

Friday Times

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SAFAR 7, 1439 AH | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

4 Wild moments: Through the lens of Kuwaiti photographers



37 New Saudi mega-city will be listed publicly: CP



46 Napoli success comes the old-fashioned way



MP delays grilling as govt may resign

See Page 8



Local

Harassment is a crime



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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When I was a kid, I was great fan of the popular US series “The Cosby Show”. I loved to watch Bill Cosby and his perfect family, and over the years, this memory remained in my mind, until it crashed when the actor was accused of sexual harassment and with the testimony of many women about his behavior over the years. Recently, a major Hollywood film producer named Harvey Weinstein was accused by several female actresses of sexual harassment in return for giving them roles in his films. As a producer, he had the upper hand, but not anymore.

What is the situation in Middle Eastern societies, which some people like to describe as conservative and virtuous? Unfortunately, it is worse and darker than what we assume or hope, because sexual harassment is a contradiction between the East and the West. There is a great gap between the Arab and Western worlds in combating this scourge. The West criminalizes those who commit this awful crime, condemn it and disclose it pub-

The West criminalizes those who commit this awful crime



licly regardless of the attacker’s position or rank in the society and how famous, rich or influential he is.

It is regrettable that so-called community traditions in Eastern societies still cherish masculinity and consider it a priority over femininity. It is even worse that some Muslim societies continue to practice female circumcision, which is a crime, under the pretext that it is part of their customs and for the protection of women. Some societies still discuss whether exposing a woman’s hand or face is a sin or not! Can we even imagine that in such societies - that are completely backward - can allow or accept a woman talking about being raped or sexually or verbally harassed by her boss, colleague, an influential official or relative?

The answer is no. It is unfortunate that society blames women when they are harassed because they are deemed the cause of seduction! The calamity is that those who have been subjected to harassment cannot talk about it if the harasser is a relative - whether a brother or father - or an influential or powerful person, because their word will be the one that is heard, justified and possibly excused. The accusing woman will be punished by the sexual abuser or even killed for daring to complain, and there is no neutral body to protect her.

I hope the interior ministry will establish a neutral body like the cybercrime department to receive and follow up such complaints, but their work must be confidential and should protect the woman and her evidence provided to them, and not make it easy prey for the public or negligently expose it on social media. It is time to spread this message to make such an act a shameful crime.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Local craftsman creating vessels through pottery during a local heritage expo. — Photo by Saleh Taqi/KUNA



IN MY VIEW

By Jeri Al-Jeri

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Why is the Gulf overweight?

Kuwait is ranked highest in obesity in the entire world. Infamously, we won the title of “the restaurant capital of the world” by the Western media. Our Gulf countries have reached frightening levels of diabetes and blood pressure disasters, not to mention cholesterol problems are off the charts as well.

These awful findings are supported by data derived from government sources of these countries via hospital archives and statistics. Even with the efforts of major health organizations to spread mass awareness of the tragedy the people’s warm “hospitality” has caused, these numbers are insanely rising, summoning a horrific epidemic that will arrive sooner than we think. How did all this happen? Can we do anything significant to stop it?

Pre-oil GCC states used to suffer mass starvations that made them receive generous donations of food and potable water from Iraq and Somalia. During these times, the meaning of “thabiha”, the slaughtering of cattle or camels, used to have incredible social weight. It meant that the tribal sheikh was sacrificing the tribe’s “vehicle” or their daily milk source for the satiation of the visitors of their tent to gain crucial PR points, just in case any need for tribal alliances arises. Also, it was to shame any potentially aggressive tribe to ever think of advancing on what

was left of their food supplies.

However, in post-oil GCC states, the tradition of serving the largest amount of food has become an empty burden on both guests and hosts. The abundance of food delivered by a tap on our smartphones without even a swipe of our K-Net cards has eliminated even the slightest possibility of losing weight by cooking our own supper. How can we change this? Simple intimidation techniques are not very beneficial. Lectures on the financial and psychological damage to one’s overall being will not cut it. Even the increase in gasoline prices did not dent a nanometer into our “deadly” romance with intercontinental cuisines.

A standard course should be taught at all government and private sector educational institutions solely for the purpose of learning the science of nutrition, and it should be made mandatory at all workplaces. Though it might sound very optimistic, I personally suggest making it against every GCC state’s law for a host to serve a guest what it is knowingly critically damaging to his health. No more a kilo of Turkish baklava thrust in front of a diabetic child or adult. No more meat for cholesterol victims, or salty snacks for blood pressure fighters, and to top it all, say no to MSG and aspartame. Only then Kuwait will have a “swag” waist size!



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August shower - Photographed
by Dr. Mohammed Alkandari

WILD MOMENTS: THROUGH THE LENS OF KUWAITI PHOTOGRAPHERS

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The Contemporary Art Platform, CAP Kuwait, will launch this Saturday an exhibition focused on Kuwaiti wildlife photographers. The four photographers include: Dr Mohammed Alkandari, Majed Al-Zaabi, Mohammed Khorshed and Maitham Al-Misri.

Wildlife photography is a specialized field, requiring unique and expensive equipment, extensive travel and incredible feats of patience.

"Wildlife photographers pay a great deal of money to buy the equipment necessary for this type of photography, spending months to study the destination they will travel to, the nature of the animals, the perfect timing to be there, and having to leave their work and families to get there," explained exhibition organizer Ziad Arfaj.

"All the photographers I met with had one wish: that they could give themselves fully to the practice of photography and adopt it as

a major source of income. This is very difficult if the photographer's work is not marketed and printed decently."

One of the major obstacles is lack of support - from collectors, the industry and even photographers' own families. "It's unfortunate to say that the photographers get frustrated when they observe that the people around them are the most discouraging because they do not take them seriously," Arfaj explained.

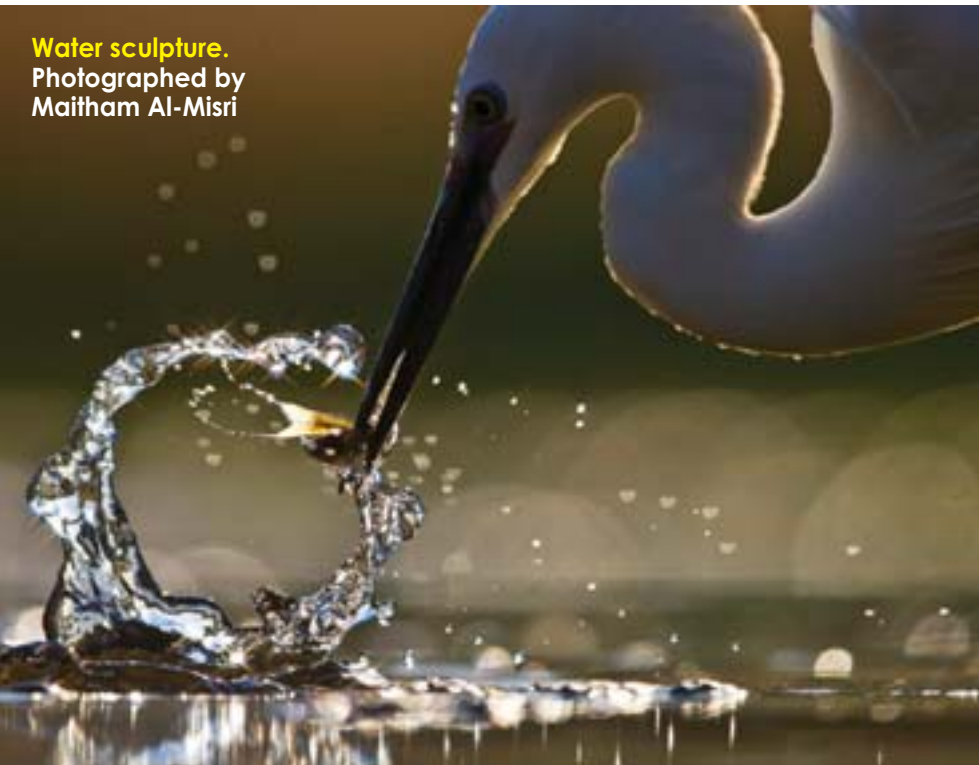
"Take, for example, the photographer Majid Zaabi, who almost died of malaria twice, and other photographers who were creeping on the desert sands in the summer, and some of them are depicted

in areas where temperatures fall to minus 21 Celsius. These photographers won many international awards and presented them with many works in magazines and renowned websites such as the National Geographic. It is unjust that these talents are not embraced and nurtured by their own society," noted Arfaj.

The show, which will run from 28 October to 28 November, is the first of a series of specialized exhibitions to focus on the work of Kuwaiti photographers. Upcoming exhibitions will center around the themes of landscape photography, documentary and fine art photography.

Local

Friday, October 27, 2017



Water sculpture.
Photographed by
Maitham Al-Misri



One eye on you.
— Photographed by
Mohammed Khorshed



Anger - Photographed by
Majed Al-Zaabi

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Construction of 'Kabashkan' in old Kuwaiti houses

KUWAIT: The old Kuwaiti houses differed, yet they resembled each other in construction methods that were coping with their surrounding environment, using building materials like clay and plaster. The houses were also built depending on the financial capabilities of their owners and needs of the residents, as "Ferya" and "Kabashkan" or "Sandara." Kabashkan is a Turkish oriented word meaning a lot built above the bedroom ceiling, and regularly above the bathroom door to store things of no need during the daily activities, or to store winter clothes or summer clothes every season, Kuwaiti heritage researcher Saleh Al-Methen said. Meanwhile, "Ferya" is a door connecting between the yards of two neighboring houses, he added.

Kabashkan was of one to half meter in width, and two meters in height supported by two wooden poles, as the height of room's

ceiling contributed in facilitating its construction, he said. To reach the Kabashkan the house resident used a wooden ladder called "Al-Siri" of a circular shape, he added.

It was used as place for the children to sleep in case the bedroom was not spacious enough, Methen said. A sleeping sponge mat or "Doshag" in Kuwaiti dialect was put inside the Kabashkan before the children slept. It was also used to separate boys from girls during the sleeping times, he added. The Kabashkan was not known in all of the old Kuwaiti houses, but only in few of them, especially the huge ones of high number of residents, he said. It was built after building the main parts of the house, he affirmed. The new generation can see the Kabashkan in "Al-Bader Heritage House" which was built back in 1837 in Al-Qibla area, Methen said. — KUNA



Climate change is a grand dilemma

By Eng. Heba Al- Farra

Climate change is one of the biggest crises facing humanity. So let's all get a grip on exactly what it is.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines it as a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, altering the composition of the global atmosphere.



The world is getting warmer - because of us!

Human activity includes pollution that arises from industrial activity and other sources that produce greenhouse gases. These gases, such as carbon dioxide, have the ability to absorb the spectrum of infrared light and contribute to the warming of our atmosphere. Once produced, these gases can remain trapped in the atmosphere for tens or hundreds of years!

Earth's temperature goes up and down from year to year, but over the past half century, it has gone up a lot. So it's very clear now to us the pollution in our atmosphere could result in a variety of extreme weather events, and not just warming!

But what are the causes of climate change?

It is mainly resulting from gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases.

Moreover, 97 percent of scientists agree that climate change is man-made and real. We know it's happening, and we know why. Carbon pollution is warming our planet and creating dangerous weather events like extreme droughts, flooding, wildfires and super-storms. The effects of climate change are not isolated incidents. When considering the problem of climate change, the world needs to be considered as one ecological system. Do not think in terms of political divides, or the boundaries marked between countries.

What are the effects of climate change?

The projections of future climate change are already happening, and the evidence of rapid climate change is compelling:

- * Global temperature rise
- * Warming oceans
- * Shrinking ice sheets
- * Glacial retreat
- * Decreased snow cover
- * Sea level rise
- * Declining Arctic sea ice
- * Ocean acidification
- * Extreme events

What can we do?

We can do a lot towards our world, beginning with reducing carbon pollution. Right now, scientists tell us that we're on track to see global temperatures rise by up to 4°C by the end of the century. But with a shift to a clean-energy economy, we can still create the sustainable and prosperous future we all want. But we have to act now.

Local

MP Kandari delays grilling because the govt is quitting

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Faisal Al-Kandari said yesterday that he decided to delay submitting a grilling request against the oil minister because the government is quitting and will announce its resignation on Monday.

Kandari in Wednesday cowed he will file a request to grill Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk along with MP Omar Al-Tabtabai.

He said that he went to the assembly

speaker's office to file the grilling but "speaker told me that the government is not attending the next session" at the end of the month.

"All of us know that the government is resigning and it is going to officially submit its resignation on Monday and so there is no use of filing the grilling," the lawmaker said.

But he will still wait until next Monday to see what happens and will change his decision accordingly if the government does not resign.

All political developments indicate that the

government has decided to quit after lawmakers filed a no-confidence motion against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. More than 22 MPs have declared their support for the motion just three members short of the required number to dismiss the minister. Some sources even said that several ministers have submitted their resignation to the prime minister.

In the most likely scenario, Prime Minister

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is expected to be renamed to form the new cabinet, expecting to have better cooperation with the national assembly. Former Islamist lawmaker Mubarak Al-Duwailah meanwhile criticized those planning to file new grillings after MPs filed the no-confidence motion, saying "they are putting at risk the democratic life in the country". He did not elaborate but his statement means there is a risk that the assembly might be dissolved or suspended altogether for some time.

Conscription evaders to face charges

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: Director General of Investigations Department Maj Gen Dr Fahad Al-Dousary said the department began investigations on national military service issues that were referred to them by the head of the national military service authority, which falls under the Ministry of Defense. He urged citizens to register their children eligible for conscription as soon as possible to avoid punishment. The national military service opened offices at the investigations department.

Drugs

Detectives in cooperation with airport customs discovered 500 grams of synthetic marijuana addressed to an Arab man. An undercover agent tipped police about a parcel arriving from Europe via courier containing the drugs. The parcel was located and searched and the drugs were found. The suspect was arrested at the courier company after receiving the parcel. He was sent to concerned authorities for questioning. Meanwhile, three female citizens were caught with illicit tablets, drugs and paraphernalia. The women, who are in their 20's, said during questioning that they sold their jewelry for money that they used to buy drugs. The trio were arrested at a check point in Ahmadi. They were sent to the Drug Control General Directorate (DCGD).

Shot fired

A detective shot his brother by mistake as he was trying to stop a fight between him and another person in Jahra. The man rushed his brother to hospital immediately after the incident where he was operated on. The detective said that he pulled his gun to fire a shot in the air, but tripped and shot his brother by accident. He was charged and taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Missing girls found

Two girls missing since 2012 and 2016 were arrested after they tried to hide between buildings and escape. Police took their fingerprints for an identity check at the police station, which revealed that both were on the wanted list, while further investigations revealed that they have been hiding at their friend's place. The girls were sent to Fintas police station for further legal action, before being handed over to their families.

Security Chief meets UK envoy

KUWAIT: Head of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah met yesterday United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. According to a press release, the two sides discussed bolstering cooperation and bilateral relations, as well as issues of common interest in the regional and international arenas.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah and the Russian ambas-



KUWAIT: Head of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah meets with United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. — KUNA

sador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin discussed bilateral ties and developments on the regional and international scenes. The

meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Jarallah's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA

Minister launches pathology network

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi launched yesterday the national network of Kuwait for the application of digital pathology. The ministry has already installed digital pathology technology in eight state hospitals with an estimated cost of KD 2.250 million, Harbi said.

He made his remarks on the sidelines of inaugurating the first digital pathology conference organized by the health ministry in Kuwait. By applying such a technology, Kuwait has entered a new phase in using cell and tissue labs in line with latest world medical updates, said the minister.

Digital pathology is the latest of what science has reached in terms of speed and accuracy in diagnosing illnesses, he said. The new digital platform contains an archive that saves patient records for 20 years, he said, adding that it could also scan up to 400 samples simultaneously.

Harbi also said that the new system aims to train newly graduate physicians on methods of diagnosing, particularly in tissues



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi inaugurates the first digital pathology conference yesterday. — KUNA

field. The application of digital pathology could also reduce the amount of time spent in diagnosing pathological samples from two weeks to only 24 hours, said the minister. Reducing such a time duration helps in diagnosing cancerous diseases with speed and accuracy, said Harbi. It also helps operating doctors to make their urgent medical decisions in an appropriate timing, he added.

Digital pathology also backs early diagnosis programs for cancer, determines cancer types such as breast, colon, and prostate, said the minister. The new application would foster the skills of Kuwaiti doctors and add so much knowledge to their expertise in the medical field, he added.

Harbi also mentioned that digital pathology is so significant and effective in exchange of expertise, as well as scientific and

occupational communication. It would boost cooperation with medical institutions around the world, particularly in North America, linking doctors with international conferences on biological labs working with digital pathology.

Meanwhile, Dr Doaa Al-Khaldi, Director of the ministry's Directorate of Medical Laboratories Services, explained that digital pathology is an image-based information environment enabled by a computer technology to manage information generated from a digital slide. It is one of the most promising avenues of diagnostic medicine in order to achieve better and faster diagnosis, prognosis, and prediction of diseases, said Khaldi. This digital application is one of a kind on the Middle Eastern and European countries level, she said, noting that digital pathology is only available in the United States and Canada. — KUNA

Local

Justice Minister: Govt 'unfazed' by institutional, constitutional action



KUWAIT: Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Al-Azb (right) attends the Austrian embassy's ceremony to mark its national day. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (right) and other officials attend the event.

KUWAIT: Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Al-Azb said yesterday that the government was not panicked of institutional measures based on constitution articles.

"We do not fear the parliamentary over-

sight, whose absence only means a real authoritarianism," the minister told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held by the Austrian embassy to mark its national day.

He added that the session of the grilling motion against Minister of State for Cabinet

Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah proceeded in line with legal and constitutional provisions.

He reiterated the government's solidarity with the minister. The government seeks to

coordinate stances before the no-confidence vote against Sheikh Mohammad in the coming parliamentary session, he said. He, however, ruled out the presence of the government during the session, arguing that "there is not enough time." — KUNA

Diplomat: Kuwait ready for non-permanent seat at UNSC

KUWAIT: Kuwait is ready to occupy its non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) in January for two years, said Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain. A UN team has been dispatched to follow up Kuwait's preparations for activating the country's role within the UNSC, Hain, added after participating in a ceremony marking the UN Day, as Representative of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He stressed Kuwait's "important and pivotal" role amid the challenges in the region, referring to priorities "we are willing through which to develop final solutions to all these dilemmas," besides cooperating with fellow member states to conclude joint visions that could help achieve global peace.

According to Hain, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled considered that Kuwait would preside over a conference for the Rohingya Muslims, called for by the international organization. Kuwait has been the first to launch campaigns on the Rohingya plight, he said. Kuwait is hosting three major conferences over the coming period, the first on the sufferings of the Palestinian children - November 12 - and the two others in 2018 on education in Somalia, and reconstruction in Iraq, the last upon a generous initiative from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Ambassador Hain pointed out Kuwait's keenness on achieving comprehensive development through a national vision for having a "New Kuwait" by 2035, through bases that would turn the country into a leading regional hub.

Sustainable development

Meanwhile, Kuwait's UN Resident Coordinator Zineb Touimi-Ben-



KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain (left) and Kuwait's UN Resident Coordinator Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun are seen during the ceremony. — KUNA

jelloun referred to His Highness the Amir's speech at the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015, in which he reiterated commitment to partnership for humanitarian work. His Highness the Amir also vowed Kuwait's adoption of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the past two years, Kuwait has taken tangible steps in the implementation of the goals, she said.

Kuwait's General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning Development (SCPD), in cooperation with the UN team in the country, held several technical workshops and panel discussions on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and how they are connected to the Kuwaiti development plans. Benjelloun congratulated Kuwait on the UNSC seat.

The SCPD has long partnership with the UN, the agency's Secretary General Khalid Al-Mahdi, referring to 17 joint projects with Kuwaiti institutions covering various areas. In addition, the SCPD is planning to submit a voluntary report to the UN in April 2018, on Kuwait's efforts to implement the SDGs, he said. — KUNA

Kuwait's Al-Salam offers further aid to Rohingya refugees

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Al-Salam society for humanitarian and charity work is offering further aid and support to the Rohingya Muslims who are bitterly suffering from ethnic cleansing and mass displacement, it said yesterday. As part of the Kuwait's concern about the Rohingyas and the state orientation to provide them with humanitarian aid, the society has started building "Al-Salam Model Village" on the border strip with, and inside Bangladesh, for more than 15,000 refugees. Al-Salam's Director General Dr Nabil Al-Aoun said in a press statement. The society is building 3,000 housing units, each to cost KD 240 (\$794) for five people, besides public utilities, and other services, he added. The village will use solar power. The society is well acquainted with the basic needs of the refugees after their long journey and ordeal, escaping extremist violence at home, Aoun said. In addition, Al-Salam will set up 24 education centers and 12 mobile clinics, as well as digging 600 water wells for the refugees, Aoun said. — KUNA

International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017



Trump coy on what's coming out on JFK assassination

Catalan leader reportedly mulls backdown

Page 14

Page 15



MOSUL: Iraqi forces stand guard at the Mosul Dam in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. — AFP

Iraq forces push into 'last den' of IS

A push to wipe out remnants of the jihadists

HABBANIYAH: Iraqi forces yesterday thrust into the last area controlled by the Islamic State group in the country as they launched a push to wipe out remnants of the jihadists' self-styled caliphate. The start of the keenly awaited offensive that the US-led coalition fighting IS has dubbed "the last big fight" of the campaign came even as Iraqi troops launched a new operation against the Kurds.

There had been fears the bitter dispute that has raged between the Baghdad government and Iraqi Kurdish leaders since they held a referendum for independence last month would hamper the battle against the jihadists. But federal troops and allied paramilitary units pressed ahead with a threatened drive up the Euphrates valley towards the Syrian border in a bid to retake two Sunni Arab towns renowned as hotbeds of insurgency ever since the US-led invasion of 2003.

Iraqi forces have retaken more than 90 percent of the territory IS seized in the country in 2014. The jihadists are now confined to a small stretch of the valley linked to territory in Syria where they are also battling to survive. "The heroic legions are advancing into the last den of terrorism in Iraq to liberate Al-Qaim, Rawa and the surrounding villages and hamlets," Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said in a statement from neighboring Iran where he is on a state visit.

"They will all return to the arms of the motherland thanks to the determination and en-

durance of our fighting heroes," he added. "The people of IS have no choice but to die or surrender." Regional operations commander General Qassem Al-Mohammedi told AFP that government forces were advancing on four fronts—from the east, southeast, north and south. He said that units of the federal police and the elite Counter-Terrorism Service as well as the paramilitary Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) force were supporting the army. Iraqi forces said that by early afternoon they had recaptured several military bases southeast of Al-Qaim, including an airbase, that the fleeing jihadists had abandoned.

Insurgency bastion

Crucially for an offensive in an overwhelmingly Sunni Arab region, Sunni tribal volunteers in the Hashed were heavily engaged alongside the Iran-trained Shiite militias that are its mainstay.

The US-led coalition said it had carried out some 15 strikes on IS targets in and around Al-Qaim and the town of Albu Kamal on the Syrian side of the border. Al-Qaim has been a bastion of Sunni Arab insurgency for years.

US troops carried out repeated operations with names like Matador and Steel Curtain in 2005 to flush out Al-Qaeda jihadists. Coalition

commanders are convinced Al-Qaim will be IS's last stand in its ambitions of territorial control of the cross-border caliphate it proclaimed in 2014. On the Syrian side of the border, Russian-backed government forces have been pushing down the Euphrates valley while US-backed Kurdish and Arab fighters have been attacking the jihadists from their stronghold in the north.

The launch of the offensive against IS's last Iraqi redoubt comes with federal troops and militia engaged in an operation to reassert central government control over thousands of square kilometres (miles) of territory long disputed with the Kurds. Loss of the territory has dealt a crippling blow to the finances of the autonomous Kurdish region and on Wednesday its leaders reached out for talks, saying they were ready to freeze the outcome of the September 25 independence

referendum. The Iraqi prime minister yesterday dismissed the offer, saying it did not go far enough. "We will accept nothing but the annulment of the referendum and respect for the constitution," he said in a statement.

Oil pipeline in sights

Abadi, whose stock has been massively

boosted by the military successes, received a fresh show of support for his fight against IS and the Kurds from his allies in Iran during a visit to Tehran. The backing came as Iraqi forces launched a new assault on Kurdish fighters in the disputed oil-rich Zummar area of Nineveh province, Kurdish authorities said.

An AFP correspondent reported heavy artillery exchanges as Kurdish forces put up fierce resistance. Sources on the Kurdish side said the peshmerga fighters had destroyed three tanks and six armored vehicles belonging to the Iraqi forces. Parts of Nineveh province north and east of Iraq's second city Mosul are some of the last areas that Kurdish forces still hold outside their longstanding three-province autonomous region.

Yesterday's assault was close to the route of a strategic oil export pipeline linking the Kirkuk fields retaken from the Kurds with the Turkish port of Ceyhan that fell into disuse during IS's lightning sweep through northern and western Iraq in 2014. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Abadi during a meeting in Ankara Wednesday that he was "ready to provide any kind of support to allow the operation of the pipeline".

The course of the defunct pipeline passes through the town of Faysh Khabur, near where the borders of Iraq, Turkey and Syria meet, in territory which lies undisputedly inside the autonomous Kurdish region. —AFP

“ Heroic legions are advancing ”

Israel 'annexation' bill draws new concern for two-state solution

Bill would absorb major Israeli settlements

JERUSALEM: A bill that critics say would amount to de facto annexation of Israeli settlements surrounding Jerusalem is expected to go before ministers on Sunday, drawing harsh criticism from Palestinians and those hoping to salvage the two-state solution. The bill would absorb major Israeli settlements currently in the occupied West Bank into Jerusalem by enlarging the city limits.

Its opponents argue that it is a step towards full unilateral annexation of the West Bank settlements affected—a move that would be sure to spark international outrage. For the vast majority of the international community, the status of Israel's settlements, built on land the Palestinians see as part of their future state, are to be decided in peace negotiations.

Approval by a ministerial committee on Sunday would fast-track the bill's progress through parliament. "This coming Sunday I shall take part in Jewish history," Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz posted on Facebook Wednesday. "The 'Greater Jerusalem bill', which I initiated, will come up for a vote in the ministerial committee on legislation," he said.

Senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi said

the plan could kill hopes for an independent Palestinian state. Ashrawi, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, said late Wednesday that "such efforts represent the end of the two-state solution." "Israel is in the business of prolonging the military occupation and not ending it, legalizing the presence of extremist Jewish settlers on Palestinian soil, and completing the total isolation and annexation of Palestinian Jerusalem," she wrote.

“Prolonging the military occupation”

‘We shall build here’

Israel occupied the West Bank, including 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.

Prominent members of Netanyahu's coalition openly oppose the idea of a Palestinian state and advocate annexing most of the West Bank. The major settlement of Maaleh Adumim, east of Jerusalem, would be among the areas absorbed into the enlarged city limits under the draft legislation, according to an explanatory note by its



WEST BANK: Israel's controversial separation barrier is seen dividing Jerusalem (background) from the West Bank town of Hizma (L). —AFP

sponsors. The settlements mentioned however would not be fully annexed to Israel—at least not at first—although Netanyahu pledged on a recent visit to Maaleh Adumim that it would at some part become part of the Jewish state. "We shall build here thousands of housing units" and add

industrial zones, Netanyahu said during his visit to the settlement of 37,000 people. "This place will be a part of the state of Israel."

Maaleh Adumim's municipal boundaries include a contentious area known as E1 adjacent to the settlement. —AFP

Detainees launch hunger strike in Yemen prison

BEIRUT: Dozens of detainees at a military camp controlled by pro-government forces in southern Yemen are on hunger strike in protest against conditions at the facility, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. The prisoners began to refuse food on October 21 at the informal detention facility at the Bir Ahmed camp, which the rights group said was

controlled by UAE-backed forces in Aden where the war-torn country's government is based.

A statement signed by the detainees' family members said the men would forgo food until they are granted their "legal and humanitarian rights," according to HRW.

The United Arab Emirates, backed by the United States, has trained contingents in the Yemeni army that are stationed around Aden. The UAE is a key member of a Saudi-led military coalition that entered Yemen's conflict in 2015 to battle on the government's side against Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

In June, Human Rights Watch accused

the UAE of running at least two "informal detention facilities" in Yemen and had reportedly transferred detainees to a base in Eritrea.

The UAE at the time rejected the allegations as "totally unfounded", saying its forces "respect international conventions on armed conflicts". More than 8,600 people have been killed since the Saudi-led coalition joined the Yemen war. Another 2,100 people have died of cholera this year, as port and airport blockades have left hospitals struggling to secure supplies. The United Nations warns that Yemen, long the poorest country in the Arab world, now faces famine. —AFP

Qatar signs military agreement with Russia

DOHA: Qatar said yesterday it had signed a defense agreement with Russia, the latest in a series of such steps by the emirate since the Gulf diplomatic crisis erupted in June. The announcement followed what Moscow said was the first trip ever undertaken by a Russian defense minister to the Gulf state.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt are boycotting Qatar, accusing it of backing extremism and fostering ties with their Shiite rival Iran—charges

that Doha denies. The defense agreement was announced after Moscow's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu met Qatar's emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Defence Minister Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah in Doha on Wednesday.

"The two ministers signed (a) military technical cooperation agreement during the meeting," a statement from Qatar's defense ministry said. It added that a "memorandum of understanding" was also signed relating to air defense and military supplies.

No further details were given. In the almost 150-days of the Gulf crisis, Qatar has announced a \$12 billion (10 billion euros) deal to buy F-15 jets from the US, a five billion euro deal with Italy for seven navy vessels and an agreement to buy 24 Typhoon fighter jets from Britain. —AFP

Hezbollah: US sanctions aim to stir unrest

BEIRUT: A Hezbollah member of the Lebanese parliament said yesterday that proposed new US sanctions against the powerful Iran-backed group aimed to provoke unrest in Lebanon. The US House of Representatives on Wednesday endorsed new sanctions on the Shiite Hezbollah militia, part of an effort to increase pressure on Iran. The new sanctions have not yet become law.

"The sanctions law ... is a blatant interference in Lebanese internal affairs, a violation of its national sovereignty and an unacceptable targeting of the Lebanese people," Hezbollah parliamentarian Hassan Fadlallah said in a televised statement. "America aims, through this aggressive behavior in legislation, to subjugate Lebanon, to stir unrest and deprive its people of development," Fadlallah said.

Hezbollah is in Lebanon's delicate, national unity government and fights alongside Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria's more than six-year long conflict. It is classified as a terrorist group by Washington and on Wednesday the House of Representatives passed a resolution urging the European Union to do the same.

One of the measures passed by the House of Representatives was an amendment strengthening the 2015 US Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act (HIFPA) which aimed to sever the group's global funding networks. —Reuters

International

Clerical sex abuse disclosures skyrocket in pope's Argentina

'In Argentina, the abuse crisis is just beginning'

CASEROS: Karen Maydana says she was 9 years old when the Rev. Carlos Jose fondled her at a church pew facing the altar. It was her first confession ahead of her first Holy Communion. She blames the trauma of that moment in 2004 for a teenage suicide attempt. And yet she never spoke about it publicly until this year.

After hearing that two women who attended her school in the Argentine town of Caseros were allegedly abused by the same priest, she joined them as complainants in a case that in July led to his arrest for investigation of aggravated sexual abuse.

"Unfortunately, there are many of us. But speaking about it now also gives you strength to carry on," Maydana, 22, said. "I have a 9-year-old niece who's receiving her Communion this year, and this is not going to happen to her."

The allegations are part of a growing trend: While Pope Francis struggles to make good on his "zero tolerance" pledge to fight clerical sex abuse worldwide, victims in his native Argentina are denouncing abuses in unprecedented numbers. An analysis by The Associated Press shows that the number of clerics publicly identified as alleged sexual abusers has increased dramatically in the last two years.



Part of a growing trend

Cultural shift

Experts attribute the spike to a cultural shift as victims feel more emboldened to denounce abuse, prosecutors are more inclined to investigate complaints of even decades-old abuse, the media are increasingly aggressive about reporting them and courts are willing to hand down stiff sentences. "It's a domino effect," said Anne Barrett Doyle, co-director of BishopAccountability.org, a US-based group that compiles a clergy abuse database.

In the US, confidential files on hundreds of pedophile priests have been released either through civil litigation, settlements or court order. The contents have revealed that top church officials worked behind the scenes to control the sex abuse scandal and keep it from authorities as well as parishioners.

"What is really remarkable here is that the survivors in Argentina don't have the same powerful legal tools that we see in other countries," Barrett Doyle said. "And yet, we're still seeing the significant increase in cases."

The AP compiled a list of 66 priests, nuns and brothers who have been accused since 2001 of abusing dozens of people, most of them children. The figures were gathered from testimonies by victims, judicial and church docu-

mentations, and local media reports corroborated in conjunction with the BishopAccountability.org database. The number of new reports remained in the single digits each year from 2000 to 2015. But since the start of last year, victims have named 21 more, most accused of decades-old abuse.



BUENOS AIRES: In this Oct 11, 2017 photo, Karen Maydana, center, Mailin Gobbo, behind right, and Yasmin Detez, behind left, pose for a photo at San Jose Obrero church. —AP

"In Argentina, the abuse crisis is just beginning," said San Francisco Bishop Sergio Buanueva in Cordoba province, who leads a church council on clerical abuse. "I'm sure the

Argentine church is going to face increasing numbers of these disclosures."

To deal with the expected increased caseload, he said the church is planning to create its first comprehensive database of clerical abuse. Buanueva also recently returned from the Vatican, where he met with members of Francis' sex abuse advisory commission to discuss prevention policies for Argentina, including training of clergy to detect potential abusers and victims.—AP

Iceland's unusual law lets murderers become judges

REYKJAVIK: A tool for rehabilitating criminals or simply a way of granting special favors? In Iceland, a law that allows a murderer to become a lawyer or a pedophile a judge recently led to the government's downfall. Known as "restored honor", the legal procedure dating back to 1940 does not erase a convict's criminal record, nor is it a pardon.

It is intended to restore a convict's civil rights and help them reintegrate into the community. But for most Icelanders, the law is obsolete, unjust, and an example of the cronyism that has for too long poisoned politics on the small North Atlantic island of 335,000 people. Opposition to the law began to emerge after Robert Arni Hreidarsson, a former lawyer who was sentenced to three years in prison in 2007 for having sexually assaulted at least four

teenage girls, had his "honor restored" in September 2016. One of his victims was the daughter of Bergur Thor Ingolfsson, a 48-year-old actor-director who has become a spokesman for the law's opponents. "I'm really really proud of what we have done, to put a mirror in the face of the system and say 'Look at it, this is crazy,'" he told AFP.

'More fences'

Over the past two decades, 86 convicts have applied to have their "honour restored", according to the justice ministry. Thirty-two of them were approved. "The spirit, the idea of the law was a pretty good thing. But we should put up more fences for people applying for high positions in society," insisted Bergur Thor Ingolfsson. "Child abusers should not automatically get high positions like police chief, lawyer or member of parliament," he said.

Icelandic prison sentences longer than four months bar convicts from standing for election, taking a seat on the board of a state-owned company, and practising law, among other things. Atli Gudjon Helgason is an international footballer-turned-lawyer who was sentenced to 16 years in prison for brutally murdering his business associate in 2001. His civil rights were later restored and he was able to recover his license to practice law. —AFP

Turkey orders local Amnesty chief to stay behind bars

ANKARA: A Turkish court in Izmir ordered the head of Amnesty International in Turkey to remain in pre-trial detention yesterday, the rights group said, after he denied allegations of links to the Muslim cleric Ankara blames for last year's failed coup. Taner Kilic was detained in June over claims he was a member of the group led by US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, who is accused of ordering the attempted overthrow of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The latest hearing in Izmir in western Turkey comes a day after Kilic also went on trial in another case along with 10 rights activists, including Amnesty's Turkey director Idil Eser, who were detained in July on contested terror charges after holding a workshop on an island off Istanbul. While Kilic is voluntary chairman of Amnesty's board of directors handling administrative affairs, Eser is in charge of day-to-day business including

Amnesty Turkey's campaigns for human rights. Eser and seven others were freed for the duration of their trial after the first hearing in Istanbul on Wednesday on charges of "aiding" an armed terror group. Two others had been released earlier.

They are accused of links to Gulen and other outlawed groups including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984, and the far-left Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C). Amnesty said Kilic's case in Izmir will be merged with the 10 activists' case in Istanbul. "The release of the Istanbul 10 late last night restored some faith in Turkey's justice system. Today, that faith has been washed away," Amnesty secretary-general Salil Shetty said. Prosecutors claim Kilic was aware of preparations for the Istanbul workshop. Erdogan said in July that the activists were detained after a tip-off they were working against the government, comparing them to those involved in the failed putsch.

"There are inconcrete and unclear accusations in the indictment, and there is no concrete evidence" to prove links to Gulen, Kilic was quoted as saying in court by Amnesty Turkey's official Twitter account. "It is essential that there is a presumption of innocence," he said. "Statements by the authorities have affected my right to a fair trial." Kilic also accused the authorities of trying him because of his work with Amnesty, the group said. —AFP

One killed as Kenya's disputed election re-run turns violent

Boycotted by the opposition, shunned by voters

NAIROBI: At least one person was shot dead yesterday during clashes over Kenya's re-run election, which has been boycotted by the opposition and shunned by many voters, sparking a crisis that has polarised the east African hub. In stark contrast to the first ballot in August, which was overturned by the Supreme Court, several polling stations in key areas stood empty or welcomed only a handful of voters in an election likely to face more legal battles after its conclusion.

In western Kisumu, an opposition stronghold, 19-year-old George Odhiambo died from blood loss after being shot in the thigh in clashes which erupted after protesters barricaded roads and polling stations to block the vote, police and hospital sources said. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the senior police source said there had been two deaths, although the second could not be independently verified. Four other people sustained gunshot wounds, a medic said at Kisumu's main hospital.

Police fired water cannon and teargas to disperse angry demonstrators in several opposition strongholds in the west and in Nairobi's slums, who had ignored calls by opposition leader Raila Odinga to stay at home on election day. The election is the chaotic climax of a political drama that began when the Supreme Court overturned the victory of President Uhuru Kenyatta in the August 8 elections.

Kenyatta, who turned 56 yesterday, is almost assured victory after veteran opposition leader Odinga withdrew, citing fears the poll would be marred by the same flaws which saw the August vote overturned. It cited "irregularities" and mismanagement by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). "Today, no fair election can take place. The government wants to force us to vote, but we did not want to do it and we will not do it," said Austin Olang, a 26-year-old maths teacher in Kisumu. — AFP



AHERO: A Kenyan police officer walks on a road covered with stones and rocks set up as barricade by National Super Alliance (NASA) supporters. —AFP

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International

Protests as Catalan leader reportedly mulls backdown on independence

Not clear whether the central government would back off

BARCELONA: Thousands of Catalan activists protested in Barcelona yesterday as separatist leader Carles Puigdemont prepared to address the nation amid speculation he would back off from an independence declaration. Media reports said Puigdemont might dissolve parliament and announce fresh elections instead, to prevent Spain seizing control of the wealthy northeastern region following an outlawed independence referendum.

An address by Puigdemont, initially scheduled for 1:30 pm yesterday, has since been “suspended” without explanation. Spain’s Ibex 35 of leading shares, though, leapt up more than two percent on the reports. Even though there has been no official confirmation that he will call elections, two Puigdemont allies have already resigned in protest.

“I don’t agree with the decision to go to elections. I resign as MP and I will leave the @Pdemocratacat,” tweeted Jordi Cumiñal, a lawmaker for PDeCAT, Puigdemont’s party. Thousands of pro-independence students and activists gathered in front of the regional government in Barcelona to the shouts of “independence.” One banner read: Puigdemont, traitor.”

In a day of sudden twists and turns, it was unclear whether regional lawmakers will meet as planned at 5:00 pm in a session many feared would lead to a unilateral declaration to break Catalonia away from Spain. At the same time, a Senate committee is scheduled to gather in the Spanish capital

to work on a blueprint for seizing the region’s political powers and finances in a bid to stop the independence drive.

The upper house, where Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy’s Popular Party holds a majority, is due today to approve the measures proposed by the central government. They are intended to remain effective for up to six months. By yesterday, it was not clear whether the central government would back off if Puigdemont does abandon his independence drive and calls elections instead.

Anti-constitutional?

Puigdemont insisted earlier yesterday that seizing Catalan powers was an “af-front” to Spain’s constitution. The central government, in turn, accuses Catalan leaders of having breached the very same constitution by holding an independence referendum on October 1 — an unregulated vote widely seen as the trigger for the current stand-off between the re-

gion and Madrid. The Constitutional Court ruled the vote illegal and contrary to the constitution, which states that Spain’s unity is “unbreakable.” Regional authorities say a majority of those who voted chose to break away from Spain. But only about 43 percent of eligible voters—some 2.3 million—turned out.

Independence or elections?

Polls have indicated that the region of 7.5 million people is deeply divided on independence. But



A day of sudden twists and turns



BARCELONA: Students hold placards reading ‘good bye’ as they protest during a demonstration. —AFP

Catalans are also fiercely protective of their distinct language and culture and their autonomy—which was restored after the repressive 1939-1975 rule of dictator Francisco Franco. The semi-autonomous region accounts for 16 percent of Spain’s population and 20 percent of its economic output.

Some members of Puigdemont’s executive urged him this week to avoid a full-on clash with Madrid by calling an early poll. On Wednesday, though, Catalan vice-president Oriol Junqueras had appeared to move towards declaring a break from Spain. He told Spanish television the government’s unyielding stance was “not giving us any

option other than defending the civil liberties of citizens through the best institutional instruments.”

‘Resistance’

Spain’s Economy Minister Luis de Guindos acknowledged yesterday there could be “resistance” to Madrid’s move to seize regional powers. Independence supporters have raised the prospect of rebelling in their workplace. “I hope that civil servants who are highly professional... will be conscious that any act against Catalan society will be negative,” de Guindos warned on Spanish radio. —AFP

Train slams into Finnish military truck at crossing

HELSINKI: A train collided with a military vehicle at an unguarded railroad crossing in southern Finland early yesterday, killing four people and injuring 11 others, officials said. The crash happened near Raseborg, about 85 kilometers southwest of Helsinki. The fatalities were three soldiers and one passenger. “Today I have received a heartbreaking message: Three conscripts have died in an accident in Raseborg,” Gen. Jarmo Lindberg, the head of Finland’s armed forces, said in a statement.

The cause of the crash was under investigation, local police chief Mats Sjöholm said. “The crossing is unguarded, and the weather was bad due to snowfall,” Sjöholm told a news conference later yesterday. A total of 11 people have been taken to nearby hospitals. There were no details on their injuries. Finland’s defense minister, Jussi Niinistö, tweeted that “the morning had started with grim news” and “I feel grief.”

The military truck, a Finnish-made Sisu SA-150 transport vehicle, was carrying eight soldiers, who were taking part in a drill in the



RASSEBORG: A police officer looks to a truck of the Finnish army after the collision with a passenger train. —AP

southern part of the Nordic country, military spokesman Jorgen Engroos told the news conference. Two trucks had left a nearby military facility in the morning and were headed for a military exercise area when the crash happened. It was unclear whether it was the first or second vehicle that was hit. The commuter train from Finland’s state-owned VR railway company struck the vehicle at a crossing with no security features near Raseborg. —AP

Italy adopts electoral law that could hobble populists

ROME: The Italian government adopted a new electoral law yesterday that is set to favor mainstream parties over the populist Five Star Movement (M5S) at general elections expected next year. The new law, which looks likely to land Italy with yet another coalition government at national elections due before May, was adopted by the Senate by 214 votes in favor to 61 against.

“The scam electoral law is like a slot machine,” scoffed Giovanni Endrizzi, the movement’s Senate floor leader. “You press a button, you think you’re choosing but there’s a software that decides for you and eats your money. Here they eat your votes,” he said, in reference to the fact the system will penalize the M5S even if it wins the most votes.

As individual parties, the anti-establishment M5S and ruling centre-left Democratic Party (PD) are currently running neck-and-neck in the polls, with the centre-right Go Italy (FI) and anti-immigrant Northern League dragging their

feet. But polls indicate that no single party would snap up enough ballots under the new system—a combination of proportional representation and first-past-the-post—without forming a coalition. While a divided left may flounder, an FI and League partnership is expected to leapfrog into first place. The M5S on the other hand, which has vowed never to join forces with traditional parties, would be out of the race.

‘We’re ready’

The movement has declared the new system unconstitutional and plans to appeal to Italy’s President Sergio Mattarella to stop the law in its tracks, M5S sources told Italian media. The law won the backing of the PD, FI, League and the small centre-right Popular Area (AP). The FI party, founded and run by former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, was like the cat that got the cream. “We have done something positive for our country in a moment when political clashes—particularly due to the M5S, which is only capable of protesting and not proposing—show no sign of abating,” said FI’s Renato Brunetta.

“Next, in 2018, will be our return to Palazzo Chigi. We’re ready,” the party’s lower house floor leader said in reference to the prime minister’s office. The PD, riven by internal feuds, rushed to reassure party supporters they could still win under the new system. “No electoral law has ever managed to see those without votes triumph, or make those with votes lose,” said Luigi Zanda, head of the PD in the Senate. —AFP

International

Trump coy on what's coming out on JFK assassination files

CIA pushing to keep documents a secret

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is playing it coy on what people will see from long-secret JFK assassination-era files. He's been caught between students of the killing who want every scrap of information out on that crucible of history and intelligence agencies that are said to be counseling restraint. How that plays out should be known Thursday, the day set in law 25 years ago for the disclosure of remaining hidden documents on Kennedy's killing on Nov. 22, 1963. Only the president can hold some back.

Trump wasn't tipping his hand on the eve of the release. "The long anticipated release of the #JFKFiles will take place tomorrow," was all he said in a tweet. "So interesting!" Scholars and sleuths say the CIA is pushing Trump to keep some of the materials secret. The spy agency isn't denying that. "Clearly there are documents, plural, files, plural, being appealed to him," said University of Virginia historian Larry Sabato, an authority on Kennedy. Of the pressure on Trump, Sabato said, "I'm told reliably that it continues and that it has intensified." The historian said documents generated in the 1990s that could contain the names of people who are still alive are of particular concern to those who want files held back.

Questions linger

Whatever details are released, they're not expected to answer the major - and for many, still-lingering - question of whether anyone other than Lee Harvey Oswald was involved in the assassination, including the government. The Warren Commission in 1964 reported that Oswald had been the lone gunman, and another congressional probe in 1979

found no evidence to support the theory that the CIA had been involved. But other interpretations, some more creative than others, have persisted.

For example, Roger Stone, a close Trump ally, advanced the unsubstantiated and widely disdained theory that Lyndon Johnson, who became president upon Kennedy's death, was involved in it. Stone is not sure key documents will see the light of day. He said that 440 documents related to the assassination, released by the National Archives in July, were so heavily redacted "on the basis of 'national security' that they are useless." Stone said he's lobbied Trump personally to release all remaining materials and believes the CIA is pushing the president to keep some secret.

In 1992, Congress passed the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which directed the National Archives to collect all information related to the assassination and release it within 25 years, barring exceptions designated by the president. The deadline is Thursday. The gunshots that the Warren Commission said killed Kennedy almost immediately inspired theories about whether Oswald had been the lone gunman who, with extraordinary luck by any measure, had hit his target.

Theories abound

As the nation mourned in disbelief, Oswald was shot and killed in police custody by Jack Ruby - forcing Americans to consider whether their government was hiding what it knew of the assassination. The event remains in the nation's living memory for a significant slice of the country.



WASHINGTON DC: Morning traffic passes by the United States National Archives building. —AP

Forty-nine million Americans, or 15 percent of the country, are age 65 and over, according to the Census Bureau. They were around age 11 or older at the time.

The Warren Commission did little to settle the matter. Theories abounded that Oswald's murder was a cover-up for a conspiracy or government ineptitude. The deadly aim of a lonely, alienated gunman seemed hard to fathom.

"A gnat simply does not kill a lion," is how Saul Pett of The Associated Press described what was fueling the search for answers. He wrote the intro-

duction to the book published by the AP that reproduced the Warren Report. Trump has seen fit to peddle conspiracies when they suit him as part of a broader appeal to supporters who don't trust the government.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump repeatedly quoted a tabloid story that claimed the father of GOP rival Ted Cruz had been photographed with Oswald before the shooting. That's never been confirmed - Trump later said he was only quoting what he'd read. But the release of JFK files this week could provide new details. —AP

Wounded soldiers to testify at Bowe Bergdahl sentencing

FORT BRAGG: The wounds and hardships soldiers suffered during their fruitless search for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured by the Taliban after walking off his post in Afghanistan, are being described in painful detail at his sentencing hearing. Bergdahl, who suffered five years as an enemy captive after abandoning his remote post in 2009, pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy last week and faces a maximum of life in prison. Prosecutors made no deal, so the judge has wide leeway to determine punishment.

The Army judge, Col. Jeffery R. Nance, said Wednesday that he's still considering a defense motion to dismiss the entire case over the unfair command influence they say is reflected in comments Donald Trump made as a candidate and reaffirmed as president, that Bergdahl should be put before a firing squad or thrown from a plane without a parachute. More testimony dangerous search missions is expected Thursday after a Navy SEAL described his career-ending leg wound on Wednesday.

Retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer James

Hatch said his team's helicopters came under fire as they landed near the Pakistan border, following information on Bergdahl's possible whereabouts. He said the mission, led in the days after Bergdahl disappeared was hastily planned, and their only objective was finding the soldier.

A military dog leading them through a field located two enemy fighters that the team had seen at a distance. Hatch said the fighters sprayed AK-47 bullets at them, killing the dog. He was hit in the leg. "I screamed a lot. It hurt really bad ... I thought I was dead," said Hatch, who entered the courtroom with a limp and a service dog. Hatch said he believes he would have died if a comrade hadn't quickly applied a tourniquet. Hatch has subsequently had 18 surgeries. A soldier whose hand was shattered by a rocket-propelled grenade during a separate search for Bergdahl could testify Thursday. Another soldier suffered a traumatic brain injury on that mission.

The 31-year-old soldier from Hailey, Idaho, has said he was caged by his captors, kept in darkness and beaten, and tried to escape more than a dozen times before President Barack Obama brought him home in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. Nance said Monday that he would be fair and hasn't been influenced by Trump, but that he does have concerns that the president's comments are affecting public perceptions about the case and its outcome. Nance ruled in February that comments Trump made as a civilian candidate didn't constitute unlawful command influence. The defense says Trump revived his campaign comments the day of Bergdahl's plea hearing, by saying he thinks people are aware of what he said before. —AP

Grieving father takes aim at US gun lobby

COLLINSVILLE: A teddy bear on the bed, a pair of dance shoes, a university diploma: Alison Parker's brutally shortened life is summed up in her bedroom, which her parents keep as a memorial. The 24-year-old's promising career as a journalist ended on August 26, 2015, when she was shot dead by a disgruntled former reporter during a live interview. That day changed everything for her father Andy Parker, who has channeled his pain over losing his daughter into fighting the proliferation of firearms in the US.

"My heart is forever broken, my soul has been crushed and this sadness sort of lingers over me like a chronic disease that you just can't shake," Parker told AFP at his home in Collinsville, Virginia. Parker said he gets through it by staying angry, and channeling that anger to "go after the bad guys." The area is a Republican stronghold, and Virginia is home to the headquarters of the National Rifle Associ-

ation (NRA), America's all-powerful gun lobby. "The gun culture here, it's like a religion—they worship their guns, I think, more than they do Jesus," Parker said. The NRA, which backed Donald Trump in his bid for the presidency, strives to block all attempts at gun control.

NRA chief 'a gun salesman'

Parker, a 64-year-old former actor who is originally from Texas, has made fighting against the NRA his reason for being. In the media, at protests, wherever he can, he denounces the United States' tragically unique status as "the only place in the civilized world where 90 people a day are killed by guns." Parker's main target is NRA chief Wayne LaPierre, whom he accuses of hijacking an organization that initially worked for the safe handling of firearms.

"Wayne LaPierre basically took over and hijacked the membership, and essentially he is a gun salesman," said Parker, denouncing the money from firearms manufacturers that floods American politics. Virginia residents go to the polls on November 7 to vote for governor and members of the state's legislature. Following a mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 58 people and wounded nearly 500 earlier this month, gun control has become a key issue in the state's 2017 elections. —AFP

International

Death of adopted Indian toddler to end inter country adoptions

Adoptive father charged with first-degree felony

MUMBAI: The death in Texas of a three-year-old girl adopted from India a year ago has prompted renewed calls for an end to international adoptions, which campaigners say put vulnerable children at risk of abuse. The girl's adoptive father, Wesley Mathews, was charged on Monday with injury to a child, a first-degree felony that carries a maximum punishment of 99 years in prison, Texas police said. The body of Sherin, who was born in India, was found in a culvert under a road. Mathews has admitted to moving her body from the family's home in Richardson, Texas.

The toddler's death has attracted wide coverage in India, where campaigners called for an immediate end to intercountry adoptions, which they say fail to protect children. "Intercountry adoptions have become a lucrative market where children are effectively sold," said activist Sujata

Mody. "It is a fallacy that these children are better off abroad; we should stop intercountry adoptions immediately," said Mody, who has studied adoption agencies in India.

India's top court last year ordered the government to draw up strict guidelines for screening and tracking adoptions after a charity alleged the existence of rackets involving both Indian and foreign adoption agencies. In the 1970s, when there was no law in India to regulate adoptions, thousands of children were given away in intercountry adoptions. The government began to regulate adop-

tions after a Supreme Court judgment in 1984, and became a signatory to the Hague convention on intercountry adoption in 2003.

It has since followed the guidelines "diligently" to prevent any abuse, according to the head of the government's Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). "This was an aberration; the conditions now are very stringent, particularly for inter-

country adoptions," said Deepak Kumar, CARA's chief executive. Sherin was a special-needs child, and the credentials of the adoptive

parents were thoroughly checked by the US adoption agency, Kumar said. The agency carried out follow-up visits after she arrived in the United States in 2016 as mandated, and sent detailed reports, he said.

"There was nothing that was out of the ordinary or a cause for alarm," he said. There were about 4,000 adoptions in India in the year to March 2017; nearly 600 were intercountry adoptions, data showed. India has no way of ensuring the safety of a child in a foreign country, said Arun Dohle, director of advocacy group Against Child Trafficking. "It is much better to help children where they are, and end intercountry adoption," said Dohle, who was adopted from India as a child by a German family. "The death of this child is proof the system does not work."—Reuters

“ Intercountry adoptions have become a lucrative market ”

Swiss tourists suffer brutal attack in India

NEW DELHI: A Swiss tourist has been left with a fractured skull after he and his girlfriend were attacked near the Taj Mahal during a holiday in India, police and media reports said yesterday. A group of men approached the couple near a local railway station and demanded selfies with the woman before attacking them with stones on Sunday, the Times of India daily said. It said the man suffered a fractured skull while his girlfriend, a 24-year-old Swiss national, had a broken arm and multiple bruises.

Bystanders took videos of the couple on their mobile phones as they lay on the ground after the attack, the paper reported. Senior officer Amit Pathak said by phone from Agra in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh that police had identified some of

the attackers. "Some of them could be minors, so we are investigating and if they are indeed minors they will be produced in juvenile court as per the law," said Pathak, senior police superintendent for Agra.

Another police officer, Pradeep Kumar, later said one suspect had been taken in for questioning. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath later said two had been arrested and vowed those responsible would be dealt with "sternly". "All others involved will also face strict action. Our government will not tolerate anything like this," he told reporters after visiting the Taj Mahal in Agra yesterday. The motive for the attack was not clear, but levels of sexual violence are relatively high in India and many Western countries warn visitors of the risk of attacks.

The Swiss embassy website warns tourists of high levels of crime in India, particularly in popular tourists spots such as Agra, where the country's most famous monument is located. Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said she had sought a report from the state government of Uttar Pradesh over the latest attack and would



AGRA: In this file photo, monsoon clouds hover over the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. —AP

send representatives to visit the Swiss couple in hospital. Some social media users criticised Adityanath, whose election campaign in March included a promise to clean up his notoriously lawless state, for failing to protect the tourists.

"Such a shameful story on the breakdown of law & order in India's largest state. Is @myogiadityanath listening?" tweeted Milind Deora, a leader of the opposition Congress party. India's tourism minister K.J

Alphons expressed his deep concern at the attack and urged Adityanath to take "speedy action" to apprehend the perpetrators. "Such incidents negatively impact our image and are detrimental to our efforts in promoting India as a tourism destination," Alphons said in a statement. Others said the incident was a blow to India's hopes of drawing more tourists to the country, which had just 8.8 million foreign visitors last year according to official data.—AFP

As winter nears, India to convert old train coaches into homeless shelters

MUMBAI: Indian officials plan to convert old railway coaches into shelters for the homeless before the start of colder weather, a move campaigners say does not address the issue of a crippling shortage of shelters and affordable housing in the country. The government this month asked states to consider fitting old passenger coaches with electricity and sewerage connections, and installing them in areas of cities where shelters are needed.

The southern state of Telangana is looking into

acquiring up to 10 coaches for this purpose, according to a senior official in the urban development ministry. "We have asked officials to look into the logistics of converting five to 10 coaches into shelters," said L. Vandana Kumar, a director in the state department. "The main issue to building shelters in the cities is the lack of land. We are looking into possible solutions; this is a temporary solution until then," he said.

There are about 1 million urban homeless in India, according to official data, although charities estimate the actual number to be three times higher. The urban homeless population rose by a fifth in the decade to 2011, as thousands migrated from villages in search of better prospects. Every year, hundreds die from exposure to the cold or heat on pavements and station platforms. The Supreme Court in 2010 had ordered one homeless shelter for every 100,000 people in 62 cities, with facilities including drinking water, subsidized meals, beds and lockers.—Reuters



BANGALORE: Indian Hindu devotees take part in the Chhath Puja at the Sankey Tank in Bangalore.—AP

International

UN rejects Myanmar claim to help build housing for refugees

More than 600,000 flee to Bangladesh

YANGON: A UN settlement program, UN-Habitat in Myanmar, yesterday rejected a state media report that it had agreed to help build housing for people fleeing violence in the northern Myanmar state of Rakhine, where an army operation has displaced hundreds of thousands.

The development underscores tension between Myanmar and the United Nations, which in April criticized the government's previous plan to resettle Rohingya Muslims displaced by last year's violence in "camp-like" villages.

More than 600,000 have crossed to Bangladesh since Aug 25 attacks by Rohingya militants sparked an army crackdown. The United Nations says killings, arson and rape carried out by troops and ethnic Rakhine Buddhist mobs since then amount to a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya. The state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said yesterday that UN-Habitat had agreed to provide technical assistance in housing displaced people in Rakhine and the agency would work closely with the authorities to "implement the projects to be favorable to Myanmar's social culture and administrative system".

But Stanislav Saling, spokesman for the of-

fice of the UN resident coordinator in Myanmar, said in an email that "no agreements were reached so far" after the agency's representatives attended a series of meetings with Myanmar officials this week in its capital Naypyitaw. "The UN-Habitat mission emphasized that re-

settlement should be conducted in accordance with the principles of housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons to support their safe and dignified return to their places of origin," he said, responding on behalf of UN-Habitat.

UN-Habitat welcomed the interest of the Myanmar government in international norms and standards, he added. The United Nations' principles state that all refugees or displaced persons have the right to return to property or land from which they were arbitrarily or unlawfully removed. Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has pledged that anyone sheltering in Bangladesh who can prove they were Myanmar residents can return, but it remains unclear whether those refugees would be allowed to return to their homes.

Rohingya who return to Myanmar are unlikely to be able to reclaim their land, and may

“

No agreements were reached so far

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UKHIA: A Rohingya refugee carries an elderly woman toward a makeshift shelter at Kutupalong refugee camp in the Bangladeshi district of Ukhia. — AFP

find their crops have been harvested and sold by the government, according to Myanmar officials and plans seen by Reuters. Buddhist-majority Myanmar in August suggested that UN agencies such as the World Food Program have provided food to Rohingya insurgents, adding to pressure on aid groups which had to suspend activities in Rakhine and pull out most of their

staff. Still, Soe Aung, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Social Welfare who attended the meetings with UN-Habitat, insisted that the agency had agreed to give assistance and the two sides will meet again on November 8. "We have reached an agreement with the UN for technical assistance. We will discuss more details on how to proceed," he said. — Reuters

Pakistan's education system struggles to teach the youth

ISLAMABAD: Children in Pakistan disenchanted with education after teachers forced them to clean schools or beat them became the inspiration for the founder of a charitable institution that targets those displaced by war in the country's north. Nearly 40 percent of Pakistan's 50 million school-age children are not getting regular instruction, even though it has a network of 220,000 schools and has stepped up its education budget 15 percent each year since 2010.

"It's not the number of schools, it's the quality, the attitude," said Zeba Hussain, who founded the Mashal Schools for the war-displaced children after meeting a group of them during a visit to the hills encircling the capital, Islamabad. "The teachers, and the approach, is absolutely off." Now private schools, charitable bodies, and religious seminaries are piecing together what they call a broken government schooling system, whose budget the United Nations estimates at 2.65 percent of GDP, or roughly \$8 billion.

That works out to about \$150 per student. "Students are labeled 'smart' or 'stupid' right from the start," said Shaista Kazmi of Vision 21, a privately funded non-government body whose programs for underprivileged children aim to compress five years of reading proficiency into one. "The govern-

ment is very slow to respond to calls for change," added Kazmi, whose NGO focuses its speed literacy programs in the northern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The standardized curriculum of state schools fails to account for socio-economic limitations, setting children up for failure, said Hussain. "Students end up with low self-esteem," she said. "There need to be different models of curriculum which can lift children up from the bottom." Responding to the comments, federal education director Tariq Masood disagreed strongly, pointing to population growth and funding as the biggest challenges for government schools. "No one who is under-qualified can enter the government system," Masood told Reuters. "There are fewer checks in the private system."

Private schools for urban elite

The urban elite turn to private schools to fill the education vacuum, using a British curriculum rather than government textbooks. "We are privileged to have access to curriculum that allows us to teach reading without rote memorization," said Nadine Murtaza, executive director of Head Start, which has 13 facilities in and around the capital. Such schools partner with charitable outfits and the government to reach children outside the private school setup.

"You have fifth and sixth graders (in government schools) who cannot read," Murtaza said. Pakistan's poorest often send their children to a network of 25,000 traditional Islamic religious schools known as madrassas, which also give them accommodation and food, though few are subject to government oversight. Such schools have been blamed for creating militant fighters by spreading a hardline vision of Islam, with some accused of links to outfits such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. —Reuters

Rights groups urge Pakistan not to deport Turkish nationals

ISLAMABAD: Human rights activists warned yesterday that nearly 300 Turkish nationals are facing forced deportation from Pakistan as they called on authorities to protect them. The warning came almost two weeks after Islamabad deported a Turkish teacher Kacmaz Mesut, his wife and two young daughters, in defiance of a court ruling. The family was picked up in September by plain-clothed officers, blindfolded and bound before being loaded into trucks and taken away.

Some 285 Turkish nationals in Pakistan are also at risk and Islamabad must protect them "from forcible repatriation, arbitrary arrest," according to a statement by the International Federation for Human Rights. "The Pakistani government's deportation of a Turkish family should set off alarm bells," FIDH president Dimitris Christopoulos said in the statement. The father of the family was a former director of Pak-Turk International Schools and Colleges, private schools popular in Pakistan allegedly backed by US-based Turkish preacher Fethullah Gulen's Hizmet group. Ankara accuses Gulen of masterminding a coup attempt against Erdogan's government in 2016 — an allegation the cleric strongly denies—and is seeking his extradition from the US. The other 285 Turkish nationals are teachers associated with the PakTurk schools and their families, and they have been facing deportation to Turkey since November 2016. — AFP

International

Indonesia fireworks factory explosions kill 47, injure dozens

Police are investigating the cause of fire

KOSAMBI, Indonesia: Two explosions and a fire at a fireworks factory in the western outskirts of Indonesia's capital killed 47 people and injured dozens yesterday, police said, and the death toll was expected to rise. Thick plumes of dark smoke billowed from a factory warehouse in the Tangerang district of Jakarta, an industrial and manufacturing hub on the island of Java, TV broadcasts showed. Hours later the burnout factory was still smoldering and there was a strong smell of burning plastic and chemicals.

Witnesses said there were two explosions, one at around 10 am and another about three hours later, both of which could be heard miles away, media reports said. A grisly video of the scene inside the warehouse, which was widely shared on social media, showed onlookers counting badly charred bodies. "From the manifest we obtained, there were 103 workers. Of those 103 workers ... there were 46 who were injured," Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono told Metro Television. "We also found some who had died. There are 47 bodies."

An official had earlier put the death toll at 30. Yuwono said 10 people on the manifest who

were not accounted for may have left with light injuries or not been working at the time of the blasts. The online video and media images of the PT Panca Buana Cahaya Sukses warehouse showed smoldering ash and debris, with the roof missing in some parts. A search and rescue official, Deden Nurjaman, said bodies were still inside and he expected the death toll to climb. "People were burned so badly you couldn't see their faces... It was really bad," said Nurjaman.

Death toll expected to rise

Industrial safety standards in Indonesia are often low and rules poorly enforced. There have been a series of major fires this year, including one that engulfed one of Jakarta's main markets. At the scene of yesterday's disaster, the grass was scorched in an area around 10 meters from the site. Forensic police worked in the fading light to examine the debris and were trying to set up floodlights as night fell. A nearby mosque was holding prayers for the victims.

Fiza, a doctor in the emergency unit at Tangerang General Hospital, told Metro TV he was treating seven people, some of them with burns to more than 80 percent of their bodies.



BANTEN: Indonesian forensic policemen work after a fire disaster in Tangerang Kota, Banten province yesterday.—AFP

Three were in critical condition. Syamsudin, a relative of two women who were being treated at the hospital, said the pair had only worked four days in the factory's packing division. The factory had been operating for only two months,

media said. "We are still looking into the cause of the fire," police spokesman Yuwono said, adding that for now police were prioritizing evacuating victims. Police were also investigating the factory's permit, he said.—Reuters

Thais bid final goodbye to beloved King Bhumibol

BANGKOK: A solemn but color-splashed procession streamed through Bangkok's historic heart yesterday as Thailand bade farewell to King Bhumibol Adulyadej in an elaborate, ritual-laden funeral that gripped a nation mourning the loss of its chief unifying figure. Some 300,000 black-clad mourners packed the streets from early yesterday, many weeping and prostrating themselves on the ground as a golden chariot carrying the royal urn slowly snaked through the blazing heat.

Pipers, drummers and soldiers in a dazzling array of costumes joined Buddhist monks, Brahmin priests and the new King Maha Vajiralongkorn as the procession made its way to the spectacular funeral pyre. King Vajiralongkorn led royals, junta leaders and foreign dignitaries up the central tower to lay sandalwood flowers at the pyre ahead of the cremation, scheduled for 10pm, to a haunting accompaniment chanted by traditional singers.



BANGKOK: Mourners walk past a portrait of the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej after his funeral procession outside the Grand Palace in Bangkok.—AFP

The \$90 million funeral drew a "Who's Who" of Thai power-royals, generals and establishment figures—as well as scores of foreign guests including Great Britain's Prince Andrew and Japan's Prince Akishino and Princess Akishino. For the public, the lavish affair was a chance to say a final goodbye to a monarch cherished as the "father of the nation". Bhumibol, who was crowned in 1950, towered over decades of Thai history before his death last October aged 88 seeded uncertainty in a

country ruled by a divisive junta. A brew of palace propaganda and a harsh lese majeste law burnished the king's reputation throughout his reign. But Bhumibol's intimate connection with his subjects was on display yesterday. "He was perfect. He helped the country and Thai people so much. Seventy million Thai people are united in their love for him," said 65-year-old Wacharadej Tangboonlabkun, who like most Thais knew no other monarch before Bhumibol's death.—AFP

Taiwan convict walks free after decade on death row

TAIPEI: A Taiwanese man who spent more than a decade on death row walked free yesterday after being acquitted of murder in a retrial, boosting calls for the abolition of capital punishment. Cheng Hsing-tse was condemned to death in 2002 after being found guilty of shooting a police officer during a gun battle in a karaoke parlor. The death penalty was confirmed in 2006, when he had exhausted the appeal process.

But he was granted a retrial last year and released on bail when new evidence cast doubt on his conviction, suggesting he may have been tortured into admitting the crime. The high court in central Taichung delivered its decision yesterday, overturning the original guilty verdict, saying Cheng's confession may have been forced and that evidence pointed to another culprit firing the fatal shots. "I've waited for this acquittal for 15 years," Cheng told reporters yesterday outside the court after the verdict.

Cheng was a follower of gangster Luo Wu-hsiung and was caught up in the gun battle after Luo fired a pistol at the ceiling and at bottles in a karaoke room in protest at the parlor's service. Police stormed the venue and shots were fired by both sides, killing Luo and an officer named Su Hsien-pi. Earlier verdicts found that Cheng fired the bullets that killed Su. But judges yesterday said after considering evidence of the firing positions, it could not be ruled out that Luo was the killer.—AFP

Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

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Mick Hucknall of Simply Red performs during a concert in the Ziggo Dome, in Amsterdam.— AFP

Gunpowder, explosive art as Prado museum hosts Cai Guo-Qiang

Hollywood honors Knight of the Living Dead George A Romero

U.S. filmmaker George A. Romero, whose 1968 classic “Night of the Living Dead” spawned the zombie movie genre, was posthumously honored Wednesday with a star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame. Filmmaker Edgar Wright, actor Malcolm McDowell and special effects guru Greg Nicotero paid tribute to the director, who died in July at the age of 77, at the ceremony in front of a quartet of actors made up as zombies. “I’m not sure I would be working in Hollywood right now if it wasn’t for George,” said Wright, 43, whose 2004 zombie comedy “Shaun of the Dead” went on to be a cultural touchstone of its own.

“A lot of people owe George a huge debt of gratitude for his inspiration. I’m just one of many.” Shot in black-and-white on a budget of just over \$100,000, Romero’s debut feature “Night of the Living Dead” daringly featured black actor Duane Jones as its lead. Some film scholars later suggested the movie was a subversive critique of US society during the 1960s, while its gory realism was reminiscent of footage from the Vietnam war airing on American TV at the time.

The film went on to gross over \$30 million worldwide, and led to five sequels including “Dawn of the Dead” (1978) and “Day of the Dead” (1985) — inspiring an entire genre that remains a Hollywood staple to this day and earning the nickname



George Romero's star is unveiled at the posthumous star ceremony for the late actor on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Knight of the Living Dead. Nicotero, a veteran special effects make-up artist and executive producer and regular director on AMC zombie drama “The

Walking Dead,” recalled becoming friends with the filmmaker and quitting pre-med to manage the make-up effects department on “Day of the Dead”.

“If George hadn’t come around I’d probably be removing real kidneys from people as opposed to the fake kidneys I remove on a daily basis,” said Nicotero, who grew up in Romero’s home town, Pittsburgh. “He was a man that loved movies passionately. His inspirations allowed him to change the rules to suit his style of filmmaking as he matured as a storyteller.” After the original trilogy, Nicotero penned and made a further three films, starting with “Land of the Dead” (2005), a commercial and critical hit which features Wright and “Shaun of the Dead” star Simon Pegg as zombie extras.

Romero’s other notable works include 1981’s “Knightriders,” about a traveling medieval reenactment troupe that jousts on motorcycles, and 1982’s horror anthology “Creepshow” written by Stephen King. Much of his work was shot in or around Pittsburgh, where he had attended Carnegie-Mellon University after moving away from New York, where he was born in 1940 to a Cuban father and a Lithuanian-American mother. Romero began making his own short films as a teenager and was arrested at 14 for throwing a flaming dummy off the roof of a building while making “Man from the Meteor” in 1954. The director’s widow, Suzanne Desrocher-Romero, accepted the iconic Walk of Fame’s 2,621st star on behalf of her husband, describing him as a “life force (whose) light will never be dimmed.” — AFP

Marilyn Manson axes bassist after rape allegation

Shock rocker Marilyn Manson has dismissed his bassist whose former girlfriend accused him of rape, as the furor over film mogul Harvey Weinstein’s alleged abuses spread to the music industry. Manson said he had “decided to part ways” with longtime band member Jeordie White, who has denied the rape charges. White goes by the stage-name Twiggy Ramirez and has occasionally also been the group’s lead guitarist.

“He will be replaced for the upcoming tour. I wish him well,” Manson wrote on Twitter late Tuesday without further explanation. The dismissal came five days after Jessicka Addams, a fellow Goth rock singer best known as the front-woman of the band Jack Off Jill, accused White of abuse including rape during their relationship in the 1990s. Jessicka, who generally goes by her first name only, wrote on Facebook that White raped her with his hand around her neck and that her screams of “No” were loud enough that a roommate intervened.

In an echo of the unfolding scandal around Weinstein, Jessicka said a male-dominated music industry told her to stay quiet. “The label blatantly feared the big machine behind Marilyn Manson would use their power to destroy not only Jack Off Jill, but my name, Jessicka, as well,” she wrote. “The pressure and guilt of the inevitable repercussions of my rape story affecting my band’s livelihood, happiness and success kept me silent for years,” said Jessicka, who with Jack



This file photo shows Singer/musician Marilyn Manson attending the world premiere of ‘Arthur: Legend of the Sword’ at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Off Jill later toured as an opening act for Manson. White in a statement late Wednesday said he had “only recently been made aware of these allegations from over 20 years ago.” “I do not condone non-consensual sex of any kind,” he said. “If I have caused anyone pain I apologize and truly regret it,” adding that he will “be taking some time to spend with my family and focus on maintaining my several years of sobriety.” Jessicka went public as a growing number of women in Hollywood accuse Weinstein and other men in the film industry of sexual abuse, with the women saying they were too afraid to speak up for the sake of their careers.

Jessicka, reacting on Twitter to White’s dismissal, thanked Manson and wrote that it was “imperative” for society to speak more about sexual assault. Manson, controversial for his ghoulish appearance and lyricism that dabbles in the occult, sacked White as the singer recovers from an injury when a stage prop fell on him at an October 1 concert in New York. The band is due to resume the tour on November 5. — AFP

NO COLONY CASH INJECTION TO WEINSTEIN FIRM

The scandal-plagued film studio co-founded by disgraced mogul Harvey Weinstein will no longer get funding from Colony Capital, The New York Times reported on Wednesday. The Weinstein Company announced last week that Colony, founded by Thomas Barrack, a longtime friend of US President Donald Trump, would provide an “immediate cash infusion.” It said it had also entered negotiations with Colony Capital for a full or partial sale of The Weinstein Company assets. Citing two people briefed on the matter, The Times said Colony has not and will not now provide a cash infusion, although it was unclear why. Colony is still looking at a possible purchase of Weinstein Company assets, but found more disorder and less value when it examined those assets, The Times’ sources said. They added that Colony saw bankruptcy of the studio as more likely. The Weinstein Company fired Harvey Weinstein earlier this month following numerous accusations of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

On Wednesday, a Norwegian actress became the latest of more than 50 women to publicly accuse Weinstein of misconduct ranging from inappropriate touching to rape, stretching back decades. Since the allegations emerged, questions have swirled around

whether the studio, started by Harvey and his brother Bob, could survive Harvey Weinstein’s disgraced exit. US media reported on Monday that New York’s state attorney general has opened a sweeping investigation into potential gender discrimination and civil rights violations at The Weinstein Company.

Barrack told Bloomberg TV on Tuesday that “there’s some value” to the company “if the Weinstein element could be removed.” The Times, citing three people briefed on the matter, reported Wednesday that another firm, Fortress Investment Group, has been working on a potential financing package for the studio valued at roughly \$35 million. Weinstein’s films received more than 300 Oscar nominations and 81 statuettes, according to The Weinstein Company, which he co-founded after selling Miramax. —AFP



Actress Dominique Huett, left, speaks beside her attorney Jeff Herman after a news conference to discuss her lawsuit against The Weinstein Company, in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

Blake Lively tackles blindness in new complex film role

To play a blind woman for her latest film role, Blake Lively took no short cuts into the darkness. The 30-year-old actress learned to use a walking cane, wore opaque contact lenses off-camera to better understand her character and learned how to navigate the main set without her vision. "I wanted to know the experience of filling in the blanks in my head, learning it and then opening my eyes and seeing that, no matter what I had in my head, it was so different than I imagined," she says.

Lively stars in "All I See Is You," a dreamy, beautiful movie about a woman who lost her eyesight as an adolescent in a car accident but regains her vision through surgery in her 20s. She begins a period of self-discovery, which threatens to upend her life and marriage. "That happens in all relationships, where you're in an established relationship and then you start to not see things," says Lively. "This movie speaks to relationships, I think, whether we have the literal blindness or it's just figurative."

It's the brainchild of director and co-writer Marc Forster, whose career includes varied films such as "World War Z," "Quantum of Solace," "Monster's Ball" and "The Kite Runner." Inspiration for the new film came in one of the strangest places - the shower. Forster, who has always admired fine art painters, was searching for a story that could lend itself to being painted

onscreen. "I pushed it aside because I said, 'OK, you're a filmmaker. You're not a painter. You're not a true artist. You're just a visual storyteller,'" he says. But one day in the shower, with soap clouding his eyes, he realized he had a visual template. "All I See Is You" is certainly arty, with scenes decorated with a blur of images, bleeding colors and abstract symbols, even giving physical sensations an intense visual representation. Forster says he was trying to shake the Hollywood cookie-cutter approach and recapture the



Lively wore opaque contact lenses

feel of films from the 1970s, when character studies and open-ended plots ruled. "Movies became more and more close-ended and they also had to tick every box emotionally for an audience," he says.

Indeed, Forster's film is hard to categorize - part mystery, part horror, part a woman's reawakening, part kaleidoscopic journey. He is

very happy it cannot be pigeonholed. "He's created something that I've never seen before with the visuals," says Lively. "So it was really just about taking a leap of faith with him and trusting him and being excited by that journey. But I think that if you even removed all of those visuals from this movie, it still works and that's what's important." The film also gave Lively, last seen in a bikini in "The Shallows," a meaty and complex role - though a challenging one, too, since it centers on a woman with a disability. She says she was sensitive to making sure it was correct. "This isn't representative of any one person's story. I was trying to take different peoples' experiences and be as honest as possible," she says. One person she leaned on to get her performance right was Ryan Knighton, a blind author who taught Lively how the blind walk, move and even argue.

(The filmmakers honored him by having Blakely wear his signature red-tinted glasses on-screen.) Both Lively and Forster realize that the film - featuring a woman learning to be strong and independent - comes at a time when women across the country are talking about their role in male-centered businesses and society.

"I think what's happened in this past year, since the election, is that women have really stood up for themselves. I think we realized how much further we had to go than we thought we did," Lively says. Foster, for his



This image released by Open Road Films shows Jason Clarke, left, and Blake Lively in a scene from 'All I See Is You.' —AP

part, hopes the film will remind people to open their eyes, see what's actually happening and make better choices. "We, as humanity, ultimately have to really wake up and become conscious and start seeing things," he says. "Otherwise, we're going to go down a path that will be unreturnable." —AP

'GOD WAS TOPS, BUT EARTHLY, FATS WAS IT'

Fats Domino dies at 89

The godfather of rock and roll. A performer who always gave all he had. A man who loved his city and his neighborhood. Tributes to Fats Domino are accumulating, in words and in bouquets and Mardi Gras beads left at the yellow house in New Orleans where, after Hurricane Katrina, a fan spray-painted an erroneous RIP.

The amiable rock 'n' roll pioneer, whose steady, pounding piano and easy baritone helped change popular music while honoring the traditions of the Crescent City, is dead at the age of 89. "He was one of my greatest inspirations. God was tops - but earthly, Fats was it," said singer Little Richard - another founding father of rock and roll - in a telephone interview from Nashville.

Domino died early Tuesday of natural causes, Mark Bone, chief investigator with the Jefferson Parish coroner's office, said Wednesday. Two people from New Orleans - Domino and jazz great Louis Armstrong - have changed the world's music, said Quint Davis, who produces of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival was a decades-long friend of Domino. Little Richard said he'd known Domino for 60 years and idolized him before that.

"I loved the way he played; I loved the way he was just so wrapped up in his music. He always did a good show." Domino never "slacked and cheated the people out. Every time, he gave his all," the musician said. Domino stood 5-foot-

5 and weighed more than 200 pounds, with a wide, boyish smile and a haircut as flat as an album cover. But he sold more than 110 million records, with hits including "Blueberry Hill," "Ain't That a Shame" - originally titled "Ain't It A Shame" - and other standards of rock 'n' roll.

The Rolling Stone Record Guide likened him to Benjamin Franklin, the beloved old man of a revolutionary movement. "Fats is the godfather of rock and roll," said Greg Harris, CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which made Domino one of the first 10 people it honored. He said the flag outside the hall was at half-staff Wednesday, and Domino's music was playing all day.

At the home where Domino spent most of his life, a steady stream of people showed up Wednesday with flowers, beads and cameras. One man brought a guitar and started in on "Walkin' to New Orleans." Angelina Cruz brought her three children from suburban Kenner. She said she'd listened to his songs since she was 10 years old, in North Carolina. "I'm bringing my kids up to the old-school music," she said. Domino's dynamic performance style and warm vocals drew crowds for five decades. One of his show-stopping stunts was playing the piano while standing, throwing his body against it with the beat of the music and bumping the grand piano across the stage. His 1956 version of "Blueberry Hill" was selected for the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry of his-

toric sound recordings worthy of preservation. Most people didn't appreciate the breadth of Domino's ability, Little Richard said. "He could play jazz. He could play anything," he said. "He was one of the greatest entertainers that I've ever known." Domino became a global star but stayed true to his hometown, where his fate was initially unknown after Hurricane Katrina struck in August 2005. It turned out that he and his family had been rescued by boat from his home, where he lost nearly everything he owned, including three pianos and dozens of gold and platinum records.

Many wondered if he would ever return to the stage. But in May 2007, he was back, performing at Tipitina's music club in New Orleans. Fans cheered - and some cried - as Domino played "I'm Walkin'," "Ain't That a Shame," "Shake, Rattle and Roll," "Blueberry Hill" and a host of other hits. That performance was a high-light during several rough years. His wife of more than 50 years, Rosemary, died in April 2008.

Domino moved to the New Orleans suburb of Harvey after the storm but often visited his publishing house, an extension of his old home in the Lower 9th Ward, inspiring many with his determination to stay in the city he loved. "Fats embodies everything good about New Orleans," his friend David Lind said in a 2008 interview. "He's warm, fun-loving, spiritual, creative and humble. You don't get more New Orleans than that."



In this file photo, legendary musician Fats Domino is named 'Honorary Grand Marshall' of the Krewe of Orpheus, the star-studded Carnival club that traditionally parades the night before Mardi Gras in New Orleans. — AP

The son of a violin player, Antoine Domino Jr. was born Feb 26, 1928, one of nine children. As a youth, he taught himself popular piano styles - ragtime, blues and boogie-woogie. He quit school at age 14, and worked days in a factory while playing and singing in local juke joints at night. In 1949, Domino was playing at the Hide-away Club for \$3 a week when he was signed by the Imperial record company. He recorded his first song, "The Fat Man," in the back of a tiny French Quarter recording studio.

"They call me the Fat Man, because I weigh 200 pounds," he sang. "All the girls, they love me, 'cause I know my way around." In 1955, he broke into the white pop charts with "Ain't It a Shame," covered blandly by Pat Boone as "Ain't That a Shame" and rocked out decades later under that title by Cheap Trick and others. — AP

Lifestyle



'Day and Night in Toledo' by Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang.



Two women stand in front of 'The Spirit of Painting.'

GUNPOWDER, EXPLOSIVE ART AS PRADO MUSEUM HOSTS CAI GUO-QIANG

The smell of gunpowder still lingered in Madrid's Prado museum Tuesday, just hours after China's Cai Guo-Qiang, famed for his explosive art, put the finishing touch to an exhibition inspired by Spain's greats. Better used to the work of long-dead painters, this is the first time that the museum has welcomed an artist-in-residence, whose internationally-acclaimed contemporary work stands in stark contrast to the centuries-old masterpieces normally on show.

In his exhibition, some of which was produced on-site using his trademark gunpowder, Cai sought inspiration from famous artists such as El Greco, Spain's

Francisco Goya and Diego Velazquez, as well as other painters in the collection like Peter Paul Rubens. The result? A literal explosion of colour and darkness that reveals silhouettes, faces and landscapes, at times obvious and imposing, other times small and discreet.

It's a "dialogue between today's art and the art of the past," the 59-year-old told reporters. Cai makes his work by sprinkling gunpowder over his canvases and over stencils of whatever scene or figure he wants to create or re-create, sometimes mixed with colour. Then he sets fire to the powder. Sometimes, he says, he covers the canvas and gunpowder with cardboard and bricks to make the explosion more powerful.

Valencia gunpowder really powerful

For the eight works created on-site at the Prado, he used gunpowder from a company in the eastern region of Valencia known for its annual, firecracker-mad Fallas festival—and that gave him a few scares. "Valencia gunpowder is really powerful, really strong," he said, smiling. Cai only finished his last, 18-metre-long work of art called "The spirit of painting" on Monday evening, which explained the lingering smell of gun-

powder. A burst of colors and darkness, the painting re-creates classic scenes or figures from past artists—but with a modern twist.

Goya's "The Naked Maja," an image of a reclining Venus in the nude, now appears at the top of the canvas pulled by a plane flying through a brief burst of light, as if on an advertising banner. Rubens' "Diana and her Nymphs surprised by Satyrs," which features what is considered one of the most sensual nudes in the Flemish artist's entire oeuvre, also appears in Cai's 10-canvas painting. Above the classic, stenciled scene appear stencils of trouser zippers opening up—an illustration of "carnal desire," says Cai. The exhibition is on until March 4 next year. — AFP



Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang poses during the presentation of his exhibition called 'The Spirit of Painting' at El Prado museum in Madrid. — AFP photos

“ A dialogue between today's art and the art of the past ”



Part of Indian artist Jitish Kallat's 'Circadian Rhyme 1' is displayed during the media preview for the 'Age of Terror: Art since 9/11' exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in London. — AP photos

London exhibition 'Age of Terror' explores art since 9/11

A new London exhibition about art since 9/11 begins with images - both familiar and shocking - of the devastated Twin Towers in New York. The Imperial War Museum's "Age of Terror" show goes on to display works from the United States, Britain, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and beyond, all dealing with Sept. 11, 2001 and its consequences. It's evidence, if any were needed, that the al-Qaida attacks on the U.S. changed the world.

Rebecca Newell, the museum's head of art, said Wednesday that 9/11 was "a watershed in our society, our political and cultural identity. And I think you could probably say that it's a watershed for artists." Curator Sanna Moore said that "artists have always commented on world-changing events," but research by the museum found that the number of artists reacting to conflicts has increased since the 2001 attacks.

"That was really the nucleus for where this show and this project started," she said at a preview of the exhibition. "As a consequence of the internet, artists are really rapidly informed now, as we all are. I think that feeds in to the subjects they cover." Sept 11 coincided with the birth of the internet age, and technology

helped make the airliner attacks, which killed some 3,000 people, instantly a worldwide catastrophe.

The exhibition, which opens to the public on Thursday, begins with a reminder of how global it was: a room lined with newspaper front pages from Sept 12, 2001, bearing images of destruction and headlines of war in many languages. The museum has gathered work by more than 40 artists for the biggest art show in its 100-year history. Some of the pieces pack a visceral punch: "Nein! Eleven?" by British brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman consists of twin mounds of tiny plastic bodies. Others are allusive.

Chilean artist Ivan Navarro's "The Twin Towers" appears to be two inverted skyscrapers plunging through the floor into infinity; in fact it's an optical illusion created with mirrors and fluorescent lights. Other works reflect on the growth of state control and surveillance during the "war on terror" launched by the U.S. after 9/11. Chinese artist Ai Weiwei recreates a surveillance camera in gleaming marble on a plinth, while Indian artist Jitish Kallat has sculpted a playful line of miniature people being searched, as if in an airport security queue.—AP

IMPROVISED PET GRAVEYARDS HIDDEN IN BELGRADE PARKS

“ Belgrade absolutely needs a pet cemetery ”

In a suburban forest in Serbia's capital Belgrade, dozens of small make-shift tombstones lie hidden among the greenery. Buried in this clandestine graveyard are some of the neighborhood pets, which their owners wanted close by even after they died. Improvised burial sites like this one are believed to have sprouted in recent years in Belgrade - a city of some 1.6 million people and tens of thousands of pets - as residents await the long-delayed opening of an official pet cemetery.

Belgrade city authorities have promised to soon wrap up the project that first started a decade ago - but which still remains in the planning stages. Authorities have allocated some 3.7 acres of land in a suburb, with some 2,000 burial spots planned. Experts agree an official cemetery is necessary to avoid clandestine burials in the city's green zones and downtown parks.

“Belgrade absolutely needs a pet cemetery, it's a big city and there are many pets,” said vet-

erinarian Nenad Milojkovic. Many pet owners refuse to follow the official procedure and call public services to dispose of the carcasses after their pets die, he added. With no official burial site to turn to, pet owners are using city parks as their pets' final resting place. Sasa Milovanovic, a real estate agent walking his dog Woopy in Kalemegdan park in Belgrade city center, said pet owners simply have to “manage any way they can.”—AP



In this photo, a grave of dog 'Bela' is decorated with plastic daisies at an improvised pet graveyard in the Miljakovac forest in Belgrade, Serbia. — AP photos



In this photo, a grave of golden retriever is decorated with flowers.

Street wear bringing steady growth to global luxury market

High-end street wear helped boost global sales of luxury personal goods by 5 percent this year to an estimated 263 billion euros (\$309 billion), according to a new study released Wednesday by consultancy Bain & Company. After two years of flat growth, Bain said the sector is entering a period of stability, with the same 5 percent growth projections through 2020.

“Customers are becoming younger, and that is very good for the mid- and longer-term survival of this industry, since the younger generation seemed to be a little detached from luxury brands,” said Federica Levato, a partner at Bain & Company, ahead of the study's release for the Altgamma association of luxury Italian producers.

Fashion houses have been actively courting millennials in recent seasons, inviting social media and celebrity influencers to their front rows as part of their communication strategy. But it has taken street wear to catch the interest of Generation Z born after 1995, including denim, T-shirts, rubber sliders and ironic detailing. Think of it as a Harajuku sensibility - with pastels, emojis and rainbow or unicorn detailing - taking global flight.

“There is a big market of 2.5 million euros for luxury T-shirts, for example, that is growing very fast. And a half-a-billion-euro market for rubber sliders, which is very unusual in this market,” Levato said. While street wear has proven to bring the next generation of consumers into the luxury fold, it is a double-edged sword.

“Street wear is a macro-trend in all geographies” that represents a state of mind and transcends generations, Levato said. “We think it is more about how people live their lives and how people like to dress vis-a-vis 10 or 15 years ago, when work wear was more for-

mal.” But it can be easily copied by producers of fast fashion.

To counter that, Levato said, luxury brands are putting more emphasis into branding activities including Instagram stories, creating relationships with influencers and making stores unique in each city to attract both tourists and domestic shoppers. “Once it was all about beautifying a product. Now product is just one of the many levers you use to maintain and capture your customer,” she said.—AP



Models stand backstage wearing creations part of the Daizy Shely women's Spring-Summer 2018 collection.



A model wears a creation part of the Gucci women's Fall-Winter 2017-18 collection.

Fresh thinking with Sweet potato and Brussels sprouts

By Melissa D'Arabian

A chill is finally in the air, which transforms what goes on our table. Winter squash, hardy greens like kale and chard, cabbage, cauliflower, and sweet potatoes are filling the markets and my recipe-testing table. The colder weather has me craving filling side dishes to go alongside juicy roasts and festive winter meals.

Baking sheets covered in cubed veggies offer a nutritious and weeknight-friendly solution. Cut almost any firm veggie into cubes, toss in a little olive oil and seasoning, and roast on high heat until the inside is tender and the edges are golden and caramelized. Time varies by vegetable, but most are done in the 20-30 minute range. Serve your roasted veggies with sliced beef or pork roast, or serve simply with some steamed quinoa.

Today's Sweet Potato and Brussels Sprouts Hash is filling enough to step in for less healthy options at your holiday table, but broad enough in its appeal to be eaten year-round (OK, so maybe not at your 4th of July barbecue). Brussels sprouts are teamed up with sweet potato to make a tasty oven-roasted hash that requires just minutes of prep time to cube the veggies, all of which can be done a day in advance.

Fans of sweet potatoes love that they have a lower glycemic index than their white counterparts. Garlic cloves roast up into mellow creamy pods of flavor while tart apple cubes add a welcomed touch of acidity. The hash is meant to be a plug-and-play recipe - swap out ingredients as you wish - but this combination is exactly right, so you may find yourself making this version over and over.



Ingredients

Start to Finish: 40 minutes.

Yield: 6 servings

3/4 pound medium-sized Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved, about 2 cups

1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cut into 3/4-inch cubes, about 1 1/2 cups

1 medium granny smith (or other tart) apple, peeled and cut into 3/4-inch cubes, about 1 cup

1/2 cup whole garlic cloves, peeled

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika

1/4 teaspoon smoked turmeric (optional)

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Chopped fresh chives and rosemary for garnish (optional)

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 F. In a large bowl, mix together all the ingredients except the chives and rosemary, and stir until vegeta-

bles are coated evenly with olive oil and spices. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper and spread the mixture out into a single layer. Bake until sweet potato, Brussels sprouts and garlic are tender and golden brown, about 30 minutes, stirring halfway through cook time. Sprinkle with fresh herbs if desired and serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 114 calories; 36 calories from fat; 4 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 3 mg cholesterol; 242 mg sodium; 18 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 3 g protein.



MINIATURE ROAST BIRDS FOR THANKSGIVING

Ingredients

Start to finish: 2 hours, 15 minutes (40 active)

Servings: 8

For the stuffing:

1/2 pound firm white, homemade-style sandwich bread

3/4 cup finely chopped onion

1/3 cup finely diced celery

4 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh sage

1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh thyme

1 teaspoon lemon zest

6 cooked breakfast sausages

1/2 to 3/4 cup chicken broth

For the hens:

4 Cornish hens (about 2 pounds each)

Oil for brushing the skin

For the gravy:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Giblets from the hens (save the livers for another use)

1 small onion, sliced thin

1/2 medium carrot, sliced thin

3 cups chicken broth

4 1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

Preparation

Make the stuffing: Preheat the oven to 250 F. Cut the bread into 1/2-inch cubes and spread the cubes in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake them until barely golden, about 40 minutes. Let cool to room temperature. In a medium skillet, cook the onion and celery in the butter over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Transfer the vegetables and butter to a medium bowl. Stir in the herbs, lemon zest, bread, sausages and enough of the stock to moisten the cubes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Make the hens: Preheat the oven to 450 F. Stuff each hen with 1/2 cup of the stuffing and tie the legs. Rub the oil over all the hens and arrange them in one layer on a rack in a large roasting pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast the hens for 35 minutes or until a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the leg thigh joint registers 165 F. Transfer the hens from the roasting pan to a platter and let them rest for 10 to 15 minutes.

Make the gravy: While the hens are roasting, in a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat and add the giblets, onion and carrot. Reduce the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Transfer the giblets and vegetables to a small saucepan. Simmer until the hens come out of the oven. Strain out the giblets and vegetables, return the liquid to the saucepan and bring it to a boil. In a small bowl whisk together 1/3 cup water and the flour and add it to the liquid in a stream, whisking. Add any juices from the platter with the resting hens. Simmer the mixture for a 5 minutes; salt and pepper to taste.

To serve: Cut each hen in half and transfer to 8 plates with the stuffing side down. Pour some of the gravy over each portion and serve the remainder on the side.

Serve Cornish hens instead of turkey for Thanksgiving

By Sara Moulton

On Thanksgiving Day, why not follow presidential custom and grant your turkey a pardon? Sure, the big bird has always been at the center of the traditional feast, but cooking it is almost always a headache. The problem is how long to cook it. Sometimes a 16-pound turkey is cooked to perfection in three hours flat. Sometimes it requires three hours and 45 minutes. This unpredictability makes it tough to plan the cooking of the other items on your menu and to figure out when the meal itself can begin.

That's why I'm proposing Cornish hens instead of turkey. They're at least as scrumptious as turkeys, but they're much smaller - weighing in at 1 pound to 2 pounds - making them easier to cook. They roast up much more quickly, and you don't have to wrestle them into a roasting pan to make them fit. With hens that are on the large size, you get two servings out of every bird. (After the bird has cooked and rested, slice it in half, starting at the mid-

line of the breastbone.) Stuff birds that are 1 to 1 1/4 pounds with one-third cup stuffing instead of the half-cup, and start with a cooking time of 25 minutes. You'll know they're properly cooked when the internal temperature, taken in the thickest part of the thigh, registers 165 F.

You'll be roasting these hens at a high heat, 450 F, so make sure your oven is very clean or your kitchen will smoke up. Also, use a roasting pan with high-ish sides to keep the spitting fat and juices from spraying everywhere. Once you've pulled the hens from the oven, they must rest for at least 10 to 15 minutes to guarantee a moist bird. If you try to slice it in half too soon, the juices will come streaming out. The stuffing recipe yields a little more than you'll need for four large hens. So when the hens are resting, spread out the extra stuffing in a pie plate and heat it up in the oven - covered, if you want it moist, uncovered, if you want it crispy.

Lifestyle | Food

Step aside cranberries: Try these thanksgiving chutneys

If you don't like cranberries, Thanksgiving is probably your worst nightmare. It's basically the only time of the year that they make an appearance, and if you don't eat cranberry sauce, well, why even bother? After all, the undisputed best part of Thanksgiving is assembling the perfect bite of turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce.

Not being into cranberry sauce doesn't mean that you can't or shouldn't appreciate what is great about it. Cranberry sauce works because it's the lightly sweet, ultra-tart foil to the other rich foods on our plate. Think about it. Your plate has turkey smothered in gravy (rich), stuffing (so rich), mashed potatoes (the king of rich), plus whatever other butter-covered, cream-filled, buttermilk-soaked foods your family makes every year.

But that bite of cranberry sauce helps to cleanse your palate of that somewhat grimy feeling that can come in between bites of biscuit and corn pudding. For the same reason, it's the perfect spread for your post-Thanksgiving sandwich (the undisputed second-best part of Thanksgiving).

But despite totally cornering the market on Thanksgiving fruits, cranberries are not the be-all and end-all when it comes to saucing your holiday table. These three chutney recipes from The Culinary Institute of America are fresh alternatives to sliced "can-berry" that hit the same spot from a different angle.

Chutneys are typically a sweet, sour, and savory combination of fruits, vegetables, and spices that are cooked to a stewed consistency. CIA Chef John Kowalski explains, "Chutney contains fruit and sugar to give it a sweet taste, and almost all chutney contains vinegar and perhaps onions to give it a corresponding sour flavor. Like jams and jellies, chutney can be chunky or smooth. In India, spicy chutney is usually served with curry and often with cold meats and vegetables."

The Fall Vegetable Chutney, which is similar to an Italian caponata, uses the last of the season's farmstand ingredients, like tomatoes, bell peppers, and eggplant. Because chutneys are cooked until they're soft, it's a great opportunity to use some of the produce you may have stored away in the freezer.

All of these recipes are great as written, but they're also a good jumping-off point for your own experimentation. The Mustard Fruits recipe uses dried dates, apricots, and apples, but you can use any of your favorite dried fruits, like raisins, pears, or figs. And the Cranberry-Pineapple Chutney would be just as delicious with mangoes and the addition of savory ground cumin.

FALL VEGETABLE CHUTNEY

Ingredients

Makes about 3 cups
Start to finish: 40 minutes (Active time: 15 minutes)

1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 medium eggplant (about 1 pound), chopped
2 plum tomatoes, chopped
1/2 yellow onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 cup white wine vinegar
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Preparation

In a large saucepan, combine the bell peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, onion, garlic, vinegar, brown sugar, salt, pepper flakes, and cloves. Bring to a boil over medium heat, then reduce to a simmer. Cover and cook until the vegetables begin to soften, about 10 minutes. Uncover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are softened and the sauce has reduced to a syrup consistency, about 25 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

CRANBERRY PINEAPPLE CHUTNEY

Ingredients

Makes about 3 1/2 cups
Start to finish: 20 minutes
1/2 pineapple, chopped (about 4 cups)
1 1/2 cups cranberries, fresh or frozen
1 serrano or jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
1/4 cup golden raisins
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Preparation

In a medium saucepan, combine the pineapple, cranberries, peppers, raisins, vinegar, water, brown sugar, ginger, and salt. Bring to a boil over medium heat, then reduce to a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the pineapple is soft, the cranberries have burst, and the sauce is syrupy, about 15 minutes (the mixture will thicken more as it cools). Serve warm or at room temperature.



Put pumpkin puree to work as part of a frozen winter treat

By Melissa D'Arabian

All four of my daughters love frozen acai bowls because they feel like you're eating ice cream for breakfast, except healthier. If you haven't hopped on the acai bowl craze, allow me to update you. Superfood acai berry puree is blended up with fruit - usually berries or banana - and then served thick, creamy and semi-frozen, topped with granola, fruit, nuts or other goodies.

You can buy gorgeous berry-topped bowls at juice bars across the country, or make your own by blending up the base, pouring it into individual bowls and freezing. Once frozen solid, they'll last for weeks. But, you'll need to let it soften a little to

achieve the desired consistency, which means this is a great make-ahead breakfast. Stock up the freezer with frozen bowls, and pull them out as needed to thaw a few minutes on the counter, adding toppings, and eat.

But frozen breakfast bowls are also fantastic as a to-go snack in a lunchbox: an icepack slows down the thawing enough to have the bowl at the perfect texture about two hours later. And don't worry if you miss the mark: even if it completely thaws, the bowl stays tasty, even if more smoothie-bowl-esque than ice-creamy.

Today, I'm winterizing this summertime treat by swapping out the acai and bringing in the beloved flavors of the season in my Pumpkin and Spice Breakfast Bowl. Pumpkin puree is not only

perfectly seasonal, but it boasts a ton of vitamin A (more than a day's worth in one serving), and a smattering of other vitamins, minerals and fiber. And, it's naturally sweet so not a lot of extra sugar is needed to make this breakfast feel like more of an indulgence than it actually is. Loading up the freezer with these bowls is an excellent plan-ahead strategy, whether you're a mom of four, or you just want to streamline your mornings.



PUMPKIN AND SPICE BREAKFAST BOWLS

Ingredients

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 15 minutes, plus freezing and thawing time

Base:

1 large ripe banana, sliced

1 1/2 cups canned pumpkin puree

1 cup reduced fat vanilla Greek yogurt

3/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (or mix of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and allspice)

Topping:

2 small apples, thinly sliced

1/4 cup pecan halves or pieces

1/4 cup raw oats

4 teaspoons maple syrup

Preparation

Place all the ingredients for the base into a blender and blend until creamy and smooth, about one minute. (Tip: Blend on low. You may need to start and stop blender, breaking up the ingredients using a wooden spoon when NOT blending.) Divide the blended mixture among four individual freezer-safe bowls or to-go containers. Top and eat as is for a smoothie bowl. Or, freeze for at least 30 minutes, or up to a month (covered). Just before serving, top with apples, pecans, oats and the maple syrup drizzled on top. Breakfast bowl can then be eaten frozen like an ice cream: Allow a frozen solid bowl to soften a little before - at room temperature, this will take approximately 20 minutes. In a lunchbox with an ice pack, the ideal frozen eating time is 1-2 hours after removing from the freezer. If the bowls "overthaw," simply enjoy them as smoothie bowls.

Chef's Note: Customize your toppings swapping in nuts, seeds, fruit, berries, chia seeds, hemp hearts, or shaved coconut.

Double identity

Strasbourg on the French-German border



Strasbourg is the capital of France's Alsace region and just a two-hour train ride from Paris. But it's also just 2 miles from the border of Germany, and a popular port call for cruises down the Rhine River. The waterway threads a region that for centuries has had strong roots in both French and German culture. Part of Strasbourg, a city of 250,000, looks classically French, with bakeries and flower shops lining narrow, winding streets.



The old Tanner's District, where leather craftsmen dried hides on the open top floors of leaning wood-timber buildings, could have been ripped out of "Beauty and the Beast." The other side of town, the German Quarter, is dominated by wide boulevards and muscular construction that went up during a building boom in the late 19th century.

A war trophy

The city's double cultural identity testifies to the Alsace region's dubious distinction as the

regular spoils of war, beginning with the French king Louis XIV, winner of the Thirty Years' War over the German-speaking Holy Roman Empire. Since then, Alsace has come under German control twice, for nearly 50 years ending with World War I and again during the Nazi occupation. "At the end of World War II, the only thing the Alsacians wanted was peace," said lifelong resident Catherine Mog, a tour guide whose grandfather changed nationalities three times during his lifetime. Now, Strasbourg proudly displays itself as an example of European unity. German citizens



easily take the tram from the east side of the Rhine to work in the center. The city is home to several major continental organizations, including the European Parliament, where representatives come from Brussels for a few days each month to cast votes in a modern cylindrical building on the edge of town.

Dominating the skyline above it all is the single tower of the asymmetrical cathedral, which was the tallest building in the world for more than 200 years and remains a wonder of late-Gothic masonry. Wisps of red sandstone rods run the length of the lacy facade, which is covered in thousands of life-sized figures. A planned second tower was never built; it would have been too heavy.

Rue Merciere leads away from the western side of the cathedral, past touristy sidewalk cafes and into a square with an antique carousel and a statue of Johannes Gutenberg, who experimented with the printing press when he lived in town in the mid-1400s. A few blocks away the little Ill River curves around the southern part of the old town.

Wine for what ails you

Just across the river in the Petite France neighborhood is one of Strasbourg's most unusual attractions: a centuries-old wine cellar, Cave des Hospices Strasbourg, located in the historical wing of a modern medical complex. Here thousands of bottles with the hospital's label await buyers in a small, subterranean boutique. The story goes that the hospital, like many

others in France, once accepted property such as vineyards from wealthy patients who couldn't otherwise cover their bill. Carmelite monks who cared for the sick also tended to the vines and made the wine.

The hospital also prescribed to ailing patients in the 14th century up to 2 liters of wine per day. "It was better for you than the water that was available, and it was the only painkiller around," said cellar master Thibaut Baldinger. Of course, the practice of getting deathly ill patients drunk eventually went the way of leeches and phrenology. But the vinegary odor of centuries of spills still fills the air under the cellar's stone arches, and iron bars guard a precious riesling blend from 1472, the oldest barreled white wine in the world. Baldinger unlocked the gate with a heavy key, pulled a cork from the top of the barrel and held it under my nose. Caramelized vanilla, honey and wax. Sneaking a taste would have been unwise, even fatal, because of the wine's astronomical acidity.

The hospital stopped fermenting wine in the cellar in 1990, and winemakers in the region banded together to renovate the barrels. Now, they age a portion of their best wines there for six to 10 months, imparting different qualities to the same vintage. "These bottles are to be drunk with far less moderation than other wines," Baldinger said, noting that profits from the boutique go straight to the hospital's balance sheet. "But only after you get rid of your four-wheeled or two-wheeled vehicle, because our emergency services couldn't handle it." — AP



Lifestyle



Minnie Mouse Maze
Help Minnie ski her way to the finish line!

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DID YOU KNOW?



There are around 2000 different plant types that humans use to cultivate food.

Examples of popular vegetables include lettuce, carrots, asparagus, cauliflower, broccoli, spinach, potatoes and onions. The sweet potato is a root vegetable and is not closely related to the potato.

Cutting onions releases a gas which causes a stinging sensation when it comes into contact with your eyes. Your body produces tears to dilute the irritant and remove it from your eyes.

Pumpkins are usually labeled as vegetables but they contain seeds and are technically fruit.

China is the largest producer of garlic, producing over 10 million tons in 2008 and accounting for over 75 percent of world output.

Examples of popular fruits include apples, oranges, pears, strawberries, peaches, bananas, apricots and grapes. The average apple contains around 130 calories.

India is the world's largest producer of bananas, producing nearly 22 million tons in 2007.

Humans use many different methods for gathering food which include farming, hunting, gardening, foraging and fishing.

Humans eat meat from a number of different animals, common examples include meat from chickens, cows, sheep and pigs. Other food products that come from animals include milk, eggs and honey.

Although humans are omnivores (eating both plants and animals), many people choose not to eat meat and fish, they are known as vegetarians. Those who don't eat or use any products made from animals (including eggs, dairy products and honey) are known as vegans.

Food for human consumption is typically made from plants and animals but we also eat other products such as fermented foods and fungus (mushrooms, truffles etc).

Cooking is an important part of food preparation that involves applying heat. In most cases this transforms the chemical makeup of food, altering its texture, flavor, nutritional properties and appearance.

Types of equipment used in the cooking process include ovens, microwaves, toasters, grills, pots and frying pans.

Various cooking methods include boiling, simmering, steaming, sautéing, pan frying and deep-frying.

Around 70 million people suffer from food poisoning every year with around 7 million of these cases being fatal. Careful food storage, temperature control and preparation is necessary to avoid potentially dangerous bacteria, toxins and viruses.

Around 8 percent of children and 2 percent of adults have some kind of food allergy, this occurs when the body's immune system incorrectly assumes a certain food protein is harmful and attacks it. Common examples of food allergies include reactions to peanuts, gluten and shellfish.

SUDOKU

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COLOR ME



Comic

WORD SEARCH

80's Radio Hitmakers

Find and circle all of the 1980's music artists that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a hit song by the Bangles.

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| ASIA | ERASURE | NENA | THE FIXX |
| BANGLES | EURHYTHMICS | NEW ORDER | THE MOTELS |
| BERLIN | FALCO | PRINCE | THE POLICE |
| BILLY JOEL | FOREIGNER | QUEEN | TIFFANY |
| BILLY OCEAN | GENESIS | QUIET RIOT | TOM PETTY |
| BLONDIE | HEART | ROXETTE | TONI BASIL |
| BON JOVI | INXS | SCANDAL | TOTO |
| CHICAGO | JOURNEY | SOFT CELL | VAN HALEN |
| DAVID BOWIE | KAJAGOOGOO | TALK TALK | WANG CHUNG |
| DEBARGE | MADNESS | TEARS FOR FEARS | WHAM! |
| DURAN DURAN | MADONNA | THE CARS | |

Yesterday's Solution

70's Songs

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| ANGIE | FAME | LOVIN' YOU | RICH GIRL |
| BASE | FREE BIRD | LOWDOWN | ROXANNE |
| 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 | MONEY | SUPERSTITION |
| CONVOY | ISLAND GIRL | NIGHT MOVES | THE JOKER |
| CRACKLIN' ROSIE | JIVE TALKIN' | OH-OH | TRAGEDY |
| CROCODILE ROCK | LAYLA | POP MUZIK | VENUS |
| DANCING QUEEN | LE FREAK | RHIANNON | WATERLOO |
| DREAMING | LOLA | RHINESTONE COWBOY | YOUR SONG |
| DREAMS | | | |

The hidden song is: TIE A YELLOW RIBBON 'ROUND THE OLE OAK TREE

CROSSWORD 1746



ACROSS

- Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
- Not chaste.
- The seventh and last day of the week.
- Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
- A member of the Finnish people living in Karelia in northwestern European Russia.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A city in east central Texas.
- Give in, as to influence or pressure.
- A unit of information equal to 1024 bytes.
- A person of unquestioning obedience.
- A member of the Siouan people living in the Yazoo river valley in Mississippi.
- Type genus of the Apidae.
- The highest level or degree attainable.
- A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- Muslim name for God.
- (Greek mythology) The Greek personification of death.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A city of central Russia south of Moscow.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- Any of various large tropical carnivorous lizards of Africa Asia and Australia.
- A chemical compound containing the azido group combined with an element or radical.
- An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
- (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
- In a shrewd manner.
- A plane curve formed by the intersection of a right circular cone and a plane parallel to an element of the curve.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- Type genus of the Amidae.
- A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- Time without end.
- A transuranic element.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- A prophet of the first century.
- Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.

DOWN

- An awkward stupid person.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- A mature blood cell that contains hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the bodily tissues.
- A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles.
- Australian clover fern.
- The men who man a ship or aircraft.
- Capital of the state of Montana.
- On or toward the lee.
- In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
- Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.
- Half the width of an em.
- Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
- A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- An official language of the Republic of

- South Africa.
 19. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
 21. A city is east central Sweden north north-west of Stockholm.
 24. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
 27. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
 29. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
 30. Designating a solution containing 1 mole of solute per 1000 grams of solvent.
 31. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
 32. Of the blackest black.
 34. Of or concerning Qatar.
 35. Away from the mouth or oral region.
 36. Speak in a nasal voice.
 38. The dialect of Albanian spoken in northern Albania and Yugoslavia.
 40. (linguistics) Belonging to the class of nouns that denote living beings.
 42. Erect European annual often grown as a salad crop to be harvested when young and tender.
 45. Veloute sauce seasoned with herbs and shallots and capers.
 48. Gymnastic apparatus consisting of two parallel wooden bars supported on uprights.
 49. A city in southern California (southeast of Los Angeles).
 50. United States conductor (born in Japan in 1935).
 53. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
 55. The capacitance of a capacitor that has an equal and opposite charge of 1 coulomb on each plate and a voltage difference of 1 volt between the plates.
 56. Not affected by a chemical substance (es-

- pecially alcohol).
 58. Feeling or showing extreme anger.
 60. An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
 62. A doctor's degree in music.
 63. The means of connection between things linked in series.
 64. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
 66. Having leadership guidance.
 67. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
 72. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
 73. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
 42. The skin that covers the top of the head.
 45. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
 47. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
 50. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
 52. Speaking a Slavic language.
 54. A unit of magnetic flux density equal to one weber per square meter.
 56. The epithelial tissue of the endometrium.
 58. United States astronomer (1835-1909).
 61. A small horizontal rope between the shrouds of a sailing ship.
 63. Xerophytic evergreen shrubs.
 65. Mix up or confuse.
 66. Small shrubby African tree having compound leaves and racemes of small fragrant green flowers.
 69. Uttering in an irritated tone.
 70. A low vibrating sound typical of a contented cat v l.
 72. Characteristic of false pride.
 73. Very dark black.
 74. A native or inhabitant of Denmark.
 77. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
 78. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily Sudoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings

05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Guess This House
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Jekyll And Hyde
09:00 Jekyll And Hyde
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
17:00 It's Not Rocket Science
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
22:00 It's Not Rocket Science
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
01:00 Patton 360
02:00 Monster Quest
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
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
10:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
11:00 Smartest Guy In The Room
11:30 Smartest Guy In The Room
12:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
13:00 Patton 360
14:00 Monster Quest
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
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 Warriors
23:00 Smartest Guy In The Room
23:30 Smartest Guy In The Room



00:20 The Warfighters
01:10 WW2 Treasure Hunters
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Ax Men
06:50 Time Team
07:40 Cars That Made America
09:20 Swamp People
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 Mystery Pickers
12:40 American Restoration
13:30 Pawn Stars South Africa
13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
14:20 Pawn Stars
14:45 Pawn Stars
15:10 Counting Cars
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
16:50 Alone
17:40 Alone
18:30 Leepu And Pitbull
19:20 Cars That Made America
21:00 American Pickers
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Storage Wars

22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald



00:45 Route Awakening
01:10 Carnival Eats
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Places We Go
02:35 Home Strange Home
03:30 Home Strange Home
04:25 Street Food Around The World
04:50 Street Food Around The World
05:20 Carnival Eats
05:45 Eat Street
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Places We Go
08:05 Home Strange Home
09:00 Home Strange Home
09:55 Street Food Around The World
10:20 Street Food Around The World
10:50 Carnival Eats
11:15 Eat Street
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Places We Go
13:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:35 Home Strange Home
14:30 Home Strange Home
15:25 What's For Sale?
15:50 What's For Sale?
16:20 Stepping Out
16:45 Street Food Around The World
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 What's For Sale?
19:30 What's For Sale?
20:00 Stepping Out
20:30 Street Food Around The World
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Places We Go
23:20 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
23:50 Home Strange Home



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



03:45 Wild Case Files
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Lion Gangland
06:30 Wild 24
07:25 Wild Case Files
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Wild Indochina
11:05 Lion Ranger
12:00 Shark vs Predator
12:55 Snow Leopard Of Afghanistan
13:50 Wild 24
14:45 Wild Case Files
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Animal Outlaws
18:25 Gorilla Murders
19:20 Wild Case Files
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Animal Outlaws
22:40 Gorilla Murders
23:30 Shark vs Predator



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 One Crazy Cruise
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 Rufus
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines

01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:35 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
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17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine



01:45 Inspector Gadget
03:15 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
04:50 Treasure Planet
06:30 Little Women
08:30 Inspector Gadget
09:55 A Bug's Life
11:40 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
13:15 Wall-E
15:00 The Emperor's New Groove
16:25 Max Keeble's Big Move
17:55 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
20:20 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2:

Dead Man's Chest
22:50 Wall-E



01:30 Break Point
03:05 Hard Promises
04:45 Leap Of Faith
06:35 The Golden Child
08:15 Once Upon A Crime
10:00 Leap Of Faith
11:55 The Golden Child
13:35 Once Upon A Crime
15:15 Made In America
17:10 Meet Dave
18:45 Don Verdean
20:25 The Out Of Towners
22:00 Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse
23:40 Drunk Wedding



00:05 Guernica
02:10 Brooklyn
04:10 The Better Angels
06:00 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
08:00 No God No Master
09:45 Brooklyn
11:40 Lorenzo's Oil
14:00 Experimentator
15:45 Reds
19:05 The Client
21:10 Amores Perros
23:45 The Revenant



01:05 The Apple & The Worm
02:25 A Town Called Panic
03:45 Rainbow Valley Heroes
05:20 Micropolis
06:50 Meet The Robinsons
08:30 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas
09:50 Pacific Pirates
11:20 Crazy Planet
12:40 A Town Called Panic
14:00 Rainbow Valley Heroes
15:40 Elias And The Royal Yacht
17:10 Pacific Pirates
18:40 Frog Kingdom
20:15 Two Buddies And A Badger
21:45 Elias And The Royal Yacht
23:15 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Evil Knows! In The Name Of Science
02:10 Rise Of The Machines
03:00 Dangerman
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Mythbusters: The Search
06:12 Rise Of The Machines
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Dangerman
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Rise Of The Machines
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Mythbusters: The Search
11:26 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 Mythbusters: The Search
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Rise Of The Machines
17:50 Dangerman
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How The Universe Works
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Rise Of The Machines
22:00 How The Universe Works
22:50 Dangerman



01:30 John Rabe
03:00 Ironclad
05:00 Half Light
06:45 From Dusk Till Dawn
08:20 Woman In Gold
10:15 My Boss's Daughter
11:45 Carjacked
13:15 Tiptoes
14:45 John Rabe
16:15 O2:22
18:00 Gone Baby Gone
20:00 Tomorrowland
22:15 The Dead Girl
23:45 Jersey Girl



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



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Little People, Big World
06:45 Little People, Big World
07:30 Little People, Big World
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quits
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love At First Swipe
11:17 Love, Lust Or Run
11:40 Love At First Swipe
12:02 Love, Lust Or Run
12:25 Love At First Swipe
12:47 Love At First Swipe
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:40 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 Cake Boss
18:20 Cake Boss
18:50 Outdaughters: Busby Quits
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quits
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 Diagnose Me

Stars

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

On this particular day you might want to split yourself into two people and be at work making money as well as at home, preparing for the seasonal changes around your living area. You get started early doing little things around the house before you head off to work. After work this afternoon you can listen to music and dance through to the end of your chores. Later you can use the time to pretend you are in some exercise spa and complete your work with a rewarding steam bath. Tomorrow you can spend more time shopping. You are happy to encourage family members to pick out a few pumpkins. Having dinner delivered would also be a reward tonight. Relax—you had a big day but you are happy as you think of the possible loss of weight this day.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

You may be called upon to act quickly this morning—perhaps a neighbor or friend needs your assistance. People want to show their appreciation for your ability to act and get things done quickly and this will also take a little time. You organize and administer people and projects at work as well. This is a talent few people can share but you are good at getting people to do difficult things and good at organizing and encouraging teams. You can figure that most days you will be included in solving difficulties. This could mean that you are in charge of an office or you are in charge of a sports team. You are successful and your mindset is to achieve success through hard work. Be wise and know the timing for your request. Your luck continues.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

You have an excellent drive to accomplish your goals this day. You make it a point to consider others as you go about your day. Customers ask for you because of your show of concern, your courteousness and your memory. Keep up the good work; it is not magic, it is hard work and may take much mental exercise. You also have a little fun trying to communicate through your psychic mind instead of verbally. There are plenty of surprises when you do this, and in many ways you have become very good at reading body language whether your contact with people is through retail customers or business contacts. As one of your most important responsibilities this month comes to a close, you clear away anything of yours that does not serve you.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

You can use your skills and expertise to solve problems. You demonstrate great understanding of and sensitivity to the needs of others and you are in a good position to communicate concerning business or social affairs. There is a sense of emotional coolness or detachment at the personal level, combined with an emphasis on duty. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns—and you may have little tolerance for people who do not operate at this level. Easy does it... Everyone has different intentions or goals. Stop and help a mate or child to learn positive things about him- or herself and you will have a friend forever. Be sure to get outside at some time during daylight hours. Enjoy the fresh air—perhaps a brisk walk with a friend.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

Your creativity and artistic disposition move you toward your goals. Increasing confidence in your expressive abilities opens the way for you to realize your fondest dreams. Sports and recreational activities can be enjoyed this afternoon. You enjoy a bit of competition as well as the perks of improving your fitness level while you enjoy yourself. You teach love to all that come to know you. G. W. C. Thomas once said, "there is no greater love than the love that holds on where there seems nothing left to hold on to." you have great compassion. The quieter surroundings of this evening encourage you to complete tasks. You might think about dividing your collections and finding ways to display or show off your collections.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

You have a good attitude and others notice your willingness to lend a helping hand, regardless of your own plans. You enjoy giving aid and encouragement to others. A co-worker friend may need help or may need to borrow an item and whatever the case, you are willing to pitch in and help bring any stressful situations to a close. Balance is very important, meaning that rest, play, nourishment, exercise, interaction with others and fulfilling your responsibilities are all important in making up the whole of your days. You spend very little time gawking at the difficulties and you concentrate on bringing those difficulties to an end. Now is a good time to talk over options regarding a new career. You are inspired to reach out with your talents.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

You and a co-worker may consider taking a class to expand your vision of possibilities. Perhaps you and your friend would enjoy a class on creative writing, oil painting, skydiving, inline skating, astrology, astronomy or any other subject that might impel an interest. You have a lot of energy for improving your life situation and just being in the educational environment, you may find yourself interested in more knowledge. This is a good time to think and study—you have a real appreciation for innovative thinking and may find yourself involved in some talk of a new invention. Tonight you will work on a budget as you look for ways to put aside money for this new invention. Don't forget to have that rainy day money for repairs during the winter months.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Your wit and communication skills are keen today. The root cause of a professional problem may be found and eliminated at this time. You can also reduce any business difficulties and this is a good time to diminish health problems. You are in a fine frame of mind, especially in thinking outside the box, so to speak. Pay attention to your intuition. Use your imagination to promote yourself or any of your special interests. Pet topics seem uppermost in your mind this afternoon—perhaps you are enjoying a new pet. This afternoon is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. Close relationships take on more emotional depth, power and importance. Plan an evening alone with your loved one.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

The library holds many self-help books or recorded books that will give you tools to deal with whatever you feel needs changing. This could be difficult personalities, or how to do a multitude of tasks and hobbies. Take some time after work today to cull through a few of these books and try some of the techniques for yourself. You may find some new insights that will help you handle a difficult person in some area of your life. Learning what motivates the human mind will help you understand. Emotional seriousness, a sober orientation and a practical awareness of the nature of time are the keynotes of your deepest feelings now. Check out a book of jokes while you are at the library—use laughter to lighten the spirit.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Activity in the career sector could get interesting. You are growing and learning and achieving and higher-ups are noticing. Your own ambition is strong. A partner or co-worker is in sync with your own goals and you will find working together very productive at this time. This may or may not be a regular working day for you—whatever the case, you are able to make great headway at whatever task is in front of you. Ideas and interaction with authority figures may be in the forecast. Working with rather than against the flow of energy should be easy to do. You can speak and write more gracefully than most and you express affection well. You enjoy being with a close companion tonight. Harmony in relationships is favored.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

If you are looking for some professional advice today, you will find an interested person tuned to your frequency—really! Help is available for the asking. You appreciate others who have been successful and may surround yourself with those in power—be they politicians, officials, etc. Your sense of quality may amount to some sort of livelihood for you. You could make your living with your good taste. In addition, you have an innate sense of how to work with and guide others in making decisions. You become more insightful and innovative in your ideas and ability to communicate. Unique approaches to study, research or any kind of inquiry position are worth your close attention. You may help a family member with financial planning this evening.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

You may be thinking of dieting today but give some thought to the recommended diets for your particular lifestyle. Make your nutrition as balanced as possible and then move forward with your diet plans. There is no lack of energy or drive here—nothing can stand in your way. Everything is poured into making the right moves—the correct decisions. You are outgoing, enthusiastic and always diplomatic—everybody's favorite. You have a natural instinct for making the correct move at the right time. Politics seems unavoidable. A co-worker may call you for your advice this afternoon. You have a no-nonsense approach and are willing to lend others your wisdom. You investigate the realities and see the necessity for accepting life as it is.

COUNTRY CODES

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

Health

Plague alert over Madagascar's dance with the dead

ANTANANARIVO: In Madagascar, ceremonies in which families exhume the remains of dead relatives, rewrap them in fresh cloth and dance with the corpses are a sacred ritual. But an outbreak of plague sweeping the Indian Ocean island nation has prompted warnings that the macabre spectacle, known as the turning of the bones or body turning, presents a serious risk of contamination.

On a recent baking hot Saturday in Ambohi-jafy, a village outside the capital Antananarivo, a "turning" procession snaked through the streets in a fevered carnival atmosphere bound for the cemetery. For the community's few hundred residents, the time for "famadihana"—the local name for the ceremony—had arrived.

The unique custom, originating among communities that live in Madagascar's high plateau, draws crowds every winter to honor the dead and to honor their mortal wishes. "It is one of Madagascar's most widespread rituals," historian Mahery Andrianahag said. "It is necessary to assure cosmic harmony... it satisfies our desire to respect and honor the ancestors so that they can be blessed and one day return."

At the head of the procession, 18-year-old Andry Nirina Andriatsitohaina eagerly awaited the big moment as a uniformed band played on loud trumpets. "I am extremely proud to go to

rewrap the bones of my grandmother and all of our ancestors. I will ask them for blessings and success in my school leavers' exams," he said.

'Ask for blessings'

In front of the family mausoleum, the assembled men dug into the earth and opened the tomb's door as women and children looked on. One by one, the wrapped remains were carried out into the open and carefully placed on a mat where they were rewrapped, or "turned" in the new shrouds. Oly Ralalarisoa, 45, was overcome with emotion. "I am so happy to be able to exhume my great-great-great-grandfather. It means that their descendants can ask for blessings for the next nine years."

Relatives invite all their fellow villagers to attend the ceremony and to take part in the procession as well as musical and food festivities, but the wrapping of the body is a purely family affair. The dead may be "turned" more than once but only every five, seven or nine years, and can be wrapped in several shrouds if different parts of the family or loved ones want to honor them.

'Fulfil my duty'

Close by, Isabel Malala Razafindrakoto had tears in her eyes as she held the wrapped body of her son, who died aged just three years old.



ANTANANARIVO: People carry a body wrapped in a sheet after taking it out from a crypt, as they take part in a funerary tradition called the Famadihana in the village of Ambohi-jafy, a few kilometers from Antananarivo, on September 23, 2017. — AFP

"I am happy to once again see my son and to fulfill my duty," she said. The customary ritual, rather than a religious rite, can be shocking for some, but for those taking part, it is an intense celebration accompanied by music, dancing and singing, fuelled by alcoholic drinks.

As the gathering in the Ambohi-jafy cemetery drew to a close, the bodies were carefully re-

turned to their resting places after one last dance. As soon as the ritual was over, the mats on which the bodies were laid were pulled up. Veteran participants will store them under their mattresses until the next famadihana. Looking after the mats is often seen in Madagascar as bringing good luck. But some doctors warn that they can also transmit germs and infections. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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Kuwait Times Classifieds

Friday, October 27, 2017

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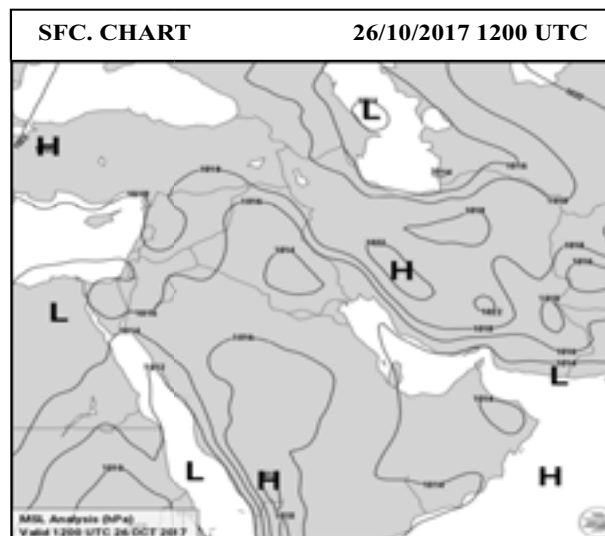
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for mist forming.

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h.

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

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	38 °C	22 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	39 °C	20 °C
ABDALY	39 °C	20 °C
BUBYAN	32 °C	19 °C
JAHRA	39 °C	21 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	33 °C	22 °C
SALMIYAH	34 °C	26 °C
AHMADI	32 °C	25 °C
NUWAISIB	41 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	39 °C	21 °C
SALMY	39 °C	21 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	10/27	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	37 °C	20 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Saturday	10/28	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	37 °C	20 °C	S-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Sunday	10/29	Relatively hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	35 °C	21 °C	SE	12 - 38 km/h
Monday	10/30	Relatively hot and Relatively humid with a chance for fog forming	36 °C	21 °C	SE-S	12 - 32 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.	39 °C
MIN. Temp.	22 °C
MAX. RH	93 %
MIN. RH	12 %
MAX. Wind	S 36 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaheel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967

LOST

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 Hojefa
Badodiya Wala. Mob:
97434760. (C 5353)
26-10-2017

EMERGENCY

112



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

Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

38 Fed chair choice down to Powell and Taylor: Report**39** US jobless claims rise as labor market tightens**41** ECB takes first step to scale back support for eurozone

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right) meeting with British businessman and founder of Virgin group Richard Branson in the capital Riyadh yesterday. —AFP

New Saudi mega-city will be listed publicly: CP

Virgin's Branson accepts Saudi city board role

RIYADH: The \$500 billion mega-city planned by Saudi Arabia will be floated on financial markets alongside oil giant Saudi Aramco as part of the kingdom's drive to diversify away from oil, the crown prince told Reuters in an interview late on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Virgin Group's Richard Branson said yesterday he has accepted a board position on large development projects in Saudi Arabia.

"I will invest. I've been asked to be ... on the board of one or two of your city projects - your Red Sea Project - and am delighted to accept," he told an investment conference in the capital Riyadh. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also said Aramco's initial public offering is on track for next year and the national oil giant could be valued at more than \$2 trillion - a sum some investors have said appears unrealistically high. His surprise announcement about the listing

of NEOM, a 26,500-square km (10,230-square mile) zone that will extend into Jordan and Egypt, is the latest and most extraordinary in a slate of privatization programs led by the floating of Aramco. The futuristic high tech hub looks set to become a flagship of reforms championed by Prince Mohammed to create jobs, encourage entrepreneurs and permit new freedoms among Saudis steeped in religious puritanism and dependence on the state.

"The first capitalist city in the world ... this is the unique thing that will be revolutionary," said Prince Mohammed, heir to the throne of the largest Arab economy, an absolute monarchy. "Without a doubt, at the end of the day NEOM will be floated in the markets. The first zone floated in the public markets. It's as if you float the city of New York."

The 32-year-old spoke on the sidelines of the

Future Investment Initiative conference, which has attracted nearly 4,000 delegates from around the world to Riyadh this week.

On Aramco's IPO, he said: "We are on track in 2018... but the listing (details) are still under discussion ... It will be IPO-ed in 2018." Switching between English and Arabic, sometimes in the same sentence, the prince seemed most excited discussing his plans for the new city.

Focus on growth

Adjacent to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba and near maritime trade routes that use the Suez Canal, the zone will serve as a gateway to the proposed King Salman Bridge, which will link Egypt and Saudi Arabia. NEOM will be fully owned by Saudi Arabia's sovereign Public Investment Fund (PIF) until its listing, and will attract investments from companies in renewable

energy, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and entertainment, the PIF has said.

"It won't be listed in the markets until the idea is mature enough," Prince Mohammed said. "It might be after 2030, it might be before, but the idea and the strategy is to float it eventually."

The new city will not follow the rules and regulations enforced in the rest of Saudi Arabia, which imposes sharia law based on a strict Wahhabi interpretation of Islam. It will offer residents a more liberal lifestyle, allowing musical concerts and entertainment in a remote corner of the desert kingdom. Saudi Arabia has already started to relax some long-standing rules, including what was an effective ban on women driving. Prince Mohammed said the city could appoint a board of directors and government (chief executive) whose only responsibility will be to stimulate economic activity. — Agencies

Business

Fed chair choice down to Powell and Taylor: Report

Trump calls Yellen 'impressive'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's search for the next chair of the US Federal Reserve has come down to Fed Governor Jerome Powell and Stanford University economist John Taylor, Politico yesterday cited one source as saying, while another counseled caution. Trump has said he was considering both Powell and Taylor, but that he also liked current Fed Chair Janet Yellen very much. Politico cited an unnamed source who talks regularly to Trump as saying the only finalists were Powell and Taylor.

Another unnamed senior source that Politico described as very close to the process said it was not safe to assume Trump will nominate Powell or Taylor for the top spot at the central bank, saying he "changes his mind about it every day."

A White House official told Reuters: "No final decision has been made."

Trump has been considering a short list for the post that also includes his top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, and former Fed Governor Kevin Warsh.

A senior administration official said on Wednesday that Trump was unlikely to nominate Cohn, who is helping to lead White House efforts to push a big tax cut package through Congress. Warsh's chances at the job have also appeared to fade, according to media reports, and Politico reported that its source who talks regularly to Trump said Warsh was out of the running. As recently as Wednesday, Trump had

indicated Yellen was still on the list he was considering, although he suggested he was interested in making his own mark on the Fed.

"I liked her a lot," Trump said of a recent meeting he held with Yellen. "I mean, it's somebody that I am thinking about," he told Fox News Channel. In a separate interview with Fox Business Network which aired earlier this week, Trump said he would consider either Powell or Taylor for the top Fed post and the other for another top job at the central bank.

Yellen, who was nominated by former Democratic President Barack Obama, has chaired the Fed since early 2014. Her term expires in February.

Whoever Trump selects would need to be confirmed by the Senate. The Republican president is looking to announce a Fed chair nominee before leaving on a trip to Asia on Nov. 3 to give his choice time to go through the confirmation process.

Meanwhile, Trump on Wednesday called Fed chair Janet Yellen "very impressive," as his choice for a possible successor loomed. "I have it down to two or three people," Trump told Fox Business. Yellen, who was named by Barack Obama in 2014, is set to wrap up her term in early April. And Trump was not short on praise.

"She was in my office a few days ago. She is very impressive. I like her a lot. I would certainly think about it," the US president went on. "I would like to

official, who asked not to be named said. Tunisia is under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its partners to speed up reforms to create jobs and cut its deficit after its tourism sector was hit by militant attacks in 2015.

In April, the IMF agreed to release a delayed \$320 million tranche of Tunisia's \$2.8 billion in loans, on condition that it raise tax revenue, reducing the public wage bill and cut popular energy subsidies.

"6500 public sector workers are already applying to leave this year and we aim to lay off 10,000 others voluntarily with financial incentives next year", the official said.

"We hope Tunisia's public sector wage bill will reach 12 percent of GDP in the next three years versus 14.5 percent now with these reforms", he added. Six years after the uprising against Ben Ali's autocratic rule, Tunisia has made progress towards democracy. But successive governments failed to push through some of the painful reforms needed to overhaul public spending.

A delegation from the IMF will be in Tunis by the end of this month to discuss the progress of reforms before deciding on a new tranche of the \$2.8 billion loan. Under the 2018 budget, the deficit will fall to 4.9 percent of gross domestic product in 2018, from about 6 percent expected in 2017. Tunisia also seeks to raise GDP growth to about 3 percent next year against 2.3 percent this year. —Reuters



Cohn also figures in the list



WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and British Ambassador Kim Darroch laugh during a speech at the National Economists Club event at the British Embassy in Washington. —AP

say you (as president) would like to make your own mark, which is maybe one of the things she has a little bit against her. "But I think she is terrific. We had a great talk. And we are obviously doing very well together, looking at the markets," Trump stressed. For most presidents, giving Yellen another four-year term would be the obvious move: unemployment is falling, inflation is low and, despite whipsawing hurricanes, the economy is growing.

By any measure, Yellen has performed exceedingly well. Still, betting markets currently expect

Trump to pass over Yellen-making him the first president not to retain the incumbent Fed chair since Jimmy Carter dumped Arthur Burns in favor of G. William Miller while US inflation skyrocketed in 1978. That would mean changing horses midstream, even though the economy is the one area of smooth sailing for an administration broadly engulfed in turmoil. She also is a favored target of Republican lawmakers that Trump may need to govern and who believe interest rates should be higher but regulations reduced. —Agencies

Tunisia to lay off 16,500 public sector workers in 2017 and 2018

TUNIS: Tunisia will ask the United States for a \$500 million loan guarantee as it seeks to lay off about 16,500 public sector workers in 2017 and 2018, a senior government official told Reuters.

The layoffs, which the government aims to make voluntary but which are demanded by its international lenders, come from a public sector workforce of around 700,000.

Tunisia will ask this new guarantee loan as it prepares to issue bonds on financial markets next year. It will need about 7.4 billion dinars (\$3 billion) in foreign loans including 1.4 billion dinars from the sale of bonds.

Since the 2011 uprising that ended the rule of former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the United States has guaranteed about \$1 billion in loans to Tunisia to support its democratic transition.

"We will ask US for a \$500 million guarantee loan.. Tunisia is counting on US, support to support its economic transition", the

Euro slides as ECB treads carefully with stimulus cut

LONDON: The euro and bond yields fell yesterday and stocks rose as the European Central Bank proceeded with caution with its biggest step yet in unwinding years of loose monetary policy.

The euro skidded almost half a percent to back below \$1.18 after the ECB said it was halving its stimulus to 30 billion euros a month, but made clear that any rise in interest rates remained way off in the distance. Moves were then compounded by reports that Janet Yellen was no longer in the running for an extension to her Fed term as Wall Street traders also began to digest a heavy dump of tech earnings firm earnings.

Nasdaq futures pointed to a flat start but those for both the S&P 500 and Dow Jones were higher as the ECB moves bolstered what was set to be the strongest day in more than six weeks for European stocks. The ECB had taken a leaf out of the Fed's book by also promising to keep reinvesting the proceeds from the 2.4 trillion euros worth of bonds it has hovered up

since early 2015. "Mario Draghi has once again stressed that the ECB will maintain a very gradual approach to its monetary policy, and that short term rates will not rise before well after purchases have been stopped," said Julien-Pierre Nouen, Chief Economic Strategist at Lazard Freres Gestion.

In a pre-ECB appetizer, Sweden and Norway's central banks had both kept their interest rates on hold. Their currencies barely budged, though, as attention remained firmly on the ECB and the euro zone. European bonds, which like other global fixed income markets have seen a selloff over the last week, rallied. The yield on Germany's 10-year government bond was down 4 basis points on the day at 0.44 percent. Longer 30-year Italian yields hit their lowest in a month. That was after US Treasury yields had hit a seven-month high of 2.4750 percent overnight.

South Africa sell-off

Elsewhere in currencies, Britain's sterling built on strong GDP data boost to hit a 9-day high before the revitalized dollar struck back. The greenback steadied at 113.840 yen after hitting a three-month top overnight. It was also down 0.1 percent against a broader basket of major currencies.

South Africa's rand was the day's big mover again, though. It dropped another 1 percent after Wednesday's budget had slashed growth forecasts, ramped up debt projections and reignited fears for its investment grade credit rating. —Reuters

Business

US jobless claims rise as labor market tightens

Four-week average of claims falls 9,000

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits increased less than expected last week, suggesting the labor market continued to tighten after recent hurricane-related disruptions. Other data yesterday showed the goods trade deficit widened in September as an increase in exports was outpaced by a jump in imports. Labor market strength supports the view that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in December.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 233,000 for the week ended Oct 21, the Labor Department said. Claims fell to 223,000 in the prior week, which was the lowest level since March 1973. Economists had forecast claims rising to 235,000 in the latest week. They have declined from the almost three-year high of 298,000 hit at the start of September in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which ravaged parts of Texas and Florida.

The impact of Harvey and Irma has largely dropped out of the claims data for the mainland United States. But Irma and Hurricane Maria

continue to impact claims for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, now virtually isolated because of the destruction of infrastructure due to the storms.

A Labor Department official said they continued to estimate claims data for the islands.

The dollar held gains versus a basket of currencies after the data, while prices for US Treasuries were little changed. US stock index futures were trading mostly higher. Last week marked the 138th straight week that claims remained below the 300,000 threshold, which is associated with a strong labor market. That is the longest such stretch since 1970, when the labor market was

smaller. The labor market is near full employment, with the jobless rate at more than a 16-1/2-year low of 4.2 percent. The four-week moving average of initial claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 9,000 to 239,500 last week. That suggests a sharp rebound in job growth in October after nonfarm payrolls dropped by 33,000 jobs in September.

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Goods trade deficit rises 1.3% in Sept

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In this Oct 3, 2017 photo, job seeker Gustavo Cano (left), hands his resume to Javier Torres at a job fair at the Dolphin Mall in Sweetwater, Fla. —AP

people still receiving benefits after an initial week of aid declined 3,000 to 1.90 million in the week ended Oct. 14, the lowest level since December 1973.

The four-week moving average of the so-

called continuing claims fell 4,500 to 1.90 million, the lowest reading since January 1974. The continuing claims data covered the week of the household survey from which October's unemployment rate will be derived. —Reuters

Biggest Nordic bank Nordea to cut 6,000 jobs

STOCKHOLM: Nordea, the biggest bank in the Nordic region, said yesterday it would slash 6,000 jobs to improve competitiveness, as it posted a six-percent drop in third-quarter net profit due to historically low interest rates weighing on margins.

"In order to secure long-term competitiveness, we ... plan to reduce the number of employees and consultants (by) at least 6,000," chief executive Casper von Koskull said in the company's earnings report. Some 2,000 consultants will be let go, as well as 4,000 employees across the Nordic region, representing 13 percent of the bank's workforce, over a period of three to four years.

Von Koskull said the cuts were necessary to face the rapid growth of online banking services. "We're building the digital bank of the future... Our clients wants to meet us digitally ... and that means fewer direct employees," he told Swedish public radio SR.

Nordea said it would book a "transformation cost of 100-150 million euros



HELSINKI: This general view shows the entrance and logo of Nordea Bank in Helsinki yesterday. —AFP

in the fourth quarter of 2017." For the July-September period, Nordea posted a six-percent decrease in net profit to 832 million euros (\$978 million), weighed down by the Swedish central bank's decision to keep interest rates at a record low -0.50 percent since February 2016.

Nordea's total operating income dropped by four percent to 2.4 billion euros. It said the third quarter "featured improving economic conditions despite

elevated geopolitical risks", but noted that demand for corporate loans was "low and we have not seen the usual pick-up in corporate advisory activities after the summer."

Net interest income inched up by one percent to 1.18 billion euros. Nordea announced in September that it would relocate its head office from Stockholm to Finland, a eurozone member, in order to flee higher Swedish banking taxes. —AFP

Ford earnings rise on lower taxes

NEW YORK: Ford reported a jump in third-quarter profits yesterday on lower tax expenses as strong US sales of pickups and SUVs lifted results in North America. Net income for the quarter ending September 30 was \$1.6 billion, up 63.4 percent from the year-ago period.

Revenues rose 1.4 percent to \$36.5 billion. Ford's popular F-Series pickup truck scored a 14 percent gain in US sales compared with the year-ago quarter, while SUVs rose four percent. Pre-tax profits in North America were higher as Ford pointed to higher transaction prices and lower incentives compared with the industry as a whole.

Pre-tax earnings improved in South America, Middle East and Africa and Asia Pacific, but dropped compared with Europe, where results suffered due to Brexit.

Ford in May tapped Jim Hackett as chief executive in a shakeup spurred by questions over its direction and languishing share price. Hackett, in a presentation to Wall Street earlier this month, emphasized cost-cutting and investments in autonomous and electric vehicles.

"This quarter demonstrates that our team's focus on fitness is showing early promise," Hackett said in yesterday's news release. "But we also know that we must accelerate that progress in the near term, while taking the necessary steps to fundamentally redesign our business operations to be more fit for the long term." Ford shares rose 1.9 percent to \$12.27 in pre-market trading. —AFP

Business

Twitter progresses toward turnaround, lifting shares

Q3 results show ongoing losses, dip in revenue

WASHINGTON: Twitter said yesterday it could hit profitability by the end of the year, delivering a stronger-than-expected update which sent its shares sharply higher. Although third quarter results showed ongoing losses and a dip in revenue, the upbeat outlook sparked a pre-market gain of 10.8 percent for Twitter. The social network, which has struggled to keep pace with rivals, posted a loss of \$21 million in the third quarter, a marked improvement from the \$103 million deficit a year ago.

Revenues were \$590 million, a decrease of four percent from a year ago but not as bad as analysts had feared for the one-to-many messaging platform. Its monthly active user base rose slightly to 330 million, roughly in line with forecasts. And Twitter said daily active users—a metric for which it has declined to offer details—rose 14 percent from last year. The number of US monthly active users grew four percent to 69 million, and international users increase by the same level to 261 million, Twitter said.

Bringing people back

“We’re proud that the improvements we’re making to the product continue to bring people

back to Twitter on a daily basis,” chief executive Jack Dorsey said. “It’s our job to help people stay informed about what’s happening in the world and what people are talking about, and we’re focused on making our service faster, easier to use and more relevant to more people every day.”

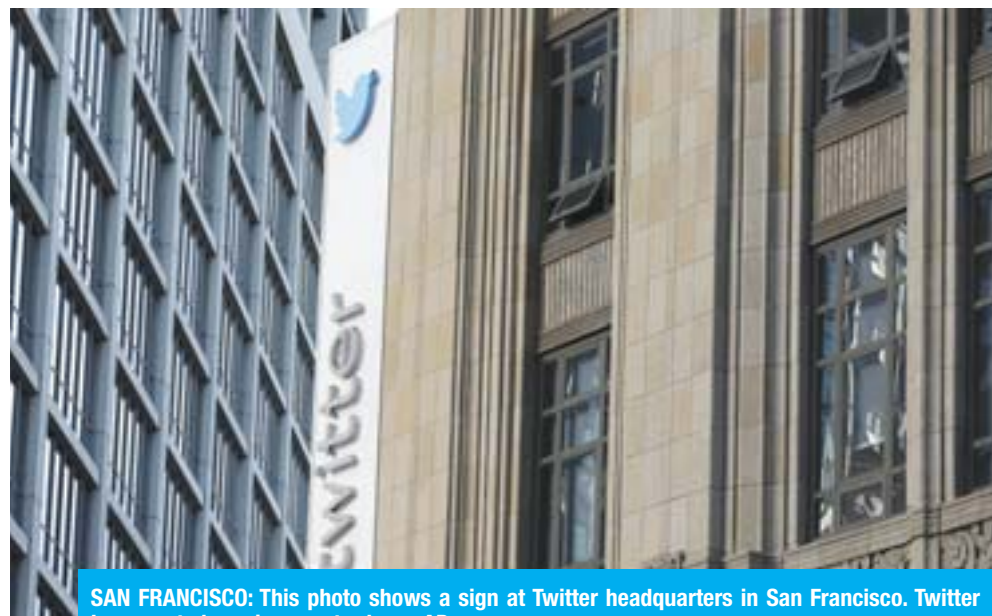
While Twitter has built a solid core base of celebrities, politicians and journalists, it has failed to achieve the broader appeal of Facebook and other social platforms, hurting its ability to bring in ad revenues. Twitter has stepped up efforts to boost its user base and engagement, notably with some 30 video partnerships, as part of its turnaround efforts.

First net profit in fourth quarter likely

In a statement, Twitter said it would “likely” show its first net profit in the fourth quarter if growth reaches the high end of its target.

The rally came despite Twitter’s acknowledgment that it had overstated its user base by as many as two million in the prior quarter by counting users of a third-party application.

Twitter, which has acknowledged some lift from President Donald Trump’s use of the platform, has also been struggling with ways to filter out abuse and promotion of violence, and has been caught up in the controversy over manipu-



SAN FRANCISCO: This photo shows a sign at Twitter headquarters in San Francisco. Twitter Inc reported earnings yesterday.—AP

lation during the election campaign by automated accounts or “bots” directed from Russia. Dorsey noted that Twitter has stepped up its efforts “to make Twitter a safe place for everyone.” The company was the first social network to announce a policy of “transparency” for ads

designed to influence elections. Twitter made the announcement this week on stricter ad policies amid heightened scrutiny surrounding the news that Russian-backed entities used online platforms to spread disinformation during the US 2016 campaign.—AFP

Union Pacific’s Q3 profit grows 6% despite challenges

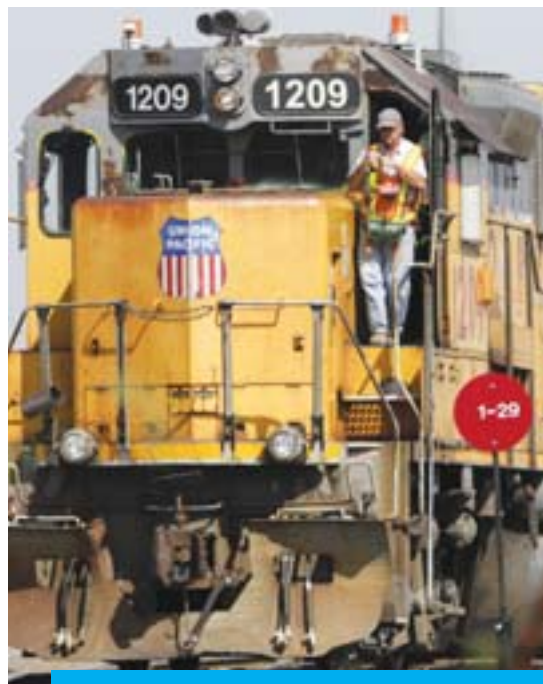
OMAHA, Neb: Union Pacific delivered a 6 percent improvement in third-quarter profit even though it hauled 1 percent less freight and dealt with disruptions from Hurricane Harvey.

The Omaha, Nebraska, railroad it earned \$1.19 billion, or \$1.50 per share, in the third quarter. That’s up from \$1.13 billion, or \$1.36 per share, a year ago. Union Pacific said yesterday that one-time events related to Hurricane Harvey, laying off 750 workers, a land sale and a lawsuit settlement created a net 5 cent drag on earnings in the quarter. The industry analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research had expected the railroad to report earnings per share of \$1.49.

The company’s revenue of \$5.41 billion topped the \$5.31 billion that had been forecast on Wall Street.

Citi analyst Christian Wetherbee said the railroad delivered solid core results and increased freight rates during the quarter. Union Pacific CEO Lance Fritz said he railroad will continue working to improve operations, but he didn’t offer specific guidance.

“As the economy continues to ebb and flow, we will focus on executing our value strategy,” Fritz



In this July 20, 2017 photo, a Union Pacific employee is seen on board a locomotive in a rail yard in Council Bluffs, Iowa.—AP

said. Shares of Union Pacific Corp., which have increased slightly more than 6 percent since the beginning of the year, rose 1 percent before the opening bell yesterday.—AP

Japan automakers rekindle youthful passion for cars

YOKOHAMA: By day, the Daikoku Parking Area hums with transport trucks en route to and from the Port of Yokohama. On weekend evenings, it transforms into a revved-up runway of tuned-up Japanese cars. The unassuming rest stop is famous to car enthusiasts as a temple of the country’s motor culture, but it also illustrates a “youth” problem that auto companies such as Toyota Motor Corp and Nissan Motor Co are scrambling to address.

The crowd last Friday - around 50 supercar fans who huddled around the back of a loading truck to get a first glimpse of the latest Lamborghini Huracan Performante delivered days before to collector Takeshi Kimura - were mainly men in their 40s and 50s.

“Today’s young people, they came of age during the recession, and some of them didn’t grow up with a family car,” said Kimura, who has earned a reputation on Japanese social media as an ambassador of car culture thanks to stunts including coasting his Ferrari F40 down ski slopes and racing his super-

cars around a driving school practice course. “As a result, people hit their 20s and they’re not aware of how fun cars can be.” On top of that, the cars whose finely-tuned growls echoed beneath the overpasses that criss-cross the Daikoku lot are mostly from the 1990s heyday of Japan’s auto industry. Back then, Honda Motor Co, Nissan and their compatriots forged a global reputation for their stylish, fast, highly engineered cars. Drifting, the technique of sliding rear-wheel-drive cars through bends that entered popular culture through films like the Fast and the Furious franchise, was born on Japan’s winding roads.

Today, even those young Japanese who do get the car bug are unimpressed by the domestic choices on offer. “These days automakers just aren’t making cars I’d want to drive,” said Sho Watabe, a 20-year-old student who had rocked up to Daikoku in his 1996 Mazda RX-7.

“If you look at the way cars are designed these days, they all look the same. They all lack personality ... If automakers keep making the same types of cars, young people are going to continue turning away from them.” Japanese car makers for years have grappled with falling interest in cars among young people, which, along with a rapidly greying society, has led to a 17 percent fall in domestic vehicle sales since 2000, data from the Japan Auto Dealers Association shows.—Reuters

Business

ECB takes first step to scale back support for eurozone

Governors far away from reaching inflation target

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: European Central Bank governors yesterday began weaning the eurozone economy off the high doses of support they prescribed in recent years, but they remain far away from reaching their elusive inflation target.

From January, the Frankfurt institution will reduce its purchases of government and corporate bonds to 30 billion euros (\$35 billion) per month, a spokesman said, down from 60 billion at present—in line with analysts' expectations. Policymakers left themselves a nine-month horizon to decide on the next step for the program, with a move due by September 2018.

The move is a sign that the ECB sees less need for it to pump cash into the financial system to support lending to businesses and households, a key factor in the economic recovery that has pushed growth up and unemployment down in the eurozone.

But the spokesman said the bank stands ready to increase its so-called "quantitative easing" bond purchases again if the economy should stumble. Meanwhile, interest rates remain at historic lows as another incentive for loan growth, with the central bank sticking to its negative deposit rate—meaning it charges ordinary lenders to park their cash with it.

"Today's decision is a sea-change but a very gentle one, not a big-bang U-turn," ING Diba bank economist Carsten Brzeski commented. "The ECB wants to start the exit as cautiously as possible."

ECB President Mario Draghi will give a press conference at 1230 GMT explaining the bank's reasoning. The euro fell by 0.5 percent to around \$1.1755 in the immediate aftermath of the ECB announcement. The ECB's partial retreat from its massive interventions in the 19-nation single currency area comes despite the policy's failure so far to achieve inflation in line with

its target of just below 2.0 percent, which is seen as the optimal level to encourage steady economic growth. Eurozone inflation was stable at 1.5 percent in September.

Stronger economy

The ECB began buying massive amounts of bonds in 2015 to fight the threat of deflation—a damaging downward spiral of prices and activity. Since then, the state of the eurozone economy has improved—even after a first reduction in purchases last April, from 80 to 60 billion euros per month.

In the first half of this year, eurozone economic growth powered to 2.4 percent in annualized terms, outdoing even optimistic forecasts, while unemployment has fallen to an eight-year low of 9.1 percent. ECB policymakers say they have made it easier for businesses and households to borrow sorely-needed money for spending, investment or hiring.

The latest figures released by the ECB on Thursday showed lending by eurozone banks to businesses and households grew by 2.7 percent last month, faster than August's 2.6-percent pace and continuing an upward trend.

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

Persistence pays

Some on the ECB's governing council long remained reluctant to withdraw their powerful medicine, fearing they might nip the recovery in the bud by tightening access to money—a fate that the US Federal Reserve suffered in 2013. Meanwhile, other governors have warned of the risks of easy money,

nificant for Barclays as it was the first for many years in which we have not been in some state of restructuring," said chief executive, Jes Staley.

He added: "We did however see an improvement in profitability in Barclays UK, and a good underlying return from our consumer, cards and payments business, which partially offset the under-performance in markets." Barclays has now offloaded all non-core activities as part of its global strategic rethink, as it focuses on main markets Britain and the United States.

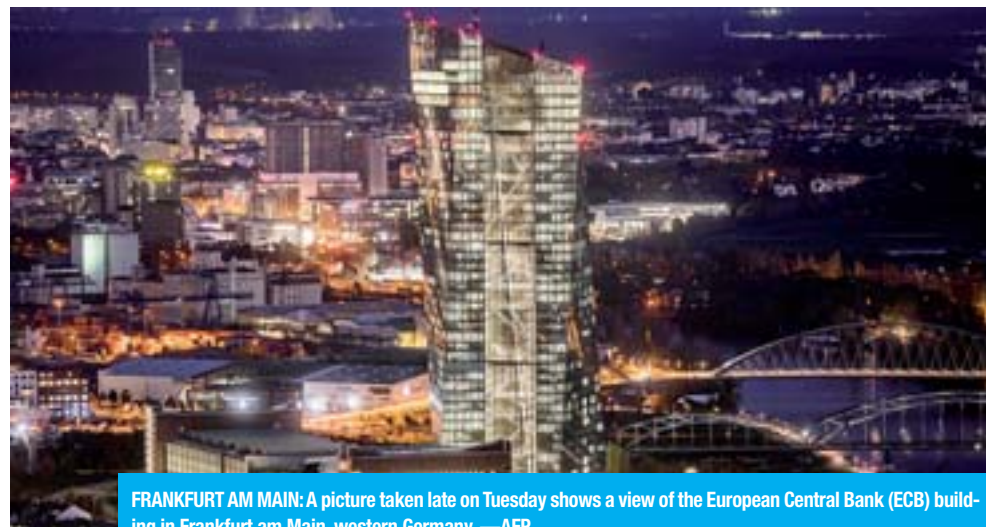
On a gloomier note, the group warned Thursday that investment banking division Barclays International had endured a "difficult" time and a 42-percent slump in net profit.

"The third quarter was clearly a difficult one for our markets business within Barclays International," Staley said. "A lack of volume and volatility in fixed income, currencies and commodities hit markets revenues hard across the industry, and we were no exception to this trend."

Shares slide

The disappointing news sent Barclays' share price tumbling 5.9 percent to 185.35 pence at about 1200 GMT on London's rising FTSE 100 index.

QE, bond purchases may continue



FRANKFURT AM MAIN: A picture taken late on Tuesday shows a view of the European Central Bank (ECB) building in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. —AFP

arguing it has softened the market discipline that usually restrains households, businesses and states from borrowing too much. That could lead to credit-fueled price bubbles in some sectors, with some pointing to rising property markets in popular eurozone cities.

Meanwhile, observers highlight technical limits that will prevent the ECB from continuing to buy bonds indefinitely. By lowering the amount it spends on bonds each month, but extending the duration, the bank can keep supporting the economy—even as it acknowledges healthier growth and makes a concession to fears it has gone too far.

The ECB will have bought some 2.5 trillion euros of bonds come September.

Yesterday, it pledged that it would keep reinvesting the proceeds of those bonds, allowing it to continue influencing the market beyond the date when it finally ends the scheme. Meanwhile, it has vowed not to raise interest rates until "well after"



Mario Draghi

the end of bond-buying. Another key concern for central bankers is the euro/dollar exchange rate, which spiked to \$1.20 over the summer as talk of winding down purchases grew before ebbing back more recently.

A more expensive euro could brake eurozone inflation and economic activity, placing the price growth target even further out of reach. —AFP

Barclays logs soaring quarterly profit

LONDON: British bank Barclays yesterday logged soaring third-quarter net profits, buoyed by the absence of restructuring and mis-selling charges—and by improving UK profitability despite looming Brexit. However, Barclays' shares tanked more than six percent on news of struggling trade at the group's investment banking division.

Earnings after taxation jumped to £583 million (\$770 million, 653 million euros) in the three months to the end of September, compared with £414 million a year earlier, Barclays said in a statement. Pre-tax earnings leapt by almost a third to £1.1 billion. British unit Barclays UK logged a net profit of £423 million, despite uncertainty surrounding the UK's exit from the European Union. That contrasted sharply with a net loss of £163 million a year earlier.

"The third quarter of 2017 was particularly sig-



LONDON: This file photo taken on October 22, 2017 shows a pedestrian walking past a branch of Barclays bank in central London. —AFP

"Weak trading performance in its investment bank has held the group back, with low volumes in FICC (fixed income, currencies and commodities) continuing to blight the division," noted XTB analyst, David Cheetham.

The lender also unveiled proposals to ring-fence

retail banking operations in order to help it withstand another global financial crisis. The move will help it meet regulatory rules that demand all British banks with more than £25 billion of UK deposits section off retail operations from riskier investment banking activities by 2019. —AFP

Sports

Astros even the World Series with wild win over Dodgers

LOS ANGELES: The Houston Astros out-dueled the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-6 in an 11-inning thriller on Wednesday to level the World Series at one game apiece. George Springer smashed a two-run homer in the top of the 11th to cap the Astros' late charge. It proved just enough as the teams combined for an astonishing five extra-inning home runs—a record for a Major League Baseball post-season game.

"That's an incredible game on so many levels, so many ranges of emotion," said Astros manager A.J. Hinch. "That's one of the most incredible games you'll ever be a part of." With the win the Astros head home on level terms for games three, four and five on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. "It's huge," said Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander. "I think the ability to win this game tonight, you can't quantify how much that means. We play so well at home.

"For everything to be going right for the Dodgers tonight, for us to come back and win that game, that's a game-changer. That's huge. "That's why I love this team," added Verlander, who arrived in Houston via a trade from the Detroit Tigers on August 31. "There's no quit." Nine of the game's 13 total runs were scored from the eighth inning on. Marwin Gonzalez homered for the Astros in the ninth to tie it at 3-3.

'Exciting game'

Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa ripped back-to-back homers in the top of the 10th to

put Houston up 5-3. Undaunted, the Dodgers responded in the bottom of the 10th with a lead-off homer from Yasiel Puig. With two outs in the 10th, Astros relief pitcher Ken Giles walked Logan Forsythe, who reached second on a passed ball and raced home when Enrique Hernandez belted a single to right field. With the score at 5-5, Dodgers relief pitcher Brandon McCarthy surrendered a single to Cameron Maybin to open the 11th. Springer followed to put the Astros ahead for good—although the Dodgers pulled within 7-6 with Charlie Culberson's homer in the bottom of the 11th. "It was an exciting baseball game," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "It was an emotional roller-coaster." Astros ace Justin Verlander pitched four-

plus innings of no-hit ball. But the two hits he surrendered in six innings were home runs to Corey Seager and Joc Pederson that gave the Dodgers the early advantage.

Pederson rewarded Dodgers manager Dave Roberts's faith with a game-tying homer to right field with two outs in the fifth. Pederson, picked to start in left field over Andre Ethier, connected on an 88 mph (141.62 Km/h) slider to level the score at 1-1. Seager, who missed the National League Championship Series with a back injury, made it 3-1 in the sixth with a two-out home run to left field off Verlander that also scored Chris Taylor, who had walked.

Houston had opened the scoring in the third



LOS ANGELES: Logan Forsythe #11 of the Los Angeles Dodgers scores a run on a RBI single hit by Enrique Hernandez #14 (not pictured) to tie the game 5-5 during the tenth inning as Brian McCann #16 of the Houston Astros is unable to make the tag in game two of the 2017 World Series at Dodger Stadium. — AFP

“It was an emotional roller-coaster”

inning, when Josh Reddick singled off of Dodgers starter Rich Hill and advanced to second on Verlander's sacrifice. A single from Springer put runners on the corners. Alex Bregman followed with a sharply hit single to center field, where the ball eluded diving Dodgers center fielder Taylor, knocking the brim of his cap. Reddick scored, but the ball bounced toward Pederson, who corralled it to hold Springer and Bregman on base. Hill then

struck out Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa to end the inning.

The Astros trimmed the deficit to 3-2 in the eighth, when Alex Bregman led off with a double to right field off Dodgers reliever Brandon Morrow. One out later he scored on Correa's single off Los Angeles closer Kenley Jansen. The Astros' eighth-inning run ended a streak of 28 consecutive scoreless post-season innings by the Dodgers bullpen. —AFP

Blues' power play wakes up in 5-2 win over Flames

ST LOUIS: Jaden Schwartz and Alex Pietrangolo scored second-period power-play goals and Jake Allen made 23 saves to help the St. Louis Blues beat the Calgary Flames 5-2 on Wednesday night. St. Louis has won three of its last four, losing only to red-hot Las Vegas in overtime. Calgary had won its first four road games this season. Mikael Backlund scored twice for the Flames.

Schwartz and Pietrangolo scored in a span of 2:46 to break a 1-1 tie. The Blues had come up empty on their previous 18 power-play chances. Alexander Steen added a goal and three assists for the Blues. It was his first points of the season after missing the first six games with a broken thumb. Paul Stastny scored with 3:32 left to push the lead to 4-2. Joel Edmundson added an empty-net goal with 43.9 seconds left. Elsewhere, Seth Jones had a goal and an assist for Columbus to help the Blue Jackets beat the Sabres. Serge Bobrovsky stopped 34 of 35 shots to lead Columbus (6-3-0) to its fifth win in its last seven games. Buffalo dropped to 3-6-2 in front of goalie Chad Johnson, who stopped 33 of 38 shots.

The Jackets power play had been an anemic 2-for-20, but got a goal at 12:00 of the first period after Zach Redmond's hooking call. Oliver Bjorkstrand whipped his second goal of the season past Johnson off an around-the-horn pass from Jones to Sonny Milano, and a picture perfect screen by Boone Jenner. —AFP

Shane Ray returns to Broncos after 6-game IR stint

ENGLEWOOD: There's a loophole in the NFL rules that require players on injured reserve to miss eight weeks and Shane Ray is slipping right through it. Ray returns to the Denver Broncos' starting lineup Monday night at Kansas City after missing just six games with a broken left wrist that required surgery in late July. He only had to miss a half dozen games because the Broncos' bye counted as one week and Week 8 technically ends Sunday night. So, the Broncos and Ray lucked out with the way the schedule falls.

"I try to find any point of gleaming light I could find out of the situation and it worked out well with me not missing as many games as we thought and also me being able to come back for the Chiefs game," said Ray, who grew up in Kansas City. The Broncos (3-3) have lost two in a row heading into their game at Kansas City (5-2) and are struggling on offense and defense. They've scored just three TDs in their last four games and are coming off their first shutout since 1992.

They've collected just four interceptions and have yet to force a fumble, much less recover one. "I think I could bring a spark to this team defensively and try to create some turnovers, create some fumbles, some sacks," Ray said. "And I think that just helps our defense all around. I really just want to get back

out there with my big brother Von (Miller) and Shaq (Barrett) and everybody and get back to doing what we do."

Brothers in arms

Coach Vance Joseph said Wednesday that Ray "looked great last week in practice. Obviously, he's not in great football shape but Shane's going to play Monday. He's going to start. Shane provides opposite of Von a great rusher. So, obviously they can't tee off on Von." Miller can't wait for Ray to make his debut Monday night. "It's like seeing your brother get back," said Miller, who's managed seven sacks despite being double- and triple-teamed in Ray's absence.

Joseph said Ray will be on a snap count and "Shaq's played solid for us, so he deserves to play anyway." Ray got hurt on the first day of training camp when his wrist bent awkwardly as he tangled with an offensive lineman. He figured it was just a sprain and finished practice. "I just looked at my hand and I had a ball, like a knot, in my hand. So, I'm looking at it and ... it just kind of bubbles up," Ray recounted. "It turns out that was the tendon in my hand." Even when he heard a popping noise in his wrist at practice the next day, Ray didn't think it was anything serious. "I called the trainers over and said, 'Hey, cut all this tape off, re-tape my wrist and put a brace on.' And they did that and I went out and I finished practice," Ray said. "I still was getting sacks."

After practice, he went for an MRI, which revealed a torn ligament that would sideline him at least six weeks. "Next day I'm in surgery," Ray said. When he came to, he had two screws in his left wrist and was facing double the recovery time. "When they cut my wrist open, my wrist fell right out of the socket," Ray said. "I tore the main ligament in my wrist. I separated the bones that hold the wrist into place. So, that's why they have screws holding the bones in my wrist into the socket, because my wrist wasn't together." —AP

Hamilton set to join Senna, Schumacher as F1 legend

MEXICO CITY: Lewis Hamilton has no intention of easing up this weekend as he seeks a mere top five finish in the Mexican Grand Prix to clinch his fourth drivers world title and a place among the greatest drivers in Formula One history. The arguments over his status have grown in volume as the months have passed this year, but they reached a new crescendo this week in the days following his ninth win of the season at last weekend's United States Grand Prix in Texas.

His Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff declared him to be on course to become "the best driver that has ever existed" while veteran Brazilian Felipe Massa, who missed out on the 2008 title, when Hamilton stole it from with a passing move at the final corner of the decisive Brazilian Grand Prix, said that he already ranks him alongside Michael Schumacher and Ayrton Senna.

Another title triumph will lift him clear of Jackie Stewart, on three championship wins, as the most successful British driver of all time, drawing him level on four with Alain Prost and his current rival Sebastian Vettel. Ahead lie only seven-time champion Schumacher and five-time title winner Juan Manuel Fangio. Hamilton, however, has been keen to avoid the hype and says his mind is on winning this Sunday's race in front of a passionate and raucous crowd at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.



Arguments over his status have grown in volume

Cause for concerns

"There are still three races to go," said the 32-year-old Briton. "And in my mind, I still have three races to win. There are still a lot of points available—until you actually win the championship, you can't get ahead of yourself." His caution is understandable as he and Mercedes know that despite the long straights and slow corners, the thin air at an altitude of 2,250-metres will help deliver a contest that may play to the strengths of rivals Ferrari.

Mercedes will run with a high down-force set-up, as might be used in Monaco or Budapest, two circuits where they struggled this year, and this is the cause of their concerns. Vettel, despite trailing Hamilton by 66 points and needing a huge shift in form and fortunes, will not abandon his hopes of stopping the Englishman's immediate

triumph. But, as Massa put it, if anyone can win more or less anywhere in any conditions, it is Hamilton who has reeled off five wins in six races since the European summer.

"He is definitely one of the best drivers in the history of Formula One," said the Brazilian. "You cannot really take him away in a different level compared to Michael Schumacher and Ayrton Senna. He's there." Wolff, a demanding team chief who has seen Hamilton add consis-

Long campaign

One player desperate for red ball form will be Victoria state's Glenn Maxwell, who scored a fine century at number six against India in March but has failed to surpass 50 in seven test innings since. With selectors keen to have a part-time bowler able to provide relief for the pacemen over the course of a long campaign, Maxwell's ability to soak up some overs with his off-spin would be valuable.

The hard-hitting 29-year-old is under pressure from Western Australia's uncapped Marcus Stoinis, a medium pace-bowling all-rounder who has averaged 86.25 in his eight ODIs and impressed during the recent tour of India. Another Western Australian in Hilton Cartwright is also a contender after his surprise selection at number six for the second test against Bangladesh in Chittagong last month. "In an ideal world you'd want someone like a Ben Stokes who can give you the ideal balance, bat and bowl," selector Mark Waugh told Sky Sports Radio earlier this month. "But I think your number six as it stands is probably going to be a batsman and ideally he bowls a bit." The wicket-keeper position has troubled Australia since Brad Haddin's retirement after the last Ashes in 2015 and Wade's reinstatement at the expense of Peter Nevill in the last home summer proved divisive.

Seemingly favored for his niggly over the more subdued Nevill, Wade has not justified his selection with the bat and compiled just 17 runs from his three innings during the two-test tour of Bangladesh. Nevill, considered a technically superior keeper to Wade, will captain New South Wales in the absence of regular skipper Moises Henriques as he looks for a weight of runs to dislodge the incumbent Tasmanian. —Reuters



AUSTIN: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, celebrates after winning the Formula One US Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas, Sunday, Oct 22, 2017. —AP

tency and discipline to his unmatched talent for raw speed and aggressive racing, was even more fulsome. "Lewis is about to break all records that have been set in Formula One and it is just a matter of time that people will say he is on track to being the best driver that has ever existed," he said. "This is the best Lewis—both on and off the track—that I have worked with since 2013."

Hamilton has attributed his rise to "another level of driving" to two main factors. The first was the retirement of long-term team-mate and rival Nico Rosberg after he won the drivers' title last year and the second his switch to a vegan diet. "In hindsight, all things happen for a reason," said Wolff, as his team celebrated four consecutive constructors' title triumphs last weekend. —AFP

Australia's hopefuls set to pad up for Ashes auditions

MELBOURNE: Australia's domestic Sheffield Shield tends to open sleepily, with spring sunshine warming the few diehard fans that turn up to regional venues but auditions for coveted Ashes places have given the start of this year's tournament additional spice. Australia may be comfortable on their own pitches and confident of fending off an England side likely to be without all-rounder Ben Stokes, their most valuable player, for at least part of the five-test series.

However, the question of who will bat at six in the order has become an increasing bugbear for a team desperate for a quality all-rounder of their own while also needing some starch in the middle after a worrying string of batting collapses. Queries over the best man behind the stumps have also grown in volume since the incumbent Matt Wade was dropped for a single one-day international in India earlier this month and then reinstated in the next game.

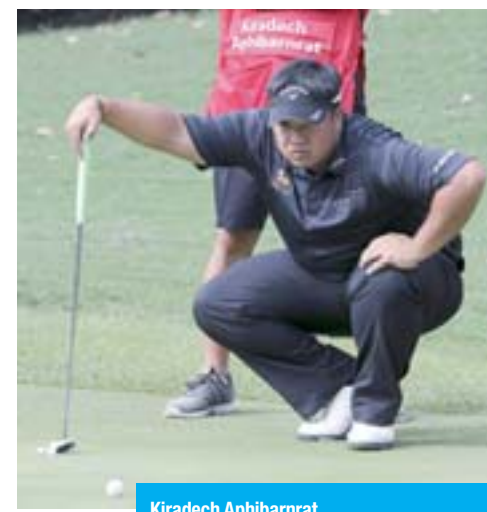
With less than a month before the first test kicks off at the Gabba on Nov. 23, the opening matches of the first-class Sheffield Shield will also be a battleground for the pacemen as they look to replace the injured James Pattinson as first understudy to Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins.

Thai golfer motivated by funeral for king and starts strong

SHANGHAI: Kiradech Aphibarnrat dressed in black and played with purpose yesterday in the HSBC Champions. Back home in Thailand, black-clad citizens solemnly ended a year of mourning for King Bhumibol Adulyadej with a series of traditional funeral ceremonies lasting five days. Kiradech wanted to do his part in a World Golf Championship in Shanghai.

He not only dressed the part, the burly Thai ran off 10 birdies to offset a sloppy start and wound up with a 7-under 65, leaving him one shot behind US Open champion Brooks Koepka after the opening round at Sheshan International. Kiradech choked back tears talking about his beloved late king.

"It's not an easy situation, because it's hard to explain how deeply our king was loved and how sadly he is missed," Kiradech said. "When he passed away last year, it caused a lot of upset to all the Thai people. He will always hold a special place in my heart. But he loved sport, and he would have been the first to say the show must go on." Bhumibol loved sport so much that he donated the trophy for an event called the Royal Trophy, matches between golfers from Asia and Europe that took place from 2006 through 2013.



Kiradech Aphibarnrat

Europe won the final edition by one point, through Kiradech went 3-0 that week, beating Paul Lawrie in the leadoff singles match. That was the year Kiradech began to rise to prominence among Asian golfers by cracking the top 100 in the world for the first time, along with winning the Malaysian Open and tying for third in the CIMB Classic on the PGA Tour.

Winless in two years, Kiradech showed plenty of determination in the final World Golf Championship of the year. After his second bogey in five holes dropped him back to even par, he ran off seven consecutive birdies around the turn. "It's good momentum," said Kiradech, who was runner-up at the Italian Open two weeks ago. —AP

Sports

James' triple-double not enough as Nets beat Cavs



NEW YORK: LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers dunks against Rondae Hollis-Jefferson #24 of the Brooklyn Nets during their game at Barclays Center on October 25, 2017 in the Brooklyn Borough. —AFP

NEW YORK: Spencer Dinwiddie made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 43 seconds left while starting for the injured D'Angelo Russell, and the Brooklyn Nets overcame LeBron James' first triple-double of the season to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 112-107 on Wednesday night. James had 29 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds in his 56th triple-double, but he missed two free throws - the second intentionally - with the Cavaliers trailing by two with 7.6 seconds remaining. DeMarre Carroll then hit a free throw and the Cavs' long inbounds pass intended for James went out of bounds.

Dinwiddie scored 22 points for the Nets, who blew a 14-point lead in the final quarter but recovered to improve to 3-2 - the same record as the defending Eastern Conference champion Cavaliers. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and Allen Crabbe added 19 points apiece and Carroll scored 18 for the Nets, who fell just shy of becoming the first NBA team in 32 years to open a season with five straight 115-point games.

ROCKETS 105, 76ERS 104

Eric Gordon hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Rockets to a win over the 76ers. The Sixers were sloppy down the stretch and used a series of bad decisions and bad plays to cough up a lead that had stretched to 11. Joel Embiid was whistled for goaltending, and the Sixers had Jerryd Bayless take a shot with the game still on the line instead of Embiid or Ben Simmons. While the Sixers collapsed, the Rockets pounced and scored the final nine points. Gordon scored 29 points, James Harden had 27 and Clint Capela had 16 points and 20 rebounds. JJ Redick scored 22 points, Embiid had 21 and Robert Covington 20 for the Sixers.

WARRIORS 117, RAPTORS 112

Stephen Curry hit a go-ahead 3-pointer from the top with 31.9 seconds left on the way to 30 points, and the sloppy Warriors held off the Rap-

tors. Kevin Durant's 3-pointer with 1:02 remaining tied the game at 112, then he found Curry for the 3 that made the difference. Durant finished with 29 points on 11-for-20 shooting. Klay Thompson scored 22 points with four 3-pointers, and Curry capitalized with a huge second half. DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points. He drove through the paint for a dunk with 3:53 to play then hit a key jumper a minute later to put Toronto in position after Curry, Durant and Thompson each missed key 3s down the stretch.

LAKERS 102, WIZARDS 99, OT

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope hit a 3-pointer with 58 seconds remaining and the Lakers handed the Wizards their first loss of the season. Brandon Ingram scored 19 points for the Lakers, who had dropped their first two home games. Lonzo Ball had six points, eight rebounds and 10 assists in an anticipated matchup against Washington's John Wall. Larry Nance Jr. added 18 points and 10 rebounds. Bradley Beal had 28 points for the Wizards, who were looking to match their best start since the 1978-79 season by winning four in a row. Wall was stuffed by Julius Randle driving to the basket with less than 15 seconds left. After officials initially ruled the ball hit Randle last, a video review gave the Lakers possession, and they broke through pressure to set up a dunk by Randle. Wall missed an off-balance 3-pointer while being defended by Ball as time expired.

SPURS 117, HEAT 100

LaMarcus Aldridge continued his hot start by scoring 31 points, Rudy Gay added a season-high 22 off the bench and the Spurs stayed unbeaten by topping the Heat. The win was No. 1,154 for San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich, now one shy of matching Phil Jackson for sixth-most in NBA history. Danny Green scored 15, Manu Ginobili had 14, Pau Gasol scored 13 and Kyle Anderson fin-

ished with 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who are 4-0 even without injured starters Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard. Tyler Johnson scored 23 points for Miami, while James Johnson finished with 21 and Goran Dragic added 20. Dragic's 3-pointer midway through the third got Miami within 61-60. Soon afterward, the Heat were in huge trouble.

THUNDER 114, PACERS 96

Paul George was held to 10 points against his former team, but Russell Westbrook's triple-double picked up the slack and helped the Thunder beat the Pacers. The Pacers traded George to Oklahoma City after it became public knowledge that he didn't plan on staying with the team long-term. He fouled out with 6:15 remaining after playing just 19 minutes. Westbrook finished with 28 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds. Carmelo Anthony had 28 points and 10 rebounds, and Steven Adams added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder, who snapped a two-game skid.

HORNETS 110, NUGGETS 93

Frank Kaminsky scored 20 points off the bench, Dwight Howard had 15 points and 19 rebounds, and the Hornets beat the Nuggets. Charlotte opened a 25-point lead in the first half and led 62-39 at the break on the way to its second win of the season. Denver has lost two straight. Kemba Walker added 19 points and five assists for Charlotte. Malik Monk scored 12 of his 17 in the first half, and Jeremy Lamb finished with 16 points. Nikola Jokic had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Nuggets. Gary Harris also scored 18, and Jamal Murray had 16. Mason Plumlee grabbed 10 rebounds to go with eight points.

PISTONS 122, TIMBERWOLVES 101

Tobias Harris scored 34 points, Avery Bradley added 20 and the Pistons overcame another slow

start to beat the Timberwolves. Andre Drummond had 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Pistons, who improved to 3-2. All five Detroit starters reached double figures, as did reserve Henry Ellenson. Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, while Andrew Wiggins added 21. The Timberwolves lost for the second time in two nights. The Pistons trailed by 21 in the first half of their last two games and allowed Minnesota to score the first nine points Wednesday. This time, they stayed in the game and took the lead early in the second quarter.

MAVERICKS 103, GRIZZLIES 94

Dennis Smith Jr had 19 points and five assists and the Mavericks got their first win of the season, over the Grizzlies. Dallas snapped a four-game losing streak, while Memphis had a season-opening three-game win streak come to an end in the opener of a home-and-home back-to-back between the teams. Marc Gasol had 26 points for Memphis. Mike Conley scored 21 points and Tyreke Evans had 13 off the bench for the Grizzlies. Wesley Matthews added 16, Harrison Barnes had 15, J.J. Barea scored 14, and Dirk Nowitzki scored 13 points for Dallas.

SUNS 97, JAZZ 88

TJ Warren scored 20 of his 27 points in the second half and the energetic Suns improved to 2-0 under new interim coach Jay Triano with a victory over the Jazz. The Jazz, who lost the previous night to the Clippers in Los Angeles, never led. Phoenix was up by as many as 17 in the first half and 18 in the second. Devin Booker added 17 for the Suns, including a crucial 3-pointer with 1:29 to play after Utah had cut the lead to eight. Alex Len and Tyler Ulis scored 13 apiece. Len also grabbed 13 rebounds. Rodney Hood scored 22 and Rudy Gobert 16 for the Jazz. Derrick Favors and Ricky Rubio added 15 apiece. —AP

Sports

Syria footballers forced to take refuge in Iraq as tables turn

BAGHDAD: A decade ago, Iraqi footballers used to take refuge in neighboring Syria to pursue their career but the tables have turned in the tumultuous world of Middle East conflicts. Nadim Sabagh remembers the Iraqis who played at Tishrin, his club in the northern metropolis of Aleppo that was to turn into a hotspot in Syria's devastating conflict.

Today, he has signed up for a second season with Al-Zawra, a leading side in the Iraqi capital. The 32-year-old Syrian international quit his country back in 2011 at the outset of the war and first played for Arbil, the biggest club in Iraqi Kurdistan. Fellow Syrian Mahmud Khadduj held out four years longer before joining him in exile.

He says he "remembers very well" days when they would be training at the stadium of Ittihad, another Aleppo side, "as rockets and bullets rained down". Back in 2015, as Aleppo was being pulverized in clashes between government forces and rebels, as well as by jihadists and Russian air strikes, Khadduj decided to call it a day. His escape came in the form of a contract with a club in Karbala, a Shiite city south of Baghdad.

"I wasn't the only one. Several of my teammates joined clubs outside Syria," said Khadduj, a midfielder who has now signed up with Naft al-Wassat, a leading club in the Iraqi league. With entire blocks in several cities reduced to rubble by the six-year-old conflict, many football stadi-

ums have suffered the same fate, leaving players and staff redundant.

'Back to life'

Many players have gone abroad because "we have no other job to make a living", Sabagh, in an orange shirt marked with the number 32 on the back, said at a training session in Baghdad. At the

Iraqi Air Force Club's Al-Jowa al-Jawiya stadium in Baghdad, the Syrian accent of deputy coach Mohammed Aqil came through loud and clear as he instructed his players.

The 35-year-old former coach of Aleppo's Ittihad explained that sports facilities back home have taken a bat-

tering. "Today, Syrian football is trying to come back to life after years of having stadiums rendered useless because of fighting or their team dispersed," either into exile or by taking sides in the conflict, he said. For Hussein Jawid, 28, who played with Al-Huriya, another Aleppo club, there is no going back.

In Baghdad, where relative calm reigns although bomb attacks are not uncommon, Jueid said he has found "stability" since moving in 2012 and hopes to play out the rest of his career with Al-Zawra. For some players, Iraq is a stepping stone to more lucrative and high-profile careers in Saudi Arabia or Kuwait.

Alaa Al-Shibli, after spells in Kurdistan and Baghdad, has hit the jackpot, joining the mighty

great match was ruined by Keita's sending off," fumed Leipzig coach Ralph Hasenhuettl. "The boys can be proud of themselves, but that does not detract from their frustration that I felt in the locker room. They gave everything and were not rewarded."

Action-packed cup

This was an action-packed cup tie as Leipzig had three clear penalty appeals before referee Felix Zwayer finally pointed to the spot. Bayern had an almighty scare on 35 minutes when Arturo Vidal brought down Forsberg right on the edge of the penalty area. Zwayer initially signalled for a penalty, but changed the decision to a free-kick just outside the area, which Forsberg fired over the bar.

Vidal was booked for the foul while Keita saw his first yellow just before the half-time whistle for fouling Thiago Alcantara. Bayern had another penalty scare when Jerome Boateng clattered Leipzig striker Jean-Kevin Augustin on 51 minutes. Again, Zwayer again waved on play. Liverpool-bound Keita was sent off for his second booking on 54 minutes when he held back Robert Lewandowski as the pair chased the ball.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, Leipzig took the lead with a penalty at the third time of asking. RB striker Yussuf Poulsen went down after the slightest of contact from Boateng, but this time Zwayer awarded the penalty and Forsberg drilled it home on 68 minutes. — AFP

Ladder towards better careers in Saudi and Kuwait



BAGHDAD: Baghdad's Air Force Club's football players attend a training session. — AFP

Zamalek in the Egyptian capital Cairo, a club crowned champions of Africa several times. In a spectacular run for Syrian football, the national team made the playoffs for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, narrowly losing out to Australia this month. Sabagh and Jawid have repeatedly taken leaves of absence from their Iraqi clubs to don the Syrian national jersey in the qualifiers.

The Syrian players have bittersweet memories of their homeland which they are still keen to rep-

resent. "Before going to training, I opened Facebook and discovered that one of my teammates who I loved had been killed," said Nassuh Nakdali, 24, who comes from Aleppo but now plays for Naft al-Wassat in Najaf. Mahmud Khadduj, his teammate who represented Syria for two years until 2015, recalls how he used to train at Ittihad "under a hail of rockets and bullets". "My heart has always been and will always remain with the Syrian team," said Khadduj. — AFP

and they have the confidence to play. "You see it right through from the goalkeeper to the subs bench. They understand how we work, they deal with the pressure of having the ball and they performed exceptionally well.

'Outstanding display'

"I think to come to Pittodrie and to play that well where Aberdeen have had 10 days to prepare for the game shows that our boys are continually focused on winning games." And Rodgers, who previously managed Swansea and Liverpool in the Premier League, hailed the Hoops' dominant display as one of the best away performances of his managerial career. "Obviously everyone was talking about the pressure of the game between the top teams, so to come away and play with that composure and quality in our game was absolutely fantastic," the Celtic boss said. "It was an outstanding display against a very good team. I've been away with a few teams like Swansea where home and away we were brilliant in terms of our football, and Liverpool as well. "But I feel really proud of the team tonight showing that composure, that level of tactical understanding and their positioning. We should have had five or six goals. "Defensively we were very strong and we virtually gave Aberdeen nothing so I am very proud of the performance." It was a first defeat of the season for Aberdeen and manager Derek McInnes admitted the match had been tough for him to watch. — AFP

Werner penalty miss hands Bayern cup win

BERLIN: Bayern Munich squeezed past 10-man RB Leipzig in Wednesday's dramatic German Cup second-round clash with a 5-4 win in a penalty shoot-out after Timo Werner missed the final crucial kick. Although Leipzig's midfielder Naby Keita was sent off with half an hour left, Emil Forsberg gave RB the lead before Bayern's Thiago Alcantara equalised as the tie finished 1-1 after extra-time to go to penalties.

When Bayern converted all five of their spot-kicks, all the pressure was on Leipzig star Werner for the crucial 10th penalty. The 21-year-old German striker had his head in his hands as his weak shot was saved by Munich's shot-stopper Sven Ulreich. "I'm just glad I could help the team," beamed the relieved Ulreich, stand-in for injured Manuel Neuer.

Bayern advance to the third round after the first of a double-header this week between the Bundesliga giants who meet again in the league on Saturday at Munich's Allianz Arena. Bayern are second in Germany's top flight with Leipzig third and just a point behind. "It's a shame that this

Celtic away form as impressive as Liverpool: Rodgers

GLASGOW: Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers says his players showed they have the mentality to handle the big games as they turned on the style in a 3-0 win over nearest challengers Aberdeen on Wednesday. Much had been made of the test Celtic would face from the Dons, with only goal difference separating the sides at the top of the Scottish Premiership before kick-off.

However, the Hoops made light work of their hosts with Kieran Tierney's first league goal of the season giving them a 13th minute lead. The 21-year-old then turned provider for Dembele to tap in his first in the 39th minute before the French striker nodded home a second from close range in the 63rd minute. It was a real show of strength from the Scottish champions which extends their unbeaten domestic run to 61 matches and sends them three points clear at the top.

"Tactically they are improving. Over the course of the 16 months we have been here, what I have been pleased with is the mentality in the big games," Rodgers said of his side. "We've got big players who can perform well in big games

Sports

Napoli success comes the old-fashioned way

ROME: In an era when world soccer is becoming dominated by Middle Eastern sheiks and Chinese investment groups that spend endlessly, Napoli's success in Serie A this season is a testament to winning the old-fashioned way. The southern squad has been built with astute market decisions - no exaggerated spending - that have enabled team chemistry to build year after year. Napoli's starting 11 is virtually the same as it was last season and the squad's core hasn't changed since Rafa Benitez coached the club in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Yet Napoli appears vastly improved from a year ago, and holdovers like Dries Mertens, club youth product Lorenzo Insigne and captain Marek Hamsik - in his 11th season with the club - have guided the team to its best start in history with nine wins and a draw in 10 matches. More than a quarter of the way through the season, Napoli holds a two-point lead over fellow unbeaten club Inter Milan and is three points ahead of six-time defending champion Juventus.

Big spenders

"We're reaping the benefits of a long-term plan that began during Benitez's two years and has continued with great results under (current coach Maurizio) Sarri," Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis said. De Laurentiis was criticized during the offseason when Napoli spent less than 50 million euros (\$60 million) on new players, a fraction of the more than 200 million euros (more than \$250 million) shelled out by big-spending

AC Milan, which was purchased by a Chinese group in April.

French leader Paris Saint-Germain and its energy-rich Qatari owners recently spent a world-record 222 million euros (\$260 million) on just one player, Neymar. Abu Dhabi-funded Premier League leader Manchester City - which Napoli hosts in the Champions League next week - has spent nearly \$500 million since Pep Guardiola was hired as coach last year.

Napoli's only acquisitions over the offseason were winger Adam Ounas from Bordeaux, defender Mario Rui from Empoli and forward Roberto Inglese from Chievo Verona - each for the relatively modest sum of about 10 million euros (\$12 million)

- and Inglese was left on loan at Chievo. Neither any starters nor decent reserves were sold, despite lucrative offers for center back Kalidou Koulibaly and others.

Instead, Napoli spent its money on contract extensions for Mertens (a four-year deal that included a salary boost from 1.5 million euros to 4.5 million euros per season) and Insigne (a five-year deal at 5 million euros per season). "This could be our year," Insigne told Italian daily La Repubblica. "That's why none of us considered other offers." Extensions for Napoli's two most talented players sent a necessary signal after striker Gonzalo Higuain was sold the previous offseason to Juventus for an Italian-record record 90 million euros (then \$99 million). Perhaps Napoli's best addition was signing journeyman coach Sarri from Empoli in 2015.

“ We’re reaping the benefits ”

Allegri demands improvement from Juventus

MILAN: Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri has told his team that they will lose to AC Milan in Saturday's Serie A showdown at San Siro unless they improve from what he considered an untidy display in their last match. Both teams enjoyed 4-1 wins on Wednesday with Juve beating SPAL at home and Milan winning away to Chievo, but there were very different reactions from the two coaches.

Milan's Vincenzo Montella was a happy and relieved man after his big-spending side ended a four-match winless run in the league, lifting some of the pressure off his shoulders after talk that his job was on the line. "It's a victory that gives us belief and strength," he said. "We had already seen significant improvements in the quality of football over recent games and I am very satisfied with this performance." There were no such sentiments from Allegri whose side rushed to a 2-0 lead in only 23 minutes but then let SPAL back into the game. The visitors pulled one goal back and had equaliser disallowed before two quickfire goals got Juventus off the hook. "If we play like that again, we will come away from the match on Saturday beaten and worn out," said Allegri. —Reuters

Controversies follow Anne Frank tributes in Italy

MILAN: Emotions were still running high in Italy, days after Lazio fans posted anti-semitic photos of Anne Frank in a Roma jersey as new incidents during Wednesday's Serie A action overshadowed planned tributes. As Lazio's ultras 'Irriducibili' fans announced they would not travel to Bologna for the team's game, isolated supporters who had made the journey sang the Fascist song "Me ne frego" ("I Don't Care") in the stands of the Dall'Ara Stadium.

Lazio players, as planned, warmed up prior to the game, which they won 2-1, wearing a jersey with an image of Frank alongside the words "No to anti-semitism". On all pitches on Wednesday, rival captains and referees handed children copies of Italian Jewish writer Primo Levi's memoir of deportation "If This Is A Man". Extracts were read from "The Diary of



GENOA: Napoli's Dries Mertens celebrates with Napoli goalkeeper Pepe Reina at the end of the Italian Serie A soccer match between Genoa and Napoli at the Luigi Ferraris stadium. —AP

'False 9'

While Sarri had never coached a major club, he became an expert at assembling squads with the parts he collected upon arrival during his time spent at every level of Italian soccer - including amateur and semi-pro teams. It was Sarri's stroke of genius that made Mertens the standout center forward that he is today, moving the Belgium international from the wing to a "false 9" position following an injury to Arkadiusz Milik early last season.

"My only regret is that I didn't do it sooner," Sarri

said. De Laurentiis rescued Napoli from financial ruin in 2004, restarted the bankrupt squad in the third division and quickly returned the team to the top division, where it has become a constant contender without ever encroaching on UEFA Financial Fair Play rules.

Napoli has finished in the top three in Serie A in five of the last seven seasons and is now on course to win its first title since Diego Maradona led the team to its only two championships in 1987 and 1990. —AP

Anne Frank" before a minute of reflection on the Holocaust as requested by the Italian football federation, which quickly turned into a minute of applause in most stadiums. But in Turin, where champions Juventus were playing SPAL, a section of the crowd turned their backs on the pitch and sang the Italian national anthem, while at Rome, where AS Roma met Crotone, some fans drowned out the reading with chants in favour of their team.

Earlier Wednesday a wreath of flowers which Lazio president Claudio Lotito had presented to the Rome synagogue was found floating down the Tiber river which runs through the capital. But by early Wednesday the blue and white flowers - the colors of the Rome club - had disappeared from the synagogue entrance. It is believed they were flung into the river by youngsters from the Jewish community angered by Lotito's note "you have Jewish brothers", according to Corriere della Sera newspaper.

During his visit Lotito also announced that the club would take 200 young fans on an annual trip to Auschwitz - the Nazi concentration camp where Jewish teenager Frank was first deported before dying in Bergen-Belsen in 1945. But a telephone recording made public on Wednesday cast doubt on the real intentions of the Lazio president. Il Messaggero published

a recording in which Lotito appeared to describe the visit to the synagogue as "theatrics we have to do".

"There's a vice-Rabbi? There is just the Rabbi? They are worthless. You see where we are? The Rabbi and vice-Rabbi in New York... Come on let's do this theatrics," a voice is heard saying. Lotito denied uttering such words and Democratic Party politician Dario Ginofra, seated beside Lotito on a Monday night flight from Milan to Rome where he was alleged to have made the call, backed the Lazio president.

'15 idiots'

Meanwhile the Lazio president insisted it "would be wrong" to punish the club for "the behavior of 15 idiots". Lazio - who are fourth in the table just three points behind leaders Napoli - had already been given a two-match closure of the north end of the Stadio Olimpico for racist chanting. "It would be wrong for the team to be docked points as we'd become hostage to these people going to the stadium just to create chaos," he told Radio Capital. "It's necessary to suppress and sanction the perpetrators. I hope what's happened doesn't impact on the team psychologically." According to the Italian press, police examined video footage of Sunday night's game and had identified 16 suspects, including three minors with one aged just 13. —AFP

Tensions creeping in at PSG as questions asked of two stars

PARIS: Tensions are creeping in at Paris Saint-Germain with questions raised as to whether Neymar and Kylian Mbappe - the world's two most expensive players - are so far justifying their price tags. PSG is unbeaten and has scored 43 goals in 13 games overall, yet the mood seems surprisingly quizzical ahead of Friday's home match against Nice.

Both players were heavily criticized following in 2-2 draw at Marseille last weekend, which allowed second-place Monaco - the defending champion - to close PSG's lead to four points after 10 league games. Mbappe didn't make any impact up front and omitted to track back whenever Marseille broke on the counterattack. Neymar did score his seventh league goal since joining from Barcelona, but his red card gave Marseille the chance to dominate late.

It was the Brazil forward's fifth red card since breaking into the Santos team in 2009 and, not for the first time, resulted from a petulant reaction. And it almost proved costly. For the second straight league game, PSG needed an injury-time goal - this time from top scorer Edinson Cavani. Criticism of Neymar this week centered on his lack of composure, his reluctance to track back,

and his self-indulgence. Neymar's tendency to hold possession sees him invariably trying to dribble his way through teams, and often leads him to randomly drop deep into midfield to get on the ball as much as possible.

Second fiddle blues

When he does pass, his preference to seek out Mbappe often comes at the expense of Cavani - who scored 49 goals in all competitions last season. Cavani and Neymar disagreed last month over who should take a penalty in a league game, and their relationship does not appear to be a particularly harmonious one. Cavani's patience could well be tested - yet again.

The Uruguay striker previously played second fiddle for three years when Zlatan Ibrahimovic was PSG's star player, and whether he is prepared to do so again could prove crucial to the club's chances of going far in the Champions League. PSG has failed to get past the quarterfinals despite huge investment since Qatari backers QSI took charge six years ago. But after even bigger spending during the offseason - with Neymar and Mbappe costing a combined 402 million euros (\$475 million) - a semifinal is surely the minimum target. The attack of Mbappe, Cavani and Ney-



Both players were heavily criticized



MARSEILLE: Marseille's Jordan Amavi, left, challenges for the ball with PSG's Kylian Mbappe during the League One soccer match between Marseille and Paris Saint-Germain. —AP

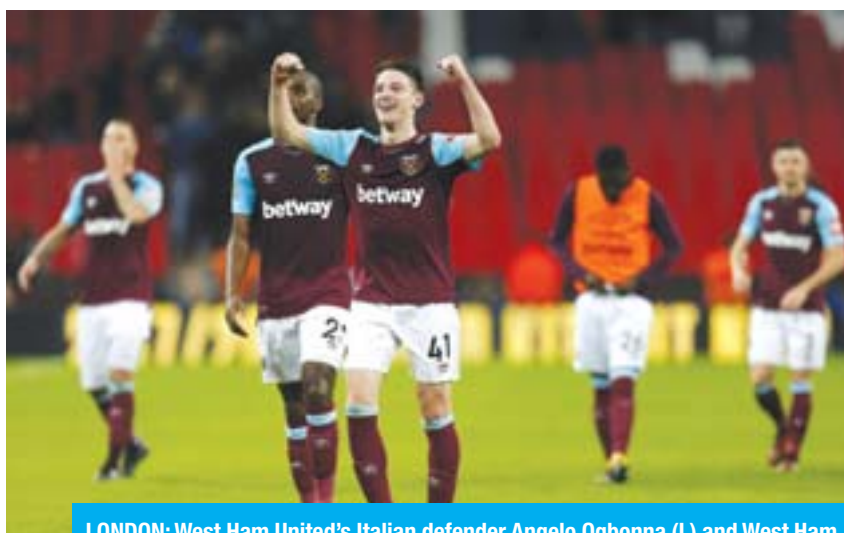
mar is known as the MCN - continuing the theme for abbreviations first launched when Real Madrid's BBC (Bale-Benzema-Cristiano (Ronaldo)) attack was compared with Barcelona's

MSN (Messi-Suarez-Neymar). Although prolific in attacking terms, PSG's trio causes an imbalance elsewhere on the field simply soaks up so much possession. —AP

West Ham stun Spurs to reach League Cup quarters

LONDON: West Ham completed a stunning turnaround on Wednesday, roaring back from two goals down against Tottenham Hotspur to reach the League Cup quarter-finals while Chelsea saw off the challenge of Everton. Slaven Bilic's much-changed side were trailing 2-0 at the break after an insipid first-half display but a brace from Andre Ayew and a third from Angelo Ogbonna shocked the Wembley crowd and completed an astonishing comeback for the Premier League strugglers.

Spurs, who also made multiple changes, were quickly in control through an early goal from Moussa Sissoko, who strolled through the middle of the defence and stroked the ball past West Ham goalkeeper Adrian after a pass from Son Heung-Min. They doubled their lead with about eight minutes remaining in the first half when Dele Alli curled the ball into the net via a deflection off the unfortunate Declan Rice, again following good work down the left from the impressive Son.



LONDON: West Ham United's Italian defender Angelo Ogbonna (L) and West Ham United's Declan Rice celebrate after the match between Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United at Wembley Stadium. — AFP

But the game came alive within 10 minutes of the re-start when Ayew pounced to poke home from close range after Spurs keeper Michel Vorm failed to hold a powerful Edimilson Fernandes shot from the edge of the area. West Ham, who crashed 3-0 to Brighton in the Premier League on Friday, were level just five minutes later when Ayew applied the finishing touch to a cross by Manuel Lanzini and astonishingly took the lead when Ogbonna rose to head home Lanzini's corner

with 20 minutes to go. "We could not wait for the game to start and I would hope the Brighton game was a one-off," said Bilic. "We have composure, players back from injury and this is the standard of play (we expect)." "I said I am calm and glad when we win in this way," he added. "You see the team is very alive and we are very stubborn in a positive way. There is no time and place to go large now. We have done a lot, but considering the season, we have done nothing." —AFP

Sluggish Atletico held at Elche in Cup opener

MADRID: Atletico Madrid's stuttering form on the road continued as a much-changed side were held 1-1 at third-tier Elche in the first leg of their Copa del Rey last 32 tie on Wednesday. Thomas Partey had headed the visitors into an early lead at the Martinez Valero stadium as Atletico dominated before half-time. However, after Luciano Vietto struck the post and Keidi Bare fired a great chance straight at Guillermo Vallejo, Diego Simeone's men were punished for their profligacy six minutes into the second-half.

Lucas Hernandez was controversially adjudged to have felled Lolo Pla inside the area despite appearing to play the ball, and Pla stepped up to send Miguel Angel Moya the wrong way from the penalty spot. Vietto pulled another golden chance wide and Fernando Torres, on the night he equalled Luis Aragonese's record of 368 appearances for the club, fired off target as Atletico failed to win away from home for the fifth time in the last seven matches.

"We had three one-on-ones with the goalkeeper," Atletico midfielder Saul Niguez told BeIN Sports. "It is the same thing as always, our lack of efficiency in front of goal doesn't give us the calm we need. We don't score the goals and, in the end, we suffer." Ponferradina scored the upset of the night as a stunning Sergio Cidoncha free-kick earned a 1-0 first leg lead over Villarreal.

Athletic Bilbao's poor form continued as they needed an equaliser from Raul Garcia to salvage a 1-1 draw at Balearic Islanders Formentera. High-flying Leganes, who sit fifth in La Liga, carried that momentum into the Cup as Claudio Beauvue struck two minutes from time to win 2-1 at Valladolid. —AFP

Ahly seek return to African summit

JOHANNESBURG: Record eight-time winners Al Ahly take outstanding form into the CAF Champions League final against Wydad Casablanca of Morocco as they seek to reclaim first place in African club football. Egyptian side Ahly host the first leg in Mediterranean city Alexandria tomorrow and the return match is set for Casablanca on the Atlantic coast seven days later.

Apart from the pride of conquering Africa, a CAF record \$2.5 million (2.12 million euro) first prize is up for grabs, plus a place in December's FIFA Club World Cup. Ahly have won the CAF Champions League (formerly the African Cup of Champions Clubs) three times more than any other club. But the Cairo Red Devils last lifted the trophy in 2013 when now retired legend Mohamed Abou Trika scored in a 3-1 aggregate victory against Orlando Pirates of South Africa.

The manner in which Ahly eliminated Tunisian clubs Esperance and Etoile in the quarter-finals and semi-finals means they carry the tag of favorites against Wydad. Held 2-2 at home by Esperance, Ahly went to Tunis and triumphed 2-1 through goals from Tunisian Ali Maaloul and Nigerian Junior Ajayi. Having then fallen 2-1 away to Etoile, Ahly won 6-2 at home as they gave one of their finest Champions League performances since debuting 41 years ago.

Walid Azaro, under fire for persistent poor form, repaid the faith coach Hossam El Badry had showed in him by scoring a hat-trick. "I wanted to score in every match, but was constantly unlucky," explained the Morocco-born striker. "I thank coach Hossam for persevering with me. "However, we have to forget what we did against Etoile and focus on Wydad, who will be difficult opponents to overcome."

Azaro demonstrated his aerial threat against Etoile by twice powering crosses into the net during the first half and completed his treble with an early second-half tap-in. El Badry, enjoying a third spell in charge of a club he guided to the 2012 Champions League title, says Ahly are obsessed with success. "We aim to win whatever competition we enter," he stressed. "Our supporters are desperate for another Champions League title."

This weekend marks the third meeting between Ahly and Wydad this year after each won 2-0 at home during the group phase. Goals from Moamen Zakaria and Ajayi delivered maximum points for Ahly and now-departed Congo Brazzaville sharpshooter Fabrice Ondama and Walid El Karty were the Wydad scorers. While Ahly have featured in 10 Champions League finals, Wydad have reached only a third decider

in the competition.

They defeated Al Hilal of Sudan 2-0 on aggregate in 1992, but fell to Esperance six seasons ago in a home-and-away final decided by a solitary goal. This year, the Hussein Amotta-coached outfit have been outstanding in Morocco, winning all six matches with goalkeeper Zouheir Laaroubi conceding just one goal in 540 minutes.

While Azaro tormented Etoile, two-goal Achraf Bencharki was the architect of a 3-1 semi-final triumph over USM Alger of Algeria following a goalless first leg. It was a timely improvement in form for the striker, who had netted only twice in the previous 11 matches. The Moroccan outfit have been much less impressive on the road, losing four of six matches, but only Ahly have scored more than once against a well-organized defense. — AFP



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