

Kurds vote 'yes' in independent referendum

6



Nepal names 3-year-old as 'living goddess'

6



Ousted Thai PM sentenced in absentia

9



World's number one powers into Wuhan quarters

14



OIL MINISTER WARNED OVER APPOINTMENT OF FOREIGNER

TABTABAI CALLS FOR RAISING LAWMAKERS' SALARIES



150 FILS NO: 17341 32 PAGES



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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returned home yesterday after concluding a visit to the United States where he held official talks with US President Donald Trump. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Deputy Speaker MP Essa Al-Kandari yesterday warned Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk that the appointment of a foreigner as the Chief Executive Officer of Equate Petrochemicals will represent a political embarrassment for the minister. Kandari said the minister ignored demands by MPs and warnings by oil experts against the appointment and its potential negative impact on the oil sector as a whole.

He also said that it was strange to appoint the CEO from DOW Chemical which had negative dealings with Kuwait after winning billions of dollars in fines paid from public funds. The lawmaker said that the measure will put the Oil Minister in political confrontation with MPs. Kandari wondered how the appointment was made despite recommendations and demands by the private sector represented in the company that a citizen must be appointed in the post and which rejected the appointment of a foreigner.

The lawmaker said that the decision was wrong because Equate manages an important national resource and it was much better to appoint a citizen to lead the company because they are more efficient than foreigners. A number of MPs have already criticized



KUWAIT: Deputy Speaker MP Essa Al-Kandari chats with other MPs in this file photo. Deputy Speaker yesterday warned Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk that the appointment of a foreigner as the Chief Executive Officer of Equate Petrochemicals will represent a political embarrassment for the minister. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the appointment of a foreign executive and called for appointing a citizen in the sensitive post but the Oil Minister said the appointment was part of the joint venture deal with Dow Chemical which has been a partner to the state-owned Kuwait Petrochemicals Co in

key petrochemicals projects. But Dow received a fine exceeding \$2 billion after Kuwait unilaterally pulled out of a large \$17 billion joint venture. The fine was imposed following a lengthy arbitration.

Continued on Page 11

ETIHAD PILOT DIES

DUBAI: An Etihad Airways pilot passed away onboard a flight from Abu Dhabi to the Dutch capital Amsterdam, the airline said yesterday. "The pilot was incapacitated shortly after takeoff and a safety call was made before the aircraft was safely diverted to Kuwait International Airport," a statement by the company noted. "Upon landing in Kuwait, a medical team tended to the ailing pilot but he was pronounced dead shortly after," the statement revealed. The airline added that it was "deeply saddened by the loss", extending its heartfelt condolences to the family of the late pilot. — KUNA



UAE TAX TO DOUBLE ENERGY DRINK, TOBACCO PRICES



DUBAI: A handout image shows a two-seater 'hover taxi' flying in a 'concept' flight in Dubai. Dubai has edged closer to its goal of launching a pioneering hover-taxi service, as a prototype two-seater driverless aircraft. — AFP

DUBAI: Tobacco and energy drink prices are set to double in the United Arab Emirates, which is imposing steep excise taxes to help ease a budget shortfall caused by low oil prices. Khaled Al-Bustani, Director General of the newly established UAE Federal Tax Authority, said yesterday that the 100-percent tax would be introduced from October 1. Prices of other types of soft drinks will increase by 50 percent, Bustani told a press conference.

He declined to say how much the UAE will raise from the tax. The decision stems from agreements reached by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to raise the prices of those products, then impose a long-awaited value-added tax (VAT) from the start of next year. The GCC states - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar,

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - have been hit hard by a slump in oil revenues, which make up the bulk of their national income.

Saudi Arabia, which is forecast to post a large budget deficit in 2017 for the fourth year in a row, has already started imposing the excise tax, besides levying heavy residency fees for expatriates' dependents. The kingdom, as well as UAE and Qatar, announced it would start collecting VAT of five percent at the beginning of next year on most products and services. Other members have not given a specific date. The GCC states, which pump around 17 million barrels per day of crude oil, have seen their revenues plummet since the collapse of oil prices in mid-2014. — AFP



TAMMUN: Palestinian demonstrators clash with Israeli security forces following a protest against the expropriation of Palestinian land in the village of Tamun yesterday. — AFP

END TO WOMEN'S DRIVING BAN TO SAVE SAUDIS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

QATAR AND FIFA URGED TO PROTECT MIGRANT WORKERS

DUBAI: World Cup 2022 host Qatar must urgently introduce laws to protect the lives of up to 800,000 migrant construction laborers working in scorching temperatures, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. The New York-based organization also called on the Gulf state to investigate workers' deaths and make those findings public. "The Qatari authorities' failure to put in place the most basic protection from the heat, their decision to ignore recommendations that they investigate worker deaths, and their refusal to release data on these deaths, constitutes a willful abdication of responsibility," said report author Nicholas McGeehan.

He also called on football's world governing body, FIFA, national associations and World Cup sponsors to demand further protection from heat and humidity for Qatar's workers. McGeehan added: "They should also be demanding answers to two simple questions-how many workers have died since 2012 and how they have died?" Qatar has introduced laws to stop people working outside between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm annually from June 15 to August 31, when temperatures can reach around 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). But HRW says these measures do not go far enough. "Limiting work temperatures to safe temperatures-not set by a clock or calendar-is well within the capacity of the Qatari government and will help protect hundreds of thousands of workers," said Sarah Leah Whitson.

Continued on Page 11

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's decision to end a driving ban for women is likely to save families billions of dollars, boost industries from car sales to insurance, and reassure investors that the kingdom's push to diversify its economy beyond oil is on track. It should also encourage more women into the workforce and raise productivity in the economy, although analysts expect the initial boost to growth to be modest.

But hundreds of thousands of male chauffeurs who drive women around, most from south Asia and the Philippines, risk losing their jobs. That means they will no longer send money back to their families, strengthening Saudi Arabia's balance

of payments but reducing incomes in their home countries. King Salman ordered on Tuesday that women be allowed to drive cars, ending the religiously inspired ban that made it hard for many women to work and forced many Saudi families to employ at least one driver to transport female members.

The decree promises to change the lifestyle of millions. About 10 million women over the age of 20, including foreigners, live in Saudi Arabia; nearly 1.4 million foreigners work as household drivers, earning roughly \$500 a month in addition to being provided with accommodation and food.

Continued on Page 11

DIPLOMATIC BLOW TO ISRAEL

INTERPOL APPROVES PALESTINE MEMBERSHIP

JERUSALEM: Interpol voted yesterday to admit the State of Palestine as a member over Israeli objections at the international police organization's general assembly in Beijing. Dealt a diplomatic blow, Israel said Interpol, which is dedicated to fostering cross-border cooperation against crime and terrorism, had made the world a more dangerous place by letting the Palestinians in. Israel had argued that Palestine is not a state and that it is ineligible to join. Under interim Israeli-Palestinian peace deals, a Palestinian Authority was granted limited self-rule in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Shortly before the vote in the Chinese capital, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said Israel's efforts to delay the ballot until next year had failed. "This victory was made

possible because of the principled position of the majority of Interpol members," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki said in a statement. Interpol said membership applications by the State of Palestine and the Solomon Islands were approved at its annual general assembly by more than the required two-thirds majority of votes. The organization now has 192 members.

A Palestinian bid to join last year, at an Interpol conference in Indonesia, was foiled by what Israel said was its diplomatic campaign against it. In 2012, the UN General Assembly upgraded the Palestinian Authority's observer status at the United Nations to "non-member state" from "entity," like the Vatican.

Continued on Page 11



RIYADH: A Saudi woman disembarks from a car outside a mall in the Saudi capital Riyadh yesterday. — AFP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is received at the airport by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem upon his arrival to Kuwait. — Amiri Diwan photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is received at the airport by Acting Prime Minister First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Local spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS MY SISTERS!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Congratulations to all Saudi women and salute to King Salman of Saudi Arabia who took a courageous and historic decision to support the long standing demand of Saudi women to drive cars in their own country. The decision matches with the vision of Saudi 2030 and will be implemented from June 2018. The royal decree will implement the provisions of traffic regulations, including the issuance of driving licenses for men and women alike.

A truly historic, yet not surprising decision given all the changes taking place in Saudi Arabia right now. The long-standing driving ban was seen globally as a symbol of repression of women in the ultra-conservative country. Not anymore. The decision, which risks riling religious conservatives, is part of powerful Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's reform drive aimed at adapting to a post-oil era and adapting more social and economic new rules.

The reaction and attitude of some conservative clerics are predictable not only in Saudi Arabia but anywhere in the world because these men do not see women as independent human beings with rights and duties, but merely followers of men. They have yet to realize that we are equal and deserve equal human rights.

I am so happy that the Saudi king took this decision and he is indeed a very brave and forward thinking man. It is not an easy thing to promote change in a place like Saudi Arabia. But I believe his trust and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vision and support for women's rights brought this dream to reality.

For many years, conservatives groups had fought against this change and even justified the ban - which has no religious or legal support - by claiming that driving could harm a women's ovaries!

Under the country's guardianship system, the male family member - normally the father, husband or brother - must grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities. But let us hope that along with this decree for driving, other more flexible laws will grant women in Saudi Arabia greater independence in the near future.

What's happening now in Saudi Arabia reminds me of when the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah granted Kuwaiti women the right to vote in 2006. There was huge resistance and opposition to women's suffrage in Kuwait, with many conservative men claiming that women were not ready for the responsibility or that it was unnecessary. But women's rights are human rights and necessary for moving the entire Gulf region into a prosperous and peaceful future for us all.

AMIR CONGRATULATES MERKEL ON REELECTION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) win in Germany's parliamentary election.

His Highness the Amir wished the German Chancellor continued success, affirming that Kuwait will seek all means to bolster relations with Germany. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables.

His Highness the Amir, accompanied by Deputy Chairman of National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the accompanying delegation had returned home yesterday after concluding a visit to the

United States where he held official talks with US President Donald Trump.

Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was received at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of

Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, senior state officials and high-ranking officers of the Army, Police, National Guard, Police and Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD).

His Highness the Amir's accompanying delegation comprised of Director of His Highness the Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Affairs Mohammad Abdullah Abulhasan, President of the Amiri Diwan for Honorary Missions and Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and President of the Media and Cultural Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Yusif Hamad Al-Roumi. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Oil as well as Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq. — KUNA

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES OIL MINISTER

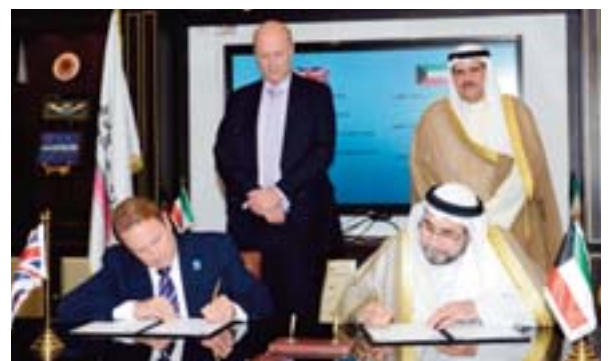
KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Minister of Oil as well as Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq. His Highness also received Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with New Zealand politician Murray McCully. — KUNA

FM MEETS NEW ZEALAND POLITICIAN

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with visiting New Zealander politician Murray McCully. McCully, a former foreign minister, has been invited to the country to give a lecture in Kuwait's Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute today. The encounter between the two officials also brought together a number of senior Kuwaiti diplomats. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the UK's Civil Aviation Authority sign the agreement. — KUNA

KUWAIT, UK SIGN AGREEMENT ON CIVIL AVIATION COOPERATION

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the UK's Civil Aviation Authority signed a memorandum of understanding on boosting cooperation and services in civil aviation field. The agreement will bring the two authorities closer to develop their services in the field, British Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling said yesterday. The UK is eager to boost cooperation with Kuwait in aviation, he added.

DGCA's Director General Yousef Al-Fozan said meanwhile that the memorandum includes sharing experience in technical support and follow international rules in the field. The British authority will organize training courses and seminars on civil aviation in Kuwait, he added. Fozan also noted that CAA would be in charge of monitoring, evaluating and developing Kuwait's aviation work scheme in terms of international laws and measures. Fozan and CAA's International Director Ben Alcott had signed the agreement with the presence of DGCA's Chairman of the Board Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Grayling. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Movenpick Hotel Kuwait's Marketing and Communications Manager Zeina Nimer visited Kuwait Times yesterday to present a cake in celebration of the newspaper's 56th anniversary. — Photo by Joseph Shagra



BERN, Switzerland: Kuwaiti MPs meet with their Swiss counterparts in Bern, Switzerland yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAITI LAWMAKERS VISIT SWITZERLAND TO BOLSTER TIES

BERN, Switzerland: A number of Swiss parliament members expressed their eagerness to boost relations with Kuwait on all levels. The two countries' parliaments share strong ties that could lead to further cooperation in investment, education, scientific research, and culture, they said during their meeting with the sixth Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship delegation yesterday.

Swiss MP Christa Markwalder said she is looking forward to her upcoming visit to Kuwait's National Assembly, to learn more about the parliamentary experience in Kuwait.

She noted that she strongly supports boosting tourism between the two sides. This includes

attracting larger numbers of Kuwaitis to visit Switzerland through providing a number of touristic facilities, she added.

MP Thomas Aeschi said his country aims to develop economic and investment cooperation with Kuwait and the GCC states under the terms of the free trade agreement signed between the GCC and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). He also hoped Kuwait would play a role in enabling Switzerland to deal with the Gulf countries under this agreement.

Meanwhile, head of the Kuwaiti delegation MP Askar Al-Anezi said the meeting with Swiss MPs allowed the group to benefit from the Swiss

experience in the field. Moreover, the meeting discussed providing facilitations for Kuwaiti researchers to join Swiss universities, he said.

The number of Kuwaiti tourists in Switzerland is increasing year by year, reaching 31,000 last summer. Anezi also hoped Switzerland would take part in Kuwaiti developmental projects, adding that Kuwait guarantees protection of foreign investments. The Kuwaiti delegation was on an official visit to Switzerland which concluded yesterday. The group includes MP Askar Al-Anezi, MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie, MP Muhammad Al-Huwaila and MP Hamoud Al-Khudair. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The funeral of First Lieutenant Ahmad Al-Dousari, the son of the Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Mahmoud Al-Dousari took place yesterday at Al-Sulaibikhat Cemetery. Interior Ministry officials and personnel, government officials and public figures attended the funeral. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

TV HACKING NETWORK BUSTED IN SALMIYA

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: OSN cable TV network, the leading network in the Middle East, hailed Kuwait security authorities' efforts which resulted in arresting three people for hacking. Kuwait's Criminal Investigations Department (CID) had recently announced arresting three Indian hackers who had been operating an illegal TV broadcast network in Salmiya, where detectives found dozens of illegal decoders for Dish TV network of Indi and OSN. The suspects used their network to illegally broadcast the channels to over 10,000 subscribers in an area of 15 square meters. It took police detectives and Ministry of Utilities officials six months to investigate the matter after receiving reports from OSN's content protection team. "I congratulate Kuwaiti authorities for the successful arrest of the hackers and busting this illegal network that had cost us millions of dollars in losses," said OSN's Chief Legal Officer Sophie Moloney. According to CID estimates, the culprits, who are currently facing charges of money laundering and abuse of Kuwait's telecommunications infrastructure, were making around KD 70,000 a month from their illegal services.

Fuel prices

The court of cassation is scheduled to pass its final sentence today in a case filed to undo the government's decision to increase fuel prices, said informed sources. The Comprehensive Court had initially decided to

suspend the cabinet's decision made on August 1, 2016 to increase the fuel prices effective from September 1, 2016. However, the Court of Appeals later overturned the verdict on grounds that the cabinet's decision was fully constitutional and was made according to its liabilities in running and managing the state's natural resources.

Generating electricity

Coal is still the largest material used to generate electricity with over 339 percent of the world's production, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s 2015 key statistics about the sources of electricity in the world. IEA report also showed that natural gas came second in generating electricity with 23 percent of the world's energy followed by water and dams with 16 percent, nuclear reactors with 10.6 percent, renewable resources with seven percent and oil with four percent. Statistics also showed that the total world production of electricity was 24,225 terawatts per hour, of which China produced around one quarter, or 5,844 terawatts per hour, followed by the United States which produced 4,297 terawatts per hour (18 percent), India which produced 1,383 terawatts per hour (5.7 percent) then Russia which produced 1,066 terawatts per hour. The report also showed that the Middle East only produced 4.3 percent of electricity, which is equivalent to Japan's production, and that Kuwait was ranked fourth in terms of using oil in generating electricity.

NO INJURIES IN FACTORY FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire was reported yesterday morning inside a wood factory in Industrial Sabhan. The fire reportedly start-

ed in the paint furnace. Firemen from Sabhan and Mubarak Al-Kabeer hazardous material fire stations dealt with the fire and evacuation. The fire was put out successfully and no injuries were reported.

MPs, ASSEMBLY DEFEND 'EXCEPTIONAL' SALARY FOR SOME LAWMAKERS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The issue revealed in the local press that a number of MPs were receiving a "second exceptional" salary by the government has taken parliamentary circles by a storm with lawmakers strongly defending themselves. Secretary general of the national assembly Allam Al-Kundari issued an official statement saying the so-called exceptional salary was being given in accordance with the retirement laws and has no suspicion.

Kundari said the salary is nothing new as it was introduced in 1992 to a number of MPs who were forced to resign their jobs after winning seats in the national assembly. It had nothing to do with a deal between the government and the concerned lawmakers.

He said the payment is given in accordance with article 80 of the pensions law to MPs who had not received any pensions before becoming members in the assembly.

The measure aimed at achieving equality between those lawmakers and others who were receiving pensions besides their salaries from the assembly, Kundari said.

The issue was uncovered by Al-Qabas newspaper yesterday which described the measure as a deal between the government and the concerned lawmakers. The newspaper cited the names of 20 lawmakers who were receiving the additional pay.

Opposition MP Jamaan Al-Harbash, one of the beneficiaries, acknowledged he had been receiving the additional salary even since he was a member in a previous assembly. Harbash said the measure is fair since lawmakers are forced to resign from their job after becoming members of parliament and if they were receiving only the assembly salary, they would be without any pay if the assembly is dissolved.

He said the previous salaries of a number of MPs are larger than their pay by the assembly and it is unfair if they are not compensated. Harbash said that receiving the additional pay remains optional, adding that the salary of Kuwaiti lawmakers remain lower than ministers, judges and oil workers although MPs monitor all of these categories. The lawmaker said that receiving a second pay equal to the salary before becoming MP is not a problem and the problem is dishonesty and becoming a messenger for ministers to receive millions in bank deposits. MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli called on the newspaper to write an apology for accusing the lawmakers of receiving bribes.

MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain, also one of the beneficiaries, sent a question on the issue to State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah about the issue and whether it is within the law or not. He said if the answer is that it is illegal, he will return all the additional funds he was paid.

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COMBAT THE RISING NUMBER OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

WORLD HEART DAY FALLS FRIDAY

KUWAIT: Today, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is responsible for claiming 17.5 million lives a year, and by 2030 this is expected to rise to 23 million. Globally, 1 in 10 people aged 30-70 die prematurely from CVD, including heart disease and stroke, but the good news is that at least 80 percent of these premature deaths could be avoided or postponed.

Tomorrow Sabah Al-Ahmad Cardiac Center (SACC), Al-Amiri Hospital, Kuwait along with World Heart Federation (WHF) is urging the entire residents of Kuwait to take action by sharing heart healthy tips and attending iconic illumination events. We can all 'share the power' and inspire our families, friends and communities around the world to make the small lifestyle changes that can make a powerful difference to heart health.

During this occasion, Professor David Wood, Cardiologist and President of the World Heart Federation said: "We cannot underestimate the global importance of good heart health - 31 percent of all deaths worldwide are from CVD. World Heart Day is our chance to bring people together to tackle the world's biggest killer and urge more people across the globe to improve their heart health. The power to change is in our hands. Making lifestyle changes such as eating more fruit and vegetables, keeping active and stopping smoking can save millions of lives."

Dr Mohammed Al-Jarallah, Senior Consultant Cardiologist, Director and head of the department of Cardiology, SACC, Al-Amiri hospital, Kuwait said: World Heart Day was founded in 2000 to inform people around the globe that heart disease and stroke are the world's leading causes of death, claiming 17.5 million lives each year. "Along with WHF, Sabah Al-Ahmad Cardiac Center, Al-Amiri Hospital, Kuwait planning for various campaigning programs for raising awareness and encouraging individuals, families, communities and government to take action and help us to achieve our goal of a 25 percent reduction in premature deaths from CVD by 2025." Awareness should start from the grass root level ie, from schools, colleges etc. A country's prosperity purely depends on the health of the residents. Healthcare staffs should be properly trained to deliver the heart healthy messages on a day to day basis.

Dr Raja Dashti, Chairman of Medicine



Department and Senior Consultant Cardiologist, SACC, Al-Amiri hospital, Kuwait said: "World Heart Day takes place on 29 September every year. The theme of this year is share the power - we along with WHF want everyone around the world to inspire each other to lead better, longer, more heart healthy lives. In Kuwait we have more expats and awareness programs should be focused in a multidimensional way so that it will help both citizens and expats. We have noticed that CVD events are more common in expats compared to Kuwaitis. We are planning for a hand to hand program with the government to fight against this rising number of cardiovascular events. Al-Amiri hospital started a new initiative named "I Care Campaign" for another 3 years. SACC is actively involved in this and theme of this campaign is to give assurance to the people that we the cardiologist and health care providers are there always for taking care of your heart. It increases the awareness of our obligations as health advocates besides being medical experts. Since 2013 SACC is regularly conducting World Heart Day campaigns and workshops and it has become a fixture.

Dr Rajesh Rajan, Cardiologist, SACC, Al-Amiri hospital, Kuwait said: Always try to be active mentally and physically. "Always ask few simple questions to yourself."

1. How healthy is my diet? A heart healthy diet should include low fat, low cholesterol and low salt foods.
2. How healthy is my habits? Stop smoking, avoid alcohol and avoid sedentary life style.
3. Know your numbers.

How healthy is my body weight?

Keep your body mass index between 18.5 to 24.9.

How many minutes spared for my daily exercise?

Daily do minimum 30 minutes brisk walking.

My Blood Pressure?

After your 30th birthday keep monitoring your blood pressure periodically.

Created and led by the World Heart Federation (WHF), World Heart Day aims to combat the rising number of people with cardiovascular disease (CVD), the world's biggest killer, by raising awareness and promoting the importance of living a heart-healthy lifestyle. To mark World Heart Day 2017, illumination events are being held at iconic venues across the world.

The iconic venues turning red for World Heart Day 2017 include:

- Table Mountain in South Africa
- Cape Wheel, V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa
- Jet d'Eau in Geneva, Switzerland
- Angel del la Reforma in Mexico City, Mexico
- Auckland Sky Tower in New Zealand
- Presidential Jetty and Dhiragu Tower in Maldives
- Lakeview in Bucharest, Romania
- Sheraton Grand Doha in Qatar
- Avala Tower in Belgrade, Serbia
- Singapore Flyer, Helix Bridge, Maybank Tower and Marina Square
- Menara Kuala Lumpur, KL Tower in Malaysia
- Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt

RETAIL SECTOR ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN ECONOMIC GROWTH DESPITE COMPETITION

KUWAIT: The cooperative sector in Kuwait uniquely characterizes the economic and social aspects of the state and is a key factor in shaping the economic structure of the country, especially in terms of retail sales and consumer goods, despite the competition of hypermarkets.

Kuwait's retail sector has grown by an average of about 10 percent in the past five years despite the spread of parallel markets and the launch of world-renowned brands in the field, competing to enter the local market to gain a share of this growth. The financial report of the contribution and capital data, sales and profits of cooperative societies for the year 2016 showed that the total sales of these coop-societies amounted to 990 million Kuwaiti dinars (about \$3.2 billion) compared to 850 million dinars (about \$2.7 billion) in the previous year, an increase of 13 percent.

Fierce competition

On the impact of hypermarkets on cooperative societies, a number of specialists and citizens were interviewed on the fierce competition between the two sectors, Dr Nayef Al-Shammari, professor of economics at the Faculty of Administrative Sciences at Kuwait University said the competitiveness of any commodity or service market depends on the availability of a sufficient number of commercial units through which they can influence the size of supply in the market." He pointed out that the aim of the cooperative societies in Kuwait is to activate the economy, specifically in the retail markets, by enhancing the concept of individual contribution, with participation in the administrative decision of the elected board of directors besides a government supervisory role.

He expressed his belief that the spread of parallel markets in the country and their entry as a competitor to cooperative societies is necessary to create a competitive market with diverse products, quality and competitive prices. He added that the relationship of coops with traditional consumers began to decline during the past 10 years, "with the significant emergence of these markets in most of the country's areas." He noted that the hyper-

markets have affected the selling and buying operations in the market, saying that hypermarkets have come up with new commodities not available at ordinary cooperative societies.

Shammari said that parallel markets offer consumer goods at prices lower than those of cooperative societies, which encouraged many cooperative societies to discount their goods in order to attract consumers and not lose their traditional customers. He added that parallel markets have a greater diversity in goods compared to cooperative societies, especially foreign goods. Moreover, they have more freedom and flexibility in the direct contracting process compared with the cooperatives. Shammari attributed the reason for the apparent disparity in prices between cooperative societies in various areas to "non-application of the laws in force by the Federation of Cooperative Societies and absence of the role of concerned authorities in controlling prices."

Advantages

Omar Al-Mayaan, a consumer, said that parallel markets offer many advantages compared to cooperative societies in terms of offering coupons that give discounts on certain purchases, adding that the cooperative societies rely more on the shareholders, which gives better advantage to the markets and an opportunity to attract more consumers.

He explained that parallel markets also give more offers and reductions in the prices of consumer goods as well as many new products compared to cooperative societies. He said that parallel markets are more flexible in attracting and exhibiting new and diverse foreign products compared to cooperatives, which still showcase traditional products.

Meanwhile, Aseel Al-Fahad expressed her belief that the cooperative societies seek to provide all the goods needed by the consumers and are eager to reduce their high prices. She pointed to the importance of the role of cooperatives in the provision of local goods and products and their encouragement of the national product, in addition to their role in supporting Kuwaiti youth for their small and medium projects. —KUNA

THIRD KUWAIT OIL, GAS SHOW AND CONFERENCE SHAPES FUTURE OF ENERGY

KUWAIT: As the oil and gas business begins to rebound, the third Society of Petroleum Engineers Kuwait Oil and Gas Show and Conference (KOGS) is poised to be the single biggest gathering of the oil and gas industry ever seen in Kuwait. The combined conference and exhibition will take place from 15-18 October 2017 in Kuwait under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, and is supported by the Ministry of Oil, State of

Kuwait, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and UBM AEM, this year's event-themed "Shaping the Energy Future: Integration and Diversification"-will bring together industry leaders, experts, stakeholders, and oil and gas professionals from different sectors of the industry, to discuss the latest trends, challenges, and technological advances. "The future of energy is rife with

complex uncertainties, which is how we selected this year's theme," said Nizar Al-Adsani, CEO, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and Conference Chairperson. "Global demand growth will be entirely generated by developing nations, while greater energy efficiency from technological developments will keep global demand in check. Staying informed of market developments is necessary to drive long-term strategic decisions. The delegates who attend KOGS will gain knowledge to keep them ahead of the competition."

By attending this year's show, delegates may participate in four panel sessions with topics ranging from diversification along the supply chain to upstream innovation and challenges. The event also features 7 special sessions, 4 technical special sessions, a ministerial panel, and an executive plenary session.

The call for papers received an excellent response with 628 paper proposals being submitted from 153 companies across 36 countries. 143 papers have been selected for presentation across

21 technical sessions. More than 200 companies from 20+ countries will be in attendance at the parallel exhibition that takes place from 16-18 October 2017. The 14,000 sqm international showcase features flagship participation from NOCs and IOCs, state-of-the-art equipment, machinery, technological advancements and innovative services in the oil, gas, refining and petrochemical sectors. Over 5,000 attendees are expected to attend KOGS 2017 and exchange technical and business expertise in a highly focused B2B environment.

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, Management and Staff

convey their deepest condolences to

H.E. SHEIKH KHALED ABDULLAH SABAH AL-NASSER AL-SABAH

Chief of Amiri Protocol and Chamberlain
on the sad demise of his

Mother

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her

الرأي

Al-Rai

FREEDOM OF SILENCE

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

Arab nations have innovations that the world does not know about. The Arab reformist Al-Kawakibi, author of the book 'Nature of Tyranny and Downfall of Enslavement,' who was born in Aleppo in 1855, spent his life as a reformist and promoted the nations' development and prosperity. He also worked against tyranny, called for liberties, being part of decision making and resisting tyrant regimes, which is something that the Ottoman Sultan was angry about during that period which witnessed the downfall of the caliphate rule.

Yet, Al-Kawakibi was not arrested nor did he disappear. It is said that he died of poison, though there is no evidence to that. He fought backwardness for the sake of reform following the saying of the Prophet (PBUH): "Whoever sees an act of vice should change it with his own hands." When Al-Kawakibi died, he was eulogized by Hafez Ibrahim without fear of imprisonment or political persecution.

The Ottoman rule was over, and then came the foreign one, and colonialism which blocked all attempts to change, forcing reformists to move with their words and raise their voices for the sake of freedom. They wrote books, distributed leaflets and led the people while shouting for the sake of freedom, following the example of hadith about change.

Then came the phase of national rule in both of its military and civil forms, so the cloud of oppression was cast over us, and reformists were held accountable for words they said. Some of them were executed, others tortured by all means. Many reformists kept silent and held to the weakest of belief, also as the rest of the abovementioned hadith said "and who could not, then in his heart and this is the weakest of belief."

We are going through a phase, in our Arab World, that the hadith did not mention, as reformists are being held accountable for being silent. If you stopped your hands so not to protest, and held your tongue so you do not speak, and your eyes do not express the feelings of anger and kept silent, then you are considered an opponent, and you may be imprisoned or exiled, as silence became a tool of opposition. We are living in a time that demands for the freedom of silence. The freedom of silence that history did not include in its books. Did I tell you not about the Arab nation's innovations that humanity did not know?

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الانوار

Annahar

KUWAIT'S DREAM ISLANDS

By Mohammad Al-Fadhli

It is a dream that has been long awaited that we start making use of our deserted islands that had been left without any investment or activity except for the Mubarak Port. The total area of Kuwait's islands surpasses that of countries with considerable economic powers, and where everything is invested. Let us at least dream about the two largest islands; Boubyan and Failaka.

1- Boubyan's area is 890 square kilometers, that is five percent of Kuwait's total area. It is larger than Singapore which is only 719 square kilometers, or Bahrain which is only 765 square kilometers and yet, it has not been taken advantage of. Just imagine if we use it the way Singapore did with its land and turned it into an international commercial and industrial hub. We do have all the potential but all we need is the decision to do so.

These could be mere dreams but some countries have already beaten us to them and achieved remarkable success

2- Failaka Island has been deserted ever since the Iraqi Invasion. It has a long history and was mentioned in Greek books. It covers an area of 43 square kilometers. It was known as Icarus. Just imagine if this deserted island became a center for international universities or hospitals or even an international recreational center that can attract the world's tycoon companies specialized in recreation and international resorts. Citizens do wish that such dreams can be achieved in order to stop depending on oil, increase national income and reduce the burdens on the state's budget.

These could be mere dreams but some countries have already beaten us to them and achieved remarkable success. We have studied good management and achievements in the university and I see that nothing can stop Kuwait from turning these islands into role models and our dreams into tangible reality.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



ZAIN, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CLUB KUWAIT TO HOLD CHARBEL CONCERT TO RAISE AWARENESS ON PALLIATIVE CARE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announces it is partnering Soroptimist International Club Kuwait to support a gala musical event featuring renowned Oud musician, Charbel Rouhana, to be held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre in Kuwait on 11 October, 2017. The 'Night of Enchanting Music' is being organized in cooperation with and in support of Soroptimist International Club Kuwait and SANAD charitable organizations, with the aim to raise awareness of the importance of palliative care and home hospice for the terminally ill.

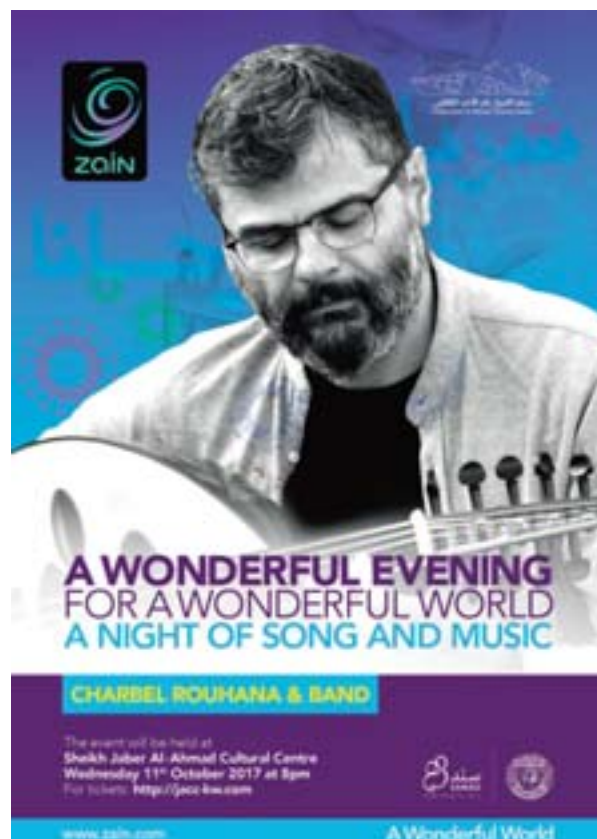
Over the years, Zain Kuwait has continuously championed worthwhile causes, such as its annual Breast Cancer awareness campaign, building and equipping the Zain ENT Hospital, and this latest gala event is set to be no different.

Soroptimist International focuses on action and awareness in five main areas affecting the lives of females globally through a network of members and international memberships. These areas extend to: Economic Empowerment; Education and Learning; Environment; Food Security and Health and Ending Violence Against Women. With respect to palliative care, Soroptimist focuses on raising education and health awareness issues among females, given the caregiving role is often carried out by women, either within the family structure, or within the nursing profession.

Soroptimist International Club Kuwait applauds SANAD's efforts to provide comprehensive home-based hospice care free-of-charge to terminally ill patients in Lebanon while preserving their dignity and enhancing the quality of their lives. The organization delivers these support services to patients regardless of nationality, religion, political affiliation, gender, diagnosis or ability to pay. Commenting on this initiative, Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director said, "Our efforts are worthless should we not serve the communities we operate in, and the support of this concert is another example of Zain's outlook on being a partner in activities that benefit society at large. Charbel Rouhana is an incredible artist, whom we are sure many people will be looking forward to hearing in concert, and we commend Soroptimist International and SANAD for both doing outstanding jobs in helping many needy people across the region."

Dr Stacey Al-Ghawas, President of Soroptimist International Club Kuwait said, "We are honored to be working with Zain and SANAD to increase awareness of Palliative Care in Kuwait and the region. We hope that Charbel Rouhana's beautiful Oud concert offers an opportunity to increase support for the Kuwaiti institutions that provide this vital care: Kuwait Palliative Care Center and Bayt Abdullah."

Palliative care is an approach that aims to improve the quality of life of patients facing terminal illnesses and their families. It focuses on the prevention and relief from suffering through early identification and assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.



Palliative care teams are usually multidisciplinary in nature as they consist of doctors, nurses, psychologists and may also include social workers, registered dietitians and pharmacists. All members of a palliative care team work together to coordinate the care and support provided to both the patient and their families.

Credited with creating a new method of playing the Oud, Charbel Rouhana is a Lebanese national who received his Diploma in Oud Performance in 1986, and a Masters in Musicology in 1987 from the Faculty of Music, USEK University, Lebanon. He has performed alongside numerous Arab artist, both in and outside of Lebanon such as Fairuz, Majida Al Roumi, Julia Boutros and Marcel Khalife. Charbel is a recipient of numerous awards including the Japanese Hirayama Award in 1990 and the Murex Award in 2000. From 2002-2006, he taught Oud at his alma mater and the National Music Conservatory in Lebanon and has released over ten albums, touring extensively around the world. To acquire tickets for this momentous concert on October 11, please visit: www.jacc-kw.com.

Crime

Report

SYRIAN BEGGARS TO BE DEPORTED

KUWAIT: Farwaniya police arrested 21 Syrian beggars in Rai. The detainees were sent to the proper authorities for further action in preparation for their deportation out of the country. Police patrols noticed several beggars disturbing people and shop owners near the markets area in Rai. Back up patrols were called in and the 21 were rounded up and taken to Andalus police station, according to the police report.

Death sentence upheld

The Appeals Court upheld a Court of First Instance ruling which sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to death for killing her friend in Sabah Al-Salem over personal disputes. The crime took place last March, when the suspect stabbed the victim after they met to settle old scores. The suspect said that she bought a knife before going to her friend's house. Once at the house, the two engaged in an argument which escalated into a fight that saw the suspect stab the victim. The woman had claimed that her friend was behind the destruction of her family.

Defamation

Lawyer of Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Mohamoud Abdelhadi pressed defamation charges against citizen Adel Al-Zawawi, and accused him of 'passing judgments ahead of court decisions.' Abdelhadi accused Zawawi of posting remarks on his Twitter account on September 9, 2017, in which he said: "How does the health minister keep silent towards this futility? The monster of health ministry." Abdelhadi charged Zawawi of insult, saying that the tweet sent to the defendant's nearly 500 followers contained lies spread against the plaintiff.

Three hurt in crash

Three people, including two police officers and a drug addict, were injured in an accident reported recently near Roudha. Paramedics and firefighters rushed to the scene after an accident was reported involving a car and a police patrol vehicle. The car's driver was taken to Mubarak Hospital where doctors suspected that he was under the influence. of drvgs Policemen found nine envelopes containing drugs inside the man's wrecked car.

Swindling

A citizen swindled a GCC national out of KD 25,000 when he convinced him to enter with him as a partner in a project, then disappeared after receiving the cash. The victim went to the police station and complained against the swindler. Police are investigating.

—Translated from the Arabic press

CONDOLENCES

Mezzan Holding Company

express their deepest condolences to

The Oberoi Family

on the sad demise of

Mrs. Surinder Oberoi

the matriarch of the family

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



UK Labour mobilizes to push Corbyn into power

OUSTED THAI PM YINGLUCK IN ABSENTIA SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS

Page 9

Page 8



IRBIL: A Kurdish flag hangs in the Irbil International Airport, in Iraq. — AFP

MASSIVE 'YES' VOTE IN KURD REFERENDUM

92.73 PERCENT OF VOTERS BACKING STATEHOOD

IRBIL: Iraq's Kurds announced a massive "yes" vote for independence yesterday following a referendum that has incensed Baghdad and sparked international concern. Official results showed 92.73 percent of voters backing statehood in Monday's non-binding referendum, which Iraq's central government rejected as illegal. Turnout was put at 72.61 percent. Longtime Iraqi Kurd leader Massud Barzani said the vote would not lead to an immediate declaration of independence and should instead open the door to negotiations.

But Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi told lawmakers yesterday there was no question of using its results as the basis for talks. "The referendum must be annulled and dialogue initiated in the framework of the constitution. We will never hold talks based on the results of the referendum," Abadi said. "We will impose Iraqi law in the entire region of Kurdistan under the constitution," he said. Pressure has been mounting on the Kurds since

the vote, not just from Baghdad but also from Ankara, with Turkey threatening a range of measures including cutting off key export routes for the region. An overwhelming "yes" vote had been widely expected. Pursuing a long-cherished dream of statehood, the Kurds went ahead with the referendum in defiance of widespread objections, including from the United Nations and United States.

It has raised fears of unrest and the possibility of a military confrontation involving the Kurds, who are key allies in internationally backed offensives against the jihadists of the Islamic State group. In a televised address late on Tuesday, Barzani had urged Abadi "not to close the door to dialogue because it is dialogue that will solve problems".

"We assure the international community of our willingness to engage in dialogue with Baghdad," he said, insisting the referendum was not meant

"to delimit the border (between Kurdistan and Iraq), nor to impose it de facto."

Airlines cancel flights

Baghdad has steadily pushed back against the vote. Lawmakers yesterday passed a resolution calling on Abadi to "take all necessary measures to maintain Iraq's unity" including by deploying security forces to disputed areas.

The resolution also called for the closure of border posts with Turkey and Iran that are outside central government control. Abadi said Tuesday he would ban all international flights to and from Kurdistan in three days unless airports in its main cities Arbil and Sulaimaniyah were placed under his government's control. Lebanon's Middle East Airlines and EgyptAir both said yesterday they would halt flights to Arbil this week at the request of Baghdad. Turkey fears the vote will stoke the separatist ambitions of its own sizeable Kurdish

minority and on Tuesday President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that Iraq's Kurds risked sparking an "ethnic war". "If Barzani and the Kurdistan Regional Government do not go back on this mistake as soon as possible, they will go down in history with the shame of having dragged the region into an ethnic and sectarian war," he said. Erdogan had earlier warned that Turkey would shut its border with Iraqi Kurdistan and threatened to block oil exports from the region through Turkey. Erdogan even suggested the possibility of a cross-border incursion similar to the one Turkey carried out against IS and Kurdish fighters in Syria. Monday's vote took place across the three northern provinces of autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan-Arbil, Sulaimaniyah and Dohuk and in disputed border zones such as the oil-rich province of Kirkuk.

Opponents have accused Barzani of seeking to empower himself through the vote, and said he should have accepted a UN-backed plan to

postpone the referendum in favor of negotiations with Baghdad. Iran, which also has a large Kurdish minority, condemned the vote as well and on Sunday stopped all flights from its territory to and from Iraqi Kurdistan. Analysts say that despite their threats, Baghdad, Ankara and Tehran are proceeding cautiously in reacting to the vote, wary of sparking a serious confrontation with the Kurds that would further destabilize an already volatile region.

Closing their borders with Iraqi Kurdistan would also hurt Turkey, which exports more than \$8 billion worth of goods every year to the region, and Iran, which exports about \$6 billion. Left without a state of their own when the borders of the Middle East were redrawn after World War I, the Kurds see themselves as the world's largest stateless people. The non-Arab ethnic group of between 25 and 35 million is spread across Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria. — AFP

RUSSIAN WOMEN SEEK DAUGHTERS WHO JOINED IS

MOSCOW: Three years ago, Petimat Atagayeva's daughter Zalina secretly left Russia for Syria, taking her 10-month-old baby boy with her, to join the Islamic State group. Since then, her mother has led an agonizing search, desperate for any trace of her daughter and grandchild. "She was a beautiful and intelligent young woman. She was the best of the family. How could she have done this?" Atagayeva told AFP in Moscow, where she and several other women whose daughters had joined IS were meeting officials.

The women, who mostly come from the regions of Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia in Russia's North Caucasus, spoke to AFP in a hotel, on a trip to the Russian capital organized by Chechnya's rights ombudsman. The stories they tell are eerily similar: their well-educated daughters, some of whom had just left school, secretly went to join husbands in Iraq or Syria where they lived for years with the jihadists and brought up children before disappearing without trace as IS retreated. Another missing woman, Zyarat, a young English teacher at a school in Dagestan went to Turkey in 2015,

ostensibly for a family holiday. "I was happy for them," said her mother Zhanet Erezhebova, her voice trembling with emotion.

"But a month later, I received a text message from an unfamiliar number: 'Mum, I can't come home'," she said. "I tried to contact her husband, to ask him to give me back my daughter, to ask him why, but he didn't want to talk to me," said Erezhebova, who has come to Moscow with the other women in search of help. A few months later, her daughter told her that her husband had been killed in Mosul, then the IS

bastion in Iraq. "She was pregnant with two small children. She was crying, she was asking for my forgiveness." Their contact became less and less frequent as Iraqi troops advanced against the jihadists. Her daughter's last message came in November last year: "Mum, our situation is difficult. If you don't get any more news from me, please find and save my children." "Since then I have been searching for them, but I haven't found them," said the elderly woman, weeping.

'Wait and hope'

A Chechen woman, who gave her name only as Patimat, said she had managed to visit her daughter and grandchildren in Manbij in Syria in 2015 when it was an IS hub. "Their situation was precarious. They didn't have electricity or hot water," she said. "I begged her to come back with me to Russia, but she said her husband would never let her leave—that it was pointless. "She hadn't wanted to come to Syria but she was obliged to follow her husband, as is the tradition. She was 19." In April, Patimat's daughter told her that her husband was dead, then there was no more word from her.

"All we can do is wait and hope," she said. Aza Khayurina from Ingushetia had never travelled abroad before. But in 2015 when her daughter told her she was in Iraq, she immediately took a bus to Istanbul, hoping to get some news. "She wasn't allowed to go out of the house without her husband, but he was sent on exercises. Three days later, they told her he was dead. She was pregnant," Khayurina said.

Khayurina later went seven times to Turkey, hoping to get her daughter back using people smugglers, who all turned out to be swindlers. In her last message, her daughter told her she had lost 70 percent of her vision. "She sent me a photo. She had lost so much weight, it was horrible." — AFP

NEPAL NAMES 3-YEAR-OLD AS NEW 'LIVING GODDESS'

KATHMANDU: A three-year-old girl has been named the new Kumari of Nepal's capital Kathmandu after her predecessor retired when she reached puberty, continuing an ancient tradition that sees young girls worshipped as "living goddesses". Trishna Shakya will be anointed as the new Kumari in a ceremony today, when she will be taken from her family home to live in a palace in Kathmandu's ancient Durbar Square where she will be cared for by specially appointed caretakers.

She was selected from among four candidates, Uddhav Man Karmacharya, a Hindu priest who attends to the Kumari, told AFP on Tuesday. "She will take her place on the Kumari's throne after we perform prayers and tantric rituals," Karmacharya said. Once she is anointed a living goddess, Shakya—who, like her predecessors, belongs to the Newar community indigenous to the Kathmandu valley — will only be allowed to leave her new home 13 times a year on special feast days. She will be paraded through Kathmandu in ceremonial dress and elaborate makeup to be worshipped.

When outside, the Kumari—who is considered an embodiment of the Hindu goddess Taleju—is carried because her feet are not allowed to touch the ground. Selection criteria for aspiring Kumaris is strict and includes a number of specific physical attributes such as an unblemished body, a chest like a lion and thighs like a deer. Even if a girl fulfils all the physical requirements, she must then prove her bravery by not crying at the sight of a sacrificed buffalo. The Newar tradition blends elements of Hinduism and Buddhism, with the most important Kumaris representing each of the three former royal kingdoms of the Kathmandu Valley: Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. The practice was historically closely linked to the royal family, but has continued despite the end of Nepal's Hindu monarchy in 2008. The tradition has drawn criticism from child rights activists who say the Kumaris are denied a childhood and their isolation from society hinders their education and development. — AFP



MOSCOW: Women from the majority-Muslim regions in the Caucasus, who have lost touch with their daughters who left to join the Islamic State militant group, gather by photographs of their relatives seen on a bed at a hotel room. — AFP

DEFEATED REPUBLICAN SENDS SHOCKWAVES IN US SENATE

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's pick in the Alabama Republican Senate runoff crashed to defeat Tuesday against a populist former judge, likely sending shockwaves through establishment in the Washington and denting the president's influence over his restless political base. Perhaps sensing that, Trump quickly swung behind the winner, former Alabama state chief justice Roy Moore, calling him to offer congratulations. "Sounds like a really great guy who ran a fantastic race. He will help to #MAGA!" Trump tweeted early yesterday, referring to his "Make America Great Again" catchphrase.

The result, though, is an embarrassing setback for Trump that highlights the deep divisions within his party and raises questions about its future direction as the GOP heads toward mid-term elections in 2018. It also signals that many in the grassroots conservative movement that helped propel Trump to the White House are still fighting against the party leadership and its grip on Washington politics during a turbulent period in which Republicans have struggled to deliver on key campaign promises like health care reform.

With all 67 counties reporting, Moore led incumbent Luther Strange by 54.9 percent to 45.1 percent. Strange was appointed to the US Senate earlier this year to fill the seat vacated by Jeff Sessions, whom Trump picked to be his attorney general. Moore hailed his win as a "conservative victory" for his state. "Because of you, tonight, the establishment has been DEFEATED in Alabama!" he posted on Twitter.

Moore now becomes the heavy favorite in Alabama's special election to be held in December against Democratic nominee Doug Jones. Trump offered his own congratulations to Moore, urging him in a tweet to "WIN in Dec!" And several of Trump's past pro-Strange Twitter posts disappeared, according to a project documenting the president's deleted tweets by the news site ProPublica. While Trump may be shifting his support to outsider Moore, the race in Alabama, in the heart of the Deep South, was the latest political battleground over the direction that the Republican leadership is taking the party in Washington. The race was the stage for a proxy war of sorts between Trump and his recently ousted White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, who backed Moore.

'Campaigning like hell'

Former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin has also stumped for Moore, while current Vice President Mike Pence made a futile

election-eve campaign appearance with Strange. Trump was hoping to win a loyalist in Strange, 64, who has openly backed his agenda. But Trump's conservative base has signaled for months that it is not beholden to Republican leaders in Washington, and they could even break with the president in the Alabama race.

Trump hedged his bets last Friday, suggesting in a campaign appearance in Alabama that he "might have made a mistake" in endorsing Strange over Moore. "If his opponent wins, I'm going to be here campaigning like hell for him" in the general election, Trump said. Moore had threatened to upend the Republican Party should he win the race, and branded his opponent an "establishment lackey" to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

He is a fierce enemy of McConnell, accusing him of rejecting conservative efforts to pull the agenda further to the right. A political action committee affiliated with McConnell pumped several million dollars into support for Strange, prompting scorn from Bannon. "You're going to see it state after state after state, people that follow the model of judge Moore, that do not need to raise money from the elites, from the crony capitalists, from the fat cats in Washington, DC, New York City, Silicon Valley," he told Moore supporters at a victory rally in Alabama.

Moore is the more Trump-like of the candidates: opinionated, unconcerned about whom he may offend and desperate to upend the elite system that rules the US capital. "For whatever reason, God has put me in this election at this time, and all the nation is watching" the Alabama race, Moore said Monday night in his final campaign rally before the primary election. Bannon, who campaigned with Moore on Monday, joined in the Washington bashing, accusing party elites of thinking Alabama voters are nothing but "a pack of morons." Alabama has not elected a Democrat to the Senate in a quarter century, so Moore is expected to become Alabama's next senator.

The 70-year-old was twice suspended from the Alabama Supreme Court for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and fighting against orders to remove a 10 Commandments monument from the court house. His defiance made him a local hero to many, and that anti-establishment streak was on display Monday, when Moore, wearing a cowboy hat and vest, pulled a small pistol from his pocket and brandished it briefly before the crowd to show his support for gun rights. —AFP



CATANO: At nightfall a man tries to clean the yard next to his house damaged by Hurricane Maria. (INSET) Sen Marco Rubio takes questions from reporters about the relief effort in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria, September 26, 2017 at the US Capitol. — AFP photos

TRUMP PROMISES VISIT, AID TO STORM-RAVAGED PUERTO RICO

3.4 MILLION PEOPLE VIRTUALLY WITHOUT ELECTRICAL POWER

WASHINGTON: Suddenly, just about all President Donald Trump can talk about is Puerto Rico. After not mentioning the hurricane-devastated island for days, Trump on Tuesday pushed back aggressively and repeatedly against criticism that he had failed to quickly grasp the magnitude of Maria's destruction or give the US commonwealth the top-priority treatment he had bestowed on Texas, Louisiana and Florida after previous storms.

Trump announced that he would visit Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands next week. He also sent out a tweet about Puerto Rico's needs. He talked about Puerto Rico during a meeting on tax cuts. He raised the subject at a Rose Garden news conference with the prime minister of Spain. And he attended a hurricane briefing. He called a meeting of agency heads tasked with helping Puerto Rico recover, and sent top officials out to the White House driveway to talk to reporters. FEMA Administrator Brock Long delivered specifics: 16 Navy and Coast Guard ships in the waters around Puerto Rico and 10 more on the way.

Throughout, Trump stressed that Puerto Rico's governor had praised the federal response, characterizing Ricardo Rossello as "so thankful of the job we're doing." Six days after Maria struck the island, conditions in Puerto Rico remain dire, with 3.4 million people virtually without electrical power and short of food and water. Flights off the island are infrequent, communications are spotty and roads are clogged with debris. Officials said electrical power may not be fully restored for more than a month.

Rico earlier this month, said that next Tuesday was the earliest he could get there without disrupting recovery efforts. His public focus in recent days on other matters, particularly his extended commentary on NFL players who kneel during the National Anthem, generated criticism that he was giving Puerto Rico short shrift after devoting considerable public attention to storm damage in Texas and Florida.

Rep Nydia Velazquez, D-NY, said she had been concerned that Trump's continued tweets about NFL players showed he didn't grasp the severity of the crisis. She warned that if he didn't start taking it seriously, "this is going to be your Katrina," referring to criticism of President George W Bush following the slow federal response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And it wasn't just Democrats.

"The crisis for these Americans needs more attention - and more urgency from the executive branch," tweeted Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic. Florida GOP Sen Marco Rubio concurred, tweeting about San Juan, "MUST get power crews in ASAP." "We have a fundamental obligation to Puerto Rico to respond to a hurricane there the way we would anywhere in the country. #HurricaneMaria," Rubio tweeted Tuesday.

For any president, there's much to be gained politically from ably handling the government's response to natural disasters, and Trump is no exception. His approval ratings in the most recent Gallup tracking poll ticked up, to 39 percent, after his trips to survey damage from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in Texas and Florida.

Tuesday stood in sharp contrast to his focus on other matters between Maria's landfall Sept 20 and Monday, including his fight with the NFL over football players protesting during the National Anthem. The president has tweeted about the NFL more than two dozen times since Friday. By Monday, Democrats, Republicans and Rossello were emphasizing that Puerto Ricans are Americans, too.

Trump was intent on showing he'd gotten the message - but still wasn't ready to set aside the NFL issue entirely. "We are totally focused on that," Trump said Tuesday of the growing crisis on the US island. "But at the same time, it doesn't take me long to put out a wrong and maybe we'll get it right. I think it's a very important thing for the NFL to not allow people to kneel during the playing of our National Anthem."

Even as Trump insisted he has plenty of time to prioritize both issues - "All I do is work," he said Tuesday - criticism lingered. Particularly galling to Trump's critics were his first tweets since last Wednesday when he urged people on the island to stay safe as Maria came ashore. In a trio of tweets on Monday night, he suggested that Puerto Rico was suffering in part because it had incurred "billions of dollars" in debt to "Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with."

"Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble." Still, he promised, "Food, water and medical are top priorities - and doing well." Rep Joe Crowley, D-NY, said it was "absolutely ridiculous" for Trump to mention Puerto Rico's debt "when people are suffering and dying. Here's a president who's used bankruptcy throughout his entire career." —AP



MONTGOMERY: Republican candidate for the US Senate in Alabama, Roy Moore (R) greets supporters at an election-night rally. —AFP

Recovery efforts
Trump, who had proposed visiting Puerto

Sharp contrast
But Trump's fixation on Puerto Rico on

WILL A NEW MEXICO ARISE FROM QUAKE'S RUBBLE?

MEXICO CITY: An earthquake releases energy that has accumulated for years between the Earth's tectonic plates. The one that struck Mexico last week could also release energy of a different kind: a transformative new grassroots political and social movement.

No sooner had the ground stopped shaking last Tuesday than Mexicans from all walks of life sprang into action. Human chains formed to excavate the rubble of buildings that collapsed with people inside. Volunteers flooded the disaster zone to bring food, water and every imaginable supply. Impromptu clinics sprouted on the streets offering free medical care, legal advice, psychological counseling and more.

Faced with a tragedy that battered the city and claimed more than 300 lives, Mexico put its best foot forward, responding with an explosion of civic action. The nation's new heroes are the ordinary citizens who helped save lives in the aftermath, such as the man in a wheelchair photographed helping remove rubble from a collapsed building with his bare hands—a picture that went viral.

"If only our politicians could be more like you," a radio host told him during an interview Tuesday. The quake showed the latent power of ordinary citizens in a country at a loss to deal with its chronic problems of violent crime and political corruption. "The earthquake woke us up from our lethargy and showed us that in just 50 seconds we can become another country," said actor Eugenio Derbez in a message to the country. "Not the Mexico of corrupt politicians, not the Mexico of people who kill, steal, rob, lie. The Mexico of people who take to the street and risk their lives to save others."

National pride

Newfound national pride has been visible in the Mexican flags on cars, balconies and rescuers' helmets. "You can do it—you're Mexican!" said a poster rooting on rescuers at one collapse site. Mexicans have a history of rising up stronger from the rubble of earthquakes. After a 1985 quake that ironically struck on the same day, September 19, ordinary Mexicans rallied to rescue survivors from the ruins and fill the void left by an overwhelmed government.

Many political analysts say that moment was the beginning of Mexican civil society. Newly organized and empowered, Mexicans began demanding more democracy from their single-party state, eventually ousting the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in 2000 after 71 years in power. The latest disaster could herald a new metaphorical earthquake in Mexican politics and society. "The 7.1-magnitude earthquake reminded a large and marvelous majority that the future of our country is in its hands," wrote columnist Yuriria Sierra in the newspaper Excelsior. —AFP

IRANIANS SWARM STREETS TO MOURN BEHEADED SOLDIER

BEIRUT: Thousands of people took to the streets of Tehran yesterday to bury a soldier whose beheading by Islamic State has come to symbolize the righteousness of Iran's military involvement in Syria. In what has become an iconic image on Iranian media, 25-year-old Revolutionary Guard Mohsen Hojaji is shown looking calmly into camera after his capture as he is led away by an insurgent with blood on his face, holding a knife. The photograph was posted by Islamic State.

Even Iranians critical of their government's military intervention in Syria to help President Bashar Al-Assad have taken to social media to express their admiration for Hojaji, who was killed last month. The Revolutionary Guards, Iran's most powerful military force who also oversee an economic empire worth billions of dollars, were initially quiet about their role in Syria. But in recent years, as casualties have mounted, they have been more outspoken about their engagement, framing it as an existential struggle against the Sunni Muslim extremists of Islamic State who see Shiites, the majority of Iran's population, as apostates.

Guards killed in Syria and Iraq are touted as protectors of Shiite holy sites and labeled "defenders of the shrine" on websites linked to the Guards. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei prayed over Hojaji's coffin and met with his family yesterday, state media reported. Large crowds carrying red flags, symbolizing martyrdom, and pictures of Hojaji processed to the funeral in Tehran, pictures on state TV showed. Parliament speaker Ali Larjani and former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad were among the dignitaries who attended, state media said.

"Look at what a stir the martyrdom of this youth has created in the country," Khamenei said, according to his website. Hojaji's funeral comes only three days before Ashura, one of the most important religious events for Shiites and a traditional period of mourning which commemorates the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

The Guards recovered Hojaji's body through a deal between Islamic State, the Syrian army and Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. More than 300 IS fighters and about 300 family members were allowed to evacuate Syria's western border with Lebanon under the ceasefire agreement. On June 7, Islamic State claimed an attack on Tehran's parliament and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, killing 18 people. —Reuters

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EU UNVEIL PLANS TO TAKE 50,000 REFUGEES FROM AFRICA, MIDEAST

BRUSSELS: The EU unveiled plans yesterday to take at least 50,000 refugees directly from Africa, the Middle East and Turkey to discourage migrant boats from making the risky Mediterranean crossing. The proposal involves admitting refugees to European Union countries over the next two years under the bloc's resettlement program, which was introduced during the migration crisis that hit the continent in 2015.

"We need to open real alternatives to taking perilous irregular journeys," European Union Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos told a news conference in Brussels. The European Commission said in a statement that it was "recommending a new EU resettlement scheme to bring at least 50,000 of the most vulnerable persons in need of international protection to Europe over the next

two years". The EU has already resettled 23,000 people from refugee camps in countries outside the EU under the scheme, particularly Turkey and Jordan, which were overwhelmed with people fleeing the war in Syria.

Resettlement would continue from those areas but there would be "increased focus" on North Africa and the Horn of Africa—particularly Libya, Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Chad and Ethiopia, the commission said. "This will contribute to further stabilizing migration flows along the Central Mediterranean route," which mainly involves people making the dangerous crossing from Libya to Italy, it said.

The resettlement program is different from the EU's controversial refugee quotas, which involved moving asylum-seekers who had already reached

Italy and Greece to other EU countries, under compulsory quotas. The latter scheme, which ended yesterday, saw just 29,000 people out of a planned 160,000 shared out around EU states to ease the pressure on the overstretched Greek and Italian authorities.

Schengen controls extended

Brussels separately released plans yesterday to allow countries in the passport-free Schengen area to reintroduce border controls for security reasons for up to three years. Countries in the 26-country Schengen travel area can currently reintroduce frontier checks for six months for security reasons, and two years if that is combined with a threat to borders such as Europe's migration crisis.

"Under today's proposals, member states will

also be able to exceptionally prolong controls if the same threat persists," the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU, said in a statement. Avramopoulos however said this should be a "last resort", and that keeping the Schengen area open for travel should be a priority. Several countries including France and Germany have called for the extension after a series of terror attacks. France reinstated the checks after the November 2015 Paris attacks. Border checks introduced by Germany, Denmark, Austria, Sweden and Norway in May 2016 to deal with a huge influx of migrants into Europe from Syria and North Africa are set to expire in November. The reintroduction of so many checks raised concerns about the collapse of the Schengen zone, seen by many in Europe as a symbol of unity and freedom. — AFP



BRIGHTON: Britain's main opposition Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn waves to delegates after delivering a speech on the final day of the Labour Party Conference. — AFP

UK LABOUR MOBILIZES TO PUSH CORBYN INTO POWER

MOMENTUM HAVE OPENED UP THE PARTY

BRIGHTON: In a former church, 40-odd activists are learning how to become effective frontline troops in the battle to sweep Labour opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn into power. "The next campaign is already going on," said 19-year-old Connor Hodgson-Brunniche, a student at York University, who came down especially from northern England to the south coast resort of Brighton, where Labour is hosting its annual conference.

The trainees are taking their task seriously, even though the next general election does not have to be held until 2022, following a June snap poll in which Prime Minister Theresa May's governing centre-right Conservatives lost their majority but remained the largest party in parliament. Those on the course are learning how to deliver positive messages, speak effectively in front of the media, make the best use of social media and draw in new recruits.

Following the June vote, which saw left-of-centre Labour take seats off the Conservatives, the campaign is out to "take the momentum that we got during the election... and expand it to be able to reach even more people," said Hodgson-Brunniche. The political-science student joined Labour in 2015, when veteran leftist Corbyn surprisingly swept to power on a wave of newly signed-up supporters.

Around 100 debates, lectures, workshops or musical events, often packed out, are part of the political and cultural festival titled "The World Transformed", taking part on the Brighton conference fringe. TWT is organized by Momentum, the

political movement born out of the campaign to sweep Corbyn, 68, to the party leadership. "Momentum have opened up the party so people don't have to be political animals before they become activists," said Justine Cooper, 55.

'Peaceful revolution'

Initially accused of being a cadre of Trotskyists, Momentum have quickly gained a lot of influence within the Labour Party. They have more than 23,000 members and 150 local branches. They notably convinced delegates to keep Brexit off the list of topics set for debates and votes on the Brighton conference floor. "It's a peaceful revolution," said Jamie Driscoll, a Momentum training coordinator. A short distance from the church, in a meeting room, activists discuss politics while others take part in a workshop to come up with rallying slogans or buy red badges sporting leftist messages. "Our job now is to be working every day to campaign against the Tories... until we win," via meetings, social media and door-knocking, said Cameron Ball, a TWT spokesman.

Steven Fielding, a professor of political history at Nottingham University, described Momentum as "a very efficient Corbyn fan club". Corbyn's re-election as Labour leader in 2016 — when the vast majority of his MPs lost confidence in his leadership—was in no small part down to Momentum's enthusiastic campaigning. Now Corbyn, who can claim to have tripled Labour's membership to 570,000 in two years, seems secure in his post following the June general election, when his campaign focused on anti-austeri-

ty defied predictions of a landslide defeat. In some opinion polls, Labour are now ahead of the Conservatives. "The election has changed politics in this country," Corbyn said in a recent interview with The Guardian newspaper.

Risk of over-confidence

Even some on the right are not ruling out the left's chances of coming to power. It could come to pass if the government cannot overcome its divisions on Brexit, said former foreign secretary and Conservative ex-leader William Hague. The Economist magazine considers Corbyn as "Britain's most likely next prime minister".

Professor Fielding said it was "more than possible" that Corbyn would end up in power if there was another general election within the next 12 months. But there is a risk of over-confidence. "We forget that he lost the general election and the conduct (of the campaign) on the Tory side was so poor it's hard to believe that could be repeated," said Iain Begg, a professorial research fellow at the London School of Economics university's European Institute.

"Britain is ultimately quite a conservative country," he added. Corbyn is particularly popular with students and young graduates, but they are heavily concentrated in urban parliamentary seats and university cities, Fielding said. Corbyn needs to reach out to older and more traditional Labour supporters in areas that backed Britain leaving the European Union in order to win enough seats to overtake the Conservatives, Fielding added. — AFP

HOW SPAIN-CATALONIA STANDOFF HAS EVOLVED?

MADRID: From courtroom battles to noisy street demonstrations, a confrontation between the central government in Madrid and independence movements in the wealthy northeastern Catalonia region has been gripping Spain for weeks. The conflict is due to come to a head Sunday when Catalonia intends to hold a regional ballot on whether to break away from the rest of Spain, despite government efforts to prevent the vote. Here is a look at how the standoff has evolved:

Courtroom combat

After Catalan separatists in the region's parliament passed a law on Sept. 6 to hold a referendum on independence, Spain's national government said it was illegal and complained to the Constitutional Court. That court ordered the ballot put on ice while its judges deliberate on its legality. They have not ruled yet. Previous efforts in Catalonia to vote on independence have fallen foul of the Spanish Constitution, which refers in Article 2 to "the indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation, the common and indivisible homeland of all Spaniards."

As independence supporters defied the Constitutional Court's decision and continued to prepare the ballot, the state prosecutor in Catalonia filed two lawsuits: one against members of the Catalan parliament for disobedience and abuse of power, and another against members of the Catalan regional government, including regional president Carles Puigdemont, for disobedience, abuse of power and embezzlement. The latter charge carries jail time.

Also, the Constitution's Article 155 allows the government to suspend, totally or partially, Catalonia's self-government if the region dis-

obeys a court order. Spanish police have so far arrested a dozen officials in Catalonia on suspicion of aiding and abetting the vote, triggering large street protests.

Follow the money

Spain's central authorities have taken over control of virtually all Catalonia's regional public spending. The aim: to ensure that no tax revenue is diverted to pay for the referendum. The Spanish government has snatched away from the Catalan government the administration of its spending

on health, education, social services and the payment of civil servants. Also, every invoice paid by Catalan authorities, including for non-essential services, must go to Madrid for rubber-stamping before it is paid.

A new system demands weekly public spending reports from Catalan authorities, whereas Spain's other autonomous regions report monthly. Tightening the screw, Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro imposed credit restrictions on Catalonia, blocking its government's access to vital debt funding on international markets. — AFP



BARCELONA: A demonstrator wrapped in a Spanish flag with FC Barcelona football team's badges takes part in a protest against independence in front of Catalunya Radio headquarters. — AFP

ANTI-MIGRANT, REVISIONIST: GERMANY'S HARD-RIGHT AfD

BERLIN: The Alternative for Germany (AfD) claims to be a force of "patriots" but some of its new lawmakers have shocked with xenophobic and revisionist comments and have been linked to far-right groups. The AfD is the first hard-right nationalist party to enter the German Bundestag in large numbers in the post-World War II era, an epochal event that stunned most Germans.

Since the party's breakthrough in Sunday's vote, the country has been scrutinizing the biographies of the often little-known newcomers, elected on a platform of rejecting migrants, Muslims and Chancellor Angela Merkel. Among them are police officers, prosecutors and judges, academics and business leaders, soldiers and scientists, a one-time radio host, an undertaker and a former fighter-pilot.

A disproportionate number are from Germany's ex-communist and poorer east, where the AfD was the number one party for male voters and won outright in the state of Saxony. The AfD rails against "traitor" Merkel as public enemy number one, for opening German borders to an "invasion" of more than one million migrants since 2015.

Some MPs have links to PEGIDA, short for Patriots Against the Islamisation of the Occident, a street movement that emerged in the Saxony state capital of Dresden. Other lawmakers have reported links to shadowy fraternities, football hooligans, Russian ultranationalists and the nativist Identitarian Movement, which is being watched by the BfV domestic security service.

One has reportedly driven a car with "AH1818" on its number plates, the Tagesspiegel daily wrote—neo-Nazi code for Adolf Hitler's initials, followed by the number of those letters in the alphabet, listed twice. And Jens Maier, a judge in Dresden, has drawn fire for voicing a degree of understanding for Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik, reportedly saying that he had acted "out of desperation" over multiculturalism when he killed 77 people in 2011.

'Europe of fatherlands'

Still giddy from the election, which made the AfD Germany's third strongest party, its

93 freshly-baked lawmakers gathered this week in a modernist concrete-and-steel annex building to the glass-domed Reichstag that is still pockmarked from World War II battles.

Lawmaker number 94 stayed away—Frauke Petry, the former face of the AfD, had theatrically walked out of a party press conference the day before to protest against its bitter infighting and radicalization. Co-Leader Beatrix von Storch, picking up her new parliamentary ID card, said it was time for the party to "get to work". Asked whether the AfD, with slogans like "Bikinis not Burkas", is far-right, she replied: "We want to cap refugee numbers, we are against Islamisation, we want to preserve our culture, we want to protect our borders. We are for the classic family unit, we don't want a United States of Europe, but a Europe of fatherlands. I think these are perfectly normal topics."

'Guilt cult'

The MPs include at least 13 with ultra-right views, 30 "nationalist-conservatives", and 18 comparative "moderates", according to a count by Die Zeit weekly, which said the allegiances of others were unclear. Among the new MPs is Leif-Erik Holm, 47, a former radio host who has claimed Germany is being turned "into a caliphate", and who ran against Merkel in her Baltic Coast electorate.

Merkel lost a lot of votes, he said, but "beating her would have been the icing on the cake". Some members are veterans of the AfD's founding days in 2013, when it railed mainly against eurozone bailouts to crisis-hit Greece. Others call for tougher law and order, traditional "family values" and fighting against what they consider a left-leaning establishment spreading its lies via a complicit media.

On the far right, leaders have shocked with taboo-breaking comments that challenge Germany's culture of atonement over World War II and the Holocaust. One is co-leader Alexander Gauland, 75, a defector from Merkel's conservative bloc, who has urged Germans to be proud of their veterans from two world wars. — AFP



KALYNIIVKA: This photo taken on September 27, 2017 near Kalynivka shows explosions at a military munitions depot. — AFP

UKRAINE ARMS DEPOT 'SABOTAGE' BLASTS

KALYNIIVKA: Ukrainian authorities evacuated more than 30,000 people yesterday from the central Vinnytsia region after a huge arms depot caught fire and set off explosions in what prosecutors said was a possible act of "sabotage". It was the second major incident affecting a large Ukrainian weapons storage site this year.

Kiev blamed a deadly fire in March on Moscow and its Russian-backed insurgents fighting Ukrainian forces in the war-torn east—a charge both sides denied. The pro-Western former Soviet republic's military prosecutor's office said it was opening an investigation into possible "sabotage at a military facility".

Immediate reports mentioned no fatalities and only two minor injuries from the blasts at a facility the Ukrainian military said stored some 83,000 tons of munitions. Military general staff spokesman Vladyslav Seleznyov told AFP that the arms depot was "one of the country's largest". An AFP reporter said explosions in the town of Kalynivka in the Vinnytsia region located some 175 kilometers southwest of Kiev could be heard every five to 10 minutes and that streets of the town of 20,000 were nearly deserted.

"People suffered heavy damage," a local

resident who agreed to identify herself only as Antonina told AFP. "Some homes had their windows and doors completely blown out," she said. President Petro Poroshenko underscored the seriousness of the situation by telling his top military brass and Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman to report to him directly after visiting the site.

"This is the arsenal of the Ukrainian army, and I think it was no accident that it was destroyed," Groysman said in televised remarks from the scene. The military general staff later issued a statement saying an initial inspection showed that "around 70 percent of the storage facilities were not damaged by the fire." The army's high command wrote on Facebook that the fire broke out at around 10pm (1900 GMT) Tuesday.

Police spokesman Yaroslav Trakalo told the Pravda news outlet the flames caused artillery shells at the facility to explode one after the other. The national police said more than 30,000 people had been evacuated from areas immediately surrounding the storage facility. "In addition, 180 patients were evacuated from Vinnytsia area hospitals," Ukraine's emergency ministry said. — AFP

MALAYSIAN GETS DRESSING DOWN FOR WEARING SHORTS

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian man has been reprimanded by Islamic authorities for "indecent dressing" after he was caught wearing shorts in public on the way to a football match, officials and reports said yesterday. The case in Kelantan, a state ruled by an influential Islamist party, sparked widespread anger, and is the latest example of what critics describe as creeping conservatism in the mostly Muslim country.

Wan Khairul Hayyee Wali had stopped off to buy a burger from a street-side stall as he drove Monday

to play futsal, five-a-side football typically played on an indoor pitch. But religious enforcement officers spotted the 30-year-old and handed him a notice saying that he had breached Islamic regulations dictating that Muslims should not wear revealing attire. "It came as a shock to me when a religious department enforcement officer gave me a notice saying I have flouted the Shariah Criminal Enactment for exposing my knees," he was quoted as saying by the Star newspaper. "Seriously, they can't expect me to wear a sarong to play futsal," he added.

Mohamad Fadzuli Mohamad Zain, deputy director of the Kelantan state religious enforcement unit, confirmed Khairul had been pulled aside for wearing shorts in the city of Kota Baru. "On (Monday) 11 people including Khairul were given summonses for indecent dressing," he told AFP. Among the others reprimanded were four women whose outfits were deemed to be too tight, he said.

Mohamad Fadzuli said Khairul had been ordered to attend a counseling session and would have to pay a fine of 1,000 ringgit (\$240) if he

failed to turn up. Opposition lawmaker Mohammad Hatta Ramli criticized the sanction imposed in the state ruled by the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party as "simply ludicrous." "This is a misguided action," he told AFP, adding it would "open the floodgates to all sorts of enforcement." Multi-ethnic Malaysia, which is home to substantial ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities, has seen a traditionally tolerant brand of Islam eroded due to the growing influence of Muslim politicians and hardliners. — AFP



KABUL: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani (C) speaks next to US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis (R) and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg (L) during a press conference at the Presidential Palace. — AFP

MATTIS AND NATO CHIEF RENEW COMMITMENT TO AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg renewed their commitment to Afghanistan yesterday, as insurgents fired rockets that killed one person and wounded four in Kabul. Mattis is the first member of US President Donald Trump's cabinet to visit the country since Trump pledged to stay the course in America's longest war. In a sign of the nation's continuing insecurity a volley of rockets landed on a house near Kabul international airport hours after Mattis flew in, the interior ministry said.

One person died and four others were wounded—all from the same family—in the assault claimed by the Taliban, which said on social media the missiles had been aimed at Mattis's plane. The Islamic State's local Khorasan province affiliate also claimed responsibility, as security forces were locked in a stand-off with the attackers. The unannounced high-level visit came as Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces struggle to beat back the Taliban, which has been on the offensive since the withdrawal of US-led NATO combat troops at the end of 2014.

Mattis, along with Stoltenberg, was to hold talks with President Ashraf Ghani and other top officials to discuss the US-led NATO "train and assist" mission—designed to strengthen Afghanistan's military so it can defend the country on its own. At a joint news conference with Ghani at the presidential palace Mattis and Stoltenberg pledged the support of US and NATO allies to the Afghan conflict, and expressed determination to stop the country becoming a safe haven for terrorists.

The foreign assistance would give Afghan forces a "compelling battlefield advantage over anything the Taliban stands to mass against" it, Mattis told reporters. "We will not abandon Afghanistan to a merciless enemy trying to kill its way to power," Stoltenberg said: "The more stable Afghanistan is the more safe we will be," adding that more than 15 NATO members had agreed to send additional troops.

US generals have for months been describing the situation in Afghanistan as a stalemate, despite years of support for Afghan partners, continued help from a NATO coalition and an overall cost in fighting and reconstruction to the United States

of more than \$1 trillion. October marks the 16th anniversary of the start of the war. America is pressing NATO partners to increase their own troop levels in the country to help Afghan forces get the upper hand in the grinding battle against the Taliban and Islamic State.

The resurgent Taliban have promised to turn Afghanistan into a "graveyard" for foreign forces and have been mounting deadly attacks as they maintain their grip on large swathes of the country. On allegations that Iran and Russia are actively propping up the Taliban, Mattis said it would be "extremely unwise if they think they can somehow support terrorism in another country and not have it come back to haunt them".

Slapdash training

Under Trump's plan, the US is sending more than 3,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, on top of the 11,000 already on the ground, to train and advise the country's security forces. NATO allies have around 5,000 troops deployed around the country. Critics have questioned what the extra US soldiers can accomplish that previous forces—who numbered some 100,000 at the height of the fighting—were unable to do.

Earlier this year Ghani ordered a near-doubling of the country's Special Operations Command — the elite fighting force spearheading Afghanistan's war against insurgents—from 17,000 as part of a four-year plan that also aims to strengthen Afghanistan's air force. While Afghan authorities have welcomed Trump's open-ended commitment to increase US troop numbers, they know it will take time to improve the fighting abilities of their own forces.

Afghanistan's soldiers have been severely demoralized and weakened by huge casualties, desertions and corruption. Earlier this week US watchdog agency SIGAR criticized US efforts to train Afghanistan's security forces, saying they were being hampered by slapdash instruction, shoddy oversight and failures in governance. Mattis flew to Kabul from New Delhi where he met his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman, who made it clear that India would not deploy troops to Afghanistan as part of Trump's strategy. — AFP

INDONESIA DIVERTS TOURISTS AS BALI VOLCANO RUMBLES

KARANGASEM: Indonesian authorities are on standby to divert flights destined for the holiday island of Bali as increasingly frequent tremors from a rumbling volcano stoke fears an eruption could be imminent. Mount Agung, 75 kilometers from the tourist hub of Kuta, has been shaking since August, threatening to erupt for the first time in more than 50 years and causing more than 96,000 people to flee their homes.

"The number of evacuees is expected to continue to rise," Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the national disaster mitigation agency, said in a statement. Bali attracts millions of foreign visitors every year to its palm-fringed beaches and an eruption would be a blow to its tourism-dependent economy. The airport in Bali's capital Denpasar has not been affected, but several countries including Australia and Singapore have issued advisories warning travelers to exercise caution.

In case of an eruption, Indonesia plans to divert flights headed for Bali to ten other airports, including on nearby Lombok and the capital Jakarta. "The planes will be diverted to their nearest location or where they originally took off from," said transport minister Budi Karya Sumadi. Airlines are watching the situation closely and 100 bus-

es have been prepared to evacuate tourists. Virgin Australia said it would be making an extra fuel stop in Darwin for some of its flights between Australia and Bali in case it is forced to turn back. Singapore Airlines said customers traveling between September 23 and October 2 could rebook flights or ask for a refund.

Eruption jitters

Officials announced the highest possible alert level on Friday due to the increasing volcanic activity, and told people to stay at least nine kilometers away from the crater. They are still stressing the island is generally safe, but there are signs the volcano is starting to give tourists the jitters. I Komang Nik Suantara, owner of the Amed Beach Resort on Bali's east coast, said business had collapsed since the alert level was raised. "Amed is safe from the lava but still the economy is very down, no customer, everyone cancelled," he said. German tourist Christoph Lange, who is staying in Amed, said that despite frequent tremors he felt "pretty safe." "We've got like 20, 30, 40 shakes where you could feel the earth shaking," Lange, 30, told AFP. "While we were diving we had quite a few. Under water you can hear it, it's pretty loud actually." — AFP

OUSTED THAI PM YINGLUCK SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA TO 5 YEARS FOR NEGLIGENCE

LIKELY END TO THE POLITICAL CAREER OF POPULAR LEADER

BANGKOK: Thailand's top court yesterday sentenced ousted premier Yingluck Shinawatra in absentia to five years in prison for criminal negligence, a verdict that likely ends the political career of a popular leader who fled the junta-run kingdom last month. Yingluck's administration was toppled in a 2014 coup and she was later put on trial for failing to stop corruption and losses in her government's rice subsidy scheme, which the court said cost the country billions of dollars.

She pleaded innocent and accused the ruling junta of a political witch-hunt. But the Supreme Court in Bangkok deemed her guilty, saying she failed to stop graft and losses in the rice program. "The court has sentenced her to five years in prison and the court also unanimously agreed that the sentence will not be suspended," a judge said.

The verdict, which makes Yingluck's return to the kingdom increasingly unlikely, said the leader was aware of corrupt deals made by members of her administration but did nothing to stop them. She "should have designated reasonable and effective regulations that could concretely prevent loss from the beginning of the program," the verdict said, adding that the policy cost Thailand nearly \$10 billion in losses.

After attending dozens of hearings in a trial that lasted more than one year, Yingluck failed to turn up for a ruling originally scheduled for August 25 — a day of high drama that left the kingdom dumbfounded. The 50-year-old, who still has the right to appeal, has not appeared in public since pulling the vanishing act. Her once active social media accounts have also gone silent. But there are widespread reports she joined her billionaire brother Thaksin, a former prime minister ousted in a 2006 coup, in Dubai. Thaksin has kept a home in the city since he too fled Thailand in 2008 to avoid jail for a corruption conviction.

Coups and court rulings

The Shinawatra siblings lie at the centre of a political battle that has gnawed at Thailand for more than a decade. The clan first emerged on the political scene in 2001 when Thaksin took office and secured the loyalty of the rural poor with groundbreaking welfare schemes. Shinawatra-backed parties have dominated electoral politics ever since, inflaming Bangkok's military-allied elite.

Unable to beat the Shinawatras at the polls, their rivals have turned to court rulings and



BANGKOK: A supporter of Thai former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra holds a fan outside the Supreme Court. — AP

coups to repeatedly knock their governments from power. Repeated rounds of rival protests have ensued, often spilling into bloodshed. Analysts say the latest coup, followed by Yingluck's trial, was part of the ruling junta's effort to expunge her clan from politics for good.

The guilty verdict may not rub out the Shinawatras' influence altogether but it spells "the end of Yingluck's political career," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a politics expert at Chulalongkorn University. It also sends a warning sign to would-be successors who might try and challenge the dominance of the military and its allies in Bangkok's traditional aristocracy. "This is the first time that a Thai prime minister is sentenced to jail for a policy from an election campaign," said Thitinan, calling it "a tough and tricky standard for future Thai prime ministers".

Where is Yingluck?

Thailand's junta leaders deny having any prior knowledge of Yingluck's plan to escape. But many inside the kingdom are unconvinced, given the junta's tight security net and round-the-

clock surveillance of the former leader during the course of the trial. Analysts say Yingluck most likely cut a deal with the military leaders, who would have been eager to see off a popular politician poised to become a martyr for the kingdom's moribund democracy movement.

"By getting Yingluck out of Thailand, the military gets rid of a potential thorn in their side who could become a martyr if jailed, or a powerful politician again if she is not," said Paul Chambers, an expert on Thai politics. On the eve of the verdict junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha declared his "spies" had informed him of Yingluck's whereabouts, but said he would not reveal her location until after the judgment was delivered. The generals have promised an eventual return to democracy but the date for elections keeps slipping, as they extend their clamp-down on dissent. Even if a poll is eventually held, it will be organized under a new junta-drafted charter that significantly curbs the power of elected politicians and enshrines the military's oversight of any future government for the next 20 years. — AFP



MAUNGDAW: Hindu people cry near the dead bodies of their family members in Yebawkyia village. — AFP

SLAUGHTERED HINDUS A TESTAMENT TO BRUTALITY OF MYANMAR CONFLICT

YE BAW KYA: Myanmar authorities displayed yesterday the bodies of Hindu villagers they say were killed by Muslim insurgents, victims of a surge of violence in someone else's fight now playing their part in a propaganda war. Authorities found 45 Hindu villagers in mass graves in the north of Rakhine state this week, and the news has dominated Myanmar's media coverage of a new round of violence in old strife between the state's Buddhists and Muslims.

The military yesterday flew a group of reporters from the city of Yangon to see the bodies laid out on the grass, and to hear from those who found them after information about the massacre filtered back from Hindus who have sought refuge from the violence in Bangladesh. "We followed the paths based on the information we got from the other side," police officer Okkar Ko told reporters at the scene. "We found where the soil wasn't normal and then when we dug up the ground, the smell came out."

The latest violence in Rakhine state erupted on Aug. 25, when Rohingya Muslim insurgents attacked 30 police posts and an army camp, killing about 12 people. Hours later, insurgents of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) came to the Hindu village of Ye Baw Kya, gathered up about 100 people, marched them away through their fields and killed them with knives, the government says.

The military response to the insurgent attacks has driven 480,000 Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh and drawn UN accusations of ethnic cleansing by the army with the help of Buddhist vigilantes. Myanmar denies that, saying its forces are fighting ruthless terrorists. For the government, the proof of the insurgents' brutality is plain to see, lying in rows by the mass graves just outside the village of Ye Baw Kya. "This is terrorism," Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Win Myat Aye, who visited the site on Tuesday, told Reuters. The ARSA has denied

killing the Hindus saying they never kill civilians.

Masked men

Exactly why Myanmar's tiny Hindu minority in Rakhine state got caught up in the bloodshed is not clear, and different people have given different accounts at different times. Some villagers have said the insurgents suspected Hindus of being on the side of the government and acting as government spies. In late August, Reuters reporters in Bangladesh interviewed a group of Hindu women from the village who said their male loved ones were killed by Rakhine Buddhists.

However, three of the same women told Reuters this week that Muslims who brought them to Bangladesh had ordered them to say it was Buddhist vigilantes who had done the killing. The three - who individually recounted closely matching stories - said that on Aug 25, they and about 100 other Hindus were marched by masked men to the area of the mass graves. — Reuters

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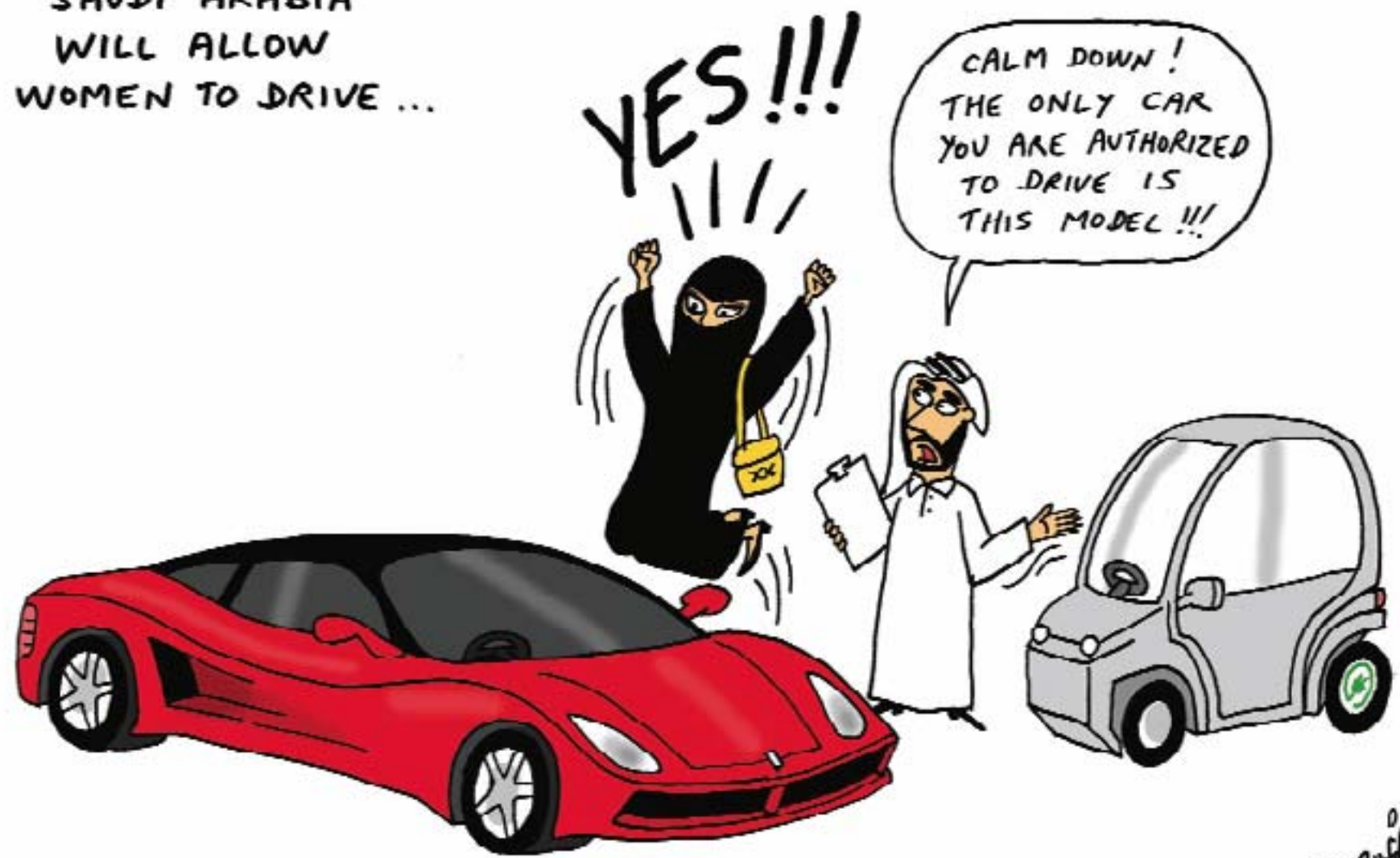
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SAUDI ARABIA
WILL ALLOW
WOMEN TO DRIVE ...



Focus

SAUDI KING LIFTS BAN ON WOMEN DRIVING BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER RIGHTS?

Saudi King Salman has ordered that women be allowed to drive, ending a restriction seen by rights activists as an emblem of the Islamic kingdom's repression of women. Here is a look at some of the biggest outstanding women's rights issues in Saudi Arabia:

Guardianship system

Women must have a male guardian's approval for decisions in fields including marriage, travel, applying for a passport and even medical treatment and employment in some cases. Many aspects of the guardianship system are not codified in law but stem from informal practice. The Saudi ambassador to the United States has said women will not need permission from a guardian to get a driving license nor to have a guardian in the car. Earlier this year King Salman issued an order allowing women to benefit from services such as education and healthcare without the consent of a male guardian. Rights groups say this is being implemented only on an ad hoc basis.

Legal proceedings

Women may testify in court, but in some cases their testimony is considered worth only half that of a man. The kingdom has removed requirements that a woman bring a male relative to identify them in court. Saudi Arabia licensed the first female attorneys to practice law in 2013, with the right to represent clients and to own and run their own law firms. It has improved women's access to government services in recent years, enabling women to secure their own identity cards and issuing divorced and widowed women family cards, which identify familial relationships and are needed for bureaucratic processes, according to Human Rights Watch.

Public dress code

Women are required to dress modestly, but there is no specific written dress code and compliance varies in different regions and different situations. In practice, most Saudi women are expected to wear the long, dark abaya robe and a headscarf. Dress is monitored by religious police and women have been detained and released for immodest clothing. The requirements do not tend to apply to foreign women.

Segregation

Unrelated Saudi men and women are not supposed to mix, meaning that they are separated into male and family sections in restaurants or entertainment venues or in sex-segregated areas at conferences. In a business environment women can find themselves in areas where they have little or no access to senior officials and policymakers, who are mainly male. The strict segregation policies act as a disincentive to employers wanting to hire women. Businesses and government agencies in Saudi Arabia are segregated, with the exception of oil giant Saudi Aramco and some foreign companies. Saudi Arabia allowed women into the national stadium for the first time this week as it launched celebrations to mark the 87th anniversary of its founding.

Housing

There is no formal bar on women buying or renting property but it can be difficult for women to do so without a male relative, according to rights groups.

Employment

The Saudi government wants to encourage female participation in the workforce. Authorities have removed restrictions on women's work in the labor code and ended formal requirements for women to obtain a guardian's permission to work, but some employers still demand this and are not penalized for doing so. Saudi women have been moving into roles previously reserved for men such as retail, air traffic control and emergency call centers. But the vast majority of chief executives and senior government officials are male and all-male workplaces can lack basic facilities like ladies' restrooms.

Sports

Conservative clerics have repeatedly said women who do physical exercise are immodest, even when they are not in public or seen by men. But Saudi public schools will begin offering physical education for girls in this academic year, the education ministry announced in July, and the advisory Shura Council has opened the door to licensing women's gyms. The kingdom sent two female athletes to the Olympics for the first time in 2012, and four to the 2016 games.—Reuters

REPEAL OF WOMEN DRIVING BAN TESTS SAUDI REFORM DRIVE

By Anuj Chopra

Saudi Arabia's historic lifting of a ban on women driving will be a litmus test for its king-in-waiting, who has sought to sideline the kingdom's arch-conservatives as he accelerates reforms, analysts say. The kingdom will issue driving licenses to women from next June, in the most striking reform yet credited to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, despite the risk of a backlash from hardliners. But after his recent crackdown on dissenters, including prominent clerics with huge followings, experts say the prince may face only a muted opposition.

"The lifting of a ban... will likely serve as a litmus test for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ability to introduce economic and social reforms despite conservative opposition," said James Dorsey, a fellow at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. "If last week's national day celebrations in which women were allowed to enter stadiums in anything to go by, the opposition is likely to be limited to protests on social media."

On Saturday, women were allowed for the first time into a sports stadium to mark national day, a move that chimes with the Prince Mohammed's "Vision

2030" reform plan. Men and women also danced in the streets to drums and thumping electronic music, in scenes that were a stunning anomaly in a country known for its tight gender segregation and austere vision of Islam.

This gambit to loosen social restrictions in the ultra-conservative society was made possible partly by the latest crackdown, which was seen as a show of force by Prince Mohammed, experts say. Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi journalist and former government advisor who went into exile in the United States, described a new Saudi era of "fear, intimidation, arrests and public shaming" in an article published in The Washington Post.

'Assertion of power'

Those arrests were not directly related to the driving ban, but apparently to an ongoing crisis with Gulf rival Qatar, said Jane Kinninmont from London-based Chatham House. "But the arrests represented an assertion of power over the independent, politically influential clerics and sent a message that Prince Mohammed does not see himself as beholden to them as partners in government," Kinninmont told AFP.

"The fact that they have been arrested

without significant unrest being triggered is likely to have made the Saudi leadership more confident that it can make (social) change without much in the way of opposition." Prince Mohammed is set to be the first millennial to occupy the throne, in a country where half the population is under 25, when he takes over from his 81-year-old father King Salman. "I think Prince Mohammed is ideologically committed to taking the Saudi state in a new direction: less austere, more nationalist," said Kristin Diwan, from the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

Unlike previous rulers, he has shown a willingness to tackle entrenched Saudi taboos, and is seen as catering to the aspirations of youth with an array of entertainment options and promoting more women in the workforce. "Women should obviously have had the right to drive a long time ago—the fact that this decision was so long in coming shows just how much has changed in Saudi Arabia with Prince Mohammed now wielding executive authority," said Perry Cammack, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Discriminatory practices' But hardliners could still emerge as a

potent threat. Many Saudis on social media, irked by the mixing of genders on national day, derisively compared the country to "Las Vegas". "Patriotism does not mean sin" became a widely used hashtag, while some called for the religious police, whose powers have been curtailed in recent years, to restore moral order. The government has sought to downplay their influence, saying that most senior clerics in the kingdom "agree that Islam does not ban women from driving". But aside from religious hardliners, women also face opposition from a conservative society that is unaccustomed-or fundamentally opposed-to women drivers.

Under the country's guardianship system, a male family member—normally the father, husband or brother—must grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities. It was unclear whether women would require their guardian's permission to apply for a driving license. "If by June next year women in Saudi Arabia are driving the streets without fear of arrest, then this will be a cause for celebration," said Philip Luther, from Amnesty International. "But it is just one step. We also need to see a whole range of discriminatory laws and practices swept away"—AFP

THAILAND'S YINGLUCK: FROM FIRST FEMALE PM TO FUGITIVE

Thailand's first female premier Yingluck Shinawatra followed her brother to the apex of the kingdom's political scene and will now depart it in a similar fashion: condemned to self-exile after a court handed her a five-year sentence in absentia. Assailed by protests, a coup and now a prison sentence, Yingluck is the latest member of the Shinawatra clan to fall victim to an army-backed establishment that loathes her family. After a lengthy trial under junta rule, Bangkok's Supreme Court yesterday convicted Yingluck of negligence over a rice subsidy policy that was riddled with graft and cost the state billions of dollars.

But the former premier was a no-show, having pulled a dramatic Houdini act one month earlier when she slipped out of the kingdom ahead of the scheduled verdict. Yingluck has yet to emerge publicly but sources say she joined her brother Thaksin Shinawatra in Dubai, where the fellow ex-premier has kept a home since he fled his own corruption conviction in 2008.

The jail sentence makes it highly unlikely Yingluck will ever return home, spelling the end of a tumultuous six-year innings that saw her rise from political novice to premier. Propelled to power in July 2011 by her family's electoral base in the poor north and northeast, Yingluck was pilloried as a political lightweight armed with little more than a winning smile and a hotline to her elder brother—who once referred to her as his "clone".

But she stepped out of his shadow, displaying an unexpected resilience as protesters besieged her home and opponents clobbered her with a raft of court cases. "I think that she learned very fast and adapted herself very well... she is very determined to do her duty," Chaturon Chaisang, a veteran politician and former cabinet minister in her toppled government, said before the court ruling. "But she might not have understood what was going to happen to her... that she would become the victim of a political game."

Tears and smiles

The former businesswoman drew hordes of supporters whenever she toured her electoral heartlands, taking endless selfies and being showered with red roses. Her campaigning strategy—dubbed fighting with smiles—and her propensity to shed tears in public forged an image far removed from that of the stern junta generals who ousted her from office in a 2014 coup. In private she wielded authority among her party and entourage, in a country where deference is expected towards wealth and power. Her weakness was her elder brother Thaksin, whose deep networks hoisted her to power despite his long absence from Thailand.

The billionaire telecoms tycoon has lived in self-imposed exile since 2008 to avoid jail in Thailand for corruption convictions. He was ousted as prime minister by



BANGKOK: File photo shows deposed former Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra speaking briefly to the media upon her arrival at the Supreme Court for a trial in Bangkok. Thailand's top court yesterday sentenced ousted premier Yingluck Shinawatra in absentia to five years in prison for criminal negligence.—AFP

an army coup in 2006, which opened a seemingly unbridgeable chasm between his supporters and enemies. Yingluck's premiership was scuttled in 2014 by a court ruling over a technicality.

Weeks later the army shunted aside the rest of her administration. For her first two years in office, the outlook seemed very different. The photogenic former businesswoman charmed many of her critics and for a period maintained the peace across Thailand's bitter political divide. She reached out to the military and worked to appease political opponents within Thailand's Bangkok-based establishment, which loathes Thaksin and wants to curb the Shinawatras' 13-year influence on Thai politics.

But the shaky truce collapsed in November 2013 after a failed bid to pass an amnesty bill which would have enabled Thaksin's return. The move outraged government opponents who flooded the streets for months-

long protests marked by violence that left dozens dead and hundreds wounded. Yingluck became the focus of caustic—and often explicitly sexist—tirades by protest leaders. But the mother-of-one refused to joust with her detractors and held off on a violent crackdown.

She took a leaf out of Thaksin's playbook, launching lavish welfare schemes aimed at the rural poor, including the rice subsidy program. The bungled scheme was a lightning rod for anger among protesters and also became her ultimate undoing after the court deemed her guilty of failing to stop corruption. Yingluck, who graduated in political science before earning a master's degree in business administration in the United States, spent much of her career working in her brother's empire. Rising from trainee status, she eventually became president of the mobile telephone unit of Shin Corp., the telecoms giant founded by Thaksin that was at the centre of a tax scandal in 2006.—AFP

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DOMES OF LIGHT TO DELIGHT LOUVRE ABU DHABI VISITORS

PARIS: Sunshine and starlight will dance over visitors to the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum when it opens in November, filtering through a huge dome that appears to hover over land and sea. The airy dome, held aloft with four massive but invisible structures, has an earthy weight of 7,500 tons - 200 tons more than the iron structure of the Eiffel Tower. It is a defining feature of the new museum on Saadiyat Island, a salty flood plain of the Persian Gulf, which sits half in the water, half on land.

Jean Nouvel, the renowned French architect behind the project, said he wanted to build the museum "in relation to the country it's in," using innovative techniques to capture the sands, the sea, the horizons of the "enormous sky" and the culture of Abu Dhabi, which serves as capital of the United Arab Emirates. "I'm a contextual architect ... buildings should know where they are," Nouvel said as he showed off the final mock-up in the Paris atelier where the project was born.

Nouvel was visibly proud of the engineering and artistic feats behind the museum which, with its 55 buildings scattered around the dome, was built to resemble an Arab village. With the Louvre name on the Abu Dhabi museum, the outcome had to be grand - even though the Louvre Museum makes clear this is neither a branch nor an annex. Instead, it is a joint venture between the governments of the United Arab Emirates and France, with the UAE paying the Louvre for use of its name for 30 years.

Art works from the Louvre and other French museums will make up half the collection of 600 works distributed over some 6,400 square meters in galleries around the site. But it is what Nouvel calls the "rain of light" from the dome that is the focal point of his creation. The splashes of light are designed to skip about the museum interior, changing shape and place as the sun rises and sets.

Inspired by the sunlight glinting through palm trees and shadows cast by fronds, Nouvel's architectural and engineering team devised a system of interlocking geo-

metrical shapes - on eight layers of cladding within the dome - to produce openings for sunlight to peek inside and fall in ever-changing patterns throughout the museum. "It is the apparition of these spots (of light) that gives a consciousness of time, of the passage of time, of eternity," Nouvel said at a recent meeting with the Anglo-American Press Association in Paris.

The dome, which measures 180 meters in diameter, also creates a micro-climate that helps protect visitors and art works from the blazing sun, along with the stone floor and vistas of water. Nouvel said he was aware of reports on the mistreatment of immigrant workers in Abu Dhabi, including those working on the museum site, and that he personally checked the workers' living conditions and equipment.

A 2015 report by Human Rights Watch said hundreds on Saadiyat Island were deported or lost visas for going on strike. Abu Dhabi authorities said one museum worker was killed in a 2015 accident, while another died last year of "natural causes." Nouvel said he saw workers' living quarters. "For me, it was somewhat better conditions than what I find working in other countries," Nouvel said. "We saw no problems. That's certain." The Nov 11 opening is about five years late. Nouvel and his associate, Hala Warde, attributed the delay to the Arab Spring democracy revolts, when all construction in the region was halted and work on the museum took a more than 18-month rest.

However, Abu Dhabi's strapped finances after bailing out Dubai proved a financial squeeze, along with plummeting oil prices. Work on the planned Guggenheim museum down the coast remains at a standstill. Asked if they worry about what will happen in 2037 - when the contract ends and the Louvre name could disappear - Warde joked: "Our museum (design) is built for 100 years." Nouvel took it further, noting the museum will furnish an education for the young and art for all. "It's like a cathedral in our era." — AP



ABU DHABI: A model of Abu Dhabi branch of the Louvre museum by French architect Jean Nouvel is on display as part of a sample collection at the museum. — AP

DIPLOMATIC BLOW TO ISRAEL

Continued from Page 1

The step fell short of full UN membership, but it had important legal implications in enabling the Palestinians to join the International Criminal Court and other world bodies.

"By admitting 'Palestine', which praises terrorists of the past and refuses to condemn those of today, Interpol makes the world less safe," Michael Oren, Israel's deputy minister for diplomacy, wrote on Twitter. He spoke a day after a Palestinian shot dead three Israeli guards in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas ignored a call by Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu to condemn the attack.

Some Israeli media commentators have voiced concern that as an Interpol member, Palestine could ask the organization to issue a "Red Notice", an alert to police worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest an individual, pending extradition. But the procedure does not appear to pose serious legal problems for Israelis such as government officials and military officers whom pro-Palestinian groups have sought to have arrested by local authorities as suspected war criminals during overseas visits. A red notice is not an international arrest warrant, and on its website Interpol notes that it cannot compel any member country to detain an individual named in one. — Reuters

QATAR AND FIFA URGED TO PROTECT MIGRANT...

Continued from Page 1

Temperatures in Qatar are currently in the high 30s Celsius and humidity levels are above 50 percent. The HRW says medical research suggests heat stress is a genuine risk to those working outside, and it has called for greater flexibility by Qatari authorities.

In rare praise for Qatar's World Cup organizers, it said the government should follow the example of compulsory work-to-rest ratios introduced for the 12,000 helping build venues for 2022. "If Qatar's World Cup organiz-

ers can mandate a climate-based work ban, then the Qatar government can follow its lead," added Whitson. However it called for much greater transparency by Doha on the vexed issue of worker deaths.

It said figures were last made available in 2012. Out of the 520 deaths then for workers from Bangladesh, India and Nepal, 385, or 74 percent, were "neither explained nor investigated". The HRW said there had been 10 deaths reported by World Cup organizers between October 2015 and July 2017, eight classified as "non-work related". — AFP

OIL MINISTER WARNED OVER APPOINTMENT...

Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, the Oil Ministry has informed five prominent oil executives that their contracts will not be renewed because they have completed their service duration or have reached the age of 60. Under the pension rules, employees who have worked for 35 years - or have reached 60 years will be retired.

MP Waleed Al-Tabtabai called yesterday for raising

the salaries of lawmakers because of their wages are not enough. Tabtabai's comments come after a controversy erupted over allegations that about 20 lawmakers, some of them opposition, have been receiving an additional salary from the government, raising suspicion about their finances. The Assembly explained that the additional salary was in line with the law and was being paid to MPs who had never received any retirement benefits before winning seats in the Assembly.

END TO WOMEN'S DRIVING BAN TO SAVE SAUDIS...

Continued from Page 1

The ban may not be lifted until next June, and because of conservative traditions, it may take years rather than months for women to become a major presence on the roads in some areas.

But families' disposable incomes are likely to rise as they lay off their chauffeurs. Saudi economic news service Maaal estimated the drivers now collectively earn about \$8.8 billion annually. "The removal of the need for a family driver - even when women don't work - will help boost real income for mid- and lower-income families," said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

The drivers have been sending much of their pay back to their home countries, and their departure will reduce this outflow, leaving more foreign reserves available to defend the Saudi currency from pressure caused by low oil prices. Saudi Arabia posted a current account gap of \$27.6 billion last year. However, energy consultancy FGE estimated a 10 percent increase in Saudi driving activity due to women would add 60,000 barrels per day to domestic gasoline demand. Although it is the world's biggest crude oil exporter, Saudi Arabia is a net gasoline importer.

Malik said there could be a short, one-off boost to Saudi car sales in coming months, as women buy vehicles before a scheduled imposition of value-added tax in January 2018. In many cases, however, women would not need to buy as they could use vehicles relinquished by departed chauffeurs. The share prices of companies selling auto insurance rose yesterday, while car servicing company Saudi Automotive gained 1.6 percent and car rental and leasing company United International Transportation, which operates under the name Budget Saudi Arabia, jumped 4.0 percent. "We certainly expect volumes to increase, in terms of short-term rentals, but it's definitely too early to put a number on that," said Anil Mathews Abraham, regional manager for Budget.

Employment

An exodus of drivers to their home countries could mean an immediate hit to Saudi domestic demand,

which is already struggling because of low oil prices. Malik said that overall, the reform might add only a few tenths of a percentage point to economic growth in the next few years. But she added that the ultimate impact could be larger, because it would remove an impediment for women to work, making the economy more productive.

Reforms launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman last year aim to increase women's participation in the workforce to 30 percent by 2030 from 22 percent. Letting women drive could eventually raise pressure to remove other obstacles to their employment, such as a male guardianship system. "Any economic change will likely be gradual with the weak underlying growth environment, but the social impact and positive sentiment over the transformation plan will be substantial," Malik said.

Khalid Alkhudair, chief executive of Glowork, an employment agency serving women, said there were about 400,000 to 450,000 job opportunities open for women in the retail industry, but many could not afford to hire drivers to take them to work. "This law will assist in the mobility of hundreds of thousands of women. The main obstacle we face is transportation, so this is a fantastic move."

Public transport is undeveloped in many areas of Saudi Arabia and while the government has been seeking to change this, building metro rail systems in major cities such as Riyadh, many women are reluctant to travel alone in public. One of the biggest benefits of the announcement may be to strengthen the confidence of foreign and local investors that Prince Mohammed is willing and able to push through far-reaching reforms of the economy.

In recent months, the weakness of the economy has prompted the government to delay or even reverse some reforms - a fresh round of fuel price rises has been put on hold, for example. But Riyadh's decision to override social conservatives by lifting the driving ban suggests reform momentum remains strong. "The determination to reform is clear, as a new Saudi Arabia is being constructed right in front of our eyes," said John Sfakianakis, director of Riyadh-based Gulf Research Centre. — Reuters

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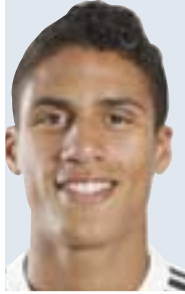
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VARANE EXTENDS REAL MADRID DEAL TO 2022

MADRID: Raphael Varane joined a host of his Real Madrid teammates in recent weeks by signing a five-year contract extension to 2022 yesterday. "Real Madrid C. F. and Varane have agreed to extend the player's contract, which will see him remain at the club until 30 June 2022," the Spanish giants said in a statement. Marcelo, Isco and Dani Carvajal have also extended their deals to 2022 over the past fortnight, whilst Karim Benzema signed on till 2021 as Real reward key members of the squad that became the first side to retain the Champions League trophy in June. A new contract for coach Zinedine Zidane is also imminent with the Frenchman repeatedly stating his deal is "done", although no official announcement has yet been made. Then in a previous role as a club adviser, Zidane played a key role in bringing Varane to Madrid as an 18-year-old back in 2011 from Lens. —AFP

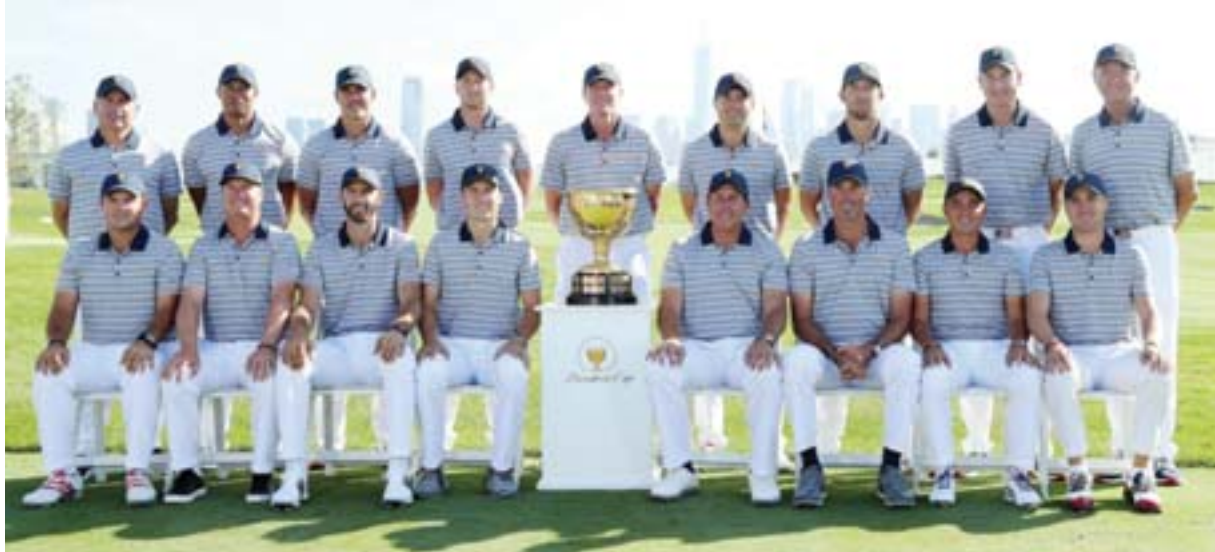


FA ANNOUNCE FULL-TIME ENGLISH WOMEN'S TOP FLIGHT

LONDON: The English Football Association announced a major revamp of women's football yesterday, with a top tier of 14 full-time teams planned for the start of next season in order to boost standards. The current Women's Super League was set up in 2011 and a second tier, Super League Two, was added in 2014. There are 10 teams in each but several are still part-time. Following a review of the structure, the FA now wants to make a clear distinction between full-time and part-time teams in order to raise standards and boost the popularity of women's football. Below the new top flight will be a national league of up to 12 semi-professional sides, with the current FA Women's Premier League sitting beneath that in tiers three and four as regional competitions featuring promotion and relegation. The revamp comes at a time of uncertainty at the top of the sport after England Women's manager Mark Sampson was sacked last week for "inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour" in a previous role as a club manager. —AFP

TOTTI THANKS FANS FOR SUPPORT IN NEW LIFE

ROME: AS Roma legend Francesco Totti yesterday thanked his fans for their support in his post-playing career as he celebrated his 41st birthday four months after retiring. Totti retired after 24 years with Roma at the end of last season, swapping his jersey for a director's suit, and has also started a coaching diploma. "It's been a year since I decided to open my social media account," Totti wrote on Facebook. "I wanted to be near my fans, feel your affection, make my voice heard and tell you things about myself. 'It went much better than I expected: you have filled me with messages and conveyed your emotions to me. 'I've seen your love first hand and you're helping me face this new stage of my life.' Roma travel to Qarabag in Azerbaijan yesterday in Champions League action after a goalless draw against Atletico Madrid. —AFP



JERSEY CITY: Members of the US Team pose for a photo prior to practice rounds for the Presidents Cup at Liberty National Golf Club yesterday in Jersey City, New Jersey. — AFP



JERSEY CITY: Members of the International Team pose for a photo prior to practice rounds for the Presidents Cup at Liberty National Golf Club yesterday in Jersey City, New Jersey. — AFP

GOLF

MICKELSON BRINGS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE TO PRESIDENTS CUP

JERSEY CITY: As Phil Mickelson prepped for his 12th straight Presidents Cup appearance this week, US teammate Justin Thomas could only marvel. "I was one (year old) when he played his first one, which is really crazy to think," the 24-year-old Thomas, the newly crowned FedEx Cup champion who figures to be one of the stars of the show in his Presidents Cup debut at Liberty National Golf Club, said on Tuesday.

The United States will be out to continue what's become a lopsided rivalry against the International team in the biennial match play competition. Mickelson played in the event's debut in 1994 and has been a fixture ever

since as the USA racked up nine wins and a tie with just one defeat to the Internationals.

Combined with his Ryder Cup appearances against Europe, Mickelson will be representing the United States for a 23rd straight time. He's won 23 President's Cup matches with 16 defeats and 12 draws. He has a chance this week to pass Tiger Woods' record of 24 Presidents Cup match wins. "It's one of the things I'm most proud of, to continue to be a part of this," five-time major winner Mickelson said. "One of the things I cherish the most are these events.

This year Mickelson needed a captain's pick by Steve Stricker to join the squad. Stricker

said he discussed it with his assistant captains and other players, who were all in favor of "Lefty". Mickelson hasn't won a tournament since his 2013 British Open triumph at Muirfield. But he tied for sixth at the Dell Technologies Championship, second event in the US PGA Tour's FedEx Cup playoffs, and his wealth of experience with the nerve-wracking team match play format is invaluable.

'A LOT OF WISDOM'

"Phil brings a lot of wisdom," said teammate Rickie Fowler, who like Thomas has a hard time taking in Mickelson's span of sustained excellence. "He's just good," Fowler

said. "He's great with understanding what it's like being on the team, pairings, how guys can match up, how they're performing out there ... he's definitely a guy that guys look to as well as all of our captains."

Mickelson's experience could be especially valuable in a US team that features six rookies. Thomas and fellow 24-year-old Jordan Spieth are reckoned to be the players most likely to carry the US standard into the future in team competition. But they'll face an uphill battle matching Mickelson's record for appearances.

"I think it's going to become harder and harder for players to play at the top level for long periods of time," said Australian Adam

Scott, who will be making his eighth Presidents Cup appearance for the Internationals. "You're just seeing more and more young guys really performing high and less guys over 40 able to maintain golf at the top level," Scott added. "It doesn't mean that you can't win big tournaments past 40, but to stay at the top week in, week out, it seemingly is getting tougher. A record like that may never be touched."

Mickelson isn't so sure. "I think that it will be done," he said, "because there's so many talented players that I believe will have the longevity. "But right now, it's something I'm really proud of." — AFP



NEW YORK: Lorena Ochoa speaks on stage as she is inducted into the 2017 World Golf Hall Of Fame on Tuesday in New York City. — AFP

LOVE, WOOSNAM, OCHOA, MALLON ENTER WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME

NEW YORK: Two-time US Ryder Cup captain Davis Love, hailing golf as a game that "has improved my life in every way, was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on Tuesday alongside Ian Woosnam, Lorena Ochoa and Meg Mallon.

The four players were welcomed to the hall along with the late British golf writer Henry Longhurst in a ceremony in New York City held in conjunction with this week's Presidents Cup. Love, who won his lone major at the 1997 PGA Championship, was introduced to the game by his father, a respected teaching pro who died in a plane crash just as Love was establishing himself among the professional ranks. He held his granddaughter in his arms as he called the induction "the greatest honor of my life."

Love was 51 when he won his most recent US PGA Tour title two years ago. Mexico's Ochoa opted to retire in 2010 when she was 28 and still ranked number one in the world. She recalled her husband, Andres Conesa, taking her to the World Golf Hall of Fame in Florida 10 years ago and predicting they'd return with their family to see her enshrined there.

"And it came true," said Ochoa, whose 21 career victories include two majors.

"Now I feel the luckiest woman in the world." Wales' Woosnam, introduced by South African great Gary Player as a "wee giant" recalled his 14-year-old self telling a member at his club in Wales that he wanted to be a professional golfer.

"He tapped me on the head and said, 'Well, if you want to try to achieve all that, you're going to have to grow a little,'" Woosnam said. "I did grow a little - about four inches," added Woosnam, whose small stature was no impediment in a career that included a 1991 Masters title and a 50 weeks atop the world rankings. "Woosie" was a European Tour Order of Merit winner and a two-time European Player of the Year. A five-time Ryder Cup winner in eight appearances as a player, he captained the victorious European side in 2006. Mallon, whose 18 LPGA titles included four majors, recalled the support of a large family and her tennis champion mother's encouragement. And she remembered her own youthful single-mindedness, which drove her to practice hitting balls against the wall of her Detroit home. "My mind was filled with dreams of being a professional athlete," Mallon said. "That young girl stands in front of you tonight humble but bursting with pride about being inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame." — AFP

MOTOR RACING

HAMILTON, LOVING LIFE, SEEKS LAST HURRAH IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR: Lewis Hamilton says he is "loving" his world championship battle with Sebastian Vettel so much that he has banished any thoughts of retirement as he heads into Sunday's last-ever Malaysian Grand Prix.

At Sepang a year ago Hamilton thought the world was against him, spouting conspiracy theories when his Mercedes engine exploded while leading, which handed a 23-point championship cushion to team-mate and eventual champion Nico Rosberg. It left the three-time world champion at such a low ebb that there were rumours he could retire. But a rejuvenated Hamilton this season broke Michael Schumacher's record for career pole positions, and even spoke about attempting to match the German great's record 91 race victories after his 60th win-and third in a row-in Singapore. "I definitely have thought about (retirement)," the Mercedes driver admitted on a British TV chat show at the weekend. "But then we're in the heat of this battle right now and I'm loving it more than ever. It's the greatest feeling ever so I'm going to keep going for as long as I can and see what I can do."

Hamilton's calamitous luck of last season has turned full circle, epitomised by his win in Singapore 10 days ago after pole-sitter Vettel's Ferrari was shunted by Max Verstappen and team-mate Kimi Raikkonen on a rain-soaked first lap. Hamilton, who started fifth on the grid, avoided the carnage and emerged victorious to extend his championship lead over Vettel from three to 28 points with six races to go, starting with Malaysia's swansong.

WOLFF WARNING

But Mercedes chief Toto Wolff warned Hamilton to stay focused as the championship is far from over. "We will need to be on top of our game at every track to maintain our lead," said Wolff. "The last race was a strong reminder that sport always has the power to surprise. We have been on the receiving end of those bad memories before." Ferrari team principal Maurizio Arrivabene vowed to keep the pressure on Mercedes. "Singapore doesn't mean the battle is over," he said. "Just that it has become more difficult." Vettel will look to strike back on a track where alongside Schumacher he has the best record of any driver, with four victories. Hamilton's lone Malaysian success came in 2014. A year ago Red Bull, who this week announced Aston Martin as title sponsor for 2018, benefited from Hamilton's meltdown as they completed a one-two and they have been getting steadily stronger.

Daniel Ricciardo 12 months ago shared a "shoey"-champagne from his driving boot-with Max Verstappen after his surprise win. But a group of over-exuberant Aussie fans were arrested for celebrating by stripping down to their underwear, a huge no-no in conservative Malaysia. "My victory last year was definitely unexpected," said Ricciardo this week.



KUALA LUMPUR: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) holds an unidentified infant during a meet the fans session in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, ahead of the Malaysia Grand Prix. The Malaysia Grand Prix will take place on October 1. — AFP

"It just goes to show you never know what can happen." One certainty is that the drivers will not return next year to experience the heat, humidity and unpredictable weather of steamy Sepang that have made the race a classic since it joined the calendar in 1999.

CHEQUERED FLAG FOR SEPANG

In April Prime Minister Najib Razak announced this year's race would be the last. The vast stands at the Sepang circuit, which can accommodate 120,000, drew just 45,000 in 2016 and TV ratings were poor. "Last year, the numbers were really bad," Razlan Razali, the chief

executive of the government-owned circuit, told AFP. The government, he said, was forking out \$67 million annually to stage the race. "Two numbers we looked at, spectators going to the track and TV ratings," said Razali.

"At the end of the day, hosting Formula One is about promoting the country as a global destination and if the numbers are not there, the investment is not justified." There will be one new face in the pit lane as young French GP2 champion Pierre Gasly, 21, will make his Formula One debut with Toro Rosso after replacing Daniil Kvyat, who has managed just four points this season. —AFP

POULTER ON THE UP AFTER CAREER SLUMP

NEWCASTLE: Ian Poulter is on the verge of breaking back into golf's elite top 50 just months after slumping to 207th in the world and losing his PGA Tour card. Poulter will contest this week's British Masters in the northeastern English city of Newcastle ranked 55th in the world and in a much better frame of mind than when he was in the doldrums earlier this year. The Englishman lost his playing status on the US PGA Tour after missing the cut at the Texas Open in April because he had earned insufficient prize money. It was the 10th and final event of his major medical exemption, granted after he missed a big chunk of last season with arthritis in his right foot. But to his immense relief, tour officials said just a week later that Poulter would keep his card after a recalibration of the FedEx Cup playoff points structure for players competing

on major medical exemptions. Poulter showed his delight by finishing second at the Players Championship in May to effectively secure his 2018 Tour card after just one event. "At one stage before New Orleans we were speaking about damage limitation and where could I play and what I was going to do," he said. "Am I right for invitations? And I was reassessing my whole life." "So, I first had a very short window to reevaluate my golfing life and then real quickly from having no playing schedule to realising I had a full playing schedule." It was chaotic. It was stressful and it had been a really, bizarre five months and the most bizarre of my career." Poulter was getting abuse on social media and also having to deal with increased media scrutiny over the prospect of losing his tour card. —AFP

KNIGHTS READY TO BATTLE AS LATEST EXPANSION TEAM

LAS VEGAS: The Vegas Golden Knights have molded a rag-tag bunch of experienced veterans and promising picks from two drafts into the NHL's first expansion team in 17 years. And while wins might be in short supply at times in their debut season, the Knights are not going to roll over and play dead for their opponents either, says general manager George McPhee.

"We are not interested in being anyone's doormat," McPhee said. On Tuesday, the Knights played their first ever home game at the new T-Mobile Arena on the strip, losing 3-2 in overtime to the Los Angeles Kings in an exhibition game. They are Las Vegas's first major professional sports team and the NHL's first expansion team since 2000, when Columbus and Minnesota increased the number of teams to 30. McPhee says it is

not easy starting a team from scratch but they have done a good job in a short period of time.

The key to success will be developing young players and getting leadership from the veterans. "It is unlikely we are going to win the Stanley Cup with simply the expansion draft but we are going to be an entertaining team and we are going to be effective," McPhee told AFP. "Lots of people have a five-year plan but it changes every day. Our philosophy is to be as good as we can as quickly as possible." That feeling is echoed by American business tycoon Bill Foley, who heads a consortium that paid the \$500 million expansion fee. Foley says it won't take long to make the Knights a contender and insists they will win the Stanley Cup in six years.

"Playoffs in three, make a run for the

Stanley Cup in five, and win the Stanley Cup in six," Foley said at the opening of the Knights new practice facility. "I stand by my words. My people believe it too." The Knights are already off to a strong start as they have a 3-2 record in the pre-season. Coach Gerard Gallant said his job is get the most out of the players he has available each night and not look too far down the road.

"Coaches don't have five-year plans," said Gallant, who guided the Florida Panthers last season before being fired in November. "They hired me to win hockey games. My job isn't to go get a high draft pick. My job is to go out there and try to win every day." Foley's group was awarded the expansion team in June 2016, after a season-ticket drive a year earlier that garnered 5,000 clients in the first 48 hours.

EXPANSION DRAFT

The team was compiled through a one-off expansion draft which allowed Vegas to select one player from all 30 NHL teams. That draft netted them Canadian Olympic gold medalist and three-time Stanley Cup winning goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury.

They also took part in the 2017 expansion draft, selecting Portland Winterhawks forward Cody Glass with their first pick. McPhee also swung a few deals with other teams and looked for free agents to sign.

"The coaches and management did a great job putting together this group of guys," said defenceman Jason Garrison, of White Rock, Canada. Rookie forward Tyler Wong, 21, is typical of the diamond in the rough that McPhee is trying to find. Fresh off his final season of junior

with the Lethbridge Hurricanes, Wong scored the Knights first pre-season goal against the Vancouver Canucks then added two more and an assist for a dynamic four-point night in his NHL pre-season debut.

"He played 12 minutes. Must have been bad coaching because he probably should have played more with four points," Gallant joked the morning after the game. "To score that first goal was something special," said Wong, who was one of eight players assigned to the Knights' Chicago Wolves farm team on Tuesday. "I have no expectations just go into every practice and game trying to get better," he said.

The Knights begin the regular season on October 6 in Dallas and their first regular season home game will be October 10 against Phoenix. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: Chase Utley #26 of the Los Angeles Dodgers slides safely at home as Luis Torrens #21 of the San Diego Padres can't control the throw during the third inning of a game at Dodger Stadium on Tuesday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

BASEBALL

MINNESOTA CLOSES IN ON PLAYOFF BERTH

CLEVELAND: Brian Dozier's three-run homer in the eighth inning pushed Minnesota to the brink of a playoff berth as the Twins rallied for an 8-6 victory over Cleveland on Tuesday. The Indians lost for just the third time in 32 games. Dozier connected for his 33rd homer against Bryan Shaw (4-6) as the Twins lowered their magic number for clinching a playoff berth to one. Edwin Encarnacion hit his 38th homer and drove in four runs for the Indians, whose 29-3 mark over 32 games is the best in the majors since the 1947 New York Yankees accomplished the feat. Taylor Rogers (7-3), one of a club-record 10 pitchers used by Twins manager Paul Molitor, got two outs in the seventh and Matt Belisle worked the ninth for his eighth save.

YANKEES 6, RAYS 1

Aaron Hicks robbed Wilson Ramos of a first-inning grand slam in the outfielder's return from the disabled list, and the Yankees clinched home-field advantage if they end up in the AL wild-card game next week. Tampa Bay's first three batters reached against rookie Jordan Montgomery (9-7), and Hicks leaped at the 385-foot sign in right-center to get his glove above the wall. He squeezed the webbing tight, preventing the ball from popping out and limiting Ramos to a sacrifice fly.

Assured no worse than a wild-card berth, the Yankees closed within three games of AL East-leading Boston with five remaining. Tampa Bay (76-81) was eliminated from playoff contention and missed the postseason for the fourth straight year. Blake Snell (4-7) got the loss.

DODGERS 9, PADRES 2

Adrian Gonzalez hit his third home run of an injury-plagued season and Los Angeles beat San Diego to clinch home-field advantage throughout the National League playoffs. Yasmani Grandal and Corey Seager each had a three-run homer for the NL West champions, who improved to 101-57. They'll open a best-of-five Division Series at home Oct. 6 against the winner of the NL wild-card game, hosted by Arizona. The Diamondbacks' opponent has not been determined yet. Alex Wood (16-3) allowed two runs in six innings for Los Angeles. Dinelson Lamet (7-8) gave four runs and walked six over five innings.

ROCKIES 6, MARLINS 0

Trevor Story hit a three-run homer and Tyler Anderson pitched seven superb innings, helping Colorado maintain its slim lead for the second NL wild card. The Rockies notched their first win over the Marlins in five tries this

season and stayed 1 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee. Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer in the fifth for Colorado. Anderson (6-6) allowed four hits and walked none. Miami starter Jose Urena (14-7) yielded six runs over five innings. The right-hander allowed a total of six runs in four previous starts this month.

ANGELS 9, WHITE SOX 3

Mike Trout hit his 31st homer, Albert Pujols joined Alex Rodriguez as the only players with 100 RBIs in 14 seasons, and the fading Angels won on the road. Los Angeles remained five games behind Minnesota for the final AL wild card with five to play. Trout, Brandon Phillips and Luis Valbuena homered off Chris Volstad (1-1) during a six-run second inning. Parker Bridwell (9-3) improved to 5-0 in nine road starts. Jose Abreu had three hits for Chicago, including his 32nd and 33rd homers.

BLUE JAYS 9, RED SOX 4

Red Sox ace Chris Sale matched a career worst by giving up four home runs in a play-off tuneup, including a pair to Josh Donaldson. Teoscar Hernandez hit one of his two homers off Sale, and Kendrys Morales had the other against the left-hander. Sale (17-8) allowed five runs in five innings and surrendered multiple homers for the third time in five starts. J.A. Happ (10-11) struck out nine while pitching seven strong innings for the last-place Blue Jays. He was charged with one run and four hits.

PIRATES 10, ORIOLES 1

Andrew McCutchen hit his first career grand slam and drove in eight runs, powering Pittsburgh to the victory. McCutchen raised a fist in triumph as he rounded the bases after connecting against Kevin Gausman (11-11) in the second inning. He also hit an RBI double in the first, singled in the fifth and belted a three-run homer in the seventh. McCutchen's eight RBIs were one off the franchise record and the most by a Pirate since Jason Bay in 2004. Trevor Williams (7-9) pitched six innings of one-run ball and rookie Steven Brault finished the five-hitter for his first career save.

ASTROS 14, RANGERS 3

Carlos Correa, Brian McCann and Cameron Maybin each drove in three runs, and Houston clinched no worse than the second-best record in the American League. Houston (97-60) trails Cleveland by one game with five

to play in the race for the league's best record. The Indians own the tiebreaker, having won the season series. Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel (14-5) struck out eight while pitching six effective innings. Rangers ace Cole Hamels (11-5) was charged with six runs in three-plus innings.

CARDINALS 8, CUBS 7

Tommy Pham and Randal Grichuk homered, and the Cardinals denied the Cubs a chance at clinching the NL Central title. Matt Carpenter and Jedd Gyorko also connected for St. Louis, which is 2 1/2 games back in the race for the second NL wild card. Zach Duke (1-1) got the win and Juan Nicasio earned his fifth save. Jason Heyward hit a three-run homer for Chicago, and Ben Zobrist also went deep. Jake Arrieta (14-10) was charged with three earned runs in three innings. The Cubs (88-69) still lead the division by five games over second-place Milwaukee.

BREWERS 7, REDS 6

Domingo Santana hit a three-run homer in Milwaukee's four-run first, and the Brewers held on for the win. Milwaukee remained 1 1/2 games behind Colorado for the second NL wild card. Josh Hader (2-3) earned the win, and Corey Knebel worked the ninth for his 38th save. Scott Schebler, Zack Cozart and Jesse Winker homered for last-place Cincinnati, which has dropped seven in a row. Rookie Deck McGuire (0-1) allowed four earned runs in three innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, GIANTS 4

J.D. Martinez hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, leading Arizona and its lineup of regulars over San Francisco. Martinez continued his torrid September in which he has 15 home runs, 35 RBIs and seven doubles with a .414 batting average. He has 28 homers since the Diamondbacks acquired him from Detroit, tied with Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton for most in the majors since July 19. The six RBIs tied a career high, and Martinez's total of 103 RBIs on the season is a career best. Arizona starter Robbie Ray (15-5) had more than enough support, though he gave up Tim Federowicz's two-run homer in the fifth. Giants starter Matt Moore (6-15) couldn't make it out of the second inning.

PHILLIES 4, NATIONALS 1

Jake Thompson pitched four-hit ball into

the sixth inning, and Philadelphia spoiled Bryce Harper's return from a knee injury. With the loss, Washington locked itself into the second seed in the NL playoffs behind the Dodgers. The Nationals will host the NL Central champion in a Division Series beginning Oct. 6 at Nationals Park. Thompson (3-2) was charged with a run in five-plus innings. Hector Neris struck out the side in the ninth for his 25th save. Harper played for the first time since hyperextending and bruising his left knee on Aug. 12. He was 0 for 2 with a walk before being lifted in the fifth inning. Washington left-hander Gio Gonzalez (15-8) allowed three runs in five innings.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 3

Danny Valencia hit a three-run homer against his former team and fellow ex-Oakland slugger Yonder Alonso added a two-run shot for Oakland. Kris Davis matched his career high from last season with his 42nd homer, a two-run shot in the sixth to put Oakland ahead before Valencia's 15th of the year in the seventh off Daniel Mengden (2-2). Emilio Pagan (2-3) pitched 1 2/3 innings in relief of James Paxton for the win, then Edwin Diaz closed it out for his 33rd save.

METS 4, BRAVES 3

Travis Tajeron hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth, sending the Mets to the win. New York was stymied by R.A. Dickey much of the night and trailed 3-0 in the seventh before Kevin Plawecki hit a two-run homer off the 42-year-old knuckleballer. Asdrubal Cabrera tied it with a sacrifice fly in the eighth. Jeury Familia (2-2) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Dickey, who won the NL Cy Young Award with the Mets in 2012, allowed five hits in 6 2/3 innings. A.J. Minter (0-1) got the loss.

ROYALS 2, TIGERS 1

Jason Vargas moved into a tie for the major league lead with his 18th victory, leading the Royals over the struggling Tigers. Vargas (18-10) went six innings to match Cleveland's Corey Kluber and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw for most wins in the majors. He gave up a run and five hits. The Tigers have dropped eight straight to fall to 4-21 in September. Anibal Sanchez (3-6) took the loss, allowing two runs and seven hits in six innings. Mike Minor worked the ninth for his third save in five chances. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

LA Dodgers 9, San Diego 2; Seattle 6, Oakland 3; Arizona 11, San Francisco 4; Colorado 6, Miami 0; St. Louis 8, Chicago Cubs 7; Kansas City 2, Detroit 1; LA Angels 9, Chicago White Sox 3; Houston 14, Texas 3; Milwaukee 7, Cincinnati 6; NY Mets 4, Atlanta 3; Minnesota 8, Cleveland 6; Toronto 9, Boston 4; Pittsburgh 10, Baltimore 1; NY Yankees 6, Tampa Bay 1; Philadelphia 4, Washington 1.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	95	62	.605
Boston	91	66	.580	Miami	74	83	.471
NY Yankees	88	69	.561	Atlanta	71	86	.452
Tampa Bay	76	81	.484	NY Mets	68	90	.430
Toronto	75	83	.475	Philadelphia	63	95	.399
Baltimore	75	83	.475				32.5
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	98	59	.624	Chicago Cubs	88	69	.561
Minnesota	83	74	.529	Milwaukee	83	74	.529
Kansas City	77	80	.490	St. Louis	82	75	.522
Chicago White Sox	64	93	.408	Pittsburgh	72	85	.459
Detroit	62	95	.395	Cincinnati	66	91	.420
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	97	60	.618	LA Dodgers	101	57	.639
LA Angels	78	79	.497	Arizona	91	67	.576
Seattle	77	81	.487	Colorado	85	73	.538
Texas	76	81	.484	San Diego	70	88	.443
Oakland	72	85	.459	San Francisco	62	96	.392

RIVAL CAPTAINS SARFRAZ, CHANDIMAL LOOK FOR NEW BEGINNING

ABU DHABI: Rival captains Sarfraz Ahmed and Dinesh Chandimal hope the recent two-match Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will give them a new beginning. Pakistan want to turn the page after the retirement of their two greats Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq while Sri Lanka will look to lift their recent poor showing in the longer format.

Ahmed, who will lead Pakistan for

the first time in Tests, is confident that his team will avail the first opportunity. "Obviously, you have two great players who were playing consistently but you have to move on," said Ahmed yesterday.

"We have to remember the disciplines (of Younis and Misbah) and whatever they told us should be implemented on the field and start afresh," said Ahmed, who has already led Pakistan in

one-day and Twenty20 international.

"This is my first opportunity as captain in Tests, so I will be up for that challenge and my players are also up to that and are very excited at this prospect." Pakistan will use experienced batsman Azhar Ali on number three after he opened the innings in the last 12 months and will promote Asad Shafiq from six to four.

"We have strengthened our middle

order and I am confident that Ali, Shafiq and Babar Azam will be up to the task to complement the batting," said Ahmed, who also has three Test hundreds.

Ahmed said his team will not underestimate the opponents. "Their team looks good," said Ahmed of Sri Lanka. "They have (Lahiru) Thirimanne and Kushal Silva back so both the teams are young and I think it will be a good series."

Chandimal believes Sri Lanka has the talent to improve after being thrashed 3-0 at home by India last month. "From that last series we learnt a lot, especially we have done more work on our fitness and fielding. All we need to win is one game and everything will fall into place," said Chandimal, whose team has lost seven of their last nine Tests, including one against Bangladesh.—AFP

BANGLADESH FACE IN-FORM SOUTH AFRICAN BATSMEN

POTCHEFSTROOM: History and the form of South Africa's leading batsmen are against Bangladesh in the first Test starting today at Senwes Park in northwestern university town Potchefstroom. Bangladesh have lost all four previous Tests in South Africa by an innings, despite winning the toss on all four occasions.

In their favour, though, is improved form since their previous tour in 2008/09 and a Potchefstroom pitch less likely to help South Africa's formidable fast bowlers than other surfaces in the host country. Although it has generally favoured batsmen, there was surprising assistance for slow bowlers in a Twenty20 tournament earlier this month, a repeat of which would suit Bangladesh's spin-strong attack.

Even so, the odds seemed loaded in South Africa's favour. Bangladesh did not suggest themselves as world-beaters in a low-key draw against a largely inexperienced Invitation team in Benoni near Johannesburg last week, while South Africa's top batsmen were feasting in four-day franchise matches.

Hashim Amla, Dean Elgar, Theunis de Bruyn and new cap Aiden Markram all scored centuries, captain Faf du Plessis made 96 and Quinton de Kock hit a half-century. Temba Bavuma was the exception, making 25 and 0. South Africa's Test stars were playing domestic first-class cricket at the insistence of new head coach, former West Indies player Ottis Gibson, some for the first time in several seasons.

The form of the batsmen was encouraging after they struggled in a low-scoring series defeat in England this year. South Africa's frontline bowlers were less successful, however. Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada failed to take a wicket in 38 overs, Duanne Olivier took three in the first innings and none in 31 overs in the second innings and

left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took just one wicket in 39 overs. Only Morne Morkel enjoyed some success, taking five wickets across two innings.

In the absence of leading all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was granted a break from Test cricket, Bangladesh will look to their two most experienced remaining players, captain Mushfiqur Rahim and opener Tamim Iqbal, to provide substance to their batting. Tamim played a minimal role in the warm-up match because of a thigh muscle strain but has been passed fit for Potchefstroom. Shakib has also been a mainstay of Bangladesh's bowling attack, which looks short of experience without him. Only slow left-arter Tajjul Islam, with 54, has taken more than 50 Test wickets. Two young bowlers, left-arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman, 22, and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan, 19, are likely to be key figures for the tourists.

Squads

South Africa: Faf du Plessis (capt), Dean Elgar, Aiden Markram, Hashim Amla, Temba Bavuma, Quinton de Kock (wkt), Theunis de Bruyn, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Morne Morkel, Duanne Olivier, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo Coach: Ottis Gibson (WIS)

Bangladesh: Mushfiqur Rahim (capt/wkt), Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Imrul Kayes, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah, Mominul Haque, Liton Das (wkt), Mehidy Hasan, Tajjul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Subashis Roy Coach: Chandika Hathurusingha (SRI)

Umpires: Chris Gaffaney (NZL), Bruce Oxenford (AUS)

TV umpire: Kumar Dharmasena (SRI)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

—AFP

CRICKET

STOKES PICKED BY ENGLAND FOR ASHES DESPITE ARREST

LONDON: Ben Stokes was included yesterday in England's 16-man squad for the Ashes series in Australia, two days after the all-rounder was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm in a late-night incident.

Stokes, who has suffered a broken finger on his right hand, remains under investigation after being released by police. His role as vice-captain is subject to a formal disciplinary process being undertaken by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Asked if any legal issues could impact on Stokes' availability for the tour, which starts on Nov. 4, ECB director of cricket Andrew Strauss said: "His selection, on this side, is based on what we are in control of and what we know at this stage."

Strauss said the results of a scan undertaken on Tuesday showed Stokes has a "minor fracture" of a finger on his right hand and the player will undergo more Tests. "The early indications are that he'll be fit for all of the Ashes test matches," Strauss said. The first of five Tests starts Nov. 23 in Brisbane.

Stokes has been left out of England's team for the one-day international against West Indies yesterday in the wake of the incident on early Monday, which took place in Bristol after an ODI there. Three uncapped players - paceman Craig Overton, legspinner Mason Crane and wicketkeeper Ben Foakes - were called up to the squad that flies to Australia on Oct. 28. James Vince returned for the first time since August 2016 and fellow batsman Gary Ballance is back after fracturing a finger in a test against South Africa in July, giving them another chance to stake a

claim for a place in England's fragile middle order. There was no place in the squad for batsmen Tom Westley and Alex Hales, and bowlers Mark Wood and Toby Roland-Jones. England, which won the most recent Ashes series in 2015 on home soil, will play three tour matches before the test series.

"A tour of Australia is the ultimate test for our squad," national selector James Whitaker said. "We have provided (captain) Joe Root and (coach) Trevor Bayliss with a well-balanced squad with options in all areas. "After a successful summer, having won the test series against South Africa and West Indies, there is real competition for places." Strauss said the incident involving Stokes will lead to a reassessment of how England's players will be treated regarding their free time on tour.

"My instinct, and Trevor Bayliss' instinct, is to treat people like adults and give quite a lot of responsibility to players on and off the field," said Strauss, a former England captain. "He believes, and I think we've seen that, that that sort of attitude bears great dividends on the pitch in terms of how they go about their business but also creates a harmonious environment which enables performance.

"That philosophy is a sound one. Obviously when things like this happen, you have to take a step back and go, 'Are we doing everything right?'"

England squad: Joe Root (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Jake Ball, Gary Ballance, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Mason Crane, Ben Foakes, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ben Stokes, Mark Stoneman, James Vince, Chris Woakes. — AP



LONDON: This file photo taken on September 08, 2017 shows England's Ben Stokes appealing unsuccessfully for the wicket of West Indies' Shai Hope during the second day of the third international Test match between England and West Indies at Lords cricket ground in London. —AFP



WUHAN: Garbine Muguruza of Spain celebrates after winning against Magda Linette of Poland during their third round women's singles match at the WTA Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province yesterday. — AFP

TENNIS

MUGURUZA ADVANCES TO Q-FINALS AT WUHAN

WUHAN: Top-ranked Garbine Muguruza advanced to the quarterfinals at the Wuhan Open, beating Magda Linette of Poland 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 yesterday. The Spaniard went up an early break in the third-round match against No. 83 Linette and the Wimbledon champion needed just a half-hour to win the first set.

Linette fought back in the second set, winning five straight games against top-seeded Muguruza before play was stopped briefly to close the roof for rain. Muguruza managed to get one game on the board before Linette sent the match to a decider.

"I know she is a very good player," Muguruza said. "She had a very good moment in the second set but that didn't disturb me to just keep going," said Muguruza. Muguruza faces French Open Champion Jelena Ostapenko in the quarterfinals. Ostapenko also needed three sets to

advance, beating eight-seeded Monica Puig of Puerto Rico 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Up a double break, Ostapenko served for the match at 5-1 but Puig wasn't ready to go home. Helped by seven double faults in Ostapenko's last two service games, Puig came close to a comeback in the decider.

Australian Ashleigh Barty continued her strong form, beating her second consecutive top-20 player with a 4-6, 6-0, 6-4 win over ninth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska. In hot and humid conditions, Barty broke Radwanska's service six times to advance to the quarterfinals against third-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who beat China's Wang Qiang 6-2, 6-1. The 21-year-old Barty beat fifth-seeded Johanna Konta in the second round. The Australian broke Radwanska's serve in the deciding set to take a 4-2 lead. She set up game point in the eighth game with a backhand drop shot after a 20-shot rally to lead 5-3, then held

serve in the 10th game to advance on her fourth match point.

"I didn't do much wrong in that first set, but came up short, so credit to her," Barty said. "But I played pretty well over the last two sets."

Sixteenth-seeded Elena Vesnina lost in straight sets to qualifier Maria Sakkari of Greece 7-6 (6), 7-5. Sakkari beat fourth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki en route to the quarterfinals. Ekaterina Makarova of Russia also made it to the quarters, beating compatriot Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 6-4. It's been a tough tournament for seeded and featured players. On Tuesday, second-seeded Simona Halep and No. 4-seeded Caroline Wozniacki lost their second-round matches. Former No. 1 Angelique Kerber, US Open champion Sloane Stephens - beaten by Wang - and runner-up Madison Keys lost in the first round. —AP

FIGURE SKATING

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMP ZHOU SET FOR CHEERS IN CHINA DEBUT

PARK CITY: World junior figure skating champion Vincent Zhou makes his senior Grand Prix debut in five weeks in Beijing, where he starts making his case for a Winter Olympic debut at Pyeongchang.

The Chinese-American makes his top-level debut just nine days after his 17th birthday at the Cup of China on November 3 and compete again two weeks later at a stop in Grenoble, France.

Zhou already has a fan club waiting to applaud him in China, with his mother, Fay Ge, helping stir excitement from her son's online followers. "They are organizing a cheering section for me. My mom is involved in some fan groups for me," Zhou said Tuesday. "My mom told me that a lot of people from China will be cheering for me."

"And my grandparents will be there. There's going to be a lot of extra pressure for me to deal with," Zhou isn't shy about admitting he is nervous every time he takes the ice, but he says he's ready for the mental challenge.

"It takes a lot of mental strength to be able to manage those things," Zhou said. "Despite my age, I think I'm well prepared. My team has given me great mental strength." Zhou, runner-up to Chinese-American pal Nathan Chen in last year's US championships, won the world junior crown in March at Taiwan, the best free skate scores of his career lifting him from fifth after the short program. And he could wind up back in Beijing for the 2022 Winter Olympics, although he says: "I can't imagine what that's going to be like." "If I stay healthy and keep progressing, I hope I'll be one of the top skaters going into those Olympics," Zhou said.

"But I haven't thought too much about that. For now, I'm concentrating on 2018. I'm

living my dream now." Making a quick transition to the elite competition level is crucial to that dream. "I know I have a ton of stuff to learn, a ton of experiences to have," Zhou said.

"China and France are going to be a great learning experience. I feel like I can win these things, but I know it's going to take a lot of hard work and I'm looking forward to these experiences." The US Olympic trials are in January, but a panel selects qualifiers after the meet. "All I can do is skate my best and hope I can find my way onto the team," Zhou said. Zhou landed his first quad salchow at age 14 and three others at 15. "It has (taken a toll on my body) but at this level, it's important to mitigate those things," he said.

Zhou says landing a quad in the last third of his program is the toughest feat. "Imagine trying to do a quad near the end of an 800-meter sprint," he said. "That's what it's like."

WORTHY END NEEDS TOUGH TREK

The son of computer software engineers who immigrated to California in the 1990s has an older sister who went to MIT university. Zhou finished high school this year in an online program and is pondering business school, but wants to stay near his Colorado training base. "I was the youngest one in my class and learning on my own," he said. "Learning by myself was very difficult and cost me a lot of sleep. I'm glad I made it through."

"The destination isn't worth it if the journey isn't difficult." Pyeongchang is his destination, but blocking his path is Chen, who Zhou said could unleash seven quads if he wants, a fact Zhou doesn't see as intimidating. "Thinking about the number of quads someone else can do isn't going to change the number of quads I can do," Zhou said. —AFP



PARK CITY: Figure Skater Vincent Zhou poses for a portrait during the Team USA Media Summit ahead of the Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Winter Games on Tuesday in Park City, Utah. —AFP

ROMA GRIND OUT 2-1 WIN AT BATTLING QARABAG

BAKU: Roma ended its poor away record in the Champions League with a labored 2-1 victory at Qarabag yesterday. Kostas Manolas and Edin Dzeko gave Roma a comfortable 2-0 lead inside the opening quarter of an hour, but Pedro Henrique reduced the deficit in the 28th minute with Qarabag's first ever goal in the Champions League.

"In this match it was more important to win than to play well," Dzeko said.

"We should have finished it off in the first half, instead we conceded the goal and we suffered. But at the end we got the three points."

Though Roma had only won one of its past 13 matches on its travels in the competition, beating Basel in 2009, it was hopeful of ending that run against Qarabag, which had been humiliated 6-0 at Chelsea in the opening round. Qarabag duly gifted

the visitors a seventh minute lead when goalkeeper Ibrahim Sehic poorly punched a corner straight at Lorenzo Pellegrini, who volleyed it in for Manolas' diving header.

Roma doubled its advantage eight minutes later with a well-worked move that ended with Stephan El Shaarawy flicking a cross into the area. Dzeko chested the ball down before lifting it above Sehic - with his shot clipping the

underside of the bar on its way in.

It was Dzeko's sixth goal in his past four matches. However, Roma paid the price for its complacency when Maxime Gonalons was caught in possession by Dino Ndlovu who sent in a through ball for Henrique to blast into the back of the net.

Qarabag dominated possession in the second half but never really threatened, although Roma coach

Eusebio Di Francesco brought on experienced midfielder Daniele De Rossi in an attempt to gain more control of the match.

The home side almost snatched an equalizer in the final minute but Ndlovu headed just past the left post. Atletico Madrid, which drew 0-0 at Roma in the opening round, hosts Chelsea later in the other Group C match. —AP

HIGUAIN LIFTS JUVENTUS TO WIN OVER OLYMPIAKOS

TURIN: Gonzalo Higuain got Juventus' Champions League campaign off the mark coming on a substitute to lift last year's finalists to a 2-0 Group D win over Olympiakos yesterday. Massimiliano Allegri's side needed to reignite their European campaign after falling 3-0 to Barcelona in Spain two weeks ago. And Higuain hit back after being dropped by Allegri by opening the scoring after 69 minutes and having a hand in Mario Mandzukic's second on 80 minutes at the Allianz Arena.

Juventus are now third in Group D which is led by unbeaten Barcelona but behind Sporting Lisbon who lost 1-0 at home to the Spanish side on goal difference. For Olympiakos a second defeat after their opener to Sporting leaves them rock bottom.

Olympiakos coach Takis Lemonis was parachuted in two days ago for his fourth spell after Albanian Besnik Hasi was sacked after a derby collapse to AEK. But despite the turmoil within their squad Olympiakos proved more than a more than a match early for the hosts in Turin.

Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic pulled out in the warm-up for Juventus with Higuain dropped for the second game in a row, moving Mandzukic to the centre-forward role, before the Argentine came on for the last 30 minutes. Olympiakos pinned back the six-time successive Serie A champions initially before the game sprung to

life for the hosts late in the first half. Silvio Proto did well in goal in place of Greek international Stefanos Kapino, banished after the AEK defeat.

And the Belgian kept the visitors net unbreached faced with a dangerous Juventus onslaught in the last 15 minutes of the first half. Juventus star Paulo Dybala failed to add to his tally of 12 goals this season, sending a couple of free-kicks into the wall. The hosts missed two quickfire chances on 34 minutes when Juan Cuadrado crossed to Mandzukic but his header was flicked over by Proto, who then dived to keep out Stefano Sturaro's header off the ensuing corner. Olympiakos were very dangerous on the counter but Gianluigi Buffon had his first save on 41 minutes from a Felipe Pardo angled shot. Juventus had a double chance to break the deadlock just before half-time when Proto again dived to stop Dybala, and Olympiakos narrowly avoided an own goal when Alex Sandro's cross from the left was accidentally deflected off the post by Bjorn Engels.

Higuain proved decisive when he came on after an hour in northern Italy. Sandro crossed to the Argentine whose first effort was blocked, but his second beat Proto for his third goal of the season. Higuain also had a hand in the second goal when the Argentine played in Dybala before the Olympiakos defence knocked the ball into Mandzukic's path. —AFP



LISBON: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (L) kicks the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group D football match Sporting CP vs FC Barcelona at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon yesterday. — AFP

UNLUCKY COATES GIFTS BARCA WIN AT SPORTING

LISBON: Sebastian Coates scored an unfortunate second-half own goal to gift Barcelona a 1-0 victory away to Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League yesterday. The Uruguayan centre-back unwittingly deflected a Lionel Messi free-kick into his own net on 49 minutes to hand the Spaniards a second successive win to start Group D.

The five-time European champions head the section with a maximum six points, ahead of both Sporting and Juventus on three, with Olympiakos yet to pick up a point. Ernesto Valverde's Barca have proved unstoppable in La Liga so far, winning their opening six matches to pull seven points clear of defending champions Real Madrid while vanquishing Juve in their first group game in Europe.

Messi drew level with former long-serving Barca captain Carles Puyol by making his 593rd appearance for the club-trailing only Andres Iniesta (637) and Xavi (767). But the Argentine,

one goal away from 100 in European competition, was largely subdued during a quiet first half in the Portuguese capital, with Cristiano Piccini flashing narrowly over for Sporting on 15 minutes.

Sergi Roberto slipped in Luis Suarez as Barca finally threatened just before the half hour, but the Uruguayan was denied by Rui Patricio with the Portugal goalkeeper then holding well from a Messi header.

Sporting's Marco Acuna tested Marc-Andre ter Stegen with a low drive, but Messi gradually grew in influence as the interval approached. He weaved his way through the home defence on 43 minutes only to find an old foe, ex-Real Madrid full-back Fabio Coentrao, slide across superbly to block his goal-bound effort.

Sporting lost striker Seydou Doumbia to injury prior to the break, the Ivorian seemingly hurting himself following a theatrical fall on the edge of the Barca penalty area that earned him a

yellow card. Dutch international Bas Dost, who scored a league-best 34 goals last campaign, replace Doumbia, but Barca broke the deadlock early into the second half as a Messi set-piece ricocheted about the Sporting six-yard box before trickling beyond Patricio.

The Argentine's curling delivery in from the right brushed two Sporting heads with Suarez then nodding the ball against Coates who could only watch in horror as it dribbled over the line. Suarez unleashed a snapshot straight at Patricio as Barca searched for a second, but the visitors were grateful to Ter Stegen as the German international thwarted Bruno Fernandes' attempt for an equaliser.

Former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Paulinho went close to notching his third goal in four games late on when Patricio repelled the Brazilian, but Barca stretched their unbeaten run against Portuguese clubs to 15 matches dating back to 1987. — AFP



TURIN: Juventus' midfielder from Italy Stefano Sturaro (C) fights for the ball with Olympiakos' Nigerian Defender Emmanuel Emenike (R) during the UEFA Champions League Group D football match Juventus vs Olympiakos yesterday at the Juventus stadium in Turin. — AFP

CELTIC OVERCOME AWAY ANXIETY TO BEAT ANDERLECHT

BRUSSELS: Scottish Champions Celtic enjoyed a rare away victory in their 3-0 win over an uninspiring Anderlecht in their Champions League clash in Brussels yesterday, staking their claim on the third spot in Group B.

Ahead of the match, Celtic, Scottish champions for the past six seasons, had only won once in 30 away matches in the Champions League. Having been thumped 5-0 at home by Paris Saint Germain in their opening match, Celtic are third behind Bayern Munich on goal difference after the German side's 3-0 loss to Paris St Germain.

After 37 minutes in which neither team managed a single shot on goal, Celtic flawlessly executed a counter from their own half to gain the lead, with Leigh Griffiths converting calmly. Five minutes into the second half, Celtic scored again when a cross by Patrick Roberts came off Anderlecht defender Kara Mbodji into the net, before Scott Sinclair made it 3-0 with a thumping shot in the final seconds. Anderlecht, who sacked manager Rene Weiler this month after a disappointing run in the Belgian league, are last in the group, having also lost their opening match against Bayern. —Reuters



BRUSSELS: RSC Anderlecht's Pieter Gerkens (R) and Adrian Trebel (C) fight for the ball with Scott Brown of Celtic FC (L) during the UEFA Champions League Group B football match Anderlecht vs Celtic at The Constant Vanden Stock Stadium in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

BIRTHDAY BOY OBERLIN LIFTS BASEL TO BEAT BENFICA 5-0

BASEL: Young forward Dimitri Oberlin used a special occasion to inspire Basel to a stunning 5-0 win over Benfica in the Champions League yesterday. On his 20th birthday, the Cameroon-born Oberlin scored twice, had one assist and also earned a penalty as Basel defied a lackluster start to the season.

Benfica played with 10 men for the last half hour after midfielder Andre Almeida was sent off for jumping into a two-footed tackle that appeared vengeful when losing the ball. Still, the Benfica defense had already been shredded by slick Basel counterattacks. The visitors were shambolic when substitute Blas Riveros completed the scoring in the 76th minute, seconds after Basel hit each post with back-to-back shots.

Basel is second in Group A behind Manchester United, which won 4-1 at CSKA Moscow to follow its 3-0 home win over the Swiss two weeks ago. Oberlin set the tone as the driving force for two first-half goals that finished end-to-end moves he started from Basel's penalty area. In the second minute, Oberlin surged in two different phases of an attack that saw him draw goalkeeper Julio Cesar out of position and tee up defender Michael Lang to fire in a low shot. Basel's second goal in the 20th started when Oberlin headed clear Benfica's corner from his own goalmouth and took off sprinting upfield. He collected Renato Steffen's pass near the Benfica area and slipped a shot past Julio Cesar, Brazil's keeper at the 2014 World Cup.

It was quite a start for the Switzerland youth international making his first Champions League start on loan from Austrian title-holder Salzburg. Oberlin was fouled for the penalty kick that Ricky van Wolfswinkel converted in the 60th, and again scored easily past Julio Cesar in the 69th after slack Benfica passing in defense.

Basel's new management team began the game under pressure from a poor start to the season for the eight-time defending Swiss cham-

peon. Though losing at Man United was no surprise, Basel languishes in fourth place in its home league.

Television cameras caught sporting director Marco Streller - a former Basel forward appoint-

ed this year by the club's new ownership - reacting with evident relief to the early lead. Coach Raphael Wicky, in his first season of senior management at any club, punched the air wildly at each goal. — AP



BASEL: Benfica's defender Andre Almeida (L) and Basel's Italian defender Raoul Petretta fight for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group A football match between FC Basel 1893 and Benfica at St Jakob-Park Stadium in Basel yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Hamilton, loving life, seeks last hurrah in Malaysia



Muguruza advances to quarter-finals at Wuhan Open



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

KNIGHTS READY TO BATTLE AS LATEST EXPANSION TEAM Page 13



MOSCOW: CSKA Moscow's defender from Russia Sergey Ignashevich (L) and Manchester United's midfielder from Spain Ander Herrera vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group A football match between PFC CSKA Moscow and Manchester United FC in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

LUKAKU, MARTIAL LEAD MAN UTD IN CSKA ROUT

MOSCOW: Romelu Lukaku and Anthony Martial put CSKA Moscow to the sword as Manchester United took control of Champions League Group A with a ruthless 4-1 win yesterday. Lukaku scored twice at Moscow's VEB Arena, taking his United tally to 10 goals in nine games, with Martial setting him up twice and netting a penalty before Henrikh Mkhitaryan completed victory.

It was United's first away win in the competition since November 2013 and with Basel thrashing Benfica in the other group game, it left Jose Mourinho's side three points clear at the top of the pool.

After grinding out a 1-0 win at Southampton on Saturday, United were back to their fluid best in the Russian capital, the pace and movement of new strike partners Lukaku and Martial causing CSKA headaches all night. Having beaten Benfica in their opening game, CSKA were brought back to earth with a bump, although substitute Konstantin Kuchaev gave their fans something to cheer with a 90th-minute consolation goal. While the hosts had their moments, the encounter rather made a mockery of United manager Mourinho's eve-of-match claim that this was the strongest CSKA team he had ever encountered. Missing Paul Pogba, Marouane Fellaini and Michael Carrick through injury, Mourinho set United out in an unfamiliar 3-4-1-2 system, but the visitors took no time to find their mark.

Paired in a new-look front two, Lukaku and Martial clicked instantly, combining to put United ahead in the fourth minute. Lukaku's fine pass down the inside-left

channel released Martial on the left and he checked inside before crossing to the back post, where Lukaku leapt to direct a strong header past Igor Akinfeev.

After Akinfeev thwarted Mkhitaryan with his legs, Martial made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in the 18th minute following a foul on Mkhitaryan by Georgi Schennikov. Nine minutes later it was 3-0 as Vasili Berezutski made a hash of clearing Martial's low cross and Lukaku turned the ball home.

The frustration for CSKA coach Viktor Goncharenko was that his side managed to procure several sights of goal at the other end, only to find David de Gea an impermeable barrier. The United goalkeeper produced an excellent one-handed save to thwart Alan Dzagoev at 1-0 and tipped a powerful shot from Fedor Chalov over the ball at 2-0, as well as fielding attempts from Vitinho and Dzagoev.

Akinfeev denied Lukaku his hat-trick early in the second half before more slipshod defending gifted United their fourth. Veteran centre-back Sergei Ignashevich gifted the ball straight to Ander Herrera, whose through ball released Martial.

The Frenchman's effort was parried by Akinfeev, but Mkhitaryan followed in to slot the rebound into the net. Akinfeev has now gone 45 games without a clean sheet in the competition proper, although his saves from substitutes Jesse Lingard and Matteo Darmian, allied to Kuchaev's late effort, spared CSKA further embarrassment. — AFP

CAVANI, NEYMAR ON TARGET AS PSG OUTCLASS BAYERN

PARIS: Edinson Cavani and Neymar both scored as Paris Saint-Germain claimed a convincing 3-0 victory over a disappointing Bayern Munich in their heavyweight Champions League clash in the French capital yesterday. PSG got off to a dream start as their other Brazilian summer signing Dani Alves gave them the lead inside 90 seconds at the Parc des Princes and they never looked back.

Cavani's sweeping first-time strike just after the half-hour mark made it 2-0 before Neymar completed the scoring in the second half as Bayern went down to their heaviest defeat since losing to Barcelona by the same score in the semi-finals of this competition in May 2015. The result leaves the French club top of Group B with the maximum six points from two games, eight goals scored and none conceded. They are on course to win the section-Bayern are level on three points with Celtic, who won at Anderlecht.

For PSG this was a chance to measure themselves against one of the continent's traditional powers in their biggest European match since their humiliating exit in Barcelona last season.

In that regard the evening was a resounding success for Unai Emery's team, although the German club were some way short of their usual standards. The match also saw Cavani and Neymar feature together for the first time since their disagreement over who should take a penalty in a league game against Lyon 10 days previously.

This time there were no such disputes, and both men could celebrate contributing to the final outcome. Bayern have been among the critics of PSG's spending policy after a summer which saw them notably spend a world-record 222 million euros (\$264 million) to sign Neymar from Barcelona.

The Brazilian is reportedly being paid more than three million euros a month in Paris, and Bayern supporters had that in mind as they unfurled a pointed banner prior to kick-off. Complaining about match tickets costing 75 euros, it read: "We are not Neymar. Ticket prices must be reasonable."

ALVES WITH OPENER

It would have been easier to swallow paying that price if their team had won, but they fell behind in the second minute and never recovered. Neymar was allowed to cut in from the left before picking out Alves, who arrived unmarked in the area to take a touch and finish past Sven Ulreich, standing in for the injured Manuel Neuer in the Bayern goal.

Javi Martinez came closest to equalising for Carlo Ancelotti's side with a half-volley from the edge of the area that was tipped over by Alphonse Areola, but the hosts were able to soak up the pressure and hit on the break. Cavani shot just wide after being fed by Kylian

Mbappe and those two combined for the second goal in the 31st minute, Mbappe again teeing up Cavani for a superb first-time finish high into the net and his 10th goal this season.

Bayern were stunned, and a combination of the 'MCN' then almost brought a third, with Neymar laying off Mbappe's pass for Cavani, whose effort was saved.

Things did get worse for the visitors in the second half and they conceded again in the 63rd minute, with Neymar poking home from inside the six-yard box as Martinez failed to clear following good play by Mbappe. That was Neymar's sixth goal for PSG and the 18th in total from the 'MCN', with the promise of many more to come. — AFP



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar runs with the ball during the UEFA Champions League football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich yesterday— AFP

BATSHUAYI HANDS CHELSEA DESERVED WIN AT ATLETICO

MADRID: Michy Batshuayi struck a dramatic winner with the last kick of the game as Chelsea inflicted Atletico Madrid's first defeat at their new Wanda Metropolitan home yesterday with a hugely impressive 2-1 victory.

Substitute Batshuayi's late intervention was just rewards for a dominant Chelsea display despite falling behind to Antoine Griezman's penalty five minutes before half-time. Former Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata came back to haunt Atletico on his return to the Spanish capital by nodding home Eden Hazard's tempting cross on the hour mark.

And Batshuayi finished off a patient team move deep into stoppage time by turning home Marcos Alonso's cross at the near post. Victory ensured Chelsea take a commanding lead at the top of Group C with six points from their opening two games ahead of Roma, who moved onto four with a 2-1 win at Azerbaijani Champions League newcomers Qarabag earlier in the day.

Atletico, by contrast, are in trouble after taking just one point from their opening two games. The presence of Diego Costa dominated much of the pre-match

attention after he completed his prolonged return to Atletico from Chelsea on Tuesday.

Despite the Brazilian-born striker's refusal to train with the Premier League champions this season it was all smiles as he greeted plenty of his former teammates in the tunnel before kick-off. However, Chelsea haven't missed Costa so far this season as his replacement Morata has now scored seven goals in as many games.

Morata, though, hadn't scored in six previous appearances against Atletico for Juventus and Real and passed up a series of early chances as Chelsea dominated. Twice the Spanish international pulled shots wide after excellent build-up play from the outstanding Hazard.

Hazard was starting for only the second time this season after breaking his ankle in June, but showed no signs of rust early on as he smacked a shot from outside the box off the post. Morata then finally forced Jan Oblak into a save as the Slovenian tipped his looping header over for a corner.

Chelsea's control forced Atletico boss Diego Simeone into a tactical reshuffle as he switched from his favoured 4-4-2 to 4-3-3 and was rewarded as the hosts stemmed the Chelsea tide. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Britain's easyJet
aims for electric
short-haul flights

Page 19

US stocks gain in
anticipation of
Trump tax plan

Page 20



Motul roars into future
with TVR as official
lubricant partner

Page 21

OIL CUTS WEIGH ON UAE'S GROWTH IN 2017

Page 18



PARIS: French Minister of State, attached to the Minister of Economy and Finance Benjamin Griveaux arrives to attend a hearing by the committee on finance, economy and budgetary control at the Palais Bourbon, the seat of the French National Assembly, in Paris yesterday. — AFP

MACRON GOVT CUTS WEALTH TAXES IN BUDGET

TRICKY BUDGET SHOWS BUSINESS-FRIENDLY FACE OF GOVT

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron's business-friendly government unveiled its first annual budget yesterday, fending off criticism that its tax cuts favor the very wealthiest. Ministers insisted the 2018 budget would benefit both rich and poor after criticism from left-wing opponents about the slashing of a tax on financial investments which raised 3.5 billion euros (\$4 billion) last year.

Left-leaning newspaper Liberation ran the front-page headline "Hero to the rich" alongside a picture of Macron, a former investment banker who came to power in May promising to make it easier to do business in France. "We want to create wealth before redistributing it," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire told a press conference.

He defended the budget as one which would "benefit all French people without

exception", not just the richest, saying cuts to household tax-due to be scrapped for 80 percent of families by 2020 — would boost the purchasing power of millions. "We wanted to protect the least well-off, to protect the most vulnerable," he added, with ministers pointing to measures to help low-paid workers and more support for those caring for disabled children. High-paid finance workers will notably face lower taxes on their salaries as the government eyes a lucrative slice of London's banking industry, with multi-nationals shifting business away from Britain ahead of Brexit. In total, France plans some seven billion euros (\$8.2 billion) in tax cuts, lower than the 10 billion initially planned.

Macron faces a tricky balancing act as he seeks to lower taxes while also slashing the deficit—something he sees as key to earning

credibility with European leaders as he pushes for ambitious EU reforms. Some 16 billion euros of spending cuts are included in the budget—social security alone is due to shed 5.5 billion—though these targets, too, are lower than originally planned. The budget puts a freeze on major infrastructure projects, while nearly 1,600 civil service jobs will be axed.

'Worsening inequality'

Opponents on the left have called Macron's wealth tax reforms a sop for the rich, while he insists he needs to encourage investors to fund companies in France as he seeks to lower a 9.5 percent unemployment rate. Under the changes—a long-time demand of business groups—gains on financial investments will be taxed at a flat rate of 30 percent, rather than under a progressive regime. "These tax meas-

ures from the right-wing will have a brutal and violent effect on worsening inequality," former Socialist economy minister Michel Sapin told Paris Match magazine on Tuesday. Corporation tax is set to go down to 25 percent by 2022 — down from 33 percent currently.

Deficit down

On Tuesday, Macron set out his vision for far-reaching EU reforms, urging his European partners—particularly Germany—to go further in linking their economies, governments and armies. The 39-year-old sees it as crucial to show that France can lead by example by getting its public finances in order after a decade of running large deficits due to high public spending.

France's economy is currently growing at around 1.7 percent, but it remains one of the few countries with a deficit above the EU-mandated

three percent of GDP. It is already set to go down to 2.9 percent this year—the first time it will have met the three-percent target in a decade—but Macron wants to trim it further to 2.6 percent in 2018. The EU's economy commissioner Pierre Moscovici welcomed the belt-tightening. "The average deficit in the eurozone is not 3.0 percent, it's 1.4 percent," he told France 2 television. "If you want to be an example to Europe, you have to lead by example at home."

Despite the cuts, several ministries won a boost to their budget—notably defense, where spending has been a sore point with the military in recent years. The head of the armed forces sensationally resigned his post this summer in a blazing row with Macron over cuts to defense spending introduced in an interim budget for 2017, passed shortly after he was elected. — AFP

IMF: 'SURFACE HEALING' MASKS STAGNANT WAGES, INFLATION

WASHINGTON: Worker pay in rich countries has stagnated as employers shift to part-time and temporary labor while unions declined, helping generate persistently weak inflation, according to new IMF research released yesterday.

The findings go to the center of the debate in key central banks over how fast to remove the stimulus put in place amid the Great Recession, since low unemployment rates have not led to higher inflation as in a normal economic recovery.

"Recent labor market developments in advanced economies point to a possible disconnect between unemployment and wages," the International Monetary Fund economists found in their report. Crunching data from across 29 advanced economies between 2000 and 2016, the IMF study found median unemployment rates fell steadily since 2013 even as labor force participation rates increased.

But that decline in joblessness may represent only a kind of "surface healing," the authors said. The jobs recovery since the 2008 crash appeared to coincide with fundamental changes in company-worker relationships, with employers across the developed world increasingly relying on part-time positions and short-term contracts—while employees' ability to bargain for higher pay eroded.

True 'slack' in labor markets

As a result of the changes, central banks should re-think "the true degree of slack" in labor markets as they begin to withdraw stimulus and raise interest rates, the IMF said. US economists have been dumbfounded by the enduring weakness of inflation in the current recovery, which has stayed below the Federal Reserve's target for five years despite unemployment rates falling to near historic lows.

The Fed this year has raised interest rates twice, downplaying the low inflation as the result of transitory factors. But US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen in a speech Tuesday conceded policymakers might have "misjudged" the strength of labor markets and the forces driving inflation. The IMF report showed that starting in 2009, wage growth has slowed steadily and temporary labor contracts have become more common. Because wages are the main cost of production, wage

gains are the main driver of inflation. "Core inflation in advanced economies is thus unlikely to recover in a sustained manner before labor market tightening spurs higher wage inflation," the report said.

Also in the last several years, involuntary part-time employment—in which employees work fewer than 30 hours per work

because they cannot find a full-time job—jumped in advanced economies. The rate in the United States rose to 1.3 percent from 0.8 percent, in Britain it gained 1.5 points to 3.9 percent, and in France it soared 2.5 percent to 7.8 percent of the labor force. "Policymakers may therefore need to enhance efforts to address the vulnerabilities that part-time workers face." — AFP

SWITZERLAND IS WORLD'S MOST COMPETITIVE ECONOMY: WEF

GENEVA: Switzerland is the world's most competitive economy for a ninth straight year, the Geneva-based World Economic Forum said yesterday. Since suffering a rare blip in 2008, when it was nudged into second place by the United States, the Swiss economy has maintained an efficient but unshakable grip on the top spot in the WEF annual ranking.

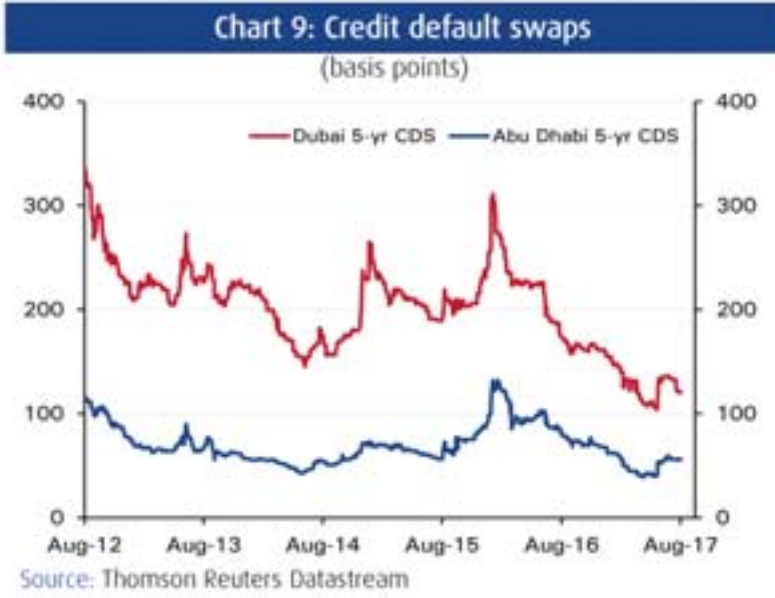
WEF economist Thierry Geiger said Switzerland had a virtuous circle of infrastructure, institutions and education, but at the heart of its success was the way it created and used talent. "That is really the secret of Switzerland, this ability to innovate, supported by a whole range of enabling factors," he said. However, after almost a decade at the top, Switzerland is at risk from complacency and populism. The ageing population could undermine the innovation miracle by shutting the door to foreign talent in one of the referendums that make Swiss law, he said.

"We see a proliferation of such referendums on everything, some of them are kind of dangerous, they could really endanger and jeopardize Switzerland's prosperity," Geiger said. The World Economic Forum, the same organization that runs the Davos meeting of global powerbrokers each January, bases its rankings on a dozen drivers of competitiveness and a survey of business leaders. "Global competitiveness will be more and more defined by the innovative capacity of a country," Klaus Schwab, WEF founder and executive chairman, said in a statement.

Besides Switzerland, the top 10 remained the same as a year ago, although there was some shuffling of the order. The United States climbed over Singapore into second place, and Hong Kong jumped three places to sixth, leapfrogging Japan in ninth spot. Britain slipped one place to eighth. It has not yet dropped in the rankings because of its Brexit negotiations with the European Union but it is expected to do so, the WEF said. China inched up one place to 27th, well ahead of 38th-ranked Russia and India, which was in 40th position. — Reuters



NEW DELHI: Models hold the newly launched ASUS notebooks during a promotional event in New Delhi yesterday. The Taiwanese manufacturer Asus unveiled its two new notebooks Vivobook S15 and ASUS Zenbook UX430 yesterday. — AFP



OIL CUTS WEIGH ON UAE'S GROWTH IN 2017

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Economic growth in the UAE is expected to moderate further in 2017, before seeing a pick-up in 2018 as the non-oil sector gathers momentum and offsets continued weaknesses in the oil sector. We see GDP growth moderating from 3.0 percent in 2016 to 2.2 percent in 2017, and now expect growth in 2018 of 2.6 percent. The latter is below our previous projection with the extension in oil production cuts continuing to weigh on growth.

In May, OPEC and a group of non-OPEC nations agreed to extend a six-month supply cut that was scheduled to end in June of 2017, to at least the end of the first quarter of 2018, in an effort to support oil prices. The UAE's level of compliance has lagged behind its GCC peers. But state-owned oil company Adnoc, the 12th largest oil producer globally, recently announced that it will cut crude shipments by 10 percent starting in October. In this setting, real growth in the oil sector is poised to be negative in 2017, before improving slightly in 2018.

In contrast, non-oil activity is slated to recover, albeit gradually, in 2017 and over the following year, as the tourism and construction sectors (key contributors to non-oil GDP growth) gather further ground, especially in the run-up to the Expo 2020 event in Dubai. The non-oil economy is also expected to be supported by a potential stabilization and eventual recovery in sales prices in the residential real estate sector. Real non-oil growth is set to rise from an estimated 2.7 percent in 2016, to 3.3 percent and 3.7 percent in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

The latest data on the UAE's Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a good gauge of non-oil sector growth, also point to a steady recovery in non-oil sector activity.

The headline PMI rose to an over two-year high of 57.3 in August mainly as new orders and output remained robust, thanks to an ongoing improvement in domestic conditions. This has more than offset the ongoing softness in new export orders. Despite generally positive economic performance, there are a number of downside risks to the outlook. A prolonged low oil price environment has ramifications for non-oil growth, and a renewed dip in oil prices could see the government intensify its fiscal consolidation program. Furthermore, higher interest rates in the US - further hikes are expected through 2018 - will filter through to domestic rates, potentially tightening liquidity conditions and affecting investment spending.

Additional downside risks may arise if the Qatar crisis escalates or remains unresolved. Although Qatar is not a major contributor to the UAE's trade and tourism sectors, the diplomatic tensions impact investor sentiment. Another, but less likely risk, is a potential disruption to natural gas supply through the Dolphin pipeline, the main energy link between the UAE and Qatar. The pipeline supplies about a third of the UAE's natural gas, but with Abu Dhabi's government holding a 51 percent stake in the pipeline and foreign entities holding the remainder, the likelihood of the supply being disrupted is fairly low.

Overall non-oil economy is being supported by steady gains in Dubai

The ongoing steady recovery in the UAE's non-oil economy is largely being driven by improvements in Dubai's hospitality and construction sectors. The number of passengers passing through Dubai International Airport stood near a record high in 2017, at 21 million. According to Ernst & Young's latest MENA Hotel Benchmark Survey, even as average daily room rates at hotels in Dubai

Table 1: Key economic indicators

		2015	2016e	2017f	2018f
Nominal GDP	USD bn	358	349	383	404
Real GDP	% y/y	3.8	3.0	2.2	2.6
- Oil	% y/y	5.4	3.8	-0.3	0.2
- Non-oil	% y/y	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.7
Inflation	% y/y	4.1	1.6	2.5	4.0
Budget balance	% of GDP	-3.4	-4.3	-3.1	-2.0

Overview and outlook

- **Growth to remain moderate at 2-3% in 2017/18 amid weak oil prices and oil production cuts. But non-oil GDP growth continues to be supported by gains in the tourism and construction sectors.**
- **Inflation has been mild thus far in 2017, but is expected to face renewed pressure from new taxes and higher oil prices. VAT - expected from January 2018 - could add some 2% to inflation next year.**
- **The fiscal balance will remain in modest deficit in 2017 and 2018 at 2-3% of GDP on the back of still-weak oil revenues and some easing in the pace of fiscal consolidation.**
- **Credit growth has slowed to multi-year lows on tighter lending standards, rising interest rates and weaker demand from government-linked firms and consumers. But deposit growth continues to pick up, helping an otherwise subdued liquidity climate.**

have declined (but remain the highest in the MENA region), demand for hotel rooms continues to hold. Occupancy rates among hotels in Dubai averaged 83 percent in the first half of 2017 (the highest in the MENA region). Construction activity continues to be supported by preparations for the Expo 2020 event. At the start of 2017, Dubai Expo 2020 announced that 47 construction contracts worth \$3 billion would be awarded in 2017. Projects include the construction of buildings, metro expansions, roads and bridges. One of the key contracts awarded this year was the \$600 million deal with Al-Futtaim Carillion for the site's three thematic districts. The construction sector is also set to benefit from plans to foster the UAE's Vision 2021 and long-term strategy to establish a post-oil "knowledge economy" via the "UAE Strategy for the Future" blueprint. The strategy aims to bolster the nation's non-oil economy and enhance economic diversification.

Downward pressures on Dubai's residential property prices re-emerge

After a period of stabilization in 2016 and in early 2017, following almost two years of decline amid tighter regulations, higher housing supply and risk aversion, downward pressures on Dubai's residential property prices appear to have re-emerged in 2017. According to Asteco's quarterly indices, prices of apartments and villas in 2017 were down by 4.2 percent y/y and 3.3 percent y/y, respectively. The declines in prices and the continued fall in the value of real estate transactions were attributed to increased housing supply and to a shift in demand towards the more affordable housing sector.

Inflation pressure

Consumer price inflation has so far trended downwards in 2017 against a backdrop of soft food inflation and slowing housing inflation (which weighs heavily in the index). Latest figures showed inflation easing from 2.0 percent y/y in June to 1.2 percent y/y in July. We expect CPI inflation to edge higher in the near-to-medium term and average close to 2.5 percent for the year, as higher oil prices push inflation in the transport

segment up, housing inflation gathers pace and amid tax hikes planned for selected consumer goods in October. In 2018, inflation is expected to climb further, especially on the back of a planned 5 percent value-added tax (VAT) on selected companies. Scheduled for the beginning of 2018, it is expected to add 2 percent to inflation next year.

Fiscal balance to remain in small deficit in 2017 and 2018

The fiscal balance will remain in manageable deficit in 2017 and 2018 amid weak oil revenues and an easing in fiscal consolidation, as Dubai's government gradually ramps up spending on construction projects in the run-up to the Expo 2020 event. We foresee a deficit of 3.1 percent and 2.0 percent of GDP in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Nonetheless, fiscal adjustment and reform is proceeding, with the establishment of the Federal Tax Authority (FTA), subsidy cuts and the introduction of fees and taxes on selected goods and services. According to official reports, Abu Dhabi has cut back or delayed spending on a number of projects designated as low-priority. In a bid to raise more public revenues, in August the newly established FTA published a law on an excise tax. The tax will be levied on selected goods - tobacco, energy drinks and soft drinks - from the beginning of October. With the excise tax set at 100 percent on tobacco and energy drinks and 50 percent on fizzy drinks, it is expected to raise around \$2 billion (0.5 percent of GDP) in annual fiscal revenue.

Furthermore, the UAE will be one of the first GCC nations to implement a VAT. The tax will be imposed on UAE companies from January with annual revenues greater than \$1 million. At 5 percent, the VAT is expected to generate around \$5 billion in tax revenues or 1 percent of GDP.

To avoid relying solely on foreign reserves to finance the country's public deficit, Abu Dhabi issued \$5 billion in sovereign bonds in April 2016, its first issuance since 2009. But there has

been no new sovereign debt issued since. The UAE is in the process of finalizing a federal debt law, which will allow the federal government to issue bonds as well.

Yields on debts maturing in 2021 for Dubai and Abu Dhabi have remained fairly low and steady, relative to their GCC peers, on the back of stable economic conditions. Indeed, the main credit default swaps (CDS's), which are typically good bellwethers of a sovereign's level of risk, remain close to multi-year lows. As of end of August, the CDS on five-year Dubai and Abu Dhabi government debt stood at 122 and 55 basis points (bps), respectively.

CA surplus

The surplus in the current account balance is projected to marginally expand in 2017, on the

back of a slight pick-up in oil export receipts and as non-oil export growth gathers pace. We foresee the current account surplus edging up from a six-year low of 3.2 percent of GDP in 2016 to 3.4 percent in 2017 and 3.7 percent in 2018. Non-oil export growth remains susceptible to a stronger dirham.

Until recently, the stronger dollar led to an appreciation in the dirham's real effective exchange rate, increasing the cost of exports and making it a more expensive place to visit and invest in. Trade with Asian markets was most affected by the stronger dirham, as their currencies weakened against a stronger US dollar. Tourism, however, was less affected, given that a majority of tourists are from the GCC, and so was investment in real estate, which depends far more on UAE nationals.

INDICATIVE RATES

27 September 2017

Deposit Rates

PERIOD	KD	USD	GBP	EUR	JPY	CHF
1 WEEK	0.0000	0.43750	0.03125	0.00001	0.00001	0.00001
1 MONTH	1.50000	0.43750	0.03125	0.00001	0.00001	0.00001
2 MONTH	1.50000	0.50000	0.06250	0.00001	0.00001	0.00001
3 MONTH	1.62500	0.56250	0.06250	0.00001	0.00001	0.00001
6 MONTH	1.75000	0.68750	0.12500	0.00001	0.01562	0.00001
1 YEAR	1.87500	1.00000	0.25000	0.01562	0.03125	0.00001

Cash Rates

CCY	BUY	SELL
USD	0.29633	0.30495
GBP	0.40297	0.41166
EUR	0.35325	0.36159
CHF	0.30600	0.31611
BHD	0.79692	0.80493
SAR	0.07929	0.08198
OMR	0.78125	0.78910
AED	0.08180	0.08262
QAR	0.08250	0.08333

Currencies Against KWD

CCY	BUY	SELL
USD	0.30135	0.30345
GBP	0.40447	0.40866
CHF	0.31080	0.31361
JPY	0.0026780	0.0027074
CAD	0.24344	0.24605
DKK	0.04783	0.04808
SEK	0.03694	0.03731
AUD	0.23668	0.23970
NOK	0.03808	0.03842
EUR	0.354750	0.358990
BHD	0.79617	0.80555
SAR	0.08029	0.08098
OMR	0.78222	0.78880
AED	0.08199	0.08247
QAR	0.08130	0.08341
EGP	0.01650	0.01722
JOD	0.42384	0.42982
SGD	0.22179	0.22383

Currencies Against USD

CCY	BUY	SELL
USD	1.0000	1.0000
GBP	1.3329	1.3561
CHF	0.9609	0.9789
JPY	111.31	113.31
CAD	1.2248	1.2464
DKK	6.2877	6.3710
SEK	8.0769	8.2102
AUD	0.7800	0.7954
NOK	7.8436	7.9688
EUR	1.5491	1.5899
BHD	0.37406	0.38018
SAR	3.7213	3.7794
OMR	0.38204	0.38793
AED	3.6452	3.7011
QAR	3.61288	3.74630
EGP	17.5000	18.3909
JOD	0.37011	0.37160
GOLD	1,294.70	1,294.00

SPOT Cross Currencies

CROSS	BUY	SELL
GBP/JPY	148.36	153.66
GBP/CHF	1.2808	1.3274
EUR/JPY	130.12	134.84
EUR/CHF	1.1234	1.1648
EUR/GBP	0.8621	0.8927
CHF/JPY	113.71	117.82

US Treasury Bonds

TENOR	PRICE	YIELD
3 MONTH	1.05	1.062
6 MONTH	1.17	1.193
2 YEAR	99.84	1.459
5 YEAR	98.85	1.870
10 YEAR	100.02	2.248
30 YEAR	99.33	2.393

DOLLAR HOLDS ON TO MONTHLY GAIN

NBK Treasury Group Newsletter

KUWAIT: The US dollar has held on to its monthly high supported by rate hike expectations in December. Fed Chair Janet Yellen said the Fed needs to continue gradual rate hikes despite broad uncertainty about the path of inflation in her speech yesterday. Yellen's remarks attempted to resolve a debate that has split members of the central bank among those worried that inflation may not be at the level needed for a hike. In addition, the interest rate hike probability for the December meeting jumped to 70 percent after Yellen's speech.

● On the data front, new home sales came at 560K versus the forecasted 585K, a second straight decline in purchases of new US homes and combined with downward revisions for prior months, showed a declining market as results begin to be clouded by the fallout from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

● In Europe, ECB President Mario Draghi spoke to the European Parliament's committee on economic affairs in Brussels yesterday. Draghi emphasized the need to be "sensitive to the

danger of not halting a recovery through hasty monetary-policy decision making." And he warned that any change of monetary policies will maintain "the degree of monetary support that the euro-area economy still needs to complete its transition to a new balanced growth trajectory characterized by sustained conditions of price stability." Nonetheless, Draghi still sounded upbeat and noted that "economic expansion is now firm and broad-based across euro area countries and sectors."

EUR/USD broke important support of 1.1820 now trading around 1.1775. Short and Medium term outlook remains bearish. Further decline is expected and next big support is 1.1665 which needs to break to resume a medium term downturn move. On the upside a break of 1.1915 would turn the pair to neutral outlook. USD/JPY is pushing higher. However, medium term outlook is neutral. For a clear direction, need a break of 112.85 to confirm the uptrend. On the downside, a break below 111.20 would turn the outlook to negative.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.695
Indian Rupees	4.616
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Nepali Rupees	2.926
Singapore Dollar	223.930
Hongkong Dollar	38.784
Bangladesh Taka	3.691
Philippine Peso	5.934
Thai Baht	9.117

GCC COUNTRIES

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

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.800
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.087
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	124.330
Jordanian Dinar	427.310
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.730

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	358.000
Sterling Pound	408.110

Canadian dollar	245.940
Turkish lira	86.500
Swiss Franc	313.730
Australian Dollar	239.930
US Dollar Buying	301.550

	GOLD
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.100
Canadian Dollar	244.875
Sterling Pound	408.660
Euro	359.530
Swiss Franc	293.695
Bahrain Dinar	801.800
UAE Dirhams	82.640
Qatari Riyals	83.465
Saudi Riyals	81.420
Jordanian Dinar	427.375
Egyptian Pound	17.133
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Indian Rupees	4.631
Pakistani Rupees	2.866
Bangladesh Taka	3.721
Philippines Peso	5.947
Cyprus pound	17.979
Japanese Yen	3.705
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.902

Malaysian Ringgit	72.835
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.145
Thai Bhat	10.105
Turkish Lira	85.730

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.399608	0.409608
Czech Korune	0.005673	0.017673
Danish Krone	0.043824	0.048824
Euro	0.350908	0.359906
Georgian Lari	0.121647	0.121647
Norwegian Krone	0.034239	0.039439
Romanian Leu	0.077350	0.077350
Russian ruble	0.005217	0.005217
Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023
Slovenia Krona	0.033115	0.038115
Swedish Krona	0.305103	0.316103

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.229593	0.241593
New Zealand Dollar	0.211567	0.221067

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.239397	0.248397
US Dollars	0.298650	0.303070
US Dollars Mint	0.299150	

HOW THE BOE'S PAST RATE SIGNALS HAVE GONE AWRY

LONDON: The Bank of England under Governor Mark Carney has made a habit of signalling higher interest rates without delivering them.

Most economists polled by Reuters last week said they thought the BoE will soon follow through on Carney's most recent signal that a first rate hike since 2007 is nearing, probably at its meeting in November. Below is a summary of the BoE's efforts to provide clarity on interest rates since Carney became governor in July 2013.

Forward guidance

Days after Carney took over, the BoE surprised markets by issuing a statement saying it was in no rush to raise rates - a break with its style under former governor Mervyn King who said it was wise never to pre-commit to a path for borrowing costs. A month later, Carney launched the BoE's version of forward guidance in an attempt to reduce uncertainty about the outlook for rates as Britain's economy struggled to build momentum.

The BoE said it would not consider raising rates from record low levels until Britain's unemployment rate fell to 7.0 percent, something it thought would take three years. But the economy grew faster than expected and it took just six months for the jobless rate to fall to 7.0 percent, forcing Carney back to the drawing board. Half of economists polled by Reuters in early 2014 said the BoE's handling of forward guidance had hurt its credibility.

In February 2014, the BoE revamped its guidance. Instead of focusing on the jobless rate, it would look at 18 measures of spare capacity in Britain's economy, including business surveys. While economists said this made it harder to guess the BoE's next moves, they



LONDON: Co-leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley speaks at a protest against the gig economy in central London yesterday. — AFP

also took it as a sign that it was determined to keep rates on hold for at least a year. Carney also said any future rate hikes would be "gradual and limited" - a phrase that the BoE continues to use.

Just a few months later, Carney shocked financial markets by warning that a rate hike "could happen sooner than markets currently expect", citing Britain's strong economic recovery. Markets scrambled to fully

price in a rate hike by the end of 2014. The U-turn attracted critics and one lawmaker likened Carney to an "unreliable boyfriend".

But falling inflation and sluggish pay growth quickly tempered expectations for a hike. By early 2015, the BoE stopped mentioning "forward guidance" in its quarterly economic updates.

Britain's economy continued to grow strongly and

in July 2015 Carney once again sought to prepare Britain for higher rates, saying the decision would probably come into "sharper relief" around the turn of the year. But wage growth again disappointed and global oil prices tumbled, pushing inflation briefly below zero. By the turn of the year, there was little pressure on policymakers to make a decision on rates.

Brexit speed limit

After Britain voted in June 2016 to leave the European Union, the BoE cut rates to a new record low of 0.25 percent as part of a "sledgehammer" package to help the economy.

The central bank said it expected to provide more stimulus, but a post-Brexit vote downturn - never mind the recession that many economists had predicted - did not immediately happen.

That changed in 2017 as Britain's economy suffered the slowest start to any year since 2012. Carney warned of "twists and turns" on the road to Brexit and most economists polled by Reuters predicted the BoE would hold rates until at least 2019. But earlier this month, the BoE again surprised investors by saying it was likely to raise rates "over the coming months" if the economy and price pressures kept growing.

Carney said Brexit was likely to hurt productivity, reducing the "speed limit" on how fast the economy can grow without pushing up inflation. He also said years of rock-bottom rates appeared to be coming to an end as the world economy picked up. Thirty-one of 50 economists polled by Reuters last week said the BoE would hike rates to 0.5 percent on Nov. 2. But three-quarters of them said now was not the time to raise rates, suggesting the BoE is risking a policy mistake. — Reuters



MIAMI: This April 25, 2017, photo shows Harley-Davidson motorcycles on display in the showroom at a dealership in Miami. The Commerce Department released its August report on durable goods yesterday. — AP

US SEES STRONG DURABLE GOODS SALES IN AUGUST

WASHINGTON: US manufacturers booked strong sales of big-ticket durable goods in August, with orders for aircraft, computers, autos and communications equipment all rising, according to government data released yesterday. The increase was more than double what analysts were expecting but not enough to reverse a steep decline in July driven by volatile aircraft sales.

Sales of defense aircraft and other goods also swung low for the month, weighing on the August number, according to the monthly data. Still, the strong showing could boost GDP growth in the third quarter. Total orders for durable goods rose 1.7 percent compared to July to \$232.8 billion, a full percentage point above a consensus forecast for an increase of 0.7 percent, the Commerce Department reported.

So far this year, orders are up five percent over the same period of 2016. Aircraft

orders, which spiked in June and tanked in July, rebounded again in August, surging 44.8 percent.

But excluding the transportation sector, which sees big swings from month to month, August orders were up only 0.2 percent from the prior month, the second straight monthly increase. Excluding the defense sector, orders rose a strong 2.2 percent. Defense aircraft orders fell 24.3 percent while defense capital goods orders were the weakest since February, falling 9.4 percent. But orders for communications equipment saw their strongest monthly gain in nine months, rising four percent.

Motor vehicle orders, which have sagged during much of 2017, rose 1.5 percent. Capital goods orders not including aircraft, key to the all-important oil sector, rose 0.9 percent, slowing after July's 1.1 percent gain. — AFP



HONG KONG: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross poses before a round table briefing in Hong Kong yesterday. Ross said he was optimistic over talks between president Donald Trump and Chinese president Xi Jinping in November as they seek to reduce a trade deficit. — AFP

IS THREAT COOLS OUTSOURCING BOOM IN PHILIPPINES: INDUSTRY

MANILA: Prolonged fighting by Filipino militants supporting the Islamic State group has put the brakes on the Philippines' \$10 billion outsourcing industry, one of its key growth drivers, industry leaders said yesterday.

More than 900 people have been killed in the city of Marawi, where pro-IS militants have defied a months-long US-backed military campaign to flush them out, while the southern third of the country has been placed under martial law to contain the violence. Although the lucrative outsourcing industry is largely based in the northern and central regions, the bloody conflict has unnerved many potential investors, said officials of the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP). "In the early part of the year, we had a lot of 'wait-and-see' attitude for the most part," said IBPAP president Rey Untal.

Approved investments in the information technology services sector, which includes

the outsourcing industry, fell 31.3 percent from a year earlier in the three months to June, government data show. "There is an element of (wait and see) still," Untal told reporters, though there were now signs that new players were coming in.

The outsourcing industry includes call centers and offices that carry out such functions for overseas companies like accounting, medical and legal transcription, software design, animation and even architecture. It has become a major pillar of growth of the Philippine economy, bringing in \$23 billion in revenues last year and employing 1.15 million people according to industry officials.

When the Marawi violence broke out in May, the industry was bracing for the fallout of the protectionist threats issued by US President Donald Trump, who has vowed to bring back jobs outsourced abroad, Untal said. "Then suddenly we had to deal with that (Marawi) also. — AFP

BRITAIN'S EASYJET AIMS FOR ELECTRIC SHORT-HAUL FLIGHTS

AIRLINE TIES UP WITH WRIGHT ELECTRIC ON BATTERY-POWERED PLANE

LONDON: British budget airline easyJet could be flying electric passenger jets on short-haul routes within a decade in a push to cut plane pollution, the company said yesterday. The airline said in March it would partner with US startup Wright Electric to develop electric passenger jets and is aiming for planes with a range of up to 335 miles (540 km), which could fly about 20 percent of easyJet's routes.

EasyJet said its support for electric planes was part of a broader strategy to reduce carbon and nitrous oxide emissions in the aviation sector, following the lead taken by the rail and automotive industries.

"For the first time, our industry can envisage a future which isn't wholly reliant on jet fuel and its harmful CO2 and NOx emissions," CEO Carolyn McCall said in a statement.

The airline is already targeting a 10 percent cut in emissions per passenger per kilometer by 2022 by using more fuel-efficient jets, such as the new Airbus A320neo. The airline has two so far and 98 are on order for delivery by August 2022. Fuel is one of the biggest costs for airlines and they have been investing in ways to reduce the amount they use, including by buying new aircraft with more fuel-efficient engines. Airlines such as Lufthansa, Air France-KLM and Virgin Atlantic have also been researching alternative fuels. Airbus has been developing electric planes and flew its two-seater E-Fan across the chan-



nel in 2015, but it expects hybrid fuel systems to come in first for commercial jets - until the batteries needed for electric-only planes become lighter.

EasyJet also said it was partnering with French company Safran to trial a zero-emissions taxiing system for its aircraft, while electric tugs will be introduced at Gatwick. Peter Duffy, easyJet's chief commercial officer, told reporters at London's Gatwick airport that new technologies could "entirely remove the use of carbon fuels and noise from all our airport operations".

British Airways said this week it was now using remote-controlled electric tugs to push its short-haul aircraft away from departure gates. Investors and analysts were also focused on an easyJet capi-

tal markets day being held at Gatwick. While easyJet was not providing any trading updates, analysts at broker Goodbody said, "despite this, we still think the market will be pleasantly surprised by details behind the group's ancillary revenue streams and innovation on this front".

One such move to boost revenues is a trial of inflight entertainment, which will be introduced on five aircraft in easyJet's Swiss operations in autumn. Rather than seat-back screens, the system will allow customers to watch TV shows on their own devices, a model used by others including Lufthansa's Eurowings. EasyJet said the service would earn the airline extra revenue, despite being free for the customer to use. — Reuters

AUB: SURPRISES FROM AL-HASSAD ISLAMIC ACCOUNT AWAIT AVENUES MALL VISITORS

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it will be present at the Avenues Mall, one of the most popular shopping destinations in Kuwait, Dome 1 from 28th-30th September 2017. Through its Al-Hassad booth, which offers surprises and activities related to Al-Hassad Islamic Account, Avenues visitors will be invited to participate in an enjoyable game designed to give a large number of them the chance to win instant valuable prizes.

Commenting on this exciting event, the Bank said in a press release: "We are always keen to reward our customers and to go to them wherever they are, in addition to raising awareness of the benefits that they can enjoy when opening an account



with Al-Hassad Islamic Account. With this in mind, the event offers an exciting game about Al-Hassad Islamic Account, which is considered the first reward program in Kuwait in line with Islamic sharia law. It offers annual cash prizes worth KD 3.4 million, which includes the grand quarterly prizes of KD 250,000 and weekly prizes worth KD 50,000. Al-

Hassad customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in Al-Hassad draws under general terms and conditions."

The Bank added: "Our employees will be at the AUB Al-Hassad event at Avenues to communicate with visitors and inform them about the latest services and banking products offered by AUB." The Bank stated that the event to be held at Avenues is part of its marketing campaign related to Al-Hassad Islamic Account, which was launched by the Bank in many mega shopping centers across Kuwait. They receiving great participation and interaction from the mall visitors, who expressed their interest in knowing more about Al-Hassad Islamic Account.

WORKERS CAUGHT IN CROSSHAIRS OF BOEING-BOMBARDIER BATTLE

BELFAST: Yards from what is left of the giant Belfast shipyard that built the Titanic, the remaining jewel in Northern Ireland's industrial crown - a cutting-edge Bombardier wing factory - is under threat from a far-off trade war.

The United States on Tuesday imposed a preliminary 220 percent duty on Bombardier's CSeries next-generation passenger jet after rival Boeing complained of unfair subsidies, dealing a major blow to the Canadian company's flagship project. The dispute has ramifications far beyond the docklands and livelihoods of Bombardier's 4,200 workers in Belfast, with US President Donald Trump's relations with Canada, British Prime Minister Theresa May's parliamentary majority and prospects for a British post-Brexit trade deal with Washington also at stake.

"This will be a hammer blow if this stops in any way the CSeries program, because the CSeries is the future of Belfast," said Davy Thompson, who represents the plant's workers for the Unite trade union. He described the decision as "unbelievable." The fate of the workers, he fears, is being whirled about in a geopolitical storm. "We're hoping Belfast won't be collateral damage," he said. The Commerce Department penalty against Bombardier will only take effect if the US International Trade Commission (ITC) rules in Boeing's favor in a final decision expected in 2018.

Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company, says it is upholding trade rules and is not trying to damage the CSeries.

Pillar of the economy

The Bombardier plant is by far the most important manufacturer left in Belfast, which was one of the world's great industrial cities

when the Titanic set sail as the largest oceanliner a century ago. After the slow collapse of British shipbuilding and the bloody three-decade conflict between Irish nationalists who wanted Northern Ireland to unite with Ireland and unionists who wanted it to remain British, only a handful of small industrial manufacturers remain.

The plant - which Bombardier bought from Short Brothers, the world's oldest planemaker, in 1989 - has been a pillar of Belfast's economy for decades, putting locals through multi-year apprenticeships. Thousands more jobs across Northern Ireland depend on supplying the plant. "You can't overstate the significance of Bombardier to our regional economy," said local parliamentarian Gavin Robinson. "It's the largest high-tech manufacturer in Northern Ireland. But it's the main part of our aerospace, defence and security industry as well."

Around 1,000 of the plant's employees work on carbon fiber wings for the CSeries using a fabrication method perfected in Belfast, which allows Bombardier to go from raw material to finished wing on one site. "It's the only plant in the world where the details are made on the same site that they are assembled," engineer Mark Braniff told Reuters in the vast hall that houses the assembly line, as a worker nearby checked an upright wing for imperfections.

"The likes of Airbus and Boeing would fly parts in from 1,000 miles away and screw them together." The new system allows Bombardier technicians to quickly and cheaply shape a flexible carbon fabric before infusing it with resin, rather than using a pre-made material. The finished wings are sailed from Belfast harbor for assembly in Canada. — Reuters

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea

Duplex & Triplex Villas

3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms

+Big Salon + Separate pool
All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby

Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas

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LARGE TECH SHARES SLIDE AS US STOCKS RETREAT

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks rose yesterday in anticipation of the unveiling of President Donald Trump's long-awaited tax cut plan later in the day. Investors have been salivating for months over the prospects of lower corporate taxes, which would boost profits of blue-chip companies and other businesses considerably. Wall Street is also a fan of a cut in the personal taxes, another Trump priority expected to feature in the plan. About 20 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.3 percent at 22,354.05. The broad-based S&P 500 advanced 0.3 percent to 2,501.91, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index gained 0.7 percent to 6,427.48.

Trump's efforts to reform US health care policy have fizzled so far, raising questions about his ability to win tax reform. But the market was optimistic yesterday.

"What is apt to be missing from today's tax plan introduction is how it gets paid for without increasing the deficit," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare. "That could be a potential buzz kill, but for now, the market is relishing the notion of a tax reform plan of some kind getting done soon."

Big technology companies were strong, with Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Google-parent Alphabet all climbing about one percent or more. Dow member Nike dropped 4.1 percent after reporting a 24 percent decline in first-quarter profits to \$950 million due in part to sluggish sales in North America.

Europe rises
European stock markets edged higher yesterday as the dollar continued its advance against

the euro and the pound, after further hawkish comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen. In Europe, the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was up 0.4 percent at 7,312 while Germany's DAX rose 0.5 percent to 12,664. The CAC 40 in France was 0.2 percent higher at 5,278. US stocks were poised for a solid opening too with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures 0.2 percent higher.

The dollar has been one of the main drivers across financial markets in recent days. The US currency has been largely buoyed by expectations of further interest rate rises from the Fed. In a speech Tuesday, Yellen indicated that it would not be prudent to leave rates on hold until inflation reaches 2 percent. The rise in the dollar makes European goods more competitive in US markets.

Yesterday, the euro was down 0.5 percent at \$1.1734 while the pound fell 0.5 percent to \$1.3396. "While this doesn't mark a change in the message delivered last week, it does reinforce the view that tightening will continue despite inflation running below target and currently showing little sign of improving," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Asia dismal
Asian stock markets turned mostly lower yesterday as investors awaited the outlines of US tax overhaul plans by President Donald Trump while news headlines on geopolitical tensions surrounding North Korea have quieted. Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.3 percent to 20,267.05 and South Korea's Kospi dipped less than 0.1 percent to 2,372.57. Tokyo shares closed slightly lower yesterday, with traders on the sidelines ahead of key events including the unveiling of Donald Trump's tax reforms and the release of Japanese economic data later in the week.

The bellwether Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.31 percent, or 63.14 points, to close at 20,267.05. The broader Topix index ended down 0.50 percent or 8.31 points at 1,664.43. A relatively cheaper yen offset some of the downward pressure on the market, analysts said. The dollar fetched 112.46 yen in Tokyo, up from 112.23 yen in

New York. After a round of selling in early Tokyo trade, bargain hunters came in to provide support for the market, Okasan Online Securities said in a commentary. "In the afternoon session, investors' wait-and-see attitude became more pronounced, as they waited for the release of the US tax reform proposal," Okasan said. Any hints about the deal could provide clues for the global market, analysts said.

"Officially not due to be released until tonight but prone to be comprehensively leaked during our morning, the US administration and Republican leadership are slated to jointly reveal their framework for tax reform yesterday," National Australia Bank's head of FX Strategy Ray Attrill said in a client note.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.1 percent to 5,664.30. But Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.4 percent to 27,615.85. China's Shanghai Composite Index was flat at 3,344.23. Stocks in Southeast Asia were mixed. Benchmark US crude rose 38 cents to \$52.26 per barrel on New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract slid 34 cents to finish at \$51.88 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, gained 27 cents to \$58.19 a barrel in London on Tuesday. The dollar rose to 112.66 yen from 112.23 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1757 from \$1.1791. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Wednesday 27 September 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▲ 4.04	6,788.74	6,784.70			
Weighted Index	▲ 1.18	432.90	425.74			
KSX 15	▲ 1.29	1,002.18	994.89			

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	145	▲ 0.1
NAPESCO	0.27	0.27	89	57	1	0.27	▲ 0.1
ENERGYH	34.4	27.6	138,338	4,414	22	34.4	▲ 0.1
GPI	27.4	37.0	488,150	18,105	27	37.4	▲ 0.2
ABAR	81	81	500	40	1	81	▲ 1.1
Oil & Gas			627,147	22,621	51	916.24	▲ -0.2
KFOUC	295	295	1,53	340	1	295	▲ 4.1
BPDC	857	856	164,598	108,561	13	863	▲ -1.8
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	145	▲ 0.1
ALQURAIN	344	340	91,367	31,221	20	340	▲ -4.3
Bank Materials			257,318	140,512	34	133.01	▲ -2.4
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	464	▲ 0.1
CABLE	520	513	31,302	16,238	11	419	▲ 9.6
SHF	217	217	11,505	2,491	4	217	▲ 0.1
PCEM	1010	1000	5,235	5,231	2	1019	▲ 9.6
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.1
MRC	0.1	100	2,10	211	3	100	▲ -19.3
ADICO	270	270	138,406	37,370	17	270	▲ 0.1
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.1
NICSM	90	190	190	19	1	190	▲ 18.6
EQUIPMENT	45.7	44.7	233,691	10,512	24	44.9	▲ 0.4
NCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.1
GYP3UM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.1
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.1
ADLY	808	871	2,295,608	2,028,954	417	806	▲ -58.8
EDU	214	307	39,161	12,098	17	313	▲ 3.9
CLEANING	52	52	150,000	7,785	8	52	▲ 0.1
KGL	50	50	547,058	32,289	13	60	▲ 1.1
KPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	185	▲ 0.1
HUMANSOFT	3950	3,948	34,328	134,407	16	3950	▲ 0.1
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.1
GFC	58	60	23,303	1,572	3	66	▲ 4.1
SHOOTING	26.6	25.9	11,220	295	5	26.5	▲ 0.1
CGC	525	505	235,148	119,603	50	416	▲ -23.3
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0.1
UPAC	620	620	20,200	12,400	2	620	▲ -6.1
ALAFAC	307	361	271,719	98,179	28	361	▲ -6.9
MUBARRAD	73	72	196,000	14,189	8	73	▲ 0.1
LOGISTICS	53	52	2,270,500	118,077	30	52	▲ 0.1
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.1
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	▲ 0.1
QIC	83	82	160,000	13,180	5	83	▲ 1.1
FCEM	78	76	1,119,000	84,224	28	76	▲ -0.1
RKWC	85	85	20	2	2	85	▲ 1.1
SPEC	88	80	219,300	18,682	34	89	▲ 2.1
Industrials			8,014,910	2,778,628	730	1837.78	▲ 2.8
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.1
CATL	280	272	20,204	5,525	6	279	▲ 5.1
DANAH	71	70	106,800	7,465	6	70	▲ 0.1
FOOD	1980	1,980	1	2	1	1980	▲ 0.1
Consumer Goods			126,895	12,991	13	1083.31	▲ 17.20
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480	▲ 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1100	▲ 0
YACD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	▲ 0
Health Care			9	0	0	6.00	▲ -0.01
KDN	1340	1,200	1,753	2,145	4	1340	▲ 1
KHOF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0
SUL'AN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.0	▲ 0
EYAS	589	540	19,480	10,840	25	540	▲ -4.1
IFAFR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0
OULAFUEL	22	120	20,234	2,522	16	122	▲ 2
MUNTAZAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0
JAZERA	885	670	83,236	48,317	6	884	▲ 4
SOOR	22	120	140,401	16,983	15	120	▲ 0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	123	▲ 0
ALRAI	27	117	265,456	32,991	13	127	▲ 9
Jyad	56	56	200	11	1	56	▲ -14
Mezzan	840	820	144,000	119,685	42	840	▲ 2.6
Consumer Services			675,289	233,842	22	939.25	▲ -19.10
ZAIN	518	512	7,187,535	3,683,809	284	517	▲ 7
OOREDOO	1,203	1,175	2,432	2,854	10	1,203	▲ -1
AAN	38.8	38.5	2,515,100	92,254	55	38.7	▲ 0.1
VIVA	809	802	28,245	22,535	38	802	▲ -0.2
Telecommunications			9,691,112	3,801,466	387	613.77	▲ -6.6
NEK	772	765	2,871,970	2,207,156	49	765	▲ 0
GBK	240	236	5,897,112	1,419,081	30	236	▲ 0
CBK	430	389	959,851	384,221	24	410	▲ 3.6
ABK	318	310	1,085,578	333,880	22	318	▲ 8
ALMUTAHED	420	419	24,380	10,334	4	419	▲ 5
KIB	249	247	527,617	130,761	21	249	▲ 2
BUR3	350	355	1,195,882	429,000	71	355	▲ 4
KFIN	405	696	3,478,511	2,091,091	359	404	▲ 9
BOUSYAN	444	439	505,442	249,352	48	441	▲ 2
AUB	214	212	1,817,670	305,967	49	213	▲ 1
ITHMR	38.9	38.4	531,900	20,521	24	38.8	▲ 0
WAFBABAN	252	248	305,895	76,611	75	252	▲ 4
Banks			15,342,888	7,740,385	82	911.84	▲ 9.8
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▲ 0
GINE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	▲ 0.1
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	▲ 0.1
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0.1
KLWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	▲ 0.1
FTI	59	59	48,280	2,904	5	59	▲ 7.1
WETHAQ	43.0	41.0	48,300	2,006	3	43.0	▲ -1.3
BKIMVT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.1
Insurance			95,280	4,911	8	1118.26	▲ 9.8

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	48.5	47.1	110,450	52,107	19	47.3	▲ 0.7
KRE	64	63	1,442,080	91,326	44	64	▲ 1.5
URC	94	94	1,000	94	1	94	▲ 1.0
NRE	141	136	3,274,674	451,624	116	140	▲ 1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	▲ 1.0
TAM	405	388	262	103	2	405	▲ 1.0
AREEC	151	151	5,000	755	1	151	▲ -1.0
MASSALEH	39.1	38.1	535,000	20,510	18	38.0	▲ 3.9
ARABREC	35.7	35.1	617,250	22,271	22	36.5	▲ 0.2
ERESCO	40.3	38.1	38,300	5,154	17	40.2	▲ 1.0
MASANEH	794	794	25,000	19,850	1	794	▲ 4.0
INIAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	23.5	23.1	915,218	14,216	19	23.4	▲ 0.1
IRC	34.0	33.1	300,000	9,985	7	33.5	▲ 0.5
ALTUARIA	89	87	2,537,971	241,318	65	97	▲ 1.9
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.5	▲ 1.0
AYANRE	83	82	30,500	6,636	4	83	▲ 1.1
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▲ 1.0
ALAGARIA	37.5	37.1	1,000	38	2	37.5	▲ 0.8
MAZAYA	116	114	375,045	43,106	19	116	▲ 1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▲ 1.0
TIARA	68	68	10,000	681	1	68	▲ 0.9
TIAMBER	36.4	35.1	234,967	8,428	7	36.1	▲ 1.0
ARKAN	83	83	75,500	6,187	6	83	▲ 1.0

MEGA SALE CONTINUES ON RENAULT CAPTUR FULL OPTION

KUWAIT: Ensuring its customers are consistently offered the best deals in Kuwait, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait urges its fans to benefit from the ongoing sale on its fully-equipped urban explorer. The Renault Captur is still available with complete options for an exceptional price of KD 3,999 only.

Reflecting innovation in every touch, the Renault Captur draws on Renault's expertise and integrates a new level of design, comfort and equipment creating the perfect harmony between elegance and performance. Surrounded by stylish details, the continuous shape of the dashboard and the interior panels offer a comfortable space. To accommodate larger capacity, there is ample interior width where in the rear passengers enjoy knee room of up to 21.6 cm.

The customizable Renault Captur offers original two-color paintwork that distinguishes the roof, pillars and mirror casings from the rest of the body. Built as

a distinctly modern and functional vehicle with a turbocharged engine, the Captur comes with a lively response, sharp acceleration, and flexibility at all speeds combining driving pleasure with fuel economy, delivering remarkably moderate fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Captur is an agile and dynamic model that is equipped with a Renault R-Link system, network-connected Multimedia tablet with 7" touchscreen and voice recognition to control the essential functions; Captur is also backed with Cruise control, Speed limiter, and a Navigation system.

Always keeping safety at the forefront of all design conceptualization, Renault Captur scores high in the passive safety crash tests carried out by the independent body Euro NCAP, while Electronic Stability Program keeps the vehicle under control in the event of a temporary loss of grip wherein the brakes act on one or more wheels to keep the car in check.

To explore the features in detail, customers are urged to visit Renault store in Rai & benefit from the irresistible offer.



MOTUL ROARS INTO THE FUTURE WITH TVR AS OFFICIAL LUBRICANT PARTNER

INNOVATION, PASSION, TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT AT HIGHEST LEVELS

KUWAIT: An integral part of British sports car heritage, independent manufacturer TVR has produced models over the years with names such as Griffith, Chimaera and Cerbera, adding to its mythical status in British automobile manufacturing history.

This year TVR is celebrating its 70th anniversary and to mark that milestone it is launching a brand-new, 5L Cosworth-enhanced V8-engined sports car. Motul's products have been used successfully in the development process, significantly adding to the performance and quality of the engineering.

Roaring towards the future

Recognized the world over for its models' distinctively sounding 'roar', the new TVR will be the first new model for the marque in over nine years. Another ground-breaker was the launching of the car at the world-renowned Goodwood Revival event that happened on 8th September - the first time a manufacturer has done so.

The new, as yet unnamed, lightweight model, will use innovative design and manufacturing techniques and features a carbon fiber construction courtesy of the Gordon Murray Design company. Gordon Murray, of course, is famous for his technically innovative, pioneering engineering of Formula One cars of the past and the first McLaren. The V8, front-engine car will have manual transmission and rear wheel drive, and will be powered by Motul's fully synthetic 5W20 engine oil which has been fully tested and approved by TVR. It will feature the marque's superior styling and be hand-crafted rather than mass-produced.

Motul and TVR: A perfect fit!

Motul's complete range will be recommended to customers including gearbox oil, differential oil, brake fluid, coolants and windscreen washer. High quality, individual, cherished vehicles need high quality, proven products; Motul and TVR are the perfect fit.

Arnaud Laire, Motul Managing director, commented: "Needless to say, TVR and Motul have a lot of points in common which is why the partnership was natural and obvious from the very first beginning. After a few months of technical development, now we can't wait to unveil to TVR fans around the world the brand-new model!"

Les Edgar, Chairman of TVR Manufacturing Ltd added: "I am delighted to be able to announce our close collaboration and partnership with Motul, a recognized leader in high performance lubricants. In all areas of our new TVR, we were adamant about partnering only



with the very best, to deliver an outstanding performance car to our customers.

"Motul shares our passion for racing and excellence, with their lubricants contributing to the exhilarating performance of our engine and our vehicle. During our development stage, we have already felt the significant benefits of partnering with somebody who is particularly experienced in motorsport and delivering to a very high standard. The contribution made by the lubricants to cars in general, and the well-being of high performance cars in par-

ticular, is enormous, but sometimes underestimated by the consumer." Recently Al-Sayer Group marked a new milestone achievement by becoming an authorized distributor in Kuwait for Motul, world class lubricants with global presence in 160 countries. Technologically leading products from Motul lubricants will be available for customers through ALSAYER Engineering's wide network of five centers for tires, oils and paints as well as in authorized dealers, co-ops, garages and Auto-repair shops across the State of Kuwait.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YOUTH ACCOUNT QUARTERLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently announced the names of the three lucky winners of its Youth Account Quarterly Draw. First place winner, Rashed Mohammad Fhaid Al-Haimar, took home a cash prize of KD 1,000, while second and third place winners, Sarah Mahmoud Sayed Al-Mousawi and Bayader Bajed Saad Al-Otaibi, each received a remarkable gift of an "unlimited access" voucher to Grand Cinemas for one year.

Customers transferring their Student allowances to the bank will automatically be enrolled into the draw and with every

KD20 in their Youth account they will get one chance to enter the quarterly draw.

The Youth Account is designed for young customers, between the ages of 15 - 25, who seek to attain a successful future. There is no KD limit to open an account, and no minimum balance required to maintain it. Furthermore, account holders will receive free prepaid card and an ATM card which entitles them to discounts at selected merchants along with an exclusive discount at Grand Cinemas Theatres in Al-Hamra Mall and The Gate Mall.



IPHONE 8, IPHONE 8 PLUS ARRIVE AT VIVA ON SEPTEMBER 30

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, yesterday announced it will offer the new generation iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus. Postpaid customers will be able to pre-order iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus beginning September 22nd, 2017 at VIVA's official website www.viva.com.kw and all VIVA's stores, and both will be available beginning Saturday, September 30th, 2017 at all VIVA's stores in Kuwait as well as our online VIVA e-store, which is also available on VIVA App.

Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at VIVA, said: "VIVA is extremely delighted to provide the long-awaited iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus to our customers. He added: "We strive to offer our customers the latest technologies to continuously make their communications easier and more convenient."

iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus are a new generation of iPhone featuring a new glass

and aluminum design in three beautiful finishes - space gray, silver and a new gold - made with the most durable glass ever in a smartphone, Retina HD displays, A11 Bionic chip and is designed for the ultimate augmented experience. The world's most popular camera gets even better and wireless charging brings a powerful new capability to iPhone. iPhone 8 Plus features dual 12-megapixel cameras and introduces Portrait mode with Portrait Lighting, bringing dramatic studio lighting effects to iPhone, allowing customers to capture stunning portraits with a shallow depth of field effect in five different lighting styles.

Additionally, iPhone X, the future of the smartphone, will be available to pre-order at VIVA on October 27, 2017. iPhone X features a gorgeous all-glass and stainless steel design with a beautiful 5.8-inch Super Retina display, A11 Bionic chip, wireless charging, an improved rear camera with dual optical image stabilization and Face ID, enabled by the new TrueDepth camera.

PATROL CITY CARS OFFERED WITH EXCLUSIVE FACILITIES

KUWAIT: KFH Executive Manager - Cars & Leasing Aahed Al-Essa said that the operational lease product at KFH is offering Nissan Patrol Cars for an unprecedented monthly rental value in addition to other exclusive advantages. The product shall include various categories to fulfill customers' needs and wishes and to assure its readiness to present all that is new.

Al-Essa emphasized in a press release that KFH extends exclusive care and interest to customers by offering and introducing the latest models at reasonable prices. The service includes a variety of the most reputable trademarks comprising 80 models of various types of vehicles, thus giving customers more choices to select their cars easily.

Al-Essa indicated that commercial business with automotive agents has taken a strategic turn. Nissan - Babbain Group is one of KFH distinguished partners where purchases of the leasing product reached KD 32 million. He reiterated the company's keenness to provide KFH with the best and most favorable offers. Accordingly, KFH maintains its leading position in offering the latest models including (Altima - X-trail - Pathfinder - Patrol), thus increasing KFH share in the operational lease market. KFH offers exclusive facilities, discounts and special offers to authorities and grand companies.

He added that KFH aims to attract a larger category of retail and corporate customers by providing the highest service quality and the latest modern cars for monthly rental value starting from KD 69/- per month. Prices are dependent on the car type and lease period 12 - 26 months. This activity shall contribute to serving KFH customers and enhancing automobile market.

New car categories have been added lately to the leasing product list to tally with the various categories of customers. Al-Essa confirmed that the leasing service at KFH has gained tremendous trust from customers and achieved remarkable annual growth in its market share in the automobile market. He added that the development process is continuing through the introduction of new models of leasing vehicles. KFH has a highly trained team of employees to provide distinguished customer service.



Aahed Al-Essa

GULF BANK'S KUWAITI SALARY ACCOUNT SALES TEAM MEETS CUSTOMERS AT THE GATE MALL

KUWAIT: To further educate current and potential customers about its Kuwaiti salary account offering, Gulf Bank is conducting a roadshow at two of the most popular shopping centers in Kuwait. The tour started earlier at The Avenues Mall and now Gulf Bank representatives will be available at a dedicated booth at The Gate Mall between 28 - 30 September to answer all questions and queries by customers.

Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager of Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "Gulf Bank's Salary Account is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, and allows them to benefit from several unique offers when they transfer their salaries to the Bank. By being available at popular locations, we will be able to talk to current and potential customers about Gulf Bank's exciting Kuwaiti Salary Account and its wide range of customer benefits and the method of opening an account."

The Kuwaiti salary account offer gives new customers the opportunity

to either receive a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and will be able to benefit from all the account's features following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

Existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the big draw.

Two draws were conducted earlier this year while the third one for the prize of 25,000 will be held on 6 November 2017. The big draw for the largest prize of KD 250,000, is planned to take place on 8 February 2018.



SAMSUNG SCION JAY LEE SET TO BEGIN APPEAL

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Jay Y. Lee today will begin an appeal of his five-year jail term for corruption, in a case highlighting South Korea's issues with the family-run conglomerates that dominate the economy.

A lower court last month convicted the 49-year-old Lee, heir to the Samsung Group and one of Asia's largest technology companies, of bribing former president Park Geun-hye to help strengthen Lee's control of the crown jewel in the conglomerate, Samsung Electronics. Park is also under trial over allegations of abuse of power and bribery. At today's hearing, the Seoul High Court will set the order of witnesses and evidence for the appeal trial, which is expected to begin

in mid-October. Since Lee filed for appeal late last month, the appellate court is likely to try to rule by next January, as under Korean law, he can only be kept in detention a maximum of four months while the court considers his appeal. Whichever side loses is likely to appeal again to the Supreme Court.

Four other Samsung executives were also convicted in the lower court in the bribery case.

New lawyers

Lee's legal team has added new lawyers for the appeal, including former Seoul Central District Court chief and new lead counsel Lee In-jae.

Earlier this month, the defense team

laid out its strategy submitted in hundreds of pages of arguments to the High Court. The defense is expected to question the lower court's logic that Lee expected Park's help in "succession operations," which the court defined as all actions Samsung affiliates took "to strengthen Lee's control of Samsung Electronics."

Lee's defense has argued there was no such thing as "succession operations" and actions such as a 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates was taken for the companies' own perceived profit.

The lower court ruled that while Lee never asked for Park's help directly, the fact that the merger did help cement Lee's control over Samsung Electronics

"implied" he was asking for the president's help.

Bride definition

Another defense argument turns on whether there was in fact a bribe as defined under South Korean law, which says only civil servants come under the statute. Lee was found guilty of providing financial support for former president Park's close friend and confidante, who was not a civil servant.

The lower court found that Samsung provided financial support to entities backed by Park's friend Choi Soon-sil, including 7.2 billion won (\$6.4 million) to sponsor the equestrian career of Choi's daughter. The court said this was a

straightforward case of bribery as "it can be considered the same as she (Park) herself receiving it." Lee's defense is expected to argue no evidence exists to back that assertion.

Lee's defense counsel at law firm Bae, Kim & Lee LLC declined comment. Lee testified during the trial he had limited knowledge and authority over business decisions in affiliates except Samsung Electronics and related tech affiliates, which took up about 90 percent of his work. His lower court trial began after Park was impeached, but before her successor, President Moon Jae-in, a liberal critic of the conglomerates known as chaebol, was elected in a special presidential vote in May. —Reuters

ELECTRIC CAR-SHARING SERVICE TO BE LAUNCHED IN SINGAPORE

DYSON TO MAKE ELECTRIC CARS BY 2020

SINGAPORE: An electric car-sharing service will be launched in Singapore in December, in what the company behind the scheme said yesterday was a first for Southeast Asia. BlueSG, a subsidiary of France's Bolloré Group, said that 80 cars and 30 stations where vehicles can be picked up and dropped off would be operational by the end of the year.

The group plans to roll out 1,000 of its custom-built Bluecars by 2020, as well as numerous stations and charging points. The affluent city-state-whose generally uncongested roads are a contrast to many traffic-choked cities in the region-has become a testbed for transport innovations. Last year it hosted a limited public trial of the world's first driverless taxis. Marie Bolloré, from Blue Solutions, said Singapore was a launchpad for the company to enter the Asian market.

"We will start in Singapore, and afterwards we will see if other regions in Asia are interested," Bolloré said at the launch of BlueSG's new Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore.

The service is being rolled out with the help of the authorities. Land Transport Authority chief technology officer Lam Wee Shann said the initiative would "lay the foundation" for a network of electric vehicle charging stations, and support the growth of electric car use in Singapore.

Blue Solutions is the world's biggest operator of electric car-sharing services, with 5,000 other electric vehicles in eight cities-including Paris and Lyon in France, Turin in Italy and Indianapolis in the United States. In Singapore, users will be able to book an electric car online or via a mobile app, and charged for the time they rent the vehicle rather than the distance travelled.

There will also be an option for a daily or annual membership. Slightly bigger than a Smart car, the two-door, four-seater Bluecars are designed with Italian coachbuilder Pininfarina. Nissan in March started a similar service in the city of Yokohama south of Tokyo.

Dyson venture

James Dyson announced Tuesday he was investing £2.0 billion (\$2.7 billion, 2.3 billion euro) into developing an electric car by 2020, a new venture for the British inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner. The 70-year-old British entrepreneur said work began two and a half years ago on a project which he hopes will help tackle the scourge of air pollution.

"Dyson has begun work on a battery electric vehicle, due to be launched by 2020," he said in an email to employees, referring to his eponymous company.

"The team is already over 400 strong, and we are recruiting aggressively. I'm committed to investing £2 billion on this endeavor," he said. Details of the project remain top secret, but he said every element would be designed by his



SINGAPORE: This photograph taken on Tuesday shows the electric Bluecars ahead of the launch of a BlueSG office, a subsidiary of France's Bolloré Group, in Singapore. The electric car-sharing service will launch in Singapore in December, in what the company behind the scheme said yesterday was a first for Southeast Asia. —AFP

company. He told journalists in London that half the investment would go into the car, the other half into the battery. In seeking to launch his own electric car without the aid of an established partner, Dyson follows the lead of US firm Tesla, founded by business magnate Elon Musk.

But it will put him up against major players in the automobile industry who are making their own forays into new technology. Asked if he intended to make a profit, he said: "I hope so. That's the idea."

'Solve it at the source'

Dyson made his name with the bagless vacuum cleaner, but the company currently holds more than 10,000 patents, and produces hair dryers, fans, heaters and lighting. In his email to staff, he revealed this is not his first attempt to enter the automotive sector. In the 1990s he developed a filter that could be fitted on car exhaust systems, but said "nobody at the time was interested".

He warned that poor government policies to tackle air pollution meant that "developed and developing cities are full of smog-belching cars, lorries and buses".

"It is a problem that others are ignoring," he said. But Dyson said he never gave up his ambition to find a solution. "At this moment, we finally have the opportunity to bring all our technologies together into a single product," he wrote to staff.

"Rather than filtering emissions at the exhaust pipe, today we have the ability to solve it at the source." The research for the new vehicle will be done in Britain, but Dyson said he would decide in the coming months where the manufacturing would take place.

The company employs 8,500 people — 4,000 in Britain-with £1.4 billion in annual turnover and has a presence in 65 countries across the world. "Where we make the battery, we will make the car," he said, adding: "We want to be near our suppliers, where logistically it makes sense." —AFP



The Russians and Americans would cooperate to build the systems needed to organize scientific missions in lunar orbit and to the surface of the Moon. —AFP

RUSSIA, US SHOOT FOR THE MOON WITH JOINT LUNAR STATION PROJECT

MOSCOW: Russia and the United States agreed yesterday to cooperate on a NASA-led project to build the first lunar space station, part of a long-term project to send humans to Mars.

The US space agency said earlier this year that it was exploring a program called the Deep Space Gateway, a multi-stage project to push further into the solar system. The project envisages building a crew-tended spaceport in lunar orbit that would serve as a "gateway to deep space and the lunar surface," NASA has said.

And yesterday the Russian space agency Roscosmos announced that a cooperation agreement had been signed at an astronauts' congress in Adelaide. "The partners intend to develop international technical standards which will be used later, in particular to

create a space station in lunar orbit," the Russian agency said in a statement.

The Russians and Americans would cooperate to build the systems needed to organize scientific missions in lunar orbit and to the surface of the Moon, the agency added. "Roscosmos and NASA have already agreed on standards for a docking unit of the future station. Taking into account the country's extensive experience in developing docking units, the station's future elements will be created using Russian designs."

Igor Komarov, Roscosmos's general director, said no fewer than five countries were building their own rockets and systems. "To avoid future problems over technical cooperation, part of the standards should be unified for a possibility for various countries to

work on their craft and dock to the international lunar station," Komarov was quoted as saying in the statement.

Russia and the United States also discussed using Moscow's Proton-M and Angara rockets to help create the infrastructure of the lunar spaceport, the statement said, adding that the main works were slated to begin in the mid-2020s.

Space exploration-including joint work on the International Space Station (ISS) — is one of the few areas where international cooperation between Russia and the US has not been wrecked by tensions over Ukraine and Syria. The \$100 billion ISS, which has been orbiting Earth at about 28,000 kilometers (17,000 miles) per hour since 1998, is the world's largest space project. —AFP

News

in brief

Ford working to integrate autonomous cars with Lyft

DETROIT: Ford is working to integrate its autonomous cars with Lyft's ride-hailing software, so someday Ford can carry Lyft passengers. The two companies will link their software in a partnership announced yesterday. At first human-driven cars from Ford will carry Lyft passengers. The automaker plans to connect its self-driving test cars to Lyft's network. But they won't carry passengers until they're fully tested. The companies didn't give a time frame for integrating services. Ford says it expects the Lyft partnership to accelerate its self-driving car efforts. The company has said it wants to develop a fully driverless vehicle by 2021. In July Lyft announced it would open its network to other companies for self-driving car research. Lyft also has partnerships with Google's Waymo autonomous car unit and General Motors.

Delphi separates high-tech and traditional

DETROIT: The auto parts maker Delphi plans to split itself into two companies early next year. The Delphi spinoff, targeted to take place before April, may become more common in the industry as companies separate older businesses from their more advanced technology wings. Sweden's Autoliv also plans a split, with one company making passive devices like air bags, and the other focusing on electronics that prevent crashes. One Delphi company, called Aptiv, will focus on electronic safety systems, autonomous cars and the electrical backbone of vehicles. The other will be named Delphi Technologies and will focus on combustion engine parts, software controls and electric vehicle components.

Tesla Model 3 isn't only affordable EV on market

The Tesla Model 3 has captured the interest of both mainstream car buyers and electric vehicle enthusiasts alike. The Model 3's combination of sleek styling, long range and semi-autonomous driving features gives the Model 3 an "it" factor that's hard to resist. But with a base price of \$35,000, limited availability, and many of its most desirable features on the options list, the Model 3 isn't for everybody. For buyers who are interested in an electric vehicle but don't want to wait around for the Model 3, several great alternatives are available now at a similar price point. Some have shorter ranges while others lack the latest driver assistance features, but if you're interested in an electric car that won't take as long to arrive, these EVs are worth a look.

Hopes high on 2018 Nissan Leaf

The Nissan Leaf was a game-changer when it debuted in 2011, so hopes are high for the redesigned 2018 model. The Leaf still doesn't have the long-range abilities of the Model 3 and Chevrolet Bolt, but its low base price gives it a level of attainability that most competitors can't match. In addition to its new look, the 2018 Leaf boasts a larger battery pack that increases maximum range from 107 miles to an estimated 150 miles. A more powerful electric motor bumps output from 107 to 147 horsepower for improved performance. Two new features set the Leaf apart from its rivals. The first is called e-Pedal. It allows drivers to bring the Leaf to a complete stop merely by lifting off the accelerator. It makes for a one-pedal driving experience that eases fatigue in heavy traffic.

SK HYNIX TO PUT 395BN YEN IN TOSHIBA'S CHIP UNIT SALE

SEOUL: South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix Inc said yesterday that it will invest 395 billion yen (\$3.5 billion) toward the purchase of Toshiba Corp.'s memory chip unit by a group of investors. The board at South Korea's No. 2 semiconductor company approved the decision, which will help the South Korean chipmaker advance in a segment known as NAND flash memory chips.

SK Hynix is part of a group led by Bain Capital Private Equity that includes several Japanese and US companies such as Apple, Dell, Kingston Technology and Seagate Technology. SK Hynix disclosed other details about the deal, including how the US-Japan-South Korea consortium will split the stake. It said SK Hynix and Bain Capital will control a combined 49.9 percent stake in Toshiba's memory chip unit. Toshiba will control 40.2 percent and Hoya Corp., a Japanese company, 9.9 percent.

The South Korean company plans to finance part of its investment via convertible bonds worth 129 billion yen, which could later be converted into common shares and give SK Hynix up to a 15 percent stake in Toshiba's memory chip unit. —AP



SEOUL: In this Jan 30, 2013, file photo, a security official sits inside the headquarters of SK Hynix Inc in Seoul. —AP

UBER TO DEFEND BUSINESS MODEL AT UK TRIBUNAL ON WORKER RIGHTS

LONDON: Uber is expected to tell a British employment appeal tribunal yesterday that its drivers are self-employed and not workers entitled to a range of extra benefits, less than a week after the firm was told it would lose its London license.

The U.S. ride hailing service has faced regulatory and legal setbacks around the world amid opposition from traditional taxi services and concern among some regulators. It has been forced to quit several countries, such as Denmark and Hungary. Losing its license in London, one of the world's wealthiest cities, is one of the US technology firm's biggest setbacks so far. The London regulator cited the firm's approach to reporting serious criminal offences and background checks on drivers.

It can operate during its appeal, which could last months. Last year, two drivers successfully argued at a tribunal that Uber exerted significant control over them to provide an on-demand taxi service and had responsibilities in terms of workers' rights.

At the two-day appeal hearing starting yesterday Uber was to argue its drivers are self-employed and work the same way as those at long-established local taxi firms, according to a court document seen by Reuters. The self-employed are entitled to only basic protections such as health and safety, but workers receive benefits such as the minimum wage, paid holidays and rest breaks. This would add to Uber's costs and bureaucracy across Britain.

Those in a third category, called employees, receive all those entitlements as well as other benefits such as statutory sick pay and maternity or paternity leave. "Almost all taxi and private-hire drivers have been self-employed for decades before our app existed," an Uber spokesman said before yesterday's hearing. "Uber drivers have more control and are totally free to choose if, when and where they drive with no shifts or minimum hours," he said.

Trade union-led protestors were expected to march through central London yesterday against what they deem "precarious labor" in the "gig economy," where people work for various employers at the same time without fixed contracts. Uber faces a further challenge as law firm Leigh Day said it would represent a female driver who says Uber is putting her and other women at risk as the driver does not know the passenger's destination until they are already in the car and that could mean travelling to a remote or unsafe area. —Reuters



ZHENGZHOU: Photo shows an aerial view of the building of the Career and Entrepreneurship Comprehensive Service Base of University Graduates in Zhengzhou in China's central Henan province. China has another entry when it comes to buildings that look suspiciously like something else—a 12-storey block at a university strongly resembling a giant toilet. — AFP

IS IT A CHINESE UNIVERSITY... OR A GIANT TOILET?

SHANGHAI: China has another entry when it comes to buildings that look suspiciously like something else—a 12-storey university block strongly resembling a giant toilet. Architects have had a field day in China in recent years with a number of outlandish designs springing up across the country. The latest is a building on the campus of North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power at Zhengzhou in the central province of Henan.

The provincial government spent 86 million yuan (\$13 million) on the building, which is for university graduates looking to start their own enterprises, the Henan Daily said. Despite the name of the university, the building was not thought to have been designed to resemble a toilet. But internet users have mocked the unofficially named "toilet building", which was com-

pleted last year and has an oval annex that could be the toilet bowl attached to a larger rectangular block which critics say looks like the cistern.

"Before it was finished we joked that it was a toilet. And now it is a real toilet building, our university's good name will be spread far and wide," one of its students joked on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter. Another Weibo user asked light-heartedly: "Does it make the people inside the building poop?" The ruling Communist Party last year said it had had enough of "weird" buildings, such as the Beijing headquarters of China Central Television (CCTV), fondly nicknamed "The Big Underpants". There was also the Beijing HQ of the People's Daily newspaper, which during construction bore an unfortunate resemblance to a giant penis. — AFP

GHANA VILLAGERS PROFIT FROM MONKEY BUSINESS

TAFI ATOME: The villagers of Tafi Atome, in Ghana's Volta Region, grew up listening to tales of their spiritual links to the 1,000 or so mona monkeys that inhabit the surrounding lush forest. But they have also turned that reverence into revenue, by making the cheeky primates part of an eco-tourist attraction that benefits both animals and locals alike. Francis Acquaye, the manager of the Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary and Cultural Village, said the monkeys and the forest were considered sacred until the 1980s, when the spread of Christianity eroded traditional beliefs.

The red, brown and white monkeys, which are found between Ghana and Cameroon, were soon hunted and trees were chopped down until the village became an eco-tourist attraction in 1996. Now, thousands of people visit the sanctuary near the border with Togo each year. Some stay in the village to learn about rural life. The money earned has helped to build a health clinic, sink boreholes and renovate school buildings. "People in the community treat the monkeys in a very friendly way just because of the benefits we derive from tourism," Acquaye said. "Everybody supports what is here. "So the monkeys are our friends, they are our brothers and sisters."

'Living together as one'

At the sanctuary, monkeys wait in the trees, watching a group of young visitors. When the bananas come out, so do the monkeys. Both tourist and monkey squeal with delight as the food is taken. Seventeen-year-old Melissa Fehr, from Canada who is among the visiting group, is just as enthusiastic about the warm welcome extended to them by the villagers. "They all say 'welcome' to you, which is really cool," she enthused. Villagers say they have never experienced or seen the monkeys attack. Acquaye walks through the forest calling the monkeys with pursed lips. When they see the halved bananas in his hands, they bound over.

And when people carry food on their heads, especially if it's bananas or corn, they need to be wary, he said. "You need to give pieces of those to the monkeys otherwise you will be carrying monkeys on the load (too)," he added. For Lydia Osei, a trader in the village who sits on the roadside selling drinks and snacks, sharing food with the monkeys is a normal part of life in Tafi Atome. "We give them food when we have it. We give them banana and maize and other things and they are no longer afraid of us," she said. "Even though they are animals and we are humans, we are living together as one." — AFP

US HEALTHCARE BILL COLLAPSES AMID REPUBLICAN INFIGHTING

INCUMBENTS COULD BE AT RISK IN 2018 ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON: The failure by President Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans to dismantle Obamacare has infuriated the party's conservative flank and is intensifying intra-party warfare ahead of the 2018 US congressional elections. Donors and activists upset by the collapse of the latest Senate healthcare bill said it hardened their determination to back conservative candidates in next year's elections, even if that means ousting Republican incumbents.

"I am fed up. I'm beyond frustrated," said Mica Mosbacher, a Houston-based Republican fundraiser, who added she was "extremely disappointed in Ted Cruz," a Republican US senator from Texas who had threatened to oppose the latest healthcare bill because he wanted to see changes. Texas is scheduled to hold the first nominating primary of the midterm elections in March 2018.

Trump vowed during the 2016 election campaign to scrap the 2010 Affordable Care Act, former Democratic President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement, which Republicans see as a costly government overreach. Democrats say it has extended health insurance to millions. The latest bill to overturn Obamacare failed on Tuesday after three Senate Republicans, including moderate Susan Collins and conservative Rand Paul, said they could not support it. Republicans narrowly control the chamber by 52-48.

In November 2018, all 435 seats of the US House of Representatives and 33 seats in the Senate will be up for election. In the Senate, that includes 23 Democrats and eight Republicans, with several in both parties in fights expected to be competitive. If a large number of Republicans are forced to defend their seats against challengers from their own party in primary fights, Democrats will seek to exploit weakened candidates in the general election in their effort to wrest control of the House and Senate from Republicans.

A shift of either chamber into Democratic hands would make it even more difficult for Trump to pass his agenda of tax reform, toughening immigration laws and rolling back Obamacare. Republicans have not delivered a significant legislative win on any topic since Trump took office in January. Mosbacher said she was "leaning toward supporting" Cruz's primary opponent, Stefano de Stefano, even though she served as fundraiser for the incumbent's 2012 campaign.

Whoever prevails in that fight would likely face Beto O'Rourke, a well-funded Democrat, in the general election. Texas last elected a Democrat to the Senate in 1988. The conservative group Club For Growth has already begun interviewing Republican primary challengers it will consider backing next year. "We'll continue to push for full repeal of Obamacare, and we're disappointed Republicans have been unable to deliver on their seven-year promise," said Rachael Slobodien, a spokeswoman for Club for Growth.

'Shown true colors'

Club for Growth is not alone in its frustration over the defeat of the Obamacare repeal effort. David Bozell, president of ForAmerica, a conservative grassroots organization, said incumbents who failed to line up solidly behind repeal had "shown some true colors" and in doing so, were inviting primary fights for their party's nomination.

Republican Senators Jeff Flake of Arizona and Dean Heller of Nevada are top targets for conservative groups. Conservative Kelli Ward has already announced her candidacy challenging Flake, and is seeking to amass support as a more conservative option. Dave Tamasi, a Republican lobbyist and fundraiser, said he thought it was too soon to know if the healthcare failure would hurt Republicans. "Opponents may try to use



WASHINGTON: US Capitol Police carry a protester out of a Senate Finance Committee hearing about the proposed Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. —AFP

today or the failure to pass a repeal of the Affordable Care Act to give their candidacy a little bit of a push. The question is can that fuel today sustain itself over the long term of an election cycle," he said.

So far, Trump has been hedging his bets on the Republican primaries. But many of his allies are already backing conservative primary challengers. Trump has blasted Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell over

Congress' inaction. Such criticisms could help turn next year's elections into a referendum on congressional incumbents, rather than on the president himself. "I think we are entering an era of more primary challenges in general. The disappointment by activists over the inability for Republicans to repeal Obamacare only adds fuel to this fire," said Craig Robinson, former political director of the Iowa Republican Party. —Reuters

ENERGY DRINKS, GAME FACES AT SHANGHAI ESPORTS 'BOOT CAMP'

SHANGHAI: Urgent cries ring out in a room crammed with computers and caffeine—"Kill that one!" "They're murdering us!" as training for the Flash Wolves eSports team gets into full swing. The Taiwanese professional gamers are in the last stages of preparations for the League of Legends world championships culminating on November 4 in Beijing and, eyes fixed on their screens, they've got their game faces on.

The "boot camp" in Shanghai, fuelled by energy drinks rather than physical exertion, reflects the rising stakes in eSports, where purses reach millions of dollars and a single poor performance can derail a player's career. Players train up to 16 hours a day, and are considered past their best after 25. The Flash Wolves' team manager, who goes by the nickname of 4Leaf, says it's an ultra-competitive life that can be "very cruel". Once dismissed as the pursuit of teens and introverts, eSports is growing fast towards being a billion-dollar industry and has a huge fanbase, especially in Asia.

Flash Wolves like Maple, Betty and SwordArt—most gamers have colorful nicknames—can earn up to \$75,000 a year and even more if they win a top tournament. eSports will be a medal sport at the 2022 Asian Games, and it is pushing hard for Olympic status. But with the pressure on, playing games soon begins to feel a lot like work, the competitors say. "It is not as simple as people imagine: 'Wow, playing games as work, you're so lucky,'" said MMD, whose real name is Yu Li-hong.

"Because when you make it your profession, your attitude and the feeling of playing is different. You need to be serious about everything," said the bespectacled 22-year-old. The best gamers are stars in their own right, and top competitions play out in front of tens of

thousands of spectators in stadiums, and many millions online. League of Legends, in which multi-player teams do battle in a fantasy world, is among the most popular games. The world championship final will be held in Beijing's 80,000-seat "Bird's Nest" National Stadium.

Vitamin B

In Shanghai, the Flash Wolves are limbering up with training games against other teams logged on from elsewhere in the city. The game is their life and they "train"—which means playing the game—seven days a week, wearing their matching black tops, their nicknames emblazoned on the back.

Boxes of energy drinks—higher-strength imported versions, the team says are stacked in a corner, coffee cups litter desk tops and some players pop Vitamin B tablets, a common supplement for athletes. Another eSports team in the same office building warmed up with stretching exercises. Flash Wolves say they welcome both male or female members and choose based on talent, but all their players happen to be young men aged between 18 and 22. One bad month or performance can see a player dropped from the five-man team. Understudies wait in the wings, not to mention the vast pool of teenage gamers back home in Taiwan.

MMD, a former tourism major, dropped out of university at 19 to go pro. "At the beginning my family would start nagging me whenever I was sitting in front of a computer and asking me why wasn't I studying," he says, sporting yellow socks and a pair of flip-flops. "They think the more I study, the higher the degree I get, the better." —AFP

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

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



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



PAET students union recently held a special ceremony to honor some basic education college female students with outstanding performances. The ceremony was held at the college stage in Ardhya where dean, Dr Fahad Al-Rowaished and the dean of students affairs, Dr Hussein Al-Mukaimi honored the students and some parents.



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM INDIAN EMBASSY

Gandhi Jayanti will be celebrated in Indian Embassy on Monday, 2nd October 2017, with one-hour cultural program from 0900 - 1000 hrs. Favorite Gandhi Bhajans will be sung on this auspicious occasion. All Indian nationals are cordially invited to participate. Please arrive by 0845 hrs. Light snacks, tea/coffee will be served to all.

THEATRE DYNAMIC AND THRIVING AMONG EXPATS: PLAYWRIGHT

By Sajeev K Peter

Theatre is thriving and dynamic among the Malayali expat communities in the Gulf region where theatre practitioners are seen to be more committed and dedicated to the art form compared to their counterparts in India, said Thoppil Soman, a noted Malayalam playwright and director.

Soman, who is the son of Malayalam theatre legend late Thoppil Bhasi, arrived in Kuwait yesterday to attend 'Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival 2017' being organized by Kerala Arts and Nataka Academy (KANA Kuwait) on Oct 29. "Theatre practitioners have a bounden duty to protect and preserve theatre, an art-form of the masses which is currently being marginalized by the onslaught of films and TV channels," Soman said.

"We had a lively theatre that had the power to directly interact with the masses reflecting their life. The theatre of the past was effervescent, poetic, and vibrant. However, thanks to technology and the emerging trends, the theatre has been gradually reduced to stage gimmicks and spectacles", Soman added. Although efforts have been made to energize Malayalam theatre, it largely remains at academic levels, he commented. "My experience is that the theatre practice in the expatriate community has been more active than in Kerala," Soman quipped.



Thoppil Soman

'Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival' will be held tomorrow from 4.30 pm onwards at the Indian Community School, Khaitan. The festival will witness the staging of four productions by amateur Malayalam theatre troupes in Kuwait. Ayanam Open Forum will stage 'Oru Sadacharakaala Pranayam', Marina Moving Arts will present 'Namenthu Cheyyanam', Snehalayam will perform 'Varoo Namukku Natakam Kalikkam', and Kazhcha Kuwait will stage 'Kazhcha' during the festival. The entry to the festival is free.



TRENDSETTING 2ND SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE HELD AT ICSK

The Indian Community School Kuwait, added yet another milestone to its illustrious history, when the Second 'ICSK Summit Conference', a discussion forum for achieving "Academic excellence through quality enhancement" was held on 20th September 2017 at ICSK Senior. The prime focus of this summit was to bring to light the various means to attain heights of excellence in the forthcoming CBSE board examinations AISSSE and AISSCE (Classes X & XII).

Rajesh Nair, Principal (Amman Branch) extended a warm welcome to the galaxy of intellectuals who attended the conference which included the members of the Board of the Trustees, Principals and Vice Principals of all the branches of ICSK, the Heads of Departments, Assistant Heads of Departments Academic Supervisors and Subject Coordinators. Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees Shaikh Abdul Rahman and Honorary Secretary A Amer Mohammed in their felicitation addresses urged each and everyone present there to have excellent thoughts as "Excellent thoughts transform gradually into excellent actions and excellent actions pave way for envying success".

Senior Administrator and Principal (Senior Branch) Dr V. Binumon presented the topic of discussion and emphasized that educational excellence through quality enhancement essentially calls for the undying support, dedication, commitment and sacrifice of four strong pillars - the management, the teaching faculty, the par-

ents and the students and urged the stakeholders to keep the balance so as to achieve the long cherished dream of academic excellence and success. He highlighted in his address that "Excellence is an attitude" and the change in one's attitude, will usher one to the threshold of astounding achievements.

All the members of the eminent gathering actively participated in the discussion. Principals, Vice-Principals, Heads of Departments, Assistant Heads of Departments, Academic Supervisors and Subject Coordinators shared their valuable thoughts about creating academic excellence at ICSK. The discussion which paved way for vibrant, innovative and creative views on accomplishing academic excellence through quality enhancement, aiming at the upliftment of this prestigious institution turned out to be a fruitful session involving active discussions and healthy exchange of valuable ideas to enhance the quality of education at ICSK.

Gangadhar Shirsath, Principal (Khaitan Branch) rendered vote of thanks to the august gathering. He expressed gratitude and delight to all the attendees for their presence and for actively participating in the discussion so that ICSK can scale greater heights of success. The attendees dispersed with a strong determination to passionately pursue and maintain the legacy of academic excellence and accomplishment at ICSK to commence a joyous journey that hopefully will bring much elation and success in the next academic year.

INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL FELICITATES DR V BINUMON

A grand felicitation program was held on 20th September, 2017 at ICSK Senior Auditorium, in honor of Dr V Binumon,

Senior Administrator and Principal, Senior Branch for receiving the President's National Teacher Award for 2016 under the CBSE

Principal category from the Honorable Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu in a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 5th September 2017. The Award carries a certificate of merit, cash award and a silver medal. National Teacher Award is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and was instituted in 1958 in honor of Former President, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and is given away on 5th September (Teacher's Day) every year. The Management of ICSK gave a grand reception to Dr V Binumon for receiving this prestigious award.

Sherly Dennis - Principal ICSK Junior welcomed the gathering and the ICSK students enthralled everyone with their welcome dance and group song. Sheikh Abdul Rahman, the Hon. Chairman of ICSK, in his presidential address, complimented Dr V Binumon for his energetic and inspiring leadership, dedication for his chosen career and his ability to bring in changes with passion and diligence. He also emphasized his vision in bringing the scheme of NIOS to cater to the needs of desirous students.

The Chief Guest, Sanjeev Saklani, Attache Counselor for Education, Indian Embassy Kuwait congratulated Dr V Binumon and his family and emphasized the value and importance of "Guru - Teacher" in the Indian culture. The Honorable Members of the Board of ICSK, Hon. Vice Chairman Vinukumar Nair, Hon. Secretary Amer Muhammed, Hon. Joint Secretary, Agnello Fernandes and Hon. Treasurer, S N Raju, in their speeches, extolled Dr V Binumon's personal and professional qualities that make him truly deserving this great award.

Rajesh Nair, Principal ICSK Amman, in his felicitation speech expressed his great admiration for Dr V Binumon, a proficient administrator, who always keeps students' welfare close to his heart and work tirelessly to motivate them to achieve their goal. A video montage of congratulatory messages from retired teachers and ex-students of ICSK brought nostalgic moments to the gathering. The Management of ICSK felicitated Dr V Binumon with a memento and a gift. In his reply speech, Dr V Binumon thanked the School Management and whole ICSK fraternity for their support and dedicated this award for ICSK. Shirsath, Principal ICSK Khaitan, proposed the vote of thanks.



Kuwait University's College of Engineering & Petroleum recently held an enlightenment meeting for the new students at the guiding office. The meeting was organized by the students affairs deanery, the library, the students affairs and the evaluation and assessment unit and was attended by assistant dean for students affairs professor, Khaled Al-Hazza'.



00:45 Treetop Masters
01:40 When Turkeys Attack
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:00 Swamp Brothers
03:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
04:15 Treetop Masters
05:02 Wildest Middle East
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Going Ape
07:25 Swamp Brothers
08:15 Treetop Masters
09:10 When Turkeys Attack
09:10 Wildest Middle East
11:00 Swamp Brothers
11:28 Swamp Brothers
11:55 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
12:50 Treetop Masters
13:45 When Turkeys Attack
14:40 Wildest Middle East
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treetop Masters
17:25 Whale Wars
18:20 Treetop Masters From Hell
19:15 Swamp Brothers
20:38 Swamp Brothers
21:05 Whale Wars
22:00 Whale Wars
22:55 Wildest Middle East
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

14:00 Jessie
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
16:35 Bunk'd
17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Tsum Tsum Shorts
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracked
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 The Zhuzhus
21:25 Stuck In The Middle
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:45 Lolo
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Escaping Evil: My Life In A Cuit
04:00 Escaping Polygamy
05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
06:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary & Martin Kemp
17:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
18:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
19:00 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
23:00 It Takes A Killer
23:30 It Takes A Killer



00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
00:30 Pick A Puppy
01:20 Don't Drive Here
02:10 Animal Nation With Anthony Anderson
03:00 Finding Bigfoot
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Pick A Puppy
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Awesome Adventures
07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
07:50 America's Cutest Pets
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 The Big Brain Theory
10:20 Mythbusters
11:00 America's Cutest Pets
12:50 Finding Bigfoot
12:50 How It's Made
13:40 Pick A Puppy
14:30 Awesome Adventures
14:55 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
15:20 Destroyed In Seconds
16:10 The Big Brain Theory
17:00 Space Dealers
17:50 Tallest Tower: Building The Shard
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 Space Dealers



00:30 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead
01:20 Evil Online
02:10 I Am Homicide
03:00 Sin City Justice
03:38 Disappeared
04:38 The Perfect Murder
05:24 Nowhere To Hide
06:12 Obsession: Dark Desires
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 The Perfect Murder
08:40 Nowhere To Hide
09:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
10:20 Blood Relatives
11:10 Unravell'd
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 The Perfect Murder
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
15:20 Blood Relatives
16:10 Evil Online
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 The Perfect Murder
18:40 Nowhere To Hide
19:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
20:20 Blood Relatives
21:10 Murder Chose Me
22:00 I Am Homicide
22:50 The Perfect Murder
23:40 Evil Online



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermore Chronicles
01:15 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 Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Bunk'd
09:00 K.C. Undercover
09:25 K.C. Undercover
09:50 Stuck In The Middle
10:15 Stuck In The Middle
10:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place - The Movie
12:10 Rolling With The Ronks
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Bizaardvark
13:35 Bizaardvark



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:50 Zou
01:05 Loopedoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopedoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:30 Loopedoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopedoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopedoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:30 The Lion Guard
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:00 Goldie & Bear
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Miles From Tomorrow
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:00 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:45 Sofia The First
18:15 Goldie & Bear
18:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:15 Little Mermaid
19:45 PJ Masks
20:15 The Lion Guard
20:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:15 Goldie & Bear
21:45 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
22:15 Little Mermaid
22:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopedoo



00:20 Misfit Garage
01:05 Harley And The Davidson's
02:35 Breaking Magic
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:45 Misfit Garage
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
09:00 Storage Hunters UK
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Harley And The Davidson's
11:40 Breaking Magic
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Hunters UK
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Deadliest Catch
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Misfit Garage
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters UK
18:20 Storage Hunters UK
18:50 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
22:40 Built To Survive
23:30 Fast N' Loud



06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Disney11
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:00 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Phineas And Ferb
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 Kickin' It
10:45 Kickin' It
11:10 Mighty Med
11:35 Mighty Med
12:00 Lab Rats
12:30 Lab Rats
12:55 The Suite Life On Deck
13:20 The Suite Life On Deck
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Kirby Buckets
14:40 Lab Rats Elite Force
15:00 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 Supa Strikas

16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
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 Disney11
21:10 Gravity Falls
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



00:10 Second Wives Club
01:00 Second Wives Club
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched By Nature
04:40 Botched By Nature
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 E! NYC
06:55 E! News
07:10 E! NYC
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 E! News
23:15 E! News Look Book



00:00 Chopped
01:00 Chopped South Africa
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
08:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Siba's Table
20:30 Siba's Table
21:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
12:00 Year Million
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Incredibly Small World
15:00 Genius
16:00 Mega Factories
17:00 The State
18:00 The State
19:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
20:00 Mega Factories
20:50 Attack Of The Zeppelins
21:40 WWII's Greatest Raids
22:30 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
23:20 Incredibly Small World



00:10 Chopping Block
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Midsomer Murders
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Chopping Block
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Midsomer Murders
09:30 Catchphrase
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Chopping Block
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Chopping Block
15:10 The Chase
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
17:15 Catchphrase
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
22:15 Catchphrase
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Weapons At War
02:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 United Stuff Of America
04:30 Million Dollar Genius
05:20 Ancient Discoveries
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Weapons At War
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 United Stuff Of America
11:00 Million Dollar Genius
12:00 Ancient Discoveries
13:00 Weapons At War
14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 United Stuff Of America
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 Weapons At War
20:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
23:00 Million Dollar Genius



01:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
02:50 Storage Wars Texas
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost In Transmission
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
11:24 Storage Wars Texas
09:45 Storage Wars Texas

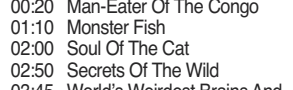
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Alone
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Lost In Transmission
16:00 Storage Wars Texas
16:25 Storage Wars Texas
16:50 Cars That Made America
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 New Age Of Terror
22:40 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
00:45 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
01:10 Fish Of The Day
01:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
02:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
02:35 Access 360 World Heritage
03:30 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
04:25 Fish Of The Day
04:50 Fish Of The Day
05:20 Route Awakening
05:45 Route Awakening
06:15 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
07:10 Rustic Adventures Italy
07:35 Rustic Adventures Italy
08:05 Access 360 World Heritage
09:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
09:55 Fish Of The Day
10:20 Fish Of The Day
10:50 Route Awakening
11:15 Route Awakening
11:45 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
12:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
13:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
13:35 Access 360 World Heritage
14:30 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
15:25 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
15:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
16:20 Route Awakening
16:45 Route Awakening
17:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
18:10 Restoration Man
19:05 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
19:30 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
20:00 Route Awakening
20:30 Route Awakening
21:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
21:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Rustic Adventures Italy
23:20 Rustic Adventures Italy
23:50 Access 360 World Heritage



00:10 Nazi World War Weird
01:00 Pope vs Hitler
03:00 Attack Of The Zeppelins
04:00 Nazi World War Weird
05:00 WWII's Greatest Raids
06:00 Highway Thru Hell
07:00 Genius
08:00 Incredibly Small World
09:00 Street Monkeys
10:00 Attack Of The Zeppelins
11:00 Mission Saturn
12:00 Year Million
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Incredibly Small World
15:00 Genius
16:00 Mega Factories
17:00 The State
18:00 The State
19:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
20:00 Mega Factories
20:50 Attack Of The Zeppelins
21:40 WWII's Greatest Raids
22:30 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
23:20 Incredibly Small World

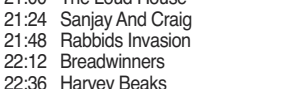


00:20 Man-Eater Of The Congo
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Soul Of The Cat
02:50 Secrets Of The Wild
03:45 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies
04:40 Make You Laugh Out Loud
05:35 Soul Of The Cat
06:30 Secrets Of The Wild
07:25 World's Weirdest Brains And Babies
08:20 Make You Laugh Out Loud
09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER 2.5
10:10 Ultimate Predators GPU
11:05 Wild Untamed Brazil
12:00 Africa's Blood River
12:55 Boss Croc
13:50 India's Lost Worlds
14:45 World's Weirdest (2015)
15:40 Unlikely Animal Friends
16:35 Predator Falls
17:30 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
18:25 Safari Brothers
19:20 World's Weirdest (2015)
20:10 Unlikely Animal Friends
21:00 Predator Falls
21:50 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
22:40 Safari Brothers

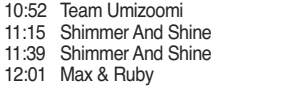


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob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

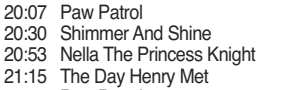
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 School Of Rock
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



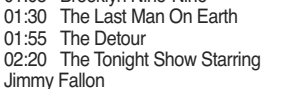
00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:23 Nella The Princess Knight
04:35 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:05 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
14:30 Olive The Ostrich
14:35 Paw Patrol
14:58 Little Charmers
15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:44 Max & Ruby
16:06 The Day Henry Met
16:11 Nella The Princess Knight
16:23 Nella The Princess Knight
16:35 Shimmer And Shine
16:59 Wallykazam!
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21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack



00:05 Breaking Bad Entering
02:05 12 Angry Men
03:55 A Country Called Home
05:40 Healing
07:50 New York Stories
09:55 12 Angry Men
11:40 Healing
13:40 Alex Of Venice
15:15 The Better Angels
17:00 The Best Of Me
19:00 Amores Perros
21:45 Cake
23:30 Hunger Hearts



00:50 The Wish Fish
02:15 Albert
03:45 Funny Little Cars
04:50 Poo's Heffalump Halloween Movie
06:05 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
07:25 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas
08:40 Meet The Robinsons
10:20 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
11:35 The Wish Fish
13:00 Zodiac: The Race Begins
16:10 Meet The Robinsons
17:50 Egon And Donci
19:15 Elfi & Ernest
21:00 Zodiac: The Race Begins
22:40 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas
23:55 Bamse And The City Of Thieves



00:25 How To Make Love Like An Englishman
02:05 Beaches
04:15 Sahara
06:25 Forces Of Nature
08:20 Enemy Of The State
10:30 Nacho Libre
12:05 Sahara
14:10 Blown Away
16:10 Seventh Son
17:50 The Intern
19:55 Black Mass
22:00 Snatch
23:45 High Fidelity



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Hacking The Wild
02:10 The Unexplained Files
03:00 Junkyard Wars
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Hacking The Wild
06:12 The Unexplained Files
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Junkyard Wars
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 The Unexplained Files
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Hacking The Wild
10:38 Junkyard Wars
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 The Unexplained Files
14:38 Junkyard Wars
15:26 Hacking The Wild
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 The Unexplained Files
17:50 The Future Of...



00:40 Star
01:30 Riverdale
02:20 The Unit
03:20 Chicago Justice
04:10 Training Day
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Star
09:20 Chicago Justice
10:10 Training Day
11:00 The Unit
11:45 Taken
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Training Day
17:00 Chicago Justice
18:00 The Unit
19:00 The Voice
20:00 The Flash
21:00 Star
22:00 Star
23:00 Taken
23:50 American Crime



00:15 Brave
01:55 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
03:55 Eight Below
06:05 Race To Witch Mountain
07:50 Hercules (1997)
09:30 Brave
11:15 Race To Witch Mountain
13:05 Wall-E
15:00 Brother Bear
16:30 Sky High
18:10 Secretariat
20:15 Herbie Fully Loaded
22:00 Wall-E
23:50 Brother Bear



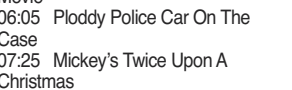
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02:35 Twister
04:40 The GalloWS
06:15 Batman: Return Of The Caped Crusaders
07:35 Tracers
09:10 Independents' Day
10:45 Life On The Line
12:25 Twister
14:20 Shanghai Knights
16:15 Drop Zone
18:00 Batman Unlimited: Mech vs. Mutants
19:20 I Am Number Four
21:10 Heat



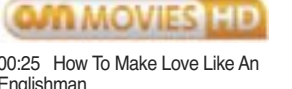
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02:10 Absolutely Anything
03:40 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
05:30 Ride
07:05 Joe Somebody
08:45 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
10:35 Ride
12:10 Joe Somebody
13:50 Miss You Already
15:40 Made In America
17:35 Love Springs
19:10 Mr. Deeds
20:50 The Last Shot
22:25 Bad Words



00:05 Breaking Bad Entering
02:05 12 Angry Men
03:55 A Country Called Home
05:40 Healing
07:50 New York Stories
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13:40 Alex Of Venice
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17:00 The Best Of Me
19:00 Amores Perros
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23:30 Hunger Hearts



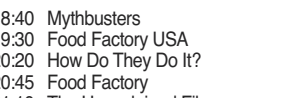
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00:25 How To Make Love Like An Englishman
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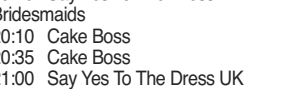
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00:55 Food Factory
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03:00 Junkyard Wars
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04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
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07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Junkyard Wars
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 The Unexplained Files
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Hacking The Wild
10:38 Junkyard Wars
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 The Unexplained Files
14:38 Junkyard Wars
15:26 Hacking The Wild
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 The Unexplained Files
17:50 The Future Of...



00:20 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
01:05 The Day I Almost Died
01:50 Bizarre ER
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Your Style In His Hands
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
07:30 Say Yes To The Dress UK
08:15 Sister Wives
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Too Ugly For Love?
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Sister Wives
15:25 Too Ugly For Love?
16:10 Love At First Sight
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Oprah's Master Class
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Your Style In His Hands
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 Say Yes To The Dress UK
21:50 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
22:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK
23:30 90 Days To Wed



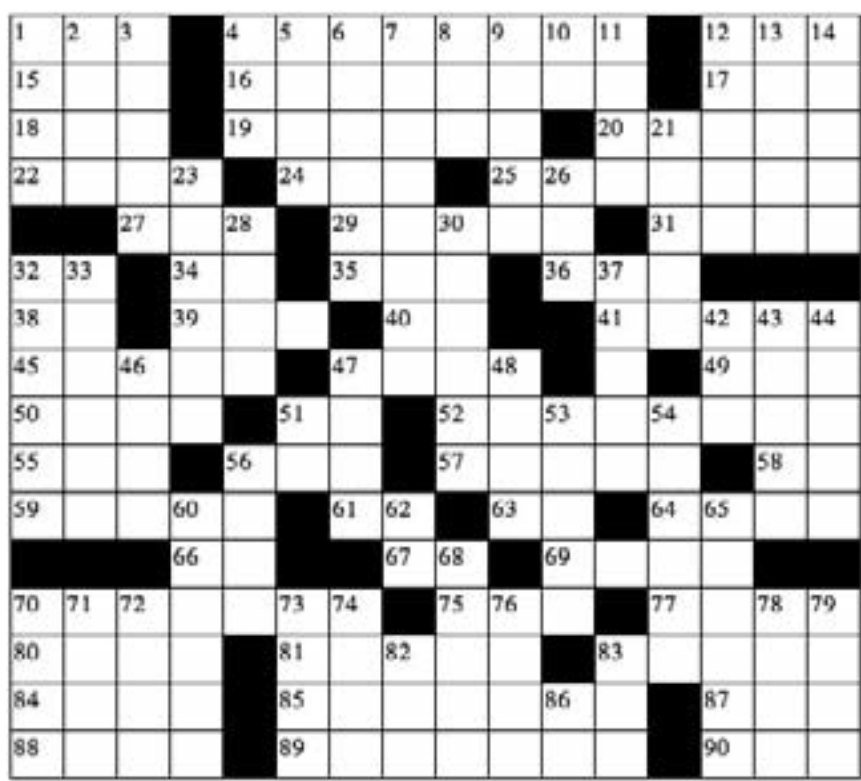
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01:00 Taken
01:50 American Crime
02:40 Star
03:30 Star
04:20 The Unit
05:20 Chicago Justice
06:10 Training Day
07:00 Good Morning America
08:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Star
11:20 Chicago Justice
12:10 Training Day
13:00 The Unit
13:45 The Flash
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Training Day
19:00 Chicago Justice
20:00 The Unit
21:00 Supergirl
22:00 Lethal Weapon
23:00 Star



00:55 Life On The Line
02:35 Twister
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06:15 Batman: Return Of The Caped Crusaders
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21:10 Heat



CROSSWORD 1721



ACROSS

1. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
4. A person who captures and holds people or animals.
12. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
15. An American doctorate usually based on at least 3 years graduate study and a dissertation.
16. Markedly different from an accepted norm.
17. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
18. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
19. A medium for oil-paints.
20. (of tempo) Slow adv.
22. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
24. An honorary law degree.
25. (of a batter) "he went hitless for three innings".
27. A column of light (as from a beacon).
29. (of pain or sorrow) Made easier to bear.
31. The probability of a specified outcome.
32. Being one more than one hundred.
34. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
35. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
36. Of southern Europe.
38. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
39. A light touch or stroke.
40. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
41. Goddess of dawn.
45. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
49. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus *Iva* with small greenish flowers.
50. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
52. Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
55. Nocturnal mouselike mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
57. Understood in a certain way.
58. Being one more than one.
59. Squash bugs.
61. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
63. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
64. Informal terms for money.
66. A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
67. A public promotion of some product or service.
69. Slanting diagonally across the grain of a fabric.
70. Genus of South and Central American heathlike evergreen shrubs.
75. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
77. A Hindu prince or king in India.
80. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
81. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
84. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
85. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
87. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.

88. Distinctive and stylish elegance.
89. Genus of beetles whose grubs feed mainly on roots of plants.
90. The sound made by a cat (or any sound resembling this).

DOWN

1. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
2. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
3. The younger brother of Edwy who became king of Northumbria when it renounced Edwy.
4. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
5. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
6. A prosthesis that replaces a missing leg.
7. Type genus of the family Tridacnidae.
8. The address of a web page on the world wide web.
9. A ridge that forms a seam between two parts.
10. Half the width of an em.
11. The elapsed time it takes for a signal to travel from Earth to a spacecraft (or other body) and back to the starting point.
12. Having had the bones removed.
13. An honorary arts degree.
14. Worthless material that should be removed.
21. Type genus of the Elopidae.
23. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
26. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
28. Not only so, but.
30. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
33. A large Yoruba city in southwestern Nigeria.
37. Leather with a napped surface.
42. The virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).
43. A means of serving.
44. French composer noted for his experimentalism and rejection of romanticism (1866-1925).
46. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
47. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
48. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
51. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
53. Jordan's port.
54. The capital of Turkey.
56. A small cake leavened with yeast.
60. (Judaism) A period of seven days of mourning after the death of close relative.
62. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
65. Wild ginger.
68. Close-fitting pants of heavy denim for casual wear (usually in the plural).
71. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
72. Gymnastic apparatus consisting of two parallel wooden bars supported on uprights.
73. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
74. Chief port of Yemen.
76. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
78. A humorous anecdote or remark.
79. Again but in a new or different way.
82. A rapid bustling commotion.
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
86. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You take time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for the creative mind. Making your mark on the world has special significance. Achievement, ambition and authority take on a greater importance. Organizing and administering people and projects will become central to your lifestyle. Save a little time for having lunch with a friend. Getting away from the workplace for a while will help you have renewed energy when you return. This friend may be someone that works in a neighborhood shop—lovely to have a different perspective. Through this friend you may learn new and positive ways to view certain things in your life. Time and thought, not necessarily money, will resolve problems in a love relationship.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are very much your own boss. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste. You are called on to make use of your natural skills during group meetings. You are very career-oriented and your personal reputation and honor is of the utmost importance. You possess a natural sense of organization and practical insight and may excel at managing or supervising others. So now that you know this... It is time to create a better job for yourself by updating that resume, requesting a job change, etc. You naturally gravitate toward positions of power and authority. Your home life is full of laughter and sweet music this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are in a mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities. You communicate with skill and it is stimulating to be around you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student—able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. Ask questions and take notes; this elder has seen many interesting things. This evening is a good time to study—you have a real appreciation for science. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter, or making a special phone call.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This could be a stressful day but you have the opportunity to rise above the stress. Take a moment to surrender your agenda and become centered or focused. You are able to succeed in whatever you set your mind to do at this time. Look for ways to avoid confrontations with co-workers or superiors. Your ideas can be presented on paper and this will help others to think before they question your techniques or ideas. Given time, your ideas will win approval—do not push. Writers, salesmen and performers shine during this time. Involvement with special interest groups will help your progress in the work field now. Your ideas have a strong influence. True wisdom lies in discovering that there are no ultimate answers, only good questions.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You do a lot to fulfill the popular stereotype of a genius. You have such an outpouring of insights that having a conversation with you can be a real experience. Your mind works like lightning. Words and thoughts come quickly, illuminating whatever subject is at hand. You really do have very different ideas and ways of expressing them. If you are looking for a job or an upgrade within your company, now is the time to make your move. There may be a sustained interest in communication, computers, electronics and all that is electrical. Updating or purchasing electronic equipment may occupy your mind this afternoon. Compare prices and talk to people that are using the brand that you want to purchase in order to have a recommendation.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Luxury is desired just now. Growth and success could be tied to your possessions or to the way you possess and respond to the various ideas and impulses in your life. You could benefit through material support. With material support you tend to invest wisely. You could save a little here and there and be your own support person. Investments take on a whole new perspective when you use your own saved funds. You may find you enjoy making your own fortune. Home, family and real estate are some of the interests that require a lot of discipline and responsibility. If you get serious about these things and think long-term, you come out ahead; otherwise, you could find yourself in a tight situation. Tidy up—company's coming.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You do a lot of research and communicate with a lot of people, including other companies, in order to keep up-to-date on the product that you sell or that the company for which you work produces. This concentrated effort goes into creating a new job identity. You may uncover some interesting information at this time—however, much thought needs to go into whether you should disclose this information. Good practical job-related thoughts and ideas are available to you now. The ability to communicate with your superiors is positive. Your timing should be perfect for just about any project you want to attempt, whether you are at work or at home. Stay on track and remember, what you see is not always what is real.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in speech. People listen to what you have to say. The situation is a natural for self-expression. Listening to the other person, you may be able to add to your own ideas and thoughts. A good conversation with loved ones this afternoon is fun. An outgoing and very expressive cycle of experience has begun. Now more than ever, you want to be admired and create things like poetry or music that stirs their hearts. This is child's play; this is romance; this is taking a chance. There is a yearning to broaden horizons and reach for the ultimate at this time in your life. This is your best day for love and money. This is also a high-energy day.



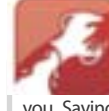
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A friend, who may also be a co-worker, comes up with ideas today that will help both of you get ahead in the work field. Your fear of taking risks can be set aside when there is someone with whom you can share the risk taking. In both your personal and private lives you are highly organized—others seek you out for advice regarding business affairs. When you become cognizant of what you are doing and the power you have to accomplish your goals, your thinking ability will become most positive. Rest, fun and exercise are important this afternoon. You are an excellent planner with a real head for detail, including keeping up with your money. Good insight into personal investments is possible today. A sense of harmony is in your home.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A bit of restlessness in the wee hours this morning may find you wishing there had been better rest. Instead of allowing your mind to control you—learn ways to control your mind. Your birth sign shows you have an active mind and keeping your mind busy will help you focus. While you are working you could have a notebook handy for ongoing short story ideas or projects that you want to work on either now or in the future. When you are not working, you would be wise to set aside time for walking or bicycling. While walking, bicycling or driving, you might enjoy listening to recorded stories or self-help ideas. While at home, you may want to work with your hands in some creative activity. You will be able to take care of any restlessness in the future.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Those around you, or the situation you find yourself in, may not feel right to you. Saying the right words could be of the utmost importance. You could, however, be challenged. There is a great opportunity to use your special skills today. Some new techniques may be in order. Reading books on solving problems or on communicating with difficult people may be helpful. You could find these books in the business or self-help department of your library. You seem to shine when it comes to practical matters or those involving work and career. You have an easy way with superiors or those in authority and can always get the most out of any skill or ability you have. You like work but it is important to relax with a different interest this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It is important to concentrate on work-related problems today. Exercise gurus have always suggested a discipline in thinking, because thoughts are things like anything else. Thoughts manifest themselves into what you are becoming. In other words, energy follows thought. Create in your mind how you want your day to go and try to let nothing distract you. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career or educational path could assume a much more determined and solid form: a firm foundation. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general receive encouragement now. You will notice that your career is in real harmony with the rest of your life.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Thanksgiving (U.S.)

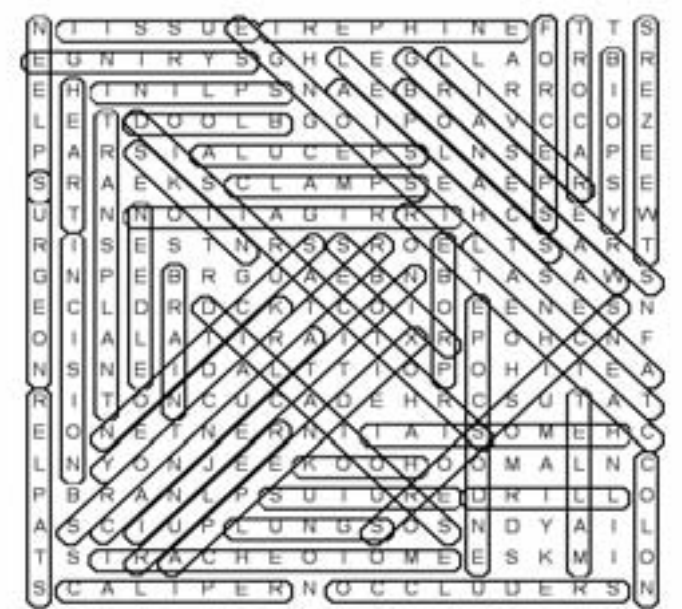
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a popular Thanksgiving Day event.



- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ANNUAL | GRAVY | RELATIVES |
| AUTUMN | HARVEST | REUNION |
| CELEBRATION | HOLIDAY | SQUASH |
| CORN | LONG WEEKEND | STUFFING |
| CRANBERRY | MASHED POTATOES | SWEET POTATO |
| FAMILY | MEAL | THURSDAY |
| FEAST | NOVEMBER | TRADITION |
| FESTIVAL | PARADE | TRAVEL |
| FOOD | PILGRIMS | TURKEY |
| FOOTBALL | PLYMOUTH | WAMPANOAG |
| FRIENDS | PUMPKIN PIE | YAMS |
| GATHERING | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Surgery



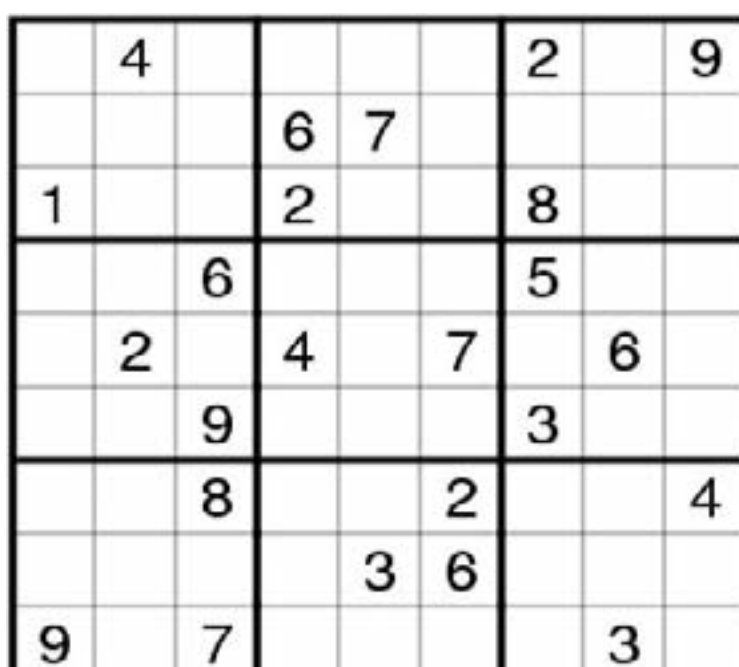
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| ANESTHESIA | DRILL | LUNGS | SPLINT |
| APPENDIX | ENDOSCOPE | MALLET | SPONGE |
| BIOPSY | FORCEPS | NEEDLE | STAPLER |
| BLOOD | GRASPERS | OCCLUDERS | SUCTION |
| BONE SAW | HEART | PROBE | SURGEON |
| BRAIN | HEMOSTAT | RETRACTORS | SUTURE |
| CALPEP | HOOK | REBS | SYRINGE |
| CANNULA | INCISION | RULER | TISSUE |
| CATHETER | INJECTION | SCALPEL | TRACHEOTOME |
| CLAMPS | IRRIGATION | SCISSORS | TRANSPLANT |
| COLON | KIDNEY | SKIN | TREPINE |
| DELATORS | LANCET | SPECULA | TROCAR |
| DISTRACTORS | LIVER | SPLEEN | TWEEZERS |

The hidden message is: THE LARGEST ORGAN OF THE HUMAN BODY IS SKIN

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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

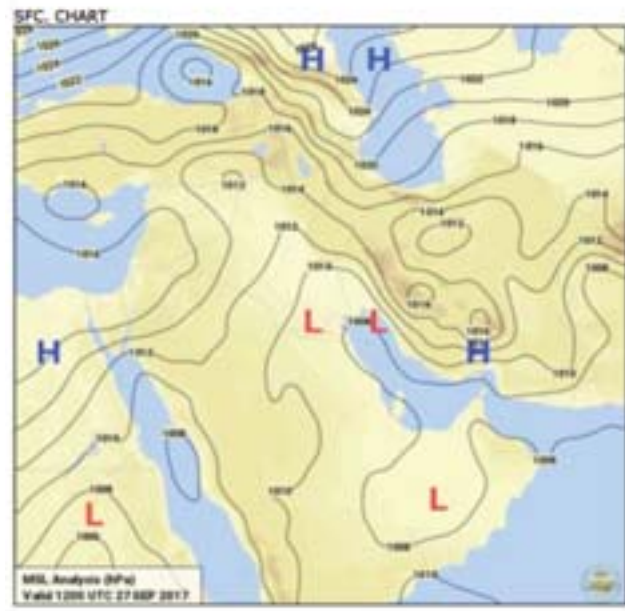


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
 Issued 27/09/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 25 °C

By Night: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h.

By Day: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot	Hot	Hot
Min Temp °C	25	24	24	24
Max Temp °C	43	44	43	42
Wind Direction	northerly westerly to variable	northerly westerly to variable	variable to northerly	variable to northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	06 - 26	06 - 26	06 - 26

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	Min °C	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	33	45
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25	45
ABDULY	27	44
BUBAYAN	25	44
JAHRA	28	44
FAILAKA ISLAND	27	44
SALMIYAH	34	42
AHMADI	33	35
JAL ALIYAH	28	44
QAROH ISLAND	33	36
UMH AL-MARADEM	33	38
NUWAISIB	27	43
WAFRA	26	44
SALMIY	27	42
MUTRIBA	26	46

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	44
Min Temp (°C)	24
Max Rel Hum (%)	61
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:40
Sunset	17:39

Tomorrow Prayer Times

Fajr	04:20
Sunrise	05:40
Zuhr	11:39
Ash	15:04
Sunset	17:39
Isha	18:55

A reputable company is currently looking for applicants who are dynamic, highly qualified and committed individuals for the following positions:

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Interested candidates are requested to send their CV (with photo) to:
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Please indicate job code number in your email subject.

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:19
Shorook:	05:38
Duhr:	11:40
Asr:	15:05
Maghrib:	17:40
Isha:	18:57

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Podadurthi Mastanaiah S/o Podadurthi Narayana, holder of Indian Passport No. H0375492 & Civil ID 275070104836 has changed my name to Pandhalooru Mastanaiah, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5346)
 26-9-2017

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available immediately for a Christian family or 2 working ladies in Salmiya, block 10, near Blue Diamond restaurant. Contact: 66195097. (C 5345)
 24-9-2017

URGENT VACANCIES

Experience should be 5 - 7 Years in the respective trade.

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- EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
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- A/B SEAMAN
- FITTER MAINTENANCE
- OPERATIONS CONTROLLER
- BOAT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
- SAFETY ENGINEER
- HSE
- IT SPECIALIST
- TRANSPORT CONTROLLER
- INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN
- STORE KEEPER
- SPRAY PAINTER
- AUTO ELECTRICIAN
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
- ELECTRICIAN
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
- MAINTENANCE WELDER
- DIESEL MECHANIC
- FILLING OPERATORS

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Contact #: +965 56640599

Age limit: 25 - 45 years

Language: Well versed in English.

CV should be attached with the Experience Certificate & Qualification.

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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Thursday 28/9/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 28/9/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
BRZ	211	TBS	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
KAC	102	London	00:15	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	SVA	503	Jeddah	01:20
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	01:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	MSC	412	Asyut	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	JZR	1442	Doha	02:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	PGT	831	Istanbul	03:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	FEG	934	Sohag	05:55
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KAC	773	Riyadh	06:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	173	Munich	06:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
JZR	1433	Doha	05:45	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	JZR	238	Amman	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	BRZ	212	TBS	08:00
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	QTR	8512	Beirut	08:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	WAN	953	GYD	08:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	177	Vienna	08:25
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	513	Tehran	08:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	KAC	561	Amman	09:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	IRA	672	Ahwaz	09:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	101	London	09:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	157	Doha	10:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	613	Istanbul	10:30
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	AAG	144	QA	11:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	FDK	804	Damascus	11:00
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	239	Amman	12:40	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	WAN	435	Al Najaf	12:05
				QTR	1075	Doha	12:10

FASHION



Dior fuses '60s spirit, women's lib at Paris Fashion Week



Eighty-three shows on the calendar, talent coming in from over 20 countries and jet-setting celebrities flocking into the French capital can only mean one thing: It's time for Paris Fashion Week. Here are the highlights of the ready-to-wear spring-summer 2018 collections Tuesday in the City of Light.

Dior's sixties girl power

Delving into the Dior archives, designer Maria Grazia Chiuri came back armed with photos of sculptress Niki de Saint Phalle - one of the few successful female artists in the male-dominated 1960s' art world and a muse for then-Dior designer Marc Bohan. The inspiration of this artistic trail-blazer spawned Tuesday's Dior collection at Paris Fashion Week: the Sixties fused with the spirit of women's lib. Boho denim flares, lace-up square heel boots, Breton stripes and knee-high stockings accompanied berets and long fine scarves tied with a knot. These mixed with '60s optical art black-and-white checks that were used effectively in kinetic uber-mini coat dresses. There were indeed some beautiful moments.

Saint Phalle's colorful sculptures were evoked in a series of color-blocked, architectural "scuba" looks in cobalt blue, black, white and yellow - shapes tight around the body in the '60s style. Still, it was a mixed bag at Dior, with some overly busy silhouettes - victims perhaps of Chiuri's overly-busy archive references. Ensembles with multiple layers, sheer sections on skirts, contrasting fabrics and fastidious detailing on appliques were sometimes a little distracting.

Naomi Watts, the feminist

Bianca Jagger, Eva Herzigova, Alexa Chung and Natalia Vodianova all drew plenty of photographers as they entered Dior's show Tuesday at Rodin Museum. But it was the tardy Naomi Watts who drew the most attention in an embellished Dior lace bodice dress with semi-sheer tulle pleats. The 48-year-old actress was very on-message with Dior's feminist vibe while talking to The Associated Press. "It's a very good time for women, I feel. It's about going out there and getting it," Watts said. The star of this year's "Twin Peaks" reboot was seated next to a copy of feminist historian Linda Nochlin's pioneering 1971 article "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?" that was provided thoughtfully by the house.

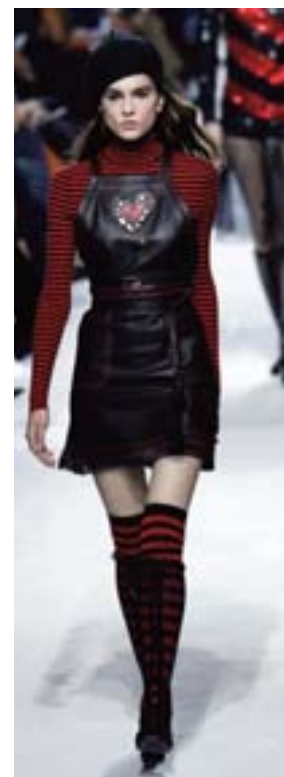
There has been a marked shift in celebrating feminism since Chiuri last year became Dior's first female designer. "Absolutely, it's important to have female designers. No one knows the female anatomy out there more than a woman. It's exciting to see Maria Grazia's new show," Watts said. But Watts, who's had a busy schedule of late with roles in the series "Gypsy" as well as the David Lynch reboot, was also in Paris to relax. "I'm here with my friends. We're here to enjoy the city. Enjoy the clothes. Enjoy the whole experience," she said.

Saint Laurent's Eiffel tower view

A smoke machine spewed out cloudy plumes across the gargantuan metal platform above the Trocadero gardens, created by Saint Laurent for its spring-summer collection. As the Eiffel Tower glimmered in the background imposingly, and hypnotic music boomed, models filed by in revealing mini-dresses, shaggy boots and lashings of

dark sparkle. The '80s was in the air. Loose silhouettes, tassel detailing and cuffed boots fused with high ruffle necks and capes in shimmering blacks and flashes of purple, pink and blue.

There was a distinct whiff of the TV series "Dallas" in some looks that incorporated big brown belts, black lacing, boots that evoked chaps, and black waistcoat-shaped tops. At times, they were a little heavy-handed. But the creative climax came toward the end of the exhaustive 90-piece show - when Vaccarello left behind the '80s exploration and went abstract to explore shapes with an upward movement. The piece de resistance: A skintight sheer black lace mini-dress with a giant black ruffled disc that wrapped around the model's waist artfully like an angry cloud.



Tardy Naomi Campbell makes first appearance since Versace

She grabbed headlines at Milan Fashion Week, modeling alongside supermodels Claudia Schiffer, Cindy Crawford, Helena Christensen and Carla Bruni in Donatella Versace's eponymous show. Naomi Campbell has made her first public appearance since that coup - this time as a spectator - at Saint Laurent. Security was so tight, and the schedule so unusually on-time for an evening show, that some top editors were even excluded from entering designer Anthony Vaccarello's collection.

Campbell - who was five minutes late - was forced to watch from the distant standing area in front of the iridescent Eiffel Tower, dressed in a signature Saint Laurent black menswear tuxedo suit. Nonetheless, the youthful 47-year-old enjoyed the spectacular, smoke-covered display of shimmer. "It's gorgeous. It's really stunning what he's done," she said, before rushing off to meet Vaccarello back stage. Other VIP attendees, who were granted a front row seat, included Kate Moss, Lenny Kravitz, Chloe Sevigny and Courtney Love.



Models present creations for Christian Dior during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

FASHION



Models present creations for Anrealage during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show.



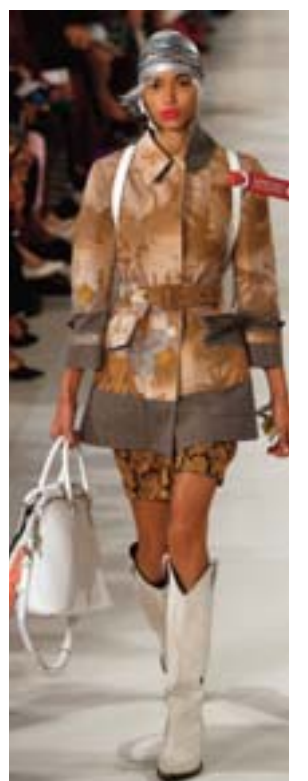
Models present a creation of Jacquemus fashion house as part of the Paris 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, on September 25, 2017 in Paris.

Anrealage's straps

It was an extravaganza in pastel - ruched, gathered and bound. The fashion-forward house of Tokyo designer Kunihiro Morinaga has built up a huge fan base in Japan for its intellectual designs and original use of techno-fabrics. This was on full display Tuesday as Morinaga used strapping, in tonal or contrasting colors, to bind loose silhouettes to the models' body. It began with the baroque - billowing sleeves and high collars on silken fabric dresses in exaggerated proportions - and the occasional jumpsuit. They were, of course, paired with on-trend white banded sneakers. At times, crisscross strapping evoked an almost kinky, exo-skeleton restraining the body- such as in a peach, knee-length dress with a gray lattice exterior. The show was highly original.

Pink trend alert

The color pink has - so far - been heralded as the color of the season. But fashion editors generally agree that Paris Fashion Week has the ultimate say in what going to be a trend, so all eyes are on the French capital's runway collections to see if this continues. On the first day of shows in Paris, pink pastel ruched gown opened the collection for Anrealage with gowns that continued in pastel shades with a dash of fuchsia. And one of Dior's nicest looks was a floor-length baby pink sheer silk gown tied at the waist with a pink bow. — AP

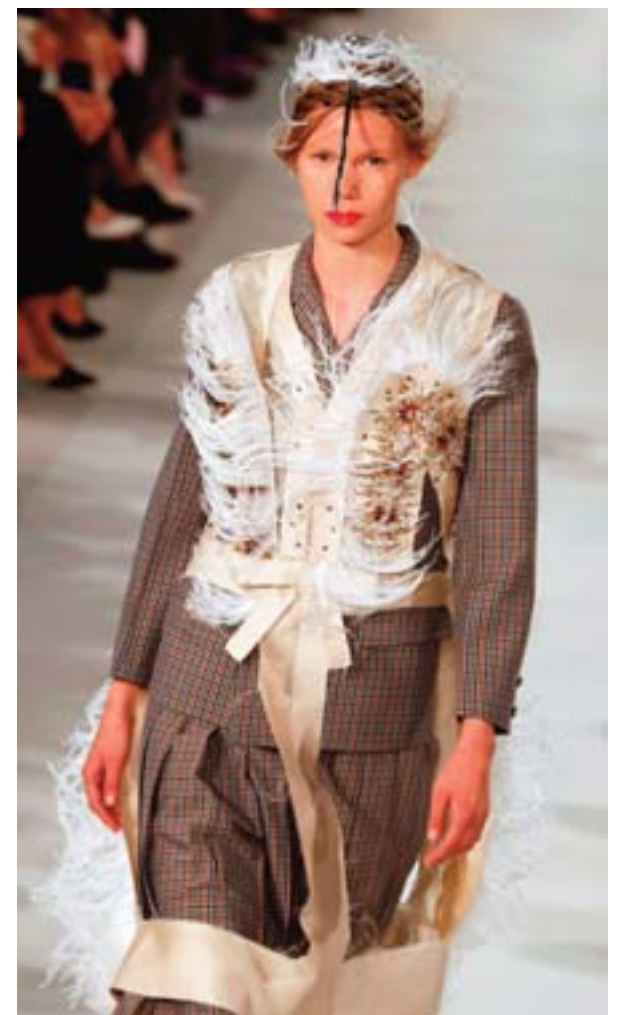


Jacquemus' ode to his mother

It was a love story in homage to a glamorous mother. In a show brimming with joy, 27-year-old French designer Simon Porte Jacquemus dedicated his retro spring-summer 2018 collection to the style of his late mother, who died a decade ago. Her death hit while he was a teenager and spurred him on to launch his own fashion house at the tender age of 20. He named it Jacquemus - her maiden name.

In Monday's collection in the grand Picasso Museum, clothes exuded elegant sexual confidence and riffed on beach styles from the 1950s. A retro off-white bodice top sported large black polka dots against a surreally oversized straw sun hat with a stylish curl at one side. Indeed, deceptively-simple curls, twists, drapes and gatherings in the fabric were ubiquitous in the thoughtful clothes, betraying a real skill in construction.

With a floppy oversize cuff detail, a diaphanous skirt in pale yellow that was draped on the diagonal evoked a shirt his mother might have tied loosely around her waist. Hips were emphasized in tonal dresses that were gathered from the midriff or in loosely slung sarong-styles. Retro micro handbags looked like the playthings a child might have to emulate their mother.



FEATURES

New blood and old masters
keep qipao dressmaking alive

'If more people like the qipao, there won't be an issue of lacking people to learn the craft'



Taiwanese "qipao" maker Lin Chin-te (center) and his students posing for photos at his studio in Taipei.



Taiwanese "qipao" maker Chen Chung-hsin pointing at a movie poster for "The Assassin" at his studio in Taipei.



This picture shows Taiwanese "qipao" maker Lin Chin-te (far right) working with students at his studio in Taipei. — AFP photos

In a quiet workshop in Taipei, three young women meticulously sew and iron under the watchful eye of a master dressmaker with decades of experience in creating the classic "qipao". Lin Chin-te, 74, is among a handful of craftsmen in Taiwan who still specialize in hand making the high-collar, figure-hugging garment which was once part of many women's daily wardrobes. His workshop is hung with dresses, from elaborate long embroidered red silk qipaos to shorter length versions in more wearable materials. Seen as increasingly impractical and pricier than off-the-peg versions, the tailor-made qipao is now mostly worn at weddings and special events.

Lin worries dressmakers will no longer learn his skills and takes on apprentices to pass down his know-how. Hung Chu-tsu, 37, is one of Lin's three 30-something female pupils. "The master is very patient," she says, wearing a knee-length blue floral qipao she made herself. "We start practicing from the basics and learn one stitch at a time." Hung says she thinks qipaos are beautiful and left her career as a nurse to learn to be a dressmaker after having a child.

Her plan is to open her own shop, selling hand-made qipaos adapted to modern life. Often smiling, with braces holding up his trousers and a thimble wedged on his middle finger, Lin says he wants to ensure his 60 years of experience do not go to waste. "I teach my pupils as much as I can and hopefully they can strike out on their own in the future," he says.

'Qipao hunk'

The qipao-meaning "Qi robe" — began as a long, loose dress worn by the Manchus or "Qi" people who ruled China from the 17th century to the early 1900s. Its popularity took off in 1920s Shanghai when it was modified into a fitted must-have, favored by actresses and intellectuals as a symbol of femininity and refinement. Also known as "cheongsam" in Cantonese, it fell out of favor in

China after communist forces seized power in 1949 following a civil war and the dress became associated with capitalism. But the qipao gained a following in Taiwan, where defeated nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek set up a separate government after fleeing the mainland.

Chiang's glamorous wife Soong Mei-ling belonged to Shanghai high society and was a qipao enthusiast, influencing trends in Taiwan. Many women wore the dress daily until the 1970s. Mass-produced, cheaper clothes eventually dented



Taiwanese "qipao" maker Lee Wei-fan checking his work at his studio.

its appeal and some designers say recent growing anti-China sentiment has also put off young people as they associate the dress with mainland culture. However, Lee Wei-fan, 25, says there is still a fan-base. He studied qipao making under an old master for five years after deciding to carve out a niche in a field few of his design peers wanted to go into. Lee opened his own business six months ago and has built a following on social media where he goes under the name "Qipao Hunk", something he blushes to admit was a publicity stunt.

His clients range from brides to businesswomen who see the dress as elegant. Lee says there is increasing interest in traditional Asian styles, which he hopes to tap into. "Those of us who have a rarer craft will be more competitive," he adds. Neither Lin nor Lee would reveal their prices but a master dressmaker charges from around Tw\$8,000 (\$260), not including the price of fabric.

'A happy heart'

Arguably Taiwan's most famous qipao maker, Chen Chung-hsin, 65, regularly opens up his modest workshop to tour groups and school trips to build enthusiasm for qipao making. Known for creating costumes for movies including Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-hsien's Cannes-winning martial arts epic "The Assassin", Chen learned his skills from his father and inherited his shop. He says he makes qipaos "with a happy heart" for his clients. "I hope that more people will see the traditional tailor-made qipao is different from an off-the-peg one-mine flatters their shapes more," says Chen.

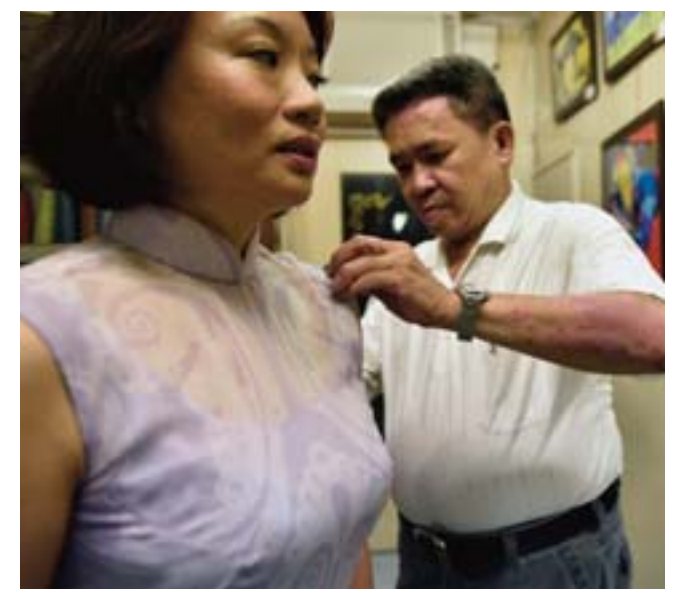
One of his loyal clients, Taipei marketing executive Yogi Ma, has set up a qipao club aimed at making the classic dress a daily wardrobe staple once more, saying it can suit any figure and can be modernized using different cuts and fabrics. "The qipao is very elegant and pretty, it's a pity that fewer women wear them now," says Ma, 42, who sees it as representing the "beauty of ethnic Chinese women".

Her Facebook-based club has over 4,000 followers and arranges events where members wear the dress to take part in activities, from whisky tasting to flower arranging.

She hopes that by promoting the dress she will help skills like Chen's survive. "If more people like the qipao, there won't be an issue of lacking people to learn the craft," she said. — AFP



Taiwanese "qipao" maker Lee Wei-fan sewing at his studio in Taipei.



This picture shows Taiwanese "qipao" maker Chen Chung-hsin (right) adjusting a "qipao" on a customer at his studio in Taipei.

In 'American Made,' a new
(but the same) Tom Cruise

There are basically two kinds of Tom Cruise performances, and both can look pretty similar on the surface. Each likes sunglasses, going fast and smiling big. He never exactly loosens up or slows down — the most unfathomable thing of all in Cruise's world. But most of Cruise's best and most interesting performances ("Magnolia," "Jerry Maguire," "Collateral," "Eyes Wide Shut") have allowed some chink in the well-tanned armor, some hint of darkness underneath the rakish boyscout, some hollowness in the soul of America's ageless action-movie avatar.

rare knack for intelligently packaging A-list personas in kinetic kaleidoscopes. He did it in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, in "Bourne Identity" with Matt Damon and in his last film with Cruise, "Edge of Tomorrow," the time-warped science fiction that proved a movie maxim: You just can't kill Tom Cruise. In "American Made," a loosely true tale set in the late '70s and early '80s, Cruise plays Barry Seal, a TWA pilot whose on-the-side smuggling of Cuban cigars brings him into the orbit of the CIA. An officer named Shafer (Domhnall Gleeson) turns up, and offers him a job

soon cheerfully smuggling enormous amounts of cocaine back to Arkansas for Pablo Escobar's Medellin Cartel. On both sides of the law, things escalate quickly. Seal and his family (Sarah Wright Olsen plays his wife), can't spend their money fast enough. They run out of closet space and backyard holes for all the cash coming in.

The CIA's missions grow more audacious, too. Seal becomes the government's clandestine exporter of AK-47s to the Nicaraguan Contras, who in turn are eventually flown back to Seal's Arkansas base for military training. Seal greets them all with an easygoing grin: "Hola, amigos!" It's an increasingly absurd circle of drugs, guns and money, all ostensibly for the fight against "enemies of democracy." The ironies mount, topping out with Nancy Reagan's war-on-drugs plea to "say no" while her husband's secret efforts to arm militants is fueling one of the most powerful drug cartels in the world.

Cavalier decisions
Like a handful of recent movies such as "War Dogs" and "War Machine," "American Made" is a farce of American international ambition run amok. Here are the comical on-the-ground results of ill-considered policies from all the way up the command chain. Presidents, beginning with Jimmy Carter and running up to Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton make cameos throughout "American Made."

It's both a tribute to and a joke on American opportunism that the cavalier decisions of politicians can so easily and so overwhelming benefit (up to a point) a thrill-seeking pilot who can't say no. The crescendo comes with Seal, fleeing the DEA, crash lands in a suburb and escapes on a kid's bike, all the while covered in a white powder of coke. Finally, a fresh and unfamiliar method of escape for Cruise. "American Made," written by Gary Spinelli, has glossed up the story, of course. Seal's life wasn't nearly so shiny as it is as played by Cruise. But then again, whose is? "American Made," a Universal Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language throughout and some sexuality/nudity." Running time: 117 minutes. Three stars out of four. MPAA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.-AP



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Tom Cruise as Barry Seal in a scene from "American Made." — AP

Cruise's latest is the smart, zippy "American Made," a movie that plays very much like your type-A Tom Cruise movie before it yanks the rug out from beneath you and reveals the B-movie Cruise we've been missing. It's a fendishly perfect vehicle for Cruise that returns him to the cockpit, 31 years after "Top Gun," and it simultaneously reminds us of his preternaturally winning movie-star charisma while subtly deconstructing it.

Building nations

Doug Liman, the film's director, has shown a

taking surveillance photos and making government payoffs to the likes of Panama's Manuel Noriega in Central America. "We're building nations down here," says Shafer, giddy.

Seal, eyeing his own plane and eager to permanently switch off "auto-pilot," jumps at the chance and doesn't stop giggling at his good luck. "I do tend to leap before I look," he says in a video diary that plays occasionally through the film. "Maybe I should have asked a few more questions." Blithely, even charmingly ignorant of the dangerous and ethically questionable terrain he's entering, Seal is

Tattoo artists need medical
license: Japanese court

A Japanese court yesterday fined a tattoo artist for tattooing customers without a medical license, the first case of its kind in a country where body art is associated with gangsters. Police raided the studio of 29-year-old Taiki Masuda in 2015, charging him with violating a law requiring anyone who carries out a medical procedure to have a formal qualification. He received a court order to pay fines but requested a trial instead, hoping to prove that tattooing was art and not a medical practice, according to the Asahi Shimbun daily.

At his trial, presiding judge Takaaki Nagase said it was "reasonable" to require tattooists to hold a medical license to prevent health risks, local media reported. "The tattoo artist is sentenced to a 150,000-yen (\$1,300) fine," a spokeswoman for the Osaka district court in western Japan told AFP without giving further details. The judge also said that "bacteria and viruses are likely to penetrate (the body) and there is a risk of causing skin problems", according to the Nikkei business daily.

In Japan, tattoos are associated with yakuza organized crime syndicates. Many public institutions, such as hot springs or swimming pools, bar people who have them as a way of keeping gangsters out. It is however unclear how many tattooists in Japan hold a medical qualification. According to a



This picture shows a man posing for photographs to display his "irezumi" or Japanese traditional tattoos, during the Sanja Matsuri festival in Tokyo. — AFP

2014 survey conducted by the Kanto Federations of Bar Associations, nearly nine out of 10 people aged between 20 and 69 said they found tattoos scary. But attitudes appeared to be changing, with about 40 percent of those in their 20s associating tattoos with art and fashion. — AFP

Aerosmith's Steven Tyler experiencing
medical problem, band cancels shows

Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler is dealing with an "unexpected medical issue" that has forced the band to cancel four shows in South America, the group said in a statement on Tuesday. Tyler is expected to make a full recovery, the band said. The band has canceled the following dates on their Latin American tour: Curitiba, Brazil, on Wednesday; Santiago, Chile, on Saturday; Rosario, Argentina, on Oct. 3; and Monterrey, Mexico on Oct. 7.

"Unfortunately, due to unexpected medical issues, lead singer Steven Tyler is seeking immediate care and has been advised by his doctors that he cannot travel or perform at this time," the band said in a statement. The state-

ment did not say what medical issues have affected Tyler. A spokeswoman for the singer did not immediately return a phone call or email.

"I am not in a life threatening condition, but I need to deal with this right away, and get some rest and medical care immediately in order to sustain and maintain my future performances," Tyler said in a statement accompanying the band's message about the cancellations. Aerosmith earlier this month played shows in Rio and So Paulo, Brazil. Tyler in 2006 underwent vocal chord surgery. — Reuters

FEATURES



This photo provided by Party City shows a Halloween themed display in a front yard.



This photo provided by Party City shows a Halloween themed display in a front yard.



This undated photo provided by Martha Stewart Living shows an urn surrounded by some pumpkins, giving it a Halloween theme.



This photo provided by Party City shows a Halloween themed display on a front porch.



This undated photo provided by Party City shows a Halloween themed display on a front porch.



This undated photo provided by Party City shows a Halloween themed display in a front yard.

Spooky or sweet: Choosing a theme for Halloween decorations

Before they even know whether the candy will be top-notch or king-size, trick or treaters are drawn to houses decked out for Halloween. "When kids are trick-or-treating, that's the first thing they see," says Tanya Graff, style director at Martha Stewart Living magazine. "It's fun when they see these amazing, decorated houses. It really makes it feel like Halloween. It makes your house look more inviting."

Halloween offers the first big chance of fall to decorate - "the first big opportunity for people to really go for it," says Graff. And you can go for it in different ways, from sophisticated to playful, subtle or over the top. Halloween decorations range from traditional harvest to family-friendly to maximum spookiness, with ghosts, ghouls, skeletons and more.

Any way you do it can make a big impact, and it doesn't have to cost a chocolate-covered mint. When you're creating a spooky scene, be sure to keep your theme consistent. "You want it to be unified," says Barbara DeVos, category manager for Halloween decorations at the retailer Party City. "Whatever kind of theme you're going for, you want all the lighting and all of the props to have the same kind of feeling." And have a focal point that draws in passersby - "some kind of wow factor," DeVos says.

Traditional harvest

For a simple and subtle look, try a wreath on your front door. Take a dried grapevine wreath, add moss, and give it a creepy-crawly twist by adding black plastic bugs and snakes. Or spray-paint the wreath black and add faux black roses, Graff says.

A seasonal harvest look is easy to get with pumpkins. Besides the traditional jack-o'-lanterns, you can add pumpkins to urns for a fall display, or turn carved pumpkins into outdoor vases for fall mums. The easiest idea, Graff says, is to place pumpkins up your front steps. "You could do different shapes, different colors, or ombre, starting in one color and graduating down to another," she adds. With pumpkins now available in many different hues, you can create an ombre look with pumpkins ranging from gray to green to white, or peach to brown to orange.

Family friendly

For a fun and family-oriented look, think about adding color and smiling faces, says DeVos. "It's having more color, like purple and orange and black tied in together, and having friendly witches," she says. "There is no blood or death. It's all about friendly pumpkins and friendly ghosts and scarecrows." You can share a happy Halloween vibe using garlands or gel clings for the windows, DeVos says, or cute yard stakes or trick-or-treating signs.

Add some drama with paper-bag lanterns: Cut Halloween shapes or words like "Boo!" into black paper bags and put electric lights inside, Graff says.



This undated photo provided by Party City shows a Halloween themed display.

Spooky and scary

There are so many decorations to choose from, including skeletons, skulls, reapers, ghosts, witches, bats, crows and other critters, not to mention semblances of blood and gore. For maximum impact, accessorize with spider webbing, lights and a fog machine, DeVos says. You can hang spider webbing from your roof to the ground and fill it with giant spiders crawling down, she said. Add to the scene by creating a crow-filled graveyard in your front yard with tombstones. "You can stick bones into the dirt so it looks like someone might be coming out," DeVos said.

Bats, snakes and giant spiders can greet trick-or-treaters from a tree in your front yard. "You can put them onto the tree and have them hanging down, and have webbing and cloth coming down and drape it all over the tree," she said. Skeletons can greet trick-or-treaters from rocking chairs or stools on the front porch; decorate around them with bones, skulls or cauldrons. — AP

Boris Charmatz, the man who wants to make you dance

Boris Charmatz is out to make the world dance. Only weeks after getting 20,000 people to dance over 10 hours on the tarmac of Berlin's old Tempelhof airport, the French dancer and choreographer is about to repeat the trick at the vast 104 arts centre in Paris on Sunday. While the American photographer Spencer Tunick persuades people to take off their clothes for mass nude shots, Charmatz has similarly inspired tens of thousands to shed their hang-ups about dancing. He described his "Crazy for Dance" happening as not just a "mega bash" but a mass initiation into the joys and mysteries of modern dance classics, from Isadora Duncan to Lucinda Childs.

"It's about forming a dancing community," he said. When you can attract 20,000 people to an old airport to dance "clearly you are responding to a need," he told AFP. And 44-year-old Charmatz fills that need by taking his audiences by the hand through great contemporary pieces, some of his own work which can be danced by anyone, and joyous cult moves from the 1970s US television series "Soul Train".

Dancing in the shower

"We go from a warm-up to a rehearsal with the public to create a piece, to a kind of living exhibition of dance with a whole forest of solos" by professional dancers which people can watch or try to copy themselves, he said. At Berlin he had everything from traditional Greco-Turkish "zeybek" dances to the cutting edge Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. In Paris on Sunday he will also take in hip-hop and Breton folk steps.

"The idea is that we share the culture of choreography," said Charmatz, who also heads a dance conservatory in the western French city of Rennes, which he has turned into what he calls the "Dancing Museum". All of which has made him into one of the rising stars of dance, a huge irony for someone who comes out of the "non-dance" movement. Non-dance was born in the mid-1990s by mixing dance with art and video, with one-off performances often in public spaces such as squares and railway stations.

"I like the idea that dance is something bigger than a show in a theatre, that it can also be something you can do on YouTube or in the shower," Charmatz added. "They

called us pseudo intellectuals," he recalled, "and said they neither wanted to do or see what my generation of artists like Xavier Le Roy and Jerome Bel were up to."

Shows 'must be free'

"But we became extremely popular in museums," with Charmatz himself putting on performances in a string of major galleries, from MoMa in New York to Tate Modern in London as well as staging his acclaimed "20 Dancers for the XX Century" in the gilded corridors and stairwells of the Paris Opera rather than on its stage. "MoMa and Tate Modern have been pioneers for the last 15 years of what a museum could be in the 21st century. Not only a museum of objects but also of thought, movement and performance," he said.

Charmatz has been credited with bringing a new public to museums, but he insists on his events being free. "It allows you to create differently. In Rennes when we did 'Crazy for Dance' there we had 16,000 people" in the city's main square. "There were people who were going

to the cinema or out doing their shopping who came across it and joined in. Would they do that if they had to pay?" he asked.

"I really believe in it being free. We often talk about making things democratic and accessible, but for me being free opens up all sorts of interesting artistic possibilities too. "If you go to an opera you get your ticket in advance and you go as if you were going into a shrine. "If you go to (his show in) 104 (in Paris) where there is no stage, where you have got the most professional dancers down to children, and where dance lovers and the public are at the same level" there is a spark which is you don't find elsewhere, he argued.

That has not stopped Charmatz creating "normal" pieces like "10,000 Gestures" for the Manchester International Festival this summer which The Guardian described as "a thrilling blizzard of movement", which he will take to the Palais de Chaillot theatre in Paris next month. — AFP



This file photo shows a dancer from the Paris Opera Ballet performing in the public areas of the Palais Garnier in Paris during the "Twenty dancers for the 20th Century" conceived by French choreographer Boris Charmatz. — AFP photos



This file photo shows French choreographer Boris Charmatz posing at his home in Rennes, western France.



This file photo shows a dancer performing at the Soviet War Memorial Treptower Park in Berlin during the event "20 Dancers for the XX Century" developed by French production "Musee de la danse" of French choreographer and dancer Boris Charmatz for the Soviet War Memorial Treptower Park.



"Pumpkins Screaming About Love Beyond Infinity" by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama is displayed in her museum during the press preview in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP photos

Japan's 'polka dot queen' Kusama gets first museum



Journalists check out products at the souvenir shop during the press preview of her museum in Tokyo.



Journalists watch art productions by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama during the press preview of her museum in Tokyo.



Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama delivers her video message during the press preview of her museum in Tokyo.

The first museum devoted to Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama opened its doors yesterday, featuring trademark colorful paintings and spotted pumpkin statues from the so-called "polka dot queen". The 88-year-old, named the world's most popular artist in 2014 by the Art Newspaper, said she had accomplished her "profound lifelong hope of having everyone be able to see my artwork". The first exhibition at the museum, housed in a stark white building in Tokyo's Shinjuku district, features 45 works created between 2004 and 2017, including a series entitled "My Eternal Soul".

True to form, it includes a sparkly pumpkin statue,

large colorful paintings with meticulously replicated drawings of dots and eyes, and red polka dots on mirrors inside a toilet. Kusama said in a statement she wanted visitors to "see and feel my philosophy towards life... all my love devoted to all beloved humans through a sincere, lifelong endeavor towards art." Born in 1929 in central Japan's Nagano prefecture, Kusama, who suffered from psychological trauma due to feuding between her parents. She was already drawing dots and nets as a child, based on her hallucinatory experiences.

She moved to the United States aged 28 and spent 16 years in New York at the height of the sexual liberation

movement. By the time Kusama returned to Japan in 1973, she was burned out and voluntarily checked into a psychiatric ward where she has lived ever since. It was not until the 1990s that Kusama was rediscovered. Her polka dots and pumpkins were a perfect fit for a highly commercialized art market, with collectors drawn to her instantly recognizable style. The exhibition opens to the public on October 1. — AFP



Outside view of Yayoi Kusama museum during its press preview in Tokyo.



"Starry Pumpkin" by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama is displayed in her museum during the press preview.



Journalists check out products at the souvenir shop during the press preview of her museum in Tokyo.

NY Guggenheim museum cuts animal artworks after threats

The Guggenheim Museum in New York has decided to withdraw three works from a hotly anticipated exhibition on modern China, after receiving "repeated threats of violence" related to the staging of live animals. Among the works in the exhibit "Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World", slated to open October 6th, were three involving animals-sparking protests from animal rights activists. A central work that will not go on display is "Theater of the World", an octagonal installation inhabited

by hundreds of reptiles and insects.

The museum will also exclude the video "Dogs That Cannot Touch Each Other". Made by Chinese artists Sun Yuan and Peng Yu, the installation shows pitbull dogs placed opposite each other and tethered to non-motorized treadmills, running at each other but unable to touch. "A Case Study of Transference" by Chinese artist Xu Bing, which shows two pigs mating, will also be omitted from the show. A petition launched on the Change.org website gar-

nered nearly 700,000 signatures in a bid to send the message that "animal cruelty holds no place in art in the United States." After several days of sustained campaigning backed by the American animal rights organization PETA, the Guggenheim bowed to the pressure. "Although these works have been exhibited in museums in Asia, Europe, and the United States, the Guggenheim regrets that explicit and repeated threats of violence have made our decision necessary," the museum said in a statement.

"As an arts institution committed to presenting a multiplicity of voices, we are dismayed that we must withhold works of art." PEN America, an organization that defends literary and artistic expression, called the decision "a major blow." "That threats of violence became grounds for the cancellation of the works represents a major blow to artistic freedom," read a statement from its executive director Suzanne Nossel. — AFP