

Iran trying to reconcile Syria and Hamas



In defiance to US, Iran tests latest missile



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SAUDI ARABIA MARKS NATIONAL DAY WITH FIREWORKS, CONCERTS

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US BOMBERS FLY OFF NORTH KOREA COAST

A SHOW OF FORCE

WASHINGTON: US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers escorted by fighter jets flew in international airspace over waters east of North Korea yesterday in a show of force the Pentagon said demonstrated the range of military options available to President Donald Trump. The patrols came after officials and experts said a small earthquake near North Korea's nuclear test site yesterday was probably not man-made, easing fears Pyongyang had exploded another nuclear bomb just weeks after its last one.

The Pentagon said the mission was designed to show the many military options US President Donald Trump had to deal with the grave threat presented by the North Korean nuclear program. "This is the farthest north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) any US fighter or bomber aircraft have flown off North Korea's coast in the 21st century, underscoring the seriousness with which we take (North Korea's) reckless behavior," said Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White.

Yesterday's seismic activity came just hours before North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho - who warned on Thursday that North Korea could consider a hydrogen bomb test of an unprecedented scale over the Pacific - was due to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

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RIYADH: Saudi families sit in a stadium waving national flags, to attend an event in the capital Riyadh yesterday commemorating the anniversary of the founding of the kingdom. — AFP

RIYADH: With iconic buildings bathed in green light and cultural shows, concerts and fireworks, Saudi Arabia celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the kingdom yesterday. Car stereos blared patriotic songs as citizens began racing through the streets of the capital Riyadh at midnight in cars bedecked with the national flag to mark the annual event in the kingdom, founded in the 1930s.

The national day celebration coincides with a crucial time for Saudi Arabia, which is in a battle for regional influence with arch-rival Iran, bogged down in a controversial military intervention in neighboring Yemen and at loggerheads with fellow US Gulf ally Qatar. "On this great occasion, we feel that the kingdom has become an important state with a pioneering role at the regional and international levels," Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman said in a speech cited by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The 32-year-old prince is set to be the first millennial to occupy the throne in a country where half the population is under 25, though the timing of his ascension remains unknown. Already viewed as the de facto ruler controlling all the major levers of government, from defense to economy, the prince is seen as stamping out traces of internal dissent before any formal transfer of power from his 81-year-old father King Salman.

Authorities this month arrested around two dozen people, including influential clerics, in what activists decried as a coordinated crackdown. Analysts say many of those detained are resistant to Prince Mohammed's aggressive foreign policy that includes the boycott of Gulf neighbor Qatar as well as some of his bold reforms, dubbed Vision 2030, which include privatizing state assets and cutting subsidies.

Continued on Page 11

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SHRIMPYKW

KUWAIT READY TO HOST YEMENIS TO SIGN FINAL AGREEMENT: PREMIER

'IRAN SHOULD ADOPT SERIOUS CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES'

NEW YORK: Kuwait is ready to host the Yemeni parties to sign a final peace agreement, extending support to UN efforts to reach a political settlement for the Yemen conflict, a senior government official said.

"We express our readiness again to receive our Yemeni brothers to sign a final agreement once they conclude it," representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said in a speech before the UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday. Kuwait hosted the UN-brokered Yemeni negotiations for more than three months last year in a bid to help reach a peace agreement. The parties failed to reach any deal. His Highness the Prime Minister renewed support for the UN envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmad's attempt to solve the conflict, which caused massive humanitarian and economic problems for the Yemeni people.

Kuwait rushed to help the Yemeni people and allocated \$100 million to provide relief aid for the people in need to ultimately restore security and stability in the country, which has been in uncertainty since the coup of Houthis and former President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the legitimate leadership.

His Highness the Prime Minister reasserted commitment to unity, sovereignty and independence of Yemen. He also rejected any interference in its internal affairs. A solution to the crisis in Yemen, he added, should be based on outcome of national dialogue, the GCC initiative and its implementation mechanism and UN resolution 2216.

Serious measures

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak meanwhile called upon Iran to adopt "serious confidence-building measures" towards building relations based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the UN General Assembly in New York, said relations with Iran should also be based on rejection of all practices undermining regional security and stability. Those relations, which should be based on international law and principles of UN Charter, should ultimately contribute to peace and security for all people in the region, said His Highness the Prime Minister. Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited Iran last January and delivered a letter from His Highness the Amir to President Hassan Rouhani, dealing with

dialogue between the Islamic Republic and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Kuwait is acting on the GCC behalf in holding a dialogue with Iran with the objective of having relations based on mutual respect and good neighborliness.

Palestinian State

Kuwait condemned Israel's recent acts in Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem, urging the international community to compel Israel to abide by UN resolutions to pave way for establishment of the independent Palestinian State. His Highness Jaber Al-Mubarak said the Palestinian people have been suffering from the Israeli occupation for the past 50 years. The Israeli occupation, he added, was not complying with UN resolutions including the latest resolution 2334, which considered Jewish settlements illegal and called for their complete halt. There were many UN resolutions, regional and international initiatives aimed at solving the Palestinian cause, said His Highness the Prime Minister, but they all failed because of the Israeli blatant rejection. The Israeli illegal practices in occupied Jerusalem aimed at changing its demographic structure, he said, in complete breach of UN Security Council resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Fourth convention. "We call upon the international community and the Security Council to live up to their responsibilities, and to continue pressure on Israel to implement the international resolutions so that the Palestinian people gain their full rights," he said. These rights, he added, including the recognition of their independent state on the June 4 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with the land-for-peace principle and the 2002 Arab peace initiative.

Rohingya repression

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister called for the immediate cessation of repression against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar and allow them to live in peace, while condemning all forms of terrorism.

"We call for the immediate halt of all repression acts carried out against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar," His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said in a speech before the UN General Assembly in New York. He called on the authorities in Myanmar to allow the Rohingya to live in peace and grant them their rights.

The authorities in Myanmar have been assaulting the Rohingyas which forced hundreds of thousands of them to flee to neighboring Bangladesh, promoting an international outcry. His Highness the Prime Minister

said Kuwait was firmly against all forms of repression and terrorism, violence and extremism, and supported international measures to eradicate terrorist groups.

Kuwait, he added, was provided logistical support for the international counter-terrorism coalition. He noted that actions of so-called Islamic State (IS) were "violating the simplest human rights principles," and have created humanitarian disasters. His Highness the Prime Minister said the Middle East region



NEW YORK: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addresses the UN General Assembly in New York. —KUNA

faced numerous security challenges, which required collaboration of countries of the world to confront the menace of terrorism, whose victims were mostly civilians.

UNSC commitments

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister indicated that Kuwait would cooperate with Iraq to fulfill commitments towards Kuwait as listed in UN Security Council resolutions, noting it would host an international donor meeting to rebuild Iraqi areas liberated from terrorists.

Kuwait is showing flexibility towards payments of billions of US dollars in compensations of damage caused by the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Iraq is compelled to pay the compensations in line with relevant UNSC resolutions. Kuwait's move "aims at helping Iraq regain its regional and international role," representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said. He noted that Kuwait, in cooperation with Iraq and the international community, would be hosting an international donor conference next year to rebuild areas

liberated from IS. His Highness the Amir had called Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi following the liberation of Mosul to congratulate him on the victory, and offered to host the international conference.

His Highness the Prime Minister, in his UN speech, congratulated the Iraqi government and people for their victory against IS and the liberation of many areas that used to be under the terrorist group's control. "We are looking forward that these victories continue until the liberation of all areas, to contribute to boosting national conciliation among all segments of the Iraqi people," he said.

This conciliation, said His Highness the Prime Minister, should preserve unity, independence and sovereignty of Iraq in order to pave way for reconstruction and return of internally displaced persons to their homes. The Iraqi armed forces, backed by the international coalition fighting IS, have been liberating many areas occupied by the terror group. His Highness the Prime Minister said terrorist and extremist groups were "exploiting Islamic teachings... to achieve illegitimate objectives. They want to create chaos, incite sedition, and provoke hatred and extremism."

Peaceful settlement

On Syria, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak called for pressing all parties to the Syrian conflict to speed up the political process to reach a peaceful settlement based on UN resolution 2254. The Syrian political process "is still slow," and the negotiations between the Syrian parties over the past five years failed to "achieve any progress," His Highness said. He called for pressing the Syrian parties to engage in a direct dialogue aimed at reaching an inclusive peaceful settlement, which preserves the unity, independence and sovereignty of Syria, and honored the aspirations of the Syrian people. His Highness the Prime Minister reiterated rejection to any military solution to the Syrian conflict, which caused a humanitarian catastrophe since its broke out in March 2011. Kuwait rushed to help the Syrian people, hosting three international donor conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and participating in two other donor meetings in London, last year, and in Brussels, last April.

Kuwait contributions to the Syrian people amounted to \$1.6 billion, said His Highness the Prime Minister. His Highness the Prime Minister said Syria has been devastated by the conflict, which killed more than 400,000 people and displaced some 12 million. Kuwait government and non-government organizations (NGOs) has been providing humanitarian aid for the needy Syrians, who were either

internally displaced or in refugee camps in neighboring countries.

Sustainable development

Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister said Kuwait was committed in implementing the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-30, which would complement its New Kuwait 2035 vision. He further noted that the 'New Kuwait' vision was based on a vision by His Highness the Amir to transform Kuwait into a regional financial, commercial, cultural and institutional hub. He said New Kuwait vision, which was based on seven pillars, would involve all government and non-government parties to push forward a national development plan for the future of Kuwait.

His Highness the Prime Minister brought to the UN attention that the SDGs were facing big challenges caused by behavior of human beings, natural disasters and global warming. He called for promotion of partnerships among development agencies in order to eradicate poverty and climate change.

Kuwait, said His Highness the Prime Minister, has contributed to development at the economic, social and environment fronts. His Highness the Prime Minister, meanwhile, said Kuwait supported UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' reform plans. He also called for the reformation of the UN Security Council to include an Arab representation that matched the Arab countries' contributions to the UN.

Better role

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said that Kuwait would be committed to strengthening UN Security Council's role in preserving world peace and security, when the Gulf country assumed non-permanent UNSC membership next January. He added that Kuwait would work on enhancing UNSC role in conflict prevention, mediations, peaceful resolution of crises and promotion of transparency within the Council.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, said the State of Kuwait, whose last UNSC membership was in 1978-79, also sought to promote contribution of small countries in the different UN agencies. His Highness the Prime Minister said Kuwait, which would take over the UNSC rotating presidency next February, would work hard to activate international response to refugees, immigrants and displaced. His Highness the Prime Minister, who thanked all countries that voted for Kuwait's 2018-19 UNSC membership, hoped that "peace and security prevails in the whole world." —KUNA



NEW YORK: First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah participates in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) ministerial meeting in New York. — KUNA

ISRAEL MUST RESPECT INT'L LEGITIMACY TO ESTABLISH PALESTINE STATE: FOREIGN MINISTER

NEW YORK: Kuwait on Friday called on the international community to exercise pressure upon Israel to abide by UN resolutions to pave way for the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Israel should also comply with resolution 2334, which considered the Jewish settlements illegal and abort chances of peace, First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said in a speech before an Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) ministerial meeting in New York.

He condemned Israel's recent measures in Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Judaization of occupied Jerusalem to change its Arabic identity. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said that Kuwait, out of its keenness to help the Palestinian people would be hosting an international conference about the suffering of the Palestinian children next November.

He, meanwhile, called for doubling of

efforts to find a peaceful resolution of the Syrian conflict in line with the UN resolution 2254 and the communique of 2012 Geneva I conference. The Syrian crisis, he noted, killed some 470,000 people, forced three million to see refuge in neighboring countries and displaced 6.5 million others. He said there were 13.5 million people in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Kuwait hosted three international donor conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015, as well as co-chaired two conferences in London and Brussels. Kuwait contributed \$1.6 billion in the five meetings and the sums were distributed to regional and international organizations.

Donor conference

On Iraq, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said Kuwait would be hosting an international donor conference to rebuild Iraqi areas liberated from so-called Islamic State (IS). He said

Kuwait also approved a request by the Iraqi government to postpone payment of compensations, for three consecutive years, for damage caused by the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion and occupation. The Kuwaiti move, he added, "was in response to the difficult economic conditions Iraq is experiencing." Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled thanked OIC for organizing a conference in the Saudi city of Makkah to bring all Iraqi parties to the table. On Yemen, the Kuwaiti top diplomat rejected any foreign interference in the country's internal affairs, and reiterated that the solution to the conflict should be based on outcome of national dialogue, the GCC initiative and its implementation mechanism as well as UN resolution 2216. Kuwait, he added, provide \$100 million to help alleviate suffering of the needy Yemeni people.—KUNA

SHEIKH SABAH AL-KHALED MEETS KUWAITI DIPLOMATS

NEW YORK: Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Friday urged members of Kuwait Mission to the UN to double efforts during the country's non-permanent membership in the UNSC in 2018-19. He made the remarks during a meeting with Kuwaiti diplomats working in the mission. He attributed Kuwait's winning of the UN Security Council seat to the country's "balanced and moderate" policy that Kuwait has been adopting since its independence.

UN operations

Separately, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres commended Kuwait's role and contributions for supporting the UN operations. Guterres also thanked Kuwait for the country's vast humanitarian and development assistance around the globe.

The UN chief made the remarks during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) in New York. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled thanked Guterres for supporting security and stability at the regional and international level.

The two top diplomats discussed cooperation between Kuwait and the UN agencies ahead of the Gulf country's non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council for 2018-19. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Development goals

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said he was looking forward for further cooperation with UN to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-30, during Kuwait's 2018-19



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

UNSC membership. He made the remarks during a meeting with UN General Assembly President Miroslav Lajcak, who commended Kuwait's contribution to achieving the SDGs.

Separately, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled reiterated support to UN efforts to restore security and stability in Libya, through a political solution for the conflict in the North African nation. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the remarks during a meeting with Ghassan Salama, UN's special envoy to Libya, on sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York.

Meetings

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held talks with Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato Sri Anifah Aman

on development of relations, and international issues of mutual interest. He also held similar talks with Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ekaterina Zaharieva, Argentine's Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie, and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif. In addition, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled thanked the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) for its role towards Kuwaiti prisoners and missing since 1991. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the remarks during a meeting with Peter Maurer, President of ICRC, on sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting. Maurer thanked Kuwait for helping the people affected by conflicts around the world, as well as its contributions to ICRC operations. — KUNA



NEW YORK: First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah poses with members of Kuwait's Mission to the UN. — KUNA

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AMBASSADOR RELEASES STATEMENT ON SAUDI ARABIA'S NATIONAL DAY

KUWAIT: Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez released the following statement on the occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day, which fell yesterday:



Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez

The first day of the Libra horizon, corresponding to September 23 of each year, brings the memory of a glorious day in our national heritage. The day that crowned the grand national epic with the declaration of the founding King Abdelaziz bin Abdelrahman Al Saud of the Unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932. We, with the arrival of this auspicious national event, remember the struggle and sacrifice of our grandfathers and fathers who fought and contributed to the building of this large entity, which give us a motivation to protect it and the gains this country has made with the wisdom of its leaders and the hands of its sincere people.

The founding king then took the kingdom to the door steps of a comprehensive renaissance that it lived and is living through today in all political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields. His faithful sons completed the march as they built on the foundations he laid, as his sons kings Saud, Faisal, Khalid Fahad and Abdallah (May Allah bestow His mercy on them) continued the building, development and modernization of the kingdom in all fields, as they are always adherent to the principles and values of the founding king, defending Islam and working hard in serving the homeland and citizens.

Under the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may Allah protect him, the kingdom continues the march of development and modernization in all fields as it is living a prosperous phase and determination for achievement, building to make available all means of prosperity

and comfort.

He began his reign by developing the administrative structure, which took the kingdom to the doorsteps of a promising phase, in confirmation of his keenness to utilize all national resources to serve the country and citizens. The national transformation strategy was launched last year to implement the 2030 vision, the vision of the present and future, declaring that the kingdom is entering a new phase of its development journey to diversify income sources, increase the government performance's efficiency and provide prosperity to its citizens. This vision and the transformation strategy were to reflect the leadership's ambitions and the ability of our country, and confirm that the kingdom's future is a promising one.

He was able, with his vast experience in politics and administrative affairs, to take the kingdom in a qualitative move in all fields despite all developments, circumstances, regional and international events that surrounded the region lately, enabling the kingdom to maintain its international status as one of the

20 most influential countries politically and economically. The country continues, under his reign, to defend the causes of the Arab and Muslim nations to bring security and peace to the region and the world. Those efforts culminated in convening the Arab, Muslim-American summit in Riyadh during the month of May.

The kingdom continues, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdelaziz, its confrontation of the regional and international plans that aim at controlling the region with foreign influence. These dangers were recognized by him, so the kingdom led an Arab alliance in the Decisive Storm Operation to face outlaw armed groups that sought the control of Yemen's institutions and make it a base for foreign influence. The Decisive Storm Operation was followed by Operation Restoring Hope, while the kingdom continues its diplomatic efforts to solve the crises in Yemen, in addition to continuing its financial and humanitarian aid to Yemeni people.

The kingdom continues, since its founding, its integral role in its regional surroundings and international committee, out of its Islamic status and Arab depth, as it cradles the two holy mosques, which receive special care from the kingdom's leadership. Al-Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah and the Holy Prophet's Mosque in Medina witnessed the largest expansion operation in history to enable pilgrims and umrah goers to easily perform their rituals. Work is ongoing to complete the new King Abdelaziz International Airport in Jeddah, as well as the two Holy Mosques train, besides other infra-structure projects that serve the holy places.

In the field of humanitarian action, the kingdom contributes to the rescue and development efforts

all over the world, as total contributions by the kingdom during the past four decades reached nearly \$140 billion. Those efforts were culminated by the establishment of King Salman Rescue and Humanitarian Action Center, which distributes humanitarian aid from the kingdom to other countries.

The kingdom plays a major role in keeping security and stability in the region, and continues its fight against terrorism, and was among the first of countries that suffered from it when it lost several of its men in terrorist operations. Meanwhile, the kingdom was able to foil many terrorist plots by the stray groups. The kingdom's leadership felt the importance of consolidating international efforts to face terrorism, so it organized the first

international conference to combat terrorism and established the international center for fighting extreme ideology "Eitidal" which was opened during the convening of the Arab, Muslim-American summit in Riyadh last May. It also backed the regional and international efforts to face terrorist groups out of its realization that terrorism does not recognize borders and harms the entire humanity.

I cannot forget in this auspicious occasion to mention the strong ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, as time proved that they became an example to be followed in relations between countries. Contacts between the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdelaziz Al-Saud and His Highness

the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah protect them both, and all officials at all levels continues, which reflected well on the distinguished relations between the two sisterly countries.

I am honored on this occasion to congratulate the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdelaziz Al Saud, may Allah Protect Him, the Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Defense Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdelaziz Al Saud, the ruling family and Saudi people. I pray to Almighty Allah to protect our dear country against all evil, to bring back this occasion with all good and keep security, stability and prosperity for the kingdom, Kuwait, Arab and Muslim countries.



KUWAIT: A Saudi national flag is seen hanging in the traditional Mubarakiya Market in Kuwait City yesterday on the anniversary of the founding of the Saudi kingdom. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

PAAET DISCUSSES CYBER MEDIA, E-CRIMES LAW IN LONDON LECTURE



Fatima Al-Azmi, PAAET's official spokesperson (right).

KUWAIT: A Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) official participated in the 23rd International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities (ICSSH) that was held in the period of September 11-12, 2017 at the Imperial College in London. Fatima Al-Azmi, PAAET's official spokesperson and the public relations and media department's manager, presented a paper titled 'The Law of E-Media and Cybercrimes in Kuwait Between Users and Recipients.'

Azmi's lecture tackled Kuwait's cyber media law number 8/2016, Kuwait's law number 68/2015 against information technology crimes, as well as users' and recipients' relation with those laws, social media networks and the necessity of setting a clear policy to govern their use in various organizations, ministries and establishments. The lecturer also focused on the need for regulations that control the use of those networks by any institution, and that in order to prevent damaging its reputation or any negative impact it might leave on its economic, social and political activities.

The paper also discussed the role that social networks play in fighting terrorism, extremism, hate, violence and sexual abuse of children. In addition, Azmi emphasized the role of official spokespersons in state departments to represent those bodies, saying that a spokesperson should also be well-aware of those laws. Azmi received an 'A' with honors for her paper from London School of Public Relations last August.

COOPERATION WITH IAEA CONTRIBUTES TO KUWAIT'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN: KISR

VIENNA: Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will contribute to Kuwait's ambitious development plan, said a top official at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) yesterday. In a statement after the conclusion of the IAEA's 61st General Conference, held between September 18 and 22, KISR's Director General Dr Samira Al-Sayed Omar said that there were 11 Kuwaiti projects geared towards the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

These projects will contribute to Kuwait's overall development plan, said Al-Sayed Omar, adding that the projects are mostly associated with protecting the environment from radioactive pollutants as well as using atomic energy in medicine

and agriculture. These projects were carried out in 2017 and will continue in 2018, she revealed, adding that Kuwait was also partaking in eight regional projects in the Arab region and Asia.

Dr Nader Al-Awadhi, National Liaison Officer for the IAEA in Kuwait, said meanwhile that the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference had met with the agency's top executives and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides. He indicated that Kuwait expressed its commitment to the IAEA's safeguard mechanism in the Middle East and the world, revealing that the GCC nation had prepared a report displaying its commitment to the agency's standards. — KUNA



VIENNA: (From left) KISR's Director General Dr Samira Al-Sayed Omar and Dr Nader Al-Awadhi, the National Liaison Officer for the IAEA in Kuwait. — KUNA

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In Brief

\$285,000 FOR ROHINGYA

ISTANBUL: Kuwait-Turk Bank has donated one million lira (\$285,000) to the Turkish Red Crescent Society to relieve Muslim Rohingya who have been fleeing violence in their country Myanmar. The bank general manager, Ufuk Oyan, said in a statement during a ceremony for handing over the donation cheque that the bank management decided to help the Rohingya in response to appeals by clients and staff. —KUNA



ALECSO PRESIDENCY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Teachers Society is fully backing Kuwaiti candidate Saud Al-Harbi to chair the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), said the society's chairman Mutea Al-Ajmi. In a press statement yesterday, Ajmi said the society is communicating with several ALECSO member-organizations to support Harbi in the sixth extraordinary session of ALECSO's General Conference, held in Kuwait on 28 September. — KUNA



OIL PRICE UP

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up on Friday 19 cents to \$53.50 per barrel compared to \$53.31 per barrel on Thursday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. In world markets, oil prices rose yesterday following conclusion of the Joint OPEC-Non-OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC). OPEC and other oil producers said they would not take a decision until January on whether to extend their pact to curb oil production. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Al-Shaheed Park and other Kuwait City landmarks are seen from inside a high storey building in the state's capital. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

ZAIN SIGNS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH AL-SALAM INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

PARTNERSHIP AIMS AT ACHIEVING A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE GOALS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the signing of a Community Partnership with Al-Salam International Hospital, where the two partners will mutually collaborate to contribute in raising the levels of health awareness within the local community.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Zain and Al-Salam International Hospital in the presence of Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti and Chief Executive Officer of Al-Salam International Hospital Dr Ayman Al-Mutawa, as well as officials from the two parties. The MoU will open a number of opportunities for mutual collaboration where both parties will contribute to achieving a number of strategic sustainable goals within the health sector in Kuwait.

Khashti commented: "this step is a part of Zain's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy within the health sector, through which we aim to reinforce our joint collaboration with various leading health organizations in Kuwait, both from the public and private sectors".

Khashti added: "this agreement with Al-Salam International Hospital embodies the spirit of cooperation between private sector organizations, and it is an extension of a series of partnerships we are adopting to serve our strategic and sustainable goals, ultimately contributing to the wellbeing and health of everyone".



Mutawa said: "this agreement between Al-Salam International Hospital and Zain offers the opportunity for mutual cooperation in raising health awareness and reaching out to all segments of the Kuwaiti society. We moved forward with this agreement trusting that Zain is one of the leading organizations in Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility, which will help reinforce awareness and communication between us and our patients and the wider society".

Mutawa continued: "this agreement will surely enrich the social role the hospital plays as a leading health institution in Kuwait, and move towards more awareness initiatives in partnership with the hospital's main investor, Kuwait Finance House, to deliver their joint message in

a modern and more interactive way". The agreement will see both parties working towards the achievement of their mutual strategic goals to raise health awareness in Kuwait. Both parties will mutually collaborate on executing a number of awareness campaigns, social media awareness campaigns, seasonal campaigns (such as the annual breast cancer awareness campaign), as well as increasing health awareness about the most wide-spread diseases in Kuwait, such as diabetes.

Zain's contribution falls under the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategies and aims to raise awareness within the community and shows its keenness in having a productive role in social and health activities.



'PUBLIC WORKS' UNION URGES STAFF TO JOIN

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Ministry of Public Works' Labor Union Suleiman Al-Dousary said the union began its preparations for its service oriented programs for the next season. He said this includes unprecedented services for members of the general assembly, and will be given for the first time in the history of labor unions in Kuwait.

Dousary said that as a continuation of the draws for electronics and tourist trips presented by the union to its members, the union is preparing for a draw for a car of a minimum value of KD 10,000. He asked all ministry employees to become

members of the union to take advantage of all services presented by the union to the general assembly.



PROJECT TO HIGHLIGHT KUWAIT'S BEAUTIFUL PAST: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as State Minister for Municipality Affairs Muhammad Al-Jabri praised yesterday the 'Barayeh Salem' project in Salmiya which will reflect the country's

beautiful past. In a statement on the beginning of the project's construction, Al-Jabri said that Barayeh Salem would encourage graduates and small enterprises' owners to contribute to the Kuwaiti economy.

Meanwhile, the General Director of Kuwait's Municipality Ahmed Al-Manfouhi said during a tour of the project that he hopes that the project would be a touristic attraction, which would evoke the seventies and eighties eras in

Kuwait. He added Salem Al-Mubarak Street had been closed for the implementation of the project that would cost around KD 2 million (more than \$6 million). The project will hopefully open next February, said the official.

Meanwhile, Municipality Deputy Director for Projects Affairs, Nadia Al-Sherida said the development of Salem Al-Mubarak Street will include 14 kiosks in addition to gardens, fountains, and shaded areas. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A Kuwait Municipality team, led by General Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi pose for a group picture at the project's site. —KUNA



A 3-D image showing what the street would look like after the project's completion.

SELF-IMMOLATION REFLECTS HOW DESPERATE BEDOONS HAVE BECOME: LAWMAKER

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Dr Humoud Al-Khodair expressed regrets that a bedoon (stateless) man had set himself ablaze recently to highlight the sufferings of stateless people, saying that this calls for immediate solutions to the decades-long problem.

A stateless person reportedly set himself on fire outside the Naieem police station on Thursday in a bid to bring attention to the plight of bedoons due to their illegal status. The man survived but was hospitalized with severe burns.

"We never wished things would go this far," he stressed, noting that he totally rejects the idea of committing suicide. "Nevertheless, what happened with this man reflects how desperate stateless people have become," he added, calling for immediate reaction to end their problems.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary committee entrusted with studying the situations of stateless people recently recommended prioritizing the employment of bedoons next to citizens, and before conserving the appointment of other GCC nationals then Arab expats. Another proposal made by MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli recommended prioritizing the employment of stateless people according to their degrees in various jobs in co-ops and the Kuwait Ports Authority.

Job opportunities

Recent Civil Service Commission (CSC) statistics showed that 19,616 jobs were available for citizens holding various degrees including 9,674 for males, 7,145 for females and 2,797 undefined. The statistics show that job opportunities of university graduates were 8,171 including 4,341 for males, 2,839 for females and 991 undefined, in addition to 5,486 opportunities for holders of diploma (two year university) degrees including 2,461 for males, 2,488 for females and 537 undefined.

Citizens' hiring

Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) CEO Mohammad Ghazi Al-Muttairi said that the company had hired over 1,400 citizens over the past five years and stressed that this policy would continue and that the company would never give up on any citizen in the future. In a tweet he recently posted, Mutairi stressed that 89 percent of KNPC's general staff and 92 percent of those in the operations sectors were Kuwaitis, which is the highest in the company's history. Further, Mutairi stressed that KNPC was fully committed to the 25 percent ratio of Kuwaiti laborers in various contracts. He also pointed out that solving the problems of Kuwaitis working at Shuaiba Refinery was a top priority.

Fiber optics

Minister of Housing and Minister of State for Utilities Yasser Abul stressed that the project to replace landline with fiber optic cables was facing problems in some areas. Some of these problems face technical teams who are denied access by homeowners to install new systems, the minister said. He added that the fact that some units in new areas, such as Jaber Al-Ahmed City, are not ready for the systems is another obstacle, as well as the long paper work procedures needed.

OFFICER QUESTIONED FOR FAKE GOODS SMUGGLING ATTEMPT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry said that disciplinary measures will be taken against an officer if he is found guilty of involvement in an attempt to smuggle three containers of counterfeit goods from a ministry port. No smuggling attempt was reported at the customs department, the ministry's relations and security media department said in a statement released in response to media reports which claimed that a police colonel was involved in the smuggling attempt. The three concerned containers in question are already kept there under police's custody, it added, further indicating that the shipments include fake stationery. The officer in question, a Lieutenant Colonel, who works at the customs department tried to facilitate the shipment's release, the department said, stressing that he would be subjected to investigations and due disciplinary punishment for abusing his powers.

Vehicles auction

The Interior Ministry's General Traffic Department announced a public auction to sell vehicles and bikes impounded at Kuwait Public Transportation Company's garage in Amghara as advertised on June 4th, 2017 when the owners were advised to check with the auctions committee. The department also announced that the auction would be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. It also urged interested bidders to check with the garage one day before the auction to examine the vehicles.

KUWAITI HUNTING COMPANIES TAKE PART IN INT'L FALCON EXHIBITION

DOHA: Kuwaiti hunting and falconry companies took part in the First Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition in Qatar. The 14 Kuwaiti companies are presenting products including hunting rifles and ammunition, camping equipment and items used in raising falcons. The event is an opportunity to promote products, share experience and boost efforts to raise and protect falcons, a number of Kuwaiti participants said yesterday. The Qatari market attracts large numbers of GCC falconers, owner of Kuwaiti falcons research center Hashim Al-Sulaili said.

Many falcon owners had switched from hunting to holding competitions for these birds, due to new environmental laws that limited hunting, he added. On his part, owner of a company which organizes hunting trips Ahmad Al-Azmi noted that his company is aiming to expand its services all over the Gulf states. Katara's exhibition is a great way for companies to attract more customers, he added. Meanwhile, owner of land and marine trips company Bader Al-Fadhli said that organizing such exhibitions at the beginning of the hunting season allows companies to sell their products at a higher rate.

Moreover, another company owner Shabeeb Al-Ajmi said the event is a chance to see new creative inventions in the field of hunting. He added that Kuwait supports owners of hunting companies through the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME). The five-day exhibition launched last Wednesday is titled 'Sohail 2017', meaning Canopus, which is a star that has been closely-related to hunting. There are 95 companies from 15 Arab and foreign countries taking part in the event. — KUNA

MILLION EXPATS CATEGORIZED AS 'UNIDENTIFIED LABORERS'

NEPAL ARRESTS MAN FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS TO KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Government sources closely related to solving the demographical imbalance problem seemed so optimistic that the solution was doable but needs more planning and patience. The sources also stressed that the supreme committee for adjusting the demography plans to meet soon, adding that some very strict measures already in effect have led to having more control on the flow of expatriate laborers into the country. The measures also helped fight visa traffickers, which made visa prices jump to exceed KD 2,300, the source added.

Further, the sources said that at least one million expatriates could be categorized as 'unidentified laborers,' in addition to three other sectors including

fishermen, shepherds and farmers, leaving only 400,000 as what he described as 'productive labor,' versus 1.7 million marginal ones.

The sources also justified the lack of accurate numbers of expatriate labor in Kuwait to the fact that many of them hold residency visas without staying in Kuwait, but they come to Kuwait occasionally to keep their residencies valid.

Meanwhile, the Nepalese police is currently interrogating a 28-year-old Nepalese man over charges of joining a human trafficking group involved in trading in humans and smuggling them to Kuwait. An official statement made by the Nepalese police said that the suspect was arrested after one of his victims filed a report when she returned to Nepal at

the beginning of this month. The victim said that she had been promised free visa and ticket to Kuwait where she was received by two of her compatriots at Kuwait International Airport. The two men, aged 48 and 31, handed the woman over to her sponsor, who started sexually abusing her, torturing and starving her, before he told her that he had bought her for KD 1,600. The woman added that the two agents charged her more money to end her sufferings with the sponsor, but then 'sold' her to another one because she was released by the Rescue Nepal Organization; a nongovernmental organization specialized in fighting human trafficking. The NGO helped the woman return to her home country afterwards. — Agencies

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N Korean quake likely natural, not nuclear test

POWERLESS PUERTO RICO'S STORM CRISIS DEEPENS



MEXICO CITY: Rescue workers look for survivors in Mexico City yesterday, four days after the powerful quake that hit central Mexico. — AFP

NEW EARTHQUAKE SHAKES JITTERY MEXICO

OFFICIALS TEMPORARILY SUSPEND RESCUE OPERATIONS

MEXICO CITY: A strong new earthquake shook Mexico yesterday, causing new alarm in a country reeling from two still-more-powerful quakes this month that have killed nearly 400 people. The US Geological Survey said the new, magnitude 6.1 temblor was centered about 11 miles south-southeast of Matias Romero in the state of Oaxaca, which was the region most battered by a magnitude 8.1 quake on Sept 7.

It swayed buildings and set off a seismic alarm in the capital, prompting civil defense officials to temporarily suspend rescue operations in the rubble of buildings downed by Thursday's magnitude 7.1 quake in central Mexico. That quake dimmed activity in the stylish Condesa neighborhood, where young revelers typically spill out from dimly lit bars and restaurants on a Friday night. But the first weekend since a 7.1 magnitude earthquake toppled buildings just blocks away began on a somber note.

Instead of crowds gathered with beverages, small handfuls of rescue workers still dressed in reflective vests took breaks from digging through rubble. Entire restaurants with white linen tables were empty. Metal gates shuttered others. "It feels lifeless," said Mariana Aguilar, 27, a hostess at a bar and restaurant who stood

waiting for guests yet to arrive. "I walk through these streets every day and you never imagine something like this would happen."

Lending support

The upscale Mexico City neighborhood was one of the hardest hit by the quake that killed at least 295 people, with more than a half-dozen collapsed buildings in the immediate vicinity. The few Condesa residents who ventured out Friday night said they were anxious for relief from an anguishing week. "The city is still quite tense," said Israel Escamilla, an engineer, as he sipped a plastic cup filled with Coke at an empty bar. "But as good Mexicans we have to keep lending support however we can."

As rescue operations stretched into Day 5, residents throughout the city held out hope that dozens still missing might be found alive. More than half the dead -157- perished in the capital, while another 73 died in the state of Morelos, 45 in Puebla, 13 in Mexico State, six in Guerrero and one in Oaxaca. Along a 60-foot stretch of a bike lane in Mexico City's downtown, families huddled under tarps and donated blankets Friday, awaiting word of loved ones trapped in the four-story-high pile of rubble behind them.

"There are moments when you feel like you're breaking down," said Patricia Fernandez Romero, who was waiting for word on the fate of her 27-year-old son. "And there are moments when you're a little calmer. ... They are all moments that you wouldn't wish on anyone." Along the bike lane, where families slept in tents, accepting food and coffee from strangers, people have organized to present a united front to authorities, who they pressed ceaselessly for information.

They were told that water and food had been passed along to at least some of those trapped inside. On Friday morning, after hours of inactivity blamed on rain, rescuers were readying to re-enter the site, joined by teams from Japan and Israel. Fernandez said officials told them they knew where people were trapped on the fourth floor.

It's the moments between those bits of information that torment the families. "It's that you get to a point when you're so tense, when they don't come out to give us information," she said. "It's so infuriating." Jose Gutierrez, a civil engineer attached to the rescue who has a relative trapped in the wreckage, gathered other families of the missing to let them know what was going on. "My family is in there. I

want them to get out," Gutierrez said, his voice breaking. "So ... we go onward."

A roller coaster of emotions played out on Friday for Roberta Villegas Miguel, who was awaiting word of her 37-year-old son, Paulino Estrada Villegas, an accountant who worked on the fourth floor and is married with two young daughters. Wrapped in a fuzzy turquoise blanket against the morning chill she said that her daughter-in-law was contacted by a friend who said she had received a call from a cell number that belonged to her son, but there was no conversation. Her daughter-in-law ran to authorities with the information, but hours later returned to say that it was her husband's old cell number. At first they held out hope that he had given his old phone's SIM card to a co-worker who was using it to call out of the building. But eventually authorities traced the call to Queretaro state, extinguishing that glimmer of hope.

'Don't lose faith'

The arrival of rain late Thursday and the resulting work suspension drove Villegas' optimism down. But Friday morning the arrival of the Japanese rescuers buoyed her once again. "We want to be hopeful," Villegas said. "We

don't want to lose faith." Meanwhile, the time was nearing for bulldozers to be brought in to clear rubble and replace the delicate work of rescuers, though officials went to great pains to say it was still a rescue operation.

National Civil Defense chief Luis Felipe Puente acknowledged that backhoes and bulldozers were starting to clear away some wrecked buildings where no life has been detected or where teetering piles of rubble threatened to collapse on neighboring structures. "It is false that we are demolishing structures where there could be survivors," Puente said. "The rescue operations will continue, and they won't stop."

The long week's torment weighing heavy on rescuers and residents alike, several of those gathered Friday night in Condesa said memories of the quake and worries for neighbors and victims were hard to escape. Dionicio Pelaez, 57, the owner of a bike shop who has been helping collect donations, played pool with a dozen other men at a mostly empty restaurant. He said many of his neighbors lost their apartments. "We came to distract ourselves a bit," he said, his voice shaking. "This place is always full Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Now it's empty." — AP

TRUMP TRAVEL BAN EXPIRES TODAY, NEW BAN MAY VARY BY COUNTRY

WASHINGTON: The next version of US President Donald Trump's travel ban could include new, more tailored restrictions on travelers from additional countries. The Department of Homeland Security has recommended the president impose the new, targeted restrictions on foreign nationals from countries it says refuse to share sufficient information with the US or haven't taken necessary security precautions. The restrictions could vary by country, officials said.

Trump's ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority nations, which sparked protests and a flurry of lawsuits, was set to expire Sunday, 90 days after it took effect. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke "has recommended actions that are tough and that are tailored, including restrictions and enhanced screening for certain countries," Miles Taylor, counselor to Duke, told reporters on a conference call Friday.

Officials refused to say how many countries - and which countries - might be affected, insisting the president had yet to make a final decision on how to proceed.

Trump huddled with Duke, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, his director of national intelligence and his national security adviser Friday to discuss the issue, White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said. Taylor said the recommendations were based on whether countries were providing US authorities with enough information to validate the identities of potential immigrants and visitors and to determine whether or not they posed a threat. The recommendations were first reported by the Wall Street Journal on Friday.

Controversy

Trump's travel ban executive orders remain two of the most controversial actions of his administration. The ban, which went into effect in late June, barred citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen who lacked a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States" from entering the country. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on the consti-

tutionality of the ban next month. Officials described the process of reaching the new recommendations as far more deliberate and systematic than Trump's original travel ban order, which was signed just days after he took office with little consultation or input outside the White House. Homeland Security said it had worked with other agencies to develop a comprehensive new baseline for foreign nationals based on factors like whether their countries issued passports with biometric information to prevent fraud and shared information about travelers' terror-related and criminal histories. Taylor described what he said was "our guiding principle."

"We need to know who is coming into our country. We should be able to validate their identities, and we should be able to confirm that our foreign partners do have information suggesting such individuals may represent a threat to the United States," he said. The US then shared the new baseline requirements with every foreign government in July and gave them 50 days to comply. — AP

BANGLADESH SAYS ROHINGYA INFLUX DRAMATICALLY FALLS

COX'S BAZAR: The flood of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh has come to a virtual halt, Dhaka officials said yesterday, almost a month after violence erupted in Myanmar's Rakhine State and sent nearly 430,000 people fleeing across the border. Officials gave no reason for the dramatically reduced numbers. But Rohingya Muslim leaders said it could be because villages located near the border in Myanmar's Rakhine state were now empty.

Bangladesh Border Guard commanders said hardly any refugees are now seen crossing on boats coming from Myanmar or trying to get over the land border. In the past two weeks there have been up to 20,000 people a day entering Bangladesh. The UN says 429,000 Rohingya have sought refuge in Bangladesh since attacks by Rohingya militants in Rakhine on August 25 sparked a major Myanmar military crackdown.

Many gave up money and jewelry to get places on boats crossing the Naf River, which marks part of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. "Our guards have not seen any Rohingya coming in the past few days. The wave is over," Bangladesh Border Guard commander SM Ariful

Islam told AFP. The United Nations also said "the influx has dropped". It said it will now release updates on the numbers of refugees entering Bangladesh once a week, rather than daily.

Rohingya community leaders said most of the Rakhine villages near the Bangladesh border are now deserted. "Almost all the people I know have arrived in Bangladesh," Yusuf Majihi, a Rohingya leader at a camp at Balukhali, near Cox's Bazar, told AFP. "Village after village has become empty due to the attacks by Myanmar soldiers and torching of the houses by Moghs (Buddhists)," he added. "Those who are left in Rakhine live far off the border," he said.

Farid Alam, another Rohingya leader, said "I have not heard of any Rohingya crossing the border in the past five days. All I could see is people concentrating near the main camps." Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi said this week that troops had ceased "clearance operations" targeting Rohingya militants in Myanmar's border area. The United Nations previously said the military crackdown could amount to "ethnic cleansing". But despite the calm on the border, there were new signs of unrest in Myanmar. — AFP

MCCAIN DOESN'T BACK HEALTH CARE BILL, DRAWING TRUMP IRE

WASHINGTON: Sen John McCain declared his opposition Friday to the GOP's last-ditch effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare," dealing a likely death blow to the legislation and, perhaps, to the Republican Party's years of vows to kill the program. It was the second time in three months the 81-year-old McCain emerged as the destroyer of his party's signature promise to voters.

"I believe we could do better working together, Republicans and Democrats, and have not yet really tried," McCain said of the bill, co-written by Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, his best friend in the Senate, and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana. "Nor could I support it without knowing how much it will cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it."

McCain, who is battling brain cancer in the twilight of a remarkable career, said he could not "in good conscience" vote for the legislation. That all but ensured a major setback for President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and appeared likely to deepen rifts between congressional Republicans and a president who has begun making deals with Democrats out of frustration with his own party's failure to turn proposals into laws.

During the election campaign Trump had pledged to quickly kill President Barack Obama's health care program - "It will be easy," he contended - and he has publicly chided McConnell for not winning passage before now. With the Arizona senator's defection, there are now two declared GOP "no" votes on the repeal legislation, the other being Rand Paul of Kentucky. With Democrats unanimously opposed, that's the exact number McConnell can afford to lose. But Maine GOP Sen. Susan Collins said Friday she, too, is leaning against the bill, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska was also a possible "no," making it highly unlikely that McConnell can prevail.

'A horrible, horrible thing'

So once again, the GOP seems destined to fail on a campaign promise that every Republican agreed on - right up until the party obtained full control of Congress and the White House this year and was actually in position to follow through. Trump, speaking at a political rally Friday night in Alabama, called McCain's opposition "sad" and "a horrible, horrible thing" for the Republican Party. But he said he would continue the fight to repeal "Obamacare" even if it meant going back again and again.

"It's a little tougher without McCain's

vote, I'll be honest. But we've got some time. We're going to go back," he said and added: "You can't quit when you have one or two votes short." Vice President Mike Pence also said the fight wasn't over. "This is not going to be easy. Some have gone so far as to announce their opposition already," he said. "President Trump and I are undeterred." Graham, too, vowed in a statement to "press on," and reaffirmed his friendship with McCain.

Up until McCain's announcement Friday, close McConnell allies were still optimistic McCain's relationship with Graham might make the difference. GOP leaders hoped to bring the legislation to the Senate floor next week. They face a Sept 30 deadline, at which point special rules that prevent a Democratic filibuster will expire. Democrats hailed McCain's announcement and pledged to commit to the bipartisan process he sought. GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington have been working on a package of limited legislative fixes to the "Obamacare" marketplaces.

"John McCain shows the same courage in Congress that he showed when he was a naval aviator," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY. "I have assured Sen. McCain that as soon as repeal is off the table, we Democrats are intent on resuming the bipartisan process." The Graham-Cassidy bill would repeal major pillars of Obama's law, replacing them with block grants to states to design their own programs. Major medical groups are opposed, saying millions would lose insurance coverage and protections, and a bipartisan group of governors also has announced opposition.

One last try

Yet Republican congressional leaders, goaded by GOP voters and the president himself, were determined to give it one last try. Trump spent much of August needling McConnell for his failure to pass a repeal bill, and Republican lawmakers back home during Congress' summer recess heard repeatedly from voters angered that after seven years of promises to get rid of "Obamacare," the party had not delivered.

The House passed its own repeal bill back in May, prompting Trump to convene a Rose Garden celebration, which soon began to look premature. After the Senate failed in several attempts in July, the legislation looked dead. But Cassidy kept at it with his state-focused approach, and the effort caught new life in recent weeks as the deadline neared. Trump pushed hard, hungry for a win. —AP

IRAN TRIES TO RECONCILE SYRIA AND HAMAS, REBUILD NETWORK

BUILDING A BLOC OF SUPPORT ACROSS THE REGION

BEIRUT: Iran is working to restore a lost link in its network of alliances in the Middle East, trying to bring Hamas fully back into the fold after the Palestinian militant group had a bitter fall-out with Iranian ally Syria over that country's civil war. Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah are quietly trying to mediate a reconciliation between Syria and Hamas. If they succeed, it would shore up a weak spot in the alliance at a time when Iran has strengthened ties with Syria and Iraq, building a bloc of support across the region to counter Israel and the United States' Arab allies.

Hamas had long been based in Syria, receiving Damascus' support in the militant group's campaign against Israel. Hamas' powerful leadership-in-exile remained in Syria even after the group took power in the Gaza Strip in 2007. Together with Iran and the Shiite guerrilla group Hezbollah, they touted themselves as the "Axis of Resistance" to oppose Israel. But when Syria tipped into civil war, Hamas broke with President Bashar Assad and sided with the rebels fighting to oust him. The rebels are largely Sunni Muslims, like Hamas, and scenes of Sunni civilian deaths raised an outcry across the region against Assad, who belongs to the minority Alawite sect.

Iran, meanwhile, has been one of Assad's strongest backers since the crisis in Syria began in 2011, pumping billions of dollars into the economy and sending advisers as well as Iranian-backed fighters to help him stay in power. Hezbollah sent thousands of fighters, helping tip the war in Assad's favor against the rebels and now helping in the fight against the Islamic State group.

New leadership

The reconciliation attempt comes after Hamas elected a new leadership and as its main backers, Qatar and Turkey - both strong supporters of the rebels in Syria - have sought to improve relations with Iran. Hamas and Iran did not completely cut off their alliance after the fall-out with Assad. But ties cooled considerably. Tehran's funding continued, particularly for Hamas' armed wing, but at a reduced level, while political connections dwindled.

Since Yehiyeh Sinwar took over Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip in February, the militant group has been rebuilding those relations. In August, the most senior Hamas delegation in years visited Tehran and took part in President Hassan Rouhani's inauguration. During their visit, the delegation met with the parliament speaker and senior aides to Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. This



DAMASCUS: In this Dec 4, 2006 file photo, Syria's President Bashar Assad, right, meets Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh. —AP

year, Hamas officials have held three meetings with Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and relations have returned to normal, according to a Palestinian official in Beirut.

Iran has responded by increasing funding. Sinwar told reporters last month that Iran is now "the largest backer financially and militarily" of Hamas' armed wing. He said that with Iran's help, Hamas is "accumulating" its military powers in preparation for a battle meant for "the liberation of Palestine." Now Iran wants to end the rift between its two allies, Assad and Hamas.

A Lebanese politician with close links to the Syrian government confirmed that Iranian-Hezbollah mediation is ongoing, adding that it is still in the "very early stages." A Palestinian official who closely follows Hamas' relations in the region also confirmed the mediation effort and said there were "positive signals" from Syria.

Tough task

Both the politician and the official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the secret mediation. But the mediation faces a tough task given how bitter the split was. At first when Syria's conflict began, Hamas' leadership in exile remained largely silent. But tensions grew with the increased bloodshed, and finally in January 2012, Hamas' leader in

exile Khaled Mashaal left Syria to Qatar, one of Assad's main opponents.

The following September, he gave a speech in Turkey proclaiming, "We welcome the revolution of the Syrian people who are seeking freedom and independence" and that "the pure blood of these great people is being shed" because they seek democracy. Within hours, Syrian authorities sealed up all Hamas offices in the country and expelled its members to Lebanon. They have not been allowed back since.

This month, Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas figure in Gaza, told Al-Mayadeen TV that relations must be repaired with Syria and other countries that "are hostile to us without a reason." Pressed about possible reconciliation with Syria, Zahar said, "There are steps and they should continue." Syrian officials told mediators they are open to reconciliation but will not allow Hamas to open an office in Damascus, prominent Palestinian journalist Abdul-Bari Atwan wrote in his online newspaper Rai Al-Youm.

Khaled Abdul-Majid, a Palestinian official based in Syria who has close relations with the government, said that in the Syrians' eyes, statements by Hamas toward improving ties "are not enough." "What happened was big. It was betrayal as Syrian authorities say," Abdul-Majid said. "These (mediation) efforts have not reached serious steps." — AP

TRIBES AND TRADITION STAND IN THE WAY OF IRAQI POLICE

BAGHDAD: Policeman Ahmad regrets the day he detained a motorist at a checkpoint for possession of a gun without a license, bringing the weight of Iraqi tribal customs down on his head. Faced with threats and the reality that state law in Iraq cannot stand muster with tribes and their customs, the police captain gathered his family and fled Baghdad to take refuge in the south of the country. He had been posted at a checkpoint in an eastern district of the capital when he discovered the gun in a car.

Along with comrades, they arrested the driver, a merchant, but before long a group of gunmen turned up and secured his release. "We were only able to hold on to the gun," the captain said, opting not to give his family name or the province where he and his family are now living. Days after the incident, he had received a threatening telephone call. "We know where you live, where your family are. You'd better return the gun if you want to save them," was the crux of the message he received.

Ahmad teamed up with fellow police officers to arrange a meeting with representatives of the tribe of the man he had briefly detained. He was shown documents apparently certifying the gun as legal, leaving him with little choice but to return the weapon and close the case. The tradition in Iraq is for many cases to be settled by tribal mediators-local councils or family representatives-rather than the law of the land. They decide on compensation, financial or otherwise, to be negotiated and accepted by the parties in dispute.

'Tribe can always find us'

Ali, another policeman who refused to give his family name, had to pay the price-literally-laid down by the parallel law system. He had to cough up close to \$10,000 and his captain almost as much, all because they tried to implement state law. During a raid to close down illegal street stalls, he had been hit by one of the traders and struck back with his truncheon.

Three weeks later, his police station received the demand of a tribe summoning those who took part in the raid to a tribal meeting. The implication was that otherwise a group of youths would be sent to deal with those responsible. Ali's superiors refused to intervene because, he says, they had not wanted the interior ministry to be dragged into what for them was a tribal affair. At the meeting, Ali and his captain were slapped with the

stiff penalty as compensation. "Whenever we try to arrest anyone caught in the act or on suspicion, the tribe can always find us," he said. So "if I see anyone breaking the law, I don't intervene." Ali, with anger in his voice, said: "I don't want to be the victim of such stories or to have such prob-



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi policeman stands in a street in the capital. —AFP

SYRIA WAR FALLS FROM RADAR AT UN ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS: Syria's war has taken a new turn with the expected recapture of Raqa from the Islamic State, but world leaders gathered at the United Nations this week seem to be paying little attention. Once the focal point of a myriad of high-powered meetings during the UN General Assembly, Syria this year dropped off the diplomatic agenda, dwarfed by the crises over North Korea and the Iran nuclear deal.

Last year, tensions were running high at the UN assembly, with Western powers locked in heated exchanges with Russia and Iran, the Syrian government's allies, over the offensive against rebel-held Aleppo. Since then, President Bashar al-Assad's forces have retaken Aleppo and most of the opposition-held territory, backed by Moscow and Tehran.

The Islamic State (IS) group is close to defeat in its two remaining Syrian strongholds: Raqa and Deir Ezzor. Russia, Iran and Turkey have set up four "de-escalation zones" in Syria and are working with the United States and Jordan in the south to bring about ceasefires that

have eased the violence. "The war in Syria is not over yet," European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini reminded foreign ministers at an EU-hosted meeting on Syria on Thursday. But she acknowledged that "the situation on the ground has improved. Daesh (IS) has been driven out from its strongholds," and fighting has eased. "For many Syrians, this makes the difference between life and death."

France pushes contact group Now in its seventh year of war that has left 330,000 dead, Syria has become an extremely complex conflict, but diplomatic efforts remain low profile. The Kurdish issue and Israel's growing involvement, fueled by fears that neighboring Syria will become a springboard for Iran, are shaping up as new crises, diplomats say.

"Nothing is resolved," said a European diplomat, who asked not to be named. The country remains deeply divided — some would call it a de-facto partition — five million Syrians are still refugees and a new outbreak of fighting is still possible, he said. —AFP



An Invitation to Tender No (KAC/PP/4/2017) For soliciting bids for leasing (1) new residential complex of KAC Flight Attendants' accommodation in State of Kuwait

Kuwait Airways Company is pleased to invite all local individuals, companies, and corporations to participate in soliciting quotations regarding lease of (1) new residential complex at the following areas (Khitani-Farwanya-Salmiya - Sabah Al Salem - Manqaf - Mahboula- Fantas) for KAC flight attendants' accommodation in Kuwait.

To all interested individuals and entities shall bring a copy of such announcement and check in the office of secretary of Tender Committee, Ground Floor, KAC Head Office located at AlDajeej Area, near Kuwait International Airport, during business hours from 8 am to 02:30 pm except Friday and Saturday as of the date of this announcement publication. To purchase the tender documents, the interested bidder shall pay a non-refundable amount of KD 100 (One hundred dinars Kuwaiti) to the chief treasurer at KAC location against an official receipt to be furnished along with the provided quotation. Furthermore, a copy of this announcement shall be attached therewith, taking note that the bids submission Closing Date (in a sealed and closed envelopes) starts from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM, this day Monday, corresponding to 09/10/2017. All documents shall be submitted to the office of secretary of KAC Tender Committee. Any quotations provided after the aforesaid date shall be disregarded.

A preliminary meeting will be held to answer all inquiries received from the participated entities concerning this tender, at 10:00 am, this day Monday, corresponding to 02/10/2017, at the Meeting Hall of Housing and Supply Department located at the Ground Floor, KAC Head Office located at Al-Dajeej Area, near Kuwait International Airport. In the event of the bidder's absence, all discussions, decisions, and recommendations included in minutes shall be binding upon such bidder.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Tel. 24345555 Ext. 2249

Or Fax: 24722431

MEETINGS WITH PRINCE HARRY, TRUDEAU FOR MELANIA TRUMP

WASHINGTON: Melania Trump is set to take her biggest step yet as first lady. She's leading the US delegation to an international sporting event for wounded service members, her first solo trip outside the United States to represent her adopted country. On the agenda for daylong stop in Toronto: a first-time meeting with Britain's Prince Harry, founder of the Invictus Games; a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; remarks at a reception for the nearly 100 American athletes participating in the weeklong Olympic-style competition; and attending the opening ceremony.

Her decision to lead the American delegation, whose members include Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, professional golfer Nancy Lopez and entertainer Wayne Newton, reflects the first lady's "utmost respect" for the hard work, courage and sacrifice of the U.S. military, said Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Trump.

"She feels strongly that they - and their families - should be honored every day," Grisham said. Grisham said Mrs. Trump also has "great admiration for the role the games have played in empowering those who have been injured while serving." At an event last week

marking the 70th anniversary of the US Air Force, the first lady thanked the many members of the military who assisted thousands of people in Texas, Louisiana, Florida and the Caribbean whose lives were upended by recent hurricanes. A native of Slovenia who became a US citizen in 2006, Mrs. Trump also thanked service members' families.

"You endure time apart, are expected to move when new orders come in, and face the uncertainty that can come in times of need," she said at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, before introducing President Donald Trump. "This kind of lifestyle requires its own kind of

courage and your sacrifices do not go unnoticed or unappreciated."

New role

Mrs. Trump has been slowly warming up to her new role, waiting to move to the White House until her 11-year-old son finished the school year in New York and holding few public events of her own. She accompanied the president on his three overseas trips so far this year. Prince Harry established the Invictus Games in 2014 for sick and wounded service members from around the globe. More than 550 individuals from 17 countries are expected to participate

in 12 sports during the coming week, ranging from cycling to wheelchair tennis to sitting volleyball.

London was the setting for the inaugural event in 2015, followed by Orlando, Florida, last year. Mrs. Trump's participation continues White House involvement with the games, which were launched during President Barack Obama's tenure. Jill Biden, wife of then-Vice President Joe Biden, led the U.S. delegation to London as part of a military initiative undertaken with then-first lady Michelle Obama. Mrs. Obama helped open last year's competition in Orlando. —AP



DORADO: People try to get a signal before a cellular communications tower on the expressway in Dorado, Puerto Rico, on September 22, 2017 in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. —AFP

POWERLESS PUERTO RICO'S STORM CRISIS DEEPENS WITH DAM THREAT

CRACK LEADS TO TOTAL FAILURE OF THE DAM

SAN JUAN: Puerto Rican officials could not communicate with more than half the towns in the US territory as they rushed to evacuate tens of thousands of people downstream of a failing dam and the massive scale of the disaster wrought by Hurricane Maria started to become clear. Authorities launched an evacuation of the 70,000 people living downstream from the Guajataca Dam in northwest Puerto Rico, sending buses to move people away Friday and posting frantic warnings on Twitter that went unseen by many in the blacked-out coastal area.

"This is an EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION," the National Weather Service wrote. "All the areas around the Guajataca River must evacuate NOW. Your lives are in DANGER." The 345-year-old dam, which was built around 1928, holds back a man-made lake covering about 2 square miles. More than 15 inches of rain fell on the surrounding mountains after the Category 4 Maria left the island Wednesday afternoon, swelling the reservoir behind the nearly 90-year-old dam. An engineer inspecting the dam reported a "contained breach" that officials quickly realized was a crack that could be the first sign of total failure of the dam, US National Weather Service meteorologist Anthony Reynes said. "There's no clue as to how long or how this can evolve. That is why the authorities are moving so fast because they also have the challenges of all the debris. It is a really, really dire situation," Reynes said.

Roads blocked, phones dead

Government spokesman Carlos Bermudez said that officials could not reach 40 of the 78 municipalities on the island more than two days

after the hurricane crossed the island, toppling power lines and cellphone towers and sending floodwaters cascading through city streets. Officials said 1,360 of the island's 1,600 cellphone towers had been downed, and 85 percent of above-ground and underground phone and internet cables were knocked out. With roads blocked and phones dead, officials said, the situation may be worse than they know.

"We haven't seen the extent of the damage," Gov Ricardo Rossello told reporters in the capital. Rossello couldn't say when power might be restored. Maj Gen Derek P Rydholm, deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve, said at the Pentagon that it was impossible to say when communication and power would be restored. He said mobile communications systems are being flown in. But Rydholm acknowledged "it's going to take a while" before people in Puerto Rico will be able to communicate with their families outside the island. Until Friday, he said, "there was no real understanding at all of the gravity of the situation."

The island's electric grid was in sorry shape long before Maria struck. The territory's \$73 billion debt crisis has left agencies like the state power company broke. It abandoned most basic maintenance in recent years, leaving the island subject to regular blackouts. "Some transmission structures collapsed," Rossello said, adding that there was no severe damage to electric plants.

He said he was distributing 250 satellite phones from FEMA to mayors across the island to re-establish contact. The death toll from Maria stood at six, but was likely to rise. At least 27 lives in all have been lost around the Caribbean,

including at least 15 on hard-hit Dominica. Haiti reported three deaths; Guadeloupe, two; and the Dominican Republic, one.

Soggy misery

Across Puerto Rico, more than 15,000 people are in shelters, including some 2,000 rescued from the north coastal town of Toa Baja. Some of the island's 3.4 million people planned to head to the US to temporarily escape the devastation. At least in the short term, though, the soggy misery will continue: Additional rain - up to 6 inches - is expected through Saturday.

In San Juan, Neida Febus wandered around her neighborhood with bowls of cooked rice, ground meat and avocado, offering food to the hungry. The damage was so extensive, the 64-year-old retiree said, that she didn't think the power would be turned back on until Christmas. "This storm crushed us from one end of the island to the other," she said. Secretary of State Luis Marin said he expects gasoline supplies to be at 80 percent of capacity because the port in the southeastern town of Yabucoa that receives fuel shipments received minor damage.

Hour-long lines formed at the few gas stations that reopened on Friday and anxious residents feared power could be out for weeks - or even months - and wondered how they would cope. "I'm from here. I believe we have to step up to the task. If everyone leaves, what are we going to do? With all the pros and the cons, I will stay here," Israel Molina, 68, who lost roofing from his San Juan mini-market to the storm, said, and then paused. "I might have a different response tomorrow." —AP

'BRING IT HOME,' MERKEL TO VOTERS ON EVE OF ELECTION

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel and her rival Martin Schulz rallied voters on the eve of Sunday's vote, urging Germans to shun the first hard-right party expected to enter parliament in force since the end of World War II. Merkel, the clear frontrunner after 12 years in power with a double-digit lead, also told her conservative base not to get complacent and to cast their ballots, rousing them with a folksy call to "bring home the bacon."

Her Social Democratic (SPD) rival, Martin Schulz, in a passionate Berlin speech Friday told voters to reject the "sleeping-pill politics" of the famously cautious chancellor nicknamed "Mutti" (mummy) and vote against "another four years of stagnation and lethargy." Both agree that voters must resist the right-wing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has railed against the influx of around one million mostly Muslim migrants and refugees, half of them from war-torn Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The party with links to the far-right French National Front and Britain's UKIP has been polling at 11-13 percent and is expected to enter the opposition benches of the Bundestag, heightening its visibility and state financing. The International Auschwitz Committee warned that the "conglomerate of anti-Semites, enemies of democracy and nationalistic agitators" will bring "an inhuman coldness" to the glass-domed chamber of the Reichstag building.

'Shame for our nation'

Merkel — who has been heckled and booed as a "traitor" by AfD followers — was nonetheless headed back into one of their strongholds Saturday, in her Baltic coast constituency where the anti-Islam party beat Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) in state elections last year. At Merkel's final major stump speech on Friday evening in the southern city of Munich, activists tried to drown her out with whistles and vuuzelas and chants of "get lost." But the 63-year-old refused to be derailed from her stability-and-prosperity stump speech, telling the crowd that "the future of Germany will definitely not be built with whistles and hollers." Schulz, for his part, recalled with

pride the SPD's history of resisting the Nazi regime and told the Berlin rally that "this Alternative for Germany is no alternative. They are a shame for our nation." Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, also a Social Democrat, warned that "for the first time since the end of the Second World War, real Nazis will sit in the German parliament."

One of two AfD leading candidates, Alexander Gauland, has called for Germans to shed their guilt over two world wars and the Holocaust and to take pride in their veterans. He has also suggested that Germany's integration commissioner Aydan Ozoguz, who has Turkish roots, should be "disposed of in Anatolia."

Lackluster campaign

Aside from the hard-right populist noise, the past two months of campaigning by the major parties have been widely criticized as lackluster and uninspired, with few hot-button issues dividing the main contenders. For the past four years, Merkel's CDU has ruled Europe's top economy with the Social Democrats as its junior partner, a time during which both parties have broadly agreed on major policies, from eurozone and foreign policy to migration.

In a last-ditch bid to stir voters, the SPD's Gabriel accused Merkel of caving in to the demands of US President Donald Trump by pledging to raise defense spending to two percent of GDP. "That's the wrong way," Gabriel told Huffington Post. "Germany is the voice of peace and disarmament and not the European offshoot of Trumpian military armaments policy."

Governing in Merkel's shadow has cost the SPD voter support, and polls give it 21-22 percent compared to 34-36 percent for Merkel's conservative bloc which also includes the Bavarian CSU. Looking at the surveys, many rank-and-file SPD members wonder whether the traditional working class party needs a stint in opposition to rekindle its fighting spirit. This would leave the presumed winner Merkel in need of new coalition partners — possibly the liberal and pro-business Free Democrats, who are hoping for a comeback after crashing out of parliament four years ago. —AFP



GREIFSWALD: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) arrives for a reanimation course and contest organized by the medical university of northeastern town of Greifswald yesterday on the eve of the general elections. — AFP

FRENCH LEFT STAGES SHOWDOWN OVER NEW MACRON REFORMS

PARIS: Tens of thousands of demonstrators rallied to a call yesterday by firebrand leftist politician Jean-Luc Melenchon to join a protest in Paris against President Emmanuel Macron's sweeping reforms of the labor code. Melenchon was leading the march through the streets of the French capital on a bright sunny afternoon, with the crowd shouting "resistance, resistance" and no to "a national coup d'etat."

It marks the third in a series of nationwide protests comes a day after Macron signed his landmark reforms into law using a fast-tracked procedure that avoided a lengthy parliamentary debate. The changes to the labor code, which runs to around 3,400 pages in some editions, give small businesses more flexibility to negotiate pay and conditions with their staff, instead of being bound by national agreements.

They also make it easier to lay off employees and cap compensation awards for unfair dismissal while also giving higher payouts to workers made redundant. Macron argues the changes — the cornerstone of his program aimed at boosting entrepreneurship — will help bring down stubbornly high unemployment of 9.6 percent. Melenchon's hard-left France Unbowed party has accused Macron of unraveling decades of hard-won social gains. Zabou Hervieu, 48, came by coach from Brittany to the demonstration. "I am here for my daughter. She's 10. Will there still be real jobs with good salaries when she's grown?" he

said, leaning on a walking stick due to back and knee problems. The left has also come out swinging against Macron's plans to cut housing subsidies and reduce the scope of a wealth tax, claiming it as proof that the centrist is a closet right-winger. "France has never had so many billionaires and millionaires. Why is it always the workers who have to tighten their belts?," demanded Lous Bousquet, 33, unemployed and sporting a Mao cap.

'The battle of France'

France's youngest ever president has vowed not to be swayed. "I believe in democracy but democracy is not the street," the 39-year-old told CNN television last week. Yesterday's march will test continuing resistance to the measures. On Thursday, some 132,000 people demonstrated across France, around half as many as protested a week earlier.

Addressing reporters at the Elysee Palace after signing five executive orders before television cameras Macron boasted that he had implemented his campaign pledge to shake up labor relations "in record time." The move to give bosses and workers more freedom to negotiate was "unprecedented" in French post-war history, he said. Melenchon, a veteran 66-year-old political showman who placed fourth in this year's presidential election, cast it as an attack "on the last country in Europe that is holding out on its post-war social gains." —AFP

TO VOTE OR NOT, INDEPENDENCE OR NOT: CATALONIA IS DIVIDED

BARCELONA: Just four metro stops separate Gracia from Nou Barris, two districts in Barcelona that are nevertheless sharply divided over whether they want to stay in Spain or leave, as a banned independence referendum looms in Catalonia. The issue has the entire northeastern region split roughly down the middle, with the most recent poll commissioned by the regional government in July finding that 49.4 percent of Catalans were against independence while 41.1 percent were in favour.

Sheltered from the rain in his flower stall in Nou Barris, Ignacio Perez watches with annoyance as a bus passes bearing the slogan "Hello Republic", part of the "yes" campaign for the referendum on October 1 that Madrid is trying to stop at all costs. "That bothers me," the 63-year-old florist said. "It's relentless, always the same, but those aren't people's problems. If only they put the same effort into bettering the health system, education or employment."

If it weren't for the poster, passers-by could be forgiven for forgetting that Catalonia is in the midst of a push for independence driven by its separatist leaders — so

few are the signs in this working-class district of Barcelona. Nou Barris is where many immigrants from other parts of Spain settled last century, and Spanish — not Catalan — dominates conversations here. Spanish flags fly from its high-rises, not the yellow, red and blue separatist banners often seen in other parts of this wealthy, 7.5-million strong region. "A majority of people don't want independence, but we're kept quiet," Perez said.

Silent majority

Separatists secured an absolute majority in the Catalan parliament after regional elections in 2015, though they got just 47.6 percent of the vote. Regional president Carles Puigdemont has said he will start taking steps towards separating from Spain if the "yes" wins the day on October 1, regardless of the turnout. But how that would work remains unclear given the anti-constitutional nature of the vote and Madrid's

opposition. "With such a paltry majority and with a minority in society, you can't launch such a process," Perez said. "You can't break up a country with so little support." In Nou Barris, the separatist vote in the 2015 elections reached just 29.1 percent while parties against independence won 53 percent.

"They have imposed their plan on us, taking advantage of the fact that those of us against independence are not united and have not mobilized," said Ana Bahamonde, 52. The customers at her bakery, she added, prefer not to discuss the issue. "It's badly looked upon to say you don't want independence, it equates you with the far right. That's why I don't go to protests for unity." Bahamonde also said she would not vote in the referendum. "I'd like to vote in the right way, but not like this," she said, reflecting results in the July opinion poll which showed that more than 70 percent of Catalans wanted a referendum to settle the matter.

Over in Gracia, however, things are radically different. A former summer village for Barcelona's elite, it was annexed by the Mediterranean city at the end of the 19th century and is now one of the most fashionable districts. —AFP



BARCELONA: A group of people throw ballots for the October 1 referendum from a building with a banner in favor of the referendum in Sant Jaume square. —AFP

INDIAN SPIRITUAL GURU JAILED FOR ALLEGED RAPE

NEW DELHI: Police yesterday arrested a popular Indian spiritual guru, the second in the past month, for allegedly raping a 21-year-old woman in western India. Police officer Jaisingh Nathawat said the woman, whose parents have been followers of 70-year-old Kaushlendra Prapannacharya Falahari Maharaja, complained that the guru assaulted her on Aug 7 at his headquarters in Alwar, a town in Rajasthan state.

She said that the spiritual guru warned her against telling anyone about the assault, but that she decided to break her silence after another self-proclaimed guru, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, was tried and sentenced to 20 years in prison last month for raping two followers in northern Haryana state. A court sent Falahari Maharaja to a prison for 15 days while the police complete their investigation into the case. The woman was

allegedly raped when she went to hand the spiritual guru 3,000 rupees (\$45) that she had earned for an internship with an attorney in New Delhi on his recommendation.

Religious sects have huge followings in India and also wield considerable political clout. Crimes against women have been mounting in the country. The outrage over a 2012 attack on a 23-year-old medical student on a moving bus in New Delhi by a group of men prompted quick action on legislation doubling prison terms for rapists to up to 20 years and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women. Indian lawmakers also voted to lower to 16 from 18 the age at which a person can be tried as an adult for heinous crimes. The medical student died two weeks later of injuries caused by the rape. Four men were sentenced to death for the attack. — AP



PYONGYANG: Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans gathered at Kim Il Sung Square to attend a mass rally against America. — AFP

N KOREAN QUAKE LIKELY NATURAL, NOT NUCLEAR TEST, SAYS EXPERTS

TENSIONS HIGH AFTER N KOREA'S SIXTH NUCLEAR TEST

BEIJING/SEOUL: A small earthquake near North Korea's nuclear test site yesterday was probably not manmade, the nuclear proliferation watchdog and a South Korean official said, easing fears Pyongyang had exploded another nuclear bomb just weeks after its last one. Chinese earthquake officials said the magnitude 3.4 quake detected at 0829 GMT was a "suspected explosion" but both the CTBTO, which monitors nuclear tests, and a South Korean meteorological agency official said they believed it was a natural quake.

"A key method is to look at the seismic waves or seismic acoustic waves and the latter can be detected in the case of a manmade earthquake," said the South Korean official, who asked for anonymity. "In this case we saw none. So as of now, we are categorizing this as a natural earthquake." The earthquake, which South Korea put at magnitude 3.0, was detected in Kilju county in North Hamgyong Province, where North Korea's known Punggyeri nuclear site is located, the official said.

All of North Korea's previous six nuclear tests registered as earthquakes of magnitude 4.3 or above. The last test on Sept 3 registered as a 6.3 magnitude quake. A secondary tremor detected after that test could have been caused by the collapse of a tunnel at the mountainous site, experts said at the time. Satellite photos of the area after the Sept 3 quake showed numerous landslides apparently caused by the massive blast, which North Korea said was an advanced hydrogen bomb.

The head of the nuclear test monitoring agency CTBTO said yesterday that analysts were "looking at unusual seismic activity of a much

smaller magnitude" than the Sept 3 test in North Korea. "Two #Seismic Events! 0829UTC & much smaller @ 0443UTC unlikely Man-made! Similar to "collapse" event 8.5 mins after DPRK6! Analysis ongoing," CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo said in a Twitter post, referring to Sept 3 test. Russia's emergency ministry says background radiation in nearby Vladivostok was within the natural range.

Tensions high

The US Geological Survey said it could not conclusively confirm whether the quake, which it measured at magnitude 3.5, was manmade or natural. "The depth is poorly constrained and has been held to 5 km by the seismologist," USGS said. "The Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) is the sole organization in the US federal government whose mission is to detect and report technical data from foreign nuclear explosions."

There was no immediate reaction from China's Foreign Ministry, but the news was widely reported by Chinese state media outlets and on social media. Tensions have continued to rise around the Korean peninsula since Pyongyang carried out its sixth nuclear test, prompting a new round of U.N. sanctions.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, currently in New York for a United Nations meeting, warned on Thursday that Kim could consider a hydrogen bomb test of an unprecedented scale over the Pacific. Ri is due to address the United Nations later yesterday. US President Donald Trump called the North Korean leader a "madman" on Friday, a day after Kim dubbed him a "mentally deranged US dotard" who

would face the "highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history".

North Korea's nuclear tests to date have all been underground, and experts say an atmospheric test, which would be the first since one by China in 1980, would be proof of the success of its weapons program. North Korea has launched dozens of missiles this year, several of them flying over Japan, as it accelerates a weapons program aimed at enabling it to target the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile.

China limits oil

While China has been angered by North Korea's repeated nuclear and missile tests and has signed up for the increasingly tough UN sanctions, it has also stressed the need to resume dialogue and for all sides to take steps to reduce tensions. In a series of meetings this week at the United Nations, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has reiterated to various foreign counterparts that apart from sanctions, the resolutions also call for dialogue to resume and that this needs to happen.

Earlier yesterday, China said it will limit exports of refined petroleum products from Oct. 1 and ban exports of condensates and liquefied natural gas immediately to comply with the latest U.N. sanctions. It will also ban imports of textiles from North Korea. The United States and South Korea are technically still at war with North Korea because the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce and not a peace treaty. The North accuses the United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, of planning to invade and regularly threatens to destroy it and its Asian allies. — Reuters

NEW ZEALAND PM WINS ELECTION BUT NEEDS HELP TO FORM GOVT

AUCKLAND: Prime Minister Bill English's National Party won the most votes in New Zealand's general election yesterday but not enough to form a government without help from other political parties. That means New Zealanders may need to wait for days or even weeks to confirm whether English will retain the top job as the various parties try to negotiate with each other to form a coalition.

There remained a remote chance that English's main challenger, Jacinda Ardern, could take the role. The results were welcomed by the National Party, which is seeking a fourth consecutive term in office. And they offer some redemption for English, who led his party to its worst-ever defeat in 2002. "The voters have spoken and now we have the responsibility of working to give New Zealand a strong and stable government," he said.

He thanked Ardern for a hard-fought campaign, which he said had motivated and engaged more New Zealanders than any campaign he could remember. "We gave it everything, and we got better and better," he said. Ardern said she called English to acknowledge to him that his party won more votes. She said she couldn't predict what decisions the leaders of other parties might now make. "I've come off the field knowing we gave it our all," she said.

English became finance minister in 2008 when his party was led to victory by John Key. He spent eight years in that role before taking over the top job last December when Key resigned. Vote tallies show the National Party won 46 percent of the vote, Ardern's Labour Party won 36 percent, the New Zealand First Party 8 percent and the Green Party 6 percent.

Forming alliances

Under New Zealand's proportional voting system, large parties typically must form alliances with smaller ones in order to govern. The Green Party typically aligns with the liberal Labour Party. But who New Zealand First will favor remains unclear. The party is led by maverick Winston Peters, who said yesterday that he would not be giving any answers over the next day or two until there was time for further consultation.

Ardern had enjoyed a remarkable surge in popularity since taking over as opposition leader last month. The 37-year-old was greeted like a rock star at large rallies and has generated plenty of excitement among her fans. English, 55, ran a more low-key campaign, highlighting his experience and the economic growth the country has enjoyed over recent years. He's promising tax cuts for most workers. — AP



AUCKLAND: Leader of the National Party Bill English reacts onstage next to his wife Mary (L) at the party's election event at SkyCity Convention Centre. — AFP

FEARING ERUPTION, THOUSANDS FLEE FROM BALI'S MOUNT AGUNG

BALI: Thousands of villagers on the Indonesian resort island of Bali huddled yesterday in temporary shelters, sports centers and with relatives, fearing Mount Agung will erupt for the first time in more than half a century. Authorities raised the volcano's alert status to the highest level Friday following a "tremendous increase" in seismic activity. Its last eruption in 1963 killed 1,100 people.

Villager Made Suda said he left overnight with 25 family members and as much food, clothes, cooking equipment and bedding they could carry to stay in the Klungkung sports center. "I feel grief and fear, feel sad about leaving the village and leaving four cows because it's empty. Everyone has evacuated," he said yesterday. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said no one should be within 9 kilometers of

the crater and within 12 kilometers to the north, northeast, southeast and south-southwest where lava flows, lahars or rapidly moving white-hot ash clouds from an eruption could reach.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said more than 15,000 villagers have been officially evacuated. Officials have said there is no current danger to people in other parts of Bali, a popular tourist island famous for its surfing, beaches and elegant Hindu culture.

In 1963, the 3,031-meter Agung hurled ash as high as 20 kilometers according to volcanologists, and remained active for about a year. Lava traveled 7.5 kilometers and ash reached the capital, Jakarta, about 1,000 kilometers away. "I hope the eruption is not too big and hopefully not many houses are destroyed," said Wayan Yuniartini, who left his village on Friday night with family members. "I was very worried last night," he said. "At 11.30 pm we said 'we have to leave' and many other people in our area were also leaving." — AP



BALI: A general view shows Mount Agung behind Balinese Hindu temples seen from Karangasem on the Indonesian resort island. — AFP

BUDDHIST MISTRUST HAMPERS RELIEF WORK FOR MYANMAR

SITTWE: Relief agencies struggling to reach hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims displaced by strife in northwestern Myanmar are facing rising hostility from ethnic Rakhine Buddhists who accuse the United Nations and foreign aid groups of only helping Muslims. So far, the Myanmar government has only granted Red Cross organizations access to the area. The United Nations suspended its activities and evacuated non-critical staff after the government suggested it had supported Rohingya insurgents.

Already battling against bad weather, tough terrain and obstructive bureaucracy, the Red Cross also ran into an angry mob, who believe the foreign aid agencies have ignored the suffering of Rakhine Buddhists in Myanmar's poorest state. On Wednesday a mob in Sittwe, the capital

of Rakhine State, tried to block a boat carrying International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) aid to the north, where attacks by Rohingya militants on Aug. 25 prompted Myanmar's generals to order a sweeping counter-insurgency offensive.

The mob was armed with sticks, knives and petrol bombs, and only dispersed after police fired rubber bullets. Four days earlier a Myanmar Red Cross truck was stopped and searched by Rakhine residents in Sittwe. "With heightened tensions in Rakhine State, humanitarian staff and private contractors are facing serious challenges in implementing life-saving activities," said Pierre Peron, spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Myanmar. — Reuters




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Focus

BOOZE, SECRETS AND PORSCHE: GERMANY CANDIDATES GET REAL

By Antoine Lambroschini

Germany's 2017 election campaign, in which Chancellor Angela Merkel is expected to cruise to a fourth term, may have been widely panned as a snoozefest. But a closer look reveals that the candidates themselves are anything but dull. Here's a rundown of some of the most interesting tidbits about the main players in today's vote.

Schulz: Broken dreams

Life almost took a very different turn for Merkel's main challenger, Martin Schulz of the Social Democrats. After quitting high school without a diploma, he pinned his hopes on becoming a professional football player. But a knee injury crushed that dream, and a despondent Schulz turned to alcohol. He credits his brother with getting him back on the right track and after overcoming his battle against the bottle, Schulz opened a book store. Not long after, he became the youngest-ever mayor in his home state of North Rhine-Westphalia. His career eventually took him to Brussels, where he went on to become the head of the European Parliament. Along the way, he taught himself five languages.

Weidel: The rightwing paradox

Alice Weidel is an openly gay, former Goldman Sachs banker who is raising two children with her Sri Lankan-born partner. She's also one of the leading candidates for the rightwing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which prides itself on its anti-immigration and anti-elite leanings. Acknowledging the apparent paradox, Weidel said: "If we're being honest, of course the AfD doesn't seem like the first port of call when it comes to gay rights." But she has also railed against the "Muslim gangs" who she says make it difficult for gay couples to hold hands in the street.

Lindner: Porsche-loving poster boy

The pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) have plastered black-and-white close-ups of their leader Christian Lindner's face on campaign posters across the country. Not bad for a man who was overweight as a teenager. Determined to fight the flab, Lindner says he shed 30 kilograms (66 pounds) after taking up jogging and going on a strict diet. Showing the same tenacity elsewhere in life, he started his own ad agency at the age of 17. At 19, he bought his first Porsche. "I shouldn't have done that," he says now. After his studies, he launched a software business that went under in the dotcom bubble of the early 2000s.

Wagenknecht: Mystery

The leader of the far-left Die Linke party Sahra Wagenknecht was born behind the Iron Curtain in communist East Germany in 1969, to a German mother and an Iranian father. When she was just three years old, her student father went on a trip to his home country and was never heard from again. His fate remains a mystery and Wagenknecht has said "the chances are slim that he is still alive". She is one half of a political power couple with former Social Democrat heavyweight Oskar Lafontaine, a one-time finance minister who later defected to Die Linke.

Ozdemir: Marijuana stunt

Co-leader of the Greens party, Cem Ozdemir is Germany's best-known politician of Turkish origin. Last year, he attracted the wrath of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for backing a parliamentary resolution that recognized the World War I-era mass killings of Armenians as genocide. Such was the outrage over the resolution that Ozdemir needed police protection. But the lawmaker has also made headlines for more light-hearted reasons. In 2014, at the height of the "ice bucket" charity challenge craze, Ozdemir was filmed dousing himself in freezing water while standing next to a marijuana plant. He later said he had wanted to make "a gentle political statement" to decriminalize cannabis.

Merkel: Recipe for success

The famously guarded Angela Merkel shook up a sleepy campaign when she shared the secret of her potato soup recipe, revealing that she uses a masher instead of a blender. "Then there'll always be a few lumps left." Europe's most powerful woman told Bunte magazine in August. She also opened up about her reclusive husband Joachim Sauer, a music lover so media-shy he has been dubbed the "Phantom of the Opera." "He supports me by doing a lot of the grocery shopping," Merkel said. "His help allows me to focus on the campaign." — AFP

WORLD WONDERS: COULD N KOREA FIRE NUCLEAR MISSILE OVER JAPAN?

By Kim Tong-Hyung

Will North Korea's next nuclear test involve a thermonuclear missile screaming over Japan? That's a question being asked after North Korea's foreign minister said his country may test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean. The world hasn't seen an above-ground, atmospheric nuclear test since an inland detonation by China in 1980, and North Korea upending that could push the region dangerously close to war. The room for error would be minimal, and any mistake could be disastrous. Even if successful, such a test could endanger air and sea traffic in the region.

Because of that, many experts don't think North Korea would take such a risk. But they're also not ruling it out given the North's increasing number of nuclear and missile tests. The main reason for North Korea to take that risk would be to quiet outside doubts about whether it really has a thermonuclear weapon small enough to fit on a missile, said Jeffrey Lewis, a US arms control expert at the Middlebury Center of International Studies at Monterey.

So far, North Korea has been separately testing nuclear weapons and the ballistic missiles built to deliver them, rather than testing them together. North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho wouldn't have spoken without approval from Pyongyang's top leadership when he suggested to reporters in New York on Friday that the country could conduct an atmospheric hydrogen bomb test to fulfill the vows of the country's leader, Kim Jong Un.

Kim, in an unusual direct statement to the world, pledged hours earlier to take "highest-level" action against the United States over President Donald Trump's threat to "totally destroy" the North if provoked. Ri didn't elaborate and said no one knew what decision Kim would make. If North Korea attempts an atmospheric nuclear test at sea, it would likely involve its most powerful ballistic missiles, such as the intermediate-range Hwasong-12 or the intercontinental-range Hwasong-14, experts say.

The country lacks assets to air-drop a nuclear device, and sending a vessel out to sea to detonate a device raises the chances of getting detected and stopped by the US military. For the nuclear missile to reach a remote part of the Pacific, it would have to fly over Japan, as the North did with two Hwasong-12 test launches in recent weeks. There have only been a handful of times when atmospheric nuclear tests involved ballistic missiles, including China's fourth nuclear test in 1966. That involved a midrange Dongfeng-2 missile being launched from a deep inland rocket facility to the Lop Nur nuclear test site in the country's far west.

Lewis finds similarities between the current situation surrounding North Korea and the events that led to China's 1966 test, which was driven by US doubts of Chinese capabilities to place nuclear weapons on ballistic missiles. "The United States is still taking an attitude of skepticism toward North Korea's nuclear capabilities," Lewis said. "The difference, of course, is that China fired its nuclear-armed missile over its own territory, not another country."

A nuclear launch by North Korea would come dangerously close to an act of war, said Lee Choon Geun, a missile expert from South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute. Missile tests can easily go wrong and the consequences of failure could be terrifying if the missile is armed with a nuclear weapon. A failed flight or an accidental detonation over Japan would likely trigger retaliation from Washington and Tokyo that might result in a nuclear war, Lee said. "It's reasonable to think that Ri was bluffing," Lee said. "Would they be sure that the United States and Japan will just sit there and watch?"

But Lewis said that's exactly what the United States and Japan would do. "Although I am sure such a launch would be very alarming to people in Japan, there is little the United States or Japan could do," he said. "Would we really start a war over such an act? I don't think so." An atmospheric nuclear test would be far more dangerous than detonations in controlled underground environments, both because of the force of the blast and unrestrained release of radioactive materials that could spread out over large areas.

Such a launch would potentially endanger aircraft and ships because it's highly unlikely the North would give pri-

or warnings or send naval vessels to the area to control sea traffic. An atmospheric thermonuclear blast would also raise the risks of damage caused by an electromagnetic pulse, an intense wave of electrical energy generated by the explosion that could destroy electronic devices and equipment over a vast area, Lee said.

The United States and the former Soviet Union combined to conduct more than 400 atmospheric nuclear tests before they joined Britain in a 1963 treaty banning tests in the atmosphere, outer space and underwater. The treaty was later signed by more than 100 other countries. China conducted 22 atmospheric nuclear tests, which frequently involved bombers dropping nuclear devices on test sites, before its last one in 1980.

While the impact of previous tests hasn't been fully understood, damage from radioactive fallout could be serious. When the United States detonated its most powerful nuclear device in a 1954 test code-named Castle Bravo, the radioactive fallout spread far beyond the test site in the Marshall Islands. Twenty-three crew members of a Japanese fishing vessel that was 160 kilometers east of the detonation site were contaminated and suffered from radiation sickness. —AP



PYONGYANG: Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans gathered at Kim Il Sung Square to attend a mass rally against America yesterday in Pyongyang, North Korea, a day after the country's leader issued a rare statement attacking Donald Trump. The sign on the left reads "decisive revenge" and the sign on the right reads "death to the American imperialists." —AP

THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE

Dr James J Zogby
 President Arab American Institute

Last week I became the Chair of The Sanders Institute (TSI), an initiative that grew out of the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign of 2016. While as a sitting senator, Sanders cannot be involved in the work of TSI, we are committed to elevating the issues on which he based his run for the White House. TSI's purpose, as defined in our mission statement, is to revitalize our democracy by fostering an informed electorate and advocating progressive ideas through civil discourse.

The foundation of TSI's effort will be built on a collection of remarkable founding fellows who will provide leadership on a range of economic, environmental, racial and social justice, and foreign policy concerns. They include such distinguished scholars and activists as: Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover; Robert Reich, Stephanie Kelton, Cornel West, and Jeffery Sachs; Bill McKibben, Ben Jealous and Michael Lighty; Tulsi Gabbard and Nina Turner; and Jane O'Meara Sanders, whose idea it was to launch TSI.

Of the matters we discussed at our first board meeting, what struck me as central to our mission was a collective commitment to civil discourse. Recent events have brought home just how vital it is to focus on changing the way we debate and challenging those who use personal attacks, harsh tactics, or vulgar language in an effort to stifle opposing points of view.

Language and antics

During last year's presidential contest, Americans across the partisan divide were shocked by language and antics of then-candidate Donald Trump. He demeaned his opponents; defamed vulnerable minority communities; courted and emboldened extremist groups; and sometimes even incited his followers to violence. There were those who hoped that once taking the oath of office Trump would change, but the language he uses in his daily tweets and off-the-cuff remarks at press events demonstrate that those hopes were in vain. As a result, there is clear evidence of a frightful coarsening of our discourse and an empowering of hate groups.

Our concern, however, is not limited to

what Trump has done because we are seeing worrisome signs of harsh behavior and rhetoric among liberals and progressives, as well. Last week, Hillary Clinton released "What Happened", her account of why she lost the 2016 election. Because she unfairly included her tough primary contest with Sanders a factor that caused her to lose, Twitter exploded with ugly charges being hurled back and forth between supporters of both candidates. It may be useful to have a discussion of why Clinton lost, but insults and unfounded accusations make the exercise counterproductive and damaging.

Income inequality

If anything, the 2016 primary battle involved a principled debate over key aspects of domestic and foreign policy. Sanders challenged Clinton on issues like: the roots of income inequality and economic injustice; and the need to break the stranglehold that financial elites and corporate lobbyists have on health care, trade policy, the criminal justice system, and our political process, itself. He demanded that we think big and proposed goals like: increasing the minimum wage, ending

trade deals that disadvantaged American workers, providing universal health care by expanding Medicare, and creating jobs by investing in infrastructure and renewable energy.

Sanders also questioned foreign policies Clinton championed like the war in Iraq and the unbalanced US support given to Israel's continued oppression of Palestinians. In response, Clinton scoffed at Sanders big ideas, dismissing them as unrealistic. She argued, instead, for an incremental approach to addressing these same issues. The debates were heated and became personal, at times, but never did they sink to the level that was in evidence in last week's Twitter wars.

The accusations made by Clinton, and amplified by her backers, that Sanders had hurt her chances to win are simply not true. He not only endorsed her, he vigorously challenged his supporters to follow suit, and then proceeded to do more than three dozen campaign events on her behalf. As he observed, his contest with Clinton was over. Now the choice was between Donald Trump and her, and he was committed to do all he could to help Clinton win.

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EARTHQUAKE DIMS STYLISH NIGHTLIFE IN MEXICAN CITY

MEXICO CITY: In the stylish Condesa neighborhood, young revelers typically spill out from dimly lit bars and restaurants on a Friday night. But the first weekend since a 7.1 magnitude earthquake toppled buildings just blocks away began on a somber note. Instead of crowds gathered with beers, small handfuls of rescue workers still dressed in reflective vests took breaks from digging through rubble. Entire restaurants with white linen tables were empty.

Metal gates shuttered others. "It feels lifeless," said Mariana Aguilar, 27, a hostess at a bar and restaurant who stood waiting for guests yet to arrive. "I walk through these streets every day and you never imagine something like this would happen." The upscale Mexico City neighborhood was one of the hardest hit by the quake that killed at least 295 people, with more than a half-dozen collapsed buildings in the immediate vicinity.

The few Condesa residents who ventured out Friday night said they were anxious for relief from an anguishing week. "The city is still quite tense," said Israel Escamilla, an engineer, as he sipped a plastic cup filled with Coke at an empty bar. "But as good Mexicans we have to keep lending support however we can." As rescue operations stretched into Day 5, residents throughout the city held out hope that dozens still missing might be found alive.

More than half the dead - 157 - perished in the capital, while another 73 died in the state of Morelos, 45 in Puebla, 13 in Mexico State, six in Guerrero and one in Oaxaca. Along a 60-foot stretch of a bike lane in Mexico City's downtown, families huddled under tarps and donated blankets Friday, awaiting word of loved ones trapped in the four-story-high pile of rubble behind them.

"There are moments when you feel like you're breaking down," said Patricia Fernandez Romero, who was waiting for word on the fate of her 27-year-old son. "And there are moments when you're a little calmer... They are all moments that you wouldn't wish on anyone." Along the bike lane,

where families slept in tents, accepting food and coffee from strangers, people have organized to present a united front to authorities, who they pressed ceaselessly for information.

They were told that water and food had been passed along to at least some of those trapped inside. On Friday morning, after hours of inactivity blamed on rain, rescuers were readying to re-enter the site, joined by teams from Japan and Israel. Fernandez said officials told them they knew where people were trapped on the fourth floor. It's the moments between those bits of information that torment the families. "It's that you get to a point when you're so tense, when they don't come out to give us information," she said. "It's so infuriating."

Jose Gutierrez, a civil engineer attached to the rescue who has a relative trapped in the wreckage, gathered other families of the missing to let them know what was going on. "My family is in there. I want them to get out," Gutierrez said, his voice breaking. "So... we go onward." A roller coaster of emotions played out on Friday for Roberta Villegas Miguel, who was awaiting word of her 37-year-old son, Paulino Estrada Villegas, an accountant who worked on the fourth floor and is married with two young daughters.

Wrapped in a fuzzy turquoise blanket against the morning chill she said that her daughter-in-law was contacted by a friend who said she had received a call from a cell number that belonged to her son, but there was no conversation. Her daughter-in-law ran to authorities with the information, but hours later returned to say that it was her husband's old cell number. At first they held out hope that he had given his old phone's SIM card to a co-worker who was using it to call out of the building. But eventually authorities traced the call to Queretaro state, extinguishing that glimmer of hope. The arrival of rain late Thursday and the resulting work suspension drove Villegas' optimism down. But Friday morning the arrival of the Japanese rescuers buoyed her once again. — AP



CONDESA: A man is rescued from a collapsed building in the Condesa neighborhood after an earthquake struck Mexico City. — AP

IRAN TEST FIRES A NEW MISSILE

DUBAI: Iran said yesterday it had successfully tested a new ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km and would keep developing its arsenal, despite US pressure to stop. The United States has imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, saying its missile tests violate a UN resolution, which calls on Tehran not to undertake activities related to missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Iran says it has no such plans. Britain voiced concerns about the latest test.

Iran said in its announcement yesterday that the Khorramshahr missile could carry several warheads. State broadcaster IRIB carried footage of the missile test without giving its time and location. It included video from an on-board camera which it said showed the detachment of the cone that carries multiple warheads. "You are seeing images of the successful test of the Khorramshahr ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km, the latest missile of our country," state television said, adding this was Iran's third missile with a range of 2,000 km.

The Khorramshahr missile was first displayed at a military parade on Friday, where President Hassan Rouhani said Iran would strengthen its missile capabilities. "Extremely concerned by reports of Iran missile test, which is inconsistent with UN resolution 2231. Call on

Iran to halt provocative acts," British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson wrote on Twitter. Trump told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that Iran was building its missile capability and accused it of exporting violence to Yemen, Syria and other parts of the Middle East.

He also criticized a 2015 pact that the United States and other world powers struck with Iran under which Tehran agreed to restrict its nuclear program in return for relief from economic sanctions. Iran's defense minister said yesterday foreign pressures would not affect Iran's missile program. "On the path to improve our country's defensive capacity we will certainly not be the least affected by any threats and we won't ask anyone's permission," Brigadier General Amir Hatami said in remarks carried by state television.

The United States says Tehran's ballistic missile tests violated a UN resolution that endorsed the nuclear deal. Iran denies its missile development breaches the resolution and says its missiles are not designed to carry nuclear weapons. "The weight of the Khorramshahr missile's warhead has been announced to be 1,800 kg, ... making it Iran's most powerful missile for defense and retaliation against any aggressive enemy," state television said. — Reuters

US BOMBERS FLY OFF NORTH KOREA COAST

Continued from Page 1

Ri did not respond when asked by reporters whether North Korea had conducted a new nuclear test.

Hours earlier seismologists around the world had detected a small earthquake near North Korea's nuclear test site China's Earthquake Administration said the quake was not a nuclear explosion and had the characteristics of a natural tremor. The administration had said earlier the magnitude 3.4 quake detected at 0829 GMT was a "suspected explosion". The CTBTO, or Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which monitors nuclear tests, and officials of the South Korean meteorological agency also said they believed it was a natural quake.

The Pentagon and the US State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A US intelligence official and US-based non-governmental experts said their initial assessment was that the quake was either natural or connected to North Korea's latest and largest nuclear test on Sept 3, and not caused by a new nuclear test. "It seems likely that these small tremors are related to the shifts in the ground due to the recent large test," said David Wright of the Union of Concerned Scientists in the United States.

A US government intelligence analyst said the events could have been a "mine-type" collapse of tunnels damaged by North Korea's previous nuclear test, but was more likely a small earthquake. An official of South Korea's Meteorological Agency said acoustic waves should be detected in the event of a man-made earthquake. "In this case we saw none. So as of now, we are categorizing this as a natural earthquake."

The earthquake, which South Korea's Meteorological Agency put at magnitude 3.0, was detected 49 km from Kijju in North Hamgyong Province, where North Korea's known Punggye-ri nuclear site is located, the official said. All of North Korea's six nuclear tests registered as earthquakes of magnitude 4.3 or above. The last test registered as a 6.3 magnitude quake.

A secondary tremor detected after that test could have been caused by the collapse of a tunnel at the mountainous site, experts said at the time. Satellite photos of the area after the Sept. 3 quake showed numerous landslides apparently caused by the massive blast, which North Korea said was an advanced hydrogen bomb. The head of the international nuclear test monitoring agency CTBTO said yesterday that analysts were "looking at unusual seismic activity of a much smaller magnitude" than the Sept 3 test in North Korea.

"Two #Seismic Events! 0829UTC & much smaller @ 0443UTC unlikely Man-made! Similar to "collapse" event 8.5 mins after DPRK6! Analysis ongoing," CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo said in a Twitter post, referring to the Sept 3 test. Russia's emergency ministry said background radiation in nearby Vladivostok was within the natural range.

Tensions high

The US Geological Survey said it could not conclusively confirm whether the quake, which it measured at magnitude 3.5, was man-made or natural. "The depth is poorly constrained and has been held to 5 km by the seismologist," USGS said. Jeffrey Lewis, head of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Middlebury Institute of Strategic Studies at Monterey, California, said: "Seismologists are very good at discriminating between earthquakes and explosions. I see no reason to doubt that it was an earthquake."

There was no immediate reaction from China's Foreign Ministry, but the news was widely reported by Chinese state media outlets and on social media. Tensions have continued to rise around the Korean Peninsula since Pyongyang carried out its sixth nuclear test, prompting a new round of UN sanctions. US President Donald Trump called the North Korean leader a "madman" on Friday, a day after Kim dubbed him a "mentally deranged US dotard" who would face the "highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history".

Kim was responding to a speech by Trump at the United Nations General Assembly in which Trump said the United States would "totally destroy" North Korea if it threatened the United States or its allies. On Thursday Trump announced new US sanctions that he said allows the targeting of companies and institutions that finance and facilitate trade with North Korea. Earlier yesterday, China said it will limit exports of refined petroleum products from Oct 1 and ban exports of condensates and liquefied natural gas immediately to comply with the latest UN sanctions. It will also ban imports of textiles from North Korea.

North Korea's nuclear tests to date have all been underground, and experts say an atmospheric test, which would be the first since one by China in 1980, would be proof of the success of its weapons program. North Korea has launched dozens of missiles this year, several of them flying over Japan, as it accelerates a weapons program aimed at enabling it to target the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile. — Reuters

SAUDI ARABIA MARKS NATIONAL DAY...

Continued from Page 1

"The kingdom is an active member in the G20, the world's strongest 20 economies, and is keen to achieve the kingdom's Vision 2030 that represents the beginning of a new phase of hard work for a better future, with the same Islamic values," Mohammed said in his speech. The kingdom's General Entertainment Authority is hosting 27 events across 17 cities to celebrate national day, including concerts, laser shows and fireworks displays.

The main highlight will be a cultural event at the King Fahd stadium in Riyadh, where women have been invited for the first time to attend celebrations with their families, opening up a previously male-only venue. This marks a shift from previous celebrations in the kingdom where women are effectively barred from sports arenas by strict rules on segregation of the sexes in public.

Saudi Arabia has some of the world's tightest restrictions on women and is the only country where they are not allowed to drive. But the government appears to be relaxing some norms as part of its Vision 2030 plan for economic and social reforms. It has cautiously begun introducing entertainment, including music concerts, despite opposition from Muslim hardliners in the kingdom, where public cinemas and theatre are banned.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to congratulate him on the occasion of the Kingdom's 87th National Day. In his cable, His Highness the Amir also expressed wishes of prosperity and progress to the Saudi leadership and people. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — Agencies

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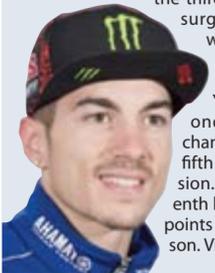
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VINALES POLE AT ARAGON MOTO GP, ROSSI THIRD

ALCANIZ: Maverick Vinales took pole position at the Aragon MotoGP yesterday, ahead of Jorge Lorenzo and Valentino Rossi. Rossi impressed with the third fastest time just three weeks after he needed surgery after breaking two bones in his right leg while riding an off-road motorcycle. The nine-time world champion only missed one race because of the injury. The 22-year-old Vinales pushed his Yamaha to the fastest lap of 1 minute, 47.635 seconds for his fifth pole of the season. Defending champion Marc Marquez will start today's race from fifth on the grid after he crashed his Honda in the session. Andrea Dovizioso could only manage the seventh best time. Marquez and Dovizioso are tied on 199 points heading into the 14th race of the 18-event season. Vinales is third with 183 points. —AP



YANKS' FRAZIER SAYS EXPANDED NETTING SHOULD GO UP THIS YEAR

TORONTO: After speaking with the family of the young girl hit in the face by his foul ball, the New York Yankees' Todd Frazier said teams should move quickly to expand protective netting at major league ballparks. "I think 2018, that's too late," Frazier said Friday. "It should be up sooner than that." Frazier spoke Thursday to the father of the girl struck by his 105 mph foul ball in Wednesday's game against Minnesota at Yankee Stadium. The girl remains hospitalized. Frazier said her father told him she is "OK." "He told me not to stress over it. We understand how upset you were. It's nobody's fault and just one of those freak accidents," Frazier said before Friday's game against Toronto. "I think they're going to do more tests the next couple days and then, hopefully, she can get out of there." Frazier and other players from the Yankees and Twins knelt in prayer after the girl was hit. Frazier said Thursday's five-minute chat won't be the final time he is in touch with the family. —AP

AUSMUS WILL NOT RETURN AS DETROIT TIGERS MANAGER

DETROIT: The Detroit Tigers announced Friday the contract of manager Brad Ausmus will not be extended beyond the 2017 season. Ausmus, 48, and his coaching staff will remain in their current positions through the end of the season, according to general manager Al Avila. The Tigers entered Friday's games in fourth place in the American League Central with a 62-91 record, and will finish with their fewest wins in a season under Ausmus. "As we transition the ballclub in a new direction, I feel it's best we have a new approach and a fresh start with the manager position," Avila said in a statement. "Brad has done an admirable job under, at times, difficult circumstances, especially this season, and we appreciate his professionalism and dedication to the Tigers the past four years. Our search for a new manager is underway." —Reuters



GOLF

THOMAS TIED FOR LEAD AS \$10M COMES INTO VIEW

ATLANTA: With two swings, Justin Thomas showed that every shot counts in the FedEx Cup, even at the season-ending Tour Championship. Thomas had six players ahead of him Friday when he smashed a 335-yard drive down the bottom of the hill on the par-5 18th hole at East Lake, and then a 5-iron that settled 6 feet below the cup for a closing eagle.

Just like that, Thomas had a 4-under 66 and a share of the lead with Paul Casey and Webb Simpson and was back in control - a loose term the way this tournament is shaping up going into the week - of his chase for the \$10 million bonus.

"It's nice to have everything in my own hands and know that if I just take care of what I need to do, then it's over," Thomas said. It's not over yet, not even close. Casey stumbled with some errant tee shots into the troublesome rough for back-to-back bogeys in a 67 that slowed his momentum. Simpson paid for a wild drive on No. 13 with a double bogey and made nothing pars coming in for a 67.

They joined Thomas at 7-under 133. As one of the top five seeds, Thomas only has to win the Tour Championship to capture the FedEx Cup. Even a third-place finish might be enough to take home golf's richest bonus depending on who wins.

But that list is plenty deep after two sweltering days at East Lake. Jon Rahm, the No. 5 seed who also has a clear path to the top prize, played bogey-free for a 67. He was one shot behind, along with Patrick Reed (65), Justin Rose (66) and Gary Woodland (67), all of them trying to win for the first time this year.

Dustin Johnson, the No. 3 seed, has been sputtering along. He failed to birdie either of the two par 5s, managed only a 69 and still was only four shots behind. "I just want to get within striking distance," Johnson said. "If I can get it within three, I would be happy."

He was four behind, so it doesn't require much math to figure out he's not far away. Jordan Spieth was lucky to still be just four shots behind. The No. 1 seed in the FedEx Cup missed five straight greens in regula-

tion on the back nine and kept in the game with some crucial par putts. He had to settle for a 70 and headed straight for the practice area.

EASIEST ONE

Twenty players from the 30-man field were under par, meaning they were separated by just six shots with 36 holes ahead of them. "It's the easiest one to win because there's only 30 guys," said Kevin Kisner, who shot another 68 and was three behind. "But then I look up there and everyone is 6 under, and it doesn't look so easy." Thomas made birdies with a wedge in his hand, failed to save par from a bunker on the fifth hole, and then turned a mediocre round into a solid one with that 5-iron into the 18th for birdie.

He already can state his case as the best player on the PGA Tour this year, with five victories and his first major at the PGA Championship. Thomas outlasted Spieth and Marc Leishman to win at the TPC Boston three weeks ago, and now he's tied for the lead going into the weekend at East Lake. Much like Spieth in 2015 when he ended his best season with the FedEx Cup, Thomas would love to have the perfect ending. "I want to win any week," he said, "but it definitely would be a nice cap."

Casey and Simpson are enduring long droughts. Casey last won at the KLM Open in 2014, while Simpson last won four years ago in Las Vegas. Both overcame a few stumbles on the back nine to share the lead. Casey seems to have done everything but win the last three years, with six top-5 finishes in the last eight FedEx Cup playoff events. "It would cap off a very good season, make a very good season a great season," he said. "Yeah, it would be a lot of satisfaction in that. Hopefully, ask me again today and I can give you the full explanation. Right now, I'm too busy just trying to focus on trying to string together four great rounds of golf. It's amazing how this golf course just bunches and you can't seem to get away. "Guys are right there, sort of biting at your heels," he said. "So it's going to be a tough one." —AP

TRUMP: NFL OWNERS SHOULD FIRE PROTESTING PLAYERS

HUNTSVILLE: US President Donald Trump says National Football League owners should fire players who kneel during the national anthem. And he's encouraging spectators to walk out in protest. In an extended riff during a freewheeling rally speech in Alabama Friday night, Trump also bemoaned that football games have become less violent.

"They're ruining the game," he complained. Several athletes, including a handful of NFL players, have refused to stand during "The Star Spangled Banner" to protest of the treatment of blacks by police. Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who started the trend last year when he played for the San Francisco 49ers, hasn't been signed by an NFL team for this season.

Trump says those players are disrespecting the flag and deserve to lose their jobs. "That's a total disrespect of our heritage. That's a total disrespect of everything that we stand for," he said, encouraging owners to act. "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that son of a b... off the field right now. Out! He's fired,'" Trump said to loud applause. Trump also predicted that any owner who went through with his encouragement would

become "the most popular person in this country" - at least for a week.

Trump, who was in Alabama campaigning for Sen. Luther Strange, also blamed a decline in NFL ratings on the nation's interest in "yours truly" as well as what he described as a decline in violence in the game. He said players are being thrown out for aggressive tackles, and it's "not the same game." Over the past several seasons, the NFL and college football have increased penalties and enforcement for illegal hits to the head and for hitting defenseless players. A July report on 202 former football players found evidence of a debilitating brain disease linked to repeated head blows in nearly all of them. The league has agreed to pay \$1 billion to retired players who claimed it misled them about the concussion dangers of playing football. During his campaign, Trump often expressed nostalgia for the "old days" - claiming, for example, that protesters at his rallies would have been carried out on stretchers back then. He recently suggested police officers should be rougher with criminals and shouldn't protect their heads when pushing them into squad cars.

It's also not the first time he's raised the kneeling issue. Earlier this year he took credit for the fact that Kaepernick hadn't been signed. Television ratings for the NFL have been slipping since the beginning of the 2016 season. The league and observers have blamed a combination of factors, including competing coverage of last year's presidential election, more viewers dropping cable television, fans' discomfort with the reports of head trauma and the anthem protests. Ratings have been down even more in the early 2017 season, though broadcasters and the league have blamed the hurricanes that hit Florida and Texas. Still, the NFL remains by far the most popular televised sport in the United States.

Trump said the anthem protest was the top reason NFL viewership had waned. "You know what's hurting the game?" he asked. "When people like yourselves turn on television and you see those people taking the knee when they're playing our great national anthem," he said.

Trump encouraged his supporters to pick up and leave the stadium next time they spot a player failing to stand. "I guarantee things will stop," he said. —AP



This file photo taken Sept 6, 2017 shows NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell before the game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the New England Patriots at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts. —AFP



TUCSON: Quarterback Tyler Huntley #1 of the Utah Utes scrambles with the football against the Arizona Wildcats during the first half of the college football game at Arizona Stadium on Friday in Tucson, Arizona. — AFP

NO. 23 UTAH RECOVERS LATE FUMBLE TO HOLD OFF ARIZONA

TUCSON: When Utah quarterback Tyler Huntley went down with a shoulder injury in the second quarter, the Utes had an experienced and reliable alternative ready. Troy Williams, a senior who started 13 games last season, came on and guided the No. 23 Utes to a 30-24 victory over Arizona on Friday night in the Pac-12 opener for both schools. "We're in a good place quarterback-wise," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "Obviously we want Tyler back as soon as possible, but Troy won nine games for us last year, and he was ready."

Not that was easy. Chris Hart recovered Arizona quarterback Brandon Dawkins' fumble at Utah's 20-yard line with 2:33 left to preserve the victory. Wildcats coach Rich Rodriguez didn't think it was a fumble. But, Dawkins said, "You've got to go with what the refs call and that's what they called. I shouldn't have made it close. I should have held the ball a little tighter and not let them get a late strip there. So that's on me regardless."

Utah (4-0) led throughout and was up 30-17 late in the fourth quarter, but Dawkins threw a 30-yard TD pass to Tony Ellison with 2:44 to play, cutting the lead to six. The subsequent onside kick attempt bounced downfield, and Arizona's Shawn Poindexter recovered at the Utes' 35. On the next play, Dawkins ran 15 yards to the 20 but fumbled, and Hart recovered. The Wildcats (2-2) committed five turnovers, including three interceptions by Dawkins. Utah scored a touchdown on its first possession, and then Arizona twice cut the lead to three - the last time at 20:17 on J.J. Taylor's 7-yard TD run with 4:38 left in the third quarter.

But 2 1/2 minutes later, with Arizona deep in its own territory, Dawkins threw short over the middle and Javelin Guidry intercepted, returning it 14 yards for a touchdown that made it 27-17.

Huntley completed 8 of 9 passes for 98 yards before he left with an injured shoulder after being sacked by Tony Fields with 8:45 left in the half. Taylor fumbled at Utah's 1-yard line in the second quarter, and the Utes drove all the way to the Wildcats 8. Six plays into the long drive, Huntley was injured and Williams - who started 13 games last season - took over. On his first play, Williams connected on a 40-yard pass to Darren Carrington, helping to set up one of Matt Gay's three field goals, this one from 26 yards, to put the Utes up 13-3 with 5:39 left in the half.

"I prepare like I'm the starter every week," Williams said. "I'm working hard every day. When my number is called I make sure I'm ready to go in. (The play) got me into things. Got me in a groove a little bit. I wanted to play smart football. I didn't want to force anything."

Utah grabbed a quick 7-0 lead on its first possession with a six-play, 73-yard scoring drive. Huntley threw 8 yards to Samson Nacua for the touchdown. After Gay's second field goal, Arizona answered. Wide receiver Shun Brown gained 22 yards on an end around to ignite an 11-play, 75-yard drive. Dawkins scored from 1-yard out, and Utah's lead was down to 13-10 at the half.

In the third quarter, Williams passed 37 yards to Demari Simpkins to the Arizona 2 to set up Sunia Tautooli's 1-yard touchdown run, stretching Utah's lead to 20-10 with 9:46 left in the quarter.

A targeting penalty on Utah safety Marquise Blair against Dawkins led to Taylor's 7-yard touchdown run that made it a three-point game again, 20-17, with 4:38 still to go in the third. Blair was ejected and also must sit out the first half of Utah's Sept. 7 game against Stanford.

The Utes stayed unbeaten but lost their sophomore starting quarterback. Fortunately for them, they have an experienced backup and

a week off before returning to conference play. Arizona: The Wildcats were in the game most of the way but were undone by the avalanche of turnovers.

The Utes have next weekend off before playing their conference home opener Stanford. Arizona: The Wildcats also have a bye next weekend. They return to play Oct. 7 at Colorado. — AP

TIMBERS SIGN 5-YR-OLD DERRICK GOALKEEPER TO GRANT HIS WISH

PORTLAND: Goalkeeper Derrick Tellez signed his historic contract with the Portland Timbers on Friday before showing off his considerable skills in practice and making his best game face for a team photo. A player of few words, Derrick shyly answered "yes" when asked if he was excited about the deal.

He is just 5 years old, after all. Derrick is on the Timbers roster for this weekend's match against Orlando City - symbolically making him the youngest player ever signed by a Major League Soccer team. The deal was facilitated by Make-A-Wish for Derrick, who has had three surgeries to treat a cancerous brain tumor. "We're very excited. It's a big day for the club," Timbers coach Caleb Porter said. "We've had our eye on Derrick for a long time. He's been on our radar for several years. ... We think he's one of the brightest up-and-coming most talented young goalkeepers to come through our club in a long time, certainly."

Porter joked: "I think we might throw him into the fire and start him on Sunday. I told him I wanted 20 saves." When Derrick arrived at the team's practice facility, he was whisked onto the field for the Timbers' official team photo wearing his bright orange keeper's gloves and an oversized No. 100 jersey. He was then swept over to a signing cere-

mony with Porter and team general manager Gavin Wilkinson before taking to the practice field, where he worked with team staff and goalkeeper Jake Gleeson. Derrick's older brother, Josue, even joined in.

Basically, enough excitement to make any young athlete ready for his nap. "He couldn't wait for today," said mom Olympia Nallely Perdomo. "They (the boys) were saying, 'Oh I'm going to do what the goalies (do), I'm going to stop the goals. They were pretty excited about today.' Today's game will be the family's first visit to Providence Park for a game. Derrick will join in pregame warmups before parading with his new teammates on the field for the national anthem. This is not the first time the Timbers have granted a wish for a young fan. In 2013, 8-year-old Atticus Lane Dupree and his team, the Green Machine, played the Timbers in a special matinee game at Providence Park. The Green Machine won, 10-9, with Atticus scoring off a corner kick in the final minute.

Derrick's father, Josue Tellez Sanchez, watched from the sidelines as both his sons joined practice under overcast skies Friday morning. He had tears in his eyes. "It's exciting," he said, before pausing to gather his emotions. "I can't explain it, I'm sorry." — AP



BEAVERTON: Five-year-old Derrick Tellez, center, signs his contract with Portland Timbers general manager Gavin Wilkinson, left, and coach Caleb Porter, right, on Friday, at the Timbers' practice facility in Beaverton, Ore. Tellez, who has had three surgeries for a cancerous brain tumor, was signed to a one-game contract with the MLS soccer team, granting his wish with Make-A-Wish Foundation Oregon. — AP

CRICKET

PAKISTAN NAME FIVE UNCAPPED PLAYERS FOR SRI LANKA TESTS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan selected fast bowler Mir Hamza among five uncapped players in their 16-man squad for the two Test home series against Sri Lanka in the United Arab Emirates starting later this month.

Batsmen Haris Sohail and Usman Salahuddin have both played one-day internationals for Pakistan but are yet to make their Test debuts as Pakistan start life without retired batting greats Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan. Long-serving captain Misbah and former skip-

per Younis retired from international cricket at the end of Pakistan's Test series in West Indies in May.

"We are trying our youngsters. Usman Salahuddin and Haris Sohail have been part of the squad in the last two to three series so that we can play them when the seniors retire," Pakistan chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq told reporters in Lahore.

"I wanted to give them opportunity in home conditions to boost their confidence. We are hopeful they can fulfil the

spots left by the retirements." Opener Sami Aslam, who last played a test for Pakistan in December, was also recalled.

Left-arm fast bowler Hamza, 25, was picked for his strong domestic form, having claimed 216 wickets in 46 first-class matches. Spin-bowling all-rounder Bilal Asif and left-arm Mohammad Asghar were the other players in the squad yet to play in Tests.

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah and top-order batsman Azhar Ali have both battled recent injuries but were declared fit and

named in the squad. "Yasir was supposed to undergo a fitness test yesterday but he had pulled a calf muscle," former captain Inzamam said. "He's taken the test this morning and been passed fit. "Azhar Ali has a cyst in his knee and the doctors have advised him to play after taking an injection. He isn't experiencing any pain, so we're hoping he'll remain fit to play." The series, played in the UAE due to security concerns, will start with the first Test in Abu Dhabi from Thursday followed by Sri Lanka's

maiden day-night Test in Dubai from Oct. 6. The two teams will also play five one-day internationals and three Twenty20 matches, the last of which will be played on home soil in Lahore on Oct. 29, subject to security clearance.

Squad: Azhar Ali, Shan Masood, Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Usman Salahuddin, Sarfraz Ahmed (captain, wicketkeeper), Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Abbas, Mir Hamza, Yasir Shah, Bilal Asif, Mohammad Asghar. —Reuters



SEATTLE: Seattle Mariners' Kyle Seager reaches second base ahead of the throw to Cleveland Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor for a double during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Friday, in Seattle. Seager scored later in the inning. — AP

BASEBALL

DODGERS CLINCH NL WEST TITLE WITH WIN OVER GIANTS

LOS ANGELES: The Los Angeles Dodgers clinched their fifth straight NL West title, beating the San Francisco Giants 4-2 on Friday night as Cody Bellinger set an NL rookie record with his 39th home run. Los Angeles will open the NL Division Series at home on Oct. 6. The Dodgers are seeking to reach the World Series for the first time since 1988 under manager Tommy Lasorda, who was on hand at Dodger Stadium to celebrate his 90th birthday. Bellinger hit a three-run homer in the third off Jeff Samardzija (9-15), topping the NL rookie mark set by Wally Berger in 1930 and matched by Frank Robinson in 1956. After a record run that saw the Dodgers push their record to 91-36, they had gone just 6-20 - including a dismal 1-16 stretch - to make clinching their division more laborious than anticipated. Los Angeles stopped a nine-game home losing streak. Rich Hill (11-8) allowed one run and five hits in six innings with ninth strikeouts. Pablo Sandoval homered leading off the ninth against Kenley Jansen, who struck out the next three batters for his 40th save in 41 chances.

CUBS 5, BREWERS 4, 10 INNINGS

Pinch-hitter Tommy La Stella drew a bases-loaded walk off All-Star closer Corey Knebel with one out in the 10th inning, helping the Chicago Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-4 on Friday night to tighten their grip on the NL Central. The Cubs hold a five-game lead with nine days left in the regular season after winning their second straight tense game over the Brewers. Milwaukee dropped into third in the division, 5 1/2 games behind Chicago,

after St Louis beat Pittsburgh. The Brewers had the tying run at first with one out in the bottom of the 10th, but Eric Sogard was called out at second trying to advance on a ball in the dirt. Shortstop Addison Russell appeared to hold the tag as Sogard's foot lifted off second for a split-second, and the call was confirmed on review. Knebel (1-4) took the loss after allowing three walks and two hits over two innings. Carl Edwards Jr. (5-4) got the win with 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief.

MARINERS 3, INDIANS 1

Nelson Cruz hit a game-ending two-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting Seattle over Cleveland. Cruz lined a 2-1 pitch from closer Cody Allen (3-7) out to deep right-center field, snapping Seattle's six-game skid and improving its very slim wild-card hopes. The Mariners are five games behind Minnesota for the last AL playoff spot with eight games remaining. Cruz also cooled baseball's hottest team. Cleveland lost for the second time since Aug. 23, a span of 29 games that included an historic 22-game winning streak. It ended a franchise-record 14-game road winning streak - the Indians hadn't lost away from home since Aug. 20 at Kansas City. Erasmo Ramirez shut down Cleveland for eight innings, and Edwin Diaz (4-6) pitched the ninth to cap a three-hitter.

CARDINALS 4, PIRATES 3

Randal Grichuk scored after an error by shortstop Jordy Mercer, capping a frantic ninth-rally that lifted surging St. Louis over Pittsburgh. The playoff-chasing Cardinals won their fourth straight, despite trailing by a run

entering the ninth. They're 1 1/2 games behind the Rockies for the final NL wild card. Stephen Piscotty led off with a double to right against closer Felipe Rivero (5-3), and Jedd Gyorko followed with a pinch-hit RBI single. After Tommy Pham's single, Grichuk pinch-ran for Gyorko at third. He scored when Mercer misplayed Dexter Fowler's sharp groundball. Former Pirates reliever Juan Nicasio (4-5) got the win after working the eighth and ninth. Fowler and Piscotty had two hits each.

ROCKIES 4, PADRES 1

Nolan Arenado ended Colorado's scoreless streak at 23 innings with a solo homer, and the Rockies beat San Diego. Colorado hadn't scored since the eighth inning of a loss to San Francisco on Tuesday night, dropping a pair of shutouts in between. Arenado sparked the Rockies with his 35th homer, and Ian Desmond and Trevor Story also went deep. Jon Gray (9-4) pitched six innings to win his fourth straight road start, and Colorado stayed 1 1/2 games ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals for the final NL wild card. The Milwaukee Brewers are two games back. Greg Holland got his 41st save, tying Jose Jimenez's club record from 2002. The Rockies had no baserunners against former teammate Jordan Lyles (1-4) before Arenado hit the second pitch of the fifth over the right-field wall.

BLUE JAYS 8, YANKEES 1

Ryan Goins successfully pulled off a hidden-ball trick and hit his second career grand slam, leading Toronto over Masahiro Tanaka (12-12) and ensuring New York had to wait at least one more day to clinch a playoff berth. With Todd Frazier on base following a leadoff double in the third, Jose Bautista made a running catch just in front of the right field warning track on Jacoby Ellsbury's one-out drive. Goins caught Bautista's throw while standing near second base, then pretended to toss the ball to pitcher Marco Estrada (10-8) while slipping in into his glove. Goins turned his back to Frazier, who had returned to the base, and when Frazier briefly lifted his left foot off the base, Goins tagged him on the left thigh. Frazier insisted he had maintained contact with the base, but umpire Mark Carlson called him out to end the inning.

ASTROS 3, ANGELS 0

Justin Verlander pitched one-hit ball over seven innings to remain perfect with Houston and Yuli Gurriel hit a three-run homer to propel the Astros. Verlander (14-8) walked two and struck out six to improve to 4-0 since being traded from Detroit on Aug. 31. Gurriel connected off Yusmeiro Petit (5-2) on his 18th home run to give Houston a 3-0 lead in the seventh. Chris Devenski pitched a perfect

eight before Ken Giles allowed a hit and a walk with no outs before settling down to finish the inning and pick up his 33rd save.

DIAMONDBACKS 13, MARLINS 11

Chris Iannetta homered twice and drove in a career-high eight runs, and Arizona out-slugged Miami. J.D. Martinez and Christian Walker also homered for the Diamondbacks, who can clinch their first postseason berth in six years with a win Saturday and a loss by St. Louis. Arizona erased a 9-7 deficit with five runs in the sixth. Walker got his first career pinch-homer off Jarlin Garcia to make it 9-8. David Peralta reached on an error before Dustin McGowan (8-2) struck out A.J. Pollock. But Paul Goldschmidt walked and Martinez reached on an infield single ahead of Iannetta, who homered onto the walkway above the center-field fence to put the Diamondbacks ahead 12-9. Iannetta's grand slam was his fifth and first since May 28, 2015. He hit multiple homers in the same game for the third time. J.J. Hoover (2-1) got the win, and Fernando Rodney finished his 39th save.

TWINS 7, TIGERS 3

Max Kepler and Brian Dozier homered, Byron Buxton had three hits and playoff-chasing Minnesota beat Detroit. Buxton's two-run double in the fourth put the Twins ahead to stay against a Detroit team that announced before the game that manager Brad Ausmus will not be back in 2018. Minnesota came into the night leading the race for the American League's second wild card by 2 1/2 games over Texas and the Los Angeles Angels. Kyle Gibson (12-10) allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings for the Twins. He struck out six and walked two. Daniel Norris (4-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

ATHLETICS 4, RANGERS 1

Rookie Matt Olson hit his sixth home run in seven games, a second-inning drive off Nick Martinez that helped Oakland damage Texas' playoff hopes. Olson homered following a leadoff walk to Kris Davis, his 13th home run in September and his 16th in his last 23 games. Shin-Soo Choo hit his 21st home run for Texas, which has lost six of its last seven at Oakland. Martinez (3-7) allowed four runs - three earned - and five hits in six innings. He is winless in six starts and four relief appearances since June 25. Kendall Graveman (6-4) gave up one run, six hits and three walks in seven innings as Oakland won its fifth straight, and Blake Treinen retired three batters for his 10th save.

RED SOX 5, REDS 4

Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer and Boston extended its AL East lead to four games by overcoming Scooter Gennett's

fourth grand slam of the season. Boston added to its lead with the help of the Yankees' loss at Toronto. The Red Sox have won 12 of 15, keeping the Yankees at bay while moving a season-high 25 games over .500 (89-64). Rick Porcello gave up Gennett's fourth grand slam - a Reds' season record - in the first inning. He lasted a season-low four innings, turning a 5-4 lead over to the bullpen. Porcello has lost 17 games - most in the majors - after winning 22 last year along with the AL Cy Young Award. Devers hit his shot off Sal Romano (5-7). David Price (6-3) got the victory in relief.

METS 7, NATIONALS 6

Travis d'Arnaud hit two home runs and New York ended a three-game skid, rallying past a watered-down Washington lineup. Nationals manager Dusty Baker said he needed to "give my big boys much needed rest" with the playoffs nearing, and not a single regular started for the NL East champions. Star Daniel Murphy pinch hit in the eighth and flied out. Nori Aoki had three hits for the Mets, including a go-ahead double in the sixth inning off Joe Blanton (2-4). Chasen Bradford (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 6

Matt Davidson drove in three runs with his 26th homer and a double, Yoan Moncada hit a two-run drive and Chicago overcame a four-run deficit to beat Kansas City. The Royals dropped 41/2 games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card with nine games left. Jason Hammel (8-13) allowed seven runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings. White Sox rookie Reynaldo Lopez (3-3) allowed six runs - two earned - and 10 hits over 6 1/3 innings to win his third straight start. Juan Minaya pitched a scoreless ninth for his sixth save.

RAYS 8, ORIOLES 3

Wilson Ramos hit his third career grand slam, Evan Longoria also went deep and Tampa Bay throttled Ubaldo Jimenez and Baltimore. Alex Cobb (12-10) earned his career-high 12th win for the Rays, who interrupted a 4-9 slide and kept alive their slim playoff hopes. Jimenez (6-11) gave up six runs and eight hits in three innings. He was booed lustily by the home fans after each Tampa Bay home run.

BRAVES 7, PHILLIES 2

Kurt Suzuki homered twice, Nick Markakis drove in three runs and Atlanta beat Philadelphia. Sean Newcomb (4-8) won his second straight start, allowing two runs in 5 1/3 innings. Atlanta scored five runs in the first off Ben Lively (3-7) on Ozzie Albies' RBI single, Markakis' two-run single and Suzuki's two-run homer. —AP

MLB Results/Standings

Seattle 3, Cleveland 1; Colorado 4, San Diego 1; LA Dodgers 4, San Francisco 2; Oakland 4, Texas 1; Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 6; Houston 3, LA Angels 0; Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 2; Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 4 (10 innings); Boston 5, Cincinnati 4; Minnesota 7, Detroit 3; NY Mets 7, Washington 6; Toronto 8, NY Yankees 1; St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 3; Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 3.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	92	61	.601
Boston	89	64	.582	Miami	72	81	.471
NY Yankees	85	68	.556	Atlanta	69	83	.454
Tampa Bay	75	79	.487	NY Mets	66	87	.431
Baltimore	74	81	.477	Philadelphia	61	93	.396
Toronto	72	82	.468	17.5			
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	96	58	.623	Chicago Cubs	86	67	.562
Minnesota	80	74	.519	St. Louis	81	72	.529
Kansas City	75	78	.490	Milwaukee	81	73	.526
Chicago White Sox	62	91	.405	Pittsburgh	69	85	.448
Detroit	62	92	.403	Cincinnati	66	88	.429
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	94	59	.614	LA Dodgers	98	56	.636
Texas	76	77	.497	Arizona	89	65	.578
LA Angels	76	77	.497	Colorado	83	71	.539
Seattle	75	79	.487	San Diego	69	85	.448
Oakland	70	83	.458	San Francisco	60	94	.390

HOPE SOLO SAYS SHE HAS SETTLED GRIEVANCE WITH US SOCCER

SAN FRANCISCO: Hope Solo has settled a grievance with US Soccer over her suspension from the women's national team following comments she made at the Rio Olympics. The settlement was first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle. The 35-year-old goalkeeper was suspended for six months and her contract with the federation was terminated after she called the Swedish team "a bunch of cowards" following the US team's quarterfinal loss.

Details of the settlement, reached last month, were not released. The US Women's Soccer Team Players Association filed the grievance on Solo's behalf. In a statement provided Friday to The Associated Press, Solo reiterated

her regret over the comments.

"As I expressed in my apology to the Swedish captain immediately following the match, I have tremendous respect for the Swedish team, and in describing the style of play, I used a choice of words that was both offensive and not at all what I had intended to convey," she said. "We have amicably resolved the matter and are moving forward in a positive way," she added. US Soccer also put out a statement. "Hope Solo has been a fierce competitor for the Women's National Team. She has set new standards for goalkeeping in the US and around the world, and helped the US Women's National Team achieve its historic on field success. We have

amicably resolved the matter and are moving forward in a positive way," the statement said. The players' association declined to comment. Solo anchored the team in goal for the 2015 Women's World Cup victory, allowing just three goals in seven games with five shutouts during the tournament - earning her a second straight Golden Glove Award.

SOLO'S 'COWARDS' QUOTE

For her career, Solo has made 202 total appearances with the national team, with 153 wins and an international-record 102 shutouts. The defending champion US women were ousted from the Olympics last summer when Sweden advanced 4-3 on penalty kicks

following a 1-1 draw. Solo's "cowards" quote came immediately following the loss. Sweden went on to play in the gold-medal match against Germany. Solo told the AP in an interview late last year that she spoke to coach Jill Ellis and US Soccer President Sunil Gulati following the loss, and felt that the issue was put to rest. After she returned to the United States, she said she was blindsided by the announcement about her suspension.

She said she believes US Soccer wanted her off negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. Solo has been an outspoken advocate for equal pay and was among the players who filed a complaint against the feder-

ation with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging wage discrimination.

"Let's call it what is, which is a firing," Solo told AP then. "It was a termination of my contract effective immediately with severance. That is a firing. It wasn't a suspension, that's what they told the media because it looked better. But I got fired. I got fired for what they say was using the word 'cowards' but in reality they got rid of an adversary in the fight for equal pay."

U.S. Soccer said at the time that Solo was suspended following a culmination of actions, and separately her contract was also terminated with the team. —AP

ROMA BEAT UDINESE 3-1

MILAN: Stephan El Shaarawy scored twice as Roma eased to a 3-1 win at home to Udinese yesterday to keep up the pressure on Serie A leaders Napoli and Juventus.

All the Roma goals came in the first half, with El Shaarawy pouncing after Edin Dzeko's opener. Roma moved three points below Napoli and Juventus, who will be trying to remain perfect later against Spal and Torino, respectively.

Capital side Roma had played a match less than most Serie A teams coming into the weekend, as its fixture at Sampdoria was postponed because of bad weather. Dzeko seems determined to retain the Serie A top goalscorer award he won last year and he opened the scoring in the 12th minute. Radja Nainggolan rode three challenges and managed to get the ball to Dzeko, who slotted into the bottom left

corner for his fifth goal in three matches.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina forward turned provider on the half hour when he sent in a low cross for El Shaarawy to coolly flick into the roof of the net. El Shaarawy doubled his tally on the stroke of halftime, taking advantage of confusion in the Udinese defense to finish off a counter-attack he had started.

Udinese defender Jens Stryger Larsen appeared to have time to clear Diego Perotti's cross but he hesitated in front of goal and El Shaarawy snuck up behind him to fire it into the net. Roma could have extended its lead right at the end but Perotti's penalty came off the left post after the Argentina defender had been tripped by Gabriele Angella. Udinese, which had earlier hit the crossbar, got a late consolation through Larsen. —AP



Salmiya and Jahra Spors Club in action.

JAHRA SPORTS CLUB TOP TABLE, AL-QADISIYA BLANK KAZIMA 2-0

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Al-Qadisiya Sports Club member of the board and head of Football Operations Saud Buhamad had to answer criticisms he received following statements in regards to the Brazilian professional player Lima, saying his statement was out of his keenness on the club's interest, not to criticize the player or who brought him.

Saud Buhamad had earlier said he is not convinced with Lima's abilities and that he is not up to Al-Qadisiya's ambitions, then when Al-Qadisiya played against Kazima, Lima scored a goal in his first match of the season.

He said that he wishes all Qadisiya players including Lima all the best, adding that he is not against any player who works towards getting the sought after results.

Buhamad said the matches schedule was not in favor of Qadisiya as the first and second round were against Arabi and Kazima, and later meet Kuwait in the third. He concluded his statement by saying the current season is the most difficult for all teams.

Meanwhile, Qadisiya was able to defeat Kazima 2-0, when Brazilian Tiago opened the score in the 25th minute with a header, then Lima who entered in the last half hour of the match was able to threaten Kazima's goal several times before scoring the insurance goal in the 88th minute from 18 yards out.

In the second match Jahra Sports Club remained on top of the table as it won its second match against Arabi 2-1, raising its point total to six, as Al-Arabi remained with one point.

Jahra scored early with a penalty spot by Obeid Rafe in the 12th minute. Arabi then took the initiative but most of the passes were affected by the ground's bad condition, then Hamad Al-Enezi wasted a scoring opportunity.

The second half saw Arabi coach Mohammad Ibrahim (nicknamed the general) substituting Abdelmohsen Al-Turkmani with Abdelaziz Al-Sulaimi, yet Tores was able to score the second goal for Jahra from a counter attack in the 55th minute.

Al-Arabi was able to score a goal from the penalty spot in the 89 minute by its player Keta and the match ended 2-1 in favor of Jahra.

Defending champion Kuwait Sports Club defeated Nasr Sport Club by the score of 4-1, raising its points tally to four, while Nasr is still without any point.

The first half ended with Kuwait on top 2-1 as Talal Jaze opened the score in the 14th minute after a deflection from Nasr defence player, then Louis Carlos scored in the 33rd minute, a third goal was scored by Fabio in the dying minutes of the first half from the penalty spot. Jumaa Saheed scored the fourth goal in the 37th minute of the second half.

In another match, Salmiya S.C Coach Abdelaziz Hamada lauded the win his team had against Tadhamon, under very difficult circumstances, as two players from Salmiya were kicked out: Goal keeper Khalid Al-Rasheedi and defender Fawaz Ayedh. He said that he was forced to take forward player Fahad Al-Rashidi to get goalkeeper Sattam Al-Husseini in, adding that players experience was behind the very difficult win.



Al-Qadisiya and Kazima.

LATE RICHARLISON STRIKE LEADS WATFORD TO VICTORY OVER SWANSEA

	Swansea City	1
	Watford	2

SWANSEA: Brazilian striker Richarlison grabbed a late winner as Watford beat Swansea City 2-1 in the Premier League yesterday for their third successive away league victory this season.

Watford, who were looking to bounce back from a 6-0 thrashing at Manchester City last weekend, piled on the pressure in the first half and it paid off as striker Andre Gray opened the scoring with a close-range finish in the 13th minute after Swansea's defence failed to deal with Andre Carillo's cross.

"We started well and that's some of the best football we've played. We seemed to lose our way a bit but managed to get back in it," Gray said in a post-match interview.

Swansea were booed off the pitch at half-time for a limp performance. Manager Paul Clement reacted by introducing forward Tammy Abraham and midfielder Roque Mesa for the second half and the switch helped them to turn around their fortunes.

Abraham equalised for the hosts in the 56th minute, scoring Swansea's first home league goal of the season as he slotted in from close range after Watford keeper Heurelho Gomes had parried Wilfried Bony's initial shot.

Swansea dominated the second half but failed to convert their opportunities and were punished as Watford created several late

chances before Richarlison latched on to a deflected pass from Mesa and charged forward to score the winner in the 90th minute.

"We've got to keep going with our great start to the season," said Watford forward Troy Deeney, who deflected Mesa's pass towards Richarlison. Swansea, who have just one league win so far, travel to West Ham United next Saturday while Watford take on West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns. — Reuters



SWANSEA: Swansea City's Wilfried Bony, left, and Watford's Christian Kabasele, center, battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea, Wales, yesterday. — AP



TOKYO: Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark hits a return against Garbine Muguruza of Spain during their women's singles semi-final match at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

TENNIS

WOZNIACKI STUNS MUGURUZA, ADVANCES TO TOKYO FINAL

TOKYO: Defending champion Caroline Wozniacki crushed new world number one Garbine Muguruza 6-2 6-0 yesterday to advance to the final of the Pan Pacific Open as the Dane remained on course for a third title at the Tokyo tournament.

The third seed rallied from a set down to win her previous two matches but the 27-year-old wasted no time seizing control of her semi-final against Wimbledon champion Muguruza. The Dane broke the top seeded Spaniard's opening service game and repeated the feat twice more to cruise through the first set.

A stunned Muguruza, who had not lost a set in the previous rounds, was unable to gain any momentum and was shut out for the remainder of a match that was wrapped up in exactly one hour.

"I thought I played a good match today and stayed aggressive and served well," Wozniacki told reporters, noting that playing tough opponents in her previous matches had helped toughen her up. "They played very aggressive and went for their chance. So it was very difficult and today I just managed to start strong," added Wozniacki, who will contest her seventh final of the season after losing her previous six. Muguruza, who was chasing her first title since being crowned world number one this month, said she was "very disappointed" but would not dwell on the loss and instead focus on upcoming tournaments. "Today maybe my best tennis wasn't

there. She played good and I'm not going to think a lot about this," the 23-year-old said. "That's it." In today's final, Wozniacki will face Russia's Anastasia

Pavlyuchenkova, who earlier withstood a furious rally to beat Angelique Kerber 6-0 6-7(4) 6-4 to advance. The match appeared headed for a blowout after 26-year-old Pavlyuchenkova, seeking her third title this year, took the first eight games against the former world number one.

However, Kerber dug in and broke Pavlyuchenkova's serve in the third game of the second set before the 29-year-old German forced a tiebreaker and stole the second set.

A rattled Pavlyuchenkova dropped the first three games of the final set but regained her composure to win six of the final seven and notch the victory. "It was really a tough match today, another three setter," Pavlyuchenkova said. "Angelique is a former number one so you never expect an easy match with her. She's such a great fighter."

Kerber said she struggled to find her feet at the start of the match. "In the first set I was completely not in my rhythm, not in my game, and she started very well," she said. "I tried to turn it around and I won the second set. So in the end, it was still a good match." Wozniacki leads Pavlyuchenkova 5-1 in their head-to-head meetings, although the pair have not faced each other since 2012. — Reuters

CEBALLOS SCORES 2 IN FIRST START AS REAL MADRID WIN

VITORIA: Dani Ceballos scored twice in his first start for Real Madrid and helped it earn a much-needed 2-1 win at Alaves in the Spanish league yesterday.

The win came three days after Madrid lost at home to Real Betis 1-0. This was only Madrid's third win in six rounds. Ceballos struck in the 10th minute and restored the defending

champions' advantage two minutes before halftime.

The winless Alaves almost leveled late when substitute Alfonso Pedraza twice hit the woodwork. Ceballos received a pass from Marco Asensio, fought through a tackle, and shot just inside the post for the opener.

Manu Garcia responded by ending Alaves' long scoring drought. His pow-

erful header from a cross by Munir El Haddadi was the Basque Country club's first goal of the season. But Ceballos put Madrid back in charge when he fired in a ball that goalkeeper Fernando Pacheco spilled when he collided with a teammate while defending a cross.

Cristiano Ronaldo hit the goal-frame twice in the second half as the Madrid forward seeks his first goal in the

league after he was suspended for the first four rounds for pushing a referee. With Toni Kroos injured, Ceballos took the place of regular starter Luka Modric, who Zinedine Zidane rested ahead of the trip to Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Ceballos caught Madrid's eye in the offseason after he was named the best player at the Under-21 European

Championship, where he helped Spain reach the final before losing to Germany 1-0. Madrid reportedly paid Betis 16.5 million euros (\$19.7 million) for the up-and-coming midfielder. Madrid was also without the injured Karim Benzema and Marcelo, while Gareth Bale was left on the bench. Alaves remained in the relegation zone after a sixth loss in as many games. — AP

NAPOLI STRUGGLES TO 3-2 WIN AT SPAL, AHEAD OF TURIN DERBY

MILAN: Napoli stayed perfect in Serie A only after struggling to subdue promoted side Spal 3-2 yesterday. Algeria left back Faouzi Ghoulam was the unlikely match-winner seven minutes from time, with a run from the halfway line. Juventus was also looking to remain perfect when it hosted city rival Torino in the Derby della Mole later. Spal lost its previous three matches but took a surprise lead early when Mirco Antenucci rolled the ball across for Pasquale Schiattarella, who is from Naples, to smash it into the bottom left corner.

The home side's lead lasted only 77 seconds. Lorenzo Insigne curled an effort inside the near post from just inside the area. Spal was causing Napoli problems but it was the visitors who took the lead in the 71st when Jose Callejon headed in Ghoulam's cross. Federico Viviani put Spal back on level terms seven minutes later with a free kick but Ghoulam scored what was to be the winner shortly after, finishing off a fantastic run by cutting inside and curling into the bottom right corner.

EASY DOES IT

Stephan El Shaarawy scored twice as Roma eased past Udinese 3-1 at home to keep up the pressure on Napoli and Juventus. All the Roma goals came in the first half, with El Shaarawy pouncing after Edin Dzeko's opener.

Capital side Roma has played a match less than most Serie A teams coming into the weekend, as its fixture at Sampdoria was postponed because of bad weather. Dzeko seems determined to retain the Serie A top goalscorer award he won last year and he opened the scoring in the 12th minute. Radja Nainggolan rode three challenges and managed to get the ball to Dzeko, who slotted into the bottom left corner for his fifth goal in three matches. The Bosnia and Herzegovina forward turned provider on the half hour when he sent in a low cross for El Shaarawy to coolly flick into the roof of the net.

El Shaarawy doubled his tally on the stroke of halftime, taking advantage of confusion in the Udinese defense to finish off a counterattack he had started. Udinese defender Jens Stryger Larsen appeared to have time to clear Diego Perotti's cross but he hesitated in front of goal and El Shaarawy snuck up behind him to fire it into the net. Roma could have extended its lead right at the end

but Perotti's penalty came off the left post after the Argentina defender had been tripped by Gabriele Angella. Udinese, which had earlier hit the crossbar, got a late consolation through Larsen. — AP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Brighton & Hove Albion v Newcastle 18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2

SPANISH LEAGUE
Espanyol v Deportivo La Coruna 13:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3
Getafe v Villarreal 17:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3
Las Palmas v Leganes 19:30
beIN SPORTS
Eibar v Celta de Vigo 19:30
beIN SPORTS HD
Real Sociedad v Valencia 21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE
Sampdoria v Milan 13:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4
Internazionale Milano v Genoa 16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4
Hellas Verona v Lazio 16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN
Cagliari Calcio v Chievo Verona 16:00
beIN SPORTS
Crotone v Benevento 16:00
beIN SPORTS
Sassuolo Calcio v Bologna 19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4
Fiorentina v Atalanta 21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4

GERMAN LEAGUE
Hannover v Koln 16:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Hamburger 19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5

FRENCH LEAGUE
Saint Etienne v Stade Rennais 16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6
Strasbourg v Nantes 18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6
Olympique Marseille v Toulouse 22:00
beIN SPORTS HD



STOKE-ON-TRENT: Chelsea's Spanish striker Alvaro Morata shoots past Stoke City's English goalkeeper Jack Butland (R) to score their fourth goal, his third, during the English Premier League football match between Stoke City and Chelsea at the Bet365 Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, central England yesterday. — AFP

SOCCER

MORATA SCORES HAT-TRICK AS CHELSEA THUMP STOKE

	Stoke	0
	Chelsea	4

STOKE: The day after Diego Costa flew to Atletico Madrid after sealing his 58 million pound (\$78.25 million) move, his replacement, Alvaro Morata, scored a hat-trick in Chelsea's 4-0 rout of Stoke City to mark the dawning of a new era at the champions.

The hat-trick was the first by a Chelsea player in the Premier League since Costa's in September 2014, but the second in a week for the Blues after Michy Batshuayi's treble in England's domestic EFL Cup against Nottingham Forest last Wednesday.

Morata's opener against Stoke came on two minutes when he was put through by a long ball over the top. Choosing his moment perfectly, the striker took one touch before planting a right-foot shot past keeper Jack Butland inside the post.

For his second, Morata exploited an error by Glen Johnson near the halfway line to outpace his pursuers and dink the ball clinically over Butland from a tight angle on 77 minutes before completing his hat-trick five minutes later on the stretch after good work from Cesar Azpilicueta.

"I am pleased for Alvaro's performance, pleased for the performance of the team. Now he has to continue this way to be a great striker," said manager Antonio Conte, who on Friday showed himself so enamored by his new striker that he said he was the sort of polite young man any father would like his daughter to marry.

Yesterday Conte's words were more prosaic but equally heartfelt. "This game is very difficult-I remember last season. I think Alvaro played very well. He scored three goals. For a striker, that's important. Michy did the same versus Forest."

Morata's goals will surely now end all talk of Costa, who has dominated much of Chelsea's narrative this year. Yesterday's hat-trick crowned an impressive all-round performance in which Morata held the ball up well, showed excellent control and took his goals clinically.

Costa without the attitude, in other words. Morata's record after six games is six goals and two assists. Costa also contributed to eight goals in his first six games, suggesting that Chelsea have lost nothing of their potency since his departure.

And just like Costa, Morata was back in his own area heading balls to safety when required. Chelsea remain three points behind leaders Manchester City, who they play at Stamford Bridge in what could be one of the season's formative games next Saturday. "I think we have to be focused at what we do and not others," said Conte. "We want to fight in every competition we are playing." — Reuters

TOTTENHAM SURVIVE LATE COMEBACK TO BEAT WEST HAM IN LONDON DERBY

	West Ham	2
	Tottenham	3

Michail Antonio was forced off with an injury and replaced by Andy Carroll, but not long after the burly striker's introduction, Spurs' talisman Kane stepped up to break the deadlock.

Eriksen released Dele Alli down the right, the England international then clipped a cross into Kane's path, leaving him with the simple task of steering his header home from close range. He doubled the lead four minutes later as Joe Hart's goal kick came straight back and Jan Vertonghen fed Alli, whose toe-poked effort was saved, but Kane was on hand to slide the ball into the empty net. "He's a great striker," Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino said after the match. "I am in love with him. You can feel that." After the break, Tottenham continued to control proceedings, and it was not long before Eriksen made it three.

Kane's free kick had come off the post, and as the hosts regrouped, Aurier's cross landed at the feet of Eriksen, who swept the ball home from the edge of the box on the half volley. Hernandez then gave his side a lifeline, reacting quickest to Jose Fonte's flick-on from a corner to tap in, before Aurier's needless foul on Carroll saw him dismissed. That galvanised the hosts, with Kouyate heading home Arthur Masuaku's cross with three minutes to go, but an equaliser failed to materialise and Spurs held on. — Reuters



LONDON: Tottenham's Jan Vertonghen, centre, competes for the ball with West Ham's Javier Hernandez during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur at the London Stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

NIASSE AT THE DOUBLE AS EVERTON BEAT BOURNEMOUTH

	Everton	2
	Bournemouth	1

EVERTON: Everton substitute Oumar Niasse struck twice in the second half as the Blues clawed their way back from a goal down to notch a superb 2-1 win over Bournemouth in a spiky encounter at Goodison Park.

The home side played some brilliant

one-touch football in a tough first half that saw Wayne Rooney leave the pitch for treatment to a bloody wound near his left eye after an aerial duel with Bournemouth's Simon Francis.

There were few chances in the opening 45 minutes but just after the break Norway international King latched on to a pass from Charlie Daniels before driving diagonally towards the penalty area and rifling the ball home. Everton poured forward and Niasse, who replaced Rooney in the 55th minute, expertly controlled a pass from Tom Davies and slammed the ball into the net before bundling home a second five minutes later to give his side a much-needed win. — Reuters



LIVERPOOL: Bournemouth's Joshua King controls the ball away from Everton's Mason Holgate during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Bournemouth, at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England, yesterday. — AP

Sports

Wozniacki stuns Muguruza, advances to Tokyo final



Morata scores hat-trick as Chelsea thump Stoke



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

DODGERS CLINCH NL WEST TITLE WITH WIN OVER GIANTS

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SOUTHAMPTON: Manchester United's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku shields the ball from Southampton's Dutch defender Wesley Hoedt (2nd R) and Southampton's English defender Ryan Bertrand (R) during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and Manchester United at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England yesterday. —AFP

LUKAKU STRIKES AGAIN AS MAN UTD BEAT SAINTS

	Southampton	0
	Man United	1

SOUTHAMPTON: Manchester United ground out a 1-0 Premier League win at Southampton as striker Romelu Lukaku scored his eighth goal

of the season in all competitions and manager Jose Mourinho was sent off for dissent yesterday. The result ensured United equalled their best start to a Premier League campaign but left them second on 16 points from five games, behind leaders Manchester City on goal difference after their arch rivals thrashed Crystal Palace 5-0.

Mourinho, who was sent to the stands in the last minute of stoppage time as Southampton piled on the pressure in the closing stages, was glad to come away from St Mary's Stadium with

three points after an unimpressive performance.

"It is not always possible to operate at high quality but we fought hard," Mourinho told Sky Sports. "I felt some of the boys were not sharp. I didn't feel like we could score three or four goals, like we sometimes do, so the option was to make sure we got the points."

"Romelu Lukaku's work is so important for us. He scored his goal and worked hard, like everybody else." United's prolific close-season signing became the first Premier League player to score for three different clubs against Southampton at

St Mary's, having also done so with Everton and West Bromwich Albion.

He scrambled a 20th-minute winner, pouncing on his own rebound in the six-yard box after the home team's keeper, Fraser Forster, had parried the striker's close-range header following a superb cross from the left by Ashley Young.

United fizzled out in the second half as the Saints kept probing their defence and the home team's midfielder, Oriol Romeu, missed two good chances before substitute Ander Herrera blazed his shot over the bar at the other end.

Phil Jones was at the heart of United's rugged defending, with several telling tackles and interceptions, but the centre back also heaped praise on Lukaku, who has now scored six Premier League goals in as many matches.

"Romelu Lukaku needs one chance and sticks it in the net and we are thankful to have him," said Jones. "We are happy with the three points, but not too happy with the performance. Maybe last season we would have come here and drew or lost it, but we need to do better than that." — Reuters



LEICESTER: Leicester City's Welsh midfielder Andy King (R) vies with Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Liverpool at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England yesterday. — AFP

MIGNOLET SAVES VARDY PENALTY AS LIVERPOOL BEAT LEICESTER

	Leicester City	2
	Liverpool	3

LEICESTER: Simon Mignolet conceded and then saved a late penalty as Liverpool clung on for a 3-2 win over Leicester City in a pulsating Premier League clash at the King Power Stadium yesterday.

The visitors dominated the first half and opened the scoring through Mo Salah's far-post header from Philippe Coutinho's cross a minute after the Egyptian missed a sitter. The

goal was Salah's sixth of the season. Coutinho looked back to his best and increased the lead with a curled 25-metre free-kick inside Casper Schmeichel's post on 23 minutes but Liverpool conceded just before the break when Shinji Okazaki converted a knockdown despite strong appeals for a foul on the keeper. Goals flow at both ends whenever Liverpool play and no sooner had Jordan Henderson restored their two-goal lead than Vardy headed Leicester's second before falling under a fly-kick challenge from Mignolet as the Belgian failed to clear his lines. But Vardy fired his spot-kick too close to the keeper, who had been shown a yellow card for the foul and parried it away for his fifth penalty save in eight attempts. — Reuters

SANE EXCELS AS CITY THRASHES PALACE 5-0

	Man City	5
	Crystal Palace	0

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola had just given a ball-boy a ticking off for returning the ball too sluggishly when he kicked his seat in the dug-out in frustration as the halftime whistle sounded. Manchester City was leading Crystal Palace 1-0 but you'd never have known by the actions of its coach.

"The ball-boy was slow, everybody was slow," Guardiola said. He was a lot happier at fulltime, though, with City having wrapped up a 5-0 win in its latest devastating attacking display in the English Premier League. City has 16 goals in its last three league matches, and has a club-record 21 for the season after six games. At the current rate, this City team is rivalling Guardiola's Barcelona and Bayern Munich sides for entertainment and efficiency in front of goal. "I must say," Guardiola said, "we are still in September. But I'm not telling the people not to be excited. This is a show. ... The biggest satisfaction is to see the fans come here and be happy."

The Premier League might never have seen attacking riches like the ones Guardiola has at his disposal, and last-place Palace - still without a point or even a goal this season - couldn't cope. Gabriel Jesus wasn't even needed off the substitutes' bench for City, which broke Palace's stubborn resistance in the 44th minute through Leroy Sane and picked off the visitors with ease in the second half.

Sane led the rout, setting up Raheem Sterling for the second goal and Sergio Aguerro - for the 300th club goal of his career - for the fourth. Sterling finished with two goals and substitute Fabian Delph curled in a shot from the edge of the area for the best of the lot in the 89th.

"When they take the lead," Palace manager Roy Hodgson said, "they are capable of showing the full register of their qualities." "We have to accept we've been given a headache, and now we have to find the

aspirins to ease the headache." It threatens to get even worse for Palace, which must play Manchester United, Chelsea, Newcastle and Tottenham in four of its next five fixtures.

And Christian Benteke, the club's only senior striker, hobbled off with what Hodgson said could be knee ligament damage. City has an injury concern of its own after left back Benjamin Mendy went off with a right knee injury in the first half, but that was the only negative on another brilliant attacking display.

Such was Guardiola's lust for goals that he took off John Stones, a center back, and sent on Delph for the final 20 minutes. With Delph's late goal, City became the first side to score at least five goals in three straight top-flight games in the same season since Blackburn in 1958-59.

Sane was City's star player, showing energy, trickery and an end product to delight Guardiola, who left out the winger in the first few games of the season

after he failed to return from pre-season in good shape. After scoring twice in City's League Cup win over West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday, Sane put City ahead when he played a one-two with David Silva, poked the return ball over defender Scott Dann, and placed his finish between the goalkeeper's legs.

Sane delivered a low cross to set up an easy tap-in in the 51st for Sterling, who then scored from close range from Sergio Aguerro's cushioned volley in the 58th. The highlight of Sane's display was arguably his powerful, whipped left-wing cross for Aguerro's 176th City goal, leaving the striker one goal behind Eric Brook's all-time record.

"He is a guy who runs in behind in the right tempo and right moment like no one else in the world," Guardiola said of Sane. Sterling has scored in each of his last five league games, giving Guardiola yet another attacking option. "Now I have five strikers," he said, ominously, "and all of them deserve to play." — AP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Leroy Sane, right, scores his side's first goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Crystal Palace, at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester, England, yesterday. — AP

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary BUSINESS

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Alcatel-A5 changes
your mood, emotions
with vibrant colors

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Houston housing investors
see profit in Harvey's wake

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Huawei CBG supports
ME innovation agenda

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BOURSA KUWAIT DROPS ON SELLING PRESSURE

Page 20



DUBAI: One of the first customers to buy the new Apple iPhone 8 poses at Dubai Mall Apple Store in Dubai yesterday. The new Apple iPhone 8 and 8 Plus, as well as the updated Apple Watch and Apple TV, went on sale yesterday. — AFP

MOODY'S DOWNGRADES UK'S RATING

DOWNGRADE COMES HOURS AFTER MAY SPEECH ON BREXIT

LONDON: Ratings agency Moody's downgraded Britain's credit rating on Friday, saying the government's plans to bring down its heavy debt load had been knocked off course and Brexit would weigh on the economy. A few hours after Prime Minister Theresa May set out plans for new ties with the European Union, Moody's cut the rating by a further notch to Aa2, underscoring the economic risks that leaving the bloc poses for the world's fifth-biggest economy.

Britain has worked down its budget deficit from about 10 percent of economic output in 2010, shortly after the global financial crisis hammered the country, to 2.3 percent. But Moody's - which stripped Britain of its top-notch AAA rating in 2013 - said the outlook for public finances had weakened significantly as May's government softened the austerity drive

of former prime minister David Cameron and his finance minister George Osborne.

The government hit back, saying Moody's assessment of the Brexit hit to the economy was "outdated" and that May had set out an "ambitious vision for the UK's future relationship with the EU" in her speech on Friday. But a Moody's official said the speech made no difference to the agency's gloomy long-term view for Britain's economy. "Having looked at Theresa May's speech, I don't think there is anything in there which would in any way make us change our assessment," Alastair Wilson, managing director of global sovereign risk at Moody's, told BBC radio yesterday.

"Over the next few years, we have a lot less confidence that the UK's government is going to be able to fulfil its plans to bring the debt load back down, and this is an extremely high

debt load that the UK has, or to be able to achieve some form of agreement with the EU which retains a substantial share of the rights that membership of the EU grants," he said.

Moody's verdict will be grim reading for May and her finance minister Philip Hammond, who is under pressure to spend more in his budget plan, due in November.

After seven years of austerity, a recent relaxation of a tight public sector pay cap for police and prison workers was likely to be broadened, Moody's said. Furthermore, a deal struck by May with a small political party in Northern Ireland after she lost her parliamentary majority in June's election and the dropping of plans to review costly pension increases would also weigh on the public purse.

"Overall, Moody's expects spending to be significantly higher than under the govern-

ment's current budgetary plans," Moody's said. On the tax side, it noted how the government abandoned a controversial plan to raise national insurance contributions for self-employed workers and was reliant on "highly uncertain revenue gains from tackling tax avoidance to fund tax cuts".

As a result, the budget deficit was likely to remain at around 3-3.5 percent of GDP in the coming years, higher than the government's plans to cut it below 1 percent of GDP by 2021/22. That meant Britain was one of the few big European economies where the public debt ratio was likely to rise, probably peaking at about 93 percent of GDP in 2019, two years later than under the latest government plans.

Brexit hit

At the same time, budget pressures would

rise as Britain's economy slowed due to Brexit, with growth of just 1 percent likely next year, down from 1.8 percent in 2017 and not recovering to its historic trend rate over the coming years.

Moody's said it was no longer confident that Britain would secure a replacement free trade agreement with the EU which substantially mitigated the Brexit hit.

The sheer workload of Brexit in the coming years meant the government would struggle to fix Britain's weak productivity growth, the Achilles heel of the economy, it said. Britain's government said Moody's move brought it into line with the other major credit ratings agencies, Fitch and Standard & Poor's. Moody's revised up its outlook on the country to stable from negative, meaning a further downgrade is not imminent. — Reuters

S&P DOWNGRADES CHINA AS CREDIT GROWTH STILL TOO FAST

BEIJING: China's attempts to reduce risks from its rapid buildup in debt are not working as quickly as expected and credit growth is still too fast, S&P Global Ratings said on Friday, a day after it downgraded the country's sovereign credit rating. While S&P warned in June that a cut may be on the cards, it said it decided to make the call after concluding that China's "de-risking" drive that started early this year was having less of an impact on credit growth than initially expected.

"Despite the fact that the government has shown greater resolve to implement the delever-

aging policy, we continue to see overall credit in the corporate sector to stay at a 9 percent point," Kim Eng Tan, an S&P senior director of sovereign ratings, said in a conference call to discuss the one-notch downgrade to A+ from AA-.

"We've now come to the conclusion that while we do expect some deleveraging in the next few years, this is likely to be much more gradual than we thought could have been the case early this year."

China's finance ministry said the downgrade was "a wrong decision" that ignored the economic fundamentals and development potential of

the world's second-largest economy.

"China is able to maintain the stability of its financial systems through cautious lending, improved government supervision and credit risk controls," it said on its website. S&P's move put its rating in line with those of Moody's and Fitch, though the timing raised eyebrows as it came just weeks ahead of one of the country's most politically sensitive events, the twice-a-decade Communist Party Congress (CPC).

S&P does not have a set schedule to review China's credit ratings, Tan said. "As part of our ongoing surveillance we do meet with the government and have calls with them. All these were done in the past few months," he told Reuters by phone later on Friday. But S&P is obliged to make a call "when the data points to one direction or another", Tan said.

"Unfortunately it comes close to the Congress."

Key debt measurement

Tan said broader lending by all financial institutions, excluding equity fund-raising, has started to rise after growing by a steady 12-13 percent in the last few years. "That was the key metric we look at...we believe while this growth of aggregate debt financing could come down somewhat over the next few years, it's not likely to come down very sharply."

Indeed, China's new bank lending and total social financing (TSF), a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, look set to hit record highs again this year. — Reuters

ITALY HIKES GROWTH FORECASTS, DEFICIT GOAL AHEAD OF ELECTION

ROME: Italy yesterday raised its forecasts for economic growth this year and next and said it would cut the budget deficit by less than previously promised.

The brighter outlook may help the ruling Democratic Party ahead of national elections early next year if voters notice an improvement in living standards, though Italian growth continues to lag most of its euro zone partners. Gross domestic product (GDP) will rise by 1.5 percent in 2017, the Treasury said, raising its previous projection of 1.1 percent made in April to reflect better than expected data in the first two quarters and buoyant business sentiment. Next year, growth is expected to be 1.5 percent, according to the Treasury's Economic and Financial Document (DEF), up from the previous forecast of 1.0 percent.

"Growth of 1.5 percent is pencilled in also for 2018 and 2019. These are forecasts that some people may regard as too optimistic, but I think they are totally justified," Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoa-Schioppa told reporters after a cabinet meeting approved the document. The new forecasts are slightly more upbeat than those made last week by employers' association Confindustria, which estimates 1.5 percent growth in 2017 and 1.3 percent growth the following year.

On Wednesday the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast Italian growth of 1.4 percent this year and 1.2 percent in

2018, compared with euro zone growth of 2.1 percent in 2017 and 1.9 percent in 2018.

Despite the strengthening economy, the government of Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni gave itself more spending room ahead of the election by raising the forecast for next year's budget deficit to 1.6 percent of GDP from 1.2 percent. The deficit would be lower than this year's goal of 2.1 percent, but the new 2018 target will still need the agreement of the European Commission, which may ask Italy to make more of a deficit-cutting effort.

The government will present its 2018 budget next month and it must be approved by parliament by the end of the year. Padoa-Schioppa said that the budget would eliminate so-called "safeguard clauses", by which the government has promised the EU to either raise sales tax or find alternative means of reducing the deficit. That means the sales tax will not be raised next year. Brussels may not demand too much of Gentiloni ahead of the election, due by May 2018, fearing the rise of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement which leads in most opinion polls and says it would sharply hike the deficit if it wins power. The Commission has allowed Rome to repeatedly raise its deficit targets in recent years, after negotiations that have normally resulted in a compromise. Brussels' main concern is Italy's huge public debt, which is the largest in the euro zone after Greece's and which successive governments have promised to bring down but failed to do so. — Reuters



HUAIBEI: This photo taken on Thursday shows Chinese employees working on a micro special motor production line at a factory in Huaibei in China's eastern Anhui province. — AFP

FED'S WILLIAMS SEES CALM MARKET REACTION TO BALANCE SHEET UNWIND

ZURICH: US central banker John Williams said on Friday he does not expect any market turbulence as the Fed gets under way with reducing the huge balance sheet built during its campaign to stimulate the US economy.

"I don't anticipate any sudden or large effects on rates or spreads or things like that as we normalize," Williams, president of the San Francisco Federal Reserve, told reporters in Zurich. "Obviously we've talked about this endlessly. We've announced it and the markets have taken totally taken this in stride. But it's still an open question as we actually implement this next month and over the next several

years - 'how will markets react?' We'll obviously be following that very carefully."

Normalization was the key theme at the Fed, said Williams. The Fed said on Wednesday it would begin the years-long process of trimming its \$4.5 trillion in assets, most of them amassed to encourage investment and growth in the wake of the 2007-09 financial crisis and recession.

It also signaled it will likely raise rates again later this year and three more times next year, despite low inflation that has surprised policymakers and has traders convinced the Fed will need to slow its pace of rate hikes. Williams said the Fed could indeed increase rates again this year and

three more times next year, but the exact timing was not important, with a gradual increase in interest rates now under way.

Provided the US economy continues to progress and inflation was on track to reach the Fed's 2 percent goal, "I would ascribe to a gradual pace of rate increases, which assuming all that's happening, could have another rate increase this year and three next year," Williams said. "But honestly ... the exact timing of that is not that important. I think the overall view that we would be raising rates gradually over the next two years and getting back to a normal level is the one I think I have a lot more confidence in."

Bond buying

Eventually the Fed would reach a "new normal" of a Fed Funds rate of 2.5 percent, Williams said. "My view, based on a lot of research people have done including my own work on this, is that the normal Federal funds rate is likely to be around 2.5 percent," Williams said.

"Obviously, the pace at which that happens and exactly the contour of that will depend on how the economy progresses but that's my baseline case at this point." Interest rates rather than bond buying would become the primary tool of Fed monetary policy in future, Williams said, with the bank also having room to cut them

if the US economy hit difficulties. It was also imperative for the vacancies on the Fed to be filled "sooner rather than later", Williams said. There will soon be four places to fill on the Fed when Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer retires in October. US President Donald Trump has also not yet said if he will nominate Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen for a second term, with her current term due to end next February. "It is an important issue to have the vacancies filled... When you only have half the board that is stretching them very thinly in terms of their responsibilities," said Williams. "My only plea would be they fill these positions sooner rather than later." —Reuters



ALCATEL-A5 CHANGES YOUR MOOD, EMOTIONS WITH VIBRANT COLORS

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Will your mood change when you see vibrant colors? For some people, it does really work and blinking colors change their mood which eventually could change their sad face to a smiley face! My 8-year-old and 13-year-old sons, who are now in Grades 3 and 8 respectively, are best examples, when I bought them exactly the same unit of Alcatel A5 smartphones.

They occasionally browse my smartphone and I used to lose some important files. I asked myself why not buy them separate phones so that they can enjoy themselves the features of mobile phones as I do. But since they are two, I need a bit cheaper smartphone yet it must offer similar features as my phone. I was introduced to Alcatel A5 smartphone. It has amazing features nothing less similar to the smartphone I was using.

I observed the way their sad faces suddenly changed to smiley faces when the LED-covered smartphone flashes lights on their mobile units. Why not...based on psychology, colors impact one's behavior and emotions. I asked my two sons what's the difference between using my mobile phone and the Alcatel-A5. Their answers were almost identical. Both stressed on the colors. "Papa, I love the colors blinking on my phone. I want the colors especially when the



light in the house is off," my 8-year-old son said. My 13-year-old son has more entrenched explanation about his experience. "I like the sound so much and the color catcher. At first, I

couldn't figure out the use of many colors, but now I am enjoying it. You do not have this in your phone. I love the color catcher, example the visible colors can be used as a background. The good thing is that you can use them as your wallpaper. I experimented in the colors and I can even use them in music. The color can move to the music as well. The LED lights could also respond and vibrate to the music being played. Also I love the light show feature, its extra fun! Papa, I love it! Basically, all the features in your phone are also available in A5. But A5 has more unique offers on color features and you could customize it."

The new Alcatel-A5 is the world's first interactive LED-covered smartphone. The calls and messages appearing on your mobile phone can be applied with unique colors available only in the A5. Alcatel A5 is also proud of its private mode settings in which you can actually hide some of your sensitive files and apps. My son, also loved the camera which he said is more clearer and better as compared to his peers.

TCL Communication Technology Holdings Limited (Alcatel) recently launched the newest A5 LED-covered Smartphone in Dubai. The world's first interactive LED-covered Smartphone, A5 LED promises innovations for energetic and young consumers.

GERMAN BOND YIELDS STEADY BELOW SEVEN-WEEK HIGHS

LONDON: German 10-year bond yields steadied around the 0.45 percent mark on Friday, ahead of national elections this weekend that are set to return Angela Merkel to office as head of Europe's biggest economy.

Compared with France's elections earlier this year, Sunday's vote in Germany has passed largely unremarked on by the market. Merkel has been chancellor since 2005 and her reelection is seen bringing continuity and stability, although there is uncertainty about the composition of a likely coalition and some concern about the strength of the far right.

Merkel's conservative alliance currently governs in a 'grand coalition' with the centre-left Social Democratic Party. "The overall expectation is that we will get (another) grand coalition," Commerzbank analyst Michael Leister said. "In a scenario that doesn't include the liberal FDP becoming part of the government, we could also see speculation about further European integration tightening."

On Friday, Germany's 10-year government bond yield was flat at 0.45 percent, down from a seven-week high hit on Thursday. One source of potential market anxiety is the performance of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) in Sunday's vote.

With many voters viewing a fourth term for Merkel as almost inevitable,

pollsters say turnout may be low. The AfD has been running at between nine and 12 percent in surveys. Two polls published on Thursday showed it chalking up gains that look set to make it the third largest bloc in parliament.

"A strong performance from AfD and other populist parties would reflect a protest vote from people unhappy with the direction things are going in Germany," said David Zahn, head of European fixed income at Franklin Templeton Investments.

"And that, in turn, should serve as a signal to mainstream parties that they need to make adjustment to the economy. Otherwise, the chances are greater that more extremist parties could get a larger vote next time." Most eurozone bond yields were a touch higher on Friday, facing some upward pressure after upbeat economic data.

Euro zone bonds were unmoved after UK Prime Minister Theresa May called on Friday for Britain to stay in the European Union's single market during a roughly two-year transition out of the EU while offering concessions on a divorce deal as she appealed for a revival of Brexit negotiations.

IHS Markit's eurozone Flash Composite Purchasing Managers' Index for September, seen as a good guide to economic growth, bounced to 56.7 from August's 55.7. —Reuters

MACRON PUTS FISCAL CREDIBILITY ON THE LINE WITH FIRST BUDGET

PARIS: When Emmanuel Macron's government delivers the first budget of his presidency on Wednesday, it must convince France's European partners it is serious about cutting spending while reassuring voters they do not face austerity.

To be taken seriously by Germany and other euro zone countries, Macron has to map out a credible path for getting France's finances permanently in line with EU rules, after his predecessors flouted them for a decade. Macron is expected to lay out his much-awaited vision for deepening integration among eurozone countries on Tuesday, the eve of the budget presentation and only two days after Germany's election.

"If France wants to convince Germany to move toward greater integration at the European level, President Macron must show that France can fulfil its commitment," Societe Generale economists wrote in a research note.

The International Monetary Fund said on Thursday Macron's success in overhauling the economy would hinge on reining in government spending, the highest among developed countries at over 56 percent of gross domestic product.

The government this week scaled down its planned budget cuts for next year to 16 billion euros (\$19.15 billion) from 20 billion euros. Tax revenues are expected to be higher than previously thought thanks to a slightly better growth outlook. The government also

needs to keep voters from getting anxious about spending cuts as it pushes through its reform agenda.

Ten billion euros in tax cuts next year will dull the impact of spending cuts on reducing the overall public deficit. The government expects to get the deficit below the three-percent-of-GDP threshold set by EU rules this and next year, but not mainly by spending restraint.

Most of the reduction in the overall public sector deficit will come from a growing surplus on the social security accounts, a government document obtained by Reuters showed.

France has violated the three-percent rule every year since 2007. The government said this week it expected a public sector deficit of 2.9 percent in 2017, falling to 2.6 percent in 2018, thanks in part to better growth prospects.

A budget in line with the European limit for two years would set France up to exit the EU's excessive deficit procedure. While ministries in charge of education, the police and the environment will see budget increases, the government has flagged cuts to the 40 billion-euro budget for housing support as well as on infrastructure and subsidized jobs.

So far it has not committed to any hard and fast numbers on cuts, ensuring that the budget will be closely scrutinized by France's EU partners. — Reuters

GERMANY STEEL WORKERS PROTEST OVER THYSSEN-TATA STEEL MERGER PLAN

BOCHUM, Germany: Several thousand steelworkers took to the streets of Bochum in Germany's industrial heartland on Friday to protest against the planned merger of the European steel units of Thyssenkrupp and Tata Steel.

Just two days before general elections in Europe's biggest economy, the demonstrators protested against up to 4,000 job cuts that will be made should the joint venture go ahead. This would be about 8 percent of the combined workforce.

Thyssenkrupp and Tata this week said they had signed a memorandum of understanding for a 50-50 joint venture that would create Europe's second-biggest steelmaker after ArcelorMittal, with combined sales of about 15 billion euros (\$18 billion). Thyssenkrupp Chief Executive Heinrich Hiesinger says a joint venture will be the

best solution to what he sees as the main issue in Europe's steel industry - overcapacity - but politicians and labour leaders fear further cuts. "We want guarantees for all employees and locations," said Detlef Wetzal, deputy supervisory board chairman of Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe.

Hiesinger depends on the support of labour representatives, which hold half of the 20 seats on the supervisory board of Thyssenkrupp AG, and have fiercely opposed the Tata deal. If all of them vote against the deal, the board's chairman could still push through the plan with his casting vote but it is Hiesinger's declared goal to get labor leaders on board.

Wetzal said he was not overly optimistic after initial talks with Hiesinger and that he expected further cost cuts. "2020 - that's when things will really get going," he said, referring to

the date when Hiesinger has said a fundamental review of operations would take place after initial cost trimming.

IG Metall said about 7,000 workers took part in the protest in the Ruhr valley city. Thyssenkrupp's supervisory will discuss the plans at a meeting on Saturday even though the MoU has already been signed. It will decide on the plans early next year, Thyssenkrupp said on Wednesday.

Europe's steel market has an annual production capacity of about 200 million tons, while actual production is about 160 million tons. "I am not convinced by the merger plans at all. Without guarantees the labour side will not agree to it in the supervisory board," said German Labour Minister Andrea Nahles, a leading member of the Social Democrats. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.749
Indian Rupees	4.719
Pakistani Rupees	2.867
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Nepali Rupees	2.956
Singapore Dollar	225.490
Hongkong Dollar	38.683
Bangladesh Taka	3.702
Philippine Peso	5.935
Thai Baht	9.150

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.627
Qatari Riyal	83.042
Omani Riyal	785.213
Bahraini Dinar	802.840
UAE Dirham	82.318

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.044
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	126.420
Jordanian Dinar	426.650
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.014
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.986

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.150
Euro	363.790
Sterling Pound	403.220

Canadian dollar	249.710
Turkish lira	88.660
Swiss Franc	316.720
Australian Dollar	244.140
US Dollar Buying	300.950

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

US Dollar	301.800
Canadian Dollar	248.685
Sterling Pound	403.050
Euro	363.090
Swiss Frank	291.255
Bahrain Dinar	801.000
UAE Dirhams	82.560
Qatari Riyals	83.380
Saudi Riyals	81.340
Jordanian Dinar	426.950
Egyptian Pound	17.121
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Indian Rupees	4.719
Pakistani Rupees	2.863
Bangladesh Taka	3.733
Philippines Peso	5.929
Cyprus pound	17.960
Japanese Yen	3.740
Syrian Pound	1.585
Nepalese Rupees	2.954

Malaysian Ringgit	72.765
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.660
Thai Bhat	10.115
Turkish Lira	88.375

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

British Pound	0.401711	0.411711
Czech Korune	0.005906	0.017906
Danish Krone	0.044639	0.049639
Euro	0.356167	0.365167
Georgian Lari	0.134576	0.134576
Norwegian Krone	0.034828	0.040028
Romanian Leu	0.081473	0.081473
Russian ruble	0.005252	0.005252
Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995
Slovenia	0.033966	0.038966
Swedish Krona	0.305737	0.316737

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.232708	0.244708
New Zealand Dollar	0.216018	0.225518

America

Canadian Dollar	0.239783	0.248783
US Dollars	0.298050	0.302470
US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302470

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003238	0.003822
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Chinese Yuan	0.044383	0.047883
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036747	0.039497
Indian Rupee	0.004242	0.004930
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002620	0.002800
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068204	0.074204
Nepalese Rupee	0.003015	0.003185
Pakistan Rupee	0.002754	0.003044
Philippine Peso	0.005844	0.006144
Singapore Dollar	0.219460	0.229460
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001623	0.002203
Taiwan	0.009982	0.010162
Thai Baht	0.008794	0.009344

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794572	0.803072
Egyptian Pound	0.014472	0.020380
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000193	0.000253
Jordanian Dinar	0.421552	0.430552
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021126	0.045126
Omani Riyal	0.778385	0.784065
Qatar Riyal	0.078703	0.083643
Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.120604	0.128604
Turkish Lira	0.001199	0.001499
UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539
Yemeni Riyal	0.000982	0.001062

BREXIT WEIGHS HEAVY AT IRISH FARMING FAIR

DUBLIN: Brexit hung like a cloud over Ireland's biggest agricultural fair this week, with the country's food and farming industries, heavily reliant on their British neighbor, feeling the impact already.

Nearly 300,000 people visited the 2017 National Ploughing Championships outside Tullamore in the central County Offaly. Their boots quickly churning up the muddy fields, visitors were keen to trade talk of farm machinery and production volumes.

The annual gathering was also an occasion for families to see the animals, play the Irish sport of hurling and soak up the festive atmosphere. However, for the exhibitors, the atmosphere is somewhat weighed down by Britain's looming departure from the European Union and the slide of its sterling currency, which has made Irish exports over its only border exceedingly expensive. John Keena, a cattle breeder, wears a stern face when talking about the 20 percent fall in sterling against the euro, since Britain's vote in June 2016 to leave the EU.

"Meat factories maybe are taking full advantage of Brexit, like they have dropped the prices in the last six weeks by something like 30 cents the kilo. We think it's unjustified and that we should be back at four euros the kilo," he said. Economic ties between Britain and Ireland—which was part of the UK before independence in the 1920s—are particularly strong. The Irish pound, replaced by the euro in 2002, was linked to sterling until the late 1970s.

37% of agri-food exports

Joe Healy, president of the Irish Farmers' Association, in-between selfies and chomps on his muffin, expressed concern about Brexit. "We export 90 percent of our beef. Fifty percent of that goes to the UK, 45 percent to Europe and five percent onto international markets," he said.

"But of the 45 percent that goes to Europe, half of that uses the UK as a land bridge to get to the European market," said Healy, underlining the sec-

tor's dependence on its nearest neighbour. Like beef, Ireland's agri-food sector—the biggest employer in the republic with 8.4 percent of the workforce—exports 37 percent of its production to Britain.

The mushroom industry, which sends 80 percent of its production, has felt the pinch of the fluctuating pound, with already narrow margins tightening further and driving several operators into bankruptcy.

Farmers, breeders and processors are also anxiously awaiting the outcome of London's negotiations with Brussels, fearing a return of customs barriers between Britain and the EU.

"What we're trying to do is plan for the worst and hope for the best," said Tara McCarthy, the chief executive of Bord Bia, the government's state food agency which has provided exporting companies with information and marketing tools to help them come up with new strategies to cope with the situation.

Cheddar cheese threat

Dublin is also looking for new destinations if Britain leaves the EU without a trade deal.

"The gap would be huge in the worst case scenario—we're talking about 250,000 tons of beef," said McCarthy. The country is eyeing up China in particular.

"We don't have access yet but the Chinese market would be a huge opportunity," McCarthy said.

Unlike the meat and mushroom sectors, milk producers are better off thanks to a recent rise in dairy prices after a tough 2016, according to John Wicherley, a dairy farmer from County Cork in the southwest of Ireland. The situation is "stable," he said, revealing he was "cautiously confident".

His cows produce milk for the Irish cheese industry, which provides 80 percent of the cheddar eaten in Britain. "Without the UK for our cheddar cheese there isn't really a market," Healy said of Britain leaving the European customs union. — AFP



WEST POINT: In this July 22, 2014 file photo, gold bars are stacked in a vault at the United States Mint, in West Point, NY. In a world where nearly all investments are rising, so is gold. But many investors are buying gold because they're worried that the good times are about to end for those other investments, such as stocks and bonds. —AP

SURGING STOCK MARKET POWERS US WEALTH TO \$96.2TN

WASHINGTON: A healthy gain in the stock market and steadily increasing home prices boosted Americans' household wealth this spring, a trend that likely adds to the nation's inequality.

The Federal Reserve said Thursday Americans' net worth rose 1.8 percent to \$96.2 trillion in the April-June quarter. Stock portfolios and mutual funds jumped \$1.1 trillion. Home values climbed \$600 billion. The solid gain in wealth could make many Americans more confident and spend more, which typically fuels economic growth. Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of US economic activity. But the increases in wealth aren't widely shared, which many economists worry limits its economic benefit. Wealthier Americans are less likely to spend additional income and wealth gains.

Roughly 10 percent of Americans own 80 percent of the nation's stock market value. And the wealthiest 1 percent held 42 percent of the nation's wealth in 2012, the latest data available, according to research by

economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman of the University of California-Berkeley. Meanwhile, housing is the main wealth accumulation vehicle for the middle class. Home prices have climbed sharply since 2012, but in much of the country they still trail pre-recession levels.

Total household wealth includes checking and savings accounts, and subtracts mortgages and other debt. The Fed's data comes after the Census Bureau reported last week that middle class families enjoyed solid income gains in 2016 for the second straight year, after seven years of stagnating earnings.

But the same report also showed income inequality is worsening. The wealthiest 5 percent of US households received 22.6 percent of all income last year, Census said. That's up from 21.9 percent two years earlier. The middle one-fifth of households earned 14.2 percent, down slightly from 14.3 percent in 2014. And the poorest fifth received just 3.1 percent, unchanged from two years earlier. — AP



LILLE: This file photo taken on February 12, 2014 shows residence taxes in Lille, northern France. The French government will present on September 27, 2017 his draft 2018 budget. —AFP

AGEING ASIA NEEDS MORE WOMEN IN BOARDROOMS: EXPERTS

KUALA LUMPUR: Ageing Asia needs to put more women in the boardroom to maintain growth and competitiveness, a top recruiting agency said on Friday, as new figures showed 80 percent of top jobs in key parts of the region are held by men. Men have eight out of 10 senior roles in over 30 industry sectors across China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia, according to the latest gender diversity research by Britain-based recruitment firm Hays. A total of 81 percent of female respondents believed they face barriers to career success due to their gender, and more than half said there are gender diversity issues within their companies that need to be addressed.

Twenty-two percent of the women surveyed were unhappy with their current level of seniority, compared to 15 percent male respondents. "Tackling gender bias around promotion, recruitment and accommodating life choices such as parenting and elder care requires focus and can be confronting to any organization," Hays Hong Kong managing director Dean Stallard said.

"However, with an aging population and workforce in Asia, the companies that get this right will ensure they have the

largest pool of talent to draw upon as candidates get harder to find and thus, will gain a competitive advantage."

A total of 967 respondents from the five markets were polled online and interviewed between March and April this year. It found Hong Kong has the highest number of men occupying the top jobs at 89 percent and Malaysia has the largest portion of female leaders, but only at 24 percent.

This was despite the majority of the respondents of both genders said greater gender diversity helps business success. Dean urged companies to see past their "unconscious bias" when it comes to hiring and review its policies to ascertain whether they are skewed towards male success.

"It is well-known that managers often hire in their own image so given men far outnumber women in line management and senior roles, deliberate intervention is required if companies are to reap the benefits offered by greater gender diversity." The International Monetary Fund in May warned that the rapidly growing number of elderly in Asian economies is set to create a demographic "tax" on growth. — Reuters

HOUSTON HOUSING INVESTORS SEE PROFIT IN HARVEY'S WAKE

QUICK RECOVERY SURPRISES MANY TEXANS

HOUSTON: Addressing a real estate conference in flood-ravaged Houston this month, longtime investor Ray Sasser detailed his strategy: buy up to 50 flooded homes at deep discounts, then fix and flip them for a hefty profit. Sasser first followed that game plan after Tropical Storm Allison flooded the city in 2001. He bought homes for 30 to 40 percent of their pre-storm value, spent another 15 percent on repairs, and sold many a year later - at full value.

The quick recovery surprised him, he said. "This can't be true," he recalled thinking at the time. The bet that home prices in hard-hit Houston neighborhoods will fully recover after Hurricane Harvey could be riskier, Sasser and local economists said. But a rush of investors eager to snap up flooded homes reflects broader confidence in the resilience of Houston's unique metropolitan economy.

While the region's unchecked development has come under fire for exacerbating flooding, it also reflects its core strength: A rare combination of rich job opportunities and low cost of living, driving explosive population growth in America's energy capital. The surging demand has sustained home prices through four major floods since 2001 and a historic oil price crash starting in 2014. Though Harvey caused far more damage than previous storms, investors such as Sasser see plenty of opportunity in the region's estimated 268,000 flooded homes.

Tara Waggoner, the Houston market manager for brokerage and online listings firm Redfin, said the firm's local agents were getting about four times the number of calls they usually get from investors. They ranged from individuals looking to buy one flooded house to groups of ten or more pooling their money for a home-buying spree, she said.

"You have people with millions of dollars to work with," she said in an interview days after the storm. "They want to go in, pay cash, get the discount and fix it up to sell."

Sasser, a 35-year veteran Houston home buyer, spoke to about 100 investors who packed into a meeting of the Realty Investment Club of Houston - or RICH, for short. He said he had formed his own construction company to streamline the repair work. His stories riveted less experienced investors such as Brandyn Cottingham, who sees the flood as an opportunity to ramp up his real estate holdings.

"In this business you look for distressed property, and we've got tons of that right now," Cottingham said. RICH President Belinda Lopez said she's gotten calls from sellers eager to make deals.

"They say: 'This is my third flood - I'm done,'" Lopez said.

A million new residents

In addition to Harvey and Allison, Houston has taken on rising water from 2008's Hurricane

Ike and the so-called Memorial Day and Tax Day floods of 2015 and 2016. None of the disasters slowed the region's growth, as development has crawled like ivy across the subtropical plains of southeast Texas, enabled by lax local regulation.

Harris County, which includes Houston and many suburbs, has added more than 1 million residents since 2000 and remains the second fastest-growing county in the United States despite a recent oil industry downturn, according to US Census Bureau data.

Though housing prices have risen steadily with the influx of demand, the region's median home price of \$230,000 remains well below that of many major US cities. The oil downturn did not crash the local economy or the housing market - as another oil bust did in the 1980s - because Houston has diversified and other sectors continued to add jobs, said economist and University of Houston professor Bill Gilmer.

That's good news for housing investors.

Houston homes are expected to stay in high demand even in low-lying areas, and home prices and rents are expected to rise with the sudden plunge of supply and jolt in demand from displaced residents and outside contractors. There is money to be made, Gilmer said, in places that have flooded multiple times, or where residents are older and "may just want to move on."

Many other homeowners, however, may have little motivation to sell out cheap, said James Gaines, chief economist at the Texas A&M University Real Estate Center. Job losses from Harvey will likely be moderate, and out-of-work residents should find new jobs fairly quickly, putting them in a better position to withstand repair costs, Gaines said. "Houston's not a bad place to live - other than the occasional hurricane," Gaines said. "It's had four floods in the last nine years, and very few people have packed up and left." — Reuters

TRUMP TO SHOWCASE TAX CUT FOR BUSINESSES

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and top Republicans in Congress are about to show how aggressively they intend to cut the corporate tax rate, while trying to avoid the appearance of favoring the wealthy. The "Big Six" team of Republican tax policy makers is expected to release a plan on Wednesday targeting tax cuts for businesses, but offering few clues about how to replace reduced federal revenues, said lobbyists and congressional sources.

Under pressure from corporate America, the team is expected to call for a corporate income tax target rate possibly within a range of 18-23 percent, down from the current rate of 35 percent. But the Big Six, which includes top Trump aides and congressional Republican leaders, is expected to refrain from cutting the top individual tax rate of 39.6 percent, in a risky step that many Republicans in the House of Representatives could find hard to swallow. "They're not going to cut the highest income tax rate. They're not," predicted Stephen Moore, a fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank. Moore helped write Trump's campaign tax plan.

Overhauling the tax code was a key pledge for Trump in his 2016 presidential campaign. But after eight months in office, he has made only limited progress. Washington has achieved no major tax overhaul since 1986. Trump portrays lower corporate taxes as a boon to workers, saying they would lead to more jobs and higher salaries. A rate cut on

corporate profits could also be used to benefit shareholders and to offer up more executive bonuses, however.

"The details leaking out of the Big Six meetings paint a clear picture of an unprecedented tax giveaway for the most fortunate and biggest corporations," Senator Ron Wyden, top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, said this week. The Big Six-Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Trump economic adviser Gary Cohn, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and two tax committee chairmen have been working on their plan for months.

But they are still undecided on key issues, including whether to let businesses write off new investments immediately; how to lower tax rates for small businesses; and whether to cut middle-class taxes simply by doubling the standard deduction for individuals and families, according to lobbyists. Resolving such issues will help determine how aggressively Republicans can cut corporate taxes. Lobbyists said they do not expect the Big Six to offer many details about the tax loopholes and deductions that could be eliminated to help pay for tax cuts. "Our expectation is that it will be a bold transformative tax reform. That would mean a dramatic corporate rate cut, an aggressive stripping out of set-asides and special interest carve-outs and simplification," said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, a political group backed by billionaire conservatives Charles and David Koch. — Reuters

PETROL PRICES PUMPED UP IN PYONGYANG AFTER CURBS

PYONGYANG: Petrol prices are being pumped higher in Pyongyang in the wake of United Nations sanctions restricting exports of oil products to nuclear-armed North Korea.

Retail prices have gone up around 20 percent in two months, AFP saw in the capital-and are now more than double what they were at the beginning of the year. Two weeks ago the UN Security Council imposed its eighth set of sanctions on the North in an effort to rein it in following its sixth nuclear test, which Pyongyang said was a hydrogen bomb.

Under leader Kim Jong-Un, North Korea has made rapid progress in its weapons programs, and it launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in July that appeared to bring much of the US mainland into range. Kim and US President Donald Trump have since engaged in a war of words, heightening tensions.

The latest UN sanctions for the first time imposed limits on supplies to the North of the fuel it needs to keep its citizens and soldiers moving. North Korea has few hydrocarbons of its own. China-by far the North's biggest supplier and key diplomatic protector-confirmed in a statement late Friday it would adhere to the new sanctions from October 1. Exports of refined products will be capped at 2 million barrels a year beginning in 2018. Under the sanctions, crude oil exports are limited to current levels. China has not issued official figures for its crude sales to its neighbor for several years.

But according to the US mission to the

United Nations, Beijing provides Pyongyang with around 4 million barrels a year of crude oil, and 4.5 million barrels of refined oil products such as petrol and diesel. There is a livelihood exemption in the rules, but the measures would seem to amount to a cut of more than 55 percent in oil product supplies, and it appears to be having an effect in Pyongyang.

In North Korea petrol is sold by the kilogram rather than the litre, and payment in hard currency is required for retail buyers. "It was \$1.90 yesterday, today it is \$2," said a petrol station employee. "I expect the price will go up in the future." In January prices were below \$1 per kilogram, and stood at around \$1.65 in July, so they have gone up about 20 percent in the last two months and more than doubled so far this year.

Bellacose rhetoric

There is significantly less traffic on the roads in Pyongyang than earlier this year, although AFP reporters in the capital have not seen any evidence to back up Trump's tweet that: "Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!" Trump dubbed Kim "Rocket Man" in a speech at the United Nations last week in which he threatened to "totally destroy" the North if it attacked the US or its allies. In a statement on Friday Kim responded by calling the US head of state "mentally deranged" and a "dotard" who would "pay dearly" for his comments-triggering Trump to describe him as a "madman". The increasingly bellacose rhetoric has raised fears of a physical conflict. — AP

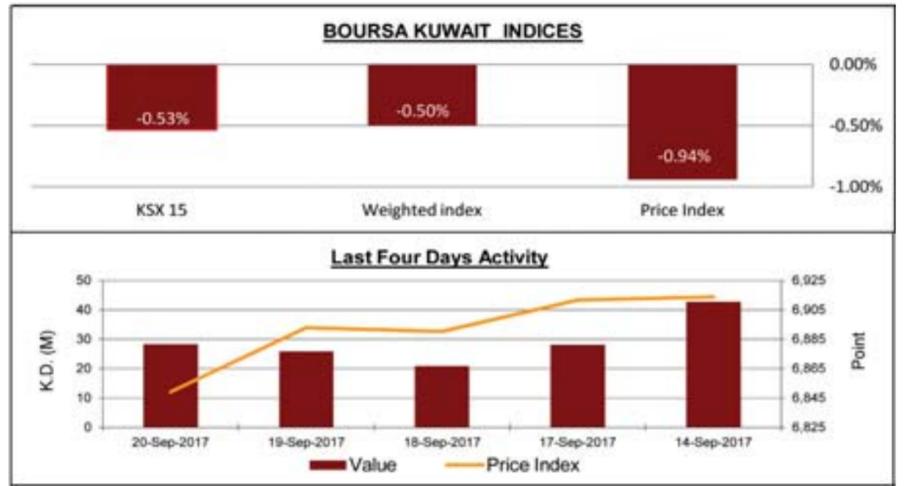
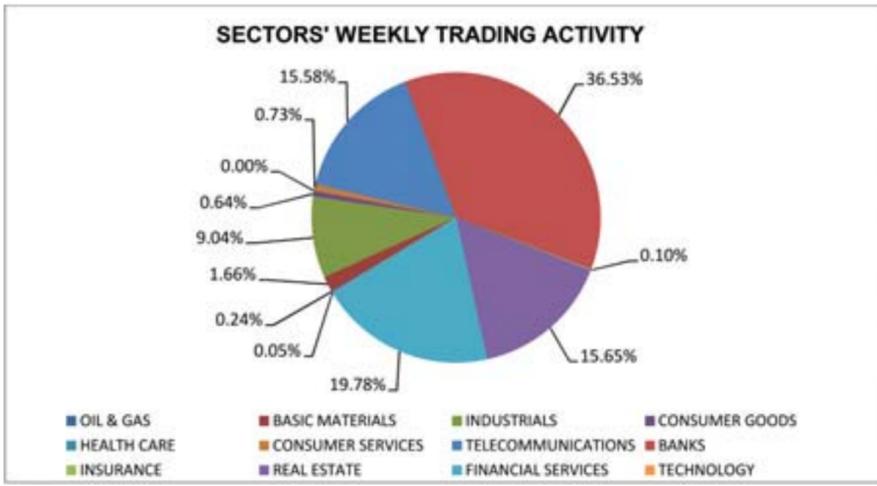
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BOURSA KUWAIT DROPS ON SELLING PRESSURE

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,849.11 points, down by 0.94 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.50 percent after closing at 439.13 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 1,021.60 points down by 0.53 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 23.20 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 25.77 million, whereas trading volume average was 154.33 million shares, recording an increase of 10.91 percent.

The Boursa could not continue its upward direction that it held for four consecutive weeks, and ended last week's trading, which was limited to four sessions only, with different losses to its three indices affected by the selling pressures and the profit collection operations that were present during most of the daily sessions of the week, and included many leading and small-cap stocks also, especially the stocks that realized various increases during the previous weeks.

Moreover, Boursa Kuwait lost more than KD 130 million from its market capitalization during the last week, after it reached by the end of it to around KD 29.35 billion, down by 0.45 percent from its level on the previous week, where it was KD 29.48 billion; while the market cap gains since the beginning of the year contracted KD 3.94 billion, and up by 15.51 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: the market cap for the listed companies in the primary market is calculated based on the average number of the outstanding shares as per the latest available financial statements)

As far as the daily trading activity; Boursa Kuwait witnessed in the first session of last week a fluctuated performance for its three indices, amid a decreased trading activity on both levels, the volume or the value, especially the latter, which declined by the end of the session by 34 percent, and the Price Index ended the session recording limited loss, as a result to the selling pressures that targeted some idle small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices were able to increase supported by the positive performance of the leading stocks. On the second session of the week, the three indices dropped and closed in the red zone, affected by the profit collection operations that the leading and small-cap stocks were subject to, after the good performance it witnessed in the previous sessions, which came in parallel with the continued decrease in the cash liquidity in the market, as it dropped by more than 25 percent compared to the first session of the week.

Tuesday's session however witnessed a return to the

three indices to fluctuate again, whereas the Price Index was able to realize limited increase supported by the positive trading witnessed by the market in the last few moments of the session, while the continued selling pressures on some leading stocks for profit collection purposes, pushed the Weighted and KXS-15 indices to end the session in the red zone. The last session of the week witnessed a strong selling trend, included many stocks and headed by the leading ones, which caused its weighted indices to lose all its weekly gains, and increased the losses of the Price Index, to end the week with a decline to all its indices.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 19.15 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 15.53 percent, and the KXS-15 recorded 15.43 percent growth.

Sectors' Indices

Nine of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while two recorded increases, Whereas the Health care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's gainer was the Financial Services sector, achieving 0.77 percent growth rate as its index closed at 703.92 points. Followed by; the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 620.16 points recording 0.12 percent increase.

On the other hand, The Consumer Services sector headed the losers list as its index declined 5.75 percent to end the week's activity at 967.45 points. The Technology sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 4.18 percent, closing 577.01 points, followed by the Insurance sector, as its index closed at 1,124.60 points at a loss 2.55 percent.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 217.61 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 35.25 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 34.49 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 212.89 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 37.65 million or 36.53 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 20.39 million representing 19.78 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co

MARKET ACTIVITY				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %	
Volume	617,308,603	695,720,227	-11.27%	
Value (K.D)	103,061,300	167,741,831	-38.56%	
Deals	18,765	25,223	-25.60%	
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
29,348,088,765	29,481,374,197	-0.45%	15.51%	
TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ALMAL	34.80	15.30	19.5	127.45%
ZIMAH	55.00	47.60	7.4	15.55%
SAFAT GLOB	32.30	28.00	4.3	15.36%
KMEFIC	28.50	25.10	3.4	13.55%
NIH	76.30	68.50	7.8	11.39%
TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
EYAS	545.00	730.00	-185.0	-25.34%
MARAKEZ	37.40	47.20	-9.8	-20.76%
NICBM	173.00	198.00	-25.0	-12.63%
IPG	345.00	390.00	-45.0	-11.54%
TAHSSILAT	28.40	31.50	-3.1	-9.84%

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	3,838,589	0.62%	246,525	0.24%
BASIC MATERIALS	3,367,577	0.55%	1,714,094	1.66%
INDUSTRIALS	22,897,395	3.71%	9,314,706	9.04%
CONSUMER GOODS	2,118,358	0.34%	662,314	0.64%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.0000%
CONSUMER SERVICES	3,792,529	0.61%	747,205	0.73%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	42,225,242	6.84%	16,057,314	15.58%
BANKS	107,568,136	17.43%	37,646,966	36.53%
INSURANCE	499,584	0.08%	97,917	0.10%
REAL ESTATE	212,889,480	34.49%	16,127,799	15.65%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	217,607,842	35.25%	20,390,144	19.78%
TECHNOLOGY	503,871	0.08%	56,315	0.05%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	996.81	1,021.70	-2.44%	27.69%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,324.09	1,325.77	-0.13%	31.78%
INDUSTRIALS	1,861.01	1,884.67	-1.26%	38.46%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,040.61	1,058.63	-1.70%	-7.51%
HEALTH CARE	1,683.91	1,683.91	0.00%	35.31%
CONSUMER SERVICES	967.45	1,026.48	-5.75%	4.64%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	620.16	619.43	0.12%	-2.52%
BANKS	977.02	977.56	-0.06%	16.70%
INSURANCE	1,124.60	1,154.04	-2.55%	13.11%
REAL ESTATE	979.11	983.06	-0.40%	12.52%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	703.92	698.51	0.77%	17.90%
TECHNOLOGY	577.01	602.19	-4.18%	-4.96%

ENERGY LEADS US STOCKS TO MOSTLY HIGHER FINISH

WALL STREET WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

NEW YORK: A listless day on Wall Street finished with US stocks eking out small gains Friday, as strength in energy, phone and industrial companies offset losses elsewhere.

Some health insurers bounced back after Sen. John McCain said he wouldn't support the latest Republican effort to roll back the Affordable Care Act. Real estate and utilities companies were among the biggest decliners. A new round of tensions between the US and North Korea helped send bond yields lower, which weighed on banks and other financial stocks. The sector notched daily gains earlier in the week.

"Geopolitical tensions coming out of North Korea caused a flight to quality, which kind of put the brakes on the momentum in financials," said David Schieggoleit, managing director of investments at U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management. "Today equity markets are simply moving sideways and probably digesting that." The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.62 points, or 0.06 percent, to 2,502.22. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 9.64 points, or 0.04 percent, to 22,349.59. The average was held back by a loss in Apple, which slid \$1.50, or 1 percent, to \$151.89.

The Nasdaq composite added 4.23 points, or 0.07 percent, to 6,426.92. Small-company stocks did better than the rest of the market.

The Russell 2000 gained 6.60 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,450.78, a fraction of a point above its previous record high. The Russell 2000 also notched the biggest weekly gain, 1.3 percent. The S&P 500 and Dow posted small gains, while the Nasdaq closed out the week with a modest loss. The stock indexes spent much of the day drifting between small gains and losses as investors weighed the latest developments in the political brinkmanship between the US and North Korea.

Tensions between the two nations ratcheted up after President Donald Trump authorized stiffer sanctions in response to North Korea's nuclear weapons advances, drawing a furious response from Pyongyang. Trump expanded the Treasury Department's ability to target anyone conducting significant trade in goods, services or technology with North Korea, and to ban them from interacting with the US financial system. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un retaliated by calling Trump "deranged" and saying he'll "pay dearly" for his threats. The heightened tensions drove up bond prices, which sent yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 2.25 percent from 2.28 percent late Thursday.

That weighed on bank shares, including Fifth Third Bancorp, which declined 23 cents,

or 0.8 percent, to \$27.31. Lower bond yields mean banks have to charge lower interest rates on long-term loans like mortgages.

Several health care companies recovered some of the ground they lost earlier as McCain said he wouldn't support the latest Republican health care bill, dealing what could be a fatal blow to the last-gasp GOP measure in a Senate showdown expected next week.

Centene, which administers Medicaid programs and sells health plans to ACA exchanges, rose \$1.48, or 1.6 percent, to \$92.22. Molina Healthcare gained \$2.81, or 4.5 percent, to \$65.32. Energy stocks rose as crude oil prices finished higher. Hess added 87 cents, or 2 percent, to \$44.50. Benchmark US crude rose 11 cents, or 0.2 percent, to settle at \$50.66 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 43 cents, or 0.8 percent, to close at \$56.86 a barrel in London.

Real estate investment trusts and utilities were among the biggest decliners. Ventas fell \$1.48, or 2.2 percent, to \$66.04. Duke Energy slid 91 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$84.25. Industrial stocks, including several airlines, were among the gainers. Alaska Air Group added \$1.84, or 2.5 percent, to \$74.75. American Airlines Group gained 77 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$47.06. Traders welcomed news



NEW YORK: In this Aug 24, 2015, file photo, a man walks towards the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks are opening slightly lower on Wall Street, on Friday as technology companies and banks decline. —AP

of a possible combination between two major wireless carriers.

Sprint climbed 6.1 percent after Reuters reported the company is close to signing a deal with rival T-Mobile. Shares in Sprint added 49 cents to \$8.52. T-Mobile gained 67 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$64.06. Verizon also got a boost, rising 96 cents, or 2 percent, to \$49.90. Among the big movers Friday was Compass Minerals, which slumped 13.5 percent after the mining company cut its annual profit forecast after a partial ceiling cave-in at a rock salt mine in Ontario that will slow oper-

ations for six weeks. The stock lost \$9.40 to \$60.10. CarMax jumped 7.8 percent after the used car retailer's latest quarterly results beat analysts' forecasts. The stock gained \$5.35 to \$74.19. In other energy futures trading, heating oil was little changed at \$1.82 a gallon. Wholesale gasoline gained 3 cents to \$1.67 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1 cent to \$2.96 per 1,000 cubic feet. Gold rose \$2.70 to \$1,297.50 an ounce. Silver lost 3 cents to \$16.98 an ounce. Copper added 1 cent to \$2.95 a pound. The dollar weakened to 112.05 yen from 112.38 yen on Thursday. —AP

OVER 11,000 JOBS ARE AVAILABLE ON BAYT.COM

BAYT.COM SURVEY

KUWAIT: The state of economies are ever changing and the world's economy is set to grow in 2018, but what about the regional economies? The latest results from the Middle East Job Seeker Confidence Survey carried out by Bayt.com, the Middle East's number one job site, and global market research company, YouGov, indicates that over half (55 percent) of respondents in Kuwait expect business conditions to improve. 20 percent of respondents expect business conditions to "remain the same," while only 12 percent said they could get worse. Concentrating on the current availability of jobs, more than four in 10 respondents in Kuwait (41 percent) believe that there are "plenty of jobs available". Further, 43 percent of respondents in Kuwait are either "somewhat" or "very hopeful" that they will find their ideal job in the next six months.

Job Satisfaction

With regards to job satisfaction levels, nearly half (47 percent) of respondents in Kuwait are satisfied with their career growth opportunities and 20 percent are neutral. 45 percent of respondents in Kuwait are satisfied with the level of job security that they have in their current organization, while 17 percent are neutral. A similar pattern was seen when it came to training and professional development. 44 percent of respondents said they are satisfied with this aspect while 18 percent were neutral. In terms of work-life balance, 47 percent of respondents in Kuwait said they were satisfied, while 20 percent were neutral. Looking at future career growth opportunities, 45 percent of respondents in Kuwait believe that career growth opportunities will get better over the next six months, 30 percent said they will remain the same, while only 14 percent said they could get worse.

This positive outlook by respondents was also reflected on their expectations for compensation in the next six months, with 37 percent believing that it will get better. 36 percent of respondents expect their compensation to remain the same, while only 18 percent said it could get worse.

With regards to training and professional development, just under four in ten (39 percent) respondents believe that it will get better, 35 percent said it will remain the same, and only 15 percent said it could get worse over the next six months.

Lastly, when asked about future work-life balance, 39 percent of respondents in Kuwait said they expect it to get better, 30 percent expect it to remain the same, and only 21 percent said it could get worse over

the next six months.

"As the leading job site in the Middle East, it is our role to provide all professionals with insights on the economic and financial conditions and how they connect to the job market and availability of career opportunities," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "At Bayt.com, we aim to empower professionals, job seekers and employers alike, so that they can address and overcome any economic changes and make room for improvements in their careers. Our organisation works with over 29 million professionals and provides them with the necessary tools and technologies to enhance their profiles and CVs on our portal. We have also worked with over 40,000 companies who advertise over 10,000 vacancies on Bayt.com on any given day, as well as use Bayt.com's CV Search tool to find and recruit thousands of qualified job seekers for their business."

Personal economic conditions

Respondents in Kuwait were asked about their personal financial condition. Over half (55 percent) of respondents in Kuwait believe that their or their family's financial position will "improve" in the next six months. 23 percent of respondents expect their financial conditions to "remain the same as it is now," while only 9 percent of them expect it to become worse.

Respondents in Kuwait are also very optimistic about future business conditions within the next year, where over one half (55 percent) of them expecting business conditions in Kuwait to improve. 20 percent said they expect business conditions to "remain the same," while only 12 percent said they could get worse.

Anjali Chhabra, Senior Research Manager, YouGov, said: "It is important for us to regularly conduct thorough research regarding job seekers' and employed individuals' sentiments and opinions and share that information with the region. The Middle East Job Seeker Confidence Index survey gives us many insights into the personal, business and economic conditions of the region. For instance, the majority of respondents are anticipating significant improvements in business conditions and availability of jobs. If this holds true, it will surely reflect positively in many other areas in the economy." Data from the 2017 Bayt.com Middle East Job Seeker Confidence Survey was collected online from August 1st, 2017 to August 24th, 2017. Countries included the UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and others.

HUAWEI CBG SUPPORTS ME INNOVATION AGENDA

GROUP BRINGS CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES TO REGIONAL CONSUMERS

DUBAI: Huawei Consumer Business Group recently held a media open day in Dubai, UAE, to discuss the future of innovation in the Middle East region. This is a second stop right after IFA that was held in Berlin on 1st September. Led by Chief Marketing Officer, Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG), Glory Cheung, and Gene Jiao, President of Huawei CBG, Middle East & Africa, the event highlighted the key innovations Huawei is driving in the consumer smartphone industry, both globally and regionally, as well as Huawei's brand ambition to become a global iconic tech brand.

Huawei is the third biggest smartphone brand worldwide, and a leader in smartphone industry innovations. Most recently, the brand led a new era in smartphone innovation, revealing its vision for the future of artificial intelligence with the launch of its new chipset, the Kirin 970. With continuous strides at path-breaking innovations, Huawei is bringing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance consumers' experience.

"We see tremendous potential in the Middle East markets and are pleased to support the region's agenda of fostering innovation" said Glory Cheung, Chief Marketing Officer, Huawei CBG. "Globally, Huawei is a top investor in R&D and we focus on bringing together the world's best intellectual resources to strengthen our innovation capability. This is to ensure we are constantly delivering intelligent innovations to enhance and exceed mobile experiences of our customers. We look forward to being a part of the region's innovation agenda and continue to be its champion by bringing cutting-edge technologies to the Middle East's rapidly evolving digital arena." Cheung reiterated Huawei's commitment to fueling innovation and collaborating with leading partners to transform customers' experience, as well as Huawei's growing market share year-on-year.

Clement Wong, Head of Global Product Marketing, Huawei CBG highlighted the company's vision of the next frontier in mobile and introduced Huawei's newest 970 Kirin - an AI powered Chipset. By combining the power of the cloud with the speed and responsiveness of native AI processing, Huawei has confirmed that it will unveil the Huawei Mate 10 series with Kirin 970 at an event in Munich on October 16.

Smart devices

Clement said, "Huawei is committed to developing smart devices into intelligent devices by building end-to-end capabilities that support coordinated development of chips, devices, and the cloud. The ultimate goal is to provide a sig-



Glory Cheung

nificantly better user experience. The Kirin 970 is the first in a series of new advances that will bring powerful AI features to our devices and take them beyond the competition."

The event followed by an insightful presentation by Mr. Gene Jiao, President of Huawei CBG, Middle East & Africa focusing on Huawei's



Gene Jiao

expanding role across the region.

Gene Jiao said, "With phenomenal smartphone and internet penetration, the Middle East is one of the most crucial markets for Huawei and over the last couple of years, we have grown from strength to strength, focusing on improving the quality of our products, services and market performance. In addition we are constantly developing meaningful ways to connect with the region's tech-savvy consumers and our esteemed brand rankings year on year are a testimony to the brand evolution in the regional market."

According to the 2017 H1 GfK report, Huawei is now number 2 in the Middle East & Africa region in terms of sales volume with 13.8 percent market share.

Huawei's success is also supported by its strategy being in line with the Middle East's vision for innovation growth and the brand is an ongoing champion and supporter of cultural and technological developments in the countries. Huawei invests in partnerships with key government entities across the region to support innovative growth.

The event also provided an astute understanding of Huawei's vision and innovation plans for the Middle East as well as the company's sustained efforts to satisfy the consumers' appetite for innovation in technology, while striving to continuously enhance excellence in customer service.

GULF BANK LAUNCHES WISE INVESTMENT SERVICE

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to announce the launch of its new advisory and portfolio management offering, WISE Investment Service. This unique offering provides clients with the opportunity to diversify their investments through international markets in an easy, transparent, and cost efficient manner. The new service, licensed by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority, focuses on both equities and bonds with a long-term investment approach across the globe in a cost-efficient way. It offers multiple, tailor-made portfolios based on each client's investment objective, length of investment and risk preferences, in partnership with top international financial institutions.

Commenting on the new offering, Meshari Shehab, Assistant General Manager of Priority and Wealth



Management at Gulf Bank said: "After significant research into the needs of our Priority and Wealth Management clients, Gulf Bank developed the WISE Investment Service, which is a distinctive offering in Kuwait. This exceptional product will enable our Priority and Wealth Management clients to have global exposure to investment opportunities around the world through their trusted banking partner and their dedicated relationship manager. Through WISE we are offering the best risk adjusted returns by

investing with long term view in a globally diversified portfolio consisting of low cost passive index investment and by tracking the returns of the market."

Tareq Al-Saleh, Assistant General Manager for Investment at Gulf Bank outlined the features and advantages of WISE saying: "Gulf Bank has simplified the investment process by determining each client's risk appetite and investment goals and then offering various customized investment scenarios to deliver the most optimal portfolio. WISE's portfolio consists of almost 5,000 securities and companies on average, providing our clients with an extensive range of options to suit their specific investment needs across the world. Throughout the process and over the course of the established investment time period, Gulf Bank will continuously monitor and optimize the portfolio. WISE allows clients to view their investment portfolio anytime and anywhere, with easy access through secure online and mobile banking, with no transaction costs and a simple, cost effective payment structure in one annual management fee."

WISE is based on historic performance across our variety of portfolios to enhance the opportunity for investment returns for clients, with a focus on exchange-traded funds (ETF) from trustworthy providers that have a low cost of ownership, are US dollar dominated, distribute dividends, are tax efficient and have sufficient liquidity, along with an established track record.

Al-Saleh concluded by noting: "The launch of our custom designed WISE Investment Service is part of our commitment to offering our Priority and Wealth Management clients innovative, easy, world-class products that meet their needs and are unique in the region. Our mobile banking app, Gulf Rewards loyalty program, and Credit Card offerings, have been recognized as outstanding in the Middle East region (Asian Banker). Additionally, our flagship Al-Danah account event set a Guinness World Records achievement for the largest prize linked to a Bank account in the world. Gulf Bank looks forward to setting a new standard for investment services."

JAZEERA AIRWAYS LAUNCHES BIGGEST EVER PROMOTION!

100,000 LOW FARE TICKETS OFFERED ACROSS WHOLE NETWORK

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's favorite low cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, yesterday announced 100,000 tickets for sale at up to 50 percent discount. This is the biggest ever promotion by Jazeera since its inception in 2004. The extraordinary offer starts today and ends at midnight on Saturday, 30 September 2017.

"We are thrilled about this promotional deal as never before has Jazeera Airways provided customers with low fare tickets of this magnitude. We are re-affirming our position as low fare champions for travelers in Kuwait," said Rohit Ramachandran, CEO of Jazeera Airways.

Applicable across the wide network of routes, some of the popular destination one-way ticket prices range from KD 17, KD 18, KD 29, and KD 23 to Bahrain, Dubai, Cairo, and Istanbul respectively. With the travel period open until March 2018, customers need only book via Jazeera's newly enhanced website - Jazeeraairways.com, or through the dedicated app or from all travel agents to avail of the offers.

Jazeera Airways urges travelers to hurry and benefit

from this great opportunity. To book flights or learn more about Jazeera Airways services, offers, promotions and destinations, customers can also contact the Call Center on 177.



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RUSSIA FIRM UNVEILS SURVEILLANCE-PROOF SMARTPHONE

MOSCOW: For Russians who fear that someone may be eavesdropping on their phone conversations, leading IT entrepreneur Natalya Kaspersky says she has a solution. At a business forum in Moscow on Friday she presented "TaigaPhone", a brand new smartphone created by InfoWatch Group, her software development company, costing around 15,000 rubles. The TaigaPhone is entirely green to represent the Russian northern forest after which it is named and has a five-inch touch screen.

"We have created it for the corporate market," said Kaspersky, president of InfoWatch Group and co-founder of Kaspersky Lab, Russia's leading antivirus software development company which some believe may have links to Russian intelligence. Kaspersky Lab has over the past months been at the centre of controversy in the United States. In July, the US government removed Kaspersky from its list of approved vendors, weeks after top US intelligence agency and law enforcement officials expressed concerns about

the safety of its software. But no evidence has been presented to back up vague assertions that it might be a tool of Moscow, offering Russian spies back-door entry into computers worldwide. The company has repeatedly denied working with any government agency. The TaigaPhone is not the first Russian-made smartphone. YotaPhone, which first appeared on the market in 2013, is back this year with a new device: the YotaPhone 3.

InfoWatch wants to sell TaigaPhone to Russian companies at a cost of between 12,000 and 15,000 rubles, almost five times cheaper than the cost of an iPhone in Russia. "Half of all data loss in Russia happens on mobile devices, we intend to fix that problem with the TaigaPhone," company representative Grigoriy Vasilyev told investors at the forum. InfoWatch says the device can guarantee the confidentiality of all TaigaPhone users, track the location of each device and prevent information leakage.—



MOSCOW: A woman uses a TaigaPhone, a brand new smartphone created by InfoWatch Group.



MOSCOW: A view of a TaigaPhone, a brand new smartphone created by InfoWatch Group, during a presentation in Moscow.—AFP photos



CHIBA, Japan: This photo shows star game players fight at an eSports game event at the Tokyo Game Show in Chiba City, in suburban Tokyo.—AFP

LADY BEAST FIGHTS FOR GIRL GAMERS IN JAPAN

'FEMALE GAMERS ATTRACT ATTENTION, NOT ALWAYS POSITIVE'

CHIBA, Japan: In her online world, she is "Lady Beast", deftly operating her green monster Blanka in dizzying hand-to-hand streetfighting combat on the global professional gaming circuit. In real life, she is Yuko Momochi, a 31-year-old slender Japanese woman with short hair dyed light brown, who is hoping to encourage more girls into the male-dominated world of professional gaming.

A former car saleswoman, Momochi got her break in competitive gaming in 2011 after she defeated a previously invincible character in a Street Fighter match, earning her a sponsorship offer from an American team. She was Japan's first female professional gamer and now also spends her time hosting events and searching for female talent who could one day turn pro.

"My parents wanted me to be a civil servant," she laughs at an interview with AFP on the sidelines of the Tokyo Game Show, one of the world's largest. "A girl raised by steady parents has turned out like this!" Visitors to the Tokyo Game Show are left in little doubt they are entering a male-dominated world. Only a handful of female players are in evidence in the loud atmosphere and scantily-clad women in exhibition halls

greet the 250,000 mostly male visitors expected to attend the fair.

The violent world of online gaming also tends to appeal more to men, Momochi said. "When I started going to game arcades, I was playing fighting games, which meant it's all men around you. It was tough to get in there alone," she recalled. As they are so small in number, female gamers stand out and attract attention, not always positive, she said. "You often hear names like 'b****'. It's fine if you can take it but normally you'd be hurt," she said.

Street Fighter V

Momochi started gaming at a young age, playing Donkey Kong and other video games with her brother. She recalled how her mother would unplug the computer after a few hours. Up until recently, her parents disapproved of her career, only softening their opposition slightly in recent years. Momochi tasted some success in the competitive world of gaming, clinching second place in a Singapore competition in 2011 and getting into the top eight at a Tokyo Game Show event in 2013.

And now she has launched a group—"Project

Gaming Girls" or P2G—to encourage women and girls players, whether professional or amateur. "I want to share the joy you can get from gaming. Gaming itself was fun but socializing with my opponent after the fight was also fun," she said. One of the women in the P2G group, a nurse from central Japan who gave her name only as Harumi, travels hundreds of kilometers to compete in online game battles.

She lost her "Street Fighter V" battle on the big stage but vowed to improve. "I've liked fighting games since I was five or so. From the very first moment I played them, I was so impressed and I've been playing ever since." Mika Sawae, an art director at a Tokyo firm, took a day off to join some 40 other players—including just a few women—for a simultaneous play battle.

She said she was seeing more and more women at gaming events. "I think it's because the industry is more open to women compared to before when games were designed for core fans," she said. A co-fighter, Yuka Sugiyama, agreed: "What was not accepted as being played by women is accepted now ... I grew up being told not to be aggressive but I enjoy playing (fighting games) now."—AFP

UBER LOSES LICENSE TO OPERATE IN LONDON

LONDON: London transport authorities said Friday they would not renew Uber's license to operate in the city when it expires, due to public safety concerns, although the US-based ride-hailing app has said it will appeal. Transport for London said the conduct of Uber, which has around 40,000 drivers and 3.5 million customers in the British capital, had raised concerns. "TfL has concluded that Uber London Limited is not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator license," it said in a statement.

It said Uber's "approach and conduct demonstrate a lack of corporate responsibility in relation to a number of issues which have potential public safety and security implications". The license expires on September 30 but Uber has 21 days to appeal the decision, and can continue to operate until the process has been exhausted. London joins other cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai and Cape Town in not granting a license and the decision adds to woes for Uber's new boss Dara Khosrowshahi following a string of controversies.

London is closed

The company hit back saying the decision would "show the world that, far from being open, London is closed to innovative companies." "By wanting to ban our app from the capital, Transport for London and the mayor have caved in to a small number of people who want to restrict consumer choice," the company said in a statement. Around 200,000 people had signed an online petition by the company to reverse the decision and "defend the livelihoods of 40,000 drivers".

TfL highlighted the company's approach to reporting serious criminal offences and to obtaining criminal record checks for drivers as factors in its decision. The company came under scrutiny in Britain after it emerged that dozens of rape and sexual assault claims had been made against their drivers and when one of their drivers used his vehicle in a recent terror attack on Buckingham Palace. It also questioned the process through which drivers obtain their

medical certificates and the practice of "greyballing", when the company uses a fake version of its app to fool regulators in cities in which it is banned.

No place in London

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said he fully supported the decision. "I want London to be at the forefront of innovation and new technology and to be a natural home for exciting new companies that help Londoners by providing a better and more affordable service," he said. "However, all companies in London must play by the rules and adhere to the high standards we expect—particularly when it comes to the safety of customers."

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the decision was "not very justified", while acknowledging that the Uber issue is not one he is responsible for. "It looks pretty obvious that they're becoming discriminated against because they're worried our companies are so much stronger than the ones in Europe itself," Ross said on CNBC. London's traditional "black cab" drivers have long campaigned against the service, and welcomed Friday's decision.

Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association said: "The Mayor has made the right call not to relicence Uber," said Steve McNamara, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association. "We expect Uber will again embark on a spurious legal challenge against the Mayor and TfL, and we will urge the court to uphold this decision. This immoral company has no place on London's streets." The Sun newspaper reported last year that 32 sexual assault claims were made against Uber drivers in 2015/16, more than a fifth of all claims against taxi drivers filed to British police forces.

Uber, which operates in hundreds of cities and more than 80 countries, last month announced that it hired former Expedia boss Khosrowshahi as its new chief executive in an attempt to steer the ride-sharing service away from the string of controversies it has faced in the past year.—AFP



LONDON: A woman holding a smartphone showing the App for ride-sharing cab service Uber in London.—AFP

GOOGLE TO HELP NEWS OUTLETS WIN SUBSCRIBERS

SAN FRANCISCO: Google is seeking ways to help publishers win paying subscribers for news stories, a person close to the matter said. To this end, the US internet giant is collaborating with NewsCorp, the Financial Times, and the New York Times, according to the source. Google was said to be ramping up its support for subscription services in recognition of the fact that such revenue is vital for publishers who can't rely on advertising alone for financial survival.

Google declined to comment on word of this latest effort. "We work closely with news publishers across the world to build products that help support their business and add value to users," Google spokesperson Maggie Shields said in response to an AFP inquiry. "At the moment we don't have anything to announce."

Google already uses its technology to let readers of online news subscribe to publishers with a single click, in an internet age spin on tossing a free copy of a newspaper on a doorstep in the hope people sign-up for daily deliveries. Google chief executive Sundar Pichai has made a priority of investing in artificial intelligence, and has spoken publicly about infusing the company's array of offerings with software smarts.

Artificial intelligence could be combined with troves of data at Google to try to better win over potential news subscribers. Publishers have complained at times that Google is making money off their work by surfacing stories in search results.—AFP

TECH DREAMS LIVE OR DIE ON STARTUP BATTLEFIELDS

SAN FRANCISCO: Fearing failure but driven by a chance at Silicon Valley stardom, young entrepreneurs pitch their dreams in mere minutes at startup competitions like TechCrunch Disrupt that ended here Wednesday. Brian Chae came from Seoul to try his luck at the annual startup scrum, which lets competitors fight for their futures on-stage before venture capitalist judges in a "Startup Battlefield." The audience was rife with entrepreneurs, journalists and investors. Countless more people watched the stage action streamed online.

Nearby in a cavernous warehouse on a pier on the San Francisco Bay, founders of fledgling companies vied for attention at tables packed side-by-side in areas with names such as "Startup Alley." Chae, like other competitors, had six minutes to convince judges that his technology is revolutionary—and can make money. His startup, Looxid Labs, has developed software that can figure out a person's emotions from eye movements and brain waves.

Put to work in mixed-reality headgear, the technology could give real estate agents or hotel operators insight into how settings make people feel. Precious moments were spent demonstrating the invention, then judges got their turn to pelt him with questions. They wanted to know how much he plans to charge for headgear,

and the nature of his business model.

Since the Dot Com Bubble of the late 1990s, investors have been keen to make sure technology ideas are coupled with feasible plans for profit. Chae said that he had practiced his tight pitch "at least a hundred times." But the atmosphere on the stage itself was enough to be overwhelmed," he acknowledged.

Going up?

About 20 startups vied in the TechCrunch Disrupt battle of the start-



SAN FRANCISCO: Tech startups vie for investors, fans, and media attention at a TechCrunch Disrupt conference in San Francisco.—AFP

ups, a highlight of the three-day event. The prize was \$50,000 and a spotlight that could mean publicity and investor cash. Young startups often finance themselves or turn to friends or family for funding, but even great ideas need bigger capital infusions on the quest to "scale" up ranks of users. The ritual of quickly courting potential backers is often a kind of speed-dating exercise referred to as the "elevator pitch."

The idea is to pack an idea powerfully into the amount of time an entrepreneur

might have if they were in an elevator with a venture capitalist. "There's a reason why they call it an elevator speech," said Barry Broome, head of the economic council in the Sacramento region, where the California state capitol is located. "I should be able to present the case for my company in less than two minutes." The council works with startups on effective pitches.

According to TechCrunch, 648 companies have competed in the annual startup battle during the past decade, and collectively raised nearly \$7 billion. Since winning at Disrupt five years ago, cloud data storage startup Dropbox has grown to 500 million users and nearly \$1 billion in annual revenue. "(Battlefield) is really a big deal for us," said Claire Tomkins, co-founder of Future Family, a startup devoted to an affordable approach to helping infertile couples have children.

"I was very nervous before going on stage," said Pi co-founder John MacDonald, whose startup touted the world's first wireless, contactless charger for smartphones or other mobile gadgets. Late Wednesday, TechCrunch proclaimed Pi winner of the Battlefield competition this year. "It really helps with funding," MacDonald said. "We'll use the event as momentum." Pi is based in the Silicon Valley.—AFP



MALARIA WARNING AS RESISTANT STRAIN SPREADS TO VIETNAM

BANGKOK: A form of malaria that is resistant to standard treatment has spread to Vietnam for the first time, researchers warned Friday. The strain was originally detected in Cambodia in 2007, and experts are calling for action before it reaches other areas such as India or Africa. "It spread like a wildfire to Vietnam," professor Arjen Dondorp, head of malaria department at the tropical medicine research unit at Mahidol University in Bangkok, said. The co-author of an article published on Thursday in the medical journal *The Lancet*

Infectious Diseases added: "It started 10 years ago in western Cambodia. It is very fit and spreads very easily. This resistance is taking over. Cambodia already changed to a new drug, likely to last one or two years. Vietnam has to change now." After its detection in western Cambodia in 2007, the strain then spread to northeastern Thailand, southern Laos and eastern Myanmar, a previous study by Dondorp and colleagues said. "The fear is that it spreads further, to India and Africa," warned Dondorp.

The standard frontline choice for treating malaria is artemisinin in combination with another drug. The parasite mutation spotted by Dondorp's team notably confers resistance to the drug piperazine. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) there were at least 212 million cases of malaria in 2015 and 429,000 deaths. The disease is caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female mosquitoes. For specialists, the emergence of the new strain in Southeast Asia is worrying, even though the number of cases is limited.

Two waves of malaria resistant to standard treatments appeared in the 1950s and 60s in Southeast Asia and spread to India and Africa, where they caused millions of deaths. Dondorp chairs the steering committee for a large regional malaria grant from the Global Fund, a financing organization, in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar with a budget of \$243 million over the next three years. He advocates treatment at an early stage of the disease, which will require community malaria workers in even the most remote areas at risk. —AFP



IN SPACE: This handout artist impression released by the European Space Agency (ESA) shows a multi-dome lunar base being constructed based on the 3D printing. — AFP

FLY ME TO THE MOON: LUNAR VILLAGE TAKES SHAPE

ESA EXPLORES POSSIBILITY OF CHILD BIRTH ON MOON

RIGA: By 2040, a hundred people will live on the Moon, melting ice for water, 3D-printing homes and tools, eating plants grown in lunar soil, and competing in low-gravity, "flying" sports. To those who mock such talk as science fiction, experts such as Bernard Foing, ambassador of the European Space Agency-driven "Moon Village" scheme, reply the goal is not only reasonable but feasible too.

At a European Planetary Science Congress in Riga this week, Foing spelt out how humanity could gain a permanent foothold on Earth's satellite, and then expand. He likened it to the growth of the railways, when villages grew around train stations, followed by businesses. By 2030, there could be an initial lunar settlement of six to 10 pioneers-scientists, technicians and engineers which could grow to 100 by 2040, he predicted.

"In 2050, you could have a thousand and then... naturally you could envisage to have family" joining crews there, Foing said. Mere decades from now, "there may be the possibility to have children born on the Moon," he enthused. ESA boss Jan Woerner has mooted replacing the orbiting International Space Station with a permanent lunar colony, a futuristic idea that was high on the agenda at this week's expert meeting in the Latvian capital.

Building a market

The ISS is due to be decommissioned in 2024 — the end of an era of unprecedented cooperation in space after the Cold War rivalry between

the United States and Soviet Union. Forty years after humankind set foot on Earth's satellite as a result of that fierce contest of one-upmanship, Woerner has proposed a village on the long-abandoned Moon as the next phase in space teamwork.

Scientists and commercial prospectors are keen on the concept, but politicians have yet to bite—a reluctance that, for now, cripples the idea. "It is highly frustrating... We still don't have the top leaders interested," said physicist Vidvuds Beldavs of the University of Latvia, who runs a project called the International Lunar Decade, advocating joint exploration of the Moon. The missing link? "To demonstrate that industrial activity on the Moon is feasible, that... large markets can emerge."

Potential Moon resources include basalt, a volcanic rock Beldavs said could be used as a raw material for 3D-printing satellites to be deployed from the Moon at a fraction of the cost of a launch from high-gravity Earth. There is also helium-3, a rare isotope on our planet but common on the Moon, that could theoretically be used to generate cleaner, safer nuclear energy for Earth.

The main target is water, locked up in ice on the Moon's poles. Water can be separated into hydrogen and oxygen, two gases which explode when mixed-providing rocket fuel. "To go into Earth orbit... it is 40 times cheaper to go from the Moon than from Earth, because the Earth has such high gravity that you have to fight against it," explained Foing.

Tough life

Experts argue that the future lies in collaboration between increasingly cash-strapped national space agencies and the private sector, which can profit from selling resources such as Moon-derived rocket fuel. Robotic exploration is already underway, with several Moon landers and rovers planned for the coming years. Woerner said the goal "is to join international efforts and to bridge Earthly borders and crises."

But for those who think the Moon offers an escape from an Earth threatened by climate change and nuclear war, physicist Christiane Heinicke warns it is a "tough" life, and not for everyone. She had spent a year in a mock Mars environment in Hawaii. "It is completely devoid of any vegetation, all they see is rocks, regolith (loose rocks and dust), and a sky that is different from ours on Earth," she told AFP by email.

"Being either inside the habitat or inside a suit means that you're never able to actually FEEL the moon/planet you're on. You can't feel the wind (if there is any, like on Mars), you don't feel the Sun on your skin, and whatever you touch feels like the inside of your gloves." Another problem: "You can never escape your crew mates," she said. But Foing, who himself spent some time in one of the many earthy modules preparing aspirant Moon or Mars explorers, is undeterred. He hopes to visit the village by 2040. As for his family, "that will depend on the price... The price of the ticket is in the order of 100 million euros. That's now, but in 20 years, the price of the ticket could be 100 times less." —AFP

ON AN OVERHEATING PLANET, PARCHED NATIONS LOOK TO CLOUDS

LONDON: Threading through clouds, often with shaky turbulence and occasional thunder, 71-year-old pilot Gary Walker burns the flares on his plane's wings, releasing chemicals as he flies. "It can be very rough as you get close to some of those clouds," he admits. Walker, CEO of Texas-based aviation company SOAR, carries out an increasingly popular - and in some cases, controversial - effort to chemically impregnate clouds to increase rainfall.

To cope with searing global temperatures, protracted droughts and chronic water shortages, countries from the United States to China are turning to "cloud seeding", which aims to boost rainfall in dry areas. The process is hardly new. First tried in the United States around World War Two, it is now discreetly used in more than 50 countries, from Mali to India and Puerto Rico. China, however, has the biggest cloud-seeding operation, which it utilizes not only to increase rainfall but also to avoid hailstorms that can devastate farm

crops. Beijing also turned to cloud seeding in the build-up to the 2008 Summer Olympics, to try to avoid rain during its spectacular opening ceremony. While the success of cloud-seeding efforts remains in question, commercial use of the technology is growing. US and European companies are testing unmanned drones to seed clouds, and promising rain-free wedding ceremonies by 'bursting' clouds ahead of the big day. Still, the technology can't do much to tease rain from a cloud-free sky, experts warn.

"In extreme heat or drought conditions there are no clouds. Nobody can make clouds," said Roelof Bruinjes, a senior scientist who works on weather modification for the US National Center for Atmospheric Research. Rather, the idea of cloud seeding is to make rain form more efficiently inside clouds so more water comes down, he said. Such artificial rainmaking is akin to giving clouds vitamins, or farmers applying fertilizers to boost their crop yields, he explained. —Reuters

ASTEROID-BOUND SPACECRAFT ZIPS BY EARTH FOR GRAVITY BOOST

MIAMI: An unmanned NASA spacecraft traveling to a distant asteroid veered toward Earth on Friday for a gravitational slingshot maneuver that will better aim it toward the Sun-orbiting space rock, Benu, the US space agency said. The gravity-boost took place about halfway through the two-year journey of the spacecraft, known as OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security - Regolith Explorer).

"The preliminary results are in, and my #EarthGravityAssist was successful!" said the NASA Twitter account for OSIRIS-REx, about an hour after it made its closest approach to Earth at 12:52 pm. The mission launched last year from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Its goal is to collect a sample from Benu in 2018, and return it to Earth for further study in 2023.

Dante Lauretta, OSIRIS-REx principal investigator at the University of Arizona, Tucson, described the gravity-assist as "a

clever way to move the spacecraft onto Benu's orbital plane using Earth's own gravity instead of expending fuel." The spacecraft zipped over Antarctica at a distance of 11,000 miles, using Earth's gravity to shift its trajectory so it can eventually meet up with Benu. Benu is a primitive, carbon-rich asteroid, the kind of cosmic body that may have delivered life-giving materials to Earth billions of years ago.

The asteroid's orbit around the Sun is tilted six degrees in comparison to Earth's. During the gravity assist, OSIRIS-REx swung through a region of space that contains Earth-orbiting satellites, but emerged intact. OSIRIS-REx lost communications with Earth for about an hour during the flyby, as expected, because the spacecraft was too low relative to the southern horizon to be in view with either the Deep Space tracking station at Canberra, Australia, or Goldstone, California. —AFP



FLORIDA: The United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft lifts off from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



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— Photos by Joseph Shagra



IWG LAUNCHES ITS OFFICIAL WEBSITE



The International Women's Group is pleased to announce the launching of its IWG official website www.iwkuwait.com. The website is the official portal and the group's communication channel. It contains all the necessary information on how to join and enjoy the events prepared by the IWG Board. The website is open to the public and aims at making the work of IWG known to the expat and local community in Kuwait.

The website highlights briefly the history of the International Women's Group Kuwait and stresses on its mission and protocol. IWG-Kuwait is organized with the following objectives: Welcoming and assisting new comers to Kuwait, furthering knowledge, cooperation and understanding of Kuwait, its culture, history and institutions and fostering good will & friendship among members of the diplomatic community, ambassador's wives and members of the group.

The website's welcoming statement: "Welcome to the International Women's Group Kuwait. If you are new or have been here in Kuwait for years, we would like to welcome you to our group. Moving to a new country is always a challenge, but surely being here in Kuwait is a great experience, here are many wonderful events waiting for you, places to explore and friends to make." The website's design is inspired by the culture of Kuwait and the beauty of its blue skies and khaliq. The design complements IWG color, which is Royal Blue, a shade of a deep vivid azure blue.



GUST MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE AT SPORTS TOURNAMENT IN SERBIA

GUST men's football team attended and won 1st at the 2017 Belgrade International University Sports Tournament (BeST) in Belgrade, Serbia. The tournament brought together 17 different universities from across Europe, Russia, Asia, and the Middle East to compete at an international level, experience different cultures, and forge international friendships. The BeST tournaments have been taking place every year in Belgrade for the past nine years.

This is the second year GUST has participated in this event, with two teams participating in the Men's Football and Women's Futsal categories, which concluded with a 3rd place win for the Men's Football team. On this occasion, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Raghad Al Kazemi, said "We are very excited for this win, which is proof of our students' dedication and persistence. This also follows the win of our women's football team at the University Athletics Association of Kuwait (UAAK) championship this season. The sky is our limit now!"

The standout team of the tournament was the GUST Men's football team, who won 1st place at the competition, after challenging games against DIF University,



Serbia, Rekreativo, Serbia, GUST, American College of Greece, and Sabanci University, Turkey, who also attended the final match against FON University, Serbia where the team won on penalties after a last minute equalizer through full time. Representatives from the Kuwaiti Embassy also attended the matches in a show of support, and to see the GUST men's football team in action.

BeST Organizer, Sonja Milicevic, said, "It is our pleasure to host GUST's football team at Best for a second year. We were

impressed by the team's determination and display of fair play last year, which they were able to maintain and improve this year. Seeing them turn a loss into a win in the last minute of the final game just comes to show how much practice and hard work went into their preparations. We hope to host GUST again in our upcoming tournaments with more teams and more gold."

The team spent eight days in Belgrade, and started training right upon arrival at the FK Partizan training ground, one of

the top local football clubs, which was arranged by the Kuwaiti embassy at Belgrade. GUST Athletics Director, Craig Drennan, said, "Winning the Men's Football Tournament in Belgrade at BeST2017 is an achievement that both GUST and Kuwait can be proud of. The win demonstrated that the skill level of our student athletes is as good as anywhere in the world and it is a credit to the dedication and hard work of the team and their coach Mohammed Jaber Al Shemery that they prevailed to win under difficult circumstances."

"It goes without saying that I am incredibly proud of our team and our staff who all played an important role in this victory. I hope that we can continue to provide our student athletes with the opportunity to compete in international tournaments as they provide important competitive, educational and cultural exchanges using the international language of sport," he added. Previous wins and achievements of GUST teams include a 1st place win at the 2015 UAAK Men's Football Tournament, and another 1st place win at the 2015 UAAK Women's Football Tournament.



INDIAN NOBEL LAUREATE ORGANIZES CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

The campaign, 36 day Bharat Yatra organized by the Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi will pass through 22 states in India. After covering 11000 km, it will end in New Delhi on October 16, 2017. "At least 1 million people, mostly youth would join the march and I hope 1 crore people will pledge against child sexual abuse and trafficking" - Kailash Satyarthi. "The nation is shocked by the reports of a seven year old murdered by a bus conductor and a five year old raped by a school assistant", said the Nobel Peace Laureate (2014) Kailash Satyarthi during the flagging off the Bharat Yatra in the presence of the Union Minister Pon Radha Krishnan and Collector Sajjan Singh Chavan at Vivekananda Rock in Kanyakumari, the southern tip of the country.

It is part of a "Safe Childhood - Safe India", a nationwide campaign started by the Nobel Laureate to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking of children across the country. Child rape and sexual abuse has become a moral epidemic that haunts the country and being silent breeds more violence, so people should march on this Bharat Yatra, started on Sept 11, 2017, the anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's 1893 Chicago speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Kailash Satyarthi, in his speech, said that the march to New Delhi is a war against child abuse and trafficking in India. Children aged between 2 and 5 years are more likely to be victims of sexual abuse and trafficking, 40 children are raped every day. And in his address, he pointed out 2 incidents of children abuse that was reported recently, that of a 14 year old girl being gang raped and of a seven year old boy who was sexually abused and murdered. Urging upon the need to act against such heinous crime, Satyarthi said that India is in danger every time a child is in danger.

A good number of enthusiastic students from various schools and colleges, and the public joined the campaign constantly raising slogans against child trafficking and sexual abuse. Social workers like Felix, Abdul Ghani, Paul Baskar were also present. Member of the UN International Youth Council, Justin Antony, who played an active role in the event said that this campaign would create awareness throughout the nation and the issues of children should be taken into consideration. Let us hope that this determined attempt will make India safe for the children.



01:10 Echo Effect
02:50 Rivers Nine
04:35 Judge Dredd
06:35 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
08:35 Echo Effect
10:05 Harlock: Space Pirate
12:00 Judge Dredd
13:40 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
15:40 Sherlock Holmes
17:50 X-Men: First Class
20:05 In Time
22:00 Under Siege
23:45 The Night Crew



00:45 Swamp Brothers
01:13 Swamp Brothers
01:40 Swamp Brothers
02:08 Swamp Brothers
04:15 Swamp Brothers
04:39 Swamp Brothers
05:02 Bad Dog
05:49 Bad Dog
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Going Ape
07:25 Whale Wars
08:15 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Treehouse Masters
11:55 Treehouse Masters
12:50 After The Attack
13:45 Wild Animal Rescue
14:40 The Vet Life
15:35 Swamp Brothers
16:03 Swamp Brothers
17:53 Swamp Brothers
18:20 Expedition Mungo
19:15 Man-Eating Super Croc
20:10 Project Grizzly
21:05 Wildest Indochina
22:00 Wildest Indochina
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:00 EastEnders
00:30 The Good Karma Hospital
01:20 The Good Karma Hospital
02:10 The Durrells
03:00 Doctor Foster
04:00 Doctors
04:30 EastEnders
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Father Brown
07:20 EastEnders
07:55 Stella
08:45 New Tricks
09:40 Doctors
10:10 EastEnders
10:40 Father Brown
11:30 New Tricks
12:30 Stella
13:15 The Detectivists
13:50 Doctors
14:20 EastEnders
14:50 Father Brown
15:40 Stella
16:30 New Tricks
17:30 The Detectivists
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 The Level
20:45 SS-GB
21:50 Unforgotten
22:40 Unforgotten
23:25 Doctors
23:55 EastEnders



00:00 Paranormal State
00:30 Paranormal State
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 Deadly Secrets: The Lost Children Of Dozier
04:00 Paranormal State
04:30 Paranormal State
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Private Crimes
08:30 Private Crimes
09:00 Deadly Wives
10:00 Diabolical Women
11:00 Evil Up Close
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Cold Case Files
19:00 Cold Case Files
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 I Didn't Do It
23:00 Killer Kids



00:05 Idiotsitter
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:45 The Alternative Comedy Experience
02:10 Live At The Apollo
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Frameworx
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Impractical Jokers
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Frameworx
11:50 Disaster Date
12:15 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Sweet Inc.
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 Impractical Jokers
16:30 Disaster Date
16:55 Disaster Date
17:20 Ridiculousness
17:45 Ridiculousness
18:10 Impractical Jokers
18:35 Key And Peele
18:58 Lip Sync Battle
19:20 Lip Sync Battle
19:42 Ridiculousness Arabia
20:09 Ridiculousness
20:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef

21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 South Park
22:50 Inside Amy Schumer
23:15 Inside Amy Schumer
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 Destroyed In Seconds
01:45 Destroyed In Seconds
02:10 Pawn Queens
02:35 Pawn Queens
03:00 Pawn Queens
03:25 Pawn Queens
03:50 Finding Bigfoot
04:40 Finding Bigfoot
05:30 Nextworld
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Awesome Adventures
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
08:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Destroyed In Seconds
13:15 Destroyed In Seconds
13:40 Destroyed In Seconds
15:45 Destroyed In Seconds
16:10 Destroyed In Seconds
16:35 Destroyed In Seconds
17:00 Nextworld
17:50 Nextworld
18:40 Troy
19:30 Serious Explorers
19:55 Serious Explorers
20:20 Space Dealers
21:10 Tallest Tower: Building The Shard
22:00 Finding Bigfoot
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Finding Bigfoot



00:30 Sin City Justice
01:20 Who Killed Angie Dodge: Keith Morrison...
02:10 Evil Online
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Forbidden: Dying For Love
04:36 True Nightmares
05:24 Disappeared
06:12 Fatal Encounters
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 Disappeared
08:40 Disappeared
09:30 Disappeared
10:20 Disappeared
11:10 Grave Secrets
12:00 A Crime To Remember
12:50 A Crime To Remember
13:40 A Crime To Remember
14:30 A Crime To Remember
15:20 A Crime To Remember
16:10 Fatal Encounters
17:00 Blood Relatives
17:50 Blood Relatives
18:40 Blood Relatives
19:30 Blood Relatives
20:20 Blood Relatives
21:10 Betrayed
22:00 Disappeared
22:50 Devil In The Details
23:40 True Nightmares



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermore Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Tonks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Austin & Ally
07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 The Zhuzhus
07:45 Elena Of Avalor
08:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:35 Girl Meets World
09:00 Bizaardvark
09:25 Stuck In The Middle
09:50 K.C. Undercover
10:15 Bunk'd
10:40 Good Luck Charlie: The Road Trip Movie
12:00 The Zhuzhus
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Liv And Maddie
13:35 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Liv And Maddie
15:15 Liv And Maddie
15:40 Liv And Maddie
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Liv And Maddie
17:00 Liv And Maddie
17:25 The Emperor's New Groove
18:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
19:05 Best Friends Whenever
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 The Zhuzhus
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack

00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:30 Goldie & Bear
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
09:30 Sofia The First
10:00 The Lion Guard
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Lady And The Tramp 2
15:50 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 Sofia The First
18:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:00 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
19:35 The Lion Guard
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:05 Doc McStuffins
21:35 Miles From Tomorrow
21:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:20 Sofia The First
22:50 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:40 Loopidoo

00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Steakout
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:25 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:50 Man Fire Food
07:15 Chopped
08:05 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:55 The Pioneer Woman
09:20 The Pioneer Woman
09:50 Siba's Table
10:20 Siba's Table
10:50 Bake With Anna Olson
11:20 Chopped
12:10 Man Fire Food
12:35 Man Fire Food
13:05 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Barefoot Contessa
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18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
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20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Siba's Table
21:50 Siba's Table
22:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
22:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
23:00 Chopped

00:10 Coronation Street
00:35 Coronation Street
01:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
04:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
05:50 Doctor Thorne
06:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
07:50 Midsomer Murders
08:30 Victoria
10:25 Grantchester
11:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
12:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
13:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
14:05 Tracey Ullman's Show
14:35 Grantchester
15:30 Victoria
16:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:25 Midsomer Murders
19:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
19:40 Doctor Thorne
20:40 Victoria
21:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:25 Midsomer Murders



06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Disney11
09:25 Disney11
09:50 Disney11
10:20 Disney11
10:45 Disney11
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Walk The Prank
12:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
12:55 Kirby Buckets
13:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
13:45 Marvel's Spider-Man
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 Supa Strikas
16:50 Supa Strikas
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:05 Milo Murphy's Law
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Kirby Buckets
19:25 Walk The Prank
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Right Now Kapow
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 K.C. Undercover
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:00 WAGs Miami
00:55 WAGs Miami
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:40 Mariah's World
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:50 El News
07:20 Fashion Police
08:10 El News
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

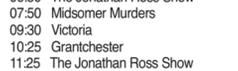
13:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:40 Life Of Kylie
17:10 Life Of Kylie
17:35 Life Of Kylie
18:05 Life Of Kylie
18:30 Life Of Kylie
19:00 El News
19:10 Life Of Kylie
20:30 Life Of Kylie
21:00 Life Of Kylie
21:30 Reunion Road Trip
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 Fashion Police



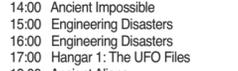
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19:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
19:40 Doctor Thorne
20:40 Victoria
21:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:25 Midsomer Murders



00:20 1000 Days For The Planet
01:10 Wild Untamed Brazil
02:00 Secret Life Of Predators
02:50 Survive The Wild
03:45 Man vs. Octopus
04:40 Wild Scotland: Highlands
05:35 Ultimate Rivals: Cat V. Dog
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
08:45 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
09:15 Animals Gone Wild
10:10 Wild Case Files
11:05 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER 2.5
12:00 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies
12:55 Secret Life Of Predators
13:50 Survive The Wild
14:45 Cameramen Who Dare
15:40 Chasing Rhinos
16:35 Make You Laugh Out Loud
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Chasing Rhinos
19:20 Cameramen Who Dare
20:10 Chasing Rhinos
21:00 Make You Laugh Out Loud
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Chasing Rhinos
23:30 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 School Of Rock
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers



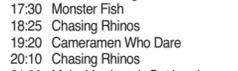
00:45 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
01:10 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
01:40 Raw Travel
02:05 Raw Travel
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Eat: The Story Of Food
04:25 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:20 Korean Soul Food
06:15 Restoration Man
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
08:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
08:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
09:00 Cesar To The Rescue
09:55 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
10:20 Places We Go
10:50 Places We Go
11:15 Route Awakening
11:45 Around The World In 80 Dishes
12:40 Raw Travel
12:45 Raw Travel
13:35 Dog Whisperer
14:30 My Pacific Quest
15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
16:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
16:45 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
17:15 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
18:10 The Wine Show
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
20:30 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
21:00 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Raw Travel
23:20 Raw Travel
23:50 Dog Whisperer



00:10 Big Fix Alaska
01:00 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
01:30 Seconds From Disaster
02:00 Wicked Tuna
03:00 Rare
04:00 Big Fix Alaska
05:00 Maritime Silk Road Reborn
06:00 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
06:30 Seconds From Disaster
07:00 WWII's Greatest Raids
08:00 Nazi World War Weird
09:00 Best Of Hard Time
10:00 Inside The Hunt For The Boston Bombers
12:00 Rare
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Big Fish, Texas
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Year Million
18:00 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
18:30 Seconds From Disaster
19:00 Salvage Code Red
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Year Million
21:40 Incredibly Small World
22:30 The Food Files
22:55 The Food Files
23:20 Megastructures



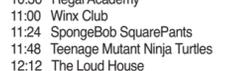
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21:00 Make You Laugh Out Loud
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Chasing Rhinos
23:30 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies



02:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
04:20 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
06:10 Mary Poppins
08:30 The Parent Trap
10:40 Mary Poppins
13:00 Lilo & Stitch
14:30 Chicken Little
15:55 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
17:30 Zootropolis
19:20 D3: The Mighty Ducks
21:05 Lilo & Stitch
22:30 Chicken Little
23:55 Zootropolis



00:00 Wild At Heart
02:10 Swing Kids
04:10 Every Thing Will Be Fine
06:15 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
08:10 The Descendants
10:15 Swing Kids
12:10 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
14:00 All The Wilderness
15:25 Words And Pictures
17:15 Wildlife
19:15 Oleanna
20:55 Margot At The Wedding
22:35 Bone Tomahawk



00:15 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
01:35 Blue Elephant 2
03:10 Ratchet And Clank
04:45 Catcher: Cat City 2
06:20 Mune
07:45 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
09:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
10:40 Free Birds
12:05 Outback
13:40 Blue Elephant 2
15:25 Ratchet And Clank
17:00 Frog Kingdom
18:35 Free Birds
20:00 Amila's Secret
21:35 Bunny Tales
22:55 Frog Kingdom



01:15 The House Bunny
02:55 Life
04:55 Father Of The Bride

20:18 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:03 Max & Ruby
00:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:48 The Day Henry Met
00:53 The Day Henry Met
00:58 The Day Henry Met
01:04 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:26 Team Umizoomi
02:11 Team Umizoomi
02:34 Paw Patrol
02:58 Paw Patrol
03:22 Shimmer And Shine
03:44 Shimmer And Shine
04:06 Nella The Princess Knight
04:27 Nella The Princess Knight
04:50 Rusty Rivets
05:13 Rusty Rivets
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:23 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:08 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:21 Paw Patrol
09:44 Rusty Rivets
09:56 Wallykazam!
10:19 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:53 Team Umizoomi
11:16 Shimmer And Shine
11:40 Shimmer And Shine
12:03 Max & Ruby
12:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:48 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 The Day Henry Met
13:04 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:26 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:48 Team Umizoomi
14:10 Team Umizoomi
14:33 Paw Patrol
14:57 Paw Patrol
15:21 Shimmer And Shine
15:44 Shimmer And Shine
16:06 Nella The Princess Knight
16:28 Nella The Princess Knight
16:50 Rusty Rivets
17:13 Rusty Rivets
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:23 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:20 Bubble Guppies
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:05 Paw Patrol
20:27 Shimmer And Shine
20:50 Nella The Princess Knight
21:13 The Day Henry Met
21:19 Paw Patrol
21:43 Rusty Rivets
21:55 Wallykazam!
22:18 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:41 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:16 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine



02:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
04:20 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
06:10 Mary Poppins
08:30 The Parent Trap
10:40 Mary Poppins
13:00 Lilo & Stitch
14:30 Chicken Little
15:55 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
17:30 Zootropolis
19:20 D3: The Mighty Ducks
21:05 Lilo & Stitch
22:30 Chicken Little
23:55 Zootropolis



00:00 Wild At Heart
02:10 Swing Kids
04:10 Every Thing Will Be Fine
06:15 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
08:10 The Descendants
10:15 Swing Kids
12:10 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
14:00 All The Wilderness
15:25 Words And Pictures
17:15 Wildlife
19:15 Oleanna
20:55 Margot At The Wedding
22:35 Bone Tomahawk



00:15 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
01:35 Blue Elephant 2
03:10 Ratchet And Clank
04:45 Catcher: Cat City 2
06:20 Mune
07:45 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
09:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
10:40 Free Birds
12:05 Outback
13:40 Blue Elephant 2
15:25 Ratchet And Clank
17:00 Frog Kingdom
18:35 Free Birds
20:00 Amila's Secret
21:35 Bunny Tales
22:55 Frog Kingdom



01:20 Inception
03:55 The Blind Side
06:10 Steve Jobs
08:20 Eight Men Out
10:20 Inception
12:50 Last Action Hero
15:00 Reign Over Me
17:05 Spectre
19:35 The Hurricane
22:00 Primal Fear



01:15 The House Bunny
02:55 Life
04:55 Father Of The Bride

06:50 Father Of The Bride Part II
08:45 Life
10:40 Father Of The Bride
12:30 Father Of The Bride Part II
14:20 Love The Coopers
16:15 After The Ball
18:10 Don Verdean
19:50 Edtv
22:00 Tales Of Halloween
23:40 Stung



00:30 Junkyard Wars
01:20 Junkyard Wars
02:10 Junkyard Wars
03:00 Junkyard Wars
03:48 How Do They Do It?
04:12 How Do They Do It?
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:24 Food Factory
05:48 Food Factory
06:12 Food Factory
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Dangerman
08:17 Junkyard Wars
09:08 Junkyard Wars
09:59 Junkyard Wars
10:50 Junkyard Wars
11:41 Mythbusters
12:32 Mythbusters
13:23 Mythbusters
14:14 Mythbusters
15:02 Mythbusters
15:50 Food Factory
16:14 Food Factory
16:38 Food Factory
17:02 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 How Do They Do It?
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:30 Solar Empire
20:20 Solar Empire
21:10 Solar Empire
22:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:50 NASA's Unexplained Files
23:40 NASA's Unexplained Files



00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Project Runway
03:00 MAFS: The First Year
04:00 Grey's Anatomy
05:00 MAFS: The First Year
06:00 Grey's Anatomy
07:00 MAFS: The First Year
08:00 MAFS: The First Year
09:00 Project Accessory
10:00 House Of DVF
11:00 MAFS: The First Year
12:00 Bones
13:00 Bones
14:00 Bones
15:00 Project Accessory
16:00 House Of DVF
17:00 MAFS: The First Year
18:00 Black Box
19:00 Black Box
20:00 Black Box
21:00 Project Accessory
22:00 House Of DVF
23:00 MAFS: The First Year



CROSSWORD 1717



ACROSS

1. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
4. A tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction.
12. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
15. An accidental happening.
16. A small part of an aggregate fruit that resembles a drupe.
17. A boy or man.
18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
19. Any of several plants of the genus *Hepatica* having 3-lobed leaves and white or pinkish flowers in early spring.
20. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
21. American plant having spikes of blue flowers and growing in shallow water of streams and ponds.
23. An appliance that allows an object (such as a ship's compass) to remain horizontal even as its support tips.
25. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
28. Surround so as to force to give up.
31. An agency of the United Nations responsible for programs to aid education and the health of children and mothers in developing countries.
35. In the Roman calendar.
36. Squash bugs.
39. Fossil fuel consisting of carbonized vegetable matter deposited in the Carboniferous period.
40. One of the often brightly colored and branching hornlike structures on the back of the nudibranch (and other related mollusks) that serve as gills.
42. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
44. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
45. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
46. A radioactive transuranic element.
48. An antibiotic (a semisynthetic oral penicillin (trade names Amoxicil and Larotid and Polymox and Trimox and Augmentin)) used to treat bacterial infections.
51. Type genus of the Platelidae.
54. Affectively dainty or refined.
55. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
56. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
58. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
60. A public promotion of some product or service.
62. A system of one or more computers and associated software with common storage.
64. A bachelor's degree in science.
65. Having a woven pattern.
69. Any tropical African shrub of the genus *Protea* having alternate rigid leaves and dense colorful flower heads resembling cones.
73. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
74. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
75. A British colony in the West Indies.
77. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
78. The seed of the cereal grass.

79. A prophet of the first century.
80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
2. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
3. (trademark) A tinned luncheon meat made largely from pork.
4. Be compatible or in accordance with.
5. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
6. A United States liquid unit equal to 8 fluid ounces.
7. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
8. A serve that strikes the net before falling into the receiver's court.
9. Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
10. The epithelial tissue of the endometrium.
11. A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
12. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
13. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
14. The probability of a specified outcome.
22. A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
24. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
26. (informal) Very tired.
27. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
29. United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
30. Spanish missionary who founded Franciscan missions in California (1713-1784).
32. Omnivorous mammal of Central and South America.
33. The act of consuming food.
34. Feed, care for, and rear young birds for flight.
37. A quantity of no importance.
38. Ragout of game in a rich sauce.
41. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
43. The template for protein synthesis.
47. Hairy perennial Eurasian herb with yellow daisy-like flowers reputed to destroy or drive away fleas.
49. Breed of large wiry-coated terrier bred in Yorkshire.
50. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
52. Slices of bread that have been toasted.
53. Informal terms for a meal.
57. (British English) A small third seat in the back of an old-fashioned two-seater.
59. Small usually single-celled reproductive body produced especially by certain bacteria and algae and fungi and nonflowering plants.
61. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
63. A low heavy horsecoat without sides.
66. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
67. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
68. God of love and erotic desire.
70. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
71. French writer whose novels described the sordid side of city life (1804-1857).
72. Any of various trees of the genus *Ulmus*.
76. A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the rare earth

Thursday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Family members may notice and comment on your progress this month; it is all positive. You will be pleased with the way situations work together for your benefit. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your ideas. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. Stress and finances are present today. In other words, even though stress is present, rewards are available—take them. Late afternoon will give you time away from the stress and there are opportunities to laugh and be with your loved ones. This evening an important relationship, perhaps with a young person or someone in your near environment, may come into focus. You are able to better understand this person now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A state of grace is probably going to be one of the uppermost things that will soothe your furrowed brow. In other words, it is time to let the little negatives in your life go—move forward with your life purpose. This is a month of rapid growth and recognition for your hard work, mentally and physically. There is a new moneymaking opportunity on the horizon—you need to pay attention. It will give you time to get any paperwork in order for requesting a loan or purchasing some stock. There is a feeling that anything is possible particularly with your strong need to complete your responsibilities. There are optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. This is a creative period.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a high-energy day where much can be accomplished. Because of your enthusiasm, others want to see why you find your work so much fun and will pop in and out of your area to lend a helping hand. Now you really find the fun in your work. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others and you will notice others are receptive to what you say. You will enjoy being with others in an atmosphere of work or play. The support you need is available in whatever you decide to do today. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. You may decide to take a course in speed learning or some other way to absorb facts quickly. You want to get some of the time-consuming chores out of the way.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

New ways to communicate or an easy manner will make conversations and interactions with others go very well today. You may be instructing your loved ones in the use of a new computer, phone system, etc. This is a more talkative and open time when loved ones can relate and communicate well. Loved ones enjoy your company. A dialogue with an older person may also take place today. You are at your mental best with helpful thoughts and ideas. You may consider helping an elderly individual with a new diet or provide supplements this afternoon. This evening is an excellent time to take care of mental work—paying bills, creating plans. There is an interest in healing. This could involve physical repairs as well as bodily healing.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Circumstances may enhance and stimulate appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste in purchasing, selecting colors, etc. Your mind may be very clear now, with thoughts that are in focus. It is easy to organize your thoughts—communication of all kinds is furthered. You could write that book or sign up to take a course. Your thoughts count now—use your mind—communicate. 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 rebellious young person will open up to you now. A good friendship is developing.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Support and recognition are in your future, both from the public and from family and friends. You feel at home in the world and it takes care of you. You could have deep insights into your own feelings and inner, spiritual nature. You could be moody or even dreamy at this time. Your emotions and feelings could reach heights that are close to ecstatic. It is easy, however, to find proper motivation to fulfill your ideals or make your dreams into reality. Your own business, a business partnership or perhaps an investment in a business are all possibilities just now. Your own growth and success may be linked to questions of security—home and family in particular. Establish a home base from which to move forward. You have the power.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Do not allow others to sidetrack you from your plans this day—you could have a problem with organizational skills. You may have allowed important chores to remain unfinished for much too long; however, now is the time to fix that car, take care of the yard, paint a door, polish the shoes, etc. This could be a challenging day in the amount of work you may want to accomplish around your living quarters. You could feel great support from those around you, however, and you might even be surprised at the volunteer offers. Becoming more open with a loved one has resulted in a deeper bond between the two of you. Carry this communication into other parts of your relationship. Find positive ways to make a loved one happy. A love relationship deepens.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Fondness and appreciation for the past and for your roots in life take on a greater importance for you now. Making your home situation more pleasant and attractive plays a part in this and the sale or purchase of real estate could bring you much gain before this cycle is completed. Family harmony is within your reach. Insights into your deeper, more spiritual nature are available to you at this time. You will discover whole new areas of your psyche or mind that have been closed up to now. There are insights into how to make your dreams a reality. You can reflect and understand your own situation and just what you want to plan for your future. A vacation during a big holiday may be a consideration; help in your planning comes unexpectedly.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are good at knowing when to jump up and tend to important duties in order to help or create some opportunity that will enhance family comfort. Obtaining and exchanging information is important now as you gather information to create your next book or research. You will be learning about the concerns of young ones and may be compelled to guide and suggest. Involving yourself with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. Understanding feelings is important for everyone and satisfies the curiosity and helps one grow. Sports, entertainment, projects and chores all can be enjoyed when there is a team effort. Unexpected company this evening will be complimentary of your home and family. Music is in the air.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are in a mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities. You may feel love for an older person or someone in authority today. This is a good day to spend with a loved one. Emotions are up and you may even find yourself pondering a bit on the meaning of life. You feel at one with your situation. Considering the day, this is a productive and potentially satisfying one. You may find yourself working on those new habits you want to form now. Careful . . . Negative habits are easily formed and oh, so hard to break. What you do with your days will become important when you realize new habits form almost unconsciously each day. You could find yourself ignoring the practical this evening.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your own creative style is excellent, but you never think of showing it off to anyone. It is about time to show off your skills. Perhaps a hobby has become most enticing—trains, art, collections, gardening, make-up, clothes, etc. You would do well to display your hobby the next time there is an art show in your area. Work now to improve or enlarge your stock. The recreation or civic center in your city will have suggestions for your consideration. This is a great way to build self-esteem. You have a great deal of talent that others would enjoy viewing. Your best supporters can come through associations with others who share your interests. Friends are a wonderful gift—they can strengthen your objectivity and hope for the future.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a time when you may feel very passionate, or during which your feelings, emotions and basic life urges undergo change. You feel more personal and direct and find that you waste less time with hurt feelings than before. If it makes sense you love it and if it doesn't you feel guilty about it: that's what it's like now. You may decide to sign up for an exercise class with a friend—or perhaps, teach a class. You give a friend loving attention now; he or she may have been going through some hard times lately. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values, how you appreciate and love. You will enjoy the outcome as you examine and think about what is important and of lasting value in your life. Someone surprises you in positive ways this evening.

WORD SEARCH

Stephen King Movies

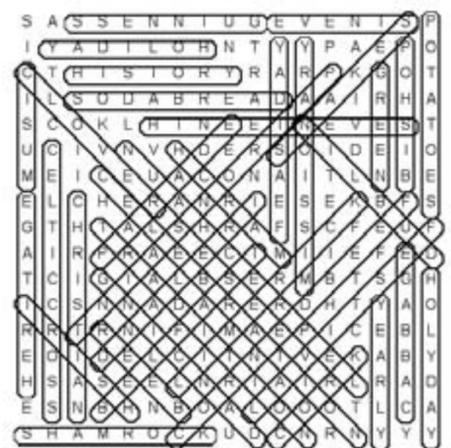
Find and circle all of the Stephen King Movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| AFT PUPIL | DEAD ZONE | MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE | SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION |
| CARRIE | DOLores CLAIRBORNE | MISERY | SHINING |
| CAT'S EYE | DREAMCATCHER | NEEDFUL THINGS | SILVER BULLET |
| CHILDREN OF THE CORN | FIRESTARTER | NIGHT FLIER | SLEEPWALKERS |
| CHRISTINE | GRAVEYARD SHIFT | PET SEMATARY | STAND BY ME |
| CREEPSHOW I | GREEN MILE | QUICKSILVER HIGHWAY | THE STAND |
| CREEPSHOW II | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS | ROSE RED | THINNER |
| CUJO | LANGOLIERS | RUNNING MAN | TOMMYKNOCKERS |
| DARK HALF | MANGLER | SALEMS LOT | TRUCKS |

Thursday's Solution

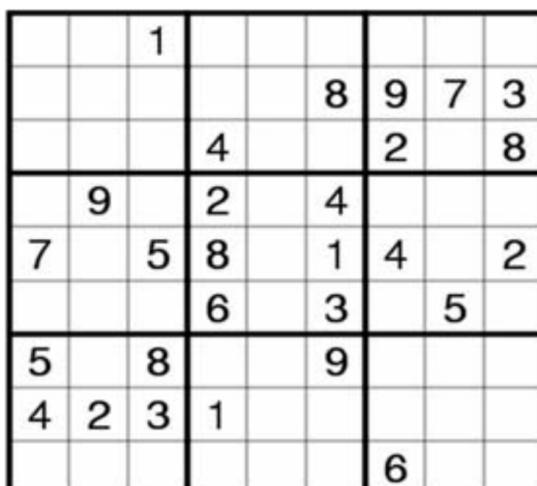
St. Patrick's Day



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| BEER | DANCING | HOLY DAY | POTATOES |
| BELFAST | DUBLIN | IRELAND | SEVENTEENTH |
| BISHOP | EVENTS | IRISH | SHAMROCK |
| CABBAGE | FEAST DAY | LIMERICK | SNAKES |
| CELEBRATION | FESTIVAL | LIMERICK | SODA BREAD |
| CELTIC CROSS | GREEN | MARCH | TRADITION |
| CHRISTIAN | GUINNESS | MISSIONARY | YEARLY |
| CLOVER | HERITAGE | MUSIC | |
| CORK | HISTORY | PARADE | |
| CORNEB BEEF | HOLIDAY | PATRON SAINT | |

The hidden message is: SAINT PATRICK LIVED IN THE FIFTH CENTURY

Daily SuDoku



Thursday's Solution



FASHION



Top models (from left) Carla Bruni, Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and Helena Christensen pose at the end of the show for fashion house Versace during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan. — AP/AFP photos



Supermodel reunion at blockbuster Versace tribute in Milan

Donatella Versace authored the defining moment of Milan fashion week on Friday with a blockbuster show honoring her late brother Gianni which closed with a surprise supermodel reunion that brought the cheering crowd to its feet.

Security guards had to brush back the audience when it rushed the catwalk once a white curtain at the head of the room peeled back at the show's close to reveal the guests of honor. Out stepped Cindy Crawford, Carla Bruni, Naomi Campbell, Helena Christensen and Claudia Schiffer in gold lame as the George Michael anthem "Freedom '90" pounded from the sound system.

Each of the women—all now in their 40s or 50s—had personally worked with Gianni during their years on the runway. "Gianni this is for you," a voice declared throughout the show, which featured a greatest hits of the murdered designer's canon. There were his iconic baroque designs on dress and trouser combinations, a glittering number bearing Andy Warhol's pop art Marilyn Monroe and rock'n'roll leather adorned with shimmering tassels.

Broad, square-shouldered suits, tight pastel-coloured velour-looking dresses as well as swimsuits adorned with sea stars and shells defined the collection. It was all done before a starry crowd including Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton, Kardashian mum Kris Jenner and Gucci creative mastermind Alessandro Michele. Superstar model sisters Gigi and Bella Hadid were there too—but to show off the collection to the crowd of buyers, fans and bloggers.

On July 15 the two-decade anniversary came and went for the murder of Versace, who was shot dead on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion. The gunman, 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan, took his own life days later after an inexplicable crime spree that left at least five dead. "We pay homage to not only (Gianni's) artistic genius but to who he was as a man, and above all, as my brother," Donatella wrote in her notes on the Spring/Summer 2018 collection.

Armani shrugs off global mess
Giorgio Armani's show earlier in the day aimed for the same determined joy, which flew in the face of a world that seems dogged by disaster at the moment—some natural and some man-made.

The clothes he sent down the runway were bright and modern, full of vivid prints and crisp cuts. What was not there was outrage over Donald Trump, fear that North Korea's cold war might get hot and no trace of the carnage left by a string of earthquakes and monster hurricanes.

"It's not because it's a sad moment that I have to make women sad on the runway," the veteran designer told reporters after the show at Teatro Armani. Art with a "capital A", Impressionist paintings—but not one in particular—drove him to create a collection with plenty of flowers, bright silky pinks and lots of sequins. Providing a bit of star power for the 83-year-old's show were Monaco's Princess Charlene and Australian actress Cate Blanchett, who is the face of Armani's Si perfume.

On the catwalk there were plenty of small jackets, short dresses with sloping hemlines and luminous pleated skirts. The models also showed off vertiginous, see-through high heels. Gauzy jacket and trouser suits embellished with bright designs as well as silky green or silver skirts were major themes. They were all part of what the designer's notes called the "sophisticated, linear elegance of the Armani language."



Models present creations for fashion house Versace during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan.

FASHION

New kid at Cavalli

As ever, the show concluded with the designer emerging briefly from backstage in his trademark working clothes of long-sleeved top and high-tech sweatpants to briefly accept the audience's applause. The show comes just two months after the Armani group announced it would reorganize its brands, concentrating on three core labels and trimming its network of boutiques. The change up was announced in July when Armani confirmed its sales had fallen five percent in the previous year.

Big brands, including Prada, have struggled to find their mojo after revenues across the luxury world were hurt by a slowdown in Asia and currency volatility. Friday was also the big day for British talent Paul Surridge. He made his maiden showing in Milan since being named creative lead at Roberto Cavalli, known for its exotic prints and pioneering the sand-blasted jean look. It was big on slinky monotone dresses with see-through sections, zebra-print trousers and vests as well as flowery, flowing gowns. On the outdoor runway set in a Milan park, there was also some classic evening wear mixing leather and light fabrics, as well as massively oversized chrome-coated sunglasses. "I tried to dig deep to find a new sensuality, which I think is missing in women's fashion today and to try and pioneer a new look as Mr Cavalli did in his origin," Surridge told AFP backstage after his show.

Bottega Veneta inspires happiness

Tomas Maier gave a youthful edge to the new Bottega Veneta collection, infusing the looks with metallic and beaded accents that gave sparkle to a rich color palette of rose, ocean-blue, lilac, moss and denim.

The combined men's and women's show illustrated Maier's careful bridging between heritage and modernity. To underline the point, the creative director invited this generation's supermodels to walk the runway and longtime brand icon Lauren Hutton as an honored guest.

Gigi Hadid rocked the runway in a denim dress covered with silver eyelets and a fringe that flew as she took a corner. Her sister Bella Hadid wore a white version of the same. Kaia Gerber - daughter of supermodel Cindy Crawford - walked in a satiny romper with a crisscross neck under an anorak. Kendall Jenner wore a seafoam green bodysuit under a trench.

The looks were utilitarian with an edge, and their understated colors allowed for easy combining for a lifetime of use. The technical prowess of the fashion house came out in a series of intricate snakeskin patchwork pieces that recalled cathedral stained glass, on jackets, belts, shoes and bags. "Modernity is the way something is made," Maier told reporters backstage. "Modernity is not square and hard. It is how you conceive things and how you make them work." Maier says his focus is on creating happiness, using beautiful colors and emphasizing comfort. "Because things are a little tough for all of us, so we need something in the morning to get us going," the designer said.



Italian designer Giorgio Armani poses with models at the end of his show during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan.

Bottega's first supermodel, Lauren Hutton

Lauren Hutton graced the Bottega Veneta front row on Saturday holding a dusty rose version of the purse she memorably clutched in the 1980 film "American Gigolo." By any measure, she is the fashion house's first supermodel. "I picked this purse for Gigolo, not the wardrobes," Hutton said after the show. "I got to pick out all my own clothes back then. I almost always did, because I am so into fashion." Hutton wore a 1940s-style dress with beaded accents. She said she wore a blue version of the same in a 20-page spread that she just shot for "Vogue Italia" under its new editor, Emanuele Farneti. It will be on the newsstands in October.

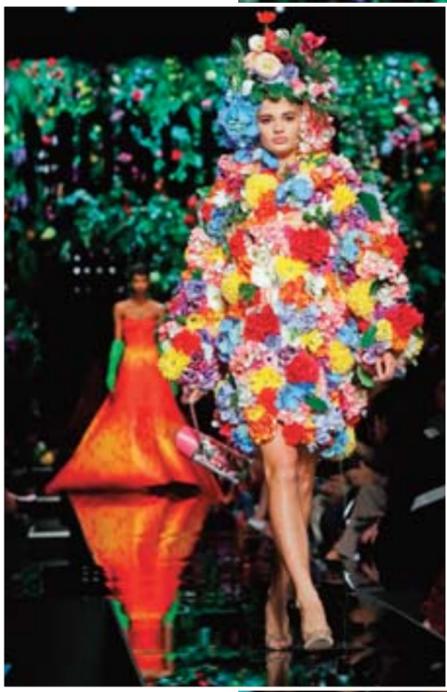
"Things go so fast (now)!" Hutton said of the quick shoot-to-newsstand turnaround. In that vein, she said she just finished shooting Amy Schumer's movie "I Feel Pretty" in 32 days. "Everything is a different world now for an old granny," she laughs. "But thank God granny's out there! That's important." — Agencies



Models present creations for fashion house Giorgio Armani.

Models present creations for fashion house Roberto Cavalli.

FASHION



Models present creations for fashion house Moschino during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan.



MOVIE



The cast members of the movie *Sheikh Jackson* pose during the opening ceremony of the first edition of the El-Gouna Film Festival in Hurghada late . — AP/AFP photos



Egyptian film star Adel Imamm attends the opening ceremony.



Egyptian actor Amr Youssef and his Syrian wife and actress Kinda Allouh pose for photos.



Egyptian actor Ahmed el-Fishawy poses during a photocall for the film *Sheikh Jackson*.



Egyptian actresses Hala Sedki (left) and Elham Shahin pose for photos.



Egyptian actors Bassem Samra (left) and Khaled El-Nabawy pose for photos.

Worlds of Islam, Michael Jackson collide in Egyptian film

An Egyptian ultraconservative Muslim preacher hears on his car radio news of the death of Michael Jackson, the pop singer he idolized in his teens, and he becomes so distraught he crashes his car. The news of the passing of the King of Pop is the start of a crisis of conscience for Sheikh Khalid Hani, the main character of the movie "Sheikh Jackson," Egypt's first feature film to focus on the religious movement known as Salafis, followers of one of the strictest interpretations of Islam. It follows Sheikh Hani, a Salafi, as his love for Michael Jackson throws him onto a bumpy journey to discover his own identity, mirroring how Egypt's conservative society is torn between its Islamic and Arab traditions and Western culture in an age when television, telecommunications and social media bring together people and cultures from all corners of the world.

"I no longer cry while I am praying. That means my faith is faltering," Hani confides to a female psychiatrist in one scene. Crying while praying, he explains, reflects his fear of God. The film goes beyond examining Salafis, says the director, Amr Salama. "It's about humanity. ... It tells you that one's identity is not a single dimension or an unchangeable thing," he told The Associated Press just days before "Sheikh Jackson" premiered in the Toronto Film Festival earlier this month.

It's a journey Salama has some experience in: He was a huge Jackson fan in his teens and then became Salafi during his university years, before moving away from the movement. Salafism is one of the most closed, uncompromising visions of Islam. Its doctrine is primarily built around what its followers believe is emulation of the actions of the Prophet Muhammad. They are easily recognized by their chest-long beards and robes that reach to just below the knees. They shun music, film and dance and outside influences seen as decadent. Salafi women wear the all-covering niqab, including veils over their faces.

World's best singer

Followers view life as little more than a transitional phase and are contemptuous of worldly pleasures. Immortality in heaven is their chief goal. When Hani goes to the psychiatrist - who he thought by her ambiguous name was a man - he asks her to put on a headscarf during their sessions. She refuses, and throughout their talk, he can't look at her. When she asks him the last thing that made him feel alive, his response comes from Salafi doctrine: "I bought my shroud and wrote my will." He occasionally sleeps under his bed, convinced that it is the closest thing to being inside a grave, thus a reminder of his mortality.

But Jackson's death revives in Hani the obsession with the singer he had in his teens, when he imitated the star's look and dance moves. It earned him the nickname "Jackson," but also the disapproval of his macho father. "He is effeminate," the father says of Jackson. But Hani's mother whispers to him, "He is the world's best singer. But keep that as our little secret." When the mother dies young, Hani's father turns into a serial womanizer and becomes violent, beating Hani for imitating his idol. When the adult Hani discovers his own daugh-

ter - around six or seven - watching videos of Beyonce, he tears out the WiFi and denounces "dancing to the devil's tune." The film, which is to be released in Egyptian cinemas later this month and which Egypt has put forward as a candidate for a best foreign film Oscar nomination, goes into delicate territory.

Thousands of Islamists have been jailed under the government of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sissi, who was elected after leading the ouster from

ther glorified nor dissed the Salafis," Salama said. "They are just human beings like us."

That extends to depictions of Salafi family that almost never show up in films. Hani's wife understands his turmoil after Jackson's death. At one point, Hani tells her he loves her because she loves God more than she loves him. In a scene many parents could sympathize with, their young daughter watches her parents with disapproving bemusement as they drive her to school, joyously singing a



Egyptian actor Ahmed el-Fishawy (top center) poses with cast members of the movie *Sheikh Jackson* during the opening ceremony of the first edition of the El-Gouna Film Festival in Hurghada late.

power of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013 and who has faced a fierce militant insurgency. Depicting Islamists with even a hint of positivity can bring questions from authorities and security agencies. Still, while some Salafis have been jailed in the crackdown, the government has tolerated parts of the movement, in part because some Salafi political parties lined up behind El-Sissi after the Brotherhood's ouster.

Critical acclaim

Salafism has been the fastest growing Islamist movement in Egypt for the past decade, and it covers a spectrum. Some Salafis are relatively engaged with other parts of society, often as successful businessmen; some separate themselves to avoid sinful influences; others denounce society outright as "kafir," or non-believing. A militant fringe embraces jihad against "infidels" and tyrants. The film risks a backlash from the public, either by viewers who see as it too sympathetic to Islamists or, from the other side, as mocking religious beliefs. "I have nei-

religious hymn they heard on the day they met. Embarrassed, she asks her father to drop her off far from the school gate.

The movie builds Salama's reputation as a director willing to take on some of Egypt's thorniest issues. His 2014 "Excuse My French" dealt with the forms of subtle discrimination that Egypt's minority Christians face, while the 2011 "Asmaa" portrayed the social stigma endured by those who are HIV positive. Still, neither of the previous films was a box office hit, despite critical acclaim. "Sheikh Jackson" is unlikely to fare better in a country where comedies and action movies are the only sure winners. "Salama has the desire to be different and that's why his movies are not a commercial success," said film critic Magda Kheirallah. "But the important thing is for the director to save himself and not surrender to the logic of the marketplace." — AP



Palestinian-Jordanian actress Mais Hamdan poses for photos.



Egyptian businessman Samih Sawiris, founder of the El-Gouna Film Festival, attends the opening ceremony.



Lebanese actress Cyrine Abdel Nour poses for photos.



Egyptian actress Bushra poses for photos.



Egyptian actor Farouk El-Fishawy poses for photos during the opening ceremony.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Worlds of Islam,
Michael Jackson
collide in Egyptian film

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This undated image released by production company Film Clinic, shows a scene from the film "Sheikh Jackson." In the new Egyptian film, an ultra-conservative Muslim is torn by his love of Michael Jackson, mirroring a country struggle between traditions and modern global influences. — AP (See Page 31)

From yoga to movies: Lisbon embraces rooftop living

Standing with their arms outstretched under the endless blue sky, the sun on their faces, a small group of women take a yoga class, looking out at Lisbon's tightly-packed skyline from the rooftop of a city centre hostel. Often referred to as the "City of Seven Hills", Lisbon is full of red-tiled buildings with spectacular views over the undulating Portuguese capital as it slips down towards the Tagus River. Long the domain of air conditioners, satellite dishes and washing lines, Lisbon's rooftops are undergoing a makeover to now host swanky bars, yoga classes, film screenings and concerts.

"It's all about the views in Lisbon," said Katrin Heuser, 39, who started offering rooftop yoga classes at the This Is Lisbon Hostel when she moved to the city from London two years ago. She now holds classes at four other locations with sweeping views of Lisbon too with the aid of two other teachers. One regular student, 30-year-old Greek IT consultant Maria Anastasiadou said the classes were "completely different" to those held indoors. "Your body and mind connects with the environment around you and the sun," she said. "You start feeling the sun and air touching your skin. Your mind gets clearer, in a strange mix with the noise of the city. All your senses are awake."

'Perfect place'

Lisbon's climate is especially well-suited for rooftop activities. The city on Portugal's west-

ern coast is one of Europe's sunniest capitals, with 290 days of sunshine a year. "It's the perfect place for doing activities on rooftops because of the weather," said Phil Llic, who since June has been showing movies every Thursday night on the rooftop of the Topo Chiado restaurant-bar.

The venue, which opened in 2016 on the back of the ruins of a convent, affords views of the elaborate, turn of the century Santa Justa Lift and the medieval Sao Jorge Castle, two historic Lisbon landmarks. Under the stars, customers can admire the view at the same time as watching a cult film on a large screen while sipping drinks and lounging on one of the 90 deck chairs. It regularly sells out. "It's all about the experience, it's not even really about the movie," said Llic, 31, who also moved to Lisbon from London two years ago, like many before him drawn by the warmer climate and slower pace of life.

He and his business partner, Chris Wood, a 34-year-old from the English northwestern city of Manchester, plan to expand their movie screenings to more rooftops next year. The 10-story Four Seasons Hotel Ritz at the end of 2016 completely refurbished a 400-metre (1,300-foot) outdoor running track on its roof and set up gym equipment there to allow guests to work out outdoors while overlooking the city.

'Fun thing'

The boom in upgrading rooftops for leisure activities comes as Lisbon is experiencing a surge in visitors that has sparked a drive to renovate buildings in the city's picturesque old town. Lisbon had 3.9 million foreign visitors in 2016, a 9.7-per cent jump over the previous year.

Its rooftop activities are popular among locals. But Heuser, who is originally from Germany, said many of her rooftop yoga students were foreign visitors, especially in August. "They like the idea, they think it is a fun thing to do and a good way to enjoy the view," she said.

'Avoiding the hype'

Ze dos Bois (ZDB), a trendy concert venue, art gallery and bar, in an 18th century palace in the lively Bairro Alto district — whose narrow streets are packed with bars and restaurants—opened a popular rooftop terrace last year that regularly hosts concerts. The non-profit venue's terrace features a bamboo canopy made by three bamboo "masters" from Macau, said ZDB's communications director, Catarina Monteiro. "At the time we decided not to promote the space, to avoid the 'hype' about rooftops, but we still managed to build a regular customer base," she said. — AFP



A couple enjoys the morning sun at Memmo Alfama hotel terrace at Alfama neighborhood in Lisbon.



A man runs on the Ritz's hotel rooftop trail in Lisbon.



People enjoy the sunset at the rooftop of the Rio Maravilha bar and restaurant at Lx Factory in Lisbon.



People enjoy the Torel public pool in Lisbon. — AFP photos

Bizarre news

Thrill seekers can stay overnight in UK's most haunted prison

Thrill seekers are getting the chance to have an overnight stay in the UK's most haunted prison. The Shepton Mallet Prison, in Somerset, once held some of the country's most dangerous criminals including the Kray Twins and is now being used as a ghost hunt, the Bath Chronicle reports. To this day it is not known how many people were executed at the prison and the overnight stay allows guests to use modern ghost hunting equipment to carry out their own investigation. Organizers of the event said: "You will also be given time to explore the prison on your own and carry out your own mini ghost hunt. Working in small teams this is an amazing experience. Sometimes daunting, sometimes terrifying but always memorable."

Woman terrified after Snapchat catches ghost

A mother was left terrified after her Snapchat filter caught a ghost on her camera. Donna Gill, 35, was filming her son Jacob using the mobile phone app at her home in near Leeds when a strange face appears three times next to her three year old, the Mirror Online reports. Snapchat filters find the face of the user and gives them a comedy effect including various animals and voice-changers. Donna - who lives with husband Steve and has twin boys Jacob and Charlie - thinks the ghost might be which her twins named 'Gary'. She told the website: "Gary has followed us from house-to-house we think, it all started when me and my husband lived in Selby four years ago and we used to hear bangs in the night. The scariest one was a bang on the bedside table which woke us both up. I used to think I imagined it, and before that there was rustling noises and things but then all of a sudden there was this bang. I did look into it and read things that said if you get a ghost and you're not listening you'll get these bang noises. So anyway, we kind of laughed about it. Donna said 'Gary' has been haunting the family for years.

Police close road after spotted a severed hand which turned out to be a prop

British police closed a main road after discovering a 'severed hand' on the hard shoulder which turned out to be a costume prop. Cleveland and Durham road police closed the major A19 near Middlesbrough after reports of the sliced off body part on the side of the road, the Mirror Online reports. While completely their investigation, detectives realized the hand was actually a rubber prop and quickly reopened the road. Taking to Facebook, officers wrote:

"In a nutshell, an eagle-eyed diligent member of the motoring public spotted a suspicious looking item in the central reservation. Officers have attended and it has been found to be a realistic looking severed hand. No doubt comments will be forthcoming - please!"

Serial funeral crasher defended by priest

A woman has been defended by a priest after attending the funerals of strangers for 14 years. The unnamed serial gatecrasher has been going to the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Slough, Berkshire, for more than a decade to watch mourners say goodbye to their relatives and friends, and even eats food from buffets at wakes. Despite being blasted by several family members of the deceased persons over the years, Father Noel Connolly says she is just a "poor lady" who simply feels it is her duty to attend as many funerals as possible and he won't be turning her away. According to the Metro.co.uk, he said: "She is a Catholic and she is convinced she needs to go to as many Masses as possible. "She's a member of a neighboring parish. I've spoken to her about this since and said people were upset she was gate-crashing funeral receptions, and of course she denied it. "It's a fact because I've seen her do it, but that's the type of poor lady she is. "She has been coming and going since I have been here, for the past 14 years. I can't exactly say, 'You can't come here.'"

Six women wear exact same dress but not bridesmaids

Six women wore the exact same dress to a wedding - but weren't even bridesmaids. The ladies all bought the black lace gown at Forever New - an Australian clothing line - for nearly £100 and when they all noticed the matching outfit, they took a group picture and posted it on the fashion brand's Facebook page. Debbie Speranza, one of the six fashion faux pas victims, advised them to provide a service where wedding guests can check if others have ordered the same ensemble for an event. She wrote: "You really should start a bridal registry so that your customers can inquire whether anyone else has purchased one of your dresses for the same event. "Not we NOT the bridesmaids just the guests. (sic)" Debbie admitted she only knew one of the women, who was her cousin, and the rest were complete strangers. The post went viral, with more than 38,000 likes and 9,000 comments and Debbie revealed that it wasn't planned at all. She said: "Not at all, I thought it was hilarious. Once we all stood together all the weddings were like 'wt..?'" — Bang Showbiz