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RED ARROWS IN KUWAIT

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— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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The advertisement features a young girl with long brown hair sitting at a desk in a classroom, pointing upwards. In the foreground, there are two packages of Santiveri Lite Bite Wheat Bran 0 sugar cookies. One package is labeled 'Dark Chocolate' and the other is labeled 'Santiveri'. The background shows a classroom setting with desks and a globe.

Local Spotlight

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAVE



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The news of the death of the Egyptian lady Eman Abdul Ati occupied all headlines. She was known as the lady of half a ton. She passed away last Monday morning at a hospital in the United Arab Emirates after suffering for a long time. Her death sent us all a message from the grave.

Eman, 36, weighing half a ton, arrived in the UAE last April for treatment from Mumbai, India at the request of her family. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry transferred Eman to the UAE and although she seemed to improve and had lost some weight, the overall decline in health was too much for her heart and kidney. What a loss!. She was only 26 years of age.

The World Health Organization (WHO) often issues warnings about the dangers of obesity, but I wonder if anyone is really listening?

The majority of the world's population lives in countries that are overweight and obese. Kuwait ranks among the first of the world's obese nations. According to estimates by UNICEF, the percentage of obesity among children under the age of five years in Kuwait is 10 percent, while among adolescents is 50 percent!!!!

This high percentage means more deaths, diseases and eventually death at a young age. It is known that everyone agrees that the wrong eating habits and lack of exercise are

She passed away last Monday morning at a hospital in the United Arab Emirates after suffering for a long time.

the cause of weight gain for everyone but, it is strange that the same people spend much of their evenings and weekends eating in one of Kuwait's thousands of restaurants or ordering delivery.

We are also subject to nearly six months of horrific heat where exercising outdoors is a near impossibility.

I know that obesity is not associated with a certain country, but today's media makes people live in a strange ambivalence. Many children do not even know where food come from, how its grown or the relationship between food and weight gain.

I hope that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in Kuwait will work towards greater awareness with direct intervention and media campaigns to stress the importance of healthy food and a healthy lifestyle for us all but especially for children. We need to get the snacks, sugar and excess processed food out of school cafeterias, where many sugary and salty meals are sold. It may be time to review the introduction of good school meals and revive school restaurants. We shouldn't accept Eman's death as just news. It is a message from the grave for us all.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Kuwait's National Assembly Building was designed by Danish architect Jorn Utzon in 1972 under the direction of his son Jan and was opened in 1986. — Photo by Sami Alkhulaifi/KUNA

IN MY VIEW

BALANCING THE 'TRIANGLE'



By Salman Al Mutawa

local@kuwaittimes.com

One of the more vital realizations most students undergo is the Work-Play-Sleep balance. Common knowledge dictates that you can only have two of these at a time, sacrificing the third. Well, I'm here to tell you that that is not true, and here is how:

One of the first things you learn as an Industrial Engineer is to isolate the value-added choices vs non-value-added choices.

What do I mean by this?

Let's say you have a quiz on Monday, and your friends want you to go out with them Sunday night to watch a movie or a football match. You know that if you go out with them you will either 1) oversleep and miss class, or 2) go to class drowsily and underperform in the quiz. Now based on your personality, you can do one of two things: go out with friends, or don't.

But let's add a third factor, weight.

No, not your weight. The weight missing a quiz has on your grade. Say a professor weighs the grades such that all quizzes you take combined are 5 percent of your grade. Another professor weighs quizzes as 50 percent of your grades, with a total of five quizzes per semester per each respective professor. A nerd would go to the quiz and ditch his or her friends regardless of the tradeoff. A smart nerd would ditch his or her friends if the quiz is more than 5 percent of their grade, say 10 or 15 percent.

Are you a nerd? Or a smart nerd? If you train yourself to categorize your options based on their value, you can have the benefits of all three sides of the triangle without the stress of sacrificing one. Let's do another exercise.

Say the quizzes are worth 15 percent of your grade. This means that missing a quiz could either hurt you in the long run or not hurt you at all based on your future performance in the class.

Now you look at your Play option, are your friends really worth hanging out with? Or will they go out again in a cou-

ple of days because that is what they usually do? A nerd would ditch his or her friends to study for the quiz. A smart nerd would promise them to make it next time, and study for the quiz. Be a smart nerd, always put yourself first, and if your friends are good friends they will understand, but remember, putting yourself first also means that you must do what your friends want you to do sometimes, because investing in your relationships is equally important, if not more important, than investing in your studies alone.

If you leave your home country only to come back with a degree, then you have wasted four golden years of your life. This may sound harsh, but many would agree that it is true.

You must also define what exactly your work-play-sleep categories include. How much sleep is too much? If eight hours is a perfect night, then you can clearly gauge balancing your sleep cycle.

Is studying work?

For most of us, yes, but for others it may be a little tricky. Take the following billionaire dropouts for example. We know of tech billionaires who never finished their degree's and went on to become some of the most influential people on the planet. Didn't these people break the triangle? Well, not really. Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, and Bill Gates are prime examples of people who saw the true weight of both "work" options they were facing.

Sometimes we hear people joking about how these individuals dropped out of school and made it big, which romanticizes being lazy or even dropping out. These people fail to mention however, that all of these successful dropouts faced a choice: finish studying and risk someone else beating you to your entrepreneurial goal, or drop out and give your undivided attention to your goal. They understood that the work it took to make their ideas into reality weighed more and had more value than the work it took to get the degree, and as a result decided to shift their work-play-sleep triangles in another direction.

Take the time to write down where your balance is, think about what isn't really worth doing, and how you can balance that energy with something else that is more productive, and finally, please do not drop out of school unless you are 95 percent sure you can become a millionaire.

Red Arrows perform airshow in Kuwait

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Royal Air Force (RAF) aerobatic team the Red Arrows presented a spectacular show yesterday on the Gulf Road near the Kuwait Towers. The show started with a 15 minutes show of the Kuwait Air Force planes, followed by a 20-minute-long show by the Red Arrows team, which colored the sky with blue, red and white.

The attendees enjoyed watching the show and taking photos. It was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mohammed State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud General Director of Civil Aviation, British Ambassador to Kuwait, other officers and public.

Major General Abdullah Al-Fodari noted that this show came after huge preparations. "This show aims to enhance the performance of the Kuwaiti air forces and to encourage the students of the Ahmad Al-Jaber Air-force College. Three Kuwait F18 airplanes, one helicopter, and nine British Hawk T1 airplanes participated in this show," he pointed out.

Major Adam Collins representing the Red Arrows said that the team presented different aerobatic moves such as the concord, diamond, and different maneuvers by seven airplanes, and then by two airplanes, concluded by collective maneuvers by the complete team.

The Red Arrows have been impressing crowds across the United Kingdom and around the world for more than 50 years. 2016 was a particularly exciting year for the team, performing in China for the first time as well as mounting displays in 16 countries, including Kuwait, on their way to and from the Far East. The team, which flies British-built T1 Hawk fast-jets, will have completed more than 4800 shows since their very first show in 1965.

Today, the Red Arrows are known and admired throughout the world, acting as ambassadors for

Great Britain wherever they fly. In addition to demonstrating the UK's commitment to regional security and defense, the RAF team also support UK industry by showcasing the capabilities of British equipment and expertise. Inspiring millions of people every year, the world's premier aerobatic team, the Red Arrows represent excellence both at home and overseas through their display of speed, agility and teamwork. The show will be broadcasted today at 2.00 pm on KTV 1.



KUWAIT: The UK's Royal Airforce Red Arrows perform in skies over Kuwait Towers yesterday.
— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A WALK THROUGH THE CEMETERY OF FAHAHEEL



Photographs by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Cemeteries are sacred in all parts of the world. Enter a graveyard and the dead impose respect. Even the most callous will walk lightly, treading carefully so as to step between rather than, unintentionally, upon a grave.

There are around 45 old and closed cemeteries, spread all over Kuwait. In

Fahaheel, the south of Kuwait, there are two such graveyards. The southern cemetery of Fahaheel is now closed but the austere atmosphere of respect remains. The place is quiet, almost peaceful, despite construction works happening next door. Many grave markers remain legible though the graveyard has been closed more than 30 years and has fallen into a slow state of disrepair and decline.





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THE INS AND OUTS OF VEHICLE INSPECTION IN KUWAIT

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Doing paperwork is a nightmare in Kuwait. Renewing the inspection permit of a vehicle can be one of the easier things to accomplish but it still requires time and a bit of foreknowledge.

To renew the car license you need to firstly renew the car insurance, then pass the technical inspection of the vehicle. This is a must and if you have any violations, the vehicle will not be approved. Before heading to the technical inspection site, vehicle owners should fix any problems or faults.

Kuwait now has both public and private vehicle inspection options. In both places, you can pay any traffic fines, have your vehicle inspected and if passed, receive the renewed vehicle license (not to be confused with a 'driver's license, which has an entirely different set of restrictions).

After fixing any faults or removing the violations of the vehicle and passing the technical checking, the driver should issue the license from the traffic department. Thus this won't be done if he had any traffic fines, so these should be paid first, and only then he will be able to issue the car license.

Kuwait Times visited one of the local private vehicle inspection firms to learn more about the process. Mubarak Bueida, Executive Director at Aldaman Center spoke about their work, services, and some violations.

"Our center is authorized by the Ministry of Interior to do the technical inspection of vehicles, as it's done by the staff of the Ministry. They apply the same rules, so they don't break the law, thus are not over-strict such as some inspectors at some public departments," Bueida told the Kuwait Times.

Smoke and mirrors

Smoke is the most common violation due to which a vehicle might fail an inspection "The public technical inspection departments doesn't allow any vehicle producing even a very small amount of smoke to pass. But at our center, we have a machine that measures the exact amount of smoke a car produces. So if the smoke is below the limit, the vehicle will pass," added Bueida.

Tinted glass beyond regulations, cracked windshields, missing or broken side mirrors, turn signals that don't work, scratched or dented body work, loud carburetors are some of the more common violations that will prevent a vehicle from passing inspection.

The center can also fix any violations. "If the vehicle includes some violations that won't allow it to pass such as scratches on the paint, loud noise of the exhaust, or others, we can fix these violations and make the vehicle ready to pass. If the work was

simple we don't even charge the client," he noted.

Sometimes the violation is done on purpose by the client such as windows tinted darker than is allowed or stickers on the vehicle, or some modifications on the engine. "In these cases we ask the client first if he would like us to fix this for him, otherwise we give him a period of one month to fix it himself and then come to do the inspection again, without paying any new fees. We accept any client with any vehicle, thus we are not allowed to do the technical checking of a vehicle that went to the checking in the technical department and didn't pass. This vehicle should finish the procedure in the same place after fixing the violations," explained Bueida.

All at the same time

"Starting from the insurance, paying fines, getting the technical checking, and finally issuing the license, this is all done while the client waits. We also offer the VIP service, when the client even doesn't have to come personally and we bring his vehicle either with a driver or on a tow," he pointed out.



KUWAIT: Mubarak Bueida, Executive Director at Aldaman Center. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat





KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh is seen with Turkish Minister of Family and Social Policies Fatma Betul. — KUNA

TRAINING FEMALE ENGINEERS ENHANCES ROLE IN PRIVATE SECTOR: MINISTER

KUWAIT: The training program prepared by Turkey's Limak Construction, which is carrying out the Kuwait International Airport's new terminal, for the Kuwaiti female engineers is likely to help boost women's role in the private sector, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh has said. Sabeeh made the statement after she received the visiting Turkish Minister of Family and Social Policy Fatma Betul on Wednesday.

She said that human capital and training is basic in Kuwait's development plan. She also stressed the fact that the Kuwaiti legislations uphold gender equality, saying that Kuwaiti women have found their way to the highest posts in various fields. This is a major element of sustainable development, Sabeeh noted. Kuwait and Turkey have signed a memorandum of understanding to benefit from the Turkish experience in caring for the juveniles and the elderly, as well

as the services offered to beneficiaries of social aid there, the minister said.

Meanwhile, Minister Betul referred to relations between the two countries as "historical," expressing hope for promoting cooperation in women and social affairs to the level of political and cultural ties. During the Turkish minister's visit to Kuwait, Betul held several meetings that focused on joint projects and how each side can benefit from other's experience in the future. The training program which kicks off Thursday is the outcome of cooperation between the Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum and the Lifelong Learning Center at Istanbul's Bogazici University, and Limak Construction Kuwait. It is part of Limak's projects and initiatives in the region, seeking to provide learning, training and employment opportunities for women in fields of building, engineering, architecture and managing projects. — KUNA



The Wara Hill.

WARA HILL: WITNESS TO ANCIENT ARAB EVENTS, MODERN KUWAITI HISTORY

KUWAIT: Wara Hill, situated about 57 kilometers south of Kuwait City in Al-Ahmadi governorate, has been witness to events occurring in ancient Arab times and in the modern history of Kuwait. Wara, or Awara in classical Arabic, means a small mountain or hill. In the past, the area witnessed two battles. The battles, involving several Arab tribes and groups in the region, occurred in separate time periods with the events named as the first and second days of Awara.

Speaking on the recent history of the hill, Kuwaiti researcher Hussain Al-Qattan said

that Wara area was named after this natural structure, adding that a group of people and tribes settled in nearby in 1937 before the discovery of oil. After the discovery of oil, the Wara area witnessed a significant movement of people especially after the excavations carried out by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and the opening of the Burgan field in 1938. In 1947, the Wara market was opened to answer the needs of the local population. With the country's rapid development in 1970s, the local population left the area and headed to other regions in Kuwait. — KUNA

Crime

Report

DETECTIVE ROBBER GANG BUSTED

KUWAIT: Abu Halaifa detectives put an end to the activities of three members of a gang that was robbing expatriates and small shops in the area. The detectives uncovered the identities of the gang members and were shocked to learn that the gang leader is himself a detective at the Interior Ministry's forgery department. The man is currently a fugitive and is being sought. Meanwhile one of his accomplices is a policeman training at the Saad Al-Abdallah academy for security sciences. The third suspect is unemployed. The fugitive officers had collided earlier with one of the victims while driving a patrol car. The two arrested members were sent to the public prosecution while the fugitive was placed on the wanted list.

Girl shot with rifle

A five-year-old girl was rushed to the ICU after being shot by an unknown person with an air rifle in her abdomen. The parents of the girl rushed her to Jahra hospital. Her father said that while she was playing in front of their home in Sulaibiya, someone shot the girl. Detectives are investigating.

Two men arrested with explosives

A Yemeni and a bedoon were arrested by state security for being in possession of explosives. The bedoon also had photos of persons on the list of international terrorists. The two will be questioned about why they were near a Husseinia.

Child beaten

A Pakistani man told police that his eight-year-old son was beaten by an unknown person. The father said his son was playing football in front of a school when a driver stopped and told "hope you do not think you are Messi", then escaped.

Children & parents fight

Naeem police arrested three citizens following a fight in front of an elementary school. A security source said the fight took place between three parents due to their children's fight inside.

NEW HEALTH FEES START SUNDAY

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Public hospitals and polyclinics around Kuwait are gearing up to start collecting increased fees for services offered to expatriates on Sunday. The Health Ministry reportedly sent lists containing the new fees to local medical facilities, which include charging KD 5 for visiting the emergency department of general hospital, KD 10 for going to outpatients clinics, KD 10 per day for inpatients, KD 30 for staying at the intensive care unit (ICU), KD 50 for the private

room and KD 200 as deposit. As for maternity, KD 10 will be collected per visit, in addition to KD 50 paid for normal delivery.

Extra budget

Kuwait University asked the Finance Ministry to transfer KD 10 million to its account on extraordinary basis, saying that the amount is needed to meet its commitments. The university explained that its cash accounts' balance at Kuwait Central Bank is not enough to meet the current necessary expenses.

FIRE DRILL AT MUBARAK HOSPITAL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Hawally fire department carried out an exercise at Mubarak Hospital as part of its training plan for the current year. The exercise mimicked dealing with a fire in the x-ray department, with injuries. The rapid intervention team at Mubarak Hospital evacuated the area, as firemen formed two teams; one to rescue people and another to tackle the blaze. Acting Head of Hawally Fire Department Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Qabazard arrived at the scene. He said the exercise was held to raise the performance efficiency of firemen, and to achieve their goals in protecting lives and property.





KUWAIT: ASEAN ambassadors cut the ceremonial cake with Khaled Al-Jarallah, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Khaled Al-Jarallah, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister tours the booth of ASEAN states.

ASEAN SEVENTH LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD, SAYS ENVOY ASEAN CELEBRATE 50TH FOUNDATION 'VERSARY

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional bloc marked its 50th foundation anniversary Wednesday night with exhibitions, fashion and cultural shows, plus food delicacies of these countries. The event was held at the Jumeirah Hotel in Messillah, and was attended by various ambassadors, dignitaries from ASEAN and others. ASEAN chairmanship is currently being held by the Philippines, and therefore the Ambassador of the Philippines Renato Villa has acted as its gracious host this year. In addition to the Philippines, ASEAN countries comprise the Kingdom of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand. If economies are combined from all 10 ASEAN member states, the ASEAN bloc

would be the seventh largest in the world, and the upward trend continues. According to Ambassador Villa, ASEAN countries have a combined GDP of \$2.3 trillion. "If ASEAN is considered a single country, we are the seventh largest economy in the world," he said in a speech after inaugurating the event. "ASEAN is a free market. We can freely move our products, capitals, skills and services. Our population combined is 625 million. We are a people-centered ASEAN community, united and have a common identity," he added.

Ambassador Villa mentioned that all the ASEAN member states have excellent ties and strategic cooperation and alliances with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, not to mention the inclusive growth in bilateral trade, growing opportunities for investment, food and environment. "We have come to



Philippines Ambassador Renato Villa delivers his speech.

realize that we can achieve more and be more influential if we are united and act as one rather than individually. The collective capaci-

ties and synergies of ASEAN shall continue to accumulate and engage partnership with other countries, especially those that are extending friendships with us, just like what we have been doing for 50 years," he said.

Meanwhile, Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister, said that GCC states recognized the growing influence of ASEAN countries. "The success of economic integration among ASEAN countries has sent strong inputs to the GCC countries," he said. "ASEAN countries are among the most important trading partners of the GCC today. The rate of the trade between GCC and ASEAN has increase rapidly to about \$127 billion." Jarallah thanked the ASEAN bloc and the ambassadors, and also congratulated the Philippines for the successful chairmanship of the ASEAN bloc this year.

KUWAITI LAWMAKER SAYS SWISS SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS SETS EXAMPLE KUWAITI, DUTCH DELEGATION DISCUSS BOLSTERING TIES

CAPITALS: A Kuwaiti MP said on Wednesday that closer ties with Switzerland would prove beneficial to both countries in more ways than one. Dr Humoud Al-Khodeir made the remarks after the conclusion of a meeting between Kuwaiti and Swiss lawmakers.

He said that he was impressed with the progress the European federal republic has made in scientific research, something Kuwaiti scientists can learn from. The Kuwaiti parliamentarian hailed Switzerland as an academic powerhouse, encouraging his compatriot students to seek higher education in Switzerland. Khodeir added that it was imperative to allow both nations the opportunity to share knowledge and experience in various educational fields. The Kuwaiti delegation was on an official visit to Switzerland from 25-27 September, with a group

that included MPs Askar Al-Anezi, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie, Muhammad Al-Huwaila and Hamoud Al-Khudair.

Separately, a Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship delegation headed by MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri met on Wednesday Speaker of the Dutch House of Representatives Khadija Arib, said Kuwait's embassy in the Hague yesterday. According to the embassy's statement, the Kuwaiti delegation discussed ways to strengthen parliamentary relations between the two countries and exchange of experiences in various fields.

The two sides discussed regional and international issues of common interest, with emphasis on the joint efforts to restore peace and security to the region and fight terrorism. At the end of the meeting, MP Al-Muwaizri handed the Speaker of the Dutch House of Representatives an invitation from Kuwait's

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

In other news, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi delivered yesterday an invitation from His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak. Ambassador Asousi said that the letter also included an invitation for the Malaysian Prime Minister to deliver a speech at a forum geared towards knowledge economy in Kuwait early 2018. Ambassador Asousi said that he handed the invitation letter to the Malaysian Foreign Ministry. He added that Malaysia was one of the leading nations in the field of knowledge economy, affirming that Razak's input will be of valuable importance. — KUNA



Members of the Kuwaiti and Dutch delegation meet on Wednesday.

KUWAIT REITERATES SUPPORT TO 'ONE IRAQ'

KUWAIT: An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Wednesday reaffirmed the country's initial stance in support of 'one Iraq' with its independence, sovereignty, security and stability. The source hoped that the recent independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan would not impact Iraq's great efforts to liberate its territories from terrorism, and the so-called Islamic State (IS).

The source expressed conviction that "brothers" in Baghdad and Irbil realize the immensity of the challenges and the difficult stage their nation, and the region, are going through. This is likely to help them contain any negative repercussions that might come out of the vote, within the framework of the Iraqi Constitution and the unity of the country, to maintain a free, secure, stable and unified Iraq, the source concluded. — KUNA

International

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

Putin heads to Turkey for talks on weapons deal



EU leaders to debate Macron's grand plan



China orders North Korean firms closed under sanctions



COX'S BAZAR: People gather around bodies of Rohingya Muslim refugees, on the shore of Inani beach, near Cox's Bazar.—AFP

AT LEAST 14 DEAD AS ROHINGYA BOAT CAPSIZES OFF BANGLADESH UN POSTPONES VISIT TO RAKHINE STATE DUE TO BAD WEATHER

COX'S BAZAR: At least 10 children and four women were killed when a boat carrying Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar capsized off Bangladesh yesterday, as the number of new arrivals topped 500,000. The latest disaster came as a UN visit to Myanmar's conflict-battered Rakhine state was postponed yesterday, thwarting efforts to reach the epicenter of violence for the first time since the start of the massive Rohingya exodus.

At the scene of the accident, witnesses and survivors said the boat overturned just yards from the coast after apparently hitting a submerged object and was later washed ashore in two parts along with the victims' bodies. "They drowned before our eyes," said Mohammad Sohel, a local shopkeeper. "Minutes later, the waves washed the bodies to the beach." One distraught survivor said he had set off for Bangladesh from a coastal village in Myanmar late Wednesday with his wife, who was killed in

the disaster along with one of his children. "The boat hit something underground as it came close to the beach. Then it overturned," Nurul Salam said. Another survivor who was seen weeping on the beach told an AFP reporter at the scene that her parents and children were missing. Local police constable Fazlul Karim said 14 bodies had so far been washed ashore, and there were fears the number could rise.

The UN said more than half a million refugees had now crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar since August 25, when attacks by Rohingya militants on security posts prompted a military crackdown. It said the flow of new arrivals had slowed and the new figure of 501,800 up from around 480,000 — was due mainly to the counting of refugees not previously included in the tally.

UN visit postponed

The huge influx of Rohingya to Bangladesh-

the largest mass movement of refugees in the region in decades—has created a humanitarian crisis as the government and aid agencies struggle to provide food, clean water and shelter. Those who have made it to Bangladesh have brought with them multiple accounts of murder and systematic arson of their villages by Myanmar soldiers and mobs of ethnic Rakhine, who are Buddhists.

Rakhine has long been a cauldron of ethnic and religious tensions, but the last five years has seen communal relations plunge to their worst yet, and there are reports thousands more Rohingya could be waiting to enter Bangladesh. Images circulated by Myanmar authorities on Wednesday showed hundreds waiting to cross the Naf River that divides the two countries. Access to Rakhine by relief agencies and global media has been heavily controlled by Myanmar's army and government, making it difficult to assess the situa-

tion there. Yesterday, the UN said a planned visit to the state was postponed due to weather conditions there.

The United Nations has been demanding access since its humanitarian organizations were forced to pull out of Rakhine when Myanmar's military launched operations against Rohingya rebels in late August. Police in Bangladesh say an estimated 120 Rohingya have drowned trying to reach the country's shores in small fishing boats that coastguards say are woefully inadequate for the rough seas, many of them children unable to swim.

Survivors said the boat that capsized yesterday was carrying around 40 people, many of them children. Local police chief Abul Khair said at least 18 people survived the accident and they were trying to find out how many were missing. "We have sent nine of the survivors to hospitals," he said.—AFP



DAMASCUS: Newly elected Syrian parliament speaker Hammoudeh Sabbagh delivers a speech in Damascus.—AFP

CHRISTIAN TO HEAD SYRIA PARLIAMENT

DAMASCUS: A Christian legislator was yesterday elected speaker of parliament in predominantly Muslim Syria for the first time in decades. Hammoudeh Sabbagh, a 58-year-old Syriac Orthodox Christian graduate in law and member of President Bashar al-Assad's Baath party from Hasakeh province in northeast Syria, won 193 votes out of 252 cast, state media reported. He became the first Christian to hold the post since Fares el-Khoury who served multiple terms before and after the French mandate of 1920-1946.

Before the 2011 outbreak of war in Syria, Christians of 11 different denominations made up about five percent of the population. Around half of Syria's 1.5 million Christians have since fled, according to Chaldean Catholic Bishop Antoine Audo. Christians have tried largely to keep their distance from the conflict, in which they have been targeted by Islamist rebel groups while the regime portrays itself as the secular defender of minorities. The Islamic State jihadist group, for its part, has carried out mass kidnappings of Christians and destroyed their churches.—AFP

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA FIGHT OVER CRIMEAN HERITAGE

SIMFEROPOL: The painting "Moonlit Night" by famed 19th century maritime artist Ivan Aivazovsky is a study in tranquility: two boats sailing calmly across a placid sea. But now the masterpiece is caught up at the centre of a storm between Ukraine and Russia as the violent feud between the two neighbors has spilt over into a cultural tug of war. At Ukraine's request, last month Interpol added the painting, and 51 others by artists such as Ivan Shishkin and Isaac Levitan, to its list of stolen artworks.

Kiev insists the collection—valued at some \$1.3 million—was illegally spirited away into Russian-controlled territory as Moscow took over and then annexed the Crimea peninsula in 2014. The tussle over the artworks—owned by the Simferopol Art Museum in the Russian-held region—is just the tip of the iceberg in a furious dispute over artistic heritage and cultural identity raging between the two foes.

When Moscow seized Crimea, an estimated 1.2 million museum pieces fell under Russian control, according to the Ukrainian culture ministry. "These are incredible losses for Ukraine," Mykola Yakovyna, the head of the Ukrainian chapter of the Blue Shield cultural protection group, told AFP.

Intelligence operation

Exactly how the Aivazovsky painting and the 51 other works ended up under Russian control is a murky story shrouded in claim and counterclaim. When Russian troops in unmarked uniforms fanned out across Crimea to seize key installations in February 2014 the pictures were on display outside the region in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol as part of a touring exhibition. Ukrainian officials insist that the paintings were then smuggled back to Crimea while officials in Kiev were distracted and scrambling to react as Moscow seized the territory.

The region's Kremlin-installed leader Sergei Aksyonov later claimed his officials "recruited people" on the Ukrainian side to help snatch the pictures, saying his authorities had to act like an "intelligence agency". Earlier this month Ukrainian state prosecutors launched a criminal probe against the management of the Mariupol museum for allowing the works back to Crimea.—AFP

PUTIN HEADS TO TURKEY FOR TALKS ON WEAPONS DEAL, SYRIA

'RUSSIA AND TURKEY COOPERATING VERY TIGHTLY'

ANKARA: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday meets his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks on Syria and a key weapons deal, hoping to strengthen an increasingly active relationship that has troubled the West. Despite a regional rivalry that goes back to the Ottoman Empire and the Romanov dynasty, Russia and Turkey have been working closely since a 2016 reconciliation ended a crisis caused by the shooting down of a Russian war plane over Syria.

"Russia and Turkey are cooperating very tightly," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said ahead of the one-day working visit by Putin to Ankara. The two will hold a working dinner before a one-on-one meeting and a press conference at 9:30 pm (1830 GMT) at Erdogan's palace, the Turkish presidency said on its website. Turkey and Russia have been on opposing sides during the more than six years of war in Syria, with Russia the key backer of President Bashar al-Assad and Turkey supporting rebels seeking his ouster.

But while Turkey's policy is officially unchanged, Ankara has notably cooled its attacks on the Damascus regime since its cooperation with Russia began to heat up. Both Moscow and Ankara are pushing for the creation of four "de-escalation zones" in Syria, in line with peace talks in Astana, to end the civil war that has raged since 2011. With Moscow's ally Assad now having the upper hand in the conflict, Russia will be hoping Turkey will bring the rebels it has supported into the political process.

Turkey, a NATO member, has signed a deal reportedly worth \$2 billion (1.7 billion euros) to buy S-400 air defense systems from Russia, a move that has shocked its allies in the alliance. Economic cooperation is also beginning to flourish, with Russian



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin gives a command to destroy the last chemical ammunition from Russia's chemical weapon stockpile via a video conference at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow.—AFP

tourists returning to Turkey and the two countries working on a Black Sea gas pipeline.

Loaded with contradictions

Yet analysts say that while both countries share an interest in seeking to discomfort the West by showing off close cooperation, their relationship falls well short of a sincere strategic alliance. "Relations between Turkey and Russia may appear to be friendly, but they are loaded with contradictions and set to remain unstable in the near term," Pavel Baev and Kemal Kirisci of the Brookings Institution wrote in a study this month.

Russia's stance on the non-binding Kurdish independence vote is also troubling for Turkey, for whom opposing Kurdish statehood is a cornerstone of foreign policy due to its own Kurdish minority. The Russian foreign ministry said Wednesday that while Moscow supports the territorial

integrity of Iraq, it "views the Kurds' national aspirations with respect". "Russia has been trying to abstain from taking a clear stance on the issue and Turkey may be wanting to get some assurances and explanations," Timur Akhmetov, Ankara-based Turkey expert at the Russian International Affairs Council, told AFP.

In public, Erdogan has shied away from attacking Russia's stance on the Kurdish referendum, declaring that Israel was the only state that backed the poll. Deliveries of the S-400s, meanwhile, could be years away due to orders from China, while Ankara's insistence on a technology transfer as part of the deal may also create problems. But both Moscow and Ankara are, for now, happy to send a message to the West that they are serious about defense cooperation. "They are trying to utilize the issue of the S-400 for their respective political interests," Akhmetov said.—AFP

RIGHTS WATCHDOG CONDEMNS ABUSE IN IRAQ'S ANTI-IS HUNT

BEIRUT: Human Rights Watch yesterday condemned abuse by paramilitary units fighting alongside Iraqi security forces to expel Islamic State group jihadists from their last redoubts in the country. "Right now, the Iraqi government's attitude seems to be 'all hands on deck' for these last battles against ISIS (IS)," said HRW's Middle East director, Sarah Leah Whitson. "While Iraqi forces do need all the help they can get, the government should not allow abusive forces to use this opportunity for even more abuse."

Despite pledges to the contrary, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi was allowing the Hashed al-Shaabi units "to play a more prominent role not only in the fighting but also in screening and detaining people during military operations", the New York-based rights watchdog said. "Iraqi military forces are taking the law into their own hands, playing judge, jury and executioner with captive ISIS suspects," Whitson said. HRW

said it had documented cases of screening and torture of suspects from interviews with villagers displaced by the latest fighting to retake the northern city of Hawija.

Families had given accounts of how Hashed units had detained and beaten male villagers and taken away four men from Sayhat Othman, 42 kilometers northwest of Hawija, who had not been seen again, sparking rumors they had been shot dead. One of the men, who had surrendered to Iraqi forces, was an amputee in a wheelchair, who had worked in the local mosque under IS "and cooperated with the group while they were in control of the area", HRW quoted family members as saying.

After the defeat of IS in Iraq's second city Mosul in July and the recapture of adjacent areas, the Hawija area represents the last enclave still held by the jihadists in Iraq apart from a section of the Euphrates Valley near the border with Syria.—AFP

SAUDI WOMEN TO BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE FROM AGE 18, SAME AS MEN

RIYADH: Saudi women will be allowed to drive from the age of 18, a government spokesman said yesterday, partially allaying speculation they could still face tighter controls than men even when finally allowed behind the wheel. In a royal decree issued on Tuesday, King Salman ordered an end to the ban on women drivers, a conservative tradition that has limited women's mobility and been seen by rights activists as an emblem of their suppression.

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world that bans women from driving. The decree stipulated that the move must "apply and adhere to the necessary sharia standards", referring to Islamic law, but did not elaborate,

sparking speculation that restrictions might include a higher minimum age or limited hours of the day. The king ordered a ministerial committee to report within 30 days on how to implement the new policy by June 24, 2018.

Asked on al-Arabiya TV about the minimum age for Saudi women, interior ministry spokesman Mansour al-Turki said: "Eighteen years is the age at which a person can obtain a driver's license and drive a car in the kingdom." The interior minister said separately that lifting the ban would reduce the number of car crashes in Saudi Arabia, which has one of the world's worst traffic death rates.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin

Nayef, who took over from his uncle in June, said security forces were ready to apply traffic laws to men and women, though he did not mention if women would be recruited as traffic police. "Women driving cars will transform traffic safety to educational practice which will reduce human and economic losses caused by accidents," he was quoted as saying on the ministry's Twitter feed. He did not elaborate.

Around 20 Saudis die each day in traffic accidents - in a population of 30 million. The government aims to reduce that by a quarter as part of its Vision 2030 reform program. While Saudi women have generally welcomed the lifting of the driving ban, some men expressed concern it would

increase the number of cars on already crowded Saudi roads.

A typical middle- to upper-class Saudi family has two vehicles, one driven by the man of the house and a second car in which a full-time chauffeur transports his wife and children. The royal decree promises to change lifestyles for many of the more than 10 million women, including foreigners, who live in Saudi Arabia and may help restore auto sales growth in a market dented by the economic fallout from weak oil prices.

But because of conservative traditions, it may actually take years rather than months for women to become a major presence on the roads in some areas.—Reuters

BAGHDAD CRANKS UP PRESSURE ON KURDS WITH FLIGHT BAN

ARBIL: All foreign flights to and from the Iraqi Kurdish capital Arbil will be suspended from today, officials said, as Baghdad increases pressure on the Kurds over this week's independence referendum. The move by the Iraqi central government marks the first major step taken in retaliation for Monday's vote, which delivered a resounding 92.7 percent "yes". An extended suspension of flights would have significant consequences for the Kurds, who have turned Arbil into a regional transport hub that is home to a large international community.

The non-binding referendum in the three provinces of Iraqi Kurdistan and some disputed areas was held in defiance of Baghdad, which declared it illegal, and despite international objections. Turkey, also home to a large Kurdish minority, is especially concerned and has threatened a series of measures to isolate the Iraqi Kurds. Arbil airport director Talar Faiq Salih said that all international flights to and from the city would stop from 6:00 pm today following a decision by the Iraqi cabinet. Regional carriers, including Turkish Airlines, EgyptAir and Lebanon's Middle East Airlines, had already announced that they would be suspending their flights serving Iraqi Kurdistan at Baghdad's request.

A civil aviation official in Baghdad told AFP the measure applied to the airports in Arbil and the region's second-largest city Sulaimaniyah. Baghdad has demanded the airports be handed over to central authorities. A decision on whether to also suspend domestic flights would be made after today, the official said. Salih said she deeply regretted the decision, which she said would hamper the campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and neighboring Syria, as well as the delivery of aid to those displaced by it.

Going to affect everyone

"We have consulates, international staff, international companies, so it's going to affect everyone," Salih said. "We have a big international community here, so this is not only against Kurdish people." Kurdish forces have been key allies in US-backed offensives against IS in both Syria and Iraq, and Washington had urged Arbil to postpone the refer-

endum in the interests of that battle. Longtime Iraqi Kurd chief Massud Barzani went ahead anyway, and more than 3.3 million people — 72.6 percent of the electorate-flocked to polling stations to pursue a decades-old dream of statehood.

Barzani said the vote would not lead to an immediate declaration of independence, instead opening the door to negotiations, but Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has rejected any talks on the basis on the referendum. On Wednesday, Abadi demanded the results of the vote be "annulled" and talks take place "in the framework of the constitution". Lawmakers on Wednesday passed a resolution calling on Abadi to "take all necessary measures to maintain Iraq's unity" including by deploying security forces to disputed areas. A similar demand had been made on Monday but there have been no signs of any deployment.

Wednesday's resolution also called for the closure of border posts with Turkey and Iran that are outside central government control. Analysts have said it is unlikely Baghdad will take military action in response to the vote, especially as the top priority for its forces remains the battle against IS. It could coordinate efforts with Turkey however to tighten

the screws on the Kurds by cutting off trade routes, including for vital oil exports.

Moves against oil exports

Abadi's office said in a statement yesterday that Ankara had told Baghdad it would deal only with the Iraqi government on oil exports. In a phone call with Abadi, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim offered support for "all Iraqi decisions to protect the country's unity" including those "linked to limiting oil export (operations) to the Iraqi government," the statement said. Turkey fears the vote will inflame separatist feelings among its own Kurdish population and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had earlier threatened to block oil exports from Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iraqi Kurds export an average 600,000 barrels per day through a pipeline running through Turkey to Ceyhan on the Mediterranean coast. Erdogan has also warned Ankara could close its land border with Iraqi Kurdistan and even suggested the possibility of a cross-border incursion similar to one Turkey carried out against IS and Kurdish fighters in Syria. A senior Iraqi government official said that there were no ongoing talks with the Kurds.—AFP



ARBIL: Passengers are seen at Arbil airport, in the capital of Iraq's autonomous northern Kurdish region.—AFP



NAIROBI: A protestor attempts to flee from anti-riot police in Nairobi, during a demonstration to demand the removal of officials from national election oversight body, Interim Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) allegedly implicated in manipulation of the votes tally during the August 8, presidential elections.—AFP

DEEP DIVISIONS OVER PLAN TO CHANGE KENYA'S ELECTION LAW

NAIROBI: Kenya's opposition yesterday criticized a government move to amend the electoral law as it walked out of a meeting aimed at settling differences over the presidential re-run due next month. Kenya's Supreme Court annulled last month's presidential election, won by Uhuru Kenyatta, citing irregularities and mismanagement by the electoral commission. James Orengo, a senior official in the opposition National Super Alliance (NASA), described the proposed amendments as an effort by the ruling Jubilee Party to change "the rules of the game" ahead of the re-run.

"They have reached a level where they feel that they can do anything, and change anything, including the constitution through the backdoor," Orengo said. Orengo said the amendments-being debated during a special sitting of the Jubilee-dominated parliament yesterday-would render legal some of the "irregularities and illegalities" cited by the Supreme Court in its ruling. Jubilee officials insist the changes are simply an effort to resolve "ambiguity" in the electoral law.

Church groups also criticized the proposed amendments. "This is an unacceptable path since it will lead to mutilation of the constitution and weakening of institutions," said Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit, head of the Anglican church in Kenya. NASA walked out of yesterday's meeting with Jubilee and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in protest at the proposed changes and warned that the government "will take responsibilities for what happens thereafter."

After the collapse of talks, IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati questioned the necessity of changing the law. "We don't need any other law to move forward with elections," he said.—AFP

VICTIMS OF US AIRSTRIKE IN KABUL ANGRY OVER MISTAKEN ATTACK

KABUL: Haji Rabbani was preparing for afternoon prayers when he saw the US helicopters hovering above his mud-brick house in a residential area of Kabul. Moments later bombs started raining down. Six members of his family, including four children, were wounded in Wednesday's airstrike that was supposed to hit insurgents fighting Afghan security forces several kilometers from where US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was meeting with officials.

Two bombs struck Rabbani's home-several hundred metres from where the insurgents were holed up-destroying an upstairs room, shattering windows and sending debris toppling into the courtyard. NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan expressed regret for the "harm to non-combatants" caused by the US airstrike-the first carried out inside the city in recent memory-and blamed a defective missile. An investigation is under way.

The strike was launched in support of Afghan security forces who had confronted militants armed with mortars and suicide vests after they fired a volley of rockets near the capital's international airport-hours after Mattis arrived in the country for a high-profile visit. One person was killed and 11 wounded-including the six people at Rabbani's house-in the fighting that lasted several hours as Mattis and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg met with Afghan leaders to discuss the broader conflict. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State's local Khorasan province affiliate claimed responsibility for the rocket attack.

Casualties of war

After the airstrike Rabbani ran inside his home to get his family out. A child in the upstairs room that took the full force of the explosion was on the floor, mud bricks covering most of her small body. "I just got out of the bathroom and came out to perform the ablution when the strike took place," Rabbani said yesterday as he sat on a carpet in his debris-covered courtyard, smoking and drinking green tea with relatives. "I rushed towards the house and shouted for my children." Two children and two adults remain in hospital.

Shrapnel from the bombs had peppered the rooms and blood spatters could be seen on door frames, walls and in the courtyard. Rabbani said he did not understand why foreign forces had targeted his family when he had no links to the insurgents firing rockets near the airport. "I do not belong to the government nor am I affiliated with anyone. I am a poor person who works in the city," said the 49-year-old taxi driver. Large fragments of the bombs lay on the ground nearby, one piece showing a partial label that read "50.9 KG".



KABUL: A truck drags a damaged NATO coalition vehicle at the site of a car bomb attack that targeted a NATO coalition convoy in Kabul. — AFP

"There are no Daesh (Islamic State) or Taliban in this area and the fighting is almost three kilometers from here-and they bombed my house." It is not the first time a US bombing attack has hit the wrong target. An American airstrike in 2015 destroyed a Doctors Without Borders trauma centre in northern Kunduz province, killing over 40. In July a US airstrike killed 16 policemen in Helmand province. It came after a US strike in Helmand's Sangin district killed at least 18 civilians, mostly women and children, in February. Rabbani and his family have joined a growing list of civilians who have become casualties of Afghanistan's grinding 16-year war. The number of civilians killed and wound-

ed was at a record high in the first six months of 2017, a UN report shows, made worse by the Afghan Air Force carrying out its own airstrikes along with US Forces.

"Airstrikes carried out by international and Afghan air forces caused 590 civilian casualties (in 2016), nearly double that recorded in 2015," a separate UN report shows, with women and children accounting for more than half of the victims. While NATO has acknowledged its mistake, Rabbani's family wants compensation not sympathy-and for the strikes on ordinary Afghans to stop. "They do not target the enemies in front of their eyes-they target our house and kill our people," said Rabbani. —AFP



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GERMANY ON ALERT AFTER BLACKMAILER THREATENS TO POISON FOOD

BERLIN: One or more blackmailers have threatened to poison food products in shops in Germany and elsewhere in Europe unless they receive millions in cash, police warned yesterday. Authorities have urged the public to be vigilant about signs of tampering, releasing



a surveillance camera image of the suspect, a man around 50 wearing glasses and a white cap. To press the demand, the blackmailer poisoned five baby food products and last week alerted police to the store they were placed in, in the southern city of Friedrichshafen on

Lake Constance. "We take this threat very seriously," said chief prosecutor Alexander Boger in a televised press conference. Constance deputy police chief Uwe Stuermer warned of a criminal "without scruples" but also said that, given heightened vigilance, "there is no reason to panic". The blackmailer had demanded 10 million euros from a retail chain, reported Bild daily.

The threat was made in an email that was also sent to a consumer protection group and police. It did not specify which type of food would be poisoned, or in which region or stores the products would be placed. A state consumer protection ministry official said the substance detected was ethylene glycol, used in anti-freeze products and brake fluids, which is toxic, and fatal in large quantities.—AFP



LYON: French President Emmanuel Macron, center, shakes hand with a municipal motorbike police officer during a visit on the theme of security in Lyon. —AFP

EU LEADERS TO DEBATE
MACRON'S GRAND PLAN

MACRON TO HAVE FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH MERKEL

TALLINN: EU leaders will give their first impressions on French President Emmanuel Macron's new vision for the bloc when they met over dinner in Estonia yesterday for a frank debate on the future of Europe. In a major speech in Paris on Tuesday, the 39-year old Macron called on his counterparts to recommit themselves to a stalled European project shackled by Brexit, the rise of populism and the migrant crisis. Macron will be first up to speak when most of the European Union's 28 leaders meet in Tallinn, and is also due to have face-to-face talks with recently re-elected German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"He has stolen the show," an EU official said on condition of anonymity. "The focus of the dinner will be Macron's speech." British Prime Minister Theresa May will also be present for the summit, despite her country's impending exit from the bloc in 2019. Brexit negotiations are however not expected to be on the menu, although she may meet some leaders separately to discuss Brexit talks. The discussion on the EU's future is followed by a second day on Friday devoted to digital issues, a priority for tiny Estonia, which holds the bloc's six-month rotating presidency.

Frank and informal

With media in Tallinn kept at bay yesterday night, the European leaders will

be given an open forum for a "frank and informal" discussion, without any agenda, EU President Donald Tusk said in a letter inviting them to the meeting. The young French president will be the first to take the floor during the a three-hour dinner at the Kadriorg Palace in Tallinn, Estonia, a former summer palace for the Russian Tsars that is now a national museum.

Macron's proposals for a post-Brexit shake-up of the EU include a finance minister, budget and parliament for the 19-member eurozone, as well as an EU-wide "rapid reaction force" to work with national armies. "Clearly the ingredients for a meaningful discussion are there," said Margaritis Schinas, spokesman for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. Juncker himself set out his own vision for a more deeply integrated European project in his annual State of the Union speech earlier this month.

Macron's speech came days after Merkel, the EU's most powerful leader, won a fourth term in a vote which nevertheless saw historic inroads by the country's hard-right. Merkel, who is now seeking new allies to rebuild a ruling coalition in Germany, on Wednesday welcomed the "European passion" in Macron's idea but said it was too soon to judge his concrete proposals.

Brexit off the menu

Macron also included a new type of tax on technology giants like Facebook and Apple-based on how much value they create in a country rather than their profits—a controversial proposal that the leaders will discuss on Friday. Estonia bills itself as the avant-garde of the digital revolution and originally called the talks to help bring the rest of the bloc up to speed. However, the uncertain German vote, Macron's speech and the stalled divorce talks with Britain are foremost in European minds.

May meets her EU counterparts as British and EU officials closed a fourth round of negotiations in Brussels. British negotiator David Davis said there had been "decisive steps forward" on a divorce agreement, but EU counterpart Michel Barnier said it would still take "weeks or months" before they could unlock important talks on a future trade deal, a big demand by London.

Tusk, who coordinates EU summits, on Tuesday agreed there was not sufficient progress on the divorce and it would be too early at Tallinn to launch talks on future ties. The talks in Tallinn follow other EU summits on the bloc's future in Bratislava, Malta and Rome which were all held without Britain. Spain's Mariano Rajoy is expected to be the only major no-show in Tallinn due to the crisis over the independence referendum planned in Catalonia at the weekend.—AFP

TOUGH DUTCH
COALITION TALKS
HARBINGER FOR GERMANY

THE HAGUE: Efforts to cobble together a Dutch government are set soon to pass a record 208 days, highlighting the strain of forming a fragile coalition with political partners who sometimes make strange bedfellows. As Dutch Premier Mark Rutte nears the end of threading together a shaky four-party deal following the March 15 elections, just across the border German Chancellor Angela Merkel is also facing some stark choices, political experts say.

Almost seven months after Rutte's liberal VVD party won the March polls, the Netherlands will on October 9 pass the current 208-day record, set in 1977, for the longest-running negotiations to form a government. A first attempt shortly after the vote, to form a four-party coalition involving the eco-friendly GreenLeft party, was left in tatters after they failed to agree on the hot-button issue of immigration.

The Dutch political landscape has been further complicated by the rampant rise of the far-right, poaching votes from traditional centre-right parties and the crumbling of the traditional left, which paid a heavy price for their partnership in the outgoing coalition. Although the signs seem to be that there is a deal now within reach, it will be an uneasy marriage between Rutte's business-friendly Liberal VVD, the progressive D66 and two Christian parties, the pragmatic CDA and more conservative Christian Union.

Formed in the swinging 1960s, D66 is pro-abortion, pro-gay and lesbian rights and wants the country's euthanasia program to be extended so all people—not just the terminally ill—can decide to end their lives. The Christian Union bases its policies on the Bible and opposes abortion, same-sex marriages and euthanasia. Experts expect a final Dutch coalition deal to be clinched by mid-October, giving Rutte and his ruling partners a slender single-seat majority in the 150-seat lower house of parliament.

But this week political horse-trading continued over financial issues such as personal healthcare insurance contributions and asylum policy. At the same time, D66 and the CDA, both with 19 seats, were battling for coveted government positions including that of finance minister, Dutch media reported. Gerrit Zalm, the third mediator appointed to help form the coalition, told the NOS public broadcaster late Tuesday he could "give no date yet" when government will be formed.

Hard compromises

In Germany, Merkel faces a similar tricky task, and could possibly team up with two smaller and very different parties dubbed the "Jamaica coalition" because the three parties' colors match those of the Caribbean country's flag. One is the pro-business and liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), while the other is the left-leaning, ecologist Green party, whose campaign pledged to drive forward the country's clean energy transition.

"Whatever comes out in the coalition-forming in both countries... some of the issues that are important today are issues that are hard to clinch compromises on," said Claes de Vreese, political communication professor at the University of Amsterdam. "The more partners you have at the table, the more the compromises," De Vreese said.

"In both the Dutch and German cases the main danger seems that it will be difficult to keep everybody happy," added Kees Aarts, professor in politics at Groningen University. The coalitions that will be formed are unlikely to be very stable, De Vreese added.—AFP

CUBA SONIC MYSTERY DEEPENS AFTER FRUITLESS PROBES

HAVANA: Months of investigations into so-called sonic attacks on American diplomats in Cuba, which have soured Washington-Havana relations for most of the past year, have turned up nothing. Cuba said last week it found no evidence to support US claims that several American diplomats in Havana were harmed in what US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called surreptitious "health attacks." In a saga seemingly ripped from the pages of a Cold War spy novel, at least 21 US officials and a smaller number of Canadians have received treatment for a variety of symptoms including brain trauma and hearing loss.

Questions linger over whether they are the result of targeted attacks, sabotage, or an accident. Suspicions were first aroused in late 2016, but Washington waited until August 2017 to announce that several of its

embassy employees had fallen victim to mystery health problems that remain unexplained. US officials have told reporters they believe some kind of inaudible sound weapon was used on its staff either inside or outside their residences in Havana. The labor union representing US diplomats said their diagnoses of those treated included mild traumatic brain injury and permanent hearing loss.

No coincidence

On September 14, the number of employees affected was 21, with the latest incident being reported last month, US officials said, adding that monitoring of their staff in Havana was ongoing. A source close to the Canadian embassy told AFP that more than five families had been affected, including several children, but that none of those cases

appeared to be serious. Washington expelled two Cuban diplomats in May and Tillerson raised the possibility of closing the US mission.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla warned against that move, saying: "It would be unfortunate if a matter of this nature is politicized." "With so many families affected at the same time, it's not trivial," said the source close to the embassy. "It cannot be a coincidence." Using an inaudible sound device for a stealth attack "is quite plausible from a technical point of view," said Denis Bedat, a specialist in bio-electromagnetics.

"Ultrasonic waves, beyond the acoustic capacity of humans, can be broadcast with an amplifier, and the device does not need to be large, or used inside or outside a house," the French expert said. He cited the example of the Active Denial System (ADS),

an anti-riot gun used by US police forces that pulses out electromagnetic waves that produces a sudden unbearable burning sensation.

Rumors abound

It is unclear who would have carried out such an attack, and for what ends. Numerous observers doubt that Cuba would risk antagonizing its neighbors at the end of 2016 — when relations between the former Cold War enemies were thawing, before they deteriorated under President Donald Trump. Likewise Canada, the biggest source of big-spending tourists to Cuba. According to Canadian diplomats, Ottawa does not suspect senior Cuban officials of involvement. Rumors are rife on both sides of the Florida Strait, including a plot by rogue Cuban agents aiming to derail rapprochement with Washington. —AFP



TURKEY: This photo provided by US Navy veteran Mohammed Jahanfar shows Jananfar and his fiancée Neda Hosseini in Bodrum, Turkey.—AP

IRANIAN AMERICANS IN LIMBO, DESPAIR AFTER NEW TRAVEL RULES

LONG BEACH: US Navy veteran Mohammed Jahanfar has traveled overseas four times in the last year to visit his Iranian fiancée, most recently hoping to complete government paperwork that would allow her to come live with him in the United States. But the 39-year-old now fears they will be forever separated after President Donald Trump's administration rolled out new restrictions blocking most Iranians from traveling to America. The new restrictions covering citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen — and some Venezuelan government officials and their families — are to go into effect Oct 18.

"It is devastating," said Jahanfar, who works as a salesman in Long Beach, California, and has lived in the United States for three decades. "There should be no reason why my fiancée, who is an educated person in Iran, who has a master's degree, why we cannot be with each other. I cannot wrap my head around it." This is the Trump administration's third measure to limit travel following a broad ban that sparked chaos at US airports in January and a temporary order issued months later that was challenged in the courts and expired last weekend.

Jahanfar is among 385,000 Iranian immigrants in the United States, according to the Census Bureau, more than any of the other countries covered by the travel restrictions issued last weekend.

The US has a many-layered history with Iran, a Middle Eastern ally until the pro-American shah was overthrown by the Islamic Revolution of 1979. The shah came to the US and so did tens of thousands of other Iranians. Now, the US and Iranian governments have no diplomatic relations. Even so, many Iranians and Iranian-Americans have been able to regularly travel back and forth and kept close family relations. —AP

TWITTER TO TALK TO HOUSE, SENATE IN RUSSIA PROBE

COMMITTEES SCRUTINIZE SPREAD OF FALSE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

WASHINGTON: Social media giant Twitter will visit Capitol Hill yesterday as part of the House and Senate investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 elections. Twitter's closed-door meetings with staff follow similar briefings from Facebook earlier this month, and the House and Senate panels have invited both tech giants, along with Google, to appear at public hearings this fall. The committees are scrutinizing the spread of false news stories and propaganda on social media, to what extent Russia was involved and whether anyone in the United States helped target those stories.

Unlike Facebook, which has said phony accounts on its platform attempted to stir up divisiveness in the election, Twitter has remained mostly silent. The two social media companies have different types of platforms, as Twitter allows users to register anonymously and has more public accounts than Facebook. Many lawmakers have expressed concerns about the proliferation of anonymous "bots" on Twitter and their potential to spread misinformation. Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, said Wednesday that he hopes Twitter will be forthcoming.

"They have obviously a different business model, and also they've never tried to prevent fake accounts, use of bots," Warner said, comparing the company to Facebook. "They don't deny they have allowed more anonymity. So they've got a different business model, we've got different questions for them." Still, Warner said, the investigation is ultimately up to how people manipulated both of those platforms. "People deserve to know," Warner said.

Retweeted

Twitter last week confirmed that officials would be meeting with the Senate panel and issued a statement pledging to improve defenses on its platform. "Twitter deeply respects the integrity of the election process, a cornerstone of all



PHILADELPHIA: This file photo shows the Twitter app on a mobile phone in Philadelphia.—AP

democracies, and will continue to strengthen our platform against bots and other forms of manipulation that violate our Terms of Service," the company said in a statement. Staff on both panels are likely to ask Twitter about the bots, and also about some of the potential vulnerabilities in terms of tracing potential foreign intrusions.

There have been concerns among some lawmakers that the company doesn't move quickly enough to remove posts and isn't able to track the original postings that were spread and retweeted. Twitter, Facebook and Google haven't yet said whether they will accept the invitations to testify publicly before both intelligence committees. The House intelligence committee is planning to hold a hearing in October and the Senate intelligence committee has invited witnesses to appear on Nov 1.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, confirmed the House invitation in an interview with the AP, though he noted a date had not yet been set. The details of the invitation from the Senate intelligence committee were confirmed by two people familiar with the panel's interactions

with the companies. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private invitations.

Trolls

The companies have some incentive to comply, as Warner and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar have said they are preparing legislation that would enhance transparency for online political ads and require social media companies to keep a public file of election ads and communications. The bill would also ask companies to "make reasonable efforts" to ensure that election ads are not purchased directly or indirectly by a foreign national.

Warner said it's his "hope and expectation" that the companies would work with him on the legislation, which he called "probably the lightest touch possible." Congress so far has been reluctant to regulate social media companies. But Warner and Klobuchar started working on the legislation as Facebook acknowledged that the hundreds of phony Facebook accounts, likely run from Russia, spent about \$100,000 on ads aimed at stirring up divisive issues such as gun control and race relations during the 2016 campaign. —AP

INDIAN COURT CHARGES EX-EDITOR WITH RAPING COLLEAGUE

MUMBAI: An Indian court yesterday charged the former editor of a renowned news magazine with raping a female colleague four years ago, the prosecutor said. Tarun Tejpal pleaded not guilty to charges of rape, sexual harassment and wrongful restraint, the public prosecutor Francisco Tavera told reporters outside the court in the western state of Goa. "The charges have

been framed against Tarun Tejpal and he has pleaded not guilty to rape charges," said Tavera.

Tejpal, the 54-year-old founder and former editor of Tehelka magazine, was accused of raping a female journalist in the lift of a five-star hotel in Goa in November 2013. He was granted bail in 2014. The case hit the headlines at a time when sexual assault was under the spotlight follow-

ing the fatal gang-rape of a student in New Delhi in December 2012 that sparked widespread protests and resulted in the strengthening of anti-rape laws.

Tehelka magazine had reported forcefully on gender inequality in India, highlighting police and judicial insensitivity to rape victims as well as the misogynistic attitudes of many Indian men. The woman, who has since quit

the magazine, cannot be named for legal reasons. The trial in the long-delayed case will start on November 21, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. Tejpal has consistently denied the allegations and has suggested that the ruling right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party was orchestrating the case to punish him for his magazine's critical coverage.—AFP



ISLAMABAD: This photograph shows Pakistani faithful offering Friday prayers at the Red Mosque in Islamabad during commemorations for the 10th anniversary of a military operation and the siege of the Red Mosque by Islamic extremists.—AFP

PAKISTAN'S CRACKDOWN ON 'RED MOSQUE' EXTREMISM

AZIZ CALLS FOR CALIPHATE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: Despite public humiliation and periods of house arrest, the former leader of Pakistan's notorious Red Mosque is inspiring a new generation of extremists with his old rhetoric-highlighting Islamabad's ambivalent attempts to bring religious hardliners to heel. Ten years after the military raid on his mosque made international headlines and shocked his country, Abdul Aziz remains influential, overseeing a network of seminaries as he calls for a "caliphate" to be established in Pakistan.

During his time at the helm of the Red Mosque, Aziz shot to prominence for his inflammatory sermons, advocating jihad against the West and a hard-line interpretation of Islam. He spread this message among his thousands of students, mostly poor children from rural areas who are educated for free at madrassas affiliated with the mosque, sparking accusations of brainwashing from critics. By 2007 things had reached a tipping point.

His armed followers had begun taking his message to the streets of the capital, vandalising CD and DVD stalls and kidnapping Chinese masseuses, with tensions quickly degenerating into murderous clashes. When the regime of then-President Pervez Musharraf launched an assault on the mosque on July 10, 2007, the army found itself facing heavily armed jihadists. The controversial operation was followed minute-by-minute on live television, with more than 100 people killed in the week-long effort to pacify the mosque and arrest its leaders.

The attack on the religious site sparked ferocious blowback from

extremists across the country, marking the emergence of the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) - an umbrella organization for homegrown militant groups targeting the Pakistani state. In the following years Islamist violence increased dramatically, with thousands of Pakistanis killed, maimed, or forced to flee their homes as security deteriorated. Aziz himself was arrested as he tried to flee the besieged mosque in a burqa, taken straight to a television studio and paraded in the garment - earning the nickname "Mullah Burqa".

Never convicted

He faced two dozen indictments, including incitement to hatred, murder and kidnapping. But Aziz was released on bail in 2009. "He was acquitted in all these cases, and the government has chosen not to file appeals," said lawyer and civil rights activist Jibrin Nasir. "There is no willingness for prosecution against him." Despite brief stints under house arrest, Aziz now appears to be galvanizing the next generation with his fiery preaching-apparently without fear of repercussions.

"The curious thing is that the army has gone after the TTP but not Aziz," said Pervez Hoodbhoy, a leading anti-extremist activist. "There's sympathy for his cause that's greater than the fear of being attacked again." Aziz is known to boast of his relations with well known jihadists like Osama Bin Laden and has spoken sympathetically about the Islamic State group. He has also condoned high-profile extremist attacks, like the massacre at the Charlie Hebdo

offices in Paris. "The impunity enjoyed by Abdul Aziz and other radical clerics raises fear of the capital returning to a 2007-like situation," said political commentator Zahid Hussain. In 2014, a video of students from his madrassa voicing their support for IS did not earn him any condemnation. "There should be a caliphate in the world including in Pakistan," said Aziz in a televised interview around that time.

Kicking the 'hornet's nest'

Aziz "is tolerated... because it would be like touching a hornet's nest", explains former general Talat Masood. Given the sensitivity of the population to religious questions, intervening "would risk attracting sympathies". Authorities, however, appear to be keeping him on a tight leash for now. Aziz is no longer welcome at the Red Mosque, which theoretically belongs to the state, and he has been placed on the Pakistan's anti-terrorist list.

A rally planned by his supporters to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Red Mosque siege was banned by the courts. In recent months, the authorities have blocked roads surrounding the mosque to prevent Aziz from holding rallies and have taken measures to stop him from preaching on Friday, even remotely by phone. The Red Mosque's new imam Maulana Aamir Sadeeq, an affable 30-year-old, said it was time to "forget the past" and "the extreme positions" of a decade ago. "We must put a distance between terrorism and us," said Sadeeq—who happens to be Aziz's nephew.—AFP

RACE ROW HAMPERS ROHINGYA REGISTRATION IN BANGLADESH

COX'S BAZAR: Many of the half a million Rohingya refugees newly arrived in Bangladesh are refusing to be registered because their ethnicity is not included in the document, slowing a process seen as key to their eventual return to Myanmar. The Bangladesh military began registering the estimated 480,000 new arrivals more than two weeks ago, but has so far only completed the process for around 24,000. Yesterday the coordinator for the registration centers said refugees were objecting to the language on the form, which refers to them simply as Myanmar nationals.

"According to our information, they want to have the name 'Rohingya' in their cards beside their citizenship status," Major Kabir Kibria said. "The government decision is to term them as only Myanmar citizen." Registering the Rohingya is seen as key to their eventual return to Myanmar, whose de-facto civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi has said the country would take back verified refugees. Aid agencies say it is also crucial to ensure that supplies are distributed evenly.

The United Nations estimates around 480,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since August 25 after fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state. There were already at least 300,000 Rohingya living there after fleeing previous bouts of violence in Myanmar, which regards them as illegal immigrants even though they have lived there for many generations. Bangladesh recognizes only a tiny proportion of the Rohingya as refugees, referring to the majority as undocumented Myanmar nationals.

Nur Hakim, who received his registration card yesterday, said he was "not happy" that the card given to him at the registration centre did not carry the word "Rohingya". "We are Rohingya Muslims. That's our primary identity. Why is it not mentioned in our cards?" he said. One Bangladeshi official said the government's decision not to include the refugees' ethnicity was in line with international norms.

"Many of their community leaders are spreading false information that the card wouldn't work without 'proper' identification," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.—AFP



BANGLADESH: A Rohingya Muslim refugee carries branches through Kutupalong refugee camp in the Bangladeshi district of Ukhia.—AFP



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center, applauds as the lower house of the parliament approved the snap election in Tokyo. — AFP

JAPAN'S ABE KICKS OFF DIFFICULT ELECTION BATTLE

ABE FACES CHALLENGE FROM GOVERNOR OF TOKYO

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe dissolved parliament yesterday, effectively kicking off a national election campaign where he faces an unexpected and formidable challenge from the popular governor of Tokyo. Members of the lower house raised their arms and shouted "Banzai" three times—the Japanese equivalent of "three cheers"—after the speaker read out a letter officially dissolving the chamber. Voters in the world's third-biggest economy will go to the polls on October 22, as Abe seeks a fresh popular mandate for his hardline stance on North Korea and a new tax plan.

"A difficult battle starts today," Abe told reporters, shaking his fist. "This is an election about how to protect the lives of people," said the premier. "We have to cooperate with the international community as we face the threat from North Korea." Abe asked for public support for his "strong diplomacy" on Kim Jong-Un's regime, which has threatened to "sink" Japan into the sea and fired missiles over its northern Hokkaido island twice in the space of a month. "We need to fight for our children's future."

Party of Hope

Abe stunned Japan on Monday with a surprise call for a snap election, seeking to

capitalize on a weak opposition and a boost in the polls, as voters welcome his hawkish policy toward Pyongyang. But Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike has upended Japanese politics in recent days, stealing Abe's limelight with her newly launched "Party of Hope" that seeks to shake up the country's lethargic political landscape.

Koike's new party, formally unveiled Wednesday, has attracted an influx of lawmakers from a wide range of ideological backgrounds and has succeeded in unifying opposition to Abe, presenting Japanese voters with a credible alternative to the premier. Japan's main opposition Democratic Party later yesterday decided not to run candidates in the election, effectively joining forces with Koike's juggernaut.

For the moment, although Koike is leading the party, she is not running for a seat in parliament, preferring to concentrate on governing the world's most populous city in the run-up to the 2020 Olympic Games. "I'll focus my energy on Tokyo. Leading Tokyo will be a plus to the whole of Japan," Koike told reporters.

But pundits say the charismatic former TV presenter, 65, could yet go all-in on her high-stakes gamble if she thought she could deflect criticism for ditching her cur-

rent job after only a year. "The party may gain some seats in the Tokyo area, but a risk for her is that voters may feel betrayed as they voted for her as Tokyo governor and now she is working in national politics," Kensuke Takayasu, professor of political science at Seikei University, said.

Vacuum

Surveys show that Koike's gambit is starting to put pressure on Abe, 63, who until recently seemed to be a shoo-in for a fourth term at the helm. Abe enjoyed a healthy lead in the polls of more than 30 points only a week ago but the gap appeared to have narrowed following Koike's high-profile announcement. A survey in the Mainichi Shimbun suggested that 29 percent of voters would cast ballots for Abe's conservative LDP, while 18 percent would vote for the Party of Hope.

Polls also suggest there are a large number of undecided voters, giving some hope to Koike's party that it can bridge the gap. Abe returned to power in December 2012 and has pushed a nationalist social agenda as well as his trademark "Abenomics" economic policy—big-spending and easy money—to end deflation and to kick-start the once world-beating economy.

The scion of a political dynasty, Abe had promised to achieve two-percent inflation and stable growth in two years, but nearly five years later, he has failed to deliver on those pledges.

He said on Monday he would use a planned hike in consumption tax from eight percent to 10 percent for new social spending, such as free early childhood education, while pushing back his pledges to restore the nation's fiscal discipline. Critics argue that Abe called the election to divert attention from an series of scandals in recent months that weighed on his popularity, including allegations of favoritism to a friend in a business deal—which the premier strongly denies. — AFP

PHILIPPINE LEADER CHANGES HIS TUNE WITH PRAISE FOR US ALLIES

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte voiced rare praise for the United States yesterday, calling it an important security ally, and dismissing historic grievances and his slew of past tirades against Washington as "water under the bridge". Duterte's anti-American outbursts have become notorious and baffling for one of Washington's closest Asian allies since the nation gained independence from the United States in 1946.

He was speaking on the 116th anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles in the American-Philippines war on the central island of Samar, where 39 Filipino civilians were killed in retaliation for the deaths of 48 soldiers killed by rebels. Last year, at his first international summit in Laos, the maverick leader stunned regional leaders when he showed them pictures of that massacre. Then US President Barack Obama canceled a bilateral meeting there with Duterte, who had called him a "son of a bitch" days earlier for expressing concern about his bloody war on drugs.

Yesterday, Duterte said he had been advised to tone down his anti-American rhetoric and had positive words for the US military, with which he has repeatedly threatened to sever ties, besides accusing it of supplying ineffective combat hardware and of making the Philippines a potential target for war. "This is all water under the bridge, I was under advice by the Department of Foreign Affairs, that I would temper my language and avoid cursing, which I am prone to do if I get emotional," Duterte said in a speech.

"I would not say they were our saviors, but they are our allies and they helped us. Even today, they provide crucial equipment to our soldiers in Marawi to fight the terrorists," he said, referring to a city where Islamic State loyalists have been holed up for four months. Duterte was speaking in Balangiga, a town burned down in 1901 by US soldiers, who seized two church bells as war trophies. Duterte has demanded the return of the bells and the two countries are now discussing the terms. — Reuters



MANILA: Anti-Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte protesters hold a streamer as they march for a rally at a park in Manila to commemorate the 45th declaration of martial law by then president Ferdinand Marcos. — AFP

TURKISH FAMILY OF PAK TURK SCHOOLS DIRECTOR ABDUCTED IN PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: The family of a former director of the Turkish PakTurk Schools in Pakistan has been abducted by authorities in the eastern city of Lahore, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said, less than a year after Pakistan sought to deport them. Pakistan has forged close ties with Turkey in recent years and President Tayyip Erdogan, who opposes the PakTurk Schools, has made several state visits to Islamabad.

Turkey has accused the schools of alleged links to Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, or his "Hizmet" movement, which Erdogan says was behind a failed coup attempt in Turkey last year. PakTurk schools deny such links but in November last year Pakistan ordered their Turkish teachers to leave the country. HRCP said Mesut Kacmaz, former director of the PakTurk International Schools and Colleges, was picked up on Wednesday by 20 armed individuals, according to their Turkish neighbor who spoke to the rights group.

Kacmaz, his wife, and two daughters were, "roughed-up, hooded, handcuffed and taken in a wagon" to a "furnished house where several other interrogators were also present", HRCP, a non-governmental organization, said in a statement late on Wednesday. — Reuters

SUICIDE CAR BOMB KILLS AT LEAST 12 AFGHAN POLICE

KABUL: At least 12 Afghan police were killed and four wounded when a Humvee packed with explosives drove into their checkpoint in the southern province of Kandahar late on Wednesday, a government official said. Abdul Bari Baryalai, a spokesman for the provincial government, said the attack took place in Maruf district, bordering Pakistan.

The attack, in one of the Taliban's heartlands, underlines the threats faced by Afghan security forces, notably police units on the front lines of the battle against insurgents who control or contest about 40 percent of Afghanistan. The incident came on the same day that militants attacked Kabul airport while US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was visiting the Afghan capital. — Reuters

TWO MALAYSIAN TEENS CHARGED WITH MURDER OVER SCHOOL FIRE

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Malaysian teenagers were charged with murder yesterday in connection with a fire that killed 23 children and teachers at an Islamic school this month. The pair, who cannot be named because they are aged under 18, were also charged with drug abuse along with four other suspects. Police arrested seven suspects, all aged 12 to 18, after the blaze—the country's worst for two decades—that gutted the school on September 14 in the capital Kuala Lumpur. The seventh suspect was released for lack of evidence, state prosecutors said.

Twenty-one students, all boys aged six to 16, and two teachers died as the inferno engulfed the religious school's dormitory just before dawn. Malaysian police believe the fire was deliberately started using gas canisters after the suspects had a disagreement with the school's pupils. The building's only exit was blocked by fire and the windows were barred with security grilles, preventing escape. State prosecutor Othman Abdullah said the suspects will be back in court on November 28.

Journalists were not allowed inside the courtroom and Othman did not give further details. Although adult murder convictions in Malaysia come with a mandatory death penalty, a senior minister confirmed earlier that juveniles cannot be sentenced to death, but can face jail time. The blaze focused attention on religious schools in Malaysia, where many Muslims send their children to study the Koran but which are not regulated by education authorities and have faced criticism for being unsafe. About 60 percent of Malaysia's population of more than 30 million are Muslim Malays, and the country is also home to substantial ethnic and religious minorities.—AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: This file photo shows Malaysian Muslims carrying the coffin of a victim of the Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah religious school fire for burial at Raudhatul Sakinah cemetery in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP

MORE THAN 120,000 FLEE RUMBLING BALI VOLCANO

KARANGASEM, Indonesia: More than 122,000 people have fled their homes on the resort island of Bali, fearful that a rumbling volcano could erupt at any time, disaster officials said. Mount Agung, 75 kilometers from the resort hub of Kuta, has been shaking since August and threatening to erupt for the first time since 1963 — a potential blow to the country's lucrative tourism industry. Officials at an evacuation centre in Klungkung district said 122,490 people had left their homes, taking refuge at nearly 500 makeshift shelters or moving in with relatives.

Around 62,000 people lived in the danger zone before the evacuations, according to Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency, but residents just outside the area have also left their homes out of fear. Despite the significant increase in estimated evacuees, the government said it was prepared. "In general the evacuation is going well, the logistics supply is sufficient for the evacuees' needs," Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the agency spokesman, said yesterday.

This week Indonesia's national disaster agency has sent face masks, mattresses, blankets and tents for evacuees, who have also been provided with food. Five mobile sirens have been installed in the danger zone to warn residents in the event of an eruption. Around 10,000 animals have also been evacuated from the flanks of the volcano. Officials estimate there are at least 30,000 cows within a 12-kilometre radius of the mountain's summit, and efforts to relocate them are ongoing. "We've set a target to evacuate 20,000 more cows from the affected areas," Nugroho said. — AFP



BEIJING: In this file photo, North Korean performers entertain customers at the Okryugwan restaurant in Beijing. — AP

CHINA ORDERS NORTH KOREAN FIRMS CLOSED UNDER SANCTIONS

CHINA BANS IMPORTS OF N KOREAN COAL, IRON, SEAFOOD

BEIJING: China yesterday ordered North Korean-owned businesses to close, cutting foreign revenue for the isolated North under UN sanctions imposed over its nuclear and missile programs. China is North Korea's main trading partner, making Beijing's cooperation essential to the success of sanctions aimed at stopping the North's pursuit of weapons technology. China, long North Korea's diplomatic protector, has gone along with the latest penalties out of growing frustration with leader Kim Jong Un's government.

North Korean businesses and ventures with Chinese partners must close within 120 days of the UN Security Council's Sept 11 approval of the latest sanctions, according to the Ministry of Commerce. That would be early January. North Korean companies operate restaurants and other ventures in China, helping to provide the North with foreign currency. North Korean laborers work in Chinese factories and other businesses.

Also yesterday China's foreign ministry appealed for dialogue to defuse the increasingly acrimonious dispute between US President Donald Trump's government and North Korea. "The Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is related to regional peace and stability," ministry spokesman Lu Kang said. "Breaking the deadlock requires all relevant parties to show their sincerity." China, one of five permanent Security Council members with veto power, supports the latest sanctions but doesn't want to push North Korea too hard for fear Kim's government might collapse.

Chinese leaders argue against doing anything that might hurt ordinary North Koreans. They agreed to the latest sanctions after the United States toned down a proposal for a total ban on oil exports to the North. Chinese officials complain their country bears the cost of

enforcing sanctions, which have hurt businesses in its northeast that trade with the North. The latest round of UN sanctions bans member countries from operating joint ventures with North Korea, most of which are in China.

They also ban sales of natural gas to North Korea and purchases of the North's textile exports, another key revenue source. They order other nations to limit fuel supplies to the North. China, which provides the bulk of North Korea's energy supplies, announced Saturday it would cut off gas and limit shipments of refined petroleum products, effective Jan 1. It made no mention

of crude oil, which makes up the bulk of Chinese energy supplies to North Korea and is not covered by the UN sanctions.

China also has banned imports of North Korean coal, iron and lead ore, and seafood since early September. On Thursday, the Ministry of Commerce defended its recent imports of North Korean coal, saying they were permitted by UN sanctions. A ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, said imports that were reported in August trade data were allowed by a "grace period" for goods that arrived before the UN ban took effect. The imports are "in line with the (UN) resolution," Gao said. — AP

N KOREA ACCUSES 'OLD LUNATIC' DONALD TRUMP OF EXPLOITING WARMBIER DEATH

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday accused US President Donald Trump of exploiting Otto Warmbier's death, calling the US president an "old lunatic" for alleging that the American student was tortured while in Pyongyang's custody. In a statement issued by the official KCNA news agency, North Korea's foreign ministry attacked the US for "luring and pushing" the 22-year-old student into breaking the country's laws.

"Trump and his clique, for their anti-DPRK propaganda, are again exploiting the death of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who had been under reform through labor for the criminal act he committed against the DPRK and died after returning to the US," it said, using the acronym for the North's official name. Warmbier, who was visiting the North as a tourist in January 2016 when he was arrested and imprisoned by the regime, died in June this year, just days after he was released from custody and sent home in a mysterious coma.

In the statement, the North accused "an anti-DPRK conspiracy organization in the US" of sending Warmbier to the country on a criminal "mission". "The fact that the old lunatic Trump and his riff-raff slandered the sacred dignity of our supreme leadership, using bogus data full of falsehood and fabrications, only serves to redouble the surging hatred of our army and people towards the US and their will to retaliate thousand-fold," it said. The statement came after a US medical examiner said Warmbier had shown no obvious signs of torture despite assertions by his parents and Trump.

His parents, in a series of American television interviews Tuesday, said their son showed signs of torture, including teeth that appeared to have been "rearranged" and hands and feet that were disfigured. "They kidnapped Otto, they tortured him, they intentionally injured him. They are not victims, they are terrorists," Fred Warmbier said on the program "Fox and Friends". — AFP

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A Roma girl waits in line to touch the holy remains of a saint at the Bistrita monastery compound in Costesti, Romania. — AP

Audrey Hepburn's personal memorabilia auction tops \$6 million



This combination photo shows Fox's 'The Family Guy' showrunners, writer and producer Alec Sulkin, left, at the world premiere of 'Ted 2' in New York on June 24, 2015, and producer Rich Appel at 'The Cleveland Show' Live! panel discussion at The Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills, Calif, on Sept 23, 2010. — AP

Fox's 'Family Guy' launches Season 16 on Sunday

As everyone must know by now, Fox's animated series "Family Guy" lives to lampoon human nature and human frailties, and does so without fear or favor. There's something bracing about "Family Guy" as it blows its whistle on a society that seems to grow ever coarser and more mean-spirited, while individuals squawk at any hint of disrespect directed toward them and wilt at every trigger word. For anyone weary of today's reflexive correctness, the show, with its deft blend of the ingenious and the rude-and-crude, provides a counteractive safe space where no low blow, regardless of how low, is inadmissible. And so it carries on, as porky patriarch Peter Griffin and his family and friends begin their 16th season on Sunday (9 pm Eastern) on Fox. With that in mind, show runners Rich Appel and Alec Sulkin recently shared some details of what lies ahead - including the series' 300th episode, which won't be just a milestone, Appel promises, "but one of our best."

The season premiere, said Sulkin, "will be our shameless grab to win a (best show) Emmy" - an itch so far unscratched by the Television Academy. As Peter embarks on his own For Your Consideration campaign, he will make "Family Guy" more like proven Emmy-winning shows, including not just comedy but also dramas and reality. Guest voices include Sofia Vergara, Ty Burrell, Julie Bowen, Louis C.K., Bill Maher, Christina Pickles and the late Adam West.

What else?

"We'll have a special episode where (precocious toddler) Stewie is in therapy for the entire half-hour," said Sulkin, "with the therapist played by Sir Ian McKellen." "Stewie actually learns something about himself," said Appel - "as opposed to everyone else's therapy."

Another episode, titled "Three Directors," will tell the same simple story - Peter losing his job - within the half-hour, "but each version is told in the style of Quentin Tarantino, Wes Anderson and Michael Bay," Appel said. "We have an episode where Brian (the erudite, articulate family dog) and Stewie go back to Victorian England and play Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson," said Sulkin. "That seems like something we might have done before, but we actually hadn't."

The series, which premiered in 1999, was created by Seth MacFarlane, who handed over the reins as showrunner in 2010 to pursue other projects, including the two "Ted" films and, currently, his new Fox sci-fi series "The Orville," which he created, wrote and stars in. But he continues to voice a number of favorite "Family Guy" characters, "and while he's recording if there are things that he doesn't like, or DOES like, he will let us know," Sulkin said. One of MacFarlane's signature elements in the show is its cutaway gags and comic asides. Peppered through each episode's 22 minutes, those cutaways are where some of its sharpest and most devilish comedy resides, and where the series takes its wildest flights of fancy.

"It's one of Seth's brilliant strokes," said Appel. "The cutaways pre-date YouTube and Hulu clips, and anticipated the shared content of my kids' generation. When people watch 30- or 60- or 90-second bits that they like, that they think is funny, they'll follow the trail to the whole show those bits came from. 'Family Guy' is popular because hopefully it's good, but the cutaways serve as a lifeline to the show in some ways." Another MacFarlane masterstroke continues unabated: the considerable naughtiness of "Family Guy." This means ongoing discussions with the network over content. "Rich has a background in law," said Sulkin, "so when we have issues that are brought up by Standards, he is particularly good at making arguments to get us around some of those issues."

"I think what Alec is saying is: as a comedy writer, I'm a great lawyer," Appel cracked. "Rich just made several valiant phone calls trying to defend a bit in an upcoming show which is a play on the 'I Love Lucy' chocolates-on-a-conveyor-belt scene," Sulkin said. "But instead of Lucy, it's Peter. And instead of chocolates, it's little Dixie cups filled with truckers' urine for a drug test. Those are the kinds of things that we fight for." "It's not exactly what my mother imagined when she paid for my law school," Appel said, "but it's something." He didn't say who won this particular debate. — AP

'Flatliners' resurrects Hollywood's afterlife fixation

For many it's harps, halos and angel wings, for some celestial spheres and astral planes and for others still, reunions with long-departed family and friends in sunlit Elysian fields. Whatever your image of what lies beyond there's a version of it immortalized on celluloid somewhere in Hollywood's rich canon of life-after-death movies. From "Heaven Can Wait" and "It's a Wonderful Life" to "The Sixth Sense"-still the most successful horror movie of all time-Tinseltown has been offering a window into the heavenly realm for decades. The latest take on the hereafter is "Flatliners," a reboot of the 1990 cult classic about student physicians shocking themselves to the other side and back with a young new cast and a masters degree in medical authenticity.

"Death is the last great unknown, in some ways. It's like the depths of the sea and the depths of space," Danish director Niels Arden Oplev told AFP. "We know more about the Big Bang than we do about the final countdown." Movie-goers over the age of 40 will remember the premise of "Flatliners": a group of devil-may-care medical students, obsessed by the mystery of what lies beyond, embark on an audacious, dangerous experiment. Stopping their hearts for short periods, each triggers their own near-death experience as their colleagues monitor their brain activity, to see if they can find any proof of the afterlife. A cast of established talent and rising stars replace the original ensemble led by Kiefer Sutherland, who gets a sizeable cameo this time around, Kevin Bacon and Julia Roberts.

'Shortcut to greatness'

Led by Oscar nominee Ellen Page ("Juno," "Inception") "Flatliners" 2017 co-stars Diego Luna ("Milk," "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") alongside Nina Dobrev, James Norton and Kiersey Clemons. Co-produced by Hollywood veteran Michael Douglas, a producer on Joel Schumacher's original, the reboot turns up the dial on the psychological scares. But Oplev, who made 2009's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," the most successful Scandinavian film of all time, says the new "Flatliners" is also a metaphor for American culture's obsession with getting ahead. Oplev's characters discover that having flatlined and faced death, they not only experience what the afterlife might be like but also come back with enhanced abilities.

"The competition to carve out a career and job for yourself for young people today is so much harder and so much more crazy than 27 years ago. And young kids today, they take all kinds of crap to study 12 hours, to stay awake," Oplev says. "They all have this desire to take a pill to shortcut to greatness. And then suddenly you realize that was a lot of fun, that was great, and now there's a bill to pay that I did not foresee coming." The bill in "Flatliners" is steep: as the characters experience death and resurrection, they are forced by horrific supernatural visitations to confront past actions they deeply regret. Science has advanced dramatically over the last quarter century, and the director worked with medical experts to ground the scary thrills and spills in modern technology.

'Small liberties'

He brought on medical consultant Lindsay Somers and her network of nurses, radiologists and neurosurgeons to ensure the action was as accurate as possible. Every diagnosis and prescription had to be authentic, while the actors were shown how to carry equipment correctly and give injections the way a real physician would. Despite what Hollywood leads us to believe, you can't actually shock someone who is flatlining back to life without first getting a heartbeat, says Somers.

Even those ubiquitous paddles aren't used any more, but were kept in the movie because, well, they look more dramatic than glued-on pads. "Obviously, because we're making a Hollywood film and not a documentary, we took small liberties with some things. But overall we tried to keep it as accurate as possible," says Somers. Another difference between Oplev's film and Schumacher's is the intensity of the psychological horror, which has been jacked up for a less easily shockable generation.

"The film language-especially within scary films-has changed a lot in 27 years. The audience expects more than the audience of 1990," Oplev told AFP. The 56-year-old filmmaker, who was approached by Sony in 2013 to helm the remake, says he only watched the original twice during his production. "The old film is a great inspiration, although we are definitely not remaking it as much as we are reinterpreting it," he told AFP. "Flatliners" opens in US theaters on Friday. — AFP



Cast members Diego Luna (left), Kiersey Clemons (second left), Ellen Page (center), Nina Dobrev (second right) and James Norton arrive for the world premiere of Columbia Pictures' 'Flatliners,' at The Theatre at the Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, California. — AFP



Actor Michael Douglas arrives for the world premiere of Columbia Pictures' 'Flatliners,' at The Theatre at the Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, California.

Jay-Z, J Lo headline hurricane benefit show

Rap mogul Jay-Z and pop superstar Jennifer Lopez will headline a concert in New York to raise funds for survivors of hurricanes that have devastated the United States and the Caribbean. Tidal, the streaming service led by Jay-Z, on Wednesday announced the line-up of the show that will take place on October 17 in Brooklyn's Barclays Center arena. Lopez, born in New York to parents from Puerto Rico, recently donated \$1 million to relief for

Hurricane Maria, which has brought catastrophic damage to the island's electricity and other infrastructure.

The concert's hip-hop-heavy lineup will also feature rappers DJ Khaled, Cardi B, Joey Bada\$\$, Belly, Iggy Azalea, Vic Mensa and Daddy Yankee-the Puerto Rican rapper who was part of the viral global hit "Despacito." Performers of other genres include the electronic artist Kaskadee, R&B singer Chris Brown and pop group Fifth Harmony. Hurricanes

Harvey, Irma and Maria, which all carried monstrous ferocity, battered the Caribbean and parts of the United States in quick succession starting last month. Jay-Z's wife Beyonce, who recently gave birth to twins and is not scheduled to perform, earlier promised long-term help for her hometown Houston as it rebuilds from Harvey. — AFP

My 'Fenty Beauty' experience

By The Real Fouz

This past month has been such a whirlwind of excitement and as always I can't wait to share it with my amazing followers who continue to support me and allow me to have experiences like these. I flew to New York to attend two world-class global events, the first being Bella Hadid and Bvlgari's Goldea Roman Night perfume launch followed by the global launch of Rihanna's brand new makeup line "Fenty Beauty". It was such an honor to be one of the top influencers chosen by Rihanna herself to represent the Middle East at the Fenty Beauty launch.

I've been such a huge fan of Rihanna for as long as I can remember, so being exclusively invited to such a prestigious event was more than amazing. It was such a memorable experience to be a part of an exclusive event like this, and it is also a reminder of the amazing level of success that social media influencers in the Middle East have achieved to be recognized at worldwide events like this one. What I loved about the collection and Rihanna's vision for this beauty line was the fact that it includes products that complement different skin tones.

As Middle Eastern girls, we often struggle with makeup brands that don't offer shades suitable for our skin tones. Rihanna's statement on her website says that "Fenty beauty is created for every-

one: for woman of all shades, personalities, attitudes, cultures, and races. I wanted everyone to feel included. That's the reason behind making this line". Nowadays, so many make up brands only cater to one specific region or race and provide very limited shades which means that a lot of women aren't able to use and try out products simply because they don't offer their specific skin tone shade.

Rihanna's entire vision for this line was making sure that women of all races could use and enjoy her products and feel beautiful. The diversity shown at the Fenty Beauty launch from the choice of multicultural models as well as the products themselves and the crowd was so inspiring to be a part of. My favorite products from the line have to be the Match Stix Trio. Anyone who watches my make up tutorials on Snapchat knows that I'm obsessed with using products like this to contour and highlight.

I really loved the creamy formula and how easy and blend able these sticks are. Another one of my favorites is the Gloss Bomb, which is the only lip product in the collection. It's so moisturizing and instantly gives you fuller and smoother lips, the rose nude shade is the perfect color to complement different skin tones. As always I'm so grateful to be a part of something like this. Thank you for your continuous support and never ending love.



An employee poses in front of an installation displaying pairs of leather ballet pumps during a preview of Audrey Hepburn's personal collection.



An employee posing in front of the My Fair Lady, 1964, working script with a reserve price of £30,000 - £50,000 during a preview of Audrey Hepburn's personal collection at Christie's auction house.



This file photo shows a visitor walking during a preview of Audrey Hepburn's personal collection at Christie's auction house in central London. — AFP photos

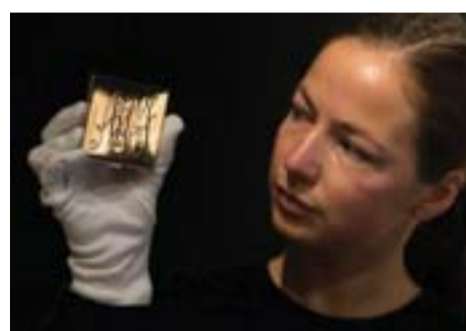
Audrey Hepburn's personal memorabilia auction tops \$6 million

An auction of items from screen icon Audrey Hepburn's personal collection has made more than \$6 million, including a world record for her script of the 1961 film "Breakfast at Tiffany's", Christie's announced yesterday. The lots realized £4,635,500 (\$6.21 million, 5.29 million euros), Christie's said following the 10-hour sale in London on Wednesday. "We have been utterly delighted with the overwhelming response to the personal collection of Audrey Hepburn," said Adrian Hume-Sayer, head of sale and director of private collections at Christie's auction house.

"She is one of the greatest icons in the history of film and the incredible result so far, for part one of the collection, is a testament to her enduring appeal." Bidding remains open online until October 4 for part two of the sale. The British actress, who died in 1993 aged 63, was a movie and style icon from the 1950s onwards. Dresses and coats, accessories including sunglasses, gloves and earrings as well as letters, photographs and paintings were among the 246 lots in Wednesday's sale, entitled "The Personal Collection of Audrey Hepburn". They came from the late film legend's Swiss home. "My mother kept it in the attic, quite literally," Hepburn's son Luca Dotti told AFP at a viewing last week.

Script breaks record

The top-selling item on Wednesday was her working script for "Breakfast at Tiffany's", which sold for £632,750, breaking the world auction record for a movie script. It was estimated to fetch between £60,000 and £90,000. The parts for the character of Holly Golightly are marked in Hepburn's signature turquoise ink, with words underlined in blue ballpoint pen and



An employee holding a monogrammed powder compact Ciardetti, Firenze, 1950s, with a reserve price of £2,000 - £3,000 during a preview of Audrey Hepburn's personal collection at Christie's auction house in central London.

pencil for emphasis. Her working script for the 1964 film "My Fair Lady" went for £206,250. A 1969 oil on canvas painting by Hepburn entitled "My Garden Flowers" went for £224,750.

A Cecil Beaton silver print photograph of Hepburn as Eliza Doolittle from "My Fair Lady" fetched £93,750, well above its estimate of £2,000 to £3,000. The final lot of the night was an engraved Tiffany bangle from the late 1980s, a gift from director Steven Spielberg, with the interior engraved "You are my 'inspiration' Always, Steven". It was estimated at £3,000 to £5,000, but sold for £332,750. Hepburn won an Oscar for her role as a princess in the 1953 US romantic comedy "Roman Holiday". The film star's family said they chose to keep a number of items like her collection of awards, including her Oscar statuette. Other items were also too sentimental to sell, including family photos from Hepburn's childhood. Christie's said the Hepburn auction had seen its highest online participation for any sale to date, while the London pre-sale exhibition of lots drew more than 12,000 visitors. — AFP



An employee poses in front of a suit of olive green cashmere by Givenchy, 1990, with a reserve price of £500-£800 during a preview of Audrey Hepburn's personal collection.



MUSEUMS GIVE PEEK INTO SECRET WORLD OF YVES SAINT LAURENT



Yves Saint Laurent was one of greatest yet most private fashion designers of the 20th century. Now only weeks after the death of his partner and lover Pierre Berge, the hard-nosed business brain behind the legend and the keeper of the flame, some of the creator's innermost secrets are coming to light. The first of two new museums dedicated to his memory was inaugurated in Paris yesterday as a raft of new books and documentaries—including one on his erotic drawings—attempt to decode the mysteries of the painfully shy man who revolutionized women's fashion.

The Paris mansion where Saint Laurent shook up the dress codes for more than three decades has been turned into a museum for his haute couture creations. A much larger museum, also paid for by the foundation set up by Berge to safeguard his partner's legacy, opens next month in Marrakesh, the Moroccan city the couple loved and where Saint Laurent would often first sketch out his collections. "Coco Chanel liberated women, but Yves Saint Laurent gave them power," Berge once said, by appropriating the symbols of power from the male wardrobe dinner jackets, safari suits and jumpsuits—and remaking them for women.

Inner sanctum

"I had noticed men were much more confident in their clothes," Saint Laurent once said in a rare inter-

view. "So I sought through trouser suits, trenchcoats, tuxedos and pea coats to give women the same confidence." His black tuxedo for women, known as "Le Smoking"—often wore over bare flesh—caused a scandal in 1966, with the New York socialite Nan Kempner dropping her pants when she was told by a Manhattan restaurant that women in trousers would not be admitted. Saint Laurent would later design a jacket as a thigh-skimming mini dress just as Kempner, one of his best customers, had worn it. The heart of the new Paris museum is Saint Laurent's studio, the inner sanctum where he would work night and day in the run-up to his shows.

It remains just as he left it in 2002, his desk festooned with photos of his inner circle of glamorous female friends which included Catherine Deneuve, Bianca Jagger and Paloma Picasso. Pride of place, however, goes to a New Year's card he made from a painting his friend Andy Warhol did of his French bulldog Moujik. One wall of the room is completely mirrored, which allowed Saint Laurent to work directly on his live models so he could see his creation from all angles as it progressed. The museum also gives revealing insight into Saint Laurent's creative process, developing his clothes from very basic sketches into complex designs that, in the case of some of his haute couture creations, could take thousands of hours to make.



This picture shows creations by late French designer Yves Saint Laurent, displayed at the new Yves Saint Laurent museum, located in the historical building of his fashion house on avenue Marceau in Paris. — AFP photos

Berge's enduring devotion

"Unlike many other designers Saint Laurent began systematically archiving his work in the early 1960s — encouraged by Berge-and so we can follow the evolution of each item," said a spokesman for the museum, which holds a treasury of 5,000 prototypes for his creations. Other rooms in the museum are given over to Saint Laurent's inspiration and the "imaginary voyages" his collections often took to Asia, Africa and most famously Russia. But other than his sojourns in Morocco—which reminded him of his native Algeria where he was born in 1936 while it was still French—the designer was not much of a traveller.

With Berge he built up a considerable art collection and he borrowed liberally from artists like Picasso, Matisse and Van Gogh, most famously with his Mondrian dress, which became an instant pop icon when it hit the catwalk in 1965. Berge always believed that Saint Laurent—who had begun his career by stepping into the shoes of Christian Dior when he was just 21 — was not

ing less than an exceptional artist, calling him "the greatest designer of the second half of the 20th century".

Having "spent all my life helping Yves Saint Laurent build his work, which I want to last", Berge died earlier this month, just weeks before the museums opened.

His husband, the American landscape artist Madison Cox-whom he married this summer-told AFP that "10 days before he died he told me that 'I am going to die totally at peace', and I think that was true. He was a very determined man and he had put everything in place." Cox said the museums were also a tribute to Berge's work supporting and protecting the fragile Saint Laurent, who was haunted by drug and drink addictions. "Of course I and the whole team are profoundly sad that he will not be here," added Cox, who now heads the pair's charitable foundation. "But he would have wanted that we go on." — AFP



Vice-president of the Foundation Berge-Saint Laurent and husband of late co-founder of fashion house Yves Saint-Laurent, Pierre Berge, Madison Cox, poses for photographs at the new Yves Saint Laurent museum, located in the historical building of his fashion house on avenue Marceau in Paris.

Paris Fashion Week



Models present creations by Manish Arora during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris, yesterday. — AFP photos

SCRATCH THE ITCH OF ASIAN TAKEOUT CRAVING WITH KUNG PAO COD

By Melissa D'arabian

Eating healthy doesn't mean there isn't room for occasional treats like Chinese takeout or a drive-thru for our favorite one-of-a-kind cheeseburger. As long as we keep these kinds of meals reserved for true cravings, not convenience, then I can probably keep our healthy eating in check.

For regular weeknights, building up a repertoire of fast, tasty and healthy versions of the family's favorite dishes is the best strategy to avoid ordering fast food simply because I'm so hungry I no longer care what you eat as long as it's quick. (Nothing worse than scarfing down a pizza that I didn't truly enjoy!)

What if there was a way to incorporate some of these drool-worthy indulgences into a normal weeknight menu? Kung Pao Cod scratches the itch of the Chinese takeout craving, but for a fraction of the calories, fat and cost. I keep

the main flavors of traditional Kung Pao, but swap out fried chicken or shrimp for pan-seared cod, which means lots of protein comes with healthier fat. I keep the cod in whole fillet form, which means the fish stays together better, and no time is lost on cubing meat. I pan-sear the fillets and then pour the sauce over the fish just before serving. The mild fish takes on the complex flavors readily, even without the typical marinating of Kung Pao.

To add even more nutrients, I bulk up the dish with quick-cooking and healthy mushrooms and peppers. And the sauce is simplified to save time: I whisk all the ingredients into one bowl and dump it all at once into the pan, and cook it only for a minute or so. Small tweaks make this recipe weeknight-speedy and weeknight-healthy, too.



KUNG PAO COD

Ingredients

Servings: 6
Start to finish: 25 minutes
6 fillets of cod, or other firm fish about 2 pounds total
1 tablespoon reduced sodium soy sauce
1 teaspoon cornstarch
2 teaspoons neutral oil, like grapeseed oil
2 teaspoons sesame oil
8 ounces white mushrooms, sliced
3/4 cup thinly sliced bell pepper (red, orange or yellow preferred)
1/2 cup unsalted peanuts, shelled
1/2 cup chopped green onion
cilantro leaves for garnish, optional
Sauce:
1/3 cup reduced sodium soy sauce
2/3 cup water

3 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/4-1/2 teaspoon (to taste) red pepper flakes (or Szechuan seasoning, or chili paste)

Preparation

Heat a large nonstick saute pan on medium high heat. On a cutting board or plate, drizzle the tablespoon of soy sauce over both sides of the cod fillets, and gently pat away the excess with a paper towel. Sprinkle the cornstarch over both sides of the fish, and gently pat away or brush away any excess. (They should barely be dusted with cornstarch.) Place the neutral oil in the pan, and once hot, cook the cod just until golden brown and cooked

through, turning once, about 4 minutes per side.

Meanwhile, whisk all the sauce ingredients together in a small bowl and set aside. Remove cod from heat and set aside on a warm plate. Add the sesame oil, mushrooms and sliced peppers to the pan and cook a minute or two until vegetables begin to soften. Add the peanuts and half of the green onion and cook another minute. Pour all of the sauce ingredients from the bowl into the pan. It will thicken almost immediately. Stir and remove from heat. Spoon the Kung Pao sauce over the fish to serve, and sprinkle with remaining green onion and cilantro, if using.

Nutrition information per serving: 202 calories; 47 calories from fat; 5 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 65 mg cholesterol; 318 mg sodium; 8 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 31 g protein.

Serve Butternut Squash & Leek Soup with Gruyere Pesto Toasts

By Sara Moulton

As we head into the fall, our local markets are beginning to feature winter squash. Each variety has its charms, but one of the standouts is butternut squash. Like its brethren, it becomes creamy when cooked and pureed, with no need for cream or thickener. Flavor-wise, though, it wins.

Most butternut squash recipes tell you, first, to peel and cut up the squash, and then to steam or boil it. I've figured out a couple of different ways to get the job done. The result is a soup that's safer to prepare and much tastier when you finally dip your spoon into it. As anyone who's ever tried to cube a winter squash knows all too well, these guys can be perilously hard to handle. True, the supermarket sells them already peeled and cubed, but they're pricier than whole squash and likely not as fresh.

For Butternut Squash and Leek Soup with Gruyere Pesto Toasts, we halve and roast the whole squash without peeling or seeding it first. Typically, halving the squash requires slicing it through from stem to stern. Instead, I suggest laying the squash on the counter, sticking the tip of a chef's knife all the

way through the middle of the squash, then slicing from the mid-point to one of its ends. Rotate the squash 180 degrees horizontally, insert the knife tip back into the middle of the veggie and slice away in the direction of the uncut end. Done.

Now the halves are ready to be baked, cut-side-down, on a rimmed sheet pan. Baking squash concentrates its flavor and brings out the natural sugars - unlike boiling or steaming it, which makes it watery. And don't bother to scrape out the seeds beforehand; it's easier after the squash has been cooked. You can prep and cook the rest of the ingredients while the squash is baking and then cooling. These include leeks, Canadian bacon (aka smoked pork loin) and gruyere pesto toasts - all of which contribute to what is a very substantial dish in the end. Round it out with a salad on the side, and this soup becomes a plausible entree. Vegetarians are welcome to substitute vegetable stock for the chicken stock and leave out the bacon.

Ingredients

Start to finish: 2 hours 5 minutes (50 active)

Servings: 4 as an entree, 6 as a first course

For the soup:

4 pounds butternut squash

Oil for oiling the sheet pan

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided

6 ounces sliced Canadian bacon, medium chopped

3 cups thinly sliced white part of leek (about 3 large leeks)

1 quart chicken or vegetable broth

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Kosher salt and black pepper

For the toasts:

Twelve 1/2-inch thick slices French baguette cut on the bias

3/4 cup packed fresh basil leaves, finely shredded

3 tablespoons toasted pine nuts, coarsely chopped

2 ounces coarsely grated Gruyere cheese (about 3/4 cup)

1/2 ounce finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano (about 1/4 cup grated on a microplane)

Make the soup:

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Working carefully, halve the squash lengthwise and arrange it cut-side down on a lightly oiled parchment-lined rimmed sheet pan. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven, until very tender, 60 to 75 minutes.

While the squash is baking, in a large saucepan or a Dutch oven, heat 2 tablespoons of the butter over medium heat, add the bacon, reduce the heat to medium-low and cook the bacon, stirring occasionally, until it is golden brown at the edges, 5 to 8 minutes. Transfer the bacon with a slotted spoon to a bowl, leaving as much of the fat as possible in the pan. Add the remaining tablespoon butter and the leeks and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are very tender and starting to color, about 6 to 8 minutes. If the squash is not ready, take the pan off the heat and set it aside.

When the squash is tender, remove it from the oven, turn it over and let stand until cool enough to handle. Discard the seeds and scoop out the flesh. Combine half the squash with 1/2 cup water in a food processor and puree until very smooth. Add to the saucepan with the leeks and bacon. Repeat the procedure with the remaining squash and another 1/2 cup water and add to the saucepan, along with the chicken broth. Bring the liquid to a simmer. Add the lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste and additional water if necessary to thin the soup to the desired consistency.

Make the toasts:

Arrange the French baguette slices on a sheet pan and when the squash has come out of the oven, bake the slices on the middle shelf until they are slightly golden, turning them, 2 to 3 minutes a side. In a bowl combine all the remaining ingredients. Right before serving the soup, divide the mixture among the toasts and bake them until the cheese is melted and bubbling, about 5 minutes.

To serve: Ladle the soup into soup bowls and top each portion with some of the hot toasts.



THE STEPHEN KING RENAISSANCE

A tribute to the King and a brief look at 'It' and 'The Dark Tower'

By Aakash Bakaya

Growing up, I was obsessed with horror novellas. It began with RL Stine's 'Goosebumps' and continued with copycat author in between. I devoured those stories in a day or two and groped for the next one as soon as I finished. The stories varied in quality but no matter how good or bad they were - I loved going over every minute detail in them. At one point, I used to narrate abridged versions of entire 'Goosebump' books to a friend in school who was interested in the story but not interested in actually reading any of them.



As it usually happens, my tastes grew more varied the older I got. The 'Harry Potter' series was becoming a global phenomenon after the first two movies released out and Peter Jackson's 'Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King' had just won 11 Oscars, the first for a fantasy film. Before I watched any of those movies, I decided to read their respected novels first. LOTR and Harry Potter subsequently got me heavily invested into the fantasy and adventure genre and I left my love for horror and thriller stories in the box we kept our old 'Goosebumps' in... but not for long. On one of the countless nights I've spent rummaging through my Dad's enormous book collection, I came across a faded blue covered novel that looked intriguing. I still have that novel on my bookshelf to this day - it was Stephen King's 'Misery'. It was the novel that cemented my love not only for reading but for stories themselves. It also began a journey through the world of the crazy, mad, genius that is Stephen King.

King's works have accompanied me in almost every stage of my life, through the confusing days of high school, the crazy years of college and beyond. During all those years, I watched quite a lot of his big and small screen adaptations. But up until this last month I've never seen the words 'Based on a novel by Stephen King' on the big cinema screen. 'The Dark Tower' and 'It' both released almost a month after each other and the results have been...disappointing to say the least - majorly disappointing.

The Dark Farce

I could only come to one conclusion when I stumbled out of the cinema after watching 'The Dark Tower', that conclusion was - 'That was easily the worse cinema experience I've ever had'. Dethroning 'Suicide Squad' in that dishonorable list, 'The Dark Tower' was the epitome, the amalgamation of everything that plagues big budget Hollywood studio productions.

The film's script had been rejected on multiple occasions and no amount of rewrites or support from acclaimed directors managed to get the green light on this ambitious project. Adapting a imaginative, strange and epic source material like the 'Dark Tower Saga' was a tremendous challenge no matter how you went about it. Finally after a decade of rejection, Sony Pictures finally got the rights and set to work immediately. No doubt hungry for an opportunity to take advantage of the Stephen King revival other studios and production houses were latching on to.

When they bestowed the role of the iconic gunslinger 'Roland Deschain' to Idris Elba it was hard not to get excited even with the knowledge of Sony Picture's abysmal track record on adapting beloved

source materials. However when the trailer finally dropped, my heart sank. It looked cliched, tonally-confused and absolutely nothing like the novels. The final product is the trailer but magnified by a hundred.

It was a train-wreck, a horrible accident my eyes could scarce believe. It was barely an adaptation; it was more a cruel joke, a farcical imitation with a few names and places from the books thrown in. They clearly thought it would appease those fans that were simply happy to see the saga finally on the big screen (or any screen for that matter) but for me, that drove the insult even further home. I was thankful to have watched it alone because if I went with friends, I would have felt embarrassed telling them I read the books this was supposedly based on.

I usually feel the need to pen a review for films that affect me so...personally. But in this case I chose to erase it from my memory. I avoided thinking about it and speaking about it, I simply denied its existence. That is until now. So if you're looking for an in-depth explanation for why 'The Dark Tower' was as bad as I'm claiming it to be, I implore you to look elsewhere. Bits and pieces of the film still linger in some part of my brain which stores all my traumatic memories and I would like to keep them there.



(From left to right) Screenshots from 'Stand By Me', 'The Shining', 'Carrie' and 'Misery'.



Idris Elba as Roland Deschain in "The Dark Tower"



The cover from the final volume of "The Dark Tower" saga

'It' tries to hard

It was little more than a month till I stepped into the cinema again and when I did, ironically it was yet another King adaptation - 'It'. Most King fans have a flexible list of their top 10 favorite novels of his and 'It' would probably come in around the 13th or 14th

mark on my own list. It was a great read but was hampered by King's incessant need to meticulously go over town's dark histories and a very strange final act. The film set-off to focus only on the first half of the novel where the kids first deal with 'Pennywise the clown', an evil entity that has been terrorizing their town for centuries. It was competently done as far as adaptations but the overall story just very felt flat to me.

I can easily see I am in the minority with this outlook. The film is performing phenomenally at the box office and has become the highest grossing Stephen King film and one of his most acclaimed. But ultimately almost nothing in the film really clicked for me. The performances of the child actors bounced between average to irritating and the scares were cheap and ineffective. Bill Skarsgard's Pennywise shined at the start but wore down its welcome as the film plodded on. The numerous side plots of the kids harked back to classic King tropes of bullied kids and overbearing, zealous parents but I couldn't help but feel that it's all been done better before. The general atmosphere of the film was filled with late 80's-early 90's nostalgia which I enjoyed but it could only carry the film so far. It was a faithful re-telling of the novel's plot and captured the feel of middle-town USA that King himself did so well.

The novel focused more on the psychological effects of fear so a visual parade of it was always going to be more effective on the page rather than the screen. 'It' also made me realize that the only Stephen

King movie adaptation to really scare me was Kubrick's 'The Shining'. That film brilliantly dealt with psychological horror so it was not surprising why I truly love that film.

Piecing together why I revere horror novels but despise most modern horror movies was an epiphany of sorts. King's masterful touch to creating unforgettable and frightening horror stories worked because he so easily got into the readers head. He toyed with your emotions and threw constant loops to your expectations. However on the screen, the facade slips away and you realize that some scares work better when they remain in your head. 'It comes at night' hit cinemas this week and it realized this point as well. It was one of the most nerve-racking experiences I've ever had in a cinema and I attribute that solely to the fact that up-coming director Trey Edward Shults understood that sometimes fear imagined is much scarier than fear realized.

Stephen King introduced me to the world of fiction and it is a world I still haven't left. This piece began as a tribute to him but I soon realized little to no words could ever do justice to the worlds, words and characters than he's given me and millions of other avid readers. Adaptations of his numerous works will always be hit or miss and from the looks of things they are hardly stopping with 'Gerald's Game' and '1922' coming soon. I look forward to each of them and may this new Stephen King renaissance continue on.



Bill Skarsgard as Pennywise the clown



The Loser's Club from 2017's "It".

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Top **five** reasons to visit

Poland



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The Tatra mountain range, Poland

With its picturesque old towns and medieval architecture, wild forests and powdery-sand beaches, humming city life and imaginative culinary scene, Poland is a country that's as captivating as it is surprising.

Urban antics aplenty

Poland's two biggest cities, Krakow and Warsaw, may be vastly different from each other, but both make fantastic city break destinations. The sprawling capital, Warsaw, is a modern and vibrant hub, with a slew of world-class attractions such as the Warsaw Rising Museum, as well as excellent shopping and a blossoming culinary scene: smart modern-Polish restaurant Warszawa Wschodnia takes top billing. Almost completely destroyed during WWII, some parts of the city have been restored using original pictures and paintings as a reference, so visitors can get a sense of what it looked like in its former glory.

By contrast, Krakow's charming Old Town has been left largely intact since the 13th century. It's one of the most impressive in Europe, crammed with stunning historical edifices, winding cobbled streets, and majestic monuments around every corner. Rynek Glowny is the heart of the Old Town, a huge and impressive square that was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1978. Cloth Hall, a beautiful Renaissance-era building, is located in the middle of the square. Once the epicentre of the textile trade in medieval Poland, it's now home to shops and art exhibitions. Also in the square is St Mary's Basilica, one of Poland's most important religious buildings.



The interior of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

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Malbork Castle

Reflect on history

Poland has had a turbulent history and, although at times harrowing, it's worth taking the time to learn about the country's past. One of Poland's most-visited sites is the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum, the largest of Nazi Germany's concentration and extermination camps. Located in Oswiecim, around 75km from Kraków, a visit here is by no means pleasant, but presents a window into the unimaginable horror that took place during the Holocaust. Today the grounds, museum and memorial are a somber reminder of the 1.1 million people who lost their lives here.

There are many other sites dedicated to Jewish heritage across Poland. In Warsaw, the displays at the Jewish Historical Institute and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews present in detail what life was like for the Jewish community in Poland throughout the ages. In Krakow, the Jewish district of Kazimierz - although now a quirky-cool area filled with galleries, shops and cafes - gives visitors an insight into Jewish life with its memorials, synagogues and cemeteries. The city of Lodz, which was once the home of many working-class Jews, offers a similar experience but on a larger scale.

Explore the great outdoors

Mountains clad in lush vegetation in summer and swathed in snow in the winter, tumbling rivers that carve their way through thick forests, and the dreamy Baltic Sea...Poland has all bases covered when it comes to the great outdoors. For hiking, the Tatras can't be missed. Often nicknamed the Polish Alps, locals arrive in droves in the winter to ski and snowboard. Bieszczady, near the Ukrainian border, is another haven of (smaller) mountains, thick forests and meadows that seem to stretch on forever. Not many visitors make it out here, so it's the perfect place to recharge in peace and quiet. Meanwhile, for adventures on the water, the Great Masurian Lake district, a labyrinth of rivers and lakes in Poland's northeast, is a favourite amongst boat lovers.

Experience the life of nobility

Ancient castles, majestic palaces and extravagant mansions are scattered all over Poland. These residences are not only enticing places to explore, they also offer a glimpse of what life was like for Polish aristocrats. Medieval Malbork Castle, a gargantuan brick fortification, is one of the biggest castles in the world and is not to be missed if you're in Gdansk: it's an easy day trip just 30km from the city. The Royal Castle of Warsaw is worth a visit for the fact that it's entirely a 20th-century reconstruction alone, while Krakow's Wawel Royal Castle is the heartbeat of Polish cultural identity. Further afield, a two hour drive from Krakow gets you to the picturesque Pieniny mountains, where Niedzica Castle stands atop its rocky perch and Czorsztyn Castle's romantic ruins await exploration.



Pierogi, delicious Polish dumplings

Enjoy top table tastes

Obviously, the best food to eat in Poland is Polish food and there's nothing quite like the country's traditional hearty fare. If you like duck, pork, sauerkraut and dumplings, then you may have found your paradise - just pack stretchy trousers. But beyond the Polish favorites, the culinary scene is flourishing, with plenty of young chefs experimenting with interesting flavors and novel ingredients to offer diners something different from the norm.

Whatever you're eating, it will generally be well-priced. You can eat at fine-dining restaurants for a quarter of the price compared to similar establishments elsewhere in Europe, and cafe fare is diverse and usually inexpensive. In major cities you'll find everything from modern Polish cuisine and amazing vegan fare to freshly brewed chai and a wide assortment of international food favourites. In the countryside...well, there will always be dumplings. Airports in the major Polish cities are well serviced, with budget airlines such as Ryanair, easyJet and Wizz Air covering routes across Europe. Poland is part of the Eurail network and can be included on a European rail pass. The bus network is extensive, and highways are top notch for those on self-driving adventures. In cities, public transport is generally frequent and cheap. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In the workplace today, you perform successfully, as you exhibit your ability to get past the surface of things and separate the thing that has real worth. Your presence in a group situation has a decided effect. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You do not have to leave home to escape from the rat race. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you. You may be very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. A sense of community and unity permeates your family life. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. You are creative when it comes to partnerships or lovers; you seem to establish unusual and different relationships. You may find that a love relationship will deepen during this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day is one of those amazing days when everything works together. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities prevail and you may find yourself deciding that it is time to write a book. You certainly have enough material to write on any one of your favorite subjects. There may be some question in your mind about needing a change in your position at work. Check out the inner-office openings and you will be able to move into a place that gives you some challenges. You may decide to do some special cooking this evening, and if you have your windows open, you may find some uninvited guests are willing to taste your experimental recipe. Everybody has fun!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are always interested in being of help to others. You enjoy teaching or helping young people use their creative mind with their use of words. Your sense of humor is not missing from your communications today. There are many practical ideas available to you, especially related to your job or skills. Careful, a customer may tell you a sad story to get a special deal. You appreciate, care and are concerned but not much can fool you. This afternoon you may enjoy a community project. Perhaps you and your family will help to contribute towards the beautification of your neighborhood. If everyone participates, the value of property could increase. You are constantly on the side of humanism at every turn.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in speech and communication. You are a natural for self-expression and others enjoy listening to your particular ideas and thoughts. The initiative is yours and you will find positive end results develop from your enthusiasm to achieve. This is a day to dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled or by daring to be more involved in the development of business: new approaches. You are inspired to motivate others with your creative and inventive ways. What-if types of questions seem to be the keys that turn you into the wizard all enjoy having on their side.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself having a difference of opinion with others today. This, however, is the only way to introduce new ways of thinking among your particular business comrades. Make it a point to remove the emotions, and if you find others getting emotional, excuse yourself from the conversation. There will be other opportunities to expand upon some new idea. Given time, your ideas will gain recognition. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface now and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for penetrating conversation this evening. Perhaps a book or magazine on the latest electronic techniques would be mesmerizing. A friend you have not heard from in some time may give you a call. Old times are fun to review.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Throwing caution to the wind, you could ignore whatever responsibilities you have and pursue a particular objective today. You have animal-like instincts when it comes to big business and this is a good time to use those instincts. You are where the action is most intense. Your mind will get through the unimportant and straight to the bottom line. Some may even respect your tenacity and it is exciting to be near you. You may tend to take paths at right angles to your real ambitions if you let yourself become distracted. If you have a co-worker friend that will join you in a project, you can keep each other focused; talk about staying focused before you begin. This afternoon you may enjoy some creative activity with some form of art, theater, sports, etc.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may uncover. You will be feeling successful and able to cope with whatever comes across your path. Good advice from a guide may be forthcoming. You are very fortunate in being able to grow and progress throughout your life without major difficulties. You can always find the resources you require at hand plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine manager and businessperson. You bring passion to your work. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You are always coming up with new ideas; this is a productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would like to tell someone off at work today but you will benefit from just moving your thoughts to another place. . . Perhaps the next adventure you will take with the money you earn. You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others and your efforts today do not go unnoticed. You usually know just what to do. You may be moved to appreciate the beauty in your life and those around you. A sense of humor is one of the necessary ingredients to make a tough situation easier to handle. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. You may feel like involving yourself in some sort of celebration this evening-a celebration of life. There are new insights regarding home life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend towards mental pursuits and admire intelligence. You are very flexible and other-oriented today. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require. You are probably a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom take you by surprise. You have a great deal of control over your actions. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. You know just how to maneuver yourself into the right places; now is the time to get ahead.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Someone may criticize you today and find you somewhat preoccupied and lacking in the social graces. This is only a temporary glitch in your day. You have an innate love of the law and working things through, and you are not put off by any difficulties. On the contrary, you may look forward to hunting problems down so that you can solve them. You have the ability to work with others, particularly regarding vocation or career guidance. You can advise and guide others in all sorts of subjects, and you may find yourself doing so today. This could be a particularly lucky day. Study the options carefully before making any investment decisions. Tonight is a good night for you to take your turn at cooking.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Killer Hornets From Hell
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:00 Swamp Brothers
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 Whale Wars
05:02 Wildest Middle East
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Going Ape
07:25 Swamp Brothers
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Killer Hornets From Hell
10:05 Wildest Middle East
11:00 Swamp Brothers
11:28 Swamp Brothers
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 Whale Wars
13:45 Killer Hornets From Hell
14:40 Wildest Middle East
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Wild Animal Rescue
18:20 The Vet Life
19:15 Urban Predator: Lion On The Loose
20:10 Swamp Brothers
21:05 Wild Animal Rescue
22:00 The Vet Life
22:55 Wildest Middle East
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

02:10 Tallest Tower: Building The Shard
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
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 The Big Brain Theory
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 America's Cutest Pets
12:00 Finding Bigfoot
12:50 How It's Made
13:40 Pick A Puppy
14:05 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 The Carbonaro Effect
17:50 Superhuman Showdown
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
20:45 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 The Carbonaro Effect
22:00 Superhuman Showdown
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Destroyed In Seconds

16:10 Murder Chose Me
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 The Perfect Murder
18:40 Nowhere To Hide
19:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
20:20 Blood Relatives
21:10 Grave Secrets
22:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
22:50 Evil Lives Here
23:40 Murder In Lehigh Valley: Keith Morrison...



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The 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 The Swap
12:05 The Zhuzhus
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Bizaardvark
13:35 Bizaardvark
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Jessie
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Disney's Descendants
18:20 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
18:45 K.C. Undercover
19:10 Tsum Tsum Shorts
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Crackle
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 Lolirock
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
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 Loopdidoo



00:20 Misfit Garage
01:05 What On Earth?
01:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
02:35 Built To Survive
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 Harley And The Davidsons
07:30 Telescope
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 How Do They Do It?
09:25 The Island With Bear Grylls
10:10 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
10:55 Harley And The Davidsons
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Street Outlaws
13:32 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
14:17 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
15:02 Fast N' Loud
15:47 Fast N' Loud
16:35 Fast N' Loud
17:25 Fast N' Loud
18:20 Street Outlaws
19:15 Street Outlaws
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Street Outlaws (Vs. Fast N' Loud Mega Race)
21:50 Street Outlaws (Vs. Fast N' Loud Mega Race)
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
23:30 Deadliest Catch

13:20 I'm In The Band
13:45 I'm In The Band
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 I'm In The Band
14:40 I'm In The Band
15:05 Pants On Fire
16:35 Phineas & Ferb
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 E!'s Look Book
00:35 E!'s Look Book
01:05 E!'s Look Book
01:30 Life Of Kylie
02:00 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
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
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 E!'s Look Book
20:30 E!'s Look Book
21:00 E!'s Look Book
21:30 E!'s Look Book
22:30 Eric And Jessie
23:00 E! News
23:15 Famously Single

17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
20:30 Ching's Amazing Asia
21:00 Jenny Morris Cooks Morocco
21:30 Jenny Morris Cooks Morocco
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:10 Chopping Block
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:40 Catchphrase
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Chopping Block
07:05 The Chase
08:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
09:30 Catchphrase
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Chopping Block
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
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 Tracey Ullman's Show
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
22:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Weapons At War
02:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Bible Secrets Revealed
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 Bible Secrets Revealed
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 Bible Secrets Revealed
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 The Lost Evidence
23:00 Million Dollar Genius



00:20 New Age Of Terror
02:00 Ax Men
02:50 Storage Wars Texas
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Hunting Hitler
06:50 Time Team
07:40 American Pickers
08:30 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
09:21 Swamp People
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 Mystery Pickers
12:40 American Restoration
13:30 Pawn Stars South Africa
13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
14:20 Pawn Stars
14:45 Pawn Stars
15:10 Counting Cars
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Alone: Lost And Found
16:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights



00:10 Holby City
01:05 Uncle
01:35 Agatha Raisin
02:25 Benidorm
03:15 New Tricks
04:10 Doctors
04:40 EastEnders
05:10 Agatha Raisin
06:00 EastEnders
06:30 Casualty
07:30 Doctor Who
08:20 Doctor Who
09:25 EastEnders
10:00 EastEnders
10:30 EastEnders
11:00 EastEnders
11:35 Holby City
12:30 Doctors
14:35 EastEnders
15:10 Casualty
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
18:35 Casualty
19:30 I Want My Wife Back
20:00 Top Of The Lake
22:05 Benidorm
22:55 Uncle
23:25 Mum
23:50 Doctors



00:05 South Park
00:30 Idiotsitter
00:55 Another Period
01:20 The Half Hour
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
02:35 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Framework
05:05 Bondi Ink.
05:55 Urban Tarzan
06:50 Frankenfood
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Coaching Bad
09:20 Urban Tarzan
09:45 Urban Tarzan
10:10 Catch A Contractor
11:00 Ridiculousness
13:05 Disaster Date
13:30 Disaster Date
13:55 The It Crowd
14:20 The It Crowd
14:45 Impractical Jokers UK
15:10 Impractical Jokers UK
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Lip Sync Battle
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Impractical Jokers
17:20 Impractical Jokers
17:45 Brotherhood
18:10 The It Crowd
19:01 Key And Peele
19:24 Key And Peele
19:48 Ridiculousness Arabia
20:11 Workaholics
20:34 Idiotsitter
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 South Park
22:00 Jon Richardson - Nidiot Live
22:50 Show Me The Funny
23:40 The President Show



00:30 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead
01:20 I Am Homicide
02:10 The Perfect Murder
03:00 Evil Online
03:48 Disappeared
04:36 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 Evil Online
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 The Perfect Murder
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
15:20 Blood Relatives



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack



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
08:05 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



00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
00:30 Pick A Puppy
00:55 Pick A Puppy
01:20 Space Dealers

Templar
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Counting Cars
18:55 Counting Cars
19:20 Cars That Made America
21:00 American Pickers
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Storage Wars
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald



00:45 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
01:10 Carnival Eats
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Places We Go
02:35 Warrior Road Trip
03:30 Around The World In 80 Dishes
04:25 Bangkok Airport
05:20 Carnival Eats
05:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Places We Go
08:05 Warrior Road Trip
09:00 Around The World In 80 Dishes
09:55 Bangkok Airport
10:50 Carnival Eats
11:15 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Places We Go
13:05 Places We Go
13:35 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
14:30 Around The World In 80 Dishes
15:25 Bangkok Airport
16:20 A Is For Apple
16:45 Carnival Eats
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 Bangkok Airport
20:00 A Is For Apple
20:30 Carnival Eats
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Places We Go
23:20 Places We Go
23:50 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!



00:10 Mega Factories
01:00 Maritime Silk Road Reborn
02:00 Attack Of The Zeppelins
03:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
04:00 Mega Factories
05:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
06:00 The Food Files
06:30 The Food Files
07:00 Genius
08:00 Seconds From Disaster
08:30 Seconds From Disaster
09:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
11:00 Hard Time
12:00 Maritime Silk Road Reborn
13:00 The Food Files
13:30 The Food Files
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
14:30 Seconds From Disaster
15:00 Genius
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
17:00 Hard Time
18:00 Year Million
19:00 Mission Saturn
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
Compilations
20:50 Hard Time
21:40 Year Million
22:30 Mission Saturn
23:20 The Food Files
23:45 The Food Files



00:20 Boss Croc
01:10 India's Lost Worlds
02:00 When Crocs Ate Dinosaurs
02:50 World's Deadliest Killers
03:45 Wild Case Files
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 When Crocs Ate Dinosaurs
06:30 World's Deadliest Killers
07:25 Wild Case Files
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Inside The Pack

11:05 1000 Days For The Planet
12:00 Amazon's Electric Fish
12:55 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
13:50 World's Deadliest Killers
14:45 Wild Case Files
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Incredible Bats
18:25 Mission Critical
19:20 Wild Case Files
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Incredible Bats
22:40 Mission Critical
23:30 Amazon's Electric Fish



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 Best Player
12:36 Lost In The West I
13:24 Rank The Prank
13:48 Rank The Prank
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 School Of Rock
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Hunter Street
16:36 Hunter Street
17:00 Hunter Street
17:24 Hunter Street
17:48 The Thundermans
18:12 The Thundermans
18:36 The Thundermans
19:00 The Thundermans
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 Game Shakers
20:12 Game Shakers
20:36 Game Shakers
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
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:23 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
12:47 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
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17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine



00:15 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
00:40 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
01:05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
01:30 The Last Man On Earth
01:55 The Detour
02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 George Lopez
05:15 Son Of Zorn
05:40 Men At Work
06:30 Gary Unmarried
06:55 Cougar Town
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 George Lopez
10:15 Son Of Zorn
10:40 Gary Unmarried
11:05 10 Items Or Less
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Fresh Off The Boat
12:45 Black-ish
13:10 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
13:35 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
14:00 George Lopez
14:25 Son Of Zorn
14:50 Gary Unmarried
15:15 Men At Work
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Fresh Off The Boat
17:30 Black-ish
18:00 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
18:30 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
19:00 Men At Work
19:30 Men At Work
20:00 Marlon
20:30 New Girl
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
22:30 The Last Man On Earth
23:00 One Mississippi



00:40 Star
01:30 Star
02:20 The Unit
03:20 Chicago Fire
04:10 Training Day
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Star
09:20 Chicago Fire
10:10 Training Day
11:00 The Unit
11:45 Lethal Weapon
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Training Day
17:00 Chicago Fire
18:00 The Unit
19:00 Survivor: Heroes v. Healers v. Hustlers
20:00 The Amazing Race
21:00 This Is Us
22:00 Empire
23:00 Blood Drive
23:50 American Crime



00:00 Montana
01:45 Shanghai Knights
03:40 Independents' Day
05:10 I Am Number Four
07:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
08:50 Shanghai Knights
10:45 Drop Zone
12:30 I Am Number Four
14:20 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
16:35 Grosse Pointe Blank
18:25 Gone In Sixty Seconds
20:25 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
22:10 Revenge Of The Green Dragons
23:45 Company Business



01:15 Secretariat
03:20 Herbie Fully Loaded
05:05 Sky High
06:45 Wall-E
08:25 Herbie Fully Loaded
10:05 Brother Bear
11:35 Sky High
13:20 Ratatouille
15:15 Up
16:55 The Odd Life Of Timothy Green
18:45 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
20:40 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
22:15 Ratatouille



00:00 Star
01:00 Supergirl
01:50 Emerald City
02:40 Star
03:30 Star
04:20 The Unit
05:20 Chicago Fire
06:10 Training Day
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Star
11:20 Chicago Fire
12:10 Training Day
13:00 The Unit
13:45 Lethal Weapon
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Training Day
19:00 Chicago Fire
20:00 The Unit
21:00 Survivor: Heroes v. Healers v. Hustlers
22:00 The Amazing Race
23:00 This Is Us



00:00 Dance Flick
01:35 The Last Shot
03:10 Made In America
05:05 Hope Springs

06:40 Mr. Deeds
08:20 Made In America
10:20 Hope Springs
12:00 Big
13:45 Mr. Deeds
15:25 Clifford
17:00 Daddy's Home
18:45 The Duff
20:30 Hot Pursuit
22:00 American Pie
23:40 Dirty Grandpa



01:25 Suffragette
03:20 Amores Perros
06:00 Alex Of Venice
07:30 The Better Angels
09:05 The Best Of Me
11:15 Alex Of Venice
12:55 Man In The Moon
14:45 Experimentor
16:35 5 Flights Up
18:10 The Wave
19:55 The Dark Half
22:00 The Shining



01:10 Egon And Donci
02:35 Ethel & Ernest
04:20 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas
05:35 Zodiac: The Race Begins
07:15 Meet The Robinsons
08:55 Two Buddies And A Badger
10:20 Cher Ami
11:55 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story
13:15 Egon And Donci
14:40 Ethel & Ernest
16:25 Bark Ranger
17:55 Cher Ami
19:30 The Wheelers
20:55 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
22:30 Bark Ranger



01:40 Blown Away
03:50 Last Knights
05:55 Seventh Son
07:50 Blown Away
09:55 Little Man Tate
11:40 The Intern
13:45 The Bad News Bears
15:40 Mission To Mars
17:35 Die Hard
19:50 The Color Of Money
21:50 Cinderella Man



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 The Unexplained Files
03:00 The Future Of...
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 The Unexplained Files
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 The Future Of...
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 The Unexplained Files
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Food Factory USA
11:02 Food Factory USA
11:26 The Future Of...
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 The Unexplained Files
14:38 The Future Of...
15:26 Food Factory USA
15:50 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 The Unexplained Files
17:50 The Future Of...
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 You Have Been Warned
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 The Unexplained Files
22:00 You Have Been Warned
22:50 The Future Of...
23:40 Mythbusters



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
02:35 Oprah's Master Class
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 Sister Wives
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love At First Swipe
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Oprah's Master Class
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 The Undateables
18:50 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 Tina Malone: Pregnant At 50
23:30 Return To Amish



01:00 World Of X Games
02:00 European Rally Championship Highlights
03:00 UCI BMX World Championship Highlights
04:00 WWE Wal3ooaha
04:30 Arena Esports
05:00 World Of X Games
06:00 European Rally Championship Highlights
07:00 Monster Jam
08:00 Red Bull Air Race Highlights
09:00 This Week In WWE
09:30 WWE Wal3ooaha
10:00 Monster Jam
11:00 X Games Xtraordinary
12:00 WWE Bottom Line
13:00 WWE Afterburn
14:00 WWE Wal3ooaha
14:30 ESL Pro League
18:00 Arena Esports
18:30 X Games Xtraordinary
19:00 Monster Jam
20:00 WWE Experience
21:00 WWE Wal3ooaha
21:30 X Games Xtraordinary
22:00 Red Bull Air Race Highlights
23:00 Monster Jam



00:00 The Ultimate Fighter: A New World Champion
01:00 Legends Football League
02:30 UFC Top 10
03:00 The Ultimate Fighter: A New World Champion
04:00 Motul FIM Superbike Highlights
05:00 UIM F1 H2O World Championship Highlights
05:30 UIM F1 H2O World Championship Highlights
06:00 UFC Top 10
06:30 UFC Top 10
07:00 MotoGP Highlights
08:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
09:00 Motul FIM Superbike Highlights
10:00 Live Motul FIM Superbike World Championship
11:30 FIA World Touring Car Championship Highlights
12:00 One Weekly
12:30 The Ultimate Fighter: A New World Champion
13:30 Motul FIM Superbike Highlights
14:30 MotoGP Highlights
15:20 Live Motul FIM Superbike World Championship
18:00 FIA World Touring Car Championship Highlights
18:30 UFC NOW
19:30 UFC Reloaded

WORD SEARCH

The Beach

Find and circle all of the beach words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional beach word.

TRIHSTSTOWELBE
YKSESUATSAGLER
ASVURIIODDNAAO
SAEFNUFRBIIBCH
WUISSSARDNLYHS
WNNMSOCRAGIEBA
GAISBAIRNTALAE
PWTFFHFOEDSLLS
SIRETIKGCEDOLE
HUEWRCNANENVSA
SAORLIFEFGUARDG
TOTEEFERABSNLU
DESWIMMINGPAIL
LLEHSAESDUOLCL

- BARE FEET
- BEACH BALL
- BOAT
- CLOUDS
- DRIFTWOOD
- HAT
- KITE
- LIFEGUARD
- OCEAN
- PAIL
- PIER
- SAILING
- SAND
- SEAGULL
- SEASHELL
- SEASHORE
- SKY
- STARFISH
- SUNGLASSES
- SUNSCREEN
- SUNSHINE
- SURFBOARD
- SURFING
- SWIMMING
- SWIMSUIT
- T SHIRT
- TOWEL
- VOLLEYBALL
- WADING
- WATER
- WAVES

Yesterday's Solution

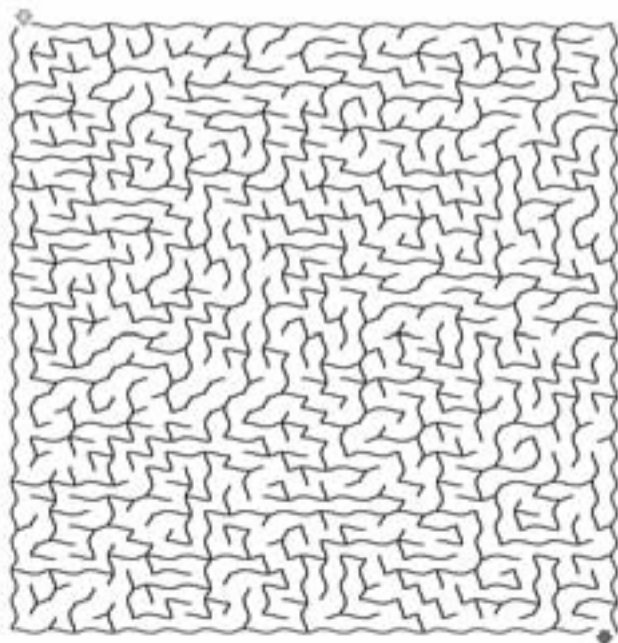
Thanksgiving (U.S.)

MACPILGRIMS PARADE
SMAYSWEETPOTATOPY
UNIREHIADSRTHOAS
DNPLLABITGOFFRNIC
GOSUCKKSNLSDEAONR
GOTMIEREIVSYUUAOT
FRUPKCNABEITIBENAT
RIFIFINDAARAKAEAY
NNPRLUREFRACLEP
SGGIAMISUMSINGE
SYEKRUITRIBALEH
HARVESTINUVERALEY
HSAUQSUEHERANLW
RFAMILYLAFILADE

- ANNUAL
- AUTUMN
- CELEBRATION
- CORN
- CRANBERRY
- FAMILY
- FEAST
- FESTIVAL
- FOOD
- FOOTBALL
- FRIENDS
- GATHERING
- GRAVY
- HARVEST
- HOLIDAY
- LONG WEEKEND
- MASHED POTATOES
- MEAL
- NOVEMBER
- PARADE
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH
- PUMPKIN PIE
- RELATIVES
- REUNION
- SQUASH
- STUFFING
- SWEET POTATO
- THURSDAY
- TRADITION
- TRAVEL
- TURKEY
- WAMPANOAG
- YAMS

The hidden message is: MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1722

15 16 17
18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25
26 27 28
29 30 31 32 33 34
35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45
46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54 55
56 57 58 59 60
61 62 63
64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71
72 73 74 75 76 77
78 79 80
81 82 83

ACROSS

1. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
5. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Carolinas.
12. An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
15. Socially incorrect in behavior.
16. Feeling or caused to feel uneasy and self-conscious.
17. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
18. A cloth used as a head covering (and veil and shawl) by Muslim and Hindu women.
20. All the plant and animal life of a particular region.
21. A doctor's degree in education.
22. A large fleet.
23. In operation or operational.
24. Small genus of dioecious tropical aquatic plants.
26. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
29. The trait of lacking restraint or control.
32. A Russian river.
35. A boy or man.
36. Being one more than fifty.
39. Expel, as of gases and odors.
41. A group of countries in special alliance.
43. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
45. An expression forming a grammatical constituent of a sentence but not containing a finite verb.
46. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
48. (informal) Of the highest quality.
49. Resonance of protons to radiation in a magnetic field.
50. Any of various spectacular plants of the genus Laelia having showy flowers in many colors.
52. Minute sedentary marine invertebrate having a saclike body with siphons through which water enters and leaves.
56. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
57. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
59. A Mid-Atlantic state.
60. Feeling or showing extreme anger.
62. Being two more than sixty.
64. (Old Testament) The fourth son of Jacob who was forebear of one of the tribes of Israel.
68. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
72. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
73. Woody climbers of tropical Asia to Australia.
77. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
78. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
80. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
81. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
82. A mixture of nectar and pollen prepared by worker bees and fed to larvae.
83. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

DOWN

1. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
2. A tributary of the Rhine.

3. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
4. Wish harm upon.
5. Make a half turn on a horse, in dressage.
6. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
7. Excluded from use or mention.
8. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
9. A United Nations agency to coordinate international health activities and to help governments improve health services.
10. Asian pepper plant whose dried leaves are chewed with betel nut (seed of the betel palm) by southeast Asians.
11. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
12. Sour or bitter in taste.
13. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
19. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
25. A hot glowing or smouldering fragment of wood or coal left from a fire.
27. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
28. A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
30. French novelist.
31. The clay from which adobe bricks are made.
33. (Islamic) The will of Allah.
34. English writer (born in Ireland) (1713-1766).
37. Food made from dough of flour or meal and usually raised with yeast or baking powder and then baked.
38. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
40. An irrational but irresistible motive for a belief or action.
42. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
44. Being nine more than ninety.
47. The capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Congo river opposite Brazzaville.
51. Used of a single unit or thing.
53. English comic actor (1925-1980).
54. Being one more than two.
55. Flowing in drops.
58. An associate degree in nursing.
61. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
63. Being three more than forty.
65. Employed in accomplishing something.
66. (Norse mythology) God of war and strife and son of Odin.
67. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling.
69. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
70. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
71. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
74. Rate of revolution of a motor.
75. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution

ESE CAPTURER BAD
PHD ABERRANT ORR
HAG MEGILP LENTO
AHAB LLD HITLESS
RAY EASED ODDS
CI GE GCA ASP
AB DAB NB USHAS
SABAH SABA EIVA
ADAD CC AMADAVAT
BAT BAA TAKEN II
ANASA BB HA KALE
HB AD BIAS
FABIANA EPA RAJA
ARAB ADANA AARON
HERA PEDICAB UKE
DASH ANOMALA MEW

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



OKLAHOMA CITY: Sumatran Tiger Cub, "Gusti" is examined by Dr Gretchen Cole, zoo veterinarian, during a wellness exam in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Sept 27, 2017. — AP

OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO SAYS ADOPTED TIGER CUB IS HEALTHY

OKLAHOMA CITY: A medical checkup shows that a 2-month-old tiger cub rejected by her mother at the Philadelphia Zoo is healthy and continuing to make progress with her adopted family at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Zoo officials said Wednesday that Zoya and her brothers Eko, Ramah and Gusti are all doing well. They still are nursing from their mom, Lola, but are starting to eat meat.

The cubs have gained popularity from the zoo's livestreaming video, which shows them playing, feeding and sleeping indoors. The cubs were expected to move to an outdoor habitat this month, but the zoo says a trial run showed they weren't ready. Instead of knowing to return with their mother to the den at night for safety, they stayed outside and had to be brought in. — AP

WHO REPORTS 25 MILLION UNSAFE ABORTIONS A YEAR; EXPERT SEES HIGHER RISK FROM US CUTBACKS

GENEVA: Nearly half of the estimated 56 million abortions performed worldwide every year are unsafe and women in poor countries face even higher risks due to US funding cuts to family planning programs abroad, health experts said yesterday.

US President Donald Trump has reinstated a policy that requires foreign NGOs that receive US global family planning funds to certify that they do not perform abortions or provide abortion advice as a method of family planning.

Worldwide, 25 million unsafe abortions occurred every year between 2010 and 2014, according to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Guttmacher Institute. Some 97 percent of those are in Africa, Asia and Latin America. "Nearly half of abortions in the world are unsafe. And that is surprising because safe abortion is a simple intervention, scientifically speaking," said Dr Bela Ganatra of WHO department's of reproductive health and research.

"There is an association between highly restrictive laws and unsafe abortion," she told a news briefing. All women and girls need access to sex education and effective contraception to avoid unwanted pregnancies and get safe abortion services if desired, Ganatra said.

Uruguay, Nepal and Ethiopia have made safe abortion accessible in recent years, she added. Ireland plans to hold a referendum next May or June on whether it should loosen some of the world's strictest abortion laws, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on Tuesday.

Around 88 percent of abortions occur in developing countries, where contraception is often lacking, said Dr Gilda

Sedgh, principal research scientist at the Guttmacher Institute, speaking from New York. Sedgh, asked about the impact of Trump's executive order, said it bans US health assistance to foreign NGOs if they provide abortion services, counseling or referrals, "even if they use non-US funds for those activities".

"Funding cuts to USAID, which is the channel through which family planning assistance is provided, has also been proposed in the US budget," she said.

"We don't have hard evidence yet of the impact of those policy changes and

proposed budget cuts."

But a more limited so-called "gag rule" was imposed by previous Republican administrations, Sedgh said. Studies indicated that in sub-Saharan Africa this had led to an increase in abortions after clinics were forced to close.

"So looking ahead, we can only speculate based on the past, that it's possible that this policy will again compromise women's access to family planning services and put them at greater risk of abortion, including unsafe abortions." —Reuters

FAKE AUSTRALIAN CANCER BLOGGER GETS HEFTY FINE

SYDNEY: An Australian blogger who faked brain cancer and professed to have cured the disease with natural therapies was fined Aus\$410,000 (US\$320,000) yesterday over the false claims. The Federal Court in Melbourne found that Belle Gibson deceived people when she launched a popular cookbook and smartphone app in 2013 asserting she overcame cancer through alternative treatments, including Ayurvedic medicine and a gluten-free diet.

In 2015 she confessed to an Australian magazine that she lied about the diagnosis. It also emerged that she failed to make donations she had publicly pledged to charity.

"If there is one theme or pattern which emerges through her conduct, it is her relentless obsession with herself and what best serves her interests,"

Justice Debra Mortimer said in handing down the fine for misleading and deceptive conduct.

Gibson, 25, who did not attend the hearing, made some Aus\$420,000 from her book and a popular social media business, promising much of the earnings to charity.

Mortimer said people bought her app as they incorrectly believed profits were going to a good cause. In one of "the most serious" instances Gibson promised a week's earnings to a family whose child had a brain tumor. "She did this to encourage members of the public to buy her product (The Whole Pantry app), to generate income for herself and her company, and generally to promote herself and her commercial activities," the judge said. "She consciously chose to use the terminal illness of a little boy in this way." — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
 د. فهد علي المخيزيم



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



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

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

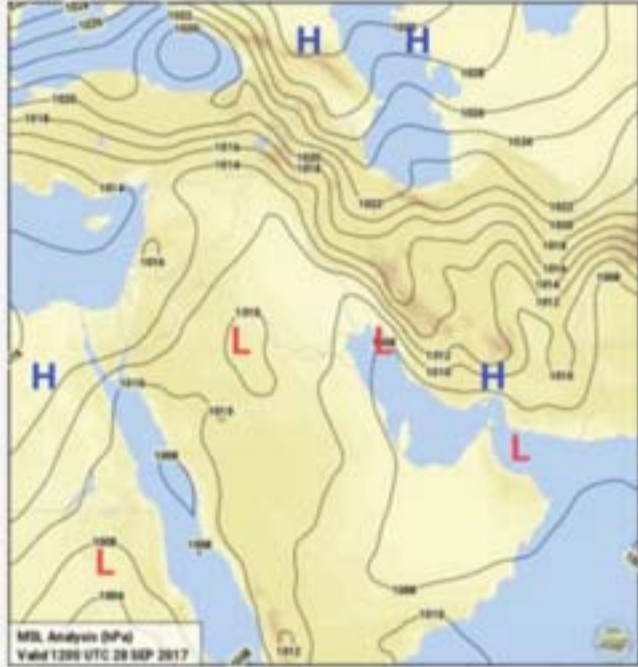
Issued 28/09/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 25 °C

By Night :Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Hot
Min Temp °C	25	23	25	24
Max Temp °C	43	42	42	41
Wind Direction	northerly westerly to northerly	variable to south easterly	northerly westerly to variable	northerly to northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	06 - 28	06 - 28	08 - 32

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	32	43
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25	43
ABDALY	27	43
BUBYAN	24	43
JAHRA	31	43
FAILAKA ISLAND	27	42
SALMIYAH	32	40
AHMADI	33	38
JAL ALIYAH	27	43
QAROH ISLAND	33	36
UMH AL-MARADEM	33	37
NUWAISIB	27	41
WAFRA	26	43
SALMY	25	41
MUTRIBA	27	44

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	45
Min Temp (°C)	25
Max Rel Hum (%)	39
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	43 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	05:40
	Sunset	17:37

Tomorrow Prayer Times

Fajr	04:21
Sunrise	05:40
Zuhr	11:38
Asr	15:03
Sunset	17:37
Isha	18:54

HOUSE FOR RENT

Two and a half floor house for rent in Jabriya. 7 rooms, 5 bathrooms, washing and service rooms, maid room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, 2 big salah, ceramic floors.

Tel: 95541994

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

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

EMERGENCY

112

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388

British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

US ECONOMY GREW AT 3.1% RATE IN SPRING



Ooredoo Kuwait launches iPhone 8 tonight

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RIYADH: Saudi women apply for a job during Glowork Career Fair 2017 for Saudi women employments held at a hotel in the Saudi capital Riyadh yesterday. —AFP

SAUDI REFORM TO DRIVE WOMEN JOBS GROWTH DEATH KNEEL FOR RIDE-HAILING APPS, BUT CAREEM TO HIRE FEMALE DRIVERS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's decision to allow women to drive had some sounding the death knell for ride-hailing apps like Careem, but its co-founder expects business to flourish and even plans to hire thousands of female drivers.

Permitting driving licenses for women, the kingdom's most striking reform which takes effect next June, was catalyzed in large measure by what experts characterize as economic pain owing to a protracted oil slump. It could put not just millions of women behind the wheel but potentially many more into the workforce and cause billions of dollars in savings, analysts predict, as the country seeks to revitalize its oil-dependent economy.

The reform was expected to hit Careem's business as most of its customers are women, but it plans to hire 100,000 female workers to capture a new market segment in the gender-segregated kingdom where many are culturally averse to being driven by men.

"I began receiving 'condolence' messages (for our business) after the historic decision... but I only see hope," the company's co-founder and CEO Abdullah Elias told AFP. "There are many who are currently not using our service because they want female captains (drivers). This is a new customer segment. Job creation, new products and overall access to a bigger market... that's driving our hope."

The reform is credited to 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who styles himself as a modernizer in the deeply conservative kingdom, where more than half the population is aged under 25. 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.

His "Vision 2030" program for social and economic reform seeks to increase women's participation in the labor force to 30 percent by 2030 from 22 percent now. His latest reform is expected to socially-and financially-liberate women, who are heavily reliant on foreign drivers or male relatives.

'#SaudiWomenCanDrive'

"Allowing women to drive will remove a significant barrier to their ability to work as well as relieve many families of the costly burden of hiring a driver or arranging for a male family member to transport them," said Graham Griffiths, senior analyst at the consultancy Control Risks.

"Women seeking low skill positions will significantly benefit (and) employers will also have greater access to highly educated and motivated women who may have been unable to work due to the ban." The move could also boost car sales, especially in the coming months before a scheduled imposition of a government value-added tax in January 2018.

Capitalizing on the reform, American automaker Ford tweeted: "Welcome to the driver's seat. #SaudiWomenMove #SaudiWomenCanDrive". "There will be more borrowing to buy automobiles and the insurance sector will surge," said Mazen Al-Sudairi, head of research at the Riyadh-based Al-Rajhi Capital, describing the impact of ending the ban. "Retail

consumption will also see a boost from the domestic savings from not having to hire drivers."

'Productive workforce'

But hundreds of thousands of male chauffeurs employed to drive women around, most from south and southeast Asia, risk losing their jobs which would hit outflows of foreign remittances.

The government expects billions of dollars in savings if women are permitted to drive. Saudi Arabia spends more than 25 billion riyals (\$6.7 billion) on annual salaries of its 1.38 million foreign drivers, on top of additional expenses for their entry and residence permits, housing and healthcare.

Research firm Capital Economics said that while increasing the female labor force will boost GDP growth, a number of hurdles could hinder their pursuit of employment, including the country's guardianship system. Saudi Arabia mandates that a male family member—normally the father, husband or brother—must grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities. "The guardianship system means that a male guardian still has the authority to take a number of critical decisions on the behalf on women," Capital Economics said.

Analysts predict that allowing women to drive could eventually raise pressure to remove such obstacles. "Gender segregation is costly," Kristin Diwan, of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, told AFP. "As Saudi Arabia's reliance on oil becomes untenable the kingdom will need a more productive workforce and that includes women." —AFP

OOREDOO KUWAIT LAUNCHES IPHONE 8 TONIGHT

CUSTOMERS TO ENJOY KUWAIT'S MOST EXCLUSIVE OFFER

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, announced that it will hold a special midnight launch event at 10pm for the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus devices. Customers will be able to enjoy the most exclusive one night offer in Kuwait, which will be revealed on the night of the event. The offer will be available for hours and is considered the strongest offer that a telecommunications company launches in Kuwait. The offer will only be available on Friday night.

Commenting on this, Corporate Communications Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're happy to celebrate the launch of the new



Mijbil Alayoub

only be available to purchase for 5 hours and is unique to the event".

The new iPhone 8 devices boast a number of powerful features, making this Apple's best iPhone to date. The iPhone

8 introduces an all-new glass design, a better camera, the smartest, most powerful chip ever in a smartphone, wireless recharging, and augmented reality experiences which have never been introduced before. The iPhone 8 comes in two varieties: iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus. They come in two capacities: 64GB and 256GB. The iPhone 8 devices are available in three colors: gold, silver, and space gray.

The new devices ship with the iOS 11, Apple's latest operating system, which introduce major performance and interface enhancements. Additionally, the update comes with powerful upgrades to your most-used features—Messages, Maps,

Photos, and more. Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo Kuwait - which is an enlisted company in the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market - operates a number of telecom service providers in the region, such as Ooredoo Algeria, Ooredoo Tunis, Ooredoo Maldives, and Wataniya Palestine. Ooredoo Kuwait is a member of the international Ooredoo Group based in Doha, Qatar.

ARAMCO LISTING RESHAPES SAUDI'S OPEC OIL POLICY

IPO FORCING RIYADH TO RETHINK FUTURE ROLE IN GROUP

DUBAI/LONDON: Saudi Arabia's plans to float state oil titan Aramco are prompting the country to think the unthinkable. Late last year, Saudi Arabia tried to get fellow oil producers around the world to agree to reduce production. Before an OPEC meeting in Vienna in November, Saudi officials were armed with an unprecedented bargaining chip: if there was no deal, the kingdom would quit the exporter group altogether.

The strategy was approved at the highest level of the Saudi government, said sources familiar with the matter. It was not only aimed at ensuring the smooth workings of the world's energy supply. It was also driven by a desire to push up oil prices to maximize the valuation of Saudi Aramco ahead of the listing, said the sources who declined to be named as the information is confidential.

In the end, the world's biggest oil exporter did not have to enact that option. OPEC members along with non-OPEC producers including Russia agreed a deal in December to cut output by about 1.8 million barrels per day. But the fact such a move was considered shows how Aramco's initial public offering (IPO) - expected to be the biggest in history - is forcing the kingdom to rethink its OPEC policies. Riyadh's stance represented a shift, OPEC sources said, from its decades-old role of advocating restraint and seeking to convince fellow members like Algeria, Venezuela and Iran that prices rising too fast benefited alternative energy providers.

"Saudi Arabia is now the main price hawk," said a high-level OPEC source. He added he was surprised how quickly the kingdom shifted from its policy of prioritizing market share, by pumping oil at full tilt, to supporting production cuts following its decision to list Aramco. The Saudi energy ministry and OPEC did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The IPO also raises questions over Saudi Arabia's future role in OPEC, as the kingdom would become the only member with a national oil firm listed abroad. That in turn raises questions over the future of OPEC itself given the kingdom has been the group's driving force since its inception almost 60 years ago.

Until now, Aramco - which oversees Saudi Arabia's vast reserves - has always been a tool in the country's OPEC policies, to reduce or

increase production. Once a stake in Aramco is floated, however, the company will have to take into account the interests of outside investors, according to industry sources.

Listing rules and anti-trust legislation, particularly in the United States, also preclude price-fixing, which Aramco could be accused of if it continued to follow Saudi Arabia's OPEC policy of adjusting output to manage prices, the sources said.

"Aramco is the instrument used to manage the market even though its not involved in making the policy," said Fareed Mohamedi, chief economist at US-based Rapidan Group.

Saudi Aramco declined to comment on the potential risks of investors suing it post-IPO if it followed Saudi OPEC policies.

Norwegian path

Saudi authorities aim to list around 5 percent of Aramco by the end of 2018 on both the Riyadh stock exchange and one or more international markets, with London, New York and Hong Kong in the running. The IPO is the centrepiece of Vision 2030, an ambitious reform plan to diversify the Saudi economy beyond oil which is championed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

The prince has said he expects the IPO to value Aramco at a minimum of \$2 trillion, and Saudi officials and investors say the valuation will be directly impacted by oil prices. Saudi officials have said they want to see \$60 per barrel this year, with banking sources suggesting the IPO might be timed to happen with crude trading at \$60-\$70 per barrel. Prices have been around \$50 for most of this year and were above \$58 this week.

Listing its national oil firm represents unknown territory for Saudi Arabia and OPEC. But Norway, which has listed its state oil company Statoil, might offer some guide to the path ahead.

The Nordic nation, which still owns 67 percent of the oil firm, has refrained from joining any international steps in regulating oil output since 2002, months after listing in New York and Oslo in 2001. Over the past year, Saudi officials have met officials from Norway and Statoil to discuss how best to restructure Aramco's business operations ahead of the IPO, according to several industry sources familiar with the meetings. The sources cited

US anti-trust laws as the main reason why Norway does not join accords on production, such as the deal agreed in December.

A Statoil spokesman said the company had not advised Saudi officials on the IPO in any official capacity. Its CEO Eldar Saetre also told Reuters in February that it was not officially advising Aramco, but said it was "sharing" its experience.

Statoil referred queries about Norway's position regarding international output accords to the ministry of energy. The ministry said there was no link between Norway not joining OPEC cuts and the fact that Statoil is a US listed company.

Losing market share

While Prince Mohammad, the likely future ruler of Saudi Arabia, is determined to proceed with the IPO, there are still concerns inside the government and Aramco about the wisdom of the move, according to Saudi and industry sources. Some conservatives oppose the idea of Riyadh relinquishing any control over its oil's crown jewel. Saudi officials have said that production decisions are a sovereign matter that will remain with the government - which will still own the bulk of Aramco post-IPO - but did not explain how this policy would be compatible with a listed company.

One Saudi-based industry source said Aramco would have to act like other listed oil company such as Chevron or ExxonMobil. If it wanted to cut production, it would have to demonstrate to the investors that they would financially benefit from the move. Inside Aramco, some executives do not believe that Saudi Arabia's OPEC policies in preparation for the IPO will benefit the company in the long term, according to several sources. They point to the fact that OPEC's output cuts have eaten into Aramco's market share in Asia, the world's biggest oil-consuming region.

Since January, Riyadh has cut production by more than it was required to help OPEC achieve a full compliance with cuts and boost prices as other members were slow to reduce output. The kingdom, previously China's biggest crude supplier, has been overtaken by Russia while Iraq has eclipsed it as India's number one source. — Reuters

TECHNOLOGY GLITCH CAUSES MINOR DELAYS FOR AIRLINES

MADRID: Major airlines around the world were briefly hit by computer problems yesterday morning, causing some minor delays at airports, due to a problem with a system from Spanish travel technology firm Amadeus.

Amadeus, which operates global travel booking systems and offers check-in services for airlines, said it suffered a network problem yesterday which caused a disruption to some of its systems and but had fixed the problem. "Amadeus can confirm that our systems are recovered and are now functioning normally," a spokesman said.

Airports said the disruption was limited. A similar incident occurred in April, when computer issues briefly prevented airlines including Lufthansa and Air France-KLM, from boarding passengers one evening.

At 1330 GMT, Amadeus shares were down 1.2 percent at 54.12 euros, after earlier dipping to 53.57 euros. Frankfurt airport operator Fraport said on Twitter that Germany's largest carrier Lufthansa and partner airlines had been hit by a problem for around 30 minutes in the morning which prevented bags being checked in, but said the issue had been resolved.

London's Gatwick airport also said its airlines had some "brief issues" but were now operating as normal. A spokesman for Groupe ADP, which operates and manages more than a dozen airports in the greater Paris region, confirmed airlines using the Amadeus system had been affected at the French capital's Charles de Gaulle airport.

"This was a worldwide failure (of the Amadeus system). We were no worse affected than other airports. It only lasted a few minutes," the spokesman said. He said national carrier Air France was among the airlines that used Amadeus.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said Southwest Airlines reported a computer issue causing a few minor delays at Reagan National Airport of up to 16 minutes but there were no other issues at present. — Reuters

H&M PROFITS DOWN AS BRICKS AND MORTAR TURNOVER FALLS

STOCKHOLM: Swedish fast fashion giant Hennes and Mauritz reported lower quarterly earnings yesterday as rising web sales failed to offset a slowdown in store turnover.

Net profit for the three months to end-August, the third quarter of the retailer's financial year, came in at 3.84 billion kronor (400 million euros, \$470 million), a drop of 20 percent. Sales grew 4.6 percent to 51.23 billion kronor. The results were in line with analysts' forecasts, but the retailer's shares dropped sharply in Stockholm in reaction.

"The fashion retail sector is growing and is in a period of extensive and rapid change as a result of ongoing digitalization. The competitive landscape is being redrawn, new players are coming in and customers' behavior and expectations are changing, with an ever greater share of sales taking place online," CEO Karl-Johan Persson said in a statement.

Off target

"This shift is clearly reflected in our online sales, which continue to develop very well. However, our growing online sales did not fully compensate for reduced footfall to stores in several of our established markets, which has resulted in our total sales development not reaching our targets so far this year," he said. This meant that H&M entered the third quarter with an inventory level that was too high, he said. An "aggressive" summer sale policy brought stocks down, and the autumn collection got off to a good start, he said, but sales slowed towards the end of September.

The group's online sales currently represent up to 30 percent in some of H&M's established markets, and Persson said online sales were expected to rise by at least 25 percent per year in the future. — AFP

PHILIPPINES DEMANDS MILLIONS IN 'UNPAID' FEES FROM PAL

MANILA: The Philippine government has threatened its flag carrier with legal action over unpaid fees and ordered it to pay millions in back charges, as President Rodrigo Duterte said he could cut off its access to Manila's main airport.

Philippine Airlines (PAL) owes 7.3 billion pesos (\$142 million) in landing, navigational and other fees, according to the government, which says some of the charges date back years.

Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella told reporters yesterday that the transport ministry had issued the airline with a final demand for full payment, and was prepared to take legal action in order to "protect the interest of the government".

On Tuesday Duterte said he had told PAL chairman and billionaire Lucio Tan: "You are using government buildings, airport, you have back debts for the use of the runway that you have not paid.

"I said, 'You solve the problem yourself. I will give you 10 days. Pay it. If not I will close it down. No more airport.'" PAL released a statement yesterday saying it was cooperating with the aviation authorities to resolve the dispute, but put the amount in question at 6.63 billion pesos. "The alleged unpaid navigational charges involve complex legal issues which PAL has been trying to (thrash) out with the authority for years," it said. "For the past months, both (Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines) and PAL have been working together to validate these claims in their mutual and collaborative effort to settle this obligation," it added. Previously state-owned PAL was sold off in 1992. Abella said Thursday that fees were waived when the airline was government-owned. Despite an increase in low-cost competitors, PAL still has the largest fleet in the Philippines and is the only local carrier to fly to North America and Europe. In June it said it planned to increase its fleet serving smaller islands in the archipelagic nation.

PAL's parent company, PAL Holdings, suffered a net loss of 501 million pesos for the three months to June due to higher fuel costs and aircraft lease charges. The listed parent's stock closed unchanged yesterday at 5.15 pesos. — AFP



BEIJING: In this Feb 17, 2016 file photo, a worker sweeps the floor inside a branch of the North Korean-operated Haedanghwa restaurant in Beijing. Chinese news reports yesterday said the government has ordered most North Korean-owned businesses and ventures with Chinese partners to close under UN sanctions. — AP

S KOREA VOWS TO AID S KOREAN FIRMS HURT BY ROW WITH CHINA

SEOUL WEIGHS TAX RELIEFS AND LOAN CONCESSIONS

SEOUL: South Korea said it will offer tax and loan concessions to companies whose businesses have suffered amid a dispute with China over Seoul's deployment of a powerful missile defence system.

The government plans to allow South Korean duty-free firms and retailers operating in China to defer all or part of their corporate income and value-added taxes for up to nine months, the finance ministry said yesterday.

The ministry will also offer cheap loans to auto parts makers hit by declining sales of South Korean cars in China. South Korea allowed the deployment of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system on its soil this year as North Korea stepped up missile tests. The move has drawn fierce criticism from China, which says the system's powerful radar can probe deep into its territory.

In retaliation, Beijing has imposed boycotts on South Korean goods sold in China, raising pressure on new President Moon Jae-to help affected firms, analysts said. Beijing also has banned group tours to South Korea, hurting its retail and service sectors. China's commerce ministry declined to comment when asked about South Korea's planned measures. However, Seoul has limited options to counter Beijing's tactics, said Stephen Lee, an economist at Meritz Securities. "There isn't much Seoul can do as these issues have been originating from China. There's little the government can do in terms of making up for the loss incurred (by South Korean businesses)," Lee said.

"Seoul can continue to announce micro-measures to buffer any shocks, but it's too difficult to resolve the problem by removing the THAAD now," Lee added.

The finance ministry said it plans to boost domestic tourism to compensate for declining Chinese tourists. Chinese tourists used to account for about half of all visitors to South Korea, but their numbers halved in the first seven months of 2017 compared with a year ago.

That translates to \$5.1 billion in lost business for South Korea, data from the Korea Tourism Organization showed. Partly due to the THAAD backlash, Hyundai Motor Co.'s retail sales in China, the world's biggest auto market, slumped 29 percent in the first half of 2017. Seoul has said it plans to boost funds at policy banks by up to 500 billion won (\$437.14 million) to help car part makers and other suppliers heavily reliant on sales to Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors. — Reuters

FORD'S WELSH ENGINE PLANT TO LOSE JLR BUSINESS IN 2020

LONDON: Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) will stop sourcing petrol engines from Ford's plant in Bridgend, Wales, after ending its current contract earlier than expected in 2020, creating uncertainty over around 750 jobs. "We have informed our unions that Jaguar Land Rover intends to end our petrol engine supply arrangement slightly earlier than expected in late 2020," Ford said in a statement.

"Given our long-established and successful relationship in the delivery of world-class engines, this is disappointing news for the Ford Bridgend Engine Plant."

JLR is ending the long-standing relationship in September 2020, three months earlier than planned, a source close to the arrangements said. Around 750 workers, about half of the plant's total, are dedicated to JLR production, the source said. Ford said it would "continue to look at other high technology opportunities for Bridgend in the future."

JLR, owned by India's Tata Motors, opened a new engine plant in England's West Midlands in 2014, and in 2015 announced a plan to double its size, taking total investment to about 1 billion pounds (\$1.3 billion). The company said that in line with its contract it had served the required three years notice to Ford for the supply of the 6 and 8 cylinder petrol engines from its Bridgend plant.

"Ford has been, and remains, an important strategic supplier to Jaguar Land Rover under an agreement which was negotiated to support our business until the end of the decade," it said. — Reuters



MIAMI: In this May 4, 2017 photo, construction workers work on an apartment high rise in Miami. The Commerce Department issued the third and final estimate of how the US economy performed in the April-June quarter. — AP

US ECONOMY GREW AT 3.1% RATE IN SPRING

GROWTH AT FASTEST PACE IN TWO YEARS

WASHINGTON: The US economy grew at an upgraded annual rate of 3.1 percent in the spring, the fastest pace in more than two years. But growth is expected to slow sharply this quarter in the wake of a string of devastating hurricanes.

The April-June expansion in the gross domestic product - the economy's total output of goods and services - is up slightly from a 3 percent estimate made a month ago, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. It is the strongest performance since the economy grew at a 3.2 percent pace in the first quarter of 2015. The upward revision reflected larger farm stockpiles.

The year started with a lackluster 1.2 percent gain in the first quarter. Economists believe growth has slowed again to around 2 percent in the current quarter. The revised figure was the government's third and final look at GDP for the April-June period, and left GDP rising at an average 2 percent pace over the first six months of the year. That matches the lackluster average annual growth rates seen since the recovery from the Great Recession began in mid-2009.

Economists at Macroeconomic Advisers believe that growth in the current quarter could tumble by as much as 1.2 percentage points due to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. But analysts think the initial losses to GDP will be made up in subsequent quarters as rebuilding gets underway. Economists at Moody's Analytics have estimated that hurricanes Harvey and Irma will end up costing in total around \$167 billion when taking into account property damage and lost economic output. That estimate would put the two storms together close to the total devastation in 2005 caused by Hurricane Katrina, the most expensive natural disaster in US history.

Top forecasters with the National Association for Business Economics expect the economy will grow a modest 2.2 percent in 2017 and 2.4 percent in 2018. That would be up from the weak 1.5 percent growth seen in 2016 but it is far below the growth rates of 3 percent or better that President Donald Trump is pledging to produce with his economic program of tax cuts, regulatory relief and tougher enforcement of foreign trade deals. In the final look at second quarter GDP, the government said that consumer spending, which accounts for nearly 70 percent of economic activity, grew at a solid 3.3 percent rate in the spring, unchanged from the initial estimate. Business investment in equipment was also unchanged from the previous estimate, posting a solid increase of 8.8 percent at an annual rate.

Trump traveled to Indiana on Wednesday to tout the benefits of the tax plan his administration and congressional Republicans unveiled earlier in the day. "Our country and our economy cannot take off like they should unless we dramatically reform America's outdated, complex and extremely burdensome tax code," Trump told the crowd, urging them to lobby Congress to win passage of the first major revamp of the nation's tax code in a generation. The sweeping plan would deeply cut levies for corporations, simplify everyone's tax brackets and nearly double the standard deduction used by most Americans. However, the measure is expected to face strong opposition from Democrats who contend it is tilted too much to the wealthy and would explode future deficits. — AP

MAY SLAMS BOEING FOR FOILING PARTNERSHIP

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May warned yesterday of growing protectionism in the global economy, slamming plane maker Boeing for its role in the US government proposal to impose a massive tariff that could cost thousands of jobs in Northern Ireland.

Addressing a conference organized by the Bank of England, May mounted a strong defense of free trade and insisted that her government would push for free trade after Britain leaves the European Union in March 2019. "I think there is a real challenge for us globally today because I think that here are aspects of protectionism creeping in around the world," she said. "I have said before I want the UK to be a global champion of free trade, because I think those of us who believe in free trade need to stand up, not just explain its wider benefits, but help to explain its benefits to individuals."

Her defense of free trade comes a day after Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main Labor Party opposition, made the case for more state involvement in the British economy and after the US Commerce Department proposed a tariff of almost 220 percent on Bombardier's C series aircraft, which threatens more than 4,000 jobs in Northern Ireland. May said the actions of Boeing, which had sought US government action over what it saw as unfair competition, "is not the sort of behavior we expect from a long-term partner" and that it "undermines that partnership." Without directly threatening the US aircraft maker, May pointed out that the British government has various dealings with Boeing, particularly in the field of defense. — AP

HOW TO SPEND IT? MERKEL CAN COUNT ON RECORD BUDGET SURPLUS

BERLIN: Germany's next coalition government can count on record budget surpluses over the next two years due to a solid upswing and should use this fiscal room to lower income taxes and social welfare contributions, economic institutes said yesterday.

The better-than-expected budget figures could help Angela Merkel form a tricky three-way coalition with the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP), proponents of tax cuts, and the Greens after winning a fourth term as chancellor in a Sunday vote. The Greens want to lift spending on education and infrastructure. "Indications are that this year's overall state budget surplus will rise from 26 billion euros to 28 billion euros," the leading economic institutes said in their joint forecast.

The surplus of all state levels - including federal government, regional states, municipalities and social funds - is projected to soar to 37.3 billion euros in 2018 and to 43.7 billion euros in 2019, they added. The upbeat projections came after Germany took a first step on Wednesday towards forming a new government when veteran finance minister, conservative Wolfgang Schauble, agreed to become president of the parliament, clearing the way for another party to take his job.

The institutes said Germany should utilize the additional fiscal room to improve economic conditions and reform the tax and welfare systems, especially to help low-income workers.

"In light of the high burdens imposed on labour incomes in the form of levies and a particularly sharp increase in direct tax revenues, the focus should be on the income tax rate curve," they said, adding that there was also scope to address social security contributions. — Reuters

GERMAN BOND YIELDS HIT 8-WEEK HIGH AS TRUMP TAX PLAN REVIVES REFLATION BETS

LONDON: German bond yields hit eight-week highs yesterday, leading a rise in euro zone borrowing costs as US President Donald Trump proposed the biggest US tax overhaul in three decades and strong data boosted the case for another rate hike this year. Trump on Wednesday proposed to lower corporate and small-business income tax rates, reduce the top income tax rate for high-earning American individuals and scrap some popular tax breaks.

The plan has revived expectations that his policies will boost the US economy and inflation - an environment that tends to put upward pressure on government bond yields. It also comes in a week where US Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen confirmed the outlook for further rate rises, while better-than-expected US durable goods orders data suggested inflation may be picking up. "The market had given up on the Trump reflation trade and this is coming back with a bit more detail on tax plans," said Commerzbank analyst Rainer Guntermann.

"At the same time, this gives the Fed more ammunition to hike rates in the coming months." Investors reacted by selling bonds in the United States and Europe, with yields on higher-rated eurozone countries up 3-4 basis points.

When the price of a bond falls, the yield rises. Germany's benchmark 10-year bond yield rose 5 bps to 0.518 percent at one stage, its highest level in eight weeks, before settling at 0.50 percent around midday.

US 10-year Treasury yields were up 3 bps on the day at 2.34 percent. At one point, the gap with German peers was at 185 bps - the widest since early July. With Trump's tax reform plans boosting the dollar, the euro pulled back further from recent 2-1/2 year highs.

Analysts said a weakening in the single currency was another headwind for euro zone bond markets since this could encourage the European Central Bank to pursue plans to scale back the monetary stimulus that has long underpinned bond yields. Strength in the single currency, which dampens inflation, has been seen as an obstacle in the path of ECB tapering. However, inflation data from a string of German states showed that consumer prices are increasing at a healthy rate in Europe's largest economy. States such as North Rhine Westphalia, Hesse, Saxony and Bavaria all showed inflation of between 1.8-2.1 percent for the month of September. — Reuters

UK REGULATOR THREATENS ACTION AGAINST RYANAIR

LONDON: Ryanair pledged to comply with any conditions imposed by Britain's Civil Aviation Authority after it threatened to file legal action against the budget carrier for "persistently misleading passengers" about their rights amid a series of flight cancellations.

The CAA issued its warning Wednesday, after Ryanair scrapped 18,000 more flights in a second round of cancellations following the airline's admission that it "messed up" the scheduling of pilot vacations. The Dublin-based carrier said 34 routes would be suspended from November to March 2018, affecting some 400,000 customers who had already booked flights.

"We will be meeting with the CAA and will comply fully with whatever

requirements they ask us to," Ryanair said in a statement. The aviation agency said Ryanair failed to tell customers that it would re-route their travel on other airlines if there were no Ryanair flights available in a reasonable amount of time. Ryanair also didn't tell customers that the airline is obliged to refund the cost of expenses such as meals and hotels incurred as a result of flight cancellations, and cover expenses for anyone forced to travel to a different airport for a replacement flight, the CAA said.

Regulators said they told Ryanair about these obligations after the airline announced the first round of flight cancellations on Sept. 18. The agency said it launched an enforcement action against Ryanair for "persistently mis-

leading passengers with inaccurate information regarding their rights."

"There are clear laws in place, which are intended to assist passengers in the event of a cancellation, helping minimize both the frustration and inconvenience caused by circumstances completely out of their control," the regulator's chief executive, Andrew Haines, said in a statement. "We have made this crystal clear to Ryanair, who are well aware of their legal obligations, which includes how and when they should reroute passengers, along with the level of information it provides its passengers."

Ryanair said Wednesday that it planned to reduce its fleet and slow growth to manage "exceptional volumes of annual leave," as it adjusts to a

new scheduling system. The airline says it has been forced to schedule a full year of pilot vacation time in nine months because it is shifting to a scheduling year that begins in January, rather than April.

Pilot representatives argue that Ryanair has a pilot shortage and has mismanaged the changeover, which was required by new aviation safety rules that the airline has known about for two years. Whatever the cause, dealing with the fallout remains a challenge for Ryanair. Britain's newspapers summed up the anger among travelers, with the Daily Mail's front page headline reading "Now Ryanair cancels Xmas," and the Daily Mirror adding "Now Ryanair ruins hold for 400,000 more passengers." — AP

PROGRESS ON BREXIT, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO OPEN TRADE TALK

'NEW DYNAMIC' CREATED BY CONCESSIONS: BARNIER

BRUSSELS: The European Union and Britain made progress in the latest round of divorce talks, but not enough to move to the next phase of discussions on a transition period after Brexit or a future trade deal, top negotiators said yesterday.

"We have had a constructive week, yes, but we are not yet there in terms of achieving sufficient progress. Further work is needed in the coming weeks and months," chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier told reporters, praising a "new dynamic" created by concessions made last week by Prime Minister Theresa May. She had hoped that a speech she made at Florence on Friday would unblock the three-month-old talks and paving the way for the EU to open discussions on a post-Brexit free trade deal by allowing Barnier to tell EU leaders that there is "sufficient progress" on three key "divorce" issues—rights for expatriate citizens, the Northern Irish border and how much Britain owes.

Barnier's British counterpart, Brexit Secretary David Davis, said they had made "considerable progress" in four days of talks in Brussels and repeated his eagerness to move on to discuss what happens after Brexit in March 2019.

Barnier highlighted two key areas of disagreement. First, on citizens' rights, he welcomed a confirmation from Davis that the withdrawal treaty guaranteeing the rights of 3 million EU citizens in Britain should have "direct effect" in British law—effectively, Britain cannot change them via new legislation. But the Union continues to demand that people also have the right to pursue grievances at the EU's own court.

Second, Barnier said Britain had clarified that an offer by May that the other 27 states should not lose out financially from Brexit during the current EU budget period ending at the end of 2020 would cover payments only in 2019 and 2020. That, he said, was not enough. Commitments agreed in the current budget also lead to outward payments in subsequent years.

Further on the money issue, which both sides say has become the most

intractable, Barnier said Britain had yet to specify which commitments it would honor after May said that it would do so. The EU has estimated that Britain will owe tens of billions of euros (dollars) to cover outstanding liabilities.

"For the EU, the only way to reach sufficient progress is that all commitments undertaken by the 28 are honored by the 28," Barnier said.



BRUSSELS: European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier (right) and British Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis address a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels yesterday. —AP

Davis declined to put a figure on what Britain might pay. The two sides are due to meet again in just over two weeks, on Oct. 9. Were Barnier to judge those have made "sufficient progress"—a deliberately vague term set by the EU 27 — he would be in a position to recommend to leaders at a summit on Oct. 19-20 that they let him launch trade talks. —Reuters



LONDON: Governor of Bank of England, Mark Carney speaks at the Bank of England's 'Independence 20 years on' conference, in central London yesterday. —AFP

BOE PLANS TO DELAY BRINGING INFLATION TO TARGET: CARNEY

LONDON: Bank of England Governor Mark Carney says the central bank can extend the time over which it returns inflation to target.

Addressing an audience to reflect on 20 years of the bank's independence, Carney said yesterday that bringing inflation back to target "too rapidly could cause undesirable volatility in output and employment." Inflation in Britain is running at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, above the bank's target of 2 percent. There's mounting speculation the bank may raise its main interest rate from the record low of 0.25 percent in November. Carney also said that the bank cannot prevent the weaker real income growth "likely to accompany" Britain's exit from the European Union, but it can "influence how this hit to incomes is distributed between job losses and price rises." —AP

S AFRICA KAROO SHALE GAS DEPOSITS SEEN LESS THAN EARLIER ESTIMATES

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's Karoo basin probably has a 30th of the shale gas deposits that some estimates had suggested, deflating expectations of an energy bonanza, a study published yesterday said. The findings by the South African Journal of Science have been published shortly before the expected award of the first shale gas exploration licenses in the region. The government had said an award could happen by the end of September. The gas development plans have already drawn opposition from campaigners who say they threaten the environment of the semi-arid Karoo, famed for its rugged scenery and rare wildlife.

Geologists at the University of Johannesburg and three other institutions estimated the gas resource was probably 13 trillion cubic feet (tcf), the bottom of a range of estimates that had put deposits between 13 tcf to 390 tcf, the study said.

In 2015, the US Energy and Information Administration (EIA) estimated the Karoo Basin's "technically recoverable shale gas resource" at 390 tcf, making it the 8th largest in the world and second largest in Africa, behind Algeria. At 13 tcf, it ranks 34th out of 46 nations in EIA estimates. However, the authors of the study said that "such low estimates still represent a large

resource with developmental potential for the South African petroleum industry."

"To be economically viable, the resource would be required to be confined to a small, well-delineated 'sweet spot' area in the vast southern area of the basin," they wrote. The study said previous estimates were "speculative" and had been made without measurements of gas content. Environmentalists and farmers have staunchly opposed opening up the Karoo for shale gas development, which would require "fracking", a technique involving pumping water and chemicals at high pressure to crack the rock and release the gas. —Reuters



ST LOUIS: The Chicago Cubs pose for a team picture on the mound after clinching the NL Central with a 5-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in a baseball game Wednesday, Sept 27, 2017, at Busch Stadium. — AP

CHICAGO CUBS CLINCH NL CENTRAL

ST LOUIS: Addison Russell hit a three-run homer and John Lackey pitched six strong innings as the Chicago Cubs clinched their second consecutive NL Central title with a 5-1 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday. The Cubs reached the postseason for the third straight year for the first time since 1908. They are also the first defending World Series champion to win their division the next season since the 2009 Philadelphia Phillies and the first defending champion to reach the playoffs the next season since the Cardinals won the wild card in 2012. Lackey (12-11) retired the final 10 batters he faced. The former Cardinal struck out three and gave up two hits and two walks. Six Cubs relievers combined for three scoreless innings of relief. Michael Wacha (12-9) was chased after allowing the first six Cubs to reach base in the seventh.

INDIANS 4, TWINS 2

From worst to wild card, the Minnesota Twins have completed a most remarkable reversal. A couple hours after losing 4-2 to Cleveland, the Twins earned an AL wild-card berth the Angels lost 6-4 in 10 innings to White Sox. A season after winning just 59 games, the Twins became the first team to lose at least 100 and then make the postseason the following year. Manager Paul Molitor's team will play Tuesday night at either Yankee Stadium or Fenway Park in the wild-card game. Boston holds a three-game lead over New York in the AL East race. Cleveland scored two runs off Adalberto Mejia (4-7). Mike Clevinger (12-5) won in relief for the Indians.

WHITE SOX 6, ANGELS 4, 10 INNINGS

Nicky Delmonico hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift Chicago and eliminate the Angels from playoff contention. Delmonico, who had three hits and three RBIs, connected off Blake Parker (3-3). Danny Farquhar (4-2) got the win.

ROCKIES 15, MARLINS 9

Ian Desmond homered during a six-run second inning and playoff-chasing Colorado won hours after Major League Baseball approved the sale of the Marlins to an investment group featuring Derek Jeter. Charlie Blackmon reached 100 RBIs for the Rockies, who with three games left are in prime position to contend for their first postseason berth since 2009. They are 2 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee for the second NL wild-card spot. Jon Gray (10-4) lasted six innings and hasn't allowed more than three runs in 13 straight starts. Adam Conley (7-8) gave up six runs in 1 1/3 innings.

REDS 6, BREWERS 0

Brewers rookie Brandon Woodruff was chased in a five-run third inning and Milwaukee's postseason hopes took another hit. The Brewers have lost five of seven. They've dropped 2 1/2 games behind Colorado for the second NL wild-card spot with only four games left. Joey Votto hit his team-high 36th home run and Homer Bailey (6-9) threw seven strong innings for the Reds. Woodruff (2-3) made his major league debut last month.

RED SOX 10, BLUE JAYS 7

Reigning AL Cy Young winner Rick Porcello struggled in his final playoff tuneup, and David Price relieved him to solidify his role on the postseason roster as Boston lowered its magic number to two for winning the AL East. Hanley Ramirez and Xander Bogaerts homered in a five-run third inning for the Red Sox after Porcello (11-17) gave up three runs in the first. Boston, which is already guaranteed a playoff berth, maintained a three-game lead in the division over the second-place Yankees. The Red Sox could clinch the first back-to-back AL East titles in franchise history with a victory over Houston on Thursday and a New York loss to the Rays. Marco Estrada (10-9) took the loss.

YANKEES 6, RAYS 1

Luis Severino cruised through his final postseason tuneup and Starlin Castro, Greg Bird and Aaron Hicks all homered in the sixth inning for New York. The Yankees remained three behind AL East-leading Boston with four to play. Severino (14-6) struck out nine and allowed a run in six innings. He is lined up to start New York's playoff opener. The Yankees would host the AL wild-card game Tuesday against Minnesota if they don't win the division. Matt Andriese (5-5) took the loss.

DODGERS 10, PADRES 0

Rich Hill allowed two hits over seven innings and Yasiel Puig, Curtis Granderson and Corey Seager homered to power Los Angeles. The Dodgers own the best record in baseball and tied the Los Angeles franchise record for wins in a season at 102, which was last done in 1974. Hill (12-8) struck out 10. The Dodgers will host the first game of the NLDS against the to-be-determined wild-card winner on Oct. 6 at Dodger Stadium.

ASTROS 12, RANGERS 2

Justin Verlander struck out 11 to win his fifth straight start since getting traded to Houston, major league batting leader Jose Altuve reached 200 hits for the fourth season in a row, and the AL West champion Astros completed a dominating three-game sweep. Carlos Correa hit two home runs and George Springer had a grand slam as Houston outscored Texas 37-7 in the series. The Rangers lost their sixth straight game. Verlander (15-8) matched his season high for strikeouts while allowing two runs without a walk in six innings. He is 5-0 with a 1.06 ERA in his five starts since being traded from Detroit to Houston on Aug 31. Altuve, who is hitting .347, got his 200th hit on a single in the first off Nick Martinez (3-8).

DIAMONDBACKS 4, GIANTS 3

JD Martinez hit his 16th homer in September during a three-run rally in the ninth inning that lifted Arizona over San Francisco. Martinez tied Ralph Kiner's 1949 NL record for home runs in September. The major league record is 17, shared by Babe Ruth and Albert Belle. Martinez has 45 homers this season, 29 of them since being traded from Detroit to the Diamondbacks on July 18. His 36 RBIs in a month set an Arizona record, topping Luis Gonzalez's 35 in June 2001. David Peralta

drew a bases-loaded walk to cap the comeback in the ninth. The next time Arizona plays at Chase Field will be next Wednesday in the NL wild-card game. All of the runs were charged to Giants closer Sam Dyson (3-3). JJ Hoover (3-1) earned the win in relief.

PHILLIES 7, NATIONALS 5

Aaron Altherr had two hits and drove in two runs to lead Philadelphia over Washington. Nationals starter Tanner Roark (13-11) struggled with command, walking five hitters and allowing six earned runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings. Bryce Harper was 1 for 4 with a single and a run scored in his second game since returning from a hyper-extended left knee. Rookie Yackiel Rios (1-0) got his first career victory. Hector Neris worked a perfect ninth for his 20th consecutive save conversion and 26th in 29 opportunities overall.

METS 7, BRAVES 1

Terry Collins was a winner in perhaps his final home game as manager of the New York Mets. Travis d'Arnaud drove in three runs and pinch-hitter Dominic Smith launched a three-run homer for the Mets, who won their third straight and finished 37-44 at Citi Field this year. They wrap up the season with three games in Philadelphia this weekend. The 68-year-old Collins, oldest manager in the majors, has said he has no plans to retire and would like to keep working until age 70 - even if that means somewhere else in baseball. His contract expires after this season, and the Mets (69-90) are expected to make changes following a hugely disappointing season derailed by injuries and underperformance. Robert Gsellman (8-7) capped his inconsistent season by throwing six steady innings. Sean Newcomb (4-9) took the loss.

ROYALS 7, TIGERS 4

Paulo Orlando hit a two-run homer and Kansas City sent Detroit to its ninth straight loss. The Tigers are 4-22 in September and have been outscored 68-30 in the skid. The last time Detroit lost nine in a row was 2005. Orlando's home run was his first since Sept. 19, 2016, going 117 at-bats between long balls. Scott Alexander (5-4) went 1 1/3 scoreless innings and Mike Minor got his fourth save. Drew VerHagen (0-3) gave up the home run to Orlando.

ATHLETICS 6, MARINERS 5

Mark Canha hit a solo home run with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning that sent Oakland over Seattle. Canha's fifth homer this season came against Shae Simmons (0-1). The A's avoided a three-game sweep and snapped an eight-game losing streak against the Mariners. Matt Joyce tied an Oakland record with three doubles. Blake Treinen (3-4) pitched a scoreless ninth.

PIRATES 5, ORIOLES 3

Josh Bell hit a two-run homer and Pittsburgh beat Baltimore. Bell's 25th home run came off Gabriel Ynoa (2-3). Chad Kuhl (8-11) went five-plus innings and Felipe Rivero pitched the ninth for his 20th save in 22 chances. — AP

FRANCE LOOKING FOR STAR, A YEAR FROM RYDER CUP

PARIS: France will host its first Ryder Cup in a year's time, but it seems unlikely that the fans at Le Golf National will have a home player to cheer as Thomas Bjorn's Europe bid to regain the trophy from the United States. France does not have a golfing history to compare to the British countries, or even Spain and Germany, having not had a men's major winner since Arnaud Massy at the 1907 British Open.

The European Tour has decided to take the biennial tournament to countries that don't have a strong traditional fanbase for the sport, with the 2022 matches to be held in Italy. Alexander Levy is currently France's highest-ranked player at 77 in the world, but has 22 Europeans ranked above him and will have to produce a stunning season to join the likes of Rory McIlroy, Sergio Garcia and Jon Rahm in European colors.

The enigmatic Victor Dubuisson became only the third French Ryder Cup player with an impressive display in 2014 but has struggled since, having been widely tipped to become the first Frenchman to play the event twice. National technical director Christophe Muniesa claimed there was a "one-in-two chance" of a home player competing at Golf National, but 2004 Ryder Cup winner Thomas Levet was more realistic when he put those hopes at "one-in-10".

"It could happen, as there isn't a big difference in terms of level of play between the 50th player in the world and the 300th," added Levet. Levy, 27, has been France's best player over the last few years, and the main reason he isn't higher in the rankings is his inconsistency compared to the top players. He has won four times on the European Tour, including the China Open in April, while another possible home contender to qualify for Bjorn's team is the solid, although far from spectacular, Gregory Bourdy.

Dubuisson in doldrums

Dubuisson was hailed as the man to boost French golf when he claimed 2.5 points from three matches as Europe won the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles. But the 27-year-old's last victory was at the 2015 Turkish Open and he has slipped to world number 191, his lowest ranking in almost five and a half years. A former top-20 player, Dubuisson is still his usual relaxed self.

"You can't make the Ryder Cup a goal, it's too random," he claimed, but 238th-ranked Bourdy said he is "ultra-motivated" to qualify. Dane Bjorn is unlikely to give a captain's pick to a Frenchman for sentimental reasons alone, as Europe will need the strongest side possible to have any chance of beating a formidable American outfit. —AFP

KC BOUTIETTE STILL SEEKS GOLD AT 47

PARK CITY: KC Boutiette could become the oldest Olympic speedskater since 1924 at age 47 and win a long-sought medal thanks to a new event, the mass start that debuts at Pyeongchang. But he might also settle for helping world mass start champion and US teammate Joey Mantia's quest for gold if he gets that chance two months before his 48th birthday. The man who inspired a legion of inline skaters to Olympic glory when he switched to ice for the 1994 Games has never won a medal.

Four-time Olympian Boutiette appeared done after a 2006 US team pursuit flop, but came out of retirement in 2014 with eyes on the mass start, where tactics and strategy mix with endurance and closing speed. He took second last November in Nagano, becoming the oldest World Cup medalist by claiming his first tour podium since a 10,000m bronze in February 2004.

"I had a lot of luck on that mass start," Boutiette said Wednesday. "I almost 100 percent called it a career. There are a lot of other things in my life. I want to be a dad and I want my wife to have her life back." She said, "It's only a year. Keep going." So he did, saying, "I want to finish on top. On top doesn't necessarily mean winning." Just making the team would be a feat. A fall in any of three qualifying races before the team is named in January could doom his dream, although he will also try his luck at 5,000m. "I can't lose focus on why I'm skating and that's the mass start," Boutiette said. "If I make a mistake in the mass start I'm done." Boutiette would be the oldest Olympic speedskater since Britain's Albert Tebbit, 52, was 20th at 5,000m at the inaugural 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix, France. —AFP



DENVER: In this Monday, Oct 24, 2016, file photo, Denver Broncos inside linebacker Brandon Marshall (54) takes a knee during the national anthem prior to an NFL football game against the Houston Texans. —AP

TEAMS RETURN TO PRACTICE, UNITY DISPLAYS STILL IN FOCUS

DALLAS: As NFL teams returned to practice Wednesday, some conversations turned to football. Not all. The operative topic remained the demonstrations of unity each team showed last weekend in response to remarks by President Donald Trump, and what might be ahead. Here's a sampling of what those clubs are saying and planning:

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Jay Ajayi joined other NFL players in their national anthem protest even though his nationality is British. Ajayi, born in London, was among at least five Miami Dolphins to kneel during the anthem before last week's game at the New York Jets. "I'm not into the whole, 'You're not American but you're kneeling for the flag' thing," Ajayi said Wednesday. "Even though you have people portraying hatred and division, I wanted to be an example for my family and a symbol that we're unified."

Ajayi said his three siblings, all younger, are US citizens. He was inspired to join the anthem protest by President Trump's criticism of players who do so. Coincidentally, Ajayi will play in his hometown Sunday when the Dolphins take on the Saints in London. Will he again take a knee during the anthem? "I'm not sure," he said, "but I think I will."

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Coach Mike McCarthy said he is proud of the way his players have handled the decision to lock arms during the national anthem and ask fans in the stands and at home to join them. Packers players said the team would again stand and intertwine arms on the sideline during the anthem before the game Thursday night against the Chicago Bears. Packers coaches and staff plan to join the players. "The process that they've gone through, I'm proud of them," McCarthy said Wednesday. "The approach is one of a positive nature, and

that's definitely the preference. Locking arms and honoring the flag, I think it's a very good thing."

TENNESSEE TITANS

Wide receiver Eric Decker responded to a TMZ report of his wife posted on Instagram that the Titans' decision to stay in the locker room was made without his knowledge. Decker says the decision was made from the franchise's leadership what to do as a team and he respects the leadership.

Rishard Matthews didn't back off his comments Tuesday that he will kneel until President Trump apologizes, saying he said everything he needed. But the wide receiver says critics of NFL players protesting are using the military as a distraction, which he called unfortunate. He has heard from a lot of military people he knows supporting him for standing up for his rights and those with no voice. "It's not about the military," Matthews said. "It's about social injustice, and people need to be talking about that more than the military. I think they're just using the military as an excuse."

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Kansas City Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 99 has sent a letter inviting Chiefs cornerback Marcus Peters to join officers in a community-based program at Wendall Phillips Elementary School in Kansas City. The union recently was awarded a \$145,000 grant to implement the program, designed to improve the relationship between police and the community.

The police union's president, Brad Lemon, said Peters has not responded to the letter from earlier this month, though Chiefs executives said they have pledged to get involved. Peters began protesting during the anthem last season, when he raised his right fist during its playing in a gesture reminiscent of the "Black Power" gesture of John Carlos and Tommie Smith during the 1968

Mexico City Olympics. Peters has spent this season sitting on the bench during the anthem. Lemon said that Chiefs president Mark Donovan said "several Chiefs players were interested in finding a way to spend time with police officers and children involved in our community outreach program. "We ended the conversation with the intention of meeting soon and putting our efforts together," Lemon said.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Cornerback Richard Sherman was unsure how the Seahawks would move forward with any protests following last week's decision to stay in the locker room during the national anthem. But Sherman said the show of unity throughout the league was an important moment. "Last week was a pivotal moment for the league in general to stand and show continuity, to show togetherness, to show that we will not be bullied in a sense by the President of the United States and his words, and we will not be divided by those words," Sherman said. "I think that was awesome. Each week will be different. I'm sure guys will do different things. But I think the message came across and I think guys are going to look for other ways to get involved and make a difference in other ways."

ATLANTA FALCONS

Coach Dan Quinn expects players to lock arms, but not kneel, during the national anthem before Sunday's game against Buffalo. Quinn also encouraged fans to also lock arms during the anthem. Two Falcons, defensive linemen Grady Jarrett and Dontari Poe, knelt during the anthem before last week's game at Detroit. Falcons owner Arthur Blank joined Quinn and other players in locking arms while standing. Quinn said he thinks Jarrett and Poe taking a knee was a "one-off for us" and the best way "to show how solid we are" is to have the team act in unison. —AP

STOKES SUSPENDED FROM ENGLAND DUTY

LONDON: Ben Stokes will not be considered for England international matches "until further notice" after a video emerged apparently showing him fighting outside a nightclub, the England and Wales Cricket Board said yesterday. Test vice-captain Stokes was included in England's Ashes squad announced Wednesday, despite injuring his hand in the incident that led to his arrest on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm.

The 26-year-old Durham all-rounder was released without charge on Monday but remains under investigation. The Sun newspaper published the footage from outside a nightclub in the southwest city of Bristol late on Wednesday. Opening batsman Alex Hales, who was with Stokes late on Sunday after playing alongside him during England's win over West Indies in the third one-day international in Bristol, has also been suspended from international selection.

"Ben Stokes and Alex Hales will not be considered for selection for England international matches until further notice," said an ECB statement. "Each remains on full pay pending further ECB investigation and the ongoing police investigation into an incident in Bristol in the early hours of Monday 25 September." Andrew Strauss, director of England cricket, will today refer the internal disciplinary procedure for these two players to the Cricket Discipline Commission, chaired by Tim O'Gorman.

The statement added: "These decisions, fully supported by ECB chairman Colin Graves, were made following the release of footage viewed by ECB for the first time on Wednesday night." Neither Hales, who returned voluntarily to Bristol on Tuesday to give further evidence to police about the incident, nor Stokes were selected for Wednesday's six-run win over West Indies in the fourth one-day international at The Oval in London that gave England an unbeatable 3-0 series lead.

Stokes's hand injury may well have meant he was physically unfit for selection in any case. England have one more international fixture—the fifth ODI against West Indies in Southampton on Friday—before the end of their home season. Their next international match will be when they start their Ashes defense with the first Test against Australia in Brisbane commencing on November 23, although they do have three warm-up tour games prior to that fixture. Hales was not included in the Ashes squad. —AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on July 28, 2017 shows England's Ben Stokes batting on the second day of the third Test match between England and South Africa at The Oval cricket ground. —AFP



ABU DHABI: Sri Lanka's batsman Niroshan Dickwella plays a shot during their 1st Test cricket match against Pakistan. — AP

KARUNARATNE LEADS SRI LANKA FIGHT BACK ON OPENING DAY

ABU DHABI: Opener Dimuth Karunaratne fell seven runs short of a deserved century as he anchored Sri Lanka's fightback on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The left-hander was run out for 93 but helped his team recover from a precarious 61-3 to reach 227-4 at close after Sri Lanka won the toss and batted on a greenish Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

Karunaratne added an invaluable 100-run partnership with skipper Dinesh Chandimal, who was 60 not out at stumps, as Pakistan failed to break through with the second new ball. Niroshan Dickwella was unbeaten on 42, having added 66 runs for the unbroken fifth-wicket stand alongside his captain. Chandimal was given leg before to Yasir Shah on 42, a decision which was overturned on review. His innings has included six boundaries while Dickwella hit five fours and a six during his aggressive knock.

Shah returned figures of 2-59 but didn't get much turn from the pitch while seamer Hasan Ali took 1-58. It was Karunaratne's knock that brought Sri

Lanka back into it in the last two sessions. He batted for four hours and 40 minutes during an obdurate stay at the crease, recording his fourth half-century against Pakistan and sixth overall. But he was run out in the last session as he attempted a quick single only to be left stranded after Chandimal at the non-striker's end sent him back.

Karunaratne said the pitch had made life challenging for the batsmen. "We did quite well in the first hour, but lost two wickets after that. But then we managed to pull things back. It's not an easy wicket to bat on. Not easy to get runs quickly and you've got to wait for those loose balls," he said. Karunaratne refused to lay the blame for his run out solely on his skipper. "It's part of the game and it happens when you play cricket. Can't say entirely his fault, partly mine too," said Karunaratne, adding, "a total of 350 or 400 would be great".

Shah equals Waqar mark

Pakistan had the advantage in the first session with leg-spinner Shah taking two wickets, dismissing left-hander Lahiru

Thirimanne for his 150th Test wicket. Shah matched fellow countryman Waqar Younis as the joint second fastest to 150 wickets—both achieving the milestone in their 27th Test. Australia's Sydney Barnes holds the record after reaching the landmark in just 24 Tests.

At the start, Karunaratne had a solid opening stand of 34 with Kaushal Silva before Hasan provided Pakistan with the breakthrough. Hasan bowled Silva for 12 as the batsman played on to an inswinging delivery. Shah then had Thirimanne trapped leg before for a duck and Kusal Mendis caught behind for 10 to leave Sri Lanka reeling. The Test is Pakistan's first since the retirement of legendary batsman Younis Khan and their most successful Test skipper, Misbah-ul-Haq.

Pakistan handed a Test cap to batsman Haris Sohail, while Sri Lanka went into the game with three spinners and two seamers. English umpire Ian Gould became an early morning casualty as the 60-year-old succumbed to an upset stomach and was replaced by Richard Kettleborough, originally the television umpire. —AFP

HOLDER LAMENTS WI WIN THAT GOT AWAY

LONDON: West Indies captain Jason Holder was left trying to work out how his side had lost the fourth one-day international against England despite two fine solo efforts with bat and ball. England triumphed by six runs under the Duckworth/Lewis method for rain-affected fixtures at The Oval on Wednesday in a series-clinching success that left them 3-0 up with one to play in a five-match contest.

Defeat, West Indies' 16th in 17 completed ODIs against England, was tough on Evin Lewis who made a career-best 176 before retiring hurt, while recalled paceman Alzarri Joseph took five for 56, his maiden five-wicket haul at his level. To make matters worse, opener Lewis will miss Friday's finale in Southampton with a

hairline fracture, an injury he suffered in bizarre fashion when he deflected a Jake Ball delivery onto his right ankle.

For all Lewis and Joseph's excellent work, an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 77 between Moeen Ali and Jos Buttler got England above the required rate to 258 for five when rain stopped play in the 36th over. "It's really hard to take... I thought, had the rain not come, it would have been a really close finish—and we were backing ourselves to win it," said all-rounder Holder, who made 77 as he and Lewis put on 168.

"It's hard when a guy scores 170 and another guy takes five wickets, and you end up losing the game," he added. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scores at close on the opening day of the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday:

Sri Lanka 1st innings		Fall of wickets: 1-34 (Silva), 2-35 (Thirimanne), 3-61 (Mendis), 4-161 (Karunaratne)
D. Karunaratne run out	93	Bowling: Amir 17-2-39-0, Abbas 16-0-43-0 (1nb), Shah 34-8-59-2, Hasan 17-3-58-1 (1nb), Masood 1-1-0-0, Sohail 4-0-14-0, Shafiq 1-0-6-0. Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed, Azhar Ali, Shan Masood, Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Amir, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Abbas.
K. Silva b Hasan	12	
L. Thirimanne lbw b Shah	0	
K. Mendis c Ahmed b Shah	10	
D. Chandimal not out	60	
N. Dickwella not out	42	
Extras: (lb8, nb2)	10	
Total: (for four wkts, 90 overs)	227	
To bat: D. Perera, R. Herath, S. Lakmal, L. Sundakan, N. Pradeep		

VETTEL WON'T CHANGE AFTER SINGAPORE EXIT

SEPANG: A defiant Sebastian Vettel vowed yesterday not to change the way he drives despite his first-lap exit in Singapore as he prepares for Sunday's last-ever Malaysian Grand Prix. Vettel's Ferrari started from pole but was involved in a crash at the start that also took out team-mate Kimi Raikkonen and Red Bull's Max Verstappen on a rain-soaked Marina Bay Circuit.

It allowed Lewis Hamilton, who avoided the carnage to win from fifth on the grid, to extend his championship lead from a slender three points to 28. "I'm not too fussed about the amount of points," Vettel told reporters at the Sepang International Circuit. "Obviously it's never good to be behind, we'd like to be in front, but we're not, so we've got to take it from there.

"Overall it doesn't change anything for how we tackle the last six races."

Vettel was exonerated of blame for the Singapore crash by stewards, but many observers felt the German four-time world champion was at fault as he had forced Verstappen towards Raikkonen. But Vettel said that he hadn't given the crash much thought since because it was just "part of racing". "I think it would have been more difficult if I had lost the car somewhere in the race, then it's obviously different," he said. "The lights went off, we did our start. Everyone was trying to do his start and with the way it happened it ended up really bad for all of us. There's not much you can do. I think it's part of racing. "It certainly didn't help Lewis scored a lot of points

but that's the way it goes. What's done is done. "It's not the first time I'm in the situation like this and probably will not be the last time-not that I'm hoping for it to happen again." Raikkonen said there was no point in dwelling on what happened and that Ferrari could still take plenty of positives from Singapore. "In Singapore Sebastian was first and I was fourth in qualifying so if you compare it with Mercedes we were better," Raikkonen said. "Then we basically didn't race."

Kimi won't miss Malaysia

Hamilton qualified only fifth and team-mate Valtteri Bottas sixth on the grid in Singapore. Verstappen, who was sandwiched between the two Ferraris, was

reluctant to talk about the crash. "It happened. You can't change it. We try again," said Verstappen. Sunday will see the final running of the Sepang race after the Malaysian government announced it would not continue to fund the \$67 million annual cost of staging the grand prix.

Raikkonen recorded his first victory at the circuit in 2003 but in typically unsentimental fashion said he wasn't upset to see the race disappear from the calendar. "To be honest I don't know if we're going to miss it," the Finn told reporters. "It's a nice circuit," he continued, "but the only thing you see is the airport, the hotel next to the airport and the circuit. You can choose from that what you're going to miss, or not." — AFP

IT'S OFFICIALLY DONE: WADE SIGNS WITH THE CAVALIERS

CLEVELAND: The wake-up calls for Dwyane Wade were coming at 5:45 a.m. for much of the summer. An hour or so later, he and LeBron James would be in the gym together working on their games. And the chemistry was as good as ever. "He drives me to want to be better," Wade said. They'll be grinding together on a daily basis now.

Wade signed a one-year, \$2.3 million deal with the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday to reunite with James, with whom he went to four NBA Finals and won two championships in Miami. Wade's deal was finalized quickly after he cleared waivers, which he had to do after getting a buyout from the Chicago Bulls over the weekend.

"I'm all about the challenge," Wade told The Associated Press. "If I didn't want the challenge, I would have stayed in Chicago. But I wanted the challenge of being back on that big stage and playing in those moments and seeing what I've got. So I'm not going to talk about what I've got. I want to go out there and show, when the lights are the brightest and the games are the biggest, that's when I'm alive. And I need that."

James delighted

He took a hard look at going back to Miami, listened to sales pitches from Paul George and Carmelo Anthony in Oklahoma City, even considered San Antonio and got a call from Golden State. But in the end, he wanted to play again with James - someone Wade calls his brother. "I definitely think I can help him in different ways," Wade told the AP via phone as he sat in his new locker room. "He is, in today's game, the greatest basketball player that we have. So he doesn't need me to help him be great. But there's other areas that I've been able to be there, to help him think about things a certain way. He knows I'm going to put the work in with him. He knows I'm going to be right there."

Earlier Wednesday, James said he feels like a little kid having Wade with him again. "Come on, man, this is like one of my best friends," James said after the first of Cleveland's two practices on the day - the second one set to be Wade's first with the Cavs. "It's kind of like when you start school and you walk into the classroom and you're not quite sure who your classmates are and when you walk in there and one of your best friends is in there, you're like: 'Oh, yeah, this is



MIAMI: In this Dec. 25, 2014, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) and Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade talk following an NBA basketball game. — AP

going to be fun. It's going to be a good class." A good team, too. Wade and James spent four seasons together with the Heat, winning two championships and making the Finals four times as a duo as devastating as any in league history. They'll now join forces on a Cleveland team that saw Kyrie Irving traded to Boston and the roster get remodeled by adding Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, former league MVP Derrick Rose and free agents Jeff Green and Jose Calderon.

Earn your spot

Wade has talked to coach Tyrone Lue about his role and seems assured that he'll be in the mix for a starting job. "You want to earn your spot, but I definitely wanted to make sure it wasn't something that was off the table," Wade said. "I don't want ever to be given anything in this league. I want to feel like I earned it. That's kind of how you want it coming to a new team. ... This is a deep team. That really excited me about the potential of this team and what you need to compete with a Golden State. You need a deep team to compete with them." Wade has said many times that a fourth ring isn't a make-or-break goal for him. His legacy is secure. He's a certain Hall of Famer. He's one of the best to ever play the game. That does-

n't mean another title is irrelevant, though. And he gave back about \$8 million in the buyout with the Bulls to get this chance, after taking smaller-than-he-could-have-gotten deals in Miami multiple times to help the Heat and their championship quests.

"I want to compete for it," Wade said. "I've always said if I don't win another one, it's not going to change the course of my career and what I've been able to accomplish. But as everyone knows, as has been very highly documented, some of it documented the wrong way, I've probably given back the most money of any player in NBA history. And it's always been to be in position to compete for a championship."

The Cavaliers have been to the last three NBA Finals; add the Miami years in there, and James has been to the title round in seven consecutive seasons. Wade hasn't played a June game since 2014. He's hoping that changes in 2018. "When you play this sport, getting to those moments, getting to the Eastern Conference finals, the Finals, that's when you feel alive," Wade said. "And I haven't felt that in a couple years. And I wanted to make sure I put myself in that position. If I don't win one, my career path is not going to change, but damn it sure will feel great." — AP

BOKS CHANGE THREE AFTER AUCKLAND ANNIHILATION

JOHANNESBURG: Coach Allister Coetzee has resisted wholesale change after South Africa were annihilated in New Zealand two weeks ago, making just three for a Rugby Championship clash with Australia Saturday. Out of the team that started a 57-0 thrashing by the All Blacks in Auckland go winger Raymond Rhule, scrum-half Francois Hougaard and flanker Jean-Luc du Preez.

They are replaced by Dillyn Leyds, who will make his first Test start in Bloemfontein, Ross Cronje and Francois Louw. Cronje teams up with fellow Golden Lion, fly-half Elton Jantjies, after missing the heaviest loss suffered by the Springboks due to a stomach bug. Leyds has made three appearances off the bench this season, during which South Africa won five Tests on the trot and drew in Australia before crumbling against New Zealand.

England-based Louw has won 52 caps, but injury and the preference of Coetzee for home-based players kept him out of the team this year. "Francois showed this week that he is in a great condition and brings a lot of experience to the team," said Coetzee. "His strength is playing towards the ball, and he is renowned for making good decisions at defensive breakdowns. "Jean-Luc moves back to the bench, from where he can make a telling impact."

Coetzee said "now is the right time to give Dillyn a starting opportunity as I know what I have in Raymond Rhule". "Dillyn has played consistently well in the Currie Cup and deserves a chance. "Raymond remains part of our plan and will join the squad next week in Cape Town ahead of the match against New Zealand. "It is great to resume the continuity between Ross and Elton as a half-back combination. All three scrum-halves looked sharp during training this week," said Coetzee, referring to Cronje, replacement Rudy Paige and uncapped Louis Schreuder.

There are two changes on the bench with hooker Chiliboy Ralepelle, included in the match-day 23 for the first time since 2013, replacing Bongani Mbonambi. Lock Lood de Jager drops out to make way for Du Preez, a son of former Springbok scrum-half Robert. With New Zealand set to wrap up the Championship in Argentina this weekend, the Bloemfontein match is effectively a contest for second place. World champions New Zealand have 19 points after four rounds of the southern hemisphere competition, South Africa 11, Australia eight and Argentina none. — AFP

HIGUAIN RELISHES PROVING DOUBTERS WRONG

TURIN: Gonzalo Higuain said he was relishing proving the doubters wrong after coming off the bench to inspire Juventus to a 2-0 Champions League win over Olympiakos in Turin. The 29-year-old roared towards the jubilant home fans in delight, pumped his chest triumphantly and threw his jersey into the crowd in the Allianz Stadium after Wednesday night's win.

"I don't let myself be bothered by criticism whether it be positive or negative," said the French-born Argentina player. "The fans really fired me up before I came on and it was beautiful to see their delight after I scored, it's the most beautiful moment

of my career. Massimiliano Allegri's side needed to reignite their European campaign after falling 3-0 to Barcelona two weeks ago.

Higuain had been benched for two consecutive matches after scoring just two goals this season but came on as a substitute to score and help set up the second for Mario Mandzukic. "I didn't feel under pressure. I am not disturbed by criticism or insults, it's all about having faith in yourself. "I heard people say I was in crisis for not scoring in two or three games, that's good, because obviously they were accustomed to me scoring in every game."

Skipper Gianluigi Buffon, who became the first

Italian player to mark 110 Champions League appearances, praised Higuain's resilience. "Higuain deserves it, you can prod him every way possible, but he has to give the response on the field and he did that," said Buffon. Olympiakos-playing just two days after Takis Lemonis was named new coach suffered their second defeat in a row. "Juventus are one of the five best teams in Europe and can hope to reach the final again. We caused them a few problems and this doesn't reduce their status in any way," he said. Olympiakos next travel to leaders Barcelona on October 18 with last year's finalists Juventus hosting Sporting Lisbon in Turin. — AFP



DORTMUND: This file photo taken on August 5, 2017 shows Bayern Munich's Italian head coach Carlo Ancelotti reacting during the German Supercup football match final between Borussia Dortmund vs Bayern Munich. — AP

ANCELOTTI SACKED BY BAYERN MUNICH

BERLIN: Bayern Munich have sacked coach Carlo Ancelotti in the wake of their Champions League defeat at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain, the club announced yesterday. "FC Bayern Munich have parted company with head coach Carlo Ancelotti as a result of internal discussions following the 3-0 defeat in the Champions League group stage match at Paris Saint-Germain," Bayern said in a statement on their website.

Former player Willy Sagnol, the ex-France international who had been serving as an assistant to Ancelotti, has been named interim coach. The 40-year-old has previously coached Bordeaux in his homeland. But Bayern have also parted company with four Italian members of Ancelotti's backroom staff, including his son Davide. Pressure had already been building on Ancelotti, 58, with Bayern enduring an inconsistent start to the season before losing 3-0 to PSG in the French capital on Wednesday.

After that game the Italian was questioned by German media about his tactics and team selection, following his decision to leave Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben and Mats Hummels on the bench at kick-off. "The performance of our team since the start of the season did not meet the expectations we put to them," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"The game in Paris clearly showed that we had to draw consequences. (Sporting director) Hasan Salihamidzic and I had an open and serious discussion with Carlo today and informed him of our decision.

'Professional decision'

"Carlo is my friend and will remain so, but we had to make a professional decision in the interests of FC Bayern. I now expect the team to have a positive development and top performance, so we can reach our goals for this season." The defeat in Paris was Bayern's heaviest since losing 3-0 away to Barcelona in the Champions League semi-final first leg in May 2015.

It was also their heaviest loss in a group game in the competition since a 3-0 reverse in Lyon in March 2001. Bayern are currently third in the Bundesliga table after six games, three points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund, before visiting Hertha Berlin on Sunday. They have not been so far off the pace at the top of the Bundesliga so early in a season since 2010/11, when Dortmund went on to win the title and Bayern finished third. Ancelotti led Bayern to a fifth consecutive Bundesliga title last season in his first campaign in charge after succeeding Pep Guardiola at the Allianz Arena.

However, the Bavarians lost to Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the Champions League and to Dortmund in the semi-finals of the German Cup. Ancelotti has also coached Parma, Juventus, AC Milan, Chelsea, PSG and Real Madrid, winning the Champions League three times in his career. Among the potential replacements being mentioned is Thomas Tuchel, currently a free agent after leaving Dortmund at the end of last season. — AFP

'COMPLETE' MBAPPE PRAISED

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe was singled out for praise despite being the only member of Paris Saint-Germain's superstar attack who didn't score in Wednesday's big Champions League win over German giants Bayern Munich. Dani Alves, Edinson Cavani and Neymar netted as PSG eased to a 3-0 victory at Parc des Princes to make it two wins from two games in Group B and take a huge step towards progressing to the last 16. But Mbappe, with his frightening pace and skill, set up Cavani's magnificent strike that made it 2-0 and left David Alaba for dead as he created Neymar's goal in the second half.

"Kylian is progressing well. He has great talent and great desire to help the team grow," said coach Unai Emery of the 18-year-old, who got the biggest roar of the night from the 45,000 home fans in the French capital when he made way for Angel di Maria late on. "The idea when we signed him was that he would help the team grow and the team would help him grow too. His was a complete performance."

The French teenager was making just his second appearance at Parc des Princes since arriving from Monaco on an initial loan deal that will become permanent next year, for a fee rising to 180 million euros (\$211 million) with bonuses. Only Neymar, at 222 million euros, will have cost more in the history of football and along with Cavani, PSG look to have a potentially Champions League-winning strike force. But they will need to remain in this form and avoid the kind of tensions that marred the recent win over Lyon, when Cavani and Neymar argued over who should take a penalty. "The expectations on us were big, which is normal after the transfer window," Mbappe told Canal Plus. "It's just the beginning. We wanted to put in a big performance against a great team and we did it." The 'MCN' attack have now scored 18 goals between them this season and they have also made PSG more adaptable, able to transform into a side that soaks up pressure before destroying opponents on the break. "Normally we control games with possession against deep-lying defences. Today they defended higher and had the ball but we controlled the game without it," said Emery, whose side have scored eight goals and conceded none in two European outings. — AFP



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani (R) is congratulated by teammates Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (C) and Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Dani Alves (L) after he scored a goal during the UEFA Champions League football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich on September 27, 2017 at the Parc des Princes stadium. — AFP

CONTE SLAMS SCHEDULE FOR MAN CITY CLASH

MADRID: Chelsea boss Antonio Conte blasted Premier League schedulers over his side's short turnaround from Champions League action before facing high-flying Manchester City in a top-of-the-table clash on Saturday. Conte's men put in a brilliant performance to inflict only Atletico Madrid's second Champions League defeat on home soil in 24 games on Wednesday, when Michy Batshuayi's 93rd-minute winner sealed a 2-1 victory.

However, the Italian lamented the advantage handed to City, who played their Champions League fixture at home to Shakhtar Donetsk 24 hours earlier on Tuesday. "I think we are a bit penalized and in this case, it is very important to analyze, before taking these decisions, the different situations of the team," said Conte. "City played yesterday at home. We played tonight away and we will return to London

around four o'clock (in the morning)."

City lead the Premier League from Manchester United on goal difference, with Chelsea three points back in third. "Man City is a really strong team. They are scoring a lot of goals, they are in a good moment of form and we have to prepare well (for) this game because it is very important. "Before taking this decision someone must analyze very well this situation. "There is the international break (after this weekend). My surprise is for this because there is the time (to play the game later)."

Conte was far more content with Chelsea's display as they battled back to claim a well-deserved three points despite falling behind to Antoine Griezmann's penalty five minutes before half-time. Former Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata stretched his scoring streak to seven goals in as many games with a deft

near-post header from the outstanding Eden Hazard's cross to level on the hour-mark.

'We kept our head'

Morata and Cesc Fabregas then passed up huge chances before Batshuayi struck the decisive blow with the last kick of the game after a patient team move tore a tiring Atletico to shreds. "It is very difficult when Atletico Madrid score to come back, but despite this we deserved to win because we continued to play with good personality," added Conte. "We kept our head on the pitch. We deserved to win against a really good team like Atletico Madrid."

Batshuayi was the unlikely hero as he came off bench just eight minutes from time to net already his fifth goal of the season despite playing second fiddle to Morata. — AFP

ALLI IN ENGLAND SQUAD DESPITE FIFA BAN RISK

LONDON: Dele Alli was named in England's squad yesterday for their concluding World Cup qualifiers against Slovenia and Lithuania despite the threat of a ban by FIFA. Football's global governing body could rule the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder out of both matches as a result of a middle-finger gesture he gave in a qualifier against Slovakia. England face Slovenia at Wembley on October 5 before finishing their Group F campaign away to Lithuania in Vilnius three days later. With no decision communicated yet by FIFA on Alli's availability, England manager Gareth Southgate has gone ahead and selected the 21-year-old Spurs star.

"Nothing at the moment, so we have put him in the squad," Southgate told a news conference after unveiling his squad at their St George's Park training base in Burton, central England. "Our hope is that common sense prevails and he is available for our matches, but we'll have to wait and see," he added. "We have to look what happens in the hearing and go from there. We have given our side of events and Dele has given his side of events. "We've had a good chat with Dele about lots of different things and the biggest disappointment for him is that he has to miss football. "We hope to have him available."

Pochettino concern

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said he wanted Alli back with the London club if FIFA ruled him out of England duty. "I wish that nothing happens and he can play but I am not the person that will decide what will happen with him," Pochettino explained. "I will decide what happens if he is banned. What will happen is impossible to know. I think if he is banned I would prefer him to stay with us working than to be with the national team. "Then that is a decision between the FA (England's Football Association) and us. I have not talked to Gareth Southgate yet. (If Alli is banned) we will speak."

Meanwhile Manchester City midfielder Fabian Delph received his first England call-up from Southgate, having won the last of his nine caps against Spain in November 2015. Southampton goalkeeper Fraser Forster was the only other change to Southgate's last squad, with Tom Heaton, Nathaniel Chalobah and Danny Welbeck all missing through injury. Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy, who has been troubled by a hip problem, was left out. England require just two points from their matches against Slovenia and Lithuania to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in Russia.

Kurzawa keeps France place

Elsewhere, Paris Saint-Germain defender Layvin Kurzawa retained his place in the France squad on Thursday for next month's 2018 World Cup qualifiers despite a video of him criticising national coach Didier Deschamps. Kurzawa was the recent victim of a blackmail plot involving a video of the 25-year-old mocking Deschamps, although the footage has not been made public.

Four men aged between 25 and 30 were arrested and charged with the foiled attempt to blackmail Kurzawa for 200,000 euros (\$239,000) during the summer. The PSG player was filmed on a mobile phone in a shisha bar in Paris with the footage falling into the hands of the gang. A source disclosed that the video contained footage of Kurzawa making "uncalled for gestures aimed at the France national manager". — AFP



MOSCOW: Manchester United's Romelu Lukaku, top, duels for the ball with CSKA Moscow players during the Champions League soccer match between CSKA Moscow and Manchester United. — AP

AMAZING LUKAKU WON'T LOSE FOCUS: MOURINHO

MOSCOW: Jose Mourinho backed Romelu Lukaku to ignore the hype about his superb start at Manchester United after the Belgian's brace set up a 4-1 victory over CSKA Moscow. Lukaku, 24, scored twice at the VEB Arena on Wednesday to take his tally to 10 goals in his first nine United games and send Mourinho's men three points clear at the top of Champions League Group A.

To date Lukaku has shown no sign of being burdened by his £75 million (\$100.5 million, 85.5 million euros) price tag, but Mourinho said the former Everton striker was braced for the inevitable counter-currents ahead. "Amazing numbers for Romelu. He's humble, he wants to learn all the time, he wants to improve all the time," the United manager told reporters.

"I think ambition is there and I don't think he's going to be very impressed with your great words because he knows that when things are not going well, your words are also strong in a negative way. "I trust that he can keep performing for us." Victory was secure inside 27 minutes for United, who were 3-0 up before their hosts had time to gather their senses.

Paired together at the sharp end of a novel 3-4-1-2 formation, Lukaku and Anthony Martial clicked instantly, the Frenchman crossing for Lukaku to head in United's opener in the fourth minute. After scoring a penalty in the 18th minute, Martial laid on Lukaku's third goal and Henrikh Mkhitaryan added a fourth just shy of the hour before Konstantin Kuchaev purloined an anecdotal consolation.

Mourinho's only gripe was that United now face a quick turnaround before Saturday afternoon's visit of bottom club Crystal Palace in the Premier League. "The team is solid, the

team is playing well," said Mourinho, whose team are level on points with league leaders Manchester City. "We start the competitions strong, August and September really strong in all the competitions. "We have now just one more game, a difficult one, against a fresh team when we are still here (in Moscow) and we have a game on Saturday at three o'clock."

'Beyond my understanding'

While Mourinho's pre-match claim that this was the strongest CSKA team he had faced rang hollow, he said the scoreline was more a reflection of United's strengths than the home side's failings. "It was my best team too," he said when asked to account for CSKA's poor showing.

"It's true. I came here of course with very good teams—Chelsea, Inter (Milan), Real Madrid—but I think this was the strongest performance. "With Real Madrid and Inter we came for the knockout phase. We came to play for a very specific result. We were happy with the goal. We were happy with the 1-0, the 1-1. "Today we were really strong. It was my strongest performance here."CSKA coach Viktor Goncharenko admitted United's unfamiliar shape had caught him by surprise and expressed admiration for the speed with which Mourinho's players rediscovered their shape after losing possession. "When you have 70 percent of ball possession and after losing the ball you return so quickly to defence, it's beyond my understanding," said the Belarusian. "Manchester played in another scheme. Many things were different to what we observed. We were getting ready for one scheme and the opponent played in a completely different scheme." — AFP

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Ancelotti sacked

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