

Rohingya rebels call for ceasefire as exodus grows



Anger brews over Indian sex attack murder



Messi hat trick puts Barcelona in La Liga lead



De Boer under more pressure as Palace lose



SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER 9/11, NEW YORKERS ON EDGE

'IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING'



Min 28°
Max 46°
High Tide 02:29 & 15:16
Low Tide 09:08 & 21:29

DEADLY IRMA PLOWS INTO FLORIDA

MIAMI: Hurricane Irma's eyewall slammed into the Florida Keys yesterday, lashing the island chain with fearsome wind gusts as it bears down on the state's west coast where a mass exodus has turned cities into ghost towns. Irma, packing maximum sustained winds of 130 miles per hour, was upgraded overnight to a Category Four storm as it closed in on the Keys, the National Hurricane Center said. Six million people - one third of the state's population - have been ordered to evacuate their homes ahead of the monster storm.

The eye of the hurricane was 20 miles east-south-east of Key West as of 8 am local time, threatening dangerous storm surges up to 15 feet - enough to cover a house. "Everyone in the Florida Keys... It is time to hunker down," the NWS warned before the hurricane rammed into the tropical islands popular as a destination for fishing, boating and scuba diving.

For those still at home, it was too late to flee the wrath of one of the most powerful hurricanes ever to slam storm-prone Florida, after cutting a path of devastation across the Caribbean. In Key West, police opened a "shelter of last resort" for those who had ignored evacuation orders. The cities of Naples, Fort Myers and the densely populated peninsulas of Tampa Bay on Florida's west coast were in the crosshairs of the historic storm, which was churning slowly northwest at eight miles per hour. "It's going to be horrible," Florida Governor Rick Scott said of Irma on NBC television yesterday morning. "Now we have to hunker down and watch out for each other."

Continued on Page 11



FLORIDA: A tree is seen toppled onto a pickup truck after being knocked down by the high winds as Hurricane Irma arrives in Miami, Florida yesterday. — AFP

NEW YORK: It's a typical late summer weekend in New York's Times Square, and tourists from around the world are snapping pictures beneath the commercial hub's iconic neon billboards - watched closely by a heavy contingent of police. Four cruisers are parked in the middle of the busy intersection, and pedestrian zones have been surrounded by barriers to stop cars from ramming the crowd, a mode of attack favored by violent extremists in recent years.

"I don't like to come to places like this," says Sue Garcia, a massage therapist from Brooklyn. "Or anywhere where incidents have happened repeatedly the fear comes to mind." Fear of an attack. Fear of another 9/11, the deadliest terrorist assault in history, when almost 3,000 lives were extinguished, many in the rubble of the World Trade Center. For New Yorkers who lost loved ones, narrowly survived or just witnessed the event, memories remain fresh and old wounds are reopened on its anniversary. And a perpetual state of high alert is the new normal.

Garcia, now 33, was a high schooler when the planes slammed into the Twin Towers. She saw them burn then collapse, and walked all the way home like hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers that day after metro services were suspended. "I was there, I saw it over and over again, I don't need to think about it," she says. But her mind always drifts toward the horrors of that day, whenever it is mentioned on TV, or even "when I hear an airplane: it is like the trigger to the thought. It has subsided over the years but it is still there," she adds. Or while waiting to meet her sister in Times Square, "The Crossroads of the World," that symbolizes the spirit of New York.

Twice in recent years, catastrophe loomed. In May 2010, police discovered a car packed with explosives and primed for carnage. In May, a mentally-ill ex-soldier deliberately drove his sedan into 23 pedestrians, killed a young American tourist.

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Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC)

SHEIKH JABER AL-AHMAD CULTURAL CENTER WINS DISTINGUISHED PRIZE

DUBAI: Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) was announced by International Property Award 'winner' of the Arabia and Africa for best project and best interior design. The Amiri Diwan's Financial and Administrative Affairs Director Abdulaziz Ishaq received the prize at a ceremony held in Dubai, UAE. He said that JACC is considered one of the biggest cultural projects in the region, which was built in a record time according to the latest techniques - being the most innovative and architecturally-distinguished project.

The project also won the best interior design, considering the modern decorations that reflect Kuwait's cultural heritage and resembles the designs of the most famous cultural centers in the world. JACC, after winning this prize, will qualify to compete for the international prize offered by International Property Award to be held in a special ceremony in London, UK by December. Ishaq expressed thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this project, which saw light after exerting efforts

Continued on Page 11

RUSSIAN FM IN SAUDI FOR SYRIA, GULF TALKS

EGYPT, ONCE THE TOP HEPATITIS C SUFFERER, DRAWS CURE SEEKERS

CAIRO: Like millions in Egypt, Ahmed Nada suffered silently from Hepatitis C. But the country is turning from the world's most afflicted by the disease to a global destination for those seeking a cure. Nada, 31, only learned that he carried the virus when he tried to donate blood. "At first I was very angry," he said. "I kept thinking whether it was from my previous work as a dentist, or from the barber or from what? I didn't know." Previously, a Hepatitis C infection, even when diagnosed, would have gone untreated or simply been managed. But a cheap new drug produced in Egypt since 2015 and a government program to eliminate the condition meant Nada could be easily cured.

He registered on a government website and was directed to the nearest treatment centre. Now cured along with more than 1.3 million other Egyptians, Nada says the entire process was simple "from the moment I filled in the application". Egypt has the highest prevalence of Hepatitis C infection in the world, an epidemic that started with a government program for mass vaccinations with unsterilized syringes in the 1950s. Seven percent of people aged between 15 and 59 have an active infection, according to Egypt's 2015 Demographics and Health Surveys.

Continued on Page 11

RIYADH: The Saudi king and Russia's foreign minister met in Saudi Arabia yesterday ahead of a possible visit by the monarch to Russia next month. King Salman greeted Sergey Lavrov at his summer palace in the Red Sea city of Jiddah before the Russian envoy's meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. The king's 32-year-old son and heir to the throne, who oversees Saudi energy and defense policy, visited Russia in May to boost ties between the world's two top oil producers.

Saudi Arabia's state news agency said the monarch and Lavrov discussed the wars in Syria and Yemen, as well as an Arab diplomatic crisis with Qatar. Russia and Saudi Arabia back warring sides in Syria's conflict, with the kingdom supporting Sunni rebel groups fighting the Syrian government, which is backed by Moscow and Shiite-ruled Iran.

In a brief press conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir

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JIDDAH: Saudi King Salman (right) receives the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at Al-Salam Palace in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia yesterday. — AP



DEIR EZZOR: Syrian pro-government forces hold a position near the village of Al-Maleha, in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, during the ongoing battle against Islamic State (IS) group jihadists. — AFP

WARPLANES HIT DEIR EZZOR, KILLING 34

BEIRUT: Russian air strikes yesterday killed 34 civilians on ferries fleeing violence in Syria's eastern province of Deir Ezzor, where jihadists face separate assaults by US-backed forces and Russian-backed government troops, a monitor said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor initially reported 21 deaths but later raised the toll to 34, saying that "more bodies have been found in the river" Euphrates.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said nine children were among those killed fleeing fighting and that "dozens" of people were wounded in the strikes. He said the raids targeted "more than 40 ferries" that had left Al-Boull town southeast of Deir Ezzor city for the eastern shore of the river. The Observatory relies on a network of sources inside Syria, and says it determines whose planes carry out

raids according to type, location, flight patterns and munitions used.

Moscow intervened in Syria in September 2015 in support of its ally President Bashar Al-Assad. Yesterday's reported raids came as Syrian troops with Russian air cover pressed an offensive against Islamic State group jihadists across Deir Ezzor province. On Saturday, government forces broke a nearly three-year jihadist siege of a Syrian airbase on the southern edges of Deir Ezzor city, the provincial capital.

Assad's troops advanced further yesterday, capturing Mount Tharda west of the military airport from IS as well as another mountain overlooking the city, the Observatory said. IS holdouts were still entrenched in southern parts of the city, the monitor said. The army's advances in the oil-rich province come as US-

backed forces press their own assault on IS in Deir Ezzor.

The province borders Iraq and is a strategic prize for both the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance and government troops. The SDF announced on Saturday it had begun clearing IS from areas east of the Euphrates, which cuts diagonally across the province. Yesterday, fighters from the SDF's Deir Ezzor Military Council (DEMC) seized much of the province's northeast, the Observatory said. "They seized control of a hilltop seven kilometers from the eastern banks of the Euphrates, across the river from Deir Ezzor city," Abdel Rahman said.

He attributed the speedy gains to the fact that "eastern parts of Deir Ezzor are desert and not densely populated".

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NATIONAL GUARD CHIEF CONGRATULATES AMIR ON MEMORY OF UN HONORING

KUWAIT: Chief of the National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah sent a cable on Saturday to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, congratulating him on the third anniversary of being feted by the United Nations (UN). In his cable, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali said that His Highness the Amir being named by the UN as a "Humanitarian Leader" and Kuwait a "Humanitarian Center" was a testament to His Highness the Amir's profound humanitarian and philanthropic contributions. He added that the moniker was something "that all Kuwaitis should be proud of since it cements Kuwait's position as a bastion of humanity." The National Guard chief also wished His Highness the Amir continued good health and wellbeing.

Arab league congratulates Amir

The Arab League also congratulated Kuwait on the third anniversary of the UN proclamation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as "Humanitarian Leader", and its naming of Kuwait as "Humanitarian Center." Kuwait's humanitarian action around the world has become one of the most effective and successful aspects of its foreign policy, the League's Council stated during its regular session on the permanent delegates' level.

The Council valued the GCC member-state's distinctive efforts, led by His Highness the Amir, and keenness toward continuing its humanitarian efforts that reach all corners of



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

the globe. Naming His Highness the Amir as a "Humanitarian Leader" is a well-earned honor, and a historical account of the remarkable role of the Kuwaiti leader, his government, and his people in providing unlimited support to humanitarian action, it said. The Council also praised Kuwait's hosting of five consecutive international donors' conferences to aid and relief the Syrian people from the ongoing crisis in their country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Director-General of The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) William Lacy Swing. — KUNA photos

DEPUTY AMIR RECEIVES IOM DIRECTOR-GENERAL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Director-General William Lacy Swing on the occasion of his visit to the country.

HH the Deputy Amir praised the IOM efforts in supporting and contributing to the alleviation of the suffering of displaced people around the world. From his part, the IOM chief expressed his sincere appreciation for Kuwait's continuing support of organization's global humanitarian activities under the leadership of "Humanitarian Leader" His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Lacy Swing also presented to His Highness the Crown Prince, a book entitled "IOM Iraq Response to Mosul Crisis through the Government of Kuwait." The meeting was attended by Head of Ceremonies and Protocol of His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince's Diwan, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Homood Al-Sabah.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Acting Speaker of the National Assembly Essa Al-Kanderi and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during his meeting with the International Organization for Migration's Director-General William Lacy Swing.

KUWAIT REITERATES ASPIRATION TO JOIN IOM AS OBSERVER: FM

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah reiterated yesterday Kuwait's aspiration to attain the membership of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) as an observer. Kuwait is keen on achieving its humanitarian goals through boosting cooperation with IOM, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said while meeting with IOM's Director-General William Lacy Swing. For his part, Swing expressed sincere appreciation to Kuwait's humanitarian efforts and contributions around the world, and its continued support

of IOM's projects and programs.

Meanwhile, the two sides reviewed IOM's humanitarian activities and projects aimed at aiding affected people of crisis-stricken countries, particularly in the Middle East region. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, and a number of foreign ministry's senior officials. — KUNA

NOUFEXPO ORGANIZES THE FIRST CONSULTING SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROJECTS FORUM

KUWAIT: Engineer Bader Al-Salman - President of the Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices & Consultant Houses announced yesterday that all preparations for the convening of the 1st Consulting Services for Governmental Projects Forum (ENCON1) under the motto of "Towards Professional and Transparent Consulting Services" are complete. Al-Salman said that he is pleased with the official support that ENCON1 is enjoying.

He commented by saying, "The patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait is at the cornerstone of this support that helps ENCON1 achieve its objectives. We are also pleased that His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, will deliver the principal keynote opening speech and inaugurate ENCON1. We are honored also that Her Excellency Mrs Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, will deliver her keynote speech during the opening ceremony for her outstanding role in developing national development plans for Kuwait."

Al-Salman continued to say, "ENCON1, which is organized by NoufEXPO at Al-Baraka Ballroom of Crowne Plaza hotel from 17 to 19 September 2017, is a result of a joint effort of the Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices &



The Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



Minister of Information HE Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah



Minister of Social Affairs HE Mrs Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih

Consultant Houses in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Central Agency for Public Tenders. It convenes at the wake of approving Kuwait's National Development Plan 2035 that responds to the ambitions of the Kuwaiti people for growth and prosperity.

The focus in this first edition of ENCON1 will be on consulting services since they represent the first phase of any project that shapes all following phases. The motto of professionalism and transparency provides the governance

model that should direct execution of all phases of government projects. This moral need has, at the same time, far reaching economic and financial consequences that affect the outcome of development plans in general."

Al-Salam said he is confident that ENCON1 will experience a real success and will positively contribute to the successful implementation of Kuwait's National Development Plan. He attributed this to the participation of many key speakers from various government organizations, namely, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Kuwait

Municipality, Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate, Department of Legal Advice and Legislation, and State Audit Bureau.

Speakers from the Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices & Consultant Houses, the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, and the Central Agency for Public Tenders will also participate in the various sessions and panel discussions. Moreover, ENCON1 will witness the engaging presence of many distinguished engineering and consulting houses. A non-exclusive list

includes as Dar SSH International Consultants (SSHIC), Gulf Consult, Kuwait Technical Consulting Bureau (KTCCB), KEO International Consultants (KEO), PACE, Osama Bukhamseen Design Engineering & Consultants, ASTAD International, Projacs International, SOOR Engineering Bureau, Linkage MENA, International systems for Projects Management (PMI), The Associated Engineering Partnership (TAEPKU), OHA Engineering Consultant, Line Shine International, and Al Jazirah Engineers & Consultants (AJEC). Participation of all of these prominent organizations makes the organizers confident that ENCON1 will achieve its objectives.

Commenting on professionalism and transparency, Al-Salman said, "Our focus on these values stems from our belief that these are essential success factors for any project or work we carry out. They are not merely moral values to adhere to, but they will have their prominent impact on the success of executing the development plan of Kuwait. According to the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's National Development Plan 2035 has a main target of transforming Kuwait into a financial and trade center. A genuine collective and integrated effort driven by professionalism and transparency is required to achieve this vision."

AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES TO MEXICAN PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to the President of Mexico Enrique Pena Nieto. His Highness expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow over the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck off the country's southern coast recently, killing and injuring hundreds of people.

His Highness prayed for mercy upon the deceased victims, wished a swift recovery for the injured, and hoped that officials in Mexico can overcome the aftermath of the quake. Meanwhile, His Highness the 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 similar cables to the Mexican President.

The National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem had also sent a cable of condolences to the President of Chamber of Deputies of the Congress of Mexico Maria Guadalupe Murguía Gutierrez. Al-Ghanem also sent another cable of condolences to President of the Senate of Mexico Ernesto Javier Cordero Arroyo. He expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow over the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck off the country's southern coast recently, killing and injuring hundreds of people. — KUNA

KUWAIT COMMITTED TO GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwait is committed to providing humanitarian assistance worldwide across many spectrums, including educational development, the Minister of Education and Higher Education said. Minister Mohammad Al-Faris' remarks came during his attendance of an inauguration ceremony for a lecture hall named after Kuwait at KAZGUU University, which specializes in law and economics, in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Saturday evening.

This special commitment has been expressed on the state level through the directions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said at the event attended by Kazakhstan's Justice Minister Marat Beketayev. The Kuwaiti minister stressed the importance of investing in the youth as an important component in ensuring a nation's future. He also hoped the new hall would assist in cooperative endeav-



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Faris' during his attendance of an inauguration ceremony for a lecture hall named after Kuwait at KAZGUU University.

ors between Kuwait and Kazakhstan as a podium for the exchange of expertise and distinguished research. The Kuwait Fund for Economic Development's humanitarian projects, including education development, cover 105 countries around the world.

Also, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science recently signed several agreements with the

UN children's agency, UNICEF, for education and teacher training in relation to Syrian refugees based in neighboring countries. These efforts have received global acclaim, which led to the Kuwaiti government being honored as a 'Humanitarian Centre' and His Highness the Amir as a 'Humanitarian Leader' by the UN, he said. — KUNA

OTTAWA MAYOR PRAISES KUWAIT'S CULTURAL, HUMANITARIAN ROLE

KUWAIT: Canadian Mayor of Ottawa Jim Watson praised Kuwait's "important" cultural and humanitarian role, expressing his country's aspiration to strengthen relations with Kuwait in various fields. This came in a statement by the Mayor of Ottawa on the sidelines of his visit to Kuwaiti Cultural Days event that was held in Canada from September 4 to 8, organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) in cooperation with the Embassy of Kuwait on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian Confederation.

The establishment of Kuwaiti cultural days is an important opportunity to strengthen relations between the two countries and promote cooperation, especially in the economic, social and cultural fields, the Mayor of Ottawa said. The events of the cultural days coincided with the third anniversary of the UN honoring of Kuwait as a Humanitarian Center and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a Humanitarian Leader.

The Kuwaiti cultural days are a message of peace that aims to enhance communication and rapprochement with different peoples and cultures, he said. The Kuwaiti cultural days in Ottawa ended last Friday with the screening of a Kuwaiti film entitled "Kan Rafiji" by Ahmed Al-Khalaf, as well as two lectures on "Museums in Kuwait" and "Arab Calligraphy". — KUNA



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

BUWAIR MARKS 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF AMIR AS A 'HUMANITARIAN LEADER'

By Faten Omar

The author and columnist Abdullah Abbas Buwair held a ceremony yesterday at Crowne Plaza hotel to celebrate the third anniversary of the naming of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as a center for humanitarian work by the United Nations.

"Kuwait today marks the 3rd anniversary of the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a "Humanitarian Leader" and Kuwait as a "Humanitarian Center". The honoring came in recognition of the major role of Kuwait and His Highness the Amir for reinforcing a "humanitarian diplomacy" and supporting charity work that was extended around the globe," Buwair said during the celebrations.

"In the past, the humanitarian leader gave a lesson to the entire world on how to deal with humanitarian crises and how to be a real help for the needy," said Buwair, the author of the book "His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah - Humanitarian Leader". "It is our duty also to honor all the martyrs and victims who have fallen for the liberation of Kuwait and sacrificed their lives for the sake of Kuwaiti and human freedom," he added. "His role is a lesson in education, life and how great Islam is. It promotes the leadership of His Highness through his contribution



in the face of humanitarian crises, disasters, hunger, poverty and combating diseases and epidemics," he said.

For her part, Maimona Al-Sabah was a representative on behalf of the President of the Kuwaiti Society for the Ideal Family Sheikh Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sister of the Amir and daughter of the 10th Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. She said that Sheikh Fariha expressed her happiness to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the UN

proclamation. She stated that the honoring of Sheikh Sabah was a result of his role as overseer of past and ongoing humanitarian efforts that reflects his wisdom and strength, and makes Kuwait more resolute in helping poorer countries and standing by those in need.

"We have no doubts about the achievements of Kuwait - both in its leadership and its citizens. Our country has many humanitarian and charity projects all over the world. These projects have rescued numerous people dur-



ing crises without any discrimination over religion, color or origin. The author documented some of Kuwait's and the Amir's humanitarian works in a very creative way. I hope his work will inspire others to improve human development through documenting and archiving Kuwait's achievements," she stressed.

In his turn, Dr Amir Al-Hassan from the United Nations Habitat Program, praised the role of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah in supporting humanitarian issues in various

parts of the world and the noble humanitarian stances" which had a very positive impact on everyone. He added that His Highness the Amir has a bright and unprecedented humanitarian record in the modern era. The ceremony included honoring Sheikh Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah, and honoring a number of Martyrs' families which was then followed by a book-signing session.



KUWAITI, AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS JOIN FORCES TO TACKLE DIABETES

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti and Australian research bodies signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday in an effort to fight a growing diabetes epidemic. The deal forged between Kuwait's Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) and Australia's University of Canberra will allow both sides to work closely together to keep the blood disorder in check, read a Kuwaiti embassy statement obtained by KUNA. Diabetes represents a grave concern as Kuwait ranks ninth globally in terms of the total number of diabetics, where 1.23 percent of adoles-

cents are infected with the disease, the statement cited DDI's Director General Dr Qais Al-Duwairi as saying.

Meanwhile, Professor Deep Saini, the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Canberra, who co-signed the deal with Al-Duwairi, said that the agreement would prove beneficial for both sides in a way that will allow for more advanced scientific research. Similarly, Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader expressed hope that the agreement will buoy efforts to battle the epidemic. — KUNA

BOURSA KUWAIT ENDS TRADING IN GREEN ZONE

KUWAIT: Bursa Kuwait, the national stock exchange, ended yesterday trading session in the green zone as the price index went up by 28.9 points to reach 6,926.32 points. The weighted index went up 5.88 points reaching 440.57 points as well as the KSX 15, gaining 23.76 points to stand at 1,023.08 points. The number of trades reached 4,410 points with a value of KD 26 million while the volume was 120 million shares.

Meanwhile, Gold prices went up USD 11 to reach USD 1,345 per ounce in last week's trading in New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), according to Sabaek Al-Kuwait Company. It added in its weekly report yesterday that the yellow metal pushed up to the 1,357 level, shy of resistance near the July 2016 highs at 1,377. The dollar has

been on the defensive, which has helped gold prices gain traction.

Since gold is priced in dollars, a weaker dollar generally buoys gold prices. As to silver, its rate exceeded USD 18 per ounce. On other metals, the company reported that their prices varied in direction affected by the rise of gold where palladium fell by about USD 41 to close at USD 932 per ounce and the platinum was traded at 1,002 dollars per ounce. The US Dollar's exchange rate was down yesterday exchanging at KD 0.300, while the Euro went up to KD 0.362, said the Central Bank of Kuwait. The CBK added that the Sterling Pound's rate was up to KD 0.397. The Swiss Franc was also up to KD 0.318 and the Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002. — KUNA

KUWAITI NAVY COMMANDER HAILS MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

MANAMA: A Kuwaiti naval commander said yesterday that cooperation with regional navies and coastguards is a shared responsibility to ensure maritime security. Kuwait Coast Guard Flotilla Commander Lt Col Mubarak Al-Sabah also underlined the significance of having secure maritime borders and keeping pirates at bay, in comments to

KUNA. His remarks were made on the sidelines of a conference involving senior navy and coastguard officials of the Coalition Forces Maritime Component Command, led by the US Navy Fifth Fleet. Meanwhile, he pointed out that he held discussions with Bahraini navy officials over challenges facing maritime security. — KUNA

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Developing care for the elderly is a prominent part of Kuwait's development vision for 2035.



The country is establishing several elderly care units in various hospitals aiming to aid senior citizens.

ELDERLY CARE PART OF KUWAIT 2035 VISION

KUWAIT: Developing care for the elderly will be a prominent part of Kuwait's development vision for 2035.

The establishment of several elderly care units in various hospitals in the country as well as the training of spe-

cialized personnel in aiding senior citizens are all part of the Kuwaiti authority's plans for a better future. —KUNA



Farah Elderly care center



KFAS LAUNCHES 'INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2018'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: For the fourth year the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) is organizing the executive education 'Innovation Challenge' program. The registration for Innovation Challenge 2018 began yesterday and will continue until October 22, 2017. This version is held in partnership with UCLA Anderson School of Management and targets the young executive leaders of the private sector.

Innovation Challenge is one of KFAS's activities that aim to support the private sector and to develop its business through enhancing investment in science, technology and innovation from other successful international organizations to develop the financial and industrial backbone for businesses in local companies.

Dr Salem Al-Hajraf, Deputy General Director of KFAS noted that Innovation Challenge 2018 will be presented by world-class academic staff from the executive education center at the Anderson business college at the California University in Los Angeles. "This program will allow the participants to benefit from the successful business experiences who developed their projects. This will prepare them to become innovative and creative leaders to succeed," he said during the press conference held yesterday at KFAS's premises.

Innovation Challenge 2018 will accept 10 teams only. "These 10 teams represent 10 shareholding companies, which will be chosen according to certain competition criteria. During the training period, the nominated teams will present innovative solutions to determine company's realism," added Al-Hajraf.

KFAS invites companies in Kuwait's private sector to take advantage of this

unique training opportunity to develop their companies' innovation capabilities. "Kuwaiti shareholding companies are invited to nominate their employees at the program that is available to the Kuwaiti middle-management level employee, all whom have excellent English skills," he pointed out.

Nomination and registration can be done through KFAS's website till October 22. KFAS bears the costs of the program, which includes various workshops presented by academic experts. The program starts with a program orientation in Kuwait. Later, teams will work on their innovation challenge with specific deliverables and are required to complete all deliverables in order to participate in the final module at UCLA, which will include a mixture of lectures and site visits to innovative companies including Disney, Snapchat and others," explained Al-Hajraf.

"This is a unique program in the region, one that provides latest educational methods including various scientific and practical applications of international companies, which started from small innovative ideas and succeeded as well-known international companies," he said. KFAS aims to develop innovation champions to elevate their core organizational capability. The program is centered around the use of innovation to respond to real-world business challenges specific to each team. Each challenge will be examined throughout the various phases of the program and teams will apply what they've learned on their innovation projects. During the past three years, Innovation Challenge trained 113 participants from different commercial, financial, and industrial sectors who were trained inside Kuwait and abroad in cooperation with international prestigious universities.



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



The ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held a reception on the occasion of the 69th National Day at the Crowne plaza hotel over the weekend. Higher official, diplomats, cross section of North Korean community and media persons attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

In my view

ONLY IN KUWAIT



By Talal Al Ghannam

local@kuwaittimes.net

Good morning readers, I wish you all a happy and prosperous new academic year. In today's piece I would like to talk about the odd things that are taking place in Kuwait. Only in Kuwait you will see erratic drivers racing an ambulance that is rushing a patient to a nearby hospital. You will see these reckless drivers tailgating the ambulance or try to compete with it from other lanes.

Only in Kuwait, when one goes to receive someone at the airport, you see the entire family consisting of a father, mother, youngsters, housemaid, relatives, neighbors, far cousins, nephews and nieces causing chaos and unwanted jam whereas in European countries one or maximum two people welcome a guest.

Only in Kuwait, reckless drivers are not afraid of police cars on the highway where you see many of them tend to speed up near the patrol car knowing some policemen are either busy with their smart phones or taking a nap.

Only in Kuwait, you will see cars zigzagging between lanes on a road with zillion manholes trying to avoid them ending up crashing into the cars next to them.

Only in Kuwait, you have no idea what the hygiene is like in many cheap restaurants and what happens behind the curtains. At an Indian restaurant that I used to go to, I noticed the chef behind the screen sneezing into the pan and wiping his nose with the same hand while making chapattis. How gross.

Only in Kuwait, a Kuwaiti is charged triple the cost of car painting whereas other nationalities are charged only one quarter of that cost. An Egyptian friend of mine painted his entire car in Jleeb for only 30 KD and was told by the Asian worker that this price is only for expatriates but for Kuwaitis it is 100 KD.

Only in Kuwait, walking in a government hospital is like walking in the Avenues.

Only in Kuwait appointments in public hospitals are given after the patient dies and is buried.

Only in Kuwait, Eid holidays feel like any ordinary Friday.

Only in Kuwait, cleaners from a certain Arab nationality show hostile attitude towards Kuwaiti tenants wanting to rent a flat as if Kuwait is their country.

Only in Kuwait, a low-wage worker from a certain nationality can put the sun in one of your hand and the moon in the other. This guy either becomes a wasta or a difficult task is done through him.

Only in Kuwait, a public fish auction in Mubarkya takes place in a parking lot causing leaving a bad smell every morning.

Only in Kuwait, beggars come on a visit visa and leave with thousands of dinars if not caught.



80-90 PERCENT OF 48 IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SOLVED

By Mesh'al Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed that, along with the municipal council reform and development committee, she discussed all development plan projects facing problems noting that 30 projects had problems in the first phase but now

only five remain unsolved and are expected to be solved within ten days. The head of the municipal council's reform and development committee, Osama Al-Otaibi said that the problems of 80-90 percent of 48 important development projects had been solved.

MOH receives award
The head of the ear, nose and



KUWAIT: Dr Bassel Al-Sabah visits health minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi.

throat (ENT) departments' council and the head of the ENT department at Zain hospital, Dr Bassel Al-Sabah visited Health Minister, Dr Jamal Al-Harbi to present a trophy on the occasion of the second anniversary of launching the sleeping sickness lab at Zain hospital. Dr Al-Sabah also announced that Kuwait will host the ENT Surgery 40th and the 8th Arab ENT conferences due to be held for three days in November with participation of 42 doctors from outside Kuwait.

Fingerprint system confusion
Chairman of the government sector employees' syndicates union, Amer Al-Bessais warned of the consequences of cancelling all the cases exempted from using the fingerprint system to check in and out at various government bodies by October. Al-Bessais also warned that imposing the system equally on all 370,000 government employees will reduce their productivity and confuse work. He also demanded cancelling the decision he described as 'unstudied' or to, at least, postpone it until further studies are made.

Labor union cases
The union secretary, Marzouq Al-Manhouf criticized what he described as the 'stalling and procrastination' manpower authority officials' have been practicing in terms of putting final court orders about returning various labor union boards to office into practice.

Myanmar fundraiser
Kuwait Patients Aid Fund chairman of board, Dr Mohammed Al-Sharhan announced launching a fund-raising campaign to collect donations for the distressed Muslims in Myanmar. Al-Sharhan also called for allowing international human rights and aid foundations to have offices in Rakhine state to help provide relief aids to the victims of genocide operations that had been exposed by various international news agencies and social media networks.

الجريدة Al-Jarida

MY DEAR FRIEND

By Dr. Najem Abdul Kareem

A close friend of mine who does not seem to know the difference between public and private issues told me that I should stop writing about serious issues as they don't appeal to the readers and that nobody reads it anymore. And if it wasn't for our friendship, he would not have read it as content is boring and is filled with complicated names of foreign philosophers, thinkers, writers and historical stories nobody cares about. He further suggests that I must use my great sense of humor in my writings more often.

In our daily life, we usually seek more comfort and peace of mind. We act naturally and go beyond all boundaries to enjoy ourselves and get rid of stress through laughter and jokes. We sing and make fun of things and many demonstrate their special talent to attract more attention. That is why I feel that my friend does not know the difference between public and private issues.

Writing, my dear friend is a public and moral responsibility. It's a way to deal with real concern by shining light upon such issues. Saying that cultural topics do not attract readers will only double my responsibility as a writer. This is why I am keen on writing various flashes of culture, reflections, memories and readings focusing on some human icons in various disciplines. On consulting with 'AlJarida' administration, I learnt that my readers are mainly old people and that younger ones are less attracted to pieces, which my friend pointed out suggesting that our youth are not interested in culture.

Dear friend, Kuwait publishes over ten dailies filled with articles written by many writers. With a few exceptions, you will find out that the majority keep writing about the same boring issues. For instance, a veteran writer who has been writing a column for forty years has never written about things other than traffic problems, health services and people's transactions in various ministries. Imagine, writing the same thing over and over for forty years. So, if you, my friends, want me to forget about Descartes, Mozart, Socrates, Jean-Jacques Rousseau simply to please the readers, then you will be forcing me to quit writing

— Translated by Kuwait Times



MOI UNDERSECRETARY HONORS OFFICERS

By Hanan Al-sa'doun

KUWAIT: MOI's assistant undersecretary for border security affairs Major General, Mansour Al-Awadi honored a number of officers, warrant officers, policemen and civilian employees working in various border security departments for their efforts and outstanding performance while conducting their duties. The honoring ceremony was attended by the airport security director, Maj General, Waleed Al-Saleh and land border exits security director, brigadier, Eyad Al-Haddad.

Expats killed
Two Arab expats were killed and two others sustained serious injuries when their vehicles collided near Saad Al-Abdulla airport road, said security sources.

Rescue mission
Shu'aiba marine rescue forces were dispatched to rescue a family of six on a boat stuck in shallow waters in Al-Zour, said security sources noting that one of the family members had a leg injury and water was leaking into the boat. The leak was controlled and the family was rescued.

Crime

Report

WANTED CITIZEN CAUGHT WITH DRUG POSSESSION

KUWAIT: A citizen who was wanted for a seven year prison sentence, was recently arrested while speeding under the effect of drugs in Abu Halifa, said security sources noting that the suspect also possessed a small amount of weed on his person.

Joy ride

A citizen called his next door neighbor to show him the damage his son made to his vehicle when he stole his father's brand new car and drove it without his knowledge in Jahra. Sources noted that both cars were seriously damaged and the young driver's father promised to fix them both at his expense.

Video blackmail

A female citizen reported that someone she had known for a while had been blackmailing her with a video showing them together and demanding that their secret affair continues to fulfill his needs. The blackmailer was arrested later on and referred to relevant authorities.

Prison suicide foiled

Guards of Kuwait Central prison foiled a Jordanian's inmate suicide attempt. They found him with his wrist veins cut inside his cell and quickly rushed him to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Parking fight

A dispute between two neighbors at a parking lot triggered a fight between a citizen and his neighbors. Sources said that a girl who was visiting her aunt parked her car at the neighbors' parking space and on leaving the premises, she noticed that her car has been damaged by the neighbors' son.

Worker assaulted

A citizen was recently arrested for brutally assaulting a Bangladeshi working at his ranch in Kabd area. He claimed that the man had sustained his injuries after he fell doing some work on the ranch's roof. Case papers indicated that the worker was rushed to hospital and the on-call doctors suspected the nature of the injuries were caused by an individual. On interrogating the worker, he said that his sponsor had assaulted him for no apparent reason.

Medicine, food stolen

An Asian driver reported that unidentified robbers had stolen three cartons of medicine and food supplements when he was delivering a batch of them in Salmiya. The driver estimated the value of the stolen medicine at around KD 400.

Grocer robbed

An Asian grocer in Mangaf reported that an unidentified robber had assaulted him with a knife and stole KD 30 in cash before he fled on foot from the grocery store. — (Al-Rai / Al-Anbaa)

KOC AIMING TO QUALIFY SPECIALIZED CONTRACTORS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Well-informed oil sources said that KOC had announced its wish to qualify specialized contractors for a number of major projects to be executed over the next few years. The sources added that contracting companies applying for it should provide copies of their foundation contracts, classification certificates, commercial registers, commercial licenses, the company's organizational structure including permanent technical and administrative staffs, three-year endorsed budget, statements from at least two banks about the contractor's

financial status, certificates from the owner of the largest projects executed over the past ten years, machinery ownership register, contracts of under construction projects and the company's permanent address and on-refundable fee of KD 100 (\$350). Information Ministry Undersecretary, Tareq Al-Merzam issued a directive cancelling all the cases of exempting some ministry employees from using the fingerprints system to check in and out regardless of their position or years of service, said informed sources noting that the decision only exempted employees with severe disability or mental health.

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The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

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Mexico quake kills 65, deadly storm strikes

SHATTERED BY WAR, SUNNI ARABS DESPAIR OVER FUTURE IN IRAQ



MIAMI: Heavy winds and rain from Hurricane Irma are seen in Miami, Florida. — AFP

HURRICANE RIPS OFF ROOFS, UPROOTS TREES
 ST MARTIN, ST BARTS: RAVAGED BY IRMA, SPARED BY JOSE

MARIGOT: Ravaged by Hurricane Irma, Saint Martin and Saint Barts escaped a further battering by Jose, which had "markedly less" of an impact on the two Caribbean islands than anticipated, France's meteorological agency said yesterday. The agency had issued its highest warning, saying the Category 4 Hurricane Jose could become a "dangerous event of exceptional intensity". "I'm relieved, almost happy," said Saint Martin resident Donald Tchuisseu, a plastic glass of gin in hand after toasting Jose's mercy with a friend.

Jose passed 135 kilometers north of Saint Barts, a haven for the rich and famous with celebrity visitors who have included Beyonce and Gwyneth Paltrow. The new hurricane was 125 kilometers from Saint Martin, 95 percent of which has already been ravaged by Hurricane Irma, which struck Wednesday and reached the Florida Keys early yesterday. "Thanks to a passage which was fur-

ther away than anticipated, the effects on the territory were markedly less," the meteorological agency said.

Many on St Martin, an island which is divided between France and The Netherlands and known for its vibrant nightlife and pristine beaches, had been concerned about how to shelter from the second storm. Tchuisseu, in his thirties, was among those who headed for a school in the Saint Martin town of Grand-Case that was requisitioned as a temporary shelter from Jose. Even though the danger has passed, he said he preferred to have company. "It's good to have a drink, laugh and think about other things," Tchuisseu said. "The alternative is to stay home alone without power or water."

Two Hercules military transport planes will be used to evacuate tourists from the Dutch side of Saint Martin, called Sint Maarten, to Curacao, another Dutch island off of Venezuela, from where they will be flown home. "After

having evacuated patients, tourists are the highest priority," the Dutch navy said on Twitter. The navy also said large-scale distribution of food and water would begin today. Dutch King Willem-Alexander was due to arrive on Curacao later Sunday, and may visit Sint Maarten if it is possible, the palace said.

'Is there still a life here?'

Hurricane Irma killed 12 people on the two islands while flattening thousands of buildings and leaving authorities struggling to control looting. Residents are still grappling with dwindling supplies. "We have only 12 bottles of water for a family of three to wash and drink," said Saint Barts resident Olivier Toussaint. Irma ripped off roofs and uprooted trees, tossing cars and boats about like matchsticks. Debris still clogs the streets, many homes are uninhabitable, communications are still down and tens of

thousands are without food, water or power.

"Is there still a life here?" wondered Michelene Jean-Charles, a heavily pregnant 23-year-old resident. An official posted in Saint Martin for six years who gave his name only as Nicolas is "angry with Paris and the way it's handling the crisis". He said he had little information on what to do and "no information or addresses" for those made homeless. There were soldiers but with little equipment, he added.

On the southern Dutch half of the island, 70 percent of the infrastructure has been destroyed, officials said. The Dutch Red Cross said Sunday it had raised 1.5 million euros (\$1.8 million) since Wednesday for Sint Maarten. "Water pipes do not work, the stores are empty and there is no electricity in much of (Sint Maarten). It's a race against time to get the relief to the affected area," a spokesman told the Dutch news agency ANP.—AFP

ROHINGYA REBELS CALL ONE-MONTH MYANMAR CEASEFIRE AS EXODUS GROWS

COX'S BAZAR: Rohingya militants, who sparked an army crackdown in Myanmar that has seen nearly 300,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh, yesterday declared a unilateral ceasefire to allow aid to reach the increasingly desperate fugitives. The United Nations said 294,000 bedraggled and exhausted Rohingya refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since the militants' attacks on Myanmar security forces in Rakhine state on August 25 sparked a major military backlash.

Tens of thousands more are believed to be on the move inside Rakhine after more than a fortnight without shelter, food and water. Three Rohingyas are reported to have been killed by a mine near the border allegedly laid by Myanmar security forces to stop the fugitives returning. Mainly Buddhist Myanmar does not recognize its stateless Muslim Rohingya community, labelling them as "Bengalis"-illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

A further 27,000 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists as well as Hindus have also fled violence that has gripped the northern part of the state. "The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) hereby declares a temporary cessation of offensive military operations," the group said in a statement on its official Twitter account. It urged "all humanitarian actors" to resume aid delivery to "all victims of humanitarian crisis irrespective of ethnic or religious background" during the one-month ceasefire period until October 9.

ARSA called on Myanmar to "reciprocate this humanitarian pause" in fighting. There was no im-

mediate response from Myanmar's military, but on Saturday authorities said they would set up three relief camps in Rohingya-majority areas. Rohingya refugees say army operations against ARSA led to mass killings and the burning of hundreds of villages, sending them across the border. International aid programs in Rakhine have been severely curtailed, as the fighting tore through parts of the state.

Food, shelter, safety

India's foreign ministry called for an immediate end to the violence, urging the situation "be handled with restraint and maturity". Thousands are arriving in Bangladesh each day, joining already overcrowded camps of Rohingyas who have fled Myanmar over decades of troubles. The UN refugee agency UNHCR gave the latest figure of 294,000 for the new arrivals. The UN has appealed for urgent donations of \$77 million. Bangladesh already hosts around 400,000 Rohingyas from previous crises.

The Red Cross in Bangladesh welcomed the ceasefire pledge as aid agencies struggle to meet the needs of an "overwhelming crisis", battling monsoon rains to deliver relief to people who have fled with few belongings. "How can you handle such a big influx of people? They want shelter, they want a safe place," Misada Saif, Prevention and Communication Coordinator of the ICRC Bangladesh delegation, told AFP.

Cradling her naked screaming infant, Rohingya

refugee Zohra Begum was close to tears as several hundred people were ordered to leave a strip of forest alongside the beach near Shamlapur, where families were clearing land with hoes to build shelters. "We went to all the camps but there was no place to stay. That's why we came here," she told AFP. "If we have to move from here, where will we go? We will die."

Better-known locally as Harakah al-Yaqin (Faith Movement), ARSA launched coordinated raids using hundreds of militants on August 25 on around 30 police posts and state offices in the north of Rakhine state. The backlash by security forces prompted the Rohingya exodus. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh say ethnic Rakhine Buddhists joined security forces in the indiscriminate killing of villagers. In an area split by claim and counterclaim, Rakhine villagers accuse militants of murdering their civilians while the government says fleeing Rohingyas set fire to their own homes to forment fear and anger against the authorities.

At the makeshift camp near Shamlapur, Rohingya refugees doubted a ceasefire would allow their return any time soon. "They (Myanmar army) are saying 'go away or we'll burn all of you'. How can we believe a ceasefire will have any effect?" Hafez Ahmed, 60, told AFP. But Hashem Ullah, a 33-year-old farmer from a village west of Maungdaw, said he would return "if I got compensation, and they accept us as Rohingyas". How can we live like this here?" he added, gesturing to the swampy earth. ARSA says it is fighting to defend the Rohingyas from persecution in Myanmar. — AFP



UKHIA: Newly arrived Rohingya refugees scuffle for relief supplies at Kutupalong refugee camp in the Bangladeshi locality of Ukhia. — AFP

News

in brief

Turkish travel warning for Germany bad joke

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Turkish government warnings to its citizens in Germany to be "cautious" and avoid political gatherings during election season are a "bad joke", Chancellor Angela Merkel's most senior aide said yesterday. "Turkey's travel warning against Germany is a bad joke!", Peter Altmaier, head of Merkel's chancellery office, wrote on Twitter. "Imprisonment without charge for many Germans is unjust! Nazi comparisons offend our honor!" he added, referencing two bones of contention in a long-running Berlin-Ankara spat.

Cyprus rescues Syrian refugees in two boats

NICOSIA: Cypriot authorities brought ashore more than 300 Syrian refugees early yesterday after spotting two boats in open water off the northwest coast of the Mediterranean island, police said. It was one of the largest waves of migrants to be received by Cypriot authorities in a single day since civil war erupted in Syria in 2011. The 305 migrants, who included 30 women and 73 children, said they had set off from the Turkish port of Mersin and paid up to \$2,000 each for the crossing. Police arrested a 36-year-old man on suspicion of piloting one of the boats. He was expected to appear before a court in the resort town of Paphos yesterday.



ITALY: An aerial view of the city of Leghorn, Italy, following floods. — AP

Heavy rain, floods lash Italy, at least five dead in Tuscany

ROME: Torrential rain in Italy has triggered flooding that killed at least five people in the Tuscan port town of Leghorn. Italian state television said four of the victims were family members whose bodies were found in their flooded basement yesterday. Some Italian media reports put the death toll at six in Leghorn, also known in Italy as Livorno. Mayor Filippo Nogarini said he couldn't immediately confirm the number, but added that casualties could increase because several people were missing. Nogarini says "a crazy amount of rain" pummeled Leghorn and "the city is literally devastated."

Palestinian court grants bail to prominent activist

HEBRON: A Palestinian court agreed yesterday to release a prominent activist on bail after his arrest on September 4 following his criticism of president Mahmud Abbas's administration, his lawyer said. Issa Amro was detained by Palestinian security forces in the southern West Bank city of Hebron on accusations including causing strife, human rights activists say. His lawyer, Muhammad Karaja, said he has also been accused of creating websites that "aim to undermine the state's security" in violation of a new Palestinian law against cyber crime. The law has been criticized by human rights groups who say it could be used to target critics of the Palestinian leadership.

Nine suspected militants killed in a Cairo raid

CAIRO: Egypt's official news agency says police killed nine suspected militants when they raided two apartments in a densely populated Cairo neighborhood. The Middle East News Agency says five policemen were wounded in yesterday's early morning exchange of fire in the Ard el-Liwa district. It says police found rifles, ammunition, bomb-making materials and explosive devices at the apartments. The report, which cited an unnamed Interior Ministry official, did not say to which group the suspects were linked. — Agencies

US-BACKED FORCE MAKE ADVANCE IN EAST SYRIA

BEIRUT: US-backed fighters made a sweeping advance against jihadists yesterday in Syria's eastern Deir Ezzor province, capturing territory just kilometers from the provincial capital, a monitor said. Oil-rich Deir Ezzor province borders Iraq and is a strategic prize for both the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Russian-supported government troops. The SDF announced on Saturday it had begun clearing the Islamic State group from areas east of the Euphrates River, which cuts diagonally across the province.

By yesterday, fighters from the SDF's Deir Ezzor Military Council (DEMC) had seized much of the province's northeast, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "They seized control of a hilltop seven kilometres (four miles) from the eastern banks of the Euphrates, across the river from Deir Ezzor city," said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Britain-based monitor. He attributed the quick gains to the fact that "eastern parts of Deir Ezzor are desert and not densely populated."

The DEMC's advance is being backed by the US-led coalition battling IS in Iraq and Syria since 2014, while the regime's push on the city is being supported by its Russian allies. The coalition, the SDF, Syria's government and Russia have agreed on a "de-confliction line" in northeastern Syria to prevent the two assaults from clashing. Regime forces yesterday were locked in fierce clashes with IS southwest of the city as they prepared a push into neighborhoods still held by the jihadists, the Observatory said. According to the War Media channel operated by regime ally Hezbollah, Syrian troops seized full control of the 450-kilometre road linking the capital to Deir Ezzor for the first time in four years. "The Syrian army and its allies now control the entire international highway between Deir Ezzor and Damascus, through the cities of Al-Sukhna and Palmyra," it said, referring to other central Syrian cities recaptured from IS. —AFP



MOSUL: In this photo, seven-year-old Omar from Mosul flies a kite in the Chamakor camp for displaced people in northern Iraq. —AP

SHATTERED BY WAR, SUNNI ARABS DESPAIR OVER FUTURE IN IRAQ

KURDS AIM TO CHANGE DEMOGRAPHICS, IMPOSE CONTROL

KHAZIR CAMP, Iraq: Fawaz Saleh Ahmed has been secretly sneaking into his own village in northern Iraq to visit his home. The last time he went, he wept as he spent several hours going from room to room in the partially destroyed house, he said. When his tears dried, he made his way back to the nearby Khazir camp housing those displaced by war, where he and his family have lived for almost a year. Frustratingly, tantalizingly, he can see his house from there, but the Kurdish forces controlling his village, called Hassan Shami, won't allow him to return to live.

"That is my house there on the hill, do you see it?" said Ahmed, a member of Iraq's once-dominant Sunni Arab minority. He stretched his arm to point. The 39-year-old Ahmed's predicament is part of the wider disaster facing Iraq's Sunni Arabs. Three years of war have freed their lands from the rule of the Islamic State group but have also left the community at its lowest state ever. Sunnis are feeling lost, unsure what their place will be in the country's future and worried that the Shiite majority and the Kurds aim to change the demographics of some Sunni areas to impose their own control.

Sunnis have been barred from returning to their homes in numerous villages and towns that the Kurds seized during fighting with Islamic State militants in a belt of territory across the north stretching down to Iraq's eastern border. Kurdish officials cite security reasons for not allowing residents back, even though IS was driven out of the area late last year. At the same time, the Kurds have repeatedly said they intend to incorporate the captured territory into their own self-rule zone - even

as they plan a referendum for outright independence later this month.

That raises questions over the future of Sunni Arab villages like Hassan Shami. Further south, Iranian-backed Shiite militias that captured mainly Sunni territory have also kept Sunnis from returning to strategic areas between Baghdad and the Iranian border or other areas Shiites consider vital. Sunni Arabs, meanwhile, are faced with the depth and magnitude of their plight. The fear among Iraqi authorities and the Sunnis themselves is that new militant groups could take root unless the community's situation is improved.

Their cities and towns lie in partial ruins from the fight that drove IS out of most of the territories it seized in 2013 and 2014, from northern Iraq through the country's center and across the Sunni heartland of the western Anbar province. Thousands of Sunnis languish in detention for alleged links to the group. The community has suffered massive displacement. Currently, 3.2 million people are displaced, the overwhelming majority Sunni Arabs. Another more than 2 million were displaced previously but have since returned home, according to the International Organization of Migration.

Scramble or languish

Together that would be a staggeringly high proportion of the country's entire Sunni Arab population, which is generally estimated to make up 15 to 20 percent of Iraq's 37 million people. Those who have returned - mainly to Anbar - must rebuild homes and communities, so far with

little help from the government. Those still displaced either scramble to find housing or jobs or languish in camps. More than 400,000 of those displaced in nearly a year of fighting to liberate Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, are housed in 19 camps around the north.

Sunni Arabs have struggled since the 2003 US-led invasion, which brought down Saddam Hussein and opened the door for the Shiite majority to gain power through elections. Sunnis were relegated to second-tier status, igniting an insurgency that brought years of violence and gave rise to al-Qaida and its successor, the Islamic State group. Over those years, divided Sunni politicians were ineffectual, and many Sunni professionals and businessmen left the country.

Some Sunnis talk of trying to form their own self-rule region like Kurdistan. But many are wary, knowing the Sunni-majority areas have far fewer resources. "We Sunni Arabs are the weakest link in Iraq today. But trust me, this country will not be stable and strong again unless we assume a leading role in how the country is run," said Adnan Abu-Zeid, a school teacher from Mosul. But this kind of bravado masks a widespread despair.

"Back in 2003, we wanted democracy and freedoms. Look where that got us," said an embittered Ghazi Hamad, displaced from Mosul. "We have now lowered our expectations. Any government is good for us, as long as it makes us feel safe. We will happily live on the sidelines." Hossam Ahmed, a 24-year-old student displaced from Mosul, spoke nostalgically of Saddam, though he would have only been 11 when the autocrat was ousted. —AP

US HISTORIAN WHO TRIED TO SAVE AFGHANISTAN'S HERITAGE DIES AT 89

KABUL: American historian Nancy Hatch Dupree, who dedicated much of her life to preserving Afghanistan's heritage, died in a Kabul hospital yesterday aged 89. Tributes poured in for the woman sometimes referred to as Afghanistan's "grandmother", who was widely respected for her efforts to safeguard the war-torn country's history and culture. Dupree first arrived in the Afghan capital in 1962 as the wife of a US diplomat. In the city she met her second husband, the late American archaeologist Louis Dupree, and developed a lifelong passion for the Muslim country.

Over the next five decades she travelled throughout the country, wrote five guidebooks and documented its past. Her death was confirmed by Waheed Wafa, executive director of the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University where tens of thousands of documents preserved by the Duprees are kept. "Very saddened by the death of #NancyDupree. Afghans value and respect

her services of decades for #Afghanistan. Nancy will be missed! RIP," wrote Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on Twitter.


Activist Mariam Wardak posted: "You were a blessing, your work will remain a treasure, you are loved and will be missed by the people of #Afghanistan." "The incredible Nancy Hatch Dupree has passed, 50 years dedicated to preserving Afghanistan's historical docs & artifacts #Kabul #Afghanistan," wrote actress Fereshta Kazemi. US special charge d'affaires Hugo Llorens, America's top diplomat in Afghanistan in the absence of an ambassador, said Dupree had been a "pillar of the American community in Afghanistan" and would be "forever remembered".

Relentless

Dupree and her husband lived in Afghanistan until the late 1970s when they were forced to leave by the communist

government. They spent time in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, helping Afghan refugees from the conflict during the Soviet occupation of 1979-89 and collecting documents relating to Afghanistan. Dupree's husband died in 1989 and she moved back to Afghanistan after the US-led invasion in 2001 toppled the ruling Taliban. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani

once reportedly described her as "relentless in the face of adversity". With the help of the new government, Dupree created a centre to preserve her priceless collection of records for researchers. The Afghanistan Center houses more than 100,000 documents in the country's two official languages, Dari and Pashto, as well as English and other European languages. —AFP



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of KUWAIT

FACULTY OPENINGS (2017-2018 AY)

The College of Arts & Sciences at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) invites applications for academic positions in the following fields:

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
(Position Code No. 17-901-09):

Candidates should have a Ph.D. Degree in Systems Engineering or a closely related field, with previous experience in a similar position. The position will remain open until filled. **Priority given to Kuwaiti Nationals.**

LAB INSTRUCTORS
(Position Code No. 17-902-09):

Successful candidate will conduct practical sessions in the field of Machines and Power Systems. Candidates should have a Master Degree in Electrical Engineering or a closely related field, with previous experience in a similar position. The position will remain open until filled and is for Local residents only.

For more details about both positions, please visit the careers page on the AUK website.


AUK offers competitive compensation, as well as an attractive and comprehensive benefits package. Contracts are issued for 3 years and are renewable.

Candidates should submit a current CV, writing samples (two), graduate transcript, teaching evaluations, three letters of reference, and a cover letter describing how their teaching and research fits within the mission of the American University of Kuwait.

Application packages are to be submitted electronically to:
faculty@auk.edu.kw (max. 10 MB per e-mail).

In completing your application, please quote the position code number, and the newspaper. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

www.auk.edu.kw



condolences

The Management and Staff of
EQUATE Petrochemical Company
wish to offer their heartfelt
condolences to

Mr. Tasawar Hussain
EH&S Department
On the sad demise of his

Brother

May his soul rest in peace and may
God grant comfort and strength to the
bereaved family members during this time

9/11 MEMORIAL TO INCLUDE NAMES OF SICKENED RESPONDERS

POINT LOOKOUT: A Long Island beach where people gathered and watched in horror as the distant World Trade Center towers collapsed on Sept 11, 2001 is the site of the latest memorial to victims of the terror attacks and among a growing number that honor people who died of illnesses years after participating in the rescue and recovery effort. The monument, built by the town of Hempstead near the Atlantic Ocean on Long Island's south shore, features a twisted, 30-foot-tall beam of Trade Center steel, an elevated walkway and granite plaques engraved with the names of the nearly 3,000 people who died in the attacks.

A separate plaque will have the names of 582 police officers, firefighters, construction workers, cleanup volunteers and others who spent time in the rubble of the World Trade Center in the days or months after the attacks and, years later, died of a variety of causes that they, their families or their doctors suspected were linked to toxic ash and smoke at the site. There will be room to add more names.

"I think what the town of Hempstead is doing is nothing short of honorable," said John Feal, a long-time advocate for 9/11 responders with health problems. "People who lost a loved one to illness suffer just like someone lost on that day. Hopefully this will offer some ease and comfort to them." Hempstead will officially dedicate its \$1.3 million memorial at a service today, the 16th anniversary of the attacks. It joins a short but growing list of similar memorials recognizing people who fell ill after participating in the rescue and recovery operation.

In May, officials at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum announced plans to set aside a commemorative space at the World Trade Center to honor rescue and recovery workers. New York's police and fire departments also have memorials for personnel who have died of illnesses since Sept 11. A 9/11 memorial in Staten Island recently added a plaque with the names of residents there who have died of illnesses. Feal's charitable organization also maintains a memorial wall to 9/11 responders in Nesconset, New York.

"I truly believe that everyone there that day was a hero," said Robert Gies, who was 13 when his father, New York City Fire Department Lt. Ronnie Gies, died in the south tower. "Whether they died on 9/11 or four years later, every person is a hero. Those people who worked there in the aftermath in those hazardous conditions, those people touch my heart. They rushed there to save and find my father. They found him and he was able to be laid to rest. That's huge closure." Researchers continue to study the long-term health impact on people exposed to sooty air at the Trade Center site.

Determining how many people had serious illnesses directly linked to that exposure is a challenge, especially because many of the people involved are now of an age where health problems, like cancer, are quite common. Roughly 30,000 people have applied to the government compensation fund for people with illnesses they think might be related to 9/11. Officials overseeing the fund still are reviewing those claims but have so far awarded \$3 billion. About 2,700 of the 17,400 people whose claims

have been approved have cancer. Through the end of August, 144 of the approved claims involved someone who died of an illness that made them eligible for compensation. That doesn't mean the government has concluded that their illness was definitely caused by toxins unleashed on 9/11. The program was designed to cover anyone who could show they were exposed to World Trade Center smoke, dust and ash and was subsequently diagnosed with an illness that, at least theoretically, might be caused by some of the chemicals present at the site.

Hempstead officials said their criteria for inclusion on their memorial mirrored rules set by Feal for a similar list of dead that he maintains. In addition to the steel beam, planted like a flag, and the plaques with names, the memorial park includes a table inscribed with the Walt Whitman poem "On the Beach at Night." The east side of the park features a pear tree grown from a seedling from the so-called "Survivor Tree" that lived through the destruction at ground zero.



MEXICO: Member of the 'Topos' (Moles) specialized rescue team search for survivors in Juchitan de Zaragoza, Mexico. — AFP

MEXICO QUAKE KILLS 65, DEADLY STORM STRIKES

FAMILIES CAMP IN STREETS, FEAR AFTERSHOCKS

JUCHITAN DE ZARAGOZA, Mexico: Rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble and grieving families carried coffins through the streets Saturday after Mexico's biggest earthquake in a century killed 65 people, while elsewhere two died in mudslides unleashed by storm Katia. Officials raised the death toll from Thursday night's quake as more bodies were found in the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

In the town of Juchitan, Oaxaca, hundreds of families spent the night camped in the streets, too scared to go back inside for fear of aftershocks. The Mexican Seismological Service reported 721 aftershocks. On Saturday, people in Juchitan queued up for food at a shop window as families carried flowers and wreaths, and eventually coffins. Ignacio Chavez said his son died in the quake. "He didn't have time to get out and the building completely collapsed," Chavez said.

"It was a very old building, over 200 years old, and unfortunately out of the seven people who were inside only four were able to be rescued. The other three died." Authorities raised the overall death toll throughout Saturday. In Juchitan, emergency teams with search dogs found the body of a policeman under the rubble of city hall. Federal civil protection chief Luis Felipe Puente

told Televisa three more people were found dead in Chiapas state.

Record quake

President Enrique Pena Nieto described the quake as "the largest registered in our country in at least the past 100 years" — stronger even than a devastating 1985 earthquake that killed more than 10,000 people in Mexico City. Mexico's seismology service measured Thursday's quake at magnitude 8.2. The US Geological Survey measured it at 8.1 — the same magnitude as the 1985 disaster.

The epicenter of Thursday's quake was in the Pacific Ocean, about 100 kilometers off the town of Tonala in Chiapas. AFP reporters in Tonala saw residents salvaging belongings from their ruined houses. "All my body is shaking," said local man Roberto Olivera, 39. "Every time a car passes by, I feel like it's an earthquake."

Child victims

Pena Nieto earlier toured Juchitan, its streets a maze of rubble, with roofs, cables, insulation and concrete chunks scattered everywhere. He said authorities were working to "restore water and food supplies and provide medical attention to those affected." "I can't remember an earthquake

this terrible," said Vidal Vera, 29, one of around 300 police officers who dug through the rubble. "I don't know how you can make sense of it. It's hard. My sister-in-law's husband died. His house fell on top of him." In Tabasco state, two children were among the dead, officials said. One was crushed by a collapsing wall. Another, an infant on a respirator, died after the quake triggered a power outage.

'My house fell down'

Meanwhile, Katia made landfall in the neighboring state of Veracruz as a Category One hurricane. It was later downgraded to a tropical storm, before petering out on Saturday. In Xalapa, the capital of the eastern state of Veracruz, "two people died in mudslides" triggered by the rainstorm, Puente said. In Tecolutla, a coastal town of 8,000 residents, trees and branches were felled as families hunkered down to weather the storm.

Puente said rivers that flooded in Veracruz had damaged 235 homes and affected more than 900 people. "My house fell down at about one o'clock in the morning. I was hiding in another house," Castellano Espinosa, a 75-year-old tour guide said in Tecolutla. "I got out in time with my important belongings and papers." She was trying to sell some of her belongings to buy food. —AFP

BUSINESS AS USUAL: SPAIN'S NO NONSENSE APPROACH AFTER TERROR

MADRID: The jihadist attacks that struck Madrid in 2004 and Barcelona in August may have been 13 years apart, but the two cities reacted exactly the same way: by returning to normalcy as fast as possible. Madrid remains to this day the scene of Europe's deadliest ever jihadist attack, when Al Qaeda-inspired extremists planted a dozen bombs on commuter trains in March 2004, killing 191 people. Manuela Yela de la Torre, a confectionery vendor whose shop was directly in front of the ramps leading to the platforms at the city's Atocha station, remembers every second of what followed.

"I heard a rumbling noise, an explosion; I saw the turnstiles spinning and people coming out," she says. Yet by 6:00 am the next morning she had replaced the ceiling tiles, which had tumbled down in the bombings, and cleaned away the thick layer of dust. She opened the shop as usual. "If a son or a family member had been killed, that would have been more difficult," said the 59-year-old, whose friend lost two cousins in the attacks. "But I was on the outside."

Maria, who lives on the street next to the station, has a similar memory of how quickly things went back to normal in 2004. "People continued to walk around, to take the train," said the laundry worker, declining to give her last name. "You have to go back to living, or else you stay stuck in the moment. It's very hard, but you have to move forward."

Back to politics

On Barcelona's Las Ramblas boulevard, where a 22-year-old rammed a truck into a crowd on August 17, killing 14 people in an assault claimed by the Islamic State group, tourists had likewise flocked back by the following day. The candles, teddy bears and flowers left for the victims were cleared away by local authorities two weeks later. "Life is coming back," said Montserrat Rovira, head of emergency social services in Barcelona, who was tasked with providing psychological support to the families of the

victims and others suffering from post-traumatic stress after the attack.

In another sign of the rapid return to reality, political squabbling resumed almost immediately between Madrid and the Catalan capital Barcelona, bitterly divided over a planned independence referendum in the northeastern region. Despite the sombre occasion, separatist activists jeered King Felipe VI and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy during a huge march against terrorism that saw tens of thousands of people take to Barcelona's streets.

The 2004 attacks took place three days before general elections, and the carnage heavily influenced the result-toppling the ruling conservatives, who faced damning accusations that their participation in the war in Iraq alongside the US had made Spain a target for jihadists. The government of then-prime minister Jose Maria Aznar insisted the attacks were likely the work of Basque separatists, even after they were claimed by Al-Qaeda.

"What's most striking compared to the United States or France was the absence of national unity," said Olivia Munoz-Rojas, a Spanish sociologist based in Paris. She points to Spain's experience of the ETA insurgency, blamed for the deaths of 829 people over 40 years in its quest for an independent Basque homeland, as one potential reason for citizens' "resilience" in the aftermath of more recent terror attacks.

Lived through a lot

"We've lived through a lot of attacks," said Maria, recalling how an ETA bomb at Atocha station had shaken the floor of her launderette long before the 2004 bombings. "We've internalized it, so we try to get back to normal life as quickly as possible." ETA's deadliest attack was in 1987 when it bombed a shopping centre in Barcelona, killing 21 people. Munoz-Rojas suggested that the fact that Spain lived under a dictatorship for more than three decades until Francisco Franco died in 1975 may also have left its mark. —AFP



MADRID: This file photo shows people holding umbrellas during a protest a day after the rail bombings in Madrid. —AFP

POPE VIES WITH NARCO FOR REVERENCE IN COLOMBIAN CITY

MEDELLIN, Colombia: In her hair salon, Yamile Zapata is taking advantage of Pope Francis's visit to sell key rings with his face on it. But that's not where the real money is in Medellin. Most of the gifts she sells in this Colombian city bear the mustachioed face of its own saint and anti-hero: Pablo Escobar, late boss of the cocaine cartel immortalized in the hit Netflix series "Narcos." While Francis was ministering and teaching as a Jesuit priest in the 1980s, Escobar was killing hundreds of people and trafficking billions of dollars' worth of hard drugs.

"Everyone wants a pope souvenir right now. But Pablo sells better," said Zapata, 34, as the city prepared for Francis's open-air papal mass Saturday. Francis offered words of sympathy for victims of drug-related violence in the city. But in spite of it all, some in Medellin remember Escobar fondly. "I only believe in God. But what I do shows the good that Pablo did," Zapata said. "People in this neighborhood don't talk about the bad things, because here everybody loves him."

Pablo Escobar district
Authorities hunted Escobar down in 1993, putting an end to what was then the biggest drug empire in the world. But for people living in the houses he built in a Catholic district of Medellin in the 1980s, it was more like the kingdom of heaven. In Yamile's neigh-

borhood, Escobar built 260 houses for slum-dwellers in the 1980s. The settlement has since swelled to include some 6,000 homes. "Welcome to the Pablo Escobar district," read a sign at the entrance to the neighborhood, with an image of him. "Here, we live and breathe peace."

More than two decades have passed since police shot Escobar dead on a Medellin rooftop with assistance from US agents. Yet even in death, Escobar is getting people addicted to the numerous television series, films and books about him. In addition to styling hair, Zapata sells mugs and t-shirts of "Pablo." Since changing the name of her salon to Escobar's nickname, "El Patron," her customer base has doubled.

Drugs and religion

Pope Francis came to Colombia to support its efforts to end a civil conflict that was fueled by drug trafficking. The government has made peace with the country's biggest rebel force, the FARC, which financed its armed campaign through cocaine as well as extortion. The United Nations ranks Colombia as the world's biggest producer of coca, the raw material for the drug. Francis spared a thought for young people "so often deceived and destroyed by the hit men of the drug trade," in one of his addresses. —AFP



BOGOTA: Pope Francis waves from the pope mobile as he leaves the nunciature for the CATAM military airport on his way to Cartagena, in Bogota on his last day in the country. —AFP

STATELESS SAAKASHVILI TO ATTEMPT UKRAINE ENTRY

PRZEMYSL, Poland: Stateless former Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili says he is determined to return to Ukraine yesterday, to reclaim the Ukrainian citizenship which was stripped from him, although he runs the risk of being arrested at Tbilisi's request. In Ukraine, outspoken ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko threw her support behind Saakashvili yesterday, meeting the 49-year-old firebrand in the southern Polish town of Rzeszow as he headed to the Korczowa border crossing where guards are expected to refuse him entry.

"We've come to defend Mikheil, but we're also here to defend Ukraine," Tymoshenko told reporters, comparing today's Ukraine to that of pro-Russian former president Viktor Yanukovich, who was overthrown in 2014 following mass protests in Kiev. Saakashvili claimed that "several hundred thugs were mobilized by the Ukrainian government to stop several thousand" of his supporters waiting to greet him at the border. The Kiev government is "panicking," Saakashvili said, adding that he did "not want to overthrow President (Petro) Poroshenko" but just to defend his rights.

'Future president'?

"We believe in the fact that Mikheil Saakashvili can lead our country out of the crisis," Lyudmyla Goretzka, a supporter who had traveled from the distant Kiev region, told AFP in Krakovets on the Ukrainian side of the border. "We do not need much, we see what he did in his own country (Georgia) and that's enough for us," Goretzka said of Saakashvili, who set up the Movement of the New Forces political party in Ukraine. "The main problem in our country is corruption... We need to overcome the oligarchy."

Another supporter, Maria, 49, who declined to give her surname, told AFP she believes "Saakashvili is the future president" of Ukraine. "I believe that he will change the situation in Ukraine, he will finish the war" with Russia. The charismatic Saakashvili is credited with pushing through pro-Western reforms in his native Georgia which he led from 2004 to 2013. He is currently wanted in his homeland for alleged abuse of power—something he denies—during a tumultuous nine years as president that saw him fight and lose a brief war against Russia in 2008. —AFP

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MODI, ABE TO KICK-START INDIA'S 1ST BULLET TRAIN PROJECT

AHMEDABAD, India: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will break ground on India's first bullet train project on Thursday in western Gujarat state, as the country seeks faster travel for millions. Modi has pledged to invest billions of dollars to modernize India's creaking railway system, with the bullet train one of his key election promises ahead of his landslide victory in 2014.

The leaders will lay the foundation stone of the high-speed rail network between Ahmedabad—the capital city of Modi's home state—and India's financial hub of Mumbai on September 14, a statement by the Gujarat government said Saturday. Japan is a pioneer in high-speed rail networks, and its Shinkansen bullet train is among the fastest in the world. Japan will provide 85 percent of the total project cost of \$19 billion in

soft loans. The train will reduce the travel time between the two cities from eight to three-3.5 hours, and is expected to complete by December 2023. It will have a capacity of 750 passengers.

India's traditional railway network is the world's fourth largest by distance and remains the vast country's main form of travel, with 22 million passengers commuting daily. But passengers have to often endure chronic delays in

journeys on the British-era network, where only a few trains hit 100 miles per hour, and which has been hit by series of deadly crashes in past years. Modi recently replaced his railway minister after a series of derailments, including one last month which killed at least 23 passengers in the northern Uttar Pradesh state.

In November, 146 people died in a similar disaster in Uttar Pradesh. Abe's

two-day visit to Ahmedabad comes ahead of Modi's 67th birthday yesterday. Modi has a history of 'birthday diplomacy' in his home state, hosting Chinese President Xi Jinping in Gujarat on his birthday in 2014. The two leaders are expected to sign several agreements during the visit and inaugurate a Japanese industrial park in the state that already hosts Honda and Suzuki auto plants.—AFP

News

in brief

N Korea's 'global threat' requires global response

LONDON: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday that North Korea's nuclear and missile program represented a "global threat and requires a global response". In an interview with the BBC, he also refused to say whether an attack on the Pacific US territory of Guam would trigger the military alliance's collective defense clause. "The reckless behavior of North Korea is a global threat and requires a global response, and that of course also includes NATO," Stoltenberg told "The Andrew Marr Show". "We call on Korea to abandon its nuclear programs, its missile programs, and to refrain from more testing, because this is a blatant violation of several UN security resolutions and it's a threat to international peace and stability."



KUTUPALONG: An injured elderly woman and her relatives rush to a hospital in an auto rickshaw, near the border town of Kutupalong, Bangladesh.—AFP

Myanmar accused of laying mines after refugee injuries

COX'S BAZAR: Myanmar's military has been accused of planting land mines in the path of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in its western Rakhine state, with Amnesty International reporting two people wounded yesterday. Refugee accounts of the latest spasm of violence in Rakhine have typically described shootings by soldiers and arson attacks on villages. But there are at least several cases that point to anti-personnel land mines or other explosives as the cause of injuries on the border with Bangladesh, where 300,000 Rohingya have fled in the past two weeks.

Niger River authorities warn of flooding in Benin, Nigeria

NIAMEY: The Niger Basin Authority issued a warning Saturday of possible flooding in Benin and Nigeria, two countries downstream on the river, which is currently flooding in Niger. "We appeal to all residents downstream (of the Niger River)... because the water keeps rising," the NBA's Soungalo Kone said late Saturday, speaking on Niger television. The NBA has issued its second-highest alert level of orange, warning that further flooding is highly likely following months of heavy rain in Niger and Mali. "It's a question of hours to get to a red alert—the waters can rise very suddenly," said Lawan Magadjji, Niger's minister of disaster management, speaking on local television.—Agencies

India calls on Myanmar to act with restraint in Rakhine

NEW DELHI: India has called for an immediate end to violence in Myanmar's western state of Myanmar, urging its ally to act with restraint as hordes of Rohingya flee to neighboring Bangladesh. "We would urge that the situation in Rakhine State be handled with restraint and maturity, focusing on the welfare of the civilian population alongside those of the security forces," the foreign ministry said in a statement late Saturday. "It is imperative that violence is ended and normalcy in the State restored expeditiously," it said, adding it was concerned about the outflow of refugees. The call came days after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a state visit to the Buddhist-majority country amid spiraling violence in Rakhine that has forced nearly 300,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee.

CLASHES AS ANGER BREW OVER SCHOOLBOY'S SEX ATTACK MURDER IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: Hundreds of protesters clashed with police and burnt down a liquor store in an Indian city yesterday over demands to shut a school where a seven-year-old was killed for resisting a staffer's sexual attack. Authorities said several people were injured. Demonstrators attacked the store near the school in Gurgaon near New Delhi after riot police thwarted their attempt to storm the campus. The boy's body was found in the Ryan International school's lavatory on Friday with his throat slit with a knife. Police said a school bus attendant, who was arrested hours after the incident, had admitted attacking the child after he resisted a sexual assault.

Angry parents had tried to storm the campus on Saturday, a day after they vandalized part of the school building to press demands for criminal charges against the school management. "We had to use force to disperse the protesters after our warning had no effect," Gurgaon police commissioner Sandeep Khirwar said. Residents told television channels the shop was targeted because several staff members had been seen previously consuming alcohol during school hours. Parents have demanded that the school's operating license be cancelled.

Authorities have ordered it closed until further notice to avoid violence. The incident has caused widespread anger and sparked concern over safety standards in schools. India's swelling middle class has fuelled the growth of private schools in a country with a crumbling public education system. On Saturday police arrested a man after he allegedly raped a five-year-old girl inside a classroom in New Delhi. India has a grim record of sexual assaults on minors with 20,000 cases of rape or sexual assault reported in 2015, according to government data. A UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2014 said one in three rape victims in India was a minor. Almost half the abusers are known to the victims.—AFP

INDIA NOBEL WINNER IN CAMPAIGN FOR ABUSED, TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

SATYARTHI HOPES 'INDIA MARCH' SHEDS LIGHT ON EPIDEMIC

NEW DELHI: Bruised and battered from previous campaigns against child labor, India's Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi hopes one million people will join his latest drive starting today against the sexual abuse and trafficking of children. "It is a war on rapes, war on child sexual abuse and trafficking because these are not ordinary crimes and they cannot be solved through the business-as-usual approach," Satyarthi said in an interview.

"Two children are sexually abused every hour. One child goes missing every eight minutes in India and they are not disappearing in thin air," said Satyarthi. "These children are trafficked... sold and bought like animals. Sometimes at lesser prices than animals." More than 9,000 children were trafficked in India in 2016, up nearly 25 percent from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. About 14,000 children were victims of rape and sexual harassment in 2015, data from the National Crime Records Bureau showed.

But those figures may only be the tip of the iceberg, with experts saying the government underestimates the numbers in a country where a shroud of silence surrounds such crimes. Satyarthi hopes his "India March," which will kick off from the country's southernmost tip of Kanyakumari and finish in New Delhi on October 16 after travelling across all 29 states and seven union territories, will open people's eyes to the mounting epidemic.

"We want to awaken the whole nation, we want to raise the consciousness against child sexual abuse and trafficking because it is a hidden menace," he said. Traffickers lure children, mostly from remote villages, with false promises of jobs before selling them off to brothels, factories or gangs which force them into begging. The soft-spoken 63-year-old has been at the forefront of the drive against child labor in India, where over 10 million children are engaged in work, according to UNICEF.

He blames India's "failed" law enforcement, weak prosecution and low conviction rates for their plight, and founded Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Movement to Save Childhood) to rescue children working in horrifying conditions. His teams often stage dangerous dawn raids on mills, dank mines and factories—many manned by armed guards—which employ children.

'Very dangerous'

Satyarthi said his social conscience was awoken when he was about five years old and saw a boy his age outside a school, cleaning shoes. In 1980 he quit his job as an electrical engineer to take up the cudgels on behalf of India's



BANGALORE: This file photo shows Indian Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, right, receiving flowers from schoolchildren prior to a 'Meet the Press' event in Bangalore.—AFP

most vulnerable citizens. The married father of two recalled his first rescue operation in 1981 — at a time when India had no law against child labor. After collecting money by selling his wife's jewelry, he and friends freed 36 children, women and men from a brick kiln in Punjab state where they had been enslaved for 17 years.

"When I was rescuing them, I realized that 'No, they are freeing me from inside' and that is a very, very special realization of freedom, of liberation," he recalled. "And since then I have never looked back and I have kept on freeing children. And on the other hand, they have freed me, giving me enormous joy and a sense of accomplishment." In 2014 Satyarthi jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize with Pakistani child activist Malala Yousafzai.

But his efforts have come at a price. He has been beaten

and faced death threats and attempts at incarceration. Two of his colleagues were murdered. "Of course, it was very dangerous," he said. "I have injuries and scars all over my body. My left foot has been broken, my ribs have been broken, my shoulder is broken and I cannot raise it." "But nothing can stop me." He proudly says his movement has liberated 86,000 children from bonded labor across India and has activist networks in more than 140 countries.

In the 1990s he organized the Global March Against Child Labor, an international coalition of groups aiming to free millions of children from slavery worldwide. "Earlier I fought against child slavery and child labour. Now I'm waging this war against rape and sexual abuse," he said. "This is not some other person's problem. This is your problem. It can happen with anyone, anywhere."—AFP

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE SAYS DICTATOR MARCOS IS A HERO

BATAK, Philippines: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte hailed late dictator Ferdinand Marcos as a hero for many Filipinos during a weekend of emotional celebrations by supporters of the former strongman ahead of his 100th birth anniversary today. Duterte's latest remarks are part of an escalating campaign to rehabilitate the image of Marcos and help the family's remarkable political comeback with the dictator's widow a congresswoman and their son angling to become vice-president.

The outspoken Duterte, who has previously hailed Marcos as the country's best-ever president, has declared the anniversary a holiday in Marcos's home province of Ilocos Norte where they still wield political power. "He was a president. To the Ilocanos, he was the greatest president. Why do we have to debate on that?" Duterte said late Saturday. "As far as the Ilocanos (are) concerned, Marcos is a hero," he added, calling criticisms of the former leader "hogwash" and "garbage". Duterte, who has himself faced accusations of major human rights abuses, is a friend of the Marcos family and has played a key role in bolstering their efforts to regain the top echelons of political power.

Marcos misdeeds

Marcos, who was ousted in an army-backed popular revolt in 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii three years later, has been accused of embezzling billions of dollars from state coffers during his rule. Anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International in 2004 named him the second most corrupt leader of all time, behind Indonesian dictator Suharto. The dictator

also oversaw widespread human rights abuses to maintain his grip on the country and enable his plundering, with thousands of people killed, tortured or imprisoned, rights advocates and previous Philippine governments said.

However no member of the Marcos clan has ever gone to prison and the family has made a stunning political comeback in recent years. They have hosted various events in Ilocos in recent days showcasing the rule of their patriarch, including a Catholic mass and the unveiling of a plaque on Sunday at the family's ancestral home town of Batak. Batak resident Lita Lampitoc, 72, summed up the adulation, saying: "We are Ilocanos so we are all for Marcos."

Asked about the opposition to him, she said: "They do not know Marcos, we know Marcos. We don't know anything about those angry at Marcos." At the unveiling of the plaque, Rene Escalante, head of a national historical commission, acknowledged differing views on Marcos's leadership style but said his administration "had a great contribution on strengthening the nation". The marker mentioned how Marcos declared martial law in 1972, adding "he carried out programs, projects and laws under the slogan 'the New Society'".

Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the dictator's son, said the marker was a "final recognition of my father's 21 years as president and 21 years of work as the primary nation-builder of our country". The Marcos son, who lost the vice-presidential election last year, has filed an election protest in hopes of overturning the result. Duterte, who was elected separately, has endorsed the protest.—AFP



BATAK: Policemen stand in formation during celebrations to mark his 100th birthday of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in Batak, Ilocos Norte province, north of Manila.—AFP



PYONGYANG: This file photo shows North Korea's intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 lifting off from the launching pad at an undisclosed location near Pyongyang.—AFP

NORTH KOREA LEADER PRAISES PERFECT SUCCESS OF NUCLEAR TEST

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un praised the "perfect success" of the country's sixth and largest nuclear test and urged further weapons development, according to state media yesterday, in the face of a US drive for tough new sanctions. Pyongyang held a banquet, concert and performances in a weekend display of pageantry to celebrate the September 3 nuclear test, which the North said was a hydrogen bomb that could be fitted onto a rocket.

The blast, which came weeks after the country fired off two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that appeared to bring much of the mainland US into range, prompted global condemnation and calls to ramp up sanctions against the isolated nation. But the North's leader appeared deaf to the international outrage and hailed the "perfect success in the test of H-bomb" at a dinner to congratulate the scientists and technicians behind the nuclear program, the official Korean Central News Agency reported yesterday.

Dubbing the latest test the "great auspicious event of the national history," he called for "redoubled efforts" to complete the country's mission to fully become a recognized nuclear power. A two-page spread carried by the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper yesterday

showed photos of Kim and his wife Ri Sol-Ju attending a special concert held for the nuclear scientists and technicians.

A slew of brazen tests in recent months, which contravene existing United Nations sanctions, has sparked surging tensions over the North Korean weapons program. Pyongyang says it needs nuclear arms to protect itself, but the US has accused the isolated nation of "begging for war". In an interview published yesterday United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the showdown over North Korea's nuclear and missile program was the world's worst crisis "in years" and had left him deeply worried.

"We have to hope that the seriousness of this threat puts us on the path of reason before it is too late," said Guterres in the French Sunday newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche. He also called for unity in the UN Security Council, which is set to consider a new draft resolution presented by Washington in recent days that would be the toughest-ever imposed on North Korea. The US is calling for an oil embargo on the North, an assets freeze on Kim Jong-Un, a ban on textiles and an end to payments of North Korean guest workers. It is hoping for a Monday vote though both China and Russia are thought to have raised opposition to the measures.—AFP

WARPLANES HIT DEIR EZZOR, KILLING 34

Continued from Page 1

The DEMC's advance is being backed by the US-led coalition battling IS in Iraq and Syria since 2014. The coalition, the SDF, Syria's government and Russia have agreed on a "de-confliction line" in northeastern Syria to prevent the two offensives from clashing. Regime forces were yesterday also locked in fierce clashes with IS southwest of the city as they prepared a push into neighborhoods still held by the jihadists, the Observatory said.

According to the War Media channel operated by regime ally Hezbollah, Syrian troops seized full control of the 450-kilometre road linking the capital to Deir

Ezzor for the first time in four years. "The Syrian army and its allies now control the entire international highway between Deir Ezzor and Damascus, through the cities of Al-Sukhna and Palmyra," it said, referring to other central Syrian cities recaptured from IS.

"The international highway had been unusable in the area between Al-Sukhna and Deir Ezzor for four years." Since 2014, IS has held about 60 percent of the city and much of the surrounding province. Syria's conflict erupted in 2011 with protests demanding that Assad step down, but it has since evolved into a complex, multi-front war. More than 330,000 people have been killed and millions have fled their homes, but international attempts to reach a peace deal have faltered. — AFP

EGYPT, ONCE THE TOP HEPATITIS C SUFFERER...

Continued from Page 1

The blood-borne virus can cause serious damage to the liver before being detected, and can be fatal. About 20 percent of those who become infected get better without treatment, but the rest can remain infected for up to 30 years without showing symptoms. "Just about every family in Egypt is touched by Hepatitis C," World Health Organization official Dr Henk Bekedam wrote in a 2014 report on the disease, which the agency said was killing about 40,000 Egyptians a year.

Since 2006, Egypt has carried out surveys to determine the epidemic's spread and negotiated cheaper drugs from abroad. However, its first breakthrough came when the US-based Gilead Sciences pharmaceutical company developed Sovaldi, a cure approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2013.

Egypt negotiated a deal to reduce the price of a course of treatment from \$84,000 (70,000 euros), or \$1,000 a pill, to a fraction of that. The National Committee for Control of Viral Hepatitis set up a website so sufferers could access the drug. "The first day we had 100,000 patients, the second day 100,000 patients registered, and the following week 50,000 patients daily," said Manal Hamdy El-Sayed, a founding member of the committee running the program.

"People were waiting impatiently," she said. The next

breakthrough came in 2015 when Egypt began to manufacture the drug locally, reducing the price for the full course to just \$83, the committee's executive director Kadry Al-Saeed said. Waiting lists for the cure ended in July 2016, and the government is now searching for an estimated three million Egyptians who carry the virus without knowing it, Saeed said.

Now an Egyptian company has capitalized on the low cost of the cure locally to attract patients from abroad, where the drug is seen as exorbitantly priced. Tour N' Cure treats visiting patients for about eight percent of the treatment's cost abroad. "We treat patients in almost all countries," said Mostafa El-Sayed, the campaign's managing director. The company says \$7,000 covers flights, a week's accommodation, blood tests and treatment-and five days of tourism in Egypt.

Patients return home with the remainder of the medicine while Egyptian doctors follow up with them. Mirel Damboiu, 59, from Romania, heard about the treatment through his daughter and son-in-law. "The treatment was successful from the first five days," said Damboiu. "In Romania this treatment is not available to buy," while another treatment available there would have been "very invasive," he said. Damboiu will have his final round of treatment in September before undergoing final tests. — AFP

DEADLY IRMA PLOWS INTO FLORIDA

Continued from Page 1

More than 430,000 homes and businesses were already without power, mainly in southern Florida, according to utility company Florida Power and Light, which said it had "safely shut down" one of two nuclear reactors at its Turkey Point power plant.

Take shelter

At least 25 people have been killed since Irma began its march through the Caribbean, smashing through a string of islands from tiny Barbuda on Wednesday, to the tropical paradises of St Barts and St Martin, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Turks and Caicos. Terrified Cubans who rode out Irma in coastal towns-after it made landfall Friday as a maximum-strength Category Five storm on the Camaguey archipelago-reported "deafening" winds, uprooted trees and power lines, and blown rooftops. There were no immediate reports of casualties but it caused "significant damage," and enormous waves lashed the Malecon, Havana's emblematic seafont, causing seawaters to penetrate deep into the capital, AFP journalists reported. Irma was smacking the Keys 57 years to the day that Hurricane Donna hit the same area in 1960, destroying nearly 75 percent of the island chain's buildings.

The NWS urged Floridians to keep their shoes on, to take shelter in interior rooms-far from windows-and use helmets, mattresses, pillows or blankets for protection. At North Collier Regional Park, a shelter outside Naples, anxious evacuees prayed their loved ones would remain safe. Viviana Sierra, who sought refuge together with her dog, parents and brother, was sanguine about the prospect of finding her home and belongings destroyed. "You can replace material things but your life is very important so I think it's better that we stay here," she said.

Irma was expected to move along or near Florida's southwest Gulf coast later. But the hurricane is so wide that authorities were bracing for destructive storm surges on both coasts of Florida and the Keys. And hurricane-force winds are expected to lash the state as Irma rolls north toward Georgia. The NHC also warned of tornado risks through, with the greatest threat lying in areas east of the storm's path. Strip malls, fast food restaurants and retail giants were closed for business on both of Florida's coasts. MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, the military installation home to US Central Command, issued mandatory evacuation orders ahead of the storm's passage early Monday, while the Kennedy Space Center on the east coast was also closed.

Reprieve from Jose

Warning that Irma would be more powerful than Hurricane Andrew-which killed 65 people in 1992 — Florida's governor had said all 20.6 million of the state's inhabitants should prepare to flee. But some were determined to ride out the storm. Scott Abraham, who lives on the fifth floor of a beachfront apartment building in Miami Beach, planned to ignore evacuation orders and stay put with his wife and two kids. "If I lived in a house I would have left, but if it gets flooded here it's going to take a week at least to come back. I don't want that," he said.

In a welcome reprieve for the Caribbean, a second monster storm, Hurricane Jose-which had been heading toward the same string of islands pummeled by Irma-began to gradually weaken and shift course towards the north. The deteriorating weather had grounded aircraft and prevented boats from getting relief to hard-hit islands. The US military was mobilizing thousands of troops and deploying several large ships to aid with evacuations and humanitarian relief. — AFP

SHEIKH JABER AL-AHMAD CULTURAL CENTER...

Continued from Page 1

with the most prestigious engineering bureaus in the world. The jewel-like designed JACC, which shines in day light and glitters starting from the evening till night, became a platform for cultural exchange between Kuwait and the world, and is a home for many cultural events, he affirmed. The Center consists of four main buildings, three theatres, with the biggest one being the national theatre has the capacity of 2000 seats, as well as "the drama theatre" with 7000

seats. Besides a conference building, there is a spacious cinema theater and historical documents hall.

JACC also hosts a vast activities building, with capacity of 1200 people, and a circular theatre enough for 6000 people, along with many lectures' halls prepared with the latest equipment to support innovative Kuwaitis in various fields. JACC has also won Merit Award for the best international projects offered by INR US specialized magazine in the field of architectural engineering, as the project will be honored in New York in October. — KUNA

RUSSIAN FM IN SAUDI FOR SYRIA, GULF TALKS

Continued from Page 1

in Jiddah, Lavrov said Russia supports Saudi Arabia's efforts to unite the Syrian opposition into one group. Lavrov is scheduled to visit Jordan next. Last month, the Arab diplomatic crisis with Qatar drew

Lavrov to the region, where he met with leaders in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Over the weekend, Saudi Arabia's crown prince and Qatar's ruling emir spoke for the first time since a diplomatic crisis erupted in June, but the call only led to further public squabbling.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar over its ties with Islamist groups and relations with Iran. The four also accuse Qatar of supporting extremist groups. Meanwhile, Qatar has moved to secure even closer ties with Russia through a \$3 billion investment to acquire a stake in Russia's Rosneft oil company. As the world's largest oil producers, Saudi Arabia and Russia have worked closely to curb oil production in an effort to shore up prices, however the two are also in fierce competition for a larger share in China's growing market.

GCC row rages

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia said yesterday it would keep pressuring Qatar until demands by a bloc of Arab states are met, dampening hopes for a US-mediated resolution to a diplomatic crisis. "We will continue to take action and we will maintain our position until Qatar responds," Saudi Foreign Minister said, speaking alongside his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in the

Saudi city of Jeddah.

The bloc's 13 demands include Doha ending its alleged support for Islamist extremist groups, closing a Turkish military base in the emirate and downgrading diplomatic ties with Tehran. Qatar "must respond to these requests in order to open a new page," Jubeir said. The Saudi move came just two days after US President Donald Trump spoke with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar in a bid to mediate. Trump said he believed the dispute could be solved "fairly easily". The Saudi and Qatari rulers spoke by phone on Saturday, raising hope for talks.

But Riyadh later suspended the dialogue, accusing Doha of distorting facts by wrongly implying that Saudi Arabia had initiated the outreach. A United Arab Emirates minister late Saturday voiced support for the Saudi decision on Twitter, accusing Qatar of "wasting an opportunity" to resolve the crisis. "I hope that Doha will stop maneuvering... and act transparently. There is no other way," state minister for foreign affairs Anwar Gargash said on his official Twitter account.

Saudi Arabia led the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain in cutting ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of bankrolling extremist groups and of being too close to Riyadh's regional arch-rival Tehran. Doha denies the accusations. Qatar and Saudi Arabia are both key US allies. Doha hosts a major US air base, home to the headquarters of Centcom-the regional command which leads operations against the Islamic State jihadist group. Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamid Al-Thani is set to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel for talks on September 15, in what will be his first trip to a western capital since the crisis began. — Agencies

SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER 9/11, NEW YORKERS ON...

Continued from Page 1

The episodes of anxiety described by Garcia are a burden borne by many New Yorkers. For those directly affected, the anniversary of the attacks are the "most dreaded date" of the year and post-traumatic stress can remain for an individual's entire life, says Charles Strozier, a psychoanalyst and author of a book that documents the experiences of survivors and witnesses. "There was a collective trauma, the sense of having been proven to be not invulnerable," he says.

"To say that New Yorkers are still traumatized is an exaggeration. But they think about it, they are aware of it, they do have active fears just below the surface of consciousness about things like bombs in the subways," adds the professor, who watched the destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC) from his office just off Union Square. Many are also convinced that, even though recent terror attacks have focused on Europe, it is New York, the beating heart of the Western world, that remains the prime target.

Prime target

"What better target, unfortunately, than NYC?" asks Tim Lambert, an IT consultant. Then, as now, he worked on the southern tip of Manhattan near the WTC site. The city, he says, is a "magnet for people from all over the world... It symbolizes the freedoms that we have, the money that we have. What better way to make a statement?" The 52-year-old says a heavier police presence is now a fact of life that people have come to expect. "I am not comfortable with it, but it is the new norm. The world is changing and the terrorist threat is part of that change," he adds.

They are apprehensions shared by the city's leaders. "Thank God this is not an act of terrorism. It is an isolated incident," Mayor Bill de Blasio said in June when a

doctor went on a shooting rampage in a hospital where he used to work in Bronx, killing one and injuring six. When the car ramming incident happened in May, police chief James O'Neill admitted "the worst went through my mind." To protect its 8.5 million inhabitants, New York has to remain fully prepared.

See something, say something

A 38,000 strong police force that keeps watch over the city's public spaces, a massive network of cameras providing round-the-clock surveillance and a ubiquitous campaign to remind denizens "If you see something, say something," are all reminders of the cost of security. Since 2001, the city has had its own anti-terrorist unit, which today has about 2,000 personnel and representatives in several foreign capitals, according to Robert Strang, president of the New York-based Investigative Management Group.

The agency has at times courted controversy, notably for its program that monitored citizens frequenting the city's mosques which was criticized for being discriminatory. But the intelligence network is essential and overall and has been successful in preventing major new attacks, said Strang. The US financial capital also wants to set an example when it comes to honoring the victims of terror abroad.

After recent attacks in Europe, authorities were quick to offer their condolences and assistance, and turned off the lights at the Empire State Building in a mark of solidarity. And the September 11 Memorial, with its two immense black granite craters, built on the site of the Twin Towers, has become a site of meditation and mourning not just for New York but for the entire world. It's "a memorial to all the terror victims in a way," said Monique Mol, a 52-year-old Dutch tourist. "It is like these people will live forever-like the pyramids and the mummified pharaohs in Egypt." — AFP

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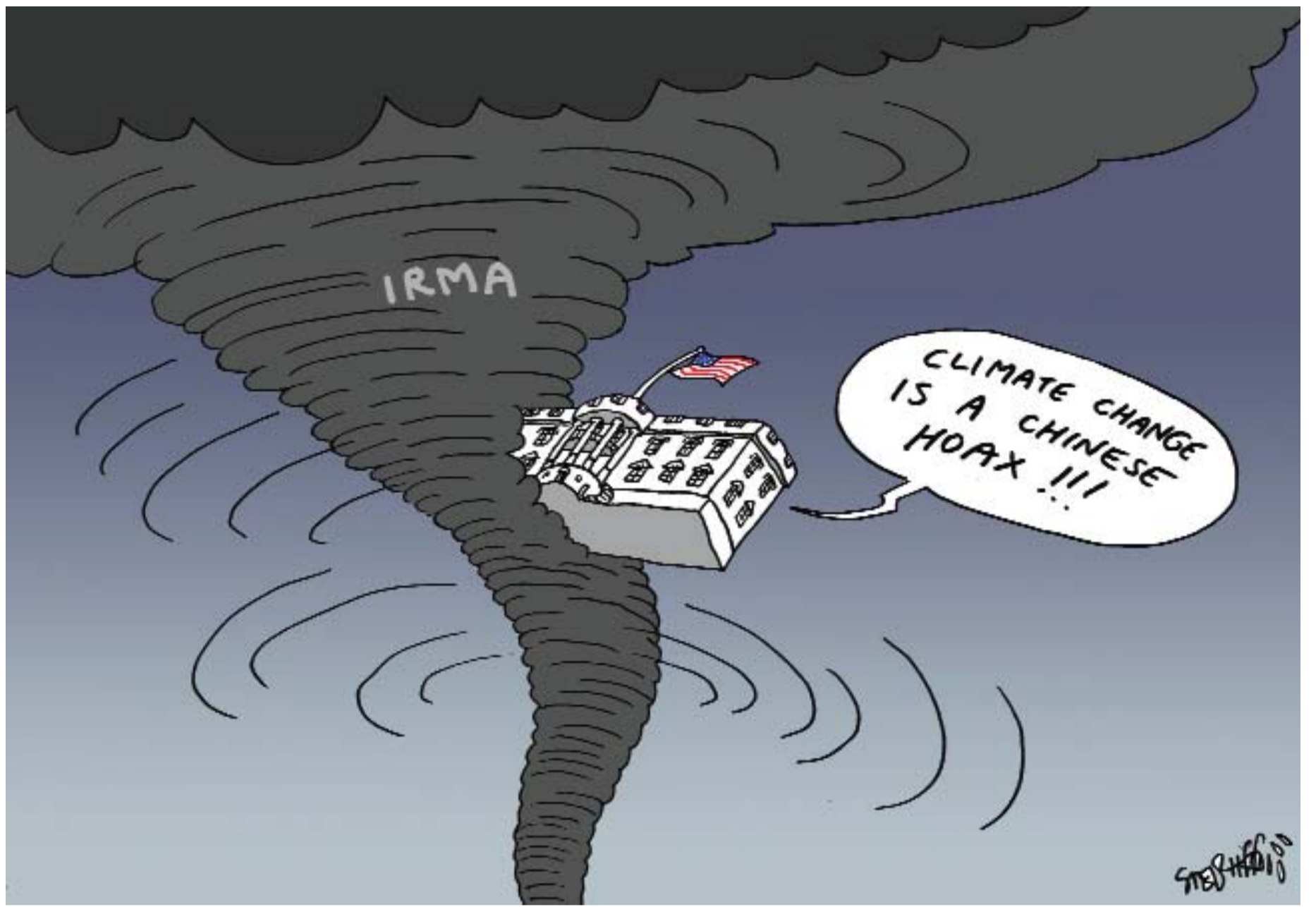
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 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
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Focus

ROHINGYAS RELIVE VILLAGE MASSACRE IN MYANMAR

By Nick Perry

Myanmar soldiers barred the entrance to the mosque, men arrived with machetes and petrol cans and then, according to Rohingya Muslim eyewitnesses, the killing began. "Those that ran were hacked to death. Others that got away were shot by the army," said Master Kamal, a 53-year-old teacher, and one of the survivors of the massacre in Aung Sit Pyin in Myanmar's Rakhine state. "They were burning houses. We fled to save our lives." Kamal told AFP he saw three neighbours-including a father and son-butchered as he fled, making a 10-day trek across monsoon-drenched hills, rivers and fields to Bangladesh. Interviews with about 10 people from the village who found refuge at Balukhali camp in Bangladesh revealed horrific details of the events in Aung Sit Pyin on August 25.

That was the day Rohingya Muslim militants attacked police posts across Rakhine, sparking a violent crackdown that has so far driven almost 300,000 of Myanmar's 1.1 million Rohingya population across the border. The stateless Muslim minority blames Myanmar's army and Buddhist mobs for the widespread killings. The testimony is difficult to verify because access to Rakhine is heavily restricted. Myanmar's government has blamed Rohingya militants for the atrocities, including firebombing their own villages and killing civilians suspected of collaborating with the army.

'Everything was burning'

Mohammad Amin, a 66-year-old farmer whose father was a village chief, said his family had lived in Aung Sit Pyin for three generations. "This is the first time we have fled. I have never witnessed violence like this," said the wiry farmer, wrapped in a tattered blue sarong in a mud-splattered Balukhali shanty. When the shooting began he ran into the jungle to hide, saying he crossed a river to avoid soldiers pursuing civilians.

Families scattered. Amin spent days searching for his seven sons and daughters in the brush, dodging military patrols. "From the other side of the river, I could see everything burning," he said. Myanmar's army says at least 400 people, mainly militants, have been killed in the violence. But there are fears that figure is underestimated, with other Rakhine villages also the target of alleged massacres. Many of the refugees from Aung Sit Pyin reported seeing people slaughtered, or passing corpses cut down or burned as they sprinted in all directions from advancing forces.

Twenty-six families who made it out are now cramped underneath a large tarpaulin sheet in a muddy field behind Balukhali. There are no toilets nor clean water. Some said the journey took seven days. Others said they spent up to 12 days hiding from the military and tackling steep passes and rain-soaked jungle to reach Bangladesh. Anwara Begum said she plunged into a river with her four-year-old son, as soldiers fired at fleeing villagers.

She clung to debris but lost contact with her other five children in the chaos, saying she hid terrified in the hills while helicopters buzzed overhead. "I thought I would never see them again," the 35-year-old told AFP. Her other five children aged 12 to 19 linked up with their father at the border and the family was reunited in Bangladesh, she said. Others have been less fortunate. Nearly 100 people have drowned trying to cross the Naf river on the border, their bodies washing up on the shore. Others have arrived bearing injuries consistent with bullet wounds, or missing limbs from alleged landmines placed to deter evacuees from returning.

'I thought I would die'

The sprawling camps inside Bangladesh have swelled with newcomers like Jamal Hussain, 12, who said his five older brothers were cut down by machine gun fire in Aung Sit Pyin as they ran. He has not seen his parents or seven sisters since. "We were all together but suddenly they started firing. I could not look back, because I thought I would die," the softly-spoken boy said. "When I was hiding, I remembered the whole thing. I started crying." On his shoulder was a welt and scar the size of a small coin, evidence of the splinter of shrapnel or bullet that he said struck his back and passed through. "At first I didn't know what happened, then people behind were saying there was blood on my back," he said. Myanmar considers the Rohingya illegal migrants from Bangladesh and denies them citizenship, even though many have lived in Rakhine for generations. Pressure is mounting on de-facto leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung Sung Suu Kyi to end the violence. — AFP

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ARSA: THE ROHINGYA MILITANTS WHO TIPPED RAKHINE INTO CRISIS

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), the militant group which tipped Myanmar's Rakhine state into a crisis, yesterday declared a unilateral ceasefire until October 9. Deadly attacks by ARSA began on August 25, provoking weeks of operations by Myanmar's troops and police which have sent around 300,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh. A further 27,000 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists are internally displaced as the state is once more devoured by communal and religious violence.

Who are they?

Despite decades of oppression in mainly Buddhist Myanmar, the predominantly Muslim Rohingya have largely refrained from violence. ARSA made itself known as a serious force last October when it carried out deadly attacks on unsuspecting border police, killing a number of them and seizing weapons. The August 25 attacks were bolder and more sustained-striking 30 police posts in one night and then maintaining several days of ambushes as Myanmar security forces hit back.

ARSA initially called itself Harakah Al-Yaqin (the Faith Movement). The front man is Ata Ullah, a charismatic commander who lambasts Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingya in videos and English written statements circulated on their active Twitter account (@ARSA_Official). He is believed to have been born to a Rohingya family in the Pakistani city of Karachi and to have lived in Saudi Arabia. A report by the International Crisis Group 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 Rakhine. Myanmar authorities have previously said ARSA has links to militants trained by the Pakistani Taliban, and have declared it a terrorist organization.

What do they want?

The group uses some of the rhetorical flourishes common to Muslim militants worldwide, opening its messages with Islamic greetings. However there is little evidence so far that it is pursuing a violent Islamist agenda. Instead, members say they want to protect the Rohingya inside Myanmar from persecution by the state and security forces. Myanmar authorities paint a different picture, saying they are Muslim "extremist terrorists" who want to impose Islamic rule over a portion of Rakhine state. The army accuses ARSA of killing ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, animist tribespeople and Hindus during the recent violence. Analysts say the scale of the August 25 attacks was designed to prod the military into a predictably violent over-reaction, drawing global attention to their cause and stirring more rage among the Rohingya.

How big are they?

They are few in number and poorly armed, but their ranks are swelling. Observers believe ARSA only had several hundred trained militants-and many probably died in the recent attacks. But Rohingya refugees who have fled to Bangladesh say young villagers picked up crude weapons-clubs, knives and sticks-and joined their cause in the days after August 25. The military says it has killed 400 militants so far. It has posted photos of the basic weapons seized from people fighting under the ARSA banner, including petrol bombs and improvised explosive devices and has said its forces have been ambushed by groups of up to 150 at a time.

Will they win?

ARSA do not have the capacity to defeat Myanmar's well-armed forces in conventional terms. But they have already spread insecurity that has tipped Rakhine into crisis and potentially created a vast pool of recruits. Around one third of Myanmar's 1.1 million Rohingya have fled the country since August 25. The question is now whether those left behind will join a growing insurgency. Myanmar's troops and police have once again been accused of the rape and murder of Rohingya civilians as well as burning down their villages. Analysts say the situation is ripe for infiltration by networks with a global jihadist agenda such as the Islamic State group.—AFP



MAUNGDAW: Rohingya Muslims cycle along a street in the village of Shwe Zarr, where Myanmar police are providing security due to recent nearby unrest, near Maungdaw township in Rakhine State. — AFP

SLOW RECOVERY FOR IRAQ'S MOSUL AFTER IS OUSTER

By Ali Choukeir

Two months since Iraqi forces recaptured Mosul from Islamic State group fighters, Mohammed Seddiq's bullet-riddled car is still off the road and his fruit and vegetable shop has yet to reopen. Much of Iraq's second city lies in ruins and many businesses are still at a standstill, even those that produced the famous muslin cotton fabric for which Mosul was renowned before the jihadists seized it in 2014. Three years ago, Seddiq, 32, owned two cars, but the jihadists set fire to one and the other was damaged by mortar shells and bullets.

With all the garages still closed in his west Mosul neighborhood, he sought out a mechanic in the industrial zone in the city's east which was less severely damaged by fighting. He expects the repairs to cost \$1,000. In the meantime he will have to pay for taxis using his savings because "the state has announced that it will reimburse for cars and houses, but up to now nothing" has been paid. Many of the cars awaiting repairs at Ghezwan Aqil's workshop were damaged when bulldozer-driving jihadists used them to form barricades against advancing Iraqi troops. Their owners cannot afford to buy new cars and are prepared to wait one or two months for the repairs instead. Aqil says that sometimes he will reduce a customer's bill by half depending on their circumstances.

Even after Mosul's recapture life is uncertain and insecurity is rife. "There have been many burglaries," says taxi driver

Mohammed Salem. "And people have been detained by unidentified groups. No one knows what happened to them," the 33-year-old adds. "There are regular problems between the various armed forces, especially the paramilitary units," Hossam Eddine al-Abbar, a member of the provincial council of Nineveh, of which Mosul is the capital, tells AFP. The presence of the

Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) paramilitary units, dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias, has stirred tensions in the Sunni-majority city.

'Infiltrated by terrorists'

Without genuine reconciliation between communities, there are fears that the country could once again descend into

violence. "The best way to control (armed groups) is to integrate them into the regular forces that enjoy much more trust among citizens than paramilitary forces," Abbar said. Omar Al-Allaf, a local tribal dignitary who oversees Hashed al-Shaabi units, rejects the idea.

His men will never join the police because "they are infiltrated by terrorists", he says. In 2014, as IS staged a rapid advance across northern Iraq, police and military personnel abandoned their posts to the jihadists with barely a fight. That allowed the group to establish its "caliphate" across parts of Syria and a third of Iraq's territory including Mosul. Today, many police in the Iraqi city are demanding their reinstatement, but the process of identification and investigation of each one takes time, Abbar said. "More than 13,000 policemen have yet to return to their jobs despite our requests to the authorities in Baghdad," he added.

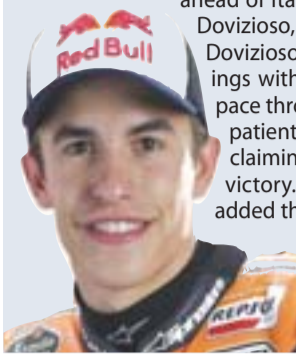
Mosul's famed Old City was reduced to rubble by the fighting and the iconic leaning minaret of its Al-Nuri mosque, the image of which adorns the 10,000 dinar note, left in ruins. For many of Mosul's displaced, it is impossible to envisage a return to a city where, in addition to finding nothing left of their previous life, they risk losing more. In the past year, a million Iraqis have fled their homes in Nineveh province. They joined millions more displaced across the country by fighting in the cities where the jihadists had seized territory. Across the country, all are waiting for reconstruction to begin.—AFP



MOSUL: Iraqi mechanics work in a garage in east Mosul, as they repair vehicles that were damaged during the offensive to retake Iraq's second-largest city from Islamic State (IS) fighters. — AFP

MARQUEZ WINS SAN MARINO MOTOGP

MISANO ADRIATICO: World champion Marc Marquez of Spain won the San Marino MotoGP in slippery conditions yesterday to join Italy's Andrea Dovizioso at the top of the world championship standings. Marquez, on a Honda, finished ahead of Italy's Ducati rider Danilo Petrucci on a wet track with Dovizioso, also on a Ducati, finishing third. Both Marquez and Dovizioso have 199 points in the world championship standings with five races left in the season. "I tried to control my pace throughout the race and in these conditions I had to be patient, but in the end I had to go for it," said Marquez after claiming his fourth win of the season. "It's a very important victory. We have to keep pushing, we have a good level," added the Spaniard with the next race at home in Aragon on September 24. It was a 59th career win for Marquez, who started from third on the grid and took the lead from Petrucci on the final lap to secure his 33rd win the MotoGP category. — AFP

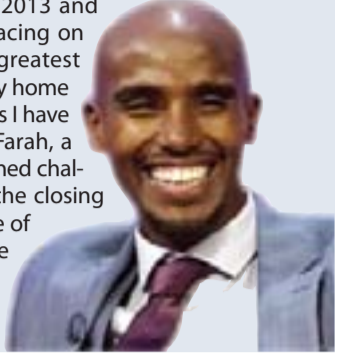


STEINHAUS BECOMES FIRST FEMALE REFEREE IN EUROPE

BERLIN: Germany's Bibiana Steinhaus made history yesterday by becoming the first female referee to officiate a match in a top European league. The 38-year-old police officer became the first woman to ref a top-tier match in the German, English, French, Italian or Spanish leagues when she took charge of Hertha Berlin's home Bundesliga match against Werder Bremen. Having been named on the official list of Bundesliga referees for 2017/18, Steinhaus sat out the first two rounds of German league matches before making her top-tier debut at Berlin's Olympic Stadium. She has been refereeing since 2007 and officiated the women's Champions League final this year plus the 2012 women's Olympic tournament final in London. Steinhaus had already built up a wealth of experience by refereeing around 80 second division games and was the fourth official on numerous occasions in the German league, but this is her first time refereeing in Germany's top flight. — AFP

FARAH WINS GREAT NORTH RUN, ANNOUNCES LONDON BID

LONDON: Britain's Mo Farah announced he will compete in the 2018 London Marathon after winning the Great North Run for a record-breaking fourth successive year yesterday. It will be Farah's third London Marathon after he took part in the event in 2013 and 2014. "I can't wait to start a new adventure racing on the roads in 2018, starting with the world's greatest marathon," he said. "The London Marathon is my home race and it is so special to me. The previous times I have taken part were amazing." Just hours earlier, Farah, a four-time Olympic champion, saw off a determined challenge from New Zealand's Jake Robertson in the closing stages of the Great North Run to finish in a time of one hour and six seconds. The 34-year-old is the first athlete to win the Great North Run four times in a row. — AFP



WALLABIES LACK KILLER INSTINCT, SAYS CHEIKA

PERTH: Coach Michael Cheika says the Wallabies must find a killer instinct after again squandering a winning position to remain winless in the Rugby Championship ahead of their next match against Argentina. The Wallabies led 20-10 early in the second half only for the Springboks to hit back for a 23-23 draw in Perth on Saturday.

That came a fortnight after the Australians relinquished a 17-point lead in a heart-breaking late 35-29 defeat to the All Blacks in Dunedin. The Wallabies have now won only two of their six internationals this year and just eight from 21 Tests since losing the World Cup final to New Zealand almost two years ago.

But Cheika remains steadfast in his belief that his playing group will develop a knack of prevailing in tight finishes. "It comes with that little bit more time and trusting each other together," Cheika said after Saturday's draw.

"There are a lot of newer players within a newer leadership team. 'Now we've got a bit of stability around the group. I'm pretty comfortable with our group of players.' They'll grow together as time goes on now."

The Wallabies face another challenge against the Argentina Pumas in Canberra on Saturday. The Pumas led 22-15 early in the second half before the world champion All Blacks racked up 24 unanswered points to win 39-22 in New Plymouth on Saturday and remain unbeaten after three matches in the Rugby Championship.

"It's always a good match, Australia-Argentina in the recent past, in particular," Cheika said. "It's been open and there's

been a fair bit of footy played, so we're looking forward to taking another step and getting stuck into that match."

Cheika said his team could learn something off Kurtley Beale, who was Australia's best player again, in just his third match back after returning from English club rugby. Beale's tactical kicking ensured the Wallabies played the game at the right end of the field for much of the match.

"For a guy who hasn't played footy since the end of May, he's just come in, played three or four games of footy and killed it," he said. "He's carved it up and he's bitterly disappointed in that dressing room," he said. "He's a guy who we all need to just have that same attitude around wanting it a lot and staying at it."

Cheika also praised 20-year-old debutant hooker Jordan Uelese, who made an earlier than expected appearance off the bench when first-choice hooker Tafa Polota-Nau required a sideline concussion test early in the first half.

"He's a talent. I know one lineup throw went sideways but he threw a good one 5m out, had a run, had a good first scrum and got into it," Cheika said. "He hasn't started a game of Super Rugby and he's come in for 20 minutes of international rugby."

Former skipper and hooker Stephen Moore will be available to face Argentina after missing the Springboks Test to stay in Brisbane for the birth of his third child. Back-row forward Sean McMahon will be assessed after injuring his thigh in the draw. The Wallabies have only lost once to Argentina in 13 Tests at home, the defeat coming in Brisbane in 1983. — AFP



PAU: Pau's New-Zealander fly-half Tom Taylor (C) vies with Lyon's players during the French Top 14 rugby union match between Pau and Lyon yesterday at the Hameau Stadium in Pau, southwestern France. — AFP

RUGBY

EX-ALL BLACK TAYLOR HELPS PAU KICKSTART SEASON AGAINST LYON

PARIS: Ex-All Black Tom Taylor helped kickstart Pau's Top 14 season in a vital 30-14 home victory over Lyon yesterday. Having lost their opening two matches, away from their Stade du Hameau, Pau made no mistake in front of their home fans in sometimes driving rain.

Fijian backs Watisoni Votu (2) and Jale Vatubua crossed for tries with three-times capped All Black playmaker Taylor kicking all three conversions and three penalties for a 15-point haul. Lyon responded with two tries of their own

through Dylan Cretin and Australian international flanker Liam Gill, French veteran half-back Frederic Michalak converting both, but it was never enough in a game Pau had full control of.

"Despite conceding a try at the start of the match, we delivered a controlled first-half, with lots of energy and good off-the-ball work," said Pau coach Simon Mannix, who previously worked with Racing and Munster and is himself a one-cap All Black.

"After that, it was a bit like the weather: dreadful. But we stay

focused... This win was essential for the club but the work must carry on." After the third weekend of Top 14 action, Montpellier are the only unbeaten team after they continued their winning start to the season by edging out Castres 22-17 on Saturday.

The early-season league leaders already have a four-point lead from Racing 92 at the Top 14 summit. Racing had little trouble in beating Brive 25-6, while Bordeaux-Begles made its consecutive home wins to start the campaign after backing up their opening victory over

Clermont by brushing aside Stade Français 30-10.

Arguably the performance of the weekend came, however, by La Rochelle, who crushed defending champions Clermont 51-20. Winger Gabriel Lacroix scored a hat-trick as La Rochelle ran in six tries in a scintillating first half against a Clermont side which had two players yellow carded.

The high-octane game was effectively decided at 43-6 after 40 minutes, with last season's regular-season table-toppers in flying form. — AFP



CASTRES: Castres' and Montpellier's players vie in a maul during the French Top 14 rugby union match between Castres and Montpellier, at the Pierre Fabre Stadium in Castres, southern France. — AFP

COWBOYS END SHARKS TITLE DEFENCE WITH EXTRA-TIME WIN

SYDNEY: The North Queensland Cowboys ended the Cronulla Sharks' National Rugby League title defence with a dramatic 15-14 extra-time elimination final victory yesterday. The Cowboys, without their mercurial Test star Johnathan Thurston, hit the front for the first time in the match in the first period of extra time through a drop goal from Michael Morgan.

North Queensland held on to their advantage to upset the Sharks and set up a semi-final with the Parramatta Eels next weekend. If the 2015 champions knock off Parramatta they will be just one win away from their third grand final in 12 years.

It was the second upset result of the opening weekend of finals football, with the Penrith Panthers ending Manly's season 22-10 in the other elimination final on Saturday. The Panthers will now play a semi-final against the Broncos in Brisbane next weekend.

But Penrith's win was tinged with controversy, with centre Tyrone Peachey awarded a contested try after a ricocheted Bryce Cartwright kick rebounded off his knee and chest before he scored. There was a sugges-

tion the ball could have brushed Peachey's hand on the way from knee to chest. But the television match official was unable to find sufficient evidence to overturn the on-field call of try. Penrith closed out the game through a Cartwright try in the final minute.

Premiership favourites Melbourne Storm survived a Parramatta challenge, winning 18-16 on Saturday to be one game away from this year's grand final. The Storm were expected to win well but Parramatta almost pulled off an upset which would have dampened the post-match celebrations for skipper Cameron Smith's record 356th NRL match.

Melbourne have next weekend off while Parramatta will take on North Queensland. Winger Latrell Mitchell scored a late try to deliver the Sydney Roosters a thrilling 24-22 win over Brisbane Broncos in the other qualifying final on Friday. Mitchell stormed over the line five minutes after the Broncos had looked set to seal a spirited comeback from 14-0 down. The Roosters advance to the preliminary final in a fortnight's time. — AFP

LARSON STEALS WIN IN NASCAR SEASON FINALE

RICHMOND: Kyle Larson and his Chip Ganassi Racing team needed a break, and it came with two laps to go. Running second to a dominant Martin Truex Jr. and itching for fresh tires and a shot at victory in overtime, Larson got it when Derrike Cope's car hit the wall, bringing out the seventh yellow flag of the night. Larson grabbed the lead on pit road and sailed to the victory.

"I guess we stole the win, I guess you could say, or our pit crew, I felt like, stole the win because they got me off as the leader," Larson said. The victory was his fourth of the season, tying Truex for the most this year.

"I'm really pumped for the playoffs, we've got a really good shot at the championship," Larson said. "I've got the greatest team out here and definitely the best pit crew. They were money all night long to gain spots. This win is a huge congrats to them." And to the 58-year-old Cope, who was starting his 13th race of the season and hasn't finished better than 31st. He was 38th at Richmond.

Truex, who clinched the regular-season NASCAR Cup title last week, had the race easily in hand until Cope crashed with under four laps remaining. Truex then wrecked in overtime while racing with Denny Hamlin for position. The sequence cost him his fifth win of the season.

"A caution for a guy who shouldn't even have been out there," Truex said about Cope. "It's kind of ridiculous." Dale Earnhardt Jr. was officially eliminated from the playoffs with a 13th-place finish. He's retiring at the end of the season, and has never won a Cup title. Earnhardt stayed out during late green-flag pit stops, briefly assuming the lead with 66 laps to go, but the caution that could have made the strategy pay off never came. "That's what we needed at the moment, and we didn't get it," Earnhardt said. "It was the only shot we had."

Truex will still start the 10-race playoff stretch as the favorite to win the championship because he earned the most bonus points during the regular season. He and his Furniture Row Racing team were presented with the regular-season championship trophy.

The reward is a slew of bonus points, but Truex feigned a smile because he'd have preferred to have the race winning trophy, too. "Tonight is a little tough, it's a little hard to be excited," he said. He's also got to watch over his shoulder for Larson, who now has a nice bit of a momentum going into the opening round of the



RICHMOND: Kyle Larson, driver of the #42 Target Chevrolet, poses with the trophy in Victory Lane after the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond Raceway on Saturday in Richmond, Virginia. — AFP

playoffs at Chicagoland. The Richmond victory was Larson's first on a short track in the Cup Series. "This has been a dream season for me, and we still have a long way to go," Larson said. Chaos erupted with 140 laps remaining because an ambulance clogged the entrance to pit road as cars headed to their stalls. When traffic bottlenecked, Matt Kenseth ran into the car in front of him, and his contending car was knocked out with a crumpled hood.

"I saw an ambulance sitting there," Kenseth said. "It was an accordion effect and I just couldn't get stopped." The incident could have knocked Kenseth out of the playoffs had there been a first-time winner, but Larson fixed that, allowing Kenseth, Chase Elliott and Jamie McMurray to make the 16-driver field as the only non-winners. Joey Logano and Clint Bowyer, both needing a victory to advance, also suffered damage in the ambulance incident. Logano ran in the top 10 for much of the night, and Bowyer got up into the mix a few times, but Logano's hope to strike lightning never quite materialized. "It's happened to us a few times at Richmond that we didn't have a winning car and we won," he said. "We almost did it again." Logano finished

second, and Bowyer was 24th. Logano did win here in the spring, but the result was "encumbered" by NASCAR when Logano's car was found to have an illegal rear end. Under series rules, Logano was allowed to keep the victory, but it no longer guaranteed him a spot in the playoffs. He also lost playoff points.

LURKING JIMMIE

Seven-time series champion Jimmie Johnson finished eighth, and is feeling upbeat after a struggling summer. "Honestly, over the years and through the various challenges we've faced, I just think the tracks in the spring and the tracks in the fall work the best for us, the same places," he said. "Nothing like Chicago for me, or Dover, Charlotte, Martinsville. Those are great tracks."

BIG RED NOSE

Hometown favorite Denny Hamlin was feeling a bit embarrassed after causing Truex to crash, and costing him the win. Hamlin said he and Truex "drove in really, really deep. When I got on the brakes, the splitter slammed down on the ground and shot me up the track into him. We weren't racing for the win or anything. — AP

IOC PREPARES PARIS, LA AWARD AMID GRAFT STORM

LIMA: The International Olympic Committee opens a week of high-level meetings here today, preparing to rubber-stamp the award of the 2024 and 2028 Olympics as the movement battles a fresh wave of corruption revelations.

For the first time since the awarding of the 1984 Olympics, the usual frenzy of last-minute lobbying and politicking by rival bid cities and heads of state will be strikingly absent in Lima. In a historic move, the IOC has brokered an agreement that will see Paris handed the 2024 Games with Los Angeles awarded 2028.

IOC members are set to greenlight the deal at a meeting on Wednesday following 25-minute presentations by Paris and Los Angeles, the last two cities left in the initial race for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The formal ratification of the 2024-2028 deal will mark the end of a mostly good-natured bidding campaign notable for the number of cities who withdrew from the race citing waning public support and concerns over budget. Hamburg, Rome, Budapest and Boston all fell by the wayside during the competition, reflecting

the political difficulties in persuading voters that staging the Olympics is worth the multi-billion-dollar price tag.

'TOO MANY LOSERS'

IOC President Thomas Bach first signalled publicly that the double-award of an Olympics could be on the agenda in December last year, lamenting that the bidding process produced "too many losers."

As the bidding battle for 2024 unfolded, and as the field thinned to leave Los Angeles and Paris as the last bids standing, the IOC's determination to lock in two high-quality cities for the next two summer games became apparent.

Los Angeles and Paris, who have slick bids which emphasise a high-level of venue readiness, both wowed the IOC's Evaluation Commission during back-to-back visits in May. In July, the IOC announced it would award the staging rights for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics at the same meeting in Lima.

With Los Angeles offered financial sweeteners to step aside for Paris in 2024, the fait accompli that will

be inked this week was confirmed on July 31. Bach, who has saluted the deal as a "win-win-win" for the two cities and the Olympic movement, could not hide his delight after arriving in Lima on Thursday for what should be a drama-free meeting.

'TWO GREAT CITIES'

"It's a very special, it can be a historic decision," Bach said. "There are two great cities. Allocating the Olympic Games is not about quantity, it's about quality. It's finding the best possible host for the best athletes of the world." Paris 2024 bid chief Tony Estanguet said he viewed this week's meeting in Lima as cause for celebration.

"It's been a great campaign, great project, a great team, so we're here to conclude this campaign and to celebrate with LA, because we are not competitors, we are partners now and we will work together," Estanguet told AFP. "It's unique for the IOC, it's unique for Paris and it's unique for LA, so let's do it."

The cloud hovering over what should be a tri-

umphant week for Bach however comes in the form of more corruption allegations which erupted last week and appeared to take the IOC by surprise.

Investigators in Brazil swooped on the country's Olympics chief Carlos Nuzman, who stands accused of plotting to bribe IOC members into awarding Rio de Janeiro the 2016 Games at a 2009 vote in Copenhagen. Former IOC member Nuzman was taken in for questioning with his passport confiscated and a search of his house unearthing around \$150,000 worth in cash in various currencies.

Brazilian police later said they are probing "an international corruption scheme" aimed at "the buying of votes for the election of (Rio) by the International Olympic Committee as the venue for the 2016 Olympics."

The charges swirling around Rio's bid revive memories of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal, which led to 20 IOC members being either kicked out of the Olympics' ruling body or pleading guilty to accepting bribes for votes. — AFP

CYCLING

HISTORIC VUELTA TRIUMPH CEMENTS FROOME'S LEGACY

MADRID: Chris Froome believes he has secured his status as one of cycling's all-time greats as he stands on the brink of a historic Tour de France-Vuelta a Espana double. Froome extended his lead over Vincenzo Nibali to 2min 15sec in Saturday's penultimate stage of the Vuelta with only a traditional parade through Madrid to come yesterday.

The Briton will become only the third rider to ever win the Tour and Vuelta in the same year and the first since the Vuelta was moved to after the Tour in the cycling calendar back in 1995.



Chris Froome

"I could only have dreamed to be in this position, to be making history," said Froome. "To be the first British rider to win the Vuelta. The first rider to win the Tour and go onto win the Vuelta. This is sealing my place in the history of the sport." Froome's Tour de France success last month was the fourth of his storied career.

However, he had always fallen just short previously at the Vuelta as a runner-up in 2011, 2014 and 2016. "Each victory is so different. Each victory tells its own story. Today was such an emotional moment," added Froome, who broke down in tears at the finish line.

"Even more so coming after the Tour de France and having won the Tour, this was

an even bigger challenge. "It's a huge challenge, a huge undertaking, and to reach the summit knowing I have the victory pretty much secured with just the procession into Madrid tomorrow is just such an overwhelming feeling." Filled with brutal mountain climbs like the finale to Alto de l'Angliru on Saturday in conditions varying across three weeks of racing from searing heat in the south to wind and rain in recent days in the north, Froome believes the Vuelta provides an even stiffer test than La Grande Boucle.

'GREATER PHYSICAL CHALLENGE'

"The Vuelta represents a different kind of bike racing. "It's more of a physical challenge than the Tour given the number of mountaintop finishes, the aggression, the conditions we've had. "We've had days of over 40 degrees, days like today of 10 degrees and raining, days of strong winds. It's really brutal."

Having come so close to standing atop the podium in Madrid with the leader's red jersey in recent years, Froome altered his entire preparation for the season to target a historic double.

His Tour win was a less spectacular one as he failed to win a stage in seeing off Rigoberto Uran by just 54 seconds for the yellow jersey. However, backed by incredible support from his Sky teammates, Froome has looked in supreme form in recent weeks, taking both stage nine and individual time trial victory on stage 16.

"The Vuelta is a race I genuinely enjoy doing and I came close last year," he added. "I believe last year tactically I got caught out in the Vuelta. "I won the Tour and finished second in the Vuelta. That gave me a lot of motivation and showed me it was possible to do the double."

"This year I structured my season very differently. I did very few races in the first part of the season and arrived at the Tour a little on the fresh side, not necessarily enough racing in my legs, but that has helped me to be really strong throughout the three weeks here at the Vuelta." — AFP

GOLF

MORIKAWA, XIONG LEAD US TO 8-4 LEAD IN WALKER CUP

LOS ANGELES: The first day of the Walker Cup started brilliantly for the United States. It ended the same way, thanks largely to two Southern Californians. Collin Morikawa and Norman Xiong teamed up for a record-setting victory in the morning foursomes and then won their afternoon singles matches to help the United States take an 8-4 lead over defending champion Britain and Ireland on Saturday at Los Angeles Country Club's North Course.

Morikawa and Xiong beat Harry Ellis and Alfie Plant 8 and 7 in the alternate-shot morning match, the largest margin for an 18-hole match at the biennial amateur tournament that started in 1922. Plant was the low amateur at the British Open and Ellis won the 2017 British Amateur.

Xiong, of Canyon Lake, and Morikawa, of La Canada Flintridge, opened with four birdies and won the first five holes. Morikawa plays at California and Xiong had a big freshman year at Oregon. American coach Spider Miller didn't see any of Morikawa and Xiong's match because he stood on the first tee to shake the hand of every player from both teams as they began their matches. But he was getting hole-by-hole alerts on his phone.

"The only thing I can tell you about Collin and Norm is that I saw their lead 1 up, 2 up ... " Miller said. "I'm watching the thing and it's just going, 'Ting, ting, ting.' I said, 'I'm not going out to mess that up. Those boys are doing fine without me.' They didn't see me at all this morning."

Xiong, at 18 the youngest player in the matches, then beat Connor Syme 2 and 1 after rallying from three holes down after six. College golf's top freshman last season, he won five of the last 11 holes.

Morikawa, who plays at California, beat Paul McBride 3 and 2. Braden Thornberry, the 2017 NCAA individual champion from Mississippi, sealed his 2-up win over Harry Ellis, the 2017 British Amateur champion, with a remarkable 6-iron shot from 200 yards that stopped a foot from the hole. Ellis conceded.

"I was aiming about 10 feet left, so I pushed it a little bit, but we're not going to

tell anybody that," he said. "But it was fun and I'm just glad I could get the victory." Thornberry sat out the foursomes and was fresh for the afternoon. He won four of the last five holes.

Miller said he was impressed with how the U.S. team flipped several singles matches. "I saw a lot of spirit, I saw a lot of tough guys, I saw a lot of guys that reached down and pulled something out and they flipped their matches," Miller said. "I'm so proud of them, each and every one of them. They came ready to play and they will be ready tomorrow. We're not getting ahead of ourselves, I can tell you that."

The United States needs 13 1/2 points to regain the cup. The matches conclude today. "The key tomorrow is to go out and pretend like today didn't happen," Morikawa said. Britain and Ireland need 13 to keep the trophy. Two years ago, Britain and Ireland won six of the eight foursomes matches at Royal Lytham & St. Annes and rolled to a 16 1/2-9 1/2 victory, its biggest victory margin.

"I think the feeling in the camp is one of disappointment, really," Britain and Ireland coach Andrew Ingram said. "Although we are disappointed, we still think we can win. We seriously do. The feeling is strong in the camp."

Americans Maverick McNealy and Doug Ghim also teamed for a win in foursomes and then won their singles matches. They beat David Boote and Jack Davidson 5 and 4 in the morning. McNealy, who played at Stanford, beat Scott Gregory 3 and 1, and Ghim, the runner-up in the 2017 US.

Amateur last month at Riviera, beat Boote 2 and 1. Britain's Jack Singh Brar was his team's only player to win twice. He and Gregory teamed up for a 3 and 2 win over Scottie Scheffler and Cameron Champ. He then won 3 and 2 over Stewart Hagestad, a junior member at LACC who played at Southern California. In the other singles matches, Will Zalatoris of the United States beat Matthew Jordan 2 up, and Robert MacIntyre of Britain and Ireland beat Cameron Champ 6 and 4. — AP



PHOENIX: Carlos Asuaje #20 of the San Diego Padres slides into third base after driving in two runs off of Fernando Rodney #56 of the Arizona Diamondbacks as Jake Lamb #22 waits for the throw from left field during the ninth inning at Chase Field on Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a single with a two base error. — AFP

BASEBALL

CLEVELAND EARN 17TH STRAIGHT WIN

CLEVELAND: The Cleveland Indians earned their 17th straight win Saturday, topping the Baltimore Orioles 4-2 behind a pair of timely swings for Jay Bruce and Francisco Lindor. Bruce's fourth-inning single put the Indians ahead to stay as Cleveland became just the second team in the expansion era - since 1961 - to win 17 straight in a season. The crowd of 30,459 stood throughout the ninth inning as Cody Allen retired the heart of Baltimore's order for his 25th save. Cleveland's franchise-record streak is the longest in the majors since Oakland won 20 straight in 2002. Lindor added his 28th homer in the seventh for the Indians, who haven't lost since Aug. 23. Josh Tomlin (9-9) pitched five-plus innings for the win.

ROCKIES 6, DODGERS 5

Trevor Story hit a two-run homer and drove in three as Colorado beat Los Angeles, sending the NL West leaders to their ninth straight loss in their worst losing streak since 1992. The majors' best team this season has lost eight in a row at Chavez Ravine for the first time in 30 years. The Dodgers have dropped 14 of 15 overall, and they lost their fifth consecutive series for the first time since 2007. Despite the string of losses, Los Angeles still owns the best record in baseball at 92-50.

PADRES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 7

Carlos Asuaje hit a tying single before an error by left fielder David Peralta allowed the go-ahead run to score as San Diego overcame a five-run deficit in the ninth inning to beat Arizona. After trailing 6-0 in the seventh inning and 7-2 in the ninth, San Diego surged ahead, sparked by Wil Myers' second two-run homer of the game.

MARINERS 8, ANGELS 1

Nelson Cruz hit a three-run homer while Mitch Haniger was a double short of the cycle and Andrew Albers pitched six scoreless innings as Seattle gained ground in the wild-card chase. Cruz's 32nd homer capped a six-run fourth as Seattle opened an 8-0 lead. Haniger homered in the first, tripled in the third and singled in the fourth. He grounded out in the sixth and was on deck when the eighth ended. Seattle moved within three games of Minnesota for the second AL wild card. All four teams that were directly ahead of the Mariners in the race lost.

WHITE SOX 13, GIANTS 1

Jose Abreu became the first White Sox player to hit for the cycle in 17 years. Abreu hit his 29th homer in the first off Jeff Samardzija (9-13) and doubled in the third. He struck out in the fifth, singled in the seventh against Josh Osich and hit a two-run triple in the eighth versus Roberto Gomez. The previous White Sox player to hit for the cycle was Jose Valentin against the Baltimore Orioles on April 27, 2000. Tim Anderson, Avisail Garcia, Yoan Moncada, Nicky Delmonico and Yolmer Sanchez also homered for Chicago. James Shields (2-7) allowed one run and two hits in a season-high seven innings.

YANKEES 3, RANGERS 1

Aroldis Chapman earned his first save since being removed as closer, finishing a one-hitter for the Yankees. Tyler Austin hit a go-ahead single in the ninth inning for wild card-leading New York. Texas' only hit was a run-scoring double in the fifth inning off Luis Severino, who went seven innings in his first no-decision since July 15 at Boston. Chapman struck out two in a perfect ninth for his team-leading 17th save in 21 chances and first since Aug 15.

BREWERS 15, CUBS 2

Hernan Perez homered and drove in five runs, powering the Brewers to the runaway win. Chase Anderson (9-3) pitched five scoreless innings as Milwaukee pulled within three games of NL Central-leading Chicago. Anderson also helped himself with two hits and two RBIs hours after the Brewers

announced Jimmy Nelson has a shoulder injury that will sideline the right-hander for the rest of the season. Milwaukee broke it open with eight runs in the third against Mike Montgomery (5-8) and reliever Justin Grimm. Kyle Schwarber's solo shot in the eighth ended Milwaukee's bid for a second straight shutout. Leonys Martin added an RBI double in the ninth, but Chicago finished with just six hits.

BLUE JAYS 5, TIGERS 4

Kevin Pillar had four hits for Toronto, including a tiebreaking home run, while Brett Anderson pitched six innings for his first victory with the Blue Jays. Pillar broke a 2-all tie with a leadoff drive against Warwick Saupold (3-2) in the sixth, helping Toronto snap a three-game losing streak against Detroit. Pillar's 15th homer came one inning after he jumped into the center field wall to snare a deep drive by Tigers infielder Dixon Machado.

RED SOX 9, RAYS 0

Red Sox ace Chris Sale struck out eight over six innings after Dustin Pedroia hit a two-run homer in the first. It was the fourth consecutive win for the AL East-leading Red Sox, who remained 4 1/2 games ahead of the second-place Yankees. Andrew Benintendi had three hits and three RBIs for Boston and Mitch Moreland also drove in three runs.

PHILLIES 5, NATIONALS 4

Rhys Hoskins went deep and drew three walks to help Philadelphia to the road win. Maikel Franco hit his 20th homer for the Phillies, who had dropped four of five. Odubel Herrera went 0 for 4, stopping his hitting streak at 21 games. Philadelphia right-hander Mark Leiter Jr. (3-5) allowed four runs and six hits over six innings.

CARDINALS 4, PIRATES 3

Yadier Molina and Matt Carpenter homered as the Cardinals beat the Pirates to gain ground in the NL Central. St. Louis pulled within three games of division-leading Chicago with its sixth victory in seven games. Tyler Lyons (4-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and Juan Nicasio got three outs for his second save since he was acquired in a trade with Philadelphia on Wednesday. Carpenter's 19th homer tied it at 3 in the seventh. Paul DeJong hit a leadoff double in the eighth and advanced on a groundout before coming home on Randal Grichuk's bounce to third, making it 4-3 St. Louis.

ROYALS 5, TWINS 2

Eric Hosmer went 3 for 3 in helping Kansas City rally for the win. The Royals scored three times in the eighth. Lorenzo Cain led off with a single against Ryan Pressly (2-3), and Melky Cabrera walked. Hosmer's single off Buddy Boshers scored pinch-runner Terrance Gore for a 3-2 lead. Salvador Perez added an RBI double and Alcides Escobar capped the winning rally with a sacrifice fly.

BRAVES 6, MARLINS 5

Ender Inciarte's bases-loaded walk from Kyle Barraclough with two outs in the ninth inning lifted Atlanta to the victory. Barraclough threw four straight balls to Inciarte. While Barraclough (5-2) began his slow walk off the field, Inciarte was swarmed by his teammates in an impromptu celebration near first base. It was the Braves' second ninth-inning win in the series. Giancarlo Stanton hit his 54th homer for Miami. Johan Camargo hit a two-run shot for Atlanta.

ATHLETICS 11, ASTROS 1, GAME 1

ATHLETICS 11, ASTROS 4, GAME 2

Normally reliable Houston reliever Chris Devenski allowed two runs in the seventh inning, including Chad Pinder's tiebreaking homer with two outs, as the Astros were swept in a doubleheader. Houston's third straight loss to the last-place A's loss dropped manager A.J. Hinch's ballclub into a tie with Cleveland for the best record in the American League at 86-56. Devenski (8-4) had allowed one earned run over his previous 15 appearances before getting touched up for two in the seventh. In the opener, Astros pitchers forced in five runs with bases-loaded walks and the team tied a franchise record with 13 free passes. Charlie Morton (11-7) got the loss. Daniel Gossett (4-8) had a career-high seven strikeouts and allowed one run over six-plus innings for his first win since Aug. 2. Chris Hatcher (1-1) retired six batters for the win in the second game.

METS 6, REDS 1

Rafael Montero overcame five walks to win his third straight start. Kevin Plawecki hit a two-run homer and the Mets won their fourth straight game. Montero (5-9) allowed one run and four hits in five innings. The right-hander entered 3-1 with a 2.90 ERA in his previous five starts. Cincinnati's third consecutive defeat ensured its fourth losing season in a row and 14th in 17 years. Homer Bailey (4-8) allowed five runs and six hits in six-plus innings. — AP



LOS ANGELES: Gerardo Parra #8 of the Colorado Rockies slides home to score from first on a Trevor Story double in the fifth inning ahead of the throw to catcher Ysmani Grandal #9 of the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium on Saturday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

POCHETTINO SALUTES KANE AFTER 100-GOAL MILESTONE

LIVERPOOL: Mauricio Pochettino paid tribute to Tottenham forward Harry Kane after he reached 100 goals for his club in an impressive 3-0 victory against Everton. Kane scored twice at Goodison Park on Saturday, bringing to an end an unproductive start to the domestic season in which Kane continued his remarkable record of never having scored a Premier League goal in August.

The England international got back on the score-sheet with two goals for his country in Malta on September 1 and, with his confidence restored, he quickly displayed the form that has seen him win the Premier League's golden boot award in the last two seasons. On this occasion, however, Kane also enjoyed a large slice of luck for his first goal as his intended cross drifted over the head of Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the first half.

"It's not important," laughed Pochettino. "Cross or shot, it was a goal. I'm happy because he has

scored his 100th goal for Tottenham and he deserves a lot of prizes and congratulations for that. It's an unbelievable mark for him."

Kane himself admitted that he did not intend to shoot for that all-important opening goal but, at the start of an important period which sees Spurs start their Champions League campaign against Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday, he was pleased with the momentum gained from the win.

"No, I didn't (mean it)," said Kane. "I got a lucky one but sometimes you need that. It is fantastic. It has been a crazy few years and to get the 100th goal was amazing. Hopefully I can get a few more. That was a very good performance today. It is not an easy place to come but we played very well all through the pitch. Our attacking play was fantastic. We wanted to come here and get a good result. We just need to take this momentum into the Champions League next week."

'ONE OF THE BEST'

Everton manager Ronald Koeman was impressed with the manner of Tottenham's performance, and Kane's display in particular.

"When I speak about Tottenham I mentioned that they have, maybe with Manchester City, the best football side in the Premier League," said Koeman.

"We had real problems with their diamond in midfield. They usually found the free player in midfield and that makes it really tough. Maybe after (Lionel) Messi and (Cristiano) Ronaldo and Alexis Sanchez, and maybe one or two more, he is one of the best.

"In his football he is really clever and he's using his body at the right time. His movement, his finishing, he's a top striker." Pochettino agreed with Kane's assessment of the Tottenham display and its importance during a period in which Spurs appear to be

struggling to cope with their enforced move to Wembley for home games this season.

"It was a very solid performance," said Pochettino. "I'm very pleased and happy because it's important. We have a very busy period ahead and this was a very important victory for us. I'm very pleased but now we move on, try to recover as soon as possible and try to be fit for Wednesday and our first Champions League game."

Pochettino also praised midfielder Moussa Sissoko who impressed on a rare start - just his fourth of the calendar year. "I think he was good today," said Pochettino of a player ranked a disappointment since his signing from Newcastle last year. "His position depends on the tactics, the dynamics of how we want to play and when you win 3-0 and play well, it's easy to say a different thing. But I'm happy with him. He's part of my plans and today he was very good." — AFP

BOXING

SRISAKET KOS GONZALEZ IN FOURTH TO RETAIN WBC TITLE

LOS ANGELES: Srisaket Sor Rungvisai knocked out Roman Gonzalez in the fourth round Saturday with a devastating right hook to retain his WBC super flyweight world title in his second straight win over the former champ.

Thailand's Srisaket knocked 'Chocolatito' Gonzalez down twice in the final round, finishing the challenger off with a right hook with 1:45 to go in the fourth.

Gonzalez, of Nicaragua, stayed on the canvas for a couple of minutes. After rising slowly he had to be helped to his corner stool. The first knockdown came 42 seconds earlier when southpaw Srisaket landed a similar short right hook to the side of the head. Gonzalez was able to get up at the count of seven and continue-but looked out of sorts. The 30-year-old Srisaket went to work quickly in the first round, easily landing combinations and body shots-the fruits of months of intense training in the gym for the most important fight of his career. "I trained really hard for four months because I wanted everyone to know what I came here for," said Srisaket of the brutal beatdown. "I have shown that I am the best 115 pound fighter in the world."

The Thai dynamo silenced critics who

had claimed his majority decision win in the first fight six months ago in New York was a fluke and the result of accidental head butts. Both fighters came out swinging from the opening bell in Saturday's 115-pound rematch at the outdoor StubHub Center stadium, as it became apparent in the early rounds that Srisaket was in charge and the fight likely would not go the distance.

"For the first fight I only trained two months. This fight I knew I was going to knock him out," Srisaket said. "I am not scared of anyone." Srisaket (44-4-1, 40 KOs) said he wanted to make his country proud. "I fought for Thailand, for the pride of Thailand," he said. Gonzalez, who dropped to 46-2 overall, was taken to the hospital immediately after the fight for medical treatment. He was trying to avenge the only loss of his career against Srisaket but he failed to put up any defense against the onslaught of the Thai's superior punches.

The former pound-for-pound division king has had several gruelling fights in recent years, which have taken a heavy toll on his 30-year-old body. On the undercard, Japan's Naoya Inoue won his US debut by defending his 115 pound WBO title with a sixth round knockout of Antonio Nieves. —AFP



BARCELONA: FC Barcelona's Andres Iniesta, center, duels for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Espanyol at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday. — AP

SOCCER

BARCELONA ROUT ESPANYOL 5-0

MESSI HAT TRICK PUTS BARCA IN LA LIGA LEAD

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi scored a hat trick and Ousmane Dembele set up a goal in his debut for Barcelona in a comfortable 5-0 win over crosstown rival Espanyol on Saturday. Messi struck twice in the first half, and leads the Spanish league with five goals. Gerard Pique headed in a fourth goal. After going on as a second-half substitute, Dembele didn't take long to help his team when he passed for Luis Suarez to round off the rout in the 90th. A third win in as many rounds left Barcelona atop of the standings, with two more points than second-place Sevilla and four more points than defending champion Real Madrid in sixth.

Messi opened the scoring at Camp Nou when he received a pass from Ivan Rakitic in what appeared to be an offside position. With no call coming from the referee, Messi dribbled around a defender and fired home. "They told me that the first goal could be offside, (...) but we did a lot to create several chances," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. He got his second by sliding to redirect Jordi Alba's pass by goalkeeper Pau Lopez. Messi started the attack but lost the ball, only for it to take two deflections off defenders before falling to Alba in the area.

After Espanyol forward Pablo Piatti hit the

post, Messi made it a treble with a left-footed strike to slot in another pass from Alba. Dembele went on moments later to a round of applause from his new supporters. Barcelona paid a club-record sum to Borussia Dortmund for the 20-year-old France forward. With add-ons, his trans-

fer could reach 147 million euros (about \$173 million). Dembele showed his speed when he raced down the right side on a quick counterattack and crossed for Suarez to score. Suarez was making his league debut this season after missing the first two matches with a leg injury. — AP



CARSON: Srisaket Sor Rungvisai of Thailand lands a right hand to the head of Roman Gonzalez of Nicaragua at StubHub Center on Saturday in Carson, California. — AFP

SOCIEDAD BEAT DEPORTIVO TO STAY PERFECT IN SPANISH LEAGUE

MADRID: Real Sociedad scored twice early and twice late to extend its perfect Spanish league record with a 4-2 win at Deportivo La Coruna yesterday. Sociedad moved to the top of the standings along with Barcelona, the only other team with three victories to start the league season. Sevilla is two points off the lead after defeating Eibar on Saturday, while defending champion Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid dropped four points back after being held to disappointing draws.

Sociedad took an early lead in La Coruna with two goals in the first four minutes at the Riazor Stadium, and secured the victory with two more in the last 10 minutes after the hosts had equalized early

in the second half. "The match got complicated for us," Sociedad coach Eusebio Sacristan said. "They started playing better but we were able to turn things around again. We regained control of the match and went for the victory. We were not content with only a draw after having the lead that we had."

Juanmi Jimenez opened the scoring for Sociedad in the third minute and Asier Illarramendi added to the lead in the fourth. Deportivo evened the match with goals by Adrian Lopez in the 27th and Florin Andone in the 50th, but Sociedad secured the victory with a goal by Diego Llorente in the 83rd and another by Illarramendi in the 86th. —AP

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
West Ham United v Huddersfield	2:00	beIN SPORTS HD 2
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Malaga CF v Las Palmas	2:00	beIN SPORTS HD 3



DECINES-CHARPIEU: Lyon's midfielder Christopher Martins Pereira (L) vies with Guingamp's Danish goalkeeper Karl-Johan Johnsson (R) during the French L1 football match Lyon (OL) vs Guingamp (EAG), yesterday at the Groupama stadium in Decines-Charpieu near Lyon, south-eastern France. — AFP

SOCCER STANDINGS

EPL table

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

Manchester Utd	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
Manchester City	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
Chelsea	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Watford	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Tottenham	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Huddersfield	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Burnley	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Liverpool	4	2	1	1	8	8	7
West Brom	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Arsenal	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
Stoke	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Southampton	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Brighton	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Swansea	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Everton	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
Newcastle	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Leicester	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Bournemouth	4	0	0	4	1	8	0
Crystal Palace	4	0	0	4	0	7	0
West Ham	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Italian Serie A table

Italian Serie A table after yesterday's early match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Juventus	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
Inter Milan	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Napoli	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
AC Milan	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Sampdoria	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Torino	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Bologna	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Lazio	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
SPAL	2	1	1	1	3	4	4
Roma	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Chievo	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Genoa	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Verona	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Crotone	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
Sassuolo	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
Udinese	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Benevento	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Atalanta	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Cagliari	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Fiorentina	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Spanish La Liga table

Spanish La Liga table after yesterday's early match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Barcelona	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Real Sociedad	3	3	0	0	10	4	9
Sevilla	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Leganes	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Atletico Madrid	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
Real Madrid	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Levante	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Valencia	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Girona	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Athletic Bilbao	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Getafe	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Real Betis	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Eibar	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Deportivo la Coruna	3	0	1	2	4	9	1
Espanyol	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Celta Vigo	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Malaga	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Alaves	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Villarreal	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Las Palmas	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Sports

Larson steals win in NASCAR season finale



Srisaket KO's Gonzalez in fourth round to retain WBC title



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HISTORIC VUELTA TRIUMPH CEMENTS FROOME'S LEGACY

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BURNLEY: Burnley's Welsh striker Sam Vokes (C) heads the ball during the English Premier League football match between Burnley and Crystal Palace at Turf Moor in Burnley, north west England yesterday. —AFP

WOOD'S WINNER PILES PRESSURE ON DE BOER

	Burnley 1
	Crystal Palace 0

BURNLEY: Chris Wood's dream home debut for Burnley pushed Frank De Boer to the brink of the sack as Crystal Palace crashed to a 1-0 defeat yesterday. New Zealand international Wood marked his maiden appearance for Burnley at Turf Moor following his club record £15 million (\$19 million, 16 million euros) move by firing the winner early in the first half.

The former Leeds striker punished a woeful backpass by Palace's South Korean winger Lee Chung-Yong. For Palace manager De Boer, his side's fourth successive defeat could bring an abrupt end to his first season at Selhurst Park. Palace have yet to score a league goal since Ajax and Inter Milan coach De Boer took charge and reports ahead of this fixture claimed Eagles chairman Steve Parish was already considering sacking the Dutchman. With Parish watching from the stands, De Boer saw second bottom Palace waste a string of chances to at least snatch a point and he will head back to south London with his future in doubt.

"I am just focusing on what I can control and so are my staff and my players," De Boer said. "The future is for other people to decide but while I'm the manager of

Crystal Palace I will give 100 per cent. "We have to look in the mirror and be responsible that you have to take the chances, and you get punished when you don't. "But if you look all over at how we showed spirit, I think we were quite dynamic. What we showed today gives us a lot of hope for the future." Desperate to spark Palace into life, De Boer had made three changes and reluctantly switched to a 4-4-2 formation in a bid to kick-start his season. But it took just three minutes for his plans to go horribly wrong. Lee, making his 100th Premier League appearance, turned and played the ball back in the direction of the non-existent Palace defence. Wood reacted superbly, intercepting the pass and slotting past Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey first time from the edge of the area. Palace were almost level within a minute when Scott Dann took aim from the right side of the box and his deflected shot was booted off the line by Matthew Lowton.

Two minutes later Palace came close again when Andros Townsend lofted a pass to Christian Benteke, who steered his header inches wide of the far post with keeper Tom Heaton beaten. Burnley suffered a setback just past the half-hour mark when Heaton was forced off with a shoulder injury after landing awkwardly, giving a Premier League debut for 25-year-old Nick Pope.

Jeffrey Schlupp blazed over as Palace applied late pressure. But Benteke was denied by Pope in the 78th minute, then Dann headed wide from no more than four yards out to ensure another dismal afternoon for De Boer. — AFP



SWANSEA: Swansea City's English defender Alfie Mawson (4L) heads for goal and misses during the English Premier League football match between Swansea City and Newcastle United at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea, south Wales yesterday. — AFP

JAMAAL LASCELLES PROVIDES WELCOME TONIC FOR BENITEZ

	Swansea City 0
	Newcastle United 1

SWANSEA: Jamaal Lascelles provided a welcome tonic for ailing Newcastle United manager Rafael Benitez as his late goal secured a 1-0 win at Swansea City yesterday. Benitez was forced to miss his side's trip to south Wales while he recovered from an infection.

The 57-year-old Spaniard had an operation on Monday to address an infection resulting from an earlier hernia operation and was unable to recover in time to travel with his squad. But Benitez's absence didn't affect Newcastle's players and captain Lascelles boosted the former Liverpool manager's spirits with his headed winner in the closing stages at the Liberty Stadium.

Newcastle's second win lifted them into mid-table, providing Benitez with hope they can avoid relegation

despite their lack of top-class signings since last season's promotion. They were fortunate to finish with 11 men after Matt Ritchie escaped a red card for the sort of high foot just after half-time on Alfie Mawson which saw Sadio Mane sent off for Liverpool at Manchester City on Saturday. Newcastle went close after 33 minutes when Ritchie's cross was met by the head of Joselu and Lukasz Fabianski sprang to his left to pull off a fantastic one-handed save.

Swansea threatened when Isaac Hayden lost out to Tammy Abraham and the ball ran to Jordan Ayew, whose 20-yard shot forced Rob Elliot to parry wide. Swansea should have taken the lead on the hour mark when Leroy Fer released Abraham and the striker rounded Elliot for what looked a simple finish. But Lascelles stretched to block and the Newcastle fans behind the goal celebrated as if they had taken the lead.

They almost did go in front when Ayoze Perez forced Fabianski into saving with his outstretched leg. Swansea were not let off the hook and Lascelles rose majestically to head home from close range in the 76th minute. Elliot protected the three points with a fine late stop from Swansea substitute Luciano Narsingh. — AFP

IMMOBILE HAT-TRICK DESTROYS AC MILAN'S PERFECT RECORD

MILAN: Lazio forward Ciro Immobile scored a 10-minute hat-trick to lead his side to a 4-1 demolition of AC Milan whose perfect start to the season was left in tatters yesterday. Milan had won their first six matches of the season-two in Serie A and four in the Europa League-but found themselves four goals behind in less than an hour at a soggy Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

Inter Milan made it nine points from three games with a 2-0 win over promoted SPAL, the first goal scored by Mauro Icardi from a penalty which took the referee five minutes to award after consulting with the video assistant.

Florentina thumped Verona 5-0 away to claim their first win of the season in style and Cagliari also broke their duck with a 1-0 win over Crotona in the first match at the temporary Sardegna Arena which will host their games for the next four years.

Atalanta, 2-1 winners over Sassuolo, and Udinese, who beat Genoa 1-0, also won for the first time. Lazio's match was in danger of being postponed due to torrential rain in Rome before it was decided to delay kickoff for an hour.

The hosts went ahead with an Immobile penalty in the 38th minute after Franck Kessie fouled Luis Alberto.

Immobile struck again four minutes later with a brilliant volley from Senad Lulic's cross, and completed his hat-trick three minutes into the second half after Marco Parolo's clever pass sent him clear.

One minute after that, Immobile burst down the left and set up Luis Alberto who tapped in the fourth before Milan finally pulled themselves together and Riccardo Montolivo got a goal back.

Inter joined champions Juventus on nine points thanks to Icardi's third goal in five games and a thumping volley from Ivan Perisic in the 87th minute. The first goal raised more questions over the time taken to reach decisions using video replays after Joao Mario was fouled on the edge of the area in the 22nd minute and Icardi finally scored in the 27th.

Florentina took advantage of a nightmare start by opposing goalkeeper Nicolas as they handed Verona their heaviest-ever Serie A home defeat. The Brazilian failed to hold Marco Benassi's shot and Giovanni Simeone tapped in after two minutes, then crashed into Federico Chiesa and gave away a penalty which Cyril Theriau converted on his Fiorentina debut in the 10th. — Reuters



The new Mercedes-Benz S-Class arrives in Kuwait



THESSALONIKI: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R) speaks during a press conference at the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in Thessaloniki, northern Greece yesterday. — AFP

GREEK PM VOWS BAILOUT EXIT IN 2018

TSIPRAS URGES IMF TO DECIDE ON BAILOUT PARTICIPATION BY END OF YEAR

ATHENS: Greece will exit successfully its bailout program in 2018 helped by strong growth, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Saturday, vowing to support workers, young Greeks and small businesses as the economy recovers. Addressing a Greek public worn out by austerity and sceptical after years of reform efforts have failed to fix the country's woes, Tsipras said his leftist-led government would do whatever it takes to end lenders' supervision next year.

"The country, after eight whole years, will have exited bailouts and suffocating supervision. That's our aim," Tsipras said in his annual policy speech in the northern city of Thessaloniki. "We are determined to do everything we can." Greece's current international bailout, worth 86 billion euros, expires next year. Tsipras' term ends a year later.

The International Monetary Fund should decide whether it will fund Greece's current bailout program by the end of the year and help Greece conclude a key bailout review on time, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Eurozone governments in June approved another 11-hour credit line for Greece, worth nearly \$10 billion, after the IMF said it would join the country's current bailout, the third since 2010, in principle.

"We can live with or without the IMF presence," Tsipras said in a press briefing at a trade fair in Thessaloniki. "What we cannot do is live with the IMF setting one foot in and leaving one foot out." The end of the year would be a "reasonable timeframe" for the Fund to decide, he said. Athens intends to wrap up its next bailout review quickly, he said, adding that

Greece would be financially independent in 2018.

The eurozone and the IMF have loaned Greece about 260 billion euros (\$312.86 billion) since 2010. In return, Greece has imposed austerity measures that have cut its output by a quarter and eliminated thousands of jobs. The lenders review Greece's progress quarterly before approving loan payouts. Tsipras' government and the IMF have often locked horns over Greece's fiscal progress, its economic targets and reforms in the labor market. Greece adopted more austerity measures for 2019 and 2020 to convince the Fund to join its program and push for further debt relief.

Tsipras came to power in 2015 promising to end austerity but then signed up to the new bailout, worth 86 billion euros. He said yesterday the government would assess fiscal progress for 2017 and offer handouts to the vulnerable, if Greece exceeded its targets.

"We ought to be careful in the coming period," he said. "We need to have a full picture of the economy ... we are above targets and we will make sure that there will be a dividend for the vulnerable, which we will announce at the right time."

Greece exceeded its goal for a primary budget surplus - which excludes debt servicing - in 2015 and 2016. Last December, Tsipras unexpectedly announced a one-off Christmas bonus to pensioners, angering the country's lenders. On Sunday, he said any similar move would be made in consultation with the lenders.

Asked about French President Emmanuel Macron's call for a system to screen investments in strategic sectors from non-

EU countries, he said Athens wanted to attract investments both from Europe and from outside the block. "Right now, our country is thirsty for investments," he said at the Thessaloniki trade fair, which this year is honoring China. "Greece can only benefit when it becomes a bone of contention for investment initiatives." China has invested heavily in Greece. It bought a 51 percent stake in Piraeus Port last year and a minority stake in power grid operator, ADMIE, this year.

Fiscal targets

Tsipras said Athens would continue to outperform its fiscal targets and fight endemic tax evasion to create fiscal room for tax cuts that would alleviate the burden on businesses and households, long squeezed by the debt crisis. Unemployment stood at 21.2 percent in June, the euro zone's highest, with young Greeks the hardest hit. Greece's economy is expected to grow by about two percent in 2018, a sign that sacrifices are bearing fruit, Tsipras said outlining initiatives to boost employment and fight a brain drain.

A march of thousands of workers was largely peaceful outside the venue where he spoke. Tsipras said the state would give financial incentives to employers to hire more younger workers and spend 156 million euros to subsidize social security contributions of employers who will turn contractors into full-time staff.

Unregistered work and contract jobs have increased during the debt crisis, as businesses are desperate to cut costs. The government will also pay 100 million euros to subsidize

unpaid workers in struggling sectors and businesses, he said, promising to fight labor law violations.

The 43-year old leader, whose Syriza party is sagging in opinion polls, was catapulted to power in 2015 promising to end the belt-tightening and tear up the bailouts. After months of tough talks with lenders, he signed up to a new bailout in exchange for further austerity.

"I am certain that, this time next year, (creditor) supervision will have ended," Tsipras said. Left unmentioned was any reference to cutting part of the country's still very high debt, a central demand of his government to which the International Monetary Fund is sympathetic, but to which the European Union, especially Germany, is adamantly opposed. Also conveniently forgotten by Tsipras, now the champion of foreign investment and declared enemy of "wasteful spending," was his party's past vehement opposition to foreign investment and the obstacles put by both government ministers and state bureaucracy to investments such as the gold mining operation in Chalkidiki peninsula, just east of Thessaloniki, and a real estate development project, by far Greece's largest, on the grounds of the former Athens airport. The International Fair, which has seen better days, still has 1,500 exhibitors and, as usual, a favored guest nation, which this year was China. Tsipras did not fail to praise the closer economic ties between the two countries, reflected mostly in Chinese company Cosco's acquisition of the Piraeus Port, Greece's largest, another investment which he and his party once strongly opposed. — Agencies

SLUMPING GOLDMAN SACHS FACES QUESTIONS

NEW YORK: A slump in Goldman Sachs's long-dominant trading business has sharpened questions about the Wall Street kingpin's strategy as technological change disrupts the finance industry. "Goldman Sachs has run out of steam," said Richard Bove, analyst at Vertical Research.

"It needs inspiration. It needs new management, new businesses, new activities." Goldman's travails are something of a surprise given its unparalleled prestige in American finance. Long associated with the superrich and powerful, Goldman Sachs has been involved in complex and sometimes controversial transactions and dealings.

Its global alumni includes European Central Bank head Mario Draghi and several current White House officials, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, who is attempting to shepherd a major tax reform bill through Washington.

Gregori Volokhine, president of Meeschaert Capital markets, said the 148-year-old firm "must be reinvented." Goldman reported an unprecedented 40 percent plunge in revenues for trading in fixed income, commodities and currencies (FICC) in the second quarter, a per-

formance that lagged that of rivals JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley. FICC has long been a key profit center at Goldman and helped launch the rise of top brass such as chief executive Lloyd Blankfein, president and co-chief operating officer Harvey Schwartz and chief financial officer Martin Chavez.

But since the 2008 financial crisis, the role of trading desks has eroded as powerful automated trading algorithms have gobbled up more transactions and as more investors have embraced exchange traded funds which have lower costs. And competitors like Morgan Stanley slashed jobs in that business two years ago. This trend also has been encouraged by tougher regulations on speculative activities, especially the Volcker rule which restricts proprietary trading.

Around 70 percent of volumes on the New York Stock Exchange now are on automated trading systems, Volokhine noted. Analysts are eager to hear how Goldman plans to right the ship, and Schwartz is scheduled to address investors at a conference next week hosted by rival bank Barclays.

Bove wants the firm to acknowledge that many high-risk transactions that once

boosted results are no longer bankable and it sees new opportunities ahead. "Hopefully," Schwartz will say that Goldman is going to be "doing more trading with Procter & Gamble and less trading with XYZ hedge fund and that this quarter was a lousy one," Bove said.

Surprise slump

So far, Goldman Sachs has argued that trading remains a viable business, which will pick up in times of market volatility. The company also said business should be boosted by deregulatory moves by President Donald Trump's administration. CEO Blankfein has spoken of opportunities to serve as a "full-service" bank, but acknowledged in an interview last month: "We underperformed. We know what we have to do it and we're doing it."

Still, he said, "we have a good reputation for resiliency and adaptation." Bove said Goldman should shift to more conventional lending, an area it has begun to embrace with the creation of GS Bank, which has savings accounts, and Marcus, an online lending program. And Goldman should consider acquisitions of smaller lenders. "The place where financial companies make money is loans," Bove said. — AFP



WASHINGTON DC: This file photo taken on February 3, 2017 shows Mary Barra (2ndL), CEO of General Motors, Gary Cohn (2nd R), President of Goldman Sachs, and Doug McMillon (R), CEO of Walmart, as they listen while US President Donald Trump speaks before a policy and strategy forum with executives at the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

EUROMONEY KUWAIT CONFERENCE 2017: FORGING THE NEW KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The New Kuwait package of economic and financial reform is a bold statement of intent from a government that is determined to set an example to the region. We've gathered together senior figures from both government and international and domestic finance to discuss how this plan can be implemented successfully and its potential impact on Kuwait, and beyond.

- Topics under discussion include:**
- How to diversify the economy in the face of oil-price decline
 - Attracting long-term FDI
 - Prospects for Kuwaiti banks
 - Infrastructure finance and mega projects
 - Access to international capital (sovereign, corporate and FIG)

• Regional and international opportunities for investing Kuwait's wealth. "We're looking forward to welcoming delegates from across the region, and beyond, to what is our ninth conference in Kuwait," says Victoria Behn, Director for Middle East and Africa at Euromoney Conferences. "Our long experience in the region and roster of high-level speakers means we can shed light on the kinds of issues that genuinely matter to investors and issuers."

- Confirmed keynote speakers include:**
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the State of Kuwait, Anas Al-Saleh
 - Central Bank of Kuwait's Governor, Dr

- Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel
- Aberdeen Asset Management's Chief Executive Officer, Martin Gilbert
- KAPP's General Manager, Mutlaq Mubarak Al-Sanei
- Gulf Bank's Chairman and Al-Ghanim Industries' Chief Executive Officer, Omar Al-Ghanim
- Kuwait Banking Association's Deputy Chairman and Boubyan Bank's Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed
- National Bank of Kuwait's Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer, Shaikha Al-Bahar
- Boursa Kuwait Securities Company's (BKSC) Chief Executive Officer and Kuwait Clearing Company's (KCC) Chairman, Khaled Abdulrazzaq AlKhaled.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Dalila Abdullah Abdulkhaleq
2. Mariam Rashed Ahmad
3. Reda Yousef Hejazi

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi

Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

CAPE TOWN HOUSING BOOM A BUST FOR LONGTIME TENANTS

SUPPLY OF HOUSES FALLS SHORT OF BURGEONING DEMAND

CAPE TOWN: As a child in the 1970s, Charmaine Marcus was forcefully removed from her Cape Town neighborhood when the apartheid government declared it a whites-only area. Now, as a property boom transforms once-neglected suburbs into trendy and expensive enclaves, she faces being pushed completely out of the city she calls home. "It seems to me they just don't want us here," says Marcus, who is fighting a pending eviction in court after a dispute with her landlord.

"But this is our city. We are this city." South Africa's slowing economy and political uncertainty have curtailed the property market countrywide. But Cape Town has proved to be an exception, with houses here on average 78.5 percent more expensive than they were in 2010, according to the South African FNB bank. Property expert Toni Enderli says the boom is driven by families from across the country moving to Western Cape province, in part because the region has a reputation for good governance under the Democratic Alliance party that is in power at provincial government level. "The population in the province has gone up 33 percent in the last 15 years," Enderli told AFP.

"People want to be in Cape Town, they want the lifestyle. But the supply of houses that should be developed on a yearly basis is not keeping up with that."

Gentrification

In the suburb of Woodstock, where Marcus

has lived for 35 years, the evolution of decayed buildings into modern apartment blocks, restaurants and markets has made it a favorite among young professionals-and doubled housing prices in just the last five years. Marcus' home reveals a different picture. The paint peels off the living room ceiling as a wide crack traces its way down to the floor.

Upstairs, one apartment stands exposed to the elements, gutted. Residents began withholding their rent here after a fire two years ago ripped through a section of the building, killing one of the tenants.

They blame the landlord for failing to maintain the structure. He responded to the non-payment of rent by issuing eviction notices. Based on current trends, the building could be a prime site for redevelopment as modern, expensive flats in future.

Relocation

If Marcus, 48, and her neighbors lose their eviction case, which, they believe, seems probable as the landlord was acting within his rights, none will be able to afford the area's new rental rates. Instead, they will likely be relocated to an emergency resettlement camp on a farm some 30 kilometers (18 miles) away. Wolwerivier, or Wolves River, has neither a clinic nor a school and little access to shops or affordable public transport-which could cost Marcus her inner-city job as a cleaner at a clothing company. Landlords in South Africa need a court order to evict tenants, but the Constitutional Court earlier this year ruled that a court cannot issue an eviction order that would leave a person homeless.

Many tenants however are backyard-dwellers and have no formal contracts.

'Strangers in own country'

"This city doesn't work for you, it works against you," says activist Shane van der Mescht, who is part of a group called Reclaim the City occupying an abandoned hospital in Woodstock where wards and offices have been turned into bedrooms and meeting spaces. Many of the activists here were sleeping rough until a few months ago, and each has their own eviction story. "I see them building these apartment blocks, but we can't afford it," says activist Ismail Sheik Rahim.

"We feel like outsiders, like strangers in our own country... Where am I going to get 1.4 million rand (\$110,000) for a flat?" Reclaim the City says the government should be doing more to provide affordable accommodation closer to the city centre. Last month, the city announced plans to develop 10 sites in and around the inner city for affordable housing. Work on most of these sites is expected to ramp up in 2018. "I understand residents' concerns about temporary or emergency housing only being available in Wolwerivier," Brett Herron, the city's head of urban development, told AFP.

"The reality is that that is the only emergency or transitional housing available."

"What we're working on now is to identify sites spread across the city so that if there is a displacement or there is an eviction, people are not required to move so far."

Sitting on her front step, Marcus says she knows she will ultimately be evicted from her building. But leaving her neighborhood is not an option. "If the council doesn't have alternate accommodation for us in or near the city, we're not going nowhere. We're here to stay." — AFP

CHEVROLET ALGHANIM LAUNCHES COMPETITIVE OFFER IN SEPTEMBER

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive (Chevrolet Alghanim), the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, surprises Kuwait once again with its September offers, enabling customers to buy one of four top-of-the-range Chevrolet vehicles at 0 percent interest for up to five years installments or receive KD1,200 cash back.

The September offers are valid on several 2017 models including the Tahoe, Silverado, Trax and Impala, and are the ideal opportunity for customers to finance their vehicle at cash prices, while benefiting from Chevrolet Alghanim's high standards services and "I Care" Program, which entail customers to many after-sale services.

The vehicles on offer give their new owners the ease of mind they look for in a car thanks to their strong performance, reliability, advanced design and safety features as well as competitive prices that ensure customers receive their money worth in a car that suits their lifestyle.

Known to empower drivers with an exhilarating performance, the Chevrolet Tahoe comes with the best in class standard features such as a 5.3L V8 engine with active fuel management, direct injection and variable valve timing, generating the strongest horsepower in its class of 355 HP. The Tahoe is also equipped with the Chevrolet MyLink 8-inch system with Apple CarPlay, six speak-

ers, remote keyless entry, remote vehicle starter, LED headlights and taillights, fog lamps, 18" aluminum wheels, in addition to many advanced safety features that include the front corner assist system and rear with rear camera. As for truck fans, meanwhile, can conquer the harshest terrains using the unbelievable capabilities of the new 2017 Silverado, which elevates its lineup legacy through a bolder, more sculpted look that reflects its strength and dependability. The front end is engineered to improve airflow for more efficient engine cooling, while the roof and tailgate spoiler were shaped to smooth airflow over the truck for reduced drag. Coupled with available features such LED foglamps and 17-inch aluminum wheels. A true icon of desert domination, it also boasts technological breakthroughs push the limits on what a truck should be by offering 8-inch Chevrolet MyLink touchscreen display and rear-view camera.

The Trax comes with a 1.8L 4-cylinder [140 Net HP] engine, StabiliTrak, the Chevrolet MyLink with Apple CarPlay, cruise control, fog lamps front, rear parking assist and 16" aluminum wheels.

A powerful sedan, the Impala offers a powerful and efficient powertrain with a 3.6L V-6 that's the most powerful naturally aspirated six-cylinder engine in the segment. Output for the engine is rated at 305

horsepower (227 kW) and 264 lb-ft of torque (358 Nm). Lightweight features support a more balanced driving experience and include an integrated cylinder head/exhaust manifold design that saves approximately 6 kg per engine. The 2017 Impala offers one of the most comprehensive collections of standard and available safety features in the full-size car segment. It employs advanced technologies, including radar, for crash avoidance.

Chevrolet Care Program "I Care"

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

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



CAPE TOWN: People hold signs during a protest calling for affordable housing close to the city centre for disadvantaged people, organised by the group Reclaim the City, over the N2 highway in Woodstock, Cape Town, yesterday.—AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.798
Indian Rupees	4.731
Pakistani Rupees	2.864
Srilankan Rupees	1.973
Nepali Rupees	2.958
Singapore Dollar	226.030
Hongkong Dollar	38.563
Bangladesh Taka	3.720
Philippine Peso	5.948
Thai Baht	9.133

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.520
Qatari Riyal	82.933
Omani Riyal	784.174
Bahraini Dinar	801.780
UAE Dirham	82.210

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.021
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.212
Tunisian Dinar	126.260
Jordanian Dinar	426.080
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.012
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.942

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	301.750
Euro	365.570
Sterling Pound	400.720
Canadian dollar	250.310
Turkish lira	89.140

Swiss Franc	321.700
Australian Dollar	245.930
US Dollar Buying	300.550

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	5.901
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
Turkish Lira	87.880

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

British Pound	0.392289	0.402289
Czech Korune	0.005943	0.017943
Danish Krone	0.044933	0.049933
Euro	0.358217	0.367217
Georgian Lari	0.134397	0.134397
Norwegian Krone	0.035099	0.040299
Romanian Leu	0.081365	0.081365
Russian ruble	0.005305	0.005305
Slovakia	0.008976	0.018976
Swedish Krona	0.034172	0.039172
Swiss Franc	0.313416	0.324416
Australia Dollar	0.235248	0.247248
New Zealand Dollar	0.213315	0.222815
Canada Dollar	0.243084	0.252084
US Dollars	0.297650	0.302070
US Dollars Mint	0.298150	0.302070
Bangladesh Taka	0.003233	0.003817
Chinese Yuan	0.045066	0.048566

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036695	0.039445
Indian Rupee	0.004220	0.004908
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002725	0.002905
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068368	0.074368
Nepalese Rupee	0.003011	0.003181
Pakistan Rupee	0.002713	0.003003
Philippine Peso	0.005851	0.006151
Singapore Dollar	0.220641	0.230641
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001620	0.002200
Taiwan	0.009969	0.010149
Thai Baht	0.008790	0.009340

Bahraini Dinar	0.793512	0.802012
Egyptian Pound	0.014598	0.020506
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000192	0.000252
Jordanian Dinar	0.420986	0.429986
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.002092	0.004902
Omani Riyal	0.777347	0.783027
Qatar Riyal	0.078593	0.083533
Saudi Riyal	0.079380	0.080680
Syrian Pound	0.001278	0.001498
Tunisian Dinar	0.121492	0.129492
Turkish Lira	0.083532	0.093832
UAE Dirhams	0.080730	0.082430
Yemeni Riyal	0.000981	0.001061

THE NEW MERCEDES-BENZ S-CLASS ARRIVES IN KUWAIT

THE BEST CAR IN THE WORLD

KUWAIT: A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Company, the authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, has announced the arrival of the new generation S-Class to their Shuwaikh showroom. Retaining its title as the leader in innovation, performance and luxury, the new model takes prestige to a whole new level. With wellness settings enhancing mood and performance, as well as massage settings and the all new "curve-tilting function" reducing the centrifugal forces felt during a turn, the new S-Class offers a new level of comfort for the driver and passenger.

Thanks to the world-first ENERGIZING comfort control feature, the driver and passengers can now link various comfort systems such as climate control and massage functions. The new feature also allows customers to configure specific wellness set-ups to suit their mood and enhance physical comfort and performance on the road. Commenting on the arrival of the new S-Class, Mohammed Abdul Rahman Albisher, Director of A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Company said: "Successive generations of S-Class Sedans have raised the bar for automotive design and engineering, but this latest incarnation exceeds all expectations. With a host of new and improved features like the autonomous driving, and energizing comfort control, it's clear this new model has been created without compromise."

Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Company, continued: "With a new redesigned six-cylinder engine with an output of 270 kW (367 hp) and 500 Nm of torque opening up a whole new dimension of driving, I have no doubt the S 450 will surpass its predecessor here in Kuwait."

Intelligent Drive: The next step in driving assistance systems

Over ten years ago, innovations that began with PRE-SAFE and developed into DISTRONIC PLUS led to new dimensions in driving. With the previous S-Class, comfort and safety blended into one, which Mercedes-Benz referred to as "Intelligent Drive". Now, the new S-Class adds an additional layer of excellence by incorporating and enhancing a host of innovative driving assistance systems initially introduced in the previous model. These include:

- The Active Steer Assist, which has been noticeably improved across its entire performance range, results in markedly enhanced customer benefits.
- The Active Braking Assist, which detects



end-of-tailback situations without space for evasive action, triggers a warning as well as automatic emergency stopping when required.

- The Evasive Steering Assist supports the driver in taking evasive action when pedestrians are detected in the danger zone in front of the vehicle.

- With PRE-SAFE Sound, a short interference signal is triggered ahead of any collisions expected to produce a loud crash, in order to protect the eardrum and inner ear from high acoustic pressures.

The Mercedes-Benz S-Class made a technological statement of superiority in 2013 with ROAD SURFACE SCAN. The system detects bumps ahead of the vehicle and adjusts the ACTIVE BODY CONTROL suspension accordingly. In the new S-Class this suspension control is further improved. The stereo camera of the system now scans the road even more thoroughly, even in dusk and at speeds up to 180 km/h.

Another comfort enhancement is CURVE, the curve-tilting function available in the S-Class sedan for the first time. The body tilts to the inside of the turn by up to 2.65 degrees and thereby reduces the centrifugal forces perceived by the passengers.

Exclusive exterior design

Modern luxury in the new S-Class is affirmed with the highest quality materials and uncompromising workmanship. All models are fitted with a new radiator grille: the versions with six and eight-cylinder engines sport three twin lou-

vres as well as vertical strips with a high-gloss black finish. The V-12 model variants are fitted with additional chrome-finish vertical strips in the radiator grille. Seven new light-alloy wheels with diameters between 17 and 20 inches have been introduced on the new model.

MULTIBEAM LED headlamps and ULTRA RANGE High Beam turn night into day. The ULTRA RANGE main beams produce the maximum light intensity permitted by law, which results in the brightness of the main beams remaining above the reference value of 1 lux over a distance of more than 650 metres. For the driver, this means a clear improvement of the already excellent lighting performance of current MULTIBEAM LED systems. The Adaptive High-Beam Assist Plus permanently activates the main beams without dazzling surrounding traffic.

In conjunction with the new MULTIBEAM LED headlamps, the S-Class features three distinctive torches of light as an exclusive design element. The front bumper with pronounced air intakes and sporty looks is also new. The new LED lamps with crystal-look tail lamps stand out at the rear. They look like jewels and ensure a characteristic design day and night. A tail lamp light show that plays when the vehicle is unlocked and locked, as well as three horizontal pairs of fibre optics are also new.

Authentic materials and meticulous detail design

Another Mercedes-Benz hallmark is the high-quality look and feel created with the meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship in the interior of the new S-Class. These include open-pore woods as well as leather-trimmed doors and dashboard.

The material and color concept has also been carefully composed, and features a wide range of brown tones, including new color combinations such as magma grey/espresso brown or mahogany brown/silk beige.

World-first: Wellness while driving

The ENERGIZING comfort control is a world-first entering series production and can be experienced in all seats. This optional feature links various comfort systems in the vehicle together. It systematically uses the functions of the climate control system (including fragrancing) and the seats (heater, ventilation, massage), the panel heating as well as lighting and musical atmospheres, and enables a specific wellness set-up tailored to the mood and need



of the customer. This enhances the physical comfort and performance while driving and during a break.

A choice of six programs are available: Freshness, Warmth, Vitality, Joy, Comfort and Training (three options are available in Training mode - muscle relaxation, muscle activation and balance - each with several exercises). Each has a duration of 10 minutes and are visualized on the head unit with colour graphics and appropriate music. The brightness of the LEDs adapts equally variably and can be set on five levels and in four zones, including the wide-screen cockpit, front seat area and rear compartment. As a result, the ambient lighting harnesses the positive effects of light on well-being while on the road.

Lighting atmosphere with 64 colours

With 64 colours, the ambient lighting offers a wealth of individual settings that add a welcoming effect upon entering the cabin. Drivers can choose from a variety of settings including 'Glacier Blue', 'Red Moon' and 'Dawn Blue', which light up in conjunction with the widescreen cockpit. Lighting highlights are added throughout the car in areas such as the central display, the rear footwells, and even on the tweeters for vehicles equipped with the Burmester(r) High-End 3D Surround Sound System. As before, the interior lighting uses only long-lasting, energy-saving LED technology.

All new S-Class models are fitted as standard with the KEYLESS start function. This also marks the introduction of the new attractive genera-

tion of keys, with a high-gloss black or high-gloss white design and different ornamental frames. The new S-Class has touch-sensitive controls on the steering wheel that respond to swiping motions in the same manner as a smartphone. The driver can use the steering wheel controls to operate DISTRONIC cruise operation and control the entire infotainment system without having to take their hands off the steering wheel. The infotainment system can be also operated via the touchpad controller in the centre console and by LINGUATRONIC voice control.

The new Mercedes-AMG S 63 4MATIC+ and S 65

Also arriving soon to Kuwait, the high-performance models of the new Mercedes-AMG S 63 4MATIC+ and S 65 will add impressive power to the top-of-the-range collection. An updated front apron with jet wing underscore the more expressive appearance of both S-Class models. At the rear, the new apron and modified tailpipe trim add distinctive design focuses.

The new Mercedes-AMG S 63 4MATIC+ has been transformed with a new engine, new transmission, new all-wheel drive, new exterior and interior design, thereby dramatically honing the driving dynamics and looks further. It is equipped with the new AMG 4.0-litre V-8 Biturbo engine with cylinder deactivation, which replaces the previous 5.5-litre V-8 Biturbo engine. The new engine puts out 450 kW (612 hp) and thus exactly 20 kW (27 hp) more than the preceding model.



RISK AVERSION CONTINUES TO DICTATE FINANCIAL MARKETS

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: The US dollar continued to be pressured in the second week of September as signs indicate monetary policy convergence from other Central Banks is on the horizon. The Bank of Canada unexpectedly raised their interest rates for the second time this year and left the door open to more hikes. The 25-basis-point increase to 1 percent followed a hike in July and puts Canada ahead of the curve in returning borrowing costs to more normal levels after they were slashed due to the 2007 financial crisis. While the European Central Bank is not expected to raise interest rates in the short term, expectations of winding down their asset-buying program are being priced in with the appreciation of the euro. With growth in the Eurozone being revitalized and the ECB running out of bonds to buy, markets are suggesting that this is the time to wind down the quantitative easing program. ECB President Mario Draghi confirmed to address the future of the QE program in their next October meeting saying "this autumn, we will decide on the calibration of our policy instruments beyond the end of the year."

The second driver of the US dollar's weakness continues to be the current risk adverse nature of the markets. North Korea seems unwavering by the United Nation's efforts to curb its nuclear test program and has made new threats of attack on the United States. Combined with the aftermath of hurricane Harvey and the imminent hurricanes of Irma and Jose, markets are moving away heading towards the euro, Japanese yen and gold. The effects of hurricane Harvey on the economy began to materialize evident in the surge of US jobless claims last week. The US Labor Department revealed that tens of thousands of Texans displaced by Hurricane Harvey filed applications to collect benefits leading to the largest rise in claims in 5 years. The US dollar index opened the week at 92.57 and closed the week 1.5 percent lower at 91.489.

The euro was relatively quiet and remained at the 1.1900 levels until the ECB's policy meeting on Thursday where the EUR/USD pair jumped to a two year high of 1.2090. Despite Draghi's slightly dovish tone markets were encouraged by the better than expected growth the Eurozone has had this year. In its forecasts, the ECB revised growth for this year

from 1.9 percent to 2.2 percent for 2017. The EUR/USD closed the week at 1.2033.

In the UK, the pound sterling also managed to benefit from weakness in the US dollar. While construction and services surveys were modest for the past month, manufacturing managed to rebound for the first time this year increasing 0.5 percent due to new car models being built. This helped the GBP/USD rise from 1.2958 at the beginning of the week to a close of 1.3197.

In Japan, the yen remained firm across the board on risk aversion. Even a lower than expected GDP growth reading wasn't enough to reverse the USD/JPY pair's course. Meanwhile, analysts still expect the economy to sustain a steady recovery as robust global demand supports exports. The USD/JPY opened the week at 109.38 and appreciated to a close of 107.83.

In commodities, oil prices managed to climb as the new hurricane threats in the Gulf of Mexico shut roughly a quarter of the US's refinery capacity and more than a dozen petrochemical plants halted operations. Furthermore, ports were closed and key fuel pipelines were partially or completely shut. Brent crude was up 2.67 percent to 53.77 while West Texas climbed a similar 0.4 percent to 47.48. Looking at gold, the yellow metal held near its highest in more than a year on Friday on risk aversion and as weak economic data lowered expectations of a December interest rate rise in the United States and. Gold closed the week at 1,346.31.

US Factory Orders

New orders for US-made goods recorded their biggest drop in nearly three years in July as factory goods orders fell by 3.3 percent. The Commerce Department said a drop in demand for transportation equipment was a leading factor. However, economists predict production to receive a boost but the end of the year as US consumers try and replace goods damaged by the recent hurricanes.

US Trade Balance

The US trade deficit widened less than expected in July as rising energy and aircraft exports helped offset drops in shipments of autos and household goods. July's figures

showed drops in both exports and imports of passenger cars as the industry copes with a sales slowdown, while exports of consumer goods fell to the lowest since May 2016. However, energy shipments rose with petroleum exports at the highest in more than two years. The figures indicate trade was on track to contribute to third-quarter growth after net exports added about 0.2 percent to the annual pace of expansion in the previous period. The US Census Bureau said that the goods and services deficit was \$43.7 billion in July, up \$0.1 billion from \$43.5 billion in June.

Non-Manufacturing PMI

While manufacturing has been slow in the summer, services continued to grow for the 97th consecutive month. Higher activity and new business prompted firms to add to their payrolls again in August and at the quickest rate for nearly two years. Furthermore, business confidence was the strongest since January, with firms encouraged by greater client demand. The Non-Manufacturing Business Activity Index increased to 55.3 from 53.9 last month.

Unemployment Claims

According to Labor Department, US jobless claims surged last week by the most since November 2012 as tens of thousands of Texans displaced by Hurricane Harvey filed applications to collect benefits. Prior to the storm however, claims figures had been consistent with an improving labor market picture. A shortage of qualified workers is making companies reluctant to dismiss employees, which has kept the underlying trend in applications for unemployment benefits near the lowest level in more than four decades.

European Central Bank

The European Central Bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged and reiterated its readiness to increase its asset purchase program if needed. Since the 60 billion euro asset buying program is meant to expire in December 2017, President Draghi stated that the decision would be made in the ECB's October meeting. In terms of forecasts, the ECB said it expects the euro zone to grow 2.2 percent in 2017, up from a previous forecast of

1.9 percent while headline inflation is expected to decline from 1.5 percent to 1.2 percent in 2018. The decrease in inflation comes as a result of the drop in oil prices combined with the appreciation of the euro currency which will reduce input costs.

Eurozone GDP

Gross domestic product in the Eurozone rose by 0.6 percent in the second quarter of 2017 according to an estimate published by Eurostat. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 2.3 percent. The increases come from gains in household consumption, fixed capital, and exports.

UK Purchasing Managers' Indices

Purchasing Managers' Index surveys in the UK indicated that the construction and services sectors continued to experience a slowdown this summer. Construction survey respondents linked subdued demand to reduced business investment and heightened economic uncertainty due to Brexit. As a result, construction firms took greater caution in terms of their staff hiring, with employment numbers rising at the slowest pace since July 2016.

While service providers recorded good rises in activity, rates of growth eased since July and remained notably weaker on average than the first half of 2017. Services respondents said rising inflation led to higher staff costs, fuel bills and prices for imported items. This led to a sharp increase in average cost burdens at service sector companies.

UK Manufacturing Production

Manufacturing rose in July for the first time this year, boosted by a strong rebound in car production. New models rolling off production lines helped vehicle output, which had fallen sharply in recent months, surged almost 14 percent. Manufacturing Output rose by 0.5 percent from a flat reading of 0 percent in the previous month.

Asia

Reserve Bank of Australia

The Reserve Bank of Australia left the cash rate unchanged at 1.50 percent at their September meeting while mentioning condi-

tions in the global economy are continuing to improve. Labor markets have tightened further and above-trend growth is expected in a number of advanced economies, although uncertainties remain. Wage growth remains low and is likely to continue for a while yet stronger conditions in the labor market should see some lift in wages growth over time. The recent data has been consistent with the Bank's expectation that growth in the Australian economy will gradually pick up over the coming year and the decline in mining investment will soon run its course. The RBA concluded that the low level of interest rates is continuing to support the Australian economy and should aid them in achieving the inflation target over time.

Australia GDP

Australia's economy rebounded last quarter expanding 0.8 percent from 0.3 percent in Q1. Driving the latest pick up was a surge in public investment, including roads, rail and a major new hospital - the country's single most expensive building. Rising export volumes, particularly for liquefied natural gas, also added to growth, helping offset a rundown in inventories which was the single biggest drag in the quarter.

Japan GDP

Japan's economy expanded at a slower pace than expected in the second quarter of 2017. The slowdown was widely expected after data used to revise gross domestic product figures showed capital spending in April-June rose at a slower annual pace than the previous quarter. While the disappointing data may weaken confidence in the government's economic policies and the business outlook, analysts still expect the economy to sustain a steady recovery as robust global demand supports exports and a tightening job market improves the prospects for higher wages. Japan's GDP grew 0.6 percent q/q against an expected 0.7 percent increase. Annualized, GDP expanded 2.5 percent.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30090

The USDKWD opened at 0.30090 yesterday morning.

HIGH DIVIDEND STOCKS MAY FIND FAVOR AS HEADWINDS ABOUND

NEW YORK: High dividend yield stocks such as telecoms and utilities are looking more tempting as investors become increasingly nervous about the outlook for equities and as US Treasury yields hover near a 10-month low. The wide spread between the 10-year Treasury note and high-dividend payers, coupled with these stocks' reputation as a safer play, could tempt investors to move away from high growth names.

A nuclear test from North Korea on Sunday rattled investors when markets opened on Tuesday after the extended holiday weekend, pushing the yield on benchmark 10-year Treasury notes to a 10-month low. "If rates can stay down here you will see people begin to return to those days of owning high dividend stocks," said Rick Meckler, president of investment firm LibertyView Capital Management in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Investors typically prize high dividend players in a low rate, low growth environment, as they search for high yielding and stable instruments.

Fund managers already seem to be picking

up some of these stocks. On a sector basis, weekly inflows for utilities were among the strongest, relative to assets under management, at 1.9 percent according to data from Credit Suisse through Sept. 1. Stocks in the telecom and utilities sector have some of the highest dividend yields in the S&P 500. Telecom CenturyLink has a dividend yield of 11.4 percent, top in the index. Utilities FirstEnergy and Southern Co both have dividend yields above 4.5 percent.

Meckler said investors are now more confident these sectors can compete with the yield on the 10-year at such a low level.

Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein issued a note of caution about the disparity between bond yields and equities at a conference in Germany on Wednesday, saying "When yields on corporate bonds are lower than dividends on stocks, that unnerves me."

Stubbornly low bond yields can be of concern to equity players because they are forced to take bigger risks as they search for higher returns. They also raise red flags about the health of the economy.

Yields fell even further on Friday, to 2.016 percent, after New York Fed President William Dudley struck a less hawkish tone about rate hikes, while still defending them, in a Thursday night speech.

Fork in the road

The dividend yield on the telecom sector is 5.2 percent while the utilities sector holds a 3.4 percent yield compared with a 2.4 percent yield for the broad S&P 500 index. Those sectors have had divergent fortunes this year, however, with utilities up more than 12 percent while telecoms have dropped more than 14 percent, the worst among the major S&P sectors.

Telecoms also show a forward price to earnings ratio (PE) of 12.9, well below the 17.6 of the S&P 500. Utilities, however, are slightly more expensive with an 18.4 ratio, which could make them less attractive to investors even with the dividend premium. In a recent note to clients, analyst Craig Moffett at MoffettNathanson said valuations for Verizon and AT&T were "enticingly low" with dividend

yields "particularly attractive relative to the 10-year Treasury."

The utilities sector has a strong 50-day negative correlation to the 10-year yield of 0.87, indicating the opposite directions they have traveled in. Telecoms, while still a negative 0.24, have a looser bond.

Stock headwinds

As investors weigh increasing risks for equities, including stretched valuations in what is typically a difficult period for

stocks, the high dividend payers may be a safer play in a market that could be primed for a pullback. Tension with North Korea, economic disruption from major hurricanes and political wrangling in Washington are also among the issues investors have to contend with.

"September and October are historically trying months for equities and add on to that geopolitical risk, it is somewhat prudent to be taking a little bit off the table here," said Anthony Conroy, president at Abel Noser in New York. —Reuters



Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Sunday 10 September 2017									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing						
Price Index	▲ 28.90	6,926.32	6,807.42						
Weighted Index	▲ 5.88	440.57	434.69						
KSX 15	▲ 23.76	1,023.08	996.32						
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	—	0.0	
NAPESCO	846	833	28,505	23,935	17	841	▼	-0.1	
ENERGYM	35.0	34.5	625	22	3	34.8	▲	0.1	
GPI	38.5	37.5	1,120,888	42,360	44	38.0	▼	-0.2	
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	—	0.0	
Oil & Gas			1,190,918	66,317	64	1029.21	▼	-2.60	
KFOUC	300	300	5,000	1,500	1	300	—	0.0	
BPCO	670	649	980,978	642,721	25	670	▲	20.0	
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	606	—	0.0	
ALQURAN	352	347	69,960	24,497	20	350	▼	-2.0	
Basic Materials			1,058,936	648,717	46	1327.53	▲	6.90	
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	424	—	0.0	
CABLE	502	496	50,300	25,181	5	502	▲	2.0	
SHIP	216	214	19,213	4,123	7	216	—	0.0	
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	—	0.0	
PAPER	290	290	20,000	5,800	1	290	▼	-10.0	
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	—	0.0	
ADICO	271	270	150,894	40,751	8	270	—	0.0	
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	—	0.0	
NCSM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	—	0.0	
EQUIPMENT	47.6	46.7	411,090	19,496	13	47.5	▼	-0.4	
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0	
GYPBAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0	
SALBOOKH	63	61	42,080	2,583	5	63	▲	0.5	
ADITY	918	890	1,169,436	1,056,938	123	918	▲	28.0	
EDU	323	317	80,643	28,888	13	323	▲	2.0	
CLEANING	51	49.5	230,000	11,573	6	51	▲	1.0	
KDL	57	56	144,455	8,138	12	57	▼	-0.9	
KMPC	142	142	1,800	256	1	142	▲	1.0	
HUMANISOFT	4,010	3,990	54,400	217,633	45	4,000	▼	-12.0	
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0.0	
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0	
SHOOTING	26.9	26.5	561,088	14,967	31	26.9	▼	-0.1	
COC	545	539	16,700	9,029	7	545	▲	1.0	
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0	
LPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	—	0.0	
ALAFPO	381	378	110,000	41,810	4	378	▼	-4.0	
MUBARRAD	73	73	182,000	13,215	7	73	▲	0.3	
LOGISTICS	56	54	458,128	24,776	27	54	▼	-1.6	
SCEM	83	83	19,145	1,593	1	83	▲	1.2	
GCEM	82	80	222,000	17,927	10	82	▲	1.0	
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0	
FCEM	79	78	52,000	4,063	2	79	▼	-1.0	
RKWC	85	85	1,500	128	1	85	▲	2.0	
SPEC	100	98	170,800	16,926	12	98	▼	-2.0	
Industrials			4,176,632	1,565,367	341	1065.32	▲	0.70	
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0	
CATTL	271	270	39,000	10,540	4	270	▼	-1.0	
DANAH	71	70	131,203	9,218	10	70	▼	-0.3	
FOOD	1,850	1,850	500	925	1	1,850	▼	-148.0	
Consumer Goods			178,703	20,683	16	1021.70	▼	-27.90	
MHC	480	402	4	2	4	480	▲	80	
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	—	0	
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	—	0	
Health Care			4	2	4	1683.91	▲	173.40	
KDIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,380	—	0	
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	—	0	
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	—	0	
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	—	0	
EYAS	850	840	8,795	7,389	7	850	▼	-10	
IFAIR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	—	0	
OLUAFUEL	123	121	318,496	39,005	24	123	▲	1	
MUNTAAHAT	80	79	125,100	9,695	5	80	▲	4	
JAZEERA	805	580	101,960	60,713	43	600	▼	-4	
SOOR	124	122	47,959	5,882	11	122	—	0	
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	123	—	0	
Alraj	122	122	40,000	4,880	1	122	▼	-2	
Jurai	54	49.0	500,100	4,905	4	52	▲	4	
Mazzan	868	861	30,000	25,900	4	861	▼	-4	
Consumer Services			772,410	158,371	99	1070.89	▲	6.00	
ZAIN	502	498	5,697,282	2,851,567	225	501	▲	3	
QOREDOO	1,150	1,150	3,880	4,462	5	1,150	▼	-20	
AAN	40.0	38.2	2,565,005	99,513	80	38.2	▼	-2	
VIVA	809	802	96,383	77,622	44	809	▼	-7	
Telecommunications			8,362,550	3,833,164	355	610.14	▼	-2.90	
NBK	775	754	4,533,296	3,468,307	221	775	▲	21	
GBK	239	237	3,739,597	891,988	96	238	—	0	
CBK	398	398	12,000	4,776	1	398	▲	1	
ABK	310	309	1,085,000	335,865	15	309	—	0	
ALMUTAHED	431	420	34,037	14,628	18	430	—	0	
KIB	251	248	4,332,550	1,081,204	135	248	▲	1	
BURG	377	372	877,961	329,246	56	376	▲	3	
KFIN	650	609	7,467,032	4,689,374	501	643	▲	35	
BOUBAYAN	470	449	1,785,001	818,787	160	469	▲	20	
AUB	225	221	12,669,832	2,821,988	174	224	▲	2	
ITHAR	41.7	40.0	2,442,363	99,088	142	40.0	▼	-2	
WARBANK	266	264	649,443	171,736	118	264	▼	-1	
Banks			39,627,712	14,728,748	1,637	952.16	▲	10.70	
KNS	290	290	650	189	1	290	—	0	
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	899	—	0.0	
AINS	425	420	93,000	39,275	8	420	▼	-5.0	
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0	
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	—	0.0	
FTI	56	56	60,000	3,376	2	56	▼	-4.6	
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	—	0.0	
BOKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0	
Insurance			183,690	42,840	11	1168.74	▼	-10.80	

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report									
At 02:00 PM Previous Day									
Global Stock Indices									
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %				
Dow Jones	21,784.78	21,797.79	13.01	▲	0.06	10.30			
NASDAQ	6,397.87	6,360.19	-37.68	▼	-0.59	18.15			
SBP 500	2,465.10	2,461.43	-3.67	▼	-0.15	9.94			
Financial Times	7,396.98	7,377.60	-19.38	▼	-0.26	3.29			
DAX	12,296.63	12,303.98	7.35	▲	0.06	7.17			
CAC 40	5,114.62	5,113.49	-1.13	▼	-0.02	5.17			
Swiss	8,906.66	8,912.05	5.39	▲	0.06	8.42			
Nikkei 225	19,396.52	19,274.82	-121.70	▼	-0.63	0.84			
Topix	1,598.24	1,593.54	-4.70	▼	-0.29	4.93			
Hang Seng	27,522.92	27,668.47	145.55	▲	0.53	25.76			
Straits Times	3,228.06	3,228.56</							

THE LEXUS SHORT FILMS FESTIVAL SEASON 4

JENKINS, FUQUA TO JOIN SHERIDAN AS MEMBERS OF FESTIVAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

KUWAIT: After an exciting launch in June 2017 at 'Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia' (SSFF & ASIA) in Tokyo for Season 4 of Lexus Short Films, Lexus International and The Weinstein Company have now announced Patty Jenkins, best known for directing Warner Bros. Pictures and DC 'Comics' Wonder Woman and her debut feature Monster, and Antoine Fuqua, best known for directing the films The Magnificent Seven, The Equalizer and Training Day, to join Taylor Sheridan for the film program's selection committee.



LEXUS
SHORT FILMS

The selection committee will be analyzing these aspiring filmmakers' work to find the best of the best to move forward and bring their new films produced by The Weinstein Company to life. As a part of the selection committee, Patty Jenkins, Antoine Fuqua, and Taylor Sheridan will be reviewing submissions and recommending the top four films collected on Withoutabox,

the premier submission service for film festivals and filmmakers. The selected finalists will also get the opportunity to meet with Jenkins, Fuqua, and Sheridan during the course of their short film production. Lexus International and The Weinstein Company hope to cultivate and transform the next wave of filmmakers by connecting them with the very best in the industry.

The film selection committee will be looking to identify which filmmakers took this year's theme of TRANSFORMATION to heart to illustrate that amazing things happen when you transform the ordinary into extraordinary. Submissions will be accepted worldwide through Withoutabox until August 31st, 2017.

Harvey Weinstein, Co-Chairman, The Weinstein Company, said, "We are thrilled to bring such incredibly talented filmmakers into this year's program. We are excited to see which films resonate with our committee as they bring their world-class experience to the Lexus Short Films program."

To accompany Jenkins, Fuqua, and Sheridan, top executives of The Weinstein Company and Lexus International will also be reviewing these filmmakers' commendable work to narrow down the four finalists. Joey Horvitz with The Weinstein Company will again be producing the films.

"We are opening doors for young talent that will help guide them in the right direction for their film careers," added David Glasser, COO and President, The Weinstein Company. The Lexus Short Films program supports the new generation of emerging filmmakers. With the help of Lexus International and The Weinstein Company, the program helps these filmmakers bring their imagination to life and realize their dreams. "Our esteemed selection committee and The Weinstein Company bring an enormous amount of filmmaking expertise, so we are confident that Season 4 of Lexus Short Films will be even more successful than "the award-winning Season 3," said



Spiros Fotinos, Global Head of Brand Management & Marketing at Lexus.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "The Lexus Short Films series is an incredible opportunity for a new generation of emerging filmmakers to demonstrate their talent and make their presence felt in the creative industry. We are delighted with the appointment of prominent industry personalities for this prestigious program, as they will not only bring their valuable expertise to the selection committee but also give aspiring filmmakers a chance to learn and improve their craft."

Yoshitsugu added: "I thank all the participants and the international film community for supporting this project, and I also extend my warm gratitude to customers and fans from across the world who have been following the progress of Lexus Short Films and supporting us in this journey."

About Patty Jenkins

Patty Jenkins is a writer/director best known for directing Warner Bros. and DC Comics' Wonder Woman, her debut feature film, based on the life of convicted serial killer Aileen Wuornos, and helming the pilot episode of AMC's hit show The Killing.

About Antoine Fuqua

Antoine Fuqua is one of the most sought-after filmmakers of his generation, effortlessly blending action and character-driven storytelling. Most recently, Fuqua helmed The Magnificent Seven, a remake of the 1960 western of the same name and an homage to Akira Kurosawa's Seven Samurai.

About Taylor Sheridan

In 2012, Taylor Sheridan sold his original screenplay for HELL OR HIGH WATER (fka COMANCHERIA) to Sidney Kimmel Entertainment. The film, a drama set in the struggling rural areas of West Texas, was

released by CBS Films in August 2016 and stars Chris Pine, Ben Foster, and Jeff Bridges. About Harvey Weinstein (Co-Chairman, The Weinstein Company):

Harvey Weinstein launched The Weinstein Company (TWC), a multi-media company, with his brother Bob on October 1st, 2005. Since its inception, TWC has released such acclaimed films as THE KING'S SPEECH; THE ARTIST; SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK; DJANGO UNCHAINED and THE IMITATION GAME.

About Lexus Short Films

In 2013, Lexus Short Films was launched with the goal of supporting and nurturing a new generation of emerging filmmakers. These aspiring directors and writers have received a unique opportunity supported by Lexus to collaborate with acclaimed film studio The Weinstein Company to produce and showcase their work on an international stage.

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...

Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!



CBK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" yesterday at the Bank's head office to select three winners to win a cash prize of KD 7,000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Nawaf Aklah AlKammah
2. Ibrahim Hmoud Bourisli And Asia Al-Qattan
3. AbdulJalil Helayel Razian

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get

their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's significant role and its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.

VIVA REVEALS 6TH WEEK'S WINNERS OF "ALLO" PREPAID CAMPAIGN



KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, revealed the 6th week winners of the all new "allo" draw for its prepaid customers.

The names of the \$1,500 daily prize were as follows: Mohammed Nawaf Mohammed Al-Otaibi, Vara lakshmi Tanjela, Rakan Malaab Lami Alfadhli, Hussain Basha Shaikh Mitajiri, Tezita Germa Tolsha, Alsayed Sharaf Hassan Ali Hashem, Saryejani Sala Sowayab.

Winners will be announced throughout the campaign with a grand total of almost \$150,000 to give away! VIVA customers can enjoy this wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes of \$1,500 daily and \$30,000 monthly, throughout the campaign by simply buying a new "allo" line or recharging their current line through Direct Debit, VIVA website, VIVA's Kiosks, VIVA App or by calling 102. Every KD 1 spent, earns VIVA customers 10 chances to win, increasing

their winning chances the more they spend.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things Possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

GLOBAL EXPANDS AND DIVERSIFIES ITS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS IN UK

ACQUISITIONS RAISE TOTAL VALUE OF MANAGED ASSETS TO \$400M

KUWAIT: Acting on behalf of its clients, Global Investment House (Global), a regional Asset Management and Investment Banking firm headquartered in Kuwait with offices in major capital markets in the MENA region, has unconditionally contracted to acquire two institutional grade retail warehouses in the towns of Bury, in the greater Manchester area, and in the large seaport town of Grimsby, UK.

The properties are let to B&Q Plc, a leading retailer in the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) and home improvement retail sector, on full repair and insurance leases that are subject to annual RPI-Linked, upward only rent reviews, with a 12-year certain unexpired lease term.

Structured as one transaction, this acquisition provides clients a sharia compliant structure enjoying a stabilized income stream with strong rental growth prospects and expected net annualized cash dividends exceeding 8 percent with annual growth opportunity of 2 to 3 percent.

This marks the sixth transaction under the UK National Commercial Real Estate Program which Global's real estate asset management team launched, in partnership with London based Greenridge Investment Management Limited, including eight properties with total value around \$400 million.

Launched in September 2015, the Program strategically identifies off-market investment opportunities outside in regional UK cities out-



side of London which produce rental income derived from Investment Grade or Government tenants on long-term triple net leases.

On this occasion, Head of Real Estate Asset Management at Global Nasser Al-Khaled, commented: "This acquisition affirms our strategy to diversify our portfolio and demonstrates our continued pursuit of identifying value growth prospects in other sectors within the greater UK property market.

We see great opportunity in the retail warehousing sector due to its resilience to the rise of the ecommerce industry. Moreover, the thriving housing construction market witnessed currently in the UK and its growth prospects further supports the rationale behind the perceived value proposition in this sector."

He added: "We currently manage a very strong and focused portfolio of properties in the UK and look forward to continue this path of growth in collaboration with our partners. Despite current political uncertainty over Brexit negotiations and a weaker sterling, the UK has proven to be a very resilient market, and we are confident in the sustainability of our performance to meet our investment targets. We are now among the institutions that have proven their credibility and professionalism in one of the target markets and are looking expand this success to other international markets."

"He concluded: "This transaction also reflects Global's strategy to grow its real estate asset management business and increase the share of real estate assets from total assets under management."

KFH ANNOUNCES CARDS SUMMER CAMPAIGN 14TH DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the fourteenth draw of the new banking cards summer campaign themed "Get Back Double the Value of your Purchases". The campaign was launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Hazaa Al-Otaibi- Mohammed Al-Abdhaladi- Ali Al-Hamad- Faisal Al-Qawsi- Nasser Al Osaimi- Fahad Al Ajmi-Altatf Al-Rashoud.

The campaign that lasts for 120 days gives KFH customers chances to enter draw to win double cashback up to KD 2000 daily. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used for domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used for international purchases are eligible for the draw. For every KD 1 spent locally earns 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally earn 3 chances to enter the daily draw.

This campaign is part of KFH efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include



boosting sales, and benefitting clients and merchants. It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is

enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

HUAWEI INVESTS \$500M TO ENHANCE SERVICE CAPABILITIES

SHANGHAI: At Huawei Connect 2017, Huawei revealed yesterday its latest enterprise service strategy designed to support companies undergoing cloud transformation. Huawei is committed to becoming an industry cloud enabler and a strategic partner to customers across diverse industries by investing \$500 million in the development of cloud-based professional services, a cloud platform and cloud ecosystem. This will provide customers with end-to-end cloud transformation service solutions enabling them to build, use, and manage their cloud platforms effectively.

Smart services for enterprise cloud transformation

Sun Maolu, President of Technical Service Department for Huawei Enterprise Business Group, said: "With the emergence of a 'Cloud Only' era, Huawei is adopting a long term cloud transformation service strategy to support our enterprise customers in their journey to the cloud. Our services strategy centers on the concept of 'Grow with the Cloud' and becoming an industry cloud enabler.

More specifically, Huawei's enterprise services will focus on four key areas including cloud innovation, creating a digital platform, supporting smart operations and enabling businesses.

To drive this strategy forward, Huawei will continue to increase its investment in the development of service solutions and Global Service Centers (GSC), as well as tools, platforms and verification labs for professional services. In the next five years, we will also focus on research and development of industry clouds, increasing our annual investment by more than 50 percent. In addition, to meet enterprise demand for ICT talent in the cloud era, Huawei will provide a new certification scheme to train ICT architects, ICT develop-



ers and industry-specific ICT experts. By 2021, it is estimated that more than 150,000 cloud and industry-specific ICT professionals will have been certified by Huawei."

End-to-end industry cloud transformation solutions

As enterprises embrace cloud transformation, they will face a new set of challenges across strategy, planning, requirement analysis, business integration, application system evaluation, technology selection, roadmap design, deployment, operations & maintenance (O&M) management, and information security.

According to Xu Jingbin, Director of IT Technical Service Department for Huawei Enterprise Business Group: "With a track record of industry cloud solution delivery, Huawei works closely with our partners to develop end-to-end industry cloud transformation services that cover consulting, assessment, planning and design, migration, disaster recovery (DR), security, and O&M. As business continuity is critical during complex cloud migration, Huawei provides a sophisticated migration process with 4 stages and 17 steps, and professional migration tools developed in-house, which have helped more than 1,000 customers migrate their businesses

to the cloud smoothly and efficiently." Huawei to invest \$500 million in the next five years to develop all-scenario services and verification capabilities, enabling a trouble-free cloud transformation for industries

To help customers through their cloud transformation, Huawei will invest more than USD 500 million in the next five years to develop all-scenario services and integrated verification capabilities for its enterprise services. In China, Huawei has already established an industry planning and design verification lab, a disaster recovery and migration lab, a safe city verification center and a financial services verification center in Beijing, Shenzhen and Chengdu. These labs and centers allow the integrated testing and verification of service solutions and new technologies, and the joint innovation and verification of services with partners. This can accelerate the launch of new solutions while reducing the technical risk of cloud transformation for customers.

Huawei also works with leading Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) to foster an industry ecosystem, providing one-stop industry cloud service capabilities across infrastructure, platforms and industry cloud applications to help cus-



tomers across various industries smoothly migrate to the cloud and accelerate digital transformation.

Leslie Rosenberg, IDC Research Director, said: "Huawei invests heavily in the development of Intellectual Property through the establishment of R+D centers to accelerate innovation, differentiation and delivery of its services. The company has skilled services personnel as well as a channel ecosystem around the globe for consistent consulting and integration engagements. In a recent IDC MarketScape: Worldwide Network Consulting Services 2017 Vendor Assessment, Huawei is positioned as a Major Player, for its global capabilities and R+D strength. Additionally, end users surveyed in the study cited Huawei for its ability to lower operational costs and improve security as well as its ability to deliver reliability, quality and adaptability to customer needs and requirements."

Huawei Enterprise Service has set up a

Global Service Center (GSC) in China, Romania, and Mexico, and 12 regional and local Technical Assistance Centers worldwide. These 15 centers provide 24/7 services to more than 170 countries, including technical support, remote network operation, remote delivery, and marketing and channel support. Huawei's cloud services have already served over 18,000 customers in the past year. To date, 197 of the Fortune Global 500 companies and 45 of the top 100 enterprises have chosen Huawei as their partner for digital transformation.

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.

DELL TECHNOLOGIES CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY AFTER MERGER WITH EMC

WORLD'S LARGEST PRIVATELY-CONTROLLED TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

SAN FRANCISCO: Dell Technologies, the world's largest privately-controlled technology company, celebrates the first anniversary of its formation through the historic merger of Dell and EMC. In its inaugural year, the company formed a unified Dell and Dell EMC sales force and created a \$35 billion Dell Technologies channel and global channel program that added 10,000 new business customers to the Dell EMC portfolio. In addition Dell EMC experienced explosive revenue growth (nearly double historical rates) in underpenetrated accounts in the first half of 2017, fueled by cross-selling of server, storage, client and converged infrastructure solutions.

Dell Technologies accomplished these milestone achievements while rapidly paying down approximately \$9.5 billion in debt, quickly completing three major business divestitures and continuing to invest aggressively in the most innovative technologies for customers. As evidence of early traction, a new independent IDC survey reveals that 91% of customers surveyed worldwide believe Dell and EMC have delivered on the promises made to them ahead of the merger.

Dell Technologies also is announcing that GE, the world's largest digital industrial company, has signed a multi-year commitment to use Dell Inc. infrastructure and end-user computing solutions to support GE's ongoing digital transformation efforts. Under the agreement, Dell Inc. becomes the primary IT infrastructure supplier for GE. The



Michael Dell

deal is one of the largest non-government contracts in Dell Technologies, Dell or EMC history.

Dell Technologies also is releasing its Annual Report to Customers, demonstrating how the company has helped customers in the past year to achieve their peak potential in the digital future. "We set the bar high and exceeded our own expectations," said Michael Dell, chairman and chief executive officer of Dell Technologies. "We've made enormous strides this past year in serving the needs of our customers, from governments to fast-growing small businesses to many of the world's largest enterprises who call Dell Technologies their most strategic IT partner. And we're just getting started."

INVESTMENTS: Dell Technologies continued investing \$4.5 billion in R&D annually. It invested an additional \$100 million in innovative startups focused on future tech areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things, genomics and others through Dell Technologies

Capital. Since the close of the merger, the company has committed to invest almost \$1 billion incrementally in its people, go-to-market strategy and technology for key growth areas.

MARKET LEADERSHIP: Dell EMC PowerEdge servers overtook the closest competitor to become the world's No. 1 bestselling x86 server based on units shipped, and Dell EMC stood as the No. 1 converged systems provider. Dell's PC market share continued to rise, with 18 consecutive quarters of year-over-year PC market share gains. Dell also led as No. 1 in worldwide workstation shipments and No. 1 worldwide monitor shipments. Dell EMC retained the No. 1 position in All-Flash storage for the 12th consecutive quarter.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Today Dell was named to Fortune's Change the World List, was recently recognized as one of Diversity Inc's Top 50 Companies for Diversity & Inclusion, and provided 2.3 million youth with better access to technology through grants and partnerships. In sustainability, the company diverted 99 percent of manufacturing waste from landfills, helped customers save \$380 million in electricity costs by improving product energy efficiency, created the first commercial-scale global ocean plastics supply chain and committed to turning 16,000 lbs. of ocean-bound plastic into product packaging.

EQUIFAX BREACH: THE IMPACT FOR ENTERPRISES AND CONSUMERS

By Rick Holland, VP Strategy at Digital Shadows

NEW YORK: On September 7th, credit reporting agency Equifax announced "a cybersecurity incident potentially impacting approximately 143 million US consumers." To put this in context, at this time, this incident is almost seven times larger than the Office of Personnel Management breach of 2015. Equifax discovered the unauthorized access on July 29th and determined that the intrusion began in mid-May. Equifax stated that "the information accessed primarily includes names, Social Security Numbers (SSNs), birth dates, addresses and, in some instances, driver's license numbers. In addition, credit card numbers for approximately 209,000 US consumers, and certain dispute documents with personal identifying information for approximately 182,000 US consumers, were accessed." In addition, the "limited personal information" for Canadian and United Kingdom citizens was all accessed. The initial attack vector was reported as a "web application vulnerability."



Rick Holland

Opening fraudulent accounts

There is no shortage of alternative finance companies, such as those who provide short term loans. Fraudsters can successfully open accounts in another individual's name, using a combination of SSNs, fraudulent gas statements and other personally identifiable information (PII). Individuals should be extra vigilant for any evidence of accounts being opened in their name.

Carding

PII is valuable to payment card fraudsters, who require such information to bypass security controls such as "Verified by Visa", which sometimes ask for digits of cardholders' SSNs. There are plenty of high-quality cards that criminals use which do not require extra validation, but the lower-level carders must turn to SSNs to enrich lower-quality card dumps. It's important to remember that SSNs and payment card fraud are inextricably linked. An example of a security control for online credit card payments

Benefits Fraud and Medical care fraud

Although less glamorous than tax return fraud and carding, benefit and medical care fraud is a real risk. As with tax return fraud, this is hard to detect when it happens, but individuals can be vigilant when checking their Explanation of Benefits statement and flag any unfamiliar activity to their insurance provider.

Resale of data

It's important to note that the individuals responsible for the breach are unlikely to be the same criminals conducting the day-to-day fraud. In the case of the Experian breach, this stolen data soon made its way on the (now defunct) Hansa marketplace. As I've previously mentioned; there's already a market for SSNs to enrich credit card information, so it's likely that many actors could end up getting a piece of the pie.

For lower level criminals, the expenses associated with criminal activities will get even lower. SSNs are already cheap; on one AVC (Automated Vending Cart) site (shown in Figure 3), there are over 3.4 million SSNs for sale at only \$1. This includes full names, addresses, and - for a large number of accounts - dates of birth. In California alone, there were 334,000 SSNs for sale. With tens (and potentially hundreds) of millions more SSNs potentially entering the market, the opportunities for criminals to commit fraud will increase and the price will decrease even more.

So far, I've focused heavily on SSNs - but credit card information was also accessed. However, in the breach. While this number is hundreds of thousands (209,000), it is unlikely to have a significant impact on an already burgeoning black market for card credit information.

Although Equifax claimed this intrusion was conducted by a criminal threat actor, it is possible that this was a nation state actor. (Quick reminder to re-read my note from above "attribution is always a challenge.") In the event that a nation state actor is responsible for the intrusion, then like the OPM breach, we won't see the data being monetized in the criminal underground. The stolen data will be leveraged to enable nation states' campaigns against their intelligence targets.

What we don't know about the Equifax breach

Whenever doing any sort of analysis, it is important to state what we don't know. Simply put there is a great deal we don't know and most of the public will never know (despite what some talking heads might claim). As a former incident responder, I know that investigations aren't completed in the time it takes to complete an episode of TV drama Scorpion. (Did you know that Scorpion is starting its fourth season?) Equifax stated that the investigation is "substantially complete," but wisely added that "it remains ongoing and is expected to be completed in the coming weeks."

- We don't actually know how many SSNs were compromised.

- We don't know if all 143 million individual's SSNs were impacted.

- We don't know the threat actor responsible for this intrusion. Equifax claimed that "criminals exploited" a web application, but attribution is always a challenge. Structured Analytic Techniques, like the Analysis of Competing Hypothesis we did for WannaCry, can be useful for considering attribution.

- Speaking of web applications, although we don't know the specific vulnerability that was exploited, I'd bet 1,000 Gold Dragons it was SQL injection.

What is most likely to happen next

There are a wide range of possibilities depending on the goals of the threat actor responsible for the Equifax intrusion. By the way, did I mention that attribution is challenging? Attribution aside, one thing is certain though, regardless of the motivations of the attackers, this data is perfect for social engineering attacks.

Tax Return Fraud

SSNs are highly valuable for criminals looking to commit tax refund fraud. Fraudsters use SSNs to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund and it can be hard to find out if you're a victim until it is too late. There is some good advice from the IRS about what to do should you suffer from this form of fraud. You can read more about tax fraud in a blog we wrote earlier this year.



HUAWEI PARTNERS WITH TUV RHEINLAND FOR CERTIFICATION OF SUPERCHARGE TECHNOLOGY

SHANGHAI: Huawei Consumer Business Group yesterday announced its cooperation with TUV Rheinland to certify Huawei's SuperCharge technology. Certification will mark the first time an end-to-end fast-charging technology has successfully completed the rigorous tests set forth by the world-renowned safety experts. Testing encompasses every component, requiring adapters, IC circuits and charging cable materials to pass safety, low temperature and thermal shock tests. Submitting itself to the stringent oversight of TUV Rheinland demonstrates Huawei's continued mission to deliver the most innovative features on the market, and highlights Huawei's commitment to delivering not only faster charging but more importantly safer charging.

"Over the past 145 years, TUV Rheinland

has committed itself to ensuring that complex devices and products meet rigorous safety standards that meet consumer expectations," said Kalyan Varma, VP of Business Field Electrical, Products, Global of TUV Rheinland. "With the growing demand for fast charging solutions, we're glad to work with Huawei to certify its SuperCharge technology using our proven testing methods and battery expertise. In the drive for continued innovation, we must always keep consumer safety at the forefront."

"With each of our products, we strive not only to deliver the features and performance that consumers are looking for - but to go beyond where our competitors are in terms of experience," said Bruce Li, Vice President of Handset Business at Huawei Consumer Business Group. "By working with the storied experts at TUV Rheinland, we're able to deliver

a device that not only offers incredibly fast charging but does so with a safety assurance that our competitors cannot match."

HUAWEI's SuperCharge technology enables continuous "communication" between the device and the charger. By monitoring every single point of the charging cycle, it is able to intelligently auto-adjust voltage and current output to maximize charging speed based on the capacity of the phone, adapter and cable. To keep Huawei's fast-charging phones cool, Huawei SuperCharge uses a 4.5V/5A low-voltage charging solution.

In addition, the connectors and charging jack on Huawei's devices are programmed to automatically suspend the supply of electricity if they come into contact with water. This intelligent safeguard is in place to prevent short circuits and device fires.

SEEDING THE FUTURE: MODERN 'ARK' PRESERVES RARE, THREATENED PLANTS

FRAMINGHAM: An ordinary-looking freezer in a sturdy cinderblock shed at a suburban Boston botanical garden holds what might be New England's most important seed catalog. Inside the freezer in Framingham are tightly sealed packages containing an estimated 6 million seeds from hundreds of plant species, bearing obscure or hard-to-pronounce names like *potentilla robbinsiana*. They are rare varieties of plant life native to the region - in some cases found nowhere else in the world - and are in grave danger of vanishing from the landscape.

The "seed ark," as it's playfully dubbed by the New England Wild Flower Society, is not unlike Noah's biblical vessel in its quest to preserve from calamity a rich diversity of life. In this case it's not animals marching two by two but vegetation threatened by any number of things, including natural disasters, climate change, unchecked development or simply being trampled afoot by unsuspecting hikers. The society's 2015 survey of more than 3,500 known plant species determined that 22 percent were rare, in decline, endangered or perhaps already extinct.

'Second-class citizens'

"Plants have always been second-class citizens when it comes to conservation," said Bill Brumback, the organization's conservation director who for three decades has supervised the collection and storage of rare seeds in New England. "Animals are much more, shall we say, charismatic. Plants don't get the same protections under the federal endangered species act." Teams of staffers and volunteers scour some of the region's most remote areas in search of plants like Jesup's milk-vetch, a species so rare it grows in just three tiny clusters along the Connecticut River.

Once gathered, seeds are first brought to a facility in western Massachusetts and dried to 20 to 30 percent of relative humidity, said Brumback, explaining that the drying process assures that liquid inside cells won't expand and crack when exposed to low temperatures. The seeds are then brought to Framingham, sealed in foil envelopes and frozen at -20 degrees Celsius (-4 degrees Fahrenheit), keeping them viable for decades or even centuries, depending on the individual species.

"If we have the seed bank we have the genetic material to restore (the plants) and put them back on the landscape," as a hedge against extinction, said Debbi Edelstein, the society's executive director. The "ark" is housed in a structure built to withstand many ravages of time. But already some seeds have been pulled from cold storage to help repopulate dying species.

An oft-cited example is *potentilla robbinsiana*, also known as Robbins' cinquefoil, a small yellow-flowered plant found only near the top of New Hampshire's Mount Washington, New England's highest peak. When hiking trails threatened to destroy the plant, the society worked with Appalachian Mountain Club and other groups on a plan that restored Robbins' cinquefoil to the point it no longer was considered an endangered species.

Rare seed programs aren't unique to New England. Similar seed banks exist in several other US locations, including the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California. Conservation efforts have assumed new urgency as scientists worry about the uncertain impacts of global climate change, Edelstein said. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, she said, has established an ambitious goal of banking 75 percent of the world's rare seeds by 2020.

In the US, private conservation groups are shouldering the burden in part because the US is the only major nation that never ratified the little-known 1992 treaty, though American officials over the years have voiced support for its objectives. Preserving plant life is a worthy undertaking on many levels, Brumback said. Even the rarest of plants can be vital to ecosystems. Some could yet yield medicines or other products useful to mankind. "These are species on Earth that deserve to live as much as we do," Brumback said. He added: "If you lost one plant species is the world going to stop? No it's not. But if you lose enough plant species and enough biological diversity, we don't know what the effects are going to be." — AP



FRAMINGHAM: In this Aug 31, 2017 photo, Bill Brumback, director of conservation at the New England Wild Flower Society, opens the "seed ark," a freezer filled with seeds collected for safekeeping from rare and endangered plants in the region. —AP



NEW YORK: In this Aug 10, 2011 file photo Tatyana Gryazeva, right, a criminalist at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, instructs Lache Rossouw, center, a visiting scientist from South Africa, and Kelsey Baker, an intern, on extracting DNA at a training lab of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner's Forensic Biology Lab. —AP

DNA LAB TECHNIQUES, PIONEERED IN NEW YORK ARE NOW UNDER FIRE

NEW YORK: Two techniques for analyzing DNA evidence that were once considered cutting edge are now under fire amid questions about their reliability, and criminal defense attorneys in New York have asked a state agency to investigate the renowned lab that once used both methods. The New York City medical examiner's lab developed one of the techniques and became a leader in sophisticated DNA examinations partly because of its work identifying the remains of 9/11 victims.

Both techniques have been phased out in favor of new technology. But the lab says it's used its forensic statistical tool developed in-house in 1,350 cases over the past six years and used what's called low copy number analysis in about 3,450 cases over the past 11 years. Once New York was the only lab in the country that used the latter method.

Attorneys for the Legal Aid Society and Federal Defenders of New York asked the New York State inspector general's office to investigate in a Sept 1 letter. Legal Aid Society attorney Julie Fry said low copy number analysis is "like making a copy of a copy of a copy. Eventually it's going to be faded." "And with FST, it's a computer program. We don't have access to the code - and we can't tell if it's accurate or not. We don't know what's in the black box," she said.

The groups say the medical examiner's office recognized there were problems and quietly corrected them without notifying anyone of potential wrong matches. The lawyers also say they believe the lab manipulated data while testing the low copy number technique, and made false statements on methodology to the Commission on Forensic Sciences, which oversees labs in the state.

Serious crimes

"The consequences of dishonest work are severe, innocent people may be wrongly convicted, and people guilty of serious crimes may go free," the attorneys wrote. The letter was first reported by The New York Times and ProPublica. Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Barbara Sampson wrote in a post published Wednesday on the website Medium that the two methods were

discarded to meet changing FBI requirements and to reflect new, better science, and were not phased out because of inaccurate results.

"Each technique has been intensively reviewed and approved for use in casework by the state-established oversight agency, including a panel of distinguished scientific experts, the DNA subcommittee of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science," she wrote. The medical examiner's office operates independently from prosecutors or defense attorneys and the forensic lab does work for both sides. The lab is the largest DNA crime lab in North America. It tests about 40,000 items a year in criminal cases including murder, rape, assault and weapons possessions.

The forensic statistical tool, or FST, relies on computer software and calculates the likelihood that a suspect's DNA is present in a mixture of substances found at a crime scene. Low copy number analysis tests for trace DNA amounts by amplifying the sample. Many prosecutors and forensic experts hail the two techniques as powerful tools that can help close cases. But critics, including the FBI, argue they are inconclusive and unreliable. There is no clear case law on the merits of the science.

In 2015, Brooklyn state Supreme Court judge Mark Dwyer tossed a sample collected through the low copy number method. "If the experts in the DNA field cannot agree on the weight to be given to evidence produced by high sensitivity analysis, it would make no sense to throw such evidence before a lay jury," he said. But earlier, a judge in Queens found the method scientifically sound.

Some defendants argue they were wrongly convicted because the DNA analysis was flawed. In other cases, the DNA analysis has helped exonerate defendants. Both methods were approved by the state's Commission on Forensic Sciences and the DNA Subcommittee, made up of geneticists and scientists who review protocols. A spokesman for the commission said the agency has received the letter from the defense attorneys, but could not comment yet on whether an investigation would be launched. — AP

HURRICANES DRIVE ADDICTION ISSUES INTO PUBLIC SQUARE

MIAMI: In the whirr of preparations for Hurricane Irma, a needle exchange program in Miami's Overtown neighborhood handed out extra syringes to heroin users. Others trying to break from the drug's grasp picked up advance medication from methadone clinics. Disasters cause stress, and stress can cause relapse for people struggling with addiction, whether their problem is alcohol, tobacco, pills or heroin. Authorities planning for the devastating effects of hurricanes now factor in the heightened danger of relapse and overdose.

The problems of alcoholism and addiction become more public in a storm, said researcher Andrew Golub of the National Development and Research Institutes in New York, who studied illicit drug users in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. "During a storm, it becomes harder to hide and cope with one's addiction in private," Golub said.

Scientists learned from Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy. Drug users took chances during storms, researchers found, avoiding evacuation to stay near their dealers or sharing needles with strangers putting them-

selves in danger of HIV and hepatitis. Those in treatment missed doses of medications and went back to street drugs to avoid withdrawal sickness. During Sandy, clinics that lost power measured methadone by candlelight. "Disasters like this interrupt treatment," said Enrique Pouget, whose team interviewed 300 injection drug users in New York after the 2012 storm.

Big challenges

Methadone programs, highly regulated by the government, are required to have disaster emergency plans. The state of Florida, in cooperation with federal authorities, granted methadone clinics discretion to provide up to five days of medication ahead of Hurricane Irma. In Texas and Louisiana, some patients took home advance doses of methadone. Others received it in shelters or from alternative facilities. Florida's first needle exchange program - aimed at preventing overdoses and blood-borne infections - faces its biggest challenge yet with Irma. This past week, Dr Hansel Tookes and his team gave away a week's supply of clean needles and overdose reversal kits, or Narcan. —AP



HOUSTON: Julie Boon, director of Eudaimonia Recovery Homes poses for a photograph at one of her facility damaged by Hurricane Harvey. — AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
م. د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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



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



Zumba Pablik group celebrated its 1st anniversary at INN&GO Hotel on the 8th Sept, 2017. Officers, ZIN, members, guest, sponsors and Hon Atty Alejandro Padaen Labor Attache to Philippines Embassy Kuwait attended the event.



SHERATON KUWAIT, FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOST LOYAC TRAINEES

The Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel and the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait welcomed LOYAC trainees for this year during the summer program. The trainees underwent a six-consecutive-week program as part of the hotel's responsibility toward the society that has accompanied and supported their activities since its inception.

Both establishments provided the trainees with the opportunity to explore different departments and involve them in practical training, different activities and supportive workshops to help the young generation grasp the spirit of working as a team. Achieve the highest standard of excellent hospitality which adds valuable work experience to their knowledge and build a successful future as well as youth development potential and investment of the leisure time they have.

We believe that the primary role of young people is to

get a good education in order to become better citizens of tomorrow. They need to learn skills to do the job that their country's economy needs. The entire success of the nation depends on the youth, however, in order for continuous success to take place; it is our social responsibility to provide the youth with proper facilities for, getting equipped with the knowledge of the modern era. No better time than summer vacation to gain a wide range of knowledge and expertise that increase their creativity and develop their ways of thinking about the promising future.

On this occasion, Fahed Abu Shaar, General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait and Mounir Amer, General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait praised the importance of the great relation and support that binds the hotels with LOYAC, because it aims to provide the youth of today with a way to use their time more productively to benefit themselves and the society in advance.

ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER HOLDS ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ASSE Kuwait Chapter is a leading non-profit organization which always strives to enhance the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) culture in private and public sectors by providing quality HSE trainings, conferences, technical seminars, providing consultation in the field of Health Safety and environment etc. To fulfill its lofty goals, ASSE Kuwait organized its second Executive Committee meeting on 23rd August 2017 at Hilton Resorts

Kuwait. Muhammad Alamgir, Chapter President welcomed all members to this first EC meeting. Sunil Sadanad welcomed all the participants and presented July and August planned events in a nutshell. The executive committee discussed the upcoming plans to serve the HSE professionals and the community which is the ultimate goal of the organization.



BOLLYWOOD DIVAS PROMOTE NEW 'ALLURE' DIAMOND COLLECTION



and social media, followed by a robust activity in TV, print, OOH, etc.

The Allure collection of fancy cut diamonds is the latest offering from its exclusive diamond brand MINE. The vast variety of diamond jewelry collection offering GIA/IGI certified diamonds at the best prices. The collection comes in an array of fancy shaped diamonds like Pear, Princess, Marquise, Oval, Heart Emerald and Cushion. Fancy diamond shape offers a new opportunity of fresh and modern design in diamond jewelry with designs in pink and white gold. The product category caters not only to light and medium party wear but also include impressive designer and bridal collections.

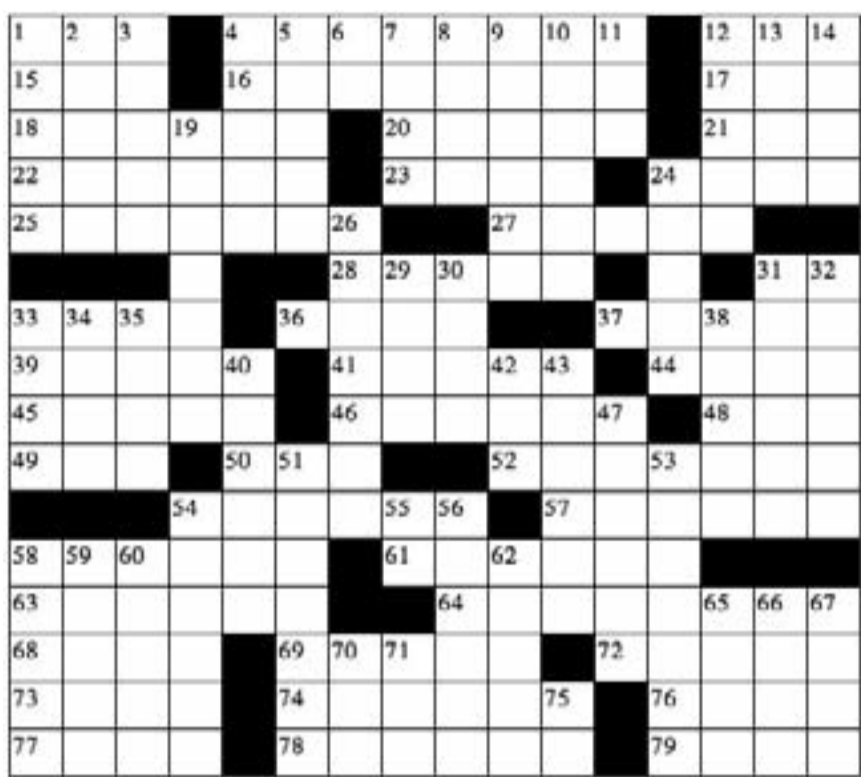


M Ali Imran is 9 years old. May God bless and give you a prosperous future ahead. Best wishes and love from papa, mama, grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the BIG 5 jewelry retailers globally have brought the sibling Bollywood divas Kareena Kapoor Khan and Karisma Kapoor together for the first time on-screen for their new commercial showcasing the new diamond jewelry collection - "Allure". Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be launching the new campaign to add charm to its enchanting "Allure" range of fancy shaped diamond collection.

Never before have the sisters come together on screen and thus the new commercial is receiving great acceptance from fans and jewelry lovers all over the world. The official pages of the celebrities as well as their fan pages on social media are celebrating the new commercial. A 360 degree campaign is also launched by the brand in digital

CROSSWORD 1707



ACROSS

1. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.
4. Someone skilled in the use of a rifle.
12. The residue that remains when something is burned.
15. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
16. Consider as ideal.
17. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
18. A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
20. Lacking strength or vigor.
21. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
22. English courtier (a favorite of Elizabeth I) who tried to colonize Virginia.
23. Unusually short.
25. A window above a door and hinged to a transom.
27. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
28. Ash-colored or anemic looking from illness or emotion.
33. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
36. A town in Hawaii on the island of Hawaii.
37. Genus of tropical Asiatic trees having large solitary flowers.
39. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
41. The branch of philosophy that analyzes inference.
44. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
45. A person who hates.
46. A unit of resistance equal to one million ohms.
48. An easy return of a tennis ball in a high arc.
49. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
50. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
52. Waterfall in Canada is the Horseshoe Falls.
57. The opening of a subject to public discussion and debate.
58. Any of several trees of the genus Platanus having thin pale bark that scales off in small plates and lobed leaves and ball-shaped heads of fruits.
61. A state in northwestern North America.
63. Humorously vulgar.
64. The capital and largest city of the province of Alberta.
68. An endorsement.
69. Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the legs.
72. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
73. A sails-shaped constellation in the southern hemisphere near Carina.
74. Australian moundbird.
76. (archaic) A fitting reward.
77. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
78. A town in central Belgium.
79. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

1. A visual display of information.
2. Of or relating to the velum.
3. Scale-like structure between the base of the wing and the halter of a two-winged fly.
4. Gymnastic apparatus consisting of a pair of heavy metal circles (usually covered with leather) suspended by ropes.
5. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
6. A heavy ductile magnetic metallic element.
7. The first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures comprising the first five books of the Old Testament considered as a unit.
8. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
9. Improper or excessive use.
10. A bin that holds rubbish until it is collected.
11. French marshal in the Napoleonic Wars (1769-1815).
12. The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
13. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
14. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
19. Lyrebirds and scrubbirds.
24. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
26. A man who delivers the mail.
29. Wild plum of northeastern United States having dark purple fruits with yellow flesh.
30. Scottish writer of rustic verse (1770-1835).
31. Incite to commit a crime.
32. A motley assortment of things.
34. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
35. (prefix) In front of or before in space.
38. East Indian tree yielding a resin used medicinally and burned as incense.
40. Avoiding waste.
42. An electrically charged particle.
43. An intersection or crossing of two tracts in the form of the letter X.
47. South American plant cultivated for its large fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers.
51. An early type of mandolin.
53. The mother of your father or mother.
54. A resident of Utah.
55. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
56. A city in northwestern Syria.
59. Found pleasant or attractive.
60. A poplar that is widely cultivated in the United States.
62. A farewell remark.
65. A unit of weight used in east Asia approximately equal to 1.3 ounces.
66. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
67. A quantity of no importance.
70. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
71. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
75. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a fine sense of appreciation and are very attentive to your loved ones. You love to help and take care of others, expressing a first-rate sense of compassion. You possess an almost infinite ability to respond to the needs and demands of others. Fragile and refined, you are perhaps too reserved. Your love of truth makes philosophy and religious ideas a life-long habit. You appreciate things of a global or universal level and could learn to love travel. Appearances mean little to you and you value honesty and candor in your partner and friends. Lovely words and a flair for description entertain neighbors and friends in a social scene this afternoon. You are artistic in all its many forms. There is an inner sense of warmth and goodness today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The world is a sacred place to you and you have an absolute commitment to spiritual ideas. You could be enjoying a luncheon with people that are within your spiritual association. Although you may not recognize that you have intuition, it is strong and you use it in helping others. You are sensitive, kind and gentle. You are a romantic too, with a tender heart. You always work for a real future, doing what has to be done. You love all that is musical and artistic. You have a sensitivity to all that is psychic or spiritual. You have real faith. There is a natural appreciation for the past that stands out today as you demonstrate trends or point out tendencies and the possibilities of change. You will enjoy music, young people and being with loved ones.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Sympathy and understanding come into play this Sunday as you interact with friends and family. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts now. Coming to grips with the past or getting in touch with the spiritual gives you a sense of completeness. If it makes sense you love it, and if it does not, you feel guilty about it—that's what it's like now. A loving attention to details and a sense of satisfaction in doing what is right are some of the qualities that come into play now—especially with respect to your health. You may find yourself at a nearby fruit and vegetable market this afternoon, mentally planning next week's menus. Your energies appear to be in the planning area this evening. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be very forceful in what you say and think today. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. You have much mental drive to accomplish whatever you set out to do today. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams. This is a time to reshape and renew your philosophy or religion during which your imagination is at full tilt. There are breakthroughs in compassion and communion. The new and unexpected may figure in your living situation or surroundings. An insight about your support system, your mother, or other females may be important. You could discover a difficult student or a difficult young person opens to you now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized this day. Being appreciated and admired for your creative offerings are powerful needs. Taking chances can bring big rewards. Watch those judgments... They will keep you from joy and your expectations will make you unhappy. The best technique for now is to clear the mind and go-with-the-flow. You may enjoy getting away from your usual routine to do something different for a change. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself. Romance is very possible. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Travel to a friend's new home may bring about an opportunity to talk about old times and laugh a lot! Take a simple housewarming gift.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal for you now; transmitting ideas on a broader scale brings gain. You could decide you want to be a broadcaster on the airwaves. There is much energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of personal business. Very physical too—exercise is in order. A team effort will pay off, big time. Your emotions and the emotions of those around you are quite clear. This evening is a good time to catch up on family matters and, if needed, improve communications.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may want to organize or rearrange your living situation. You may find ways that will help make it easier to help you remember to put things in their proper place. Marking containers, organizing the garage or utility room may take up most of your day. Later this afternoon you may decide to create a place to have "me time," this would be a nice chair, magazine rack, lamp or a desk where you can write or read or use your computer. Later today you will look for family or friends to join together for a little visiting time. A drive into the country with one of your friends or family members will find you at a garage sale, country vegetable stand or movie. This is a great time to share your time with another person and enjoy discussing all sorts of subjects.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Social connections are on your mind—on a more intellectual level than in the past, most likely. Powerful changes within you are demanding recognition and this may mean a new artistic interest or talent. Recognition will come in time—patience. A friend may want you to ride a motorcycle with him or her, or enter into some other situation that your participation might be worrisome. You may find that you have a problem with saying no. Today you learn to rise above the imagined guilt to state your thoughts. You are surprised at your progress and pleased with yourself. You may decide to look for another challenge so you can try out your new mind-set all over again. You may realize that you have discovered positive new things about you.



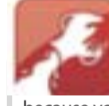
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this day or feel especially kind toward a friend or neighbor. Someone may compliment you on your belongings. You could find that you are in the mood to share and plans may develop to create a garden between neighbors. There is time today to have new thoughts and sudden insights and to get an unexpected boost in your ideas. Communications are simplified; connections of all kinds, news and so on, are furthered, which could mean the purchase of a camera, new phone, computer or some other form of communication. There is a time later to enjoy some special time with someone you love. General good feeling and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If there is something that needs to be said on the home front today—speak up now. Others lend their support to whatever you want to accomplish. Move forward instead of backward and keep your thinking in a forward-moving mode. Everything comes together to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. Communicating with others in clear, intelligent conversations is important just now. Your timing should be perfect and others will find you most spontaneous. Enjoy a walk after the evening meal, perhaps with a friend or loved one. There are many stars to see.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

If you are a female, you may find yourself hiding from someone today because you forgot to complete your makeup or do not have on the right clothes. Careful, you could knock something over, or run into someone, by running in the opposite direction. If you are a male, you may turn your head to someone's flattery that is not sincere. Look beyond the flattery to what this person is really saying. This is a busy day and one might find you huffing and puffing often. You can get more done than the average person and some things you have been putting off are included in your rush to ready yourself for the week ahead. Do be careful not to break some prized possession. This evening you will be able to relax with friends or loved ones.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is much to do today—fortunately you have the energy to match your goals. You can expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. Free your mind while you work or tend to your projects and find your sense of humor—laugh. Laughter is contagious and will put everyone in a good mood. A family member brings you good news this afternoon. There is much communication surrounding this subject. Phone calls and letters are underway. Your extra confidence may make you a bit outspoken so take care with your words while surrounded by so many people. Pamper yourself this evening, set some of those serious thoughts to the side and enjoy a loved one's attention or pour your own attention onto a loved one.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Shakespeare: Hamlet

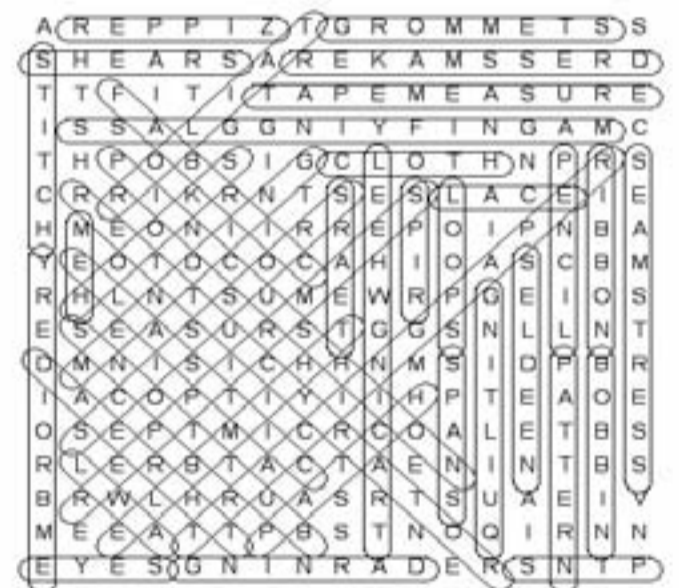
Find and circle all of the words relating to Hamlet that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Hamlet quotation.



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| AMBASSADORS | FRANCISCO | MARCELLUS | REGICIDE |
| BARNARDO | GERTRUDE | MELANCHOLY | REVENGE |
| CASTLE | GHOST | MESSENGER | REYNALDO |
| CHALICE | GRAVEDIGGERS | MURDER | ROSENCRANTZ |
| CLAUDIUS | GUILDENSTERN | OPHELIA | SKULL |
| CORNELIUS | HAMLET | OSRIC | SWORD |
| DEATH | HAIJBOYS | POISON | THE PLAYERS |
| DENMARK | HORATIO | POLONIUS | TRAGEDY |
| ELISINORE | KING | PREST | VOLTEMAND |
| FORTINBRAS | LAERTES | PRINCE | WINE |
| | MADNESS | QUEEN | YORICK |

Yesterday's Solution

Sewing



- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| AWL | HEM | PINS | SPOOL |
| BOBBIN | HOOKS | QUILTING | STITCH |
| BUTTONS | LACE | RIBBON | TAILOR |
| CLOTH | MAGNIFYING GLASS | RIPS | TAPE MEASURE |
| DARNING | MENDING | ROTARY CUTTER | TEARS |
| DRESSMAKER | NEEDLES | SCISSORS | THIMBLE |
| ELASTIC | PATCH | SEAM RIPPER | THREAD |
| EMBROIDERY | PATTERN | SEAMSTRESS | TRACING PAPER |
| EYES | PENCIL | SHEARS | TRACING WHEEL |
| FABRIC | PINCUSHION | SNAPS | ZIPPER |
| GROMMETS | | | |

The hidden sentence is: A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



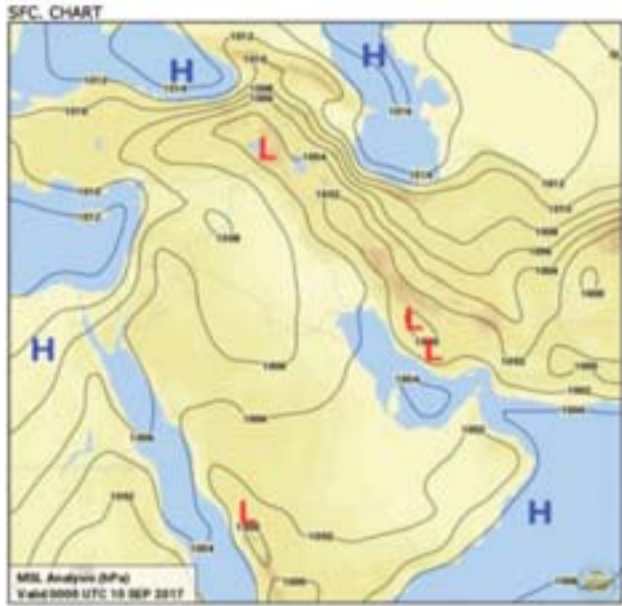
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
 Issued 10/09/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 44 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .
By Night : Relatively hot with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h .



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	Hot causing rising dust over open areas	Very hot
Min Temp °C	25	25	26	26
Max Temp °C	45	45	45	45
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	northerly westerly to northerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 30	10 - 30	15 - 42	15 - 35

All times are local time (GMT +3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	32		43	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26		44	
ABDULY	26		44	
BUBYAN	23		45	
JAHRA	28		44	
FAILAKA ISLAND	28		44	
SALMIYAH	33		42	
AHMADI	32		42	
JAL ALIYAH	26		44	
QAROH ISLAND	35		39	
UMM AL-MARADIM	33		38	
NUWAISSIB	28		41	
WAFRA	29		44	
SALMIY	23		42	
MUTRIBA	25		45	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	44
Min Temp (°C)	33
Max Rel Hum (%)	24
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:30
Sunset	18:01

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:10
Sunrise	05:30
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:17
Sunset	18:01

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

URGENTLY REQUIRED

- Automobile Mechanic
- Motorcycle Mechanic
- Mechanic helper
- Metal fabricator and welder

To work in well equipped workshop in Shuwaikh.

Contact: **66322222**
 Email: poarsche@gmail.com

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, Arif S/o Asger Ali Ora, holder of Indian Passport No. K4650108 & Civil ID No. 274082401497, has changed my name to Arif Ora hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5343)

I, Azima Arif D/o Arif Ora, holder of Indian Passport

DRIVER NEEDED

- Transferrable visa
- valid driving license

Email: rabih@badine.cc

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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Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)
DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 11/9/2017					Departure Flights on Monday 11/9/2017				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
MSC	403	Asyut	00:05	KNE 231	Riyadh			14:10	
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KAC 1078	Doha			14:10	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC 221	Bahrain			14:15	
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC 364	Colombo			14:20	
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	FDB 618	Doha			14:20	
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	JZR 352	Kochi			14:20	
KAC	102	Heathrow, London	00:55	KAC 059	GKD			14:25	
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	SVA 512	Mashhad			14:25	
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KNE 500	Jeddah			14:45	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC 529	Jeddah			14:55	
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC 692	Muscat			14:55	
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC 304	Mumbai			14:55	
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 788	Jeddah			15:05	
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	ETA 303	Abu Dhabi			15:05	
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC 645	Muscat			15:10	
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC 562	Amman			15:25	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 502	Beirut			15:25	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ABY 127	Sharjah			15:35	
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	UAE 857	Dubai			15:45	
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	SAW 705	Damascus			15:50	
KAC	418	Manila	02:35	RJA 640	Amman			16:00	
OMA	643	Muscat	02:50	FDB 051	Dubai			16:00	
ETA	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	QTR 1072	Doha			16:15	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	JZR 535	Cairo			16:20	
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR 125	Bahrain			16:25	
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC 118	New York			16:25	
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC 361	Alexandria			16:50	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KAC 542	Cairo			17:05	
QTR	1090	Doha	03:45	SVA 510	Riyadh			17:15	
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:05	GFA 215	Bahrain			17:30	
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	JZR 777	Jeddah			17:35	
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	THY 177	Dubai			17:45	
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	THY 1282	TZX			17:50	
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50	QTR 1080	Doha			18:10	
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR 483	Istanbul			18:30	
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	MSR 620	Cairo			18:40	
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC 744	Dammam			19:05	
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	GFA 217	Bahrain			19:05	
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	UAE 875	Dubai			19:10	
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	FDB 063	Dubai			19:20	
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC 174	Sharjah			19:25	
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC 154	Munich			19:30	
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC 674	Istanbul			19:35	
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC 616	Dubai			19:40	
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC 616	Bahrain			19:40	
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	FDB 057	Riyadh			19:45	
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC 620	Dubai			19:50	
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC 647	Doha			20:05	
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KNE 381	Muscat			20:10	
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH 634	Taif			20:15	
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	MEA 402	Frankfurt			20:15	
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC 662	Beirut			20:15	
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC 790	Abu Dhabi			20:20	
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC 910	Jeddah			20:25	
ETA	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ETA 910	Abu Dhabi			20:40	
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR 1088	Doha			20:40	
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KAC 166	Rome			20:55	
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC 564	Amman			21:00	
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 168	Paris			21:05	
GFA	213	Bahrain	09:40	ETA 307	Abu Dhabi			21:10	
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ALK 229	Colombo			21:15	
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KLM 445	Amsterdam			21:15	
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	UAE 859	Dubai			21:15	
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	THY 764	Istanbul			21:30	
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	GFA 219	Bahrain			21:50	
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	QTR 1082	Doha			22:05	
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ETA 309	Abu Dhabi			22:10	
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	KAC 162	Geneva			22:25	
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	AIC 975	Chennai/Goa			22:25	
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	BBC 143	Dhaka			22:30	
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	JZR 241	Amman			22:55	
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	JZR 185	Dubai			23:00	
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	RBG 551	Alexandria			23:00	
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	RBG 555	Alexandria			23:25	
CKS	511	LGG	13:15	MSC 405	Sohag			23:30	
WAN	984	TBS	13:40	MSR 2614	Cairo			23:30	
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	FDB 071	Dubai			23:35	



The Alexander Wang Spring 2018 collection is modeled on a street in the Bushwick neighborhood of Brooklyn during New York Fashion Week. — AP/AFP photos

Wang takes over Brooklyn street in ode to New York

The fourth day of Fashion Week saw Alexander Wang close off a dead-end street in Brooklyn to present his latest collection, an ode to New York and a new look at some of his signature stylistic elements. Christian Siriano offered up what he called a "psychedelic dream garden" of wild colors and whimsical prints, and a diverse runway in terms of shape, size, and gender.

Alexander Wang: A fashion show grows in Brooklyn

By the time the big bus arrived at Scott Avenue in Bushwick, Brooklyn late Saturday night, the crowd had been waiting for an hour or more behind metal barriers in the street, rows of people jockeying for a decent view, some even perching on garbage dumpsters. It wasn't a good night to be claustrophobic. Or

made two other stops in downtown Manhattan, performing the show for the public. "This was really about giving back to New York," said the designer, who spent three years splitting his time between New York and Paris when he was creative director at Balenciaga until 2015, and has said it was liberating to be back in New York fulltime. At a moment, he said, when some are questioning the role of New York in fashion - a number of labels have moved their shows to Paris - he wanted to emphasize his love for the city.

them. "Sometimes the audience isn't ready to move so fast," he said. "People may want something new, but what they are comfortable with, what they react to, what feels immediate, is things that have been around for a very long time - like denim, sweats, cargo pants, sportswear. So I wanted to take those things and give you a new reason to fall in love with it."

An example, he said, was taking a white T-shirt dress and twisting it, adding a bit of embellishment, or taking a men's trouser and tying it with a leather cummerbund. "Or taking a dress and layering it three times, so it's one-stop shopping," he added. One whimsical theme was the use of extra sleeves everywhere, especially around the waist, for a sash-

like effect over trousers or skirts. Jackets, seemingly cut in half, turned into skirts. There were also cutoff jean short shorts over tight leather pants.

Wang said he'd had fun turning back to elements like zippers and studs, and exploring them in new ways. A pair of leather pants had

one entire leg covered with studs. Several pairs of trousers had extra zippers in intriguing places. There were also references to Wang's collaboration with Adidas, as in an athletic jacket with extra sleeves as a belt, emblazoned with the familiar three stripes. And there were party headpieces, designed by expert milliner Stephen Jones. One, worn by model Kendall Jenner, said "Wangover." (Jenner's half-sister, Kim Kardashian, was on hand to watch the show, with her mother, Kris Jenner.) "I wanted this collection to be about optimism, playfulness," Wang said. "You go into your closet and just play dress-up. Maybe you don't know where to go or what to do, but putting on the clothes and styling yourself inspires you to do something."

Wild colors, infectious mood at Christian Siriano

"Work it!" shouted actress Leslie Jones from her front-row seat, as a model strutted by in a revealing number. "I want that!" she called out after inspecting another seductive garment. For a fashion show, it was an infectious and joyful atmosphere, enhanced by the obvious commitment to diversity of all types on the runway: size, color and gender. Before the show, as models rushed to get dressed and ready, Siriano mused that with all that's going on in the world, "as designers this is our moment to have our voice, to put out there what we feel. So that's why we're really showcasing diversity - we have transgender, we have curvy, we have tall - we have the whole world of women and people, and they can all be beautiful in the same place, in the same moment. And it feels good."

"The show is 13 minutes," he added. "I want to really take everyone out of what's happening and go into a dreamlike place." In fact, he said, a good name for his show would be a "psychedelic dream garden." "It's like seeing plants come to life in a way," he said. "I really just wanted it to be kind of romantic and beautiful." He added that he and his design team had used much more bright color than usual, and also patterns upon patterns, and new textures. "We never do that," he said. "We're going for it today."

The crowd seemed to respond. Siriano's colors included a bright sunflower, an even brighter grass green, and, brighter still, hibiscus pink - otherwise known as shocking pink in a column dress and in a one-shouldered, ruffled jumpsuit. Ruffles were huge - metaphorically and literally. A few models chose to emphasize the flounce by stopping mid-runway and cavorting a bit before continuing their walks. They included supermodel Coco Rocha, who opened the show in electric floral brocade, and closed it in a black orchid flounce gown. Jones, a big fan of the designer ever since he stepped up to dress her for the "Ghostbusters" premiere last year, gushed about him before the show.

"I love him because he knows how to dress me and make me look so beautiful," Jones said. "He's so normal, he's so down to earth and he does love all women." Jones said she was proud of her recent birthday: She turned 50. "I need everybody to know that when you get to this age, it doesn't have to be a death sentence," she said with a laugh.

Also sitting in the front row were actresses Gina Gershon, Vanessa Williams and Patricia Clarkson, and rapper Cardi B, whom Siriano dressed for the MTV Video Music Awards. "I feel like crying for him," Cardi B said, "because I know he's so happy and he's such a good, genuine person. He took his time for my VMA outfits and I got almost in every press (outlet), like best dressed, and I'm so happy that this is happening to him."



short. When the bus doors opened, some of Alexander Wang's favorite models from over the years stepped out and strutted down the dead-end street. They didn't do a customary finale, and the entire thing lasted five minutes.

Wang has chosen unusual locations for his runway shows before; in 2014, he held one at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on a frigid February night, setting up some major traffic jams that were recounted on Twitter, with one person comparing it (unfavorably) to New Jersey's Bridgegate. The weather was fine on Saturday, but there was some frustration for those who didn't get to see the models very well. But you can't say the venue wasn't evocative - and different. Wang explained afterward that he was going for a sort of thank-you tour of New York locales that were significant to him. Before arriving in Brooklyn, the bus of models had



"The great thing about New York is that it enables you to do whatever you wish, if you want to, to break free a little and do something different," he said. "It's not rigid, it's not formulaic." After a number of collections in which he tried new and different techniques, Wang said his focus this time was going back to the basics, and finding new reasons to fall in love with





Models walk the runway at the Christian Siriano fashion show as part of NYFW Spring/Summer 2018 on Saturday.

Bondage bling
 Across town, within sight of the Empire State Building and down the road from homeless people, Philipp Plein threw the most extravagant of parties, laying on an orgasmic display of flesh and titillation. Burlesque artist Dita Von Teese opened the night with a striptease, shedding her stilettos, sequined evening dress and corset down to just a thong, nipple clamps and sequined garters. She then writhed and splashed inside a giant martini glass, sponging herself down, sloshing water everywhere, kicking her long, lean legs into the air before winking with a little toss of the head.

The clothes, overshadowed by a live performance from rapper Future, cloaked in a giant gold puffa coat, seemed an afterthought. The first model appeared only at 10:30 pm — 90 minutes behind schedule. Entitled "Good Gone Bad" they wore oversized Heidi-style plaits, which they switched and flicked like whips, striding out in bondage-style harness dresses, leather dog collars and flashing bare buttocks.

Actress Teyana Taylor, modeling the skimpiest of black lace body suits, writhing on the floor. Other women wore daisy-style pacifiers. Male models went topless. In the middle of the stage back-up

dancers writhed and prostrated themselves on giant scaffolding. Before the show hundreds of guests endured scenes of chaos outside, pushing and shoving their way to the front of slow-moving queues in a haze of expensive perfume, cigarette smoke and simmering frustration.

"I have to apologize," Plein told those who made it through. "It became a monster, hard to control," he said of his ultra-expensive, international luxe take on hip-hop wear and street clothes, much of it monogrammed with his name.

The German-born, Swiss-based designer then invited everyone at the Hammerstein ballroom, a former opera house to the after party, where Minaj-seated in the front row-was expected to perform. "We like just the right amount of wrong," he told the New York Post. "Just because fashion is a big business doesn't mean that it has to be stiff and serious." — Agencies



Leslie Jones attends the Christian Siriano fashion show.

Fashion designer Philipp Plein, center, walks the runway with models Adriana Lima, left, and Irina Shayk during the Philipp Plein Spring 2018 fashion show at New York Fashion Week.



Models walk the runway for the Philipp Plein Spring 2018 show.

Hard-headed 'angel' behind YSL dies aged 86

The French fashion tycoon Pierre Berge, the business brains behind the Yves Saint Laurent empire, a major philanthropist and a leading figure in the fight against AIDS, died on Friday aged 86. Berge, the longtime partner of the late designer Yves Saint Laurent, died in his sleep at his country home at Saint-Remy-de-Provence in southern France, his foundation said.

research to defeat AIDS", he said. "France has lost an exceptional person," said the mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo. Berge and Saint Laurent whose tumultuous relationship was the subject of two films-were joined in a civil union a few days before the designer died of a brain tumor in 2008 aged 71.

Fragile designer's 'rock'

Berge was the designer's rock, always there to pick up the pieces for a man who-despite his infidelities and addictions-he firmly believed was "the world's greatest fashion designer of the second half of the 20th century". Two museums he masterminded, dedicat-

in the afternoon to antiquarian book dealers," he told AFP last year.

At the same time he was befriending the Paris literati, particularly Jean Cocteau and Jean Giono, and became the unofficial agent of the French artist Bernard Buffet, hugely facilitating his success. Over the years Berge built up a large art collection and one of the world's greatest libraries in private hands, which he was in the process of selling when he died.

'Sale of the century'

Like the proceeds of his and Saint Laurent's art collection-which went under the hammer



This file photo taken in September 1971 shows French businessman Pierre Berge, co-founder of Yves Saint Laurent Couture House.

It added that Berge would be cremated on Tuesday in a private ceremony, and a "public commemoration in his honor" would be held at a later date. The couple-Berge the hard-headed foil to Saint Laurent's mercurial genius-turned the fashion world on its head when they set up their own label in 1961 after the fragile designer had fallen foul of Dior. A passionate philanthropist and art collector, Berge was also a tireless campaigner for gay rights and donated a large slice of his fortune to AIDS research.

Politically committed to the end, he was an important backer and confidant of the late French leader Francois Mitterrand, and this year threw his weight behind Emmanuel Macron's successful campaign for the presidency. Former French culture minister Jack Lang led the tributes to a man he called a "true prince of the arts and culture", a business "angel" who backed a host of noble causes.

Berge "was there to take on all the good fights in particular to provide the means for



In this Feb 20, 2009 file photo, the Grand Palais is decorated with a board advertising the auction of the Yves St Laurent and Pierre Berge collection in Paris. — AP/AFP photos

ed to Saint Laurent's life and work, are to open in Paris and Morocco this year. Born on November 14, 1930 on the Ile d'Oleron off France's west coast, Berge was a particularly French self-made man, as passionate about culture as he was about making money. Indeed, the son of a teacher and a tax inspector made his first few francs as a student bibliophile in down-at-heel postwar Paris by buying and selling secondhand books. "I would pick them up down by the Seine in the morning and sell them-not always at a good profit-

for about 340 million euros (\$409 million) in 2009 at the time in what was dubbed "the sale of the century"-almost all of the money from the sale is going to their charitable foundation or to HIV research.

Always firmly on the Left despite his business success, Berge became a confidant of Socialist leader Mitterrand and launched the weekly magazine Globe to support his candidacy for the presidency in 1981. He also helped finance the Socialist Segolene Royal when she ran against Nicolas Sarkozy in the



This file photo taken on February 11, 2015 shows French businessman Pierre Berge posing at his office in Paris.



In this March 8, 2010 file photo, French fashion businessman and former Saint Laurent partner, Pierre Berge stands among late French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent's creations as part of Yves Saint Laurent exhibition in Paris.

2007 election and then the successful campaign of her former partner Francois Hollande, who defeated Sarkozy in 2012. Berge's activism extended far beyond gay rights, and in 2010 he led a trio of tycoons to "save" the left-leaning Le Monde newspaper despite

right-wing President Sarkozy's attempts to stop them.

He loved Marrakesh in Morocco, setting up a museum of Berber art there and conserving a beautiful gardens, the Majorelle. Yet last year he lashed out at designers for using Islamic clothing and headscarves, accusing them of taking part in the "enslavement of women". In later years Berge ran an auction house and a theatre, staged concerts, headed the Paris Opera, worked as a UNESCO goodwill ambassador and helped Chinese pro-democracy protesters. He married the American garden designer Madison Cox, 58, in March, who will now replace him as head of the Berge-Saint Laurent Foundation. — AFP



This file photo taken on March 21, 1984 shows French Minister of Culture Jack Lang (7th left) posing with fashion designers (from left) Kenzo, Anne-Marie Beretta, Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, Chantal Thomass, Alix Gres, Yves Saint-Laurent, Sonia Rykiel, Issey Miyake, Pierre Berge and Emanuel Ungaro, before a lunch organized during the autumn-winter fashion show in Paris.



This file photo taken on July 29, 1992 shows French designer Yves Saint-Laurent (right) talking to Yves Saint Laurent fashion house chairman Pierre Berge in Paris during the autumn-winter 92-93 haute couture collections.

Etihad Airways launches 'runway to runway' fashion film at New York Fashion Week

Etihad Airways and renowned British designer Julien Macdonald OBE, officially launched a promotional fashion film on the opening night of NYFW: The Shows

Shows. Featuring over 17 couture outfits by the celebrated designer, and WME | IMG models, the short inflight film draws parallels between the production of a high-end

fashion show and the preparation that goes into ensuring a safe and comfortable flight.

The film was unveiled last night at a high-profile press event in the Etihad

Airways VIP Lounge at NYFW: The Shows with an archive presentation and appearance by Julien Macdonald.

With participation by members of Etihad

Airways' award-winning cabin crew, the film also features unique integrations with global brands such as IWC Schaffhausen and BMW.



Model Montana Cox poses with Etihad Airways Cabin Crew at the launch of Etihad Airways' promotional fashion film 'Runway To Runway' at NYFW: The Shows in New York City.



A still from Etihad Airways Runway to Runway promotional fashion film.



Mexican director Guillermo Del Toro holds the Golden Lion award for his movie 'The Shape of Water' after the award ceremony at the 74th annual Venice International Film Festival, in Venice, Italy, Saturday. — AP photos



Samuel Maoz is awarded the jury's special Silver Lion prize for 'Foxtrot'.



Xavier Legrand is awarded the Silver Lion for best director for 'Jusqu'à la garde' or 'Custody'.



Kamel El Basha holds aloft the Volpi Cup for best actor for his role in 'The Insult'.

DEL TORO'S 'THE SHAPE OF WATER' WINS GOLDEN LION AT VENICE

Guillermo del Toro's monster thriller "The Shape of Water" took top prize at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday, capping an 11-day event where the demons of social division and environmental disaster loomed large on the screen. Del Toro was named winner of the Golden Lion by a jury headed by US actress Annette Bening, beating contenders including George Clooney's "Suburbicon" and Alexander Payne's "Downsizing."

The Mexican director said his victory sent a message to "remain pure and stay with your faith, in whatever you have faith in." "In my case, it's monsters," said the 52-year-old director of films rich in demons and other fantastical creatures, including "Hellboy" and "Pan's Labyrinth." "I have never been a sportsman and this feels like running the marathon and winning," del Toro said after collecting the trophy. "This movie took six years to get made, so after six years this is the beginning of getting there and feeling the reward and the love of an audience - in this case the love of a jury and of a festival."

The victory gives immediate awards-season momentum to "The Shape of Water," the story of a mute young woman, played by Sally Hawkins, who falls for a mysterious sea crea-

ture being held at a high-security lab. Many viewers in Venice fell for the movie's audacious mix of genres: It's a monster movie, a Cold War thriller, social-issues drama and even, at times, a musical. Del Toro said his win was a vindication for monster movies, science fiction and other sometimes-derided cinema genres. "This is a beautiful encouragement, a beautiful act of love, and I think it is something very necessary," he told reporters. "It's about time that we understand that you cannot only legitimize certain genres" and not others.

The 74th edition of the world's oldest film festival brought stars including Clooney, Matt Damon and Jennifer Lawrence to the canal-crossed Italian city's lush Lido island. Del Toro's film was one of several in the lineup that looked anxiously at humanity's treatment of the Earth and one another. Similar concerns showed up in the small-town rage depicted in Martin McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"; in the spiritual agonies of Paul Schrader's eco-drama "First Reformed"; in the migrants fleeing war, drought and hunger in Ai Weiwei's documentary "Human Flow"; and in "mother!", Darren Aronofsky's wild parable of Mother Earth under attack.

The festival's runner-up Grand Jury Prize went to Israeli director Samuel Maoz's

"Foxtrot," a compelling study of a family's grief and the way trauma echoes through the generations. Maoz, who won the Golden Lion in 2009 for his war film "Lebanon," has received some negative reaction in Israel because "Foxtrot" is critical of the army, the country's most respected institution.

'The Insult'

Maoz said no society could flourish when "critics are considered to be traitors." "If I criticize the place I live, I do it because I worry," he said. "I do it because I want to protect it. I do it from love." France's Xavier Legrand was named best director for his first full-length film "Custody," which also won the festival's first-feature prize. Palestinian stage veteran Kamel El Basha was named best actor for Lebanese director Ziad Doueiri's drama "The Insult." Britain's Charlotte Rampling took the best actress prize for Andrea Pallaoro's film "Hannah."

Other winners included Warwick Thornton's Australian Western "Sweet Country," which won a Special Jury Prize, and McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," which took the trophy for best screenplay. US actor Charlie Plummer, 18, was named best young performer for portraying a lonely boy who befriends a tired old racehorse in Andrew

Haigh's "Lean on Pete." Italian director Susanna Nicchiarelli's "Nico, 1988," a biopic of the former Velvet Underground singer Nico, won the Horizons competition, which focuses on newer directors and edgier fare.

Venice has a track record of launching films toward Hollywood awards success. This year's edition produced a crop of potential acting nominees, including Frances McDormand for "Three Billboards," Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland for "The Leisure Seeker" and Lawrence for "mother!" Venice's first-ever prize for best virtual reality went to "Arden's Wake," a



Charlie Plummer holds the Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor for his role in the movie 'Lean on Pete'.

post-apocalyptic story by Eugene Y.K. Chung of the San Francisco-based startup Penrose. Chung said virtual reality "is where film was 100 years ago, an emerging art form." "And it's going to be a real exciting journey," he said. Lawless reported from London. — AP



Actress Charlotte Rampling holds the Volpi Cup for best actress for her role in 'Hannah'.

Aaron Sorkin makes directorial debut with American crime drama

Oscar-winning screenwriter Aaron Sorkin praises a convicted poker queen for taking the moral high ground in his directorial debut "Molly's Game," which premiered Saturday at the Toronto film festival. The American crime drama stars Jessica Chastain as the former Olympic skier Molly Bloom, who went on to run one of the largest high-stakes poker games in the United States. Her games at their peak required a \$250,000 buy-in and attracted some of Hollywood and New York's elite as well as mobsters-but she withheld most of their names in her memoir.

The film follows suit, though the identities of some of her regulars have emerged including several who were arrested. "We live in a time when people sell each other out," Sorkin told journalists. "The rest of us don't seem to mind that that just happened. We're not calling the seller out." "Molly (had) no sense at all that she was going to do something heroic, it just came naturally to her not to do the wrong thing," he said. The film also features Kevin Costner as Molly's hardened father and Idris Elba as the attorney who defended her in court-and for taking a moral stand by not informing on her clients. The film was shot in Toronto. Molly, who is banned from Canada because she pleaded guilty to a federal crime in the United States, was granted special permission to enter the country in order to attend the film's premiere here.

'Shiny objects'

"For two years Hollywood had been chasing Molly's story because there are a lot of shiny objects in there, the poker, the women, the tons of money, the powerful men," Sorkin commented. His movie renounces glamour and salaciousness in favor of trying to help audiences understand this complex woman. "I have no visual sensibility at all. I hear movies more than see them," Sorkin explained. "There's a tremendous amount of language in these

scenes," he said. "I'm always most comfortable as a writer inside four walls. I like just writing people talking in rooms." One of the hardest challenges in making this film, he said, was trying to make poker interesting.

"I needed poker to look exciting and it's not," he said. "It's the world's worst spectator sport." Sorkin said he was moved to make a film about Molly after meeting her in person. He described her as a woman "in deep, deep trouble" after her arrest with no prospects at age 39, for a run-in with "an illegal poker game from a really long time and pleading guilty in federal court in a mob indictment." "A woman who is in that kind of trouble is saying no to what I assume was a lot of money," he said, "which nowadays is even more attractive."

The West Wing

Sorkin is perhaps best known for his work on the hit television series "The West Wing." Asked how he might change the show to suit the current political climate, he answered: "Not a thing." "I would do the exact same show where we get to see and hear what it looks and sounds like when well-intentioned, thoughtful people-with whom we may have differences of opinion, but whose intentions are unimpeachable-are working hard and are dedicated to public service," he said. Sorkin said the idea behind the series, which ran from 1999 to 2006, was to "show a very highly competent group of people who may slip on banana peels from time to time but who we understand are waking up every morning with our best interests in mind and who are hyper competent."

"So I would just keep doing that and once a week we'd hear what a press conference should sound like," he said, seemingly alluding to US President Donald Trump's mercurial tendencies in front of the podium. Sorkin has been quoted in US media as describing Trump as "a thoroughly incompetent pig with dangerous ideas." — AFP

Actor Miranda Richardson, left to right, director David Gordon Green, writer John Pollen, and actors Tatiana Maslany, Jake Gyllenhaal and subject of the film, Jeff Bauman pose for a photo before a press conference for the movie "Stronger" at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Saturday.



Jake Gyllenhaal finally plays superhero in 'Stronger'

A man who lost both legs in the Boston Marathon bombings inspired moviegoers Saturday, walking the red carpet at the Toronto film festival for the premiere of "Stronger." The film, directed by David Gordon Green, tells the true story of Jeff Bauman, who at 27 captured the hearts of Boston and became a symbol of hope following the 2013 attack. Bauman had been at the finish line waiting for his ex-girlfriend Erin-whom he hoped to win back-when the blast occurred.

After regaining consciousness in the hospital, he helped police identify one of the suspects. His subsequent struggle to walk again and regain his life would test family bonds and define a community's pride. "I don't like being called a hero," Bauman told a press conference in Toronto. "The people that saved my life, my caretakers, the people at Boston Medical Center, my surgeon, the people who pulled me off the ground and got me out of there, Carlos (a bystander who rushed to his aid)... the police, the paramedics those are the true heroes." "I lost something, but my heroes picked me up," Bauman said, giving a nod also to Erin, who is now his wife, and to his mother.

Gyllenhaal's superhero role

Actor Jake Gyllenhaal, who plays Bauman in the film, said being "vulnerable and open" about his struggle is what makes Bauman strong in his eyes. "I've been asked, 'When are you going to do a superhero movie?' I feel like I finally kinda have. That's how I feel about" Bauman, he said. The film captures the essence of this ordinary man, as well as his family and his friends, who are, as screenwriter John Pollono put it, "flawed and awesome." They argue, they get drunk and they hurt each other. But they go on, together. He described how he and Erin would be in their room, and "my mom would be banging on my door, hammered," Bauman recalled. "She's still my hero, but mom, go to bed."

Some 2,500 people packed into a Toronto cinema for the film's world premiere, which brought out laughter and tears from the audience. "That's pretty much my life in a nutshell: you cry, you laugh and you keep on moving forward," said Bauman. His first red carpet, he said, was "overwhelming." "I'm not geared up for being thrown out on a red carpet like Jake is? I'm like a deer in headlights and I asked 'What do I do?' and they're like, 'Walk.'"

'You don't have a choice'

"Seeing the movie, it brought me back," he said. "Obviously the bombing was hard, and seeing myself ripped apart on the ground like that and seeing other people around me, it does bring me back." The bombings wounded 264 people, including 17 who lost limbs, near the finish line at the city's popular

marathon. A US citizen of Chechen descent, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was sentenced to death in 2015 for perpetrating the bombings, one of the bloodiest assaults on US soil since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

He was found, injured, in a grounded boat on which he had scrawled a bloody message defending the attacks as a means to avenge US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. His older brother Tamerlan was shot dead on the run before Tsarnaev was arrested. Bauman described how people often approach him now and say they wouldn't have had the strength to survive as he did, and walk again. "I'm like, don't ever say that. Yeah, you definitely could," he said. "When you're in this position you don't have a choice, you're not going to sit at home and not walk, and not leave your house, as much as I might want to sometimes. "Everyone can get through anything. And it's hard," he continued. "Life isn't easy and that's what this movie shows-it's not perfect." — AFP



Jake Gyllenhaal and Boston Marathon bombing victim Jeff Bauman, right, pose on the red carpet for the premiere of the film "Stronger" during the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Friday. — AP



Actor Jessica Chastain, right, and director Aaron Sorkin, center, answer questions during an interview about the film "Molly's Game" at the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto on Saturday. — AP



Kites fly at the Festival of the Winds at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. The annual festival brings professional and international kite flyers together at Australia's largest kite flying festival. — AP

Vietnam floating market struggles to stay above water



Boats lie anchored in a canal off the Song Hau river in the floating Cai Rang market in Can Tho, a small city of the Mekong Delta. — AFP photos

Fixing weighing scales used to be good business on Vietnam's floating Cai Rang market, but the last repairman on the river now makes just a few dollars a month as modernity pushes traders to land. Surrounded by dusty old scales on his cluttered houseboat, Nguyen Van Ut says vendors are giving up their boats for better lives on terra firma where supermarkets draw the traders who once thronged the waterway. "I don't have many customers now. In the past, it was alright, but now many boats have left the floating market... people on vessels have switched to vehicles," the 71-year-old told AFP. He got into the repairs business 30 years ago on the Can Tho river to support his surviving children after his wife and two of his sons drowned in an accident.

For a time life was good, but now he relies on hand-outs from his children three of them work in nearby Can Tho city. Once reportedly two kilometers long, the Cai Rang market is a shadow of its former self. There are about 300 boats on the water now, down from 550 in 2005, according to the local tourism office. It has fallen victim to the economic rise of the Mekong Delta, which has rapidly developed over the last decade. Industrial and construction sectors have created near-

ly 570,000 jobs, hauling many from poverty. But people like Ut have been left behind, unable to afford a life on shore.

Even vendors making a decent wage from the tourists who flock to the market yearn for the perks of living on land: better housing, better jobs and modern amenities. Nguyen Thi Hong Tuoi started working on the water when she was a child, just like her mother and grandmother before her. Though she earns decent money, she doesn't expect her daughter to carry on the family tradition. "In the future, I will let my daughter live on land so she can study and have a proper job," the 34-year-old told AFP, as her elderly mother rested in a hammock surrounded by sacks of tapioca on their boat. It's a common aspiration for young people in Vietnam, where more than half the country's 93 million people are under the age of 30 and eager to move to fast-growing cities for work.

Supermarket squeeze

The origins of Cai Rang market reach back to when Vietnam and neighbouring Cambodia and Laos were occupied by the French, who readily exploited the natural resources of the colony previously called



A woman, making a living from selling food and drinks from her boat, rows in search of customers in a canal off the Song Hau river in the floating Cai Rang market in Can Tho, a small city of the Mekong Delta.

Indochina. The Mekong Delta's web of canals—both natural and man-made—were used to transport goods and people in the absence of a reliable road network. There are about a dozen surviving markets in Vietnam's Mekong Delta today, though like Cai Rang, many have shrivelled. "The local government is trying to keep the floating markets alive to (preserve) the culture and attract more tourists," said Nguyen Thi Huynh Phuong, a lecturer at nearby Can Tho University who has researched the market's history.

It still functions as a wholesale market, with vendors waking each day before dawn to load boats with watermelons or radishes and advertising their products by spearing them to a bamboo pole on the bow of the ship. But its charm also draws millions of visitors each year who buy noodles, fruit and coffee from water traders, making it a well-established pit-stop on the Mekong tourist trail. Recognizing the market as a tourism hotspot, the government designated Cai Rang as a national heritage site last year. For vendors like Ly Hung, who has lived on the water for 26 years, visitors have helped to maintain a traditional way of life. "Without tourism this floating market would disappear," he said. — AFP



Scales repairman Nguyen Van Ut sits inside his house boat in a canal off the Song Hau river in the floating Cai Rang market in Can Tho, a small city of the Mekong Delta.



A man living on a boat in a canal off the Song Hau river at the floating Cai Rang market looks out from the porch of his home in Can Tho, a small city in the Mekong Delta.

Bizarre News

Your genetic makeup dictates your opinion on Marmite

A study has revealed people's like or dislike for Marmite is in their DNA. Whether people love or hate the yeast based spread is reportedly down to their parents, according to a new study by DNAFit - one of the UK's top genetic research centers - who have discovered your genes determine whether or not you enjoy the opinion-dividing snack. DNAFit asked 260 adults to taste a 2g serving of Marmite before filling out a questionnaire noting their reaction to it, and after analyzing the DNA of each participant, researchers discovered the makeup of 15 particular single-nucleotide polymorphisms in their genes were linked to taste preference. Principal Investigator behind the project, Thomas Roos, says: "Our research indicates that Marmite taste preference can in large parts be attributed to our genetic blueprint, which shows that each of us is born with a tendency to be either a 'lover' or 'hater'." But it isn't completely down to your genes, as people can also have their taste in food products altered by the environment around them. Thomas added: "Like anything in genetics, taste preference is dictated by both nature and nurture. Our environment can impact our taste preference as much as the genes we are born with."

Men are boring at 39

Men are the most boring when they reach 39 years of age. A new study has shown that most men reach their boring peak at almost 40 years of age, as this is when they have completed many of the things which people deem to be exciting tasks. The research was carried out by home rental site Airbnb, who surveyed 2,000 people in an attempt to work out the optimum age for boredom and excitement. According to their results, people are most likely to be trekking across the desert, dancing on bar counters or taking up base jumping at the age of 27, and become more dull when they take on more responsibilities after entering their 30s. Women, however, allegedly reach their optimum age of "boring" earlier than men, with the survey suggesting they become dull at just 35 years old. According to those polled, things that make people fun include: Staying out until the early hours on a weekday, trying a new hobby, going out of the way to make a new friend, booking a spontaneous holiday, learning a new skill, visiting a friend unannounced, changing jobs, going on a spontaneous shopping trip, asking someone out on a date, and trying a new sport.

Dogs sniff out destructive ants

Dogs have been helping scientists eradicate invasive ants in California. A Labrador named Tobias has spent the past three months training so that he can assist with a project to kill off the destructive insects by running his nose through more than 1.6 square-miles of shrubs and small trees searching for nests. The project was launched in 2009 and, although Tobias has only had a few months training, he didn't find any new ant populations - meaning the action plan had worked. Christina Boser, an ecologist with the Nature Conservancy group, said: "The ants are very hard to find. He's good at his job, and he enjoys it a lot!"

Man drives pregnant wife to police station after she goes into labor

A "frantic" man drove his pregnant wife to a police station after she went into labor. Two officers were forced to become midwives temporarily recently after a couple rocked up at the station in New Jersey in a panic because they were about to become parents to a little baby girl and didn't know how to handle the birth on their own. According to a post shared on Facebook, Sgt Kevin Geoghan and Patrolman Pat Kiley turned out to be heroes as they helped deliver the tiny tot at 4:19pm yesterday. Despite turning up at the police station rather than the hospital, the mother and newborn appeared to be in good health and were later escorted to the medical centre. — Bang Showbiz