

Hurricane Irma wreaks havoc in Caribbean



Anger as Trump ends amnesty for young immigrants



Bollywood turns spotlight on real-life mafia dons



Venus becomes the oldest semi-finalist in US Open history



KUWAIT URGED TO SEVER ALL TIES WITH MYANMAR

MPS BLAST INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, DECRY ATTACKS AGAINST ROHINGYA MUSLIMS



Min 27°
Max 45°
High Tide 00:48 & 12:16
Low Tide 07:10 & 19:46

OIL PRICE TO STAY AT \$50-\$55 PER BARREL

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk has said he expects oil prices to stay between \$50 and \$55 a barrel and that the market will rebalance by the end of the year. Marzouk, who heads an oil producers' committee that monitors compliance to output cuts, told Kuwait's newspaper in an interview published yesterday that "demand for oil will pick up this quarter," and the rate of the fall in crude inventories will accelerate.

"OPEC's strategy is on the right track... Monthly and weekly indicators for the drop in crude stocks show this strategy is correct," the minister said. Marzouk said he also expect that a balance between oil supply and demand will be reached by the end of 2017, ending years of supply glut that sent prices crashing.

States from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other oil producers including Russia agreed in November last year to cut output for six months, in a bid to raise prices following a collapse that began in mid-2014. The deal was extended for another nine months until March 2018. Oil prices have recovered partially as a result and have been hovering around \$50 a barrel. Marzouk said that OPEC will decide at its next meeting in November whether to extend the production cuts deal beyond next March. — AFP



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti lawmakers are pictured during the press conference organized by the National Assembly yesterday. (Inset) A young Rohingya refugee sleeps on the roadside after fleeing to Bangladesh from Myanmar in Ukhya yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat, AFP

KUWAIT: A group of Kuwaiti MPs yesterday took the international community to task for its "shameful" silence over atrocities against Rohingya Muslims, saying it was tantamount to "genocide." In a press conference organized by Kuwait's National Assembly, the Kuwaiti lawmakers urged the Arab and Islamic world to take decisive action against Myanmar's government. They pointed out that it was imperative to take immediate and concrete steps to ramp up pressure on Myanmar to put an end to the violence.

MP Jamaan Al-Harbash noted that Kuwait's efforts to come to the aid of the Rohingyas encapsulate the nation's illustrious history of standing up for what is right. He added that the press conference was met with approval and enthusiasm from across the board. Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Enezi took a more hostile stance, suggesting that "Kuwait should sever all ties with Myanmar and the country should allow aid to pour in."

MP Mohammad Al-Mutairi said that it was incumbent upon the Islamic world to protect Muslims and the crimes in Myanmar represent the worst that humanity has ever seen. The Kuwaiti parliamentarians underlined that no stone should be left unturned in getting the violence to stop. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah had expressed Kuwait's concern over the humanitarian disaster unfolding in Myanmar. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), some 3,000 members of the Rohingya community have been killed and 18,000 others displaced amid the violence.

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News

in brief

Two Kuwaitis killed in a tragic accident

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Two young citizens were instantly killed in a tragic traffic accident near the capital Traffic Department's roundabout yesterday. Security sources said the citizens' vehicle split into two and caught fire. Eyewitnesses reported the accident at Shuwaikh police station noting that they saw a police patrol chasing the two young men for unknown reasons. The witnesses provided the patrol's plate number. The two policemen were summoned for questioning. They claimed the young men made strange noises and drove away when they were stopped for a routine traffic check. The officers have been detained pending further investigations.



Detained Kuwaiti freed in Turkey

ANKARA: Turkish authorities have released Kuwaiti citizen Abdullah Al-Shatti after he was arrested, under the proviso that he would remain in the country, Kuwait's Embassy in Turkey said yesterday. A statement issued by the Kuwaiti mission attributed Al-Shatti's release to the efforts of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, which it said was the only reputable source for all information on Kuwaiti nationals abroad. Meanwhile, the Kuwait Embassy thanked the Turkish government for its "concern and understanding". It also called on Kuwaitis in Turkey to remain alert and abide by the country's laws to avoid any legal trouble, providing a hotline of (00905331648479) in case of any emergencies.



Businessmen hope on Amir's visit to US

WASHINGTON: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to the United States proves that both nations enjoy historic and solid ties, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. A member of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Mutawa said that Kuwait's relationship with the US is vibrant, citing that trade between both countries reached six billion dollars last year. He said that he was sanguine that His Highness the Amir's visit would be instrumental in pushing both nations closer together. Meanwhile, the Deputy Chairman of Kuwait's Union of Investment Companies Saleh Al-Salmi pointed out that Kuwait has invested heavily in American markets.

LOUVRE ABU DHABI TO OPEN ITS DOORS

ABU DHABI: The Mideast outpost of France's iconic Louvre Museum will open in Abu Dhabi on Nov 11, officials announced yesterday, ending a decade-long wait for a gallery whose construction was beset by economic turmoil and criticism over laborers' working conditions. The announcement breathes new life into Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island, a salty flood plain of the Arabian Gulf originally envisioned as a cultural center for an Emirati capital flush with oil money in the mid-2000s.

The domed ceiling of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, offers eight layers of Arab-style geometric shapes, allowing beams of star-like light to pour in. Some 600 UAE-acquired pieces of art will be on display alongside 300 works on loan from France. "It serves as a cradle for art & culture," tweeted Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Visiting French Culture Minister Françoise Nyssen went further, saying the museum that will host art encompassing the Islamic, Christian, Buddhist and Taoist worlds stood for something more in a region convulsed by the Islamic State group's destruction of historic artifacts. "It is civilization responding to barbarity," she said. The story of the Louvre's construction tracks with the recent history of the United Arab Emirates, a seven-sheikhdom federation whose commercial capital of Dubai was in the grips of feverish development in 2007, when officials announced the Louvre deal.

As Dubai built the world's tallest building, Abu Dhabi sought a culture edge in a battle of siblings, buying its way into both pop-culture movies and high-culture art.

Continued on Page 11



ABU DHABI: The domed roof of the Louvre Abu Dhabi is seen in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates yesterday. Officials yesterday announced that the Louvre Abu Dhabi, a Mideast outpost of the famed French museum, will open Nov 11. — AP

NISSAN UNVEILS NEW ELECTRIC CAR

CHIBA: Japanese giant Nissan yesterday unveiled a new electric car with an extended range and semi-autonomous driving functions, as it seeks to battle off competitors in a sector it once pioneered. The second-generation Nissan Leaf has a potential range of 400 kilometers between charges,

compared with 250 kilometers for its previous version.

It also boasts semi-autonomous driving capabilities such as keeping the vehicle automatically in one lane on the motorway or parking without human intervention.

Continued on Page 11



MAKUHARI: Japan's Nissan Motor displays the company's new Nissan LEAF, the next evolution of the zero-emission electric vehicle, during the world premiere in Makuhari, Chiba prefecture yesterday. — AFP

'GOOD AND BAD NEWS' ON ASPIRIN AND COLON CANCER

PARIS: Daily aspirin use - known to reduce the risk of colon cancer - could also make the disease harder to treat if it does occur, researchers reported yesterday. The new findings based on mathematical modeling, if confirmed statistically and in the lab, would mean that aspirin's ability to ward off colon cancer may come at an unacceptably high cost, they cautioned. Taking aspirin regularly "has been shown to reduce the incidence (of) a variety of cancers," including of the colon, noted the authors of a study in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface.

But at the same time, the drug may render the cancer "more difficult to manage therapeutically," they added. "This indicates a potential trade-off." A growing body of research has shown that daily micro-doses of aspirin taken for at least five years can slash the risk of cancer later in life. Rates of prostate, throat and non-small-cell lung cancer all drop off significantly, with the incidence of colon cancer cut by up to half.

Other studies, meanwhile, have tested the impact of aspirin directly on cancer cells in the laboratory, showing that the common painkiller can slow the rate of cell division and boost cell death. But scientists do not yet understand the mechanism at work, or know whether aspirin might have as-yet-undiscovered effects on cancer spread. To find out more, researchers led by Dominik Wodarz of the University of California at Irvine - who conducted these earlier experiments - investigated whether the drug may cause dangerous cancer mutations.

Indeed, aspirin did boost the cancer's ability to produce aggressive, mutant cells that are drug-resistant, they found. The results could challenge the protocol for aspirin use in cancer prevention. It is now critical to ensure that aspirin delays "the onset of colorectal cancer by a sufficient amount of time to avoid the negative effects of this trade-off," the study authors said.

Continued on Page 11

AMIR CONGRATULATES SAUDIS ON WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday congratulating Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the Saudi team qualification to Russia's 2018 FIFA World Cup. HH the Amir lauded the members of the Saudi team for their outstanding efforts, wishing them the best of luck during the upcoming grand football event. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables of similar sentiments to the Saudi King.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Meanwhile in Saudi Arabia, jubilant soccer fans celebrated after their team qualified for next year's World Cup, with many rallying behind Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's reform program that promotes sports in the ultra-conservative kingdom. Saudi Arabia stunned Japan on Tuesday to reach their first World Cup since 2006, with a 1-0 victory in Jeddah that consigned Australia to the play-offs.

The win prompted the government to release a new poster for its reform plan, dubbed Vision 2030, with an image of a smiling Prince Salman flashing the victory sign and embossed with the words "Ready for the Future". "With high spirits and unlimited support, the face of luck supports the Saudi team to reach the World Cup," the government tweeted on its official Vision 2030 page. "We congratulate our king for qualifying and the nation for its youth."

Prince Salman, often known as

MBS, is the chief architect of Vision 2030, an economic and social diversification plan which he released last year to wean the kingdom off oil. The plan calls for more entertainment, cultural and sports opportunities in a nation where more than half the population is under 25, an Internet-savvy generation that spends much of its life online away from official strictures.

The hashtag "MBS is the face of luck" soon started gaining traction on social media, with many lauding the team's victory courtesy of half-time substitute Fahad Al Muwallad's winning goal. The livewire forward smashed his shot past a static Eiji Kawashima of Japan to take the Saudis to their fifth World Cup. "The crazy, pulsating excitement you are experiencing right now is unforgettable... It is to celebrate this win as the nation's accomplishment," one Saudi fan said on Twitter. — Agencies



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia fans cheer as they hold up pictures of Saudi King Salman and Saudi Crown Prince and Minister of Defense Mohammed bin Salman during the 2018 World Cup group B qualifying soccer match between Saudi Arabia and Japan in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. —AP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Falah Bin Jamea.

RECEPTIONS OF DEPUTY AMIR, CROWN PRINCE



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Faisal Nayef Al-Diweesh. — KUNA photos



WASHINGTON: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah arrive in Washington. — KUNA photos



WASHINGTON: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh.

MINISTERS ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON FOR TALKS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, First Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah arrived in Washington yesterday. The min-

isters would join the high-ranking delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his current visit to the United States. —KUNA



OIL MINISTER CONGRATULATED

By Mesh'al Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MEW minister and minister of oil, Essam Al-Marzouq recently received congratulations on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. Speaking to reporters during the reception, Al-Marzouq said that the peak of power consumption rates this summer was recorded in July and August when consumption was 13,800 megawatts on July 26 and the total power production is 16,000 megawatts.

Al-Marzouq added that with the beginning of the school year, consumptions rates are expected to rise but stressed that they would not reach the peak recorded in July. Moreover, Al-Marzouq said that MEW had collected KD 1.4 billion from consumers over the past five years and stressed that increasing the fare in the commercial and investment sectors would help increase revenues more.



AMIR CONGRATULATES SWAZILAND, KING MSWATI ON NATIONAL DAY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to King Mswati III of Swaziland on his country's national day. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim sent cables yesterday to Swaziland's head of the House Assembly Themba Msibi and Senate leader Gelane Zwane, congratulating them on their country's national day. —KUNA



This Sept 5, 2017 satellite image provided by NASA shows Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean. Irma roared into the Caribbean with record force early yesterday, its winds shaking homes and flooding buildings on a chain of small islands along a path toward Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba and a possible direct hit on South Florida. — AP

EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REACHING OUT TO KUWAITIS AHEAD OF IRMA

WASHINGTON: Kuwait Embassy urged its nationals in the State of Florida to be cautious about their safety as the "potentially catastrophic" Hurricane Irma is barreling towards the state from the Atlantic Ocean. Out of keenness on the security and safety of the Kuwaiti citizens and students living in the state, the Embassy

urged them a press release to follow the safety instructions specified by the local authorities. It called on the Kuwaiti nationals to keep in touch with Kuwaiti mission in Washington and report on any eventuality via the embassy's Emergency phone No: +12022620758 or the culture office +12023642104. —KUNA



GBK'S 'BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK DAY' A HUGE SUCCESS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank's 'Bring Your Kids to Work Day' #GBKidsDay initiative was met with great enthusiasm by parents and children alike, when it was held on Wednesday, 30 August, at the bank's head offices at the Mubarak Al Kabeer and Al Saleh Buildings. The resonating impact of the event was evident throughout the day, which included a staff social media engagement contest and discussing the initiative on 88.8 The Pulse radio station.

Gulf Bank welcomed the children with a program full of activities that included a tour of the main departments within the Bank. The departments included Consumer Banking, Products and Segments, Corporate Communications, and Corporate Banking. Kids were presented with a simplified and child friendly brief on different aspects of working at the Bank.

During the tour, each department had prepared a fun activity for the children, which varied from fun contests to questions and chats. Several Bank staff volunteered to accompany the kids during the tour, and the children were presented with gift bags that contained an activity book and colors, and were entertained with 'movie time', where the latest

animated children's movie were displayed.

Gulf Bank also held an internal employee social media activity to add to the excitement of this day, where they posted pictures of their children at work on Instagram with the initiative hashtag #GBkidsday for the chance to win an Apple iPad.

Speaking on behalf of Gulf Bank Ms Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications highlighted the importance of such initiatives: "An initiative such as 'Bring Your Kids to Work Day' creates something special in the work environment. Amidst the day-to-day professional obligations and responsibilities within the work place and all the formalities related to it, it makes room for employees to show a more personal side, offers them an opportunity to socialize on a different level, and ultimately brings everyone closer. Not to mention the sense of pride and positive energy that flooded the Bank on the day before the Eid Al Adha holiday".

"We respect and recognize our employees' personal lives and wanted to have a day where kids were able to see where their parents work, what



they do, and meet their parents' colleagues and children. We also believe that it is never too early to start making an impact on the minds of our youth, and this was an opportunity to expose young children to a work environment and provide an introduction to what the work life is all about. We thank everyone in the Gulf Bank family for the

work they do on behalf of the Bank every day, our success depends on their commitment and dedication." Gulf Bank is committed to ensuring healthy, motivating, and vibrant work environment is achieved and will continue to present its employees with different initiatives in recognition of their hard work and loyalty.



OIL PRICE UP TO USD 49.73 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 55 cents to USD 49.73 per barrel Tuesday after being at USD 49.18 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global level, the prices went up due to the gradual resumption of operations at a number of US refineries after Hurricane Harvey, which led to an increase in demand for crude oil. The price of the Brent crude went up by USD 1.04 to reach USD 53.38 per barrel, the same case with the American crude, which went up by USD 1.37 to USD 48.66 per barrel.

Kuwait Bourse mixed

Meanwhile, Boursa Kuwait, the national stocks exchange, ended yesterday's session

on mixed boards. The price index dropped 2.51 points reaching 6,918 points, while the weighted index gained 1.04 points reaching 433.25 points, the same case with the KX 15, which gained 1.83 points standing at 993.91 points. The number of trades was at 2,366 transactions with a value of KD 9 million and a volume of 52 million shares.

Exchange rate stable

The US Dollar's exchange rate was stable at KD 0.301, while the Euro went down to KD 0.358 compared to numbers from Tuesday, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The Sterling Pound was up to KD 0.392. The Swiss Franc and the Japanese Yen were still at KD 0.315 and KD 0.002 respectively. — KUNA



JAKARTA: Muslim protesters display a banner during a rally against the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar outside the Myanmar's Embassy. — AP

KRCS TO HOLD DONATION DRIVE FOR ROHINGYAS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) plans to hold a fundraising campaign at its headquarters on Monday to raise donations for the Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh. The endeavor is a response to the plight of one of the most oppressed communities in the world and no effort would be spared to ensure the success of the campaign, KRCS's Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer told KUNA. He pointed out

that the four-day donation drive starts on Monday, saying that the Rohingyas are in dire need of aid, as women and children are among the victims. Al-Sayer hoped that the campaign would yield an impressive turnout, given the magnitude of the humanitarian disaster unfolding in Myanmar, adding that KRCS seeks to deliver comprehensive aid to the Muslim minority group. — KUNA

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* This campaign is limited to participants in Kuwait only. Ministries and their departments, companies and NGOs cannot enter the festival.
* Kuwait Times' employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwait City's beautiful Al-Shaheed Park captured at night. —KUNA

Crimes

report

SHISHA CAFE FIGHT IN DAJEEJ GETS HEATED

KUWAIT: A Bangladeshi Shisha cafe worker and an Egyptian customer were recently arrested for fighting at a cafe in Dajeej. The fight started when the waiter accidentally dropped some burning charcoal pieces in the customer's lap.

Fight for drugs

A citizen and two Syrians were jailed for resisting arrest and the possession of drugs, said security sources. Case papers indicated that a police patrol had stopped a citizen who had not been carrying any IDs but the two Syrians in the backseat assaulted the policemen and tried to prevent him from detaining their friend. However, on controlling the two suspects and searching them, detectives found a bar of hashish and some joints.

Woman jumps from building

A 32-year-old woman from Ivory Coast was found dead in the yard of the building she lived in Jleeb. Her Sri Lankan neighbor reported seeing the woman fall from her fourth floor apartment.

Thief caught

Jahra detectives recently arrested a professional thief wanted for five robberies, said security sources noting that the suspect showed fierce resistance during the arrest but was eventually controlled. The suspect initially denied the charges against him but later on confessed to the police that he used the money he stole for pleasure.

Liquor makers arrested

Two Asians were recently arrested for selling homemade liquor in Khaitan. Security sources noted that the suspects were arrested with the possession of 38 bottles ready for sale.

'Bagnappers' flee

A Lebanese reported that three unidentified people had attacked him while waiting inside his vehicle in Salmiya and tried to steal his bag. The man told the police that the bag contained very important documents and that the attackers fled the scene when they failed to take it from him.

Dead in pool

A Sri Lankan was recently found dead in a swimming pool at his sponsor's farm in Abdali, said security sources. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. —Al-Rai/ Al-Anbaa

WAFRA ROAD PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Wafra road project manager at MPW, Salem Al-Doussary proclaimed that the first phase of the project will be concluded by next March at the earliest. Al-Doussary also added that the total cost of the project would be KD 84.6 million. The project involves building 9 intersections, 9 flyovers and over 41 kilometers of four-lane roads.

Development plan
Kuwait FDI authority director, sheikh Mes'al Al-Jaber said that the current development plan focuses on 9 strategic sectors in the north region including electricity, water, oil, gas, urban development, education, health services, transport, telecommunications, tourism, media and the environment. Al-Jaber added that Kuwait has allocated \$ 103 billion for 30 major projects especially after adapting the PPP system.

QADSIYA, KUWAIT CLUBS FACE-OFF AT FOOTBALL SUPER CUP

KUWAIT: Qadsia and Kuwait sports clubs will face-off today in the Super Cup at Jaber international stadium, a match which signals the start of the new football season. Kuwait sports club, champion of the Amiri Cup, is seeking to win the competition for the fourth time in its history and third in a row. The club is eager to match to rivals Qadsia who won the competition in four occasions. Qadsia is seeking to win its fifth title.

"Friendly games and camps were held in preparation for the match and hopefully this will have a positive impact on the team in beginning of the new season", said football manager of Kuwait Adel Al-Enzi in a statement to KUNA. "Players are technically and physically prepared for the game," Al-Enzi affirmed.

On his part, media coordinator at Qadsia's football team, Ziad Al-Shatti said that his team was on a training camp in Turkey recently and is fully prepared for the Super Cup and the new season. Kuwait Super Cup launched in 2008, it is one match that brings together the winner of the Amiri Cup and the winner of the League title.



KUWAIT: Part of the press conference between Qadsia and Kuwait. — KUNA



MUNICIPALITY CONCLUDES 2ND PHASE OF CLEANING CAMPAIGN

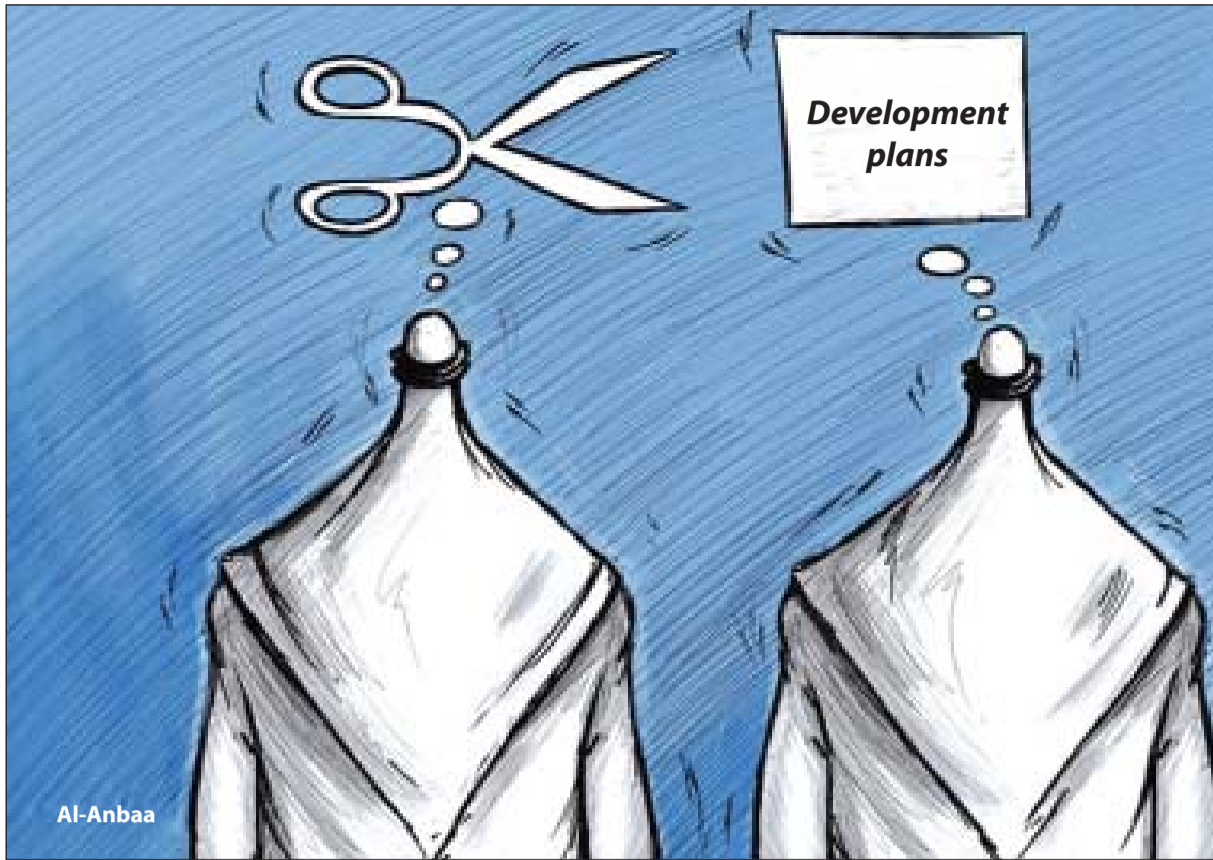
KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality PR department announced that they achieved all the goals set for the second phase of the media campaign launched under the title of 'We'll Beautify it with Your Cooperation' all over Kuwait.

The department added that inspection campaigns launched in various governorates and areas during the Eid Al-Adha vacation resulted in filing 16337 citations, removing 7498 unlicensed ads, arresting 197 butchers, marking 1515 abandoned vehicles, removing 486 oth-

ers to municipality detention, cleaning and replacing 2430 garbage dumpsters and removing tons of wastes.

The campaigns were led by Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality manager, Falah Al-Shemmari, Hawally municipality manager, Saif Al-Ajmi, Farwaniya municipality manager, Saeed Al-Azmi, the capital municipality manager, Bader Al-Otaibi, Jahra municipality manager, Mohammed Al-Aradi and Ahmadi municipality manager, Soud Al-Dabbous.





LITTERER HEAVILY FINED

By Hanan Al-Sa'doun

KUWAIT: MOI's relations and security media department announced that the border security forces, represented by the coastguard patrols have, in collaboration with the environment police, arrested a citizen while littering the Kubbar island waters. Article 1433 of the environment law states that littering public beaches and Kuwaiti islands is punishable by a fine up to KD 10,000.



Inspection campaigns

Under the supervision of the acting MOI assistant undersecretary for general security, Major general, Ibrahim Al-Tarrah, general security forces launched several inspection campaigns throughout Kuwait during the period of September 1-4, which resulted in arresting 151 wanted people, 371 illegal residents, detaining 13 wanted vehicles, filing 36 drug and eight liquor cases, arresting 41 laborers, dealing with 181 fights, filing 1,150 traffic citations and detaining 93 vehicles.

GODZILLA AND THE JANITOR'S DAUGHTER

By Salah Al-Sayer

Cinemas have been showing Godzilla movies since director Ishiro Honda filmed the first movie in the series in 1954. This fictional giant monster has ever since turned into a theme for various comics and video games. The story is about Godzilla, the "King of the Monsters" who following a nuclear experiment in Japan starts attacking and destroying various cities. The film could be considered as a part of what is known as 'Absorbent art' that turns inner fears within human into stories and plays to be watched by everybody and helps absorb and steam out their inner fears and disappointments.

This Dinosaur-like legendary monster was seen on screen for the first time when film industry did not have access to modern technology and had very limited technical facilities. The director had built a huge dummy weighing a hundred kilograms to be worn by a person and moved from within. The designer had to provide the operator with oxygen cylinders to breathe inside the dummy. The dummy was operated by a Japanese actor named Haruo Nakajima who had a long career of playing the same role in 12 other movies until recently when he died at the age of 88, according to Reuters.

Am I writing about the movie? The answer is no. I am writing about the world's famous news agency, Reuters and how it was interested in the death of an unknown invisible actor and published his name and a short biography about him as if he was a famous movie star though he was seen on screen and nobody knew him. Even his next door neighbor might have not known about his real job. Unfortunately, such news cannot be found in our unhealthy media where cameras are only focused on the 'cream' or the 'elite' such as the story of a girl who ranked first in an Egypt school this year and starred all over the media not because of her achievement, but because she is a janitor's daughter.—Al-Anbaa

IRAQI RECOGNITION OF KUWAIT

In my view



By Abdullah Bowair

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The UN recently issued a book number 9 amongst its 'Blue Books Series'. The book is about the Kuwaiti-Iraqi conflict that documents all the phases of the conflict. The fourth document in the book deals with the agreement signed by both countries concerning resuming cordial political relations, recognition and other related matters, which was signed in Baghdad on October 4, 1963. This memo was deposited as an official document with the UN and resulted in mutual recognition between both countries as sovereign states and recognition of the borders indicated in a letter from the Iraqi PM dated July 21, 1932. It also led to mutual diplomatic representation on January 10, 1964.

The first Kuwaiti ambassador to Iraq was Mohammed Ahmed Abdullatif Al-Hamad and the document came in response to both sides' wish to improve bilateral relations. A Kuwaiti official delegation visited Iraq upon invitation from the Iraqi PM on October 4, 1963 including HH the CP and PM Sheikh Sabbah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, HH the interior and acting foreign minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Commerce Khalifa Khaled Al-Ghunaim and foreign ministry's undersecretary Abdul Rahman Salem Al-Atiqi. The Iraqi delegation included PM maj. general Ahmed Hassan Al-Baker, Defense Minister and acting Foreign Minister lit. general Saleh Mahdi Ammash, Minister of commerce Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Homsi and foreign ministry undersecretary Mohammed Kayyarah. Talks were conducted in a cordial atmosphere and both delegations emphasized wishes to boost brotherly bilateral relations and turn a new leaf forgetting what had happened in the past.

Listening to the Kuwaiti government's statement made in the parliament on April 8, 1963 expressing Kuwait's wish to terminate the treaty signed with UK, both delegations agreed to the following:

1. The republic of Iraq recognizes the independence and complete sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and their border marked in a letter by the Iraqi PM on July 21, 1932 and was ratified by Kuwaiti ruler on August 10, 1932.
 2. Both countries will work on boosting bilateral brotherly relations.
 3. Both countries will establish mutual cultural, commercial and economic cooperation and exchange information.
- To achieve the above, immediate diplomatic representation will be made. The memo was signed by the heads of both delegations.



LANDLINES TO BE DISCONNECTED IF PAYMENTS ARE DELAYED

By Mesh'al Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MOC urged landline subscribers to pay their phone bills to avoid the September automatic programmed disconnection. The ministry explained that subscribers with overdue bills will receive a warning message on September 10 following another warning on September 17 before disconnecting the service on September 24. The ministry explained that landlines will be automatically listed for programmed disconnection when bill reach the amount of KD 50 for house phones and KD 100 for commercial lines in addition to immediate disconnections for subscribers who had already rescheduled their debts when they fail to pay any monthly installment on time. The ministry also noted that subscribers who fail to pay the annual service fee for over six months would be also listed for programmed disconnection.

72-hour notice on tires

KFSD yesterday gave a 72-hour notice to the owner of a building in Fintas who had been using the basement to store tires, which is a dangerous violation of safety conditions, said KFSD acting deputy director for prevention, brigadier Khaled Abdullah Fahad noting that unless the violation is removed within the grace period, the place will be closed down.

GCC nurses targeted

The head of Kuwait Nursing Society, Bandar Nashmi Al-Enezi urged Health Minister Dr Jamal I-Harbi to put an end to the arbitrariness practiced by the nursing services department against GCC and Bedoon nurses graduating from the nursing institute. Al-Enezi added that the department holds tough exams on purpose to have those nurses fail and delay their appointment for months.

Kuwaiti patient

Mubarak Al-Kabeer hospital manager, Dr Nadiya Al-Jum'a stressed that the Kuwaiti patient who returned from USA to Kuwait onboard a special medically equipped flight had brain cancer and that he was received and admitted at Mubarak hospital after his folks failed to find him an empty bed at Badriya Al-Ahmed Cancer Center.

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Outspoken journalist, critic's murder sparks outcry in India

ANGER AS TRUMP ENDS AMNESTY FOR 800,000 YOUNG IMMIGRANTS



CAP-HAITIEN: Men sail on Mapou River, in Mapou River in Cap-Haitien, in the north of Haiti, 240 km from Port-au-Prince. The monster hurricane coming on the heels of Harvey, which struck Texas and Louisiana late last month hit a string of Caribbean islands including Guadeloupe late Tuesday before heading to Haiti and Florida. — AFP

MONSTER HURRICANE IRMA BATTERS CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

TRUMP DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN FLORIDA, PUERTO RICO

MARIGOT: Monster Hurricane Irma slammed into the French Caribbean islands yesterday after making landfall in Barbuda, packing ferocious winds and causing major flooding in low-lying areas. As the rare Category Five storm barreled its way across the Caribbean, it brought gusting winds of up to 185 miles per hour, weather experts said.

After making landfall just before 0600 GMT in Barbuda, part of the twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda, the hurricane swept on to French-run Saint Barthelemy, also known as St Barts, and Saint Martin, an island divided between France and the Netherlands. The French weather office said Irma was "a historic hurricane (with) an unprecedented intensity over the Atlantic," with a French minister saying it had already "caused major damage" across the two territories.

'Very scary'

Coastal areas were being "battered extremely violently" by the sea, with the weather office logging winds of 244 kph before its monitoring equipment was destroyed by the hurricane. With the islands on maximum alert ahead of the arrival of the strongest storm ever recorded in the Atlantic, France had raised the alarm over the

fate of some 7,000 people who refused to seek shelter. France's minister for overseas territories said the islanders had likely underestimated the power of the storm.

Dutch national broadcaster NOS also reported "enormous damage" on Saint Martin, with residents speaking of widespread destruction. "Everything around the house is gone. All the bushes have disappeared," teacher Astrid Schrage told RTL television. "It was very quiet in the eye of the storm, but very scary." Saba Island and St Eustatius, two other Dutch-run territories to the south, were also hit.

'I'm just praying'

The massive hurricane, which is beating a path northwest, was also expected to hit the larger French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. On Tuesday, as the storm was still over the Atlantic, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said it was the strongest hurricane ever recorded over that part of the ocean. With forecasters warning of catastrophe, including surges of up to 20 feet above normal tide levels, people evacuated tourist areas, stocked up on provisions, and packed into shelters across an

area stretching as far north as Florida. Irma, which is expected to stay in the region for days, follows hot on the heels of Hurricane Harvey which devastated swathes of Texas in late August. Packed into shelters, many frightened residents were calling in to local radio stations to voice their concerns. "I am just praying to God. Everything happens for a reason," said a woman called Kazia living on Antigua, where people were hunkering down in the dark after officials turned off the island's power supply as a safety precaution. "I can hear very strong winds and things being thrown around, but I am scared to look outside," said another Antiguan called Davina, who lives in an area called York.

Shelters packed

Category Five is the highest on the scale for hurricanes in the Atlantic and Caribbean, and Irma was expected to reach the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico by nightfall yesterday. Hurricanes of this category are rare. They can tear off roofing, shatter windows, uproot palm trees and turn them into deadly projectiles. In Guadeloupe, schools and government offices in have been closed while hospitals stocked up on

medicines, food and drinking water. Across the island, shelters were packed with a mixture of local families and tourists. "We came here to protect our little two-year-old boy," said Ludovic, a tourist who only gave his first name. "We hadn't prepared for this disaster scenario. Our rental home is beautiful but it only has bay windows." Florida is expecting to face the brunt of the storm from Friday night.

As the hurricane approached, President Donald Trump declared a state of emergency in Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, authorizing federal funding to help local authorities respond. "My team, which has done, and is doing, such a good job in Texas, is already in Florida. No rest for the weary!" he tweeted.

Threat to Puerto Rico, Florida

Florida Governor Rick Scott said Irma, which comes barely a week after Harvey claimed at least 42 lives, posed "a severe threat to the entire state". Tourists in the popular Key West islands were packing their bags on a mandatory evacuation order and were to begin leaving at sunrise on Wednesday, with a similar order for residents due to follow. "We're emphatically telling people

you must evacuate, you cannot afford to stay on an island with a Category 5 hurricane coming at you," said Monroe County emergency operations center director Martin Senterfitt.

There were long queues as people rushed to get batteries, bottled water, groceries and fuel, while many cut trees around their homes and sought to tie down objects. In a crowded supermarket in Miami Beach where people were scrambling to buy provisions, it was difficult to find basic supplies like water. Whole shelves stood empty. "People go crazy and buy up everything," 81-year-old resident Gladys Bosque said.

"There's no water, no milk, there are very few cans-and no cat food." In Puerto Rico, Governor Ricardo Rossello activated the National Guard and opened storm shelters sufficient to house up to 62,000 people. A US aircraft carrier with a field hospital and dozens of aircraft able to conduct rescue or supply missions have been put on standby, US emergency authorities said. In Rio Grande, 33-year-old Shellyn Rodriguez was stocking up on batteries, canned food and ice in case of a power outage. "I really am scared for my kid," she said, referring to her nine-year-old son. — AFP

MOON PRESSES PUTIN OVER NORTH KOREA OIL SUPPLIES

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia: South Korean President Moon Jae-in urged Russia yesterday to cooperate over cutting oil supplies to North Korea but President Vladimir Putin appeared to pour cold water on the idea. Putin and Moon met on the sidelines of an economic forum in Vladivostok on Russia's Pacific coast. Speaking after the talks, the

two men said that resolving the North Korea crisis as soon as possible was their top priority but they appeared to have diverging views on the problem.

"In order to compel North Korea to come to the dialogue table, UN sanctions must be strengthened. Now it is inevitable to cut off oil supplies to the North, we hope Russia will cooperate as well,"

Moon was quoted as telling Putin by presidential spokesman Yoon Young-Chan, Yonhap news agency reported. Putin however reiterated that pressure on the Stalinist regime in Pyongyang would not work. The South Korean presidential spokesman quoted Putin as saying that Russia was concerned that the blockage of oil supplies would hurt civilians including hospitals.

Putin said Russia exported a negligible amount of oil to North Korea-about 40,000 tons a year, according to Yoon. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov was not immediately available for comment. Putin stressed the need for a political solution, saying further sanctions and pressure would not solve the problem. "Today, as never before, everyone needs to show composure and avoid steps that lead to an escalation of tensions," he said.

"It would be extremely difficult to advance the situation at hand without political and diplomatic instruments," he said. "It is not worth giving in to emotions and driving North Korea into a corner." Moon said after the talks: "It is more important than anything else to resolve the North's nuclear and missile issues, which are the most urgent and gravest challenges facing this region, at an earliest date." "I and President Putin also agreed that the missile development pursued by North Korea is a wrong path and it is an urgent task to ease tension on the Korean peninsula," he told reporters. — AFP



VLADIVOSTOK: Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and President of South Korea Moon Jae-in shake hands during their meeting as part of the 3rd Eastern Economic Forum hosted by the Far Eastern Federal University at Russky Island outside Vladivostok, Russia. — AFP

EU WINS LEGAL BATTLE ON REFUGEE QUOTAS

BRUSSELS: The EU yesterday won a high-level legal battle against eastern European countries that have refused to admit thousands of asylum seekers based on mandatory quotas for the bloc's member states. The European Court of Justice, the 28-nation bloc's top court, threw out the challenge from Hungary and Slovakia against a scheme Brussels launched two years ago to ease the burden on Greece and Italy.

The European Union has been grappling with the worst migrant crisis since World War II, with more than one million people fleeing war, persecution and poverty in the Middle East and Africa. "The court dismisses the actions brought by Slovakia and Hungary against the provisional mechanism for the mandatory relocation of asylum seekers," the Luxembourg-based court said. "That mechanism actually contributes to enabling Greece and Italy to deal with the impact of the 2015 migration crisis and is proportionate."

The continuing crisis peaked in 2015. More than 1.6 million people have landed on Greek and Italian shores since 2014. The verdict was welcomed by the European Commission, the executive of the 28-nation bloc. "It is very good news," EU Migration

Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos told a press conference in Brussels, it was "an opportunity" to call on all member states to show solidarity.

Trojan horse of terrorism

However, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto slammed the verdict as "irresponsible," saying it "threatens the security of all of Europe". Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has called migration the "Trojan Horse of terrorism." The top court's press office told AFP there is "no onward appeal for Hungary and Slovakia" when asked about Szijarto's vow that Budapest will use "all legal means" to fight the scheme. In Bratislava, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said his government "fully respects the court's decision" as it wants to remain at the "EU's core" but nevertheless called quotas "politically wrong." A majority of EU member states decided in September 2015 to relocate 120,000 Syrian and other asylum seekers from Greece and Italy to most of other member states. Under EU treaties, Britain, Ireland and Denmark do not have to participate. It is part of a scheme to relocate a total of 160,000 asylum seekers by September this year. — AFP

HUGE PROTESTS IN TOGO FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



ABIDJAN: Prime Minister of Togo Komi Selom Klassou speaks during the opening of the international African Green Revolution Forum in Abidjan. —AFP

LOME: Hundreds of thousands of opposition supporters protested across Togo yesterday calling for constitutional reform, despite an apparent government concession to their demands. Amnesty International country head Aimee Adi told AFP "at least 100,000" were in the capital, Lome, with similar demonstrations taking place in some 10 other cities. Opposition party leader Jean-Pierre Fabre for his part called the demonstration "unprecedented" and estimated that "more than one million people" were on the streets of Lome.

Neither figure was independently verified but AFP journalists on the ground said a tide of people had converged on the coastal capital, dwarfing previous protests. Many brandished placards denouncing the regime of President Faure Gnassingbe, whose family has been in power for the last 50 years. "The reforms are lies, we don't believe them. If the

people's minds are made up, nothing can stop them, not even the army," said one protester, Armand Jarre, 26.

Gnassingbe chaired a cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, which saw ministers approve plans for a bill about restrictions on terms in office and changes to the voting system. The opposition has been calling for both since 2005, when Gnassingbe succeeded his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema, who ruled for nearly 40 years. Civil service minister Gilbert Bawara told AFP the government had taken note of the public's "strong expectation" and that a committee was looking into the proposals.

He invited opposition figures to enter into "dialogue and debate" on the issue. But he said calls to limit the presidential mandate to a maximum two, five-year terms would not be implemented retroactively. "There is no

legislative reason to do so. But we need a consensus so the reform is accepted," he added. A consensus would mean the approval of four-fifths of parliament, said Bawara. Parliament only returns from its summer break in October and exact details of the proposals are vague.

Previous protests

Most of Togo's opposition parties decided to come together Lome and some 10 provincial cities yesterday, despite the government's apparent olive branch. They are calling for an acceleration of constitutional reforms, including the limit on how many terms a president can serve and the introduction of a two-round voting system. "Unir (Unite, the president's ruling party) calls for talks as soon as it is cornered," said Tikpi Atchadam, the head of the Panafrican National Party. —AFP

SYRIA GOVT BEHIND SARIN GAS ATTACK IN APRIL: UN

GENEVA: United Nations war crimes investigators yesterday said they had evidence that Syrian government forces were behind a chemical attack that killed dozens of people in Khan Sheikhun in April. In the first UN report to officially blame Damascus, the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Syria said it had gathered an "extensive body of information" showing the Syrian air force was behind the horrific sarin gas attack on April 4.

"All evidence available leads the Commission to conclude that there are reasonable grounds to believe Syrian forces dropped an aerial bomb dispersing sarin in Khan Sheikhun," the report said. At least 83 people, a third of them children, were killed and nearly 300 wounded in the attack on Khan Sheikhun, a town in the opposition-held northern province of Idlib, it said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, has previously given a death toll of at least 87.

Syria's government has denied involvement and claims it no longer possesses chemical weapons after a 2013 agreement under which it pledged to surrender its chemical arsenal. A fact-finding mission by the UN's chemical watchdog, the OPCW, concluded earlier this year that sarin gas was used in the attack, but did not assign blame. A joint UN-OPCW panel is currently working to determine whether Syrian government forces were behind the attack.

Significant evidence

But yesterday's report is the first from the UN to officially lay the blame for the attack on Damascus. The report also found the Syrian government responsible for at least 23 other chemical attacks in the war-torn country since March 2013. The investigators, who have never been granted

access to Syria, said they based their findings on photographs of bomb remnants, satellite imagery and eyewitness testimony.

They determined that a Su-22 fighter bomber, which is only operated by the Syrian air force, conducted four airstrikes in Khan Sheikhun at around 6:45 am on April 4. "The Commission identified three of the bombs as likely OFAB-100-120 and one as a chemical bomb," the report said, adding that "photographs of weapon remnants depict a chemical aerial bomb of a type manufactured in the former Soviet Union."

The investigators said they had found no evidence supporting Syrian and Russian claims that the chemicals had been released when an air strike hit an opposition weapons depot in the area producing chemical munitions. Their report, which covers the period from March 1 to July 7, also found that Syrian government forces had carried out chemical attacks on at least three other occasions since March in Idlib, Hamah and eastern Ghouta using weaponised chlorine.

Justice?

The report is the 14th from the COI, which has been tasked with detailing atrocities in the Syrian conflict that has killed more than 330,000 people since 2011. But despite documenting information about dozens of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, the commission's work has not yet led to any prosecutions. That has fuelled criticism and questions about the panel's usefulness, including from commission member Carla Del Ponte, who announced last month she was quitting, citing the failure to secure indictments. —AFP



DAMASCUS: Zahraa Abdi, right, 47, who fled her native Somalia in 2012 with her three children, sits with her children inside a shared apartment in the Barzeh district of the Syrian capital Damascus. — AFP

REFUGEES FROM CONFLICT ZONES FIND REFUGE IN WAR-TORN SYRIA

REFUGEES CHOOSE ORGANIZED DEATH OVER RANDOM STRIKES

DAMASCUS: Millions of Syrians have fled their country's war as refugees, but for tens of thousands of people escaping conflict elsewhere, Syria is also a place of refuge. Among them is Zahraa Abdi, who fled her native Somalia in 2012 and lives in a small room with her three children in northern Damascus. "In Syria, death is organized, you can escape it. But in Somalia, it strikes randomly, at any time or place, there's no escape," she said, her hair wrapped in a turquoise headscarf.

The UN's refugee agency UNHCR estimates some 55,000 refugees from war-torn countries in the Middle East and beyond are currently living in Syria, which has been ravaged by conflict since March 2011. It provides them with various forms of assistance, though many also work to supplement the aid. The largest refugee contingent, numbering around 31,000, are Iraqis who crossed the border into Syria to flee their country's many years of violence.

But the UN also counts some 1,500 Afghan refugees, and 1,500 more from Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia. Abdi, 47, chose to come to Syria because she could enter without a visa, and she was desperate to find safety for her family. She fled her home in a suburb of the Somali capital Mogadishu after her 10-year-old daughter was raped and murdered. "In Syria, there is bombing, but there are also regions where you can take

refuge. In Somalia, the armed men enter homes and kill the inhabitants," said Abdi, dressed in a black robe embellished with rhinestones.

"I don't want anything for myself, I just want safety for my children." Somalia has been engulfed in violence for most of the past 25 years, and waves of Somalis have fled abroad searching for safety. But conflict also caught up with Abdi in Syria. In 2012, she was living in the town of Al-Tal, held then by opposition forces and subject to sporadic government blockade and regular clashes. She spent two years there before escaping to the relative safety of nearby Damascus.

'Syria is part of me'

While Abdi moved to Syria in the early part of the conflict, most refugees sought safety in the country long before it was consumed by war. In a modest church packed to capacity in a Damascus suburb, 45-year-old Faten sings hymns in Arabic and English. A Chaldean Christian from Iraq, she and her family fled to Syria in 2007 after receiving death threats related to her sister's job at a cafeteria serving US forces. Graffiti was scrawled on the walls of their home accusing them of "treason," and shots were fired at the house.

"When they set fire to the house, we knew it was the end, that we had to go," she said, her curly hair pulled up in a pony tail above her light-

ly made-up face. "My brother and sister and I left without anything. We were barefoot so we wouldn't make any noise when we were running away," she said. She sought refuge at All Saints Church in the Jaramana suburb of Damascus, where she met Alex Amazia, a refugee from Sudan who would become her husband. Amazia arrived in Syria in 1999, fleeing Sudan's civil war.

Twelve years later, South Sudan announced its independence and he found himself the citizen of a new country, but one Syria's government does not recognize. He is unable to renew his Sudanese papers, or to obtain South Sudanese ones in Syria, and so lives without documentation. But he said the violence that has surged in South Sudan makes life in Syria a better option regardless. "Despite all the difficult circumstances we have lived through in Syria, the situation in South Sudan remains appalling, and doesn't compare to here," he insisted.

He has spent 18 years in Syria now, missing the funerals of his father and brother. "Syria has become part of me, I am Syrian," he said. Alex and Faten married in 2014 and he looks after the church, which is attended by a flock that includes dozens of refugees, mostly from South Sudan and Iraq. Faten feels the conflict she fled in Iraq has caught up with her across the border in Syria. "We feel that we are stuck with the curse of war," she said. —AFP



KHAN SHEIKHUN: This file photo shows the entrance of Khan Sheikhun, a rebel-held town in the northwestern Syrian Idlib province. — AFP

REMAINS FOUND ON SYRIA BORDER BELONG TO LEBANON TROOPS

BEIRUT: Tests conducted by Lebanese authorities have confirmed that human remains found along the Syrian border belonged to soldiers held hostage by the Islamic State group, an army source said yesterday. The troops were kidnapped by IS in 2014, when jihadists overran the Lebanese border town of Arsal, and their families had long lobbied the Beirut government for information on their fate.

After Lebanon's army waged a week-long assault on IS along the border with Syria last month, it retrieved human remains suspected to belong to the soldiers. "The army chief Joseph Aoun met with the soldiers' families today... and informed them of the official DNA results," the army source told AFP. The source confirmed that the remains belonged to 10 soldiers, including two who were executed separately by the jihadists and the eight that were held by IS.

An army statement confirmed that Aoun had met with a delegation of the soldiers' families. The army had said those missing soldiers were its "top concern" in the offensive it fought last month against an estimated 600 IS jihadists entrenched in the border region. The assault coincided with a simultaneous assault by Shiite militant group Hezbollah from the Syrian side of the frontier. Fighting ended in a controversial deal between Hezbollah and IS that saw the jihadists evacuated from the border area and into eastern Syria.

Lebanese authorities said that surrendered IS fighters led them to the human remains. The soldiers will be buried on Friday, which has been declared a national day of mourning. An event commemorating the troops will be held outside Beirut and attended by top officials. The war ravaging neighboring Syria since 2011 has overflowed into Lebanon, with jihadists claiming several deadly bombings and clashing with the army on multiple occasions. —AFP

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LEARN THINK BECOME

POPE HEADS TO COLOMBIA AS 'DEFENDER OF PEACE'

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis set off for Colombia yesterday to plead for a "stable and lasting" peace in a divided country just emerging from a 50-year war that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. His visit comes two days after Colombia's government and the country's last active guerrilla group, the ELN, announced a ceasefire, a key step toward sealing a "complete peace" to end Latin America's longest civil war. "Peace is what Colombia has sought for a long time, and she is working to achieve it: a stable and lasting peace, so that we see and treat each other as brothers and not as enemies," the pope said in a video message on Monday.

"Peace reminds us that we are all children of the same Father, who loves and consoles us," he said ahead of the five-day tour, which will see him meet both those persecuted and their tormentors. The white-robed pope, clutching his black travelling briefcase, turned and waved as he boarded the plane in Rome. The Vatican said it had been forced to make changes to Francis's flight plan to avoid a run-in with monster Hurricane Irma, which is barreling its way across the Caribbean. The Colombian conflict has left 260,000 people confirmed dead, 60,000 unaccounted for and seven million displaced.

Efforts to break the bloody cycle have proved controversial: Colombia's biggest guerrilla group, the FARC, disarmed under a historic peace accord, but critics say the rebels are

getting off too lightly. Colombians narrowly rejected the peace deal in a referendum last year. The pontiff had tried unsuccessfully to mediate between President Juan Manuel Santos and the lead opponent of the accord, conservative leader Alvaro Uribe. Santos and the FARC then tweaked their agreement and the government pushed it through congress in spite of continuing resistance from Uribe's side.

Testimony from survivors, oppressors

Vatican experts said Francis would be walking a diplomatic tightrope on the trip between calls for justice and mercy. "Church officials are insisting Francis isn't going (to Colombia) to support the agreement itself," said Ines San Martin, correspondent for the specialist religious website Cruxnow.com. "A distinction must be made between the common desire for peace and the signing of the agreement," she wrote. The 80-year old Argentine, who will be making his 20th foreign trip as pope and fifth to his native Latin America, will touch down late afternoon Wednesday in Bogota, where he will be serenaded by traditional musicians. There he will meet with Santos and leaders of the Catholic Church in Venezuela who have been attempting to help mediate in their country's crisis. Based at the Vatican mission in the capital city, Francis will then make daily excursions by plane to the cities of Villavicencio, Medellin and Cartagena. —AFP



ROME: In this handout photograph released by The Osservatore Romano, Pope Francis, center, waves as he boards an aircraft at Fiumicino International Airport in Rome as he prepares to travel to Colombia. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: Young immigrants, activists and supporters of the DACA program march through downtown Los Angeles, California. — AFP

ANGER AS TRUMP ENDS AMNESTY FOR 800,000 YOUNG IMMIGRANTS

PRESIDENT VOWS TO REVISIT IMMIGRATION ISSUE IF CONGRESS FAILS

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday ended an amnesty for 800,000 people brought illegally to the United States as minors, throwing their future in serious doubt and triggering fierce condemnation from across the political spectrum. Business leaders, unions, religious groups, opposition Democrats and many within Trump's own Republican party joined forces to criticize the phased end of protections for people who arrived in the United States under the age of 16.

So-called "Dreamers"—many Hispanic, now in their twenties—will have somewhere between six and around 24 months before they become illegal and subject to potential deportation. "This is the only country I know," said Ivan Ceja, a 26-year-old computer science student and immigrant rights advocate who arrived in the country as a baby. "My future is here. I'm not going to go without a fight."

Trump later insisted he had "great heart for the folks we are talking about, a great love for them" and called on Congress to pass wide-ranging immigration reform—something lawmakers have tried and failed to do for decades. The president vowed to "revisit" the issue if Congress fails. "I look forward to working w/ D's + R's in Congress to address immigration reform in a way that puts hardworking citizens of our country 1st," he tweeted.

Trump had argued that the amnesty introduced by Barack Obama in 2012 was an unconstitutional overreach

of presidential powers and would likely be struck down by the courts eventually. The announcement prompted ex-president Obama to make a rare re-entry onto the political stage to decry the decision as "wrong," "self-defeating" and "cruel." "Let's be clear: the action taken today isn't required legally. It's a political decision, and a moral question," Obama said.

Republican Senator John McCain, who lost the 2008 presidential election to Obama, said that while he disagreed with his ex-rival's use of an executive order to set the policy, reversing it now would be "unacceptable." He vowed to work with both Democrats and Republicans to craft and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Fair to American families

Around 800,000 people took up the offer to get two-year renewable permits under the DACA scheme, but a similar number opted to stay in the shadows largely because of uncertainty over policy once Obama left office. Trump, who ran for office on a hard-right immigration and law and order platform, painted his decision as an effort to put natural-born Americans first. Senior Department of Homeland Security officials admitted that the addresses and other sensitive information provided by current permit holders would be kept on record indefinitely.

But, one official said, there was "no plan at this time" to

specifically target recipients for deportation. In New York, thousands of protesters marched in Lower Manhattan before walking across the Brooklyn Bridge. "We've always been responsible here, paying our taxes; we haven't taken anyone's job, we pay for everything out of pocket, not even getting government help or scholarships for school," said student Adriana Perez, 33, who arrived in the city from Guerrero, Mexico, when she was 6.

We will fight

Texas, which led a coalition of 10 conservative states threatening court action against the federal government unless DACA was rescinded, said it was dropping a 2015 lawsuit that provided the basis for its legal challenge—with Attorney General Ken Paxton claiming "victory." But elsewhere, Trump's decision was met with broad opprobrium. The Mexican government, mayors from across the US and the Service Employees International Union were among those who issued statements of condemnation. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops called the decision "repugnant" and said "today, our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond." Opponents hinted that they may challenge Trump's decision in the courts. "We warned you not to threaten our neighbors, @realDonaldTrump. New York City will fight to defend our Dreamers," said New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. —AFP

News

in brief

Seven killed as Bangladesh police raid extremist hideout

DHAKA: At least seven people including two children were killed in an explosion after Bangladesh government forces raided the suspected hideout of a top Islamist extremist, police said yesterday. Two women were also among those killed in the blast at a five-storey building that was raided by the elite Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) early Tuesday after a tip-off that a top Islamist extremist was holed up there. "Seven bodies were found. They are all burnt," RAB spokesman Mufti Mahmud told AFP, adding that the bodies were too damaged to be identified.

China holds military drill as N Korea tensions rise

BEIJING: China's air force conducted military drills in seas adjacent to the Korean peninsula, an official report has said, as tensions soared over North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weaponry. The defense battalion simulated warding off a "low-altitude, surprise" attack off China's east coast, and practised defending against "nuclear and biological weapons", according to China Military Online, the news website of the Chinese army. The purpose of the drill in the Bohai Gulf early Tuesday was not immediately clear. It came after Pyongyang on Sunday triggered global alarm with its most powerful nuclear blast to date, claiming to have successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.

Indian court tells govt to stop cow vigilantes

NEW DELHI: India's top court proposed measures yesterday to stem what it called growing violence by vigilantes who claim to be protecting cows, revered as holy by Hindus. India is reeling from a spate of horrific lynchings by Hindu extremists mostly targeting the country's Muslim minority, who have historically eaten beef. Critics say that extremists emboldened by the current Hindu nationalist government's tough stance on cow slaughter are using beef as a pretext to target the community. The Supreme Court was responding to a private petition from Tushar Gandhi, the great grandson of India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi. It said state governments should appoint senior police officers tasked specifically with curbing such attacks.

NATO chief sees no imminent threat in Russia war games

TAPA, Estonia: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday he saw no "imminent threat" from Russia's military exercises with Belarus next week but condemned Moscow for a lack of openness about the drills. The Zapad event, which Moscow says will involve some 12,700 troops, has caused unease in Poland and the Baltic states, with Lithuania and Estonia saying as many as 100,000 soldiers could take part, though Russia insists the event is "purely defensive" in nature. NATO has deployed four battle groups—around 4,000 troops—to Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland in recent years in response to growing Russian assertiveness in the region, particularly after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

TRIBE NEAR BRAZIL'S SAO PAULO FIGHTS TO HOLD ON

RESERVA INDOGENA DE JARAGUA: Located next to Sao Paulo, one of the world's biggest cities, the Guarani-Mbya tribe's reservation here was always easy to miss. Under a new law, it risks disappearing almost altogether. "People think there aren't any Indians in Sao Paulo," says Antonio Awa, a tribal leader from the related Tupi-Guarani, with a smile. The Jaragua reservation, just 12 miles from the Brazilian mega city, easily passes under the radar. The territory of 1,312 acres, which was agreed to in 2015, doesn't amount to much in this vast country.

Last month, however, President Michel Temer tore up the agreement, meaning that the 720 tribes people will be left with one little corner that had been set aside in 1987 — just 4.2 acres. Only one village of the current five would remain. "The whites don't understand our connection to the land because they don't live in the forest," said Tupa Mirim, one of Jaragua's embattled inhabitants. The village due to remain, Ytu, is in relatively good shape. In other villages, the native people live in basic conditions, the children barefoot, the houses rudimentary and toilets shared.

In Ytu, there's running water in houses built by the state in the 1990s. There's also the one health center and school for the

tribe, where children learn their maternal Guarani until eight and then Portuguese. But even here, there is a feeling that life is being squeezed out of the community. Jurandir Karai Jekupe, 41, lost his infant daughter in June, when she was less than one. "The death certificate said it was because of a bacteria but no one explained to me what happened," he says, noting that infant mortality is a constant worry on the reservation. At the health center, which is open eight hours a day, respiratory infections are a common complaint, a nurse, who asked not to be identified, said. "The center's very small and not equipped to attend to the community in an adequate way," said Thiago Karai, 22.

Blame the whites

Jekupe, a school teacher, said most of the shrinking community's problems come from what the Guarani call "the whites"—the outside world. That starts with the pollution and then the drought killing the local river Ribeirao de las Lavras. "We made a documentary about it but nothing changed," he says sadly. The Guarani also describe a plague of stray dogs and cats that they say were abandoned by outsiders. "It's another problem brought by the whites," Jekupe said. —AFP

CATALONIA SET FOR CLASH WITH MADRID OVER INDEPENDENCE VOTE

BARCELONA: Catalonia is expected to pass a law yesterday laying the groundwork for an independence referendum on October 1 which is fiercely opposed by Madrid, setting a course for Spain's deepest political crisis in decades. The looming showdown comes three weeks after jihadist attacks in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, and another seaside resort that killed 16 people and wounded more than 120 others.

Catalonia's regional parliament agreed to vote on the disputed bill with 72 votes in favor, 60 against and three abstentions amid jeers from opponents of independence for the wealthy northeastern region of Spain. During the vote, small groups of protesters both for and against independence rallied outside the parliament.

Pro-separatist lawmakers, who control the regional assembly, are expected to pass the bill later on Wednesday, ignoring a ruling by Spain's Constitutional Court that has deemed the proposed law unconstitutional. Catalan president Carles Puigdemont and other top Catalan government officials will then swiftly sign it.

Parliament as 'theatre'

Carlos Carrizosa of the centre-right Ciudadanos—the main opposition grouping in the Catalan parliament—accused the pro-separatist lawmakers of "diminishing" the regional assembly and "transforming it into a mere the-

atre". Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has vowed to immediately challenge the law in the Constitutional Court. His government has also threatened legal action against top Catalan political figures involved in the plebiscite.

The government's response to passage of the law will be "agile but not hasty", Public Works Minister Inigo de la Serna said yesterday

during a TV interview. In a tweet, the president of the Catalan parliament, Carme Forcadell, said she had requested that judges at the Constitutional Court be disqualified, calling them "another extension of the state which has lost all legitimacy." The majority of the court's judges have been nominated by conservative lawmakers. —AFP



BARCELONA: Catalan regional vice-president and chief of Economy and Finance, Oriol Junqueras, center, Catalan regional president, Carles Puigdemont, right, and leader of Junts Pel Si (Together for Yes), Jordi Turull, left, applaud during a session at the Catalan parliament in Barcelona. — AFP

MYANMAR'S SUU KYI SLAMS ICEBERG OF MISINFORMATION OVER ROHINGYA

YANGON: Global outrage over Myanmar's treatment of its Rohingya Muslims is being fuelled by "a huge iceberg of misinformation", Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday, after the UN led calls for her government to end violence that has forced 125,000 to flee to Bangladesh. Rohingya refugees have poured over the border with Bangladesh, fleeing a massive security sweep in west-



Aung San Suu Kyi

ern Rakhine state by Myanmar forces following a series of deadly ambushes by Rohingya militants on August 25. Suu Kyi's government has faced growing international condemnation for the army's response with refugees bringing with them renewed stories of murder, rape and burned villages at the hands of soldiers. But in her first public comments since

last month's ambushes, she said sympathy for the Rohingya was being generated by "a huge iceberg of misinformation calculated to create a lot of problems between different communities and with the aim of promoting the interest of the terrorists". The comments were made in a statement put out by her office following a call with Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan who has been particularly critical of Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingya, dubbing it a "genocide". But Suu Kyi

defended her government's actions saying her administration was "defending all the people" in Rakhine state. The statement highlighted a now deleted tweet last week by Turkey's deputy prime minister Mehmet Simsek showing a series of gruesome pictures of bodies he wrongly claimed were of dead Rohingya. Myanmar's Rohingya are the world's largest stateless minority and have lived under apartheid-like restrictions on their movement and citizenship for years. They

largely eschewed violence but in October a new militant group called the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army launched a series of deadly ambushes on border police prompting a massive army-led crackdown. More than 200,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since October. That includes 125,000 in the last two weeks, piling huge pressure on an impoverished neighbor that already hosted 400,000 Rohingya who had fled Myanmar over the past four decades.—AFP



GHAZNI: In this photograph, Afghan children released from captivity are presented to the media at the police headquarters in Ghazni.—AFP

POVERTY DRIVES CHILD SOLDIERS INTO AFGHANISTAN'S ENDLESS WAR

GHAZNI, Afghanistan: The rescue this summer of dozens of Afghan youths destined to be trained as Taliban fighters has spotlighted how entrenched poverty is fuelling a renewable supply of child soldiers to endlessly replenish the insurgents' ranks. Afghan forces freed almost 40 children during multiple raids near the Pakistani border. Officials said traffickers working with the Taliban had recruited the boys, some as young as four, from poor families by promising to provide them with a religious education. In reality they were set to be indoctrinated by hardline mullahs in Pakistan and receive military training to carry out attacks inside war-torn Afghanistan, authorities said. "Our parents always wanted us to learn Islamic studies but we didn't know that we would be fooled and brainwashed to become suicide bombers," nine-year-old Shafullah said after being rescued by police. The use of child soldiers by all sides in the Afghan conflict is well documented, including in pro-government security forces, where the practice of "bacha bazi", or child sex slavery, is said to be institutionalized. But the incidents this summer in southeastern Ghazni province illustrated a practice the

Afghan government and rights groups have long accused the Taliban of: kidnapping children to indoctrinate as fighters at madrassas in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In a recent speech charting US strategy in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump vowed, among other things, to "dry up" militant recruitment. But experts say poverty is a significant driving factor, with parents unable to provide for their children delivering them, often unknowingly, into the hands of abusers and extremists. AFP spoke recently with several of the children rescued at an orphanage in southeastern Ghazni province, where they had been placed as officials tried to track down their parents. "They talked to my father and he had no objection," said nine-year-old Nabiullah, sobbing as he recalled being taken from his home by recruiters. Another child, who told AFP he was eight, said: "Two Taliban came saying they wanted to take us to a madrasa in Quetta. I didn't know more until the men were arrested." Officials said they had saved the children, most aged between four and 14, from what Mohammad Aref Wahidi, deputy governor of Ghazni, described as "kidnapping gangs" taking them to Pakistan.

OUTSPOKEN JOURNALIST, CRITIC'S MURDER SPARKS OUTCRY IN INDIA

LANKESH'S DEATH: BRUTAL ASSAULT ON FREEDOM OF PRESS

BANGALORE, India: Indian activists, politicians and journalists demanded a full investigation yesterday into the murder of Gauri Lankesh, a newspaper editor and outspoken critic of the ruling Hindu nationalist party whose death has sparked an outpouring of anger. The 55-year-old, who was shot dead by three unknown gunmen on a motorcycle as she entered her home in the southern city of Bangalore in Karnataka state late Tuesday, was a fierce critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing government.

The Editors Guild of India said her death was "an ominous portent for dissent in democracy and a brutal assault on the freedom of the press", calling for a swift and thorough investigation. India has a historically poor record on journalists' safety, although most deaths occur in remote rural areas away from the major urban centers. But critics of Modi's government say dissent is being stifled as nationalist sentiment grows in the world's largest democracy.

In April, Reporters Without Borders ranked India 136th of 180 countries in its world press freedom ratings, blaming "Hindu nationalists trying to purge all manifestations of 'anti-national' thought from the national debate". The press freedom group says 25 journalists have died in India since 2010.

Assassination on democracy

The latest death follows the assassinations of vocal Indian secularists including M.M. Kalburgi, who was shot dead in 2015 in Karnataka, allegedly by Hindu radicals. In 2013, another leading rationalist thinker, Narendra Dabholkar, was shot dead by two gunmen as he was taking his morning walk in the western city of Pune. No one has been convicted of the murder. Lankesh was a target of right-wing trolling on social media and had complained of facing "rabid hate" that made her fear for free speech in India.

Last year she was found guilty of defaming a lawmaker from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a 2008 article about alleged corruption.



BANGALORE: Indian protesters take part in a rally condemning the killing of journalist Gauri Lankesh in Bangalore.—AFP

She was appealing against the conviction. "The murder must be investigated effectively and with urgency," the All India Democratic Women's Association said in a statement. Lankesh's murder was a "grim indicator of the intolerance and violence that have been let loose by the increasing influence of right wing forces in the country", it added. Human Rights Watch's South Asia director, Meenakshi Ganguly, called on politicians to "condemn violence over beliefs". "Dissent, engaging with criticism, are strengths of a democracy, but in India, they are being drowned by allegations of causing offence to faith or nation," she said. Journalists and activists poured into the streets of Bangalore and other Indian cities across the country to protest Lankesh's death and demand justice.

No arrests have yet been made in her murder, which Karnataka's Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called an "assassination on democracy". The government of Karnataka is led by the national opposition Congress Party, but the BJP is gunning for victory in state elections due to be held next year. Siddaramaiah, who goes by only one name, told a press conference Wednesday that the state had set up a special investigation team to look into the murder. Police have recovered closed-circuit television footage from her residence, where they also reportedly found four bullet cartridges. "The CCTV camera has captured the whole incident," Indrajit, Lankesh's brother told reporters. "I am very confident that the culprits will be caught soon."—AFP

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Focus

WHAT IS DACA? A
LOOK AT IMMIGRANT
PROGRAM IN USA

By Astrid Galvan

The program that protects young immigrants who were brought to the US illegally as children or came with families who overstayed visas has been rescinded. But many questions remain about what will happen to the program's beneficiaries. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the program, known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, will end in six months to give Congress time to find a legislative solution for the immigrants. Here's a look at the program and what happens next for the nearly 800,000 people in it who are allowed to work in the US and receive protection from deportation.

What is DACA?

DACA was created by President Barack Obama in 2012 after intense pressure from immigrant advocates who wanted protections for the young immigrants who were mostly raised in the U.S. but lacked legal status. The program protects them from deportation - granting a two-year reprieve that can be extended and by issuing a work permit and a Social Security number. DACA recipients must meet several requirements, including having no criminal record.

Immigrants who are accepted into the program and later get arrested face deportation to their home country. They also must have been 30 or younger when the program was launched and brought to the US before age 16. The application cost is nearly \$500, and permits must be renewed every two years. The application and renewal process take several weeks, and many immigrants hire lawyers to help navigate the process. DACA does not give beneficiaries legal US residency; they are simply given a reprieve from deportation while being allowed to legally work. The overwhelming majority of DACA recipients are from Mexico. One in four of them live in California.

Why DACA?

Frustration grew during the Obama administration over repeated failures to pass the "Dream Act," which would have provided a path to legal US citizenship for young immigrants brought to the country as children. The last major attempt to pass the legislation was in 2011. Immigrant activists staged protests and participated in civil disobedience in an effort to push Obama to act after Congress did not pass legislation. DACA is different than the Dream Act because it does not provide a pathway to legal residency or citizenship. Still, DACA recipients are often referred to as "Dreamers" - a reference to the earlier proposals that failed in Congress before Obama's action.

Why end DACA?

President Donald Trump was under pressure from several states that threatened to sue his administration if it did not end DACA. And he declared on the campaign trail that the program was an "illegal" executive amnesty. White House officials argue the order Obama issued creating the program was unconstitutional and that Congress should take charge of legislation dealing the issue. They say the program was on shaky legal ground and would not have survived legal challenges in the courts. Immigrant advocates, clergy and business leaders including the chief executives of Apple and Microsoft put intense pressure on Trump to maintain the program. But he decided to end it.

What happens now?

Young immigrants already enrolled in DACA remain covered until their permits expire. If their permits expire before March 5, 2018, they are eligible to renew them for another two years as long as they apply by Oct 5. If their permits expire beyond that March date, they will not be able to renew and could be subject to deportation when their permits expire. People who miss the October deadline will be disqualified from renewing their permission to remain in the country and could face deportation, although the Trump administration has said it will not actively provide their information to immigration authorities. And it will be up to Congress to take up and pass legislation helping DACA beneficiaries. One bill introduced this year would provide a path to legal permanent residency. Many DACA beneficiaries say they worry they will be forced to take lower-wage, under-the-table jobs and will be unable to pay for college or help their families financially. — AP

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MACHETES VS MACHINE GUNS: ROHINGYA MILITANTS OUTGUNNED

By Sam Jahan, Jerome Taylor

Farmhand-turned-fighter Ala Uddin abandoned the Rohingya Muslim militants battling Myanmar's army once he realized they were armed with little more than clubs and machetes—a mismatch that has nonetheless drawn scores to the nascent cause. Armed with social-media savvy and believed to be backed by overseas emigres, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) appears to have significantly grown in the last year despite remaining hopelessly outgunned against one of Asia's largest militaries.

"I didn't want my children to become orphans," the 27-year-old said this week from a refugee camp in Bangladesh as he explained why he deserted the group two weeks ago. "They had some sticks, machetes and two guns for nearly 100 recruits. I realized I would simply die if I went to war with just a piece of wood," he said, giving his nom de guerre. Better-known locally as Harakah al-Yaqin (Faith Movement), ARSA is locked in a David-and-Goliath battle.

It announced its arrival last October with deadly ambushes on Myanmar border posts in Rakhine state, which has long been the seat of religious tensions between Muslims and Buddhists. Notorious for its scorched earth counter-insurgency tactics, Myanmar's army the Tatmadaw—responded with predictable ferocity. More than 200,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since October, bringing with them accounts of murder, rape and burned villages at the hands of the military.

A fresh refugee exodus was sparked by another series of coordinated night-time raids by ARSA militants on August 25. Analysts say those ambushes, which struck more than 30 places, were a tactical failure—the militants appeared to suffer heavy casualties and did not capture a significant number of guns. But they showed that ARSA's ranks had swelled, helped by the brutal response of Myanmar's military. The group "has displayed a significantly improved capacity for coordinating operations over a wide area and is now able to mobilize far larger numbers of fighters,"

Anthony Davis, a regional security expert at Jane's IHS Markit said. "All the Tatmadaw abuses heaped on the population since October appears essentially to have fanned a popular revolt."

Clubs and swords

Statements by Myanmar authorities in the last two weeks describe ARSA fielding upwards of 150 fighters during dozens of skirmishes. But even if they have the numbers to be taken seriously, they lack the modern weapons to back it up. According to statements and photos released by Myanmar's army, the militants use primitive weapons, including gunpowder rifles, homemade guns and bombs as well as clubs and swords. In contrast, Myanmar's army is one of the best funded in Asia. Some 4.5 percent of GDP is devoted to the army budget, three times what the military gets even in junta-run Thailand.

Myanmar says it has killed around 400 Rohingya fighters and lost just 15 personnel since August 25 — although the army often plays down its casualties. Interviews with refugees and former fighters in Bangladesh suggest the uneven fight is taking its toll on ARSA, with a noticeable increase in men of fighting age among refugee arrivals over the last few days. Ala Uddin secretly left his family in Myanmar's Rathedaung township five months ago to join ARSA. "We were trained to fight with bravery in our hearts," he said, adding he received instruction in how to plant explosives and fire rifles. But he soon realized that the assaults they ended up carrying out were "pointless attacks" with "ancient weapons", so he deserted. Mohammed Akbar, an 18-year-old refugee who arrived in Bangladesh this week, said school friends had died fighting alongside ARSA. "They barely have any proper weapons. So I chose to escape," he said.

Not jihad... yet

The Rohingya had largely eschewed violence until ARSA appeared. Little is known about who runs or finances the group. A report by the International Crisis Group based on

interviews with members said the militants answered to a leadership committee of wealthy Rohingya emigres in Saudi Arabia. They set up the group in 2012 after anti-Muslim riots swept through Rakhine. Its most visible face is on-the-ground commander Ata Ullah.

He was reportedly born to a Rohingya family in Karachi, Pakistan, before moving to Saudi Arabia—a theory backed up by the confident Rohingya and Peninsular Arabic he speaks in ARSA's videos. In recent months they have ramped up their social media presence, including a Twitter account (@ARSA_Official) that is often the first to publish ARSA statements or direct readers to videos. Ata Ullah starts his statements with Islamic greetings. But the group has not made any public pledges of fealty to major jihadist groups. Instead ARSA portrays itself as one of Myanmar's many ethnic rebel insurgencies fighting an abusive central military.

In a statement published on Wednesday, ARSA accused the military of "committing heinous crimes" against Rohingya civilians and criticized Myanmar's refusal to grant visas to UN investigators. "There has been an attempt to reach out to the wider international community, an effort to stress the fact that they are not jihadists, but an ethnonationalist movement with a cause," said Davis. In interviews, Ata Ullah has rejected the terrorist label and said his group do not target civilians. But Myanmar says the group has murdered Buddhist civilians. Analysts also blame them for a wave of assassinations in remote Rakhine villages of perceived state collaborators in recent months.

Zachary Abuza, an expert on Southeast Asian militant groups, said ARSA had caught the attention of international jihadists. "Whether these guys are actively courting this support or they want it, it might well happen anyway," he said. Indonesian police, he said, have stopped two plots to blow up Myanmar's embassy in Jakarta, and Malaysia has arrested militants who were trying to reach Rakhine. The scorched earth response from Myanmar's military has also created a huge pool of angry Rohingya refugees ripe for recruitment. "It's like watching a train wreck in slow motion," he said. "So predictable." — AFP

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR TEST: WHAT WE KNOW

North Korea conducted a sixth nuclear test at the weekend, saying it was a hydrogen bomb that could be fitted onto a missile, prompting global condemnation and calls for further sanctions. The North says it needs nuclear arms to protect itself, but the US has accused the isolated nation of "begging for war". Pyongyang carried out its first nuclear test in 2006. It also has a rocketry program and in July tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that appeared to bring much of the mainland US into range. Here are some key questions around the latest explosion.

How big was the blast?

Calculating the yield from the blast involves taking into account several different factors, many of which are unknown. As well as the magnitude of the earthquake-given as 6.3 by the US Geological Survey, although some monitors give lower figures—the depth at which the device was detonated is crucial, as is the type of rock surrounding it. South Korea's defense minister put the yield at 50 kilotons. The US-based 38 North website says 100 kilotons or more. Japan on Wednesday upgraded its estimate to around 160 kilotons. The numbers are likely to continue to change as more information emerges before a consensus is reached. But all the estimates far exceed the 15 kilotons of the US device that devastated Hiroshima in 1945. The bigger a bomb is, the less accurately an ICBM carrying it needs to be aimed to ensure a given target is destroyed.

What kind of bomb?

Atomic or "A-bombs" work on the principle of nuclear fission, where energy is released by splitting atoms of enriched uranium or plutonium encased in the warhead. Hydrogen or H-bombs, also known as thermonuclear weapons, work on fusion and are far more powerful, with a nuclear blast taking place first to create the intense temperatures required. Many experts say Sunday's blast had the hallmarks of a two-stage hydrogen bomb. But an enhanced fission device, in which fusion fuel is used to boost the yield from an atomic bomb, is also a possibility.

No foreign government has so far confirmed the North's assertion that it was an H-bomb. Chinese, South Korean and Japanese monitors have not detected elevated radiation levels or chemical isotopes that could give clues as to what it was, even though a second tremor after the explosion led to suggestions the rock at the test site had collapsed. Satellite pictures released Wednesday showed small landslides at the Punggye-ri test site, but no crater from a cave-in, which could have allowed radioactive substances to enter the atmosphere.

The 'Peanut', 'Disco Ball'

Hours before the blast, the North released pictures of leader Kim Jong-Un at the Nuclear Weapons Institute inspecting an hourglass-shaped silver device that looked around a meter long. The North's official KCNA news agency said that it was an H-bomb with an "explosive power that can be adjusted from tens to hundreds of kilotons depending on the target". All its components were domestically produced, it added.

The device, quickly dubbed the "Peanut" by analysts,

was larger than the "Disco Ball", said to be a miniaturized atomic bomb, that Kim was pictured with in March last year. Pyongyang previously claimed to have successfully tested an H-bomb after its fourth blast in January last year, but experts doubted the claim at the time due to the relatively weak yield. Analysts say that the Peanut could be a model, rather than the actual device that was detonated on Sunday. But South Korea's defense minister said Seoul believed the North had succeeded in building a bomb that could fit into an ICBM. — AFP



This undated file photo distributed by the North Korean government, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at an undisclosed location in North Korea. — AP



UKHIYA: Newly arrived Rohingya refugees make a meal at a temporary shelter after fleeing to Bangladesh from Myanmar in Ukhiya yesterday. More than 125,000 refugees have flooded across the border into Bangladesh. Most are Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority that the government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar largely does not recognize as citizens. — AFP

NISSAN UNVEILS NEW ELECTRIC CAR

Continued from Page 1

Faced with tighter global environmental regulations, most carmakers are investing heavily in the electric-car sector, sparking a ferocious race to create the next green vehicle. Nissan was an innovator in the sector seven years ago when it unveiled its first Leaf which has sold 280,000 units-but has since had to contend with fierce competition from General Motors and Tesla among others.

"The second (Leaf) will be one of our core products-it is not a niche anymore," Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa told a news briefing for the new car yesterday. Saikawa defended the vehicle's potential range, which fell short of expectations and puts it behind Tesla's Model 3. "(The range) is more than enough for Japan and most European countries," he said. The

Japanese automaker is hoping to double or triple last year's annual sales of about 48,000 units. "With the first generation Leaf, the range was not enough and 'range anxiety' became a big issue for a lot of consumers," Christopher Richter, an auto analyst at brokerage CLSA in Tokyo said.

"Now, lithium-ion batteries have become much cheaper, so that allows automakers to offer double the range for about the same price." "So, I would expect the sales to be larger for this new generation of Leaf. However, Nissan will face more competition as there are other quite similar new vehicles on the market," he added. The new car will be available next month in Japan, followed by the United States and Canada in January 2018. The price tag in Japan will be 3.15 million yen (around \$29,000). Shares in Nissan ended down 0.59 percent at 1,086 yen in Tokyo. — AFP

LOUVRE ABU DHABI TO OPEN ITS DOORS

Continued from Page 1

Abu Dhabi's oil-rich rulers agreed to pay France \$525 million for the use of the "Louvre" name alone for some 30 years, plus another \$750 million to hire French managers to oversee the 300 loaned works of art. A center at Paris' Louvre now bears the name of the late UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, which was also part of the deal.

Public relations officials at yesterday's announcement nevertheless insisted The Associated Press not refer to the museum as a "branch" of the Louvre. They later refused to allow the AP to interview government officials after complaining about its coverage. As construction on the Louvre Abu Dhabi began, Dubai's overheated property market collapsed, forcing Abu Dhabi to offer a \$10 billion bailout. A global crash in oil prices over \$100 a barrel in 2014 to around \$30 in early 2016 further strained the UAE and slowed Abu Dhabi's plans. A planned outpost of the Guggenheim remains merely a foundation in the nearby desert.

The museum's use of migrant labor in its construction sparked criticism. Like nearly every construction project in the UAE, the Louvre Abu Dhabi relies on low-paid laborers from South Asia who brave humid summertime temperatures of around 45 degrees Celsius. Many work for years to pay off loans to travel to the UAE. Some find their wages lower than promised or entirely withheld for months. Human Rights Watch reported in 2015 that hundreds of workers on Saadiyat Island were deported or lost their work visas for launching strikes over their conditions. Labor strikes are illegal in the UAE.

The report said some of those deported worked on the Louvre Abu Dhabi, while others worked on a nearby satellite campus of New York University. Today, much of the island remains an off-limits construction site. During construction of the Louvre, one worker was killed in an accident in 2015 while another died of "natural causes" in 2016, according to Abu Dhabi authorities. Yesterday, one Emirati official acknowledged the laborers' help. — AP

KUWAIT URGED TO SEVER ALL TIES WITH MYANMAR

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, a prominent Islamic organization yesterday condemned the 'crimes' committed against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority, describing the stateless people as among the most oppressed communities in the world. The international community should act decisively against atrocities taking place in Myanmar, read a statement by the Saudi-based Muslim World League.

The statement noted that the brutality that the Rohingyas have had to endure is a blemish on the his-

tory of humanity, as deep-rooted hatred and rancor have given way to unprecedented acts of violence. It also deplored any encroachments on personal liberty, irrespective of race, faith or ideology. Tens of thousands of Rohingyas have fled into neighboring countries since August 25, when Rohingya insurgents attacked dozens of police posts and an army base. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), some 3,000 members of the community have been killed and 18,000 others displaced in the ensuing violence. — Agencies

'GOOD AND BAD NEWS' ON ASPIRIN AND COLON...

Continued from Page 1

People who take the drug, especially in middle age, should be regularly screened for cancer, they added. Roughly half of adults in the United States take small doses — 80 to 325 milligrams - of aspirin to ward off cardiovascular disease. In Britain the figure is about 40 percent.

The general public has not yet recognized the potential benefits for cancer prevention, notes Peter Rothwell,

a professor at the Centre for Prevention of Stroke and Dementia at the University of Oxford. "It takes a while, and more replication studies, to convince people that the benefits are real," he said. Rothwell published a study earlier this year showing an increased risk of internal bleeding in people over 75 who take aspirin regularly. "You might want to take it in your 50s and 60s, but then stop," he said. "The benefits you get from cancer prevention carries on for another 10 years or so." — AFP



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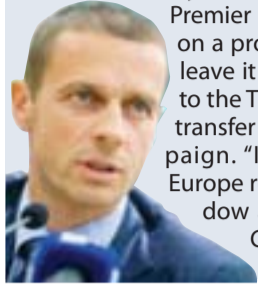
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UEFA'S CEFERIN BACKS EPL TRANSFER WINDOW PLANS

LONDON: UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin says he supports Premier League plans to close the transfer window before action gets under way on the pitch next season. Clubs in England's top flight spent a record £1.4 billion (\$1.8 billion, 1.5 billion euros) in the transfer window, capped by a final day splurge of £210 million, cementing its position as Europe's richest league. This year the window shut on August 31 after three rounds of Premier League fixtures. Club bosses are set to vote this week on a proposal to close the window early, a move that would leave it out of line with the standard FIFA dates. In an email to the Times, Ceferin said he supported the move to wrap up transfer business before the start of the next domestic campaign. "I am aware there are serious discussions around Europe regarding the shortening of the summer transfer window and we are following them closely," UEFA president Ceferin told the Times. —AFP

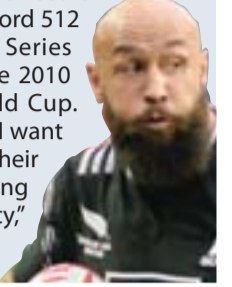


IRELAND'S O'NEILL UPBEAT ON WCUP DESPITE DEFEAT

DUBLIN: Ireland manager Martin O'Neill is confident his side can still qualify for the 2018 World Cup despite a damaging defeat at home to Serbia. The 1-0 loss, courtesy of Aleksandar Kolarov's second-half strike, pushed Ireland down to third place in Group D, with Wales's 2-0 win in Moldova lifting them up to second. Ireland face Moldova in Dublin next month before concluding their campaign against Wales in Cardiff and even two wins would not guarantee them a place in the play-offs. But O'Neill, who guided Ireland through the play-offs to the Euro 2016 finals, was in confident mood despite the first home defeat of his Ireland tenure. "Absolutely not," he said, when asked if the defeat spelled the end of Ireland's chances. "We can win our last two games, we can still make it. No doubt, I'm very confident we can win both games." "I said that to the players in the dressing room. Obviously, we've a lot of disappointed players after that performance but it's not big words from me, it's how I feel. —AFP

NEW ZEALAND'S SEVENS LEGEND FORBES RETIRES

WELLINGTON: New Zealand rugby sevens legend DJ Forbes announced his retirement yesterday after a record-breaking 11-year career in the shortest form of the game. "The last 11 years with the All Blacks Sevens has been an awesome ride that I've loved every minute of," Forbes, 34, told the New Zealand Rugby website. Derek Jamie "DJ" Forbes made his debut for the All Blacks Sevens in 2006, appearing in a record 89 world sevens series tournaments and playing a record 512 matches, scoring 153 tries and winning six World Series titles. He also captained New Zealand to gold at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and the 2013 Sevens World Cup. "Sevens means you're on the road a lot," said Forbes. "I want to thank my wife and kids and family and friends for their enormous support, and I am looking forward to being around a lot more." "Today starts my new life after footy," he added. —AFP



FLORIDA: Tampa Bay Rays' Kevin Kiermaier dives back to first base ahead of the pickoff throw from Minnesota Twins pitcher Bartolo Colon to Joe Mauer during the first inning of a baseball game on Tuesday, Sept 5, 2017 in St Petersburg, Fla. —AP

INDIANS PUNCH WHITE SOX, GO 13TH STRAIGHT

CHICAGO: Jose Ramirez hit two more homers and Austin Jackson also connected as the Cleveland Indians beat the Chicago White Sox 9-4 on Tuesday night for their 13th straight victory, the longest run by a major league team this season. Danny Salazar got just two outs in his return from right elbow inflammation, but Cleveland's deep bullpen took over from there. Seven relievers combined for 8 1/3 scoreless innings as the Indians moved within one of their franchise-record 14-game win streak last year. Jackson and Ramirez hit back-to-back homers during a three-run first against David Holmberg (2-4). Ramirez added another solo shot in the second, and the AL Central leaders went ahead to stay on Greg Allen's tiebreaking, two-run double in the third. Yan Gomes tacked on a three-run shot in the ninth. Ramirez has five homers in his last three games. He is batting .500 (17 for 34) with seven homers and nine RBIs on Cleveland's 11-game road trip. Matt Davidson hit a three-run drive for last-place Chicago, which has dropped six of eight. Top prospect Yoan Moncada went 1 for 5 in his return from a bruised right shin. When the White Sox led 4-3 in the first, it was the first time the Indians had trailed since they were down by one against the Yankees on Aug 28. Dan Otero (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Drury grounded to Turner just inside the third base line, and he fired home to catcher Yasmani Grandal. The throw appeared to ricochet off pinch-runner Chris Hermann and then Grandal's shoulder before bouncing away. Hermann and AJ Pollock scored, Drury was safe at second and Grandal was charged with an error. Arizona matched the club record for consecutive wins set in June 2003. The victory earned the Diamondbacks their first season series win over Los Angeles since 2013. The Dodgers lost their fifth in a row and 10th in 11 games, although they remain baseball's top team at 92-46. David Hernandez (3-0) got the victory in relief. Fernando Rodney got his 35th save. Arizona starter Zack Greinke gave up one run and four hits in seven innings against his former team.

ASTROS 3, MARINERS 1
Justin Verlander pitched six strong innings and won his Astros debut after Cameron Maybin hit a two-run homer with one out in the seventh for Houston's first hit against Seattle. With all the attention on Verlander's first game for a team other than the Detroit Tigers, it was another deadline acquisition that sent Houston to its sixth straight victory. Maybin was claimed off waivers from the Angels on Aug. 31 and hit his second home run since joining the Astros to snap a 1-all tie. Seattle starter Ariel Miranda threw 112 pitches over six hitless innings that included six walks - three of which led to Houston's first run in the third on Alex Bregman's sacrifice fly. James Pazos (4-5) relieved in the seventh and walked Brian McCann with one out. Pazos was replaced by Emilio Pagan, who gave up Maybin's eighth homer on a 3-2 pitch. Verlander (11-8), the 2011 AL MVP and a six-time All-Star, allowed six hits and struck out seven. Joe Musgrove threw two innings of scoreless relief and Ken Giles got his 29th save. Kyle Seager homered off Verlander.

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CARDINALS, 8, PADRES 4
Jose Martinez hit two home runs, rookie Harrison Bader had three RBIs and Michael Wacha overcame a shaky start to last six innings as St. Louis defeated San Diego. Martinez added a double and finished 3 for 3 with three RBIs. Bader, called up on Friday, smacked his third home run and had his third multi-hit game since being summoned from the minors. Wacha (11-7), who blanked the Padres over his last four innings, was charged with four runs (three earned) and seven hits. Three relievers shut out San Diego the rest of the way. Travis Wood (2-2) lasted two-plus innings and was rocked for seven runs (six earned) and seven hits.

ORIOLES 7, YANKEES 6
Manny Machado hit a two-run homer off Dellin Betances with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, capping a big comeback that lifted Baltimore over New York. Betances (3-6) retired the first two batters in the ninth before Tim Beckham walked. Machado then drove a hanging breaking ball far over the center-field wall to provide the Orioles an unlikely victory after New York scored six runs in the third to go ahead 6-1. It was Machado's second homer of the game and team-high 32nd of the season. Jonathan Schoop and Mark Trumbo also went deep for the Orioles, who closed within a half-game of Minnesota for the second AL wild card. Zach Britton (2-0), Baltimore's sixth reliever, worked the ninth. New York, which holds the top wild card, dropped 3 1/2 games behind first-place Boston in the AL East. The start was delayed by rain for 2 hours, 14 minutes.

PIRATES 4, CUBS 3
Max Moroff and David Freese each hit an RBI single off Carl Edwards Jr in the eighth inning as Pittsburgh rallied past Chicago. Pinch-hitter John Jaso led off the eighth with a walk and scored when Moroff hit a bloop single off Edwards (3-4) to tie the game. Freese drove home Moroff three batters later after the Cubs intentionally walked rookie Josh Bell. Jordan Luplow hit the second home run of his career for Pittsburgh. Wade LeBlanc (5-2) earned the win in relief. Felipe Rivero worked a perfect ninth for his 18th save. The Pirates ran their winning streak to four on the same day the club announced contract extensions for manager Clint Hurdle and general manager Neal Huntington. Chicago, which leads the NL Central, has dropped three straight.

ANGELS 8, ATHLETICS 7, 10 INNINGS
Pinch-hitter Ben Revere lined a go-ahead single in the 10th inning that diving left fielder Matt Joyce just missed, and Los Angeles took over the second AL wild-card spot by beating Oakland. The Angels moved a half-game ahead of Minnesota, which lost at Tampa Bay. The Angels (72-67) are five games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2015 season. Oakland lost its eighth in a row, matching its

REDS 9, BREWERS 3
Robert Stephenson escaped threats while pitching into the seventh, and Scooter Gennett hit a three-run homer during Cincinnati's five-run rally in the bottom of the inning against Milwaukee. The last-place Reds have taken the first two games in the series from Milwaukee, which is trying to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2011. The Brewers remained 31/2 games behind Chicago in the NL Central. They also trail Arizona and Colorado in the wild-card race. Stephenson (4-4) wriggled out of a bases-loaded, none-out threat in the fourth inning, fanning the next three. The Reds turned three double plays behind the rookie to scuttle rallies. Raisel Iglesias got six outs for his 25th save in 26 chances. Zach Davies (16-8) allowed two runs - one earned - in 5 2/3 innings. He dropped to 8-2 in 15 road starts.

NATIONALS 2, MARLINS 1
Stephen Strasburg pitched six solid innings to help Washington edge Miami. Daniel Murphy hit his 22nd homer and Pedro Severino also drove in a run for the Nationals, who have won seven straight against the Marlins. Sean Doolittle worked the ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances. Doolittle allowed a bloop single to Marcell Ozuna, who scored on a sacrifice fly by Derek Dietrich, but got Brian Anderson to line out to end the game. Strasburg (12-4) gave up a single in each of his six innings, but was able to keep the Marlins from getting into scoring position. He struck out eight and did not walk a batter, lowering his ERA to 2.78. Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and did not add to his home run total of 53, but did take a home run away from Murphy when he leaped above the right-center field wall to make a catch in the third. Odrisamer Despaigne (0-3) permitted one run and five hits in seven innings. The Marlins have lost eight of nine.

RAYS 2, TWINS 1
Jake Odorizzi took a no-hitter into the seventh inning in front of a tiny home crowd, helping Tampa Bay top Minnesota. Lucas Duda homered off Bartolo Colon (6-11) and hit an RBI double for the Rays (70-70), who moved within two games of Minnesota for the second AL wild card. Joe Mauer got the Twins' first hit - and extended his hitting streak to 14 games - with a grounder that caromed off second base with one out in the seventh. Odorizzi (8-7) was lifted for reliever Dan Jennings after striking out the next batter. The only other hitter to reach base against Odorizzi was Eddie Rosario, who walked leading off the fifth. The announced attendance of 6,509 was the smallest ever for a Rays home game. Robbie Grossman homered in the ninth off Alex Colome, who earned his AL-leading 42nd save in 47 opportunities.

ROCKIES 9, GIANTS 6
Trevor Story homered and Colorado beat San Francisco for its 10th straight win over the

Giants at Coors Field. The Rockies held off a late rally by San Francisco to increase their lead to 2 1/2 games over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. Nolan Arenado doubled in a four-run sixth for his 112th RBI, tying Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton for most in the majors. After spot starter Tyler Chatwood lasted three innings, Colorado used eight relievers. Chris Rusin (4-0) earned the win and Greg Holland pitched a perfect ninth for his 37th save. Denver native Ty Blach (8-12) allowed five runs over 5 1/3 innings for the Giants on the anniversary of his big league debut at Coors Field. Joe Panik had four hits for San Francisco. Pablo Sandoval went 0 for 4 and is hitless in his last 37 at-bats.

TIGERS 13, ROYALS 2
JaCoby Jones and John Hicks each hit two of Detroit's six homers in a rout of Kansas City. Tigers starter Anibal Sanchez threw only five pitches and was knocked out of the game in the first inning after getting hit in the right leg by Whit Merrifield's single. Sanchez exited with a bruised calf. Myles Jaye (1-0) replaced Sanchez and pitched 2 1/3 innings for the win. Jason Vargas (14-10) allowed seven earned runs and six hits in two innings. Mikie Mahtook and Jose Iglesias also homered for the Tigers.

PHILLIES 9, METS 1
Ben Lively homered and drove in four runs off Mets ace Jacob deGrom, and also pitched seven strong innings to lead Philadelphia over New York. A day after falling behind the Mets 10-0 by the fourth inning, it was the Phillies' turn to answer back. DeGrom (14-9) struck out the side in the first, but wound up allowing a career-worst nine runs - six earned - and 10 hits in 3 2/3 innings. Lively (3-5) hit a two-run single in the second that made it 3-1. The rookie, who homered in his last start against Miami, hit a two-run drive in a six-run fourth. Lively is 6 for 21 (.286) with two home runs and eight RBIs in his first major league season. Odubel Herrera extended his hitting streak to 19 games and Nick Williams drove in three runs for Philadelphia. Highly touted Phillies prospect JP Crawford got a hit in his first big league game. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

Arizona 3, LS Dodgers 1 (10 innings); Houston 3, Seattle 1; St. Louis 8, San Diego 4; LS Angels 8, Oakland 7 (10 innings); Colorado 9, San Francisco 6; Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 4; Detroit 13, Kansas City 2; Cincinnati 9, Milwaukee 3; Tampa Bay 2, Minnesota 1; Philadelphia 9, NY Mets 1; Boston 3, Toronto 2 (19 innings); Washington 2, Miami 1; Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 3; Baltimore 7, NY Yankees 6.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
	W	L	PCT	GB			
Boston	78	61	.561	-	Washington	84	54 .609 -
NY Yankees	74	64	.536	3.5	Miami	67	71 .486 17
Baltimore	71	68	.511	7	Atlanta	60	76 .441 23
Tampa Bay	70	70	.500	8.5	NY Mets	59	79 .428 25
Toronto	64	75	.460	14	Philadelphia	53	85 .384 31
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	82	56	.594	-	Chicago Cubs	75	63 .543 -
Minnesota	71	67	.514	11	Milwaukee	72	67 .518 3.5
Kansas City	68	69	.496	13.5	St. Louis	71	67 .514 4
Detroit	59	79	.428	23	Pittsburgh	67	72 .482 8.5
Chicago White Sox	54	83	.394	27.5	Cincinnati	60	79 .432 15.5
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	85	53	.616	-	LA Dodgers	92	46 .667 -
LA Angels	72	67	.518	13.5	Arizona	81	58 .583 11.5
Texas	69	68	.504	15.5	Colorado	74	64 .536 18
Seattle	69	70	.496	16.5	San Diego	62	77 .446 30.5
Oakland	58	80	.420	27	San Francisco	54	87 .383 39.5

CRICKET

WEST INDIES EAGER TO EMBARRASS ENGLAND AGAIN

LONDON: Brian Lara revealed this week that Sachin Tendulkar had sent him a text message saying the West Indies' victory over England in the second Test at Headingley was "a success the entire world needed." So what the India hero will say if fellow batting great Lara's Caribbean successors follow up their win in Leeds by clinching a three-match series in a decider at Lord's starting Thursday is anyone's guess.

Having dusted down the 'obituaries' after the series opener at Edgbaston—understandable after England won the inaugural day/night Test in Britain inside three days by the margin of an innings and 209 runs—few pundits gave Jason Holder's novice West Indies side any chance of a revival in Leeds. Yet despite being set over 300 to win in the fourth innings following a declaration by

England captain Joe Root, the West Indies won by five wickets.

Shai Hope became the first batsman in history to score hundreds in both innings of a match at Headingley, putting his side in a strong position with 147 before following up his maiden Test century with a match-clinching 118 not out in the second innings. Even after the fourth day of a match of fluctuating fortunes, ex-England captain Nasser Hussain—a former Essex team-mate of West Indies coach Stuart Law—said the tourists were flagging because the physical demands of a Test match were greater than that of Twenty20 cricket.

'Humble pie'
"People make assumptions all the time," said Law at Lord's on Tuesday. "But he (Hussain) doesn't know the

characters that are inside that dressing room—he doesn't even know me and I played with him at Essex," the former Australia batsman added. "Not a lot of these players play T20 cricket anyway. I think it was great we sent a big humble pie to go and chomp on in the commentary box."

England, for all that they kept saying in public how much they respected a struggling West Indies side, did something bordering on the disrespectful at Headingley by dropping in-form seamer Toby Roland-Jones, whose three Tests this season have yielded 14 wickets—and bringing in Chris Woakes for his first Test of the home campaign after injury, seemingly to get some overs under his belt ahead of the upcoming Ashes tour of Australia. Anglo-Australian matches may be the foundation stone of interna-

tional cricket but England's obsession with the Ashes has now reached a point where almost all other Test fixtures are regarded as 'warm-ups' for clashes with the old enemy rather than important in themselves.

This has been all the more true of the current series, with the Lord's match England's last Test before they begin the defense of the Ashes in Brisbane in November. There was talk that had England gone 2-0 up in the series, they would have given a Test debut to leg-spinner Mason Crane at Lord's, again a move made with the Ashes in mind. But that looks less likely now, with the West Indies bidding for a first Test series victory in England in nearly 20 years. Recalling Roland-Jones on his Middlesex home ground would almost be an admission by the selectors they

were wrong to drop him at Leeds, so both sides could yet be unchanged.

England still have doubts about their problem top-order batting positions with number three Tom Westley under most scrutiny after a run of single-figure scores. "That extra pressure will find out a bit more about people's character and things like that so it should be an exciting week," said England spearhead James Anderson. Having gone wicketless on the last day in Leeds, Anderson arrives at Lord's still three away from becoming the first England bowler to take 500 Test wickets. "To be honest, I do try to put it to the back of my mind," Anderson said. "We desperately need to win this Test match to win the series so I'm going to be focused completely on doing my job for the team when we get out there."—AFP

FANTASY PLAYS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE NFL PRESEASON GAMES

NEW YORK: There's an old saying in the NFL: Preseason games may not count but they do matter. That holds true for fantasy football, as well. Watching the exhibition games, especially the second halves, can be painful, but there's always something to learn. Here are the top things from this preseason that stood out.

DON'T DRAFT EARLY

The later you can set your draft, the better. We all want as much information as we can possibly get, so you really would like to wait until after rosters are initially set. Yes, setting a draft date is one of the hardest things to do each season—getting 12 people to agree on anything is quite a chore. But if you can wait, then you don't have to worry about finding replacements right away for players like Ryan Tannehill, Cam Meredith, Julian Edelman and Spencer Ware, as their types of season-ending injuries during the preseason happen every year.

ELLIOTT, BUST OR BOOM

Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott could be the biggest boom-or-bust player this season. At the moment, we probably should say bust or boom. Elliott's six-game suspension over a domestic violence case was upheld Tuesday, but he'll play in the season opener because of the timing of the arbitrator's decision. US District Judge Amos Mazzant said he would rule on Elliott's request for a temporary restraining order by Friday. Back when we thought Elliott would only get a maximum of two games, he was still universally thought of as the third overall pick behind fellow backs David Johnson and Le'Veon Bell, but now he is being drafted all over the place—in any one of the first four rounds.

He's a gamble, but will he pay off? I don't think so. Why spend a high pick on a player who is unlikely to return full value? You may be thinking even if Elliott does serve the full six-game suspension, you will get him for your fantasy playoffs, where he can lead you to a championship. Not so fast. During weeks 14-16 (the fantasy playoffs in a majority of leagues), the Cowboys will play at the New York Giants, at Oakland, and at home versus Seattle. That's not exactly a recipe for success. Let someone else take that risk.

PATS IN AFC EAST

Will the Patriots have more wins than the rest of the AFC East combined? Even with the loss of Edelman, the Pats are cream of the crop in their division, if not the entire AFC. The Jets are maling in the season and playing for the future.



OXBORO: Jacoby Brissett #7 of the New England Patriots runs the ball in to the end zone as Ryan Murphy #36 of the New York Giants defends in the second half during a preseason game in Foxboro, Massachusetts. —AFP

Fantasy-wise, the only player likely to be drafted as a starter from the Jets is Bilal Powell. The Bills aren't that far behind the Jets but do have LeSean McCoy and Jordan Matthews as draft-worthy, but Buffalo seems willing to deal anyone who is not nailed down as the team is trying to collect future draft picks. The Dolphins have multiple injuries to their linebacker corps and lost their starting quarterback for the season. New England will easily win this division and could upset fantasy owners should it have home-field advantage clinched by Week 14 or 15—the Patriots might start resting players.

ROOKIE RUSHERS

This could be the year of the rookie running back. The position is weak in fantasy football. After Johnson and Bell, there are questions about most others and simply not enough players to go around. What will certainly help this season is the additions of rookies Leonard Fournette, Christian McCaffrey, Joe Mixon, Kareem Hunt and Dalvin Cook. They are being drafted as low-end RB1s to midrange RB2s, starters no matter what type of league you're playing in. Think about that. Five of the first 15-20 RBs off the board are unproven. They could either make or break your team.

QB IS DEEP

Quarterback is extremely deep. Whether you play in a 10- or 12-team league, it's just too easy to say wait until Round 9 or later before drafting a QB. Sure, you won't get Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees or Tom Brady, but you will still do quite well with Kirk Cousins, Jameis Winston or Marcus Mariota and this strategy will allow you to load up on your WRs and RBs. In most years, we will see the top QBs and bottom ones only separated by a few points, so you can spend that early draft capital at other positions.

INDY RISKY

Make no mistake about it, without Andrew Luck the Colts are in a world of trouble. With Luck, this team could possibly compete for a playoff spot, but without him the only thing they will be competing for is a top draft pick in 2018. The defense is poor, the running game is average at best and the offensive line has significant holes. Luck is out for Week 1 and it's really anyone's guess as to when he will return. He hasn't practiced yet. What makes anyone think he will be back to his Pro Bowl self as soon as he returns, or that he can stay healthy behind that line? Be very wary of drafting TY Hilton, Donte Moncrief or Frank Gore.—AP



NEW YORK: Venus Williams, of the United States, returns a shot to Petra Kvitova, of Czech Republic, during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis tournament on Tuesday, Sept 5, 2017. —AP

VENUS OVERPOWERS KVITOVA

THE OLDEST SEMI-FINALIST IN US OPEN HISTORY

NEW YORK: Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams became the oldest semi-finalist in US Open history at age 37 on Tuesday by defeating two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2). US ninth seed Williams, seeking her third US Open crown, advanced to a Thursday matchup against 83rd-ranked compatriot Sloane Stephens for a spot in Saturday's final. "I'm so fortunate to have won that match. It came down to the wire," Williams said. "I try to tell myself enjoy the competition, enjoy the battle and I think I was able to do that."

In the men's event, South Africa's Kevin Anderson reached a Grand Slam semi-final for the first time where he will face Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta who will also be appearing in his maiden last-four at a major. Stephens, who missed 11 months with a left foot injury before returning at Wimbledon, matched her best Grand Slam showing by outlasting Latvian 16th seed Anastasija Sevastova 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4). "This is just incredible," Stephens said. "When I started my comeback at Wimbledon I could never have dreamed of coming back and having these results. It's indescribable."

Stephens has won 13 of her past 15 matches and matched her 2013 Australian Open semi-final run for best Slam effort. Williams, who improved to 2-4 all-time against the Czech 13th seed, will return to the world top five for the first time since January 2011, a span that saw her diagnosed with the energy-sapping disease Sjogren's Syndrome. Williams, the oldest Slam semi-finalist since Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon in 1994, won the 2000 and 2001 US crowns. She was runner-up this year at Wimbledon and the Australian Open and could reach three Slam finals in a year for the first time since 2002. Kvitova battled back from a five-month absence after a knife-wielding home intruder injured her left hand last December.

"I'm glad I'm still able to compete on the high level against the top players which I hope will give me some confidence to continue to play well, to know that it's still there somewhere," Kvitova said. If Americans Madison Keys and CoCo Vandeweghe win Wednesday, they will produce the first all-American US Open semi-finals since 1981. "That would be huge," Williams said. "I'd love that." "This is amazing," Stephens said. "I hope there are four Americans in the semi-finals." Legends Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal each practiced ahead of Wednesday quarter-finals in which wins by each would set up their first US Open meeting in an epic Friday men's semi-final.

The other half-bracket, however, will offer a first-time Slam finalist. South African 28th seed Anderson downed 17th-seeded American Sam Querrey 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (9/11), 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) to book a berth in Friday's semi-finals. Anderson, the first South African in any Slam semi-finalist since Wayne Ferreira at the 2003 Australian Open, will meet Spanish 12th seed Carreno Busta, who has not dropped a set, for a place in

Sunday's final. "To play in one of the most famous courts in the world at night and to get through, it feels fantastic," said Anderson.

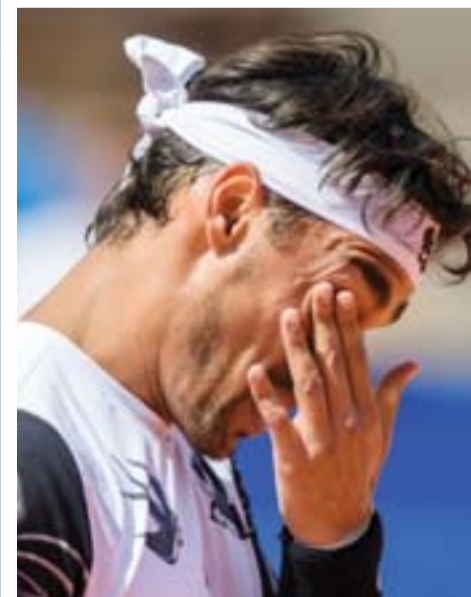
'I'M NOT A ROBOT. SORRY'

Carreno Busta, the first player in any Grand Slam to face four qualifiers, cruised into his first Slam semi-final by ousting Argentine 29th seed Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. "Incredible," Carreno Busta said. "It's something that I always dreamed about but something I never thought was going to arrive here. It's a great feeling." With Anderson standing 6ft 8in (2.02m) and Querrey 6ft 6in (1.97m), it was the tallest matchup ever so late in any Slam.

Sevastova, who matched her best major run from last year at New York by ousting Maria Sharapova to reach the last eight, led 3-1 in the third set before Stephens rallied. "I just told myself to keep fighting and stay consistent," Stephens said. "I knew if I just stick with it and stayed in every point I'd have my opportunity and I did." In the tie-breaker, Stephens took four of the last five points, three on Sevastova errors before hitting a down-the-line backhand winner ensured her win to reach the top 35 in next week's rankings. Sevastova admitted nerves got to her in the tie-breaker, saying, "It's normal. You play for semi-finals of US Open. I'm not a robot. Sorry."—AFP

REPENTANT FOGNINI FEARS AN AUSTRALIAN OPEN BAN

MILAN: Hot-headed Italian tennis star Fabio Fognini said he would accept an Australian Open ban after being kicked out of the US Open for a sexist tirade at a female umpire. The 30-year-old insulted Swedish umpire Louise Engzell after his first-round singles defeat against fellow Italian Stefano Travaglia. Fognini, the world number 26, who is married to 2015 US Open champion Flavia Pennetta, had already been fined \$24,000 (20,100 euros) for the incident.



Italy's Fabio Fognini reacts during his final game against Germany's Yannick Hanfmann at the Swiss Open ATP 250 tennis tournament in Gstaad. Hot-headed Italian tennis star Fabio Fognini said he would accept an Australian Open ban after being kicked out of the US Open for a sexist tirade at a female umpire. —AFP

But he fears he could now face a ban from the first Grand Slam of next season in Melbourne. "Should (the Grand Slam Board) decide to ban me from the next Australian Open, I will accept the decision, because actions have consequences, and I need to pay for what I did," Fognini told Italian Sky Sports TV. "I am aware of the severity of my mistake, I take full responsibility for it. A decision will be made, and I'll move on, I'll turn the page, with this stain on my shoulder that will never go away."

Fognini has a controversial history of on-court behavior and was handed a record fine of \$27,500 at Wimbledon in 2014. But he insisted his Flushing Meadows meltdown would be his last. "There won't be a next time," he said. "I know what came out of my mouth, I can't take it back, but I know I won't do it again." "I know this is a character fault of mine. I'm already working with a mental trainer, and I thought that we were on the right track, so I can't really explain this slip-up." "I have nothing against women, I have been called sexist, which I am not. I am a family man, I have a wife, a mother, a sister: I have always loved women, I have always respected them, and therefore I am very sorry for what I said."

Fognini said Pennetta, with whom he has a three-month-old son Federico, had been very supportive. "Flavia is sorry for the player Fabio, because she knows how hard I work and how much I sacrifice for my career," he continued. "But she knows I am not like that in everyday life, and that's what's important. "When Federico grows up I'll tell him that I was disqualified because I behaved badly on court. I wasn't a good example for kids, for those who may see me as an idol, since I am the best-ranked Italian player, and this hurts even more."—AFP

INJURED MURRAY LIKELY TO MISS REST OF SEASON

LONDON: Britain's Andy Murray said yesterday he is unlikely to play again this season due to a nagging hip injury that forced him to pull out of the US Open. Murray, recently nudged off the top of the world rankings by Spain's Rafael Nadal, has been struggling with the injury since a five-set French Open semi-final loss to Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka in June.

The 30-year-old Scot played at Wimbledon in July but lost in the quarter-finals to American Sam Querrey. "Unfortunately, I won't be able to compete in the upcoming events in Beijing and Shanghai, and most likely, the final

two events to finish the season in Vienna and Paris due to my hip injury which has been bothering me the last few months," the three-time Grand Slam champion said on his Facebook page.

"Having consulted with a number of leading hip specialists over the last week, along with my own team, we have decided that this is the best decision for my long-term future," the world number two said. "Although this has been a frustrating year on court for many reasons, I'm confident after this extended period of rest and rehabilitation that I will be able to reach my best level again and be competing for Grand Slam titles next season."—AFP



MUNICH: German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (fourth left) welcomes Israeli President Reuven Rivlin (third left) for the opening ceremony yesterday at the new memorial commemorating the eleven Israeli athletes, who were killed in a terrorist attack during the 1972 Olympic Games.— AP



MUNICH: In this Sept 5, 1972 file photo, a member of the Arab Commando group which seized members of the Israeli Olympic Team at their quarters at the Munich Olympic Village appears with a hood over his face on the balcony of the village building where the commandos held members of the Israeli team hostage.— AP

TEARS, ANGER AS MUNICH OLYMPIC MASSACRE MEMORIAL OPENS

MUNICH: Widows and children of 11 Israeli Olympic team members murdered during the 1972 Games in Munich unveiled a memorial to the victims at an emotional ceremony yesterday. The presidents of Germany and Israel, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Reuven Rivlin, joined the inauguration of what they called an "overdue" tribute to the team 45 years after their brutal massacre by the radical Palestinian Black September group. The 2.3 million euro (\$2.7-million) memorial entitled Einschnitt (Incision) on the grounds of Munich's Olympic Park features black-and-white photographs of the 11 Israeli victims and a West German police officer killed

in a botched raid. Family members, many fighting back tears, gently lowered a black drape from each of the pictures showing the men in their prime. A Bavarian orchestra played the Israeli national anthem. Ilana Romano, widow of murdered weightlifter Yossef Romano, told a ceremony including current IOC President Thomas Bach that the team had been "happy and full of pride" to represent Israel at the Munich Games and had "returned home in coffins." Romano said a decades-long drive by family members to see a memorial built in Munich had long been met with "anti-Semitism and a

lack of compassion". She called it "very moving" to see it finally completed.

OPEN WOUND

The 1972 Munich Games had been meant to showcase the new face of Germany nearly three decades after World War II. Black September gunmen took advantage of light security to break into the Israeli team's flat at the Olympic village, immediately killing two of the athletes and taking nine others hostage to demand the release of 232 Palestinian prisoners. A bungled rescue operation resulted in all the hostages being killed along with a West German policeman and five of the eight

hostage-takers. The news sent shock waves through Germany just 27 years after the Holocaust and opened a deep rift with Israel. Rivlin noted that many of the victims had themselves been the children of Holocaust survivors and had come to Munich in a spirit of reconciliation. He said the international community owed it to their memory to demonstrate resolve against terrorism. "Forty-five years after the massacre, international terror still threatens innocent victims," he said.

HEALING AN OPEN WOUND

"The memorial we are inaugurating today must send a message to the

whole world: we must not yield to terror... whether in Barcelona, in London, in Paris, in Berlin, in Jerusalem or in any other place." Steinmeier said the bloodshed against Jews on German soil had filled the country with shame. He expressed hope the memorial would help heal what was long an open wound. "For a long time, far too long, the memory of the victims was overshadowed by the perpetrators in the public consciousness," he said. "We also fight terror by standing by its victims." Following the ceremony, Rivlin and Steinmeier were to pay a visit to the memorial of the former Nazi concentration camp Dachau.—AFP

DISAPPOINTED AUSTRALIA STILL DREAMING OF RUSSIA

MELBOURNE: Coach Ange Postecoglou says his team will hit the ground running in their arduous World Cup play-off against Syria, brushing aside frustration at failing to qualify automatically for Russia. The Socceroos beat Thailand 2-1 in their final Asian qualifying Group B game on Tuesday, but with Saudi Arabia upsetting Japan 1-0 it consigned them to a dangerous two-leg play-off against the war-ravaged Syrians.

The winner of that tie will then battle North and Central America's (CONCACAF) fourth-placed qualifier in November for a spot at the global showpiece. "It's obviously a more difficult road," said Postecoglou on Wednesday in Melbourne. "We've just got to switch our minds and to getting prepared for them... we'll get info on the opposition, get organized logistically and hit the ground

running. "The players have been fantastic throughout the whole qualifying series," he added. "I see still a real determination to see this through. As long as that's there, we will continue down that path."

Syria earned their place in the play-offs with a 2-2 Group A draw with Iran in Tehran, thanks to a stoppage-time equaliser. The first leg is on October 5, with Syria's home venue yet to be decided, though they have been playing their 'home' games in Malaysia, and the return will be five days later in Australia. The Socceroos missed out to the Saudis on goal difference, with their failure to put more goals past the Thais being criticized by two former Australian internationals—Mark Bosnich and Robbie Slater. Slater said it was time for Postecoglou to go, tweeting that "we need a new approach! Socceroos have lost there (sic) way".—AFP

MENDES SUMMONED OVER RONALDO TAX EVASION CASE

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, has been summoned before a Spanish court as part of a probe into alleged tax evasion by the world player of the year, judicial sources confirmed yesterday. Mendes has been called to give evidence along with two of Ronaldo's other advisors, Luis Correia and Carlos Osorio, on October 19 in the upmarket Pozuelo de Alarcón suburb of Madrid, home to many of the city's football stars. Ronaldo strongly denied having evaded 14.7 million euros (\$17.5 million) in tax on his image rights when he appeared in court in a preliminary hearing on July 31.

Prosecutors accuse the Real Madrid star of evading tax via a shell company based in the British Virgin Islands and another in Ireland, known for low corporate tax rates. In addition, they say Ronaldo only declared 11.5 million euros of Spanish-related income from 2011 to 2014, while what he really earned during that time was close to 43 million euros. They also accuse him of "voluntarily" refusing to include 28.4 million euros in income linked to the sale of his image rights for the 2015 to 2020 period to a Spanish company.

According to Forbes, Ronaldo is the highest paid sports star in the world with a \$93 million (83 million euros) income between salary and endorsements in 2016-2017. Mendes, one of football's leading agents, has already appeared in court to give evidence in a similar case against another of his clients, Radamel Falcao. In June, Mendes told the court he "never

advised players in tax matters", and denied helping to create shell companies for his clients. Monaco's Falcao is suspected of failing to correctly declare 5.6 million euros of income earned from image rights between 2012 and 2013 while he was at Atletico Madrid.

Mendes, a former nightclub manager, found himself in the eye of the storm last year in the "Football Leaks" media investigation into alleged corruption in the game. According to newspaper El Mundo, who have led the Football Leaks investigation in Spain, Ronaldo also cleared Mendes of any wrongdoing in his testimony before the court. Correia is in charge of promoting Ronaldo's image to potential sponsors, whilst Osorio is the player's lawyer. Ronaldo is just the latest of a series of players facing tax investigations in Spain, many of them Mendes clients.

Among those in Mendes's stable, Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho, Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel di Maria and Portugal international defender Fabio Coentrao have been accused of tax fraud. Barcelona's Lionel Messi was given a suspended 21-month jail sentence and fined two million euros for tax fraud worth 4.1 million euros in 2016. His sentence, though, has since been replaced by an extra 252,000 euro fine. If Ronaldo faces trial and is found guilty, he would risk "a fine of at least 28 million" euros and could potentially be jailed for three and a half years, according to the Gestha union of experts at Spain's Inland Revenue.—AFP



PARIS: (Left to right) Paris Saint-Germain's French defender Layvin Kurzawa, Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish defender Yuri Berchiche, Paris Saint-Germain's French defender Presnel Kimpembe, Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe, Paris Saint-Germain's French midfielder Christopher Nkunku and Paris Saint-Germain's Italian midfielder Thiago Motta take part in a training session at the club's training centre in Saint-Germain-en-Laye yesterday.— AFP

PSG MAKING MOCKERY OF THE SYSTEM: LA LIGA CHIEF

MANCHESTER: Qatari-owned French side Paris Saint-Germain are "laughing" at the financial fair play (FFP) system, a combative Javier Tebas, president of Spain's La Liga, said yesterday. The 55-year-old also warned that if he was not satisfied with UEFA's response to La Liga's concerns regarding the lavish spending of both PSG and Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City then he would consider taking his case to Brussels and the European Union.

PSG stunned the football world when they priced Brazilian superstar Neymar away from Barcelona for a world record 222 million euros (\$264 million) and then took Monaco's highly-rated French star Kylian Mbappe on loan with an option to buy him for 180 million euros. In response, UEFA launched an investigation to see whether the club has broken FFP rules. Manchester City also spent heavily in the last transfer window, lavishing an estimated £221 million (242 million euros, \$288 million) on players although they offloaded several too.

'IT CAN'T BE TOLERATED'

"PSG are laughing at the system," Tebas said at the Soccerex Global Convention in Manchester, speaking through a translator. "A Spanish journalist defined it, and I hope I am not being rude, as like they were peeing in the bed or the swimming pool. "Well Neymar has gone on to the diving board and peed into the pool—it can't be tolerated. "But this is not solely because of Neymar. We at La Liga have fought hard for collective TV rights. We are being destroyed and this is going to damage the industry."

Tebas, who has revolutionized La Liga since taking over in 2013, engineering a collective TV football rights deal among other measures, said PSG were simply not paying market prices. "All PSG have to do is turn on the gas tap," he said, referring to Qatar's massive gas reserves. "This is what PSG have been doing for the past four years." Tebas said it was not a level playing field for clubs. "Teams that use financial doping play for an entire year and can win their league or a European trophy, although some have lost as well. "So it is not fair to the victims which are the teams playing by the rules."

We have to get a system that is fair to the victims. "The rules are there on the books." Tebas

said however he was not pushing for PSG or City to be banned from European competition. "We are not looking to kick them out, (but) if we don't do anything then now it will be PSG and Manchester City and then in the future it will be a sheikh from Bahrain, or a Malaysian businessman who will 'deform' the industry." He said he took some hope from the fact that Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich has "settled down" in his spending.

Tebas insisted that the Spanish league dealt severely with clubs who contravened their rules

regarding financing. "We have relegated teams to the second tier for some of those practices and kicked teams out of competitions," he said. Barcelona faced criticism for carrying sponsorship from the Qatar Foundation and later Qatar Airways on their shirts, but Tebas argued he was not being "hypocritical" in defending that deal. "They paid a market price because a non-state company, a Japanese one, then came along and paid more. "When contracts are not reflecting real market incomes—as in money not derived directly from football—then we take action."—AFP

MOURINHO LAUDS MAN UTD TRANSFER SAVINGS

LONDON: Jose Mourinho says Manchester United made huge savings in the transfer market by getting their business done before Neymar's world record move to Paris Saint-Germain triggered a global price spike. Mourinho paid a British record fee of £75 million (\$97 million, 82 million euros) for Everton striker Romelu Lukaku and took his spending to over £130 million with swoops for Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic and Benfica defender Victor Lindelof.

Since those deals were completed, French giants PSG have broken the world record with a £200 million move for Barcelona star Neymar. United boss Mourinho believes if his club had waited to land their top targets they would have paid significantly increased fees as a result. Praising United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward for predicting the market surge, Mourinho told The Times: "I think we were very clever. We thought that something could happen that could change the market forever."

"Normally the last part of the market is less expensive, but this season, after Neymar, everything changed and changed for the worse in terms of prices. "I think Lukaku on August 31 would have been £150 million. Matic would have been £60 million or £70 million. Neymar changed everything. "If the

biggest transfer in history had still been Pogba, I think (Liverpool forward) Philippe Coutinho would now be in Barcelona at £101 million. People look to the £200 million figure now." Throughout his glittering career, Mourinho has been criticized for only staying at clubs for relatively short periods.

But the former Chelsea, Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto coach, who is in his second season with United, insists he always leaves teams in better shape than he finds them. "I think I prepare clubs in a way where, when I leave, the new manager arrives at a top club. And that is not short-term even if you leave," he said. "I don't need a new contract (with United) to work to my limits. I don't have a problem to arrive at the end of my contract and be free to decide what I want to do and the club free to decide what they want to do."

Mourinho's focus for now is on mounting a strong title challenge and his revamped team look well-equipped for the job after storming to the top of the table with three successive wins. "I have said three (summer) transfer windows is what I need to have the team I think can bring Manchester United to the top of English football," Mourinho said. "I still think we need that, but I'm not going to wait for the third transfer window to try to reach it."—AFP



BUDAPEST: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (left), Portugal's Andre Silva (center) and Jose Fonte take part in a training session at the last training on the eve of the FIFA World Cup 2018 qualification football match between Hungary and Portugal in Budapest.— AFP

Sports

Indians punch
White Sox, go
13th straight

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Mendes summoned
over Ronaldo tax
evasion case

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

VENUS BECOMES THE OLDEST SEMI-FINALIST IN US OPEN HISTORY

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BUENOS AIRES: Venezuela's Jhon Chancellor (left) clears a ball beside Argentina's Guido Pizarro (center) and Argentina's Federico Fazio during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Tuesday, Sept 5, 2017. — AP

ARGENTINA AND CHILE STUMBLE AGAIN

SOUTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHTS SLIP; URUGUAY ON BRINK

MONTEVIDEO: Argentina and Chile's World Cup qualification hopes were left on a knife edge Tuesday after the South American heavyweights slipped up once again on the road to next year's finals in Russia. Argentina needed a second-half own goal to help them snatch a 1-1 draw against already-eliminated Venezuela in Buenos Aires while Chile crashed to a 1-0 defeat against Bolivia in La Paz. The results left 2014 World Cup finalists Argentina and reigning Copa America champions Chile outside of the automatic qualifying places and sets up a nail-biting final two rounds of matches next month. Argentina are fifth in the standings with 24 points from 16 games while Chile are sixth with 23 points. The Argentinians—who would face a playoff against New Zealand if they remain fifth-

host fourth-placed Peru next month in Buenos Aires before an awkward final game at altitude against Ecuador.

Chile meanwhile will face Ecuador in Santiago on October 5, before heading to Brazil for their final qualifier five days later. At the top of the table, Brazil have already qualified and assured themselves of first place. The Brazilians picked up another point on Tuesday with a 1-1 draw against third-placed Colombia in Barranquilla. A spectacular volleyed goal from Willian gave the Brazilians the lead on the stroke of half-time before Colombia clawed back a share of the points with a battling second-half display capped by a headed equalizer from Radamel Falcao.

'WE MUST FIGHT'

In Buenos Aires, Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli admitted his team had blown a golden opportunity to force themselves into the automatic qualifying places following Chile's defeat earlier in the day. Sampaoli blamed poor first-half finishing for his side's failure to take all three points against the Venezuelans. "We have two games left against Peru and Ecuador and we need to win both of them," Sampaoli said. "We had three chances to score in the first half and everything could have been settled."

"We must continue to fight in attack and give strength to the players," Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi echoed Sampaoli's sentiments after watching his side slide to a dispiriting loss in La Paz. "We will

fight, we will make the greatest effort possible, we believe that we have the ability to compete with the best and we will try to obtain the results that allow us to qualify," said Pizzi. Although Chile have a difficult run-in against Ecuador and Brazil, Pizzi said his side had not lost hope. "There are two matches left, I'm going to fight and my players are going to fight, with all the force we have," Pizzi said.

URUGUAY ON BRINK

Uruguay meanwhile moved to the brink of qualification with a typically combative 2-1 win over Paraguay in Asuncion. Paraguay, riding high after a brilliant 3-0 win over Chile in Santiago last month, were left stunned by two opportunistic Uruguay goals. Federico Valverde fired Uruguay

into the lead with a deflected shot on 76 minutes before Luis Suarez then broke clear to set up the visitors second.

The Barcelona superstar rounded goalkeeper Anthony Silva and then saw his shot hit the woodwork only to rebound into the net off Gustavo Gomez. Angel Romero pulled a goal back for Paraguay but hopes of a dramatic late fightback came to nothing. The result leaves Uruguay second in the standings with 27 points from 16 games. A win in Venezuela in their next game would see them through to the finals. Seventh-placed Paraguay still have an outside chance of qualification but will probably need to beat Colombia in their next game before wrapping up their campaign against Venezuela.—AFP

WOOD RESCUES US

SAN PEDRO SULA: Hamburg striker Bobby Wood scored a late equaliser to salvage a crucial 1-1 draw for the United States in their World Cup qualifier with Honduras on Tuesday. Wood bundled in an 85th-minute leveller just 12 minutes after coming on as a substitute to rescue a point for the Americans in sweltering conditions at the Olimpico Metropolitan Stadium.

The result means that Bruce Arena's side still have automatic qualification in their own hands, with a home match against Panama next month followed by an away game against Trinidad & Tobago. If the US win both of those games, they will be assured of reaching next year's finals in Russia. "That's a huge point for the US team," US coach Arena said afterward. "I'm really proud of our team," he added. Arena insisted the team had not set out to play for a draw and added that the US path to Russia is still far from straightforward.

"We didn't come here to play for a point. We fell behind a goal and tried to get it back. The team deserves credit for getting a point," he said. "There's not even a crack open in the door to Russia for us. There's a lot of work to be done." It was a lucky escape for the US, who had been beaten in their previous game on Friday against Costa Rica and could not afford a second defeat here. Arena rolled the dice with seven changes from the team beaten by Costa Rica, but the gamble appeared set to backfire when Romell Quioto punished sloppy US defending midway through the first half to score.

The best US chance of the opening 45 minutes came when Christian Pulisic played a one-two with Morris only to see his shot saved. There was little more to cheer for the US fans in the second half, as Arena's men struggled to make any impression on the hosts. The best chances of the second half fell to the Hondurans, with Alexander Lopez seeing a thunderous shot on 61 minutes parried by Brad Guzan. Anthony Lozano also continued to cause problems, and saw his shot crash into the outside of the stanchion on 77th minute after he had skipped clear of Michael Bradley.

With what would have been a disastrous defeat beckoning, the US were given a lifeline five minutes from time with a free-kick in a dangerous position. Kellyn Acosta stepped up to curl a shot against the bar and in the ensuing melee, Wood coolly tucked away the finish. Elsewhere Tuesday, Costa Rica squandered the chance to book their ticket to Russia after being held 1-1 at home by Mexico. Mexico, who have already qualified, took the lead through a Cristian Gamboa own goal on 42 minutes. Costa Rica hit back through Marco Urena seven minutes from time. In the other game, Panama moved into the automatic qualifying places in third spot after defeating Trinidad and Tobago 3-0. — AFP



SAN PEDRO SULA: Honduras' Alberth Elis (left) and United States' DaMarcus Beasley fight for the ball during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in San Pedro Sula, Honduras on Tuesday, Sept 5, 2017.—AP

RELIEF AS CIRO IMMOBILE SAVES STUTTERING ITALY

REGGIO EMILIA: The relief was palpable yesterday after **Ciro Immobile** kept Italy's World Cup campaign on track despite an unconvincing 1-0 qualifying win by the four-time champions over Israel in Reggio Emilia. A shell-shocked Azzurri needed to hit back hard after falling to a 3-0 defeat to Spain in Madrid on Saturday, which all but ended their hopes of automatic qualification to the tournament in Russia.

But **Giampiero Ventura's** side were jeered off the pitch in northern Italy after a poor first half on Tuesday night before Lazio striker Immobile broke through eight minutes after the break to edge them closer to the play-offs. The front pages of the daily newspapers echoed the sense of relief from "San **Ciro**" in *Corriere dello Sport* to "Italy slight recovery" in *La Gazzetta dello Sport*. The "apocalypse" scenario of Italy failing to qualify for the World Cup voiced by Italian football federation president **Carlo Tavecchio** had abated. "Ciro Immobile saves Italy and mortgages the play-offs," continued *Corriere dello Sport*.

La Gazzetta were scathing of the "slow and dull Azzurri" but took heart from the play-offs being a step away with one point needed from the last two qualifying games. As Spain top Group G after routing Liechtenstein 8-0, Italy consolidated second place, six points clear of third-placed Albania, who were held 1-1 by Macedonia. "It's another small step forward," said Ventura. "We're almost at the play-offs which

is what everyone expected at the time of the draw. It's not a surprise, it's normal. With a good result in Spain we could have toppled the predictions."

Italy, without the injured **Giorgio Chiellini** and suspended **Leonardo Bonucci**, were far from convincing after their demolition by Spain. Paris Saint-Germain midfielder **Marco Verratti** was slated for another weak performance as he picked up a yellow card that rules him out against Macedonia in October. Winger **Antonio Candreva**, who delivered the crucial cross for Immobile to head into goal, hailed the win as "an important achievement." "The KO of Madrid hurt and maybe there was a psychological block. But we reacted and remain a team who have done great things," said Candreva.

Alongside Candreva and Immobile new Chelsea defender **Daide Zappacosta** received praise after being drafted in after the Santiago Bernabeu flop. "The loss to Spain made us understand many things and we know we have to work as a team," said Zappacosta. "The play-off goal is very close and we know we have to go to the World Cup. We are focused on this." Veteran captain **Gianluigi Buffon** defended Ventura's much-criticized tactics. "The boss has experience and must do what he believes, he feels he is following a certain kind of game and we must follow him with confidence," added the 39-year-old ahead of qualifying games against Macedonia in Turin and Albania away in October.—AFP

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary

BUSINESS

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Alef Group announces launch of AED 3bn Al-Mamsha project Page 21

AUSTRALIA ECONOMY SHRUGS OFF SLUGGISH START TO YEAR

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BALTIMORE: A container is unloaded from a ship at the Port of Baltimore in Baltimore. The Commerce Department reported on the US trade gap for July. — AP

US TRADE GAP UP; DEFICIT WITH CHINA WIDENS

GROWTH IN SERVICES SECTOR QUICKENS; JOB GAINS IMPROVE

WASHINGTON: The US trade deficit increased less than expected in July as both exports and imports fell, suggesting that trade could contribute to economic growth in the third quarter. The Commerce Department said yesterday the trade gap rose 0.3 percent to \$43.7 billion. June's trade deficit was revised down slightly to \$43.5 billion from the previously reported \$43.6 billion.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the trade shortfall widening to \$44.6 billion in July. When adjusted for inflation, the trade deficit increased to \$61.6 billion from \$60.8 billion in June. The so-called real goods deficit in July was below the second-quarter average of \$62.4 billion.

While that suggests trade could add to gross product in the third quarter, economists at Wrightson ICAI cautioned that Hurricane Harvey could significantly impact commodity prices and trade volumes, and push up the trade deficit in September. The politically sensitive US-China trade deficit increased to an 11-month high in July. That ongoing deficit has grabbed the attention of President Donald Trump, who has blamed it for helping to decimate US factory jobs as well as stunting US economic growth.

Trump, who argues that the United States has been disadvantaged in its dealings with trade partners, has ordered the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was signed in 1994 by the

United States, Canada and Mexico.

On Saturday, Trump threatened to withdraw from a free trade deal with South Korea. Prices of US Treasuries were little changed by the data yesterday. US stock index futures were trading higher while the dollar was weaker against a basket of currencies.

The government reported last month that trade contributed two-tenths of a percentage point to the economy's 3.0 percent annualized growth pace in the second quarter. In July, real goods exports slipped despite petroleum exports hitting a record high.

Exports of goods and services fell 0.3 percent to \$194.4 billion in July. Exports of motor vehicles and parts fell by \$0.6 billion, but exports of capital goods rose by \$0.9 billion. Exports to China increased 3.5 percent, while those to the European Union tumbled 9.8 percent.

Imports of goods and services slipped 0.2 percent to \$238.1 billion in July. Imports of motor vehicles and parts fell by \$0.8 billion and crude oil shipments declined by \$1.0 billion. Imports of goods from China increased 3.1 percent. The US-China trade deficit increased 3.0 percent to \$33.6 billion in July, the highest level since August 2016. The United States saw a 3.7 percent drop in goods and services imported from the EU in July. The trade deficit with the EU increased 7.9 percent to an eight-month high of \$13.5 billion. US services sector growth recovers slightly in August

Services sector

Growth in the all-important US services sector quickened in August after a sluggish July but farms and the transportation and warehousing sector reported contraction, according to a survey released yesterday.

The monthly gain was not enough to recover all of July's losses, however, despite rising indices for employment and new export orders, according to the Institute for Supply Management.

The ISM non-manufacturing index rose 1.4 points to 55.3 percent, a tenth higher than an analyst forecast. A reading of above 50 percent indicates growth and August marked 92 consecutive months of expansion, according to the survey. Fifteen of 17 services industries reported growth but low dairy and cattle prices have left some farmers struggling or going out of business, respondents said.

"The depressed agricultural economy has resulted in lower demand and less sales volume," a respondent was quoted as saying. "The non-manufacturing sector has rebounded from the prior month's cooling-off period," Anthony Nieves, a committee chair for the survey, said in a statement.

"The majority of respondents are optimistic about business conditions going forward." Business activity gained 1.6 points to reach 57.5 percent, reflecting 97 con-

secutive months of growth. The employment index also added 2.2 percentage points, rising to 57.9 percent. Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said the result suggested strong job growth could continue in the coming months but that Hurricane Harvey, and possibly Hurricane Irma, now bound for Florida, could cause a temporary drop. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the employment index fell by 4.8 points, he said in a research note.

Job gains

The US economy likely created 95,000 more jobs in the 12 months through March than previously estimated, the Labor Department said yesterday. The reading is a preliminary estimate of the department's annual "benchmark" revision to the closely watched nonfarm payrolls data. Job growth remains relatively strong despite the labor market being near full employment. Once a year, the government compares its nonfarm payrolls data, based on monthly surveys of a sample of employers, with a much more complete database of unemployment insurance tax records.

A final benchmark revision will be published in February along with the employment report for January. Government statisticians will use the final benchmark count to revise payrolls data for months both prior to and after March. — Reuters

CANADA CENTRAL BANK UPS KEY LENDING RATE TO 1.0%

OTTAWA: The Bank of Canada increased its key lending rate by 0.25 percentage points to 1.0 percent yesterday as the economy roars back to life. "Recent economic data have been stronger than expected, supporting the Bank's view that growth in Canada is becoming more broadly-based and self-sustaining," it said in a statement. This was only the second rate hike in seven years, from a near-historic low. It comes after the Canadian economy rebounded hard at the beginning of the year, posting its best performance since the 2008 global financial crisis.

According to Statistics Canada, the economy continued to grow at a relative breakneck pace of 4.5 percent last quarter. The Canadian dollar, meanwhile, climbed more than 10 percent since May to about 81 cents US. But there remains uncertainty over continental free trade talks with the United States and Mexico, and hurricanes pounding the heart of the US refining capacity in the Gulf coast region-given that Canada exports most of its oil to its southern neighbor. In a statement, the Bank of Canada noted that consumer spending remains robust, "underpinned by continued solid employment and income growth."

Business investment and exports have also broadly strengthened, it said. In addition, a red hot real estate market in two of Canada's biggest cities has started to cool after repeated warnings of overheating, thanks in part to new tax and mortgage financing changes.

Going forward, the central bank said it expects a moderation in the pace of economic growth in the second half of 2017, but already gross domestic product (GDP) is higher than it had forecast. It noted that inflation remained below its 2.0 percent target, but said there is still some excess capacity in the labor market, and wage and price pressures "are still more subdued than historical relationships would suggest."

Future rate decisions, the bank said, would continue to be guided by economic data and financial market developments. But particular focus, it said, will be given to labor market conditions, and given Canadians' high level of indebtedness, "to the sensitivity of the economy to higher interest rates."

Trade deficit

Canada posted a Can\$3.0 billion (US\$2.4 billion) trade deficit in July, as widespread price decreases pushed down both import and export figures,

the government statistical agency said yesterday. The deficit was less than the Can\$3.6 billion analysts forecast, after it had more than doubled in the previous month. Imports fell 6.0 percent in July to Can\$47.2 billion, following seven consecutive monthly increases. Prices were largely responsible for this decrease, as the Canadian dollar gained 3.6 cents US relative to the US greenback from June to July, said Statistics Canada. Following a record posted in June, imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts fell 35.2 percent in the month.

Lower imports of motor vehicles and parts also contributed to the decline, as planned closures in the automotive manufacturing industry were longer this year. Exports, meanwhile, fell 4.9 percent to Can\$44.1 billion. Prices fell 3.9 percent while volumes were down 1.1 percent. Exports of motor vehicles and parts fell 9.6 percent in the month-the strongest decrease since August 2014.

Following four consecutive monthly increases, exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts were down 18.3 percent in July, led by a decrease in aircraft exports to the United States. — AFP

FRANCE TO BAN OIL, GAS OUTPUT ON HOME SOIL IN SYMBOLIC STEP

PARIS: France's government has unveiled a law to ban all production and exploration of oil and natural gas by 2040 on the country's mainland and overseas territories. The move is largely symbolic, however, as France's oil and gas production represents just 1 percent of national consumption - the rest is imported.

Current drilling permits will not be renewed, according to the bill formally presented in a Cabinet meeting yesterday. France currently has 63 oil and gas drilling projects on its territory.

The ban, which the government claims is a world first, is part of a larger plan to wean the country's economy from fossil fuels, encourage clean energy and fulfill France's commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement to curb global warming. French President Emmanuel Macron praised it as "an important step to fulfill our international commitments."

The bill, which was elaborated by Environment minister Nicolas Hulot, also includes a definitive ban on all shale gas exploration and extraction. Until now, only hydraulic fracturing, a process known as fracking, was banned. All other potential methods are now to be prohibited as well.

Hulot had already announced in July that France will stop producing power from coal - now 5 percent of total output - by 2022. In parallel, the country wants to reduce the proportion of its power from nuclear energy to 50 percent by 2025, from the current 75 percent.

Hulot said it is important for France to maintain its leadership on climate-related issues following the Paris Agreement signed in 2015. "I have absolute faith in the capacity of renewable energies to become progressively

a very important source to fulfill our energy needs", he said in a news conference.

Greenpeace France said in a statement the bill sets a "good goal" but doesn't go far enough. The environmental organization notes that the extension of an offshore exploration permit in French Guiana was maintained. — AP



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron (right) and Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot meet with NGOs to discuss climate and environment at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday. France's government unveiled a law to ban all production and exploration of oil and natural gas by 2040 on its mainland and overseas territories.

JOB APPLICATIONS: HOW MANY IS TOO MANY?

Bayt.com weekly report

It is not news that the job market is quite competitive. Competition always exists. Perhaps it varies by region or industry, but there are often hundreds of candidates competing for one position at a time.

At Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, we recommend job seekers to be as active as possible when it comes to their CVs, profiles, and all other elements that contribute to a successful job application. Job seekers also need to pay attention to the relevance of their CV to every job they apply for. They need to make sure they are actually qualified in order to catch the employer's attention.

But in face of the tough competition and the various requirements that employers set in place, job seekers often ask: how many jobs do I need to apply for? Is two enough? Five? 10? 100?

Simply put, there is no magic number. Some job seekers apply for tens or hundreds of jobs before landing that opportunity that suits their needs. Others find their ideal position fairly quickly. It really

depends on many different elements that we will discuss below.

But keep in mind that you shouldn't be thinking in terms of numbers anyway. Instead, think about progress, learning, and goal attainment. Every job application is a learning experience. Every interview is a round of practice. Every day as a job seeker is a full time job of planning and strategizing and growing professionally.

Here are some questions, however, that you should ask yourself if you are uncertain about your job search efforts.

Are you doing enough?

Most of the time when job seekers have doubts about how many jobs they should apply for, it is because they feel that they are not putting in enough effort. If you ever feel this way, then the answer is prepare more and apply for more opportunities. Being a job seeker is not simply clicking a button. It is about researching, reading, writing, improving, networking, consulting, and trying. In

order to have a successful job application, you need to put in your 100 percent and be certain that you did that for every single job application.

Are you pursuing many paths?

Maybe you are a fresh graduate who is willing to explore different career paths. Or maybe you have many passions and skills that you want to put to use. Or maybe you want to compare and contrast to make a long-term career transition.

Whatever you exact reasoning is, if you have the need to explore more, then you already know that you will be applying for more career opportunities than the average Joe. But keep in mind that your CV and application must be customized and targeted for the respective industry and job role. You can't send a generic application and expect it to be successful.

Are you stand-out applicant?

Being a stand-out job applicant

depends on two things: 1) how competitive the particular industry and company is and 2) how unique and valuable your skills are. Let's say you are applying for a sales position in one of the most well-known technology companies in your country. The chances are, hundreds (or even thousands) of other candidates are also in the competition pool with you. This is when you know that you need to pursue more opportunities and be more active as a job seeker.

On the other hand, let's suppose you are a senior product manager with 10+ years of experience and is seeking to join the newly launched software development company. In this scenario, you will probably face less competition and will easily stand out due to your extensive experience. This where you are more likely to be selective with your choices and applications. Nonetheless, you will still give each application 100 percent of your effort and preparation.

Are you applying blindly?

One thing you absolutely have to pay attention to and avoid is being a "blind applicant." Remember: more is not always better. Don't be tempted to go on a spree, applying for jobs left and right with little to no attention to the specific requirements and details of each position. This is unwise and is simply a waste of your time and that of the employer.

Luckily, online job sites such as Bayt.com will notify you of jobs that you don't qualify for and will also show you your relevance score to each job you submit an application for. This way you can be more thorough and strategic with your applications.

At the end of the day, remember to be active, persistent, and well-informed. Know that it is not about the number of applications you submit, but about your effort, dedication, and progress. Giving 100 percent effort to the five applications you send is much better than 5 percent effort to 100 applications.

AUSTRALIA ECONOMY SHRUGS OFF SLUGGISH START TO YEAR

ANNUAL RATE OF EXPANSION HITS 1.8%

SYDNEY: Australia's economy has shrugged off a sluggish start to the year, boosted by government and consumer spending with the nation extending its record run of growth, official data showed yesterday. Economic growth for the second-quarter was 0.8 percent, after 0.3 percent in January-March, to take the annual rate of expansion to 1.8 percent, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said.

"Today's national accounts for the June quarter reveal solid and more balanced growth for our economy," Treasurer Scott Morrison told reporters in Canberra. "(It confirms) the emerging national economic consensus of the better-days-ahead outlook that I referred to in this year's budget." The stronger reading came after the economy marked a world-record 26 years without a recession, even as growth slowed at the beginning of the year with the impact of category four Cyclone Debbie on eastern Australia. The Australian dollar slipped slightly below 80 US cents after the data release, with investors disappointed that the latest GDP reading was marginally softer than some analysts' estimates. The figures showed that household spending rose by 0.7 percent and government expenditure by 1.2 percent, while exports of goods and services increased by 2.7 percent for the period.

Economy 'bottoms out'

The Australian economy has charted a rocky path as it transitions away from an unprecedented mining boom, with the Reserve Bank of Australia cutting interest rates to a record-low of 1.50 percent.

The central bank on Tuesday kept rates on hold at 1.50 percent for the 13th-straight month, but signalled optimism about recent improvements in the economy. They include a strengthening jobs market, business conditions and sales. "Growth in the number of Australians with jobs has picked up over recent months and the unemployment rate has come down a bit," RBA governor Philip Lowe said at a dinner speech in Brisbane late Tuesday.

"The investment outlook has also brightened. Inflation has troughed and it is likely to increase gradually over the next couple of years. These are positive developments." Economists said the economy may have passed its trough, although wages growth, which has been tepid, still needed to strengthen further to boost consumption levels. "It's not saying the economy is booming but it seems to have reached bottom, I think, clearly," National Australia Bank chief markets economist Ivan Colhoun told AFP.

"We're getting some more favorable signs across a range of indicators... (the economy) will gradually pick up and certainly the labor market data is suggesting that at the moment."

The RBA has been cautious about lifting rates despite the improvements, with concerns that high levels of household debt and strong property prices could make Australians vulnerable to rising borrowing costs. This has led some economists to tip a change in interest rates in 2018 at the earliest, and possibly even in 2019.

"The slump in real household income growth and the weakening outlook for (housing) dwellings investment suggests to us that the RBA's GDP growth forecast of 3.0 percent in 2018 is too optimistic," Capital Economics' Australia and New Zealand chief economist Paul Dales said in a note.

"We believe 2.50 percent will be nearer the mark, which will force the RBA to keep interest rates at 1.50 percent until late 2019." — AFP



SYDNEY: People move about the city as the working day nears its end in Sydney yesterday. Australia's economy has grown for 26 years without a recession, an extraordinary achievement in a volatile world still aching from the global financial crisis. But many Australians feel they are going backward financially, a symptom of a hidden driver behind Australia's economic success - population growth.—AP

GERMAN INDUSTRY GROUP GEARING FOR HARD BREXIT

FRANKFURT: Germany's biggest industry group has set up a task force including companies such as Airbus, Siemens and Deutsche Bank to prepare for a disruptive British departure from the European Union, according to people involved. The Federation of German Industries (BDI) task force will identify by the end of December the risks to German industry from a "hard" Brexit after monthly meetings of dozens of experts, the people said.

The preparations are the result of growing nervousness amid slow and acrimonious negotiations between Britain's Brexit minister David Davis and his opposite number at the European Commission, Michel Barnier. In Germany, companies are now preparing for the worst, including the imposition of tolls and the risk of a loss of access to London financial markets, the people involved said.

"Many people in Britain have hoped that they would get a special deal from Germany. We've been saying for a year that this is not going to happen," said Markus Becker-Melching of the Association of German Banks, which is involved in the task force.

"We are working on the basis that there will be a hard Brexit," he said. "The wheels are now set in motion to prepare for this." One person directly involved with the task force, who asked not to be named, added: "We have to plan now for there being no agreement, for things not

working." The existence of the task force, which was established in June and is now accelerating its work in regular meetings in Berlin, will be officially announced in early October. Its conclusions in December will be important in shaping the position of the new German government, which may be in place then following elections later this month. The companies involved declined to elaborate on the work of the task force.

Derivatives worries

More than six months into Brexit divorce talks that must conclude by April 2019, there is little sign of progress. Earlier this week, Britain's David Davis warned a row over how much money Britain should pay the EU when it leaves would probably last the duration of the negotiations. The EU has said this and other issues must first be resolved before talks on future trading relations can begin. Frustration has meanwhile been building in Germany, Europe's industrial heartland and the EU's biggest economy. Late last month BDI president Dieter Kempf criticized the British government for its conduct in negotiations. "The British government continues to lack a clear course," he said. "Despite declarations of unity from British cabinet members, there is no coordinated government approach." —Reuters

News

in brief

Rwanda's GDP to grow at between 4.2 and 6.2%

KIGALI: Rwanda's economy is expected to grow at between 4.2 and 6.2 percent in 2017 but it may struggle to achieve the upper limit due to slowing public spending and the impact of drought on agricultural output, the World Bank said yesterday. GDP growth is undercut by weak private sector investment, lower than expected returns from public and private investment in the hospitality sector in areas like conferences and exhibitions and a volatile external environment, the Bank said. "It (6.2 percent) seems ... quite hard to reach. The impact of drought on agriculture which affected the last quarter of 2016 and first quarter of 2017 will be an issue," said the Bank's senior economist for Rwanda, Aghassi Mkrtchyan.

Thailand in deals with China firms for high-speed railway

BANGKOK: Thailand have signed two contracts, worth 5.2 billion baht (\$157 million), with Chinese state enterprises for a high-speed rail project with China, Anon Luengboriboon, acting governor of the State Railway of Thailand, told Reuters yesterday. The first contract covers the detailed engineering design of the project worth 1.7 billion baht, while the second involves the hiring of Chinese technical advisers, worth 3.5 billion baht. The Thai government and Chinese state enterprises signed the two contracts this week, witnessed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on the sideline of a BRICS summit in China. Construction of the first phase of the project, a 250-km rail line that will link the Thai capital, Bangkok, and the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima, will begin in October. It is expected to be operational in 2021, according to Anon.

Brazil inflation continues to simmer down to 2.46%

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian prices notched up only slightly in August, leaving the annual inflation rate of 2.46 percent the lowest for 18 years, the government statistics office said yesterday. Latin America's biggest economy is inching out of its deepest recession in history and steadily falling inflation is allowing the central bank to slash the previously sky high basic interest rate, with a new cut expected when the bank meets later yesterday. The IBGE statistics office said prices rose 0.19 percent in August from July, which had registered a hike of 0.24 percent. That followed the previous month's price drop of 0.23 percent—the first decline since 2006. The August figures came in lower than market expectations of a 0.32 percent hike, according to a survey by the Valor daily.

S Africa business confidence lowest in 32 years: Survey

JOHANNESBURG: Business confidence in South Africa has plummeted to its lowest level in more than 30 years as political uncertainty, unemployment and dwindling trade weighed heavily, a survey showed yesterday. South Africa's economy, which is the most developed in Africa, is plagued by sluggish growth and only returned to growth in April after a six-month recession.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.759
Indian Rupees	4.746
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	223.020
Hongkong Dollar	38.695
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippine Peso	5.988
Thai Baht	9.127

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.200
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.972
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	127.210
Jordanian Dinar	427.490
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	32.414

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	356.940
Sterling Pound	395.540
Canadian dollar	239.710
Turkish lira	85.890

Swiss Franc	316.020
Australian Dollar	240.230
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.850
Canadian Dollar	242.005
Sterling Pound	391.785
Euro	362.965
Swiss Frank	290.125
Bahrain Dinar	801.135
UAE Dirhams	82.575
Qatari Riyals	83.395
Saudi Riyals	81.350
Jordanian Dinar	427.020
Egyptian Pound	17.104
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Indian Rupees	4.723
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Bangladesh Taka	3.736
Philippines Peso	5.991
Cyprus pound	17.963
Japanese Yen	3.745
Syrian Pound	1.585
Nepalese Rupees	2.957
Malaysian Ringgit	71.600

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.315
Thai Bhat	10.075
Turkish Lira	87.880

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.387116	0.397116
Czech Korune	0.005763	0.017763
Danish Krone	0.044286	0.049286
Euro	0.354206	0.363206
Georgian Lari	0.119924	0.119924
Norwegian Krone	0.34767	0.039967
Romanian Leu	0.078158	0.078158
Russian ruble	0.005234	0.005234
Slovakia	0.009000	0.019000
Slovenian Krona	0.033822	0.038822
Swiss Franc	0.309776	0.320776

Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.232878	0.244878
New Zealand Dollar	0.211991	0.221491

America		
Canadian Dollar	0.238392	0.247392
US Dollars	0.298150	0.302570
US Dollars Mint	0.298650	0.302570

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003239	0.003823
Chinese Yuan	0.044679	0.048179

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036536	0.039286
Indian Rupee	0.004221	0.004909
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002694	0.002874
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067373	0.073373
Nepalese Rupee	0.003016	0.003186
Pakistan Rupee	0.002718	0.003008
Philippine Peso	0.005816	0.006116
Singapore Dollar	0.217892	0.227892
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001609	0.002189
Taiwan	0.009923	0.010103
Thai Baht	0.008775	0.009325

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.794943	0.803443
Egyptian Pound	0.014870	0.020778
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000193	0.000253
Jordanian Dinar	0.421693	0.430693
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020777	0.044777
Omani Riyal	0.778645	0.784325
Qatar Riyal	0.078731	0.083671
Saudi Riyal	0.079513	0.080813
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.120646	0.128646
Turkish Lira	0.083153	0.093453
UAE Dirhams	0.080866	0.082566
Yemeni Riyal	0.000982	0.001062

MEC AND MAXUS WILL BECOME WAVEMAKER



LONDON/NEW YORK: The new billion-dollar revenue, media, content and technology agency to be created from the merger of MEC and Maxus will be named 'Wavemaker'.

Making waves happens when media, content and technology come together - activating against our unrivalled purchase journey understanding for the clients we represent.

The brand mark Wavemaker reflects the agency's heritage, born from WPP and GroupM. Tim Castree, global CEO of MEC

and Wavemaker, said: "Our purpose is to provide advertisers with the power to transform and grow their business through our Purchase Journey obsession; and importantly to do this through the integration of Purchase Journey insights and data with [m]PLATFORM, GroupM's proprietary global audience technology. Our Wavemaker brand and positioning is a compelling manifestation of that purpose."

Kelly Clark, global CEO of GroupM, added:

"Wavemaker is an exciting new global agency brand with a powerful proposition for clients. Tim and his team have the full support of GroupM's scale, resources and expertise."

The brand, along with a new visual identity, will go live locally as the merger completes in each country, to be finalized by January 2018. Wavemaker will have offices in 90 countries and over 8,500 employees. Major global clients include L'Oréal, Vodafone, Marriott, Colgate-Palmolive and Paramount.

DEUTSCHE BANK BOSS CALLS ON ECB TO HALT CHEAP MONEY

CRYAN SAYS WORRIED ABOUT ASSET BUBBLES

FRANKFURT: Deutsche Bank chief executive John Cryan has called on the European Central Bank to change course on providing cheap money, warning he sees price bubbles in stocks, bonds and property.

"The era of cheap money in Europe should come to an end - despite the strong euro," Cryan told a room full of bankers in Frankfurt yesterday, a day before the ECB's governors meet to discuss policy. Low interest rates, money printing and a penalty charge for hoarding cash have been at the heart of attempts by the central bank to reinvigorate the 19-country euro zone economy in the wake of the 2008-09 financial crisis. But the policy, which has seen the ECB print more than 2 trillion euros (\$2.4 trillion) so far, has been politically divisive, prompting fierce criticism from famously thrifty Germans.

It has also imposed a heavy cost on still fragile banks, turning deposits into a hot potato that many would rather avoid so as not to pay charges to their central bank for storing them.

The head of Germany's largest commercial bank warned of the fallout from cheap money, cautioning against using the strong euro as a justification for printing more.

"We are now seeing signs of bubbles in more and more parts of the capital market," he said.

Frankfurt to win

Cryan also said Frankfurt was the most natural location as a financial hub as banks move

from London after Britain's decision to leave the European Union - ahead of Paris, Dublin and Amsterdam. "There is only one European city which can fulfil these requirements and that city is Frankfurt," he said, pointing to Frankfurt's supervisory authorities, law firms, consultancies and airport.

Britain's planned departure from the EU has prompted banks and investors in London to examine other cities to keep a foothold in the bloc, allowing them to sell across the continent without additional costs or trade hurdles after Brexit. Frankfurt and Dublin have emerged as the most popular centres.

"It's not about a choice between Dublin, Paris or Frankfurt - it's about a choice between New York, Singapore or Frankfurt," he said.

Lagging economy

Almost 27 years since reunification, the economy in the ex-Communist east still lags behind that of west German states, the government said yesterday, warning of social divisions and the risk of those who feel "left behind" being radicalized.

Record-high employment, increased job security and rising real wages are powering a consumer-led upswing in the German economy which looks set to help Chancellor Angela Merkel win a fourth term in office at the Sept. 24 federal election. But the government's annual report on the state of German unity found that

although life-satisfaction levels had risen significantly in the east over the past 10 years, the gap in economic strength between the east and west is narrowing at a slower pace.

Gross domestic product per head in east German states still lags that of the west by 27 percent, the unemployment rate at 8.5 percent last year is above the national average of 5.7 percent, and people take home lower wages.

"We can't allow whole regions to be left behind in the long run," said Iris Gleicke, the federal government's commissioner for eastern German affairs. Population decline and a lack of major employers have hampered economic prospects and in some areas of east Germany many essential services are at risk, the report said.

"Particularly in the weakest regions where many people may feel 'left-behind', social divisions can lead to radical attitudes," the report said. Support for the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is particularly strong in the east where it has played on public angst that refugees are overrunning the country and siphoning away resources and jobs from Germans.

Globalisation and demographic change could exacerbate the divide between prosperous and poor regions, the government warned, noting that regional differences between booming and impoverished areas are greater than in Britain and France. — Agencies

AFTER TRUMP THREATS, MINISTERS CLAIM PROGRESS IN NAFTA TALKS

MEXICO CITY: Canada, Mexico and the United States made progress in talks to update the NAFTA trade pact, top officials said on Tuesday, a relief after repeated criticism by US President Donald Trump, although the round did not delve deeply into the toughest issues.

A joint statement by US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland and Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo sought to quell concerns about US commitment to the North American Free Trade Agreement after Trump's recent threats he could terminate it. Lighthizer said no chapter of the pact was completely wrapped up, but advances were made in consolidating language about small businesses, digital trade, the environment and services, among other things.

"We feel like we've done as much as you can hope to do in two rounds," he told reporters at the end of talks in Mexico City. "This is kind of warp speed we are working at."

The ministers announced a third round of talks in Ottawa for Sept. 23-27. Guajardo said more complex issues such as Mexican wages, regional content rules and the US trade deficit with Mexico would begin to be addressed in those sessions. The United States did not make specific proposals on these subjects during the five-day round in Mexico, Guajardo said, looking ahead to a debate in future rounds about how to get a better deal for workers in all three countries.

NAFTA, first implemented in 1994, eliminates most tariffs on trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico. Critics say it has drawn jobs from the United States and Canada to Mexico, where workers are paid far lower wages. The accord's supporters say the loss of manufacturing from the United States has more to do with China than Mexico.

If NAFTA collapses, costs could rise for hundreds of billions of dollars in trade as tariffs return, potentially saddling consumers with higher prices and less availability of products ranging from avocados and berries to cars and trucks. The three ministers restated their goal of



MEXICO CITY: Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland (left), Mexico's Economy Secretary Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal (center), and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer shake hands after posing for a group photo at a press conference regarding the second round of NAFTA renegotiations in Mexico City on Tuesday. — AP

reaching a new NAFTA deal by the end of the year to avoid conflicts with 2018 elections in Mexico and the United States. Moving quickly to consolidate texts is paramount if they are to achieve that goal.

It took five years and more than 20 negotiating rounds to broker the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal that Trump pulled out of right after taking office.

Freeland gave the most upbeat message, praising the working relationship between the three countries, and saying they had established a good foundation for the future rounds of talks.

Despite warm public words, there were signs that Trump's skepticism may have influenced the talks. An initial draft of the trilateral statement seen by Reuters said the three nations were "fully committed to the negotiation of a new NAFTA" and would "join forces in facing the chal-

lenges of international competition." Those phrases were excised from the final version.

Energy, telecoms

Officials involved in meetings said progress was made on telecommunications and energy during the talks. Energy was partially excluded from the original NAFTA because in Mexico it was a state-owned industry.

However, following a 2013-14 opening to private and foreign investment, Mexico is now ready to incorporate the sector into the deal, with Guajardo saying there was common ground on the issue. The Mexican minister also signaled readiness for compromise on duty-free limits for e-commerce imports, a point of contention with the United States. "We have to find a middle point that does not damage our economies with extreme liberalization," Guajardo said. — Reuters

GERMANY'S 10-YEAR BOND SLIPS TO ONE-WEEK LOWS

LONDON: Germany's 10-year bond yield fell to its lowest level in just over a week yesterday, as the nuclear stand-off with North Korea, weak German data and concern about the impact of powerful storm Irma on the US economy underpinned safe-haven debt.

Just a day before the European Central Bank meets, Bund yields were within sight of the lowest levels since a speech by central bank chief Mario Draghi on June 27 sparked a sharp bond sell-off by boosting expectations for a tapering of stimulus.

While those assumptions have since been scaled back, Thursday's ECB meeting remains a key risk event for markets. Data yesterday showed German industrial orders fell unexpectedly in July, suggesting that this sector of Europe's largest economy could shift into a lower gear in coming months.

Germany's 10-year bond yield fell 1 basis point to 0.325 percent - its lowest level in just over a week. It was within striking distance of two-month lows hit last week and its lowest levels since Draghi's Sintra speech. Two-year German bonds yields touched minus 0.79 percent, their lowest levels since April.

Other eurozone bond yields were flat to a basis point lower in early trade. North Korea tensions, exacerbated by a nuclear missile test at the weekend, continued to temper demand for risk assets globally, benefiting safe-havens such as German and US bonds.

US Treasury yields fell to their lowest levels in almost 10-months on Tuesday, while Japanese government bonds were mostly firm yesterday. "The 10 basis point fall in Treasury yields is clearly not something the European market can ignore," said Mizuho rates strategist Antoine Bouvet. — Reuters



ABIDJAN: Agnes Kalibata, president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), speaks during the opening of the international African Green Revolution Forum in Abidjan yesterday. Organized by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the seventh African Green Revolution Forum opened yesterday in Abidjan. — AFP



AHLI UNITED BANK MAKES A CUSTOMERS' DREAM COME TRUE WITH KD 250,000 GRAND PRIZE

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 06 September. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300. The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Adel Hasan Al-Ajami.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Khaled Abdul-aziz Al Fouzan, Abdulaziz Khaled Al-Khateeb, Abdul Gani Mohamed Sulthan, Latifah Abdullah Alnajdi, Ali Saeed Shehab, Tayseer Yacoub Abdelghani, Ameenah Duwairi Al Enezi, Sharea Hajaj Al-Ajami, Abdullah Qasem Al-Hashemi, Mohammad Ibraheem Al-Haraki, Ghadeer Mohammad

Al-fahad, Khaled Naseem Fadel, Hadeyah Nahi Al-Enezi, Ahmad Nazal Al-Rajhi, Amani Aqeel Al-Atout, Sami Diab Al-Tamimi, Manal Mahye Khalaf, Nawaf Ahmad Al-Adwani, Taleb Ahmad Mohammad, Mohammad Aboud Babad, Khaled Yaqoub Alloughani, Firas N Ajim Al-Amiri, Josephine Borja Fernandez, Abdulaziz Abbas Hussain, Ahmed Ahmed Hasan.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions. Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

HOUSTON'S BUSINESSES INCHING BACK TO WORK AS WATERS RECEDE

HOUSTON: Bobby Jucker has had it with hurricanes. In 2008, Hurricane Ike tore the roof off his business, Three Brothers Bakery. Now, he estimates, he's facing \$1 million in damage and lost revenue from Harvey - the fifth time a storm has put his bakery out of commission.

He's always recovered before. But this time, he wears the weary countenance of a man nearly broken. "This is the last time for me," he says. "It's emotionally draining. I just can't do it anymore." More than a week after Harvey poured more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) of rain on Houston, killing at least 65 people, destroying thousands of cars and leaving hundreds of thousands of families with flood-damaged homes, America's fourth-biggest city is striving to reopen for business.

Houston's airports and shipping lanes reopened to limited traffic last week. Some workers returned to their offices today or tomorrow. More followed on Tuesday after a long Labor Day weekend of cleanup and regrouping. With waters receded, some

Agency in the Obama administration. "Some will make the decision not to reopen. Others won't be able to." FEMA estimates that nearly 40 percent of small businesses never reopen after a disaster. Yesterday, Jucker hopes to reopen the bakery, which his father and two uncles founded 68 years ago.

Over the weekend, the place was a wreck. Jucker tossed a ruined loaf of bread into a dumpster and pointed to a jug of blue food dye that will have to go, too. Also ruined is an icemaker, upended by flood waters. Bees swarmed garbage bags full of rotting confectionary and baking ingredients. Cream puffs and Danishes wilted on racks in the parking lot. The bakery lost the live yeast used for sourdough bread; Jucker will have to grow more. It had been roasting its own coffee but lost \$15,000 worth of beans. A remodeled cafe at the front of the bakery was mostly destroyed. One of the bakery's four industrial ovens has to be replaced at a cost of more than \$50,000. A second one needs at least a new motor, if not a full replacement. — AP

For Rent

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Duplex & Triplex Villas

- 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms
- +Big Salon + Separate pool
- All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas

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Many big businesses will likely recover relatively quickly. But small companies will struggle to replace moldy carpets and damaged equipment, to reconnect with suppliers, to meet payroll and to draw back customers, many of whom are nursing financial injuries of their own - swamped cars, flooded basements, leaky roofs. Some companies are still too overwhelmed to resume business, which means their employees remain idle and unpaid. "The big boxes and big chains can absorb hits like this; small businesses can't," says Craig Fugate, who served as administrator of the Federal Emergency Management

WALL ST OPENS HIGHER, OIL PRICES INCH UP

NEW YORK: US stocks opened higher yesterday, driven by gains in energy and financial stocks, but investors remained cautious amid tensions on the Korean peninsula and concerns that the Category 5 Hurricane Irma could hit the United States.

Exxon's 1.56 percent rise was the biggest boost on the S&P, while Goldman Sachs and Home Depot's more than 1 percent rise propelled the Dow. "I think it (North Korea) is still going to be a factor with a bit of nervousness out there. We also have another hurricane heading towards Florida," said Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James in St. Petersburg, Florida. "We're already seeing water flying off the shelves at grocery stores."

North Korea conducted its most powerful nuclear test yet on Sunday, triggering a dramatic escalation of its stand-off with the United States that drove investors towards safe-haven assets.

Also weighing on investors' mind is Hurricane Irma, which is en route to a possible Florida landfall at the weekend.

At 9:39 am ET (1339 GMT), the Dow Jones

Industrial Average was up 65.91 points, or 0.3 percent, at 21,819.22 and the S&P 500 was up 5.84 points, or 0.24 percent, at 2,463.69. The Nasdaq Composite was up 10.73 points, or 0.17 percent, at 6,386.30. All the 11 major S&P indexes were higher, with a 0.67 percent rise in the energy index topping the advancers.

Oil prices rose yesterday as strong global refining margins and the reopening of US Gulf Coast refineries provided a more bullish outlook after sharp drops due to Storm Harvey. Financial stocks also gained 0.55 percent, a day after they suffered their biggest one-day fall since mid-May.

The Federal Reserve issues its Beige Book, a round-up of anecdotes on the health of the economy, at 02:00 pm ET. Three Fed policymakers on Tuesday expressed doubts about further rate hikes, with one influential policymaker calling for a delay in raising US interest rates until the Fed is confident inflation will rebound.

Data showed the US trade deficit increased less than expected in July as both exports and imports fell, suggesting that

trade could contribute to economic growth in the third quarter.

The Commerce Department said the trade gap rose 0.3 percent to \$43.7 billion, compared with an increase to \$44.6 billion forecast by economists polled by Reuters. Newell Brands was off more than 4 percent after the company slashed its profit outlook for 2017. Sarepta Therapeutics was up about 12 percent after its drug to treat patients with a form of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy met the main goal in an early-stage study. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,800 to 691. On the Nasdaq, 1,455 issues rose and 819 fell.

The North Korean nuclear crisis dragged Asian markets further into the red yesterday as world powers struggled to agree how to deal with the isolated state, while doubts about further US interest rate hikes dragged the dollar. With few other catalysts to deflect attention from the face off with Pyongyang, investors continue to flock to safe-haven assets, sending gold to near one-year highs and the yen flying. UN Secretary General

Antonio Guterres warned against "confrontational rhetoric" towards Kim Jong-un's regime and called for a single strategy to address the crisis following Sunday's test of a massive nuclear device.

While the heated rhetoric of the previous two days has cooled, there are fears of a fresh flare up as the North is feared to be preparing another missile launch to mark its foundation day on Saturday. US markets returned from their long Labor Day weekend on Tuesday to finish sharply lower and US Treasury yields are at one-year lows.

In Asia yesterday markets continued to fall but pared the big morning losses. Seoul shed 0.3 percent, Tokyo ended 0.1 percent lower and Hong Kong gave up 0.5 percent. Sydney gave up 0.3 percent as the North Korea woes overshadowed data showing the Australian economy strengthened in the second quarter of the year. Singapore and Taipei were also lower but Shanghai managed to eke out minor gains for a fourth straight advance. In early European trade London fell 0.5 percent, Paris gave up 0.6 percent and Frankfurt was 0.4 percent down.

The dollar, already down against the safe-bet yen on geopolitical concerns, took another hit from comments by Federal Reserve officials playing down the chances of a third rate hike of the year and worries about a looming hurricane in the Atlantic.

two percent inflation target for the past year and added: "My view is that we should be cautious about tightening policy further until we are confident inflation is on track to achieve our target."

The dollar was at 108.75 yen in Asia, heading towards its weakest levels of the year. "Geopolitical risks around North Korea continue to weigh on the market while Fed governor Brainard's comments linked to inflation fears as well as worries over Irma, the next mega hurricane after Harvey, are also undermining" the dollar, Kengo Suzuki, chief forex strategist at Mizuho Securities, told AFP.

Adding to the sense of unease is concern about President Donald Trump's chances of pushing through his tax reform plans, with Capitol Hill already struggling with a crammed legislative calendar. And Trump's decision Tuesday to end an amnesty program for 800,000 people brought to the United States illegally as young children will add to the backlog. On oil markets both main contracts eased in Asia after surging Tuesday-WTI jumped around three percent and Brent put on two percent-on reports Russia and Saudi Arabia were considering extending a production cut.

Also refineries shut down by Hurricane Harvey began to come back online in the US Gulf Coast, helping clear a backlog of the commodity. Eyes are now on the release of crude data from industry group the American Petroleum Institute later in the day followed by the US Energy Information Administration today. — Agencies

طاول Global

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 06 September 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price Index	↑ -2.98	6,916.00	6,920.98
Weighted Index	▲ 1.58	433.25	432.21
KRX 15	▲ 1.83	903.91	902.08

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
52,487,281	9,850,879	2,268

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	398	↑ -0.8
NAFESC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	968	↑ -0.8
ENERGYH	35.0	34.9	325	11	4	34.9	↑ -0.8
OPR	38.8	38.0	327,163	12,509	22	38.4	↑ -0.1
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	↑ -0.8
Oil & Gas			327,688	12,521	26	38.47	↑ -0.8

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
EFJUC	310	287	18,266	23,385	14	308	↑ -0.8
BPOC	845	837	204,672	143,862	21	845	▲ 5.8
AKCUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	688	↑ -0.8
ALJOURN	304	348	158,626	55,993	28	348	↑ -0.8
Basic Materials			468,296	223,628	64	334.26	↑ -7.8

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUR	50	49.0	1948135	52,982	41	49.0	↑ -1.3
KPIE	62	61	6,078,461	212,878	122	62	▲ 0.4
URC	101	87	16,521	960	5	87	↑ -2.0
NPIE	124	123	363,336	37,360	11	123	↑ -0.8
SPII	388	388	780	280	1	388	↑ -0.8
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	483	↑ -0.8
ARFEC	150	150	8,500	1,275	1	150	▲ 3.8
BRASALEH	43.0	39.0	1,110,920	44,187	23	39.0	↑ -1.5
ARABEC	38.5	38.0	1,428,048	51,808	86	38.2	▲ 0.2
PRESCO	42.8	42.0	20,400	857	4	42.8	↑ -0.8
NSABANE	791	788	211,819	167,300	26	790	▲ 0.8
RUJAZZAT	89	85	163,206	13,826	10	86	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	24.2	24.0	319,700	7,674	6	24.2	▲ 0.2

Rate caution
Fed governor Lael Brainard said the central bank had continued to miss its

البنك الوطني NBK

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	21,987.56	21,753.31	-234.25	▼	-1.07
RASDAQ	6,435.33	6,375.57	-59.76	▼	-0.93
S&P 500	2,476.55	2,457.85	-18.70	▼	-0.76
Financial Times	7,372.92	7,324.13	-48.79	▼	-0.66
DAX	12,123.21	12,119.10	-4.11	▼	-0.04
CAC 40	5,086.56	5,073.59	-12.97	▼	-0.25
Nikkei 225	19,385.81	19,357.97	-27.84	▼	-0.14
Tsejia	1,590.71	1,592.00	1.29	▲	0.08
Hong Kong	27,741.35	27,613.76	-127.59	▼	-0.46
Straits Times	3,251.26	3,232.47	-18.79	▼	-0.58

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,920.98	6,916.00	-2.98	▼	-0.04
Saudi Arabia	7,258.64	7,284.62	25.98	▲	0.36
Dubai	3,624.15	3,642.08	17.93	▲	0.49
Abu Dhabi	4,478.73	4,457.12	-21.61	▼	-0.48
Bahrain	1,302.46	1,311.17	8.70	▲	0.67
Qatar	8,800.56	8,684.55	-116.01	▼	-1.32
Oman	5,043.11	5,064.58	21.47	▲	0.03
Lebanon	1,158.70	1,154.49	-4.20	▼	-0.36
Jordan	2,150.36	2,149.55	-0.81	▼	-0.04
Egypt	13,415.05	13,336.85	-78.20	▼	-0.58
Morocco	12,446.34	12,454.44	7.80	▲	0.06
Tunisia	6,348.24	6,341.13	-7.11	▼	-0.11

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		13.268	1.3009	2.7669	2.5290	3.1523	359.27	4.1411
Saudi Riyal	0.08112		0.2678	0.2245	0.2652	0.2557	29.15	0.3359
US Dollar	0.30295	3.7344		0.8382	0.7662	0.9550	108.84	1.2545
Euro	0.36142	4.4551	1.1930		0.9143	1.1396	129.85	1.4967
Sterling Pound	0.39541	4.8741	1.3052	1.0937		1.2472	142.08	1.6376
Swiss Franc	0.31723	3.9104	1.0471	0.8775	0.8018		113.99	1.3137
Japanese Yen	0.00278	0.0343	0.0092	0.0077	0.0070	0.0088		0.0115
Australian Dollar	0.24148	2.9767	0.7971	0.6681	0.6106	0.7612	86.76	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30295	3.7344	0.3741	3.6270	0.3835	3.4570	17.6100
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3009		13.268	1.2349	11.9723	1.2657	13.6713	58.1284
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08112		1.0002	0.9712	1.0027	0.9793	4.7156
Bahraini Dinar	2.6731	0.80981	9.9624		9.6953	1.0250	9.7755	47.0730
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.88353	1.0296	1.0131		0.1057	1.0083	4.8553
Omani Riyal	2.6079	0.79006	9.7389	9.9756	9.4589		9.5171	45.9252
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.88284	1.0212	1.0023	0.9918	0.1049		4.8154
Egyptian Pound	0.0568	0.01720	0.2121	0.0212	0.2068	0.0218	0.2077	

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.25	1.56	1.00	1.75	2.31
US Dollar	1.19	1.23	1.31	1.45	1.70
Euro	-0.40	-0.40	-0.37	-0.30	-0.21
Sterling Pound	0.23	0.24	0.28	0.39	0.58
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.78	-0.72	-0.65	-0.50
Australian Dollar	1.55	1.61	1.60	1.63	1.70
Japanese Yen	-0.02	-0.05	-0.03	-0.01	0.11

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	1.29	1.65	2.06	2.69
Europe	-0.74	-0.34	0.34	1.12
United Kingdom	0.18	0.42	1.01	1.68

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	51.30	51.41	0.11	▲	0.21
Brent	54.19	54.59	0.40	▲	0.74
West Texas	48.68	48.58	-0.10	▼	-0.21
Gold	1338.36	1338.63	0.27	▲	0.02
Silver	17.89	17.95	0.06	▲	0.31

EQUITIES BUOYANT DESPITE POLICY CONUNDRUMS

NBK CAPITAL: MONTHLY GLOBAL MARKETS REVIEW

KUWAIT: Global equities in August closed in the green for the most part. The MSCI All Country Index was up 0.2 percent with the MSCI Emerging Market Index closing up 2.0 percent. In the US, equity markets posted minimal gains. The S&P 500 was up 0.1 percent while the Dow Jones increased 0.3 percent. The potential shutdown of the government, due to the dispute over the federal budget and debt ceiling, has affected markets. At the recent Jackson Hole meeting in Wyoming, key central bank chiefs gathered to discuss policy however little was revealed regarding the direction of the US Fed's monetary policy. In Europe, despite releases of positive data, markets were down. In the UK, the potential implications of the Brexit continues to shift, resulting in uneasiness within the market. Commodity performance was mixed in August with Gold up 4.1 percent and Brent down 0.5 percent.

US Manufacturing and Services continue to hold above the 50 mark in August. The US Markit Manufacturing PMI was reported at 52.8, exceeding July's reading, while the US Markit Services PMI, on a preliminary basis, came in at 56.9 also exceeding July's reading. Initial Jobless Claims for August was at 236,000 versus July's reading of 240,000. Durable Goods Orders decreased in July by 6.8 percent reversing the gain of 6.4 percent registered in the previous

month. Retail Sales in July increased by 0.6 percent month on month compared to June's figure of 0.3 percent. Existing Home Sales in July slightly improved dropping by 1.3 percent, month on month, compared to June's drop of 2.0 percent. New Home Sales dropped significantly by 9.4 percent in July while Housing Starts and Building Permits decreased month on month in July by 4.8 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively. Gross Domestic Product annualized for Q2 on a preliminary basis is 3.0 percent.

NBK CAPITAL

The UK Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) increased to 56.9 in August compared to the July's reading of 55.3 while the UK Markit Services PMI came in at 53.2 for August compared to the previous month's reading of 53.8. The Consumer Price Index in July decreased by 0.1 percent month on month while Retail Sales for July increased by 0.3 percent. Consumer Confidence in August improved from July's reading although was still below zero at -10. Gross Domestic Product remained the same on a year on year basis for Q2 at 1.7 percent.

UK equities were up slightly, posting a gain of 0.8 percent, as measured by the FTSE 100. The Eurozone's Markit Manufacturing PMI for August was slightly higher at 57.4 compared to July's reading of 56.6. The Markit Services PMI dropped to 54.7 versus the reading of 55.4 in July. The Unemployment Rate held steady at 9.1 percent for July. Consumer Confidence in August improved slightly coming in at -1.5 compared to July's figure of -1.7. Retail Sales for July decreased, on a month on month basis, by 0.3 percent compared to June's growth of 0.5 percent.

European equities declined further in August by 1.1 percent, as measured by the Stoxx Europe 600. Japan's imports and exports year on year continue to grow in July by 16.3 percent and 13.4 percent, respectively, exceeding the previous month's readings. The Nikkei Manufacturing PMI for August came in at 52.2, an increase of 0.1 over July's reading. Housing Starts for July decreased by 2.3 percent year on year down from the 1.7 percent increase reported in June. Retail Trade on a month on month basis improved in July by 1.1 percent. Consumer Confidence in August remains below the 50 mark coming in at 43.3, dropping 0.5 from July's reading while Gross Domestic Product was recorded at an annualized rate of 4 percent for Q2 2017.

Japanese equities drop

China's imports and exports in July increased 11.0 percent and 7.2 percent respectively on a year on year basis resulting in a surplus of \$46.7b compared to June's surplus of \$42.8b. The Consumer Price Index in July came in at 1.4 percent, on a year on year basis, slightly down from June's 1.5 percent figure. Retail Sales and Industrial Production, year on year, continue to grow in July by 10.4 percent and 6.4 percent. The Caixin Manufacturing PMI and Caixin China Services PMI for August were both above the 50 mark at 51.6 and 52.7, respectively.

Chinese equities gained 2.7 percent in August, as measured by the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index. GCC equity markets had mixed performances. The MSCI GCC Index was up 1.3 percent in August, supported by the rise in Brent prices to \$52 pb as a result of a decline in US crude stock levels. The top performing equity market in the GCC was Kuwait with a gain of 4.2 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia with 2.3 percent, Oman with 0.6 percent, and Dubai with 0.12 percent. Qatar's equity market was the worst performer dropping 6.4 percent, followed by Abu Dhabi at -2.1 percent, and Bahrain at -1.9 percent. Egypt's equity market as measured by the EGX 30 Index posted a slight loss of 0.03 percent.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 5 September 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 27 August - 30 August 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 27/8): Kamal Hussain Hasan Al-Baghli, Fatema Mohhamed Mofareh Al-Mofareh

(Monday 28/8): Mesk Faisal Homoud Al-Saeedi, Feryal Nader Ahmed

(Tuesday 29/8): Hashem Abd Al-Razaq Al-Sayed Yosef, Najat Ali Abdulla Al-Bahrani

(Wednesday 30/8): Hassan Kamel Hussain Hassan, Afaf Ghazi Salem Al-Hajri
Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw line-up includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

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

1. Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash

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

2. Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
3. Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
4. The most chances to win
5. Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

ETIHAD GROUP APPOINTS NEW CEO FOR ENGINEERING DIVISION

ABU DHABI: The Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) yesterday confirmed Abdul Khaliq Saeed as the new Chief Executive Officer for Etihad Airways Engineering, replacing Jeff Wilkinson, who is leaving the post after 11 years with the company.



Abdul Khaliq Saeed

Saeed brings over 35 years of international maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) industry experience, and joins Etihad Airways Engineering from Abu Dhabi based, Turbine Services & Solutions (TS&S) where he has been Chief Executive Officer since 2014.

Before joining TS&S, he was President and CEO of Abu Dhabi Aircraft Technologies (ADAT) until it was acquired by Etihad Airways and became Etihad Airways Engineering in 2014. He has also held senior positions within Mubadala Aerospace, Jet Airways, and Gulf Air.

Mohamed Mubarak Fadhel Al-Mazrouei, Chairman of the Board of Etihad Aviation Group, said, "We are delighted to have Abdul Khaliq as CEO of Etihad Airways Engineering. The organization has become a critical enabler for UAE commercial aviation and Abu Dhabi's role as a global aviation hub over the past 25 years. Under his leadership, we will maintain our focus on innovation and business performance."

Ray Gammell, Interim Group CEO of Etihad Aviation Group, said: "We are very happy to have Abdul Khaliq leading the world-class team at Etihad Airways Engineering. The business enables Etihad Airways and many global airlines to keep their fleets flying. Abdul Khaliq's MRO experience, knowledge of the regional aviation market and proven track record makes him the clear choice to operate and grow this critical part of the Etihad Aviation Group."

Gammell also paid tribute to outgoing CEO Jeff Wilkinson, whom he commended for leading the integration of ADAT to Etihad Airways Engineering, a complex change management program that required skillful leadership. During his tenure, the company became the largest airline MRO provider in the region, the first with European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approval to manufacture 3D-printed aircraft cabin parts.

Abdul Khaliq Saeed said: "I am delighted to join Etihad Airways Engineering, a company at the forefront of MRO innovation in the region and worldwide. I look forward to continuing the great work by the team to build our global customer base and enable Abu Dhabi's growth as an aviation hub."

ALEF GROUP ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF AED 3BN AL-MAMSHA PROJECT SHARJAH'S FIRST FULLY PEDESTRIAN COMMUNITY

SHARJAH: Alef Group has launched the first phase of its iconic development, Al-Mamsha, at a total cost of AED 3 billion. This was announced at a press conference held yesterday during which the Sharjah-based developer set up a sales centre dedicated to the new development at Hilton Hotel, Sharjah.

Al-Mamsha, Sharjah's first fully walkable community, with ample sidewalks and walkways complemented by plenty of greenery and open spaces, offers a dynamic lifestyle that integrates modern living, retail and leisure into a vibrant urban environment.

Commenting on the launch, Sheikh Khalid Bin Sultan Al-Qasimi, Alef Group Chairman, said: "At Alef group we are committed to bringing to Sharjah designed lifestyle experiences inspired by global trends and local needs. As a trendsetting concept, Al-Mamsha represents our vision to introduce developments that enrich residents' experience of living in Sharjah while strengthening the emirate's credentials as a city pioneering modern living trends, we are excited to bring to Sharjah its first pedestrian - friendly living experience."

"Al-Mamsha offers a unique modern lifestyle that caters to all segments of society in terms of accommodation, leisure, and retail, providing idyllic living standards and optimal investment opportunities," Sheikh Khalid added. Addressing the conference, Issa Ataya, Alef Group, Managing Director, said: "A new destination in the Emirate of Sharjah in particular and across the UAE in general, Al-Mamsha provides a unique living experience that we chose to create in one of the emirate's most vibrant areas within close proximity to University City and Sharjah-Dubai border. The smart development provides significant momentum to the tourism industry as well as to the retail and hospitality sectors. Setting the project apart in Sharjah's current urban space is its element of full walkability that enables residents and visitors to access the entire community conveniently by walking at all times, providing a one-of-a-kind well rounded lifestyle."

Al-Mamsha offers spacious apartments that suit the tastes and preferences of all generations with offerings ranging from studios, 1 bed, 2 beds and 3 beds in addition to an exclusive selection of duplexes and penthouses featuring wide terraces and private gardens. All at competitive prices that cater to all generations. The project will feature a diverse range of cafes and restaurants that overlook the vibrant community square highlighted by



water features and ample greenery. In addition, the project offers an array of services, including, but not limited to, nurseries, beauty spa, fitness facilities, besides basement parking facilities that can accommodate more than 7,000 cars and are designed to maximize convenience and maintain privacy for occupants as well as visitors," Ataya explained.

Al-Mamsha project is spread over a total area of approximately 3 million square feet, and the project will have a built-up area of 9.3 million square feet in addition to ground retail areas totalling to around 500,000 square feet. Al-Mamsha's Zone 1 will comprise a total of 33 mixed-use buildings that combine retail and residential spaces connected with sidewalks and walkways. The project has carefully been planned to ensure the privacy of its residents, with special attention given to crafting the right project density to optimize street-level experience, residential views, and seamless integration with the surroundings. The integrated car-free development offers a range of services and amenities which are new to Sharjah, that include dedicated basement parking facilities for residential and retail. Cars will only be parked on the basement levels, with visitors and residents using vertical

transportation means such as elevators and escalators to get access to retail or residential floors. In addition, residents at Al Mamsha will enjoy free access to a wide range of amenities and community facilities including dedicated cluster swimming pools, health club & gym, walkways, nursery, family entertainment centre, a dedicated kids' zone, retail spine and much more.

"The Hub" is designed to be the focal point of the community, featuring a diverse range of cafes and restaurants that overlook the vibrant community square highlighted by splendid water features and ample greenery. All coffee shops and restaurants at the Hub will feature indoor as well as shaded outdoor seating areas.

Al-Mamsha provides entertainment zones and platforms to host live musical concerts, art galleries, Friday market, and outdoor events which suit the needs of adults and children alike, with a constantly evolving line-up of live events and programs all year round.

Al-Mamsha has opened its sales centre located at Hilton Hotel in Sharjah, offering convenient payment plans alongside mortgage facilities with easy financing options for end users and investors.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES LAST GROUP OF WINNERS OF ITS CASH BACK DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank concludes its summer campaign by announcing the last group of its Cash Back draw winners. The lucky winners of the cash back draw are:

1. Shareef Mohammad Jumaah
2. Hamed Abdullah Nasr
3. Ammar Ghassan Omeiri
4. Majed Essa Alshuaib
5. Sheikha Fotouh Naser Alsabah

Burgan Bank's recent summer campaign entitled its credit and ATM cardholders a chance to win back their spending when using their cards. The summer offer continued for three months that started on June 1st and ended on 31st August 2017 where fifteen winners as a total were announced.

Customers who used their card more, received higher chances of winning as with every international transaction, they received two chances to enter the draw while every local transaction provided them with one such opportunity. All credit card holders who made local or international transactions entered the draw, As for the ATM card holders they participated in the draw with international transactions only.

Burgan Bank debit and credit cards accommodate customers' different needs with flexibility and convenience for all financial transactions. For more information on Burgan Bank products or services, customers can contact the personal banking executive at the branch.

HUAWEI CONNECT 2017 KICKS OFF AT SHANGHAI EXPO CENTRE

HUAWEI DELIVERS PROMISE TO BUILD ONE OF ITS PREDICTED 5 MAJOR WORLD CLOUDS



SHANGHAI: HUAWEI CONNECT 2017 kicked off yesterday at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre. More than 20,000 ICT industry leaders and experts gathered from over 150 countries and regions to jointly explore the direction of advancements in digital technology, share new opportunities, drive industry digitization, and embark on a path to new growth. At the event, Huawei also shared its vision to build one of the five major world clouds it predicts will be created in the future.

The theme of this year's event is 'Grow with the Cloud', focusing on the practical implementation of Huawei's cloud strategy, first unveiled at last year's event. Topics under this theme include business, technology, and ecosystem strategies in the cloud era.

Huawei Cloud - A look at Huawei's uniquely structured 'Cloud DNA'

Guo Ping, Huawei's Rotating CEO, kicked off the event with a keynote entitled Grow with the Cloud: Enabling an Intelligent World. "The cloud is a cornerstone of the intelligent world," he said. "Society is experiencing a tangible Matthew effect in digital technology development. Because of this, as well as economies of scale in investment, clouds around the world will begin to converge - becoming more and more centralized. In the future, we predict there will be five major clouds in the world. Huawei will work with our partners to build one of those five clouds, and we've got the technology and know-how to do it."

In his speech, Guo Ping assured customers and partners that Huawei has made strategic investments in the public cloud domain, and will provide long-term public cloud services. The company will build a global cloud network based on its own public clouds, as well as clouds that it has built together with partners. Guo likened Huawei's strategy to the three major airline alliances - SkyTeam, Star Alliance, and Oneworld - which take passengers wherever they need to go in the world. Huawei Cloud, he said, will open up the world to its users.

He went on to explain Huawei's business model for the cloud, emphasizing that Huawei will monetize technology and services, not data. He said, "Huawei's Cloud DNA is made of a unique combination of technology, security, services, and shared success."



Huawei's 'Cloud DNA' explained: First, Huawei is a tech company. Building on 30 years of R&D experience, Huawei has decided to invest heavily in cloud platforms, while developing new capabilities in fields like big data and artificial intelligence to meet customer demand for service upgrades and innovation.

The second element of Huawei's Cloud DNA is security. Huawei provides end-to-end security solutions - from chipsets to services - that effectively address the challenges of cloud security. Huawei's full-stack capabilities ensure a level of security that far exceeds that of any independent IT system. The third element is service. Unlike companies that were born in the cloud, Huawei grew with the cloud. The company's own IT architecture is extremely complex, so it understands the needs and challenges of large global companies, and is well positioned to help governments and large enterprises go digital. Shared success is the final element of Huawei's Cloud DNA. At last year's event, Huawei laid out its vision to help cultivate a thriving and diverse ecosystem. At the time, Guo proclaimed that Huawei has its sights set on only 1 percent of that ecosystem. For the remaining 99 percent, Huawei will work with its partners to bring their products to 172 countries and regions, achieving business success together.

Guo wrapped up his keynote with details on Huawei's hybrid cloud solutions that

specifically target the needs of governments and enterprises, including a diverse array of success stories from around the world. Architecturally speaking, Huawei Cloud builds on the company's decades of experience in devices, networks, clouds, and other digital domains, and is better equipped to achieve synergy between devices and the cloud. Moving forward, Huawei will continue leveraging the strengths of its global platform to build an open ecosystem that thrives on shared success.

Building a cloud network with global coverage

Zheng Yelai, President of Huawei's Cloud BU, also presented on the first day of the event, sharing his team's progress on Huawei Cloud. He shared case studies from 12 automobile companies (including Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz), Philips, the Commercial and Industrial Bank of China (ICBC), and several government service platforms that have chosen to use Huawei Cloud and the cloud services from Huawei's partners.

Zheng Yelai said, "Our people have an in-depth understanding of our customers' business scenarios, whether they're working in R&D, marketing, or sales. We keep a close eye on the needs of our customers, and innovate accordingly. We've developed Huawei Cloud to help enterprises go digital more smoothly, and help ensure the success of more companies who are willing to

innovate." Today, Huawei also announced the launch of its new Enterprise Intelligence cloud services, which the company will provide with a platform of general and scenario-specific solutions. This combination of Huawei Cloud and EI makes Huawei Cloud more intelligent, and will help create greater industry value with new advancements in technology.

Huawei's public clouds and private clouds have a unified architecture, support smooth evolution, and deliver a consistent experience. Companies can efficiently and freely deploy their services on public or private cloud platforms, which readily support service migration and expansion. To prevent vendor lock-in, Huawei offers hybrid cloud solutions that enable integration with third-party public cloud platforms, including those from Amazon and Microsoft.

Huawei has worked with its partners to build a cloud network that has global coverage, providing complete solutions that help Chinese companies go global, and that also help companies outside China enter the Chinese market.

Huawei Cloud is the result of innovations in hardware, software, data, connections, and architecture. At HUAWEI CONNECT 2017, Huawei will launch flagship solutions in each of these domains to further enable the digital agenda of customers across nine different sectors, including government and public utilities,

finance, telecom, energy, transformation, and manufacturing.

Platform + Ecosystem: Focusing on practical application

HUAWEI CONNECT 2017 is all about platforms and ecosystems, focusing on practical application and hands-on experience. This year's event brings together members of the vast global ICT ecosystem in an interactive exhibition hall over 20,000 square meters in area, 30 percent larger than last year.

Over 60 sponsors, 10 industry organizations, and 130 joint solution partners are participating in the exhibition, and around 1,000 partners have joined Huawei at the event. Major partners in attendance include SAP, Accenture, Chinasoft International, HGST, Intel, Microsoft, Centerm, and Infosys. They will jointly showcase their latest progress and best practices in ICT technology, and participate in a broad range of activities during the event, including keynotes, booth exhibitions, sponsor events, and technical sessions.

Over 10 industry alliances, including the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF), Cloud Security Alliance (CSA), Beijing Disaster Backup and Recovery Technology and Industry Alliance, Edge Computing Consortium (ECC), GSMA, Industrial Internet Consortium, OpenSDS, and OpenStack, are also in attendance.

To expose its ICT capabilities to developer partners, Huawei will also launch its new software development cloud, DevCloud 2.0. As an R&D cloud platform that integrates Huawei's 30 years of experience in R&D, cutting-edge R&D concepts, and advanced R&D tools, DevCloud 2.0 will expose over 3,000 of Huawei's ICT capabilities through public APIs, and open the doors to 20 local OpenLabs around the world to developers. The end goal is to make software development simple and more efficient, helping developer partners innovate and successfully monetize new services.

HUAWEI CONNECT 2017, Huawei's flagship event for the global ICT industry, is held at the Shanghai New International Exhibition Centre from September 5-7. The theme is Grow with the Cloud. Huawei will be exploring how to realize new growth through digital transformation together with its customers and partners at this global platform for open collaboration.

IN A HIGH-TECH WORLD, CAR DESIGNERS STILL RELY ON CLAY

WARREN, Mich: Car designers have every kind of software and virtual reality tool. But when they want to make sure a car's curves look just right, they rely on one of the world's oldest materials: clay.

Every vehicle by every major carmaker, from Mercedes to Tesla to Toyota, is formed in clay long before it ever hits the road. Automakers hire sculptors to make scale models and full-size clay vehicles. They sculpt every detail, from windows to door handles to slight creases in the hood. They sculpt interiors, too, in such fine detail that focus groups can't always tell they're looking at a clay dashboard. Car companies have tried other materials, like plaster. They've tried designing cars on computers. But without the hand-sculpting process, designs tend to look stiff and stale, said Bob Boniface, the design director for global Buick exteriors at General Motors Co.

"Clay is still the best. It's a very flexible medium," Boniface said. "We can put the clay on and take it off very quickly." Clay has been used in car design studios since at least the 1930s. Legendary GM designer Harley Earl is thought to be one of its pioneers. Now, in the same light-filled studios Earl once used, GM designers and sculptors still use thousands of pounds of reddish-brown clay each year from Kolb, a German supplier.

Design is more critical than ever to car companies, Boniface said. Brands are now basically equal when it comes to crash performance, fuel economy, road feel and price. Design is the great differentiator.

"A car is a product, yes, but it's a very emotional purchase," he said. "So the work we do here in design is very, very important in terms of distinguishing our product from the rest of the competitive landscape."

Car design begins with designers' sketches. Once the designers have narrowed down some ideas, sculptors make one-third-scale clay models of their drawings. One design is eventually chosen to pursue. A full-scale clay model is the next step. At Buick, sculptors make a skeleton from foam, plywood and aluminum, and then cover it with 2 to 3 inches of warm clay, which is heated in special ovens for 24 hours before it's used.

When the clay cools, it's ready for sculpting. Car companies use milling machines to carve out the rough shape of the vehicle, a process that takes about two days. Then sculptors do the detail work, shaping the subtle arches around the wheels or the jeweled patterns in the headlights.

Gianna Ball, a Buick exterior sculptor, was trained in metalsmithing and worked in a



This 1954 photo Courtesy of General Motors shows Buick Design Studio creative clay sculptors as they mold the clay on a model GM automobile. — AP

high-end car restoration shop before completing a two-year diploma program in clay modeling at Detroit's College for Creative Studies. She likes the challenge of sculpting the intricate details in the vehicle's front and rear. Clay is the perfect substance to work with, she said, because it's so forgiving. "You can take a chance and make a design move that might work, might not work, and it's easily fixed or changed," she said.

Sculptors work closely with designers, who might suggest changing an angle or moving a crease upward by a millimeter. They also work closely with digital sculptors, who can scan the clay model and send that data to engineers. Engineers might send back changes to ensure the design meets crash-test standards.

For the last year, digital sculptor Courtney Urbiel has been working on the design of a door. Clay makes the work much faster, she said. If a corner is too sharp and might hit a passenger's elbow, a clay sculptor can soften it in a matter of minutes. Making that change digitally would take hours, Urbiel said. The final design of a vehicle might be changed 12 or more times. One critical test comes when the clay model is covered in a film that looks like paint and is taken outside to see how the natural light plays on its curves. — AP

INNOVATIVE SIEMENS SOFTWARE FOR AIR CARGO PROCESSES IN DUBAI

ORDER FOR CLOUD-BASED PLATFORM FOR DNATA CARGO

DUBAI: Siemens Postal, Parcel & Airport Logistics (SPPAL) has received a major order to implement a cutting-edge cloud-based software platform for dnata's cargo operations in Dubai. The appointment system will allow all land transport processes up to the hub's dock side to be handled digitally. The benefits for dnata will include significantly increased transparency and the seamless, IT-based cooperation with freight forwarders, agents and airlines. The platform is based on the AX4 software of the SPPAL subsidiary AXIT.

Dnata is one of the world's leading air services providers, handling over 2.8 million metric tons of cargo per year at more than 40 airports worldwide. End of last year, dnata already contracted SPPAL to upgrade the automation inside the terminal with its highly sophisticated Cargo Compact software. Together, the two customer-oriented solutions allow for the establishment of further integrated processes both front at house and inside the airport terminal.

"We bring the real world of logistics and the digital transformation together," said Michael Reichle, CEO of Siemens Postal, Parcel & Airport Logistics. "In Dubai we have already successfully completed a large number of airport projects." For example, Siemens has built and expanded the baggage and air cargo systems at both Dubai International Airport and the new Al-Maktoum International Airport. In addition, the company is a long-term partner for the related services and software applications.

"With Siemens as innovation partner, we are



setting new standards in the air cargo industry," added Bernd Struck, Senior Vice President UAE Cargo & DWC Airline Services for dnata. "With end-to-end digitalization of our processes we are able to tailor our services even more closely to our customer's requirements and further increase our competitiveness."

Dnata performs air cargo services for around 200 airlines around the world. In addition to cargo handling, the company offers ground handling, in-flight catering services and travel management. Apart from Dubai, Siemens customers

include further four of the top ten cargo airports in the world, which transport approximately 14 million metric tons of goods each year. As for the software business, the company added further capabilities and strengthened the entire SPPAL portfolio by acquiring the firm AXIT in 2015. Working with this subsidiary, Siemens offers the AX4 cloud technology for the digitalization of processes along the entire supply chain - from production to transport by truck, ship or plane all the way up to the logistics center and final delivery.

TECH FIRM TO PAY \$3.5M IN SETTLEMENT OVER PRELOADED SOFTWARE

TRENTON, N.J.: A technology company will pay \$3.5 million and change how it sells laptop computers as part of a settlement reached with federal officials and 32 states. The agreement with Lenovo announced on Tuesday settles allegations that the North Carolina-based firm sold devices with preloaded software that made users' sensitive personal information vulnerable to hackers.

The VisualDiscovery software was installed on hundreds of thousands of laptops to deliver pop-up ads to consumers.

Lenovo stopped shipping laptops with VisualDiscovery preinstalled in February 2015, but some states contend some laptops with the software still were being sold by various retail outlets as late as June 2015. Under the settlement,

Lenovo will now obtain consumers' consent to use the software and provide a reasonable way for them to opt out, disable or remove it.

"Lenovo compromised consumers' privacy when it preloaded software that could access consumers' sensitive information without adequate notice or consent to its use," acting Federal Trade Commission Chair Maureen Ohlhausen said. "This conduct is even more serious because the software compromised online security protections that consumers rely on."

Lenovo said Tuesday it "disagrees with the allegations" contained in the complaints about VisualDiscovery, but said it is pleased to "bring this matter to a close."

The company says it's not aware of any

instances of a third party exploiting the vulnerabilities to gain access to a user's communications. It also noted that after learning of the issues, Lenovo stopped preloading VisualDiscovery and worked with antivirus software providers to disable and remove the software from consumers' computers.

The states involved in the settlement are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Washington. — AP

POLLUTION THROWS SHADE ON INDIA'S SOLAR SUCCESS

GANDHINAGAR: Air pollution is diminishing India's capacity to harness power from the sun, experts say, undermining billions being invested in renewables as the energy-hungry giant emerges as a solar superpower. New research has found the smog and dust that sickens millions across India every year is also sapping solar power generation by more than 25 percent, far beyond levels previously thought. In the first study of its kind, US and Indian scientists measured how man-made particles floating in the air and deposited as grime on solar panels combined to seriously impair sunlight from converting to energy.

This interference causes steep drops in power generation, they found. In India, it could amount to 3,390 megawatts of lost energy—six times the capacity of its largest solar farm, a gigantic field of 2.5 million panels. "A simple calculation shows that this is a big amount of energy we are going to lose," Professor Chinmay Ghoro, who co-authored the paper, told AFP at the Indian Institute of Technology in Gandhinagar.

These huge losses will only compound as India realises its grand solar ambitions, experts say. India, the world's third-largest polluter, is banking on solar to electrify homes for hundreds of millions of its poorest citizens without adding to its sizeable carbon footprint. At the Paris climate summit in 2015,

India pledged cuts to its future emissions and vowed to source at least 40 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030 — a target it is well on track to exceed. New panels are being installed so fast that India is expected to more than double capacity this year, overtaking Japan as the world's third-largest solar market.

Billion-dollar hit

But with this spectacular growth comes "an exponential rise in the total amount of money lost" because of air pollution, said Mike Bergin, a professor from Duke University in North Carolina, who led the research published in June. "We're talking billions of dollars here, easy," he said. Dust has long been a menace for solar projects in desert states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, where robotic wipers are deployed to ensure panels are cleaned after sandstorms. But the new research confirmed what solar installers had long suspected—that choking smog from cars, coal plants, crop burning and trash fires was particularly adept at bleeding energy. The grimy coating that man-made pollutants deposit on solar panels is far more effective at blocking light than dust, and trickier to remove by washing, Bergin and Ghoro found.

This is especially troublesome in northern India,

where fine airborne particles from human activity contribute far more than dust to the dire air quality. Vinay Rutagi, director of solar consultancy Bridge to India, said rooftop panels in Delhi, one of the world's most polluted cities, produced up to 30 percent less power than the same project just 40 kilometers away. "The reason for that is the constant haze, the pollution and high dust levels," Rutagi said. "There is a huge amount of practical evidence on the ground available in this regard." This bodes ill as the government seeks 40 percent of its solar energy from rooftop panels atop industrial zones and urban centers by 2022.

Walking on sunshine

But there is little appetite for gloomy projections as India's solar sector undergoes an unprecedented boom. Amid this optimism, new milestones are being surpassed at a dizzying speed. A behemoth solar park nearing completion in India's southeastern Andhra Pradesh state will rival the world's largest. In May, wholesale solar prices plunged to record lows, cheaper than the coal-powered electricity that overwhelmingly dominates the power grid. Dr Andre Noble, an expert on the effect of haze on solar generation, found little interest when he presented his findings at a solar summit in Delhi last month. "People didn't pay

much attention," said Noble, who is head of operations and maintenance at Singapore-based Cleantech Solar, which invests heavily in India.

"They might have a gut feeling, but they might think the impact is negligible," Rutagi said air pollution was brushed off as "a large, macro issue" by an industry fretting about crashing solar prices and obstacles connecting to the grid. "From a doability perspective, those issues are much more tractable, or solvable, that air quality issues. People have kind of taken it in their stride," he said. There are some signs the industry is taking note. Bergin said he was bombarded by emails from Indian solar businesses eager for solutions to fix the problem.

Jinko Solar, a Chinese photovoltaic cell manufacturer, is marketing a coating designed to resist dust and other grime from accumulating on panels, its Indian sales director Vivek Bhardwaj said. But the putrid skies blocking out the sun have a far more sinister impact: premature deaths from smog have steadily climbed in India to nearly 1.1 million in 2015. This shadow cast over India's solar success story should encourage policymakers to redouble efforts to clean the skies, Ghoro said. "Now that we have identified that air pollution is one of the biggest culprits... if we tackle that, we'll kill two problems together," he said. — AFP



HAMBURG: In this Friday, July 21, 2017 file photo Britain's Prince William, second left, and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, second right, and their children, Prince George, left, and Princess Charlotte, right are on their way to board a plane. — AP

KATE'S MORNING SICKNESS BRUTAL, NOT DANGEROUS

LONDON: Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, are expecting their third child. And for the third time - as with her previous two pregnancies - the former Kate Middleton is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum, or severe morning sickness.

Hyperemesis gravidarum is estimated to affect about one to three percent of pregnant women and can result in nausea and vomiting so acute that hospitalization is required. It is thought to be caused by pregnancy hormones, but doctors aren't sure why some women experience worse symptoms than others. The condition usually begins in the early weeks of pregnancy and in many cases, subsides by about 20 weeks. But for some women, the effects may persist until the baby is born.

The condition can be "absolutely devastating," said Dr Roger Gadsby of Warwick University, who has studied the issue for decades. "Your life is on hold while the symptoms are present," he said, noting that some pregnant women may vomit dozens of times per day and be restricted to bed rest.

Kensington Palace made the pregnancy announcement Monday, saying the duchess was not feeling well enough to attend an official engagement later in the day. Kate is being cared for at her Kensington Palace home in London. There was no word of when the baby is due. She and Prince William already have

two children: Prince George, 4 and Princess Charlotte, 2. In 2012, Kate was hospitalized for several days when she was believed to be suffering from dehydration.

There is no evidence that the nausea and vomiting from severe morning sickness will affect the baby's future health. Women with the condition actually have a slightly lower risk of miscarriage, according to Britain's Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In severe cases, however, babies can be born with lower than expected birthweight. Women with the condition are advised to eat small meals often, to avoid any foods or smells that trigger symptoms and to consult their midwife or doctor if their symptoms do not subside.

If treatment requires hospitalization, women are typically given vitamins, steroids and anti-nausea drugs intravenously. Patients are also sometimes treated with shots of heparin, to thin their blood; pregnant women are at increased risk of developing blood clots in their legs, and being dehydrated further elevates the risk. Gadsby said he would expect doctors to be able to treat the duchess at Kensington Palace and that there shouldn't be any lasting effects. She would likely have to cut back on her royal schedule, though. "As long as the mom receives adequate treatment, the mom is usually fine and the baby is fine," he said. — AP

HOW FORECASTERS ARE DEALING WITH 'SPAGHETTI' OF HURRICANE SCENARIOS

WASHINGTON: Hurricane Irma, with its record strong winds, is lashing the Caribbean but where will it go from there? Forecasters turn to computer simulations to try to predict a storm's path and how strong it will be. Different computer models - often run by different governments and various agencies - use different recipes or formulas to mimic the atmosphere. They all also approximate current conditions differently. So the resulting models look like a plate of spaghetti thrown on a map. But in that messy mass, meteorologists can get an increasingly strong idea of where a storm like Irma is heading. A look at how those predictions are made:

Who to trust

The place to start is the National Hurricane Center's official forecast, say several meteorologists who are not part of the federal government. "You can't beat the hurricane center forecast," said Miami television meteorologist Max Mayfield, who was the director of the hurricane center from 2000 to 2007. The hurricane center sees computer models other people don't, judges individual models and uses a consensus of the better performing models, he said. The center also shows how well they do over time - and they are doing better. The trouble, say those experts, is that those same images of models are spreading over social media and they are getting misread. There are even bogus hurricane tracks spreading on social media.

How good are the predictions

Forecasters track the beginnings of storms, whether they come out of unstable weather that pops up in the Gulf of Mexico, or chug off Africa in classic Atlantic storm mode like Irma. The models usually agree about where the storm will go for the next 12 to 24 hours and the spread out with time. Today, the five-day forecast is as good as the three-day forecast was 15 years ago. And the margin of error for the five-day track forecast is nearly half of what it was when it was first introduced in 2001. What's key is that meteorologists don't stick to a single line or track because a slight change can mean a big difference, Mayfield said. For example, a tiny turn over Cuba, where mountains can eat up storms, can weaken Irma considerably. Computer models are like massive apps that try to solve complex equations that



In this geocolor image captured by GOES-16 and released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Hurricane Irma, a potentially catastrophic category 5 hurricane, moves westward, Tuesday morning, Sept 5, 2017, in the Atlantic Ocean toward the Leeward Islands. — AP

simulate the behavior of the atmosphere and oceans, said MIT meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel. Usually they don't go much farther out in time than five days, and if they do, it's with decreasing accuracy. They use real-time readings of wind, temperature, air pressure, humidity and more.

But those real-time readings are sparse and spread out over the open Atlantic. Sometimes the models point to the same general conclusion, like Superstorm Sandy hitting the New York-New Jersey area. The models did well about five days out in 2012, said Emanuel. Sometimes they are all over the place. This time they are in between, not widespread but not clustered, he said.

The better models

The top performing model is usually the European model, which is slightly ahead in long-term accuracy over the American one, Emanuel said. But that doesn't mean the European will be better every time, he said. "Good forecasters look at the whole suite" of

models, Emanuel said. And sometimes one model is just nailing a certain storm so you stay with the hot model. Forecasters also run so-called ensembles with as many as 51 tweaks to the data and formulas. They are lower resolution and quality but provide more information and possibilities for forecasters.

What should you look for

"The best guide for risk is to look at the cone" of projected landfall, often called the "cone of uncertainty," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at the private forecasting service Weather Underground. If you are in the cone, you should be concerned and prepared, he said. Even if you aren't in the cone but nearby, you need to pay attention. The trouble is with the spaghetti of models, people focus too intently on one line, Masters said. The hurricane center cone only goes out five days - and people want to know if they are in danger earlier, Masters said. So that's when they turn to the longer range models even if it is beyond that cone. — AP

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GUST STUDENT COMPLETES RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT COURSE AT ESC RENNES



Dr Salah Al-Sharhan

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) student, Noura Al-Khubazi, successfully completed a 10-day course this summer entitled "Responsible Management", at Rennes School of Business in France. The course comes as part of GUST and Rennes' annual student exchange program to diversify and enhance their students' academic experience. GUST Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr Salah Al-Sharhan said, "I am pleased to see the growth of our first collaboration with a European University such as Rennes School of Business. GUST students' engagement in the exchange program is a vital step to widen and enrich both their academic and cultural knowledge."

The Responsible Management course offers intensive academic and professional classes by a team of international professors with extensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expertise from Rennes, and its part-

ner universities. The course examines how responsible managers and their stakeholders can work together to create a more sustainable world. This program provides a valuable opportunity for GUST seniors to gain proficiency in the field.

Noura Al-Khubazi said, "The time I spent at Rennes was very rewarding, both on an academic and personal level. Learning about CSR has changed the way I see the business world. Being able to exchange ideas and learn alongside peers from diverse backgrounds has made it such a special experience. Immersing myself in this new lifestyle abroad was the perfect addition to the collection of other experiences I had at GUST."

Rennes and GUST signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013 to work together on an exchange program for students. In the Spring 2017 semester, GUST welcomed two students from Rennes: Felix Foiret and

Ahmed Mostafa, who attended courses at the GUST College of Business Administration as part of the exchange program. Study abroad programs are highly sought after at both universities for their ability to allow students to flourish academically, strengthen their character, and enjoy a well-rounded education.

Director of Administrative Academic Affairs, Mrs Amani Gaber said, "Some of the benefits of participating in an international exchange are that the students expand their comfort zones, become self-reliant, independent, and mature. These lessons can never be taught in a classroom." The Office of International Programs strives to promote and develop a wide range of educational opportunities for GUST undergraduates seeking to gain experiences abroad and advance their degree program with an international dimension of learning and engagement.

SYMPHONY STYLE HOTEL KUWAIT WELCOMES AL-TIJARIA ELITE CARD HOLDERS WITH DISCOUNTS

The Commercial Real Estate Company has teamed up with Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait to offer Al-Tijaria Elite card holders exclusive, mouthwatering discounts across the hotel's outstanding facilities. Al-Tijaria elite card holders can benefit from 50 percent off on a meal for two when dining at the hotel's award-winning Italian restaurant Luna, Cucina - which offers diners an extensive range of local and international cuisine - Symphony Gourmet, or the stylish Chococafe, the place to see and be seen in Kuwait.

The discounts at Symphony Style Hotel, the jewel of Kuwait City, extends beyond food and beverages and incorporate the premier entertainment and leisure facilities at the hotel, which is located in the upscale Salmiya. Families can enjoy 50 percent discount on the Symphony Kids Club and 10-15 percent on children's birthday parties. In addition, the Six Senses Spa will offer Al-Tijaria elite card holders a very competitive discount on a range of treatments. Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait is one of the standout places to be seen in Kuwait with its stunning design and renowned outlets, so don't miss the chance to benefit from these unique discounts.

Download the app and request your Al-Tijaria elite card that allows you to enjoy this hotel and all it has to offer. "The Al-Tijaria elite card was designed by the company to add value to our client services, so they can enjoy special offers and discounts from outlets and restaurants located in various Al-Tijaria properties such as Al-Tijaria Tower, Symphony Style Hotel and Mall, Light Restaurants complex and Boulevard Mall. The Elite card application is available for download on both android and iOS platforms and provides details of all the registered partners and exclusive discounts on offer.



Kuwait Triskelion Alumni Organization held its Annual Sports fest on September 1, 2017 at Riggae gym Kuwait.



BHAVANS FRATERNITY KUWAIT CELEBRATES ONAM

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan institutions are well-known across the globe for promoting and promulgating the varied and vibrant Indian culture. Onam, one of the most colorful harvest festivals of South India (Kerala) was celebrated in the Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) auditorium with fun, frolic and feast on September 5, 2017. The Staff dedicated the day of the celebration which happened to be the Teachers' Day, to their beloved Principal, T Premkumar, (who has been recognized by the CBSE for the CBSE Teachers' Award 2016), as a mark of their immense love, reverence and gratitude to their beloved mentor par excellence.

An amazing 'pookkalam' (floral carpet) set by the womenfolk of the IES fraternity at the reception area of the institution welcomed everyone much to their awe and admiration. The Staff Club of Bhavans Kuwait hosted a cultural fiesta

comprising, a 'thiruvathirakali' (teachers of Jack and Jill, Mangaf) 'the mega three layer thiruvathirakali' with more than 50 dancers (teachers of IES), the traditional 'mohiniyaattam' (teachers of SIS), Vanchippaatu by the menfolk of the three schools, skits and musical performances led by the very talented and blessed singer Mahesh Iyer (Principal, SIS). The icing on the cake was the visit of Mahabali, the demon king, in his majestic splendor, and the audience reciprocated with rounds of applause and bursts of laughter.

The gear of the festive mood was shifted, to let an extraordinary gracious moment to happen. T Premkumar, the Principal of IES, was conferred a golden rondure by N K Ramachandran Menon, the Chairman, Bhavans Middle East, appreciating his accolades as a teacher and a principal and in appreciation of the award conferred by the CBSE, in the presence of Mahesh Iyer, Principal, Bhavans Smart Indian School; a

medallion purified in understanding and carved in love, a medallion instrumental in spreading a marvelous rainbow of emotions in the little confined worlds of every soul present in the auditorium.

As the medallion was conferred the auditorium exploded with praise and plaudits for both the giver and the receiver. T Premkumar dedicated the award to his Chairman and mentor, N K Ramachandran Menon with filial reverence and thankfulness. The school auditorium once again witnessed the amity, admiration and adoration treasured in the hearts of the IES fraternity when the staff celebrated the birthday of their dear Chairman, N K Ramachandran Menon, with a mellifluous 'Happy Birthday Song'; much to his surprise, and with the cutting of a massive cake, amidst roaring applause, in the presence of his better half Madam Sudha Ramachandran, and the Principals and Vice Principals of Bhavans, Kuwait.

A traditional Onam feast with 21 dishes on the menu was also hosted by the staff club. The feast served on plantain leaves in the traditional way and served by the male members of the Bhavans teaching fraternity in a joyous and festive ambience was indeed relished by the multi-ethnic members of the staff community.

N K Ramachandran Menon, the chairman, IES, Mr T Premkumar, the principal, IES and Mahesh Iyer, the principal, SIS wished the staff members a joyous and a blessed Onam. The teaching fraternity took home happy and memorable moments of festivities and feasts, camaraderie and commentaries, and surprises and sentiments. The citadel of their solidarity is invincible and Bhavans reigns supreme as "the only school with a difference" in the Middle East.



WRITERS' FORUM KUWAIT HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

The Writers' Forum Kuwait (WFK) met at the residence of the Urdu critic Maimuna Ali Chougale for its monthly meeting on August 25, 2017. One of its women members Nazneen Ali was the chief guest on the occasion, whereas Maimuna was asked to preside over the evening's meeting. In the absence of Rajesh Verlekar-the Gen. Secretary of the Forum, the meeting was conducted by Sunil Sonshi, the Joint Secretary.

The first session was marked for the review of WFK's Kavi Sannam - Mushaira which was held on August 18, 2017 at the Embassy of India's auditorium. It was unanimously felt that the program in the Embassy had received positive reviews from members as well as from the section of audiences. The poetries recited in the program were well appreciated. Some minor deficiencies were also noted and it was agreed to rectify the shortcomings in the future.

All members cheered the working committee for their dedication and sincere efforts towards the success of the program. In the second session of the meeting, the poets were invited to present their poetry. Umesh Sharma, Sabiha Bilgrami and Vinay Purabiya recited in

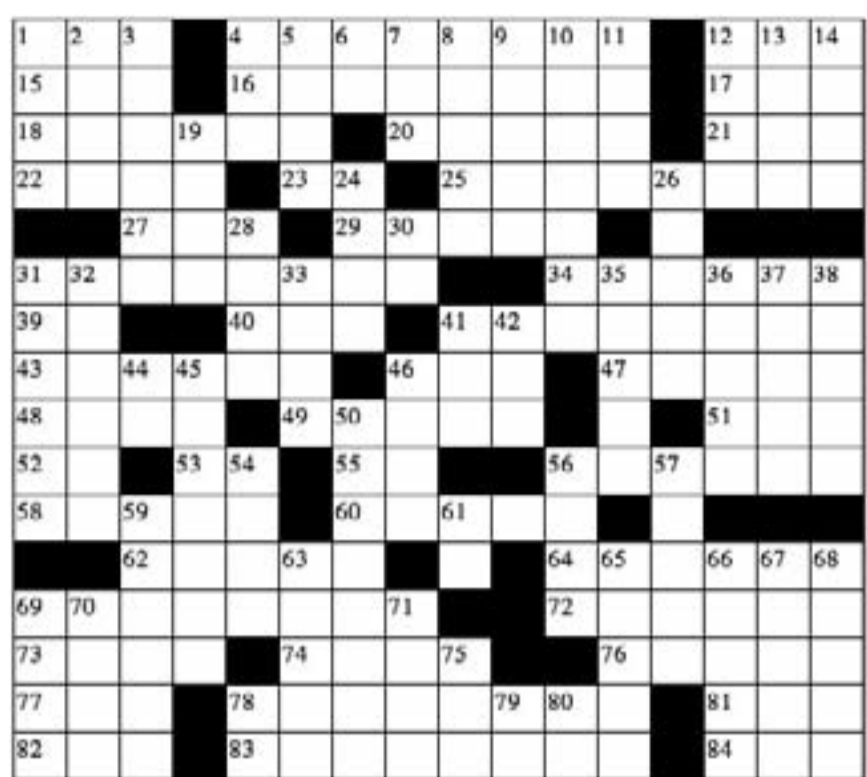
Hindi, Afroz Alam, Shakeel Jamshedpuri, Sabir Galsulkar and Ameeruddin Ameer in Urdu, Tushar Mishra in Odiya, while Mohan Singh (for Parminder Kaur) recited in English respectively.

The Chief Guest -Nazneen Ali expressed her regrets on missing the program at the Embassy and congratulated all members over the success of the program. She also shared her observations on the soul-stirring recitations of the evening, and also recited her own poem in Hindi. Maimuna Ali Chougale while welcoming also expressed her deep appreciation of how the various poets, in their unique styles, regaled everyone with a brilliant weaving of words.

She also expressed her satisfaction at the program in the Embassy and also congratulated all members for its successful conclusion. She also said that the success of the program was crafted by the efforts of each and every member of the Forum. Amongst those present in the meeting also included Ali Chougale and Mateen Siddiqi. Sunil Sonshi thanked the hosts profusely and the members left enriched with yet another evening etched on their memories.



CROSSWORD 1704



ACROSS

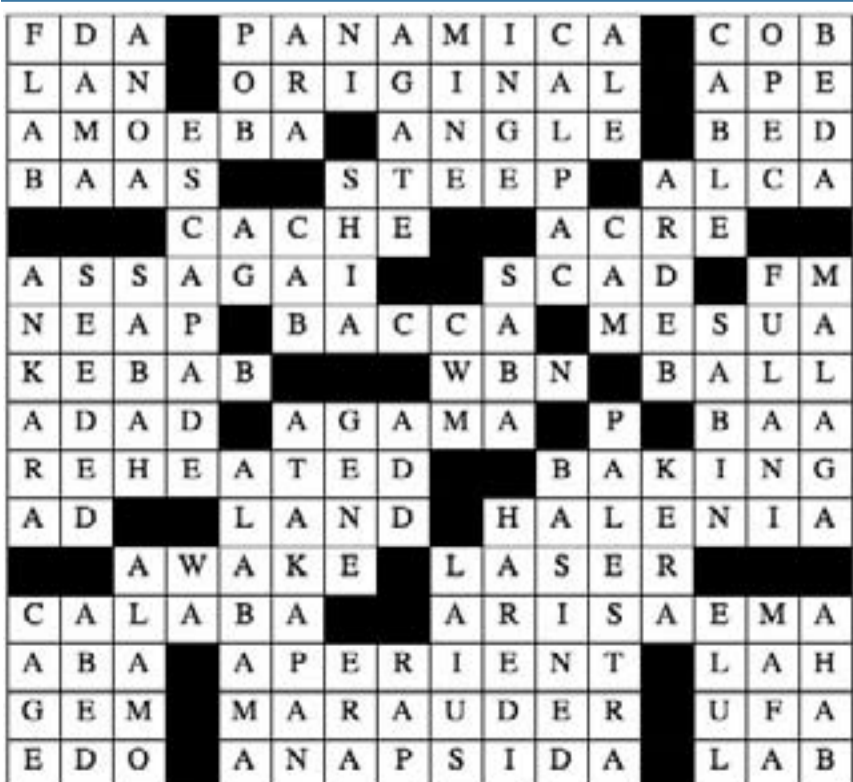
- (music) The pace of music measured by the number of beats occurring in 60 seconds.
- Bridge formed by the upper level of a crossing of two highways at different levels.
- The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- An official report (usually sent in haste).
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- A full skirt with a gathered waistband.
- God of justice.
- One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- A fit of shivering.
- Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
- Eurasian perennial herb having pale pink flowers and curved pods.
- The sound made by a cow or bull.
- Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
- Early-ripening apple popular in the northeastern United States.
- Rice cooked in well-seasoned broth with onions or celery and usually poultry or game or shellfish and sometimes tomatoes.
- A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- The agent to whom property involved in a bailment is delivered.
- A general direction in which something tends to move.
- The basic unit of money in Ghana.
- Affect with wonder.
- A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
- Before noon.
- A path set aside for walking.
- The vertical triangular wall between the sloping ends of gable roof.
- An honorary arts degree.
- United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
- Having two faces or fronts.
- A member of a nomadic Berber people of the Sahara.
- Using speech rather than writing.
- Marked by lack of intellectual depth.
- Fleshy spore-bearing inner mass of e.g. a puffball or stinkhorn.
- Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
- A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- An island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- A person regarded as arrogant and annoying.
- Shrub bearing round-fruited kumquats.
- Not divisible by two.

- Elevated open grassland in southern Africa.
- A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
- Rate of revolution of a motor.
- A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- Barely adequate.
- A branch of the Tai languages.
- (Greek mythology) The Muse of history.
- Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
- The act of scanning.
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
- Related to or having filaments especially across a field of view.
- A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
- A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
- A stiff chitinous seta or bristle especially of an annelid worm.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- (prefix) Within.
- A cylindrical spike-like inflorescence.
- Occurring at or forming an end or termination.
- Intensely fashionable for a short time.
- An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
- A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
- A state in the Rocky Mountains.
- Showing or characterized by broad-mindedness.
- A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
- A reformed prostitute.
- A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
- The state of owing money.
- Wild and menacing.
- An overland journey by hunters (especially in Africa).
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- The 18th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A long flexible steel coil for dislodging stoppages in curved pipes.
- Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- City in northern Austria on the Danube.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
- A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities demand that you tend to business for the moment. Your superiors value your ability to make practical decisions. Others may seek you out for advice concerning business matters. You could be put in charge to make decisions that affect conditions in the workplace. You are most persuasive and you will find others most cooperative. You possess a powerful, persistent drive and are a hard, steady worker. You have a sense of mission and mystery. You are willing to do the work that others would not go near. A young person is monitoring your activities today. Whether you realize it or not, you are being an important mentor. Enjoy dinner out-of-doors this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Intense focus on your career can find you mercilessly cutting back and getting down to the essentials regarding your professional direction. You will have a sense of being almost driven to pursue your course and succeed. Perhaps you will want to take a class or have someone guide you with a new skill or technique. This could be a time when what you think you need for inner growth and change may not agree with your progress in the business world. You may not appreciate all of the intensely personal stuff that is boiling up now. It is best to get your lessons learned now—it will help to decrease frustrations later. Deal with situations as they appear and ask questions if someone is not easily understood. Relax with your loved one this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Philosophizing, or expressing your theories, is an inborn talent and you are in love with grand gestures and long thoughts. Someone may bring up a subject of interest today and you may want to explore. You enjoy fair, just, frank and broadminded persons as well as long conversations with your friends touching on a variety of subjects this afternoon. You dare to dream big. You are very tolerant and accepting of differences and may find yourself promoting your own ideas much of this day. Your sense of inner direction is good and should lead to some ideas for future monetary opportunities. Later today you will be able to make a great deal of headway on your personal projects. You will find a way around almost any obstacle.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on an emotional significance for you. Learning the experience of others will help you in your own decision making. The power of organization on a social scale regarding business, politics, etc., seems to take on an important aspect. This may mean that you are a concert pianist and have social obligations to play before a charity or perhaps some performance before an educational group. Professionally speaking, it is very important to exhibit superior social skills, particularly if you travel and perform out of the country. Most certainly, this is a wonderful time to discipline your mind through study, education or writing. You will have many experiences to write about and the outcome will be intriguing and positive.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Respect, status and achievement are central goals you have been wanting and today may prove to gain you insights along that line. You are good when you work with teammates but to lead a team calls for a whole different bag of tricks. Your mental energies, ideas and thoughts, may undergo some transformation. There is a natural sense of growth and development present. You are a productive thinker and you like to respond in positive ways to the needs of your friends and family. You are a good example for others to follow. A family discussion this evening may call for your administrative abilities. You will help to make the right decision, particularly when you remove emotions from the process. Others are inspired by your positive attitude.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Communications could be strained this morning. There could be a misunderstanding that needs clearing up—ask questions and remain respectful. By the afternoon all will be at ease. Everything will transform and begin to work together. You may discover communication is more expressive. Something lost is found by another person. A difficult project can be finished by you. A lost customer will find the right aisle or item, thanks to you. All is working together to make things work out right, particular when the participating parties are patient and have taken care of any physical problems. Your occupation will eventually bring about some incredible results. This evening is a good time to work in the garage or in a garden.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You can put your ideas into words and describe or analyze situations for yourself and others quite well. This could involve teaching and lecturing, etc. Chances are you work in one of the many service occupations, taking care of and looking after people. A bout of philosophy or even a little religion could have an enormous effect on your career during this time. Lasting values—whatever you find to be true and lasting—can guide you now as you open up avenues that have remained blocked. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects and in all aspects of your life. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out at this time. You will successfully organize and accomplish your projects this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Obtaining and exchanging information is an important aspect today. You may be very forceful in what you say and think just now. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well—you have a great mental drive. Your positivism lets you get right to the point and you have little patience with those who do not tend to business. You have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to things and people quickly. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. Figuring things out and looking for the best solution to problems are just where you love to spend your energies. You have a heightened interest in health and diet, as well as an urge to get your personal things organized into a rational system.



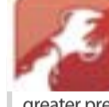
Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

A supervisor or some senior worker steps in to create some sort of change in direction today. This is a go-with-the-flow sort of day and gives you plenty of opportunities for success in problem solving. Later today, you may consider restructuring your finances. You want a better sense of personal security for the future. Just as important is the way you are using all your resources. Your financial obligations may or may not increase just now, but your way of handling these obligations will change—for the better. However, because of some inside information, it looks as though your finances will show significant improvements—soon. Take time to review your goals and perhaps some of the methods by which you reach those goals.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your willingness to give credit to others that deserve recognition is commendable and higher-ups have noticed. You may also go beyond the assigned and expected tasks asked of you. Help may be needed and you just jump in and lend a hand. Your eagerness to take the risk and make a decision—above and beyond your job identity—will bring you recognition. Today is a self-expression day. You will find others listening to your particular ideas. A good conversation with those you love is possible this evening. Teach others to share their experiences by listening—you enjoy your family. Seek advice and support from your family and encourage your family to seek your advice and support as well. Family members enjoy a strong bond.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Taking care of the necessary parts of life—health, work and such—is the greater preoccupation just now. Sorting things out and getting them organized to utmost efficiency keeps you busy. When there is an opportunity to move forward in your business or in your work, do not hesitate to take on the new. These additional activities will not distract you from keeping a good balance in your life. You have all the drive and energy you could want—it should be easy to focus this time. The path is open and clear. Marriage and other close relationships give rise to great expectations particularly now, as a new cycle gets underway in your life. Enjoy and appreciate your ties to others; seek and promote harmony in the interaction between people. Be good to you.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others. Your own growth and success may be linked to questions of security—home and family, in particular. Faith, family, friends, mental and physical fitness, volunteer services and finances are the subjects you will want to keep your mind keyed into while you are learning to balance your energies. These are the things that are needed for good balance. This may be a time during which you can get ahead by finding your limits and establishing a home base from which to move forward. Don't be afraid to project your image. Group cooperation, perhaps teaching or lecturing, could further your career now. Prepare yourself for a good tomorrow by doing the best you can today.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Roller Coasters

Find and circle all of the roller coasters that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 20 letters spell a Ernest Hemingway quotation.

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

AFTERBURN GHOSTRIDER MIND BENDER SHEIKRA
ALPENGEIST GOLIATH MONTU TATSU
BALDER GRIFFON NEMESIS THUNDERBOLT
BIZARRO HADES NITRO TITAN
COLOSSOS INTIMIDATOR PHOENIX TREMORS
COMET JUPITER PROWLER TROY
CYCLONE KATUN RAGING BULL TWISTER
DESPERADO LEVIATHAN RAPTOR VIPER
DIAMONDBACK MANTA RENEGADE XCELERATOR
EL TORO MAVERICK ROAR

Yesterday's Solution

Restaurant

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

APERITIF CUPS MANAGER SPOON
APPETIZER CUSTOMER MEAL TABLECLOTH
BILL DESSERT MENU TABLES
BUSBOY DISHWASHERS NAPKINS TEA
CASHIER DRINKS ORDER TIP
CHAIRS ENTREE PLATES WAITER
CHEF FORK SALAD WAITRESS
COFFEE GLASSES SAUCERS WATER
COOKS KNIFE SERVERS WINE

The hidden word is: RESERVATION

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
 Issued 06/09/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 45 °C

By Day: Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h with a chance for light fog forming.

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Hot	Hot	Hot
Min Temp °C	29	30	31	30
Max Temp °C	45	46	44	44
Wind Direction	south westerly to variable	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly to variable
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 30	12 - 35	15 - 40	08 - 28

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	32		44	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27		45	
ABDULY	26		45	
BUBYAN	24		42	
JAHRA	29		46	
FAILAKA ISLAND	28		44	
SALMIYAH	32		42	
AHMADI	32		42	
JAL ALIYAH	26		45	
QAROH ISLAND	33		41	
UMM AL-MARADEM	33		40	
NUWAISIB	30		45	
WAFRA	25		45	
SALMY	24		45	
MUTRIBA	25		46	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	84
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	43 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:27
Sunset	18:07

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:06
Sunrise	05:27
Zuhr	11:47
Aar	15:19
Sunset	18:07
Isha	19:25

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

FOR RENT

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- ◆ Kitchen ◆ 3 bathrooms

Free services for you and your family

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sabira D/o Abbas Ali Hita, holder of Indian Passport No. L4906912 & Civil ID No. 283051602805, has changed my name to Sabira Ora hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5343)

I, Azima Arif D/o Arif Ora, holder of Indian Passport No. M9150401 & Civil ID No. 306100600523, has changed my name to Azima Ora, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C5343) 7-9-2017

Kuwait Times

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 7/9/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 7/9/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	JZR	239	Amman	12:25
JZR	565	Sohag	00:10	SAW	709	Latakia	12:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
KAC	102	London	00:15	THY	766	Istanbul	12:50
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	FEQ	933	Sohag	12:55
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	FEQ	1933	Sohag	13:05
KAC	267	Beirut	00:35	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10
KAC	504	Doha	00:45	KAC	514	Tehran	13:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	792	Madinah	13:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KNE	672	Dubai	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	QTR	231	Riyadh	14:10
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	GFA	1078	Doha	14:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	221	Bahrain	14:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	500	Jeddah	14:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	059	Dubai	14:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	352	Kochi	14:20
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KAC	692	Jeddah	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	788	Muscat	14:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	KAC	562	Amman	15:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	FDB	8053	Dubai	15:25
LZB	7787	Varna	02:55	ABY	502	Beirut	15:25
SAW	713	Damascus	03:00	UAE	127	Sharjah	15:35
PGT	4562	Amman	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	PGT	4562	Amman	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	OMA	643	Muscat	16:15
PGT	4860	Istanbul	03:15	MSR	606	Doha	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	PGT	4860	Istanbul	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	MSR	612	Cairo	16:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	FDB	069	Dubai	16:35
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	382	Delhi	16:35
QTR	1090	Doha	04:00	QTR	1076	Doha	16:50
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	1544	Cairo	17:05
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:05	QTR	1090	Doha	17:15
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	LMU	510	Cairo	17:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	ZJR	555	Alexandria	17:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	UAE	873	Dubai	17:45
FEQ	931	Alexandria	05:00	KAC	358	Kochi	18:10
THY	1414	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	784	Jeddah	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	FEQ	931	Alexandria	19:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	THY	1414	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	DHX	170	Bahrain	19:10
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	THY	770	Istanbul	19:10
JZR	1433	Doha	05:45	KAC	344	Chennai	19:15
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	JZR	529	Asyut	19:20
BAW	157	London	06:05	JZR	1433	Doha	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	362	Colombo	19:25
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	BAW	157	London	19:30
KAC	284	Doha	06:35	KAC	204	Lahore	19:40
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KAC	678	Dubai	19:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	284	Doha	19:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	QTR	8511	Doha	19:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	206	Islamabad	19:50
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	302	Mumbai	20:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	156	Istanbul	20:05
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	JZR	1541	Cairo	20:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	503	Luxor	20:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	354	Bangalore	20:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	FDB	053	Dubai	20:20
JZR	1543	Cairo	08:20	KAC	384	Delhi	20:25
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	332	Trivandrum	20:40
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	JZR	1543	Cairo	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	UAE	855	Dubai	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	IRA	673	Ahwaz	21:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	21:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	ABY	125	Sharjah	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	IRA	667	Esfahan	21:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	QTR	1070	Doha	21:15
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	FDB	055	Dubai	21:30
AHY	5101	Geneva	10:15	SVA	512	Riyadh	21:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	FDK	803	Damascus	21:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	AHY	5101	Geneva	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	213	Bahrain	22:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	774	Riyadh	22:10
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	MEA	404	Beirut	22:15
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1074	Doha	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	PAL	668	Manila	22:55
KAC	403	Asyut	11:15	SYR	341	Damascus	23:00
KAC	614	Alexandria	11:15	JZR	561	Sohag	23:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	MSC	403	Asyut	23:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MSC	403	Asyut	23:30
				RBG	553	Alexandria	23:30
				JZR	165	Dubai	23:35

GOSSIP



Ariana Grande among stars at Charlottesville unity concert

Top pop stars including Ariana Grande, Justin Timberlake and Pharrell Williams yesterday announced a unity concert in Charlottesville in the wake of a violent white supremacist rally. Promoters said that the September 24 concert at the University of Virginia's Scott Stadium would be free, although they encouraged donations. The funds will support people affected by the violence as well as "organizations devoted to the promotion of healing, unity and justice locally and nationwide," a concert announcement said. The Dave Matthews Band-the Charlottesville-rooted jam rock band known for its left-leaning activism despite its broad-based fan base-will serve as the concert's host and headliner. Other acts include hip-hop ensemble The Roots, country star Chris Stapleton, garage rockers Cage the Elephant and Britanny Howard, the powerful voice of bluesy rockers Alabama Shakes. The usually idyllic Virginia college town became the center of an international outcry on August 12

when neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan supporters and other white supremacists openly marched in town. Heather Heyer, who was taking part in the large counter-demonstration, was killed when a far-right supporter ran his car into the crowd. President Donald Trump, who has championed a hard line on immigration, stunned even some of his political allies when he insisted there were "very fine people" on both sides in Charlottesville. The concert is the latest star-studded show this year in response to a tragedy. Pop superstar Beyonce and Hollywood A-listers including George Clooney will take part in a televised special on September 12 for victims of massive storm Harvey. On June 4, Grande led a who's who of pop stars in the One Love Manchester benefit concert after 22 people were killed and 250 injured at one of her concerts in the English city in a suicide bombing by a supporter of the Islamic State group.

TIMBERLAKE RECORDS WITH FOO FIGHTERS

Justin Timberlake appears on the new Foo fighters album. The 'SexyBack' singer ran into the group when they were recording their new LP 'Concrete and Gold' at EastWest studios in Los Angeles and quickly hit it off with frontman Dave Grohl, prompting him to ask if he could add his vocals to one of their songs so he had something to boast about to his friends. Dave said of Justin: "We'd drink whiskey in the parking lot. He was really, really cool. Then the night before his last day, he says, 'Can I sing on your record? I don't want to push it, but -

just want to be able to tell my friends?' The 'Learn to Fly' hitmakers agreed and the 36-year-old star recorded some 'la la la' sounds for one track. Dave quipped in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine: "He nailed it. I'm telling you - the guy's going somewhere." And Justin isn't the only famous star to appear on the record because Dave asked his friend Sir Paul McCartney to play drums on one track after the Beatles legend requested to work with their producer, Greg Kurstin, during their recording sessions. Paul initially replied: "You're crazy, man!" But he quickly agreed, having previously enjoyed jamming with the band on Dave's 'Sound City' documentary in 2013. He said: "Even if it had been banjo, I think I probably would have showed up." And the 75-year-old musician impressed the band with his drumming skills, with his first take of two being used on the finished track. Drummer Taylor Hawkins said: "You don't generally think of him as a drummer. But he laid that track so effortlessly. He never even heard the song - Dave kind of explained it to him with an acoustic guitar. And he was like, 'Yeah, yeah, I think I know what you're doing.'" Paul had such a great time in the studio, he was keen to do more with them. Dave recalled: "He was so good. 'We played for an hour, then took a break and had bagels and tea. I thought we were done - I didn't want to rag him out - so I was out having a cig, and someone goes, 'Hey, Paul wants to jam some more.' He rounded everybody up, and we jammed for hours: 'Let's write some songs, man!'" Paul quipped: "Well, you know. Once you get the meter running."



Disgraced mogul selling-or breaking-Wu-Tang album

Disgraced pharmaceutical executive Martin Shkreli is selling his coveted single copy of a Wu-Tang Clan album-but he might also destroy it. The 34-year-old businessman-whose price hike of a critical HIV drug and smug demeanor have earned him the moniker "The Most Hated Man in America"-in 2015 bought "Once Upon a Time in Shaolin," of which the celebrated rap ensemble made a sole edition. A month after his conviction for securities fraud, Shkreli late Tuesday put the album for sale on eBay-and with characteristic bravado said that he had never fully listened to it. "At any time I may cancel this sale and I may even break this album in frustration," he wrote in a note for the auction, which will run through September 15. The double-CD, for which Shkreli paid \$2 million in what was considered the most expensive ever purchase of a musical recording, was selling early Wednesday for \$75,300. Shkreli insisted he did not need money but rather was trying to make a larger point. He was roundly criticized for buying the album, including by Wu-Tang Clan member Ghostface Killah who said the work should belong to "the people." "I decided to purchase this album as a gift to the Wu-Tang Clan for their tremendous musical output. Instead I received scorn from at least one of their (least-intelligent)

members, and the world at large failed to see my purpose of putting a serious value behind music," Shkreli wrote. "I will be curious to see if the world values music nearly as much as I have." The Wu-Tang Clan, reflecting the group's fascination with fantasy narratives, made just one copy of "Once Upon a Time in Shaolin" and stored it in a vault in Morocco while auctioning it. The Wu-Tang Clan declared that the album could not be made available commercially until the year 2103 but indicated that its owner was free to share it to private parties. Shkreli flirted with releasing the music and played some of it on video-sharing site Periscope in November as he gloated over Donald Trump's victory in the presidential election. RZA, generally considered the leader of the Wu-Tang Clan, has said that the group approved the sale of the album before Shkreli made headlines by jacking up the price of HIV drug Daraprim from \$13.50 to \$750 a pill overnight. A Brooklyn jury last month found Shkreli guilty on three unrelated counts of securities fraud, although he was acquitted on the most serious charge.

Smith teases new song, with heartache still on mind

Sam Smith, the English soul singer whose debut album three years ago quickly propelled him to stardom, is back with new music-and heartache apparently is still on his mind. Smith said that a new song, "Too Good at Goodbyes," would come out Friday as he posted on social media a black-and-white picture of a decaying bouquet. He offered a snippet of the lyrics, starting with the line "Every time you walk out, the less I love you." The track is expected to be the first on his second album, the followup to his breakthrough debut "In the Lonely Hour" from 2014. Smith-blessed with a voice that is rich and soars comfortably into falsettos-is best-known for the debut album's song "Stay With Me," a tender ballad about longing for more than a one-night stand. The 25-year-old Londoner has said that the song was rooted in dark times, as he would hit the gay bars looking for love. But the song also won him a fan base and he was soon packing arenas. At the 2015 Grammys, Smith won Best New Artist, Song of the Year and Record of the Year-three of the four most coveted awards at the music industry's premier gala. Since the first album, Smith found success



with the James Bond theme song "Writing's on the Wall" but was also forced to take a break as he underwent surgery for a hemorrhage on his vocal cords.

Ora's mum provides vocals on her album

Rita Ora's mum sings on her new album. The 'Your Song' hitmaker has revealed her eagerly-anticipated second studio album has a real family vibe to it and so she wanted the person that gave her life and her loved ones to play a part in it. She said: "It's fun cos I wanted to talk on it and my mum to talk on it. And everything has an interlude. "It's a record that's like a photo album. The artwork has a lot to do with where I came from." The 26-year-old beauty recorded parts of the record - which is the follow-up to her 2012 debut 'Ora' - in her family's pub and has confessed there may be one or two numbers that she sang whilst intoxicated. She told the Daily Star newspaper: "I wanted people that I've know my whole life to be around me while I was in that creative process. "My dad owns a pub, so I would get to the pub all the time and like chill, it was the first time I made music without people screaming down my neck. "I even recorded some of the album while drunk. "I went home to record this album and went out and got drunk with friends that I've know my whole life." The record is due to be released next month, but in the meantime, Rita is working on her collaboration with Charli XCX called 'Girls' which she hopes will bring "girl power" back. She said: "I'm thinking about putting something out that represents me and my girls, a going-out anthem, definitely a girl-power track." — Agencies



The Rolling Stones unveil support acts for No Filter Tour

The Rolling Stones will be supported by a whole host of acts on their forthcoming 'Stones - No Filter Tour'. Rival Sons, The Struts, Kaleo, John Lee Hooker Jr., Los Zigarros, de Staat, The Hellacopters, Leon Bridges and Cage The Elephant are the lucky bands getting to join the 'Satisfaction' rockers on the European run. Icelandic blues four-piece Kaleo will kick off proceedings joining Sir Mick Jagger, Ronnie Wood, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards at Hamburg's Stadtpark on September 8, Munich and Spielberg, with John Lee playing the latter show. British rockers The Struts will open for the rock veterans in Zurich and Lucca, Los Zigarros in Barcelona, de Staat in Amsterdam and Rival Sons - who opened for Black Sabbath on their final tour - in Copenhagen and Dusseldorf. Leaving The Hellacopters to play in Stockholm, Leon Bridges in Arnhem and Cage The Elephant have the honour of doing three shows with the band in Paris at the brand new U Arena. The Stones will perform classic songs and a few "surprises" along the way with a new production and stage design. Guitarist Keith, 73, said previously: "Hey Guys, here we come. See you there!!!" And frontman Mick, also 73, added: "I'm so excited to be touring Europe this autumn and returning to some familiar places and some we've never done before." They'll no doubt treat fans to some of the songs they covered for their latest record, 'Blue & Lonesome', considering the number of blues bands supporting. An insider teased last year that the 'Satisfaction' hitmakers were planning to hit the road this year as they show no sign of slowing down anytime soon. At the time, the source said: "Mick will never lose that bug for performing. "He's keen to go back on the road and play in huge stadiums, and some have already been secretly booked out in preparation for a possible show."



MUSIC & MOVIES

Bollywood turns spotlight on India's real-life mafia dons

A movie about the life of a notorious Mumbai mafia don comes out in Indian cinemas this week as Bollywood steps up its long-held fascination with the financial capital's criminal underworld. "Daddy," a biopic on gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli, hits screens Friday before the release later this month of a film about the infamous sister of Dawood Ibrahim, India's most wanted man. Shooting for a third gangster movie, starring Bollywood superstars Deepika Padukone and Irrfan Khan, will start next year.

For "Daddy" director Ashim Ahluwalia, making a film about a former mafia boss currently serving life in prison for the murder of a local councillor was a little intimidating. "It is, but Gawli is an older man now, past his prime and we have made the film with his family's consent. I wouldn't have done it otherwise," he told AFP. "I think he feels he has done his time and that his family has suffered enough. We had to have the Gawli family's trust. And we assured them that we would not misrepresent. "However there are others in the film whose consent we did not have and we have thinly disguised some of them, such as a few of the politicians. "Getting threats is an inevitable part of working on a subject like this," he added. Forty-four-year-old Actor Arjun Rampal plays Gawli in "Daddy".

Kingpin

The film, which takes its title from Gawli's nickname, charts his life through the 1980s and '90s from mill worker to gangster, to kingpin of Mumbai's Dagdi Chawl-based gang to state politician. His gang was engaged in a brutal war with Ibrahim's notorious D-Company for many years. Gawli faced numerous criminal charges but none stuck until he was found guilty in August 2012 of involvement in the murder of local Shiv Sena party politician Kamalakar Jamsandekar four years earlier.

The 62-year-old is in jail in Nagpur, central India. "We met him several times and one of the first things I noticed about him is how he doesn't speak much. He's rather opaque," said Ahluwalia. "But he did suggest iterations on the script which were made in consultation with his lawyers because several cases are still pending in the courts." The filmmakers say they made a concerted effort not to glorify Gawli. "We are not trying to promote this lifestyle or this world. We have tried to make a movie that is authentic and entertaining," Rampal told AFP.

Ahluwalia said the film tells Gawli's story from several points of view, including from his wife, a rival gang member, and the police. "This allows the audience to pick which version they want to accept," he explained. The movie continues a lengthy fascination

that Bollywood has had with Mumbai's underworld. In the 1970s veteran superstar Amitabh Bachchan made his name playing a number of angry young men involved in nefarious activities such as "Deewar" (The Wall) and "Don". "Satya", "Company", "D-Day" and most recently Shah Rukh Khan's "Raees" built on the gangster genre.

'Queen of Mumbai'

On September 22, "Haseena", directed by Apoorva Lakhia and about the life of Ibrahim's sister Haseena Parkar, releases in India. Actress Shradha Kapoor plays the central character who became known as the "Queen of Mumbai" for her role in running Ibrahim's operations after he fled India following the 1993 Bombay bomb blasts. Connections between Bollywood and gangsters ran deep in the '80s and '90s when the film industry depended on the criminal underworld for funding.

Before he left India Ibrahim was often photographed with various Bollywood stars at social events, underlining the closeness between the extortions and violence depicted on screen and those carried out in real life. Lakhia told AFP he made "Haseena" because he wanted to explore why people become criminals. For Ahluwalia gangster movies' enduring appeal is their escapism. "These characters



This file photo shows Indian Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal (right) and South Indian actress Aishwarya Rajesh (left) take part in a promotional event for the political crime drama Hindi film 'Daddy' in Mumbai. — AFP



Actor Jim Carrey poses for photographers at the premiere of the film 'Jim and Andy: The Great Beyond' at the 74th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Tuesday.



Actor Jim Carrey signs autographs at the premiere of the film 'Jim and Andy: The Great Beyond'. — AP photos

Jim Carrey bares his soul in documentary 'Jim and Andy'

Jim Carrey, the comic actor who was one of 1990s Hollywood's biggest stars, doesn't exist. So says the Jim Carrey who came to the Venice Film Festival this week with "Jim and Andy," a documentary about his experience playing comedian Andy Kaufman in the 1999 biopic "Man on the Moon." He said the mega-successful entertainer Jim Carrey is "a character that has been playing me my whole life." It's a comment in keeping with the subversive spirit of "Jim and Andy," which draws on dozens of hours of behind-the-scenes footage shot during the making of "Man on the Moon."

Carrey stayed in character as Kaufman throughout, an experience he conceded "was psychotic at times." "I don't feel like I made the film at all," Carrey said Tuesday in Venice. "I feel like Andy made the film." The documentary mixes the previously unseen backstage footage with a recent interview in which Carrey muses on the experience, his career and the nature of identity. The result is a fascinating reflection on identity, celebrity and creativity - even for viewers unfamiliar with Kaufman's work. Perhaps most famous as Latka Gravas on the sitcom "Taxi," Kaufman was a provocateur who brought an anarchic spirit to the comedy scene with boundary-pushing routines including deliberately feeble impersonations, hoaxes and wrestling bouts against female opponents. He died of lung cancer in 1984, aged 35.

When he made "Man on the Moon," Carrey was a

huge star, commanding millions for comedies including "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," "The Mask" and "Dumb and Dumber." But, as he discloses in the documentary, he still felt empty. "Jim and Andy" director Chris Smith said his revealing conversation with Carrey was "the interview you always want but never get." "I think he had come back from a period of being off the map and I think he had a lot to say," said Smith, who also made documentaries "American Movie" and "The Yes Men." "You see somebody who achieved everything they could ever want and got to the other side, and was still unhappy."

Sadness is rain

And that's a very harrowing idea. "In the backstage footage, the rest of the cast and director Milos Forman seem alternately amused, confused and uneasy at Carrey's total transformation into Kaufman. Then there are disruptive appearances by Kaufman's alter ego Tony Clifton, a boorish lounge singer who turns up from time to time - played by Carrey, but also sometimes by Kaufman's friend and collaborator Bob Zmuda. It is a perspective-shifting funhouse of a film, whose full title is "Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond"

the story of Jim Carrey and Andy Kaufman with a very special, contractually obligated mention of Tony Clifton." Carrey, 55, said speaking to Smith helped him understand his time playing Kaufman as a step on his spiritual journey. He said playing Kaufman was "an

extreme version of allowing yourself to let go of self." "You subjugate yourself to another character, and in doing so by the end of it realize - when it takes a month to get yourself back, what the hell is that self to begin with?"

Since the late '90s, Carrey has made some edgier movies - "The Truman Show," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" - and slowed his movie output. Now he spends much of his time painting and sculpting. He says the mega-successful performer Jim Carrey was a creation that stemmed from a need for approval he'd had since childhood. "Very early on, ego kind of took over and realized, 'Oh my gosh, in the living room if I'm funny like my dad, people call me special,'" Carrey said.

"It's like a dog who needs a bone - I need to lay on my back and have someone rub my belly and tell me I'm the special thing. And I don't need that now." He says "remnants" of the old Jim Carrey remain, but he is trying to transcend them. He looks back on his career as "a cool thing that happened" but does not worry about how he will be remembered. "I don't care," he said. "This is what matters - this right now. This is it." While he's not constantly happy, he is trying to find peace. "Sadness is just weather now," Carrey said. "Sadness is rain. And it comes and it doesn't sit on me long enough to submerge me. It just passes." — AP

Review

A few good scares can't hold 'It' together

Here's the good news: Pennywise is as creepy as ever in the new "It." Thanks to a bigger budget and some improved special effects some 27 years later he really gets the chance to spook the kids of Derry, Maine. Bill Skarsgard (Son of Stellan, brother of Alexander) has infused Stephen King's killer clown with a pathological menace that's more reminiscent of Heath Ledger's Joker than Tim Curry's goofily sadistic take on the character in the 1990s miniseries adaptation. It helps that he's gotten an upgraded makeup job and a more antiquated (and scarier) costume of 17th century ruffs and muted whites. His teeth are bigger, his hair is less cartoonish, his eyes are more yellow and his mobility has become terrifyingly kinetic.

Indeed, the new "It" goes all-out with the horror in Part One of the story, which is focused on the plight of a group of children in the 1980s who are haunted and hunted by a clown only they can see. Things that the miniseries only alluded to are depicted with merciless glee. Did you want to see a gang of bullies cutting a kid's stomach? "It" has that. Or witness a father looking lustily at his pre-teen daughter? "It" has that too. The bad news is that "It" still doesn't add up to much.

Directed by Andy Muschietti, "It" is a deeply hateful film with the pretenses of being an edgy throwback genre mashup, a la "Stranger Things." One of the "Stranger Things" kids even has a part in "It": Finn Wolfhard plays the joker Richie. The other kids just look like they might have been part of the Netflix series - Jaeden Lieberher as Bill, Sophia Lillis as Beverly, Chosen Jacobs as Mike, Jack Dylan Grazer as Eddie, Wyatt Oleff as Stanley and Jeremy Ray Taylor as Ben. But unlike, say, "Stranger Things," or horror films that lull you in with familiar circumstances before introducing the insane, there is noth-

ing remotely relatable or realistic about this setting. This makes it especially hard to connect or engage with the tormented kids. Both the parents and bullies are like fun-home distortions of recognizably cruel humans.

A story-setting teaser

With three credited screenwriters (Chase Palmer, Gary Dauberman and Cary Fukunaga, who was originally set to direct) the story is an unforgivable mess. Instead of building tension and suspense, "It" just jumps from scene to scares with no connection or coherence to thread them together other than the mere fact that they've been placed on top of one another, like toys mixed up from different sets. And yet "It" does have a few tricks up its Victorian ruff. The largely unknown kids of the losers club are good,

with standout performances from Lieberher ("Midnight Special"), Taylor and Lillis with her perfectly '80s Kerri Green-vibe. And there are a few guaranteed jump-out-of-your-seat moments, including the flawlessly rendered opening with Frankie, the toy boat and the sewer that has continued to haunt generations of kids who either read King's book or caught the now cheesy looking miniseries on TV too young.

With the R-rating, you do have to wonder who this "It" is really for - the now-grown kids of the '80s and '90s who were traumatized the first time around and can't get enough of their own nostalgia? Or is it just a dare for the under-17 crowd, who are more likely to forgive the story flaws and just submit to the scares? Like so many movies now, "It" is an intentionally incomplete tale - a story-setting teaser for what's to come in Part Two. Maybe by the time that comes out the kids who snuck in to this "It" will be old enough to harbor their own wistfulness for the first they saw Pennywise. And then there's the scarier thought: Will the cycle just continue until we're all floating endlessly in our own nostalgia? "It" a Warner Bros. release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "violence/horror, bloody images, and for language." Running time: 135 minutes. Two stars out of four. MPA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. — AP

This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Bill Skarsgard in a scene from "It." — AP



FILMMAKER GURINDER CHADHA GOES HOME WITH 'VICEROY'S HOUSE'

Gurinder Chadha hoped her new film would be very personal, one that explored her family's South Asian history. But when it was done, it turned out to be the story of a few more people - millions, actually. "Viceroy's House" explores how India and Pakistan were carved from the former British Empire in 1947, triggering one of the modern world's bloodiest chapters in which scores of Hindus and

Muslims fled their homes, including Chadha's family.

To tell this complex, emotional story, the "Bend It Like Beckham" director and co-writer came up with an interesting recipe: Onto the epic sweep of history she built both a "Romeo and Juliet" love story and a "Downton Abbey"-style split between gentry and servants. — AP



In this file photo, Director Gurinder Chadha poses for photographers during the premiere for the film 'Viceroy's House' in London. — AP

Filmmakers defiant over Lynyrd Skynyrd film rights

A judge's finding that a new Lynyrd Skynyrd film violates a "blood oath" made by the band to not exploit the group's name following a fatal plane crash hasn't stopped the film's creators from threatening to distribute the film. Lawyers for the filmmakers say in court papers that they can distribute "Street Survivors: The True Story of the Lynyrd Skynyrd Plane Crash" to "anyone and everyone in the world" until the judge formally says otherwise. The film was made with input from a former drummer with the pioneering 1970s southern rock band whose hits included "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird."

US District Judge Robert W. Sweet in Manhattan recently ruled that the widow of lead singer and songwriter Ronnie Van Zant and others, including founding band member Allen Collins, had shown that the film violates a nearly three-decade-old court-approved agreement aimed at preventing exploitation of the band's name and history. Van Zant died in an October 1977 plane crash in Mississippi. After the ruling, attorney Evan Mandel, representing Los Angeles-based Cleopatra Records Inc. and Cleopatra Films, said Sweet's ruling did

not specify what Cleopatra is prohibited from doing with the film, meaning Cleopatra is "under no obligation to refrain from distributing the film to anyone and everyone in the world." Mandel has said he will seek "immediate relief" from an appeals court.

In papers filed Monday, lawyers for Van Zant's widow and other plaintiffs asked the judge to ban Cleopatra from distributing the motion picture or anything related to it and to order that the film be destroyed within weeks of a final judgment. They also asked that the judge require the defendants to pay at least \$634,000 in attorney fees. Last week, the lawyers responded to Mandel's claim that the film could be distributed to anyone, saying doing so would be in contempt of court. "We disagree with the assertions made in the - to put it mildly - brazen letter of Mr. Mandel," attorney Richard G. Haddad wrote. The judge has given the lawyers for the filmmakers until Friday to say what they think a judgment from the court should say. — AP



Lynyrd Skynyrd

French fashion giants ban ultra-thin models

A host of French-owned fashion labels spanning Christian Dior to Saint Laurent pledged yesterday to ban ultra-thin models from their advertising and catwalk shows following repeated scandals about anorexia and mistreatment. French holding companies LVMH and Kering, which own dozens of top brands between them, unveiled a charter "to ensure the well-being of models" which will also outlaw the hiring of girls under the age of 16 to wear adult clothes at shoots or events.

In May, a French law requiring models to present a doctor's certificate attesting to their health and was introduced to try to tackle the problem of the industry promoting thinness and unattainable beauty ideals.

Ahead of the start of New York Fashion Week, the two French groups said they would ban their designers using size 32 models under the French system-size XXS or size zero in the US or four in Britain-and only use women who are size 34 or over. Men would need to be size 44 or over. "Respecting the dignity of all women has always been both a personal commitment for me and a priority for Kering as a group," the company's billionaire chairman Francois-Henri Pinault said in a statement. "We hope to inspire the entire industry to follow suit, thus making a real difference in the working conditions of fashion models industry-wide," he added.

Building new standards

As well as the age and size stipulations, the charter includes other health and safety measures such as banning the serving of alcohol to models under 18 and ensuring they have a guardian or chaperone present at all times. It has been spurred in part by a scandal during Paris Fashion Week in February which cast a spotlight on abuses by casting agencies which provide models for the big labels. Two leading casting directors were accused of making at least 150 women wait for several hours in a stairway in the dark to audition for a show by the label Balenciaga, owned by Kering.

The American casting director James Scully denounced his rivals as "serial abusers" and said their treatment of the models was "sadistic and cruel". The industry has long been accused of promoting unhealthy body images to women and ignoring well-documented health problems experienced by models. Last year, French former supermodel Victoire Dauxerre published a tell-all book about the pressures to fit into size 32-24 clothes which led her to adopt a diet of three apples a day and laxatives. Another French model, Isabelle Caro, fronted a shocking anti-anorexia campaign during Milan fashion week in 2007 before she died from the disease three years later at the age of 28.

"As the leader in the luxury sector, we believe it is our role to be at the forefront of this initiative," Antoine

Arnault, a board member of LVMH and son of owner Bernard Arnault, said in a statement announcing the charter. Speaking to AFP, Arnault explained that some designers had size 32 or XXS models in mind when at the drawing board. "Many people didn't even know that size 32 existed," he said. "That's finished now, the size will be 34 and above, which is already quite small." He said LVMH would stop hiring under-16 minors-a common practice in the industry. "A young girl of 15 doesn't have the faculties to take on the difficult world of fashion and modeling," he said.

In 2015, Israeli model Sofia Mechetner, then aged 14, featured in a catwalk show for Dior, while Karl Lagerfeld said in March that he thought girls of 15 were old enough to model. He opened his show for Chanel with the American teenager Cara Taylor, who has also worked for other big brands including Valentino and Saint Laurent. LVMH is a luxury goods behemoth that owns classic French brands Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Givenchy as well as other high-end European names including Fendi and Marc Jacobs.

Kering owns Gucci, Bottega Veneta, Alexander McQueen and Saint Laurent among others. In 2015, Saint Laurent had to withdraw a magazine advertisement in Britain over its use of an "unhealthily thin model" and earlier this year, it caused outrage with a poster campaign around Paris. In those pictures, a reclining woman in a fur coat and fishnet tights was



pictured opening her legs, while another extremely thin model was photographed in a leotard and roller skate stilettoes bending over a stool. The head of the French advertising authority said they were part of a disturbing trend in fashion promoting "porno-chic" and the label was ordered to remove them. — AFP

File photo shows models take a rest backstage after the Christian Dior's Spring-Summer 2015 Haute Couture fashion collection presented in Paris. — AP



A Japanese worker sorts wafer bars at the KitKat factory in Inashiki, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.



KitKat chocolates are seen in a production line at the KitKat factory in Inashiki, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.



A Japanese worker checks KitKat bars on a production line at the KitKat factory in Inashiki, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.



A Japanese employee pours strawberry flavor chocolate in a mold at the laboratory of KitKat factory in Inashiki, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.



Chocolate is poured on wafer bars at the KitKat factory in Inashiki, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.



Photo shows different flavors to be mixed with white chocolate at the laboratory of the KitKat factory.



KitKat production is packaged at the KitKat factory in Inashiki, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo. — AFP photos

KitKat bets on weird and wonderful flavors in Japan

Cough-medicine-flavored KitKat anyone? It may not be to everyone's taste, but this is just one of 300 weird and wonderful flavors flying off the shelves in Japan, which has become the world's biggest market for the four-fingered snack. In true Japanese style, human workers are a rare sight at one KitKat factory in Kasumigaura, around 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Tokyo. Instead, dozens of robots manufacture four million bars a day at breakneck speed, from mixing the chocolate paste to wrapping them ready for sale.



A decoration with different KitKat flavors is displayed at a KitKat "Chocolatory" boutique shop in Tokyo.

KitKats have been around in Britain since 1935 and only arrived in Japan in 1973. But the Japanese market has a crucial unique selling point—a huge variety of different flavors. It all started with a strawberry flavored KitKat in 2000 and the range expanded quickly from flavors aimed at local taste buds such as sake,

green tea and wasabi to more exotic combinations like melon and mascarpone. Access to KitKat factories is strictly limited and photos are kept to a minimum in a bid to preserve the secrets of the recipe.

And it appears to be a recipe for success. Without publishing an exact turnover figure for Japan, KitKat manufacturer Nestle says sales have grown 50 percent in the country since 2010, making it the biggest market ahead of Britain—although second-biggest in terms of volume. And in a sign of the success, a new production site was opened only last month in the western region of Kobe. Why such success in Japan? One reason, according to Cedric Lacroix, managing executive officer of Nestle Japan's confectionery business, is that Japanese consumers appreciate the variety of flavors on offer.

The chocolate market in Japan is really driven by innovation, said Lacroix. "One third of the products is renewed every year. Consumers want to see new things, taste new products, even if they always end up buying their favorite flavor." Twenty or so new versions of KitKat are unleashed on the Japanese market every year, after months of refining the flavor. The company also plays on the superstitious nature of the Japanese public. "KitKat has become a sort of good-luck charm to which the Japanese have become emotionally attached," said Lacroix. The name reminds people of the Japanese phrase "kitto katsu", meaning "sure to win". It has therefore become common to hand them to friends before an exam or an important event.

To profit from this, KitKat offers customers the chance to have their chocolate elaborately gift-wrapped, get special flavors made and even have messages engraved on the bars. Beyond the local market, the snack is increasingly targeting tourists in a country that aims to have 40 million foreign visitors in 2020 when Tokyo hosts the Olympics, four times as many as in 2013. Travellers are increasingly returning home with bags filled with some of the more outlandish "made in Japan" KitKat flavors. — AFP



KitKat chocolates are packaged on a production line at the KitKat factory in Inashiki.

AS HE LEAVES FOR PARIS, NY FASHION WORLD FETES THOM BROWNE

Twice a year, New York's Fashion Week crowds have crammed into the lobby of a Chelsea gallery, waiting patiently to descend a staircase and see what bizarre, fantastical, endlessly inventive universe Thom Browne has created for his womenswear show - an otherworldly experience akin to getting lost on the set of a Tim Burton film. Browne has led his guests into a dark and eerie cathedral, with real pews and crosses, candles and incense. He's brought them to a wood-paneled operating room in an 18th-century hospital. He's created a dreamy winter-scape in an urban park in shades of gray, and an eye-popping, multi-hued swimming pool with bathing beauties from another dimension.

New York fashion lovers will have to do without these experiences, now that Browne is moving his womenswear show to Paris. But first, they'll be turning out on Wednesday to see him honored with the prestigious Couture Council award from the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, an annual event that kicks off Fashion Week. "In my view, his womenswear shows have always been the best in New York - so amazing, incredible and creative," says Valerie Steele, director and chief curator at the FIT museum. What's striking, she says, is that given the fantastical nature of Browne's shows - where models are transformed head to toe, with whimsical headdresses and pasty white makeup - his clothes are very wearable.

"Most clothes out there, you kind of think, 'the world doesn't need this,'" Steele quips. "Or, 'I already have this in my closet.' But with him, you're just on tenterhooks, waiting to see what he's going to do." Given the popularity of Browne's womenswear shows, it might seem surprising that he's still largely known for menswear (he already shows his men's collections in Paris.) Perhaps that's because, with his famous "shrunken" suit - his own personal uniform - he revolutionized menswear, in the eyes of Steele and many others.

Asian and European markets

But even though his womenswear has been worn by the likes of Michelle Obama

- at her husband's second inauguration - Browne should be better known for it, his fans say. And so does he, though he's quick to point out that it's just fine to call him a menswear designer. "I'm really proud of what I do for menswear, and what I have done for menswear," Browne said in an interview. "But I do want people to see that I am just as focused on creating something for women. And that is something that I definitely want to change a little bit in the future."

As for the move to Paris - on the heels of similar recent moves by labels like Proenza Schouler, Rodarte and Altuzarra - Browne says it's purely a business decision, aimed at enhancing exposure to his craft, particularly for Asian and European markets. "It has nothing to do with leaving New York, because I've loved showing in New York and I do see myself as an American designer," he says. "I think in a way, I am putting the pressure on myself to strongly represent American fashion in Paris." Asked if he might reverse the decision one day and bring the shows back to New York, he indicates it's not too likely: "Never say never ... but I'm committing to it."

Steele says she's not surprised by the Paris move. "Paris still has the reputation of first among equals as a fashion capital," she says. "And his clothes are so extraordinary, so out of the ordinary, that everyone thought they deserved the best possible placement in the world."

Browne, a multiple winner of the Council of Fashion Designers of America award - for menswear - says he doesn't design with an eye to winning awards. But he says the Couture Council award, to be bestowed at a Lincoln Center luncheon by Whoopi Goldberg, is nonetheless "just a huge honor." Previous winners have included Oscar de la Renta, Manolo Blahnik, Carolina Herrera and Michael Kors, among others. "Just to see who they've given the award to in the past, it's humbling," he says. Besides, he adds, "Anybody that sustains a business in fashion deserves an award. So I think there are a lot of people that deserve them." — AP



File photo shows the Thom Browne collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York.



In this file photo, designer Thom Browne acknowledges applause at the Thom Browne collection runway show during Fashion Week in New York. — AP photos

FEATURES



This photo featuring a locket containing a photograph of Princess Diana and her sons Prince Harry, left, and Prince William.



This photo shows a cable-knit jumper sweater with ring-neck, worn during Princess Diana's teenage years.



This photo shows a sterling silver perfume bottle, engraved on the front with Princess Diana's pre-marriage initials "D.S." (Diana Spencer).



This photo provided by RR Auction shows a silver-jeweled evening bag that belonged to Princess Diana, that is among dozens of items with a direct connection to the princess that are being sold at auction.



This photo featuring a charm in the shape of her first initial D, thought to have been worn as a teen by Princess Diana.

Dozens of items linked to Princess Diana hit auction block

It's been 20 years since Princess Diana's death, yet her legacy has barely faded. Now, dozens of items with a direct connection to one of the most admired women in the world - from articles of clothing, to jewelry, to signed papers and photographs, and even to a piece of her wedding cake - are for sale by Boston-based RR Auction. "She still resonates all over the world," RR Executive Vice President Bobby Livingston. The 79 items from a variety of sources span most of her life, from her childhood to her teenage years to her wedding day and afterward. They even include belongings she donated to charity auctions just months before her death in a Paris car crash on Aug 31, 1997, at age 36.

The most spectacular item is a satin-lined, silver-jeweled evening bag that dates to the early 1980s. It was given to a member of the royal household and comes with a letter confirming its authenticity. It's expected to sell for more than \$15,000. A 17-inch (43-centimeter) silver necklace

with a capital "D" charm that Diana is thought to have worn as a teen is Livingston's favorite item for sale.

"It really strikes me as the most personal item," he said. "The logo became definitive of her." The necklace is expected to sell for \$2,000, but Livingston suspects it could get much more. Perhaps the strangest item for sale is a piece of wedding cake encased in a special box commemorating Diana's marriage to Prince Charles, marked on the cover with "CD, Buckingham Palace, 29th July 1981."

The auction even includes a casual white sweater from British department store Marks & Spencer with a simple label inside that reads "D Spencer." It was likely worn in Diana's teenage years and came into the possession of the head chef at her family's home when the family decided to redecorate her bedroom. Diana's signed childhood copy of Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Pigling Bland" could sell for more than \$2,000. Online bidding ends Sept 13. — AP



Photo shows a bracelet inscribed with "Love Diana," that is among dozens of items with a direct connection to Princess Diana that are being sold at auction by Boston-based RR Auction. — AP photos

Monet masterpiece goes back to its hometown for first time

Claude Monet's masterpiece that depicts his hometown of Le Havre and is credited with spawning the word "Impressionism" is going back to the northern French harbor town for the first time since it was painted there. The carefully secured transfer of "Impression, Sunrise" is part of an

event celebrating 500 years since the birth of the town.

It is being lent exceptionally by a Paris museum to hang in Le Havre at the MuMa museum until Oct 8. The oil on canvas painted in 1872 depicts the glistening port and was featured as part of the legendary 1874 show that would later be known

as the "Exhibition of the Impressionists." "Impression, Sunrise" will hang alongside other works by masters including J.M.W. Turner at the exhibit entitled "Impression(s) soleil." — AP



Painting conservator Christian Chatellier inspects Claude Monet's masterpiece 'Impression, Sunrise' depicting his hometown of Le Havre, that's credited with spawning the word 'Impressionism', during its removal at Marmottan Museum, in Paris. — AP



Employees remove Claude Monet's masterpiece "Impression, Sunrise" depicting his hometown of Le Havre, that's credited with spawning the word "Impressionism", at Marmottan Museum, in Paris yesterday. — AP photos

GERMAN PROSECUTORS RECOVER STOLEN ART WORTH \$2.5 MILLION

Authorities in Germany say they've recovered 15 stolen paintings and drawings by German artist Georg Baselitz worth around 2.5 million euros (\$2.9 million). Munich prosecutors said in a statement Tuesday that a 51-year-old man was arrested last month for selling the art after returning from a trip abroad.

They'd previously detained his 26-year-old son on suspicion of selling stolen goods

and a 39-year-old accused of stealing the art while working for a shipping company in Munich. Their names weren't released in line with privacy laws, but prosecutors say they all worked in the shipping industry.

Police started investigating after a tip from a company that the father and son were trying to sell the art far below face value. Four works by the contemporary artist are still missing. — AP

Massachusetts museum ends Smithsonian affiliation over sale

Massachusetts museum embroiled in a bitter controversy over a plan to sell 40 works of art has ended its relationship with the Smithsonian Institution over the sale. The affiliation between the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield and the Smithsonian was established in 2013 and provided the Massachusetts museum with Smithsonian resources and reciprocal admissions benefits at participating Smithsonian affiliates.

The Berkshire Museum's executive director tells The Berkshire Eagle the decision to sell the art, including two Norman Rockwell pieces, runs afoul of the American Alliance of Museum's code of ethics. Van Shields says the partnership was ended voluntarily. The Berkshire Museum has drawn widespread condemnation for its decision to auction the art, which it says is necessary to raise \$60 million as it refocuses its mission and ensures its long-term survival. — AP



Photo shows lobster with a translucent shell.

GHOSTLY, TRANSLUCENT LOBSTER HAULED FROM OCEAN OFF MAINE

Maine lobstermen Alex Todd has hauled in blue lobsters and even some lobsters that were half blue, or half orange. But he says those don't compare on the scale of weirdness to the translucent crustacean that he recently pulled up in a trap. The lobster that Todd caught on Aug 24 is a ghostly, pale blue. It almost looks to be transparent.

Todd, from Chebeague Island, said he knew when he saw the translucent lobster in his trap alongside mottled green and brown lobsters that this was "definitely weird." His photos have made the rounds on social media. As for the lobster, he tossed it back into the ocean because its tail had been notched, flagging the lobster as an egg-bearing female. Those lobsters are off-limits for conservation reasons. — AP



This image provided by WLBZ shows part of a ceremony with Passy Pete the Lobster in Belfast, Maine. — AP

Maine's 'Passy Pete' lobster predicts 6 more weeks of summer

A group of Mainers says Passy Pete the Lobster has predicted six more weeks of summer at an annual ceremony. The crustacean has been fished out of the Passagassawakeag River for the past three years in a tradition modeled after famed groundhog Punxsutawney Phil's winter prediction in Pennsylvania.

David Crabiel and his business partner, David Brassbridge, thought up the eccentric ceremony as a way to have some fun. Each year, a group of barons flank Passy Pete as he picks a scroll to determine whether Maine will see an extended summer or be greeted by winter. This year's ceremony took place Monday. — AP



Visitors reach out for colorful balloons 'Sound Spheres' as they enjoy immersing their bodies in light art and interactive music world by teamLab Jungle and Future Park in Tokyo. — AP

Nepal comedian takes on Donald Trump



Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel (center) performs in a show impersonating US President Donald Trump in Kathmandu. — AFP photos



Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel (right) enters the halls as he performs in a show impersonating US President Donald Trump in Kathmandu.



Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel performs at a show in Kathmandu.

Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel received threats for impersonating the king when the small Himalayan country was still ruled by a Hindu monarchy. Today he is taking aim at another powerful figure, US President Donald Trump. Dressed in Trump's trademark blue suit and red tie and topped with a blond wig, Gajurel struts on stage where his Trump clashes with a prominent Nepali journalist known for asking outlandish questions. "This is the fake media," Gajurel shouts in an American drawl that still has a hint of his native Nepali, to applause and laughter from the audience.

Washington may be a long way away, but the bombastic real estate mogul turned politician still resonates with audiences in the small Himalayan nation. "World politics is now very narrow. If something happens in America, in Nepal it is also connected. That's why I chose Donald Trump," Gajurel said in his cramped dressing room after the show. Gajurel has been studying Trump's mannerisms for over two years, watching YouTube videos to perfect his swagger and voice.

But in order to truly embody Trump, Gajurel had to change his teeth. "You can see my teeth are not very beautiful, but Trump's teeth are very good. To be Donald Trump I had to make very beautiful teeth," he said, pulling a wide

grin to show off a pair of pearly white dentures. Shortly after Nepal's King Gyanendra seized absolute power in 2006 at the height of the country's civil war, dismissing the government, Gajurel took aim at the monarch.

Under Gyanendra's short-lived rule, political dissent was severely punished and censorship was rife, leaving satirists to fill the void. No news was allowed on television or the radio, only music, which led one radio station to come up with a humorous workaround—it sang all news broadcasts to the tunes of popular folk music. Gajurel received threats over the phone and from supporters of the monarchy who would come up to him after his shows. He took to traveling with at least one friend for protection.

"I enjoyed the threats because if someone threatens me, it means I am on the right track," Gajurel said. The environment is more open in Nepal today and each year Gajurel takes aim at a different political figure. Two years ago Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the target of his jokes, at a time when Nepal's relations with its bigger neighbors had reached a nadir. After the show, Gajurel had some advice for the US president: should he ever find himself out of a job, he could set himself up as a one man act. "He is not a professional comedian but he has a sense of humor about him," Gajurel said with a wink. — AFP



Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel (left) prepares for a show impersonating US President Donald Trump in Kathmandu.



Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel (center) performs in a show impersonating US President Donald Trump in Kathmandu.



Nepali comedian Manoj Gajurel (center) prepares for a show impersonating US President Donald Trump in Kathmandu.

Dutch man imprisoned for stealing plastic duck

A Dutch judge has called fowl play on a man who abducted and damaged a giant rubber duck. Prosecutors say in a statement that the 45-year-old was sentenced yesterday to eight weeks in prison for stealing the one-meter (three-foot) high bright yellow plastic duck from outside the Goudse Eend (Gouda Duck) cafe in the central Dutch city of Gouda on June 23.

The duck toy was later found badly damaged elsewhere in the city, prosecutors say. The prosecution statement says the man will only have to serve two weeks if he undergoes "lifestyle training." A judge also ordered him to pay 740 euros (\$880) compensation to the owner of the cafe. — AP