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Govt heading to resign, will skip next Assembly session

Speaker meets Amir, says parliament will not be dissolved

Grilling of interests



From the editor's desk

By Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan
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The National Assembly started its new term with the same old tune. Immediately after HH the Amir concluded the opening ceremony with his words of wisdom, several members of parliament started sharpening their knives while eyeing State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. These lawmakers accused the minister of several violations in both ministries and filed a no-confidence motion against him. The minister was also accused of favoring expatriates over Kuwaitis when appointing staff at several state departments, and his financial integrity was questioned.

It is the constitutional right of MPs to question the performance of any Cabinet minister. However, the intention behind such motions should have the betterment of the country at heart and not a personal agenda against the government. I say the same old tune because it has become evident that many grilling motions in the recent political history of Kuwait are driven by personal agendas - as pressure or to seek revenge for anything other than the benefit of the country.

On this occasion one MP supported the grilling and had the audacity to blatantly admit he's doing it to take a hit at the government for not reinstating the nationalities of those who lost their citizenships in a recent disputed nationality scandal. If this is the reason, then file a different motion altogether against the concerned ministries on this issue and not just support any allegation over peer pressure.

As for the question of favoring expats - I'm sorry: Since when did appointing expats become a crime? This recent wave of anti-expat sentiment is deeply disturbing and is being used as a scapegoat for the shortcomings of lawmakers to deal with the serious problems facing Kuwait - like visa traders with their paper companies that have a ridiculous amount of work permits, the traffic issues caused by flawed road planning and extremely rude drivers that add to the misery of the road conditions and many more issues, but that is a story by itself.

When it comes to the people the minister hired, I am sure he had a number of candidates - both expats and Kuwaitis - then picked from both groups those who deserved the job based on merit. I am sure the accusing MPs have also hired workers in their own private companies for the very same reason.

I can safely say the parliament should concentrate on projects that increase Kuwaiti manpower rather than prosecuting expats for working in Kuwait. Trust me - as a business owner, I can safely say I prefer to hire local. But more often than not, we struggle to keep qualified Kuwaiti staff for any length of time and to meet their salary expectations.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah comes from a highly-respected branch of the royal family and the accusations towards his financial integrity - to my knowledge of him - is clearly a publicity stunt and an attempt to ruin his reputation the same way several ex-MPs accused Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah of the same issue with fake evidence and fake videos, which took the country on a time-wasting merry-go-round. These accusations came from an MP who was also part of those who falsely accused the ex-prime minister, so I would be extremely skeptical of his intentions and allegations.

Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah publicly stated that he is ready to take the stand, and for those of us who know him well, we expect nothing less from him. Stand by your morals, defend your legacy and carry on your good work.

By B Izzak

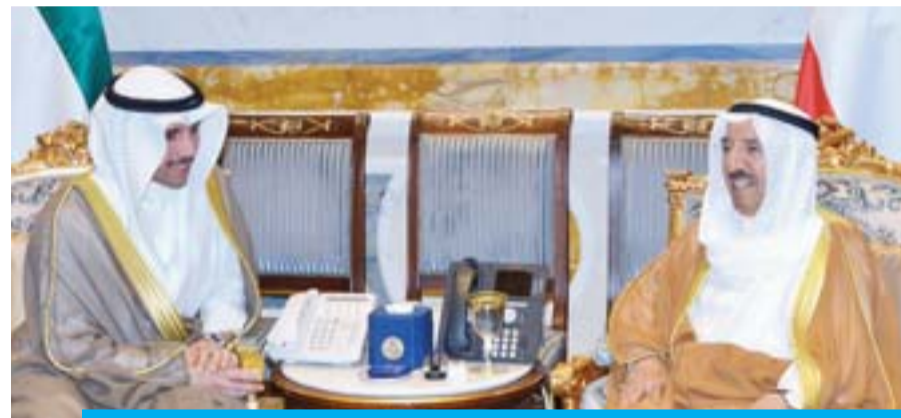
KUWAIT: It looks almost certain that the government will submit its resignation before its weekly meeting on Monday to pave the way for forming a new government, parliamentary and government sources said yesterday. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem told reporters after meeting HH the Amir yesterday that the government will not attend the next Assembly session scheduled for next Tuesday "whether through resignation or any other measure".

But the speaker squashed reports speculating that the Assembly will be dissolved, saying that he believes this will not happen. The fast-paced developments yesterday came as more lawmakers declared their support for a no-confidence motion filed against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah following a

marathon grilling on the Assembly's opening day on Tuesday.

Around 22 lawmakers have publicly said they will support the motion, just three short of the 25 votes required to oust Sheikh Mohammad, a senior member of the ruling family, from his post. The developments came as more MPs said they will file to grill more ministers. MPs Faisal Al-Kandari and Omar Al-Tabtabaei said they will file to grill Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq today over alleged violations, while a number of other MPs said they will file to grill Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh. MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei also threatened to grill Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is highly expected to be renamed to form the new Cabinet after the Amir officially accepts the government resignation. If the government resigns, it will be doing so barely after one year of



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

its formation following the parliamentary election in November last year in which the opposition made a strong showing.

Earlier this year, a grilling forced former information minister and state minister for sports and youth Sheikh Salman

Al-Sabah to step down as the first victim of the post-election Cabinet. It was not immediately known whether the ministers who were grilled or threatened of grilling will be retained in the new Cabinet.

Continued on Page 11

Vigil held against park 'land grab'

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: Residents of Rawda, MPs and several environment activists gathered peacefully at Jamal Abdul Nasser Public Garden for a candlelight vigil yesterday evening against the destruction of roughly 1,500 sq m of the park for the construction of a Quran House and a bank branch.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal blamed the "negative direction" of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources and Awqaf and Municipality Minister Mohammed Al-Jabri. "This is legally and ecologically incorrect. Plus, it didn't gain popular acceptance by the people of Rawda. We will use our legislative tools if we have to do so, unless the problem is resolved. In addition, we will try to enact legislation that will fill legal gaps to ensure that this does not happen again in the future," he vowed.

MP Ahmad Al-Fadhl recalled he had previously submitted a petition along with MP Yousef Al-Fadhalah saying that no green area can be cleared without approval from the Environmental Public Authority. "I spoke to Minister Al-Jabri recently and he affirmed that



KUWAIT: A candlelight vigil is held at Jamal Abdul Nasser Public Garden in Rawda yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the decision to prevent encroachment on public parks is valid and promised that violators will be held responsible for this, whether from the agriculture authority or the municipality," he said. The issue goes back to 2010 when a group of residents asked the PAAAFR for the development of the park. A list of 25 items was created,

of which only four were approved - refurbishment of the lighting, a sunshade over the playground, new outdoor games and rehabilitation of pedestrian paths for disabled people who frequent the park and mothers with strollers. But development works were not initiated until 2015.

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Qatar to introduce minimum wage as part of labor reforms

DOHA: World Cup 2022 host Qatar has agreed to a range of labor reforms including the introduction of a minimum wage. Other proposed changes include job contracts being lodged with the government so they cannot be changed on arrival in Qatar, and employers no longer being able to stop staff from leaving the country. Separately, state media announced the gas-rich emirate has signed bilateral accords with 36 countries from which it draws most of its two-million-strong foreign workforce, to provide legal protection for workers.

The wide-ranging reforms have apparently been agreed between the Qatari government and various organizations, including one of its fiercest critics, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The



DOHA: This file photo taken on May 4, 2015 shows foreign laborers walking back to their accommodation in the Al-Wakrah suburb. — AFP

reforms were announced on the eve of an International Labor Organization (ILO) meeting that could see the launch of a formal investigation by the UN agency into Qatar's treatment of migrant workers.

Continued on Page 11

US-bound passengers face new security interviews at check-in

WASHINGTON: US-bound travelers will face security interviews before checking in to flights at a number of global airlines beginning today as anti-terror measures are stepped up around the world. They will affect 325,000 airline passengers on about 2,000 commercial flights arriving daily in the United States, on 180 airlines from 280 airports in 105 countries. Lufthansa, Emirates, Air France and Norwegian Air confirmed to AFP yes-

terday that US authorities had asked for tougher controls at departure airports for non-stop flights to the United States. Other carriers and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) industry group confirmed the new measures.

"In addition to the controls of electronic devices already introduced, travelers to the USA might now also face short interviews at check-in, document check or gate," a Lufthansa spokesperson said. "The implementation will take place on October 26. The security of our passengers and staff is our top priority." Emirates said passengers would be subjected to "pre-screening interviews at the check-in counter" whereas Air France said it expected to apply an additional "security interview".

Continued on Page 11

Top court rejects lawsuit to cancel new health fees

KUWAIT: The administrative department at the supreme court rejected a lawsuit filed by a lawyer against the health ministry to overturn its decision to increase healthcare fees for expatriates. The Fatwa and Legislation Department pleaded on behalf of the health ministry and demanded to dismiss the case, submitting a defense memorandum behind the ministry's decision.

The case was first heard by the court in August, and decided on Oct 4 to defer the verdict until yesterday. The health ministry has issued a decision to increase fees on expatriates due to increase in costs for providing healthcare services such as surgeries, medical equipment, laboratories and medical supplies. The decision came into force on Oct 1 with the exception of emergency and critical cases.

Meanwhile, the interior ministry announced yesterday that owners of vehicles parking on pedestrian crossings will face heavy fines starting from Oct 29. This new policy is within the provisions of article 169 on keeping vehicles parked away from pedestrian crossings, said the ministry, adding that the violators' vehicles will be impounded for two months and a fine of KD 15 will be imposed.

Violators will pay an additional KD 10 for transporting the vehicle to the facility and will be fined KD 1 daily during the period of impoundment, the ministry's general department of public relations and security media said in a statement. According to articles 208 and 210 of the traffic law, the department is not responsible for any damage that occurs while transporting impounded vehicles, it concluded. — KUNA

Amir congratulates National Assembly committee members

MPs adhere to tenets of Amiri address: Speaker

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables of congratulations to members of parliament who won memberships of standing committees, during elections on Tuesday. He wished all of them success in the service of Kuwait. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent cables to committee members to congratulate them on their memberships. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

MPs are eager to implement the guidelines of His Highness the Amir's address to the opening of the second session of the 15th legislative term of parliament, Ghanem

said after meeting the His Highness Sheikh Sabah. The parliament was honored to have been visited by Kuwait's leader, he said, adding that His Highness the Amir called on parliament and the cabinet to be vigilant and aware of the external threats that might harm Kuwait and its people. He indicated that he would be meeting with MPs on an unofficial capacity to discuss ways to stand against external threats.

His Highness the Amir in his opening speech to parliament Tuesday indicated that Kuwait's involvement in the mediation efforts to end the Gulf crisis was to make sure that the GCC household be protected from harm. His Highness the Amir also said that he was the one responsible for the protection of the constitution, affirming that no one will be allowed to tamper the national document.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah,



Ghanem, MPs to discuss ways to stand against external threats



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince received Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Sameeh Hayat. — KUNA

Kuwait renews demands for nuke-free Mideast

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait has reiterated its firm stance on the issues of disarmament and international security and to work on eliminating weapons of mass destruction. This came in Kuwait speech delivered to the meeting of the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, by adviser of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the United Nations Talal Al-Fassam on Tuesday evening.

Fassam said, "We must remember the experiences we have had together and perhaps find the right way to achieve our common goals of freeing the world from nuclear weapons." Kuwait renews its invitation to the three sponsors of the Middle East Resolution issued by the 1995 Review Conference, which is an integral part of the indefinite extension of the Treaty to assume their responsibilities in implementing that resolution, he added.

He pointed out that the three nations are aware of the strenuous efforts made by the State of Kuwait and the Arab countries and the many concessions they have made over the past seven years in order to hold the postponed Helsinki Conference. Kuwait is now looking forward to a pivotal role for the three sponsoring



Adviser of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the United Nations Talal Al-Fassam.

countries by taking the initiative to find the appropriate way to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East based on the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

He explained that more than 22 years have passed since the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995. Since that year, the State of Kuwait has joined along with Arab States 13 meetings of the Preparatory Committees for the Review Conference, three NPT Review Conferences and 22 conferences of the First Committee on disarmament and international security.

"After all these efforts, we are still considering the implementation of what was agreed upon in 1995 for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In 2010,

we were very close to achieving specific steps towards implementing what our peoples aspired to when the Action Plan at the Review Conference was adopted," he said.

Fassam said the plan called for convening a conference to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Unfortunately, all these faltered when Israel hampered convention of the conference. He expressed concern over Israel's continued refusal to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or even sign the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to avoid unveiling the number of its nuclear facilities or even allowing the IAEA's inspectors to carry out their mission. — KUNA

National Security Bureau meets Japanese Envoy



KUWAIT: Chief of the National Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah meets with Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Chief of the National Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah met yesterday with Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki, discussing with him means to bolster bilateral relations. A statement by the NSB said that the meeting also touched on issues of mutual interests as well as issues of regional and international importance.

In other news, chief of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah discussed yesterday with US Secretary of State Assistance for

Middle East Affairs Linder King the ways of boosting cooperation between the two sides, namely in aviation transportation field. The talks between the two sides also highlighted bilateral relations and developments in the civil aviation fields, including exchange of experience through training and development to all working in Kuwait International Airport, DGCA office said in a press release. According to the statement, Sheikh Salman stressed Kuwait is keen to develop and improve the infrastructure of Kuwait air transportation. — KUNA

Investors apply to build private hospitals: MoH

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health's (MoH) Acting Undersecretary Dr Mohammed Al-Khashti said a committee entrusted with allocating land plots to build private hospitals is currently reviewing increasing applications filed by Kuwaiti investors to build private hospitals. Khashti added that due to the significant role the private sector plays in boosting the health sector, government land plots are abundantly available for such projects and that accepted applicants will be given the land and then allowed to construct their facilities. Khashti added MoH had already issued scores of licenses to build private clinics and medical centers. He also noted that the private medical sector provides around 20 percent of health-care services in Kuwait.

Appointment procedures

Well-informed sources at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said around 20,000 citizens have failed to complete their appointment procedures after they were nominated to work in various government bodies since 1999. The sources added that 9,262 of these citizens had been nominated since the beginning of 2017 and that they were asked to undergo further procedures like the attestation of their degree certificates or provide CSC with further data needed for recruitment in government bodies.

Moreover, the sources said the total number of such citizens up to the end of last year was 10,900 and that CSC is not entitled to write their basic data off, which makes them remain registered as applicants for government jobs. "The next registry period will start on December 8 and end on December 22, 2017," the sources highlighted, noting that one of the conditions was endorsing qualification certificates through certain bodies such as the

ministry of higher education, which 299 citizens failed to do so far.

Non-profit companies

Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan issued a decision allowing licensing non-profit and limited liabilities companies, in addition to two companies with the same owner. The decision also included some conditions such as banning NGOs and charities from taking part in establishing such companies in general.

Private schools

Ministry of Education's (MoE) Undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari sent applications filed by private schools requesting permissions to build third floors on their premises to the Municipality, urging it to determine the new conditions and specifications needed for such constructions. In this regard, Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi said the municipality is currently working on amending construction regulations charters as per law number 33/2016 and the ministry will be notified once the amendments are done.

Meanwhile, educational sources said that the condition will include MoE's prior permission and approval, that the neighborhood housing the premises is not a residential one, the school area should be at least 2,000 sq m, the premises should meet the demands of students with special needs, that the buildings should occupy a maximum of 85 percent of the total area, that the building does not exceed four floors in height, that it includes open areas for playgrounds, and finally, that classroom area should be at least 50 sq m for Arab, Indian and Pakistani schools and at least 60 m for foreign and bilingual schools.

High voltage

Well-informed sources at Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) said the total expenditure on reinforcing the high voltage electricity distribution grid in the period of 2002-2016 was KD 189.42 million and that the ministry had allocated a further KD 10 million to complete grid enhancement projects in various areas.

Babtain Foundation names its 16th award winners

CAIRO: Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation named yesterday in a ceremony held in Cairo the winners of its 16th award contest. Awards were given to "Best Book of Verse," "Best Poem," "Creativity in Poetry Criticism," "Honorary Prize for Creativity in Poetry," in addition to two new awards for "Best Youth Poem" and "Best Youth Book of Verse."

The foundation chairman, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, said in a statement during the ceremony, that the foundation always been supporting many issues related to youth, women, identity, and education without abandoning its main role that it was established for to support Arab creativity. The winners of the 16th session of the foundation were Omar Al-Raji from Morocco who won the best youth poem prize valued at \$5,000, and Abdullatif bin Yousef Al-Mubarak from Saudi Arabia who won the best youth book of verse valued at \$10,000.

Moreover, the best poem, with a prize value of \$10,000 was secured by Marwa Halawa from Syria, and the best book of verse, with a prize value of \$20,000, was secured by Ahmad Antar Moustafa from Egypt, and for creativity in poetry criticism, with prize valued at \$40,000 was shared by Dr Fawzy Saad Eissa from Egypt and Dr Abdulsalam Mahmoud who is also from Egypt. Babtain added that the honorary prize for creativity in the field of poetry, with an estimated value at \$50,000, was granted to the late poet Farouk Shosha, who was a member of the board of trustees for almost 20 years. — KUNA

US official lauds Kuwaiti anti-human trafficking efforts



KUWAIT: Dr Sarah Scott, Foreign Affairs Officer at the US Department of State meets with Kuwaiti Interior Ministry officials yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Dr Sarah Scott, Foreign Affairs Officer at the US Department of State, lauded Kuwait's efforts in combating human trafficking, said a statement by the Ministry of Interior yesterday. The Interior Ministry's Public Relations department indicated that Dr Scott, member of the State Department's office to Monitor and

Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), commended Kuwait for improvements within managing domestic labor. The US official called for more meetings to coordinate anti-human trafficking efforts between the two countries. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry. — KUNA

Ministry discusses expo preparation

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry held a meeting yesterday to discuss preparations for the Kuwait Expo 2018. According to a statement by the Ministry, the event will be held on February 6 to 10 and it will be under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The statement indicated that undersecretary at the Ministry Sheikh Nemer Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah have discussed the preparations with Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Mahdi, Public Relations executive at Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) Talal Al-Rashdan, and representative of Kuwait International Fair Company (KIF) Bassma Al-Daheem. The expo will include an exhibition displaying commerce in the state members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), a national event promoting small and medium business in Kuwait, and other similar events. — KUNA

Local

Vigil held against park 'land grab'

Continued from Page 1

Also in 2015, the park's visitors discovered a plan close to the park's mosque for a new project, and palm trees were cut on the grounds that they were diseased. Environmental activist and spokeswoman of the protestors Heba Al-Aali said she has photographic evidence that proves these trees weren't sick. "We worked hard to launch an appeal through the press, which we hoped would block the project, and it received a great response. Construction was temporarily suspended, but we thought it would be permanent. Therefore, we renovated the park and it reopened in early 2016," she told Kuwait Times.

But the nightmare returned after a video by an official declaring "good news" for the residents of Rawda, saying that the construction of the Quran House was finally approved. "Despite the existence of multiple alternate locations within the area, they insist to use this green land," Aali denounced.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the head of the tourism



MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli speaks to reporters.



MP Mohammad Al-Dallal speaks to the press.

department of the information ministry, the late Saleh Shihab, launched the idea of touristic recreation in Kuwait. Several cultural and musical festivals were held at the park, in addition to national celebrations. Jamal Abdul Nasser Public Garden is the second oldest park in Kuwait after the Green Belt Park (currently known as Al-Shaheed Park). Besides its vital historical importance, the park is considered a safe meeting place for people and a green lung for surrounding areas.



KUWAIT: People hold candles near the sign of the Jamal Abdul Nasser Public Garden in Rawda during a vigil yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Athoob Al-Shuaibi



A general view of the garden.

53 workers registered with fake companies



KUWAIT: A photo taken from the scene of a fire in a Salmiya hotel after it was extinguished.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: The interior ministry's relations and security information department said residency detectives discovered nine fake companies in which 53 workers are registered, and all are on the banned list. The department arrested 35 people including 18 men and 17 women in Mahboula with article 20 residencies (domestic helpers).

No injuries

Fire broke out in a Salmiya hotel, prompting north and south Salmiya fire centers to respond. The fire was in rooms and a kitchen on the roof. The hotel was evacuated, and the fire was put out without injuries.

20 years

The criminal court sentenced a citizen who killed his wife with a hammer to 20 years in jail. The incident took place when a girl called police for help, as her father was beating her mother in Taima. When police and paramedics arrived, they found the woman in a pool of blood, who had already died due to her injuries, while her husband was standing next to her holding a hammer and a metal pipe. The daughter said her father beat the mother with both objects. The suspect was found under the influence of alcohol.

Reckless driver

Police chased a reckless driver in Riqqa as he endangered the lives of motorists and resisted arrest. Residents of the area called police, who responded and saw him driving in the wrong direction and running a red light. Police chased him and cut him off. They took him to the traffic department holding cell for further legal action.

Policeman insulted

A woman was held in Maidan Hawally

police station after insulting a policeman whom she asked to lodge a complaint against three citizens who allegedly harassed her in seaside Shaab. The woman earlier called police, so a patrol went to the scene and was able to locate the vehicle of the three men. They were arrested and taken to the police station. When the woman, also a citizen, arrived at the station, she screamed in the face of a policeman, so he asked her to lower her voice, but she didn't. The policeman informed his superior, so she was charged with insulting a public employee while on duty and was detained. Meanwhile, the three men were charged with encouraging vice acts.

Fugitives arrested

Farwaniya police arrested a citizen who escaped from them and entered the home of an Egyptian family while being chased. He was found wanted on several cases, most notably kidnapping and forgery. He was sent to the detectives' department. The arrest was made when the man left his car at a checkpoint and fled, so he was chased on foot. Separately, a Bangladeshi man started running when a police patrol passed by, so he was arrested and found in violation of residency law for eight years.

Drug use

A citizen fell asleep at a traffic light in Hitteen, so motorists called police who smashed the windows and found drugs on him. He was arrested and taken to concerned authorities.

Thief caught

Shamiya police arrested a Bangladeshi man red-handed while cutting electric cables on the road between Shamiya and Shuwaikh. The suspect was seen cutting the cables with a saw, so he was arrested and charged with theft of state property.

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Local

'Baims.com' named winner of 3rd KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs

'Orddr.com' comes in second place, 'Yahaloo.com' in third



KUWAIT: The top three award winner pose with KIPCO Board Member, Ambassador Abdullah Bishara (third from left).



KIPCO Board Member, Ambassador Abdullah Bishara, announces the winners.

KUWAIT: 'Baims.com' - an educational online platform - was named the first place winner of the 3rd KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. 'Orddr.com' was awarded second place, while 'Yahaloo.com' came third.

The announcement was made on the second day of the 6th Youth Empowerment Symposium, held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KIPCO Board Member, Ambassador Abdullah Bishara, recognized the winners.

The award is a collaboration between KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and the Youth Empowerment Organization (Tmkeen). The grand prize awarded to the first place winner is \$100,000 in services from the KIPCO Group, including financial, strategic and operational consultation sessions, market analysis studies, insurance coverage and advertising. In addition, this year's three finalists were also given cash prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

University students

Baims.com - founded by university students Yousef Alhusaini and Bader Alrasheed - is an online platform connecting students with their professors, allowing the professors to offer their lectures online, and is already amassing a large amount of users from Kuwait University.

Orddr.com - founded by Naser Alqatami, Mohammed

Almajadi and Mohammed Alkhalaf - is a B2B online platform connecting restaurants and suppliers, aiming to bring transparency, cost efficiency and smoother management to the restaurant industry.

Yahaloo.com - founded by Fahad Almunayes and Fahad Almaten - is an online marketplace where users can rent a wide range of products catered to children's parties, including inflatable slides and swimming pools.

The three finalists gave presentations to a live audience on the first day of the symposium. The 'Startup Battle' judging panel included CEO of Colle Capital - USA, Victoria Grace; CEO of KAMCO, Faisal Sarkhou; and CEO of Boutiqaat.com, Abdulwahab Al-Essa.

Making a difference
KIPCO's Group Communications Director, Eman Al-Awadhi, said:

"KIPCO's commitment to support young people continues to bear fruit every day. Today's winner is the latest example of a young entrepreneur we believe will make a difference in this country's future. Kuwait's young entrepreneurs have reached unprecedented heights and continue to challenge themselves in ways we could not imagine. Ajar Online, the winner of the 1st KIPCO Tmkeen Award, has now expanded the business across the region. Moqawalat.com, our second year winner, has recently secured funding and is getting ready to take the business to the next level. We believe that Baims.com has strong

“Winners to make a difference in Kuwait's future”



Naser Alqatami pitches Orddr.com in the final judging round.



Yousef Alhusaini pitches Baims.com in the final judging round.

business potential and we look forward to working closely with the founders and team over the next year. There is promise and great potential in the businesses we have seen, and we wish them all success."

A better tomorrow

CEO of the Youth Empowerment Organization, Ali Al-Ibrahim, added: "Tmkeen takes pride in its collaboration with KIPCO to organize this award on an annual basis. We would like to congratulate the entrepreneurs who participated in this year's award, all of whom have shown passion

for the work they do, and are committed and dedicated to continue to battle the challenges that they face in order to grow their businesses. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners, KIPCO Group, in encouraging and supporting Kuwait's youth in creating a better tomorrow."

KIPCO Group companies - including Burgan Bank, OSN, Gulf Insurance Group, KAMCO Investment Company, United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemical Industries, United Education, United Networks and Marina FM - are supporters of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs.

Google's Former Senior VP and CFO: 'The only constraint is your imagination'

KUWAIT: The Youth Empowerment Organization (Tmkeen) kicked off the second day of their sixth annual Youth Empowerment Symposium, taking place October 23-25 at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center under the Patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Patrick Pichette, Former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Google Inc., led the seminar of the day, addressing a crowd of young entrepreneurs and start-up founders. Abdulrazag Al-Mutawa, general manager at Ghaliyah, moderated the discussion session with Pichette.

Pichette, who retired from his position as the chief financial officer and senior vice president of Google in May 2015, reflected on how far technology has come in the past ten years, and stressed on the important role that artificial intelligence will play in the years to come.

Speaking on job opportunities, Pichette also advised local youth to keep three key factors in mind when making career decisions: "First, pick the people and culture. The reality is, if you are ambitious, you are going to be working long hours, so choosing the people you are going to work with is the most critical decision in your growth and happiness. Second, pick the industry itself as your industry is your destiny. Third, look at the position, the responsibilities and the salary."

The second day of the symposium also hosted a series of panel discussions, the first of which was titled "Tech Startups: Growth Challenges." The panel consisted of Abdullah Boodai, CEO of Snapbook; Abdulwahab Al-Essa, Co-founder at Boutiqaat, Khalid Al-Otaibi, Co-founder of Talabat and Managing Partner at Floward. Dana Mado, founder of local marketing agency Twenty Two Eleven, moderated the panel.

Localizing ideas

Boodai, who spoke on the importance of localizing business ideas, added, "Things that might work in Kuwait might not work in America, which is why we localized our product by adding a local twist to the idea of digital printing."

Speaking on the importance of taking advantage of opportunities locally and not just internationally, Essa commented: "Our entrepreneurial youth have witnessed a number of disappointments, but I am here to say that Kuwait is still a wonderful setting to start and grow a business, and Boutiqaat is a testament to that. There is still so much hope and room for so many success stories to come."

Otaibi advised entrepreneurs to make smart decisions when deciding whether to cash out of a business. The second panel discussion, titled "The Secrets of Launching a Startup" was led by local and international business leaders Victoria



Fahad Almunayes pitches Yahaloo.com in the final judging round.

Grace, Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Colle Capital Partners; Claudine Coletti, Managing Editor at Forbes Middle East Magazine; Fajer Al-Refai, Managing Partner at FTL Legal Services; Rakan Al-Fadalah, Co-founder and Partner at Chocolateness; and Ghina Abbas, Senior Manager of Marketing Services and Insights at Alghanim Industries. Dana Mado, founder of local marketing agency Twenty Two Eleven, moderated the panel.

Grace spoke of her extensive experience in launching, structuring and monitoring venture capital businesses, advising young entrepreneurs to invest in technology at an early age. Speaking on key attributes found in every successful entrepreneur, Coletti said: "The most common characteristics we come across are passion and persistence. These qualities come from having an idea that resonates, especially in this region, and if you're going to invest in something, invest in people." Fadalal spoke of the importance of attending training courses to help overcome business challenges: "In order for your business to last, you need to be equipped with the proper skills, managerial knowledge, and the right team. In order to be successful, you need to have two things: an original concept and persistence."

Advising startups to take advantage of local resources such as the Kuwait Business Center, Refai also recommended startups set aside a budget for legal services, taking time to establish proper contracts from the very beginning.

Conducting research

Meanwhile, Abbas advised the youth on the importance of conducting research before launching a business to determine whether the business idea is unique and has a target audience: "Uniqueness speaks volumes. Even before starting a business, we advise startups to spend money or time on research. Speak with your family and your friends and ask them what they think of that idea."



First place winners, Baims.com, are recognized by KIPCO Board Member, Ambassador Abdullah Bishara (left).



The judges (from left) CEO of Colle Capital - USA, Victoria Grace; CEO of KAMCO, Faisal Sarkhou and CEO of Boutiqaat.com, Abdulwahab Al-Essa.

Local

In my view

Kuwait's expats, where to?

By Jeri Al-Jeri

A novel treatment of expats by our parliament took place in these past few weeks. Parliamentarians exaggerated how much Kuwaitis are fed up with the Asian-African invasion of our government institutions. Enjoying high salaries, working fewer hours and having lower and lower credentials, expats are milking every dinar and fils from Kuwait.

MP Safa Al-Hashem accomplished her goal in making medical treatment for expats - regardless of income or race - more expensive. The law she pushed for passed, paving the way for other parliamentarians to stress more courageously the idea of taxing expats when they use the highways. So, where will our next stop be?

Kuwait, the 'kout,' thrived on outsiders finding it a lucrative money-making machine. This is very vital for us to get "the ball rolling" in all our government and private sector companies. It is crystal clear that Kuwait will crumble in less than a day if foreigners find a more suitable place, ie Dubai or Qatar. It is a shame to have such a dependency on expats, while we are making their stay less parasitical than what they have got used to.

On the other side of the blade, there is a counterargument that might win this currently flammable debate in all our social media and diwanias. Kuwait needs to be more pro-Kuwaitness at all workplaces. The Gog and Magog like waves of foreigners are crowding our roads and hospital lines and taking away our university seats, let alone being a big cause for the delay of honest, loyal citizens getting a job to contribute to their country. Therefore, the government ought to pass law after



Kuwait thrived on outsiders finding it a lucrative

law making it tougher for expats to snatch more jobs from the hands of our already spiritless young generation.

Kuwait is not ashamed to admit how much other Arab expats helped to establish foundational constructions that go to the core of what Kuwait is. Yet, how much does Kuwait find their presence crucial now, amid the masses of Kuwaitis holding degrees in any sort of field and from every university in the world? And can we ever fear that their homelands will become more desirous than the golden goose we call Kuwait?

My personal opinion on the matter is that there is a logical standpoint for the argument to be tougher on foreigners. But realistically, it hasn't become that sound yet. And it is irrational for parliamentarians to use incidents such as that of Egyptian teacher Ashraf Abu-Alalaa, who taught computer basics at a Farwaniya school for 20 years, and who was kicked out of his job. This made him file a fake lawsuit in Geneva, claiming that the Kuwaiti government will bow down to global courts in order to be more humane in their treatment of Egyptians, the sole nationality that built Kuwait from the ground up.

Needless to say, this became a social media sensation, with tweeters exposing his pictures when he had free medical care for a stomach surgery to lose weight after becoming obese, and all the "goodness" that he hoarded while enjoying his heavenly stay in Kuwait. This nightmarish idea that foreigners who drain everything from us will stab us in the back in global courts catapulted our passion from a minor distress over foreigners' stay in our land to more democratic demands, in hopes to execute the local saying that roughly translates to "Make him your lunch, before he makes you his dinner." As a Kuwaiti, I believe this arrogance is not only too early to not be comical, but it is always in our persona to be a warm, cozy and welcoming 'kout.'

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Graffiti at a building in Kuwait showing a tic-tac-toe puzzle solved in an unconventional way, with the word 'Wasta' (connections) given as an explanation. —Photo by Athoob Al-Shualbi

Star Fruit co-sponsors Horeca 2018

KUWAIT: Star Fruit Company recently announced its intention to participate in Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition, due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref during the period of January 15-17, 2018.

In this regard, the General Manager of Star Fruit Company for Foodstuff, Vegetables and Fruits Abdul-Rahman Sorour said that the fruits and vegetables sector was a major sector Kuwait needed to shift its focus on. In that regard, the government and decision makers need assistance from companies working in this field in order to improve it as part of the state's development plan.

Sorour added that throughout its career that extends

over 34 years, Star Fruits has been importing vegetables and fruits from all over the world and supplying five star hotels and restaurants in Kuwait with diverse products that meet all clients' needs.

Sorour added that Star Fruit is a leading company in the field of quality provision of highly selected products to meet the increasing demands for fruits, vegetables and foodstuff by elite hotels and restaurants.

"Star Fruit has fixed values and rules to earn clients' trust such as commitment to provide its clients with best quality products selected from world-class suppliers, and providing them to customers at reasonable prices," Sorour stressed, pointing out that all countries show a great deal of attention to food industries and that Kuwaiti manufacturers consider it among the most important six industries Kuwait needs. He added that Kuwait needs to provide the suitable environment needed to make changes in its industrial structure and increase the real annual rate of growth in the sector of industry to become 8.3 percent, as per the development plan. Finally, Sorour stressed that Horeca Kuwait 2018 is an important venue through which those interested in hospitality, hotels and food industries could meet and explore the latest in the business as well as communicate with experts and specialists.

In my view

Crimes of misled youth

By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net



London Ambulance Services recently stated that a man was killed and two others were injured when someone with a knife attacked the last wave of laborers returning home outside the Parsons Green Train Station. This should make us wonder about the motives behind such an assault and why it has been repeating in various parts of the world and particularly in London, especially that on reviewing those crimes it was discovered that the culprits themselves did not realize the motives of their crimes, nor the victimized coun-



Attacks were committed by reckless young people living in a state of illusion

try knew what such assailants wanted.

So many attacks had been repeated on museums, monuments, religious places and Muslims belonging to different sects. Those attacks were all baseless and committed by reckless young misled people living in a state of illusion and care more about filming their so-called heroism and posting the videos on social media networks. Such crimes will eventually subside when everyone realizes the truth without using any of usual 'spices'.

The attack on Al-Sadeq Mosque in Kuwait was proof that the culprit had been subjected to a brainwashing process as he shouted Allahuakbar (Allah is Great) as he set off his explosive belt while praying during Ramadan. Unfortunately, such criminals seek martyrdom and paradise in many other places.

Tunisia eyes Gulf markets to export olive oil

TUNIS: Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fisheries Samir Al-Taieb said yesterday that Tunisia awaits a record olive oil harvest this year of nearly 300,000 tons, compared to 100,000 in 2016. The ministry has already prepared a plan to export this year's harvest to several markets around the world, including GCC, Taieb said. "We aim to boost Tunisian olive oil presence in Gulf countries, especially after it successfully found a place in their markets, and gained popularity among Gulf people," he noted.

The Tunisian minister also indicated that his country faces no difficulties or obstacles in promoting its olive oil in international markets. Tunisian olive oil is renowned for its distinctive characteristics and premium quality, said Taieb. It is also one of the top-quality oils in the world, he noted, adding the "Japanese people, for instance, consider Tunisian olive oil as one of the best-quality worldwide." In 2016, the EU has increased its share of Tunisian olive oil in the European markets, Taieb noted.

Tunis exported nearly 70,000 tons of olive oil to the EU in 2016, and plans to export 100,000 tons of this year's harvest to the Union, he added. He also indicated that his country also exports its national olive oil heavily to the United States, East Asia, Gulf region, Russia, and some African countries. Al-Taieb disclosed that his ministry has prepared a plan to boost "agricultural diplomacy" with Gulf markets in cooperation with Tunisia's National Office for Oil and olive oil producers in the country. "We intend to increase our promotional campaigns in GCC states, particularly Kuwait, through organizing popular festivals on Tunisian olive oil," he said. Kuwait and Tunisia are linked by a historic investment relationship, Al-Taieb noted. He also added that his ministry will work with Tunisian and Gulf diplomats to help promote Tunisian olive oil in GCC markets.

"We will discuss with Gulf ambassadors in Tunisia on ways to bolster Tunisian olive oil presence in Gulf markets and overcome all obstacles in that regard," he said. The Tunisian minister also mentioned that he will soon be visiting Gulf countries to help promote his country's national product.

'Italian' oil

Meanwhile, Taieb said that Tunis exports large quantities of raw olive oil to Italy, only to be bottled there and sold in several markets as an "Italian" olive oil. He also said that his country exports only 10 percent of its olive oil production in bottles, while rest of the harvest is all sold raw to Italy. He pointed out his ministry's goal this year to export 20 percent of its olive oil harvest in bottles, which is nearly 50,000 tons.

On investing in Tunisia's agricultural sector, Taieb said that his country's new investment law provides several unprecedented privileges for investors. The new law, approved last April by the government, does not differentiate between Tunisian and foreign investors as both will enjoy same privileges and facilitations. It has so far contributed in elevating investment plans by 80 percent, he said, adding that the law offers a three-year tax exemption for new companies. All possibilities are available to increase foreign investment in Tunisian agricultural sector, particularly Arab and Gulf investments.

Gulf investments have had a significant mark in Tunisia's history, and contributed effectively in the development of several vital sectors, said Taieb. He urged Gulf investors, particularly Kuwaitis, to take advantage of the new investment law's facilitations, and visit the country to look at investment opportunities and projects. Tunisia is currently ranked world's second in terms of area devoted to olive plantations after Spain. These areas cover 1.8 million hectares and include over 86 million olive trees. —KUNA

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International

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017



Israel approves major settlement expansion

'Xi Dada' casts a long shadow over China

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NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left) listens to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Prime Minister's residence in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

US, India seek to boost ties

Ties with Iran and North Korea a thorny issue

NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister defended the country's ties with North Korea and Iran during talks yesterday with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson aimed at building robust relations between the two giant democracies. The Trump administration has launched a new US effort to deepen military and economic ties with India as a way to balance China's assertive posture across Asia.

At the talks with Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, both sides pledged to strengthen anti-terrorism cooperation and Tillerson said Washington stood ready to provide India with advanced military technology. "The United States supports India's emergence as a leading power and will continue to contribute to Indian capabilities to provide security throughout the region," Tillerson told a joint news conference with Swaraj.

Meanwhile, India has slashed trade with North Korea in line with UN sanctions over the North's nuclear tests but will not close its Pyongyang embassy, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said yesterday. North Korea was one of a number of key Asian security topics raised by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in New Delhi. The United States has reportedly been urging allies to cut diplomatic ties with the North.

"We had open discussion on the issues of trade reduction and closing the embassy," Swaraj told a press conference after the meeting. "I told Mr Tillerson that as far as trade is concerned it has come down, really come down. It has become minimal." Trade between India and

North Korea amounted to \$130 million in 2016-17 but in the current fiscal year it stands at \$10.95 million, according to official data. India banned all trade with the North, except food and medicine, from April this year, the foreign ministry said.

Swaraj said the embassy should remain as a link with the North. "Our embassy there is very small. But the embassy is there and I told Mr Tillerson that some of your friendly nations' embassies should stay there so that some channels of communication remain open." Swaraj said Tillerson "understood" and "appreciated" India's stand. While India has strongly condemned North's nuclear tests, it has maintained diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

The focus on North Korea comes as US President Donald Trump heads to China next month, where he is expected to urge President Xi Jinping to make good on his commitments to try to rein in North Korea. Tillerson, who flew in from Pakistan which he called an important US ally in the restive region, also held talks with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi who is driving closer ties with the United States. But India, a former leading light of the Non-Aligned Movement and which was on the opposite side of the United States during the Cold War, still remains wary of any alliances with major powers lest it affect its autonomy.

Ties to Iran

India has also maintained ties with Iran which is being targeted by the Trump administration for its alleged military support of extremist groups in the Middle East and for its ballistic missile program. India has long sourced its oil from Iran, but in recent years the

two sides have been also collaborating on key infrastructure projects. New Delhi is pushing hard for the development of Chabahar port on the Iranian coast as a hub for its trade links to the resource-rich countries of central Asia and Afghanistan but the Trump administration's tough stance has raised new concerns over the future of that project.

But Tillerson struck a conciliatory stance on India's ties with Iran, saying it wouldn't come in the way of

countries doing legitimate business there. "It is not our objective to harm the Iranian people nor is it our objective to interfere with legitimate business activities that are going on with other businesses, whether they be from Europe, India or agreements that are in place or promote economic development and activity to the benefit of our friends and allies," he said. America's disagreements were with the Iranian regime, and in particular the Iran Revolutionary Guard, he said. India is especially keen on the Chabahar port as a way to bypass long-time foe Pakistan which does not allow easy trade and transit arrangements to Afghanistan and beyond.

Pakistan

Tillerson said the US stood should-to-shoulder with India in the fight against terrorism which New Delhi has long said is centered in militant groups operating from inside Pakistan. He said militant groups were a threat to everyone in the region, including Pakistan itself. "Quite frankly my view - and I expressed this to the leadership of Pakistan - is we also are concerned about the stability and security of Pakistan's government as well." The United States has been urging Pakistan to act against the groups that operate in Afghanistan, India and inside Pakistan itself. "Terrorist safe havens will not be tolerated," Tillerson said. Pakistan says it is doing all it can to fight the militants. —Agencies



India shrinks ties with North Korea

Robbed of childhood, Rohingyas sketch out their trauma, misery

COX'S BAZAR: Shupira sits surrounded by dozens of children drawing colorful patterns onto white sheets of paper. But the eight-year-old's picture is turning out differently. With a grey pen, she sketches houses full of people, then switching colors to orange, she sets the buildings on fire with her small, delicate hand. She pauses to look up. "This is my village. It's what I saw." Shupira is a Rohingya Muslim and she has lost everything. More than half of the 1.1 million Rohingya population - over 600,000 - has fled to Bangladesh since 25 August, making it the world's fastest growing refugee crisis. Those in flight accuse security forces of arson, killings and rape in what the United Nations calls a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.

Trauma on a page

Shupira said her family fled an attack by Myanmar's army on her village that saw dozens burned alive. Between 1,200-1,800 children cross into Bangladesh on a daily basis, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with at least 60 percent of

the camp's total population aged under 18. Nearly 340,000 Rohingya children are living in squalid conditions in the camps, short of food, clean water and health care, according to UNICEF. Many are traumatized by what they have seen. Shupira escaped Bholi Bazar village with her parents and now lives in a poorly constructed plastic tent. She does not go to school, but instead visits a so-called child-friendly space - a separate area in the camp supervised by social workers and equipped with toys and games. While Shupira likes to be around others, she does not play much. She sits motionless, focusing only on her drawing, without breaking into even the slightest smile. "I ran past soldiers who shoved my neighbors into their houses. Then they sat them on fire. I screamed because I was so afraid," she said, pointing to her picture. "I want people to know what happened. That's why I draw."

Early trauma

Psychological distress is widespread among the camp's children; aid agencies say long-term trauma could well follow. "This is still the early onset, but it's been a long time that people in Rakhine state have lived in horrible conditions and have been exposed to violence. I am afraid that we will see more long-term effects, including trauma," Lisa Akero, of IFRC humanitarian organization, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Akero works closely with Rohingya children in the camps and has seen how deeply the crisis has shaped them. It's heart-breaking to see their extreme sense of resilience. —Reuters



KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh: Myanmar refugee Halima with her eight-month-old son Muhammed Hares are treated at the Red Cross clinic in Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukha. — AFP

International

Israel government approves major settlement expansion

176 new homes approved in East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: Israeli authorities yesterday approved a major expansion of an east Jerusalem settlement, signing off on plans to add 176 homes, the city's deputy mayor said. The latest approvals come after Israel last week advanced plans for more than 2,600 settlement homes in various areas of the occupied West Bank. The expansion approved yesterday would create the largest Israeli settlement inside a Palestinian neighborhood of the city, NGOs say. It will allow the Nof Zion settlement to add 176 housing units to the 91 existing homes. The settlement is located in the annexed east Jerusalem Palestinian neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber.

The plans were approved by a Jerusalem planning committee, Deputy Mayor Meir Turjeman said. However, the property remains the subject of an ongoing ownership dispute between two different firms and the court case must be resolved before construction can move ahead, a spokeswoman for the Peace Now settlement watchdog said. The approvals were granted but made conditional upon the case being resolved. Peace Now and other NGOs say the approvals would make Nof Zion the largest Israeli settlement inside any Palestinian neighborhood of east Jerusalem and possibly also of the West Bank.

Most settlements, particularly in the West Bank, are located outside of Palestinian residential areas. They are typically far larger than Nof Zion. Jerusalem's status is ultrasensitive and central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem in

the Six-Day War of 1967. It later annexed east Jerusalem in a move never recognized by the international community. It sees the entire city as its indivisible capital, while the Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of their future state.

'Actions on the ground'

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said in a statement earlier this week announcing the expected approval of the permits that "we are continuing to build and to strengthen Jerusalem". "We are reunifying Jerusalem with actions on the ground," he said. Palestinians and human rights groups however strongly criticized the plans, saying they would further diminish hopes for an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestinian cartographer Khalil Tufakji spoke of the "sensitivity" of the area of the project and its "strategic location" south of Jerusalem's Old City. Senior Palestine Liberation Organization official Hanan Ashrawi said earlier this week that the new Nof Zion units were part of Israel's plan "to impose a de facto one-state solution." "Without Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, there will be no Palestinian state, and without a Palestinian state, there will be no peace or stability in the region," she said.

Government officials have pledged a major boost in settlement home approvals this year, with US President Donald Trump so far much less critical of such plans than his predecessor Barack Obama. Israeli officials say around 12,000 housing units will be given various



JERUSALEM: A picture taken from Jabel Mukaber, a Palestinian neighborhood in Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem shows the Israeli settlement of Nof Zion in the foreground, and the Old City of Jerusalem with the Dome of the Rock in the background. —AFP

stages of approval this year, four times the number in 2016. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads what is seen as the most right-wing government in Israel's history, and settlement advocates wield heavy influence in his ruling coalition. Settlement building in the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, is considered illegal under international law. It is seen as a major obstacle to peace as the settlements are built on land the

Palestinians regard as part of their future state. Prominent members of Netanyahu's coalition openly oppose the idea of a Palestinian state and advocate annexing most of the West Bank. Netanyahu recently said he plans no uprooting of settlements, blaming Palestinian "incitement" and attacks against Israelis, among other issues, for the lack of progress in peace efforts. —AFP

Kurds offer to freeze independence vote

ARBIL: Iraqi Kurdish leaders offered yesterday to freeze the outcome of last month's vote for independence, taking a step back in a major crisis that prompted Baghdad to seize swathes of disputed territory. The offer came as world powers scrambled to avert any further escalation of the conflict between the key allies in the fight against the Islamic State group that has seen more than 30 combatants killed. Washington, Moscow and the United Nations have all pressed Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani to open talks with Baghdad on a way out of the crisis

sparked by the fateful September 25 vote that he called.

The Kurdistan Regional Government, led by Barzani, said it would "propose to the (federal) government and Iraqi public opinion... the freezing of the results of the referendum... and the start of an open dialogue... on the basis of the constitution." It also called for "an immediate cease-fire and cessation of military operations in Kurdistan". Since early last week, Iraqi federal troops and allied militia have retaken virtually all of the territory held by the Kurds outside their longstanding three-province autonomous region in the north.

In most areas the Kurds withdrew without a fight, although in the Little Zab valley close to their regional capital Arbil there was fighting and in all at least 31 combatants were killed. The independence referendum deeply divided Iraqi Kurdish leaders and many commanders ordered their forces to pull back without resisting. —AFP

Erdogan's opponent launches new party

ANKARA: A Turkish former interior minister once dubbed Turkey's Iron Lady and seen as a potentially strong challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched a political party yesterday after months of speculation. Meral Aksener delivered a defiant speech promising a "strong, happy" Turkey at the official launch of the Iyi ("Good" in Turkish) Party in the capital Ankara.

"We have hope. We have dreams. We want a rich Turkey. We have strength. We want a fair Turkey... we want a free society. We want a happy Turkey," she said during a spirited speech filled with nationalism and an audience waving Turkish flags. She was cheered by thousands of supporters and founding party members in a hall surrounded by the party's blue and yellow sun logo and banners of modern Turkey founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

Aksener, 61, was a former member of the country's third largest opposition right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) until she failed to remove Devlet Bahceli as MHP leader in early 2016 and was later expelled from the party in September 2016. Bahceli has led the MHP for over 20 years but opponents wanted a fresh face. —AFP

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International

Catalan cracks appear as Madrid takeover looms

Direct rule to be imposed on Catalonia

MADRID: Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont is likely to go to Madrid today to explain his position on independence from Spain and try to stop the national government imposing direct control on the region. The timing of Puigdemont's appearance before the Senate suggests he is now unlikely to formally declare independence or call a snap regional election today, as many analysts had expected. He could still do this tomorrow before the Senate strips him of his powers and imposes direct rule from Madrid.

An appearance at a Senate debate could pit Puigdemont face to face with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy who is vehemently opposed to independence for Catalonia. The political crisis, Spain's worst since democracy was restored four decades ago, has become increasingly fraught at the prospect of civil disobedience and even confrontation if Madrid goes ahead with taking direct control of Catalonia in the next few days.

Meanwhile, Pro-independence activists took to the streets of Catalonia yesterday as cracks appeared between separatist regional leaders over how best to avoid an impending power takeover by Spain. In a bid to hold Madrid at arm's length, several members of Carles Puigdemont's executive have urged him to call elections for a new regional government, a source close to the Catalan leader said.

Other allies, however, are pressuring Puigdemont to follow through on his threat to unilaterally break away the semi-autonomous region that accounts for 16 percent of Spain's population and 20 percent of its economic output.

Civic groups, too, piled on the pressure, organizing a march on the regional parliament yesterday evening to press for an independent Catalan republic. The region of 7.5 million people is fiercely protective of its language and culture and has long struggled for self-determination.

The conflict has caused deep resentment elsewhere in Spain, dented the prosperous region's economy, and worried other European leaders who see it as fanning separatist sentiment elsewhere on the continent. Secessionists in Catalonia say an independence referendum on Oct 1 - which attracted a 43 percent turnout but was mostly boycotted by those Catalans who want to remain in

Spain - has given them a mandate for statehood. The Madrid government declared the referendum illegal and has spurned Puigdemont's calls for dialogue, instead opting to take control of a region which now has a large measure of autonomy.

It has, however, invited Puigdemont to debate in the Senate. "President Puigdemont is willing to attend the Senate to explain the allegations,

explain his political position, and explain how we have arrived here," a lawmaker for PDCat (Catalan Democratic Party) said yesterday. Today would be the most convenient day, he said. However, Puigdemont is unlikely to make much headway against a government which vehemently opposes full independence and is using all its legal and political power to stop it. Tomorrow, the Senate is due to strip him of his powers and impose direct rule, although the actual steps could be taken gradually in order not to inflame the situation.



MADRID: Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy gives a speech during a session of the Lower House of Parliament in Madrid yesterday. Spain ramped up pressure on Catalonia's secessionist leaders as rumblings grew louder of civil resistance to a threatened regional power grab by Madrid. — AFP

Rock and a hard place

Catalonia said on Monday it was confident its officials, including the police, would defy attempts by Madrid to enforce direct rule. A senior Catalan politician said on Tuesday secessionist leaders may call a snap election to try to break the deadlock. The Catalan parliament will meet today and tomorrow. Some Spanish political and business

leaders, along with most Catalan newspapers, have urged Puigdemont to call a regional election before he is stripped of his authority. They say direct rule from Madrid would be a humiliation for Catalonia and pose a serious risk of civil unrest. Calling an election could either strengthen Puigdemont's mandate if pro-independence parties won, or allow him a graceful exit if they did not. — Agencies



Possibility of civil disobedience looming

News in brief

Bulgaria floods kill 3

SOFIA: Three people were killed and one person went missing as torrential rains lashed the region of Burgas, in eastern Bulgaria, officials said yesterday. "There are three victims of the floods," Prime Minister Boyko Borisov told journalists. Parts of the region saw as much as 168 liters of rain per square meter over the past 12 hours, the national weather services said, with bad weather expected to continue throughout today. A total of eight villages and Burgas's southern neighborhoods were the most badly hit as heavy rainfall submerged roads, cut bridges and prompted electricity outages, local authorities said. The rains also caused seven small dams in the region to overflow.

Philippines, Russia ink deals

MANILA: Thousands of assault rifles and helmets were among the military gear Russia donated to the Philippines in a bid to widen its arms market in Southeast Asia at a time when Manila is seeking to diversify weapons systems, officials said yesterday. Manila received about 5,000 Kalashnikov rifles, 5,000 steel helmets, about a million rounds of ammunition for the rifles and 20 army trucks in a ceremony attended by President Rodrigo Duterte, who also toured one of five visiting Russian warships. The gift came a day after Russia and the Philippines signed two military pacts, including a sales contract with Rosoboronexport, a state-owned vendor of Russian defense equipment. "We are looking at acquiring some equipment for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, but there are no specifics yet," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said. "We are still discussing." Lorenzana said the Rosoboronexport contract was not a sales deal but signaled the Philippines' intention to acquire small arms, vehicles and special equipment for disaster operations.

17 climbers die in Mongolia

ULAANBAATAR: The death toll from an avalanche in Mongolia rose to 17 yesterday after rescuers found the bodies of seven missing climbers who had ignored a ban on climbing a mountain. The Mongolian nationals went missing on Sunday after climbing the 4,021-metre Mount Olgotenger, the National Emergency Management Agency said. The group was made up of four women and 13 men aged 30 to 50, and there were no survivors. Ten bodies had been found earlier this week, while a separate team of 10 climbers had found their way down the mountain safely. Olgotenger is a popular destination for climbing tourism, boasting the country's most extensive granite wall. Just four other climbers have died since the 1960s, but the environment ministry in 2015 banned climbing for safety reasons.

'Human steaming' stunt

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian Taoist medium has died while performing a "human steaming" stunt which involved him sitting on top of a bubbling wok covered by a giant metal lid, police said yesterday. Lim Ba, 68, suffered a heart attack and burns after attempting to perform the elaborate ritual during a Taoist festival at a Chinese temple late Monday. Devotees witnessing the event, which involved Lim sitting on a wooden platform balanced on top of the bubbling wok, heard banging noises emanating from the metal lid after about half an hour. Witnesses at the event, including Lim's son, reportedly saw the lid moving and then found the victim unconscious when they removed the lid. Local police chief Mohd Ismail Ibrahim told AFP that the ritual Lim performed on Monday was not his first, but turned out to be his last. "He did this ceremony many times where he got into the wok to show that he was immune," to the heat, he said. "He had a heart attack and he collapsed. He was knocking (on the lid), and the water from the wok burned him," he added.

Senators blast Trump as GOP feud deepens

WASHINGTON: Tensions among Republicans about President Donald Trump boiled over yesterday as two senators accused Trump of debasing US politics and the country's standing abroad, a rebellion that could portend trouble for his legislative agenda. The extraordinary public criticism of the president from Jeff Flake and Bob Corker further strained what had already been a fraught relationship between Trump and fellow Republicans as they try to enact tax reform and other policy items.

In an emotional speech on the Senate floor, Flake repeatedly targeted Trump's style of governing, saying American politics had become "inured" to "reckless, outrageous and undignified" behavior from the White House. "The instinct to scapegoat and belittle threatens to turn us into a fearful, backward-looking people," said the Arizona lawmaker, who announced he would not run for re-election next year. "I will not be complicit or silent," Flake said. Trump, via Twitter, has been unrelenting in his criticism of Corker and Flake, accusing them of supporting Democratic priorities, and using sometimes slashing language, such as his dismissal of Corker as "liddle Bob Corker."

By announcing he will be leaving when his term ends in early 2019, Flake effectively freed himself up to speak his mind, without having one eye on voter reactions in his home state. A Morning Consult survey conducted Sept 24 to Oct. 24 said Flake had an approval rating in Arizona of 30 percent. Corker, who has also said he is not running for re-election in Tennessee, accused Trump of telling false-

hoods that could be easily proven wrong and willfully damaging the country's standing in the world, eviscerating the president with comments that stirred deepening divisions in the Republican Party.

"You would think he would aspire to be the president of the United States and act like a president of the United States, but that's not going to be the case apparently," Corker told reporters. "I've seen no evolution in an upward way. In fact, I would say, he's almost devolved." White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders dismissed the comments from Flake and Corker and said Trump wanted senators who could make progress on his policy goals. "He wants people to be in the Senate that are committed to actually moving the ball down the field, and I don't think



Republicans seek legislative victory

these two individuals necessarily have been as focused on that," she told reporters.

'Distractions'

Republican congressional leaders who have learned to tread carefully amid controversies surrounding Trump, largely stayed on the sidelines of the latest fight. "We're going to concentrate on what our agenda is and not any of these other distractions that you all may be interested in," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters.

Secessionist struggle in Cameroon led from exile

YAOUNDE: A secessionist revolt is gaining ground in the English-speaking west of Cameroon, but for lack of charismatic local leaders, the impetus is coming from the diaspora, analysts say. On October 1, secessionist militants proclaimed the independence of Ambazonia, the name they give to the two Anglophone regions, provoking a crackdown by President Paul Biya's security forces that left dozens dead and many injured.

The upheaval, which broke out at the end of 2016 and threatens to become an "armed insurrection" according to the International Crisis Group (ICG), was at first motivated by the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC), locally known as "the Consortium". Formed in December 2016, the Consortium chaired by Felix Khongo Agbor Balla comprised four lawyers' associations and several teachers' unions, sharing a moderate attitude in favor of federal ties with the larger French-speaking parts of the country. In January, the Consortium was dissolved and two leaders were arrested. They were later freed, but several others fled abroad, where their political stance hardened and they joined the ranks of the secessionists.

Dangerous divisions

France and Britain divided up the one-

time German colony under League of Nations mandates after World War I. A year after the French-ruled territory became independent in 1961, the southern part of British Cameroons was integrated into a federal system, scrapped 11 years later for a "united republic". In the Southwest and Northwest Regions, home to about 20 percent of Cameroon's population of 23 million, the secessionist struggle is waged "by local teams acting in semi-clandestine fashion", says Mathias Eric Owona Nguini, an academic researcher specialized in geostrategic analysis in central Africa.

While differences over strategy and tactics remain, small secessionist groups have in recent months emerged to call for violence, particularly against the security forces but also against francophone citizens. They intimidate hostile members of the local elite comfortable with the status quo. Yet the main political battle is "waged from abroad" by known individuals acting openly and favourably to independence of an anglophone Ambazonia, says Nguini Owona.

Living in the United States, Julius Ayuk Tabe Sisiku, the self-proclaimed president of Ambazonia, has a personal guard detail. A computer technician little known in Cameroon at large, Sisiku uses his Facebook page to give instructions to his followers. He also haunts the corridors of power to work quietly to win international recognition for his "country". Two exiled members of the Consortium, Wilfred Tassang and Harmony Bobga, have announced the creation of a "Southern Cameroons Ambazonia Consortium United Front" (SCACUF), which preaches independence and gives guidance in the fight against the Yaounde government.

Republican House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan played down Corker's criticism of Trump, urging reporters to "put this Twitter dispute aside."

Great American Pac, a pro-Trump political group, declared victory over Flake and sent out a fund-raising appeal. "Senator Flake wisely decided to give up on his own terms rather than fight a losing battle for re-election and have the voters retire him at the ballot box next year," said the group's top strategist, Ed Rollins. The president is seeking to build consensus around proposed tax cuts. Republicans control both chambers of Congress, but hold just a 52-48 majority in the Senate. Securing passage of his tax-cut plan is critically important to Trump, who has yet to get major legislation through Congress since taking office in January.

Trump visited the Capitol on Tuesday for a policy lunch that was described by participants as productive. Over the summer, Trump pilloried Senate Republicans - as a group and some by name - after they failed to generate sufficient votes to repeal and replace the 2010 Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, one of his top presidential campaign promises. The dollar lost ground on news that Flake would not seek re-election because it added to investor worries about the fate of the tax plan, which has widely been seen as a potential boost to American companies.

It recovered after a Bloomberg report that Trump asked senators at a closed-door lunch whom they would support to become the next Federal Reserve chairman. Bloomberg quoted one senator as saying that John Taylor, viewed in the markets as an inflation hawk, got the most votes. Trump has also provoked the ire of another respected senior Republican, Senator John McCain, whose war record he mocked during last year's campaign. Last week, former Republican President George W. Bush, who has kept a low profile since leaving office in January 2009, took a thinly veiled swipe at Trump in a speech in which he decried "bullying and prejudice" and denounced anti-immigrant sentiment. — Reuters



DOUALA: Cameroon police forces patrol at a traffic intersection in Douala. — AFP

A new generation

Exiled members of the old Southern Cameroon National Council (SCNC), a secessionist movement that was decapitated over the past two decades by the security forces, have joined the front. Inside the country, a famed radio personality, Mancho Bibixy or "BBC", came forward as the voice of the radicals in the anglophone town of Bamenda in the Northwest. He was arrested in January and remains in jail accused of "terrorism".

"This crisis also marked a generational renewal within the Anglophone movement and the diaspora," the ICG said in a report published in August. "The historic standard-bearers of the Anglophone question who came from the SCNC, the Cameroon Anglophone Movement or the AAC were not centre stage. "Militants of the 1990s

from Cameroon University who emigrated in the period after 1995 were succeeded by young people from Buea University and the University of Buea Student Union, who left Cameroon more recently."

The "radicalisation" of some anglophones is the result of intensive "propaganda" activity launched from abroad on social networks, which feeds into the feelings of marginalization among local people, Nguini Owona says. Separatists also have a cable television channel, the Southern Cameroon Broadcasting Corporation (SCBC TV), which is officially banned but operates from South Africa. "Internet-based campaigns contributed to mounting public anger and increased the popularity of secessionist ideas," the ICG said. "The diaspora helped to give the crisis a higher profile at the international level." — AFP

International

Kenyan crisis deepens as vote delay petition goes unheard

Supreme Court impasse clears way for election

NAIROBI: Kenya plunged deeper into crisis yesterday as a shortage of judges scuppered an eleventh-hour petition to delay a presidential election and the governor of a volatile opposition region endorsed rebellion against the state. Within minutes of Supreme Court chief justice David Maraga announcing that five judges had failed to turn up, preventing a quorum, hundreds of supporters of opposition leader Raila Odinga took to the streets of Kisumu, his main stronghold.

Odinga had successfully challenged the outcome of an initial ballot in August, which he lost, in the same court. "We were expecting Maraga to cancel (today's) elections. This means the push for postponement of the election is on," said George Mbija, a motorcycle taxi driver in the western city, repeating an Odinga demand for a clear-out of election board officials.

"As we wait for Raila to give us the direction, the status quo remains - No reforms, No election." The opposition leader has called on loyalists to boycott today's vote, because he said the election board's failure to institute reforms means it will be neither free nor fair. Kisumu governor Anyang Nyong'o, a hardline Odinga supporter, went a step further. "If the government subverts the sovereign will of the people ... then people are entitled to rebel against this government," Nyong'o told reporters in Kisumu.

Such comments seem certain to fuel fears of a major confrontation with security forces, already blamed for killing nearly 50 people in Kisumu and Nairobi slums after the cancelled August vote. For many in East Africa's economic powerhouse, the instability will also rekindle memories of large-scale ethnic violence that killed 1,200 people

following a disputed election in 2007. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who won the annulled election by 1.4 million votes, has made clear he wants the re-run to go ahead and with the Supreme Court - the only institution that can delay it - unable to meet, it appears he will get his way.

In his announcement on live television, Maraga said one judge was unwell, another was abroad and another was unable to attend after her bodyguard was shot and injured on Tuesday night. It was unclear why the other two were absent. Election board lawyer Paul Muite said Maraga's statement meant the election would proceed as planned. "It means elections are on tomorrow. There is no order stopping the election," he told the Citizen TV station. "Recipe for chaos"

Opposition protesters take to the streets



If the election goes ahead, it is likely to deepen the ethnic and political divides that have frequently sparked violence in Kenya, a key Western ally in a turbulent region. In a related ruling, High Court Judge George Odunga said some local election officials had been appointed in an irregular manner, but to withdraw at the last minute would only make an already dire situation worse.

"For the elections to proceed in the absence of the said officers would in my view constitutional crisis of unimaginable magnitude. Simply put, it would be a recipe for chaos." However, he admitted that not dismissing them could form the grounds for legal challenges afterwards. The Supreme Court has said it is prepared to annul the re-run, and send the country of 45 million back to square one, if it does not pass muster.

The court was created under a 2010 constitution that followed the violent political crisis of three years earlier, and has come under attack from Kenyatta since its deci-



KISUMU, Kenya: Supporters of National Super Alliance (NASA) presidential candidate Raila Odinga throw rocks next to burning tyres blocking the road, during a demonstration yesterday. — AFP

sion to annul his August victory. Both the European Union and the Carter Center, an election-monitoring group run by former President Jimmy Carter, have said they will reduce their monitoring missions amid rising tensions between the Kenyatta and Odinga camps. Foreign observers were heavily criticized by the opposition in

support for focusing on the vote, rather than the tallying process led by the IEBC election board. "The current political impasse constrains the IEBC's ability to conduct a credible election," the Carter Center said. "There is a serious risk of election-related violence should the elections go forward." — Reuters

At a forgotten Pakistan port, China paves new Silk Road

GWADAR: Remote and impoverished, Pakistan's Gwadar port at first glance seems an unlikely crown jewel in a multi-billion-dollar development project with China aimed at constructing a 21st century Silk Road. Situated on a barren peninsula in the Arabian Sea, Gwadar, or the "gate of the wind", owes its fortuitous selection as Pakistan's next economic hub to its strategic location near the Strait of Hormuz. The city is set to become the bridgehead for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a \$54 billion project launched in 2013 linking western China to the Indian Ocean via Pakistan. The corridor is one of the largest projects in Beijing's "One Belt One Road" initiative, comprising a network of roads and sea routes involving 65 countries.

The Chinese-financed initiative aims to connect the country with Africa, Asia and Europe through a vast network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks. But for Pakistan, participating in the project presents an enormous challenge in a country plagued by weak institutions, endemic corruption and a range of insurgencies in areas slated to host the corridor. "This port is going to help Pakistan make linkages with neighboring countries. The entire nation will be getting benefits out of Gwadar," Dostain Khan Jamalini, chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority, told reporters. But "the first beneficiaries of this port will be the people of Gwadar".

The subject of economic dividends is extremely sensitive in resource-rich



GWADAR, Pakistan: Pakistani fishermen construct a boat in Gwadar port. — AFP

Balochistan—one of Pakistan's poorest and most violent provinces, where separatist insurgencies have been waged for decades. Since the beginning of the project militants have repeatedly attacked construction sites and targeted Chinese workers. The project includes the country's first deep-water port, a free-trade zone and 50 kilometers (31 miles) of dock space. "Gwadar port is not Chinese, our strong partner is Chinese and we appreciate their boldness," said Jamalini. "They came to Gwadar when nobody was accepting the idea to come and visit."

Contested territory

China has eyed Gwadar for years. Beijing financed an earlier scheme to develop the port prior to 2007, which was later overseen by a Singaporean group. But following bouts of insecurity, the Singaporeans handed it back to the Chinese in 2013. The ambitious corridor is also far from popular in the region. India makes no mystery of its reservations over an infrastructure

project that crosses through disputed Kashmiri territory.

This month US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis raised concerns about the issue, sparking a fierce backlash in Pakistan and claims Washington was trying to "contain China" in favor of arch-rival India. Beyond diplomatic concerns, security remains a key issue in Gwadar, according to Brigadier Kamal Azfar, who heads "Brigade 440"—a security outfit created to protect CPEC projects and personnel. Hostile forces are trying to "scuttle or stall CPEC", he said in reference to accusations India has backed insurgent hostile to the project.

The area also lacks water and electricity, which developers hope will be remedied by dams and desalination plants outlined in the scheme. Officials also worry the peninsula will fall victim to real estate speculation. Property prices near the port doubled between 2014 and 2016, said Sajjad Baloch, the director of the Gwadar Development Authority, before falling 20 percent. —AFP

'Xi Dada' casts a long shadow over China

BEIJING: Chinese politics have increasingly become a one-man show, with President Xi Jinping as the indisputable star. When Xi took the stage yesterday to reveal the new members of the Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, he spent less than two minutes introducing his fellow committee members. He then launched into his own vision for the country as the six stony-faced men in dark suits—none of them considered potential successors stood stiffly and in silence.

The event capped a week-long party congress that was all about Xi, underscoring the cult of personality that state media have built around China's most powerful leader in decades. The 64 year old, who was given a second term as the party's general secretary, has amassed titles and a level of official adulation that has sparked comparisons to modern China's founding father, Mao Zedong. His face graces the front page of every paper in the country, while his exploits and directives headline each night's evening news.

Shops sell commemorative plates and memorabilia with

his image alongside Mao's. He carries so many political and military titles—from president, to Central Military Commission chairman and party "core"—that he has earned the nickname "Chairman of Everything". The congress confirmed his rise to the pinnacle of Chinese leadership alongside Mao and market reformer Deng Xiaoping when his name and political ideology were enshrined in the party's constitution.

While his more than three-hour marathon speech to open the congress last week induced conspicuous yawns from former president Jiang Zemin, the audience of some 2,300 delegates clapped at key lines in unison. High-tech developers even rushed to create a cellphone game allowing users to applaud him, tapping their screens to clap along with clips of the address. A congress delegate said the adulation expressed for Xi was "totally normal". "It reflected how Xi has earned the support and love of the whole party and country," said senior Central Party School official Xie Chuntao, stating this was evident in "the strength of people's applause." Xi is the first Chinese leader to have been born after 1949, when the revolution that gives the Communist Party its legitimacy ended. Born into privilege as a "princeling"—the son of a renowned revolutionary hero turned vice premier—his attachment to the party was particularly strong because of his family background, said Francois Bougon, author of "In Xi Jinping's Head". —AFP



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Plans to teach Russian in Armenia raise fears of Moscow influence

YEREVAN: Armenia plans to increase teaching Russian in schools in a move that has sparked widespread concerns that Moscow's influence is growing in the ex-Soviet state. The education ministry has launched public discussion of the reform on the use of the Russian language, as the Caucasus country marks 26 years of independence from the former Soviet Union. Learning Russian is already mandatory in Armenian primary schools. But now the government wants Russian to be taught to an advanced level at a greater number of schools and for secondary schools to use both Armenian and Russian when teaching physics, maths and geography.

Russian "is the most widely used (foreign) language" in Armenia, Education Minister Levon Mkrtchyan said at a press conference. He argued that similar teaching programs already exist for other foreign languages such as English, French and German. The education ministry's plans, however, have quickly turned into a political dispute, reflecting sensitivities over the use of the Russian language in Armenia and other former Soviet republics. According to a poll this month on the website of Armenia's education ministry, only 25 percent back the

linguistic reform, while 75 percent are against it. "Nobody is against children learning several languages, but when we are talking about forced Russification, it becomes a direct threat to national sovereignty," said political analyst and former opposition lawmaker Stepan Safarian. Opposition lawmaker Anahit Bakshyan said she also firmly opposes the plans.

"Why is it necessary to popularize Russian in a country where 98 percent of the population is Armenian," she asked. "All foreign languages are important, why should we single out Russian?... According to our constitution, our official language is Armenian. There cannot be a second one," she added. After the fall of the USSR, Russian-language schools were closed and the use of Russian vastly decreased.

Today, young Armenians prefer to continue their studies in the West. Armenia's own language is Indo-European and totally unrelated to Russian, with its own unique alphabet. But Yerevan has edged closer to Moscow in recent years, preferring an economic union with Russia over a trade agreement with the European Union. The speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament Vyacheslav Volodin recently asked Armenia to make Russian an official language in exchange for Moscow recognizing Armenian driving licences. Yerevan refused. Armenia's plans to expand Russian teaching come shortly after Ukraine limited the use of Russian in schools with a controversial new law. Kiev's law was met with criticism not only in hostile Moscow, but also in neighboring Hungary and Romania. —AFP

Analysis

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Post-IS battle for the Mideast

By Peter Van Buren

With Islamic State in fatal decline and the edges of Kurdistan afire, the Middle East is entering a new era, dominated by the Saudi-Iranian power struggle. The United States, which did so much via its unnecessary invasion of Iraq and tragic handling of the post-invasion period to nurture the growth of Islamic State, will be largely missing from the scene. Instead, the struggle will, as it did during the fight against the Sunni extremists of Islamic State, involve shifting Sunni and Shiite allegiances.

For the moment, there seems to be an easing in the historic tensions between the two main - and often warring - branches of Islam. Religious differences are not the focus; this is a classic geopolitical power struggle for control of Iraq, Syria, and Kurdistan, and for expanding diplomatic and strategic reach throughout the region.

Iran is lined up to be the big winner in Syria. Islamic State's defeat will significantly lessen Sunni influence, and Tehran's role as Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's protector will only increase now that it appears Assad will remain in control of some portion of the country. Iran will have pieced together a land corridor to the Mediterranean. The Saudis will be left with little influence.

The same goes for the United States. American forces have been largely relegated to playing traffic cop among various on-again off-again allies such as the Turks and Kurds, each with its own agenda in Syria. Any influence Washington thinks it still has is further diluted by the presence of the Russians, who are there to support Assad while maintaining a permanent presence in the heart of the Middle East. American efforts may wind up as little more than fumbling around to keep Israel and Jordan from overreacting to the increased Iranian influence on their borders.

In Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, Riyadh appears to be pivoting towards warmer relations with the Shi'ite government in Baghdad. That a Saudi airline is announcing the first return of direct service between the two countries since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990 is no coincidence, nor is it an isolated event.

The Saudis also appear ready to take advantage of a looming intra-Shiite power struggle in Baghdad among Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, former Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki, and Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr. Sadr, the most religiously zealous of the group, has always been something of a nationalist and is wary of Iranian influence. It is thus not surprising he made friendly trips under official invitation to Sunni Riyadh, and the United Arab Emirates, in recent months.

Sadr is an interesting choice for the Saudis to use to gain influence in Baghdad. Real progress for Riyadh means untangling years of close Iranian cooperation in Iraq, to include limiting the power of the Iranian-backed militias. Sadr has significant influence in that respect, and can use his popularity and credibility to sell Saudi cooperation to his followers who remember Saudi funding of al Qaeda in Iraq and Islamic State over the years. Enhancing Sadr's Shi'ite religious status can further Sunni Saudi goals. During his visit, the Saudis gifted Sadr with \$10 million for "rebuilding," and also astutely threw in some visas for this year's Hajj pilgrimage for Sadr to distribute.

The Saudis otherwise have little to work with in Iraq compared to Iran. Tehran's ties to officials in Baghdad are just a tiny part of a deep relationship forged in the bloody fight against the American occupiers and the ousting of Islamic State. Iranian money continues to support Iraq, and the Shi'ite militias are still mostly under Iranian influence.

Iran is also probably the most stable Muslim nation in the Middle East. It has existed more or less within its current borders for thousands of years, and is largely religiously, culturally, and linguistically homogeneous (though keep an eye on the Kurdish minority.) While governed in significant part by its clerics, the country has held a series of increasingly democratic elections. And unlike the Saudi monarchs, Iran's leaders do not rule in fear of an Islamic revolution. They already had one.

Power struggles create flashpoints, and the Saudi-Iranian fight post-Islamic State is no exception. The Saudi-Iranian proxy war in Yemen has settled into a version of World War One-style trench warfare, with neither side strong enough to win nor weak enough to lose. In an ugly form of stasis, the conflict seems likely to stay within its present borders.

The powder keg is Kurdistan. Though arguably a de facto state since 2003, after the Kurds voted formally voted for independence in a Sept. 25 referendum, Iran and the Iranian-backed government in Baghdad were pressed to make clear they will not tolerate an actual Kurdish nation. With Islamic State nearly defeated and combat-tested Shi'ite militias ready for their next tasks, Tehran and Baghdad no longer need to keep the Kurds on their side. Fighting has already broken out around Kirkuk, an oil-rich city in Iraqi Kurdistan, between forces supported by Baghdad/Tehran and Kurdish fighters - leaving a gap for the Saudis to offer financial or covert support to the Iraqi Kurds.

Saudi involvement could morph an Iraqi civil war into a new proxy struggle right on Iran's own western border, with the possible complication of further unrest inside Iran by its Kurdish minority. While it may seem odd to write about the changing balance of power in the Middle East largely leaving out the United States, that may well describe America's range of options post-Islamic State.

NOTE: Peter Van Buren, a 24-year State Department veteran, is the author of We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People. Views expressed here are his own and do not represent those of the Department of State



Saudi crown prince shakes up kingdom

Unveiling blueprints for a futuristic landscape with robots and driverless cars, Saudi Arabia's young crown prince outlined his most emphatic vision yet to transform the ultra-conservative kingdom as he sought to charm investors. In a rare public appearance Tuesday at an investor summit in Riyadh - dubbed "Davos in the desert" - Mohammed bin Salman pledged a "moderate" Saudi Arabia, long seen as an exporter of a brand of puritanical Islam espoused by militants worldwide.

The speech came as the 32-year-old prince oversees reforms that mark the biggest cultural and economic shake-up in the kingdom's modern history, while sidelining powerful clergy who have long dominated the public discourse. "We will not spend the next 30 years of our lives dealing with destructive ideas. We will destroy them today and at once," Prince Mohammed told global business titans gathered in a chandelier-studded ballroom for the Future Investment Initiative.

MBS, as he is well known, promised his kingdom will return to "what we were before - a country of moderate Islam that is tolerant of all religions and to the world". His comment, while unveiling plans for a \$500 billion development zone spread on the kingdom's western coast, chimes with his public image of a bold liberal reformer in a conservative country where more than half the population is under 25.

"I think this is the clearest articulation we've heard so far about where the crown prince plans to take Saudi," Lori Boghardt, from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told AFP. "It's clear the crown prince is set on dramatically transforming the kingdom. This especially includes a quieter and less influential ultraconservative religious sphere."

'Laggards and reactionaries'

The vision of creating a "moderate Saudi Arabia" is fraught with risks and could trigger a backlash from conservatives. Last month a royal decree said women would be allowed to drive. The kingdom is also expected to lift a

public ban on cinemas and has encouraged mixed-gender celebrations - something unseen before. The government recently set up an Islamic center tasked with certifying the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in a stated bid to curb extremist texts.

The government appears to have clipped the wings of the once-feared religious police - long accused of harass-

shoring up power and over the summer carried out a wave of arrests in a crackdown on dissenters, including influential clerics and some liberals. "One element that's not part of the transformation drive is more tolerance of political differences and differences in opinion about the directions Saudi should take," said Boghardt. "The crown prince has made this clear."

But a common refrain among his proponents is that it is impossible to attain consensus as he carries out reforms on a scale that are unprecedented in the country's modern history. Inside the Future Investment Initiative at Riyadh's Ritz Carlton, a palatial hotel originally planned as a palace for guests of the royal family, the kingdom sought to display its massive transformation as it opens up its economy and seeks to diversify away from oil.

The \$500 billion economic zone straddling Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt will be spread over 26,500 sq km, Prince Mohammed said, in a slick marketing pitch to investors. In a promotional video featuring the project - dubbed NEOM, women were seen jogging in sports bras and working alongside men in laboratories, an image that contrasts with the country's notorious dress code.

At the conference itself, some delegates including foreigners marvelled at how many of the female participants were dressed in business attire and no headscarf - something not commonly seen in public spaces in Riyadh two years ago. Some government officials have likened Saudi Arabia's reform drive to a fast-moving bus - either people get on board or risk being left behind. "Only dreamers are welcome to join," Prince Mohammed said as he unveiled plans for NEOM.

Some experts say his reforms symbolize too much change happening too quickly. "Or you might say he is doing too little too late?" said Stephen Potter, vice president of the Chicago-based Northern Trust Company, who attended the presentation. "We all agree change is necessary. Some change is better than no change." —AFP

Bold liberal reformer in a conservative country

ing the public with rigid Islamic mores - who have all but disappeared from big cities. Some conservative clerics - who for years staunchly opposed more social liberties for women - have backpedalled and come out in favor of the decree allowing them to drive.

"MBS has been working hard behind the scenes to bring the conservatives along and he has succeeded with a material number of them," said Ali Shihabi, director of the Washington-based Arabia Foundation think tank. "There will always be laggards and reactionaries but his drive and strength combined with a substantial constituency among the young for change has created the space for him to move down this road."

'Only dreamers are welcome'

In tandem with reforms, Prince Mohammed has been

Women fail to crack China's glass ceiling

Every time China's ruling Communist Party convenes a major gathering, like the congress that just ended in Beijing, the list of delegates is hand-crafted in part to burnish the party's image as "representative of the masses" - including giving some prominence to those in more menial jobs and ethnic minorities. Yet one group is chronically under-represented among the political elite: Women. The founding father of communist China, Mao Zedong, may have once said that women "hold up half the sky" but when the twice-a-decade party congress selected a new batch of top leaders this week, females weren't holding up much at all.

No women made it onto the elite Politburo Standing Committee, the group of seven men at the pinnacle of the party. None ever have. In the new Politburo, only one of its 25 members is a woman - Sun Chunlan, head of the party body charged with outreach to non-Communists. It is her second term and she is likely to retire in five years. On the previous Politburo, there were two women, Sun and Vice Premier Liu Yandong - who is past retirement age and has stepped down from the Politburo.

One rung down, just 4.9 percent of the new Central Committee, a mere 10 of the body's 204 members, are women. That number was unchanged from the outgoing Central Committee, which presided for five years, but lower than in 2007-2012 when there were 13. The State Council Information Office, which doubles as the party's propaganda department, did not respond to faxed questions for comment on why there are so few women in senior party positions. By way of comparison, five members of US President Donald Trump's 24-member cabinet are

women, and about 20 percent of the US Congress are female. In Japan, two out of 20 members of the cabinet are women as are about 10 percent of the lower house lawmakers newly elected on Sunday.

Astronauts and housekeepers

At the Chinese party congress itself, the overall numbers were stronger: about a quarter of its 2,287 delegates were women - roughly commensurate with the proportion in the roughly 90 million-member party. But with most senior leadership posts in the hands of men, activist Xiong Jing, an NGO project manager who edits a feminist social media site, said many of the women delegates to the party congress were there merely as "decoration". "This problem is a cliché," she said. "With the political system as it is now, I think even if more women were involved, whether as party congress delegates or in government, they may be very limited in what they can do."

The party takes the appearance of representativeness seriously when it comes to some groups. At party congresses and annual sessions of parliament, there are delegates from China's 56 different ethnic groups, every branch of the military and police, private businesses, the state sector and, of course, the government. The party congress this year featured delegates who were astronauts, athletes, actors, judges, farmers and more. There was even a delegate representing housekeepers, who showed up in her apron and maid's cap.

For women in general in China, political empowerment is lacking. China ranked 74th in political empowerment of women out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's global Gender Gap Report last year. In 2006, it was no. 52 out of 115. Leta Hong Fincher, a New York-based sociologist and author of the forthcoming book "Betraying Big Brother: The Rise of China's Feminist Resistance", says women in China are losing ground amid a resurgence of traditional gender norms. —Reuters

Catalonia's police force divided and demoralized

With the Spanish government ready to take over the running of Catalonia on Friday, the loyalty of the local police to Madrid or to the Catalan cause will be tested if they are ordered to drag their former political masters from office. Spanish police provoked international outcry by using batons and rubber bullets when they stepped in to try to stop an illegal independence referendum on Oct. 1 after the local Catalan force refused to prevent voting in what has become the worst constitutional crisis in modern Spanish history.

Catalonia's secessionist government is intent on resisting Spain's plan to remove it from power, and there are doubts over how a divided and demoralized Mossos d'Esquadra, as the Catalan police are called, would respond if ordered to evict President Carles Puigdemont and his autonomous government by force. National police could once again be on the front line. The local police force is riven by distrust between those for and against Catalan independence and is estranged from Spain's national police forces, according to interviews with Mossos officers and national police.

The Civil Guard gave evidence against the Mossos chief in a sedition inquiry after his force stood back and allowed voting to take place, court documents show. Five Mossos officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believed the 17,000-strong force was split among those who wanted independence and those who opposed it, with three of those saying they would not use force to remove ministers and lawmakers from power.

"I'm not going to use force and beat people with my baton if they are passive," said a 15-year Mossos veteran and secessionist, who declined to be named. He said many others felt the same, but added: "I would have to obey it. My family has to eat." A Mossos spokeswoman said the force was neutral and not subject to any "political or ideological criteria". Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is intent on thwarting the latest bid for independence by Catalonia, which has 16 percent of the Spanish population but generates 19 percent of the country's economic output, to avoid what he believes will bring economic and social turmoil to the heart of the eurozone.

Chain of command

Officers told Reuters there was also an anti-independence faction in the Mossos d'Esquadra, "Lads' Squad" in Catalan, which uses an encrypted chat app to share views on independence versus allegiance to Madrid. In a bid to impose its authority the Madrid government will replace the Mossos senior leadership, but the question is whether this will be enough to ensure the force's loyalty. The Mossos stance will have a powerful influence on the 7.5 million Catalans as the force has deep roots in Catalan society, having emerged from citizen militias in the 18th century.

The Mossos' reputation was enhanced by its handling of an August van attack in Barcelona which killed 14 people. Rajoy will seek Senate approval on Friday to take the unprecedented step of assuming central control of Catalonia, including its government and the running of Mossos. The strategy will replace the Mossos leadership, including its two senior officers and 23 commissioners, and route the chain of command to a national police commander, yet to be appointed, who will report to the interior ministry, officials in Madrid and a Catalan police union said. —Reuters



This undated handout picture shows mysterious ancient structures built from stone in undisclosed locations across the desert in Saudi Arabia. — AFP

Mystery stone structures found in Saudi desert

SYDNEY: Nearly 400 mysterious ancient stone structures have been identified in the Saudi Arabian desert by an Australian researcher using Google Earth. David Kennedy, whose team has spent decades recording thousands of archaeological sites in the Middle East, said the man-made edifices, known as "gates", are thought to have been constructed between 2,000 to 9,000 years ago. But their purpose and function are a mystery. "You can't see them in any intelligible way at the ground level but once you get up a few hundred feet, or with a satellite even higher, they stand out beautifully," the University of Western Australia academic yesterday said in a statement.

Kennedy said he was baffled when he first saw the remote and inhospitable site, in the lava fields of an ancient volcano, on satellite images, despite some 40 years working in the region. "I refer to them as Gates because when you view them from above they look like a simple field gate lying flat, two upright posts on the sides, connected by one or more long bars," he said. "They don't look like structures where people would have lived nor do they look like animal traps or for disposing of dead bodies. It's a mystery as to what their purpose would have been."

His findings are described in a paper published next month in the journal *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy*. He said not much was known about the people who built them, but they were believed to be ancestors of the modern-day Bedouin. Their discovery came about by chance after a Saudi doctor who was interested in the area's history contacted him, having heard about his work in Jordan.

"He said 'I'm interested in the heritage of my country, I've spotted on Google Earth that there are some rather strange structures in the lava fields'," Kennedy told broadcaster ABC. "He sent the coordinates of them to me and I had a look and I was bowled over by them." Kennedy, a founding director of the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project, specializes in aerial archaeology. Since 1997, he and his team have photographed tens of thousands of stone-built structures, mostly in Jordan, ranging from giant circles to animal traps and funerary monuments. — AFP

US-bound passengers face new security interviews at check-in

Continued from Page 1

Cathay Pacific said it would halt services allowing passengers to check in luggage from downtown Hong Kong or curbside at the airport, and instead interview them at check-in gates. The airlines suggested that passengers arrive early for their flights to account for any additional delays caused by the new rules. Norwegian said that its passengers would receive instructions by SMS message and that check-in desks would open four hours before departure for flights to the United States.

"The new measures raise the bar on aviation security. They have required a significant amount of work on the part of airlines and airports," said Perry Flint, IATA assistant director for corporate communications. Flint praised the US Transport Security Administration for demonstrating "flexibility" in its imposition of the new measures. But he added: "Over the longer term there needs to be a greater focus on mutual recognition of states' measures and more of a risk-based approach when choosing locations for enhanced security measures."

Airlines for America, a US trade group, said the changes "are complex security measures" but praised US officials for giving airlines flexibility in meeting the new rules. Alexandre de Juniac, CEO of the International Air Transport Association, said the industry understood security threats to aviation were made regularly but in this case the US government had not shared any specific dangers before changing the rules. "What we have seen is very strange," he told reporters in Taipei. "Unilateral measures announced without any prior consultation... That is something that is very con-

cerning and disturbing."

At their annual meeting in Taipei, Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) members passed a resolution calling for security measures to be risk-based, outcome-focused and proportionate to the probable threat. "Unilateral actions taken by individual governments reacting to emerging threats may result in unnecessary disruption or lead to unintended safety consequences," said the members. AAPA includes most large Asian airlines but not mainland Chinese carriers. "The risk is other countries make similar demands," AAPA Director General Andrew Herdman said.

US authorities in June also increased security around aircraft and in passenger areas, and other places where travelers can be cleared by US officials before they depart. A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokeswoman declined to discuss the specific changes but said "the United States continues to work with our partners to raise the baseline of global aviation security and keep the entire traveling public safe". The TSA said in July it was imposing new security rules requiring US domestic airline travelers to remove all electronic items larger than mobile phones such as tablets, e-readers and video game consoles from carry-on baggage for screening.

The new measures came as US President Donald Trump's administration is working to toughen controls on refugees and immigrants amid worries that groups like Islamic State and Al-Qaeda are both trying to send potential attackers into the United States and to smuggle bombs on board a US-bound flight. On Tuesday, Trump issued an executive order ending a moratorium on refugee arrivals but re-imposing controls on those coming from 11 countries, most of them with Muslim majorities.

Previously, the administration has banned laptops and larger electronics from cabins on flights from certain Middle East hubs, and has attempted to impose a blanket visa ban on some countries - a measure now tied up in court. The White House has insisted the new controls are designed as anti-terror safeguards but Trump's critics have accused him of unfairly targeting Muslims with blanket measures. — Agencies

Govt heading to resign, will...

Continued from Page 1

Ghanem however told reporters that he was not officially informed of any decisions, adding that his personal expectations after meeting the Amir was that the

Assembly will not be dissolved and that the government is not expected to attend the next session. He said he held meetings yesterday with 21 MPs to discuss the developments and that he will call for an informal meeting with MPs in his office next week.

Ghanem said filing to grill ministers is the lawmakers' right guaranteed under the constitution, but these should be deemed as minor things compared to the need of safeguarding national interests when "we as a country and a society are threatened with something big".

Qatar to introduce minimum wage as...

Continued from Page 1

ITUC - which has been unstinting in its criticism of Qatar - said they backed the reforms. "The new guidance from Qatar signals the start of real reforms in Qatar which will bring to an end the use of modern slavery and puts the country on the pathway to meeting its international legal obligations on workers' rights," said Sharan Burrow, its general secretary.

The minimum wage initiative and the bilateral agreements were announced by Issa Saad Al-Jafali Al-Nuaimi, minister of administrative development, labor and social affairs, during a meeting with foreign diplomats. No details were given of when the minimum wage would be introduced or at what level. However, Burrow described the wage proposal as a "genuine breakthrough" and said it would "end wage-based race discrimination in Qatar".

Workers in Qatar, unions and rights groups have claimed that many have been lured to work in the Gulf for wages considerably less than what they had been

promised. There has also been widespread criticism that a large number of workers are not paid their salaries on time. According to the Qatar News Agency, the change to allow workers to leave the country without employers' approval was agreed at a cabinet meeting.

In Feb 2015, Qatar introduced the Wage Protection System, designed to ensure workers receive their salaries electronically, either fortnightly or monthly. And last December, Qatar announced the end of its much-criticized "kafala" system, under which all foreign workers needed a local sponsor in order to work, maintain residency, switch jobs or leave the country. This was replaced by a contract-based system, but critics said it amounted to little more than a name change.

Rights' expert Nicholas McGeehan said more detail was still required. "We need to see details on how and when all of this will be implemented," he told AFP. "Kafala will end when workers are able to change employers and based on what we have seen today there is still no sign of that happening."

Since controversially being awarded the World Cup in 2010, Qatar has launched massive construction projects and faced huge international pressure to reform its labor laws. The ILO meeting starting today in Geneva is expected to run until Nov 9, with Qatar being discussed towards the end of the meeting. — AFP

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Sports

European 5000m champion arrested in doping raid

MADRID: Reigning European 5000m champion Ilias Fifi was arrested in Barcelona yesterday as part of a doping probe, sources of the investigation confirmed. Fifi, born in Morocco but who has represented Spain since 2015, was arrested at his home yesterday morning in Santa Coloma de Gramenet on the outskirts of the Catalan capital. The 28-year-old is just one of a number of arrests being carried out in operations "for crimes against public health and the use of medications with great danger to health" said a statement from the Catalan High Court of Justice. The Court also confirmed the operation carried out yesterday began with a police investigation back in June. Fifi took advantage of Mo Farah's absence to claim European gold at the 2016 European Championships in Amsterdam. That had been the crowning glory in an inspiring rise to fame as Fifi arrived in Spain 11 years ago as an immigrant hiding in a truck. — AFP

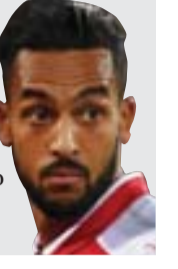


English county sides warned over tapping-up

LONDON: English county sides have been warned they could face hefty fines if they "tap up" players from other clubs who are still under contract, a report said yesterday. Britain's Times newspaper said the England and Wales Cricket Board had sent out a letter after several allegations of players having been approached either by counties or by third parties in recent years. Some sides, particularly those in division two of the county championship, have become increasingly concerned that their players are being approached over potential moves to bigger clubs, the report said. English cricket chiefs, in their warning letter, said they would enforce the regulations relating to player registration. The rules state: "A county must not approach or be involved in discussions with any cricketer registered by another county or any agent or other person on his behalf with a view to offering him a trial or registering him or employing him in any capacity." A county that fails to comply "shall be liable to a fine of not less than £20,000 (\$26,500) and not more than £50,000", the regulations say. — AFP

Walcott should leave Arsenal after losing first-team spot

LONDON: Theo Walcott should leave Arsenal for his own good after being relegated to a secondary role at the Premier League side, club great Ian Wright said after Tuesday's 2-1 win over Norwich City in the League Cup. Walcott, once considered one of Arsenal's best attacking players, has made three substitute appearances in the league for Arsene Wenger's side this season. The 28-year-old has only scored in the Europa League and the League Cup, netting three times in five matches. The England international has been an integral part of Arsenal since joining from Southampton 11 years ago, winning the FA Cup three times. However, his impact has faded recently and Wright believes it's time for the forward to switch teams and reignite his career. "I think so, for (his own) sake," Wright told Sky Sports when asked if Walcott should move on. "I'm not sure where he can go now with Arsenal and he's only playing in the Carabao Cup and the Europa League." — Reuters



Kershaw, Dodgers beat Astros 3-1 in hot World Series opener

Astros road struggles continue during Game One loss

LOS ANGELES: No sweat, Clayton Kershaw. Changing jerseys to beat the 103-degree heat, the Dodgers ace with a checkered playoff history delivered a signature performance, pitching Los Angeles past the Houston Astros 3-1 Tuesday night in the World Series opener. Boosted by Justin Turner's tiebreaking, two-run homer in the sixth inning off Dallas Keuchel, Kershaw was in complete control against the highest-scoring team in the majors this season.

"Definitely feels good to say it was the World Series, and it feels good to say we're 1-0," Kershaw said. The left-hander had waited his whole career for this moment. And once he took the mound in his Series debut, he lived up every bit to the legacy of Sandy Koufax, Orel Hershiser and the greatest of Dodgers hurlers. The three-time Cy Young Award winner struck out 11, gave up just three hits and walked none over seven innings, featuring a sharp breaking ball that often left Houston batters taking awkward swings.

His lone blemish was a home run by Alex Bregman in the fourth that made it 1-all. No matter, with Koufax in the house, Kershaw did his pal proud. "He was as good as advertised," Keuchel said. A sweltering, pulsating crowd at Dodger Stadium dotted with Hollywood A-listers was filled with Kershaw jerseys, and he drew loud cheers all evening.

Kershaw got one more ovation when he walked through a corridor to a postgame interview. There, fans applauded a final time. "I felt good. It's a tough lineup over there," Kershaw said. "The way Keuchel was throwing it was up and down a lot, which was good. It got us into a rhythm a little bit. I think for me personally, it helped out a lot."

Brandon Morrow worked a perfect eighth and Kenley Jansen breezed through the Astros in the ninth for a save in a combined three-hitter. The Dodgers' dominant relievers have tossed 25 straight scoreless innings this postseason.

With both aces throwing well, the opener zipped by

in 2 hours, 28 minutes - fastest in the World Series since Game 4 in 1992 between Toronto and Atlanta. Jimmy Key and the Blue Jays won that one 2-1 in 2:21. It certainly was unusual for this postseason, when games had been averaging 3 hours, 32 minutes - up 18 minutes from two years ago.

Chris Taylor gave the Dodgers an immediate jolt in their first Series game since 1988 when he hit a no-doubt home run on Keuchel's very first pitch. Taylor was co-MVP of the NL Championship Series with Turner, and they both kept swinging away against the Astros.

"Just getting that momentum early is huge," Kershaw said. "And let the crowd kind of feed off that. It was definitely as good a start as we could have hoped for." The loss left the Astros still without a single World Series win in their 56-season history. In their only other Series appearance, they were swept by

the White Sox in 2005.

Game 2 is today evening, with AL Championship Series MVP Justin Verlander starting against Dodgers lefty Rich Hill. Kershaw has almost every imaginable individual accolade on his resume - five ERA titles, an MVP trophy, a no-hitter and seven All-Star selections - but also was dogged by a shaky October past.

He began this outing in the twilight with a 6-7 career playoff record and an unsightly 4.40 ERA. He improved to 3-0 in four starts this postseason. "I don't know if you can decipher between a postseason start and a World Series start. The adrenaline, I feel like every game is so much more magnified," Kershaw said.

A Series opener that served as a showcase for several of the game's best young hitters - Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa, Cody Bellinger and more - instead was dominated by Kershaw. "Couldn't be happier for him," Turner said. Facing a team that had the fewest strikeouts in the majors this year, Kershaw fanned more Houston hitters than any starter this season. And he helped the Dodgers, who led the majors with 104 wins and a \$240 million payroll, improve to 8-1 this postsea-



LOS ANGELES: Justin Turner #10 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a two-run home run during the sixth inning against the Houston Astros in game one of the 2017 World Series at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. — AP

son. "Tonight is about Kershaw," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. It was 1-all when Taylor drew a two-out walk in the sixth. Turner followed with his drive off the bearded Keuchel. "Keuchel was really good tonight. He was just a pitch or two less than Kershaw," Hinch said.

While it was sticky, the conditions didn't seem to affect either side. Kershaw, as always, wore his bright blue Dodgers jacket walking to the bullpen to get ready. "It was hot warming up. But once the game started, the sun went down, it didn't feel that hot," Kershaw said. There is no reliable record for the hottest temperature at a World Series game. But weather data indicates this might've been the steamiest ever.

Notorious for late arrivals, Dodger fans showed up early and the seats in the shaded sections filled up fast.

by the panel that he should receive no further sanction. "It was found Hartley had committed a reckless act of foul play in that he had struck Slimani in the face. However, the committee was not satisfied that the offence had warranted a red card," read a statement issued by tournament organisers.

The entry-point sanction for striking with the hand is a two-week ban, rising to eight weeks and above according to severity. Although the offence was deemed minor, Hartley's dismal disciplinary record that has robbed him of 60 weeks of his career threatened to increase any sanction given and prevent him from captaining England next month. Argentina, Australia and Samoa visit Twickenham on successive weekends and while the Northampton hooker is under pressure from Jamie George for his place in the front row, he is set to be retained in the role he has performed throughout Eddie Jones's reign.

After the defeat at Clermont, Hartley received support

Keeping with the theme, the stadium organist played 1960s hits "Heat Wave" and "Summer in the City" as Houston warmed up.

When Vin Scully's familiar recorded call of "It's Time for Dodger Baseball" boomed over the PA system, the crowd really let loose, with the entire ballpark standing and chanting for the pregame introductions.

Scully drew a huge ovation when he was later shown on the video board, sitting in a box. Several players clapped along for the Hall of Fame broadcaster, who's nearly 90 and spent 67 seasons calling Dodgers games.

Dustin Hoffman, Jerry Seinfeld and Lady Gaga were among the many celebs in the crowd of 54,253, along with Dodgers great Tom Lasorda and part-owner Magic Johnson. — AP

Joshua refuses to rule out Fury bout

LONDON: Anthony Joshua has refused to rule out the prospect of a world heavyweight title clash with British rival Tyson Fury despite the former champion's travails.

Fury has not fought since beating Wladimir Klitschko to win the IBF, WBA and WBO titles in December 2015 after being handed a drugs ban and then being stripped of his licence by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBoC). Earlier this month, the 29-year-old Fury said he would not reapply to the BBBoC for the right to fight again, further reducing the chances of a return. But Joshua, who defends his IBF and WBA titles against late replacement Carlos Takam in Cardiff on Saturday, has left the door open to a fight with Fury.

"What was his (Fury's) fighting weight — 18 stone (114 kilograms)? Even if he comes back at 22 stone, (George) Foreman came back bigger when he was in his prime," Joshua said. "If he wants to fight and gets his licence at 30 or 40 stone—if he wants to get in the ring and he shows he can move about and control that weight, people will watch him."

"But if he comes back at that weight and he's getting into trouble against journeymen, then people won't be interested. So it's how he performs at his new weight."

Joshua is aiming to unify the heavyweight titles. A fight with WBO champion Joseph Parker—who beat Fury's cousin Hughie in Manchester last month—is set for early next year, as well as a WBA mandatory bout before a prospective clash with reigning WBC king Deontay Wilder. Joshua shook up the sport with the manner of his win over Klitschko and his promoter Eddie Hearn stressed his charge would not accept unreasonable demands for the sake of unifying the belts.

Hearn said: "We wouldn't be held to ransom for a belt. (Kubrat) Pulev or Takam are fine for his defence of the title after Klitschko, but if it was someone like (Fres) Oquendo, we could say, 'no-one wants to watch that fight'." — AFP

Hartley cleared to captain England in Tests

LONDON: Dylan Hartley has been cleared to lead England into their autumn Test series after his citing for striking was dismissed by an independent disciplinary hearing yesterday. Hartley was sent to the sin-bin for striking Clermont prop Rabah Slimani during Northampton's 24-7 Champions Cup defeat on Saturday and, having pleaded not guilty to the offence, it was decid-

Pressure on Matsuyama in WGC Shanghai defence

SHANGHAI: Defending champion Hideki Matsuyama admitted yesterday that he is under pressure to replicate the storming performance that propelled him to WGC-HSBC Champions glory in Shanghai one year ago.

The Japanese opens his defence of "Asia's major" today alongside world number one Dustin Johnson of the United States and fast-rising Spaniard Jon Rahm. The trio are among the headline attractions of a star-studded field at the \$9.75 million showpiece event at Sheshan International Golf Club. Other leading contenders at the tournament, which is on the US PGA Tour and European Tour, include last year's runner-up Henrik Stenson, Olympic champion Justin Rose and a clutch of current and former major winners in Phil Mickelson, Jason Day and Brooks Koepka.

The 25-year-old Matsuyama became the first Asian to win a World Golf Championship a year ago, and it was the catalyst for a brilliant run that also delivered the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational title in August. Matsuyama and Johnson have a stranglehold on WGC events, splitting the

last five between them—two for the Japanese and three to the American. "It is different coming back as defending champion," said Matsuyama, the world number four, who seared his way to victory last year by a comprehensive seven shots from the Swede Stenson and Daniel Berger of the United States. "I don't want to put a lot of pressure or expectation on myself, I just want to let the tournament come to me, like it did last year. "All I can do is try to play my best and hopefully I will play well." Making Matsuyama's task all the harder, he will also have to contend with a growing challenge from the home golfers.

Prime among the Chinese who will hope to be in the mix on the final day on Sunday are Li Haotong, a rising talent who underlined his potential with an eye-catching third-place finish at the British Open in July. Matsuyama said he believes Asian players still have a gap to close on the top American and European players, with the top three in the world all from the United States—Johnson, Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas. And he said that having got close to the top of the world rankings, he now had a battle to stay there, particularly with the likes of the powerful Rahm coming up fast behind him.

"To stay on top and continue on top, I am still learning how to do that," said Matsuyama. "That's one of my goals and one of the things that I'm working on now is to be able to stay on top of my game."

Top-ranked Johnson has mastered the tournament before, winning it in 2013, and given his form in WGC events it would be a surprise if he fails to challenge this week. "I'm always excited to come here and I've had a lot of success in

from the unlikely source of his opposite number Benjamin Kayser. "Rugby is rugby and if you say that any hit on the head is a red card, there will be 25 a match," the France hooker said. "The last thing we want is to go out and start playing on the rules and to start saying to the referee 'it was a cheap shot'."

"We are not football. We are just here to play hard and to keep on going. I don't think it was a red card, just a yellow." Hartley received further backing from Northampton director of rugby Jim Mallinder, who described the decision to cite Hartley as "unjustified". "Anyone who watched the game could see that this was completely accidental — a misjudgement at a clear-out, plain and simple," he said in a statement.

"Citations like this do beg the question of whether Dylan is being singled out for what has happened in the past rather than being judged solely on Saturday's game," he added. — AFP



SHANGHAI: Hideki Matsuyama of Japan, last year's champion poses with the trophy during a promotion event ahead of the HSBC champions golf event in Shanghai, China, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017. — AP

this tournament, it's something I look forward to," he said. "My game is getting there. I had three weeks off so a little rusty but hopefully I knocked all of the rust off today (practising)," added the 33-year-old American, who spent the time off doing gym work and a spot of fishing. Rahm has never played the WGC-HSBC Champions before and the 22-year-old is relishing tasting golf in China. — AFP

Sports

James scores 34 as point guard, leads Cavaliers over Bulls 119-112

Tatum, Brown lead rested Celtics past Knicks

CLEVELAND: LeBron James scored 34 points in a rare start at point guard and the Cleveland Cavaliers, using another early season lineup, awakened after a sluggish first half and beat the Chicago Bulls 119-112 on Tuesday night. Although he often handles the ball and runs Cleveland's offense, James had not officially been listed as a guard since 2012 with Miami. He added 13 assists, including a no-look, behind-the-back dish to Jae Crowder for a 3-pointer during Cleveland's 15-3 spurt in the third quarter. Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade, who asked Cavs coach Tyrone Lue to take him out of the starting lineup, came off the bench and added 11 points. Justin Holiday scored 25 and rookie Lauri Markkanen 19 for Chicago, which made a season high 17 3-pointers. The 7-foot Markkanen became the first player in NBA history to make 10 3-pointers in his first three career games.



Portland extends its NBA-record winning streak

CELTICS 110, KNICKS 89
Jaylen Brown scored 23 points, Jayson Tatum added 22 and Boston beat New York. Kyrie Irving added 20 points and seven assists. Al Horford finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds. After dropping their first two games to open the season, the Celtics have won two straight. The Knicks remain winless through their first three games. Enes Kanter led New York with 16 points and 19 rebounds. But he got most of them in a first half in as his team struggled mightily from the field. The Knicks scored the first basket of the night, but never led again. They shot just 42 percent and went 1 of 12 from the 3-point line.

PACERS 130, TIMBERWOLVES 107
Victor Oladipo scored 28 points and Cory Joseph added 21 to lead hot-shooting Indiana past Minnesota. Darren Collison had 15 points and 16 assists, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Domantas Sabonis had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers, who shot 67 percent from the floor. Karl-Anthony Towns had 28

points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who came out flat after a thrilling last-second win at Oklahoma City on Sunday. Minnesota was missing forward Jimmy Butler, who sat out with an upper respiratory infection. Shabazz Muhammad took Butler's spot in the starting lineup, and he contributed to Minnesota's slow start, going 1-for-5 from the floor and missing two free throws in the first quarter.

MAGIC 125, NETS 121
Aaron Gordon scored a career-high 41 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 35 seconds remaining, and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Orlando over Brooklyn. Evan Fournier added 28 points in game that went back and forth late in the fourth quarter. He finished the scoring with two free throws with 15.5 seconds to play. D'Angelo Russell scored 27 points for the Nets, while DeMarre Carroll had 19 and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson 18.

TRAIL BLAZERS 103, PELICANS 93
CJ McCollum scored 23 points and Portland extended its NBA-record winning streak in home openers to 17 games with a 103-93 victory over New Orleans. Damian Lillard and Evan Turner each added 13 points for Portland, which is off to a 3-1 start for the first time since the 2011-12 season. DeMarcus Cousins had 39 points and 13 rebounds for his fourth straight double-double to start the season. The Pelicans were hurt when Anthony Davis departed with a left knee injury in the first quarter.

CLIPPERS 102, JAZZ 84
Blake Griffin scored 22 points, Patrick Beverley added 19 and unbeaten Los Angeles beat Utah. All five starters for the Clippers (3-0) finished in double figures. Austin Rivers had 16 points, Danilo Gallinari 14 and DeAndre Jordan added 11 points and 18 rebounds. Rookie Donovan Mitchell led the Jazz (2-2) with 19 points, with Rudy Gobert adding 12 points and seven rebounds. Thabo Sefolosha finished with 11 points and 12 rebounds off the bench. — AP



CLEVELAND: Chicago Bulls' Justin Holiday (7) drives against Cleveland Cavaliers' JR Smith (5) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, in Cleveland. — AP

NBA results/standings

Portland 103, New Orleans 93; Indiana 130, Minnesota 107; Boston 110, NY Knicks 89; Cleveland 119, Chicago 112; Orlando 125, Brooklyn 121.

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

Hamilton may be arriving at Base Camp, says Hill

MEXICO CITY: Lewis Hamilton may be just reaching 'Base Camp' in terms of what he can achieve in Formula One, if he does not suddenly walk away, according to former world champion Damon Hill.

The Mercedes driver is set to become Britain's first four times world champion in Mexico City this weekend, with two races to spare. Hill, the 1996 world champion whose late father Graham won two titles in the 1960s plus the Indianapolis 500 and Le Mans 24 Hours race, hailed his compatriot as one of the all-time greats.

"There's no question about that. His talent is spellbinding sometimes," he told Reuters. "(Retired triple champion and Mercedes non-executive chairman) Niki (Lauda) said something about him being the greatest ever. I can understand why he said that."

Hamilton leads Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel by 66 points going into Sunday's race at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez and need finish only fifth to take the championship. That would make him only the fifth driver to win four titles or more alongside Vettel and France's Alain Prost and behind Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio (five) and Michael Schumacher (seven).

The Briton has already taken some of Schumacher's records, including one last Sunday when he made his 117th front row start, one more than the great German's career tally. Hamilton's 72 poles are a record, the Briton overtaking Schumacher's haul of 68 back in September at the Italian Grand Prix. He is now on 62 wins, 29 behind Schumacher's 91 — a number that once seemed likely to stand the test of time but now looks vulnerable if Hamilton, 32, continues for four or more seasons and stays in a com-



AUSTIN: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates with fans after he won the Formula One US Grand Prix auto race. — AP

petitive car. Asked how many titles he felt Hamilton could end up with, Hill laughed. "Well, he's going to end up with four—that's a definite. Barring extraordinary circumstances. I think I might have said three was Base Camp, now maybe four is. I don't know," he declared.

"I don't get the sense he's made himself a target of beating Michael Schumacher's record. But this year all these records have been tumbling. He's passed these markers as if he didn't even know they were there. "So he's got a lot in his back pocket at the moment."

AVOIDING BURNOUT

Hill, now a television pundit for Sky Sports, was impressed with how Hamilton—who thinks nothing of flying to America in between races and leads a hectic social life—stayed fresh despite the pressure.

world endurance championship under his belt, New Zealander Hartley hardly fits the mould of a young driver but he has seized his chance.

Dropped by Red Bull after testing with Toro Rosso as a teenager in 2009, the Kiwi returned to the fold and made a strong debut in Texas last weekend alongside Kvyat, 23. Gasly, last year's GP2 champion, made his debut in Malaysia this month but missed the US Grand Prix to try and win the Japanese Super Formula series that he had previously been competing in.

He returns for Mexico, with Hartley retained. Kvyat has now been dropped three times by Red Bull. Promoted from Toro Rosso to Red Bull at the end of 2014, he was demoted after four races of last season to make way for Verstappen.

This year he sat out Malaysia and Japan for Gasly and returned for Austin when Spaniard Carlos Sainz, Toro Rosso's main points scorer, switched to Renault as part of an engine deal. Kvyat's only real option in Formula One now appears to be Williams, who could have a vacancy if they decide not to retain Brazilian veteran Felipe Massa.

"Formula One is not everything. There are other good opportunities in this life," the Russian told Sky Sports television last weekend as speculation swirled around his future.

"I'm always going to be a racing driver and I always want to race. But there are always good places to be somewhere." — Reuters



Danill Kvyat

Kvyat will not return to Toro Rosso: Marko

MEXICO CITY: Toro Rosso will continue with rookies Brendon Hartley and Pierre Gasly for the rest of the Formula One season after deciding there is no way back for Russian driver Daniil Kvyat. Red Bull motorsport consultant Helmut Marko, a key figure at the two teams owned by the Austrian energy drink company, told Germany's Auto Bild the decision had been taken. "Kvyat will not return again. We do not believe he can make the turnaround in the long term," said the Austrian ahead of this weekend's Mexican Grand Prix. "Gasly and Hartley are finishing the season. Then we'll see what happens."

Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso, who are switching to Honda engines next year, have yet to confirm their 2018 lineup but have limited options from within their own stable. The team acts as a feeder for Red Bull Racing and has served as a springboard for four-times world champion Sebastian Vettel and race winners Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen.

At 27-years-old, and with a Le Mans 24 Hours title and

Pakistan aim to carry momentum into T20s

ABU DHABI: Pakistan will look to transfer the momentum from their one-day whitewash against Sri Lanka into the three Twenty20 internationals starting in Abu Dhabi today and ending in Lahore three days later. Pakistan blanked Sri Lanka 5-0 in the preceding one-day series and start the Twenty20 fixtures as strong favourites as the number two-ranked side, with Sri Lanka a lowly eighth.

If Pakistan sweep the T20 series they will come within a point of first-place New Zealand and could go top if India beat the Black Caps in a three-match series next month.

Aside from winning nine straight ODIs since lifting the Champions Trophy in June, Pakistan have also won nine of their last 11 Twenty20 internationals—all since Sarfraz Ahmed took over as captain.

Off the field too, Pakistan will hope to build on their efforts to revive international cricket back home with the last match to be played in Lahore on Sunday. That contest will see the return of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, eight years after their team bus was ambushed by gunmen on the way to the ground in Lahore on March 3, 2009.

The attacks, which killed eight people and left seven Sri Lankan players and a staff member injured, resulted in the suspension of all international cricket in Pakistan, forcing them to play home matches in the United Arab Emirates.

Despite Pakistan hosting the Pakistan Super League final in March and three T20 internationals against a World XI—with players from seven countries—last month, regular Sri Lanka skipper Upul Tharanga and five other players, as well as coach Nic Potas refused to travel to Lahore. That forced Sri Lankan selectors to hand all-rounder Thisara Perera, part of the World XI, the captaincy and choose a new-look side. But Ahmed said his team will not underestimate Sri Lanka. "It's satisfying to win the ODIs and we will target that same winning momentum but definitely we will not take Sri Lanka lightly," said Ahmed. "Maybe they don't have big names but their players have played in the past and have done well. No team is weak in T20s, so we have to be at our best." Pakistan's pace bowling will be further boosted by the return of Mohammad Amir who missed the ODIs with a shin injury. Fill-in Sri Lanka skipper Perera hopes his team will put up a good fight. "I am really happy to be leading the team," said Perera. "It's a dream come true for me and I hope this team can do something special in this series."

Squads

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (capt), Fakhar Zaman, Ahmed Shehzad, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Hafeez, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem, Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Aamer Yamin, Mohammad Amir, Usman Shinwari, Umar Amin. — AFP

Sports

Phil Kessel's OT winner leads Penguins past McDavid, Oilers

Tavares' tiebreaker finishes hat trick, Isles top Coyotes

PITTSBURGH: Phil Kessel found a way to upstage Sidney Crosby and Connor McDavid. The Pittsburgh forward raced down the slot and beat goalie Cam Talbot 42 seconds into overtime to give the Penguins a 2-1 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Tuesday night. Ian Cole scored his first goal of the season for the Penguins, and Matt Murray stopped 29 shots. Crosby was held without a point in his showdown with McDavid, but the Penguins rode their depth to keep the struggling Oilers in check. McDavid forced the extra period with his first goal in seven games, a wrist shot with 2:53 left in regulation that tied it. Talbot played brilliantly at times while making 42 saves but couldn't get a handle on Kessel's winner. The central figures in the biannual meeting between the best players of their respective generations tried to downplay the hype. Probably a good idea. For all the star wattage Crosby and McDavid bring, their respective teams have spent the opening weeks of the season trying to figure things out.



FLAMES 3, PREDATORS 2, SO
Sean Monahan and Matthew Tkachuk scored in the shootout to give the Flames a win over the Predators. Tkachuk and Micheal

Ferland scored third-period goals for the Flames, who ended a two-game losing streak. Filip Forsberg and Roman Josi scored power-play goals in the first period for the Predators, losers of two straight. Mike Smith had 28 saves in regulation and overtime for Calgary. With 33 seconds left in overtime, Smith denied Colton Sissons from the low slot to send the game to the shootout, where he stopped two of Nashville's three shooters.

LIGHTNING 5, HURRICANES 1
Tyler Johnson had a power-play goal and an assist,

and the Lightning pulled away to beat the Hurricanes. Steven Stamkos had two assists, giving him league leads with 17 assists and 20 points, and Nikita Kucherov scored his 11th goal with 4 seconds left. Both players have 10-game points streaks - one shy of Martin St. Louis' 8-year-old club record to begin a season. Rookie Mikhail Sergachev also scored, and Vladislav Manestnikov and Ryan Callahan added empty-netters to help the Lightning pad their league leads with eight victories and 17 points. They earned a point in their eighth straight game, improving to 7-0-1 in that stretch. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 30 shots for Tampa Bay.

DUCKS 6, FLYERS 2
Ondrej Kase had two goals, Anaheim scored three times in the second period and the Flyers lost No. 2 overall draft pick Nolan Patrick to an undisclosed injury in a Ducks' win. Patrick, the talented center who had three points this season, was checked head-first into the glass by Anaheim forward Chris Wagner, dropped to his knees and needed help leaving the ice. He went straight to the locker room in the second period and did not return. The 19-year-old Patrick was the second pick of the 2017 draft and keyed an influx of youth that helped the Flyers get off to a solid start. The Flyers did not have an immediate update on Patrick's condition.

ISLANDERS 5, COYOTES 3
John Tavares completed his hat trick with a tiebreaking goal in the third period, lifting the Islanders over the winless Coyotes. The Islanders won their third straight and improved to 5-3-1. Jaroslav Halak made 32 saves



NASHVILLE: Sean Monahan #23 of the Calgary Flames scores a shootout goal against goalie Pekka Rinne #35 of the Nashville Predators at Bridgestone Arena. — AFP

for New York. Adam Pelech had three assists for the Islanders, and fellow defenseman Scott Mayfield cemented the win with his first goal of the season at 17:03. The Coyotes - starting a five-game road trip - fell to 0-8-1 under new coach Rick Tocchet.

CANADIENS 5, PANTHERS 1
Shea Weber scored twice, helping the Canadiens end their seven-game skid with a win over the Panthers. Alex Galchenyuk, Brendan Gallagher and Max Pacioretty also scored for the Canadiens, who had not won since their season opener. Carey Price made 26 saves and Jonathan Drouin had two assists. Keith Yandle scored the only goal for the Panthers, while James Reimer stopped 32 of 37 shots. Reimer got the start with Roberto Luongo still injured (right hand). Montreal scored five goals for the first time this season. Their previous high was three. The team had scored a combined five goals on its winless California road trip (0-3-0) coming into Tuesday.

SABRES 1, RED WINGS 0
Benoit Pouliot scored for the second straight game and Robin Lehner made 32 saves in a shutout as the Sabres beat the struggling Red Wings. Victor Antipin and Taylor Fedun each had an assist for Buffalo, which handed the Red Wings their fifth defeat in a row. The win was the first at home for rookie coach Phil Housley and ended the Sabres' three-game home losing streak. Buffalo won consecutive games for the first time this season and improved to 3-5-2.

KINGS 3, SENATORS 2, SO
Adrian Kempe scored the shootout winner to help the Kings beat the Senators. Alec Martinez and Kempe scored for the Kings (7-1-1) in regulation and Darcy Kuemper stopped 29 shots. Dion Phaneuf and Nate Thompson supplied the offense for the Senators (4-1-4). Mike Condon made 41 saves. Condon nearly

coughed up the winner with less than a minute remaining in overtime as he went to play Anze Kopitar, but Erik Karlsson was able to make a goal line save.

CANUCKS 1, WILD 0
Jake Virtanen broke a scoreless tie midway through the third period. Anders Nilsson made 29 saves for his fourth career shutout and the Canucks beat the Wild. Virtanen scored his second goal of the season and the second in as many games. Nilsson tallied his second shutout in three games this season for Vancouver. Devan Dubnyk made 24 saves in goal for Minnesota, but suffered his third losses in five starts this season.

AVALANCHE 5, STARS 3
Matt Nieto capped off his first career hat trick on an empty-netter in the closing seconds, Semyon Varlamov stopped 34 shots and the injury-riddled Avalanche ended a three-game skid with a victory over the Stars. Gabriel Landeskog had a goal and an assist, and Mark Barberio contributed another tally in his 200th career NHL game. Jamie Benn added two goals and Brett Ritchie scored another for the Stars, whose four-game winning streak was halted. Starting goaltender Ben Bishop was replaced by Kari Lehtonen early in the second period after giving up three goals on 17 shots.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, BLACKHAWKS 2
Oscar Dansk stopped 29 shots for his second career win in two appearances, and the Golden Knights beat the Blackhawks for their fourth straight victory. Dansk made his first NHL start after replacing injured Malcolm Subban during a 3-2 win over the St. Louis Blues on Saturday. The 23-year-old gave up goals to John Hayden and Patrick Kane, but was otherwise stellar for the Golden Knights. Vegas is the 10th expansion team to put together a four-game winning streak. The Golden Knights are 7-1-0 in their inaugural season. — AP

NHL result/standings

Las Vegas 4, Chicago 2; Colorado 5, Dallas 3; Calgary 3, Nashville 2 (SO); Vancouver 1, Minnesota 0; Montreal 5, Florida 1; Los Angeles 3, Ottawa 2 (SO); Buffalo 1, Detroit 0; NY Islanders 5, Arizona 3; Anaheim 6, Philadelphia 2; Pittsburgh 2, Edmonton 1 (OT); Tampa Bay 5, Carolina 1.

	Western Conference					Eastern Conference							
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
St. Louis	6	2	1	29	24	13	Tampa Bay	8	1	1	41	25	17
Chicago	5	3	2	34	26	12	Toronto	7	2	0	40	30	14
Colorado	5	4	0	28	24	10	Ottawa	4	1	4	32	24	12
Dallas	5	4	0	26	26	10	Detroit	4	5	1	27	30	9
Nashville	4	3	2	23	24	10	Buffalo	3	5	2	26	36	8
Winnipeg	4	3	0	22	26	8	Boston	3	3	1	24	26	7
Minnesota	2	3	2	22	23	6	Florida	3	5	0	25	30	6
							Montreal	2	6	1	18	34	5
Los Angeles	7	1	1	32	19	15	Pittsburgh	6	3	1	32	40	13
Las Vegas	7	1	0	27	19	14	New Jersey	6	2	0	31	24	12
Vancouver	5	3	1	24	23	11	NY Islanders	5	3	1	29	27	11
Calgary	5	4	0	23	25	10	Columbus	5	3	0	25	21	10
Anaheim	4	3	1	24	21	9	Philadelphia	5	4	0	30	24	10
San Jose	4	4	0	23	22	8	Washington	4	4	1	28	31	9
Edmonton	2	5	1	15	24	5	Carolina	3	3	1	18	21	7
Arizona	0	8	1	21	39	1	NY Rangers	2	6	2	25	36	6

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

Skipper Shakib seeks Bangladesh turnaround

BLOEMFONTEIN: Shakib Al Hasan will be Bangladesh's third captain on a disappointing tour of South Africa as they seek to regain some pride in two Twenty20 internationals, starting in Bloemfontein today.

Bangladesh's all-time leading all-rounder was reappointed T20 captain after a seven-year gap following the retirement from the format of Mashrafe Mortaza. He takes over a squad that has already suffered humiliating defeats in two Test matches and three one-day internationals.

So poorly has Bangladesh performed that Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim and one-day skipper Mortaza were unable to hide their frustration in comments to Bangladesh media. "I am not able to motivate my players or guide my bowlers," Rahim was quoted as saying after the Tests. Mortaza said after the one-day games that "neither the batsmen nor the bowlers took responsibilities".

While Bangladesh's batsmen were always expected to struggle in South African conditions, the bowlers have been the most conspicuous failures on the tour.

In two Tests and three one-day internationals, the bowlers have captured only 23 wickets at a combined average of 100.21. With no new faces in the T20 squad and leading bowler Mustafizur Rahman having returned home because of injury, Shakib appears to have the odds stacked against him.

South Africa, though, will be without inspirational captain Faf du Plessis, who suffered a lower back disc injury in the final one-day international, which will keep him out of action for six weeks.

JP Duminy, who had a win and two losses against Australia in his only previous experience of captaincy three years ago, will take over. The hosts have rested two of their leading bowlers, Kagiso Rabada and Imran Tahir.

The South Africans lost a T20 series against Sri Lanka last season despite outclassing them in the Tests and one-day games. With South Africa fielding an unusually inexperienced bowling line-up, Bangladesh's batsmen will hope to seize the opportunity to make a strong finish to the tour.

South Africa's batting looks formidable, however, and the Bangladesh bowlers will need to perform far better than they have in previous matches if they are to contain them. — AFP

with the traditional format. "Personally, I like five so I would like to keep it at five," Smith said in an interview with cricket.com.au.

"Just the traditional way that Test cricket has been played, I think it's great when you get into that fifth day and enter that last hour, I think it's a really cool part of the game," Warner was even more strident in his opposition, saying: "I have no interest in four-day cricket".

"You have so many variables in Test match cricket - you've got weather, some games might be only getting three days but it just takes one day to have that weather come in and it can ruin it," he told the same website. "Then on the flip-side, it's a Test. It's the longevity, being out there on your legs, it's grit, determination, those things come to my mind to actually want to keep playing five-day cricket. Like a timeless Test (a feature of Test cricket in the 1920s and '30s), it's basically survival of the fittest."

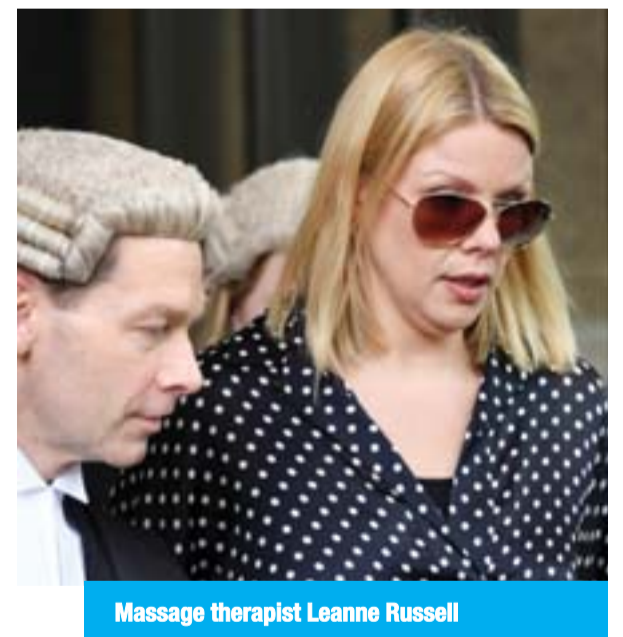
Cricketer Australia chief James Sutherland has expressed support for the trial, but indicated earlier this month it was unlikely Australia would take part any time soon. "We were supportive of the trial... I think it's about learning, it's about innovation, it's about understanding whether these sorts of things can work," he told reporters. — AFP

Smith, Warner say no to four-day Tests

SYDNEY: Australia captain Steve Smith and star opener David Warner say they have no desire to play four-day Tests in a setback to international cricket chiefs who have floated the idea. At a board meeting in Auckland this month, the International Cricket Council unveiled plans for a long-awaited, nine-nation Test championship in a bid to preserve the five-day format's status following the rapid growth of Twenty20. Among a raft of other reforms, it also agreed to experiment with four-day Tests, with South Africa and Zimbabwe set to trial the first in December. But Smith and Warner are not keen, even if the hours and over requirements of each day are extended to reduce disparity



Chris Gayle



Massage therapist Leanne Russell

Masseuse cried after Gayle 'exposed himself'

SYDNEY: A massage therapist said she "cried uncontrollably" after star West Indian cricketer Chris Gayle allegedly exposed himself to her, telling a Sydney court yesterday it left her "very upset". Gayle is suing Fairfax Media newspapers The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Canberra Times over a series of stories in January last year detailing the lurid accusations.

On the opening day of his defamation action Monday, he denied the allegations and claimed the media group was out to "destroy" him. His teammate Dwayne Smith, who was present at the time, has also denied the incident. The newspapers said the all-rounder exposed himself to masseuse Leanne Russell while working for the West Indies team in a dress-

ing room at the 2015 World Cup in Sydney and "indecently propositioned" her. She told the NSW Supreme Court she went to the changing room to look for a towel and came across Gayle.

Gayle asked her: "What are you looking for?" the court heard, according to the Herald. "I said, 'a towel,'" she replied, and he "pulled his towel out and down". "I saw the top half of Chris' ****I apologise. I thereafter shielded my view. I said no and walked out."

Russell said she told the West Indies team's physiotherapist about the incident immediately and was "very upset" and "crying uncontrollably. I was crying like a child". On Tuesday, Smith admitted he sent a text to Russell that simply said "sexy" after she massaged him the day before the Gayle incident. Russell said she was "sick of being treated this way" and had spoken out to get other women to realise "this happens all the time and nobody has the guts to speak out and they should", according to the Herald. Fairfax said it was defending the articles on the basis the allegations were substantially true and in the public interest. Their publication followed an uproar after Gayle attempted to flirt with an Australian presenter on live TV, asking her out for a drink and telling her: "Don't blush, baby." The hearing is scheduled to run for 10 days. — AFP

Sports

Swiss prosecutors grill PSG's Khelaifi in World Cup probe

France, Greece, Italy cooperate with Swiss probe

BERN: Swiss prosecutors grilled Paris Saint-Germain president and beIN Media chief Nasser al-Khelaifi yesterday over allegations that he obtained World Cup media rights by bribing a top FIFA executive.

Khelaifi, a Qatari with close ties to the Gulf state's royal family, is under investigation for allegedly striking illegal deals with disgraced former FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke, who had been Sepp Blatter's right-hand man.

"The interrogation will take a long time due to translation issues but also the quality of the questions and complexity of the issues at stake," said Swiss attorney general (OAG) spokesman Andre Marty. "One needs to be quite patient with the ongoing criminal proceedings," he told reporters.

Marty said there was "a good chance it might not finish today" and that Khelaifi's lawyers and Swiss prosecutors may have to mutually agree to another hearing in the coming weeks. Khelaifi, 43, and his legal team arrived at the OAG headquarters in the Swiss capital Bern at about 9:30am (0730 GMT), avoiding the main entrance.

They were not seen by the roughly two dozen reporters gathered outside. Khelaifi and Valcke have been under investigation since March in connection with media rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups on allegations including corruption, bribery, criminal mismanagement and forgery of a document.

'A DOZEN' LAWYERS

Authorities in France, Greece, Italy and Spain have cooperated with the Swiss probe, including by raiding properties. But the OAG only went public with the case on October 12. Khelaifi's high-profile French lawyer,

Francis Szpiner, then swiftly announced that his sports tycoon client "denies any corruption" and "wanted to be heard as soon as possible" by Swiss prosecutors.

OAG spokesman Marty told reporters there was "a good dozen" lawyers in the room on Wednesday, "from all parties involved", in addition to two representatives of the Swiss attorney general. It is highly likely that FIFA lawyers were present, since the integrity of contracts signed by Valcke on behalf of world football's governing body is a central question in the case.

LUXURY VILLA

The beIN Media group, which is headquartered in Doha, has insisted that its World Cup rights deals were "advantageous for FIFA", rejecting any suggestion that it got favourable treatment. The contract covers broadcasting rights for the MENA (Middle East, North Africa) region for the tournaments. The Qatar broadcaster's offices in Paris have been raided at the request of Swiss authorities.

A raid was also carried out at a luxury Sardinian villa that, it is alleged, was put at the disposal of Valcke, who is serving a 10-year ban from all football-related activity. The villa, set in lush grounds on the Mediterranean island and which has an estimated value of seven million euros (\$8.3 million), is owned by an international real estate agency.

'NOTHING FROM NASSER'

Valcke, a 53-year-old French national, has told the French sports newspaper L'Equipe that he "received nothing from Nasser." An increasingly prominent figure in sports and media, Khelaifi oversaw PSG's 222 million-



BERN: Paris Saint-Germain president and beIN Media chief Nasser al-Khelaifi (right) follows spokesman for the Swiss attorney general Andre Marty for a statement to the press after his hearing on the latest World Cup corruption probe. — AFP

euro (\$264 million) world record signing of Brazilian superstar Neymar in August.

PSG, who were bought by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011, are not implicated in the Swiss investigation. The corruption accusations are the latest to rock world football which is still reeling from the events of 2015,

when FIFA officials were arrested en masse at the governing body's annual conference. They are also the latest allegations to target Qatar. The Gulf state has found itself routinely accused of corruption since controversially winning the right to host the 2022 World Cup, charges it has always denied. — AFP



Valcke is serving a 10-year ban

Ever-present Doucoure keeps Watford on the rise

LONDON: Abdoulaye Doucoure has played every minute of Watford's campaign this season, scored with each of his four shots on target and accounted for 17.5 percent of their successful passes—the highest return for any player in the Premier League.

With statistics like that, the unassuming Frenchman is one of the prime reasons behind Watford's success so far this season, which has seen Marco Silva's side draw with Liverpool, beat Arsenal and have the better of last week's narrow defeat at Chelsea.

In each game the bargain-buy eight-million-pound (\$10.61 million) midfielder has excelled. Last week he eclipsed his compatriot, Chelsea's 40-million-pound Tiemoue Bakayoko, to such an extent that France manager Didier Deschamps might wonder whether he has the right base to his midfield.

Doucoure scored, as he did in the draw with Liverpool, on the back of another superb box-to-box performance that has become his trademark since

Marco Silva made him the hub of the team. "I'm happy. I work for where I have come to and I want to be one of the best midfielders in the league—and a leader. I have to work on that and at the end of the season you'll see where I am," he told the club's website.

"I think I have to improve in the Premier League. I have to work and want to be one of the best. "N'Golo Kante was the best player in the Premier League at Leicester. There's a lot of midfielders I look up to, but in myself I want to show my quality, too."

It has taken him a while after coming within 33 seconds of leaving on loan to Lorient in August 2016. Previous manager Walter Mazzarri had left him out of his pre-season plans and a disillusioned Doucoure got as far as Luton airport, where a private plane was ready to take him to France. But instead of starting a new life, he was stranded on the tarmac when the deal fell through because "the paperwork was late by 33 seconds"—the sort of deadline-day drama that football specialises in.

QUICK TURNAROUND

At least Doucoure is used to quick turnarounds, having arrived at Watford from Rennes the previous January only to be loaned out immediately to Spanish side Granada for the rest of the season.

The 24-year-old made his Watford debut only at the start of this year, eventually persuading Mazzarri to play him in his favoured central-midfield position where he flourished despite Watford's



WATFORD: File photo shows, Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette, center, battles for the ball with Watford's Abdoulaye Doucoure, right, and Christian Kabasele during their English Premier League soccer match. — AP

free-all end to last season.

"I didn't start in my position," he said. "I played right winger. I prefer box-to-box. This is my first position but I am happy with holding midfield. I get to touch the ball a lot and I can go deep and start the play."

Under Silva, he has linked well this season with Nathaniel Chalobah, who has had to fight to establish himself after failing to get his chance at Chelsea. Doucoure has also found himself in the shadows of others in French youth teams

that included Manchester United's Paul Pogba and Valencia's Geoffrey Kondogbia.

"Pogba is still my friend now. I speak to him and when we went to Manchester he gave me his shirt. We speak on the telephone. He's a nice guy." Most immediately, his sights are set on Saturday's visit of Stoke City, the sort of opponents Watford will be expected to beat comfortably if they are to sustain their current sixth place—and further improve those impressive statistics. — Reuters

Guardiola unhappy with ball after City juggernaut halted

MANCHESTER: After thrilling English soccer by scoring 42 goals in 13 games this season, Manchester City's attacking juggernaut was finally halted in the English League Cup. Pep Guardiola thinks he knows why. "The ball is not a serious ball for a professional game," the City manager said. City needed a penalty shootout to get past Wolverhampton Wanderers in the last 16 on Tuesday after the game ended 0-0 after extra time. It was the first time Guardiola's team had failed to score in a match all season, with its last shut-out coming against Manchester United in April.

England's secondary cup competition uses a Mitre ball, whereas the Premier League uses a Nike ball. Guardiola said his players complained about the ball after the match against Wolves.

"It is not acceptable, the ball was unacceptable for a high-level competition," Guardiola said. "It is too light, it moves all over the place, it is not a good ball. It is impossible to score with a ball like that."

The English Football League, which organizes the competition, said the same ball is used in the English lower leagues and has been "tested in accordance with the 'FIFA Quality Programme for Footballs' and meet the 'FIFA Quality Pro' standard."

"All balls used in the professional game are required to meet this standard," the EFL statement said. "Clearly, preference is a subjective matter, but overall the entertainment provided across last night's Round Four ties would suggest that the ball used is not having a negative impact in the competition."

The EFL said it will "engage with Mr. Guardiola and Manchester City to fully understand any concerns" ahead of the next round. There were 18 goals scored in six matches in the last 16 on Tuesday, with City involved in the only goalless draw. City beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 in the previous round.

Guardiola said his players had "one or two days" to practice with the Mitre ball ahead of the League Cup game. "But the ball is bad for one year or two years, it's not acceptable," he said. "All the players complain."

One of them was Yaya Toure, who played the entire game against Wolves. "It's everything," Toure said. "Shooting, the ball is very light. When you touch it, it's floating. It's rubbish." — AP

Brewster blasts Brazil to put England in WCup final

KOLKATA: Liverpool player Rhian Brewster scored a second hat-trick in two games yesterday to send favourites Brazil crashing out of the Under-17 World Cup and England into their first final.

The striker, who scored three goals in the 4-1 quarter-final win over the United States, floored the South American giants in the determined 3-1 win in Kolkata.

England will play the winners of the second semi-final between Spain and Mali in Saturday's final. "We are going to work hard and hopefully win," said Brewster after the game. Brewster linked up brilliantly with Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden who provided the crosses for the match winner.

Brewster put England ahead in the 10th minute despite an attacking start by the Brazilians. Brazil forward Wesley snatched an equaliser in the 21st minute to set up a thrilling match in front of a near capacity crowd. But Brewster made all the running. He put England ahead in the 39th minute, becoming the top goal scorer of the tournament with his sixth strike.

His seventh goal of the event, which is being hosted by India for the first time, came in the second half as it shut the doors on the three-time champions. The 77th



KOLKATA: Brazil's Victor Bobsin, right, fights for control of the ball with England's Morgan Gibbs during the FIFA U-17 World Cup semifinal match in Kolkata, India. — AP

minute strike was the third time unlucky for Brazil goalkeeper Gabriel Brazao, who had not let in a goal from open play in the tournament until the last-four clash.

Brazil forwards Paulinho and Lincoln created good moves but bad luck and England goalkeeper Curtis Anderson kept the three-time champions at bay. — AFP

Live

Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

SPAIN COPA DEL REY		
Lleida Esportiu v Real Sociedad	20:30	beIN SPORTS HD 5
Deportivo La Coruna v Las Palmas	21:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Girona v Levante	21:30	beIN SPORTS HD 8
Fuenlabrada v Real Madrid	22:30	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Tenerife v Espanyol	22:30	beIN SPORTS HD 6

12 Kershaw, Dodgers beat Astros
3-1 in hot World Series opener



14 Masseur cried after
Gayle 'exposed himself'



15 Swiss prosecutors grill PSG's
Khelaifi in World Cup probe



SINGAPORE: Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark hits a return against Simona Halep of Romania during the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore. — AFP

Wozniacki edges Halep to reach semis

Garcia beats Svitolina in three-set marathon

SINGAPORE: Caroline Wozniacki produced an almost perfect display to dismantle world number one Simona Halep 6-0 6-2 at the WTA Finals yesterday as the Dane eased into the semi-finals with her second dominant victory in as many matches.

Wozniacki had started her fifth appearance at the season-ending tournament with a 6-2 6-0 victory over Ukraine's Elina Svitolina and Romania's Halep appeared equally as powerless against the 27-year-old former number one.

The Dane's victory margin assured her of a last-four berth after the loss of four games in two matches while Halep lives to fight another day with her opening straight-sets win over Caroline Garcia giving her a 1-1 record in the Red Group. Frenchwoman Garcia recovered from her opening loss to rally past Svitolina with an epic 6-7(7) 6-3 7-5 victory later in the day, a result that leaves the other three women in the group all with a chance of joining Wozniacki in the semis. Wozniacki has been the form player on the WTA Tour this season, winning 58 matches, reaching seven finals and claiming one tournament victory

in Tokyo last month. The rankings show Halep as the world leader and Wozniacki in sixth but the Romanian was utterly outclassed as her opponent raced through the first set in 23 minutes on the back of a 94 percent first serve success rate.

"I think I played really well today and stayed aggressive throughout. I didn't expect to be leading by that much in the first set and I started to think 'what's happening? Am I really playing that well?'" Wozniacki said in a courtside interview.

Halep had been as much a spectator as the stunned crowd packed into the Singapore Indoor Stadium and although she tried to rouse herself after getting to 30-30 in the first game of the second set,

Wozniacki held firm for a 1-0 lead.

The Dane had won 17 games in a row across her last two matches before Halep finally got on the scoreboard after 34 minutes when she held to love.

The respite was fleeting, however, as Wozniacki continued to punish Halep's scrappy forehand to break for a 3-1 lead and an ace snuffed out the only break point the Dane faced all match as she moved within two games of victory.

Another forehand error handed Wozniacki a match point after a little more than an hour, which she duly converted with a

my shots," the Dane added. "It's a great court for me as I was putting spin on the ball to get in position for my shots and wait for the right opportunities to hit my winners." Garcia was the more aggressive of two well-matched players, even forging a pair of set points in the opening tiebreak, but sloppy forehand errors handed Svitolina the initiative as she edged the tightest of first sets.

Svitolina broke early in the second to assume control until Garcia threw caution to the wind, after shedding a few tears following a pep-talk from her father and coach Louis-Paul, and reeled off five of the next six games to level the match.

The decider followed a similar pattern to the second set with Svitolina keeping her nose ahead until Garcia fought back through a barrage of winners to reel off the last four games and seal her first WTA Finals victory. Halep will hope to advance with a win over Svitolina tomorrow, while Garcia faces the unenviable task of taking on Wozniacki with the world number eight needing a victory to stand any chance of reaching the last four. —Reuters



Rankings show Halep as the world leader

forehand winner. "I just stayed positive, took the ball early and went for

India thrash Kiwis amid ODI pitch-tampering

PUNE: Half-centuries from Shikhar Dhawan and Dinesh Karthik fired India to a comfortable six-wicket win over New Zealand after a pitch-tampering storm threatened the second one-day international in Pune yesterday.

Dhawan scored a classy 68 and Karthik notched an unbeaten 64 as India made 232-4 to clinch victory with 24 balls to spare and level the three-match ODI series 1-1.

The match had looked to be under threat after a groundsman at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) stadium told undercover journalists that he had doctored

the pitch before the game.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) dismissed Pandurang Salgaonkar, the pitch manager at the Pune ground, after he described to India Today TV reporters, who were posing as bookies, how he had tampered with the surface.

"The BCCI has zero tolerance towards any activity that brings the game into disrepute," Amitabh Choudhary, the BCCI's acting honorary secretary, said in a statement. The International Cricket Council said that it had launched an investigation into the pitch tampering claims "to establish the facts". Another curator was swiftly drafted in before match referee Chris Broad inspected the pitch and gave the game the go-ahead to start on schedule.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson won the toss and chose to bat as the visitors looked to clinch the series with a victory following their six-wicket win in the opening ODI in Mumbai on Sunday.

India had other ideas though and restricted the Kiwis to 230-9. Fast bowler

Bhuvneshwar Kumar claimed three wickets while paceman Jasprit Bumrah and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal chipped in with two each. Henry Nicholls top-scored for New Zealand with 42 while skipper Williamson's miserable series continued, adding just three runs to the six he made on Sunday.

Left-hander Dhawan hit five fours and two sixes during his 84-ball knock before driving straight at Ross Taylor at cover for a simple catch off Adam Milne. New Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee had earlier claimed the wicket of Indian opener Rohit Sharma for just seven runs while Indian captain Virat Kohli made 29.

The right-handed Karthik hit four fours, including the last shot of the game which took India past the 231-mark required to win. "We spoke about needing to bounce back, and we've done that," said a delighted Kohli who hailed Dhawan and Karthik.

"Shikhar has been hitting the ball really well and he's getting good runs at the top. Dinesh as well, getting crucial runs for himself and for the team," the skipper added.—AFP



PUNE: Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan plays a shot during the second ODI cricket match between India and New Zealand at The Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune. —AFP

Business

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

19 US durable goods orders gain pace in September



20 European investors cautious ahead of ECB, Dow slips



22 Germany's self-driving bus to shuttle Bavarian townsfolk



ABK reveals net profit of KD22.1m in Q3

Operating profit KD71.2 million in Q3 2017

KUWAIT: Following strong growth in the first half of 2017, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday revealed an operating profit of KD71.2 million compared to KD65.6 million in 2016, an increase of 8.5 percent. Net profit was KD22.1 million, up 11.6 percent compared to KD19.8 million in the previous year. The bank maintained a positive outlook in the first nine months of the year. Total assets remained stable at KD4.3 billion levels and asset quality remained strong with the NPL ratio at 2.28 percent. NPL coverage increased to 330 percent from 281 percent in December 2016. Capital adequacy ratio was robust at 16.76 percent and Earnings per Share (EPS) stood at 14 fils, compared to 12 fils in 2016.



Total assets stable at KD4.3 billion

Chairman of ABK said, "In the third quarter, we have continued to record positive results with an increased operating profit of KD71.2 million, which can be attributed to the successful implementation of our long-term strategy and pragmatic approach, indicating that the Bank is moving in the right direction. We are proud to have celebrated our 50th anniversary in May, and we look forward to further building on the great history of this Bank. We are keen to maintain our strategic approach, which has proven successful especially in the midst of the market challenges and strong competition in the Kuwait market."

Michel Accad, Group Chief Executive Officer of ABK stated, "ABK continues to witness strong growth

across the markets in which it operates, despite challenging economic conditions. We are constantly working on enhancing our systems, and we have successfully launched our Core Banking System in Kuwait this week, following the launch in the UAE earlier this year. The technological revamp is in line with ABK's 'simpler banking' strategy, and will aim to offer convenience, security and speed to customers. ABK-Egypt has recorded excellent growth year-on-year, and we have recently opened another flagship branch. In addition to this we will be opening a third branch in Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) pending approvals from the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). We will continue to seek and address strategic opportunities that will work in our favour to further solidify our presence in the Kuwait market and the region as a whole."

Global Finance recently released its Safest Banks survey and ABK ranked in the top 10 safest banks in the region and 29th in Emerging Markets. ABK was also awarded the 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' for 2017 by the Asian Banker, for the second consecutive year, 'Best Retail Bank' from The European, 'Best



Talal Reza Behbehani



Michel Accad

Commercial Bank in Kuwait' for the second consecutive year and 'Best New Brand in Egypt' by Banker Middle East, 'Bank of the Year' by Arabian Business Magazine, which highlighted the Bank's many milestones and achievements over the past year and 'Employer of the Year' by NASEBA for the second consecutive year in recognition of the Bank's substantial 'Working Culture and achievements all round'.

Saudi wealth fund aims to double size by 2020

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund wants to increase its financial clout to 1.5 trillion riyals (\$400 billion) by 2020 as part of the kingdom's efforts to boost private-sector growth and wean itself off oil export dependence. The assets-under-management goal, laid out by the Public Investment Fund (PIF) on Wednesday, came on the second day of an international conference in Riyadh. It was accompanied by publication of PIF's first comprehensive business program, outlining targets for investments and returns for 2018-2020.

PIF, which is expected to receive proceeds from the planned sale of 5 percent of state oil company Saudi Aramco's shares, has currently around \$230 billion worth of assets under management.

It plans to create 20,000 direct domestic jobs, and 256,000 construction jobs by 2020. This will increase PIF's contribution to Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product from 4.4 percent to 6.3 percent, it said in a statement yesterday. Investments will be in sectors such as real estate and infrastructure as well as in new areas of activity in the Saudi economy through the establishment of companies such as the



RIYADH: Participants watch a movie advertising Saudi's Red Sea project on the sidelines of the three-day Future Investment Initiatives conference in Riyadh yesterday. —AFP

Saudi Arabian Military Industries company and the Saudi Real Estate Refinancing Company.

One of the biggest tasks facing PIF will be the delivery of a \$500 billion plan to build a business and industrial zone extending into Jordan and Egypt, announced at the start of the conference on Tuesday.

PIF also set a new target to increase total shareholder return to 4-5 percent between now and 2020 from 3 percent, it said yesterday.

"The PIF Program represents a vital milestone as we work towards realizing Vision 2030," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud, the economic reform plan's architect, said in a statement.

The 96-page program said PIF will structure its investments in six areas: Saudi equity holdings, sector development, real estate and infra-

structure, mega projects, international strategic investments and a "diversified pool" across global asset classes. It said "long-term" average annual return from these areas would be between 6.5 to 9 percent. Outside of Saudi Arabia, PIF's investments will be in a number of assets such as fixed-income, public equity, private equity and debt, real estate, infrastructure and alternative investments such as hedge funds, the fund said. PIF Managing Director Yasir Al-Rumayyan said the fund was open to investing in more big ticket items such as US ride services company Uber. It also outlined its four major sources of funding to include capital injections from the government, government asset transfers, loans and debt instruments as well as retained earnings from investments. — Reuters

ond quarter, official data showed yesterday.

Sterling climbed almost a full percentage point against the US dollar on the figures, which beat the average forecast for growth of 0.3 percent in a Reuters poll of economists. British five-year government bond yields also rose to their highest since last year's vote to leave the European Union as markets anticipated a quicker pace of BoE rate rises next year. Britain performed much better than most economists expected immediately after last year's vote to leave the European Union, and it was one of the fastest-growing major advanced economies in 2016.

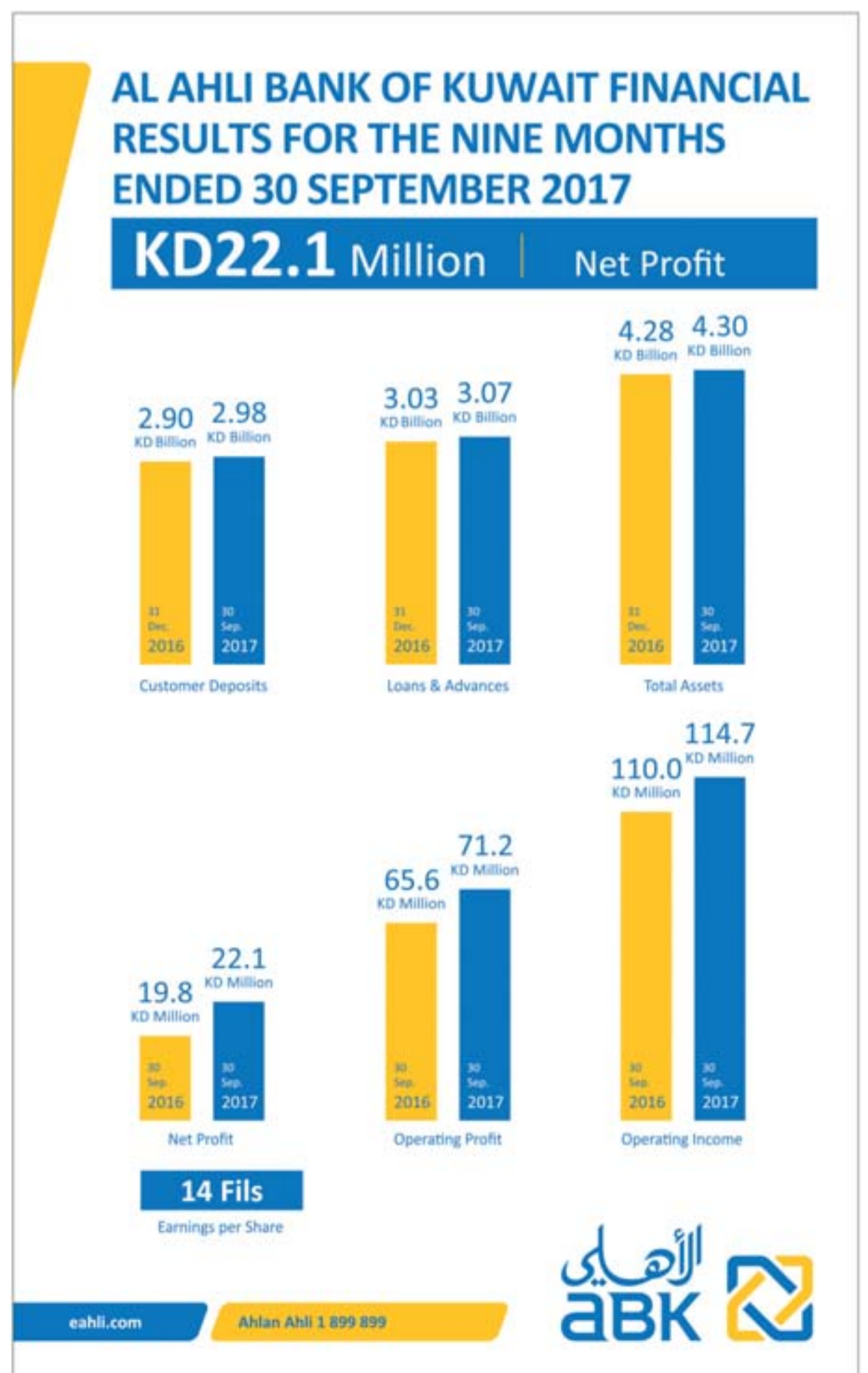
But it slipped to the bottom of the pack earlier this year, posting its worst first-half performance since 2012, largely due to higher inflation

caused by the pound's fall after the Brexit vote, at a time when its peers have enjoyed robust growth.

While yesterday's figures are a small boost for under-pressure finance minister Philip Hammond ahead of his November budget, they do not alter the broad picture of an economy dogged by poor productivity and squeezed living standards. "Despite the weak outlook, the Bank of England will now almost certainly raise the Bank Rate by 25 basis points ... on 2nd November," said Daniel Vermazza, chief UK economist at UniCredit. A Reuters poll published on Tuesday showed the BoE is widely expected to raise rates to 0.50 percent from 0.25 percent on Nov. 2, due to concerns that the economy cannot grow as fast as it used to without generating excess inflation. — Reuters

UK economy gains pace, puts BoE rate hike on track

LONDON: Britain's sluggish economy perked up slightly during the past three months, an unexpected boost that clears the way for the Bank of England to raise interest rates next week for the first time in a decade. While falling short of the strong growth rates enjoyed by euro zone countries earlier this year, British economic growth picked up to 0.4 percent in the July-September period from 0.3 percent in the sec-



Business

NBK - Egypt achieves a net profit of EGP 1.16bn by end of Q3 2017

Bank continues its strong performance again

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt, a subsidiary of the National Bank of Kuwait Group, reported a net profit of EGP 1.16 billion as of the end of the third quarter of 2017, compared to EGP 659.7 million for the same period last year, with a growth of 75.84 percent.

The total assets grew by 37.95 percent reaching 55.72 billion Egyptian Pounds as of the end of September 2017, compared to 40.39 billion Egyptian Pounds for the same period last year. Moreover, the total customer deposits during this period increased by 27.84 percent reaching EGP 40.4 billion compared to 31.6 billion Pounds for the same period last year, while net customer loans and facilities rose as of the end of September 2017 by 47.62 percent to reach EGP 24.8 billion compared to EGP 16.8 billion for the same period last year.

The Group Chief Executive Officer at National Bank of Kuwait SAK and Chairman of the National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt, Isam Jassim Al-Sager, stated that the strong growth achieved by the bank in Egypt reaffirms its success in enhancing its position in the Egyptian market, which represents one of the main growing markets of NBK Group, given the promising growth opportunities and positive prospects of this market.

He pointed out that the strength of the profits of National Bank - Egypt stems from the fact that they are operational profits resulting from the improvement of the business environment, which reflects the stability of the economic situation in Egypt. He indicated that this stability will create for the bank new opportunities (investment and financing), which will contribute to improving the level of product integration between the bank and the group, thus strengthening its position in the Egyptian market.

Al-Sager affirmed that NBK Group investments in Egypt are strategic long-term investments. NBK - Egypt is deemed one of its most important affiliated foreign branches due to its great economic weight in the region. He clarified that its importance to the group is increasing over time. This is reflected in the continued growth of its profits, which increases its contribution to the Group's total profit.

He added that they aim to strengthen their position in

Egypt, as well as to increase growth rates in the coming period in a way that reflects their optimistic vision of the Egyptian economy, noting that it is a market with multiple components and solid foundations. He emphasized that NBK - Egypt is always striving to provide the best banking services to its customers, in line with NBK's leading regional and global niche.

For his part, the Managing Director of National Bank of Kuwait - Egypt, Dr Yasser Hassan, stated that the bank continues its strong performance by achieving high growth rates in all its financial indicators despite the challenges experienced by financial markets locally and globally and the changes in the economic arena in Egypt as a result of floating the Pound exchange rate at the end of last year, thanks to the prudent policy pursued by the bank as a member of NBK Group.

He added that the Bank's policy is to maintain the diversification and balance of sources of income and loan portfolio on the one hand, and, on the other hand, to provide more flexible financing solutions in addition to offering innovative banking products that meet the actual needs of customers and are based on an accurate and thorough study of the market; this in addition to the bank's robust financial position, budgetary strength and successful strategy.

He added that most of NBK-Egypt profits stem from credit operations with the corporate sector, where the bank's credit portfolio includes a wide variety of companies that deal with it, thus reflecting the diversification of the Egyptian economy. He pointed out that the bank seeks to strengthen its position in the retail sector of individuals during the coming period.

He clarified that the bank launched in November 2014 an ambitious strategy to implement development and restructuring that included attracting new competencies. The quality of offered products has also been improved and the investment and administrative structure of the bank has been fully restructured.

He indicated that the bank now has 43 branches spread throughout the Egyptian governorates and that it



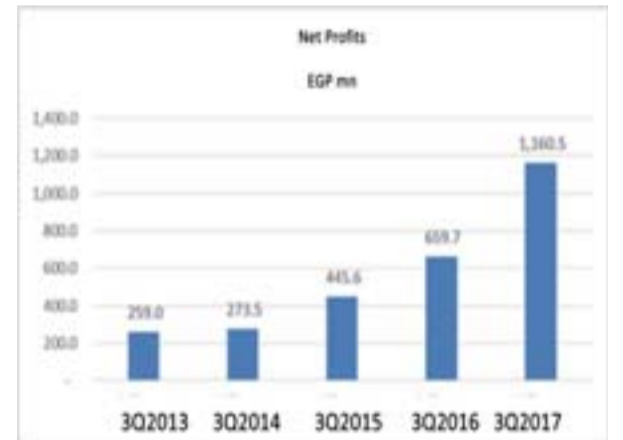
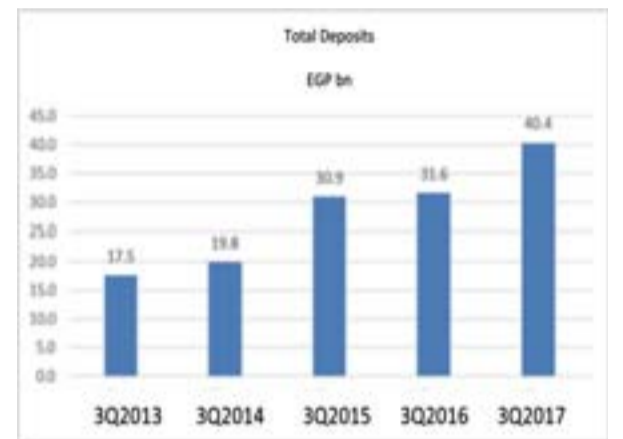
Isam Jassim Al-Sager

Dr. Yasser Hassan

seeks to increase their number to 60 branches over the next three years.

It is noteworthy to mention that NBK - Egypt is a member of the National Bank of Kuwait Group. It was established in Egypt in 1980 under the name of the National Bank of Egypt. It has a network of banking branches spread in the most vital locations in the various governorates and cities of Egypt, including: Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Delta, Sinai, the Red Sea and Upper Egypt, as well as industrial areas such as: the cities of the Sixth of October and the tenth of Ramadan. It is also one of the few banks in the Egyptian market that have an Islamic license in addition to the conventional license. It has two Islamic branches, which allow the bank to offer Sharia compliant products as well as conventional products.

It is worth mentioning that the National Bank of Kuwait, established in 1952 as the oldest national bank and financial institution in the State of Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf region, is one of the largest and most prominent Arab banks and it has the highest credit rating in the Middle East. The global agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch unanimously confirm the robustness of its financial indicators, the quality of its high assets, its strong capitalization, the experience of its management, the clarity of its strategic vision and the availability of a stable funding base. The National Bank of Kuwait also maintains its position among the top 50 safest banks in the world for the twelfth consecutive year. NBK Group today has the largest network of local and international branches, reaching 153 branches and subsidiaries covering four continents around the world and spread across the United States, Europe, the Gulf States, the Middle East, China and Singapore.



Assets grew 37.95% to EGP 55.72bn



NBK's Save & Win with Zeina campaign Q3 winners announced

KUWAIT: Children can benefit from banking with National Bank of Kuwait. Kuwait's safest bank recently awarded 10 lucky kids with KD 250 prizes each as part of the Zeina Save & Win campaign. All 10 winners and their families were invited to attend an award celebration at the annual NBK Mega Day that took place at the Avenues on October 13. NBK's Zeina Save & Win campaign aims to help teach young children about the importance and value of financial literacy, how to save and how to bank. Each quarter NBK, in partnership with KidZania, rewards 10 Zeina account holders with cash prizes of KD 250 each.

Winners for the third quarter draw include:

1. Fatmah Mohammad Hasan Alhsaimi
2. Ali Mohd Ali Boland
3. Habib Sabah A. Alfaraj
4. Abdulazizi Saoud Ismaeil Alkhalidi
5. Abdulrazzaq Abdulaziz Sami Qasem
6. Ali Shaheen Ali Alsulati
7. Maytham Sallem Yehya Abbas Habib
8. Dana Sulaiman Faisal Alsejar
9. Mohammad Maitham Khalid Sultan
10. Hadeel Jassim Ali Alkandari

The cash prizes are deposited into the Zeina savings accounts of winners. "NBK's Zeina Save & Win campaign draw is one of our most popular draws," explained Amal Al-Duwaisan, Senior Manager- Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "Children learn the ins and outs of banking and 10 lucky winners receive a valuable prize of KD



250 in cash in their accounts. In this way, NBK meets its goal to encourage the long term growth and development of the Kuwait economy, while providing for the education of the country's youth cadres." Children under 14 years old with an NBK Zeina savings account in their name can receive one entry into the quarterly draw for every KD 10 that is deposited into their account. Parents who set up a standing deposit order double their child's chances of winning. The Zeina Savings Account can also serve as a tool for parents to accomplish their children's long term savings goals to help them save for college or travel or other future expenses. Each quarter, 10 lucky winners are chosen, for a total of 40 winners for the entire year. The Zeina Save & Win campaign ends 31 December 2017. Customers can benefit from NBK's Rewards Loyalty Program network, the largest in Kuwait. The NBK Rewards program includes more than 700 partner outlets restaurants, fashion brands, lifestyle shops, hotels, travel and entertainment for children. Parents can set up a Zeina account for their children by visiting the award-winning NBK.com website.

Euphoric German businesses brush off Brexit blues

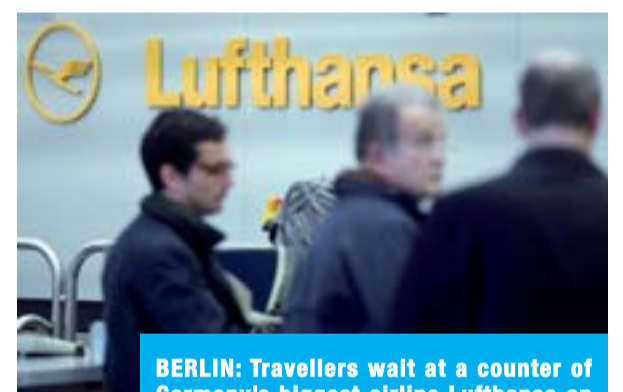
BERLIN: A euphoric mood among German constructors and manufacturers drove business confidence to an all-time high in October, a survey showed, reflecting optimism that an upswing in Europe's largest economy has further to run.

The Munich-based Ifo economic institute said yesterday its business climate index, based on a monthly survey of some 7,000 firms, rose to 116.7 from an upwardly revised 115.3 in September.

Ifo said a continuing recovery in the euro zone was helping German exporters feel more positive. This was especially true for capital goods manufacturers and mechanical engineering firms.

"Companies are very optimistic about the months ahead. They also upwardly revised their very favourable assessments of the current business situation," Ifo chief Clemens Fuest said in a statement. "Germany's economy is powering ahead." Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe said the economy was unfazed by complex coalition talks that Chancellor Angela Merkel has embarked on with two other parties after her conservative bloc lost ground in a national election last month.

The record high reading, which came after two consecutive monthly falls, beat a Reuters consensus forecast of 115.2. Wohlrabe added that companies also appeared to be taking in their stride Britain's scheduled departure from the European Union, a standoff between the Spanish government and the region of Catalonia and US tax reforms.



BERLIN: Travellers wait at a counter of Germany's biggest airline Lufthansa on Tuesday at Tegel airport in Berlin. —AFP

'ECB driving growth'

If the Ifo indicator rose again in November, a change in the growth forecast for Europe's largest economy could be needed, Wohlrabe said. Leading German economic institutes this year raised its 2017 forecast to 1.9 percent, from 1.5 percent previously.

A survey published by His Markit this week showed Germany's private sector posted the highest increase in new orders in 6-1/2 years in October. Record-high employment, rising real wages and ultra-low borrowing costs are driving a consumer-led upswing that helped Merkel win a fourth term in office on Sept. 24. Commerzbank chief economist Joerg Kraemer said the positive cycle in Germany should continue thanks to the ultra-low interest rate environment created by the European Central Bank.

"We are not in a normal economic cycle," he wrote in a note to clients. "There are no disruptions (expected) as the monetary policy of the ECB, which is too loose for Germany, will push the economy forward for another couple of years." —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.664
Indian Rupees	4.655
Pakistani Rupees	2.876
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.966
Nepali Rupees	2.920
Singapore Dollar	223.520
Hongkong Dollar	38.849
Bangladesh Taka	3.681
Philippine Peso	5.858
Thai Baht	9.141

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.091
Qatari Riyal	83.331
Omani Riyal	787.942
Bahraini Dinar	805.630
UAE Dirham	82.605

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.090
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	132.500
Jordanian Dinar	427.830
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.672

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.200

Euro	359.140
Sterling Pound	402.040
Canadian dollar	240.600
Turkish lira	81.950
Swiss Franc	307.660
Australian Dollar	235.890
US Dollar Buying	302.000

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	0.391379	0.401379
Czech Korune	0.005895	0.017895
Danish Krone	0.043787	0.048787
Euro	0.350770	0.359770
Georgian Lari	0.119188	0.119188
Norwegian Krone	0.033765	0.038965
Romanian Leu	0.077336	0.077336
Russian ruble	0.005256	0.005256
Slovakia	0.009044	0.019044
Swedish Krona	0.032758	0.037758
Swiss Franc	0.299401	0.310401
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.225500	0.237500
New Zealand Dollar	0.202619	0.212119
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.233546	0.242548
US Dollars	0.299100	0.303520
US Dollars Mint	0.299600	0.303520

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003312
Chinese Yuan	0.044196
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036758
Indian Rupee	0.004236
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018
Japanese Yen	0.002578
Korean Won	0.000258
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067768
Nepalese Rupee	0.003026
Pakistan Rupee	0.002689
Philippine Peso	0.005790
Singapore Dollar	0.217075
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001630
Taiwan	0.009889
Thai Baht	0.008788

Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.797249
Egyptian Pound	0.014235
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207
Jordanian Dinar	0.423038
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021989
Omani Riyal	0.781112
Qatar Riyal	0.078992
Saudi Riyal	0.079767
Syrian Pound	0.001285
Tunisian Dinar	0.118596
Turkish Lira	0.076401
UAE Dirhams	0.081125
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985

Business

US durable goods orders gain pace in September

New home sales surge 18.9% in September

WASHINGTON: New orders for key US-made capital goods increased more than expected in September and shipments rose for an eighth straight month, pointing to robust business spending that should help to mitigate the impact on the economy from the hurricanes.

Other data yesterday showed new single-family home sales vaulting to a near 10-year high last month. The signs of strong business investment on equipment in the third quarter and a pick-up in the housing market supported views the Federal Reserve will increase interest rates in December.

"The Fed can continue to remove its monetary stimulus confident that investment is heating back up after the downturn in orders and shipments a couple of years ago," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFJ in New York. "Businesses don't invest in the future if they don't think consumers will be there to buy their goods and services."

The Commerce Department said non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, rose 1.3 percent last month after an upwardly revised 1.3 percent increase in August. Economists had forecast orders of these so-called core capital goods increasing 0.5 percent last month after a previously reported 1.1 percent jump in August. Core capital goods orders advanced 3.8 percent year-on-year.

Shipments of core capital goods climbed 0.7 percent after soaring 1.2 percent in August. Core capital goods shipments are used to calculate equipment spending in the government's gross domestic product measurement. Core capital goods shipments have now increased for eight

straight months. The dollar rose against a basket of currencies after the data as investors anticipated an interest rate hike in December, which would be the third this year.

Prices for US Treasuries fell, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year bond rising to a seven-month high. US stocks were trading slightly lower.

Business spending on equipment is expected to have contributed to economic growth in the third quarter, which could help to cushion the blow on GDP from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Economists estimate that Harvey and Irma, which devastated parts of Texas and Florida, sliced off as much as one percentage point from third-quarter GDP.

Upside risk

The government is due to publish its advance

GDP estimate for the July-September quarter tomorrow. According to a Reuters survey of economists, the economy probably grew at a 2.5 percent annualized rate in the July-September period, slowing down from the second quarter's brisk 3.1 percent pace.

But the Commerce Department report, which also showed inventories increasing 0.6 percent in September, the largest gain since June 2015, suggested third-quarter economic growth could surprise on the upside. Inventory accumulation is expected to have provided a boost to growth in the third quarter. The economy's improving outlook was also enhanced by a second report from the Commerce Department showing new home sales surged 18.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 667,000 units last month amid an increase in all four regions. That was the highest level since October 2007



SALT LAKE CITY: This June 13, 2017 photo shows the Mark Miller Toyota dealership in Salt Lake City. The Commerce Department released its September report on durable goods yesterday. — AP

and the percent gain was the largest since January 1992.

Strong business spending on equipment is helping to support manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of the US economy.

Last month, orders for computers and electronic products increased 1.6 percent after surging 1.8 percent in August. There were also increases in orders for fabricated metal products. But orders for machinery, primary metals and electrical equipment, appliances and components fell.

Overall orders for durable goods, items ranging from

toasters to aircraft meant to last three years or more, shot up 2.2 percent last month amid a 5.1 percent rise in demand for transportation equipment. Durable goods orders increased 2.0 percent in August. Boeing reported on its website that it received 72 aircraft orders in September, up from 33 the prior month. Orders for motor vehicles and parts edged up 0.1 percent last month after accelerating 2.8 percent in August. Unfilled orders for durable goods increased 0.2 percent in September after being unchanged the prior month. — Reuters

Gulf Bank announces 3 winners of red Account Draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to announce the three lucky winners of its tenth monthly red account draw for year 2017, which was held at the bank's head office on 23 October 2017, under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The red account draw resulted in the announcement of three students who won prizes ranging from an iPhone 7 plus to an Apple Watch and they are:

- Amal Mohammad Talaq Al-Otaibi - iPhone 7 Plus
- Fatemah Tareq Ali Al Buloushi - iPad Pro
- Anwar Jaber Ali Mohsen - Apple Watch

Gulf Bank's red is a dedicated account for high school, college and university students aged between 15 and 25, which does not require a minimum deposit. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances.

Each month, an iPhone 7 plus, an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners until January 2018. The next



Gulf Bank team with the representative from Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

draw dates are announced as follows:

- 20 November 2017
- 11 January 2018

In addition to the Apple prizes, students will have the opportunity to win a Fiat 500c-Model 2017 at the annual car draw, upon transferring their allowance. Also, movie tickets at all Cinescape theatres will be available for only KD2 seven days a week. red customers can also shop from the USA or the UK with a dedicated company (edfa3ly), which provide a mail

box for internet shopping services from their website <https://kw.edfa3ly.co/GulfBank> red customers can now also transfer money from anyone, from any local bank into their Gulf Bank account through the all new e-pay service, which also allows customers to pay their mobile bills for Zain, Ooredoo, and Viva and buy iTunes and Google Play cards, instantly using the new 'e-Pay' service available on Gulf Bank's Online Banking and Mobile Banking App.

Few days for trade-in offer on the 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe LS

KUWAIT: Chevrolet Alghanim launched its biggest trade-in offer on the Tahoe LS 2017, giving customers an amount of \$5,000 over the trade-in value of their old car. Valid for a limited period of time, the trade-in offer is an opportunity to own a Chevrolet Tahoe, known to empower drivers with exhilarating performances.

And with the offer coming to an end by end of October, this amazing opportunity is still up for grabs for a few more days for Tahoe fans to benefit from this grand trade-in offer, and enjoying the drive of the challenging and iconic Tahoe.

About the Chevrolet vehicles:

The Chevrolet Tahoe comes with the best in class standard features such as a 5.3L V8 engine generating horsepower of 355 HP, the strongest in its class, and best-

in-class fuel consumption at an average of 10.2 km per liter. The Tahoe is also equipped with advanced standard features that enhance its performance and entertainment aspects, including remote keyless entry, seating adjustments in six configurations, 18-inch aluminum wheels, in addition to many safety features that include the front and rear corner assist system, rear-view camera and six airbags! In addition to the features of the Tahoe LS 2017, customers benefit from the Chevrolet Care Program "I Care", which provides many additional services to enrich their experience with Chevrolet Alghanim.

Chevrolet Care Program "I Care"

Customers who purchase a Chevrolet will benefit from the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care Program is an exceptional customer service based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

Customers can take advantage of the limited offer to own the car of their dreams by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Shuwaikh, Sharq, Fahaaheel and Ahmadi.

AUB makes a customer's dream come true with KD 250,000 prize

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, yesterday. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Abdulla Ali Abdulla. 25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Maher Bader Al suhaim, Ghulam Redha Zarei, Hassnah Brak Muzaal, Ali Abdulrahman Al-Bader, Mohammad Jawad Al-Amir, Marykutty Plamoottil Mathai, Waleed Abdullah Almuraikhi, Sarah Abdullateef Al-Saleh, Eissa Abad Alhussain Al Buloushi, Ahmad Saleh A Aldaaji, Nwayer Elaiwi Eshbah Al-Enezi, Mohammad Abdullah Haider, Aishah Bashar Alali, Fatemah Mohammad Najem, Khadeejah Haji Al-Shatti, Hussain Ghuloom Al-Ansari, Ali Rashid Ahmed, Faisal Mohd Yusuf, Hisham Ali Yousif, Hussain Jamil Al-Jari, Nahla Abbas Hubail, Joseph Aniakkattu Mathai, Basem A. Amir Abdulla, Mayyan Mahmood Ebrahim, Hanan Nooh Saad, Masood Majeed Mahdi.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions. Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year." Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

Austerity to hit Jordan as debt spikes, economy slows

AMMAN: Jordan's high and rising public debt has worried the International Monetary Fund and prompted a downgrade from Standard & Poor's. So the government is planning a blast of austerity by year-end. Tax hikes and subsidy cuts - likely to be highly unpopular - are on the agenda as the country's debt to GDP ratio has reached a record 95 percent, from 71 percent in 2011.

"Postponing problems might increase the popularity of the government but would be a crime against the nation," Prime Minister Hani Mulki told a group of parliamentarians this week. After an IMF standby arrangement that brought some fiscal stability, Jordan agreed last year to a more ambitious three-year program of long-delayed structural reforms to cut public debt to 77 percent of GDP by 2021. The debt is at least in part due to successive governments adopting an expansionist fiscal policy characterized by job creation in the bloated public sector, and by lavish subsidies for bread and other staple goods. It also hiked spending on welfare and public sector pay in a move to ensure stability in the aftermath of the "Arab Spring" protests in the region in 2011.

But the economy has slowed, battered by the turmoil in neighboring Syria and Iraq. The economic strains reduced local revenue and foreign aid, forcing Jordan to borrow heavily externally and also resort to more

domestic financing. Although there has been some progress this year with improving remittances, tourism and some rebound in exports, there has been no pickup in growth since 2015 - with the officials forecasting 2 percent growth this year from an earlier IMF 2.3 percent target.

"This year we are at a crossroads. Everything I am trying to do is to stop the haemorrhage and start breathing," Mulki was quoted as saying at another meeting to garner support. The rising debt accentuated by the protracted regional conflicts on Jordan's borders was the main reason Standard and Poor last week downgraded its sovereign rating to B+.

Subsidy risk

Economists said Jordan's ability to maintain a costly subsidy system and a large state bureaucracy was increasingly untenable in the absence of large foreign capital inflows or infusions of foreign aid, which have dwindled as the Syrian crisis has gone on. Jordanian officials say they expect less donor support next year than any time since the crisis began. They are also concerned that Gulf states, hit by lower oil prices, have so far not committed any support funds given after the "Arab Spring" to be renewed. Politicians and economists say the government's fiscal consolidation plan envisages a doubling of bread prices and raising sales taxes on basic food and fuel items. This should cut into the estimated 850 million dinars (\$1.2 billion) the government pays in annual subsidies from bread to electricity to water. But economists reckon subsidy cuts are bound to worsen the plight of poorer Jordanians, a majority of the country's population, and removing subsidies has triggered civil unrest in the past. As well as debt, the IMF has also pointed to the unemployment rate, which has risen sharply in the last two years to 16 percent, and to low tax collection. — Reuters

KFH participates in youth empowerment symposium 'Tamkeen'

KUWAIT: Group Chief Corporate Banking Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Ahmed Soud Al-Kharji said the bank is a pioneer in supporting the youth and the small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs, indicating this dates back to the 1980s.

Al-Kharji made his statement during his participation in a panel session themed "Entrepreneurs' Opportunities in Private Sector" on the sidelines of the 6th edition of the Youth Empowerment Symposium "Tamkeen" held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre.

He added that KFH had established a dedicated department with highly qualified team especially to serve the SMEs segment, underscoring the instrumental role of this business in the development as it comprises the seed for creating jobs for the youth and achieving prosperity in the country. He indicated that the credit limit of the SMEs portfolio at KFH is nearly KD300 million dedicated to offer credit facilities to these companies.

He said that KFH is a success partner with the SMEs and entrepreneurs, noting that several companies started their relationship with KFH with a credit facility of KD50k, and now the credit facility surged to reach KD3mln. This underlines the significant role of KFH in improving these businesses and transferring them to large companies. It is worth noting that KFH won "Best SME Customer Service Award" from "the Banker Middle East" magazine. The award acknowledges KFH's high quality performance and key role in supporting the small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs.



Ahmed Soud Al-Kharji

Business

European investors cautious, Dow slips

LONDON: Eurozone stocks held steady yesterday as investors waited for policy signals from the ECB, while losses in the mining sector and better-than-expected domestic growth figures held down London's FTSE 100.

The Dow retreated modestly from a record early yesterday following a batch of mixed earnings reports and data showing a rise in durable goods orders for September. The earnings deluge continued apace with Boeing lifting its full-year forecast, but announcing \$329 million in additional costs on the KC-46 military refueling tanker contract. Shares fell 0.9 percent. Fellow Dow member Visa rose 1.6 percent after reporting that fourth-quarter net income rose 10.8 percent to \$2.1 billion.

About 20 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 23,433.95, down less than 0.1 percent. The blue-chip index finished at a record on Tuesday.

The broad-based S&P 500 lost 0.2 percent to 2,564.94,

while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index shed 0.1 percent to 6,592.26. Strong aircraft and telecoms equipment sales boosted durable goods orders. Total orders rose by 2.2 percent compared to August, reaching \$238.7 billion, nearly a full percentage point above a consensus forecast, according to the Commerce Department.

Chipotle Mexican Grill slumped 14.1 percent after reporting just a one percent increase in comparable restaurant sales in the third quarter, as it continues to struggle following a number of health safety woes.

Britain's GDP grew 0.4 percent in the third quarter, slightly outperforming expectations. The pound, which has been under pressure over suggestions that a hike in interest rates may be delayed, spiked after the positive GDP results, rising against the dollar and the euro.

However the rise in the value of the pound put pressure on stocks, as many FTSE 100 firms have most of their earnings in

dollars, and a rebound in the pound will crimp profits when converted into sterling. In afternoon trading the index had slid 0.4 percent. "Weakness in the mining sector has pushed the FTSE 100 into the red, and the spike in sterling due to the good UK GDP numbers accelerated the negative move," said David Madden, market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

Losses in the mining sector were triggered in part by a sharp fall in copper prices overnight. Trading was tight in Europe ahead of the European Central Bank's policy meeting today, at which it is expected to announce a big reduction in its bond-buying stimulus as the eurozone economy picks up. Frankfurt's DAX 30 index dipped 0.05 percent while the CAC 40 in Paris added 0.1 percent. "According to some sources, the ECB could reduce the size of its monthly purchases program by half to 30 billion euros, the truth is nobody really knows what to expect," said analyst Ipek Ozkardeska from LCG Insight.

"Traders will likely lie in wait until they have more clarity on the ECB's policy outlook."

Nikkei record run ends

In Asia, a phenomenal run of 16 straight days of gains finally ended in Tokyo on Wednesday as a late bout of profit-taking saw the Nikkei close in negative territory for the first time this month.

However, most other Asian markets rose following another record close on Wall Street on Tuesday, as a fresh round of strong corporate earnings reinforced confidence in the global economy. Hong Kong added 0.5 percent following two days of losses. Shanghai closed up 0.3 percent after China's President Xi Jinping unveiled his top decision-making body. This contained no potential successor, raising speculation he intends to stay on past the end of his second five-year term as ruling party chief. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report					Global					
Wednesday 25 October 2017										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing							
Price Index	▲ 23.04	6,621.40	6,596.36							
Weighted Index	▼ -0.86	428.53	429.39							
KSX 15	▼ -1.53	965.10	977.03							
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	433	—	0.0		
NAMESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	805	—	0.0		
ENERGYH	35.4	33.5	24,900	835	8	35.4	▼	-0.1		
GPI	34.5	33.9	1,624,737	55,501	47	34.1	▲	0.2		
ABAR	74	68	38,600	2,711	16	74	▲	2.0		
Oil & Gas			1,688,237	59,047	71	1035.51	▲	14.90		
KFOUC	298	298	15	4	1	298	▲	8.0		
BPCO	656	651	323,196	210,828	15	651	—	0.0		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	—	0.0		
ALOURAIN	322	315	189,870	60,271	20	320	▼	-5.0		
Basic Materials			513,051	270,364	26	1276.08	▲	0.30		
KCEM	445	445	5,000	2,225	1	445	▼	-13.0		
CABLE	480	480	12,705	6,096	6	480	—	0.0		
SHIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	215	—	0.0		
PCEM	980	980	3,250	3,136	1	980	▲	3.0		
PAPER	250	250	250	63	1	250	▼	-19.0		
MRC	109	102	2,054	210	5	109	—	0.0		
ACICO	258	256	81,301	15,769	4	258	▼	-2.0		
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0.0		
NOCBM	179	179	100	18	1	179	▼	-7.0		
EQUIPMENT	40.8	38.9	252,722	9,859	18	39.1	▼	-0.5		
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0		
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0.0		
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	—	0.0		
AGLY	645	630	726,802	609,836	68	642	—	0.0		
EDU	308	308	10,000	3,080	1	308	—	0.0		
CLEANING	54	51	11,000	568	2	54	▲	1.5		
KGL	63	62	811,500	31,715	13	62	▲	0.8		
KCPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	145	—	0.0		
HUMANISOFT	3,990	3,990	22,887	91,271	9	3,990	▲	40.0		
NAFAS	600	600	3	2	1	600	▲	90.0		
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0		
SHOOTING	25.5	24.7	8,942	223	6	25.3	▲	2.0		
CCG	500	490	6,419	3,190	5	500	▼	-0.3		
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	—	0.0		
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620	—	0.0		
ALAFICO	367	361	374,640	144,071	16	365	▼	-5.0		
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73	—	0.0		
LOGISTICS	59	58	1,983,536	115,864	79	58	▼	-0.5		
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	—	0.0		
CCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	—	0.0		
QIC	70	70	3,010	211	2	70	▲	2.0		
FCEM	75	75	500	37	1	75	—	0.0		
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	—	0.0		
SPEC	85	84	3,400	286	6	84	▼	-0.9		
Industrials			3,999,871	1,827,828	246	1810.16	▲	24.60		
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0		
CATTI	255	255	2,421	617	2	255	—	0.0		
DANAH	72	70	123,050	8,614	7	70	▼	-0.9		
FOOD	1,753	1,750	2,623	3,542	5	1,750	▼	-200.0		
Consumer Goods			127,494	12,773	14	978.61	▼	-35.60		
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	—	0.0		
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	—	0.0		
Health Care			0	0	0	1510.51	—	0.00		
KCIN	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,340	1	1,340	—	0.0		
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	—	0.0		
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	—	0.0		
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.8	—	0.0		
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	299	—	0.0		
OLUAFUEL	116	114	24,841	2,843	9	116	▼	-1.0		
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	—	0.0		
JAZEERA	642	614	2,879	1,836	6	640	▼	-3.0		
SOOR	114	114	12,810	1,460	4	114	▼	-5.0		
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	111	—	0.0		
ALRAI	115	112	62,000	7,010	6	112	▼	-8.0		
Jiyad	50	45.0	405,645	20,275	13	50	▲	1.0		
Mezzan	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	830	—	0.0		
Consumer Services			508,975	34,765	29	926.02	▼	-9.50		
ZAIN	514	503	10,468,507	5,338,497	366	513	▲	10.0		
COOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,198	—	0.0		
AAN	31.2	30.8	1,553,407	48,098	37	31.1	—	0.0		
VIVA	790	775	31,706	24,930	27	775	▼	-15.0		
Telecommunications			12,053,620	5,411,625	430	589.92	▼	-2.10		
NBK	779	770	2,317,123	1,793,804	120	775	▲	1.0		
GBK	250	249	63,512	15,839	11	250	—	0.0		
CBK	400	400	50,000	20,000	1	400	—	0.0		
ABK	309	309	150,000	46,300	3	309	▲	1.0		
ALMUTAHED	405	403	10,029	4,061	3	405	▲	1.0		
KIB	249	247	761,500	188,917	28	249	▲	1.0		
BURG	348	342	89,633	30,791	28	348	▼	-2.0		
KFIN	601	597	1,544,119	685,112	101	600	▲	1.0		
BOUBAYAN	460	457	114,297	52,244	24	460	—	0.0		
AUB	206	205	1,286,219	263,855	16	206	—	0.0		
ITHMR	38.8	37.8	1,309,200	49,798	38	38.8	▲	1.0		
WARBAIBANK	239	237	308,840	73,453	58	238	▼	-2.0		
Banks			7,694,472	3,224,225	431	953.30	▲	1.40		
KINS	286	286	1,500	429	1	286	▲	11.0		
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	—	0.0		
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	—	0.0		
WINS	90	82	33,244	2,783	22	90	▼	-0.1		
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	—	0.0		
FTI	66	66	100	7	1	66	▲	3.5		
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	—	0.0		
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0		
Insurance			34,844	3,196	24	1122.20	▲	13.00		
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
SOKOUK	55	53	496,924	26,611	21	55	▲	1.6		
KRE	62	60	1,012,704	61,618	39	61	▲	0.6		
URC	62	62	10,000	617	1	62	▼	-0.2		
NRE	129	128	241,850	31,024	10	128	▼	-1.0		
SRE	355	350	212,240	74,289	7	355	▼	-10.0		
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	386	—	0.0		
AREEC	170	170	20,000	3,400	2	170	▼	-1.0		
MASSALEH	45.9	38.1	240,190	9,274	12	40.0	▲	5.9		
ARABREC	38.8	37.0	5,130,694	191,948	135	37.1	▼	-1.8		
ERESCO	38.9	39.0	56,400	2,200	5	38.9	▼	-0.1		
MABANEE	790	785	193,215	151,753	28	789	▼	-2.0		
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	—	0.0		
INVESTORS	19.0	18.5	3,239,349	60,481						

Business

KIB strategic sponsor of marketing and communication conference

Conference features hands-on workshops, activities and panels

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently offered its strategic sponsorship of the Kuwait Marketing and Corporate Communications Conference. The event was held at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa and was attended by a number of specialists from across the region in the fields of marketing, communications, advertising, and sales. The conference featured a series of activities, hands-on workshops, and panels led by a group of highly-experienced speakers. During the conference, speakers presented a wide range of case studies, innovative ideas, as well as latest developments, technologies and trends in the highly dynamic world of marketing.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "Our participation in this conference is a reflection of our strong belief in its objectives, as the conference aims at creating a high-level, interactive platform that gathers a number of

academic, business, governmental and non-governmental organizations. We believe that this unique opportunity not only inspires marketers, but also provides them with the perfect chance to network and exchange new ideas with experts and thought leaders; thereby helping them progress in their careers." Najia also pointed out that the conference served as a valuable educational meeting, providing participants with good insight into a wide array of topics, including: marketing and brand strategy, customer engagement and retention, social media marketing, digital and viral marketing, and integrated marketing communications.

KIB always strives to sponsor and support a diverse selection of activities and community-based initiatives as part of its leading social responsibility program. Through these social responsibility efforts, the Bank hopes to strengthen communication channels with the local community to achieve its strategic sustainable development goals.



Wataniya Airways hosts dinner party for travel partners



KUWAIT: Wataniya Airways held a dinner ceremony for their travel partners on 18 October evening at the Convention Centre & Royal Suits hotel. The event was attended by representatives from most of the travel agencies and tourism offices working in Kuwait.

Engineer Sulaiman Al-Jaber, the deputy chief executive officer of Wataniya Airways welcomed all partners and gave a speech highlighting Wataniya Airways' vision and goals. Al-Jaber explained about the new destinations Wataniya Airways is planning to add and the airlines' plan of customizing its flight product to be suitable for every type of passenger. Also, the success achieved by Wataniya since its launch on 11 July 2017 was mentioned.

On the other side, the commercial director, Harish Kutty, gave a presentation to the audience explaining the cooperation plan with the travel and tourism offices and how this cooperation will allow the travel trade to work with Wataniya in a cordial manner that is mutually beneficial.

Moreover, Harish replied to all of the audience questions that related to the activities and services of the Wataniya Airways and the company's upcoming plans.

A quiz event was conducted and the participants who could give correct answers won dinner vouchers. Finally, at the end of ceremony that was full of fun, participants were able to win tickets in Business and Economy class as well as hotel stays. The event concluded with a photo opportunity where memorable photographs were taken for all the audience.



Al Mulla Exchange opens its 73rd and 74th branch in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Al Mulla Exchange, the leading money exchange company in Kuwait, took its expansion drive a step further with the opening of the 73rd branch in Farwaniya and the 74th branch at Sabah Al-Salem area. The branches were declared open to customers in the presence of senior management, staff and well-wishers of Al Mulla Exchange.

The new branch in Farwaniya, located in block 1 street 126 opposite Om Hani School and beside Al-Bedan mosque and it is the 6th branch in Farwaniya area, and the new branch in Sabah Al-Salem located in block 3 street 300 building 11. Al Mulla Exchange is the first exchange company to open remittance and money exchange services in the Sabah Al-Salem area. This was a longstanding request from customers in both the areas and they are now delighted to see their favorite Exchange company now at their locations.

Al Mulla Exchange established in 2001 has been growing from strength to strength driven by its commitment to bring the best services and products to its customers. The 3 seconds credit to Bank account offered by Al Mulla Exchange is much sought by customers. There is also a growing popularity about the online services offered by Al Mulla Exchange through its online portal, www.amxremmit.com.

As an inaugural offer of one day Al Mulla Exchange gave 250 bonus loyalty points for every transaction done at Al Mulla Exchange. Other than this there will be loyalty points accorded for every transaction, bonus 500 loyalty points for every new customer referred, bonus 250 loyalty points for transactions done on the Al Mulla Exchange online portal www.amxremmit.com. Customers also become eligible for the 'Triple the Salary' marketing promotion which is currently running at Al Mulla Exchange.



Skyline to visit Kuwait with 16 new home offerings from Kerala

KUWAIT: As part of their Middle East visit, Skyline is poised to visit Kuwait between the months of October and November this year. More than 16 ongoing projects will be showcased from across Kerala. The team headed by C.A. Babu (Branch Manager - Kottayam), Nidhin (Manager Sales - Corporate) and Sebin (Deputy Manager - Sales), will be available to provide expert advice, market trends and financing options at multiple venues and dates in the city. Team Skyline will be available at the Kuwait Continental Hotel, Farwaniya from the 24th of October to 21st of November. And also at the Santhome Festival in the Sabahiya Tent, Fahaheel tomorrow, and the Harvest Festival at the Indian Central School, Jeleeb on the 3rd of November.

Renowned for delivering world-class homes on time, Skyline Builders will be showcasing its recently launched Skyline Upper Crest at Mele Chovva, Kannur, Skyline Blue Vista at Puthiyangadi, Calicut and other upcoming projects in various locations. Backed by a host of Post Sales Services, the builder further assures consumers of the best care. Like the Home care Division that takes care of the utilities, support services, rental and resale, the After Sales Division that repairs and maintains homes and the Interior Design Division that creates unique designs. Not to mention, Skylineage: the fully furnished air conditioned Transit homes, across Kerala, that can be used by every Skyliner absolutely free of cost, year after year. The company is also the first builder in India to get the ISO 9001:2015 certification and is the highest rated builder in Kerala to be accredited with CRISIL DA2+. Facts that allow Skyline Builders to deliver its promises with utmost trust, quality and assurance to more than 6700 of its customers across 53 countries.

Technology

Germany's self-driving bus to shuttle Bavarian townsfolk

Deutsche Bahn unveils its first-ever driverless bus

BAD BIRNBACH, Germany: German state-owned rail company Deutsche Bahn unveiled its first-ever driverless bus yesterday, saying the shuttle will bring passengers through a picturesque spa town to the train station.

The test route for the self-driving machine is in Bad Birnbach, set in the rolling hills of the southeastern state Bavaria not far from the Czech and Austrian borders. Made by French startup EasyMile, the 12-person bus will offer free rides on an eight-minute route linking the baths, the town centre and the station, Deutsche Bahn (DB) said in a statement.

"We've just driven autonomously into a new era of transport," DB boss Richard Lutz, who rode along on the first trip, said in a statement. The rail operator has

launched a subsidiary dubbed Ioki to test future modes of transport, focusing especially on electric-powered mobility.

From 2018, the new buses will operate on test routes in several German towns, including the country's second-largest city Hamburg. DB hopes that in the future they will operate like a private car service, picking up passengers from home on demand and bringing them to the station-picking up others with the same destination along the way.

Across the Americas, Asia and Europe, a number of cities—including Paris, Lyon, Las Vegas and Dubai—are already experimenting on a small scale with autonomous vehicles complementing public transport systems. —AFP



Children let balloons rise during a presentation of the first German autonomous public transport bus in Bad Birnbach, southern Germany yesterday. —AFP

“We’ve driven into a new era autonomously”

Canada pushed for Airbus deal as Bombardier courted China

MONTREAL/PARIS: The Canadian government encouraged Bombardier to make a deal with Airbus SE for its CSeries planes to thwart a potential venture with Chinese investors, according to five sources familiar with the matter.

It signaled its preference for Airbus after Bombardier failed to reach an agreement with Boeing Co earlier this year that would have given the US company a stake in the CSeries jetliners, according to the sources. The Canadian government's role has not been previously reported.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration took a calculated risk in steering Bombardier toward Airbus, according to the sources. It helped save a key product for Bombardier and likely resolved a brewing trade dispute with the United States, but potentially set back efforts to improve trade and economic ties with China. The deal with Airbus came at a critical time for Bombardier. Its \$6 billion CSeries program, already losing money, had become the subject of a trade dispute in which Boeing charged in a complaint to US authorities that the jetliners benefited from Canadian government subsidies and unfair pricing. Bombardier had considered a Chinese partnership as early as 2015, after talks about a possible merger with Airbus became public and fell apart. This year, as negotiations with Boeing over a CSeries partnership faltered and concerns about the future of the program mounted, Bombardier's interest in a deal with China intensified, two sources said.

The prospect of such a deal raised concern within the Canadian government, two of the sources said, where officials believed jobs or technology could be "siphoned away" to China. They also expressed uneasiness about what some saw as inadequate Chinese safeguards against intellectual property theft.

In a series of calls with Bombardier in August and September, Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains and Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, as well as senior officials in Trudeau's office, urged Bombardier to contact the European company, the two sources said.

"From the federal government's point of view, anything was better than a link-up with China," according to an Ottawa source. The source said the government suggested to Bombardier that Chief Executive Alain Bellemare reach out to his counterpart at Airbus, Tom Enders.

The government's efforts eventually helped pave the way for an Oct. 16 agreement in which Airbus took a majority stake in the narrow-body, medium-range CSeries jets for one dollar.

But they also came at a time when Ottawa is pushing for closer economic ties with Beijing. Canada, concerned about Washington's threats to scrap the NAFTA trade deal, wants to bolster relations with China in order to cut its heavy dependence on exports to the United States. Talks between Ottawa and Beijing are ongoing.

Bombardier declined to discuss its CSeries negotiations. Representatives of Bains, Champagne and Trudeau declined to comment. Beijing officials declined to comment. Boeing also declined to comment.

Asked whether Airbus had stepped in because of concerns about China obtaining a stake in the CSeries, Airbus CEO Enders said: "We were obviously not privy to these discussions."

An imperfect partner

Bombardier's most recent discussions about a Chinese tie-up centered on Comac, a Chinese state-owned firm developing passenger jets, according to a source familiar with the Canadian company's thinking. Financial terms of any potential deal were not known. Comac did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Sources said Comac was also among the companies Bombardier held talks with in 2015, along with national aerospace conglomerate AVIC and possibly a state-owned investment fund.

For Bombardier, a tie-up with the Chinese would have offered access to the world's fastest-growing aviation market, providing a boost to its struggling CSeries program. Bombardier has not secured a CSeries sale in 18 months.

Inside Bombardier, however, executives worried that talks with potential Chinese partners were not moving quickly enough, according to sources.

With discussions stalled, Bombardier approached Boeing last spring, three of the sources said. Bombardier offered Boeing a stake in the CSeries under similar terms to those later offered to Airbus, two of the sources said. The US company agreed to study the proposal, but eventually decided against it based on its experience with a troubled purchase of Canadian aerospace assets in the late 1980s.

That once again Bombardier's focus back on a deal with the Chinese — until Ottawa pressed the case for discussions with Airbus over the summer. —Reuters

Intelligent Speed: Huawei unveils its AI-powered Mate 10

In September, Huawei introduced the world's first Kirin AI processor—Kirin 970—and on October 16 unveiled the first smartphone to feature this chipset—the HUAWEI Mate 10 in Munich.

What makes Kirin 970 unique? Huawei integrated a Neural Network Processing Unit (NPU) into its architecture. The development of Kirin 970 is a result of Huawei's intense focus on improving user experience through market research, product innovation, and advancements in technology.

Dedicated NPU to process AI commands

Computing has changed over the past 10 years, shifting from "left brain" to "right brain" to create more intelligent experiences. The traditional CPU/GPU/DSP computing architecture is not able to meet the demand for today's computing performance. The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro are Huawei's first devices to ship with its new processor, Kirin 970. This breakthrough chipset uses the most powerful efficient computing architecture, while integrating a standalone Neural Network Processing Unit (NPU). Kirin 970 uses an advanced 10nm process to integrate 5.5 billion transistors within an area of just one

square centimeter, dramatically improving computing performance to deliver both rapid response and a smooth experience.

Kirin 970 breaks through existing bottlenecks in mobile hardware, effectively redefining the collaborative relationship between devices and the cloud. Comprised of Huawei's innovative HiAI mobile computing architecture (4 x ARM Cortex-A73 2.5GHz/A53 1.5GHz CPU and a first-to-market 12-core Mali G72 GPU) and an NPU, Kirin 970 enables seamless interoperation between processing units. Compared with a CPU/GPU combination, the NPU's data processing capabilities in AI scenarios such as image recognition deliver up to 25x the performance with 50x greater efficiency. It also processes 2,000 images per minute, a processing speed that is faster than any other chip on the market.

As we enter the age of intelligence, AI is no longer a virtual concept but something that intertwines with our daily life. AI can enhance user experience, provide valuable services and improve product performance. With on-device AI, Kirin 970 provides users with greater individual intelligence. It thoroughly understands each user and satisfies the demand for personalized and real-time AI experiences, while providing private data protection.

Intelligent Speed for Born Fast, Stay Fast

The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro take the "Born Fast, Stay Fast" promise to a new dimension. Leveraging AI-powered Battery Management, the devices improve memory allocation utilization, using different mechanisms such as: CPU Resource Allocation and Management, Run-time Memory Management, 10 Resource Management, Storage



Management and Defragmentation and Battery Management.

The new HUAWEI Mate Series' ability to understand behaviors empowers it to operate at peak performance levels. By knowing how apps are used, when they're used and what the system needs to do to run them at efficiency, Huawei reduced abnormal app launch rates by 80 percent.

The Intelligent Speed of the world's fastest 4.5G Experience

The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro are the world's fastest smartphones, supporting LTE Cat.16 and LTE

Cat.18 D connections, respectively. In fact, it only requires a few seconds to load and play 4K online video.

For continuous connectivity, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series features Dual 4G SIM support. The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro's primary and secondary SIM cards support 20 LTE frequency bands and VoLTE high-resolution calls. Both SIM cards can support VoLTE calls and Internet services simultaneously. With a dual VoLTE connection, users have stronger coverage across wider ranges, making one HUAWEI Mate 10 or HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro equal to two 4G phones.

Honda shows off self-balancing bike

TOKYO: Honda yesterday showcased a new motorcycle that can stand unaided with or without a rider, using technology the firm learned from developing a walking humanoid. Unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show, Honda's Riding Assist-e is an all-electric concept motorbike that constantly assesses its position and moves the steering bar to ensure the heavy machine stays upright. For years, international bike manufacturers have experimented with various forms of gyroscopes to stop motorcycles falling over, said Hiroyuki Nakata, the engineer behind the idea.

"But if you wanted to keep something as heavy as a motorcycle standing, you need a large and heavy gyroscopic device and you need to keep turning it," he told AFP. Honda's device, however, is only the size of a lamp and can be rigged above the front wheel. With the system turned off, the motorcycle topples over when the rider takes his hands from it.

But when it is flipped on, the bike stays stock still as if in a magic show, even when the rider walks away from it. "Our vision is to put this on large motorcycles as well as small ones used for the daily commute," Nakata said. The technology was derived from Honda's ASIMO robot, a two-legged, self-standing humanoid that can jog, dance and converse with people. Japan is proud of the robot and has shown it off to world leaders, including Canadian leader Justin Trudeau and then-President Barack Obama. —AFP



TOKYO: Honda Riding Assist-e performs a balance without rider's skill at the company's presentation during the Tokyo Motor Show in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

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

NEW YORK: Parents of small children have long been hearing about the perils of "screen time." And with more screens, and new tech-

nologies such as Amazon's Echo speaker, the message is getting louder. And while plenty of parents are feeling guilty about it, some experts say it might be time to relax a little. Go ahead and hand your kid a gadget now and then to cook dinner or get some work done. Not all kids can entertain themselves quietly, especially when they are young. Try that, and see how long it takes your toddler to start fishing a banana peel out of the overflowing trash can. "I know I should limit my kid's screen time a lot, but there is reality," said Dorothy Jean Chang, who works for a

tech company in New York and has a 2-year-old son. When she needs to work or finds her son awake too early, "it's the best, easiest way to keep him occupied and quiet."

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

— the last time the survey was conducted — when smartphones were not yet ubiquitous but TV watching was on the decline.

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

Health

Tribe sharpens arrows against the Amazon invaders in Brazil

Government to open Renca to mining companies

WAIAPI: They appear silently, seemingly from nowhere: a dozen figures, naked except for bright red loincloths, blocking the dirt road. These are the Waiapi, an ancient tribe living in Brazil's Amazon rainforest but now fearing invasion by international mining companies. Leading AFP reporters to a tiny settlement of palm-thatched huts hidden in foliage, the tribesmen streaked in red and black dye vow to defend their territory. They brandish six-foot (two-meter) bows and arrows to reinforce the point.

"We'll keep fighting," says Tapayona Waiapi, 36, in the settlement called Pinoty. "When the companies come we'll keep resisting. If the Brazilian government sends soldiers to kill people, we'll keep resisting until the last of us is dead." The Waiapi indigenous reserve is in pristine rainforest near the eastern end of the Amazon river. It is part of a much larger conservation zone called Renca, covering an area the size of Switzerland. Surrounded by rivers and towering trees, the tribe operates almost entirely according to its own laws, with a way of life at times closer to the Stone Age than the 21st century. Yet modern Brazil is barely a few hours' drive away.

And now the center-right government is pushing to open Renca to international mining companies who covet the rich deposits of gold and other metals hidden under the sea of green. In August, President Michel Temer abruptly ended mining restrictions in swaths of Renca, sparking an outcry from environmentalists and celebrity campaigners like Leonardo DiCaprio. Temer backtracked in September. However, the Waiapi, who were nearly wiped out by disease after being discovered by outsiders in the 1970s, remain terrified. The rainforest, says 35-year-old Moi Waiapi, another inhabitant of Pinoty, "is the foundation for our survival."

The road
The dirt road is the only route into Waiapi territory. Pinoty, where a few dozen people sleep in hammocks under roofs with open sides, is the first village—the frontier. To get here requires several layers of authorization, then a bumpy two-hour drive from the small town of Pedra Branca. The Amapa state capital Macapa, one of the most remote in Brazil, is several hours further. By the time you reach Pinoty and a government sign reading "Protected Land," you are already well beyond cellphone reception, the electric grid, the last gas station, and many Brazilian laws.

But for all the remoteness, the Waiapi have scant protection against the powerful forces that for decades have pushed industry and agribusiness deeper and deeper into the Amazon in a bid to make Brazil a commodities exporting superpower. The road itself is a monument to those ambitions. Known as the Northern Perimetral, highway 210 was started under the 1964-1985 military dictatorship with the aim of linking Brazil to Venezuela. Funding collapsed and the road was abandoned in the 1970s, literally stopping dead in the deep jungle, more than 700 miles from its intended goal.

But even unfinished, the pharaonic project retains an ominous presence. Barely a car a day passes, yet the road to nowhere, slicing in a broad red scar through the tree-covered hills, has been remarkably well maintained. Calibi Waiapi, another tribal villager, suspects that the government hopes one day to resurrect that dream of a thoroughfare through the wilderness. Wearing a circular headdress of parrot feathers, Calibi frowns at the thought. "There'd be cars, trucks, violence, drugs, robberies. The culture would change. The young would want the cell-



WAIAPI: Waiapi children walk under the rain at the Manilha village, in the indigenous reserve Waiapi in Amapa state in Brazil. — AFP

phones, the clothes, the computers," the 57-year-old says as he imagines Brazilians pouring down the road. "If a lot of white men came, it would be the end."

Arrow 'for Temer'
Hotter heads threaten a violent response to any attempt at encroachment. "If Temer comes here, anywhere near me, this is what he'll get," says Tapayona Waiapi, brandishing one of the long arrows, tipped in a lethally sharp sliver of wood. Although the Waiapi have had shotguns for hunting since first contact with the government in the 1970s, they still also use arrows, which are poisoned. "These are our weapons so that we are not dependent on non-Indian weapons," said Aka'upoty Waiapi, 43, in Manilha village, as he carved a new bow. But the show of force by the

tribesmen, one of whom swung a club in the shape of a wooden ax, was mostly bravado.

There are only about 1,200 Waiapi, scattered in villages reached by foot or river: they can barely monitor, let alone protect their territory. Just this May, an illegal mine was discovered and shut down a mile south of Pinoty. Jawaruwa Waiapi, 31, says that fighting or even fleeing into the forest will no longer work. Last year he was elected to the municipal council in Pedra Branca, the first member of his tribe to hold a Brazilian political post. He says peaceful persuasion is the only viable way now. "We have another road, another strategy, which is to participate in political life," he said. "Today we don't have to fight with arrows or clubs. We have to fight through knowledge, through politics.... This is our new weapon." — AFP

Indonesia seizes 101 pangolins on fishing boat

PEKANBARU: Indonesian authorities have seized more than 100 pangolins, all of them alive, an official said yesterday — a haul of the critically endangered species that conservationists estimate to be worth about \$1.5 million. Indonesian officials discovered the pangolins on Tuesday in a raid on a fishing boat off the east coast of Sumatra island, the navy said in a press statement.

Authorities were tipped off by local residents who said men were attempting to smuggle the scaly mammals to Malaysia. Pangolins—docile animals with a thick armour—are indigenous to parts of Southeast Asia and Africa and are the world's most trafficked mammal. Two men, aged 22 and 25, were arrested after they confessed they were paid money to transport the pangolins to Malaysia.

If found guilty the suspects could face maximum five years in prison and a Rp 100 million



PEKANBARU: Indonesian officers examine a pangolin after a recent raid in Pekanbaru, Riau province yesterday. — AFP

(\$7,300) fine for violating Indonesia's conservation law. "We received 101 live pangolins seized by the navy yesterday (Tuesday) but four of them later died," said the head of a local conservation agency. The seized pangolins will be released in the nearest national park, said Mahfudz, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. Dwi Adhiasto, from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which works with Indonesian authorities to halt wildlife crime, said

the shipment was worth about \$25,000 wholesale, but could fetch as much as \$1.5 million when sold internationally.

In June, naval officers discovered 223 live pangolins, 24 of which were already dead, as well as nine large bags of pangolin scales in a warehouse near Medan, North Sumatra. Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy in China and their scales are sometimes used in the production of crystal methamphetamine. — AFP

'Idiots of the century' swim in baited croc trap

SYDNEY: A group of men seen swimming inside a baited crocodile trap in Australia near where a woman was recently eaten were blasted as "idiots of the century" Tuesday. Photos posted on Facebook showed the four men clambering on the floating trap set near a marina at Port Douglas in northern Queensland state and even posing inside it. It is not far from where a 4.3-metre (14-foot) croc killed dementia sufferer Anne Cameron. The beast that took the 79-year-old less than two weeks ago was trapped and human remains found inside, but plenty of other crocodiles inhabit the rivers and seas in the area.

Douglas Shire Mayor Julia Leu said she was stunned at their stupidity. "I was absolutely gobsmacked, this is incredibly

stupid and dangerous behavior," she told broadcaster ABC. "I'm wondering if these fellows are vying for the idiots of the year award or the idiots of the century award." Queensland Environment Minister Steven Miles also weighed in, tweeting: "Srsly? The meat we put in these traps is bait. For crocodiles. Don't swim in them! It's stupid, and illegal." Saltwater crocodiles, which can grow up to seven meters long and weigh more than a ton, are a common feature of Australia's tropical north and kill an average of two people a year.

Their numbers have exploded since they were declared a protected species in the 1970s, with Cameron's death reigniting calls to control them. Queensland's environment department said the men's actions were "reckless". "These traps are specifically designed to attract crocodiles and they are deployed in places where a problem crocodile is known to be present," it said in a statement. "It is not an exaggeration to say that interfering with crocodile traps can be potentially life-threatening for the person concerned." There are fines of up to Aus\$15,000 (US\$11,700) for interfering with a crocodile trap. — AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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

What's On

Culinary Safari at Regency Hotel Kuwait



The Regency Hotel Kuwait welcomed Media Members and foodies for a delicious Culinary Safari throughout the hotel's dining outlets. The Regency is well known for its delicious food and is always a unique destination to enjoy exclusive tasteful cuisines from around the world. Under the leadership of Executive Chef Karl Damegger, Italian Chef de Cuisine Secondiano Maccari, and French Executive Pastry Chef Didier Guyon, a new era of delicious food has begun. The three musketeers namely Karl, Secondiano and Didier, have provided an opportuni-

ty to media members and food bloggers to join a delicious journey at The Regency, that brings together the best blends and flavors throughout the hotel's restaurants and lounges.

The culinary safari has started at the elegant lobby lounge Al Liwan, and invitees were welcomed by Karl, as he treated them with delicious bites from the Classic, Vitality and Oriental items from the newly crafted menu in Al Liwan to begin with this delicious journey. Then, the group has been guided to a behind the scene exclusively

where Italian food was carefully prepared by Chef Secondiano and his team at Balsamico Kitchen. Italicious portions were offered that are usually served in the unique and characteristic Italian restaurant, Balsamico. The guests indulged in amazing flavorful Italian food in a unique atmosphere. The delicious journey is never complete without sweets. Chef Didier Guyon tailored with his handmade sweetlicious items at Regency Gourmet, and the group was finally to please their Sweet-tooth with a delightful range of Macaroons, pralines chocolates and

mini cakes that are freshly made with only the finest ingredients.

"At the Regency, we always strive to offer the finest to our guests and being the favorite destination for those who are looking for memorable luxury experience. Today, we are glad to meet with our partners from Kuwait's Media and food bloggers and share with them a delicious culinary safari, as we always appreciate their efforts over the past several years for being supportive to The Regency Hotel Kuwait" Said the General Manager Marc Guenther.

Young students practice democracy at BSK

The 6-year-old students at The British School of Kuwait (BSK) have formed their own student council, made up of students from Year 2 who were elected by their classmates. Students campaigned to represent their classes and prepared presentations and manifestos ahead of the election. They were encouraged to think about the qualities that a good councilor would need to have and they were given the opportunity to vote

for the students who they thought would represent their class well, this was their first introduction to democracy in action.

Mr Rob, Year 2 teacher says "At BSK, student voice is very important and we encourage even the youngest students to work collaboratively and share ideas. Our students definitely 'think outside the box' and it is fantastic to hear their views and opinions about what is important to them." The Lower Phase Student Council at BSK meets twice a term to discuss fundraising ideas and new initiatives. Their suggestions are heard by school management and many have come to fruition, for example, holding themed days at the end of each topic and organizing a fun run fundraiser for students in the Lower Phase. Aiden McBirnie, class representative says "I feel honored to be chosen. It is a big responsibility and I hope to listen to my friends and make a difference."



TIES program

You are cordially invited to another session of our series about the prophets and messengers of Allah (to Whom is ascribed all perfection and majesty) today, at 7:00 p.m.

We will examine Prophet Abraham's (AS) last resort to dissuade his people from idol-worship (by crushing them), the reaction of his people, and his supplication when they defiantly prepared to throw him into a huge blazing fire. We will also learn how close Allah (SWT) is to us, and about some instances when He intervened to save some of His prophets from dire situations.

Finally, we will discuss the evolution of polytheism, how futile it is to exercise force to compel someone to abandon his beliefs and practices, and some other lessons of great significance in our lives today.

The Premier Sport Academy welcome British Army Ladies



The Premier Sport Academy welcomed the British Armed Forces ladies team to their midweek community coaching program. The British team, fresh from their 5-2 victory over the Kuwait Ladies National Team, visited Bayan to work alongside the P.S.A. coaches, delivering coaching sessions to over 150 boys and girls aged from 3 to 16 years. The team is currently touring the Gulf region promoting ladies football, competing against

Gulf national teams and supporting community programs. The players responded with great enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed their session with the guest coaches, who in turn commented on the technical development and whole hearted participation of the players. The British Army coaches selected the outstanding player from each group to receive an authentic English Premier League football club shirt.

BBQ Nights at the Palms Beach Hotel & Spa every Wednesday Night



The cool autumn breeze and its fascinating nights bring along The Palms Beach Hotel & Spa famous BBQ Nights that aspire a unique look this season. The spectacular shining event will take place every Wednesday Night with different theme each week at 8:00 pm till midnight. This distinctive event of the Palms BBQ Nights to be held by the beach and around the swimming pool area surrounded by flowers, greenery and palm trees is considered one of the hotel's essential and unique events. It is looked for and well anticipated not only by the Hotel's guests, but also by all Kuwaiti people & expatriates that provides the ideal location for families, friends and gatherings with its great selection of food, fascinating ambience and atmosphere.

In addition to its rich buffet that abounds with delicious dishes from around the globe, there is the sumptuous BBQ of all kinds of meat and seafood that account for the event's fame, with the famous live cooking stations which The Palms is well known for, starting from Seafood station, Iranian grilled station and tanour bread, Mongolian station, Shawerma station, BBQ station and more... where our experienced chefs will prepare the food right in front of your eyes while enjoying a selection of appetizers, salads, deserts and fresh juices.



TV



01:20 Shanghai Knights
03:20 Grosse Pointe Blank
05:15 Jason Bourne
07:25 Bloodsport
09:00 The Call Up
10:35 Big Game
12:10 Shanghai Knights
14:05 Jason Bourne
16:10 Twister
18:05 Rumble
19:50 The Transporter: Refueled
21:30 Heat

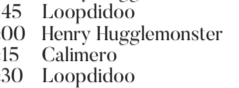
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagf
22:00 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
22:25 The Half Hour
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Lip Sync Battle
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Beverly Hills Groomer
00:55 Beverly Hills Groomer
01:20 What Happened Next?
01:45 What Happened Next?
02:10 Incredible Food Race
03:00 Ultimate Survival
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Beverly Hills Groomer
05:55 Beverly Hills Groomer
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Beverly Hills Groomer
07:25 Beverly Hills Groomer
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Weather Gone Viral
12:00 Wild Hawaii
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00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:10 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
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05:20 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 PJ Masks
10:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
10:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 The Lion Guard
12:00 Sofia The First
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:20 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
17:00 PJ Masks
17:25 Puppy Dog Pals
17:55 Sofia The First
18:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:55 PJ Masks
19:25 The Lion Guard
19:55 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
20:25 Doc McStuffins
20:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:45 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
22:15 Goldie & Bear
22:45 Puppy Dog Pals
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopdidoo



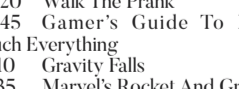
00:00 Chopped
01:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Hallowed Baking Championship
20:00 Siba's Table
20:30 Siba's Table
21:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
21:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 Strip The City
01:50 Abandoned Engineering
02:35 Breaking Magic
02:58 Breaking Magic
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:10 Guess This House
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Midsomer Murders
09:30 Pat O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Guess This House
14:15 The Chase
15:10 Extreme Collectors
14:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Customs 2008
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Extreme Collectors
18:20 Deals, Wheels And Steals
18:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
19:40 How Do They Do It?
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
22:40 Supertrucks
23:30 Fast N' Loud

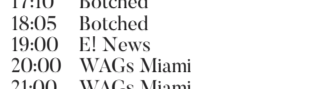


00:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
01:00 Patton 360
02:00 Monster Quest
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 How The States Got Their Shapes
04:05 How The States Got Their Shapes
04:30 Smartest Guy In The Room
04:55 Smartest Guy In The Room
05:20 America: The Story Of The U.S.
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Patton 360
08:00 Monster Quest
09:00 Ancient Aliens
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17:00 The Universe
18:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
19:00 Patton 360
20:00 Monster Quest
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
23:00 Smartest Guy In The Room
23:30 Smartest Guy In The Room



00:20 Forged In Fire
01:10 Counting Cars
01:35 Counting Cars
02:00 Mountain Men
02:45 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Leupold And Pitbull
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men

04:40 Botched By Nature
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 E! News
12:15 Botched
13:10 Botched
14:05 Botched
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 E! News
23:15 Botched



00:15 Eat Street
00:45 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
01:10 Route Awakening
01:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
02:35 Access 360 World Heritage
03:30 Mega Food
04:25 This Is Brazil
05:20 Route Awakening
05:45 Route Awakening
06:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
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17:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
18:10 Restoration Man
19:05 This Is Brazil
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21:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
21:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
23:50 Access 360 World Heritage



00:10 Positive Energy
01:00 Inside The Mega Twister
02:00 Super Storm New York: What Really Happened
03:00 Future China 2049
04:00 Positive Energy
05:00 Street Monkeys
06:00 Highway Thru Hell
07:00 Innovation Nation
07:30 Innovation Nation
08:00 Pond Stars
09:00 Street Monkeys
10:00 Mega Factories
11:00 Nazi Megastructures
12:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Pond Stars
15:00 Innovation Nation
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18:00 Nazi Megastructures
18:00 Locked Up Abroad
19:00 Innovation Nation
19:30 Innovation Nation
20:00 Mega Factories
20:50 Nazi Megastructures
21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 Innovation Nation
22:55 Innovation Nation
23:20 Pond Stars



00:20 Return Of The Lion
01:10 Hooked
02:00 Hyena Coast
02:50 Safari Brothers
03:45 World's Weirdest Animal Faces Compilation
04:40 Bandits Of Selous
05:35 Hyena Coast
06:30 Safari Brothers
07:25 World's Weirdest Animal Faces Compilation
08:20 Bandits Of Selous
09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
10:10 Animal Autopsy
11:05 South Africa
12:00 When Sharks Attack
12:55 Search For King Cobra
13:50 Safari Brothers
14:45 World's Weirdest Pets Compilation
15:40 Chimp School
16:35 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
17:30 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pal
18:25 Unseen Islands
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23:30 When Sharks Attack



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

09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Liar, Liar, Vampire
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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17:48 Hunter Street
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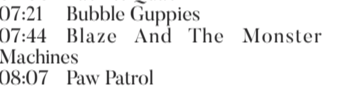


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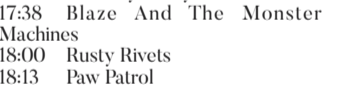
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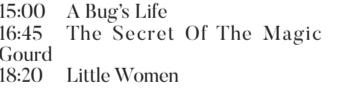
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10:50 Route Awakening
11:15 Route Awakening
11:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
12:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
12:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
13:35 Access 360 World Heritage
14:30 Mega Food
15:25 This Is Brazil
16:20 Route Awakening
16:45 Route Awakening
17:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
18:10 Restoration Man
19:05 This Is Brazil
20:00 Route Awakening
21:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
21:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
23:50 Access 360 World Heritage



00:10 Positive Energy
01:00 Inside The Mega Twister
02:00 Super Storm New York: What Really Happened
03:00 Future China 2049
04:00 Positive Energy
05:00 Street Monkeys
06:00 Highway Thru Hell
07:00 Innovation Nation
07:30 Innovation Nation
08:00 Pond Stars
09:00 Street Monkeys
10:00 Mega Factories
11:00 Nazi Megastructures
12:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Pond Stars
15:00 Innovation Nation
16:00 Innovation Nation
17:00 Mega Factories
18:00 Nazi Megastructures
18:00 Locked Up Abroad
19:00 Innovation Nation
19:30 Innovation Nation
20:00 Mega Factories
20:50 Nazi Megastructures
21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 Innovation Nation
22:55 Innovation Nation
23:20 Pond Stars



00:20 Return Of The Lion
01:10 Hooked
02:00 Hyena Coast
02:50 Safari Brothers
03:45 World's Weirdest Animal Faces Compilation
04:40 Bandits Of Selous
05:35 Hyena Coast
06:30 Safari Brothers
07:25 World's Weirdest Animal Faces Compilation
08:20 Bandits Of Selous
09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
10:10 Animal Autopsy
11:05 South Africa
12:00 When Sharks Attack
12:55 Search For King Cobra
13:50 Safari Brothers
14:45 World's Weirdest Pets Compilation
15:40 Chimp School
16:35 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
17:30 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pal
18:25 Unseen Islands
19:20 World's Weirdest Pets Compilation
20:10 Chimp School
21:00 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
21:50 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pal
22:40 Unseen Islands
23:30 When Sharks Attack



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



00:50 James White
02:30 Nixon
05:50 Goal!
08:00 Jappeloup
10:15 The Better Angels
12:05 Goal!
14:10 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
16:05 No God No Master
17:50 Brooklyn
19:45 The Kite Runner
22:00 Stop-Loss



00:20 The Happy Cricket
01:50 Albert
03:20 Gops Noah Is Gone
04:55 Ghosthunters On Ice Trails
06:40 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
08:10 Freddy Frogface
09:40 Meet The Robinsons
11:20 The Apple & The Worm
12:40 Oops Noah Is Gone
14:10 Ghosthunters On Ice Trails
15:55 Micropolis
17:25 Meet The Robinsons
19:05 A Town Called Panic
20:25 Rainbow Valley Heroes
22:05 Micropolis
23:35 Freddy Frogface



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Alien Storms
02:10 Rise Of The Machines
03:00 Dangerman
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Alien Storms
06:12 Rise Of The Machines
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Dangerman
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Rise Of The Machines
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Alien Storms
11:26 Dangerman
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Rise Of The Machines
14:38 Dangerman
15:26 Alien Storms
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Rise Of The Machines
17:50 Dangerman
18:40 Mythbusters: The Search
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Rise Of The Machines
22:00 E! Knows! In The Name Of Science
22:50 Dangerman
23:40 Mythbusters



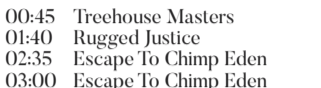
01:15 From Dusk Till Dawn
03:00 02:22
05:15 Meksada
07:00 Kill Bill Vol - II
09:15 Resurrecting The Champ
11:15 The Brothers Grimm
13:15 Half Light
15:00 From Dusk Till Dawn
16:45 Henry's Crime
18:30 Carjacked
20:00 Tiptoes
21:30 Ironclad
23:30 Gone Baby Gone



00:00 Cedar Cove
01:00 Cedar Cove
02:00 Cedar Cove
03:00 Making Mr. Right
04:00 Project Accessory
05:00 House Of DVF
06:00 Cedar Cove
07:00 Cedar Cove
08:00 Cedar Cove
09:00 Making Mr. Right
10:00 Project Accessory
11:00 House Of DVF
12:00 Cedar Cove
13:00 Cedar Cove
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Making Mr. Right
16:00 Project Accessory
17:00 House Of DVF
18:00 The Fashion Fund
19:00 The Fashion Fund
20:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
20:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
21:00 Making Mr. Right
22:00 Project Accessory
23:00 House Of DVF



00:20 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
01:05 Botched Up Bodies
02:50 Bizarre ER
03:50 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Outdaughered: Busby Quints
07:30 Say Yes To The Dress UK
07:52 Say Yes To The Dress UK
08:15 Little People, Big World
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 The Undateables
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK
13:10 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Little People, Big World
15:25 The Undateables
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Ultimate Shopper
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 Say Yes To The Dress UK
21:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:25 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
04:15 We Love Puppies
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Gorilla School
07:00 Gorilla School
07:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:50 Escape To Chimp Eden
08:15 Treehouse Masters
08:40 Rugged Justice
09:00 Rugged Justice
10:05 Mutant Planet
11:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
11:28 Escape To Chimp Eden
11:55 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
12:50 We Love Puppies
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Mutant Planet
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Whale Wars
18:20 Whale Wars
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Escape To Chimp Eden
20:38 Escape To Chimp Eden
21:05 Whale Wars
22:00 Whale Wars
22:55 Mutant Planet
23:50 Lone Star Law



00:15 Doctors
00:45 EastEnders
01:15 Poldark
02:10 In The Dark
03:10 Doctors
04:00 Maigret
05:30 EastEnders
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 Dickensian
08:20 Call The Midwife
09:15 Doctors
09:45 EastEnders
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 The Coroner
11:50 Dickensian
12:40 Call The Midwife
13:35 Doctors
14:05 EastEnders
14:40 Father Brown
15:30 Dickensian
16:15 Call The Midwife
17:10 The Coroner
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:45 Father Brown
20:00 Holbein City
21:00 The Royle Family: Christmas 2012
22:00 Cold Feet
22:50 Benidorm
23:40 Doctors



00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
04:00 Escaping Polygamy
05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
06:00 Crime Stories
07:00 Crime Stories
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Homicide Hunter
12:00 Homicide Hunter
13:00 Homicide Hunter
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Crime Stories
16:00 The First 48
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Crimes That Shock Britain
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Crime Stories
22:00 Fritzy By Fred Dinenage
23:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill



00:05 Inside Amy Schumer
00:55 Broad City
01:20 Broad City
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:55 Another Period
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.0
05:20 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Sweat Inc.
07:15 Impractical Jokers UK
07:40 Impractical Jokers UK
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 I Live With Models
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Sweat Inc.
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Impractical Jokers UK
13:05 Impractical Jokers UK
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 I Live With Models
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 I Live With Models
17:45 Disaster Date
18:07 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:28 Impractical Jokers UK
18:56 Impractical Jokers UK
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood

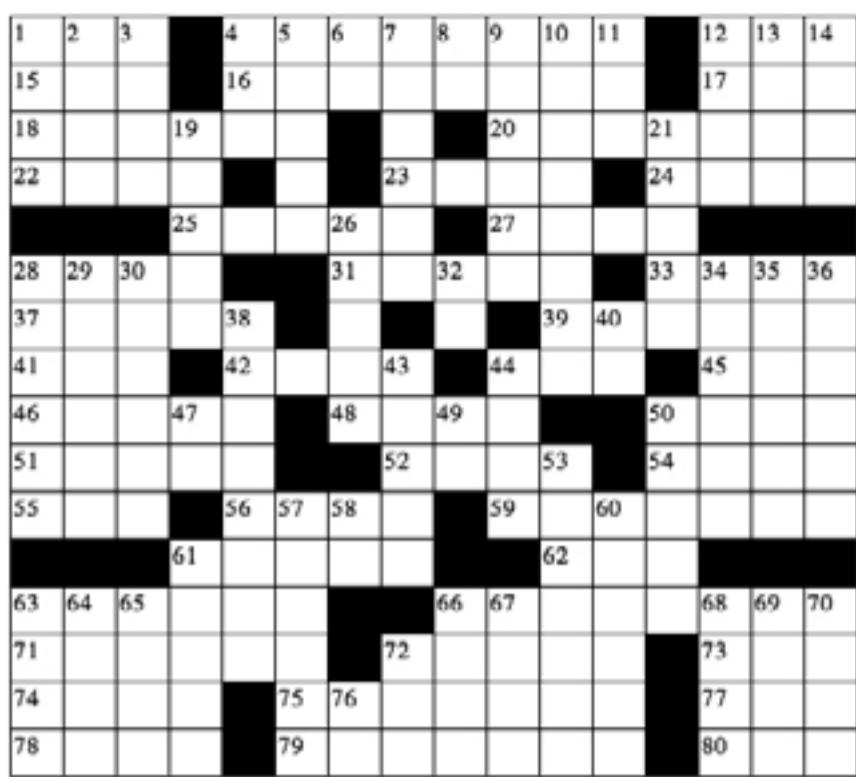


00:45 Ghost Asylum
01:40 Murder Calls
02:35 I Am Homicide
03:30 Sexual Assault In College: Tamron Hall...
04:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
04:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 Disappeared
08:15 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
09:10 Southern Fried Homicide
10:05 Obsession: Dark Desires
11:00 Grave Secrets
11:55 Disappeared
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Southern Fried Homicide
14:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
15:35 Murder Calls
16:30 Disappeared
17:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
17:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Southern Fried Homicide
20:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
21:00 Reasonable Doubt
22:00 I Am Homicide
22:55 The Perfect Murder
23:50 Ghost Asylum



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Alex & Co.
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30

CROSSWORD 1745



ACROSS

1. The supernatural being conceived as the perfect and omnipotent and omniscient originator and ruler of the universe.
4. Any of several low-growing palms with fan-shaped leaves.
12. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
15. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
16. (Welsh) Goddess famous for her beauty.
17. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
18. Large ornamental tropical American tree with bipinnate leaves and globose clusters of flowers with crimson stamens and sweet-pulp seed pods eaten by cattle.
20. Like an amoeba (especially in having a variable irregular shape).
22. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
23. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
24. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
25. True mosses.
27. Elegant and stylish.
28. Kamarupan languages spoken in north-eastern India and western Burma.
31. Widely distributed lichens usually having a grayish or yellow pendulous freely branched thallus.
33. An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
37. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
39. A German city near Leipzig.
41. A former French coin of low denomination.
42. Large semi-evergreen tree of East India.
45. A former monetary unit in Great Britain.
46. (architecture) Forming or resembling an arch.
48. With no effort to conceal.
51. Hungarian composer of light operas (1870-1948).
52. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
54. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
55. The capital and largest city of Japan.
56. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
59. Tropical American feather palm having a swollen spiny trunk and edible nuts.
62. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
63. Jewish republic in southwestern Asia at eastern end of Mediterranean.
71. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
73. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
74. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
75. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
77. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
78. (archaic) A fitting reward.
79. Extreme mental retardation.
80. How long something has existed.

DOWN

1. An ancient Egyptian city on the west bank of the Nile opposite Cairo.
2. Toward the mouth or oral region.
3. Fallow deer.
4. Cooking utensil consisting of a wide metal vessel.
5. An ancient city in southeastern Greece.
6. Being one more than fifty.
7. A guerrilla fighter in the French underground in World War II.
8. Half the width of an em.
9. A psychological state induced by (or as if induced by) a magical incantation.
10. Weapon consisting of a fighting ax.
11. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
12. A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
13. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
14. An informal term for a father.
19. Someone whose business is advertising.
21. Italian lawn bowling (played on a long narrow dirt court).
26. Spicy fruit of the cubeb vine.
29. Regarded with deep or rapturous love (especially as if for a god).
30. A cowboy of the South American pampas.
32. A state in southeastern United States.
34. Preserve a dead body.
35. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
36. A university town in east central Illinois adjoining Champaign.
38. Brown or blackish Alpine mosses having a dehiscent capsule with 4 longitudinal slits.
40. A bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
43. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
44. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
47. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
49. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
50. The state prevailing during the absence of war.
53. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
57. Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs.
58. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
60. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
61. Long-winged web-footed aquatic bird of the gull family.
64. A unit of perceived loudness equal to the loudness of a 1000-hertz tone at 40 dB above threshold.
65. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion.
66. (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
67. A written agreement between two states or sovereigns.
68. An upholstered seat for more than one person.
69. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
70. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
72. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
76. The square of a body of any size of type.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You appear perhaps more charming and refined than usual. Now could be the time to make a date, apply for a special job or otherwise make yourself known. A new way of thinking may take you into an understanding of any personal desires. Meeting yourself in another person is the keynote of a new cycle that begins now. Through this person, you can see how you have improved and progressed over the years, as well as some of the improvements that you may still want. This recognition helps you to come to a better understanding of yourself. It's easy in theory, but it's only in practice that it comes to mean anything real—so practice until you get it right! Vacationing or a drive into the country is favorable soon—make your plans now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Patience is one of your biggest issues this day. Instant gratification may be an interference just now: you want things and you want them this instant—you are not alone. There are many paths to follow: one path can become mighty narrow. This can also lead to duplicity, confusion and ambitious schemes that tend to become lost along the way. Know what you want—write your goals down in a clear form. The next step is to let a plan guide you. This evening, you may want to give much thought to your inner feelings about a recent romantic attraction. You could be romantically motivated or attracted to a person that has a particular personality you would have never been attracted to before this time in your life—you have grown.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are decisions to be made and putting them off only makes them harder and less effective: action, not debate, is what is needed. Challenges will be handled with much energy today. Make sure this is positive energy. Insert flexibility into your day. If something is not working, change direction or styles of working. Others may disagree with what you say or think, or in some way oppose your ideas. Wait a bit... That person will soon be asking you to repeat your ideas or instructions. Do not dwell too long on a situation you cannot change and did not cause. Be prepared—this could be a learning type of day. The positive results for you will depend on your actions. This is a good day to seek any advice you may feel you need.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are favorable aspects pointing to success at this time. You are vulnerable to deception just now. Business presentations or meetings can open new career horizons. Your reputation grows stronger if you know how to work within the limitations you are facing. It is when you set too many boundaries that you get into trouble. If you are making investments, concentrate on short-term outcomes and look for longer-term options through next month. The feelings and emotions of those around you may be very clear. This is another good day to start a diet, or perhaps a new and positive habit. Your imaginative and creative talents turn the tide in your favor this evening. Check out a method of safeguarding your ideas.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could make subtle changes now. It is a good day to get things done. Good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort make almost any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting outside today. Intuition can help you select the best health care or the best workout group. Emotions are very present but within control. Perhaps after a little exercise this afternoon, you will be good for study, research, etc. You have a real appreciation for unique ideas. You may find yourself enjoying a little time to visit with a friend or communicate through the written word. Harmonious ties to others are what you seek. The ideal partnership and the perfect balance are some of the things that quicken your pulse.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This day may become a bit challenging. Your career and life direction are putting some real pressure on your home and emotional life. Obviously you cannot live without both, so some kind of middle line or balance is indicated. There are opportunities to excel in many areas of your life just now. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled. By daring to be the oddball and taking new approaches, you will be successful. You may receive some special attention regarding your particular skills. An old problem comes to an end today. You can take risks and dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and a determination to secure relationships. This is a good day for practical ideas and planning.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Family and security are things that rattle your chain more than ever. These are areas where you make new beginnings and bold moves. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. You can make whatever constructive changes are necessary at this time. Now is a good time to polish your skills. Complete any work requiring analysis, precise measurements or mathematical aptitude. New technologies and gadgets are an asset. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you now. You are working hard to improve and evolve—you have a need for respect. Someone important to you may not give you the recognition you want—patience.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is an important time, during which, depending upon your current age, you may reach new highs of accomplishment. This will bring great discipline and focus that could make or break you. You may decide to respond to old situations a bit differently from the usual. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Patience is still the guideline here but your career could open up by taking some new approaches. You do not like monotonous situations and the faster life moves along the happier you seem. Your living situation may be in flux but this is good for you; however, others may be confused and not as willing as you are to pull up roots. This is an opportunity to learn patience.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This can be your most rewarding day in many areas of your life. Be prepared emotionally for the challenging days that can bring some wonderful changes in your life. The challenging days like today can be quite rewarding. This is where your most exciting, life-fulfilling dreams can be met. This is the time to come to an understanding of just where you are in life and where you want to go next—create a focus, achieve and appreciate. The energies that are available are hot and ready to be used; however, you must choose the direction by looking at the possible results—negative or positive. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects and in all aspects of your life. Life is magical in the world of romance.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your sense of direction when handling a person or a problem is perhaps the key element in your personality makeup. It is important how you manage difficulties, find diplomatic solutions or come up with the right approach. Your outward charm and ability to be all things to all people is most central to your personality. This ability to solve problems, to counsel and always to put others at ease is the key to meeting and coming to know you. There is a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts—on a more intellectual level than in the past. You and a loved one will put a closure to some disagreement this evening. You have learned to see both sides of an issue and you can figure out resolutions to opposing views.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may want to attend a lecture or speak in a conference today. There is a yearning to broaden horizons and reach for the ultimate. Law, politics, education, travel and religion are some of the areas where an emotionally charged drama may be played. Ideas are flowing and come with ease. You may find yourself chatty. Circumstances seem to bend to your will and things have a way of working out smoothly. There are real opportunities to complete and work out difficulties and projects that require both long-term effort and a high degree of discipline. You could receive unexpected help or support from those around you, especially someone younger or a woman. You may get insight into your support system and a new understanding of a special relationship.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a positive and fast moving day with plenty of room for accomplishments. You could see yourself moving closer to those long-term goals of yours. This will bring great discipline and a concentration or focus that could show off your talents. Emotional seriousness, a sober orientation and a practical awareness of scheduling and timing are keystones of your deepest concern. There is a tendency to be too strict with your own self and to insist that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Your ambition is profound. Guidance from higher-ups is advisable, easily obtainable and may currently be beneficial to your career. Someone special supports you and encourages you now.

Wordsearch Puzzle

70's Songs

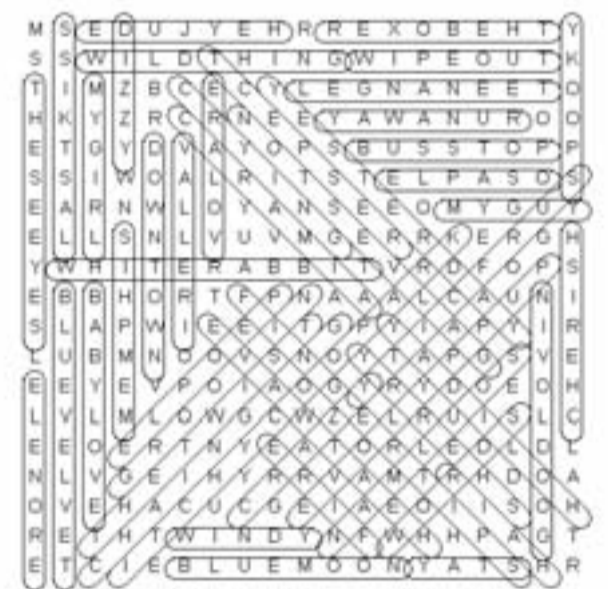
Find and circle all of these songs from the 1970's that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional song from the 70's.



- | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| ANGIE | FAME | LOVIN' YOU | ROCK GRL |
| BABE | FREE BIRD | LOWDOWN | ROKAVNE |
| BAD BLOOD | GREASE | MACARTHUR PARK | SAD EYES |
| BETH | HEART OF GLASS | MAGGIE MAY | SIR DUKE |
| BROWN SUGAR | HOT STUFF | MISS YOU | STAYIN' ALIVE |
| CAR WASH | HOTEL CALIFORNIA | ISLAND GIRL | SUPERSTITION |
| CORVY | ISLAND GIRL | NIGHT MOVES | THE JOKER |
| CROCKLE ROCK | JIVE TALKIN' | OHIO | TRAGEDY |
| DANCING QUEEN | LAYLA | POP MUZZIK | VENUS |
| DREAMING | LE FREAK | RHIANNON | WATERLOO |
| DREAMS | LOLA | RHINESTONE COWBOY | YOUR SONG |

Yesterday's Solution

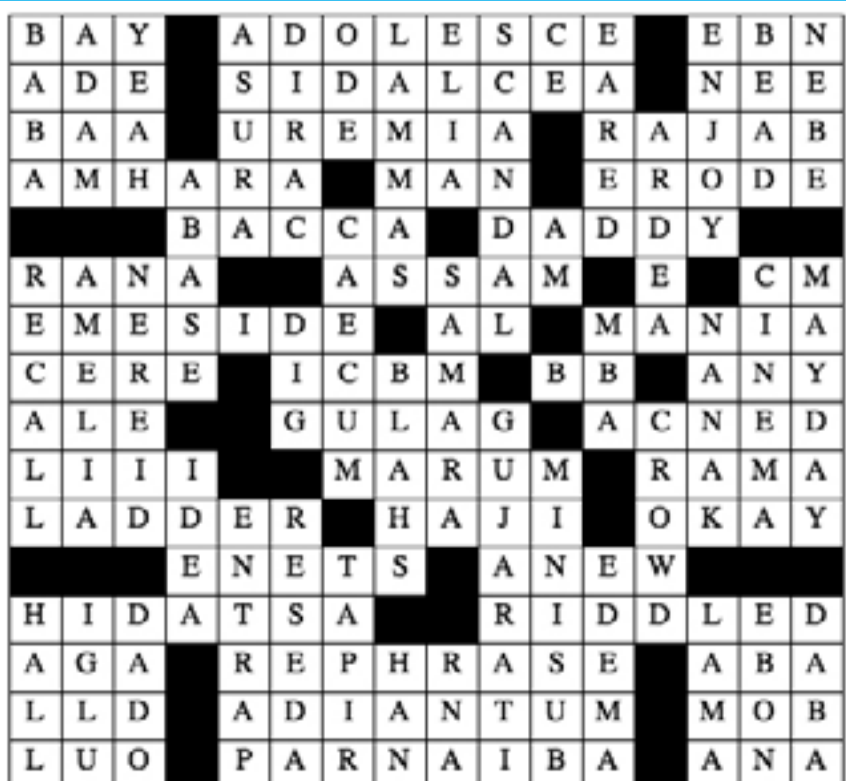
60's Songs



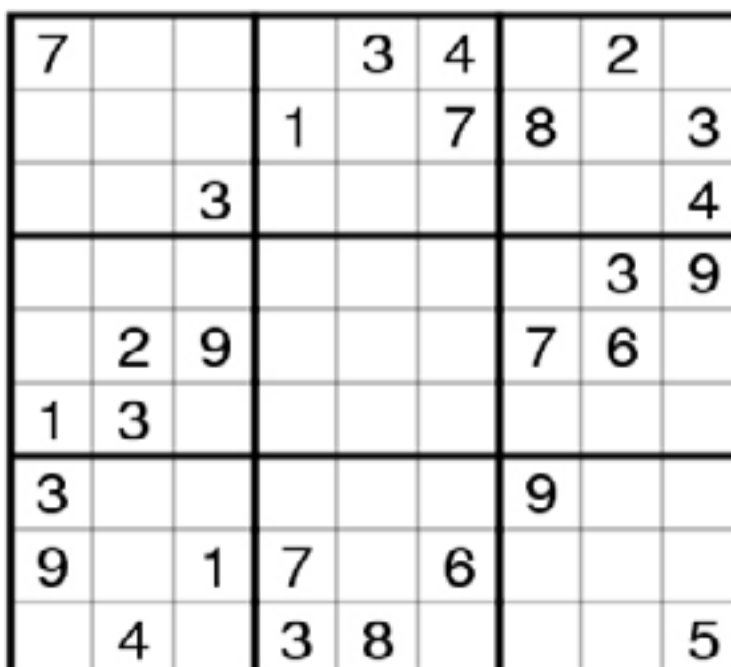
- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| BABY LOVE | ELENORE | MEMPHIS | TEEN ANGEL |
| BLUE MOON | FINGERTIPS | MY GIRL | THE BOXER |
| BLUE VELVET | FIRE | MY GUY | THE TWIST |
| BUS STOP | GALVESTON | PEOPLE | THESE EYES |
| CARA MIA | GOOD LOVIN' | PUPPY LOVE | VALLERIE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

The hidden song is: MRS. BROWN YOU'VE GOT A LOVELY DAUGHTER

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Thursday, October 26, 2017

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

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for mist forming over some

BY DAY: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

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

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART	25/10/2017 1200 UTC
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	26 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	39 °C	20 °C		
ABDALY	37 °C	24 °C		
BUBYAN	30 °C	24 °C		
JAHRA	39 °C	23 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	25 °C		
SALMIYAH	29 °C	27 °C		
AHMADI	32 °C	25 °C		
NUWAISIB	39 °C	22 °C		
WAFRA	39 °C	22 °C		
SALMY	38 °C	21 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/26	Hot	38 °C	20 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Friday	10/27	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	37 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Saturday	10/28	Relatively hot and Humid with a chance for fog forming at night	37 °C	21 °C	SE	12 - 32 km/h
Sunday	10/29	Relatively hot and Humid with a chance for fog forming at night	36 °C	22 °C	SE	12 - 35 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:57
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:24

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	17 °C
MAX. RH	84 %
MIN. RH	14 %
MAX. Wind	SE 36 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

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

NOTICE

October 25, 2017

Mr. Anuraj Chandhanapuram Rajan son of late Mr. Rajan, resident of Kozhiparambil House, Edassery PO, Talikulam, Thrissur, Kerala, 680 569 and Ms. Ancy Kunathukudy Mathai daughter of Mr. Mathai Kunathukudy, resident of Kunrathukudy House, Vaikkara P.O., Rayamangalam, Ernakulam, Pinc: 683549, Kerala, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

[Signature]
 [Signature] Sankar
 Attyche (Consultant) and
 Marriage Officer,
 Embassy of India, Kuwait.

Ph: 00965-22550171 - 00965-22533125
 Fax: 00965-22527910
 Email: attyche@embassyindia.gov.kw
 walter@embassyindia.gov.kw

LOST

holder of Indian Passport No. G6728826 & Civil ID No. 288052504978 has changed my name from Aziz to Aziz Fakhruddin hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Aziz Fakhruddin. (C 5352) 23-10-2017

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of "main secondary examination of year 2014, roll no. 0431048" & main senior secondary examination of year 2016 roll no. 9104112 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of candidate - Jenab Hojeifa Badodiya Wala. Mob: 97434760. (C 5353) 26-10-2017

CHANGE OF NAME

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

I, Aziz S/o Fakhruddin,

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 1899988

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Thursday 26/10/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 26/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
KAC	102	London	00:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	SVA	503	Jeddah	01:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	01:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	MSC	412	Asyut	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:45
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
QTR	8511	Doha	06:45	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:30

Lifestyle | Gossip



Olsen twins want to number their new fragrances

The 31-year-old twins have launched their new perfumes named Nirvana French Grey and Nirvana Amethyst, and the stars have admitted they initially wanted to name their scents "One, Two, Three", before they decided on titles referring to color. Speaking to Allure Online, Mary-Kate said: "We actually originally wanted One, Two, Three, Four." Ashley added: "But decided to go with color instead." And the 'New York Minute' actresses said the biggest "struggle" they faced was settling on a name for their products. The fashion designers - who co-founded The Row as well as Elizabeth and James - explained: "That was the struggle in the beginning, because we really thought we were just going to do Black and White. But then when we decided we wanted to do more fragrances. So then we had to ask ourselves, 'What does the bottle look like? What's the story we're telling?' If we continued to use solid colors, like Black and White, those would be

quite shocking. So then it had to become a bit more transparent." Ashley added: "We always wanted it to eventually become lighter..." Mary-Kate continued: "Become lighter and friendlier. It has evolved in that way. Even the packaging, the gifting, we've definitely evolved. And fragrance has such a long lead time as well. French Grey and Amethyst, I feel like we worked on them last year, so I'm happy everyone finally gets to explore and experience them." However the pair overcame the hurdles, and have admitted they enjoyed the "whole experience" of creating the cosmetic products. Mary-Kate said: "I knew that everyone took to fragrance differently, but I didn't realise how different a fragrance, like even a single note, sits on different skin. I could love it on myself and not like it on Ashley, or like something on someone else that I don't like on me. I found that so interesting. I love notes, I love scents, I like pretending I'm a nose."

BIEBER'S HOME USED FOR 18 TV AND PHOTOSHOOTS

The 'Never Say Never' hitmaker splashes out \$55,000 per month to live at the Beverly Hills house, and the plush pad has staged several events, including a 'Call of Duty' advert in September. According to TMZ, the bachelor pad is popular with companies looking for a picturesque background as a number of film and photography permits have been filed for the address since 2010, leading to at least 18 shoots. While Justin is no stranger to seeing supercars, there have been several parked on his driveway for various campaigns, including Chryslers, Lincolns, and Buicks. But the 23-year-old singer had an unwelcome visitor at the property earlier this week. A mystery woman was arrested after allegedly attempting to break into Justin Bieber's home for the third time this week. Justin was thought to be inside the house when the lady allegedly attempted to force her way into his pad, but he didn't make contact with her. It was said to be the third time the 'Sorry' hitmaker's security team has prevented the woman from getting into the property this week. They are said to have called law enforcement officials who later arrested and charged her on suspicion of trespassing. In 2014, a woman broke into the singer's temporary home in Atlanta, Georgia and fell asleep in one of the bedrooms, before being discovered by the landlord the following morning and then arrested by police.



Gal Gadot nearly quit Hollywood

The 32-year-old actress has admitted before she landed her role as Wonder Woman in 'Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice' she was contemplating returning to her native Israel to study. Speaking to Glamour magazine, the brunette beauty said: 'Before I got 'Wonder Woman', I was thinking about never coming back to Los Angeles, [I thought I'd] stay in Israel, work as an actress here and there, go back to university and do something else.' And the reason the 'Keeping Up With the Joneses' star wanted to opt out of a career in the entertainment industry was because she kept being rejected for film projects. She explained: "Because there had been so many 'no's. 'You go to the audition and you have a callback, then another callback and then a camera set-up, and people are telling you your life will change if you get this part. And then you don't get it. 'I reached a place where I didn't want to do that anymore.'" Gal -

who has seven-month-old Maya and five-year-old Alma with her husband Yaron Versano - has revealed her work also put a lot of "pressure" on her and her family. She added: "My husband has a lot of work in Tel Aviv, and we had a daughter, so taking them to LA to fish for work put a lot of pressure on me. 'I was like, 'Why am I doing this?' Hearing no, over and over, I was thinking, 'What am I good for?' And that's when I got Wonder Woman." Gal was keen to forge a career as a lawyer before she started acting, and though she "convinced" herself she would be the perfect candidate and would make "peace", she soon realized it wouldn't suit her personality. Speaking about her other career possibilities, she said: "You convince yourself to do these things... 'I'll be a lawyer so I can make peace and people will be able to reach agreements.' "Whereas, in real life, lawyers deal with conflict non-stop. Conflicts are not good for me. I'm all about harmony and Zen. So I'm happy it didn't work out. I would be the sh***iest lawyer."

Kourtney wishes she hadn't given birth on TV



The 38-year-old star allowed the births of her and Scott Disick's first two kids, Mason, seven, and five-year-old Penelope, on reality TV show 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' but not their third child, Reign, two, and she now regrets letting the cameras in. When asked if she wishes she'd kept something private which aired on the show, she said: "The first thing that comes to mind is sharing the birth of my kids on the show. But you live and you learn. If I started to think of regrets I would probably go crazy." However, the raven-haired beauty has admitted she is sometimes "happy" she shared her "beautiful" birthing experience. She said: "I was sitting in my doctor's office recently and this woman came up to me and told me that they had to watch me giving birth in her birthing class. 'It was to prove it could be beautiful and calm and not people screaming at the top of their lungs and feeling so, like, frantic. 'I was so scared before I gave birth, but I had a beautiful experience. I'm happy I shared that.'" Kourtney loves working with her famous family on 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' - which recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary - and never worries about the clan running out of material. She added to Grazia magazine: "Every day I wake up and say a prayer and thank god for my job and my kids and my family. Everything has a downside, but to be able to work with my family ... I do feel really blessed. 'Do I ever get worried that there's nothing left to film? No, it just doesn't happen. 'When we think, 'Oh there's nothing else,' something will happen." The Kardashian-Jenner stars are said to have signed a reported \$150 million deal with E! to continue airing the show.

Zendaya inspired by 'the fashion of the decades'

The 21-year-old actress - who launched her own label Daya by Zendaya in 2015 - believes trends "just repeat" over time, and the star "loves exploring" outfits from different genres and bringing a "modern" twist to a classic outfit. Speaking to PEOPLE about her style choices, the brunette beauty said: "I think I'm always just very inspired by the fashion of the decades. When you go back in time and kind of explore those silhouettes and kind of find a modern way to do it, everything in fashion just repeats. It's just the same thing, just repeating. So when you latch on to something from the past, it's almost like it's new again, because we haven't seen it in a while. So I love exploring with different things from different decades. It's fun." And the 'Spider-Man:

Homecoming' star has admitted fashion also gives her a boost of confidence. She explained: "I think for me, I really have been lucky to find, through fashion, a lot of confidence. For me, dressing up and trying new things is a form of exploring my confidence, exploring what I like, exploring what I enjoy. And though some people may dread dressing up for a star studded bash, Zendaya loves it because she feels she takes on an "alter ego". She added: "When I go on carpets, for some people, some people hate this part. This is my favourite part. I can just go to a red carpet and just go home, because it's like my favorite part is the red carpets. That's sometimes opposite for people, but I enjoy it. It's fun for me "I get to be these different characters. It's like an alter ego."



KAIA GERBER DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM KENDAL JENNER

The 16-year-old model - who is the daughter of supermodel Cindy Crawford and her husband Rande Gerber - has praised the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star for balancing her career with her personal life, and Kaia has admitted she has "learned" a lot about the business from the fellow model. Speaking to E! News about the 21-year-old beauty, Kaia said: "I think [Kendall] does a really good job about having a life outside of [work] and staying with your friends and not separating yourself too much, so I've just kind of learned that from her." Kaia has revealed she regularly hears kind words about her mother, who has been credited as the "most professional person" in the fashion industry, and she hopes one day she will be praised by her colleagues. Speaking about her 51-year-old parent, she said: "She gives me advice for life more than modeling, like 'Be on time,' which is really important in the industry we're both in. And to be kind to everyone. Everyone that I've worked with says she's the most professional person that they work with, so I could only hope that they say the something about me." Meanwhile, Kaia is heartbroken she is not the same size as Cindy and cannot fit into her clothes or shoes yet. She said: "My mom and I aren't the same size. She's a bit taller. And we're not the same shoe size either, which is heartbreaking." And though the mother and daughter cannot share clothes, Kaia believes they have similar mannerisms. She said: "I know that we have a lot of the same mannerisms and, obviously, look a little bit alike, but yeah, I'd say we have different senses of humor and stuff like that."

Lively hopes daughter will become a chef

The 30-year-old actress and husband Ryan Reynolds always ask their 12-month-old Innes what her "signature special" dish is because she loves food so much, and the 'Shallows' star thinks this could mean the youngster is showing early signs she wants to forge a cooking career one day. Blake - who also has two-year-old James with the Hollywood actor - said: "My little one, oh she's just so divine. She came out of the womb a little foodie. She'll eat whatever. 'We're always like, 'What's your signature special,' because she's always reaching for anything. 'I'm like a parent of an Olympian except I want a chef baby.'" While Innes is concentrating on her love of food, Blake admitted James is more like a baby than her younger sister. Speaking on 'Live With Kelly and Ryan', she added: "What's crazy is my two-and-a-half-year-old, she wakes up at night and she's the baby, basically. 'I think you're more relaxed as a parent [the second time], and the first one is very dominating anyways so I think the second baby just has to be easier.'" Blake recently admitted Innes is a huge fan of steak - more so than caloric treats. She said: "I made a Cookie Monster cake ... she just looked at it and then like reached for a steak. 'Then she grabs the other one and she's like ham-fisting two steaks. I've given birth to a baby viking."



Lifestyle | Features



Polar bear Inuka, 26, swimming inside its enclosure at the Singapore Zoo. — AFP photos



Inuka the polar bear, 26, inside its enclosure.

No dog's life for elderly animals in

Singapore Zoo



The Wildlife Reserves Singapore medical team checking on Kima the cheetah at the Singapore Zoo.



The Wildlife Reserves Singapore medical team checking on Inuka.



Kima the cheetah lies unconscious on an operating table while blood samples are taken and a monitor beeps in the background, being treated not for the results of a savage attack, but for the ravages of old age. As with humans, animal populations in developed countries are living longer, putting a strain on healthcare resources, with experts warning animal enclosures in Asia are ill-equipped to handle the burden.

"Few zoos are adequately prepared for this," said Dave Neale, Welfare Director of Animals Asia, adding that the region was well behind the West in addressing the problem. "If an animal does survive to an old age it is likely to suffer within an unsuitable environment due to the lack of such available skills and knowledge," he explained. Singapore Zoo is one of the few in Asia to tackle the issue: It has introduced a

senior animals' program, where the elderly get a specialized diet, regular visits from an in-house vet and individually tailored exercise regimes. The scheme began this year and about 100 animals have been signed up. Participants are required to have reached about 80 percent of their natural lifespan before they are deemed eligible.

At 11, Kima is well into her twilight years. Cheetahs in captivity usually to around six in the wild, according to the Big Cat Rescue charity. Keepers had reported the creature had problems catching treats thrown to her and an examination confirmed she needed surgery for cataracts. "In the zoo, there are no predators and there's always food to eat, so they tend to live longer than in the wild," said Luis Carlos,



The city state is viewed as a leader in caring for elderly animals in Asia

who works for zoo operator Wildlife Reserves Singapore. "But this also means that they develop health problems you normally wouldn't see in animals outside," he added. Among the elderly patients is polar bear

Inuka who, at 26, is a senior citizen by arctic standards, and suffers from arthritis and impaired hearing. His days start with an examination by his keeper and a vet, who check on his gait, teeth and response to commands. Earlier this year, specialists were drafted in to perform cataract surgery on Jojo, a 60-year-old orangutan, who was already blind in one eye and hearing impaired. But tough choices need to be made when it comes to caring for elderly animals, zookeeper Mohan Ponichamy insisted.

The team recently had to put down a white tiger who was suffering from skin cancer and joint degeneration. "As a person you feel sad but we have to make the best decision for the animal," Ponichamy added. Set in a lush

nature reserve, Singapore Zoo is home to thousands of animals, from orangutans to flying foxes, and is regarded as one of the region's better run wildlife parks.

The city state is viewed as a leader in caring for elderly animals in Asia though such schemes are common in the West, according to Louis Ng, founder of AGRS, a local animal welfare advocacy group. In the US, institutions from the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, where keepers communicate with a blind seal through sound and touch, to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago where a caiman reptile was fitted with a prosthetic limb after a tumor was found on its leg, have invested in ageing animal care. Ng warned: "Asian zoos still have a lot of catching up to do, be it in terms of the set-up, the veterinary expertise (and) the nutritional team." — AFP

ITALY WOOS VISITORS AS IT EYES TOURISM CATCH-UP



The castle of Bolgheri



A street in the small village of Bolgheri.

Eating lunch in Italy's Bolgheri wine country, it is not hard to understand why the number of international visitors to this bucolic corner of Tuscany has doubled in five years. "People have always come in the summer for the beaches," says Riccardo Binda, cutting into a succulent tender slice of Florentine steak, grilled over embers.

"Now we're getting visitors all year round. It's something new that has developed as the reputation of Bolgheri's wine has grown." Binda is the general manager of the local consortium of winemakers in an area known for its production of high-quality Bordeaux-style reds. Sourced from eighth generation master butcher Dario Cecchini and hung for 100 days, the T-bone he is eating is a popular choice.

On a sunny October afternoon, the Osteria Magona is packed and abuzz with the mingling murmurs of quiet foodie contentment and wine-fuelled chat in English, French, German and Japanese. It's a scene to gladden the heart of Dario Franceschini, Italy's culture and tourism minister, as he prepares the accounts on what is expected to be a record year for tourism.

The sector accounts for around 10 percent of the country's GDP and has become a significant engine of growth for an economy emerging from years of stagnation. A bumper summer season saw a 16 percent surge in the total number of visits to the country's long coastlines, with the number of overseas customers up a little more than five percent. But with just over 52 million foreign visitors in 2016, according to the UN's World Tourism Organization, Italy still

lags behind its comparable neighbors France, with 82 million visitors last year, and Spain with 75 million.

Rich culinary heritage

The minister is also acutely aware that much of the recent growth in tourism can be attributed to terrorism-related security concerns that have diverted holidaymakers from Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey. Against that backdrop, authorities are looking to bolster year-round arrivals and target visitors in search of more than a sun tan.

Foreign directors have been brought in to revamp some of the country's major museums and art galleries, while a major upgrade of the Francigena pilgrim's route reflects an effort to draw in more hikers and cyclists. But according to designer and entrepreneur Franco Malenotti, the country is not making the most of its rich culinary heritage.

"Enogastronomic (food and wine) tourism is a big new trend," Malenotti told AFP, citing research that points to a major surge in Asian and Latin American foodies heading for Europe in the next few years. "Italy should be in the avant-garde in this sector. But it's not. Why? Because we have done almost nothing to foster and promote it."

Malenotti's eclectic career has included designing Batman and other Hollywood costumes as well as owning the cult fashion label Belstaff. His latest venture is a "World Wine Town", an accommodation and restaurant complex constructed around a recently opened

museum dedicated to the story of Bolgheri's wines and designed by Oscar-winning cinema set designer Dante Ferretti.

Airbnb boom

With more than 1,000 wines on tap, Malenotti is banking on the complex drawing in people like German couple Susann and Rainer Schmidt. "You want to taste and try the wines, but also to learn something," says Susann, glass in hand after a stroll round an exhibition in which holograms of famous winemakers such as Piero Antinori and Nicolo Incisa della Rocchetta recount their roles in making



A woman visits the Sensory and Multimedia Museum of Bolgheri and of Tuscany's Coast.



Tourists walk on a street in Bolgheri.

Bolgheri's reputation. Malenotti was inspired by the example of Bordeaux's Cite du Vin.

"Whatever product you are selling, you need a back story. It is called storytelling and it is very important in marketing," he said. "After coming here the majority of tourists go on to visit the wineries. In places like the Napa Valley (in the US), estates get more than half their sales from the cellar door, here in Bolgheri it is only five percent. That shows how much there is still to do."

As well as keeping restaurateurs busy, booming wine tourism has also impacted the local economy by creating a new demand for

accommodation that the traditional hotel sector has yet to meet. In Castagneto, the village closest to the museum, Malenotti estimates that three quarters of the properties are partly or fully available to rent on Airbnb-style platforms.

"It is a very disruptive trend, but not necessarily a bad one: the people really live in the area, buy stuff at the shop downstairs, eat out. "And already there are service companies springing up offering to do the check-ins and check-outs, the cleaning and the laundry for these kind of rentals." The wine town project will be completed over the next year with the opening of a school for sommeliers. — AFP

Lifestyle | Music & Movies



File photo shows Taika Waititi (L) and Chris Hemsworth from "Thor: Ragnarok" attending the Marvel Studios Presentation during San Diego Comic-Con International 2017. — AFP



Screenshot from 'Thor: Ragnarok'

WAITITI BRINGS 'COMEDY OF THE MUNDANE' TO HOLLYWOOD

Known mostly for his inventive, low-budget comedies, Taika Waititi joked last year that his deeply affecting and funny adventure "Hunt for the Wilderpeople" was "The Revenant," without any money." If that sounds like a stretch, it should be noted that Waititi's fourth feature went on to become the highest-grossing locally-made release in New Zealand history, smashing his own record for 2010's "Boy."

A year on, New Zealand's most talked-about cinematic export since Peter Jackson is on the cusp of releasing his first Hollywood feature, having been trusted with the \$180-million third installment in Marvel's "Thor" trilogy. "What goes through your head is, 'Okay, well Marvel's lost their mind and they're just asking anyone to do movies now,'" the 42-year-old Kiwi told AFP, recalling the moment the Disney-owned studio came calling.

Early reviews for "Thor: Ragnarok" ahead of

its November 3 release have been glowing, with Waititi widely praised for turning what many believe to be Marvel's duller Avenger into the wisecracking Cary Grant of the comic book genre. The script leans much more heavily on Chris Hemsworth's comic chops, inexplicably overlooked in the previous installments, particularly in Alan Taylor's lumbering sequel "Thor: The Dark World" (2013). "We knew it was there when we watched 'Ghostbusters' and he had a couple of lines in the other Marvel films," says Waititi. "Just from knowing him, I thought, 'I like you more than the version of Thor that I've seen in the other films—I'd much rather hang out with you.'"

'Everyday stuff'

Relatability has been the director's stock-in-trade since he started out in feature films a decade ago, each new movie populated with fantastical but disarmingly down-to-earth characters. In "What We Do in the Shadows" (2014)

murderous vampires divvy up household chores and werewolves worry about ruining a hemline, while in "Ragnarok" the God of Thunder and the Hulk bicker and then make up like any married couple.

"We like to call it comedy of the mundane. It's like, how do I get all of these actors and these characters who are very unique, all very different, on the same level, and on a level where the audience can really relate to them?," Waititi says. "And not relate to them like, 'Oh, I had my heart broken,' but relate to them like, 'Oh, I've got to do the dishes—really everyday stuff.'" Waititi, who is of Maori and Russian Jewish heritage, graduated from Victoria University in Wellington and went straight into the industry, winning acclaim and attention on the local awards circuit as an actor. He eventually moved behind the camera but has appeared in all his movies, saving many of the funniest moments in "Ragnarok" for himself as Korg, an effortlessly charismatic motion-capture alien

“

They're just asking anyone to do movies now

”

with a stone-like hide. On the globetrotting promotional tour, the all-star cast—which includes Tom Hiddleston, Cate Blanchett, Anthony Hopkins and Jeff Goldblum—have gone out of their way to remark on the fun atmosphere Waititi encourages. Blanchett, cast by Waititi as Marvel's first lead female baddie, described the 85-day shoot, mainly on

Australia's Gold Coast, as "probably the happiest film set I have ever been on."

If Waititi's new celebrity profile has changed him, then the transformation is only cosmetic, says "Ragnarok" star Rachel House, a fellow Kiwi who has appeared in three of Waititi's New Zealand movies. "Usually we're running around in the mud and the snow, and the rain. So it was wonderful to come in each day and see Taika in a suit, and Italian leather shoes."

Waititi says he has been able to keep his feet on the ground during filming by concentrating on his strengths—tone, character, relationships—and ignoring "the scale of this monster, this beast."

"It's a huge, huge film. And what can be distracting on set is if you look over your shoulder, and you see 300 people standing there," Waititi said. "I just had to keep reminding myself what's more important is what's inside the rectangle and, usually, it's two or three people trying to remember their lines." — AFP



Screenshot from Pixar's "Coco".

Pixar's 'Coco' celebrates Mexico in times of Trump



Mexican-American Co-director Adrian Molina, US Director Lee Unkrich and US Producer Daria K Anderson deliver a press conference on "Coco". — AFP

With US-Mexican relations at their lowest point in recent memory, Disney Pixar is set to release "Coco," a cinematic celebration of Mexico that its director said Tuesday is an antidote to the "negativity" of the current political climate. Set in Mexico against the backdrop of the country's traditional Day of the Dead festival, "Coco" tells the story of a boy who inadvertently ends up in the land of the dead, taking him on a vivid tour of Mexican history and culture. Director Lee Unkrich, who won an Oscar for best animated film for "Toy Story 3," said that while the project did not start out being political, events conspired to make its setting particularly relevant.

"Certainly when we began making this movie six years ago, it was a very different political climate than we find ourselves in now," he told a press conference in Mexico City, where the film is being screened at a gala event Tuesday night.

"That being said, we are all very proud of the film. And I think it's a good thing that it's coming out now, because there's been a lot of negativity in the world."

The movie is the first from Pixar dedicated entirely to a foreign culture a risky bet for the animation studio and parent company Disney at a time when US President Donald Trump's "America first" populism holds sway. Mexican-American co-director Adrian Molina said he was confident the movie would connect with audiences everywhere.

"That familiar connection to a Pixar film, that's deeper than I've ever been able to go, and I think create a story that's unique for the studio, that's unique for the world," he said. "Strictly from my personal standpoint, I'm very thankful for it because it helped me to grow, to reconnect with my roots, and to create something that I am very proud of, very proud to share with my family in the United States and Mexico and beyond." "Coco" features the voice of Mexican heartthrob Gael Garcia Bernal in both the English and Spanish versions. It premiered Friday at the Morelia International Film Festival in Mexico, to warm reviews. It opens in Mexico on October 27, the United States on November 22 and worldwide on November 23. — AFP

Ethiopian migrant turns perilous journey into film

Zekarias Mesfin spent months making a movie about his dangerous illegal migration from Ethiopia—and when he arrived at the film's premiere, he was in a coffin carried by six white-gloved pallbearers. Not that Zekarias, 33, was dead. But he chose the dramatic entrance to show how close to death he came 12 years ago when he left his home in Ethiopia to journey across the deserts of Sudan and Egypt to try to get to Israel.

"I was almost dead," Zekarias told AFP, following the Ethiopian premiere of the film last week at the national theatre in the capital Addis Ababa. "At the Israel border, I lost many, many friends, sisters, brothers." Zekarias could not have predicted where his journey would finally take him: after being caught and jailed for two years for illegally entering Egypt, the United Nations helped him resettle in Canada. He has since become a Canadian citizen and settled in Edmonton, Alberta with his wife and two children. Zekarias says he spent years thinking about making a film about his odyssey.

Finally deciding to take the plunge three years ago, he ploughed his savings of 2.2 million birr (\$81,303, 69,067 euros) into making "Ewir Amora Kelabi", an Amharic phrase that can be roughly translated as "the higher spiritual power guiding the lost".

'I was there'

Zekarias plays himself in the film, re-enacting his journey across Africa to show viewers just how hazardous it can be. Illegal immigration is "very difficult, it's very, very dangerous. I want to teach that," Zekarias said of the film, which was shot in Ethiopia. "I didn't make this documentary film by guessing. I was there."

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country and also one of its poorest. But despite rapid economic growth over the past decade, many Ethiopians seek to try their luck elsewhere, mostly countries in the Middle East, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, even if they don't have any visas and have to brave war zones like Yemen to get there. — AFP



Men dressed as pallbearers prepare to carry a coffin, in which Ethiopian film director Zekarias Mesfin lays down, to the stage of the National Theatre of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. — AFP

You own it: New Zealand party told to pay up for Eminem rip-off



Music composer Jeff Bass leaves a courtroom in Wellington. — AP photos

ANew Zealand judge said Eminem's lyrics "You own it, you better never let it go" turned out to be prophetic after ruling a political party breached copyright by using a song similar to Eminem's "Lose Yourself" in its campaign ads. High Court Judge Helen Cull yesterday ordered the conservative National Party to pay the Detroit rapper's publisher 600,000 New Zealand dollars (\$415,000) plus interest.

The case earlier featured odd moments such as gowned lawyers listening studiously to profanity-laced rap and Eminem collaborator Jeff Bass flying in from Detroit to play the song's distinctive opening riff, which he wrote. "We think it's a very strong judgment, and a cautionary tale for people who make or use sound-alikes around the world," said Adam Simpson, a Sydney-based lawyer who represented Eminem publisher Eight Mile Style. "We hope that we see more original music in advertising as a result, and that writers get properly acknowledged and rewarded for their hard work." Speaking by phone from Detroit, Eight Mile Style publisher Joel Martin said he'd been infuriated during the trial by the defense's absurd contention that "Lose Yourself" wasn't original because it used the same chords as other songs. "They could have said anything but question its originality," he said. Martin said he hadn't yet discussed the ruling with Eminem, aka Marshall Mathers III, but was glad the rapper hadn't been needed to travel to New Zealand "to watch the paint dry in the court room."

Sound-alike track

National Party President Peter Goodfellow said in statement he was disappointed with the ruling. He said the party purchased the music in good faith from an Australia-based library that had bought it from a US supplier. He said the party was considering its next steps and had already lodged a claim against the suppliers and licensors of the sound-alike track.

The National Party ran a television ad 186 times that used the song "Eminem

Esque" during its successful 2014 election campaign before pulling the ad off the air. In her 132-page ruling, Cull said "Eminem Esque" sounded like a copy and was a copy, reproducing the essence of "Lose Yourself." She said it was no coincidence the composer of "Eminem Esque" had the music to the original in front of him when he wrote his song. The judge based the amount of the award on a hypothetical license fee that the party might have paid to use the song. She noted that Eight Mile Style rarely grants permission to use "Lose Yourself" in advertising.

Cull stopped short of awarding additional damages, saying the party had only used the song after receiving professional advice that it could do so, and hadn't acted recklessly. She has yet to rule on who will pay the hefty legal costs.

The National Party was ridiculed back in 2014 when the case was first filed and lawmaker Steven Joyce defended using the song, an action he said was "pretty legal." "Pretty legal? That's not a concept that exists. That's like being sort of dead," TV show host John Oliver later joked on "Last Week Tonight." The ruling comes at a difficult time for the conservative party, which just lost the 2017 election to a coalition headed by the liberal Labour Party. — AP



Eminem performs at the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California.

Lifestyle | Features

VIEWERSHIP DOWN FOR 'WALKING DEAD' DEBUT



This image released by AMC shows Melissa McBride as Carol Peletier, left, and Norman Reedus as Daryl Dixon in a scene from "The Walking Dead." — AP

The Walking Dead aired its 100th episode for its eighth season premiere the other night, although it wasn't necessarily cause for celebration at AMC. The show had 11.4 million viewers on Sunday night, down 33 percent from last fall's seventh season premiere, which had 17 million, the Nielsen company said.

AMC said there are all kinds of mitigating factors, primarily that last year's premiere was a cliffhanger that drew an unusual number of fans. Live television viewership is down across the board, particularly among the younger viewers that are the most avid fans of "The Walking Dead." It's still the most popular scripted show on television for viewers aged 18-to-49-years-old. The premiere numbers are on a par with the 10.9 million viewer average for the last eight episodes that aired. But those numbers have to raise eyebrows over at AMC, particularly coming off a season that disappointed some of the show's fans.

Despite the ratings weakness, the

season debut received some strong reviews. The episode "manages to add some energy into an aging series and to at least partially hit the reset button," wrote Kelly Lawler for USA Today. CBS won the week in prime time, averaging 8.8 million viewers. NBC had 7.5 million, winning among the 18-to-49-year-old age group watched closely by advertisers. ABC averaged 5.1 million viewers, Fox had 2.7 million, Telemundo had 1.43 million, the CW had 1.42 million. Univision had 1.4 million and ION Television had 1.2 million.

Fox Sports was most popular cable network, averaging 3.78 million viewers in a week it aired baseball's American League Championship Series. TBS had 2.71 million, ESPN had 2.1 million, Fox News Channel had 1.99 million, AMC had 1.73 million and TNT had 1.63 million. ABC's "World News Tonight" won the evening news ratings race with an average of 8.3 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 7.8 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 6.1 million. — AP



Charity Tillemann-Dick, right, debuts her new song with Esperanza Tufani, left, at a medical summit in Cleveland. — AP photos

Opera singer performs with lung transplant donor's daughter

An opera singer still performing after two double lung transplants has debuted a song she wrote to pay tribute to the immigrant roots of her more recent donor. Charity Tillemann-Dick and her lung donor's 24-year-old daughter, Esperanza Tufani, sang the song together in front of about 200 doctors and medical executives at a Cleveland medical summit on Tuesday. Tillemann-Dick wrote the song, "American Rainbow," to honor her connection with her donor, a Honduran immigrant who died of a stroke in 2012. "We are all part of this big human family, and I think transplants show that better than anything," Tillemann-Dick said. "I breathe because of someone who came to this country looking for a better life."

Tillemann-Dick was studying opera in Hungary when she discovered she had pulmonary hypertension, a disease that caused her heart to swell to three and a half times its normal size and was likely to be fatal without a lung transplant. After get-

"We are all part of this big human family"

ting new lungs in 2009, Tillemann-Dick had what she calls "a tiny wisp of a voice." A doctor told her singing high notes would kill her, but she persisted and went through months of therapy before starting to sing again. Year later, Tillemann-Dick's body rejected her transplanted lungs, an experience she calls the most "devastating thing that's happened

to me." Tillemann-Dick expected to die, but in 2012 she received a second set of lungs from Tufani's mother, whose lungs turned out to be a better match. Tillemann-Dick's voice recovered quickly, and her debut album, "American Grace," topped Billboard's classical charts in July 2014.

Tillemann-Dick wrote a letter to Tufani, thanking her for her mother's lungs. Ten months later, the two got in touch through a mutual acquaintance and became fast friends. Tufani, a Chipotle restaurant manager who aspires to become a singer, said it was tough for her at the time to decide to donate her mother's lungs, as she had lost touch with her mother after her parents divorced. Today, Tufani has no regrets. "I always wanted to have sang with my mom, but I didn't have that relationship with her," Tufani said. "Getting to do that through Charity, it's amazing. She doesn't really realize how much of an impact she's had on my life." — AP



In this Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 file photo members of the Russian radical feminist group Pussy Riot give an interview to the Associated Press in a break during their rehearsal in Moscow. (Right) File photo shows a Cossack militiaman attacks Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and a photographer during a staged protest. — AP photos

BAND MEMBERS USE PRISON EXPERIENCES AS INSPIRATION

One is dunked into a bathtub on a New York stage as she tries to recite a poem. Another appears in a video bathing in blood while reciting lyrics about prison and repression. Five years after they were convicted for an anti-Putin protest, members of the Russian punk collective Pussy Riot are using their ordeals in prison as creative inspiration.

Maria Alekhina, 29, is touring with the play "Burning Doors" that recreates her traumatic experience behind bars. Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 27, is drawing on her prison experience to paint a bleak picture of the repression that she says America could experience in the near future. Alekhina and Tolokonnikova recently spoke to The Associated Press about how they are turning their two years in a remote Russian prison into new artistic endeavors. Both hope their art will give voice to the millions of abused prisoners in Russia. Their creations were forged from a challenging past. Two weeks before President Vladimir Putin was re-elected in 2012, Alekhina, Tolokonnikova and Yekaterina Samutsevich dressed in balaclavas for a "punk prayer" in the Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, where they sang: "Mother of God, drive Putin away." Their performance lasted only 40 seconds but the backlash was immediate: They were quickly tracked down and jailed.

'Basic norms of morality'

In October 2012, a Moscow court upheld their verdict, finding them guilty of "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred." Putin insisted he had no part in the court ruling but welcomed it, blaming the Pussy Riot women for "undermining the basic norms of morality." Samutsevich, whose prison term was converted into a suspended sentence on appeal, has largely disappeared from public view.

Alekhina and Tolokonnikova were sent to a remote prison where they sewed uniforms for up to 16 hours a day. They also began their campaigns from behind bars, writing petitions about the appalling conditions and going on hunger strikes to protest overcrowded cells and lack of basics such as medicine and hot water. At a theater in New York's East Village, Alekhina bit her black nails and chain-smoked as she recalled their ordeal.

"I'm not just talking about it. I'm reliving it," she said. "What we are showing is happening right now." The play, which tells the stories of three Russian artists imprisoned on political grounds, is produced by the Belarus Free Theatre, whose own members faced repression at home. It's playing in New York, following shows in Australia and Europe. In one of its most excruciating episodes, Alekhina recounts -



Nadezhda Tolokonnikova of Pussy Riot, dressed in Russian Penitentiary Service uniform and a T-shirt saying "Convicted by the State", speaks to the Associated Press at her home.



and others act out - her visits to a doctor who regularly performed vaginal inspections on prisoners - "a genuine sadist," she said. Alekhina has also written an autobiography, "Riot Day," which was published last month in Britain in English. After they were jailed, the two Russian women became global celebrities. Their multi-colored balaclavas became an instantly recognizable brand and entertainment icons including Paul McCartney and Madonna campaigned for their release.

Twist of fate

Tolokonnikova, dressed in a Russian Penitentiary Service uniform during the AP interview, describes that support as "a miracle." "We saw that our performance, it wasn't for nothing. We managed to get the message across somehow," she said. Tolokonnikova has fond memories of an anonymous band that played outside the courthouse during their trial, often drowning out the judge. But there were also ultra-nationalist Orthodox Christian activists who rallied, demanding the women's incarceration.

In a twist of fate, Alekhina is now dating one of them, Dmitry Tsorionov, who has since been kicked out of the Orthodox group. "I met that person and I wanted to understand why there was a movement to jail us," Alekhina said. The couple recently went to the Russian Justice Ministry in Moscow to read Bible excerpts to protest a law restricting missionary work. Alekhina and Tolokonnikova were pardoned in December 2013 as the Kremlin tried to improve its image before hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics. They performed at Britain's Glastonbury music festival, shared the stage with Madonna at an Amnesty International concert and appeared in an episode of the Netflix TV series "House of Cards."

Their performances in 2014 and 2015 helped raise funds for two projects they have founded - an advocacy group that provides legal help to Russian prisoners and a website that covers Russian courts and prisons. Tolokonnikova has shifted away from performing to focus on video art. She spends a lot of time abroad these days, her big pink suitcase living up to a monochrome studio in Moscow. The day after the AP interview she was leaving for a literary festival in Mexico. In one of her recent videos, "Organs," she bathes in a bathtub full of blood while reciting lyrics about prison and repression. Another video portrays an American dystopia in which her character is imprisoned, tortured and eventually killed by the state. It features footage from US President's Donald Trump's speeches and rallies, along with her dressed as Trump. — AP

A bright, animated Halloween night with Michael Jackson

Here's a chance to trick or treat with the eyes and ears. Catch "Michael Jackson's Halloween," a for-all-ages animated special airing Friday at 8 pm Eastern on CBS. It costumes Halloween as a life-affirming way to explore hopes and dreams. "This is just for fun," summed up John Branca, one of the special's executive producers. The story unfolds in a familiar Halloween setting: a haunted mansion. A couple of teens, Vincent and Victoria, are by chance drawn into this mysterious manor on Halloween night. There awaits adventure, discovery and, of course, music. (Happily, this property is under the spell of Michael Jackson.)

Vincent and Victoria are voiced by Lucas Till and Kiersey Clemons, with Christine Baranski, Alan Cumming, George Eads, Brad Garrett, Lucy Liu and Jim Parsons furnishing the voices for a whimsical array of supporting characters. At issue is an evil force that aims to impose mindless conformity on everyone and to banish music from the world. Spoiler alert: This villainess, who in fact is named Conformity, will soundly lose the battle thanks to Vincent and Victoria and the rest of the opposition rallied by Jackson. "Michael was a big kid who loved Halloween and loved animation, and, of course, his video "Thriller" is the most popular music video of all time," said Branca, who is also co-executor of the Michael Jackson estate and whose close relationship with Jackson reaches back to his wedding in the late 1980s, when Jackson served as his best man. "We thought Michael deserves to be part of Halloween." In the special, he appears in many alternate forms: as the Man in the Moon, as a bat, a dancing jack-o'-lantern and a mad-scientist cat.

"We wanted to imbue the show with the legacy of Michael and the world he created, and the songs that mean so much to so many people," said Mark AZ Dippe, the show's director. "We wanted to tell a story that brought all that to life." Vincent wants to be a deejay. Victoria dreams of being a dancer. Neither is getting much support from their elders. They feel discouraged. But once they arrive at 777 Jackson St., "the kids are taken on a spiritual journey," said Dippe, "and they gain the confidence to make the choice that is in their hearts. We used the idea of Michael's music helping guide people through that decision-making process." — AP



This image released by CBS shows characters from the animated special, "Michael Jackson's Halloween," airing Friday on CBS. — AP

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017



A woman stands at the entrance of the Casino of Monte-Carlo, decorated for the "Let's fall in diamonds" exhibition by Belgian artist and designer Charles Kaisin, in Monaco. The exhibition will last until January 7, 2018. — AFP

Gaza's Bronze Age is disappearing under concrete

Archaeologists and preservation activists in the Gaza Strip have managed to halt the destruction of a Bronze Age site for now, but the future of what remains may still be in jeopardy, Palestinian archaeologist Moain Sadeq says the mound at Tell es-Sakan near Gaza City is a "unique" site that could offer an invaluable glimpse into the region's ancient heritage. It is "maybe the only fortified Canaanite city in southern Palestine" occupied continuously from 3200 to 2000 BC, he says. Since it was discovered by chance in 1998, the man-made

mound has been scarred by bulldozers more than once. A few weeks ago the earthmoving equipment returned yet again, destroying a large part of archaeological excavations carried out in 1999 and 2000 by Sadeq and his French colleague Pierre de Miroschedji. The land was to be cleared for homes for public officials in the Palestinian territory ruled by the Islamist Hamas movement.

After a concerted effort by archaeologists, academics and those concerned with Gaza's heritage, the work was eventually halted. But the activists are unsure how long

“ Ancient dwelling structures have been destroyed ”

the reprieve will last in a strip of land that has already seen its archaeological riches devastated by three wars with Israel, Palestinian infighting, overcrowding and indifference.

Excavation stops

The latest attempt to build over the ancient mound was the third time the site has been threatened by bulldozers since 1998. The first building works actually helped uncover the site as vigilant archaeologists spotted traces of ancient civilization being revealed and quickly intervened to stop construction. After that French and Palestinian experts moved in, but their dig was cut short in 2000 when the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation drove them away. Since then excavation work has

remained frozen in time—with any attempt to restart it complicated by a new housing project that has cut off the north of the site.

When the bulldozers recently returned, they devastated the excavation Sadeq and his colleagues had left as a work in progress. "The damage is very, very significant. Ancient dwelling structures and sections of the ramparts have been destroyed. Moveable artifacts have been taken away," he said. Tell es-Sakan, a 300-metre (984-foot) diameter expanse of sand in an arid landscape, does not catch the eye of the casual observer. But archaeologists insist the site is of major interest, marking the shift from agricultural to urban society. Beneath the surface is "a huge, very important site, with (the remains of) fortifications, houses," Sadeq said. "It is a city—not a small town, but a royal city, with a high level of organisation, administrative and military structures."

Egyptian royal seal

The site is located at the mouth of Gaza's main watercourse, on the coastal route between Egypt and the ancient Canaanite region and beyond, to Syria and Mesopotamia. The oldest finds are remains of Egyptian design of clay dwellings, ceramics, stone tools and fragments of pendants. Pottery was found that could be linked to Narmer, Egypt's first king, whose seal has been located elsewhere in the Gaza Strip, indicating Gaza's close ties with its giant neighbour 1,000 years before the pyramids were built.

To most Gazans the spot is a weekend leisure destination, where children play in the sand and young men practice motocross. They are vaguely aware of its historical significance, although no signs point it out. Nevertheless it was Gaza's citizens who raised the alarm when the earthmovers rumbled in lately, said Jean-Baptiste Humbert, of the French Biblical and Archaeological School in Jerusalem.

Locals posted on social media, drawing the attention of the Gaza archaeology authority, who in turn alerted their contacts outside the isolated strip, blockaded by Israel and Egypt. Humbert, who helped block earlier construction, visited the site to assess the latest threat. His report and enlistment of supporters paid off, with the authorities behind the housing program agreeing to halt it, Jamal Abu Rida, general secretary of the Gaza archaeology authority, told AFP. The site, he said, is the authority's property. "Nobody has the right to strip it," he said.

Disputes between archaeologists and housing planners are common in the densely populated coastal territory of Gaza, where Israeli bombing and artillery fire left tens of

thousands homeless in 2014. Humbert says that archaeologists on a dig are "like butterfly hunters" entranced by the history at their feet while Gaza housing officials have a totally different viewpoint. "They look at us... saying, from the 2014 war there are thousands of people still to be relocated. What is more important?" "For them," he adds, the building plan "was a positive operation." Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, has been accused of neglecting the strip's past, especially its pre-Islamic heritage. "We have a housing crisis and high population growth. We are talking about 2.05 million people in Gaza now," said Amal Shmalee, a spokeswoman for the housing authority. "This necessitates new housing programs." She said that nevertheless construction work at Tell es-Sakan had been halted and "we are going to stick" to that decision. — AFP



Bulldozers dig at the ancient Tell es-Sakan hill, south of Gaza City. — AFP photos

PORSCHE SETTLES WITH DAUGHTER OF 'FAST AND FURIOUS' STAR

Porsche said yesterday it reached a settlement with the teenage daughter of "The Fast and the Furious" star Paul Walker in a wrongful death suit over the actor's death in a fiery crash. "The matter was settled in an agreement between the two parties," a spokesman for the German luxury car maker told AFP without providing any details.



Paul Walker

Meadow Walker, now 18, had filed the lawsuit in 2015 alleging safety shortcuts had led to the car accident in California that killed her father two years before. Walker was in the passenger seat of a 2005 Porsche Carrera GT when it slammed into trees and a lamp post in California on November 30, 2013, killing the actor and the driver, his friend and financial adviser, Roger Rodas.

Investigators concluded that Rodas was driving at an unsafe speed, causing it to go out of control. US media reports said that the suit alleged that Porsche knew the Carrera GT had a history of instability but failed to add a control system to correct the problem. The suit also alleged that the car's seat belt was installed in such a way that when the vehicle fractured on impact, the shoulder belt was yanked with the rear engine compartment while the seat belt anchor stayed put, trapping Walker in the burning car. Paul Walker gained fame in the street racing action franchise "The Fast and the Furious," starring in five of six installments until his death. — AFP