public and private sectors.

The first day witnessed a number of discussion panels, including a panel entitled "Startup Opportunities in the Private Sector", featuring Bader Al-Sayer - Group Business Director and Secretary, Board of Directors of Al-Sayer Group, Hamad Al-Marzouq - Chief Enterprise Business Officer of Zain Kuwait, as well as Ahmed Al-Kharji - Group Chief Corporate Banking Officer of KFH.

Zain's strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium since its inception six years ago comes in line with the company's long term strategy of providing the necessary support to national initiatives aimed at uplifting the capabilities and skills of Kuwaiti youth. The symposium is considered one of the biggest academic programs that cater to the youth in Kuwait and even the GCC region. Every year, it excels



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting State Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan honoring Zain represented by Zain's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti.

at inviting local and international experts, professionals, and pioneers in the fields of business, information technology, economics, and social media from all around the world to share their personal and professional experiences with the Kuwaiti youth who anxiously look forward to learning from them every year.

The Youth Empowerment Symposium, held 23-25 October, provides local youth with an ideal opportunity to gain valuable insights from a number of international



Minister Khalid Al-Roudhan with Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait Eaman Al-Roudhan during the opening ceremony.

and locally renowned industry pioneers, academics, and experts. This year's speakers include Patrick Pichette, Former Vice President and CFO in Google Inc, Mike Tattersfield, Chairman of Caribou Coffee, Sam Chamberlain, COO of Five Guys Group, Simon Ainslie, Former Global Vice President in Nokia, Victoria Grace, Founder and CEO of Colle Capital - USA, as well as a

number of prominent local speakers. Zain's presence in this national event showcases the company's dedication to empowering the entrepreneurial skills of youth in Kuwait. The symposium delivers outstanding knowledge to talented young people to be able to progress in their fields of interest as well as to spark the light of enthusiasm within them.

KIPCO takes part in Youth Empowerment Symposium



KUWAIT: Eman Al-Awadhi of KIPCO receives recognition from Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting State Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan.

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) participated in the 6th Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tamkeen), held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KIPCO is a Strategic Sponsor of the symposium for the third year.

During his speech, Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said that the government has taken great step to create a good environment to empower Kuwaiti youth, linking them to the economy and encouraging them to enter the private sector and develop projects.

Roudhan stressed the keenness of His Highness the Amir on the youth of Kuwait to build the future and the foundation of the country. He said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing the small business' licenses, pointing out that the National Fund for Support and Development of Enterprises Small and medium-sized enterprises have been established to support young people, as these projects receive the attention and support of the Government.

The Minister added that the leaderships in the ministries and government bodies are the youth, stressing the belief of Kuwait in youth through such conference on the empowerment of young people. "The annual event of Tamkeen is evidence of its success in the development of youth capabilities and encourage them to engage in self-employment by hosting many local and international figures who contribute to

enriching the revolution, knowledge for young people and to convey a message of challenge and determination."

Speaking on this occasion, KIPCO's Group Communications Director Eman Al-Awadhi, said: "KIPCO values the importance of supporting young people, and it is this shared view with Tamkeen that inspired the launch of the KIPCO Tamkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs in 2015.

We strongly believe in the important role that the private sector plays in diversifying the local economy. We also believe that the future lies in the hands of these young entrepreneurs, and our goal here is to shed light on the work that these young people do, understand the challenges they face, and support them as they develop their businesses toward profitability and sustainability."

The first day of the symposium saw the 'Startup Battle' of the KIPCO Tamkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. The three e-media and technology businesses that qualified in the first judging round - Baims, Orddr.com and Yahaloo - presented to a judging panel that included Founder and CEO of Colle Capital - USA, Victoria Grace; CEO of KAMCO, Faisal Sarkhou; and CEO of Boutiqaat.com, Abdulwahab Al-Essa. The winner of the 3rd KIPCO Tamkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs will be announced on the second day of symposium. At the end of the event, Kuwait Times was honored as the media sponsor of the 6th Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tamkeen) by the minister and chairman of the conference Ali Al-Ibrahim.



Ministry preparing small business' licenses

Kuwait Aviation Show set to be held in January

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Aviation Show will be held from January 17-20, 2018 at Kuwait International Airport, where 150 international companies from the aviation field will participate in the event. It will be sponsored by public institutions including the Defense Ministry, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and others.

The organizers expect more than 50,000 visitors during the four days of the event. "This will be the first aviation show held in Kuwait. Tickets will be available online. The first day will be for VIPs, the second day will be for public bodies and companies, and the next two days will be for the public. Visitors will not face problems with parking as we have prepared a parking lot for 1,800 vehicles, and special busses will ferry visitors to the gate," said Tareq Bastaki, Founding and Managing Director of Outer Limit Media Solutions, during a press conference at the Sheraton Hotel on Monday.

The Kuwait Aviation Show will include many activities. "Air shows will be held daily, but we haven't set their number yet. In addition to the planes of the Kuwait air force, other international teams will present shows, which we will announce later. Talks will be presented by participating companies too," he added.

The recent development of the aviation industry in Kuwait was the motivation behind this event. "We have been preparing for this

US military highlights procurement opportunities

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The US Embassy, in cooperation with the US military bases in Kuwait, presented a seminar yesterday at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), highlighting procurement opportunities at the US base. The event is part of the 'Discover America' event that opened this week in Kuwait. It is part of a three-day seminar being held at the KCCI to provide better understanding of US products and services. Yesterday, the focus was on procurement, as the US military bases can enter into business with various suppliers - from cement products to transportation, janitorial services and Internet, food and more.

"There are procedures to follow when you are dealing with the US military base. It is not easy, so we see to it that every procedure is understood and followed by parties," said Jeff Hamilton, US Embassy Commercial Counselor. "We are doing this so local companies understand all the procedures involved. It is not only complicated, but a tedious process, because of the safety and security issues involved," he said. The US military bases in Kuwait (Camp Arifjan and Camp Buehring) serve as military camps for several of its missions in the Middle East.

The camps primarily serve as army posts, but today air force, navy, coastguard, marine personnel and international troops also call them home. The US military base is situated in



KUWAIT: Organizers of the Kuwait Aviation Show take part in a press conference yesterday to announce the event. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

event for more than three years, but we didn't find a suitable location for it, so we had to postpone it. In fact we had the idea about 25 years ago, but the local market was not ready. Today, many big projects are being executed such as the T2 and T4 terminals, new runways and other projects that are part of the infrastructure," said Ahmed Behbehani, one of the organizers.

Great opportunity

This event will bring together companies and investors in the aviation field. "This event is a great opportunity for international companies in the aviation industry as well as the investors to witness the development in his field, as all the projects need financing and companies to work on them. In addition, these projects will provide work opportunities," noted Mohammed Al-Kandari, an organizer.

Six departments of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will super-

vised the event. "During the days of the air show, some flight timings may be changed due to the air shows that will take place at the airport. We have to ensure the safety and security of this event. We are also in charge of issuing the licenses and approvals to the participants, in addition to supervising the flights," explained Adel Buresli from the DGCA.

Around 100 companies have already registered their participation in the event, and registration is still open for about 50 companies from the aviation field. "Around 45 private jets will participate in this event. Through this show, we also aim to spread awareness of private jets, which are not popular in Kuwait, while they are in demand in other GCC countries. We expect around 10,000 visitors will come to Kuwait to attend the show, and we have negotiated with hotels to prepare for this event. Many more surprises will take place during the show, which will be announced later," concluded Bastaki.

the middle of the Kuwaiti desert. The US military has over 1.3 million men and women on active duty, with more than 450,000 of them stationed overseas. Many of these stationed service members perform training exercises and other duties at safe bases. Then there are others who are deployed to conflict zones like Syria or Iraq or potential 'hotspots' like Somalia. The number of military personnel is approximately 15,000 in Kuwait, although the figure is unconfirmed, since the US embassy did not want to divulge the exact number of US military personnel here.

The final day of presentation at the KCCI is scheduled today, where the US embassy will explain how the embassy supports local businesses and provide an overview of US embassy services. The event will start at 10 am with three speakers.

'America Wild 3D'

In other news, and also as part of the 10-day activities of 'Discover America,' a movie premiere was held Monday night at the Scientific Center in Salmiya. The Middle East premiere of 'America Wild 3D: National Parks Adventure,' was inaugurated by US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman.

"I would like to thank the Chairman of the Scientific Center Sami Al-Rushaid for allowing us to utilize your beautiful space this evening for a reception and to screen the film in this fantastic IMAX theatre. I would also like to thank Brand USA, a public-private partnership created to increase the number of international visitors to the United States, for sponsoring this reception," he said.

'Discover America' highlights several topics including culture, food, restaurants, fashion, film, education, tourism, business, automobiles, and healthcare in the US. "The week is full of events and special promotions, and I encourage you all to participate where you can," he said.

"Tonight's film is a tribute to the US National Park System, and it highlights some



KUWAIT: Jeff Hamilton, US Embassy Commercial Counselor speaks during the seminar. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

of the stunning views and natural beauty that graces much of the United States," the ambassador went on. The National Park System was created in 1916 and Yellowstone National Park was the first recognized national park in the US. There are 401 national parks, monuments, and other areas managed by the national park system, covering 340,000 square kilometers. There are national parks or monuments located in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, and last year over 330 million people visited the park system.

Speaking separately with the Kuwait Times the envoy reiterated his call for Kuwaitis to enroll in American universities and colleges. "We have several educational expos in the coming days and months; (universities) are coming to Kuwait to recruit students," the Ambassador said, adding that US educational institution also participated in a foreign education expo held earlier this week at the Sheraton Hotel. "Also, every time our president and His Highness the Amir meet, they always talk about education. They already met several times and education is the number one issue on the table," he said.

AIPS Asia chief thanks KJA

KUWAIT: Recently elected president of the Asia Sports Press Union (AIPS) Asia and member of Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) Sattam Al-Sahli expressed gratitude to KJA Board of Directors for their support

in AIPS elections conducted this past September. Notably, AIPS extraordinary congress had convened in Islamabad, Pakistan, where Kuwait's representative Sahli was elected president.

Local



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Kuwait Manel Baderyan hosted a reception on the occasion of his country's National Day at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall. State officials, diplomats and cross section of the Armenian community in Kuwait participated in the event. —Photo by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: The Belgium Ambassador to Kuwait Piet Heirbaut visited Kuwait Times yesterday and discussed matters of mutual concern with Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

Successful wrap up for ArabNet Conference

KUWAIT: Held under the patronage of Khaled Al-Roudhan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and with the Platinum Sponsorship of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development, the second edition of ArabNet Kuwait was a great success and gathered over 800 attendees and 70 speakers from across the UAE, the region and the world.

The second day of ArabNet Kuwait 2017 featured eight panels spread among two Forums: Digital Commerce and Adtech. The conference also featured a 1-on-1 interview with one of the most successful entrepreneurs and active investors in the MENA region, Fadi Ghandour, who spoke about the trends in tech investing. The highlights included keynotes from Twitter, Instagram and KNET, as well as the CEO series which hosted Salah Al-Fulaij - CEO of NBK and Neil Hardwick - CEO of MEC MENA.

ArabNet conference hosted a roundtable, "Aligning Efforts to Support Entrepreneurship and Innovation", focused on analyzing the state of Kuwait's entrepreneurship ecosystem and evaluating gaps and opportunities that would help maximize market growth in the next few years. It brought together investors, entrepreneurship enablers and regulators who presented and discussed the best methods for stimulating the growth of entrepreneurship in Kuwait.

At the closing ceremony, and for the second time in Kuwait, the three winners of the Startup Battle were announced. Under the sponsorship of Kuwaitnet and with Sirdab Lab as a training partner, orddr, a platform that connects food suppliers to restaurants, by Nasser Al-Qatami came in first place; Festivity, an online destination delivering event, by Nasser Altowajri came in second and PantryBee, delivering fresh pre-portioned ingredients and visual step-by-step recipe cards, by Yousef Almunayes was chosen in 3rd place. The three winning startups will get the chance to participate in ArabNet Startup Championship taking place in Dubai at the ArabNet Digital Summit 2018 (April 30 - May 1). Furthermore, and with Sirdab Lab again as a training partner, TABB, a smart restaurant solution for wait-free dining, by Yong Joon (John) Rhee was announced as the Ideathon winner and received \$5,000 as a seed grant to help them kick start their idea.

ArabNet Kuwait is sponsored by The Kuwait National Fund (KNF), Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Gulf Bank, KuwaitNet, Nabad, Bayt.com, JustClean, KNet, Social Entrepreneurship Enterprise Development (SEED), DBS Digital, Wataniya Airways, VIVA Telecom, Careem, MEC Global, DarisniME, and Boubyan Bank.

ArabNet Kuwait was able to highlight the state of digital economy in Kuwait, as well as delve into the latest trends in digital media and marketing. High profile industry leaders and entrepreneurs tackled key topics via 3 forums, and it served as a platform for thriving entrepreneurs who want to turn their ideas into reality. ArabNet will be hosting its next event in Riyadh on December 11-13, 2017; in Beirut on February 20-22, 2018; and Dubai April 30 - May 1, 2018.



JACC-KW wins ENR's Award of Merit

NEW YORK: The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC) have won the Award of Merit from the American architectural engineering magazine (ENR) for being one of the

best international projects. The announcement made during a special ceremony held in The Sheraton (Times Square) late Monday.

JACC is one of the fastest international engineering projects that have been made in terms of design and implementation. A team of engineers from the Amiri Diwan, local and international experts worked day and night for 22 consecutive months to complete this architectural building, which was finished in record time. Huge quantities of building materials were used in the

construction of the project, including 21 thousand tons of iron and 52 thousand square meters of titanium to cover buildings from outside.

The center has taken the Flag Square as its podium with a total area of 214,000 square meters, while area of construction reached more than 110,000 square meters. Gardens and green escapes covering more than 120,000 square meters with four buildings, a dancing fountain and facilities to serve visitors were all put into consideration in the designing stage.

The design of the center was inspired by the distinctive beauty and creativity of the Islamic architecture. It includes large areas allows visitors to enjoy the interior of the center and its geometric design of the halls and theaters. Its location on the Arabian Gulf Road, one of the vital roads in Kuwait, has added a touristic importance to it. The Engineering News-Record (ENR) awards are dedicated to the best global projects that challenges and both designs and constructions in other countries. —KUNA

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Hot water for dinner in a besieged Syrian town

Pakistan gives Tillerson frosty welcome; US warns over Taleban havens

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BEIJING: A man walks past a roadside poster of Chinese President Xi Jinping after the closing of the 19th Communist Party Congress in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

China enshrines 'Xi Jinping Thought'

Xi's ideology on 'new era' of socialism included in charter

BEIJING: China's ruling Communist Party enshrined President Xi Jinping's political thought into its constitution yesterday, putting him in the same company as the founder of modern China, Mao Zedong, and cementing his power ahead of a second five-year term. A key Xi ally, top corruption fighter Wang Qishan, will not be on the new Politburo Standing Committee, the apex of power in China, to be revealed today as he was not among those named yesterday to the 204-member Central Committee.

Whether or not the powerful Wang would remain on the Standing Committee, which currently has seven members, despite being beyond the customary retirement age of 69, had been among the key questions to be answered at the week-long party congress, which ended yesterday. Wang could still assume another senior role over the next few months.

As expected, the party unanimously passed an amendment to include "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" as one of its guiding principles. The party will announce its new Standing Committee, headed by Xi, at around midday today, culminating a twice-a-decade leadership reshuffle. As expected, the amended constitution affirmed that Xi's signature fight against corruption, which has ensnared more than 1.3 million officials, will continue.

Unexpectedly, Xi's "Belt and Road" initiative, an ambitious program to build infrastructure linking China with its neighbors and beyond, was also included in the party con-

stitution. Also included was a commitment to supply-side industrial reforms, and giving play to the "decisive role" of market forces in resource allocation, a commitment Xi had made early in his first terms that many investors say he has failed to deliver on. "The party exercises overall leadership over all areas of endeavor in every part of the country," the party said in a statement reflecting Xi's ongoing efforts to strengthen the party and its place in contemporary Chinese society.

If no clear successor to Xi is named to the new Politburo Standing Committee, it will further fuel speculation that Xi may look to retain power beyond the customary second five-year term. "This is about further erasing any distinction between Xi Jinping and the party," said Jude Blanchette, who studies the party at The Conference Board's China Center for Economics and Business in Beijing, referring to Xi's thought getting into the constitution. "Add on to this having supply-side structural reform and One Belt One Road written into this, which were Xi's signature policies, this makes questioning or non-

compliance with those tantamount to betrayal of the party."

The market and the party

Xu Hongcai, deputy chief economist at the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, a Beijing think-tank, said party control was needed to push through the market reforms key to restructuring the world's second-largest economy. "To build a market economic system in such a big country, it's impossible without the leadership of the party," he said.

Others have argued that the two are contradictory. "When you put 'supply-side reform' and 'market playing a decisive role' in the same document, then that just shows they have to almost choose one," said Alex Wolf, Senior Emerging Markets Economist with Aberdeen Standard Investments in Hong Kong. China's blue-chip shares climbed to a 26-month high yesterday, led by infrastructure and property stocks, as Xi wrapped up a congress that began with his three-and-a-half hour speech envisioning a more prosperous, confident

China. The yuan strengthened against the dollar.

Crowning glory?

Xi rapidly consolidated power after assuming party leadership in late 2012 and then the presidency the next year. The party gave Xi the title of "core" leader a year ago, a significant strengthening of his position. Whether Xi was able to have his name "crowned" in the party constitution had been seen as a key measure of his power, elevating him to a level of previous leaders exemplified by Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory.

No other leader since Mao has had an eponymous ideology included in the document while in office, Deng's name was added after his death in 1997. A list of 133 committee members for the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection released yesterday included Zhao Leji, who heads the party's Organization Department, a strong sign that he will take over from Wang as anti-corruption chief.

China's top banking regulator, Guo Shuqing, and veteran banker Jiang Chaoliang, front runners to succeed Zhou Xiaochuan as central bank governor, both made it to the Central Committee. The constitutional amendment, along with Xi's work report and a work report of the graft watchdog that has congress, were passed by a show of hands. When Xi next asked for any "no" votes or abstentions for the amendment or two work reports, the sound of "none" echoed throughout the chamber, as officials shouted out from different sides of the hall. — Reuters



Xi ranks alongside Mao, the founder of modern China

Police failing modern-day slaves in UK

LONDON: Police forces across Britain are failing modern-day slaves, with a lack of understanding, mediocre investigations and troubling attitudes from officers leaving many victims prey to further abuse and exploitation, a police watchdog said yesterday. Despite an upsurge in slavery and human trafficking cases over the past year, many are being poorly investigated, or not followed up on at all, said Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in a report.

Many victims of slavery receive an entirely inadequate service from the police, with "victims being let down at every stage", according to the watchdog, which assessed the police's response to Britain's landmark anti-slavery law, passed in 2015. Britain is regarded as a leader in global efforts to combat slavery, and passed the Modern Slavery Act to crack down on traffickers, force businesses to check their supply chains for forced labor, and protect people at risk of being enslaved. At least 13,000 people are estimated to be victims of modern slavery in Britain, but police say the true figure is likely to be in the tens of thousands with slavery operations on the rise. "Many of the shortcomings in investigating these cases reflect deficiencies in basic policing practice," said Wendy Williams of HMICFRS. — Reuters

Macron stresses security, not rights, with Sisi

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron lauded deepening security and diplomatic ties with Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi yesterday, adding that he had refused to "give lessons" about human rights during their talks in Paris. The 39-year-old French centrist had faced calls from rights groups to raise torture and political repression in Egypt publicly after the first face-to-face meeting between the pair.

Instead, Macron stressed how Egypt was a vital partner in the fight against Islamic extremism in the Middle East and Europe, as well as key in the search for lasting political solutions in war-ravaged Libya and Syria. "The first battle that we have in common is the fight against terrorism," Macron said during a joint press conference which underlined their common purpose against extremists which have claimed hundreds of victims in both countries.

Macron said he had stated that combating extremism "should be carried out with the respect of the rule of law and human rights," but declined to criticize Sisi's record since he seized power in 2013. As French president "I would not accept that another leader gave me lessons about how to govern my country... I believe in the sovereignty of states and we are not here to give lessons without taking account of the context," Macron explained.

The former investment banker, elected in May, has promised a pragmatic, results-oriented foreign policy, but also one that sees France uphold its historic mission



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron (right) and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi attend a press conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. — AFP

of defending human rights. His approach is in line with other European leaders who see Sisi as a source of stability, but Macron did not go as far as US President Donald Trump who praised the Egyptian for doing a "fantastic job" in April.

Egyptian security services are accused of using torture systematically by human rights groups, while government pressure on the media, NGOs and political

opponents is seen as having increased under Sisi. The most populous country in the Middle East is fighting the Egyptian branch of the Islamic State group in the north of the Sinai peninsula and has faced a series of attacks that has affected its vital tourism industry. At least 16 Egyptian police officers were killed at the weekend in an ambush by Islamist fighters in the country's Western Desert in a rare flare-up outside the Sinai. — AFP

International

'Just about money': Tehran recruits Afghans for fight

Afghan Shiites recruited to defend Syrian regime

KABUL: Fleeing grinding poverty and unemployment, thousands of Afghan Shiites have been recruited by Iran to defend Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, former fighters and rights activists say. Afghan men and boys as young as 14 are signing up to fight on the promise of money and legal residency in Shiite-dominated Iran, Assad's regional ally, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Since 2013 the Afghans, including undocumented migrants living in Iran, have joined the Tehran-backed Fatemiyoun division fighters in Syria, said HRW and ex-members who spoke to AFP on condition their real names were not used. "For me it was just about money," said Shams, a former fighter. The 25-year-old, a member of the Hazara ethnic group, went to Syria twice in 2016 to fight in a conflict that has now been raging for more than six years. "Whoever I saw was going for money and to have free entry to Iran. I never saw anyone fighting for religious reasons," said Shams, who now lives in the Afghan capital Kabul.

The withdrawal of US-led NATO combat troops at the end of 2014 drained the Afghan economy and left many people out of work, fuelling the flow of migrants into Iran in

search of a better life. HRW estimated last year that Iran hosts around three million Afghans. In this desperate pool Iranian recruiters targeted Shiites to swell the ranks of Fatemiyoun soldiers, who HRW says fight alongside Syrian government forces.

"I went there (Iran) because I was jobless and it was a way to get money for my family," said Shams. "My idea was to find a job in Iran. I had no plan to go to fight in Syria but after a month of being jobless I decided to go. "They were encouraging us saying 'you will be a freedom fighter and if you return to Iran alive you can stay with a 10-year residence permit'. But my main goal was to earn money." Afghan Shiites are given 1.5 million toman (about \$450) to register at a recruitment centre for the Fatemiyoun, Shams said. Once they have signed up they receive three million toman a month, a fortune for many poor Afghans.

Bodies

Shams' first mission was in June 2016 in the Syrian capital of Damascus, where he was assigned to protect a barracks for two months. He went back to the country in September and was deployed to Aleppo, where he was given his first AK-47 after receiving rudimentary weapons training from

Iran's Revolutionary Guards. On the front line of the battle between Islamic State militants and the Al-Nusra Front jihadist group, Shams said he found himself caught up in an intense and deadly battle.

"In Aleppo we faced an ambush-out of 100 fighters we lost almost all of them. There were 15 of us left alive," Shams said. "The bodies were sent back to Iran and the families in Afghanistan held funeral ceremonies in mosques without a coffin or grave." Ali Alfoneh, a senior fellow at the Washington-based think tank Atlantic Council, estimates more than 760 Afghans have been killed in Syria since September 2013. Another man who fought in Syria in 2014 when he was 17, said it was not just Afghans in Fatemiyoun. "There were also Pakistanis, Iraqis—all the Shiites," he said. "We were mixed up with the Arabs, we didn't understand their language." HRW says the Iranians refuse to provide accurate figures, but estimates there are nearly 15,000 Afghans fighting for Fatemiyoun.

Treated like slaves

"They are used by the Iranian government, which treats them like slaves," said Ramazan Bashardost, a Hazara member of parliament in



TALL TAMR, Syria: Rifles belonging to international fighters are seen lined up along a wall on the outskirts of the north-western Syrian town of Tall Tamr, north of Hasakeh, near the border with Turkey. —AFP

Kabul. "The sorrow, pain and hunger of the people is not a major concern of the Afghan government." Afghanistan's foreign ministry called on Iran in October to stop sending young Afghans to Syria after the HRW report

condemning the recruitment of minors. But preventing Afghans from volunteering will not be easy. "Money and the prospect of a guaranteed residency for your family in Iran are major draw cards," said Shuja. —AFP

'Hot water' for dinner in a Syria town

HAMOURIA: Manal boils water on the stove in the besieged Syrian town of Hamouria, hoping to convince her four children that she is cooking, but she has no food. She puts the pot on the flame as a ruse, waiting for the children to fall asleep in the dilapidated house before they realize there is nothing for dinner. In the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region where she lives, over 1,100 children are suffering acute malnutrition, and hundreds more are at risk because of food shortages caused by a government siege.

Aid agencies warn the situation is worsening, despite an international agreement to implement a "de-escalation zone" in the area, which has decreased violence but led to no new access for food, medicine and humanitarian aid. "They haven't eaten anything but bread for the last three days," Manal said in tears. "A neighbor gave us the flour." Eastern Ghouta, which lies outside the capital Damascus, was once a prime agricultural region. But the rebel stronghold has been under a tight government siege since 2013, causing shortages of food and medicine, and pushing up prices for what remains on the market, produced locally or smuggled in.

The region has been devastated by years of fighting, with government air strikes and shelling bringing down multi-story buildings and rendering whole streets uninhabitable. Basic services for the region's estimated 400,000 residents are virtually non-existent, with electricity produced only by generators and the water available often dirty and a vector for illness.

Situation 'getting worse'

Manal's husband Abu Azzam is unable to work because of a serious injury he sustained in a shelling attack in their old home elsewhere in Eastern Ghouta several years ago. The attack killed one of their children, and left another, Azzam, missing a foot and dependent on crutches to get around. The family is desperately poor and has sold most of their furniture to afford food. "In 24 hours, we have a single meal, which is not enough for the children," said Abu Azzam in despair. Ordinarily, the family might hope for assistance from aid groups, but humanitarian access to Eastern Ghouta has been vanishingly rare throughout the conflict that began with anti-government protests in March 2011. —AFP

Iraq's pro-govt paramilitaries battle Kurds

BAGHDAD: Iraqi pro-government paramilitaries launched an offensive against Kurdish troops yesterday near the Turkish frontier, pushing towards a strategic border crossing and oil export pipeline hub that Baghdad says must come under its control. The Iraqi government has transformed the balance of power in the north of the country since launching a campaign last week to seize back territory from the Kurds, who govern an autonomous region of three northern provinces and had also seized a swathe of other territory in northern Iraq. The Kurds held a referendum on independence last month that Baghdad called illegal.

Baghdad responded by seizing back the city of Kirkuk, the oil-producing areas around it, and other territory that the Kurds had captured from Islamic State. Prime Minister Haider Abadi has ordered his army to recapture all disputed territory, and has also demanded central control of Iraq's border crossings with Turkey, all of which are inside the Kurdish autonomous region itself. A Kurdish official said Kurdish security forces known as Peshmerga had successfully beaten back an advance by Iranian-backed pro-government paramilitaries in the region of Rabi'a, 40 kilometers south of the Fish-Khabur border area. —Reuters



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International

Boycott, protests, anxiety as Kenyans return to polls

Police disperse demonstrators as opposition fumes

NAIROBI: Kenyan police used bullets and teargas yesterday to disperse a small demonstration in Nairobi two days before elections, as the main opposition leader appeared to row back from a call for his supporters to hold protests during the vote. In the western city of Kisumu, around 2,000 demonstrators marched on the election board offices, witnesses said, responding to Raila Odinga's appeal for protests against tomorrow's repeat presidential ballot. They dispersed peacefully.

Odinga is boycotting the contest against incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta. He says it will not be free and fair because the election board has not made sufficient progress in carrying out reforms he demanded after the original election held in August was annulled. Odinga had urged his supporters to ensure tomorrow's vote did not take place, repeatedly saying there would be "no elections". But yesterday he told the BBC he was not calling for protests on polling day itself. "We have not told people to protest on polling day. We have not said that at all. We have told people to stay away," he said in a radio interview.

When called for clarification, Odinga's spokesman said he was saying "peaceful protests" would still take place and that the opposition would fully explain their plans today. The country's Supreme Court is still hearing several cases challenging the legality of tomorrow's poll or Odinga's withdrawal. At least 49 people have died in political violence since the August ballot, evoking unwelcome memories of the aftermath of a disputed 2007 poll, when

more than 1,200 people were killed. The political stand-off has also blunted growth in East Africa's richest economy, a nation valued for its stability and relative freedom in a region roiled by conflict. Last week Odinga supporters disrupted at least three official pre-polling events. Police said some election board staff were seriously injured.

Poll delay?

The head of the election board said last week it was not clear a free and fair poll could take place due to intimidation and political interference. His comments followed the resignation of an election commissioner, who fled the country and released a statement saying she had been threatened, although she did not say who had done so. A day before the Aug. 8 poll, another member of the election board had been found tortured and murdered.

On Monday, the International Crisis Group, a global thinktank, called for a delay in the election, saying "proceeding under current conditions would deepen Kenya's ethnic cleavages and prolong a stalemate that has already claimed dozens of lives and come at a high economic cost." Both the election board and the government have said the vote will go ahead, irrespective of whether Odinga contests it, and only a court ruling could legally delay the re-run ballot beyond the end of October. Yesterday, police fired tear gas and bullets into the air to disperse protesters in the capital Nairobi.

In Kisumu, an Odinga stronghold, demonstrators said that the polls should not take place, but were unclear on how they should be stopped. "All we know is that there will



NAIROBI: Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta speaks during his political rally in Nairobi ahead of the repeat elections. —AFP

be no elections. As to how this will be done, we are waiting for the big announcement by Baba (Odinga) tomorrow," said one demonstrator, market trader James Ouma. Around him protesters waved branches and blew whistles as they marched. Kenyatta officially won the first election, on Aug 8, by 1.4 million votes, but the Supreme Court annulled that vote on Sept 1 over procedural irregularities.

After the Supreme Court ruling, Odinga's team presented a list of demands to the election board. Some have

been met - opposition monitors will now have access to the board's computers as results come in, a key official has gone on an extended holiday, and results will not be transmitted without a copy of a paper form from tallying centers. The board said it was impossible to meet other demands - such as changing the technology provider - in the short time frame allotted for new elections. The Kenyan constitution said fresh elections must be held within 60 days of nullified ones. —Reuters



Court still hearing cases that could delay the election

involved to refrain from any actions that would further escalate tensions and exacerbate the volatile situation in the region.

Other important achievements by the Board under South Africa's leadership included the appointment of the Director General of the IAEA: the Medium Term Strategic Framework, which is a five-year planning and guidance document for the work of the IAEA; the Program and Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund Target, which will enable the IAEA to support Member States, especially developing countries, in utilizing nuclear science and technology to meet their developmental needs; and the 5 year Nuclear Security Plan, which guides the IAEA's role in coordinating international cooperation and supporting

nuclear science, technology and applications. As part of this process, the IAEA provides support among others to countries on the African Continent to meet their national and regional developmental needs and priorities. Of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IAEA through nuclear science and technology directly contributes to the attainment of 9 of these goals.

For example, the IAEA contributes to the promotion of food security and sustainable agricultural development; improvement of nutrition and the diagnosis and the treatment of diseases; provision of clean water to be made available to more people; environmental protection and awareness; and provision of knowledge and expertise for science and industry. South Africa has also benefitted immensely from the IAEA's scientific and technological support. Cooperation in this regard includes the eradication of moths - which negatively affected the citrus industry in the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces - resulting in the significant increase of citrus production without using chemicals.

The IAEA also assisted in strengthening the clinical management of oncological, neurological and cardiovascular diseases; supported South Africa in the development of the Sterile Insect Technique to help control malaria; and supported South African laboratories (iThemba labs) in strengthening and expanding their capacities in accelerator-based sciences in order to provide training and analytical services for water resource management and climate change studies.

South Africa is highly regarded by the IAEA due to the development of its peaceful nuclear program. Through the power plant in Koeberg, the country generates 5% of total electricity supply from nuclear. South Africa is the second largest producer of medical isotopes, which are used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Through its research reactor, SAFARI-1, which has for over 50 years operated safely, securely and reliably, South Africa exports this life-saving treatment to over 60 countries world-wide.

Having successfully concluded its term as Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors, South Africa remains convinced now more than ever, that the IAEA has an important role to play in global efforts to promote international peace, security and development.

Member States to strengthen their respective nuclear security regimes.

In discharging its mandate as Chairperson of the Board of Governors, South Africa always sought to ensure that the decisions taken by the Board were adopted by consensus in order to create an opportunity for all IAEA Member States, from across all regions of the world, to participate on an equal footing when deliberating on matters of global significance. This principled approach resonates with South Africa's call for the transformation and reform of the global system of governance and is at the core of South Africa's identity as a Nation.

During its tenure, South Africa is also pleased that the IAEA Board of Governors emphasized the developmental role of the IAEA through its activities related to



IAEA promote the safe and secure use of nuclear science

News in brief

Activists freed on bail

HONG KONG: Jailed Hong Kong democracy activists Joshua Wong and Nathan Law were released on bail yesterday pending an appeal against sentences handed down for their role in the 2014 Umbrella Movement protests. A defiant Wong said the activists stood ready to face what he called "suppression by an authoritarian regime" as he stood alongside Law outside the Court of Final Appeal following the decision. "The government can lock up our bodies but they can't lock up our minds," he told reporters. "They cannot put aside our determination to fight for democracy." The pair were jailed in August after the Beijing-backed Hong Kong government pushed for tough sentences. Fears are growing that China is tightening its grip over the semi-autonomous city and that the rule of law is being compromised. Wong, 21, who became the face of the mass pro-democracy protests while still a teenager, was imprisoned for six months while Law, 24, was sentenced to eight months.

California shooting kills 2

CLEARLAKE OAKS: A series of shootings Monday in a small lakeside Northern California community killed two people and injured two others, including a police officer, authorities said. It's unclear what prompted the shootings in Clearlake Oaks or whether the gunman knew any of the victims, Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin said. Alan Ashmore, 61, of Clearlake Oaks, was arrested about 30 minutes after the first report of gunfire. A California Highway Patrol officer was shot in his body armor while pursuing the gunman and was treated and released from a hospital. The other victim was expected to survive, Martin said. "We don't know whether the shootings were all targeted, if they were random or if they were a combination," Martin said. Two men died in separate shootings outside of homes, Martin said. The injured person also was struck at a residence.

Court quotes Bible

LISBON: Women's rights groups in Portugal have reacted angrily to a court decision that quoted the Bible and a 19th-century law in justifying a suspended sentence for a man convicted of assaulting his ex-wife with a bat because she allegedly committed adultery. The man was given a 15-month suspended sentence and a fine of 1,750 euros (\$2,000) for using a bat spiked with nails to assault the woman in the street in 2015, leaving her covered in cuts and bruises. The prosecutor had argued the sentence was too lenient and asked an appeals court for prison time of 3 years and 6 months. But the appeal judges on Oct 11 rejected his request. In their written ruling, the judges expressed "some understanding" for the attacker, saying a woman's adultery is "a very serious offense against a man's honor and dignity." They noted the Bible says an adulterous woman should be punished by death and also cited a 1886 Portuguese law that gave only symbolic sentences to men who killed their wives for suspected adultery.

Golf-loving Trump, Abe

TOKYO: Donald Trump and Shinzo Abe will again bond on the golf course as the US president tees off his 11-day Asian tour with a visit to the Japanese prime minister. Trump will visit Japan on November 5-7 as part of a five-nation Asia tour set to be dominated by concerns about North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. In the afternoon of his arrival day, Trump and Abe will play golf with one of the world's best pros Hideki Matsuyama, Japan's top government spokesman told reporters yesterday. The golf-loving pair have forged close ties both on and off the green. Abe became the first foreign leader to visit Trump Tower in New York-before the now president was even inaugurated-warmly shaking hands with the tycoon in glittering surroundings. They then jetted off

S Africa concludes its term as Chair of IAEA Board of Governors

KUWAIT: At the end of September 2017, South Africa concluded its one-year term at the helm of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors. South Africa's Permanent Representative to the IAEA, Ambassador Tebogo Seokolo, was elected to serve as Chair of the Board for the period October 2016 to the end of September 2017. South Africa is one of the founding members of the IAEA.

The Board of Governors is the major policy-making organ of the IAEA between its annual general conferences. It is made up of 35 Member States, with South Africa serving as one of its designated members. The IAEA is a multilateral body with the responsibility to promote the safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology for peace, security and development. South Africa presided over the IAEA Board of Governors at a time when the global peace and security environment has been characterized by heightened tensions and uncertainties.

Although the conclusion of the historic nuclear agreement in 2015 between the Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany (P5 +1) promised to de-escalate tensions between western countries and Iran over its nuclear program, the unequivocal commitment of all signatories to its effective implementation has become all the more important. This is especially necessary given that the IAEA has verified over the past year that Iran has continued to implement its obligations under the agreement.

Similarly, the instability on the Korean Peninsula and concerns with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) nuclear program has continued to be one of the key topics on the agenda of the IAEA Board of Governors during South Africa's tenure. In this regard, South Africa joined the international community in expressing concern at DPRK's nuclear weapons program. Further, South Africa urged the DPRK and all parties

Pakistan gives US Secretary of State a frosty welcome

ISLAMABAD: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson got a frosty welcome to Pakistan yesterday after Washington turned up the heat on Islamabad for allegedly providing "safe havens" for Taliban militants. America's top diplomat was quietly greeted by a mid-level Pakistani Foreign Office official at the military airport in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, an AFP photographer saw-a welcome devoid of the pomp that usually marks high-level visits.

He was then driven in a convoy of Land Cruisers amid tight security to the US embassy in Islamabad's diplomatic enclave, before scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and the powerful military chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The secretary's visit, the first to nuclear-armed Pakistan by a senior Trump administration official, comes months after the US President angrily accused Islamabad of harboring "agents of chaos" who could attack US-led NATO forces in neighboring Afghanistan.

It follows on the heels of an unannounced stop in Afghanistan Monday, where Tillerson reiterated America's commitment to the country and warned that

Washington has made "very specific requests" of Pakistan seeking to "undermine the support that the Taliban receives". Washington and Kabul have long accused Islamabad of supporting Afghan militant groups including the Taliban. They are believed to have links to Pakistan's shadowy military establishment, which aims to use them as a regional bulwark against arch-nemesis India.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied the charge, insisting it maintains contacts only to try to bring the militants to peace talks. During his brief visit to Afghanistan's Bagram air base Monday, Tillerson told reporters Pakistan needs to "take a clear-eyed view of the situation that they are confronted with in terms of the number of terrorist organizations that find safe haven inside" the country. US and Pakistani sources say his visit to Islamabad will be followed later in the year by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis as Trump seeks to send a tough message to the wayward Cold War ally.

No pleasing the US?

The US-Pakistan relationship has waxed and waned dramatically since Trump took office in January. Pakistan said the President had praised its then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif as "terrific" in an effusive phone call when Trump took office in January.

But Trump's blistering speech in August accusing Pakistan of harboring militants saw Islamabad angrily hit back at the claims, insisting the US took no account of the thousands of lives lost and billions spent in fighting extremism. Following the



ISLAMABAD: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson comes down from his plane upon his arrival at the Pakistan's Nur Khan military airbase in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP

August speech, Tillerson cautioned Pakistan that it could lose its status as a privileged military ally if it continued providing support to Afghan militant groups.

As one of 16 "Non-NATO Major Allies", Pakistan benefits from billions of dollars in aid and has access to advanced US military technology banned from other countries. However political analyst Zahid Hussain said there may be little Islamabad can do at this point to convince the US that it had prevented militants from using its territory to target forces in Afghanistan. "I think they would like to assure to the Americans

that they are sincere and they are taking action against some of the groups," Hussain said. "The perception here is whatever they do, it is not going to please the Americans."

Earlier this month Pakistani forces acting on American intelligence rescued a US-Canadian family which had been in Taliban captivity for five years, sparking hopes that ties were on the mend. The rescue was followed by a series of drone strikes on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border targeting long-time foes of both Washington and Islamabad. — AFP

International

India's Gandhi scion seeks revival in Modi's backyard

Rahul Gandhi, to be promoted, tries to claw back support

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi, the scion of India's most fabled political dynasty, will within weeks be crowned leader of the Congress party, handing him a freer rein to prove if he can mount a credible challenge to the dominance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The great-grandson of India's founding prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, has struggled to convince voters - and many in his party - that he is leadership material, especially after a drubbing in the 2014 general election.

Modi's depiction of the 47-year-old as an undeserving "prince" has helped sideline Gandhi since the last national vote, during which time Congress has suffered some of its worst ever local election results. But this year the economy has stumbled, and Congress politicians hope a round of state elections, beginning in Modi's home state of Gujarat, offer them - and their leader - a shot at revival ahead of the next national poll in 2019.

Gandhi will soon take over as Congress president from his 70-year-old mother, Sonia Gandhi, a symbolic promotion that three Congress officials said they hoped would free his hand to shift the narrative from a clash of personalities - which Modi has so far resoundingly won - to a debate about policies. "You will see many changes and every change will be a reaffirmation of what Congress's core beliefs are," said party MP and senior leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who works closely with Rahul Gandhi. "The right time has come to strike a chord with the masses against Modi's governance style, and we will not miss it."

Focus on jobs

Congress insiders acknowledge their leader has sometimes made it easy for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to question his commitment to politics. "The key problem with Rahul Gandhi has been his lack of consistency," said a senior party figure, who declined to be identified. "He frequently takes a break after few roadshows and it is this

inconsistency that has been a huge issue." But Congress officials say Gandhi has recently been finding his stride criticizing Modi for failing to create jobs, while the party has won a handful of recent by-elections. Gandhi is traversing Gujarat, the western state where Modi made his name, to fire up his party workers. He has ditched some of the party rallies for one-on-one meetings with trade unions, dairy workers and small traders - a traditional Modi powerbase that has been hit hard by recent economic reforms championed by the prime minister. Modi has taken notice. Last week he told workers from his Hindu nationalist BJP that the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty would "destroy Gujarat".

His party president, recently dispatched to the Gandhi family heartland in northern India, said this month that Gandhi needed to swap his "Italian" glasses for "Gujarati" spectacles to see the economic development the BJP had brought to the region, in a jibe at his Italian-born mother's roots. "BJP would love it to be a war of personalities. Congress has to frame it as a war of two different approaches, even ideologies," said Sandeep Shastri, a political scientist and Congress expert at Jain University. Gandhi, who rarely talks to the media, declined a Reuters interview request.

Unlikely to win

Rahul's father, grandmother and great-grandfather were all prime ministers in post-independence India. But critics deride Gandhi as a political lightweight who depends on his family name for power. Bursts of political energy have been followed by lengthy absences. In 2015 he took nearly two months of leave, prompting Modi's party to accuse him of "holidaying" while parliament was in session. Congress now governs states home to less than 10 percent of India's 1.3 billion population, its powerbase shriveled under the onslaught of Modi's popularity.

Congress insiders acknowledge the party is unlikely to win the December election in Gujarat, but cutting into the

Congress seeking to exploit recent economic weakness



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) and Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani wave to the media before a meeting in New Delhi yesterday. Ghani is on an official visit to India for a day. —AFP

BJP majority in the state would send a powerful signal that Congress under Gandhi has a fighting chance against a still-popular Modi. Gandhi has set up a new social media team in New Delhi to work on his image, and officials say he has been forging better ties with regional parties that are often key powerbrokers in India politics. On a recent tour of Gujarat, Gandhi reached out to the frustrations of the state's powerful business community with a new tax regime, including small traders such as those selling dry fruits.

Different tax rates on almonds and cashews, imposed

under a new national sales tax Modi's government launched in July, had left traders confused and damaged sales during the peak festival season. "We have to show him as the face of the party before Gujarat elections," said a close aide, who declined to be named. BJP leaders say they are untroubled, and that any small bounce in Gandhi's standing will die down once the economy strengthens. Modi has called the slowdown a blip. "What does his claim to fame rest on?" said Nalin Kohli, a national spokesman for the BJP. "Two months of campaigning does not make him an active politician." — Reuters

Tens of thousands in prison as India prohibition bites

RAJAUJI: Prem Prakash and his sharp-eyed team cause impatient queues at the border of India's Bihar state where a hard-hitting alcohol ban has left tens of thousands in jail and drawn the national spotlight. Every rickshaw, every car, every bus crossing from neighboring Jharkhand gets a thorough once-over at the Rajauli checkpoint from Superintendent Prakash's excise department team.

Bihar is a big, poor, rough-and-ready state with 100 million people. It also has India's harshest prohibition regime: At least 71,000

people have since been imprisoned for alcohol consumption or possession, some for up to five-years. It has not been a smooth transition. While around one million liters of liquor have been seized by police since the legislation was brought in last year, local media report that much of it has disappeared, prompting authorities to investigate. Officials caused consternation when they blamed rats for consuming some of the alcohol.

Last month, six men accused of selling liquor escaped prison after their guards dozed off. Authorities were forced to deny accusations the guards were drunk. But while some moan about the effectiveness of the ban and the police tactics used to back it, prohibition has become a vote-winner. Now politicians in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have demanded or promised similar schemes. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who brought in the Bihar ban, has been praised by conservative

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "It will protect our future generations and everyone should back him," Modi said in January.

Hartosh Singh Bal, political editor with Caravan magazine, described such bans as "a political quick fix to a complicated problem." "Alcoholism is a big issue in many poorer Indian households which is why prohibition appeals to a popular base, especially women," he told AFP. However the alcohol hunters' limited weaponry and the sheer amount of liquor involved makes enforcement difficult.

Superintendent Prakash's team at the border post about 95 miles from the Bihar capital, Patna, has to check hundreds of vehicles every day. "We have caught people giving different reasons for smuggling alcohol including for family weddings, festivals and illegal sale," he told AFP. One official told AFP that gangs make children carry the contraband as they are less likely to be searched. —AFP

India widows face abuse and threats

MUMBAI: Widows of farmers who have committed suicide in western India face abuse and threats to their children's safety when they demand their inheritance, highlighting the risks vulnerable women face in claiming rights over property, a report said. Thousands of farmers kill themselves every year in Maharashtra state over failed crops and mounting debt. The most common reason cited is the inability to repay loans for seeds and fertilizers. While an upsurge in suicides has prompted the state to write off farmers' debts and offer subsidized

loans and insurance, many of these benefits are denied to widows, according to the study of 157 farmers' widows.

"Widows in India have always been ostracized and abused; farmer widows suffer the additional stigma of the suicide and the debt," said Shivani Chaudhry, executive director at the advocacy group Housing and Land Rights Network, which published the report. "They face eviction (by their in-laws) if they ask for their share in the family home or land," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation yesterday. Chaudhry said the woman's in-laws would also often threaten to deprive her children of food or pull them out of school if she tried to make a claim.

The study published this month focuses on the region of Vidarbha, in eastern Maharashtra, which has been struggling with drought for four decades and accounts for many of the state's farmer suicides. —Reuters



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Bollywood and Nollywood sexual predators shielded

Two major Bollywood rape-revenge dramas released in 2017 had beefy heroes take on men or gangs who had sexually assaulted their wives or daughters. But off-screen, predators in the world's most prolific film industry are protected by victims' silence. From India's Bollywood to Nigeria's Nollywood, which both produce more films than Hollywood, actors told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that sexual abuse and harassment was rife, but victims almost never spoke out.

A deluge of claims against Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein has sparked countless stories of sexual harassment in the social media #MeToo campaign, with women using Twitter and Facebook to recount experiences of being abused, groped, molested and raped by bosses, teachers and family. Weinstein has been accused of sexually harassing and assaulting numerous women, including A-list actresses, over the past three decades. The film producer has denied having non-consensual sex.

While actresses in Nigeria said poverty forced many women in Nollywood to keep quiet about harassment for fear of losing roles, their Indian counterparts said Bollywood's 'boys club' and pervasive victim shaming stopped them going public. "It is the culture of victim shaming, the culture of silence that is present everywhere, not just Bollywood," said Richa Chadda, an Indian actress who has blogged about #MeToo. "It is glamorous to talk about Bollywood, but the problem is that girls (everywhere) are not treated equally and don't feel safe," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "When you speak up, you risk losing your position, your career."

Bollywood

Thousands of young boys and girls flock to the Bollywood capital Mumbai every year seeking film parts and are often exploited by agents who promise roles in exchange for favors. While some big Bollywood names have been charged with rape and harassment, they have rarely lost the support of their peers. "Like in the outside world, there exists a bro code in the industry. I've not seen anyone take a stand against allegations of sexual harassment made by female actors," said Radha Rajadhyaksha, an Indian journalist who writes on films. "In fact, when a few years ago an actor was tried for rape, one or two filmmakers came out in support of him and (helped) to resurrect his career."

When a big name actor was arrested earlier this year following the abduction and rape of a popular actress in Kerala, industry figures soon tweeted their support. The actor is still awaiting trial. Actresses in Kerala have since set up a Women in Cinema Collective to make it easier to report sexual harassment. In another widely reported case last month, a leading Bollywood producer was arrested on charges of raping a 25-year-old aspiring actress and taking pictures of her naked.

But not everyone is convinced there is a problem. Bipendra Nath Tiwari, president of the Federation of Western India Cine Employees, an umbrella organisation of 22 unions, said they had recently created a 'health and safety' committee that will also look at sexual harassment cases. But he said the federation, which numbers 250,000 members including performers, sound technicians and make-up artists, had never received any harassment complaints. "Bollywood is a clean industry," he added.

Nollywood

In Nollywood, actors said there was tacit acceptance that sexual harassment was inevitable in the \$3.3 billion industry which turns out dozens of films every week. "There are a lot of people abusing their position and demanding sexual favors. I have had to turn down jobs, walk out of sets," said Dorothy Njemanze, who has worked in Nollywood for 15 years. "There are plenty, plenty times I didn't get a part because I didn't agree to sleep with somebody."

A-list Nollywood actor Kanayo O Kanayo said actresses called him every day to say they were being pressured to sleep with producers. But actress Eefy Ike said if you complained, people within the industry would wonder why you were making a fuss. "I've worked in Hollywood and had experience with harassment there. The difference is that, in Africa, we don't have any functional laws," she said. "There is also a lot of poverty. In Hollywood, if acting doesn't work out, you can always go and get another job. In Nigeria, it's difficult to get another job so there is (more) pressure on women to sleep with powerful men." — Reuters



Child slave lifts lid on life as maid

When she was a little over knee high, Badaik's father took her on a trip. They walked through lush tea gardens, boarded a bus and reached "somewhere". As she took in the sights, her father turned back and went home, leaving her at the doorstep of a "nice house". He had sold her into slavery for 500 rupees (\$7.70). Badaik grew up working as a maid in the northeast Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, roughly 50 km from her home in the tea gardens of the neighboring state of Assam.

In 2016, a chance meeting with another maid - a fellow teenager who had been sold off - set her on a journey. Badaik re-trod the bylanes commonly used by child traffickers to cross state borders and finally found her mother and her old home. "I think I am 16 or maybe 17 now," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, sitting in New Purubari village in the heart of a tea garden in Assam's Biswanath district. She was born here, but has little memory of the place. "I went when I was tiny and have come back all grown up. I had forgotten my family, my language, my home. I am slowly reconnecting." Villagers say she is lucky to have found her way back.

Rich Pickings

Across the tea plantations of Assam, where poverty is deeply entrenched, hundreds of thousands of children have gone missing, activists say. "Agents and sometimes even families from Arunachal Pradesh drive into the tea gardens, pick any child and go," said Moni Darnal of non-profit Jagriti Samiti, which is running awareness campaigns on child trafficking. "They take them as young as three and four so that they can train them to do household chores. It's become an accepted norm and it is that simple."

India's 2011 census recorded more than 4 million laborers aged 5-14, out of 168 million globally, but campaigners say millions more are at risk due to poverty. More than half toil in farms, one in four work in manufacturing and others are in homes and hotels, washing dishes, chopping vegetables, cleaning and scrubbing floors. Children may be sold for a few hundred rupees by desperate parents, sometimes for more than 100,000 rupees

(\$1,540) by profit-hungry agents, according to child rights campaigners.

"On Monday, we rescued a child from the home of a former minister," said Juntum Minga, who runs a helpline for children in Arunachal Pradesh's capital Itanagar. "Like him, most employers are influential people, many in government. They all employ children because they don't have to pay them any-

create awareness and prevent cases of trafficking and child labour. It is an uphill task."

Lifting a Lid

Badaik's is a rare, first-hand account of life as a child slave, since not much is known of what happens to children after they are sold off. "At first, I remember doing nothing, just playing in the house," Badaik recalled. "Then I was shown how to peel garlic. A little later, how to sweep and mop, then wash the utensils and do laundry. It was all gradual but by the time I was eight, I could do it all." She worked 17-hour days, was not allowed to step out of the house and had no friends. When Badaik grew up, she was told her salary was 100 Indian rupees (\$1.54) a month. "The madam said she was putting it in the bank and they used it when I was sick or needed something." Many employers believe providing food and shelter is enough, said a senior bureaucrat in Arunachal Pradesh who requested anonymity. "There is a demand which we cannot deny. Many families don't see it as against the law and there are rarely any complaints that come for us to take action," she said.

Slap in the Face

After the chance encounter with her fellow maid, Badaik started looking for clues that would lead her back home. On a borrowed mobile phone, she called a number and then another, until she found an uncle. Determined to go back, Badaik asked her employers for help. They refused and locked her up. "Madam told me that they had kept me as their family but as I was growing up, I knew they were not my family," she said. "I told madam that her daughter came home for the holidays but I had never been home for the last 10 years. She relented."

When Badaik walked into New Purubari village last year, she only remembered where the church was. "My uncle carried me, my mother hugged and wept while my father stood in a corner," she said. "I slapped him. How could he just leave me there and never come to check on me? I was not an orphan but always felt like one." Now Badaik has to retreat the back lanes for one final task in Arunachal Pradesh - she is on a mission to find her younger sister, similarly sold off by her father to work as a maid. — Reuters



Daughter sold into slavery for \$7 by father

thing. Children are not demanding and so owners treat them as private property." Between Jan 2016 and July 2017, the Itanagar Childline registered 91 cases of child labor in the city and took 26 children back home. Other children don't know where they are from anymore. They are just "tea garden children" and employers make sure they have no contact with their parents, campaigners say. "The circumstances are getting worse," said Stephen Ekka of PAJHRA, an Assam based charity fighting for tea workers' rights. The tea industry in Assam, the world's largest, has been in crisis for years, with accusations of slave labour and exploitative work conditions, leading to labor disputes that have forced some plantations to shut.

Sunita Changkakati, head of Assam's commission for the protection of child rights, said the risk of slavery is growing. "Many childhoods are being lost," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We are working with great urgency to

What can be done about Washington diplomatic dumps?

The large building at the corner of 22nd and R streets in downtown Washington, DC, sticks out like a wart in the otherwise upscale neighborhood. Plywood covers the windows, sleeping bags and empty bottles litter the shuttered doorways and head-high weeds sprout through the asphalt of the empty fenced-off parking lot. For a solid decade, neighbors and local political leaders complained bitterly about the condition of the former Pakistani consulate. But the city remained powerless to do anything as long as the building was classified by the State Department as a diplomatic property.

That diplomatic designation has since been revoked, according to the State Department, but the building still stands as perhaps the most egregious example of an only-in-DC phenomenon, where diplomatic protocol allows a string of abandoned buildings to fester, untouchable and tax-free. "Residents, who themselves are under obligation to keep their properties in order, are complaining to me," said City Councilwoman Mary Cheh, whose Ward 3 contains several such problematic properties. "Unless the State Department is really committed to the issue, these countries can really string you along."

Cheh's office has compiled a partial list of vacant and neglected diplomatic buildings and she co-authored a bill calling for creating a comprehensive citywide list. Violators on Cheh's list include properties owned by the governments of Serbia, Sri Lanka, Cameroon and Argentina.

Many of these eyesores are in some of the District's most high-end neighborhoods. The Sheridan-Kalorama area, where

several are located, is home to former President Barack Obama, as well as President Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner. Jeff Bezos, owner of Amazon and The Washington Post, recently bought a massive house there. The area's most recent prominent resident is Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, whose department is responsible for making sure these diplomatic properties are maintained.

The issue is particularly frustrating for members of the city council, who find themselves unable to use the many instruments at their disposal for dealing with neglected buildings. For example, the city has a three-tiered tax structure designed to compel landlords to maintain their properties. Ordinary buildings are taxed at 85 cents per \$100 in assessed value; for a vacant property, that rate increases to \$5 per \$100 and if a property is judged by the city to be neglected or "blighted" the tax rate jumps to \$10 per \$100 in assessed value.

But that isn't applicable for a diplomatic building. "If I have a vacant house in the Shaw neighborhood that's becoming a problem, I can call in the cops, clean it up, throw a fence around it and if necessary seize it for unpaid taxes," said City Councilman Jack Evans. "I have a lot of tools in my tool box. But I don't have those tools available to me if it's a diplomatic property."

The State Department doesn't have a lot of options either. Cliff Seagroves, acting head of the Office of Foreign Missions, said he's largely bound by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Revoking a property's diplomatic status is an extreme step that could provoke a diplomatic crisis and retaliatory action against US properties abroad. "We have to balance (local residents' concerns) with making sure we're not making things harder for ourselves overseas," Seagroves said.

With limited options, Seagroves admitted that his office is often pleased to see



In this Oct 19, 2017 photo, the vacant Pakistani embassy is seen in Washington. — AP

negative press coverage of the issue that he hopes will embarrass intransigent nations into action. "The shame factor is often our most effective tool in getting these matters resolved," he said. The case of the former Pakistani consulate on R Street stands as a rare recent success. But it's also an example of how bad a situation has to get before the State Department will act. Seagroves said the Pakistani Foreign Ministry built a new embassy, moved its consular staff there and "in effect, walked away" from the old building.

After years of nagging, and with the building becoming a magnet for squatters, Seagroves' office finally delivered an ultimatum and a deadline. When that passed, State revoked the diplomatic status in February 2016 and let the city move in and treat the property like any other blighted building. By June 2017, the property had accumulated more than \$70,000 in tax debt. That debt was purchased by an

investment group at a tax auction in July 2017, giving the Pakistani government about six months to settle the debt or risk losing the property.

The Pakistani government, in a statement to AP, said that "a plan is being worked out" for the building's renovation and it was working with the State Department and District of Columbia government "to amicably resolve the issue". However the Pakistani statement also pointed out that all diplomatic properties are exempt from taxation, a contention that seemingly ignores the revocation of the property's diplomatic status.

Repeated queries as to why the building fell into such an extreme state of disrepair went unanswered. While residents can claim victory there, the fight continues. One block away, down R Street, the former Serbian embassy sits in similar disrepair with its diplomatic status intact. Some of these unused buildings are unused for an understandable reason. — AP

News

World's oldest astrolabe found

LONDON: A British-based shipwreck hunter said yesterday a navigation tool he found that guided Portuguese explorers on a perilous voyage to India in the 16th century has been confirmed as the world's oldest astrolabe. David Mearns found the bronze disc during a dive on a shipwreck off the coast of Oman in 2014 but said Warwick University had only recently confirmed what it was after laser scans revealed etches on it. "I knew immediately when I saw it that this was a very, very important object. I could see the royal coat of arms on it," Mearns told AFP. "This is the oldest maritime astrolabe," he said, dating it to between 1496 and 1500 - around 30 years earlier than the previous oldest known astrolabe.



A handout picture shows the world's oldest maritime astrolabe, which guided Portuguese explorers on a perilous voyage to India at the beginning of the 16th century. — AFP

Astrolabes have been in use since ancient times and the mariners' version was developed by Portuguese explorers using the altitudes of the sun or stars to determine the latitude of a ship at sea. Warwick University professor Mark Williams carried out the scans of the 17.5-cm-wide artifact, finding etches separated by five degrees intervals to calculate the height of the sun. "It was fantastic to apply our 3D scanning technology to such an exciting project and help with the identification of such a rare and fascinating item," Williams said in a statement. Mearns's company Blue Water Recoveries found the shipwreck in 1998 after researching it but excavations on the site did not begin until 2013 in collaboration with Oman's culture ministry. Mearns said he believes the shipwreck is of a ship

called the Esmeralda, which was part of Vasco da Gama's second expedition to India of 1502-1503 and was captained by the explorer's uncle. Da Gama was the first European to reach India by sea in 1498, a discovery that opened the way for an age of colonialism and trade between Europe and Asia.

US-born Mearns, who has worked on shipwrecks around the

world, said the astrolabe carried the personal emblem of King Manuel I of Portugal, who came to the throne in Oct 1495. "The Portuguese were at the forefront of developing astrolabes at sea. The oldest reference of them using them at sea is about 1480. The previous oldest was on a ship from 1533," Mearns said. The astrolabe is with Oman's National Museum. — AFP

Singapore set to freeze number...

Continued from Page 1

the convenience of having their own vehicle. There were more than 600,000 private cars in Singapore at the end of 2016. Singapore's approach is rare in Asia where the blistering pace of urban development in recent decades has often been accompanied by unchecked growth of car and motorbike ownership, spawning huge traffic jams in many major cities. The capitals of Indonesia and Malaysia, Singapore's two

closest neighbors, both suffer serious gridlock on an almost daily basis, with poor public transport systems an unattractive option and many residents viewing car ownership as a status symbol. In Philippine capital Manila, the Japan International Cooperation Agency estimates the cost of traffic to the economy as equivalent to four percent of GDP.

However, not everyone in Singapore welcomed the move. Some said the public transport system, which has faced criticism recently after the metro suffered a series of breakdowns, needed improvement to justify such a step, and others that it would push up the price of cars as experts predicted certificates would become more expensive. "This is a totally flawed move. It basically means that only the rich can afford to own a car in future," said Facebook user Winson Tan. — AFP

Crown prince vows 'moderate'...

Continued from Page 1

in the kingdom, and the ruling Al-Saud family slowly reformed the conservative policies Riyadh is known for.

Prince Mohammed's statement yesterday is the most direct attack by a Saudi official on the Gulf country's influential conservative religious circles, whose stranglehold on Saudi society now appears to face serious challenges. "We are returning to what we were before - a country of moderate Islam that is open to all religions, traditions and people around the globe," he said.

While the Saudi government continues to draw criticism from international rights groups, the crown prince has pushed ahead with reforms since his sudden appointment on June 21. Monitors, including Amnesty International, say Saudi Arabia has in parallel stepped up its repression of peaceful rights activists. Saudi authorities last month arrested more than 20 activists, including two popular Muslim preachers, without disclosing any charges against them.

But the young prince is widely regarded as being the force behind King Salman's decision last month to lift a decades-long ban prohibiting women from driv-

ing. He has vied to modernize certain sectors in the kingdom, hinting that long-banned cinemas would soon be permitted as part of ambitious reforms for a post-oil era that could shake up the austere kingdom's cultural scene.

Prince Mohammed's comments came hours after the opening of the Future Investment Initiative, a three-day economic conference that brings together some 2,500 dignitaries, including 2,000 foreign investors. Earlier yesterday, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund - controlled by MBS - announced the launch of an independent economic zone along the kingdom's northwestern coastline. The project, dubbed NEOM, will operate under regulations separate from those that govern the rest of Saudi Arabia.

NEOM covers an uninterrupted coastline of nearly 470 km in northwestern Saudi Arabia and will extend into territories in neighboring Jordan and Egypt, a statement released by the kingdom's Public Investment Fund said. Authorities in Jordan and Egypt did not immediately comment on the statement. Stephen Potter, vice chairman of the Chicago-based wealth management company Northern Trust, said he was impressed by the crown prince's vision. "It sends out a strong message to not just Saudis but the whole world that the kingdom is poised for change," Potter said. A Saudi attendee was more skeptical. "Looks very impressive on paper but we'll have to see how it is executed," he told AFP, declining to be named. — AFP

Info minister grilled; no-confidence...

Continued from Page 1

The 10 lawmakers who signed the no-confidence petition include Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Adasani, Shuaib

Al-Muwaizri, Abdullah Al-Roumi, Thamer Al-Dhafiri, Mohammad Al-Mutair, Hamdan Al-Azemi, Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Jamaan Al-Harbash and Omar Al-Tabtabaei.

Meanwhile, opposition MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei said he along with MPs Hajraf and Khaled Al-Otaibi will file a request to grill Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh. The grilling will be submitted early November. The Assembly then began late yesterday night the process of electing members of the permanent and temporary committees.

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Sports

Du Plessis to be fit for Boxing Day test

CAPE TOWN: South Africa captain Faf du Plessis is expected to be fit for the inaugural four-day test against Zimbabwe in late December. Cricket South Africa said yesterday, Du Plessis will sit out the next six weeks with a lower back injury sustained while batting against Bangladesh in the third one-day international on Sunday, but should be ready for the historic Boxing Day test against Zimbabwe. "Faf consulted with our team of specialists in Cape Town on Monday. Further investigations and assessment have confirmed an acute lumbar disc injury," South Africa team manager Mohammed Moosa said in a statement. "He will require a period of rest and rehabilitation for the next six weeks. We anticipate him to be ready for the test match against Zimbabwe in December." Du Plessis will miss the two-match Twenty20 International series with Bangladesh starting on Thursday. JP Duminy will captain the side in his absence. — Reuters



AC Milan cut short on Adidas sponsorship deal

MILAN: AC Milan have ended their sponsorship deal with Adidas after almost two decades, the Italian Serie A club confirmed yesterday. The German sportswear giants had agreed a new 10-year deal worth over 200 million euros (\$235 million) in 2013. The partnership began in 1998. "AC Milan has mutually agreed with Adidas to prematurely terminate their technical sponsorship deal at the end of the season 2017/2018," the club said in a statement. The seven-time European champions have not finished higher than sixth in any of the last four seasons in Serie A but an ambitious close-season recruitment drive saw them splash some 230 million euros (\$270 million) on new signings under new Chinese owner Li Yonghong. He paid 740 million euros to buy the club last April from former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The northern Italian side are reported to have reached a new agreement for less money with Adidas' German rivals Puma. Berlusconi, meanwhile, claimed that his former club were in financial difficulty. — AFP

Bayern star Hummels fit for Leipzig Cup clash

BERLIN: Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes expects Germany defender Mats Hummels to start today's German Cup tie at RB Leipzig despite suffering an ankle injury at the weekend. "Mats took a knock to the bone, only microfibres have been damaged, which doesn't mean much," revealed Heynckes in Tuesday's press conference. "The injury isn't so bad that he can't play from the start. He will be treated further, but I assume he'll start." Hummels' inclusion in the squad is good news for Bayern after stand-in captain Thomas Mueller was ruled out for the next three weeks with a torn hamstring which he suffered in Saturday's 1-0 win at Hamburg. Stars Manuel Neuer, Juan Bernat and Franck Ribery are already sidelined long-term with injury. Alongside Hummels, Kingsley Coman, who picked up a knee knock at Hamburg, and Javi Martinez, back after a shoulder injury, are included. — AFP



Pyeongchang 2018 flame lit in birthplace of ancient Olympics

'We will show to the world ... how we can organize a sports event.'

ANCIENT OLYMPIA: The flame for the 2018 Pyeongchang Games was lit at the birthplace of the ancient Olympics yesterday, despite a brief cloudburst that disrupted the sun-reliant ceremony. It launched a long torch relay that will culminate with the winter Games opening on Feb 9.

"Now it will be up to Pyeongchang to keep the dynamism for the last three months of preparations," International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said. "They are very well under way, the stage is set for the winter athletes of the world and we are looking forward to a successful and great Olympic Games in Pyeongchang."

Using backup fire kept from Monday's last rehearsal, an actress playing an ancient pagan priestess ignited the torch in front of the 2,600-year-old Temple of Hera in the southern Greek Peloponnese region. She then passed the flame to the first relay runner, Greek skier Apostolos Angelis, who ran with it for a short distance before handing over to former Manchester United soccer player Park Ji-sung, a South Korean. "As a sports person I have been watching the Olympics throughout my life, and I really wanted to participate, to be involved in the Olympics," Park said afterwards. "We will show to the world ... how we can organize a sports event."

From the verdant, rain-soaked valley of Ancient Olympia, where the Games of antiquity were held for more

than a thousand years, the flame will course through Greece for eight days and reach South Korea on Nov. 1.

Despite tensions between the US and North Korea - with which the south remains technically at war - organizers insist there is no fear for the Feb. 9-25 Winter Games. "We want the international community to understand that we are committed to hosting a safe and secure" Games, organizing committee chief Lee Hee-beom said during Tuesday's lighting ceremony.

The ski resort town of Pyeongchang lies about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the world's most heavily armed border that divides the two Koreas. The IOC has also stressed that there is no cause for concern. Bach made no direct reference to the tensions yesterday, only saying during his speech that the Games "stand above and beyond all the

differences that divide us."

Normally, the flame-lighting ceremony involves the priestess offering a token prayer to the dead pagan gods of Olympia - a major ancient Greek sanctuary - before using a bowl-shaped mirror to focus the heat of the sun's rays on her torch. But with rain forcing officials to huddle under umbrellas, there was no hope. "Sorry for the rain," Greek Olympic Committee chief Spyros Capralos joked. Lee said it didn't really matter, as the last rehearsal on Monday went well - even though the priestess, the actress Katerina Lehou, had to make two unsuccessful attempts



Stage set for the winter athletes



PYEONGCHANG: First Greek torchbearer for Pyeongchang 2018, cross-country skier Apostolos Angelis (L) hands actress Katerina Lehou a Greek olive tree branch as a symbol of peace, during the start of the Olympic flame relay at the Temple of Hera yesterday following the lighting ceremony of the Olympic flame for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. — AFP

before her torch caught fire.

The ancient Games were held at Olympia from 776 B.C. to 393 A.D, after which they were stopped by Christians.

However, ancient traditions point to an earlier date for sports events at Olympia, where the first traces of human settlement go back to the 3rd millennium B.C. — AP

Tiger Woods set to enter plea bargain for DUI arrest

FORT LAUDERDALE: The diversion program for intoxicated drivers that Tiger Woods is expected to enter today is one of several across the US aimed at reducing the number of repeat offenders and backlogs of court cases.

The 41-year-old Woods is scheduled to plead guilty at a court hearing to reckless driving, a less severe charge than driving under the influence, as part of a Palm Beach County, Florida, program that has graduated almost 2,500 first-time offenders since it began four years ago.

Deputy State Attorney Richard Clausi, who oversees the county's misdemeanor prosecutions, said that less than 1 percent of the program's participants have reoffended. He said the key has been getting offenders to take responsibility for their actions without requiring a trial and making sure they complete the program.

"It's still early, but we think it has been a success," he said. In the diversion program, Woods will spend a year on probation and pay a \$250 fine and court costs. He also must attend DUI school, perform 20 hours of community service and attend a workshop where victims of impaired drivers detail how their lives were damaged. Since he was intoxicated with prescription drugs and marijuana, according to court records, he will also be required to undergo regular drug tests.

At the hearing, he must show he has started the program. If he completes it, he can ask a judge to expunge the reckless driving conviction, but if he is charged again, he could be treated like a second-time DUI offender. He would not be again eligible for diversion and he could face possible jail time, a mandatory license suspension and stiffer fines.

Similar DUI diversion programs are offered in several other states, including Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas. Details vary and some, like Florida, let local officials decide whether to offer it. Neither the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration nor Mothers Against Drunk Driving knew of any recent outside studies examining whether diversion programs are effective.

J.T. Griffin, MADD's chief government affairs officer, said the organization supports diversion programs like Palm Beach County's because for drunken drivers, it requires the installation of an interlock device, which checks the driver's blood-alcohol content before the car can be started. He said studies show interlocks decrease recidivism among first-time offenders by 65



Tiger Woods

percent. "It is good for the public because 50 to 75 percent of drunk drivers are going to continue to drive, even on a suspended driver's license," Griffin said. "With an ignition interlock, they can keep driving but in a safe way and the hope is that they will learn their lesson." Woods was arrested about 2 am May 29 when officers found him unconscious in his Mercedes-Benz, which was parked awkwardly on the roadside and had damage to the driver's side. It's not clear how he damaged the car. Officers checked the area but didn't find that he had hit anything.

He was about 15 miles from his home. Woods had the active ingredient for marijuana, two painkillers - Vicodin and Dilaudid - the sleep drug Ambien and the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in his system but no alcohol, according to a toxicology report released in August.

Woods issued a statement in August saying he had been self-medicating for pain caused by his fourth back surgery and insomnia. He did not specifically address the marijuana issue. None was found in his possession.

"I realize now it was a mistake to do this without medical assistance," Woods said then. He completed a drug treatment program in July. Woods' attorney, Douglas Duncan, did not respond to phone calls and emails seeking comment about today's hearing. The DUI arrest was the first time Woods had been in trouble since Thanksgiving weekend 2009, when he plowed his SUV into a tree and a fire hydrant outside his then-Windermere, Florida, home. That led to revelations that he had multiple extramarital affairs, and a divorce from his wife Elin Nordegren, the mother of his two children. He spent 45 days in a Mississippi clinic where he was treated for sex addiction.

Woods' 79 PGA Tour victories and 14 major titles both rank No. 2 all-time. He has not competed since February because of his back injury and is not expected to return this year. His last win was in August 2013.

Woods has said his back is improving. Even though he has been a non-factor on the PGA Tour, Forbes Magazine lists Woods as the 17th best-paid athlete in the world in 2017, making \$37 million, almost exclusively from endorsements. — AP

Philippine fighter dies after match

MANILA: A Philippine boxer who was involved in a recent scandal over faked brain scans has died after over faked brain scans has died after a sparring session, sports officials said yesterday.

Jeffrey Claro fell into a coma and later died after being knocked down in the second round of his match on

Friday, said Dioscoro Bautista, head of the boxing division of the Games and Amusement Board. The board is looking into the incident. Some 150 Filipino boxers, including Claro, were banned in August for falsifying the results of brain scans which were ordered to detect serious head injuries. The boxers submitted false CT scan results, apparently because they could not afford an actual test. While Claro, 20, was among those banned, he was cleared for a match in November after he submitted new CT scan results on September 7, board members said.

Games and Amusement Board medical chief Radentor Viernes said

they checked Claro's new test results and found them to be genuine, adding that they showed no signs of any injury.

But a scan after he lapsed into a coma showed that Claro had a fresh brain injury, probably from a blow while sparring, and an older brain injury incurred after September 7.

The combined injuries probably led to his death, Viernes told AFP. Claro had been wearing protective headgear in the sparring match before his death, Bautista said. Philippine flyweight Karlo Maquinto died in 2012 aged 21 after being knocked down twice in a match with another Filipino. — AFP

Venus turns back clock to edge Ostapenko

SINGAPORE: Venus Williams produced a vintage display full of guts and determination to grind out a 7-5 6-7(3) 7-5 victory over Jelena Ostapenko in their White Group encounter at the WTA Finals yesterday.

Both players had lost their opening ties on Sunday so were desperate for a victory to keep their future fate in the eight-woman event in their own hands and neither appeared willing to budge in a titanic three hour and 13-minute marathon. In the end, the 37-year-old Williams emerged from a bruising encounter that featured 20 breaks of serve with a victory built on her calmness at the key moments and ruthlessness when offered a chance to attack her opponent's weak second serve.

"Sometimes you need some luck. I don't know if I had any tonight as I had to work for every point," Williams said in a court-side interview. "It's not easy when you lose the first match. Both of us were in the same situation and you have to fight, what else can you do, to live another day."

The match started with Ostapenko trying to force the pace with the high-risk strategy that carried her to French Open glory, while Williams was content to pick up free points as her opponent sprayed a plethora of attempted winners wide or long.

The Latvian edged ahead in the opener, however, and even served for the set at 5-3 but the veteran American dug deep and reeled off six consecutive games to first steal the set and then move ahead in the second.

The 20-year-old battled back as the pair traded two breaks apiece before Williams brought up a her first match point in the 10th game that she opened to convert when she



Venus Williams

dumped a forehand into the net as Ostapenko continued to go for her shots.

The pair's inability to hold serve spilled over into the tiebreak and Williams handed Ostapenko three set points with a wild forehand and the Latvian levelled the contest on the first of them when the American netted a backhand.

Four more breaks of serve followed in the decider until Ostapenko rallied from 0-40 to hold in the ninth game and the Latvian saved three more break points in the 11th before finally running out of lives when she sent a backhand wide. Williams could smell blood and a booming ace brought up three more match points and the American sealed victory on the second of them with a crosscourt backhand winner. Spanish world number two Garbine Muguruza takes on Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova in the second White Group match later on Tuesday. Both players won their opening matches on Sunday. — Reuters

Sports

Curry, Durant help Warriors pull away from Mavs, 133-103

Aldridge, Murray power Spurs past Raptors, 101-97

DALLAS: Stephen Curry escaped a suspension from the league on Monday night, then led the Golden State Warriors to a 133-103 victory over the Dallas Mavericks at American Airlines Center. Curry had to wait until Monday afternoon to get a verdict from the NBA office whether he would be allowed to play. During Golden State's 10-point loss at Memphis on Saturday, he lost his cool and chucked his mouthpiece in the direction of the referee. Once he learned he would get only a fine, the two-time league MVP finished with a game-high 29 points. He made up for cold 3-point shooting (2 of 10) by going 13 of 13 from the free-throw line to help the Warriors improve to 2-2 on the season. Kevin Durant finished with 25 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Klay Thompson added 21 points for Golden State. Draymond Green had 10 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

Grizzlies 98, Rockets 90

Mike Conley keyed a 13-0 run in the fourth quarter to help Memphis rally for a victory over Houston. With the Rockets leading 88-78 just past the midpoint of the fourth quarter, Conley sandwiched two 3-pointers around a three-point play from James Ennis III on which Conley provided the assists. The second Conley try matched the Grizzlies' biggest lead at 94-90. Memphis closed the game on a 20-2 run. Marc Gasol paced the Grizzlies (3-0) with 26 points. Conley added 17 points and four assists. Ennis chipped in a double-double with 14 points and 11 boards. Eric Gordon led Houston with 27 points and added seven assists. Backcourt partner James Harden posted 22 points and eight assists but also registered a game-high seven turnovers.



Memphis closed the game on a 20-2 run

contributed 14 points with 14 rebounds.

Bucks 103, Hornets 94

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 32 points and Chris Middleton added 20 to lead Milwaukee to a victory over Charlotte. Antetokounmpo surpassed 30 points for the fourth time in four games this season. With 147 combined points in those games, he passed Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar—who scored 146 to open the 1972-73 season—for the most points through four games in franchise history. Mirza Teletovic hit five 3-pointers to finish with 15 points as Milwaukee went 9 of 26 from long distance and shot 47.1 percent overall. Frank Kaminsky hit three of his four 3-point shots and led Charlotte with 18 points off the bench. Jeremy Lamb added 17 points, and Kemba Walker and former Bucks player Johnny O'Bryant finished with 15 and 14, respectively.

Wizards 109, Nuggets 104

Bradley Beal scored 20 points, John Wall had 19 points and 12 assists, and Washington beat Denver. Otto Porter Jr. added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the unbeaten Wizards, who began their four-game Western Conference road trip with a solid performance. All five Washington starters scored in double figures. Nikola Jokic broke out with 29 points and nine rebounds, and Paul Millsap had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Nuggets, who struggled with ball control. Denver committed 24 turnovers — eight by Jokic and lost despite outshooting Washington 48.8 percent to 44 percent.

World Cup in Australia in 2008 so we want to turn that around," Smith said last week. "It's a celebration of our game and I think everyone who gets involved with this tournament and comes out and sees all the matches is going to be for a treat. "There is going to be some great football played and there are some wonderful players on show throughout this tournament so I can't wait."

LOOSENING RULES

Given the heavy concentration of top quality rugby league talent in Australia and New Zealand combined with the lack of elite competitions in almost all of the other nations, the international federation has loosened the eligibility rules.

With the aim of ensuring as much top quality talent as possible will be on show, players with dual eligibility but not picked by one country can turn out for the other. The result is the likes of eight-cap Kangaroo Robbie Farah captaining a Lebanon team also featuring Parramatta Eels five eighth Mitchell Moses, future Kangaroo James Tedesco turning out for Italy and Jarryd Hayne joining the Fiji side. The biggest beneficiaries have been Tonga, who managed to persuade stand-out NRL forward Jason Taumalolo to ditch the New Zealand side on the eve of the Kiwi squad announcement.

Tonga coach Kristian Woolf has named a team rich with NRL talent for their opener against Scotland in Cairns on Sunday, Taumalolo starting with 2013 World Cup winner Andrew Fifita, Will Hopoate, Michael Jennings and Daniel Tupou in the backline.

Taumalolo's defection will certainly add spice to Tonga's final pool game in Hamilton against a New Zealand side already weakened by the absence of five eighth Kieran Foran because of injury and Jesse Bromwich for disciplinary reasons.

England, who have a strong halves combination in Gareth Widdop and Luke Gale, are mentored by wily former Kangaroos coach Wayne Bennett, who was taking the long view of the campaign ahead of Friday's opener against Australia.—Reuters

fourth career game of 20 or more points. He was pivotal to the Heat's effort in the fourth quarter, scoring on a layup, a mid-range jumper and four free throws. Ellington made 6 of 7 3-point tries in the second quarter, tying Brian Shaw for a franchise record. In 1992-93, Shaw made six 3-pointers in a quarter and 10 for the game. Atlanta was led by Kent Bazemore (20 points), Taurean Prince (20 points) and John Collins (14 points, 11 rebounds).

76ers 97, Pistons 86

Ben Simmons posted a triple-double in his fourth career game, and Philadelphia collected its first win of the season by downing Detroit. Simmons, the top pick in the 2016 draft, piled up 21 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. He missed all of last season after undergoing foot surgery but has double-doubles in each of his first four games. Joel Embiid powered for 30 points and nine rebounds, and Robert Covington added 13 points for Philadelphia. Reggie Jackson led Detroit with 16 points and seven assists, and he added six rebounds. Avery Bradley supplied 15 points for the Pistons, and Andre Drummond



DALLAS: Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) is chased by Dallas Mavericks guard J.J. Barea (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Monday. — AP

NBA result/standings

Phoenix 117, Sacramento 115; Washington 109, Denver 104; Golden State 133, Dallas 103; San Antonio 101, Toronto 97; Memphis 98, Houston 90; Milwaukee 103, Charlotte 94; Miami 104, Atlanta 93; Philadelphia 97, Detroit 86.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Minnesota					
Toronto	2	1	.667	-	Utah	2	1	.667	-
Brooklyn	2	1	.667	-	Portland	2	1	.667	-
Boston	1	2	.333	1	Denver	1	2	.333	1
Philadelphia	1	3	.250	1.5	Oklahoma City	1	2	.333	1
NY Knicks	0	2	0	1.5					
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Milwaukee	3	1	.750	-	LA Clippers	2	0	1.000	-
Cleveland	2	1	.667	0.5	Golden State	2	2	.500	1
Detroit	2	2	.500	1	LA Lakers	1	2	.333	1.5
Indiana	1	2	.333	1.5	Phoenix	1	3	.250	2
Chicago	0	2	0	2	Sacramento	1	3	.250	2
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Washington	3	0	1.000	-	Memphis	3	0	1.000	-
Orlando	2	1	.667	1	San Antonio	3	0	1.000	-
Miami	2	1	.667	1	Houston	3	1	.750	0.5
Charlotte	1	2	.333	2	New Orleans	1	2	.333	2
Atlanta	1	3	.250	2.5	Dallas	0	4	0	3.5

Suns 117, Kings 115

Marquese Chriss scored 19 points, and Mike James put Phoenix ahead to stay on a basket with 14.1 seconds left as the Suns overcame two tumultuous days to hang on for their first win. The Suns led by as many as 22 points and were up by 11 with 3:08 to play in the game. However, five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter by Sacramento's Garrett Temple keyed a 14-3 run, and

Kings rookie De'Aaron Fox tied the game at 112 on an 8-foot floater with 58 seconds left. James, who had 18 points and seven assists in his first start in place of the departing Eric Bledsoe, hit a 5-foot bank shot to give the Suns the lead for good. The win came a day after Earl Watson was fired as head coach and hours after Bledsoe was sent home after tweeting that he no longer wanted to play for the Suns. — Reuters

Australia favourites to lift Rugby World Cup

SYDNEY: The 15th edition of the rugby league World Cup gets underway in Melbourne on Friday with Australia unbackable favourites to lift the trophy and organisers banking on tweaked eligibility rules to increase the competitiveness of the tournament.

The Kangaroos are a prohibitive 5-1 on with the bookmakers to claim their 11th title on Dec. 2 in the last of the 28 matches played by 14 teams in 13 cities across Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

The strength of New Zealand, who stunned the hosts to win the World Cup the last time it was held Down Under in 2008, usually adds the only shred of competitive respectability to the tournament. England, who contributed to three World Cup triumphs for Great Britain in the early days of the tournament, provide Australia's opponents in the opening match and are the only other nation with a realistic hope of upsetting the co-hosts. The English were the only team to score any tries against the Australians four years ago when the Kangaroos won all of their matches and destroyed the Kiwis 34-2 in the final.

Mal Meninga's squad, while not quite of the quality of the 2013 vintage, is again replete with the cream of the National Rugby League (NRL). Unflappable hooker Cameron Smith captains the side and with his Queensland and Melbourne Storm team mates, halfback Cooper Cronk and full-back Billy Slater, makes up a "big three" looking to wrap up an NRL, State of Origin and World Cup treble.

"The World Cup is huge for our game, we don't have fond memories of the last

Dodgers ace Kershaw pitches in World Series

LOS ANGELES: In the Twilight Zone of October, the clock turns back at Dodger Stadium. To the mound, to the moments that defined World Series champions. Orel Hershiser, steely and standing tall. Fernando Valenzuela, eyes to the sky. The great Sandy Koufax, the very picture of pitching. And that brings us to Game 1 on Tuesday, when the Los Angeles Dodgers host the Houston Astros. Up on the bump, on baseball's biggest stage, we finally get to see Clayton Kershaw.

Kershaw has done most everything an ace can accomplish - three Cy Young Awards, five ERA crowns, three strikeout titles, a seven-time All-Star who's also won an MVP trophy and thrown a no-hitter.

Now, against a backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains majestic at sunset, the lefty and his Dodgers make their pitch for the ultimate prize. "I think that's the final piece for him," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Said Kershaw: "Who knows how many times I'm going to get to go to the World Series? I know more than anybody how hard it is to get there. So, I'm definitely not taking this one for granted." To those Kershaw plays with, he's got nothing left to prove. A model of consistency, the Dodgers see him as money every time he takes the mound.

It seems almost like an insult to many, in fact, to suggest anything otherwise. Yet there is that one nagging set of stats that can't be overlooked: 6-7 with an unsightly 4.40 ERA in the playoffs.

Now, it's no shame to struggle in the post-season. All-Stars Chris Sale, Corey Kluber and Max Scherzer all got banged around this month. Hall of Famers Greg Maddux, Randy Johnson and Tom Glavine, for all of their many accolades, each had losing records in the postseason. Those guys also helped pitch their teams to championships.

"You remember watching. You remember who went to the World Series," Kershaw said.



LOS ANGELES: Curtis Granderson #6, Justin Turner #10, Logan Forsythe #11 and Enrique Hernandez #14 of the Los Angeles Dodgers on the field ahead of the World Series at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. — AFP

Kershaw has excelled at times in October. He hung tough in Washington last season in the deciding Game 5 of the NL Division Series, earning his only big league save.

He threw six sharp innings last week in the clincher at Wrigley Field to dethrone the Cubs in the NL Championship Series. That made him 2-0 with a 3.63 ERA in three postseason starts this year, although he was tagged for four home runs in a win over Arizona.

But a truly signature moment, that's still missing. His opponent in the World Series opener, Astros lefty Dallas Keuchel, already has a couple. Keuchel won the AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium two years ago with six shutout innings. He won the opener of this year's ALCS, tossing seven brilliant innings vs. the visiting Yankees.

Kershaw, as always, is eager to get going. "There's always butterflies," he said before Monday's workout at Dodger Stadium. "I think this time is when the butterflies and anxiousness is more so. Once you throw the first

pitch it all goes away, at least for me."

As for soaking in the atmosphere, that's not his style. Not right now. "I think I'm just going to try to win tomorrow and I'll let it sink all in when we win. And if we don't do that, I'll let it sink in when we lose," he said.

Kershaw is 3-2 against the Astros, dating to when they were a National League team. Houston star Jose Altuve is 6 for 15 lifetime off a pitcher known for his sharp slider and pinpoint fastball.

"He's got every weapon you would fear," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "He's got some hardware on his shelf at home." At 29, Kershaw could walk away after this Series and head straight to Cooperstown. He's 144-64 with a 2.36 ERA overall after going 18-4 with a 2.31 ERA this year.

"All the individual stuff is great, but at the end of the day I just want to win a World Series," he said last week, adding with a smile, "If we win, I might retire, so I might just call it a career." — AP

Sports

Couture, Jones lead San Jose Sharks to 4-1 win over New York Rangers

Lundqvist finished with 20 saves for the Rangers

NEW YORK: Logan Couture had a goal and an assist, Martin Jones stopped two shots and the San Jose Sharks beat the struggling New York Rangers 4-1 on Monday night.

Tim Heed, Joonas Donskoi and Melker Karlsson also scored to help the Sharks win for the third time in four games. Jones got his fourth straight win after losing his first two starts. Mika Zibanejad scored and Henrik Lundqvist finished with 20 saves for the Rangers, who fell to 2-6-2 on the season. New York finished 0 for 6 on the power play and is 3 for 25 over the last six games.

With the Sharks leading 3-0 after two periods, Couture took the puck away from Lundqvist behind the goal and sent it to Karlsson, who put it in for his second of the season at 2:51 of the third.

Couture got his 200th career assist on the play.

San Jose turned the puck over in its defensive zone and Zibanejad snapped a shot into the top right corner to spoil Jones' shutout bid at 4:23 of the final period. Donskoi increased the Sharks' lead to 3-0 with 38 seconds left in the second as he skated into the right circle and beat Lundqvist glove-side inside the right post.

The Rangers controlled the play for most of the first period while outshooting the Sharks 16-8, but trailed 2-0 after 20 minutes. Couture, who had his second career hat trick in a loss at the New York Islanders on Saturday night, got San Jose on the scoreboard 1:56 into the game. With

Jones pulled for an extra skater on a delayed penalty, Brent Burns sent pass from the right circle up top to Couture, who fired a slap shot from straightaway past Lundqvist.

Jones had two nice saves on back-to-back attempts in close by Pavel Buchnevich with a little more than nine minutes left in the first. Heed doubled the Sharks' lead with 7:15 left as he brought the puck up the right side and sent

a bad-angle shot from near the goal line along the boards. The puck trickled through Lundqvist's pads for the 26-year-old's first career goal in his seventh NHL game.

The Rangers had a two-man advantage for 25 seconds late in the opening period, but Jones stopped Zibanejad's shot from top of the left circle, and Rick Nash missed

Sharks win for the third time in 4 games

with an attempt in close. Couture has six goals and three assists in his last four games. ... The Sharks are 30 for 31 on the penalty kill in seven games since giving up three power-play goals in the season-opener against Philadelphia. ... The teams conclude the season series Jan. 25 at San Jose. ... Rangers D Kevin Shattenkirk played in his 500th career regular season game. ... New York F Rick Nash played in his 999th game. ... D Marc Staal played in his 699th game - all with the Rangers - and passed Mark Messier and Steve Vickers for sole possession of 12th place on the franchise list. ... New York has given up 15 goals in the first period this season. — AP



NEW YORK: Justin Braun #61 of the San Jose Sharks holds up Rick Nash #61 of the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The Sharks defeated the Rangers 4-1. — AFP

Teen stars shine in World Cup shop window

KOLKATA: They may not yet be household names, but the Under-17 World Cup semi-finals today could put Lassana N'Diaye, Rhian Brewster, Abel Ruiz and Gabriel Brazao well on the way to football riches.

The quartet will be the star attractions for the many hovering scouts in India when England, attempting to reach the final for the first time, take on Brazil, and Spain play Mali. Mali striker N'Diaye, the tournament's joint leading scorer with five goals, could be the prize catch. A product of the street game in his home country, N'Diaye was only drafted into the national squad ahead of the qualifying tournament in August. Coach Jonas Komla spotted

the teenager at a league match and told him to join the national team. "The first time I went, he told me I was too small. I was really angry, but I knew that could happen because nothing is easy in football," N'Diaye told FIFA.com.

'WONDERFULLY SKILLED'

"A few months later, he called me back to say that, in the end, I could come along and train with them as I'd grown a little. "I was very happy. And now I feel comfortable in this team. I feel that I have responsibilities, and my team-mates have faith in me to score goals."

Mali are the African champions while European title-holders Spain will be counting on centre forward and captain Ruiz to show his class.

The Barcelona academy product already has four goals in the tournament-including one in the quarter-final win over Iran-and has been linked to Arsenal and other Premier League sides, as well as Juventus.

Ruiz already has a buyout clause of three million euros on his contract and Barcelona reportedly want to increase that after the World Cup is over. Brazil are normally known

for producing goalscorers, but their campaign for a fourth U17 world title has relied heavily on goalkeeper Brazao and his spectacular saves in India. He has not let in a goal from open play at the tournament.

The Cruzeiro stopper has been hailed by Brazil U17 coach Carlos Amadeu as well as opposition tacticians like Spain's Santiago Denia, who said Brazao could play at the "top professional clubs in the world". Brewster, who scored a hat-trick in the 4-1 quarter-final win over the United States, is another pressing for first-team action, in this case at Liverpool. The young attacker has been the focus of England's bid since Borussia Dortmund called back teen star Jadon Sancho after the group stages.

Brewster made it to the substitutes' bench for Liverpool in April and coach Juergen Klopp has hailed him as "wonderfully skilled".

By putting a goal past Brazao, Brewster would send the perfect message to Klopp. But he is not counting on anything. "You don't really get many opportunities to play at the international level and you have to make the most of it. And it will be the same at the club level too. I have to make the most of my chances," he said. — AFP

Ronaldo eyes more success as Real dominate FIFA awards

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo has set his sights on a "lucky seventh" piece of FIFA silverware after collecting his fifth Men's Player of the Year award on Monday. Ronaldo's Real Madrid side, who won both La Liga and the Champions League last season, dominated the 2017 Best FIFA football awards at a star-studded ceremony in London on Monday.

The Portuguese ace has scored 44 goals in just 48 games for club and country so far this calendar year, including two in a 4-1 Champions League final win over Juventus in Cardiff on June 3.

Ronaldo saw off competition from longstanding Barcelona rival Lionel Messi and Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, the world's most expensive player. But, typical of a footballer who has enjoyed huge success at both Manchester United and Real, Ronaldo was not satisfied. "I want seven. Five is good but seven is my lucky number so seven would be great."

Real boss Zinedine Zidane took the corresponding manager of the year award, with the Spanish giants providing five players in the FIFPro team of the year. Ronaldo won the inaugural Best FIFA men's player of the year award last

year following the end of a six-year merger between the FIFA honour and France Football's Ballon D'Or.

The 32-year-old previously won the FIFA World Player of the Year award, the precursor to the Best FIFA award, in 2008. He has now won the last two FIFA men's trophies as well as three of the last four Ballon D'Or awards. "Thanks a lot for voting for me," said Ronaldo after receiving his trophy from Argentina great Diego Maradona and Brazil's Ronaldo at the London Palladium theatre.

"I mention Leo and Neymar, great to be here. Real Madrid supporters, my team-mates, my coach, they all support me all year. "We are in England for the first time and I win consecutive awards," he added. "This is a great moment for me. I have fans all over the world." Zidane won out ahead of Chelsea's Antonio Conte and Juventus's Massimiliano Allegri to be crowned men's coach of the year after becoming the first man to oversee a successful defence of the European Cup in the Champions League era. "I'd like to thank all of the players for making this possible," said Zidane. "This is a very special prize."

Real's superb campaign was recognised in a FIFPro team that featured Ronaldo and club-mates Toni Kroos, Luka Modric, Marcelo and Sergio Ramos. The XI also included FIFA's goalkeeper of the year, Gianluigi Buffon, AC Milan's Leonardo Bonucci and PSG's Dani Alves were in the defence, with Barcelona playmaker Andres Iniesta in a side also featuring Messi and Neymar. Juventus and Italy shot-stopper Buffon topped a three-strong shortlist for the



LONDON: Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane (R) stands with his trophy for winning The Best FIFA Men's Coach of 2017 Award alongside Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, with his trophy for winning The Best FIFA Men's Player of 2017 Award. — AFP

goalkeeper award ahead of Real's Keylor Navas and Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer. Monday also saw the Puskas Award for the best goal of 2017 go to Arsenal's Olivier Giroud. The France striker received the award named in honour of Hungarian great Ferenc Puskas for a spectacular 'scorpion-kick' against Crystal Palace in January.

The Frenchman's flicked volley with his left foot that went in off the crossbar won ahead of goals from Venezuela's Deyna Castellanos, 18, and South African goalkeeper Oscarine Masuluke.

Meanwhile tournament hosts the Netherlands' achievement in winning their first major female football title, the

2017 Women's European Championship, was recognised with Women's Coach of the Year and Player of the Year awards for Sarina Wiegman and Lieke Martens respectively. Supporters of Celtic won the Fan Award for the way they marked the 50th anniversary of the Glasgow club's European Cup triumph. The Fair Play award went to Francis Kone for saving the life of goalkeeper Martin Berkovec, who nearly suffocated as a result of swallowing his tongue during a Czech league match in February. Voting for the bulk of the awards was equally weighted between national team captains and coaches, media and fans. — AFP

Bishoo spins West Indies to victory

BULAWAYO: Devendra Bishoo spun West Indies to a 117-run win over Zimbabwe in the first Test yesterday, collecting nine wickets in the match as victory was secured right at the end of Day 4.

Legspinner Bishoo returned 5-79 in the first innings

and 4-105 in the second as Zimbabwe was all out for 316 chasing a target of 434. Bishoo's performance in the first innings was game-changing, helping to bowl the home team out for 159 and allowing West Indies to take a 60-run first-innings lead.

West Indies set the Zimbabweans the big target after half-centuries by Kraigg Brathwaite (86) and Roston Chase (95) took it to 373 all out in its second innings. Seeking a century, Chase added just four runs to his overnight score before he was bowled by Sean Williams early on the fourth day.

Zimbabwe resisted with 57 from opener Hamilton Masakadza and 73 from Brendan Taylor at the start of its chase. But Bishoo ran through Zimbabwe's middle order for his four second-innings wickets. Chase (2-61)

sealed victory by ending a stubborn 53-run last-wicket partnership for Zimbabwe between Chris Mpofu and Kyle Jarvis. Mpofu and Jarvis forced the West Indians to take the extra half-hour at the end of the day to close out the win, and the tailenders nearly saw out the day with some carefree hitting. Mpofu struck four fours and a six for his 33 off 32 balls, finally falling caught on the long-on boundary attempting another big shot.

Slow bowlers took 28 of the 40 wickets in the test, underlying the spin-friendly nature of the Bulawayo track. While Bishoo finished with nine, Zimbabwe captain and legspinner Graeme Cremer collected eight wickets in the match and Zimbabwe's part-time spinner Sean Williams took six. The second and final test is also at Queens Sports Club, starting on Sunday. — AP

Aberdeen set to give Celtic biggest test

GLASGOW: Celtic midfielder Callum McGregor says the Hoops are targeting back-to-back trebles as they prepare for their toughest domestic challenge of the season. The Glasgow giants will make the trip to Pittodrie to take on Aberdeen today with only goal difference separating the sides at the top of the Scottish Premiership.

Brendan Rodgers' side, who are unbeaten in 60 matches against Scottish opposition, claimed a rare domestic clean sweep last season. The Hoops took a step closer to defending the first part of the treble last Saturday as they booked their place in next month's League Cup final following a 4-2 win over Hibernian.

And McGregor, who has scored five times for Celtic this season, insists the Parkhead club are determined to create history by becoming the first side in Scotland to win consecutive trebles. "We spoke about it at the start of the season and the message was we want to win them again, not just defend them," the 24-year-old said.

"We want to go out there playing fast, aggressive football and that's what you need to do to win trophies." Celtic defeated Aberdeen in their four league clashes last season while also seeing off the Dons in the League Cup and Scottish Cup finals.

However, this season Aberdeen remain the only other unbeaten side in the Premiership-form which has seen manager Derek McInnes linked with the vacant Scotland job. And the Dons boss feels he has a squad capable of competing with Celtic this season.

"Being unable to take anything from our games against Celtic last season is not something that sits well with us but it's a new team with new players and a new season," McInnes said. "We find ourselves at the top of the table again with them but Celtic are still the team to beat."

"All managers would say that every time you come up against Celtic it's the biggest challenge-but we don't want a similar record against them this year as we had last season. "I firmly believe we're capable of beating them."

RANGERS IN TURMOIL

While Celtic continue to go from strength to strength domestically, their Glasgow rivals Rangers are in turmoil once again. The Gers, who trail the league leaders by six points, missed out on a place in the League Cup final after a 2-0 defeat by Motherwell in their semi-final clash on Sunday.

The loss has piled the pressure on manager Pedro Caixinha with the under-fire Portuguese questioning the mentality of his players. And Caixinha, who has yet to win three games in a row since taking charge at Ibrox in March, is demanding a reaction from his players when they host Kilmarnock, managed by former West Bromwich Albion boss Steve Clarke, yesterday.

"I told the players you have embarrassed me, the club and the fans. Now it's time to react and I am glad we are playing yesterday," the Gers gaffer said. "Now I expect to be paid the other way around. These players play for this club, for this badge. These players play for me. Are they behind me? That's what they need to show."

This midweek also sees the first top-flight Edinburgh derby in more than three years with a 20,000 sell-out crowd expected when Hibernian host Hearts. — Reuters

13 Tiger Woods set to enter plea bargain for DUI arrest

13 Venus turns back clock to edge Ostapenko

15 Ronaldo eyes more FIFA success as Real Madrid dominate awards



Eagles soar over Washington 34-24

Carson Wentz throws four touchdown passes

WASHINGTON: Carson Wentz threw four touchdown passes and the Philadelphia Eagles improved to an NFL-best 6-1 by defeating the visiting Washington Redskins 34-24 Monday. Wentz's league-high 17 touchdown passes in the first seven games of the season set an Eagles record for the most over that span in any season, an impressive feat for a team whose history dates to 1933.

"Just hats off to the guys around me. We work our tails off the whole off season," Wentz said. "We started off sluggish but got our production issues sorted out and made enough plays to win the game."

In all, Wentz completed 17-of-25 passes for 268 yards and ran eight times for 63 yards to spark Philadelphia's victory.

"Carson made some unbelievable plays there in crunch-time situations," Redskins coach Jay Gruden said. "We're not making any excuses. They just outplayed us." The Eagles haven't owned the NFL's best record so late in a season since 2004, when they finished the campaign by reaching the 2005 Super Bowl, only to

lose to New England.

"We're only seven games in. We've got a long way to go but I like where we are at. We've got a relentless attitude," Wentz said. "We can never get complacent. There are definitely things we have to clean up and keep getting better."

The Eagles haven't won the NFL crown since taking the most recent of their three championships in 1960. Wentz flipped a 4-yard touchdown pass to Zach Ertz with 26 seconds remaining in the second quarter as Philadelphia took a 17-10 half-time lead, the Eagles driving 80 yards in only 86 seconds.

Wentz marched the Eagles 81 yards in 10 plays over 5:17 to open the third quarter and connected with Corey Clement on a 9-yard touchdown pass as Philadelphia surged ahead 24-10.

Kirk Cousins answered for the Redskins with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Reed with 44 seconds remaining in the third quarter, pulling Washington within 24-17. But Wentz answered with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Nelson Agholor with

11:10 to play, restoring Philadelphia's 14-point edge, and Jake Elliott added a 42-yard field goal with 6:24 remaining for a 34-17 Eagles' advantage.

Cousins responded with a 75-yard drive that ended with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Reed to pull Washington within the final margin. The Redskins, who fell to 3-3, took the opening kickoff and marched 66 yards in eight plays to set up Nick Rose's 27-yard field goal 3:38 into the contest.

But the Eagles equalized at 3-3 only 1:41 into the second quarter when Elliott connected on a 50-yard field goal. Washington responded with a seven-play, 81-yard drive capped by Cousins flipping a 7-yard touchdown pass to running back Chris Thompson, who snuck out of the backfield to the left side and walked into the end zone unthreatened as the Redskins seized a 10-3 edge.

Philadelphia pulled level again with 3:19 remaining in the second quarter when Wentz hurled a 64-yard touchdown throw to Mack Hollins. —AFP



PHILADELPHIA: Jordan Reed #86 of the Washington Redskins makes a catch to score a touchdown against the Philadelphia Eagles in the third quarter of the game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Eagles won 34-24.—AFP



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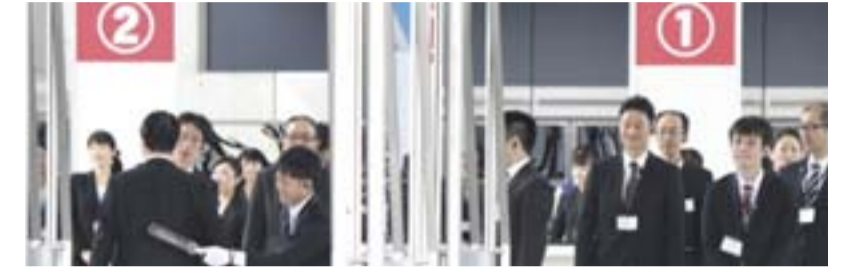
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Business

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

18 Kuwait project awarding eases on delay and cancellation**19** Burgan Bank Group announces 2017 first nine months earnings**22** Toshiba shareholders blast \$18bn chip sale

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (second left), US journalist Maria Bartiromo (left), Masayoshi Son (third left), the Chief Executive Officer of SoftBank, and other participants attend the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh yesterday. — AFP

Saudi eyes new economy with \$500bn zone

Industrial zone to extend into Jordan, Egypt

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia, seeking to free itself from dependence on oil exports, announced yesterday a \$500 billion plan to build a business and industrial zone extending into Jordan and Egypt. The 26,500 square km (10,230 square mile) zone, known as NEOM, to be powered entirely by renewable energy, will focus on industries including energy and water, biotechnology, food, advanced manufacturing and entertainment, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said.

The announcement was the highlight at the opening of a three-day international business conference drawing over 3,500 people from 88 countries. Prince Mohammed, in a rare public address, hailed it as an example of the innovative high tech future he has promised his highly conservative country. Speaking on a panel, he said young Saudis and the promotion of moderate Islam were the key to his modernizing "dream" for his country, the world's largest oil exporter. In a brief political comment, he said the country would eradicate extremism soon.

The stakes in the country's rapid modernization were high. "This is a double-edged sword. If they (young Saudis) work and go the right way, with all their force they will create another coun-

try, something completely different ... and if they go the wrong direction it will be the destruction of this country," he said.

Holding two phones

Prince Mohammed said they represented the difference between what NEOM would be and any other such area. "This project is not a place for any conventional investor ... This is a place for dreamers who want to do something in the world," he said.

Arranged by Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the conference is labelled the Future Investment Initiative - an effort to present the kingdom as a leading global investment destination. Saudi Arabia's economy, though rich, has struggled to overcome low oil prices. Prince Mohammed has launched a series of economic and social reforms—such as allowing women to drive—to modernize the kingdom. Officials hope a privatization program, including selling 5 percent of oil giant Saudi Aramco, will raise \$300 billion. Saudi Electricity

Co, the state-owned utility, said yesterday the government would consider selling a large stake in it to the SoftBank Vision Fund, the world's biggest private equity fund.

Riyadh, meanwhile, is cutting red tape and removing barriers to investment. It said on



Former Siemens executive to run project

Sunday it would let strategic foreign investors own more than 10 percent of listed Saudi companies. NEOM could be a major focus. Adjacent to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba and near

maritime trade routes that use the Suez Canal, the zone will serve as a gateway to the proposed King Salman Bridge, which will link Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the PIF said. Saudi Arabia's border with Jordan touches the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba, near the Israeli city of Eilat. It also sits opposite Egypt, across the Straits of Tiran.

"NEOM is situated on one of the world's most prominent economic arteries ... Its strategic location will also facilitate the zone's rapid emergence as a global hub that connects Asia, Europe and Africa," PIF said. There was no immediate comment on the plan from Jordan and Egypt, which are close allies of Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh said it was already in contact with potential investors and would complete the project's first phase by 2025. Prince Mohammed appointed Klaus Kleinfeld, a former chief executive of Siemens AG and Alcoa Inc, to run the NEOM project. Saudi Arabia will need huge financial and technical resources to build NEOM on the scale it envisages. Past experience suggests this

may be difficult. Bureaucracy has slowed many Saudi development plans, and private investors are cautious about getting involved in state projects, partly because of an uncertain legal environment.

But the project underlines Prince Mohammed's ambition to rescue the economy from severe damage caused by low oil prices. NEOM will reduce the volume of money leaking out of Saudi Arabia by expanding limited local investment options, the PIF said. A key source of future investment funds for the PIF, which now has about \$230 billion of assets under management, is the planned sale of a roughly 5 percent stake in Saudi Aramco, which could raise tens of billions of dollars.

PIF Managing Director Yasir Al-Rumayyan told the conference that Saudi Arabia was still on track to conduct an initial public offering (IPO) of Aramco shares in 2018, but did not say on which stock markets the company would be listed. Aramco CEO Amin Nasser told reporters that in addition to Riyadh, possible foreign listings in markets such as New York, London, Tokyo and Hong Kong had been looked at, and a decision still had to be made. — Reuters

West African bloc's 2020 single currency goal fails

NIAMEY: The 15-nation West African bloc ECOWAS told regional leaders yesterday that the goal of establishing a single currency among their economies in 2020 had failed. "The roadmap has not been implemented vigorously," Marcel de Souza, president of the ECOWAS Commission, told a summit in Niamey, the capital of Niger.

"We cannot move to the single currency in 2020," he said. Four goals had been set down for introducing a single currency but "there are not the results to match," de Souza said.

"From 2012 to 2016, none of our countries has been able to persistently uphold the prime criteria in the program for macro-economic convergence," he said. The summit aims at assessing progress towards a single regional currency 30 years after the goal was first sketched.

ECOWAS—the Economic Community of West African States—was set up in 1975. Today it comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, which together have 300 million inhabitants.

Tuesday's announcement came after a string of revisions and postponements to the monetary



NIAMEY: Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari (left) and Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe attend the opening of a summit of heads of state of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Niamey on the creation of a single currency of ECOWAS yesterday. — AFP

integration plan over the years. In 2013, ECOWAS tasked Niger and Ghana with "coordinating" the single-currency campaign, and in 2014, a "task force" was set up to provide them with guidance.

But De Souza listed a number of setbacks, including failures to harmonize monetary policies between the eight currencies used by ECOWAS economies, and to set up a "monetary institute"—a forerunner of a common central bank. Eight ECOWAS countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger,

Senegal and Togo) jointly use the CFA franc.

They are moored to the single European currency and are gathered in an organization called the West African Monetary Union, or WAMU. But the seven other ECOWAS countries have their own currencies, none of them freely convertible amongst themselves.

Presidents Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger, Alassane Ouattara of Ivory Coast, Nana Akufo Ado of Ghana, Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria and Faure Gnassingbe of Togo took part in the summit. — AFP

GM, other US industrial giants, hit all-time highs

DETROIT: Shares of General Motors hit an all-time high yesterday as investors focused on a \$2.5 billion third-quarter pretax profit and ignored a big accounting loss. The Detroit automaker's \$3 billion net loss came from a \$5.4 billion charge for selling Opel and Vauxhall to France's PSA Group, which closed in August. But with that backed out and before taxes, the company made \$1.32 per share, trouncing Wall Street estimates. Analysts polled by FactSet expected \$1.11 per share.

Much of the accounting charge came from previous losses that GM can't use to offset future tax obligations. Revenue without Europe fell 14 percent to \$33.6 billion, but that also beat expectations of \$32.2 billion. After hitting the record early, GM shares pulled back to \$46.08, a 2 percent gain.

GM says its strong pretax performance came despite a 26 percent production cut in North America during the quarter to close out the 2017 model year and adjust to slowing demand, mainly for passenger cars. The company made just over \$2 billion pretax in North America, as well as just under \$500 million

from its joint venture in China. Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said the company sold more high-profit trucks and SUVs and fewer lower-margin sedans, but it also cut costs at an annual running rate of \$5 billion since 2014. The company also has cut low-profit sales to rental car companies. Stevens attributed the performance to "overall resilience of a better business model that we built in North America." Investors overlooked the loss because GM has worked hard to shed unprofitable businesses and make its operations more efficient, said Jeff Windau, an industry analyst with Edward Jones.

The company also was helped by strong SUV demand in North America, where it makes the bulk of its profits, Windau said. Still, Edward Jones rates GM a "hold" rather than buy or sell. Windau says he's concerned about spending on electric and autonomous vehicles with demand yet to be seen. GM also faces intense competition in China and the potential for rising material costs.

On a conference call with industry analysts, GM executives also gave details about autonomous vehicles and other business developments.

When GM's revamped pickup truck debuts next fall, GM will have a "broader portfolio" to compete with Jeep and others in off-road performance, CEO Mary Barra said. New full-size SUVs will be built on the same underpinnings. GM will start testing autonomous vehicles without a human backup driver "in quarters, not years," but will not do that until the cars meet metrics to prove they are safe, Barra said. She didn't say how many quarters. — AP

Business

NBK Economic Report

Kuwait project awarding eases on delay and cancellation

Scrapping of Al-Zour North 2 project hits Q3 performance

KUWAIT: Awarding of projects in Kuwait has moderated going into the third quarter of the year and the cancellation of the highly anticipated Al-Zour North 2 project held back the third quarter from a stronger performance. Year to date (YTD) contracts awarded reached KD 2.93 billion, down 39 percent from the same period last year. Contracts worth KD 0.81 billion were awarded in 3Q17, underperforming relative to the five-year quarterly average of KD 1.4 billion according to data from MEED Projects. The scrapping of Al-Zour North 2 independent water and power project (IWPP) meant a loss of a contract worth up to an anticipated KD 0.8 billion for 3Q17. The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), however, plans to retender the project as an integrated part of the Al-Zour North 3 IWPP in the coming future.

Awards in 3Q17 were boosted by the oil as well as the power sectors, each contributing KD 402 million and KD 277 million, respectively. Construction activity was slow-in line with prior quarters at KD 103 million—though slightly improved from the previous quarter. The transport sector, however, showed the slowest activity for the



Oil and power sectors boost awards in 3Q17

first time in five consecutive quarters of healthy activity, contributing a mere KD 31 million in Q3. Delays in contract awards in the transport sector, such as those related to South Al-Mutlaa City, affected the quarterly performance.

Delays have pushed the award dates for projects further out into the coming few quarters, especially in the transport and construction sectors, but the pipeline remains healthy. In the next two quarters, 4Q17 and 1Q18, the transport sector has up to a total of KD 2 billion in contracts that are expected to be awarded; these projects are currently in the bidding phase. Delays are always on the horizon, but significant award activity at the end of year is likely. The construction sector pipeline remains

promising with up to a possible KD 1 billion in awards in the upcoming quarters, barring any unexpected delays.

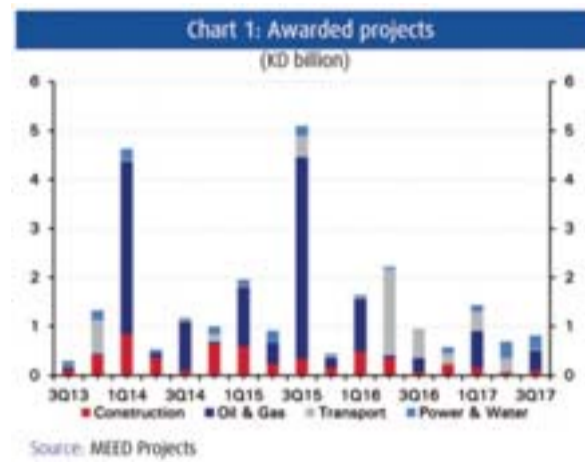
Transport

The transport sector had been dominating project awards the previous five quarters, with an average quarterly contribution of over KD 500 million, but cooled in 3Q17 due to delays. In 3Q17, two contracts were awarded in the transport sector worth a total of KD 30 million, KD 26 million of which was a contract awarded by the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) regarding roadwork connecting the 5th Ring Road to King Abdul Aziz Road. The Central Tenders Committee postponed awarding the contract related to road and crossroad construction in the South Al-Mutlaa area. The lowest bidder, a team of Ali Al-Kharafi & Brothers and Metallurgical Corporation of China, was not able to raise the required bank guarantee. The team had bid KD 85 million for the contract. MEED reports that a team comprising of Turkey's Makyol and Kuwait's Contec United General Contracting could win the contract, offering the second lowest bid at KD 109 million.

Up to a possible KD 2 billion in awards are expected in the next few quarters in transport contracts. The MPW and Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), have a combined twelve contracts currently in the bidding phase. The contracts are related to the northern section of the regional road, the southern section of the regional road, and roads at South Al-Mutlaa. Several of these projects' awards had been delayed but are expected to be awarded in the coming few quarters.

Power & Water

The power sector awarded four contracts worth a total of KD 280 million in 3Q17, which was made up mostly of the awaited waste-to-energy public private



partnership project (PPP). The Kabd municipal solid waste project was awarded to a consortium led by France's Constructions industrielles de la Méditerranée that bid KD 236 million; the project will be developed through a PPP-scheme. Though the cancellation of the Al-Zour North IWPP was a setback for both the power sector and the public-private endeavor as a whole—the upside is that the second phase is planned to be integrated with the third phase of Al-Zour North. There are still no further developments on the Khairan IWPP, which was awaiting the progress on Al-Zour North 2.

Up to KD 640 million in power sector contracts are expected to be awarded in the coming four quarters. Among the anticipated awards is the Al-Dibdibah solar PV power plant in the upcoming Shagaya renewable energy complex. In line with the development plan goals, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has tendered this project in the hopes it will contribute to the goal of solar energy providing 15 percent of the electricity demand in Kuwait by 2030.

Construction

Four small-scale contracts were awarded in the construction sector in 3Q17, resulting in a low contri-

bution of KD 100 million in the third quarter, but there is a strong project award pipeline in the coming quarters. The Jahra Ministries Complex is a possible KD 260 million deal that could be awarded in the coming few quarters, possibly the second quarter of 2018. MEED Projects reports that the lowest bidder is United Gulf Construction Co., and it is very likely it will be awarded the tender. There are, however, delays in the final award process due to budgetary constraints, pushing the award date to 2018 instead of 2017.

Oil & Gas

Activity in the oil sector picked up in the third quarter with the award of the new refinery feed pipeline and three other contracts. Italian company Saipem won the bid for the feed pipeline for the new refinery in Al-Zour, a contract worth KD 255 million. The sector as a whole achieved deals that totaled KD 402 million. The second noteworthy contract is the crude transit pipeline from North Kuwait to Al-Ahmadi's central mixing manifold. The KD 113 million contract was awarded to Indian contractor Larsen & Toubro. In the pipeline over the next couple of quarters are seven possible contracts worth in total up to KD 460 million, the client of all but two is Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

ECB to chart end to easy money

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: The ECB will announce a big reduction tomorrow in its support to the eurozone economy, analysts predict, as it takes its first steps to wean the single currency area off the medicine that dragged it out of crisis.

With healthy growth and sinking unemployment, central bankers are confident the single currency area can stand more fully on its own two feet in future—but face a continuing puzzle over why inflation has failed to rise towards their target. The European Central Bank would therefore start to reduce the volume of easy money it pumps into the economy, analysts said, while at the same time pledging to keep the monetary tap open for a longer period of time in order to help the markets adjust.

The ECB had in 2015 begun buying massive amounts of bonds to fight the threat of deflation—a damaging downward spiral of prices and activity. Since then, the state of the eurozone economy has improved. In the first half of the year, economic growth powered to 2.4 percent in annualized terms, outdoing even optimistic forecasts, while

unemployment has fallen to an eight-year low of 9.1 percent.

ECB policymakers say historic low interest rates, cheap loans to banks and pumping 60 billion euros per month (\$70.4 billion) into bond markets have made it easier for businesses and households to borrow sorely-needed money for spending, investment or hiring.

“Monetary policy measures introduced by the ECB since June 2014 have played a pivotal role in supporting the economy,” the bank's chief economist Peter Praet said earlier this month.

But inflation remains below the ECB's target of just below 2.0 percent—believed to be most favorable for economic growth—and is forecast to continue falling short. “Because inflation is rising only gradually, the ECB can afford to go slowly towards the exit” from bond-buying, Berenberg economist Florian Hense said.

Battle in the boardroom

Some on the ECB's governing council remain loath to withdraw their powerful medicine, fearing they might nip the recovery in the bud by tightening access to money—a fate that the US Federal Reserve suffered in 2013. Meanwhile, other governors have long warned of the risks of easy money, arguing they have softened the market discipline that usually restrains households, businesses and states from borrowing too much.

That could lead to credit-fueled price bubbles in some sectors, with some observers pointing to rising property markets in popular eurozone cities. Ahead of the meeting on Thursday, “ECB communication has been remarkably consistent in signalling a ‘slower for longer’ QE extension into 2018,” said Pictet Wealth Management economist Frederik Ducrozet.

QE or quantitative easing is the technical name for the bond-buying program.

By lowering the amount it spends on bonds each month, but extending the duration, the bank can keep supporting the economy—even as it acknowledges healthier growth and makes a concession to fears it has gone too far.

A Bloomberg News survey of economists published Monday found a majority expect the ECB to extend its purchases until September but halve the pace, to 30 billion euros per month.

By then, it will have bought some 2.5 trillion euros of government and corporate bonds.

Meanwhile, it has vowed not to raise interest rates until “well after” the end of bond-buying.

Prolonging the scheme suggests that a hike remains far off, keeping money cheap. Another key concern for central bankers is the euro/dollar exchange rate, which spiked to \$1.20 over summer as talk of winding down purchases grew. But it has fallen back recently. A more expensive euro could



FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank (ECB) addressing a press conference following the meeting of the Governing Council in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. —AFP

brake eurozone inflation and economic activity, placing the price growth target even further out of reach.

“The ECB will stress that policy remains accommodative” to allay markets' fears, Berenberg analyst Hense said. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.670
Indian Rupees	4.570
Pakistani Rupees	2.876
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.969
Nepali Rupees	2.933
Singapore Dollar	223.980
Hongkong Dollar	38.840
Bangladesh Taka	3.681
Philippine Peso	5.889
Thai Baht	9.158

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.867
Qatari Riyal	83.290
Omani Riyal	787.552
Bahraini Dinar	805.230
UAE Dirham	82.564

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.123
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	123.190
Jordanian Dinar	427.730
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.665

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.050

Euro	359.420
Sterling Pound	401.840
Canadian dollar	241.670
Turkish lira	83.080
Swiss Franc	310.030
Australian Dollar	239.410
US Dollar Buying	301.850

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
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 WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.393510	0.403510
Czech Korune	0.005849	0.017849
Danish Krone	0.043745	0.048745
Euro	0.350412	0.359412
Georgian Lari	0.120458	0.120458
Norwegian Krone	0.033787	0.038987
Romanian Leu	0.077307	0.077307
Russian ruble	0.005252	0.005252
Slovakia	0.009037	0.019037
Swedish Krona	0.032876	0.037876
Swiss Franc	0.300876	0.311876
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.228196	0.240196
New Zealand Dollar	0.203695	0.213195
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.234409	0.243409
US Dollars	0.298950	0.303370
US Dollars Mint	0.299450	0.303370

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003310	0.003894
Chinese Yuan	0.044241	0.047741
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036744	0.039494
Indian Rupee	0.004248	0.004936
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002584	0.002764
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067817	0.073817
Nepalese Rupee	0.003024	0.003194
Pakistan Rupee	0.002688	0.002978
Philippine Peso	0.005794	0.006094
Singapore Dollar	0.217259	0.227259
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001629	0.002209
Taiwan	0.009892	0.010072
Thai Baht	0.008791	0.009341
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796852	0.805352
Egyptian Pound	0.014225	0.020133
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207	0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.422825	0.431825
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149	0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021972	0.045972
Omani Riyal	0.780723	0.786403
Qatar Riyal	0.078950	0.083890
Saudi Riyal	0.079727	0.081027
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.118354	0.126534
Turkish Lira	0.077036	0.087336
UAE Dirhams	0.081084	0.082784
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Business

Burgan Bank Group reports net income up 11% reaching KD53.9m

Bank announces earnings of first nine months in 2017

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank Group announced yesterday its first nine months earnings of financial year 2017. The bank continues to pursue selective and prudent growth approach, clubbed with focus on efficiencies and continuous yields improvements. For the 2017 first nine months and compared to the same period last year, reported net income grew by 11 percent reaching KD53.9 million (\$177.5 million) from KD48.6 million. Underlying net income (excluding precautionary reserves & after ATI cost) grew by 5 percent reaching KD58.7 million (\$193.3 million). Earnings per share grew by 14 percent to 20.1 fils from 17.7 fils reported last year.

During the same period, loans and advances grew by 6 percent year on year to reach KD4.5 billion (\$14.9 billion) and customers deposits grew by 3 percent to reach KD4.0 billion (\$13.2 billion). Non-performing assets (NPA) Ratio net of collateral stands at 1.1 percent while Coverage ratio net of collateral stands at 400 percent. Capital adequacy ratio stands at 16.4 percent as of September 30, 2017.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank Group said: "The bank continues to deliver a solid year-to-date

performance focusing on returns, prudence and efficiencies. Return on equity (ROE) stands at 11.2 percent while Return on tangible equity (ROTE) stands at 12 percent."

"International Operations are now contributing 44 percent of the Group's operating income which grew by 6 percent year on year to reach KD179.3 million (\$590.8 million), providing further evidence that Burgan Bank Group is reaping the seed of its diversification strategy into faster growing economies," added Al-Ajeel.

"The strength of our operating capabilities is yielding strong performance that was reflected during the first nine months of the year. Also, during the third quarter

(Q3), Burgan Bank Group recorded an underlying net income (excluding precautionary reserves & after ATI cost) of KD17.3 million (\$57.4 million). The net income as reported for Q3 is KD15 million (\$49.8 million) after the booking of KD5 million in precautionary reserves," commented Al-Ajeel.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel also said: "Our leading financial indicators continue to point to the right direction both in Kuwait and international operations. I remain confident and optimistic of the group's strong performance going forward."

"On behalf of the board, I take this opportunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their confi-

dence in our capabilities and our regulators; the Central Bank of Kuwait, for their support. I would also like to thank our executive management team for their leadership and the excellent execution of the corporate strategy, and to our staff for their continued support and commitment," concluded Al Ajeel. The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Burgan Bank - Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad, Tunis International Bank. Burgan Bank Group has one of the largest regional branch networks with more than 175 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Lebanon and representative office in Dubai-United Arab Emirates.



Majed Essa Al-Ajeel



Driven by prudent, selective growth

KIB gold sponsor of 'Hello, My Teacher' forum

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) provided its gold sponsorship to the annual 'Hello, My Teacher' forum, an event held exclusively for new teachers in the Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer educational districts. The forum was organized by the Kuwait Teachers Society and was held at the Sauda Bin Malek School.

The latest edition of the annual forum featured activities and lectures which aimed at introducing new teachers to all matters related to their day-to-day working life and preparing them for their new roles. Additionally, as part of the forum, new teachers were presented with valuable tips and expertise to enable them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities to their fullest potential.

"As part of our robust social responsibility program, we continuously strive to enhance our community efforts in order to effectively engage with all segments across the local community," said Fahad Al-Sarhan, Team Leader of Corporate Communications



at KIB. "Accordingly, our sponsorship of this forum stems from our firm belief in the vital role teachers play in our society, as they continue to make vital contributions towards enhancing and developing the educational sector."

Sarhan added that KIB takes pride its collaboration and partnership with the Kuwait Teachers Society. He also noted that financial and moral support provided by the bank is the least it can offer to an association that seeks to develop teachers, who play a crucial role

in educating the nation's future generation. At the end, Sarhan wished all participants in the forum the very best in their future careers and endeavors.

It is worth noting that KIB is strongly committed to sponsoring activities and initiatives that focus on improving various sectors and segments across the nation. Thereby, the bank remains adamant on fostering teachers, whether by engaging directly with them through sponsored conferences and forums, or by holding educational lectures offered to students.

France to hit firms with one-off levy to replace dividend tax

PARIS: Big French companies will be forced to pay an "exceptional contribution" to make up for a dividend tax cancelled by French and EU courts, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said yesterday. Although President Emmanuel Macron's government is cutting corporate tax, it has little choice but to find an additional levy to make up for an up to 10 billion euros (\$11.76 billion) revenue shortfall, and penalties left by the cancelled tax.

Le Maire, a conservative who has repeatedly accused his Socialist predecessors of amateurism for creating the three percent dividend tax, described it as a "state scandal". Companies such as insurer AXA and telecoms group Orange successfully challenged the tax in court. "There will be an exceptional contribution," Le Maire told Europe 1 radio, adding it would ideally be levied this and next year, with penalty fees piling up as cases go unresolved. The government was considering levying the tax on firms with revenues of over one billion euros and possibly increasing it for those with revenue above five billion euros, Le Maire added. The exceptional tax runs against Macron's pro-business reform agenda which aims to ease payroll charges and gradually cut corporate tax from 33.3 percent to 25 percent over five years.

However, the hole in the budget caused by the scrapped tax jeopardizes Macron's ambitions of

bringing the public sector budget deficit in line with EU rules, allowing France to exit an excessive deficit procedure to which it is currently subject. "If we don't show our European partners quickly how we plan to reimburse the 10 billion euros, we won't get out of the excessive deficit procedure and we'll remain the black sheep of Europe," said Le Maire.

The Socialist government of former president Francois Hollande introduced the 3 percent tax in 2012 on companies' dividends to encourage them to reinvest profits. Because the tax covered dividends paid by the EU subsidiaries of French parent companies, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) struck it down in May on the grounds that ran against EU law by created double taxation within groups. Macron's government is hoping to convince the European Commission that the case is a one-off event and that its deficit cutting plans remain firmly on track. — Reuters

France posts record drop in jobless total in September

PARIS: France's jobless total fell last month by the most on record, Labor Ministry data showed yesterday, giving a boost to President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to turn the job market around. The number of people registered as out of work in mainland France fell by 64,800 in September, the biggest decrease in figures going back to the start of 1996. The drop, 1.8 percent over one month and 0.5 percent over one year, brought the jobless total to 3,475,600, the lowest level since April.

The improvement lends support to claims from Macron's government that their reform efforts are already beginning to deliver more jobs and growth. Macron is counting on bringing down France's unemployment, stuck close to 10 percent for years, with an overhaul of labour market rules last month, which is to be followed with a reform of jobless benefits and professional training in the coming months. French business confidence has surged since Macron's election in May on a pro-business reform agenda as companies shifted activity up a gear to cope with stronger demand, surveys showed earlier yesterday. With new business flooding in, companies increased headcount in October at the fastest pace in over a decade to cope with growing backlogs, a closely watched monthly purchasing managers survey showed.

Meanwhile, industrial companies report that their capacity is running at the highest levels since before the outbreak of the global financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, a separate quarterly survey from the INSEE statistics agency showed yesterday. A growing number of companies reported trouble keeping up with demand. Some 32 percent of managers polled said they were facing production bottlenecks. However, that should be a good sign for the job market as firms will have to take on more workers to meet client demand, potentially further decreasing the number of unemployed.

INSEE has yet to estimate the unemployment rate for the third quarter, but reported in August it fell in the second quarter to a five-year low of 9.5 percent from 9.6 percent in the previous three months. — Reuters

US companies act on climate despite Trump: Survey

OSLO: US companies are still among the most ambitious in setting targets to combat global warming despite President Donald Trump's plans to quit the 195-nation Paris climate agreement, a 2017 survey showed yesterday.

US-based firms made up a fifth of those in a 2017 "A list" of 159 companies judged to have ambitious policies on limiting climate change and protecting water resources and forests, according to London-based non-profit CDP. This made US firms the biggest single national group and was similar to levels in 2016, according to CDP, which tracks companies' environmental performance and was formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project.

"We don't see US companies faring worse in our analysis" since Trump took office, said Marcus Norton, chief partnerships officer and general counsel at CDP.

"The business case for climate action remains despite a lack of support in the federal level," he told Reuters. Trump has said he will pull out of the 2015 Paris deal and instead bolster the US fossil fuel industry. The US president doubts mainstream findings that climate change will cause more floods, droughts, wildfires, heatwaves and rising sea levels.

US companies on the 2017 list include Philip Morris International, Microsoft, Bank of America and Biogen Inc. Norton said the criteria for inclusion on the CDP list were made tougher each year.

Separately, CDP said French cosmetics giant L'Oreal and Anglo-Dutch consumer goods group Unilever were the top performers on the global ranking, scoring straight "A's" on a scorecard that rates corporate policies on preventing climate change, ensuring water security and protecting forests. The two demonstrated "how business can reduce carbon dioxide emissions, increase water security and tackle deforestation while making a profit," CDP said.

The two firms have often scored highly. Overall, CDP said 89 percent of companies in a wider survey of more than 1,000 companies had some form of carbon emissions targets, up from 85 percent in 2016. — Reuters

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Business

India embarks on \$32.4bn state bank recapitalization

Modi's desperate bid to tackle drag on economy

NEW DELHI: India's cabinet approved a \$32.43 billion plan yesterday to recapitalize its state banks over the next two years, in a bid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tackle a major drag on the economy that has frustrated his attempts to boost growth.

Once the world's fastest-growing major economy, India has seen its growth rate plummet to the lowest in three years, far below levels needed to create enough jobs to absorb the million Indians joining the work force every month. Modi's government has tried to respond by stepping up public spending, but the slow-down has stressed its finances, making it imperative for private investment to pick up the slack.

Officials privately admit they have struggled to revive private investment because state-owned banks, which provide much of the credit in the economy, are saddled with a mountain of bad debt that has cramped their ability

to offer new credit. The decision to recapitalize the banks is meant to clear that bottleneck, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said at a press conference in New Delhi.

"The decision to recapitalize public sector banks with 2.11 trillion rupees will address the bank balance sheet problem and push growth forward," Jaitley said. By some estimates, banks need as much as \$65 billion in additional capital by March 2019 to fill the hole left by soured loans and to meet new regulatory capital requirements. The official announcement, which was followed by a series of tweets from government ministers holding it up as "unprecedented", comes after a flurry of activity in the government over the past few weeks, driven by the prime minister's office.

Modi, who swept to power in a landslide victory for

his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014 promising a reform agenda to revive economic growth, faces state elections later this year and a re-election bid by 2019. He has faced criticisms after a surprise scrapping of high-value bank notes last November and a new goods and services tax effected earlier this year disrupted businesses across the country.

People close to Modi have previously told Reuters he wants to control the political damage and ensure the economic slowdown remains temporary. Mohan

Guruswamy, an economist in New Delhi, said the government should have taken action three years ago to revive the banking sector. "Now it's more expensive, and we will not see results soon," Guruswamy said.

Banking reforms to follow

Fiscal consolidation

Finance ministry officials said the bank recapitalization would be followed by a

series of reforms in the sector. They said the details would come later. Of the planned 2.11 trillion rupees sum, recapitalization bonds will account for 1.35 trillion rupees, while 760 billion rupees will come from budgetary support and equity issuance, said Rajiv Kumar, India's financial services secretary.

It was not immediately clear what the impact will be on the country's fiscal deficit, which Jaitley aims to keep at 3.2 percent of GDP for the current fiscal year to March. "India's banking was the weakest link in the revival of the economy," said N R Bhanumurthy, an economist at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, a Delhi-based think-tank partly funded by the finance ministry. "The government should complete the process as early as possible."

Bhanumurthy added that the move might have an



HYDERABAD: An Indian vendor sells produce at a vegetable market in Hyderabad yesterday. Prices of most vegetables have crossed 100 rupees per kilogram as wholesale dealers are buying them from other states due to recent rains that damaged crops in many parts of the southern Indian states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. —AFP

impact on the government's fiscal deficit target this year. Twenty one state-run banks account for more than two-thirds of India's banking assets. But they also account for a bulk of the record 9.5 trillion Indian rupees (\$145 billion) of soured loans.

In addition to repairing their balance sheets, the banks need billions of dollars in new capital to meet global Basel III banking rules, due to fully kick in by

March 2019. Fitch Ratings estimates Indian banks will need \$65 billion of additional capital by March 2019 to meet Basel III global banking rules. Moody's expects the top 11 state lenders alone will need nearly \$15 billion.

Bank stocks rallied ahead of the news conference on expectations of a recapitalization plan. The state bank index closed 3.8 percent higher. —Reuters

Amazon rivals turn to legal fine print to stem Whole Foods strategy

SAN FRANCISCO: Whole Foods Market met a new foe this summer during talks to lease a top retail space in a San Francisco mall: the Target next door. As City Center mall's largest tenant, Target Corp. had a say over changes to the property. According to people familiar with the lease discussions, Target balked at sharing the mall with Whole Foods because it feared competition from the grocery chain's new owner, Amazon.com Inc.

Early attempts to persuade Target failed, and Whole Foods may now have to concede certain Amazon initiatives - such as lockers where customers can pick up goods ordered online - if it wants the location, the people said. Talks are ongoing.

A Reuters examination of real estate agreements and interviews with 20 retail landlords, lawyers and brokers show that the strings attached to operating in malls like City Center present an emerging and little-scrutinized challenge to Amazon's quest to re-shape Whole Foods.

Across the United States, large retailers including Target, Bed Bath & Beyond Inc and Best Buy Co Inc have legal rights in many lease agreements that allow them to limit what Amazon can do with nearby Whole Foods stores, and where it can open new ones. Documents reviewed by Reuters show bans on Amazon lockers and delivery operations near a Target store in Illinois and also in Florida, where a new Whole Foods is set to open. Lockers for retrieving online orders are a way for Amazon to spur sales through the grocery chain.

In Manhattan and other locations, the leases of Whole Foods' big box neighbors bar it from selling a range of goods that Amazon has in its massive online inventory, from electronics to toys and linens.

Even Whole Foods stores that do not share space with major rivals can face constraints imposed by local governments. A city council resolution in White Plains, New York, restricted the hours when Whole Foods can use a loading dock prior to the grocer locating in the mall.

Amazon declined to answer questions about how these restrictions across the country impact its plans. In a statement, Target said it is "focused on what's best for the company and delivering on the reasons our guests love Target. Our more than 1,800 stores across the country are a strategic asset and a vital part of Target's future."

The company did not discuss details of the restrictions reported by Reuters, but said, "It's inaccurate to characterize lease agreements as our corporate strategy." Reuters could not determine the full extent of limits on Whole Foods stores because lease deals vary from mall to mall, and many are not public. While restricting how neighbors operate is a standard practice in retail, Amazon is new to feeling the heat. —Reuters

McDonald's US sales boosted by \$1 sodas and 2 for \$5 deals

NEW YORK: Cheap soda and burgers helped bring more people into McDonald's. The fast-food company said yesterday that sales in the US rose 4.1 percent at existing locations during the third quarter, thanks to \$1 drinks and its two for \$5 promotion called McPick 2. McDonald's also said pricier burgers, which are stuffed with crispy onions, kale or guacamole, helped boost sales, too. McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, has been working to modernize its restaurants by adding mobile ordering and offering delivery through the UberEats app. It's

also been tinkering with its menu as more people shun processed foods: It removed artificial preservatives from its nuggets and it's working to use fresh beef in its Quarter Pounder burgers.

"We're building a better McDonald's and more customers are noticing," said CEO Steve Easterbrook. Overall, the company reported net income of \$1.88 billion, or \$2.32 per share, in the three months ended Sept. 30. That's up from \$1.28 billion, or \$1.50 per share, in the same period a year ago. Adjusted earnings came to \$1.76 per share, a penny above what analysts expected, according to Zacks Investment Research. Revenue fell 10 percent to \$5.75 billion, missing analyst expectations of \$5.8 billion. The company said it brought in less revenue as it switches more stores from company-owned restaurants to ones owned by franchisees, especially in China and Hong Kong. Shares of McDonald's Corp., which are up 34 percent since the beginning of the year, rose \$2.27 to \$165.52 in early trading yesterday. —AP



This file photo taken on July 21, 2015 shows a McDonald's restaurant near the fast food giant's global headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois. —AFP

US dollar steady, New Zealand currency hits 5-month low

LONDON/NEW YORK: The dollar was little changed yesterday against a basket of currencies on speculation about possible fresh leadership at the US Federal Reserve and bets that a tax cut package is on track to be enacted. The New Zealand dollar was the biggest mover among G10 currencies, declining to a five-month low after the incoming Labor-led coalition government said it plans to review and reform the Central Bank Act to include employment, alongside inflation, as a dual target. "What's dominating the

narrative is the Fed chair position.

You overlay that with some momentum on tax reform. That puts the dollar on decent footing," said Mazen Issa, senior FX strategist at TD Securities in New York. At 10:15 a.m. (1415 GMT), the index that tracks the dollar against a group of six currencies, was at 93.829, down 0.1 percent from Monday when it reached a 2-1/2-week peak of 94.017.

US President Donald Trump told reporters on Monday he is "very, very close" to deciding who should lead the Federal Reserve after interviewing five candidates for the position. His possible nominees include current Fed Chair Janet Yellen, whose term expires in February, as well as Fed Governor Jerome Powell, Stanford University economist John Taylor, Trump's chief economic advisor Gary Cohn, and former Fed Governor Kevin Warsh. Hopes that Congress will pass a package of tax cuts have helped to strengthen the dollar and pushed US stocks to record highs, although skepticism has persisted in the absence of details on the overhaul and perceived dis-

cord between Trump and top Republican lawmakers. The greenback hovered near a three-month high versus the yen yesterday, gaining 0.3 percent at 113.79 yen. It held below a three-month peak of 114.09 yen in reaction to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party-led coalition election win on Sunday. Abe's victory reduced anxiety that the economic steps implemented under his leadership, including an expansive asset-purchase program by the Bank of Japan, would be disrupted.

The euro increased 0.2 percent to \$1.1767 and rose 0.5 percent to 133.91 yen in advance of the European Central Bank's policy meeting on tomorrow. Traders have expected the ECB to signal a gradual removal of monetary stimulus as eurozone economic growth has improved. The New Zealand dollar has lost nearly 5 percent on worries that a harder stance on immigration and foreign investment under its new government would hamper economic growth. It shed 0.75 percent to \$0.6913 after hitting its lowest level since May 19. —Reuters

3M, Caterpillar lift Dow to record high

NEW YORK: A surge in the shares of industrial giants Caterpillar and 3M catapulted the blue-chip Dow Jones index to a fresh record yesterday. 3M jumped 4.7 percent on better-than-expected earnings, while Caterpillar rose 4.9 percent after handily beating profit and sales estimates and raising its full-year forecast.

Other Dow components, United Technologies and McDonald's, also notched up gains in morning trading following strong quarterly reports. "The reaction to earnings from the Dow components is in favor," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab in Austin,

Texas. "Chances are, with this strong an opening, it will likely remain positive." Third-quarter earnings season has been largely positive, with three quarters of the 97 S&P 500 companies that have reported results as of Monday beating profit estimates. That and rising hopes of President Donald Trump's tax plans moving forward have helped the Dow and S&P close at record highs on all five trading days last week.

Investors are also keeping a watch on any news around the nomination of the new Federal Reserve chief. Trump told reporters on Monday he is "very, very close" to deciding who should chair the Fed after interviewing five candidates for the position.

At 9:37 am ET (1337 GMT), the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 178.79 points, or 0.77 percent, at 23,452.75, the S&P 500 was up 5.06 points, or 0.20 percent, at 2,570.04 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 7.21 points, or 0.11 percent, at 6,594.04. —Agencies



NEW YORK: BlueStar Indexes Israel Founder & Chief Investment Officer Steven Schoenfeld (front row right), gives a thumbs-up as he rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell yesterday to celebrate their recent listing. —AP

Business

Gulf Bank launches a new investment service 'WISE'

Portfolio management service to assist high net-worth customers

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has launched a new, first-of-its-kind investment service in Kuwait. WISE is an advisory portfolio management service for affluent, high net worth and ultra-high net worth Gulf Bank customers, helping them to diversify their investments and invest in international markets in an easy, transparent and cost-efficient way.

WISE is available at all Gulf Bank branches. "The idea of this service came from some of our clients who want to invest abroad to diversify their risk. The WISE service is regulated by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority. Every WISE portfolio is designed to be consistent with the client's investment objective and risk tolerance," said Meshari Shehab, Assistant General Manager for Consumer Banking during a press conference yesterday at the Gulf Bank headquarters. The bank has developed a WISE application to allow relationship managers to explain the service. "We use a questionnaire to assess customer suitability, goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. We simulate, together with the clients, different investment scenarios to decide the optimal risk-return composition that matches their goals, time horizon and risk tolerance, using insights from more than 25 years of historical returns," he explained.

The WISE portfolio is available for any individual aged 21 years or older who is a legal Kuwaiti resident or a Kuwaiti citizen (with a permanent Kuwaiti address), an existing Gulf Bank account holder and who passes suitability questions. Kuwaiti citizens residing

abroad who are existing Gulf Bank account holders can also open a WISE portfolio with Gulf Bank, in addition to US nationals who are existing Gulf Bank account holders," explained Shehab.

The minimum investment amount required to create a WISE portfolio is \$10,000 per account. "The bank asks the minimum number of questions to accurately determine an individual's risk tolerance and investment goals over a set time period in order to formulate the most suitable portfolio for the client. The

modern portfolio theory. It states that returns are best maximized for any level of risk through the optimal mix of asset classes, not through security selection.

Diversification is designed to increase a portfolio's risk-adjusted returns by reducing portfolio risk or volatility for every level of return or maximizing return for every level of risk. Proper diversification is implemented by investing in a sufficiently large number of securities that represent a set of relatively uncorrelated asset classes and geographies."

Saleh said. WISE portfolio is in USD, but the client can fund his WISE portfolio through his KWD account. "The money will be invested within five working days after receiving a verification call, SMS or email. The securities will be held by Citibank in London, one of the largest US banks. The limited cash in the account will be held at Gulf Bank's broker Saxo Bank," Shehab said.

The client is free to close his WISE portfolio at any time. "We recommend a period of three years of investments to get the results, but the client can close the portfolio earlier or later. After closing the portfolio, all funds in the WISE portfolio will be directed to the client's linked account with Gulf Bank. The client can withdraw a minimum of \$1,000 as long as he maintains a minimum balance of \$10,000 in his account," he added.

Service Fees

"We charge a quarterly management fee based on an annual fee rate of 0.85 percent calculated on the daily values of your portfolio. The only other fee the client incurs is the low ongoing charges embedded in the cost of the ETFs. The client gets many services for



Service helps customers diversify investments

portfolio consists of ETF securities in equities and bonds and a small portion of cash balance," noted Tareq Al-Saleh, AGM - Investments, Consumer Banking.

The WISE portfolio exchange-traded funds (ETF) include: US Equities: S&P 500 UCITS ETF (VUSD) from Vanguard; All-World equities: FTSE All-World UCITS ETF (VWRD) from Vanguard; emerging market equities: FTSE Emerging Markets UCITS (VDEM) from Vanguard; and US bonds: iShares US Aggregate Bond UCITS (IUAG) from iShares by BlackRock.

"Our investment methodology is based on



KUWAIT: (From left), Daliya Al-Qasim, Meshari Shehab, and Tareq Al-Saleh during the press conference on WISE service held at the Gulf Bank headquarters. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

this fee including advice to create the optimal portfolio compositions, create the portfolio, receive and reinvest dividends, secure transactions and monitor and rebalance the portfolio," stressed Shehab.

"The Gulf Bank fee of 0.85 percent is very competitive and already well below the average fee charged by financial advisors. The client will pay no commission on trades made on his behalf by Gulf Bank. Also there are no custodial, entry or exit, or withdrawal fees," he said. The WISE application gives the distribution of results over the relevant time period if the client invested according to the recommended strategy. "The best way to see this is to take the questionnaire. It will show the his-

torical performance of different portfolios. Like all market investments, the securities you own in your WISE portfolio are subject to market risk. Fluctuations are hard to predict over the short term, but historical data shows that over the long term, your investment is likely to increase," Saleh said.

Dividends

"The selected ETFs pay dividends. The client has the option to instruct us to either reinvest the dividends or route it to his linked account with Gulf Bank. In the absence of any such instructions from his end, we will reinvest his dividends automatically as per his portfolio composition mix," concluded Saleh.

An impressive show of Mercedes-Benz 'Commercial Vehicles' in KOGS 2017

KUWAIT: With a distinguished and exceptional participation of Mercedes-Benz "Commercial Vehicles" in Kuwait Oil & Gas Show "KOGS 2017" exhibition in Kuwait, where the biggest event in the field of Oil & Gas in Kuwait took place at the Kuwait International Fairground (KIF) in Mishref and opened in a special attendance of Essam Al-Marzouq, the Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water in Kuwait.

Commercial Vehicles Department at A. R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co. was keen on displaying the latest product Zetros of the famous International German Brand Mercedes-Benz through its 1st participation, and in attendance of the management and the executives team of the Commercial Vehicles for answering the



customers' inquiries and providing them with the required explanations and information.

The Company has participated through two unique platforms reflecting the most modern brand identity design of Mercedes-Benz, the truck Zetros 6X6 were displayed in the outdoor platform in the external exhibition area which dedicated for PMV, while, inside Hall (6) The indoor platform which was reflecting luxurious & professional atmospheres for getting the required and complete information on the various products and serv-

ices of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait which meet the entire needs of the various oil projects and logistic services. "The Exhibition has given the participants the opportunity of watching the new and approved products and meeting with hundreds of companies and factories, both domestic and international, in addition to communication with the specialists in the oil fields from exhibitors and distributors to the major purchasers and leading persons on this field, as well as meeting with new and current suppliers" said Michael Ruehle, CEO of A. R.



Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co. in his comment to its second participation.

On his part, Ralph Geyer, General Manager of the Commercial Vehicles Division at A. R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co., has expressed his pleasure for the first participation in the KOGS Exhibition, esteeming the importance of the Exhibition as regards coping with the development and growing of the Oil projects and offering huge opportunities for the oil companies seeking expansion of their businesses in Kuwait and that the Exhibition has

been held for opening the field for meeting and exchanging expertise for commencement of business and investment.

"Zetros", a leading truck worldwide

"No doubt, Zetros, the first of its type in Kuwait, is the answer to the enormous demand for a truck line with unsurpassed reliability, durability and sustainability that reflects the continued successful story of Heavy duty trucks from Mercedes-Benz", Ralph Geyer added.

6 DAYS LEFT
KD
1,000,000
The Largest Prize Linked to a Bank Account
January 2017

Six days left to enter Al-Danah's KD 1m draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced that Tuesday (31 October) is the last date for customers to open an Al-Danah account or deposit more, as to increase their chances in becoming the next Al-Danah millionaire!

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (two winners per working day and each receive KD1,000), quarterly draws up to KD500,000 and Al-Danah's final draw for KD 1 million, which is planned to be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of

KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records

2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000

3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day

4) The most chances to win

5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait.

Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah's final draw, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance.

Turkish Cargo wins payload Asia industry choice award as 'Overall Carrier of The Year'

KUWAIT: Along with a strong growth in September and having recorded an increase of 27 percent in its freight and mail volume for a total of 810 thousand tons for the period January-September 2017, Turkish Cargo has once more been awarded by the international air cargo sector.

Turkish Cargo has been awarded with the most distinguished "Overall Carrier of the



Year" prize in the Customer's Choice category at the 33rd annual Payload Asia Awards, organized by the Payload Asia Group and aimed at honoring the carriers for their excellence in the air cargo industry.

Awarded with the contribution of the readers, air cargo customers and business partners of Payload Asia, member of the Federation of Asia Pacific Aircargo Association (FAPAA), the awards were unveiled at the annual ceremony attended by

distinguished guests from around the world. The most prestigious award of the year was attributed to Turkish Cargo for its substantial growth.

Along with Turkish Airlines network coverage of 300 destinations worldwide offering belly cargo capacity of 313 aircraft and providing 16 dedicated freighter aircraft to 72 destinations through 60 countries, Turkish Cargo strives to become the most preferred air carrier in the sector.



Technology

Toyota launches 'Start Your Impossible' global initiative

TMC is committed to 'Freedom of Mobility for All'



KUWAIT: Toyota Motor Corporation has launched 'Start Your Impossible' - a global corporate initiative that aims to inspire Toyota employees, partners, and customers and connect them with the company's core beliefs. In an age of accelerating technological and environmental developments, 'Start Your Impossible' marks Toyota's commitment to supporting the creation of a more inclusive and sustainable society in which everyone can challenge their impossible.

To celebrate the launch of the initiative and its partnership with the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, Toyota recently held its first-ever Toyota Mobility Summit in Athens, Greece, the host city of the first modern Olympic Games. The event featured a live conversation with Akio Toyoda, as well as a series of discussions led by Toyota Executive Vice President Didier Leroy, with global thought leaders and Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The event covered topics of mobility from a social, physical well-being, and sports perspectives, as well as the future of mobility via technology advancements and research.

Toyota believes that mobility goes beyond cars; it is about overcoming challenges and making dreams come true. The 'Start Your Impossible' initiative reflects these values and highlights the company's goal to provide freedom of mobility for all. "We want to share this

definition of impossible. Today, the automobile industry is clearly amidst its most dramatic period of change - and during this time Toyota remains committed to making ever-better cars. Just as important, we are developing mobility solutions to help everyone enjoy their lives, and we are doing our part of creating an ever-better society for the next 100 years and beyond. For this to happen, we must dream beyond conventional vehicles and create new forms of mobility that overcome the limits of today and solve the problems of tomorrow. We share this dream and this spirit of continuous improvement with Olympic and Paralympic athletes, who challenge their own limits every day. I hope that the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games will create an opportunity for everyone affiliated with Toyota to challenge their impossible and defy their limitations," added Toyoda.

leader that has enabled vehicle electrification on a mass scale with the development of the Prius hybrid electric car 20 years ago and more recently, the Mirai hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle. Toyota sees alternative powertrains, automated cars, mobility-as-a-service, and robotics as significant opportunities to move people and transform the company.

As a worldwide partner of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, Toyota aims to encourage creating a peaceful society without discrimination through sports and a commitment to building a sustainable society through mobility. Toyota's values of continuous improvement and respect for people are shared by the Olympic Games, which brings together the entire world in friendship and solidarity to celebrate the highest realization of human potential.

Toyota also aims to offer mobility services and logistics expertise as the first mobility partner of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The first 'Start Your Impossible' film,

'Mobility for All,' introduces transportation solutions, next-generation mobility, and advanced technologies. Going forward, 'Start Your Impossible' will also include a variety of additional programs focused on employees, dealers, and consumers, as well as seeking collaboration with the Toyota Mobility Foundation, which was established to address urban transportation challenges and expand personal mobility for all people, inspiring the next-generation mobility solutions. ?

Toyota is also launching a new website www.MobilityForAll.com. In consultation with the National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) in the United States, the website (which will be rolled out in phases) is built to be accessible for users with various impairments and to allow all users to experience the site and all its content. Whether set to default, visually impaired, hearing impaired, mobility impaired, or cognitively impaired, all coding and design features work to make the experience equally enjoyable for all users.



Inspiration for employees, partners and customers

thinking with all stakeholders, including consumers, so that we can approach this challenge together," said Toyota President Akio Toyoda.

"Throughout our history, Toyota has made the impossible possible through innovation and passion, and by continuously challenging

Innovative leader

Since its founding as a loom manufacturer, Toyota has been driven by a commitment to contributing to society. Over its long history, the company has grown into an innovative

commitment to safety," Ishii said. "We want to be absolutely sure of product safety as the MRJ heads towards mass production."

The repeatedly delayed MRJ is central to the Japanese government's plans to revive an aerospace industry dismantled after World War Two. The aircraft has yet to enter service. Products with fabricated data have been used in the aircraft, a spokeswoman for Mitsubishi Heavy said on Tuesday, adding no safety issues have been found. There is no impact on testing schedules for the MRJ, she said.

More checks

Japan's industry minister also said yesterday he was seeking checks on other plants run by Japan's third-largest steelmaker to see whether they were in compliance with statutory industrial standards.

Industry minister Hiroshige Seko told reporters he asked companies that certify whether manufacturers comply with Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) to consider rechecking all Kobe Steel plants that have the certification. Twenty Kobe Steel plants, including some overseas, are certified under JIS, an industry ministry official told Reuters by phone. The ministry can carry out its own inspections if Kobe Steel does not open its plants to the certification companies, he said.

A Kobe Steel spokesman said yesterday the company is cooperating with the transport ministry inspection and will allow certification companies to carry out their checks if requested.

One of the plants is already being checked,



The Kobe Steel headquarters stand in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan.

Kobe Steel said on Friday, when it revealed it had found more data fabrication and an attempt to cover up tampering.

Kobe Steel admitted this month it falsified specifications on the strength and durability of aluminium, copper and steel products, along with materials for optical disks.

The falsifications stretch back for more than 10 years, and the company last week said it had lost some customers to competitors because of the widespread tampering.

Kobe Steel may drop its earnings forecast when it announces its first-half results next

week, a senior executive told reporters late on Monday. The company is forecasting net profit of 35 billion yen for the year through March, 2018, after two consecutive annual losses. It is due to announce earnings for the April-September half on Oct 30.

The company is considering dropping the forecast or revising it to take into account the known impact of the scandal, the executive said. Kobe Steel shares, which have fallen nearly 40 percent since the scandal broke, closed up 0.9 percent yesterday. The main Nikkei index was up 0.5 percent. — Reuters

Facebook tests splitting its News Feed into two

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook Inc said on Monday it was testing the idea of dividing its News Feed in two, separating commercial posts from personal news in a move that could lead some businesses to increase advertising. The Facebook News Feed, the centerpiece of the world's largest social network service, is a streaming series of posts such as photos from friends, updates from family members, advertisements and material from celebrities or other pages that a user has liked.

The test, which is occurring in six smaller countries, now offers two user feeds, according to a statement from the company: one feed focused on friends and family and a second dedicated to the pages that the customer has liked.

The change could force those who run pages, everyone from news outlets to musicians to sports teams, to pay to run advertisements if they want to be seen in the feed that is for friends and family.

The test is taking place in Bolivia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Serbia, Slovakia and Sri Lanka, and it will likely go on for months, Adam Mosseri, the Facebook executive in charge of the News Feed, said in a blog post. Mosseri said the company has no plans for a global test of the two separate feeds for its 2 billion users. Facebook also does not currently plan to force commercial pages "to pay for all their distribution," he said. Facebook, based in Menlo Park, California, frequently tests changes big and small as it tries to maximize the time people spend scrolling and browsing the network. Sometimes it makes changes permanent, and other times not.

Depending on how people respond, two news feeds could mean that they see fewer links to news stories. News has proved to be a tricky area for Facebook, as hoaxes and false news stories have sometimes spread easily on the network.

The test has already affected website traffic for smaller media outlets in recent days, Slovakian journalist Filip Struharik wrote over the weekend in a post on Medium. Publishers might need to buy more Facebook ads to be seen, he wrote: "If you want your Facebook page posts to be seen in old newsfeed, you have to pay." — Reuters

Kobe Steel plant that supplied plane components being checked

TOKYO: Japanese authorities are conducting safety checks at a Kobe Steel Ltd aluminium plant that supplied components for a domestically built aircraft and seeking to inspect other plants owned by the embattled company. Kobe Steel's revelations of widespread tampering in the specifications of its products have sent a chill through global supply chains for cars, trains, airplanes and other equipment. While no safety issues have been identified, the company is the subject of a US Department of Justice inquiry and has said it is losing customers.

The inspection of Kobe Steel's Daian plant in central Japan was focusing on the safety of components being used in Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) passenger aircraft being developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, Transport Minister Keiichi Ishii told reporters yesterday. "As a country of design and manufacturing, we have an unmistakable

Toshiba boss sorry as shareholders blast \$18bn chip sale

CHIBA, Japan: Toshiba's president yesterday apologized "sincerely" over the \$18-billion sale of its prized memory chip business, as shareholders demanded answers over the deal seen as pivotal to the survival of one of Japan's best-known firms.

Bowing deeply at the start of a tense shareholders' meeting, Satoshi Tsunakawa said: "We sincerely apologize for causing problems and worry." More than 600 investors poured into the meeting as they voted in favor of the sale to a consortium led by US investor Bain Capital, which includes US tech giants Apple and Dell as well as South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix after months of wrangling.

Angry jeers rang out from some stockholders who had little choice but to agree to unload the division so the cash-strapped company can plug massive losses at its US nuclear division, Westinghouse Electric. Tsunakawa pledged to finish the sale by the end of March 2018 and

stressed: "We will continue to have honest management, and improve our internal governance." That pledge did not sit well with one 77-year-old pensioner who owns Toshiba stock, which has plunged about 25 percent since the losses were made public in late December. "I cannot believe what the executives are saying about turning the company around," he told AFP. "They all look smart and are eloquent. I wonder if they knew about the losses at Westinghouse years ago." Former Toshiba employee Masayuki Sakurai said the firm's top brass was evasive about what would happen if the planned sale were to fall through.

"It's still not clear if the memory chip sale will be done by March and they couldn't give us a clear answer on what would happen if it was unsuccessful," Sakurai said. "That's worrying." The chip unit brought in around a quarter of Toshiba's total annual revenue and is the crown jewel in a vast range of businesses rang-



CHIBA: A staff member (right) tries to stop photographers taking pictures in front of the venue of an extraordinary shareholders meeting of Toshiba in Chiba, suburb of Tokyo, yesterday. — AFP

ing from home appliances to nuclear reactors. Toshiba, the world's number-two chipmaker behind Samsung, narrowly averted a delisting this year, but it still faces the humiliating prospect of being yanked from Japan's premier stock exchange if the sale does not raise enough money. And some investors had doubts

about whether things would change at the firm, which was recovering from a 2015 accounting scandal when the huge US losses were made public. On Monday, the firm said it would post a 110 billion yen (\$970 million) net loss in the current fiscal year because of a tax bill linked to the massive sale. — AFP

Health

In the market for human bodies, almost anyone can sell the dead

Company acquires dead bodies, dissects and sells them

LAS VEGAS: The company stacked brochures in funeral parlors around Sin City. On the cover: a couple clasping hands. Above the image, a promise: "Providing Options in Your Time of Need." The company, Southern Nevada Donor Services, offered grieving families a way to eliminate expensive funeral costs: free cremation in exchange for donating a loved one's body to "advance medical studies." Outside Southern Nevada's suburban warehouse, the circumstances were far from comforting.

In the fall of 2015, neighboring tenants began complaining about a mysterious stench and bloody boxes in a Dumpster. That December, local health records show, someone contacted authorities to report odd activity in the courtyard. Health inspectors found a man in medical scrubs holding a garden hose. He was thawing a frozen human torso in the midday sun. As the man sprayed the remains, "bits of tissue and blood were washed into the gutters," a state health report said. The stream weaved past storefronts and pooled across the street near a technical school. Southern Nevada, the inspectors learned, was a so-called body broker, a company that acquires dead bodies, dissects them and sells the parts for profit to medical researchers, training organizations and other buyers. The torso on the gurney was being prepared for just such a sale. Each year, thousands of Americans donate their bodies in the belief they are contributing to science. In fact, many are also unwittingly contributing to commerce, their bodies traded as raw material in a largely unregulated national market.

Body brokers are also known as non-transplant tissue banks. They are distinct from the organ and tissue transplant industry, which the US government closely regulates. Selling hearts, kidneys and tendons for transplant is illegal. But no federal law governs the sale of cadavers or body parts for use in research or education. Few state laws provide any oversight whatsoever, and almost anyone, regardless of expertise, can dissect and sell human body parts.

"The current state of affairs is a free-for-all," said Angela McArthur, who directs the body donation program at the University of Minnesota Medical School and formerly chaired her state's anatomical donation commission. "We are seeing similar problems to what we saw with grave-robbing centuries ago," she said, referring to the 19th-century practice of obtaining cadavers in ways that violated the dignity of the dead. "I don't know if I can state this strongly enough," McArthur said. "What they are doing is profiting from the sale of humans."

The industry's business model hinges on access to a large supply of free bodies, which often come from the poor. In return for a body, brokers typically cremate a portion of the donor at no charge. By offering free cremation, some deathcare industry veterans say, brokers appeal to low-income families at their most vulnerable. Many have drained their savings paying for a loved one's medical treatment and can't afford a traditional funeral.

"People who have financial means get the chance to have the moral, ethical and spiritual debates about which method to choose," said Dawn Vander Kolk, an Illinois hospice social worker. "But if they don't have money, they may end up with the option of last resort: body donation." Few rules mean few consequences when bodies are mistreated. In the Southern Nevada case, officials found they could do little more than issue a minor pollution citation to one of the workers involved. Southern Nevada operator Joe

Collazo, who wasn't cited, said he regretted the incident. He said the industry would benefit from oversight that offers peace of mind to donors, brokers and researchers. "To be honest with you, I think there should be regulation," said Collazo. "There's too much gray area."

'Big market for dead bodies'

Donated bodies play an essential role in medical education, training and research. Cadavers and body parts are used to train medical students, doctors, nurses and dentists. Surgeons say no mannequin or computer simulation can replicate the tactile response and emotional experience of practicing on human body parts. Paramedics, for example, use human heads and torsos to learn how to insert breathing tubes.

Researchers rely on donated human body parts to develop new surgical instruments, techniques and implants; and to develop new medicines and treatments for diseases. "The need for human bodies is absolutely vital," said Chicago doctor Armand Krikorian, past president of the American Federation for Medical Research. He cited a recent potential cure for Type 1 diabetes developed by studying pancreases from body donors. "It's a kind of treatment that would have never come to light if we did not have whole-body donation."

Despite the industry's critically important role in medicine, no national registry of body brokers exists. Many can operate in near anonymity, quietly making deals to obtain cadavers and sell the parts. "There is a big market for dead bodies," said Ray Madoff, a Boston College Law School professor who studies how US laws treat the dead. "We know very little about who is acquiring these bodies and what they are doing with them." In most states, anyone can legally purchase body parts. As an upcoming story will detail, a Tennessee broker sold Reuters a cervical spine and two human heads after just a few email exchanges.

Eliminating expensive funeral costs

Through interviews and public records, Reuters identified Southern Nevada and 33 other body brokers active across America during the past five years. Twenty-five of the 34 body brokers were for-profit corporations; the rest were nonprofits. In three years alone, one for-profit broker earned at least \$12.5 million stemming from the body part business, an upcoming Reuters report will show.

Because only four states closely track donations and sales, the breadth of the market for body parts remains unknown. But data obtained under public record laws from those states - New York, Virginia, Oklahoma and Florida - provide a snapshot. Reuters calculated that from 2011 through 2015, private brokers received at least 50,000 bodies and distributed more than 182,000 body parts.

Permits from Florida and Virginia offer a glimpse of how some of those parts were used: A 2013 shipment to a Florida orthopedic training seminar included 27 shoulders. A 2015 shipment to a session on carpal tunnel syndrome in Virginia included five arms.

As with other commodities, prices for bodies and body parts fluctuate with market conditions. Generally, a broker can sell a donated human body for about \$3,000 to \$5,000, though prices sometime top \$10,000. But a broker will typically divide a cadaver into six parts to meet customer needs. Internal documents from seven brokers show a range of prices for body parts: \$3,575 for a torso with legs; \$500 for a head; \$350 for a foot; \$300 for a spine.

Body brokers also have become intertwined with the



A paramedic inspects a dead body in the morgue.

American funeral industry. Reuters identified 62 funeral operators that have struck mutually beneficial business arrangements with brokers. The funeral homes provide brokers access to potential donors. In return, the brokers pay morticians referral fees, ranging from \$300 to \$1,430, according to broker ledgers and court records.

These payments generate income for morticians from families who might not be able to otherwise afford even simple cremation. But such relationships raise potential conflicts of interest by creating an incentive for funeral homes to encourage grieving relatives to consider body donation, sometimes without fully understanding what might happen to the remains.

"Some funeral home directors are saying, 'Cremation isn't paying the bills anymore, so let me see if I can help people harvest body parts,'" said Steve Palmer, an Arizona mortician who serves on the National Funeral Directors Association's policy board. "I just think families who donate loved ones would have second thoughts if they knew that."

Some morticians have made body donation part of their own businesses. In Oklahoma, two funeral home owners invested \$650,000 in a startup body broker firm. In Colorado, a family operating a funeral home ran a company that dissected and distributed body parts from the same building. When a body is donated, few states provide rules governing dismemberment or use, or offer any rights

to a donor's next of kin. Bodies and parts can be bought, sold and leased, again and again. As a result, it can be difficult to track what becomes of the bodies of donors, let alone ensure that they are handled with dignity. In 2004, a federal health panel unsuccessfully called on the US government to regulate the industry. Since then, more than 2,357 body parts obtained by brokers from at least 1,638 people have been misused, abused or desecrated across America, Reuters found.

The count, based on a review of court, police, bankruptcy and internal broker records, is almost certainly understated, given the lack of oversight. It includes instances in which bodies were used without donor or next-of-kin consent; donors were misled about how bodies would be used; bodies were dismembered by chainsaws instead of medical instruments; body parts were stored in such unsanitary conditions that they decomposed; or bodies were discarded in medical waste incinerators instead of being properly cremated.

Most brokers employ a distinctive language to describe what they do and how they make money. They call human remains "tissue," not body parts, for example. And they detest the term "body brokers." They prefer to be known as "non-transplant tissue banks." Most also insist they don't "sell" body parts but instead only charge "fees" for services. Such characterizations, however, are contradicted by other documents Reuters reviewed, including court filings in which brokers clearly attach monetary value to donated remains. A lien filed by one body broker against another cited as collateral "all tissue inventory owned by or in the possession of debtor." In bankruptcy filings, brokers have claimed body parts as assets. One debtor included as property not only cabinets, desks and computers, but also spines, heads and other body parts. The bankrupt broker valued the human remains at \$160,900.

"There are no real rules," said Thomas Champney, a University of Miami anatomy professor who teaches bioethics. "This is the ultimate gift people have given, and we really need to respect that." Last December, Reuters reported that more than 20 bodies donated to an Arizona broker were used in US Army blast experiments - without the consent of the deceased or next of kin. Some donors or their families had explicitly noted an objection to military experiments on consent forms. Family members learned of the 2012 and 2013 experiments not from the Army but from a Reuters reporter who obtained records about what happened. — Reuters



File photo shows a dead body in the morgue.

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What's On



Hardee's restaurant, Da'eya co-op branch reopened after renovated

In a most joyful atmosphere and with the attendance of a large audience, Hardee's-Americana restaurant branch at Da'eya co-op was recently reopened after the branch's area and interior design were renovated.

Speaking on the reopening ceremony, Da'eya coop's chairman of board, Ahmed Al-Sudan stressed that cooperation between the co-op and Americana Food Company had resulted in overcoming all obstacle and reopening the restaurant to severe shareholders and the area residents along with other 15 investment stores opened in the co-op over the past three years.

On his part, Hardee's chain regional marketing manager in Kuwait, Iraq and Kurdistan, Rafiq Al-Ayyatt stressed that Hardee's plan is to expand to new locations. He added that the new location in Da'eya was so vital and that the restaurant had been equipped with the latest equipments to help reduce response time and serving customers quicker.

Also speaking on the occasion, Hardee's operation manager, Abdul Atheem Mustafa said that Hardee's had witnessed a great deal of development in production and operation.



Al Mulla Exchange Free Insurance benefits more than 200 customer families

Al Mulla Exchange has again proved beyond doubt that their activities go beyond the normal parlance of remittances. The Free Insurance which is given along with every remittance and started nearly 6 years back has already given benefits to more than 200 Al Mulla Exchange customer families. All customers are eligible and can opt to avail for the Insurance coverage if they wish for it.

As the leading Exchange company making waves in the remittance market through innovation, technology and service, Al Mulla Exchange has proven beyond doubt that they are closer to their customers more than anybody else. The free insurance allotment is very simple. For every transaction that is being done, a free insurance coverage of KD 1,250 with a validity of one month is applicable. This gets renewed each time a transaction is done. For the customer there are no premiums to be paid or policies to be filled. The Insurance coverage amount and the validity comes printed on the receipt itself. Settlement of the claims is expedited very fast as per the terms and conditions governing the insurance coverage.

Some of the feature of the Insurance coverage include world wide coverage, Accidental death, Normal death, permanent total disability.

"We would like to thank Al Mulla Exchange for the wonderful care and help given to us. My husband was the breadwinner of the family and his sudden loss was really unbearable for us. Al Mulla Exchange's contribution was Godsend



and will help me and my children to be on our feet again," said Mrs. Sridevi wife of Mr. Sudhanlal Purbi Dhobi who unexpectedly passed away in due to a heart attack. Similar testimonies pour in from the recipient families conveying their gratitude to Al Mulla Exchange for their unflinching support and help. Since this corporate social responsibility covers all Al Mulla Exchange customers, the company encourages friends and relatives to check with Al Mulla Exchange in case one of their dear ones passes away. They will be able to check and verify their eligibility for the Insurance.

Al Mulla Exchange has presently 72 branches in Kuwait and is the most preferred Exchange company for customers.

ICSK students enjoy homemade food at World Food Day

The Indian Community School - Amman, Pre-primary section celebrated World Food Day on October 18, 2017. The greatest wealth is health. It starts from home. Children were asked to bring different types of homemade food. This was to make our children aware that homemade food items are not only tasty but also

healthy, to our surprise all the students participated and brought variety of delicious Indian dishes.

We had different types of food Veg Cutlet, Veg Sandwich, Veg Spring Roll, Urad/dal Vada, Veg/Cheese Samosa, Sweet dishes included, carrot Halwa, Dry Gulab Jamun, homemade cupcakes/plum cakes banana fry etc.

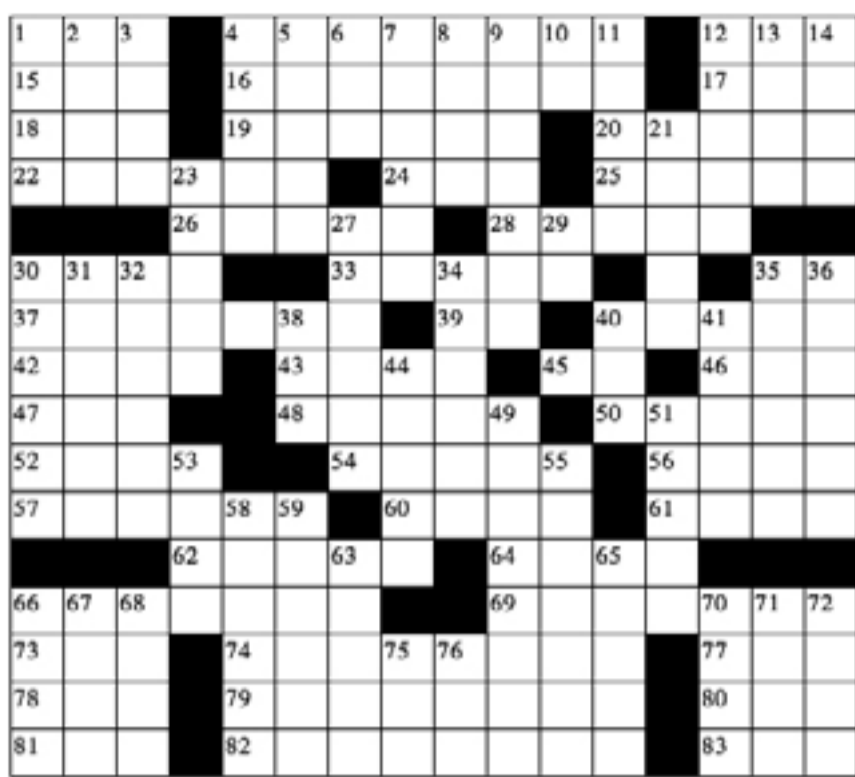
The greatest contribution was there from the Parents. They joyfully and enthusiastically sent food knowing that our children's health and well-being are dependent on our commitment to promote food access and good eating habits at home, at school and everywhere.

The food was arranged in the class as buffet-style. All the classrooms were filled with the aroma of food. Every dish was colorful and mouthwatering. It was a wonderful moment for the children and they enjoyed the day.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1744



ACROSS

1. (used of animals especially a horse) Of a moderate reddish-brown color n 1.
4. Become adolescent.
12. The compass point that is one point north of due east.
15. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
16. Genus of showy plants of western North America having palmate leaves and variously colored racemose flowers.
17. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
18. The cry made by sheep.
19. Accumulation in the blood of nitrogen-bearing waste products (urea) that are usually excreted in the urine.
20. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
22. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
24. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
25. Become ground down or deteriorate.
26. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
28. An informal term for a father.
30. Type genus of the Ranidae.
33. State in northeastern India.
37. An anticonvulsant drug (trade names Emeside and Zaronin) used to treat petit mal epilepsy.
39. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
42. Wrap us in a cerecloth, as of a corpse.
43. A ballistic missile that is capable of traveling from one continent to another.
45. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
46. One or some or every or all without specification.
47. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
48. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
50. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
52. Being three more than fifty.
54. Mediterranean germander having small hairy leaves and reddish purple flowers.
56. Avatar of Vishnu.
57. Steps consisting of two parallel members connected by rungs.
60. A pilgrim who journeys to Mecca.
61. (informal) Being satisfactory or in satisfactory condition.
62. The Uralic language spoken by the Yeniseian people.
64. Again but in a new or different way.
66. A member of the Sioux people formerly inhabiting an area along the Missouri river in western North Dakota.
69. (often followed by 'with') Damaged throughout by numerous perforations or holes.
73. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
74. Express the same message in different words.
77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
78. An honorary law degree.
79. Cosmopolitan genus of ferns.
80. Characteristic of a mob.
81. A Nilotic language.
82. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.

83. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

1. A small cake leavened with yeast.
2. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
3. Not only so, but.
4. Earlier a god.
5. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
6. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
7. Commemorates Saint Peter's miraculous deliverance from prison.
8. English essayist (1775-1834).
9. Disgraceful gossip about the private lives of other people.
10. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
11. Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
12. Derive or receive pleasure from.
13. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
14. The compass point that is one point east of northeast.
21. Type genus of the Ardeidae.
23. Lower in esteem.
27. The cavity in which the large intestine begins and into which the ileum opens.
29. Before noon.
31. Congenital absence of an arm or leg.
32. (Greek mythology) Any of the 50 sea nymphs who were daughters of the sea god Nereus.
34. A winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple.
35. A medium (art or business) that disseminates moving pictures.
36. An internationally recognized distress signal via radiotelephone (from the French m'aider).
38. The site of an archeological exploration.
40. A master's degree in business.
41. Indian religious leader who founded Sikhism (1469-1538).
44. (informal usage) A general feeling of boredom and dissatisfaction.
49. A member of the people of Gujarat.
51. A large number of things or people considered together.
53. The content of cognition.
55. Submersible vessel for one or two persons.
58. Take or catch as if in a snare or trap.
59. Any plant of the genus Reseda.
63. Large inoffensive chiefly nocturnal ungulate of tropical America and southeast Asia having a heavy body and fleshy snout.
65. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
67. An Eskimo hut.
68. Panel forming the lower part of an interior wall when it is finished differently from the rest.
70. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
71. Very dark black.
72. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
75. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
76. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Work and career should be a primary focus at this time. There are opportunities to make good decisions—the clear choice is yours. You are at your most practical and what happens now may have a lasting effect on your life direction. Break the mold and try what is extraordinary, but with real passion or persistence. You may be relentless in your quest to discover new insights—trying new and different things. You may decide to begin a course of study this fall. Things are happening and your career or path depends upon your own drive, which is strong now. This is a real time to buckle down and consolidate your career. Your sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Cash is coming your way.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A business trip appeals to you because you can also visit an exciting place and have a bit of a vacation. An important relationship, perhaps with a young person or with someone in your near environment, may come into focus today. There could be an emotional overtone to all of this that may require understanding and flexibility on your part. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance and you are good with the interaction that is needed. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts most. You could also feel great support from those around you for whatever decisions you make. You may enjoy taking advantage of some social opportunities later this evening. You feel healthy and natural.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The power of organization on a social scale business, politics and such seems to take on a larger than life aura. It's as if ambition and authority are answers in themselves, rather than only a means to an ideal objective. You will be able to assuage any tendency to be deceptive. Careful, your attention could be turned to the ambitious schemes that tend to become lost along the way. You will benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. You attract money today. Making money can take on an almost spiritual kind of power. It is as if making money is the reason for living. As soul-stirring as this may be, money can be disillusioning if you do not keep your wits about you. Sweet conversation and an easy-fix dinner may be in order this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Rewarding days make up for all the stress that comes with the challenging days. Sometimes the stress is good because you may, perhaps, find more positive directions. This particular day is a rewarding one; you can enjoy the attention or benefits. You are willing to take risks and dare to be a little unusual. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking new approaches. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions and today may be the time to dive into group issues. There are good fortune and plain old luck available now. There are plenty of opportunities to achieve your goals and you find yourself able to do almost everything, particularly when there is no time limit.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a rewarding and challenging day. You will enjoy the rewards of your hard work, even though it may only be the good feeling that comes when you do your best. Yes, this is a satisfying day—new and unexpected events may figure in your living situation or surroundings this afternoon. There is positive insight about your support system: mother, father, etc. You may enjoy being taken into confidence by a young person this day; you want to teach and be helpful. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights that will help this person move into adulthood and to have a good self-esteem. This is also a great time to help you and others to gain insight through historical or family research: genealogy.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Someone at work is determined that you are going to do as he or she says. This may go against what you think should be done. You will get through this by realizing where you are in the chain of command. Someday you will be wearing the other shoe, so to speak. Business projects can be easily completed with your new obedience. You begin to feel support from those around you. You feel good! Discussions about religious, cultural or philosophical controversies have a way of stirring your blood. You watch for the opportunities to speak up. Travel and adventure are compelling temptations as you dare to test your mettle and stretch your horizons. As you relax this evening, you may be quite pleased at how the whole day has progressed.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may come face to face today with someone who has very different values than you do. You could find yourself cast in an opposing position and this might require compromise and understanding on your part. There may be some legitimate tension today—particularly since you are very focused on your career and your finances. The dividend for your ability to compromise and find an understanding is most rewarding. This is a good time to be creative and secure the positive. The negative you might be experiencing is probably from outside forces; however, by maintaining a positive attitude, you will really tune into the solution. Keep a positive attitude and you will keep moving in the right direction. A family member wants your attention this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It is your time to be recognized at work. Your hard work will soon be paying off and others will give you credit for your efforts. This is a great time to be with others in an atmosphere of work or play. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. Quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions are available. This is a good time to communicate with your own ideas. There may be an opportunity to speak in front of an audience tonight. Financial and health problems should see some relief very soon. You enjoy your friends and probably have many good friends at work as well as around the neighborhood. A friend visiting this evening does not want to talk shop.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

If a loan is needed, today and tomorrow are the best times to put in your request. Difficulties, blocks and all manner of hot spots may have easy answers at this time—a little unusual, but inspiring. This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You feel successful and able to solve problems. Good advice from a guide is appreciated. Real insight into your own inner workings or psychology could surface in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for deep and penetrating conversations or thoughts this evening. Family members have a lot to say and it is all positive. The influence of one planet just now will help define the area of your life direction.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If you need professional advice, the next few days are the best times to seek that help. Secrets, conspiracies and hidden links that unite all things take on a greater importance now. Digging into the past for hints about the present and future uncovers a lot of answers to the questions that do not seem to go away. Instant gratification is one of the temptations to which you are subject now; you want things and you want them quickly. Learning what really counts is an important lesson that may be learned the hard way. A feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough characterizes the cycle you have just begun. You teach positive thinking and enjoy being a mentor. Your optimism makes you a good mentor.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Dieting may be a sour word for you so... Spit it out! Try putting on a new creative, heart-healthy frame of mind. This is the time where the energies will be working in your favor to make any nutritional changes that are necessary—listen to your body. You have a lot of emotional energy now and with it there is self-confidence in how you express yourself. You demonstrate understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others and on this day you are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. You could be under considerable mental tension or feel hemmed in by a too conservative mental atmosphere. You may feel compelled to change your mind. Bucking other people's ideas may be in order, but do it gently.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Everything is run through your checkpoint to see if it holds up and can pass the test. You can be a stickler with details. Sometime today you may find that higher-ups decide you would be the best person to be put in charge of research. This may allow you to leave the workplace and talk to people or utilize the city library or the internet for confirmation on a story or dates. Whatever you are assigned to report, double-check your numbers or facts. Some time to yourself without the usual interruptions of the workplace comes with responsibility but you are pleased to make the change in your routine. After a stimulating day, you may be ready to relax this evening but it would be better for your body if you put in some time to exercise.

Wordsearch Puzzle

60's Songs

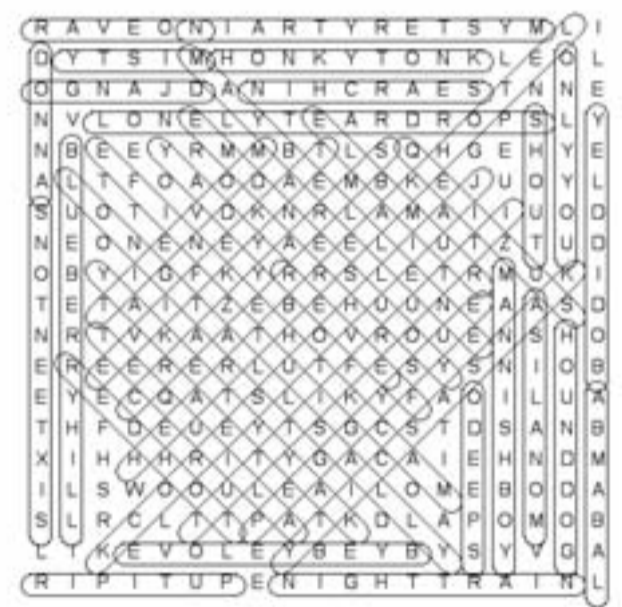
Find and circle all of the 1960's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional 1960's song.



- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| BABY LOVE | ELENORE | MEMPHIS | TEEN ANGEL |
| BLUE MOON | FINGERTIPS | MY GUY | THE BOXER |
| BLUE VELVET | FIRE | MY GUY | THE TWIST |
| BUS STOP | GALVESTON | PEOPLE | THESE EYES |
| CARA MIA | GOOD LOVIN' | PUPPY LOVE | VALLERIE |
| CHAIN GANG | GROOVIN' | RESPECT | VOLARE |
| CHERISH | HASK | RUNAWAY | WHITE SABBET |
| CRAZY | HEATWAVE | SHERRY | WILD THING |
| CRYING | HEY JUDE | SOUL MAN | WINGO |
| DIZZY | HOLIDAY | SPOOKY | WIPEDOUT |
| DOWNTOWN | IT'SYOCOD PARK | STAY | WORDS |
| EL PASO | LAST KISS | SURF CITY | YESTERDAY |

Yesterday's Solution

1950's Songs



- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| BLUEBERRY HILL | HOUND DOG | MONA LISA | SEARCHIN' |
| BO DIDDLEY | JAILHOUSE ROCK | MOVE IT | SHOUT |
| BYE BYE LOVE | KANSAS CITY | MYSTERY TRAIN | SIXTEEN TONS |
| CRAZY ARMS | LA BANBA | NIGHT TRAIN | SPEEDO |
| DJANGO | LOVELY TEARDROPS | ONLY YOU | SUZIE Q |
| DONNA | LONG TALL SALLY | PEGGY SUE | TAKE FIVE |
| EVERYDAY | MACK THE KNIFE | RAVE ON | TEQUILA |
| FEVER | MANNISH BOY | RED HOT | TUTTI FRUTTI |
| HEARTBREAK HOTEL | MAYBELLENE | RIP IT UP | YAKETY YAK |
| HONKY TONK | MISTY | RUMBLE | YOU SEND ME |

The hidden sentence is: I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS WORLD ALIVE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

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METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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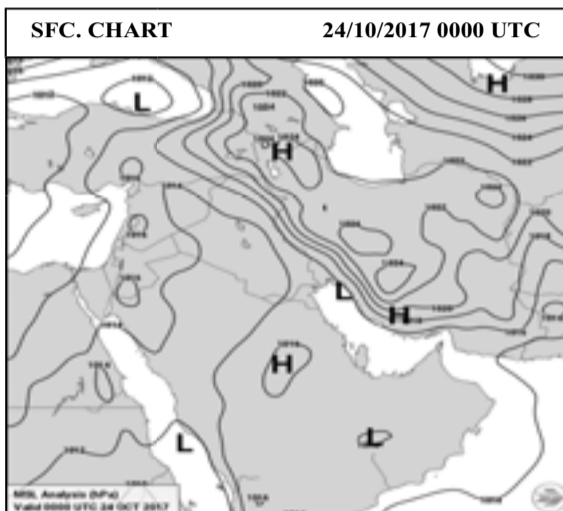
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h.

BY DAY: Relatively hot with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.

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

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	33 °C	24 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	36 °C	19 °C
ABDALY	36 °C	18 °C
BUBYAN	30 °C	18 °C
JAHRA	37 °C	19 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	33 °C	21 °C
SALMIYAH	30 °C	24 °C
AHMADI	32 °C	25 °C
NUWAISIB	38 °C	18 °C
WAFRA	37 °C	17 °C
SALMY	36 °C	20 °C



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	10/25	Relatively hot	36 °C	19 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 28 km/h
Thursday	10/26	Hot	37 °C	19 °C	NE-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Friday	10/27	Relatively hot	36 °C	20 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Saturday	10/28	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	35 °C	19 °C	SE	12 - 35 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:36
Sunrise	05:56
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:44
Sunset	17:08
Isha	18:26

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	35 °C
MIN. Temp.	16 °C
MAX. RH	48 %
MIN. RH	12 %
MAX. Wind	SE 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

लकड़ी अपार्टमेंट किराए देना है

दो कमरे, हॉल,
बॉरुथम, रसोईघर

सम्पर्क: 69996992, 66804222

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abdul Lathief Karattil, son of Mammi Karatt, holder of Indian Passport No. M5722393 & Civil ID No. 270100901906 has changed my name to Abdul Latheef Karatt.

TRANSPORT

Required transport from Abbasiya to Mangaf to reach 7:30 - 7:45 am. Call 69088065. (C 5351) 23-10-2017

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 18/10/2017				Departure Flights on Wednesday 25/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	VIZ	205	IAQ	12:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	511	Mashhad	12:45
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	513	Tehran	12:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KIS	7137	Mashhad	14:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	IRC	6512	ABD	15:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	796	Madinah	03:55	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	SVA	505	Madinah	16:55
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
JZR	563	Sohag	06:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
JZR	531	Asyut	06:45	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
JZR	505	Luxor	06:45	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	WAN	115	Bahrain	17:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
IRC	6511	ABD	09:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
IRM	1188	Mashhad	10:55	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
QTR	1075	Doha	11:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JZR	1443	Doha	11:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:40
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
WAN	954	GYD	13:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
KIS	7136	Mashhad	13:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:15	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
JZR	903	GYD	13:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35

Amanda Holden was man-handled by a clown

The 'Britain's Got Talent' judge was convinced a specter called Grimaldi tried to play a trick on her while she was rehearsing for her role as Princess Fiona in 'Shrek: The Musical' at Drury Lane theatre in London back in 2011 as he blocked her from escaping off into the wings. Speaking on 'This Morning' - which she is co-hosting with Ben Shephard this week while Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield are on holiday - yesterday, she said: "I had a massive ghost experience. When I was doing 'Shrek: The Musical' at Drury Lane in the West End, I was Princess Fiona and it was a really odd thing because we were doing a technical rehearsal, which is where you work out where the

lights are and everything, there's no audience there and you're in your normal clothes and I had stood on the stage with my back to the audience and they were showing me where the green light would come, which would tell me I had to turn into an ogre and to turn into an ogre I had to leg it off stage and put my mask on and be sprayed green. "Anyway, so I was standing and my dresser was in the wings there and there was someone here [next to her], so I moved out of the way and I turned to Davina [her dresser] and said: 'Whoever that was, they can't be there at that minute because I've only got two seconds to change.' And she said: 'Amanda, there was no one there.' "And then later, we read

that there is a ghost at Drury Lane called Grimaldi and he likes to move people about. So he was literally playing a joke. I was in my head thinking 'Oh it was probably me.' And so that was his joke and it's happened to a lot of other actors. He was chunky, very tall. It felt like a presence, I felt like I had to go round him." And it's not just Grimaldi who apparently wanders the wings of the theatre, as Amanda has told that there's another supernatural figure who has led to the cleaners being banned from using lavender.



The 71-year-old singer recently visited the Vanderbilt University Children's Hospital, in Nashville, to promote her new album 'I Believe In You' - her first album written exclusively for children - and during her visit she announced her generous donation to the hospital. The money was donated in honor of her niece Hannah - who was successfully treated for leukemia at the hospital, her sister Rachel, Hannah's dad Richard and her own physician Dr. Naji Abumrad. Dolly told the BBC: "I love children. I've always been involved in one way or another with children's charities or with children in general, because I love little kids. I'm from a big family of children." As well as donating the money to the hospital, Dolly is also head the Imagination Library, a non-profit organization that helps promote early childhood literacy by giving age-appropriate books to children to read. Dolly grew up impoverished and she admits her parents' advice to financial matters has shaped her attitude to money throughout her entire life. She said: "It's hard for me to spend money on tons of stuff because I'm going to look the same, no matter what I wear. If I wear diamonds I'm still going to look like a rhinestone. Being brought up poor means I don't take things for granted, and no matter how much money I make, I'll always count my blessing quicker and more often than I count my money. Even now if I go in a store it's hard for me to pay a huge amount of money for one item. I say, 'Good Lord! What could mommy and daddy have done with that?'"



Dolly Parton donates \$1 m to a children's hospital

Colin Farrell adopts business-like approach while shooting scenes

The 41-year-old actor stars alongside the award-winning actress in the new psychological thriller 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer', in which their characters become intimate with one another, but Colin said he considers steamy scenes to be part and parcel of his job. He explained: "You get through [those scenes] as quickly as you can, while not rushing it at the same time. It's very much business. "You're there to tell a story. You're there to honor the characters that have been written by somebody else and whose voice you are now beginning to adapt to yourself. You hear, 'Cut,' and everyone looks away, and you make sure that the person you're working with

has cover." Nicole, 50, plays Colin's wife in the new movie, and she's admitted to feeling "safe" while shooting the loves scenes with the Irish star. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I think from the minute [Colin and I] met, I just felt safe, which is always a great place to be with another actor." Nicole also claimed that such scenes often form a central part of telling the story. The Australian actress shared: "As soon as I take myself out of the equation, it's just the storytelling. "These particular scenes are very much needed for the relationship. 'They say so much."

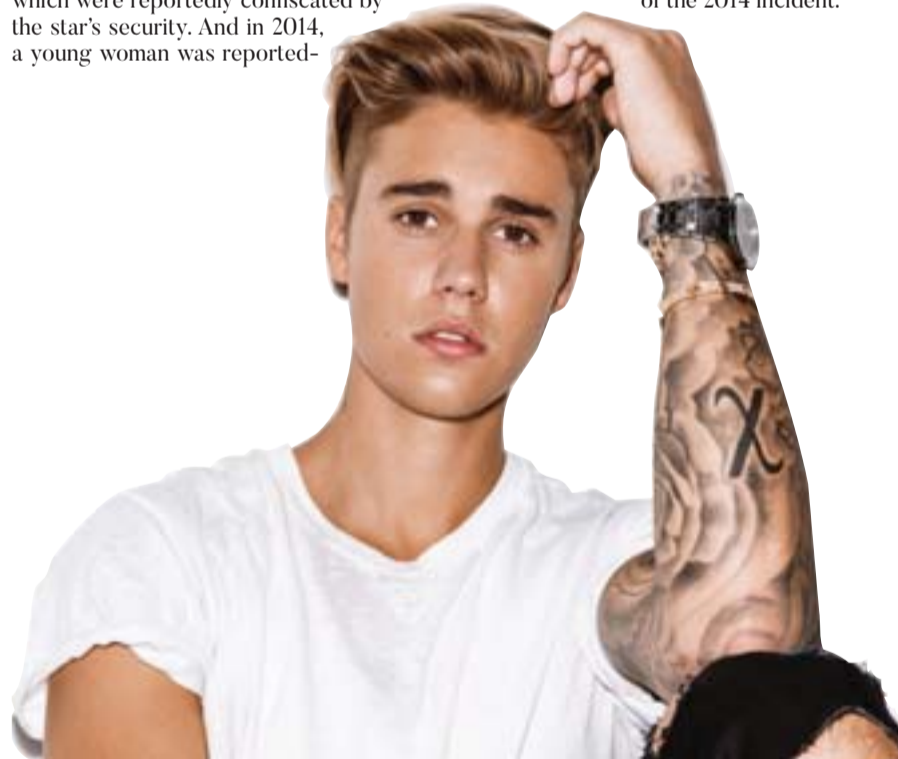
Katie Price accuses Chris Hughes of flirty messages

The 39-year-old former glamour model and the 'Love Island' hunk - who is in a relationship with Olivia Attwood, whom he met on the ITV2 show have been at loggerheads since Katie was accused of sending flirty WhatsApp messages to Chris, who posted screenshots of their one-sided conversation on social media. Katie later fired back by showing 52 screenshots of his replies, which were sent on Snapchat, to The Sun Online, but Chris insists the messages were not sent from his account. Now, the 'Loose Women' panellist has accused Chris of trying to make her "feel mental", by claiming she's made the whole thing up. She said: "All I know is some-

Justin Bieber fan arrested at his Los Angeles home

The woman, in her 40s, was apprehended by the Los Angeles Police Department at Justin's Beverly Hills estate, the third time she has visited the property in the past week looking for the 23-year-old singer. TMZ reports that Justin's security team detained the fan until police arrived and booked her for trespassing. Justin was at home during the incident but did not meet the woman. This is not the first time Justin has had to deal with fans trying to get in to his home. He left his Beverly Hills rental after just two months in 2015; not long after two young fans were caught sneaking on to the property. One of the fans was celebrating her 12th birthday and she and her pal captured their "break-in" on their phones, which were reportedly confiscated by the star's security. And in 2014, a young woman was reported-

ly found sleeping in one of the bedrooms his rented Atlanta, Georgia mansion. She was arrested by police for criminal trespass. She claimed to have met Justin via Twitter and said had been invited to a birthday party at the mansion. When she arrived to find it empty, she reportedly let herself in because the door was open. In a video of the incident, she could be seen talking on the phone to someone, saying: "Oh got it so you also are in charge of this place right? Oh, thank you so much, I understand so... I will be leave right now." She also urged someone at the property not to call the police, saying: "No see I don't want to let the police reach him please." Justin was on vacation with his father Jeremy at the time of the 2014 incident.



one who's parading around about mental health and he's trying to make out I'm mad, saying that he hasn't sent me messages, it's like pot-kettle. What is it? Kettle-pot? Pot-kettle? That's exactly what he's doing - trying to make me feel mental that I'm making the whole thing up when I'm so not." In one of the messages allegedly sent by Chris, he brands his own beau Olivia "fame hungry", and Katie thinks the hunk should "pipe down". Speaking to OK! magazine, she said: "He's slagging Olivia off and everything. For someone who has only had five minutes of fame and has only got two and a half minutes left, they should pipe down." Previously, Chris dubbed Katie as a "rotten piece of s**t" on social media after she released the screenshots, but more recently he claimed the messages must have been sent to her by someone else. He said: "I haven't sent her any messages. Either the messages are from someone pretending to be me, or Katie has made them up because she's embarrassed that I posted the flirty messages she sent me and wants to make me look bad. While you can't change your actual username on Snapchat, you can edit your display name.



Grace Jones used to be addicted to weight lifting

The 69-year-old singer and model - who was signed to Wilhelmina Modelling agency aged 18 - has admitted she used to work out "every morning and every evening" and would even train with Arnold Schwarzenegger in a bid to stay in shape, although she doesn't weight lift "anymore". Speaking to Time Out magazine, the star said: "I don't do weightlifting any more, though. I used to be addicted to it. I was doing it every morning and every evening. Don't forget I was working out with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dolph Lundgren. These are serious bodybuilders. "Nowadays I just have to make sure I can still pull up my whole body by myself." Although the 'Slave to the Rhythm' has ditched the weights, she has admitted she maintains her slender frame by carrying out cardio sessions instead. Asked how she stays in shape, she said: "Oh my goodness. Well, I swim, I cycle. I do soft sports now. And of course it helps if you're born with it too." Meanwhile, Grace has revealed when she goes on a night out the "most important thing" for her is to be left alone and not spoken to so she can dance. She explained: "Oh definitely. But I have to party by myself. I don't like to talk at parties. Dancing is the most important thing for me. I tell people: 'Don't try and talk to me, let me dance.' I've always been like this. I used to go to Tramps in London years ago with, you know, Duran Duran, Christopher Walken and [Robert] De Niro. I'd just tell the DJ what to play and dance."

Lifestyle | Gossip

Kristen Bell turned her house into an arts, crafts design project

The 37-year-old actress stars alongside Mila Kunis in the soon-to-be-released action movie 'A Bad Moms Christmas', and Kristen has admitted she loves getting caught up in the excitement of the holiday season. The Hollywood star - who has daughters Lincoln, four, and Delta, two, with husband Dax Shepard - shared: "My whole house becomes an arts and crafts design project, and it's really just for me, 'cause I love everything to sparkle, like snow globes..." "We have 35 Macy's Santa bears that are all over the couch." And Mila - who has three-year-old daughter Wyatt and ten-month-old son Dimitri with her husband, actor Ashton Kutcher - is similarly enthusiastic about Christmas. Mila told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I love the holidays, so, I feel like I have just as much fun decorating for myself as I theoretically do for myself. I love silly decorations, and I love things to be fun and not be classy." Meanwhile, Ashton recently revealed that he and Mila are determined to keep their children out of the spotlight. The Hollywood duo are among the most recognizable married couples in the world, but the 'Jobs' star insisted his children won't be appearing in any of their social media posts anytime soon. Ashton explained: "We have a private social network that we share stuff with the families so the grandparents can see the kids and stuff."



George Clooney is scared to hold his children



The 56-year-old actor has admitted he is terrified when he holds his four-month-old twins Ella and Alexander - who he has with his wife Amal Clooney - as he fears he will harm his kids because they are "so little" and fragile. Speaking on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live' on Monday (23.10.17) about his concerns now he is a parent, he said: "Listen, I'm scared to death, it's terrifying. You're afraid of breaking them. They're so little." And the 'Ocean's Eleven' hunk has hinted he is getting used to the nappy changing, because he has to do it so frequently. He said: "It's like cleaning up your dog's poop." The silver fox has revealed his children have recently been introduced to solid food, and he is amazed by how the pair digest their food. He explained: "We introduced the children to solid food on Friday. How that goes in as a carrot and how that comes out the way it comes out is shocking. I don't

know what's going from here to here. What happens?" The 'Suburbicon' director has revealed Ella and Alexander have very different personalities, as his daughter is "very elegant and dainty", whilst his son is heavier and is like a "thug". Speaking previously, the movie icon said: "They're born with personalities. Ella is very elegant and dainty she has these big beautiful eyes, she looks like Amal." "[Alexander] weighs three pounds more than his sister ... He's just a thug, he's a fat little boy, he laughs louder than everyone in the room, it's the funniest thing." However, George and his 39-year-old spouse have no plans to expand their family any time soon. When asked if their family is already complete, George answered, "Done!"



Anna Faris friends with Chris Pratt

The 40-year-old actress and the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star - who have five-year-old son Jack together - announced they were going their separate ways in August this year after eight years together, and whilst they might not be a couple any more, Anna still has a lot of love for her former flame. She said: "We're great. He's amazing. We're great friends and we always will be." Chris, 38, even wrote the foreword to Anna's upcoming memoir 'Unqualified' - which is based on her popular podcast of the same name will hit shelves yesterday - which she wrote about her "life experiences". Speaking during an appearance on 'Live With Kelly and Ryan' on Monday the 'Mom' star said: "He was so kind to [write the foreword]. I decided to write a book about my life experiences and when I started, I thought, 'This will be a great journey. This is a great idea. I know what I'm doing. I'm 40, I can write a book.' [Then] it's like, 'No. What was I thinking? This is a terrible idea.'" "But what I like to think is the takeaway [is] that a lot of our problems tend to be universal - the idea of jealousy, loneliness, heart-break. There's a commonality no matter what profession you're in or where you live and that's something the podcast has taught me. We all have the same stuff going on." It isn't the first time Anna has shared kind words about Chris either, as she previously said the pair would always be "incredible friends". She said: "We'll always have each other and be incredible friends. There is still so much laughter in our lives together, and he is so proud of me, still."

Heather Graham hopes women feel braver

The 47-year-old actress claimed earlier this month that she was one of over 40 women to have allegedly been sexually harassed by the disgraced producer, and she has now praised other women for coming forward and sharing their stories, as she hopes it will help people to "stand up for themselves". She said: "It's finally exploding! I think, hopefully for women everywhere, we feel braver to come forward with our stories and we feel we can stand up for ourselves. We see a predator is getting some kind of justice. It's something that women have been dealing with for a long time. I guess now it's finally exploding." And Heather specifically praised actress Ashley Judd, who shared her story in the New York Times article which first accused Weinstein of sexual harassment. She added: "I think seeing [Judd] doing it was inspiring - and other women in that article - and I just thought if we don't speak out, we enable this man to keep doing this for decades. And he shouldn't be doing it. The 'Scrubs' actress believes women didn't speak out against Weinstein sooner for fear of losing their jobs, but is pleased they can now say they "deserve to be treated better". Speaking during an appearance on the 'Today' show on Monday, 'The Hangover' star said: "I think in the past, we felt we couldn't speak out, we were afraid of losing our jobs. But I think now we're saying that we deserve to be treated better and the workplace should be a safe place for us to be."

Camila Cabello is scared of the ocean

The former Fifth Harmony singer has admitted her two biggest phobias are deep waters and the sharks that swim in them, and she once had an "anxiety attack" whilst scuba diving because she thought that the dangerous fish could "trace her pee". When asked what her biggest phobia is, the 20-year-old singer said: "I really have to get over my fear of sharks and the ocean. If I'm in the ocean and my feet can't touch the sand I won't do it, I freak out. I went to Canc'n this year with my family, and we went scuba diving, and I literally was having an anxiety attack while scuba diving. I was like, 'It's right behind me! I know it, it's right behind me!' It was not, I'm still here, but it was horrible. I peed a little bit in the ocean, and I was like, 'The shark can trace my pee, I know he's coming!'" Despite not being fond of the ocean, Camila loves being able to see different parts of the world, especially if she can take her family with her. Asked by Buzzfeed what her proudest achievement is, she said: "Taking my family to travel really beautiful parts of the world." Although the 'Crying in the Club' hit-maker loves spending time with her family, she recently bemoaned the fact that her hectic career often stops her from having a "normal social life". She said: "This isn't a 9-to-5 job. It's not like we clock in and then we're out, like we're living together. I don't have a normal social life experience. Like, I'm not going to school and then going to parties after and meeting people. At the same time, I still need to live life. I'm human and I need to hug people, I need to laugh with people, I need to cry with people. Like, I need that part."

Liam Payne unsure if he wants to get married



Although the 'Bedroom Floor' singer is madly in love with Cheryl Tweedy - the mother of his baby son Bear - he admitted marriage may not be on the cards for them. Speaking to Daily Star Online, Liam said: "I don't know if I'm the wedding-y type of guy. Weddings feel a bit weird to me. I don't know. Who knows? We'll see." However, Liam insisted he and Cheryl are happier than ever in "baby land" at the moment. He said: "We're just really happy in baby land at the moment." "When we're in the kitchen late at night, we were rapping, we were singing. We had a dance battle yesterday. She obviously won. I failed miserably, it was okay." Meanwhile, Liam recently praised Cheryl, 34, as a "fantastic" mum. While Cheryl revealed recently that she "hated" the process of being pregnant, Liam, 24, 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: "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."



Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Palestinian festival drops film over director's Israel trips

A Palestinian film festival on Sunday canceled the screening of a movie by a Lebanese-French director following pressure by activists who opposed his previous work in Israel. "The Insult," the latest movie by director Ziad Doueiri, was set to close the Palestinian Days of Cinema festival on Monday and was competing for the festival's top award. But after a charged campaign by activists on social media, the city of Ramallah, which was hosting the screening, told the festival to scrap the showing, according to Khulood Badawi, a spokeswoman for the festival, which agreed to the cancellation. It was not clear if the film was still eligible for an award.

Doueiri's previous film, "The Attack," about a Palestinian surgeon living in Tel Aviv who discovers that his wife carried

out a deadly suicide attack, was filmed in Israel and featured several Israeli actors. That film was banned in Lebanon and most Arab countries. Last month, Lebanese authorities briefly detained the Paris-based Doueiri because of his visits to Israel. "The director showed no remorse, and insisted on his stand, and we think screening any of his work at a Palestinian cinema festival would be a big mistake" said Abed Hamayel, an activist who campaigned against the film's screening.

A segment of Palestinians has long called for Arab political, economic and cultural leaders to boycott Israel as a way to prevent normalizing ties with the Jewish state. An international movement of activists also calls for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against people or companies doing busi-

ness with Israel. Doueiri could not be reached for comment, but Kamel Elbasha, a Palestinian actor who stars in the film, criticized the decision.

"Ziad was punished for that movie which was banned in all Arab countries," he said, adding that the activists were "mixing things up, lying and distorting facts," and questioning their motives. Elbasha won the best actor award for his role in the film at the Venice Film Festival in September. Film Lab Palestine, the group behind the Palestinian festival, noted that "The Insult," was being screened in Lebanon and in other festivals in the Middle East. The film, which focuses on a tense exchange between a Lebanese Christian and a Palestinian refugee, explores the fraught place of Palestinians in Lebanese society. "The Insult" was selected



Lebanese film director Ziad Doueiri, speaks to journalists after being released by a military court, in Beirut. — AP

for this year's edition of the festival since it addresses an important issue for the Palestinian people," said a statement from the group. It also said the film was selected because it stars Elbasha, who hails from east Jerusalem. — AP

Katy Perry makes surprise appearance at US couple's wedding

Pop star Katy Perry made a surprise appearance at an American couple's wedding over the weekend, taking photos and dancing with the newlyweds at their reception in St. Louis. Perry was in the midwestern city for a concert, when she and her entourage surprised newlyweds Hayley Rosenblum and Blonie Dudney at the Four Seasons Hotel on Saturday night. "She actually asked the bride and groom if she could come in and crash their wedding, and they both said yes," wedding guest Amy Prada said.

"Everyone was shocked and happily surprised," Prada said, adding that Perry visited for about 15 minutes, dancing with the couple, and taking selfies with guests. The surprise came late into the night. Wedding photographer Ray Prop told St. Louis Magazine that he was getting ready to leave. "All of a sudden, the crazy human-train stopped right at the bride and groom, and a woman with short blonde hair in a baseball cap said: 'Do you mind if we crash your wedding?'" Prop said. Perry was in town for her "Witness" tour, and mentioned the wedding visit during her Sunday performance, according to posts on social media.—AFP



US singer Katy Perry

US director James Toback accused by 38 women of sexual harassment

The Hollywood sexual abuse scandal widened Monday after 38 women were said to have accused US film director James Toback of unwanted sexual encounters over a period of decades. Toback reeled them in with boasts about his movie career and connections, as well as claims he could make them a star, according to their accounts to the Los Angeles Times. Following the publication of its story, the paper was inundated with emails and phone calls from more than 200 additional women, it said, though the majority of the new accounts have not yet been verified.

They did, however, follow the pattern uncovered in its investigation: in meetings framed as interviews or auditions, Toback allegedly would turn disturbingly personal, with questions veering to masturbation and pubic hair. "He told me he'd love nothing more than to masturbate while looking into my eyes," Louise Post, who met Toback in 1987 while attending Barnard College, told the Times. "Going to his apartment has been the source of shame for the past 30 years, that I allowed myself to be so gullible," said Post, who is now a guitarist and singer for Veruca Salt, an indie rock band.

Toback denied the allegations, telling the Times he had never met the women, or if he did, it "was for five minutes and (I) have no recollection." His representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Toback, now 72, has been a writer and film director since 1974. His most recent movie, "The Private Life of a Modern Woman," starring Sienna Miller, premiered this year at the Venice Film Festival. In 1987, he made the semi-autobiographical "The Pick-up Artist", and other credits include the Oscar-nominated screenplay for "Bugsy," directed by Barry Levinson and starring Warren Beatty and Annette Bening.

Intimidating power

The Times said it interviewed all 38 women who came forth separately — 31 of them on the record—as well as people they had spoken with about the incidents at the time. None had reported the encounters to the police at the time. But a spokesperson for the Manhattan District Attorney's office told The Times that women were being encouraged to

call their hotline in relation to Toback who lives in New York.

A cascade of accounts by women of sexual abuse has flooded social media under the hashtag #MeToo since a similar scandal surrounding movie mogul Harvey Weinstein erupted earlier this month. A Who's Who of actresses and models have come forward to accuse Weinstein of rape, sexual assault and harassment, and of using his intimidating power in Hollywood to keep his behavior hushed up. Weinstein, who is reported to have checked himself into a rehab program in Arizona for sexual addiction, insists all his sexual encounters have been consensual.

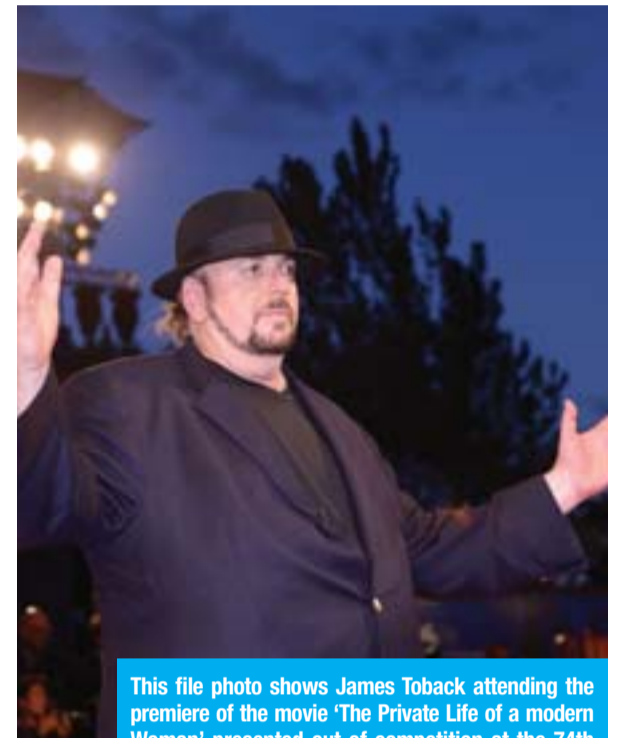
Criminal investigations in his case are under way in London, Los Angeles and New York. The scandal has prompted fresh calls for justice from 46-year-old former child star Corey Feldman, who took to social media on Thursday last week to share his own experience of abuse. "4 THE RECORD: I WILL NOT B GOING ON A TALK SHOW 2 DISCLOSE NAMES OF MY ABUSER OR ANY1 ELSE'S ABUSERS. SO PLEASE STOP ASKING ME 2 DO SO," he said, launching into a seven-message Twitter tirade.

Hollywood pedophile ring

He went on to say he had been "mocked & shamed" and had his career destroyed for campaigning against what he describes as a Hollywood pedophile ring that abused him as a child. Feldman says he and fellow child star Corey Haim, who died in 2010, were abused by studio executives as they were making a name for themselves, including "some of the most richest, most powerful people in this business."

Filmmaker Paul Haggis ("Million Dollar Baby"), "Crash" told the London-based Guardian newspaper he didn't believe sexual harassment and abuse were endemic, but added that Feldman's accusations merited serious investigation. "Were people covering for pedophiles, too? We have to think that may have happened as well, because no one speaks out about being abused just to benefit their career," he said.

Meanwhile, Hollywood's Agency for the Performing Arts placed talent manager Tyler Grasham on leave, according to the Hollywood Reporter, after he was accused of sexually



This file photo shows James Toback attending the premiere of the movie 'The Private Life of a Modern Woman' presented out of competition at the 74th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP

assaulting and harassing several young, male clients. And Reese Witherspoon weighed into the scandal last week in a speech to an Elle Women in Hollywood event in Beverly Hills, during which she revealed she was attacked by a director when she was 16 — the first of "multiple experiences of harassment and sexual assault."

Two new women have also emerged to accuse Oscar-winning French-Polish director Roman Polanski of sexually assaulting them in the early 1970s, when they were 10 and 15. Polanski's lawyer Herve Temime said his client was innocent of all "baseless accusations" of sexual misconduct apart from the statutory rape of Samantha Geimer, for which he has been on the run from US authorities for four decades. Polanski, 84, fled the United States in 1978 before he could be sentenced after pleading guilty to having unlawful sex with Geimer.—AFP



Pink's 'Beautiful Trauma' tops Billboard, one of 2017's biggest debuts

Pop star Pink soared to the top of the US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday with one of the year's biggest album sales debuts, beating out new albums from rapper Gucci Mane and rocker Beck. "Beautiful Trauma," Pink's seventh studio album, sold 408,000 album units in its first week. This comprised sales from albums and songs and streaming consumption, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. The strong first week sales is the biggest debut for a female artist this year and the fourth biggest album debut of 2017, coming in behind Kendrick Lamar's "Damn.," Drake's "More Life" and Ed Sheeran's "Divide." The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Gucci Mane's "Mr. Davis" debuted at No. 2 with sales of 70,000 album units while Beck's "Colors" opened at No. 3 with 46,000 album units. Singer-songwriter St. Vincent was the only other new entry in the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart with her album "Masseduction" at Nov 10. On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, alt-rockers Imagine Dragons climbed one spot to the top with "Thunder." Lin-Manuel Miranda's star-studded Puerto Rico hurricane relief charity single "Almost Like Praying" dropped from No. 1 to No. 51.—Reuters

Loretta Lynn returns after stroke to honor Alan Jackson

Country star Alan Jackson, the late guitarist and singer Jerry Reed and songwriter Don Schlitz were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame on Sunday. Country icon Loretta Lynn returned to the Hall of Fame for the first time since she suffered a stroke in May to formally induct Jackson. Lynn, who cancelled her tour dates this year to recover, said Jackson was the only person that could make her leave her house.

She recalled meeting Jackson when he was a nervous young artist decades ago and knowing then that he would "be one of the greatest singers in country music." "He hadn't let me down," said Lynn, who is also a member of the Hall of Fame. The 59-year-old Jackson is still one of country music's most successful solo artists, having sold nearly 45 million albums in the United States and had 26 singles reach the top of the Billboard country charts.

With his baritone voice and knack for telling stories about small town Southern life,

the Newnan, Georgia-born singer was among a wave of neo-traditionalists that broke through in the 1990s. He joked that when he was signed to Arista Nashville, a label started by Clive Davis, they had no idea how popular he would become. "I was just a token country singer they signed for that label and bam, I took off," Jackson said. Many of his hits became instant classics, from the barroom staple "Chattahoochee" to the somber "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)" written after the Sept 11 attacks. But he's also been characterized as shy and uneasy in the media spotlight.

"I am not really shy, just socially awkward," Jackson said. "I just don't like to talk too much." Instead, he let his songs speak for him, often writing about his father, his wife and the everyday joys and sorrows of the average man. Other hits include "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," "A Lot About Livin' (And a Little 'Bout Love)" and "When Somebody Loves You." George Strait, Alison Krauss and Lee Ann Womack each performed one of Jackson's songs in his honor.

Reed, who died at age 71 in 2008, was first known as an in-demand studio musician with a unique finger picking style on the guitar. He played for and wrote songs for stars like Elvis Presley and Porter Wagoner. Reed, originally from Atlanta, became more popular when his songs began charting. His hit song "When You're Hot, You're Hot" earned him a Grammy award.—AP

This fall make trouble with 'Steve Madden'

This fall, the dangerous beauty of iconic blondes like Debbie Harry, Nancy Spungen and Caroline Vreeland and the fearless originality of men like Sid Vicious, Andy Warhol and our very own Steve Madden have us feeling empowered, charismatic and awake. 70s glam is back and we're wearing dark metallics, glitter and sky high platforms that elicit optimism and strength. We're nostalgic about the days of grunge in plaid and loafers, standing for love in military inspired camo and nickel, and celebrating the excess and glamour of eastern culture with outrageous prints and embellishment. This Fall, Make Trouble with Steve Madden.

70s fever

The grit and glam of disco fever is back and we're reimagining the glamorous 70s with dark metallics like the PIERA, platforms like the gonzo and glory and exotic skins and fur. The guys are channeling the 70s with polished lace up oxfords like the elvin and candyd.

Urban impact

We've been struck with grunge nostalgia. Cherished preppy favorites like loafers and plaid are getting toughened up this time around. Loafers like the lydia and rainbow are equipped with brilliant platforms, and slip on sneakers like the gills, gusto and pluto are ready to hit the NYC streets. We're packing the necessities in the BWILMA, a chic new backpack from our accessories collection. SM guys are wearing street style sneakers like the ormisten, defstar and bionic.

Off duty

Our strength and determination are reflected in military inspired looks featuring camouflage, combat boots and cool nickel hardware. We're all about the lace up bootie, as evi-

denced by these three favorite versions, the flame, laurie and officer. Guys are wearing the military trend with cool fall boots like the highline, palazzo and loren.

Eastern dreams

Inspired by the thoughtfulness and elegance of eastern design, our fall collection features prints, embroidery and embellishment of eastern influence, like the stardust and

avenue booties and the bfaith over the shoulder handbag, the crownery and cachet are adorned in embroidery and metal accents, for the guys looking to make a serious style statement. Revamp your shoe closet this season with Steve Madden's fabulous AW '17 collection available at The Avenues-The Mall & Sama Mall, Fintas.



Lifestyle | Awards

Zendaya, Cate Blanchett preach empowerment at InStyle Awards



Zendaya, recipient of the Style Star award, poses at the 3rd annual InStyle Awards at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. — AP photos



Demi Lovato

LOS ANGELES: Empowerment was the de facto theme at the third annual InStyle Awards Monday night, where Hollywood and fashion A-listers from Cate Blanchett and Zendaya to Cindy Crawford gathered on an open-air patio at The Getty Center to celebrate one another and those behind the scenes that make the glamour possible. Attendees were dressed to the nines on the hot October night in Los Angeles.

But glitz seemed to be the last thing on anyone's mind as they took the stage to speak to the intimate crowd, which included the likes of Heidi Klum, Kate Bosworth, Brie Larson, Ellen Pompeo, Faith Hill, Taika Waititi and Connie Britton among others. "What we've created with fashion goes beyond just clothes and hair and makeup. We've created a platform to show different types of beauty," style star honoree Zendaya said.



Positivity dominated the evening

Mothers, she said, have told her that because she wears her hair in an Afro style, that their daughters like their own hair now. "What the world needs right now is people who are exactly who they are," she said. Blanchett, who was given the Style Icon award, also used her platform to talk about how the true icons of style are women "who have been utterly themselves without apology."

"It's about women who feel free to wear what they want, when they want and how they want to wear. And we know we all like looking sexy, but it doesn't mean we want to (expletive) you," Blanchett said to loud cheers. "I wouldn't say to Steve Bannon, 'You look like a bag of trash. Do you want me to throw you out?' But the comments that get said about what women wear on the red carpet..."

Demi Lovato, recognized for her advocacy work, said that "the more you talk about issues and the things that you've gone through, the more you can help others. That's what's really important: Sharing life experiences with other



Actress-singer Selena Gomez, right, poses with Makeup Artist of the Year Hung Vungo.

people on this planet." Positivity dominated the proceedings of the evening, which saw emotional speeches from makeup artist Hung Vungo, who talked about his humble beginnings in war-torn Vietnam and a refugee camp, and hair stylist Harry Josh, who advocated for cruelty-free products.

One name that wasn't mentioned on the podium, however, was Harvey Weinstein or the culture of sexual harassment that has dominated talk in the industry for the past three weeks, even among otherwise outspoken advocates like Brie Larson and Lovato. But there was an undeniable recurring message of defiance and power that permeated every speech. "I have to say, bring it on ladies," Blanchett said. "Break it wide open." —AP



Heidi Klum



Elle Fanning



Faith Hill



Kelly Rowland



Cindy Crawford



Actress Cate Blanchett, right, poses with her husband Andrew Upton



Harry Josh, center, poses with actresses Ellen Pompeo, left, and Kate Bosworth.

Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017



MEXICO CITY: People look at a colorful skull painted by artist Ignacio Villanueva Aguirre and titled 'Xoloitzcuintli El Perro Sagrado de Los Aztecas' at Reforma avenue in Mexico City. — AFP

The forgotten history of Rodin's Napoleon, found in New Jersey

Napoleon Bonaparte and Auguste Rodin are both household names in their own right. But a bust of the French emperor created by the master sculptor faded into oblivion in an American town, only to be discovered by chance. The white marble statue was certainly visible in the meeting room of the borough hall of Madison—a municipality of 16,000 people in New Jersey. In fact for some 80 years, the bust was positioned on a pedestal, carelessly leaned on during meetings.

But in 2014, a 22-year-old art history student recruited to take inventory of the building's artworks, came across the bust and noticed a signature that read "A. Rodin" in the sculptor's immediately recognizable style. Intrigued by the discovery, Mallory Mortillaro consulted experts and dug into archives, determined to confirm whether it was indeed a genuine Rodin. She was eventually pointed in the direction of the Paris-based Comité Auguste Rodin, the leading authority on the father of modern sculpture.

And the mystery was solved: in the group's collection of

documents was a photograph showing Rodin posing with the bust, which was believed to have been lost. In September 2015, Rodin expert Jerome Le Blay, author of the artist's catalogue raisonné, or descriptive inventory, traveled to Madison. He needed only seconds to confirm the authenticity of the piece. In addition to the hundred-year-old photo, Le Blay confirmed in an interview: "The stone corresponds exactly with that used by Rodin during that era."

The proof was in the pantograph

The identification of the statue—worth between \$4 and \$12 million—paradoxically was cause for concern for the Hartley Dodge Foundation, which manages the building. "There was no

paperwork, there was absolutely no record that it had entered the building," Nicolas Platt, the foundation's president, told CBS News. For security reasons, the directors kept the revelation a secret for two years, before announcing last week it was to be transferred to the prestigious Philadelphia Museum of Art.

During this time, the bust's history was uncovered. The marble was commissioned originally in 1904 by the wife of John Woodruff Simpson, a prominent lawyer in New York—but after some time, Simpson stopped responding. "Marbles generally took two or three years to complete in Rodin's time, so it's possible that between the commission and 1907-1908, she became a little discouraged," Le Blay told AFP.

Lost without a trace

Thomas Fortune Ryan, a friend of the collector, then bought the piece during a visit to the Paris suburb of Meudon in 1909. Once he died, the bust was lost following a 1933 auction of his estate. Research revealed that a merchant had bought the statue on behalf of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, daughter of prominent financier William Rockefeller. She constructed the Hartley Dodge Memorial-Madison's borough hall—in tribute to her son killed in 1930 in a road accident in France, and decorated the interior with works from her collection.

"Geraldine Rockefeller regularly brought pieces, a bit like you would decorate your country house with pieces from your main house," Le Blay explained. But records were not kept, meaning the bust's whereabouts became unknown over time. It is thought Rodin took inspiration from Napoleon's death mask to create the bust, as well as working with a lookalike as he did when creating his "Monument to Balzac." The statue is engraved with the inscription "wrapped in his



This photo shows a bust of Napoleon Bonaparte by Auguste Rodin. — AFP

dream." In plaster studies kept at the Rodin Museum in Paris, Napoleon's face is "a bit more warrior-like," Le Blay said. "In the final marble, he has a more questioning side, much more evasive." "He is no longer Bonaparte the young victorious general, but he is not yet the French emperor who went on to conquer Europe, crushing everything in his path. He is between the two," Le Blay added.—AFP

Graffiti set design adds punch to Cuba theater festival

HAVANA: A play parodying the lengths some Cubans will go to in order to earn a few tourist dollars set against the backdrop of socially critical graffiti is adding punch to Havana's annual theater festival. The first-time collaboration between veteran theater director Nelda Castillo, 64, and street artist Yulier Rodriguez, 27, underscores unease among some Cubans with the recent influx of tourists on the cash-strapped, Communist-run island. The interdisciplinary spectacle, "Guan melon!, tu melon!", is also an example of the innovative ways Cubans are pushing the boundaries of critical expression.

Rodriguez's eerie murals of creatures that look malnourished and malformed had become ubiquitous throughout Havana over the last three years, reflecting his view of the dark path upon which society was. But the artist said authorities detained him for two days in August and ordered him to stop painting in public spaces. Graffiti is seen as vandalism in many countries, although Rodriguez suspects authorities stopped him more because they did not like the content of his work.

"Now I am limited in what I can do in the streets, any space where I can exhibit my work becomes a space of resistance for me," said Rodriguez. Castillo, who often collaborates with visual artists, said she invited Rodriguez to paint the walls of the renowned El Ciervo Encantado theater because she knew his graffiti would enrich her play. "The piece is about the Cubans' struggle in the street in the context of the new relations with the United States and the influx of American visitors," she said. "His work is also about that struggle in the street."

In the play that was first staged last year, a skinny and squat comic duo attempt frantically to entertain tourists arriving on cruise ships with Cuban tunes and to sell them outsized cigars and paper cones of peanuts. A student with a manic fake smile, rudimentary English and a hypersexualized walk sells chocolate and offers salsa lessons, city tours and cabaret acts "as way to make ends meet."

In a beleaguered economy which shrank last year and where the average state salary is \$30 a month, the tourist sector is a relative gold mine. Castillo said Rodriguez's graffiti - eerie, scared and hungry-looking creatures with four eyes, two gaping mouths or a crown of skulls - was like another protagonist in the play. "Dialogue is always enriching as long as it is coherent," said Castillo. The two kept quiet about their collaboration until the day it opened to the public, at the start of the theater festival that runs from Oct. 20-29.—Reuters

