

Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17506

RAJAB 27, 1439 AH | FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

6 Amnesty taking its toll on apartment 'sharers'



10 Syria attack could be 'soon or not so soon,' Trump says



47 T'Wolves snap playoff drought; Sixers cruise



Kuwait Airways halts Beirut flights

KUWAIT: Kuwait's national carrier halted flights to Beirut yesterday citing security concerns, after an air safety watchdog warned of potential military strikes on Syria in the coming days. Kuwait Airways said that it took the decision "on the basis of credible security warnings received from the Cypriot authorities regarding the danger of flying over Lebanon's airspace".

The changes would stand "until further notice", the air-

line said on Twitter. The move came after the European Aviation Safety Agency alerted airlines on Tuesday of the possible launch of "air-to-ground and/or cruise missiles within the next 72 hours", urging them to take precautionary measures. Other international carriers including Air France and Lebanon's Middle East Airlines have also modified their flight plans.

US President Donald Trump warned Wednesday that

"missiles will be coming" in response to an alleged chemical attack in Syria. If the US action follows the pattern of a previous punitive strike on Syria last year, it will begin with a salvo of cruise missiles fired from American warships in the Mediterranean. Russia's ambassador to Beirut warned any US missiles would be shot down "as well as the sources they were fired from", raising the stakes of a regional confrontation. — AFP

The new camping lifestyle in Kuwait

See Page 4, 5



Local

No laundry on balconies!



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The Municipality's emergency team launched a new campaign last week against hanging clothes in the balconies of apartments. The team commenced its work by issuing warnings in Bneid Al-Gar. If tenants ignore the order, they will be handed fines ranging from KD 100-KD 300. Future campaigns will be carried out in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority, because this issue is related to visual pollution.

I encourage such campaigns. The sight of drying clothing hanging from balconies and windows, especially underwear, is not nice, and it is indeed visual pollution. In addition, the dust that we have in Kuwait nearly throughout the year is not suitable for laundry, and clean clothes are prone to get dirty, especially those in apartments on main streets.

Hanging clothes in balconies is not limited to Bneid Al-Gar, but can be seen in Hawally, for example, and the capital as well. I think it is time to end this ugly phenomenon once and for all. What worries me is the future of this campaign, because I recall a campaign against the use of water hoses to wash cars and replace them with buckets, because so far there is no news about what happened to this campaign and if it achieve its goal or not. I remember it coincided with the National Day celebrations and the wastage of water. I hope this campaign does not end like others.

I should also mention that the issue needs to be thought through not only in terms of aesthetics. Using a clothes dryer takes up electricity and in summer especially Kuwait needs to be careful how it consumes electricity. Drying clothes on the line, either on a balcony or the rooftop, is actually super energy efficient as it uses only the sun. This saves our precious country millions in electricity wastage and also reduces our nation's energy footprint.

Building owners should be required to provide more energy-efficient and green solutions for residents to encourage greater eco-friendly living and help preserve our environment for now and future generations.

We face the problem of carelessness. For example, on weekends you find rubbish strewn in every direction on the beach. Those who throw or leave garbage have no sense of the need to preserve the environment and no fear from punishment and fines. I also think that the media, especially the official TV channels, are lacking in spreading awareness and working with schools to educate students, especially younger ones, about the importance of hygiene and preservation of the environment. These awareness campaigns should take into account the role of social media tools in their dissemination.

I believe collective action to combat such bad phenomena is important, and I think that the role of the General Authority for Environment is also important in terms of media outreach and follow-up.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: A fisherman casting his net is caught in silhouette by photographer Rami Saber. — Kuna

Guerilla learning online



IN MY VIEW

By Salman Al Mutawa

local@kuwaittimes.net

'Online' has a negative connotation when it comes to education. "Pfft. Online! If you want to learn something, go to a workshop or an actual class, those are more effective," people say - and by people, I mean myself exactly one year ago. The truth is, not much has changed. Online classes have yet to become practical and effective enough to replace actual brick and mortar classes. But what about online courses?

In the past six months, I have learned how to burn an hour's worth of calories in seven minutes, memorize over a hundred numbers and recite them forwards and backwards in less than 10 minutes, never forget a list, story or name ever again, bring people out of their shells to discuss more personal matters and allow myself and them to grow more as individuals, how to understand the basic psychology of everyone around you, how to choose what business I want to go into in less than 10 minutes, and the nooks and crannies of cryptocurrency...to scratch the surface.

I am sure by now, at least one of these items on the list has piqued your interest, and rightfully so. By next month, I hope to be able to control my autonomic nervous system to fight disease without the need for most medicine (but that's another matter). If any of these topics has tugged at your heartstrings, it is because we humans are drawn to the practical. We are drawn to the things that can make something minutely annoying - like forgetting someone's name soon after you meet them or wondering why you always procrastinate - disappear.

So how do you turn these "tricks" and hacks into a lifestyle? I admit I am still learning myself, but I have reached a point where I am comfortable enough to draw attention to the sources that can help transform lives. Just Googling these individuals will send you to the next,

which will send you to the next, which will send you to the... you get the idea:

1- Go to YouTube.com and search for Tom Bilyeu's Impact Theory. My suggestion would be to start by watching Simon Sinek's interview on leadership.

Tom Bilyeu is the cofounder of Quest Nutrition (they make the Quest protein bars) and is one of the leading individuals in creating a centralized one stop shop for anyone who wants to transform their wealth, health, spirit and fitness. You can find him on Instagram @Tombilyeu.

2- Buy, borrow or steal Tim Ferris' book "Tools of Titans". This book is the Heathrow airport of amazing transformational individuals and advice. Reading this book could quite literally send you all over the world scouring for what more information you can find and add to your personal lifestyle. Tim Ferris is a multimillionaire best known for his book "The 4 Hour Work Week" (which I also highly recommend!) You can find Tim on YouTube by searching his name or on Instagram @timferris.

3- Deliberately keeping the best for last, and deliberately giving it the number "0" because this is where anyone and everyone should start, watch "Tony Robbins: I am Not Your Guru" to understand how this man can take chronically depressed and suicidal people out of their depression in less than 30 minutes. Then go to YouTube, search for him and watch and listen to everything this man has to offer. My advice would be to get a copy of "Awaken the Giant Within" and read it cover to cover. This book and the knowledge gained from it is the fastest way you can create the proper infrastructure in your life so that you can build off of a strong foundation. Learn how to make a decision and stick to it (like going to the gym or choosing the right life partner) using the right psychological tools and techniques. All from one source. You can find Tony on Tonyrobbins.com or on Instagram/Twitter @tonyrobbins

My goal with this editorial is to show that there is learning outside of the traditional schooling method that can not only fast-track the current method of schooling, but also be used to impact young men and women in Kuwait into peeling themselves away from the main educational lanes and join me in guerilla learning.

Kuwait  Times

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW

KD **25**

PAINTBALL KUWAIT

* your subscription for one year for only kd **25** and get **4 Free** tickets to Paintball kuwait valued at kd **37**



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

Call now +965 248 33 199 - 248 333 58 Fax: +965 248 35 620 - 248 35 621
www.kuwaittimes.net



MODERN CAMPING GROWING IN POPULARITY IN KUWAIT

By Nawara Fattahova

People passing along Blajat street in Salmiya may have noticed an unusual gathering on Salmiya beach. Campers (also called caravans or RVs, short for recreational vehicles) have gathered in varying numbers there in recent days. The campers, some of whom have also gathered at Anjafa beach park, are part of a growing regional trend of camper travel. People from across the Gulf Cooperation Council are now buying campers and driving them up and down the Arabian Gulf, visiting the member states of the GCC, meeting up with other campers and enjoying the camping lifestyle.

Not all the campers are foreign, many locals in Kuwait are also gathering as there is no official campground for them. Some RV owners also stake out a spot in Khairan,

preferring to spend weekends or holidays near the beaches and away from the city.

On the seaside in Ras Al-Salmiya, Kuwait Times found a caravan owned by a young man. It is parked in an area that is deserted except for a lone restaurant. Ahmad Al-Enezi bought the RV four months ago. "I think that it's a trend now in Kuwait. Although caravans have been in Kuwait for years, from last year their numbers increased. I bought mine used from a friend for KD 6,000. I enjoy staying in it, even overnight during the weekend, especially when the weather is pleasant. When the generator stops working, I go back home. I'm also thinking of converting my caravan into a food truck and participate in some of the events for young entrepreneurs," said Enezi.

According to Hamad Al-Jalahma, one of the older caravan owners, who is called 'The Godfather' by other campers, new young campers are causing problems.

"The municipality has received complaints by people regarding disturbing the public on the seaside with loud music blaring from the caravans, in addition to polluting the parking lot with sewage water and garbage that is simply thrown by the roadside," he told Kuwait Times.

There are two kinds of RVs. "The 'motor home' is a huge vehicle with prices ranging between KD 20,000 to more than KD 100,000. The second is a 'travel trailer', which is towed by a vehicle. It is lighter in weight but includes all amenities. This kind is more popular in Kuwait as it's cheaper, as its price ranges between KD 8,000 to KD 16,000, depending on its length and additional features," Jalahma explained.

Campers typically include beds, a bathroom, seating areas, kitchenette and can be fitted out with items including televisions and other conveniences.

"RV enthusiasts park caravans in the desert during winter instead of pitching tents. The caravans offer more comfort due to the multiple facilities they offer. Some caravan owners only stay in the caravan during weekends but not overnight, while others stay overnight, and I'm one of them," he said.

Campers in Kuwait also travel to other countries. "We mostly travel in groups to various GCC countries, as these are the nearest. For instance, I just came back from Oman, and the journey there took me three days. I enjoyed the countryside and used my caravan to sleep instead of booking a hotel. Sometimes we also travel to Europe, but we usually ship the caravan and fly by air, as it's a long way from here," Jalahma noted.



KUWAIT: Photos show campers, also known as caravans or recreational vehicles, parked in Salmiya beach and near Anjafa beach in Salwa. Campers are typically outfitted with complete living spaces including beds, seating areas, dining area, kitchenettes and bathrooms. — Photos by Joseph Shagra, Ben Garcia and courtesy Hamad Al-Jalahma



Local

Friday, April 13, 2018



The campers have many suggestions and demands. "We demand the government to establish a 'camping park', which are sites similar to parking lots that are even available in other GCC countries. We also need to have a law that organizes this activity like the rest of the GCC countries. It could be a park that can be used by campers after paying certain fees. A few years ago, the government announced that such an idea will be realized in Khairan. We also submitted an official letter with this suggestion to the Cabinet in 2013, but till today nothing has happened - we only have promises. I also think all caravans should have number plates and not just motor homes," he added.

"There are many abandoned caravans in Abu Al-Hasania, and I wonder why the municipality doesn't remove them. Also, if the police along with municipal inspectors issue fines to lawbreakers, then people won't complain," concluded Jalahma.



Local



AMNESTY TAKING TOLL ON APARTMENT 'SHARERS'

By Ben Garcia

Joel from the Philippines is finally giving up his sharing apartment in Farwaniya, which he's been renting with other Filipinos. His hand was forced after three of his sub-renters left the country during the ongoing amnesty. The interior ministry issued a decree granting a general amnesty to expatriates in Kuwait without valid visas to leave the country between Jan 29 and April 22, 2018. There were an estimated 155,000 residency violators in Kuwait in early January.

Till date, a total of 51,000 people - or 33 percent of the total undocumented residency violators - have corrected their residency status. Around 32,000 left the country without paying fines with an option to return, while 19,500 paid fines to remain in Kuwait.

That means, however, that more than 100,000 residency violators remain in the country. These people occupy a grey space in the society - illegal but often with jobs, apartments and even families here. Since they do not have valid residencies, they do not have valid civil IDs or bank accounts and cannot therefore legal rent an apartment. So many turn to apartment sharing.

Apartment sharing is technically illegal in Kuwait but still practiced by many, especially in the lower income areas of the country and among expatriates from the same nationality. In Joel's case, his three former tenants were all residency violators who worked in small baqalas and grocery stores in Farwaniya. "Two left towards the end of February and one this month. I cannot pay the KD 320 rent by myself, so I informed the haris that I am moving this month. I have seen a new room across the street, and have informed the two of my remaining tenants to leave and look for other flats to share," Joel told Kuwait Times.

Like most tenants, Joel complained of the high rent. "How could I continue paying the rent? It's not easy to get new renters with decent jobs and no vices. Those people who left my flat are all good people with no issues whatsoever. We were like family here - now that they are gone, I won't look for new renters. In-

stead I will give up this flat and shift to a new room," he said.

Another family in Omariya faces a similar situation. They rented a KD 300 apartment which was shared by two Indians in one room and a single Filipino in another. The Indians availed of the amnesty and left. "I will try to pay until the end of April or even May, but if no one comes to rent my empty room, I will give up this apartment. I don't want to work only to pay the monthly rent," Indika told Kuwait Times.

Across Kuwait, rents are dropping due to the reduced numbers of expatriates here and the growing anti-expat sentiment in the country. The rent values of some flats have fallen by KD 10 to as much as KD 100. According to Al-Rai daily, around 53,000 flats out of a total 371,000 flats in 13,353 residential buildings are vacant. The daily quoted a recent study conducted by the Kuwait Real Estate Association, which said that around 14 percent of flats in investment residential buildings are empty.

But rent rates differ according to the area. According to a real estate broker, rent values have dropped significantly only in far-flung areas. In commercial areas, however, the rent dropped slightly or even remained the same, as most landlords refuse to lower the rent. An owner of three buildings that are mostly vacant refuses to reduce the rent - even as tenants leave his apartments for cheaper alternatives.



FREE

Subscribe & Read

Kuwait Times



Send "**subscribe**" by whatsapp to
+965 9 44 88 888

*Enjoy the paper
right on your phone*

Local

MP Al-Hashem remarks on Hijab triggers controversy

Activists, Islamist and conservative lawmakers fume

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Critical remarks by MP Safa Al-Hashem, the only female in the 50-seat National Assembly, about the Hijab sparked a nation-wide controversy yesterday with Islamist and conservative lawmakers and activists lashing back at the comments. Writing on her Twitter account late Wednesday, Hashem criticized a campaign sponsored by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to encourage Muslim women to wear the hijab, or the head scarf. She described the campaign, made by large roadside billboards, as "strange" and is unacceptable in a civil country where the constitution guarantees personal freedom.

She added that the country instead requires a campaign to strengthen national unity, adding that she called the Minister of

Awqaf who promised to remove the billboards. But Hashem's remarks were met by a storm of criticism and condemnation on the social media, all reminding her that Hijab is mandatory under Islamic teachings and that Islam is the official religion of the country under the constitution. A large number of lawmakers jumped in the fray strongly lashing out at Hashem and warning that they will resort to grillings if the minister removes the billboards.

Islamist MP Abdullah Fahhad said the campaign is in line with the Islamic Sharia and the traditions of the conservative Kuwaiti society. He strongly criticized Hashem and urged the minister to remain supportive of the campaign. MP Waleed Al-Tabtabai said it is difficult to understand how some people are provoked by the picture of a woman with hijab and not bothered with the pictures of fashionistas. MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said the Hijab

campaign is for promoting good manners while MP Saleh Ashour said the campaign's objectives are for promoting high values and manners.

Hashem's remarks were however supported by a small number of liberal activists who insisted that this is personal freedom and should be protected. Later, Hashem explained on Twitter that she did not attack the Hijab but only insisted that wearing it is a personal decision, adding that she only questioned those behind the campaign and how it was decided and who is running it, hinting that some Islamist figures are personally benefitting from the campaign.

She said she will send a parliamentary question on the issue to the government, mainly how the campaign is financed and if a feasibility study was made for the project.

CRIMES

Forging stamp

The capital detectives recently arrested an Iranian who had been forging revenue stamps and selling them to the public in various ministries, said security sources. The case started when an Egyptian doing a traffic transaction used one of the fake stamps. When asked about it, he described a man dressed in national attire who sold it to him. On checking the surveillance cameras, detectives identified the suspect and arrested him. A case was filed.

14 sheep stolen

A citizen recently reported that unidentified thieves had stolen 14 sheep from a ranch he owned in Wafra, said security sources.

Accident kills one

An Egyptian Arabic teacher was recently killed when he lost control over his vehicle and it flipped along Wafra highway while heading to the school.

Fugitive nabbed

A Kuwaiti was recently arrested in Ardhiya. He was wanted for several cases, including abduction and rape in which he was sentenced to 90 years in prison.

Maid steals watch

Following a citizen's report that his watch (worth KD 12,000) was stolen, detectives found out that the housemaid stole it. The maid was confronted and she confessed her crime - claiming that she stole the watch because her salary was not paid. She said she gave the watch to her boyfriend who sold it for only KD 600.

Women professions in the past

KUWAIT: In old Kuwait, women used to (as they do nowadays) be men's partners in bearing the burdens of life through the picking up of simple professions. Professions practiced by women at that time were simple, as they needed minimum craftsmanship and physical skills, in addition to a fair level of literacy and memorization of the Quran. In this context, Kuwaiti Heritage researcher Adel Al-Abdulmughni said yesterday that most of those rackets practiced in the past as a source of income. The Kuwaiti society back then was self-sufficient and its people practiced all kinds of professions without feeling ashamed, he noted.

Women took up some professions to meet the need of the community; for example, the 'braids maker', who as the name suggests, braided girls and women's long hair. Another job was the 'matchmaker'; an older woman whose main job is to help men find a suitable wife, where the families of both the man and intended wife pay her should the marriage takes place. Even in the more conservative society, Kuwaiti Bedouin women were involved in earning a living through their skills in Sadu knitting. Sadu knitting is one of the oldest traditional crafts practiced by Bedouin women to provide basic needs for living in the desert. — KUNA



'Al Mulyah' (in old Kuwait) was a teacher who taught young girls math, reading and writing as well as other subjects. — KUNA

Local islands project 'will boost economy'

KUWAIT: The development of local islands project will contribute to evolving national economy and creating opportunities to both foreign and local investors, Tarek Sultan, Agility CEO and Vice Chairman, said on Wednesday. Sultan added in a press statement on the sidelines of the company's annual ordinary and extraordinary general assembly meeting that the project is a big chance to attract foreign investments, mainly Chinese investors. Agility, a leading global logistics provider, held today its meeting at the Radisson Blu Hotel, with a quorum of 77.7 percent.

"Agility witnessed another year of healthy growth and continued to plant the seeds for a future of sustainable growth," he noted. "To reach our target of \$800 million EBITDA by 2020, we remain focused on improving GIL's performance and investing in our Infrastructure companies." He pointed out that Agility is accelerating its strategy to transform the business through technology and establish its position as the leading digital player in the company's industry. —KUNA

Kuwait pardons 2,280 prisoners

KUWAIT: Kuwait has pardoned up to 2,280 inmates and ordered the immediate release of 446 others, as per an Amiri decree, its Interior Ministry announced yesterday. Some 1,633 prisoners have had their sentences commuted, while deportation proceedings against 169 inmates will be halted and 32 others remain incarcerated for other offenses, the ministry said in a statement. Meanwhile, another 608 inmates facing fines have also been pardoned, the statement added. The Interior Ministry's Undersecretary for Correctional Institutions Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna wished the pardoned inmates well, thanking all those who have contributed to this humanitarian initiative. — KUNA

Local

Kuwaiti Minister calls for boosting Arab economic, social cooperation

Ministers eye Arab free-trade zone, customs union

RIYADH: Boosting economic and social cooperation is vital for the welfare and development of the Arab League members, said a Kuwaiti Minister yesterday. Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sideline of the Arab Economic and Social Affairs Council's meeting, Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said that Arab countries were eager to pursue decisions aimed at bolstering cooperation among Arab brethren.

The Economic and Social Affairs Council's meeting will come out with important draft resolutions concerning the Arab free-trade zone, customs union, and many other important issues pertains to Arab cooperation, affirmed Minister Al-Hajraf. He added that the meeting also touched on the plight of the Palestinian children suffering from Israeli abuse. Al-Hajraf indicated that Arab League members will discuss the Kuwait declaration concerning this matter which came out of the 2017 conference for Palestinian children held in Kuwait. The Arab economic and social affairs meeting will be followed by the Foreign Ministers meeting to be held later.

Foreign Ministers meeting

Meanwhile, Arab Foreign Ministers began their meeting yesterday in preparation for the 29th Arab Summit scheduled for April 15. Speaking at the opening session, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said that the current challenges facing the Arab world would stall the regional countries' ambitions for progress and development.

The Jordanian official affirmed that Arabs should unite on matters such as the Palestinian cause which is the most central and crucial issue in the region. The status of Jerusalem is an integral issue within the efforts to reach peace in the Middle East, said Safadi, stressing that in order for peace to prevail, Israel should abide by international resolutions concerning the regional peace process and the Palestinians' rights for an



Arab Ministers of Economy and Social Affairs

independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Syrian issue

Safadi called for intensifying efforts to eradicate terrorism and take back the true essence of the Muslim faith hijacked by terror groups around the globe. On the Syrian issue, the Jordanian Foreign Minister affirmed that the political solution was the only way forward to end over a decade of crisis in Syria. Also delivering his speech to the meeting, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubier said that the Arab world should focus on its most essential issue, which is the Palestinian cause.

The recent US decision to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a step that Saudi Arabia condemns because it will have a negative impact on the regional peace process, said Al-Jubier who thanked the international community for its reaction towards this

particular step. The Saudi Foreign Minister touched on the efforts to combat terrorism and affirmed that the Arab countries should stand in unity against all terror groups. Al-Jubier mentioned the Iranian interference in Arab affairs, saying that Tehran was supporting sectarian strife in the region.

He blamed Iran for supporting the Houthi militias in Yemen, noting that such steps enabled the launch of 117 ballistic missile attacks against Saudi Arabia. In regards to the Yemeni situation, the Saudi Foreign Minister said that peace in Yemen should be achieved through UNSC resolution 2216 regarding the end of violence in Yemen, the GCC initiative, and the outcome of the Yemeni national dialogue. Saudi Arabia provided Yemen with relief aid worth USD 100 billion in the last three years, affirmed Al-Jubier who revealed that there were 217 Saudi-run projects at the cost of USD 925 million operat-

ing in the country.

On the situation in Syria, the Saudi Foreign Minister called for the unity of Syrian land and the implementation of the Geneva 1 declaration and UNSC resolution 2254. The Saudi official expressed condemnation towards the recent attack in Douma, Syria, calling for the international community to react to this heinous act. Minister Al-Jubier lauded the recently held Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI), affirming that it will help Iraqis to regain their composure and rebuild their country.

He called for unifying efforts to bring peace in Libya, stressing that Libyans should abide by resolutions aimed at ending violence in the fellow Arab country. On his part, Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Abul-Gheit indicated the issue of refugees and displaced in Syria and Iraq was one of the most alarming issues that needed to be dealt with swiftly. — Agencies

Creative Kuwaitis display inventions

GENEVA: Two Kuwaiti inventors are partaking in the International Exhibition of Inventions; one displaying a device for doors' quick unlocking in distressing relief operations and the other publicizing a method for treating oil-contaminated soil. Hussein bou Mejdad, a firefighter, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that he had thought deeply and for a long time to invent a tool for opening doors after encountering situations where he and fellow firefighters had to smash doors to salvage trapped people amid raging fires.

The firemen in strenuous relief operations are compelled to break doors causing loud and

horrific sound adding to stranded persons' fear. "I was inspired by the Almighty to invent the device to open locked doors in no more than 15 seconds without breaking them and with minimum damage," said bou Mejdad in the remarks to KUNA. He expressed gratitude to Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) for helping him to acquire a patent for his innovation, already on sale in Oman and Qatar.

For his part, Meshari Al-Mutairi said it had dawned on him to create a method for cleansing oil-soaked soil when the Iraqi occupiers torched and damaged Kuwaiti oil installations, forming pools of crude oil and polluting the country's soil. The problem preoccupied Al-Mutairi during his studies in Britain in environmental engineering till he had read and fathomed the inner meaning of the Quranic verse, "we have made everything alive from water," thus he had started exam-



Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim poses for a group photo with other Kuwaitis. — KUNA

ining ways to clean the soil with water, rather than chemical substances.

Al-Mutairi, whose invention was accredited by Kuwait Oil Company, said the technique is applicable in various kinds of soil of other countries. For his part, the State of Kuwait Permanent

Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, affirmed the State of Kuwait's particular concern and care for creative citizens. The exhibition, scheduled April 11-15, has grouped 822 inventors from 40 countries. — KUNA

International

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018



#ZuckerBowl without a clear winner as hearing ends

Kashmir takes hit as Indo-Pakistan tensions fester

Page 17

Page 15



This US Navy photo obtained April 11, 2018 shows the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) as it departs Larnaca, Cyprus on April 9, 2018. —AFP

Trump: Attack is 'soon or not so soon'

US and its allies still 'assessing the intelligence' on chemical attack

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump was evasive yesterday over when the United States might fire missiles at Syria in retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack, saying they could come at any time. Tension was mounting among top world powers over the alleged chemical attack against civilians in the Syrian town of Douma.

France's Emmanuel Macron said yesterday he had "proof" that the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad had used chemical weapons, and would respond to it "at a time of our choosing." One day after warning regime-backer Russia that "missiles will be coming" to Syria, Trump in another early morning tweet storm wrote: "Never said when an attack on Syria would take place. Could be very soon or not so soon at all!"

British Prime Minister Theresa May was due to hold an emergency cabinet meeting amid speculation she will support US action against the Syrian regime. Germany's Angela Merkel said it was "obvious" that Syria hadn't eradicated its chemical arsenal as it had earlier claimed. Meanwhile opponents of unilateral US action called an

emergency closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council for yesterday.

The White House has said that Trump holds Assad's regime and its military backers Russia responsible for an alleged attack on Douma on Saturday, which rescue workers said killed more than 40 people. Trump on Wednesday slammed Russia for its military alliance with Assad, saying it should not "be partners with a Gas Killing Animal who kills his people and enjoys it." US officials have refused to rule out direct military engagement with Russia, with the White House saying that "all options are on the table."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Wednesday the Pentagon was ready to provide options for a Syria strike but that the US and its allies were still "assessing the intelligence" on the suspected chemical attack. A special hotline for the US and Russian militaries to communicate about operations in Syria is active and being used by both sides, Moscow said yesterday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned that it was "crucial to avoid any steps that could lead to heightened tensions" in Syria, saying

this would have an "extremely destructive influence" on attempts to resolve the conflict.

'Further destabilization'

Assad warned yesterday that threats of Western military action "will only contribute to further destabilization in the region." Russia has warned the United States against carrying out a "military intervention on fabricated pretexts," and has accused the White Helmets civil defense organization in Syria of staging a fake chemical weapons attack in Douma. The Russian army declared early yesterday that the Syrian state flag was flying in Douma, where the alleged chemical attack took place. Moscow said this a "significant event in the history of Syria," meaning that the whole of Eastern Ghouta had come under government forces' control. Rebels in Syria's Eastern Ghouta surrendered their heavy weapons and their leader left the enclave, while the Syrian flag was raised over the central mosque, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said. However Douma residents told AFP that a dispute subse-

quently erupted with shots fired and the flag was taken down from the mosque. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday said he had met with ambassadors from the five permanent members including Russia and the United States, and "stressed the need to avoid the situation spiraling out of control." At the UN Security Council, Moscow and Washington have so far vetoed each other's motions to set up an international investigation into chemical weapons use.

Macron has insisted he does "not want an escalation" and that any response would focus on Syria's chemical capabilities, not on allies of the regime. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed those behind the killings of civilians would pay a "heavy price", after the foreign ministry said there was a "strong suspicion" Assad's regime was responsible. Erdogan said yesterday Turkey was worried by the "arm wrestling" of world powers over Syria. Syria said it had invited the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which has blamed the regime for previous attacks, to visit Douma. —AFP

International

Syria's bombed-out Ghouta unrecognizable to returnees

'I couldn't find the high school or even the street'

ZAMALKA: Syrians displaced from the bombed-out Eastern Ghouta suburb are eager to return home, but fighting has destroyed so much of their hometowns that they can barely recognize their own neighborhoods. Eyebrows furrowed, Umm Mohammad examined a row of homes in Zamalka, trying to find a spark of familiarity in the heavily-damaged town.

"I haven't found my home yet. The neighborhood's features have all changed and I lost all the main landmarks," said the 50-year-old, who left Zamalka in 2012 after having lived there nearly half her life. "My house is near the high school on Al-Qabun street, but I couldn't find the high school or even the street." Row after row of apartment blocks lie gutted, blocked off by berms of debris and twisted metal. Many of the remaining buildings are missing roofs, balconies or entire walls.

President Bashar Al-Assad's Russian-backed forces yesterday finally secured Eastern Ghouta, once the opposition's main bastion on the edge of Damascus. Rockets, air strikes, and mortar fire rained down on Ghouta since mid-February during a fierce assault that prompted tens of thousands to flee into government-held territory.

Some have cautiously returned but finding their neighborhoods utterly pulverized. "Zamalka was paradise. But now it's full of barri-

acades and dirt and doorways are sealed off with mines," Umm Mohammad said. With the help of a Syrian soldier, Umm Mohammad clambered over rubble to enter one house after the other, hoping to find her own. "I risked my life to come here and I won't leave until I find my home and go inside," she said. "I just want one look, even if it's the last."



Neighborhoods utterly pulverized

'Nothing but dirt'

Hundreds were gathered on Wednesday on the edge of Ghouta, impatiently waiting for rubble to be cleared from the main entrances. A bulldozer dismantled barricades and sand berms to allow emotional residents and a press convoy organized by Syria's government to enter. Umm Rateb was ready for the wait. She had brought with her a small chair and a blanket to pull over her head to protect her from the searing sun. She looked over the shrinking sand berms into the ravaged scene beyond.

"I came alone to see my house in Kafr Batna, without knowing if it's still standing or if it's been turned to ruins," the 65-year-old said. "Even if it's nothing but dirt, I'll put down this blanket and sit in my home." Once the roads were open, residents and journalist vehicles entered Ghouta, struggling to make out the paved road under a blanket of debris.

Passing through Arbin, another devastated Ghouta town, a young girl peeked out from a damaged home. "My daughter is not used to



GHOUTA: A Syrian soldier walks with a woman searching for her home in a destroyed neighborhood in the former rebel-held town of Zamalka in Eastern Ghouta. — AFP

seeing cars, so this sight was very strange for her," said Abu Aziza, as his eight-year-old daughter looked on. Before the assault that brought most of Ghouta under government control, the area was under a brutal five-year siege that made food, medicine, and other

basic goods nearly impossible to come by. "It's not just cars—my daughter doesn't know what apples are. She saw a banana for the first time two days ago and ate the whole thing with the peel," Abu Aziza said. "She didn't know you're supposed to peel a banana." —AFP

Two dead in air strike on Yemen film set

SANAA: An air raid struck the set of a rebel TV series in Yemen yesterday, killing at least two people, a security source and a rights activist said. The strike on Marawiaa district in the western province of Hodeida came as a cast and crew were filming a Ramadan series for Houthi rebel-run Al-Masirah television, they said.

The set was on a farm that had belonged to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, a one-time rebel ally who was gunned down by the Houthis in December after their partnership collapsed. Multiple military vehicles, including two tanks, were on the property at the time of the attack, the sources said. A Saudi-led coalition has been battling the Houthis, seen by Riyadh as Iranian proxies, since 2015.

The security source said Thursday's attack was one of a string of strikes in Hodeida province, which he attributed to Saudi-led forces. "We take this report seriously, it will be investigated," a coalition spokesman told AFP, saying it would be "inappropriate to comment further" while the probe is ongoing. The coalition had previously targeted Saleh's residence in Sanaa when the strongman was alive and allied with the Houthis.

A Yemeni photographer at the site of Thursday's raids said the victims were the series' set designer and finance director. The Yemen war has created what the United Nations has called the world's largest humanitarian crisis. It has killed nearly 10,000 people since 2015, when the coalition joined the government's fight against the Houthis. While all sides in the war stand accused of failing to protect civilians, the Saudi-led coalition has drawn particularly harsh condemnation from international rights groups over civilian deaths. It was added to a UN blacklist last year for the killing and maiming of children. The Houthis have in recent months intensified missile strikes on Saudi Arabia, declaring this week that 2018 would be the "year of ballistics". —AFP

Egypt opens Gaza border ahead of new protests

GAZA CITY: Egypt yesterday opened its largely sealed border with the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip for three days, on the eve of more planned protests against Israel, Palestinian authorities said. In just the fourth such opening this year, the Rafah crossing to Egypt's Sinai region will be open until Saturday for humanitarian cases, the interior ministry in Gaza said.

An AFP photographer saw a first busload of 70 people, including women and children, crossing yesterday morning.

The opening comes ahead of a third consecutive Friday of planned mass protests along the Gaza-Israel border. Israeli media reports have said Egypt, one of only two Arab countries to have signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state, had been negotiating with Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas to seek to calm the crisis.

Thirty-two Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded by Israeli forces since March 30 as thousands have approached the border fence and clashes have erupted. Israel says its forces have opened fire to stop attempts to damage the fence, infiltrations, bids to carry out attacks and at those seeking to harm soldiers.

Palestinians say protesters are being shot while posing no threat to soldiers. The Rafah crossing is the only exit for Gaza residents except into Israel, but Egypt has largely sealed it in recent years, citing security threats. Egyptian authorities have had a strained relationship with Hamas, which began as an offshoot of Egypt's banned Muslim Brotherhood.

For more than a decade, Israel has imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza that critics say amounts to collective punishment of the coastal territory's two million Palestinians. Israel says the blockade is necessary to isolate Hamas, with which it has fought three wars since 2008. In October, Egypt brokered a reconciliation agreement between Hamas and Fatah, the party of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, that was supposed to see the Islamists give up power in Gaza. But the deal has collapsed, with the two Palestinian groups trading blame. —AFP

International

High stakes for Macron as France weighs Syria strike

Considers Damascus behind a suspected chemical attack

PARIS: In laying his integrity on the line over Syria's suspected use of chemical weapons, French President Emmanuel Macron might be playing for even higher stakes—maintaining the landmark Iran nuclear accord, analysts say. The 40-year-old leader, weighing the first foreign military operation on his own initiative, has made clear he considers Damascus behind a suspected chemical attack in the rebel-held Syrian town of Douma last weekend that killed at least 40 people.

Macron's response is expected to be high on the agenda during a TV interview yesterday afternoon, only his third since the centrist swept to power last year. For many experts, he has no choice but to enforce his "red line" on the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime, which would prompt French military strikes. "Unlike previous incidents, alleged or real, in recent months, what happened Saturday in Douma is a huge and evident violation of Western red lines," said Bruno Tertrais, a political scientist at the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS). "If France doesn't react now that the conditions are met, we would lose all credibility," he said.

The country, victim of the first extensive use of chemical weapons in military history during World War I, has long made combating chemical weapons a priority. It worries that allowing such attacks by Syria's President Bashar al-

Assad could set a dangerous precedent for other repressive regimes. Many French officials still bristle over former US president Barack Obama's last-minute pullback on Syria strikes after a chemical attack in 2013.

The decision shocked the French, whose planes were poised for launch to participate in the operation. "Emmanuel Macron has tied his hands," said Francois Heisbourg of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. "He's in the same position as Obama in 2013, and if he decides not to follow through, there will be a

No choice but to enforce his 'red line'

political price to pay."

Uphill battle

Macron has spoken at length with US President Donald Trump about how to react to the Douma attack. Both men have played up their sound relations since Macron invited the American leader to attend France's Bastille Day festivities last July. Macron has also taken advantage of weakened leadership in Britain and Germany to carve out a role as Trump's privileged partner in Europe.

But he has been unable to sway the US leader on two crucial issues—the US decision to exit the 2015 Paris agreement on curbing global warming, and Trump's threat to scupper the deal with Iran to curb its nuclear weapons program. Several analysts say ending the deal with Tehran

leads the skeptic camp, fearing any such move would upset Tehran and European firms' chances of winning lucrative contracts there as the country opens up after decades of international isolation.

Rome also says there is no guarantee that new punitive measures from the EU would ensure Trump does not walk away from the nuclear accord anyway. Foreign affairs ministers of all states in the EU, where decisions on sanctions require unanimity, will take sides over that at a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday. Britain and Germany back France, while Austria and Spain are in Italy's camp.

Last month, Paris, Rome and London proposed targeting Iranian "militias and commanders" in building on the EU's existing sanctions related to Syria, which include travel bans and asset freezes on people and a ban on doing business there. The three are concerned about transfers of Iranian "missiles and missile technology" to Syria and Tehran allies including Houthi rebels in Yemen and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah. Yesterday, the EU extended the only remaining sanctions it has against Iran, related to human rights violations, by a year until April 2019.—Reuters

EU extends rights sanctions on Iran

BRUSSELS: The European Union extended sanctions on Iran over human rights violations yesterday, as the bloc prepared for a clash over whether to impose a new set of penalties in the hope of safeguarding a nuclear deal with the Islamic republic.

US President Donald Trump has been a fierce critic of the 2015 nuclear accord between world powers and Iran. He has given a May 12 deadline to fix it, threatening otherwise not to extend US sanctions relief on Iran related to the agreement. The EU is eager to safeguard the pact, under which Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear ambitions for at least a decade, but divided over how to achieve that.

France has pushed for new sanctions over Iran's missile program and involvement in conflicts in the region, including in Syria where Tehran backs President Bashar Al-Assad. Paris hopes that would show Trump the EU takes his concerns seriously. But Italy



PARIS: A man, with a mask featuring French President, takes part in a demonstration as part of a nation-wide action day by magistrates against a draft law to reform French justice system.—AFP

and re-imposing American sanctions could inflame tensions across the Middle East, after years of tensions amid the fight against the Islamic State group.

As Macron prepares for a state visit to Washington later this month, "French military action could earn him some much-needed favor," Benjamin Haddad, a researcher at the Hudson Institute, wrote in Foreign Policy mag-

azine this week. Decisive joint action could give him leverage in arguing to uphold the deal, which comes up next for Trump's review on May 12. "At the betting table of international relations, the chances are still 20 to one" against saving the deal, Heisbourg said. Against such odds, "a show of France-US unity on Syria surely can't do any harm" during Macron's Washington visit, he said.—AFP

Erdogan worried by world powers' 'arm wrestling'

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said Turkey was worried by the "arm wrestling" of world powers over Syria, as tensions soared between Washington and Moscow after threats of possible US air strikes. "We are extremely worried that some countries confident of their military power are turning Syria into a scene for arm wrestling," Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara after Washington and Moscow traded accusations. His comments came after US President Donald Trump warned Moscow on Wednesday that US missiles "will be coming" to Syria in retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack in Syria which reportedly killed dozens. Erdogan said he would talk to Russian President Vladimir Putin about "how we stop this chemical massacre" after the suspected attack.

A Turkish presidential source later confirmed the call had taken place but said only that the two men "exchanged views on the latest developments in Syria" and agreed to maintain contact. Ankara appears keen to keep its distance

from one of the worst outbreaks of tensions since the Cold War between its NATO ally Washington and increasingly close partner Moscow. Erdogan's comments echoed those of his Prime Minister Binali Yildirim who called on Russia and the United States on Wednesday to stop "street fighting" on Syria.

'Assad's black mark'

While Russia, alongside Iran, has been supporting the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Turkey has repeatedly called for his ouster and supported Syrian rebels. But Turkey and Russia in recent months have put their differences aside and have been working closely to find a political solution to the conflict.

Last week, Putin and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani were hosted by Erdogan in Ankara for a tripartite summit to discuss the Syrian conflict. The alleged chemical attack in rebel-held Douma near Damascus on April 7 sparked international outrage and warnings of possible military action. Turkey's foreign ministry has said it strongly suspects Assad was to blame. "God willing, the (world's) collective conscience will act together to end this crisis for the sake of the innocent children massacred in the chemical attack in Douma," Erdogan vowed. Erdogan said the Assad regime already had "a black mark on its track record" after seven years of civil war in Syria.—AFP

International

Azerbaijan strongman Aliyev wins election

BAKU: Azerbaijan strongman Ilham Aliyev secured a fourth consecutive term with 86 percent of the vote in a snap election boycotted by the main opposition parties, final results showed yesterday. Aliyev's crushing win in Wednesday's poll was widely seen as a foregone conclusion with the downtrodden opposition unable to mount a serious challenge to his authoritarian rule boosted by the steady influx of petrodollars into his government's coffers.

Aliyev, who has been in power for 15 years, addressed the nation on Wednesday evening, thanking Azerbaijanis for "support and trust." "Citizens of Azerbaijan have voted for security and progress," he said in a televised address. The Central Election Commission put the turnout at 74.5 percent. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was the first foreign leader to congratulate Aliyev. Russian President Vladimir Putin also hailed his "decisive victory," the Kremlin said. In a letter to the president-elect, Putin "praised Ilham Aliyev's efforts aimed at strengthening friendly, good-neighborly relations between Moscow and Baku."

Opposition boycott

The main opposition parties in the tightly controlled Caucasus nation boycotted the vote, calling the elections a sham and accusing the authorities of

electoral fraud. They also condemned Aliyev's surprise—and unexplained—decision to hold the election six months ahead of schedule, saying it was aimed at shortening the campaign period and hampering efforts to stop vote-rigging. "All previous elections in Azerbaijan were falsified and held with blatant violations of the electoral law. These elections will be no exception," the executive secretary of the opposition Republican Alternative Movement, Natig Jafarli, said ahead of the vote. But authorities rejected the criticism, insisting the vote was free and fair.

"Azerbaijan is on a firm and irreversible path of democratic development. A free, open and transparent environment has been created in Azerbaijan for the presidential elections," foreign ministry spokesman, Hikmet Hajiyev, said. "All the candidates enjoy equal rights and opportunities," he added.

'Unprecedented' powers

Aliyev, 56, was first elected in 2003, after the death of his father Heydar Aliyev. A former KGB officer and communist-era leader, Aliyev senior had ruled Azerbaijan with an iron fist since 1993. Ilham Aliyev was re-elected in 2008 and 2013 in polls that were denounced by opposition parties as fraudulent. In 2009, he amended the country's constitution so he could run for an unlimited



BAKU: A woman leaves a voting booth at a polling station during Azerbaijan's presidential election. —AFP

number of presidential terms, a move criticised by rights advocates. Azerbaijan adopted fresh controversial constitutional amendments in 2016, extending the president's term in office from five to seven years. The changes drew criticism from Council of Europe constitutional law experts as "severely upsetting the balance of powers" and giving the president "unprecedented" authority. Cementing his family's decades-long grip on power, the president last year appointed his wife

Mehriban Aliyeva as first vice president. Apart from the incumbent president, seven candidates ran in the poll—all low-profile figures who barely carried out any campaigning. Supporters have praised the Aliyevs for turning a republic once thought of as an ex-Soviet backwater into a flourishing energy supplier to Europe. But critics argue they have crushed opposition and used their power to fund a lavish lifestyle for themselves and their family. —AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

START

SAVING OFFERS

Symphony TOUCH 35

56 لتر / hr

- Air Throw Distance (in ft) 24
- Cooling Coverage Area (Ft2) 1500
- Max Speed (RPM)
- Auto Swing/Blower/Fan
- Castor Wheels

SHARP

AH-A18RCM

18000 BTU/hr

1.5 طن

• Up & Down auto air swing

139 من قبل
174 من الآن

35 توفير

Midea

MWTF-18CM

18000 BTU/hr

1.5 طن

21 توفير
84 من قبل
105 من الآن

See us at:

BestAYousifi | @BestAYousifi | alyousifiBEST | BestAYousifi

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online: www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

AL-YOUSIFI

• Kuwait 1 (The New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) • Showkhi (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op) • Airport (Departure Hall)

1809 809

International

Algeria in mourning after most deadly plane crash

The country's worst-ever aviation catastrophe

ALGIERS: Algerians yesterday mourned 257 people killed in a military plane crash the day before, the country's worst-ever aviation catastrophe, with no indication yet of the cause. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced three days of national mourning after the plane slammed into a field near the Boufarik airbase 30 kilometers south of Algiers shortly after it took off on Wednesday.

The aircraft was mostly carrying army personnel and their family members on their way back to their barracks in the country's far south. Flags flew at half mast on public buildings and foreign embassies in the capital yesterday as government departments observed a minute's silence. There was no announcement regarding funeral arrangements, as many of the victims' bodies had yet to be identified.

Several large companies took out advertising space in newspapers to offer condolences to the families of the 10 crew members and 247 passengers who died. Mosques across the country are set to hold prayers of mourning on Friday. The Algerian authorities have announced an investigation into the crash, but so far there has been no details of any findings.



The plane, which came down shortly after being refuelled, erupted into flames before it hit the ground, witnesses said. Hundreds of ambulances and dozens of fire trucks with sirens wailing rushed to the scene of the crash, in an uninhabited area where one person was injured on the ground by debris. Firefighters took two hours to extinguish the blaze, Algerian media reported. The Ain Naadja military hospital in Algiers, where the bodies were transported, has set up a psychological support unit for victims' relatives and witnesses of the accident. Several cultural events planned for the coming days were cancelled.

Victims' bodies yet to be identified

'Tragic!'

Images of the plane's burned-out frame dominated the front pages of Algeria's newspapers. Francophone daily *Liberte* led with the headline "Tragic!", while the official Arabic language paper *El Moudjahid* quoted Bouteflika calling the accident a "painful test" for the country. Several papers praised the pilot, Smail Doucene, citing witnesses who said he had managed to steer the plane away from nearby homes.

"The pilot saved hundreds of people from certain death," wrote Arabic-language *El Khabar*. The Ilyushin IL-76 transport plane was bound for



ALGIERS: The Algerian flag is seen at half mast in the capital Algiers yesterday after the president declared three days of national mourning over a military plane crash in which 257 people were killed. —AFP

Tindouf in southwest Algeria near the borders with Morocco and Western Sahara. The North African country has suffered a string of military and civilian aviation disasters, but Wednesday's was Algeria's deadliest ever plane crash and the world's fourth costliest in human lives in 20 years.

Despite no details emerging on the cause of the disaster, several newspapers underlined the poor state of the Algerian military's ageing aircraft. Several previous accidents were due to "poor maintenance of the military air fleet" said Arabic-language daily *El Khabar*. —AFP

Pope admits 'mistakes' in sex abuse scandal

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis admitted Wednesday he had made "grave mistakes" in his handling of a sexual abuse scandal in Chile as he looks to quell the latest controversy to rock the Roman Catholic Church. In a letter to 32 Chilean bishops released by the Vatican, Francis said he intended to summon them to Rome to discuss an investigation into an alleged cover-up by Bishop Juan Barros of abuse by paedophile priest Fernando Karadima during the 1980s and 1990s.

Francis expressed his "shame" and "pain" for the suffering of the victims and pledged to meet them. "I have made grave mistakes in the assessment and my perception of the situation, especially due to a lack of truthful and balanced information," Francis wrote. He made no specific mention of Barros, who was appointed Bishop of Osorno in Chile, despite being accused of concealing and even witnessing abuse carried out by Karadima.

A 2,300-page report sent to the pope includes testimony gathered from 64 people in New York and Santiago. The pope asked the bishops to Rome to discuss the findings of the probe by Archbishop Charles Scicluna and requested their "collaboration and assistance" in finding measures that can "repair the scandal as much as possible and restore justice". "The present difficulties are also an opportunity to restore confidence in the Church, a confidence broken by our mistakes and sins," Francis wrote. —AFP

Ivanka fills Trump's absence at Latin America summit

LIMA: Ivanka Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are stepping in to fill US President Donald Trump's absence at a summit of Latin American leaders taking place in Peru late this week. But with the US leader a no-show because of a last-minute cancellation to oversee America's response to an alleged poison gas attack in Syria, the blaze of international attention directed at the Friday-Saturday gathering has dimmed.

Instead of the sight of Trump at the center of a group of leaders from several countries he has disparaged or intimidated over perceived trade or migration threats, the once-every-three-year summit will be left to tackle festering regional issues. Those include a joint response further isolating Venezuela over its moves seen trampling democracy, and whose President Nicolas Maduro has explicitly been not invited. There is also the worsening relationship between the United States and Mexico over a renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Trump's insistence that Mexico pay for a wall to be built along their common border—and to where he has ordered US National Guard troops to deploy. Mexico has announced it is reviewing its cooperation with the US over "blatant" tension with Trump's administration.

And there is the issue of corruption, the persistence of which—and the moves to tackle it—have roiled Latin American politics, including in Brazil, where ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is now jailed, and Peru itself, which has seen its president step down just ahead of hosting the summit.

Still 'high-level'

At a Washington briefing to reporters Wednesday, Ivanka Trump and senior US administration officials insisted that President Trump's absence was not a snub or sign of disinterest in Latin America. The president had to cancel "given the atrocity that occurred in Syria," which required him to be "engaged in on that topic and related topics," one official said without elaborating.

However, a "very high-level delegation" would still be representing the US, the officials said. They listed Ivanka Trump and Pence along with top US officials for trade, foreign aid and investment. Ivanka's husband Jared Kushner—who, like her, is a senior advisor to the president—was also to attend.

"I'm extremely excited for my visit," Ivanka Trump said in the briefing, explaining that she would be promoting ways to economically empower women while at the summit. "Women's economic empowerment in the Americas is a key element of the president's commitment to advance our shared goals and objectives in the hemisphere," a senior administration official added.

One official said that nothing new should be expected at the Lima summit on the NAFTA negotiations. "We don't have anything to announce on NAFTA at this time. Negotiations continue to be ongoing," the official said. Prior to President Trump's cancellation, the White House had said the US leader was going to focus on "pursuing fair and reciprocal trade throughout the region" and "push back against external economic aggression" at the summit. Those comments appeared directed at both the NAFTA negotiations and China's increasing investment in Latin America, which US policy-makers fear signals greater political influence too. On Monday Trump said the NAFTA talks were "fairly close" to reaching a deal, but reiterated that "if we don't make the right deal, we'll terminate NAFTA and make the right deal after that." China's growing investment in Latin America, once considered America's backyard under the 19th-century Monroe Doctrine, appears to be the "external economic aggression" Trump's administration is riled up against. —AFP

International

#ZuckerBowl without a clear winner as Facebook Congress hearings end

Marathon 10 hours of questioning a big spectacle

WASHINGTON: Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg emerged largely unscathed Wednesday from two days of high-stakes hearings that saw US lawmakers grill the billionaire over how the online giant feeds users' data to advertisers and chide him over privacy rights. The marathon 10 hours of questioning was one of the biggest spectacles in Congress in recent memory, followed blow by blow on social media under the hashtags #ZuckerBowl and #ZuckUnderOath.

Channeling public anger over data privacy lapses—including most spectacularly the leak of personal information from 87 million Facebook users to a political consultant-lawmakers in both House and Senate raised the specter of regulations to bring online firms to heel. The 33-year-old CEO conceded that some regulation of social media companies is “inevitable,” while offering a laundry list of reform pledges at Facebook and vowing to improve privacy and security.

But he stiffly defended Facebook's business model—specifically the way it uses data and postings from the 2.2 billion users of its free platform—calling it necessary to attract ad revenue the \$480 billion company depends on. In the wake of the massive leak of user information to Cambridge Analytica, which worked for Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, Zuckerberg reiterated that the company



Defended Facebook's business model

had shut down the pipeline that allowed data—including his own—to slip without consent into the hands of third parties.

A day earlier Zuckerberg took personal responsibility for the data breach. Yet in his testimony to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, he was also steadfast in arguing that Facebook's users themselves are choosing to make their data available, and that the company's “opt-in” provisions offered them sufficient control. “Every time that a person chooses to share something on Facebook, they're proactively going to the service and choosing that they want to share a photo, write a message to someone.” “Every time there is a control right there,” Zuckerberg said.

'Real trust gap'

Zuckerberg faced tougher questions from House lawmakers over Facebook's stance than

during Tuesday's five-hour session in the Senate, where his defense of data sharing was weakly challenged. “It strikes me that there's a real trust gap here. Why should we trust you?” asked Democratic Representative Mike Doyle.

“The only way we're going to close this trust gap is through legislation that creates and empowers a sufficiently resourced expert oversight agency, with rulemaking authority to protect the digital privacy and ensure that companies protect our users' data.”

his legal team suggested any wealth that may be discovered should go to Cruz's victims rather than expensive lawyers.

“Mr. Cruz does not want those funds, whatever money that he is entitled to,” said lawyer Melissa McNeill. “He does not want that money. He would like that money donated to an organization that the victims' family believes would be able to facilitate healing in our community or an opportunity to educate our community about the issues that have ripened over the last four or five months,” she added.

Cruz—who was present for the hearing in Fort Lauderdale, which is near Parkland—stared blankly at the floor, his hands and feet cuffed. “Let it go to those who have been hurt, period,” another member of his legal team, Howard Finkelstein, asked the judge. Cruz's wealth currently consists of 24 Microsoft stocks worth about \$2,200 from which he receives dividends, and he is entitled to \$25,000 from his mother's life insurance, which he has not yet obtained.

In addition, his mother, who died from a respiratory illness, received an annuity of \$3,333 in September to an account she shared with Nikolas. The source of these funds have not been revealed. But his lawyers have yet to determine whether the installments are paid monthly or yearly and whether Cruz is entitled to it. If it is monthly, the defendant could have access to “a million dollars,” Finkelstein said. —AFP



WASHINGTON, DC: Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg testifies during a US House Committee on Energy and Commerce hearing about Facebook on Capitol Hill. —AFP

A path forward

Some analysts said Zuckerberg's appearance suggests a new path forward for social media under closer scrutiny. “Zuckerberg's testimony demonstrated that the company has matured over the last decade, in particular in his acknowledgement that Facebook is responsible for the content shared on its platform,” said University of Delaware communications professor Dannagal Young.

“Acknowledging responsibility for the content

shared on the platform changes how Facebook ought to engage in gatekeeping and fact-checking, and how the government might go about regulating the industry.” Syracuse University professor Jennifer Grygiel called the hearings “an important milestone.” “This is a first step in the process of writing much needed regulation,” she said. “It is clear from congressional testimony that self-regulation alone is not working and that regulatory oversight is needed in the United States in order to ensure safe social media.” —AFP

School shooter wants to donate his inheritance

MIAMI: Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz wants to donate his inheritance—which could run to hundreds of thousands of dollars or more—to the bereaved families and survivors of his attack, his lawyers said Wednesday. Cruz walked into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in the south Florida city of Parkland on February 14 and opened fire at students and staff with an AR-15-style semi-automatic weapon.

He stands accused of 17 counts of premeditated murder and 17 counts of attempted murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. At a court hearing on Wednesday, Broward County Judge Elizabeth Scherer sought to determine whether Cruz—who has so far been represented by public defenders—is able to pay for his own defense.

His lawyers said they have not yet been able to determine the value of the inheritance left to him following the death of his mother Lynda Cruz last November—though local reports quoting the family which took him in following his mother's death have said he could have a trust fund worth \$800,000. But

Woman claims US governor 'coerced' sex

CHICAGO: A woman who had an extramarital affair with the governor of the US state of Missouri claimed he “coerced,” threatened, and struck her, according to an explosive report released Wednesday. The report was the result of an investigation by a bipartisan committee of the state's legislature, set up to probe allegations that Republican Governor Eric Greitens had blackmailed his former mistress with a photograph of her in a state of undress.

Greitens has been criminally charged with invasion of privacy and scheduled to stand trial in May. The committee report—which detailed allegations of behavior that was at times abusive and coercive—could be a precursor to impeachment and was separate from the criminal case. Shortly before the report's release, the governor shot back that the committee's findings were “full of more false, outlandish and salacious accusations.” “Over three years ago, I made a personal mistake,” the governor said

at a news conference. “But people are turning that personal mistake into a political spectacle and telling new lies about it.”

'Coerced'

The report—filled with graphic details and strong language—relied heavily on the testimony of the woman with whom Greitens had the affair. She has not been publicly identified, except as his former hairdresser. The woman testified she had multiple sexual encounters with Greitens over several months in 2015. Some of the governor's sexual conduct—such as groping her during one haircut appointment—was not consensual, she claimed.

The governor was sometimes physically aggressive to the point of once striking her in the face and, during another occasion, shoving her to the ground, according to her testimony. She also repeated her claim that Greitens took a photo of her without permission while she was bound and nude in the basement of his home during the initial encounter of their affair.

According to her testimony, he told her: “You're not going to mention my name... because if you do, I'm going to take these pictures, and I'm going to put them everywhere I can... and then everyone will know what a little whore you are.” —AFP

International

Rwandan Hutus in limbo as refugee status evaporates

A ghastly repercussion of the Rwandan genocide

BETOU, Congo: “They are telling me to go. Go where? What would I do back there? Everyone’s dead,” says Gilbert Bigirimana, an 18-year-old Rwandan living in Republic of Congo who has never set foot on Rwandan soil. Bigirimana is among thousands of Rwandans who, a generation after the Rwandan genocide, are living in a void, adrift in their host country and fearful of returning home.

Most of those in limbo are Hutus, who fled the country after leaders of their ethnic group orchestrated the mass slaughter of minority Tutsis before being ousted by a Tutsi-backed campaign. Many first headed to the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). But two wars—a ghastly repercussion of the Rwandan genocide—forced thousands further west to the Republic of Congo, also called Congo-Brazzaville, a small country of about five million people.

Today, many of this group, and their descendants, live in chronic uncertainty. Most of them, around 9,200, have lost their refugee status, revoked because it was deemed that they no longer face persecution in Rwanda. As refugees, under international law they had enjoyed specific protection by their host state and could not be forcibly returned to their home country.

Brazzaville’s decision, criticized by Congolese aid groups, to strip them of their refugee status took effect on December 31, 2017. “Those

who did not get an exemption are now considered to be undocumented on Congolese soil,” the Brazzaville government stated recently. Jean-Claude Kourouma, the UN refugee agency’s bureau chief in Betou, a city in northern Congo that took in nearly 1,900 Rwandan refugees last year, said no perpetrators of the genocide could have obtained refugee status. Around 100 Rwandans decided to return home before the New Year’s Eve deadline, while others have returned since. Five families have taken steps to become Congolese, beginning with applying for Rwandan passports, which would in turn allow them to seek citizenship here, Kourouma said.

‘They’ll massacre us’

But for people like Bigirimana, the future is deeply clouded. He says he has no intention of moving to a country that he knows only through the stories—real or embroidered—that he has heard from compatriots who fled fearing reprisals, after Paul Kagame set up his Tutsi-led government in Kigali, which he heads to this day.

“Kagame favours his race,” declared Bigirimana, a Hutu. “If we go there, they will massacre us,” he said—even though a founding principle of the country’s 2003 constitution is the “eradication of ethnic divisions”. But staying put in Congo-Brazzaville also offers little hope for him. He is the oldest of six children, with an ailing



Undocumented on Congolese soil



BETOU: This file photo taken on March 30, 2018 a staff stands as a UNHCR truck to repatriate refugees arrives at the “15 April” refugee camp. — AFP

mother. Without refugee status, the family no longer receives food rations. “I am the only one working to feed my five little brothers and sisters,” he said. “I grow food in a small garden and try to go to school. But how can I do everything on my own?”

Odyssey of flight

Among other cases in the camp, Antoinette Mokamakombe, 28, obtained an exemption to

losing her refugee status. Her plight was judged “exceptional” because she had fled a series of conflicts in her young life. After leaving Rwanda for the DRC, she fled war there in the late 1990s for the Central African Republic, where conflict again forced her to flee, this time to Congo-Brazzaville. She declined to go into detail about her ordeal, saying searching her dark memories gave her headaches. “I will stay on (in Congo) as long as there is peace,” she said. — AFP

Afghan district governor among 7 killed in attack

GHAZNI: Taliban militants launched a pre-dawn raid on a district government compound in Afghanistan yesterday, killing at least seven people including the local governor, officials said. Six police also died and 10 intelligence officers were wounded in the attack on the Khwaja Omari district headquarters in the southeastern province of Ghazni, the provincial governor’s spokesman Aref Noori told AFP.

The militants used a ladder to climb into the compound in the early hours yesterday, deputy provincial police chief Ramazan Ali Mohsini told AFP. Mohsini put the death toll at 13, including the governor, police and intelligence officers, adding scores of Taliban fighters were also killed but that could not be immediately confirmed. Afghan officials often give conflicting casualty figures immediately after an attack.

“The attack is over and the district is under the control of Afghan security forces after reinforcement forces rushed to the scene following the Taliban attack,” Mohsini added. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the raid in a WhatsApp message to journalists, saying “more than 20 police” were killed and several others wounded.

“Our mujahideen have confiscated weapons and ammunition,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. “In the attack three mujahideen were martyred and four others were wounded.” The attack was one of the deadliest by the Taliban in several weeks and comes as the militants prepare to launch their annual spring offensive, which marks the beginning of the traditional fighting season.

The Taliban are under pressure to take up President Ashraf Ghani’s offer of peace talks but so far they have not responded directly to the proposal. The militants had vowed to take revenge over an Afghan air strike last week in an area controlled by the group in the northern province of Kunduz. Dozens of people, many of them children, were killed or wounded after Afghan Air Force helicopters struck a madrasa in Dashte Archi district, security sources and witnesses said. — AFP

B’desh students suspend protests

DHAKA: Bangladesh student leaders yesterday demanded the release of detained demonstrators as they agreed to end days of violent protests against government job quotas. The action was ended after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday told parliament the system where certain groups are guaranteed a number of jobs would be abolished.

Hasina said “the quota policy doesn’t need to exist” while also criticizing the students for “misusing internet for spreading rumors” and for blocking roads and highways. Speaking at Dhaka University, student leader Rashed Khan told reporters:

“We decided to postpone our protest by honoring the prime minister’s speech.” “We request the government to publish the gazette (of abolishing the policy) as soon as possible and to free the detained students,” he said.

Student leaders have also demanded that security forces who fired rubber bullets and teargas at the protesting students be punished. Since Sunday, tens of thousands of students had been staging protests and sit-ins and blocking main roads in cities across the country in the biggest social challenge to Hasina in her decade in power.

A number of students were detained, but no number has been given. On Sunday about 100 protesters were injured in clashes with police. Demonstrators had wanted the share of top government positions set aside for minority groups significantly reduced. They were particularly irate that 30 percent of government positions are reserved for descendants of veterans from Bangladesh’s independence war in 1971. — AFP

International

Turbulent Kashmir takes hit as Indo-Pakistan tensions fester

Ceasefire violations has been steadily increasing

TATRINOTE: Cross-border clashes between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan in Kashmir have reached the highest levels in 15 years, figures from both sides show, with hundreds killed or wounded and no solution in sight. The de facto border dividing the mountainous territory had been relatively quiet in the wake of a 2003 ceasefire between the South Asian neighbors, each of whom rule part of Kashmir but claim it in full.

But recently the number of ceasefire violations—loosely defined as shelling, gunfire or fighting—at the heavily militarized Line of Control (LoC) has been steadily increasing. Independently confirmed data is virtually non-existent, and figures given by both sides can vary wildly. But both show the same trend—a powerful, sustained surge over the past two years that has intensified since the beginning of 2018.

According to India, the number of Pakistani violations rose from 152 in 2015 to 860 in 2017. Delhi recorded 351 incidents in January and February 2018 alone. Pakistan claims even higher numbers: 1,970 violations in 2017 against 168 two years earlier, and 415 until the beginning of March 2018. Happyon Jacob, author of a 2017 report on ceasefire violations for the United States Institute of Peace, said he has no reason to doubt the figures.

An Indian analyst based in Delhi, Jacob has been monitoring violations through reports in In-

dian and Pakistani media, as well as conducting field visits and interviews with military officials on both sides. Islamabad's figures are higher as "India is firing more than Pakistan. There is far more firepower, soldiers, posts, on the Indian side," he said. At least 500,000 Indian soldiers are believed to be mobilized in Kashmir, against 50 to 100,000 Pakistani soldiers, according to analysts—with both sides refusing to confirm the size of their presence.

Hatred as a political tool

The escalation appears to be driven by myriad complex, interlinked factors. Among them,

Jacob noted in his report last year that the LoC is more peaceful when Pakistan and India are holding constructive dialogue. There were hopes of a new era when Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a surprise Christmas Day visit to Pakistani counterpart

Nawaz Sharif in 2015. But relations swiftly unraveled, derailing any attempts at dialogue—and creating a fertile environment for ceasefire violations.

The tit-for-tat element is strong, and fuels hostility. "None of (the violations) go unpunished," an Indian official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "We always respond to dissuade the other party from doing it again," said General Muhammad Akhtar Khan, commander of the Pakistani troops in Kashmir.

Driven by myriad complex



NAKYAL SECTOR: In this file photo taken on November 4, 2016, a Pakistani shows a mortar shell that hit his house during cross-border shelling in the village of Peer Klanjer in Nakyal sector. — AFP

Adding to the tension is the separatist insurgency, and the Indian military's counter-insurgency, that have destabilized Indian Kashmir since the late 1980s and left tens of thousands dead, including about 20 on April 1. New Delhi regularly accuses Pakistan of stirring up this movement, which Islamabad denies, using the counter-insurgency to fuel anger at India on its

side. The political situation in both countries similarly weighs in the balance, with legislative elections due this year in Pakistan and in 2019 in India. Kashmir is something both can capitalise on, said Jacob. "Hatred is used by both governments, it is short-term political calculation," he told AFP, adding "negotiating means being weak". — AFP

Police investigate Modi party lawmaker over rape allegations

NEW DELHI: Indian police yesterday opened a rape inquiry against a powerful lawmaker from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party in a case that has cast a new spotlight on impunity enjoyed by the elite. Kuldeep Singh Sengar and his brothers are accused of raping a 16-year-old girl in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh state, where he is a state lawmaker for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Sengar, 51, is a powerful politician in the state. Local police refused to take action until the state chief minister ordered an inquiry Wednesday night and handed over the probe to federal investigators. "A case has been registered against him and now the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) will decide what action needs to be taken," Om Prakash Singh, the state police chief, told a press conference.

The alleged abduction and rape took place in June last year. The case sparked new headlines

after the victim's father died of injuries last week reportedly sustained while in police custody. The victim attempted to set herself on fire outside the chief minister's residence on Sunday. She says her father was tortured by police and was arrested for trying to pursue the case. Sengar, who is a four-time lawmaker in the state known for lawlessness, has denied the charges. "I am a disciplined BJP worker. I am innocent. I am being implicated," he told reporters in Lucknow, the state capital. Amnesty India has slammed authorities for their tardy investigation into the case.

"There must be an immediate, independent and impartial investigation into these violations, and authorities must take all steps to ensure that the survivor and her family are protected from any further harassment," Amnesty India's Asmita Basu said in a statement. Sexual crimes in India have faced growing scrutiny since the gang rape and murder of a Delhi student in 2012. The horrific killing drew global attention and unleashed seething public anger in India about rampant sexual violence against women. It led to an overhaul of India's rape laws but high numbers of assaults persist. Nearly 40,000 rape cases are reported every year, according to official figures. Campaigners though say the real number is higher, with victims wary of how their complaints will be dealt with or the social stigma attached to sex crimes. — AFP

Myanmar still not ready for return of Rohingyas

DHAKA: The UN refugee agency called a Myanmar minister's visit to Bangladesh to meet Muslim Rohingya refugees a confidence-building measure, but said conditions in Myanmar were not ready for their return. Myanmar Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye, who heads rehabilitation efforts in Myanmar's troubled western Rakhine state, told about 50 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh on Wednesday that getting the repatriation process moving was top priority. But the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said yesterday Myanmar was not prepared.

"Conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees," it said in a statement, adding that the responsibility remains with the government to create such conditions. According to UN officials, nearly 700,000 Rohingya have fled into Bangladesh from Rakhine to escape a military crackdown since August, amid reports of murder, rape and arson by Myanmar troops and Buddhist vigilantes which the United Nations has likened to "ethnic cleansing".

Buddhist-majority Myanmar rejects the charge, saying its security forces launched a legitimate counter-insurgency operation on Aug. 25 in response to Rohingya militant attacks. The refugees are living in cramped camps in the port of Cox's Bazar and Bangladesh is keen for them to return home soon, especially with the oncoming monsoons expected to cause major devastation at the camps. — AFP

International

UN urges donors to dismiss North Korea political issues

PYONGYANG: The United Nations was able to help barely 15 percent of the North Koreans it aimed to support with basic food needs last year, its top official in Pyongyang said yesterday, as donor funding dried up in the face of political tensions. The implementation of UN Security Council sanctions also hit humanitarian work in the country, with aid supplies and financial transfers delayed or stopped, UN resident coordinator Tapan Mishra said. "We have roughly 40 percent of the population that are in need of humanitarian assistance," Mishra said. "10.3 million people in this country need help."

The isolated North industrialised rapidly following the end of the Korean War and for a time was wealthier than the South. But funding from Moscow came to an end with the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was followed by a crippling famine and chronic economic mismanagement. Under current leader Kim Jong Un it has made rapid progress in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, earning itself multiple sets of UN Security Council sanctions, with more measures imposed unilaterally by the US, EU, South Korea and others.

The impoverished North has been frequently condemned by the international community for decades of prioritizing the military and its nuclear weapons program over adequately providing for its people—an imbalance some critics say the UN's aid program encourages. The latest sanctions remain in place despite a rapid diplomatic rapprochement on the peninsula, with a North-South summit due later this month ahead of talks between Kim and US President Donald Trump.

Kim has also quietly introduced some market

reforms under a policy of simultaneously developing the economy and the military, with its estimated growth rate rising—the North itself does not publish the statistic—but it remains deeply poverty-stricken. "Undernutrition continues to be a serious concern with more than one quarter of the children stunted due to inadequate nutritious food, people struggling to have basic access to facilities including health, a large proportion of the population lives without a reliable source of safe drinking water, almost a quarter without basic sanitary facilities," Mishra said.

'Delink geopolitics'

The UN sought \$114 million from donors last year for food security, nutrition, health, and water and hygiene, but received only \$31 million. Out of 4.3 million people it targeted for food assistance, only 660,000 received help—just over 15 percent. "We did not have the funding to support all the need, so we were only able to provide this," Mishra said, adding he had not previously seen a similar statistic during his career.

A higher proportion, two million out of a targeted 2.5 million, received nutritional support, which is cheaper to provide. But he urged donors to delink geopolitical considerations from humanitarian decision-making, saying that "even in war", humanitarian principles have always sought to prioritize those in need. "Humanitarian considerations should be separate," he said, "regardless of all the geopolitical issues".

The UN this week launched its "Needs and Priorities" assessment for North Korea this year, seeking \$111 million in funding. In the foreword to



In a photo taken on April 10, 2018 students play computer games at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy outside Pyongyang. —AFP

the document, Mishra, who is Indian, wrote: "The geopolitical environment has meant that the situation for many people in the country has been largely forgotten by the rest of the world."

Tractors stopped

The sanctions imposed on the North were not intended to affect civilians or restrict humanitarian activities, he added, but in practice aid supplies and payments were "often significantly delayed and disrupted, notably due to the perception of risk of violating the sanctions by banks, suppliers and officials". Even hand-driven tractors provided

by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization had been held up at the border, he said.

Experts say that North Korea needs to produce around 6.5-6.7 million tons of food to feed its population, but usually grows around one million tons less than that, leading to chronic shortfalls. Aid agencies used to class all those who relied on the country's Public Distribution System — 18 million people—as facing food insecurity. The state-controlled ration usually provides far less than its goal of 573 grams of food a day. But North Koreans also have access to other sources of food, such as private markets and land plots. —AFP

Indonesia's Aceh to stop whipping criminals in public

BANDA ACEH: Indonesia's Aceh province will stop whipping criminals in public after a wave of international condemnation of the practice, local officials said yesterday. The conservative region on Sumatra island—the only place in Muslim-majority Indonesia that follows Islamic law—passed a regulation Thursday that will see criminals flogged only behind prison walls.

It is not clear when the new rule will come into effect. Public whipping outside Aceh's mosques is common punishment for a slew of offenses, ranging from gambling and drinking alcohol to gay sex. A hooded figure on a makeshift stage rains down lashes, sometimes as many as a hundred strokes, on the back of a grimacing criminal as large crowds of adults and children jeer and scream abuse.

Rights groups have derided it as cruel and last year President Joko Widodo called for an end to public whippings in Aceh. "This (law)

is to muffle protest... to muffle Islamophobia," Aceh governor Irwandi Yusuf said. "We don't want Islamophobia to interfere with (Indonesia's) foreign affairs." Around 98 percent of Aceh's five million residents are Muslims, subject to religious law, including the public whippings which came into practice around 2005.

Non-Muslims can usually choose whether or not to be punished under religious law and sometimes choose a painful flogging to avoid a lengthy court process and jail term. Two Indonesian Christians were flogged in February for playing an arcade game seen as violating Islamic law. Under the new rules, caning with a rattan stick cannot be recorded anymore crowds often filmed the spectacle on smartphones—and only journalists and adults can witness the punishment inside prisons.

Some locals, however, were not sold on outlawing public whippings. "If caning is done in prison... we're sure there will be more sharia (Islamic law) violations in Aceh," demonstrator Tuwanku Muhammad said at a small protest against the new legislation in the provincial capital Banda Aceh. "Even now, there are... violations." —AFP

Aid blocked to New Guinea quake victims

PHNOM PENH: Violence rooted in tribalism and frustration at the slow response following earthquakes in Papua New Guinea was blocking efforts to reach those in need, aid workers said yesterday. Three tremors have hit Papua New Guinea, one of the world's poorest countries, since the remote, mountainous highlands region was rocked by a magnitude 7.5 quake on Feb. 26. The latest, a magnitude 6.3 aftershock, struck on April 7.

At least 132 people have been killed, 500 injured and about 43,000 uprooted from their homes, while 270,000 are urgently in need of assistance, aid agencies said, with the scale of the emergency testing the nation's finances and capacity. The United Nations and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) said they had to withdraw teams from the Hela provincial capital of Tari after violence erupted on March 28.

"There were houses set on fire and some people were murdered in Tari," said Robyn Drysdale, a doctor and deputy humanitarian director with IPPF. "It just means aid will be slowed even further, because aid workers won't

want to go into those areas," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from the capital, Port Moresby. A spokesman for the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF, said the situation in Tari was still tense and staff have remained in the Southern Highlands provincial capital of Mendi, where they were relocated.

In another incident on April 7, a group of men attacked a UNICEF convoy that was returning to Mendi after visiting health facilities in the Southern Highlands district of Nipa-Kutubu, said David McLoughlin, the agency's country representative. "We know the marauders do not represent the PNG people who have been kind, helpful and grateful for our assistance," he said by email, adding that UNICEF "will continue to stay in the highlands to help children in need".

Drysdale said some people were frustrated with the slow delivery of aid, which was hampered by landslide damage to many of the roads in the mountainous region, which were already in poor condition. She said tensions were also inflamed by long-running tribal rivalries over rights to land and resources, and payments made to groups by companies exploring for oil on traditional land. The World Health Organization has warned of "the high potential of waterborne and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks" in quake-affected areas. Quakes are common in Papua New Guinea, which sits on the Pacific's "Ring of Fire", a hotspot for seismic activity due to friction between tectonic plates. —Reuters

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 2018

Friday|Times

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net



A picture shows artwork by Lebanese artist Katya Traboulsi during her solo exhibition 'Permanent Identities' at the Salih Barakat Gallery in the capital Beirut. Traboulsi put on display 46 hand-crafted replicas of Lebanese war bombshells, each of them associated with a different national identity — AFP

'Political' Cannes film festival makes plea for dissidents

Page 20

Lifestyle | Features



French Director Thierry Fremaux (left) and President of the Cannes Film Festival Pierre Lescure address a press conference on the official selection of the 71st Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France yesterday. — AFP

'Political' Cannes film festival makes plea for dissidents

The Cannes film festival made a dramatic show of support for dissident directors in Iran and Russia yesterday as it unveiled a highly political selection that mixed grit and glamour. Festival director Thierry Fremaux included films by Iranian director Jafar Panahi and his Russian counterpart Kirill Serebrennikov in the competition for the top Palme d'Or prize—even though neither can leave their country. He pleaded with authorities to allow Panahi, who is under a travel ban, and Serebrennikov, who is under house arrest, to be allowed to fly to the French Riviera resort next month to show their new films, "Three Faces" and "Leto".

US director Spike Lee's movie about a black policeman who manages to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan, "BlacKkKlansman", starring Adam Driver of "Star Wars" fame, also made the line-up of 17 often controversial titles. The French film "Les filles du soleil" (Women of the Sun), features Iranian star Golshifteh Farahani—a pin-up for rebellious youth in her homeland—as a Kurdish female fighter from the Yazidi Sun Brigade battling jihadists. Meanwhile, veteran provocateur Jean-Luc Godard returns 50 years after he led a revolutionary takeover that halted the festival during the French student and workers protest of 1968.

Although Hollywood stars are thinner on the ground than usual, Penelope Cruz, Xavier Bardem, Marion Cotillard and Andrew Garfield will walk the red carpet with Driver. And the latest "Star Wars" spin-off, "Solo: A Star Wars Story", will also be screened at the festival, which runs from May 8 to 19. In a year when the movie industry has been dominated by the #MeToo movement, only three women directors made the selection: Lebanon's Nadine Labaki for "Capernaum", France's Eva Husson for "Les filles du soleil" and Italian Alice Rohrwacher with "Lazzaro Felice".

However, the jury that decides the Palme d'Or will be headed by Australian actress Cate Blanchett. Four Asian films are in the running, led by "Ash is Purest White" from Chinese creator Jia Zhangke and "Shoplifters" by Japan's Hirokazu Kore-eda. A documentary about the pope by the German master Wim Wenders "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word", will also be shown out of competition.

Netflix boycott

The announcement of the line-up came just hours after streaming giant Netflix dramatically pulled out of the festival after a row with its organizers. The US platform withdrew four films which were rumored to be in the running to compete for the Palme d'Or, including Paul Greengrass' much-awaited "Norway" about the 2011 Utoya massacre, in which white supremacist Anders Breivik killed 77 people in twin attacks. The move was a major blow to the world's top film festival, already facing a revolt by critics furious at a shake-up in the way its screenings are organized. Netflix's withdrawal was in retaliation for a new Cannes rule banning movies from the competition that are not first released in French cinemas. The platform has been snagged by a French law stopping movies being streamed there until three years after their cinematic release. French cinema owners protested last year at the inclusion of two Netflix films, "Okja" and "The Meyerowitz Stories", in the selection. The outcry prompted festival director Fremaux to change the rules. Netflix's chief content officer Ted Sarandos made no attempt to hide his irritation with Cannes and Fremaux in a scathing interview with the trade daily Variety on Wednesday.

'Disrespectful'

"We want our films to be on fair ground with every other filmmaker," Sarandos said. "There's a risk in us going in this way and having our films and filmmakers treated disrespectfully at the festival." "It is not a coincidence that Thierry also banned selfies this year," he added, in a biting reference to Fremaux outlawing them on the red carpet. "I don't know what other advances in media Thierry would like to address." However, Fremaux offered an olive branch to Netflix, saying "let's continue to talk" as he announced the line-up. Despite the row, Cannes has had no problem accommodating its rival, Amazon, which financed Polish-British director Pawel Pawlikowski's "Cold War". Its films are shown in cinemas before they go online and can be streamed individually four months after their release in France. It is Netflix's subscription-only model that falls foul of French rules. — AFP

Films in the running for the top prize at Cannes

From an African-American detective infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan to Kurdish female fighters battling jihadists, here are the movies that will battle it out for the top Palme d'Or prize at next month's Cannes film festival:

Everybody Knows

Iranian master Asghar Farhadi will kick off the festival with a psychological thriller about a family reunion going awry, featuring Spanish stars Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem. While Farhadi, 45, won an Oscar and the Golden Bear at Berlin for his 2011 breakthrough film, "A Separation", he is yet to take home the coveted French prize.

BlacKkKlansman

US director and activist Spike Lee's drama is based on the real-life story of an African-American police officer who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan in 1978. John David Washington plays him with Adam Driver as his Jewish police partner. The film will open in the US on the first anniversary of a white supremacist march in Charlottesville where an anti-racism activist was killed.

Under the Silver Lake

Four years after giving Cannes audiences nightmares with his thriller "It Follows", David Robert Mitchell returns with another spine-chiller, this time about the mysterious murder of a billionaire.

Three Faces

Little is known about this portrait of three women by the Iranian dissident Jafar Panahi, who is banned from travel by Tehran. The festival has pleaded with the authorities to let the director, who has faced years of harassment and arrest, to fly to Cannes to show his film.

Leto

Russia's Kirill Serebrennikov is another director who may not be able to present his work at Cannes. Under house arrest over allegations of embezzlement, his film focuses on Soviet rock star Viktor Tsoi and the birth of Russian underground music in the 1980s.

At War

As France grapples with mass strikes, French director Stephane Brize's gritty drama about factory workers battling to keep their jobs may hit a timely nerve.

Dogman

Italian director Matteo Garrone's new work is not for the faint-hearted. Dubbed an "urban Western", the film is inspired by the gruesome murder by dog groomer and cocaine addict Pietro De Negrì in the late 1980s.

Cold War

Amazon Studios is pinning its hopes on this period romance from Oscar-winning Polish-British director Pawel Pawlikowski set in Eastern Europe in the 1950s.

Le Livre d'image

Little has been revealed about this new film by French-Swiss legend Jean-Luc Godard other than this enigmatic synopsis: "Nothing but silence, nothing but a revolutionary song, a story in five chapters like the five fingers of a hand."

Capernaum

Lebanese actress-turned-filmmaker Nadine Labaki's third film is set in a Middle Eastern town. Her previous film "Where Do We Go Now?" premiered at Cannes in the Un Certain Regard section in 2010.

Burning

South Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong's new mystery drama is drawn from a short story by Japanese master Haruki Murakami, "Barn Burning".

Ash is Purest White

Chinese director Jia Zhangke's new film is a story of "violent love" between a mobster and a dancer starring Zhao Tao and Liao Fan. It is a follow-up to Zhangke's "Mountains May Depart", which competed for the Palme d'Or in 2015.

Asako 1 & 2

In this Japanese drama by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, a young woman meets her first love in Osaka. When he disappears without a trace, she moves on—until his perfect double shows up two years later.

Les Filles du Soleil

Kurdish women fighters stand at the centre of French actor-director Eva Husson's new film. Iranian star Golshifteh Farahani plays Bahar, the leader of the Yazidi Sun Brigade battling jihadists.

Shoplifters

Japanese master Hirokazu Kore-eda, a longtime sweetheart of the Cannes jury, returns with a tale of a family of small-time crooks who take in a child they find on the street.

Yomeddine

A Coptic leper and his orphaned apprentice leave the confines of their colony for the first time and embark on a journey across Egypt to search for what is left of their families.

Lazzaro Felice

Rising star Italian director Alice Rohrwacher, already a prize winner at Cannes, is back with a time-travelling story which takes in the fascist 1930s.

Sorry Angel

The new film by Christophe Honoré, the man behind the charming French musical "Love Songs", is a gay love story when the AIDS epidemic was at its height. — AFP

As festivals boom, a push to include women

When Beyoncé headlines Coachella, she will stand out not only for her eagerly awaited return to the stage—she will be one of the few women to headline a major music festival this year. With the festival scene booming across the Western world, driven in no small part by millennial-generation women, female representation is lagging behind—an imbalance that has become especially glaring in the age of the #MeToo movement for gender equality.

Men alone are the top-of-the-bill headliners for many of the best-known pop events this year, including Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo in the United States and Reading and Leeds in Britain. It was also the case at 2017's Glastonbury festival that is taking a regularly scheduled break this year. Male dominance persists not only among headliners. Indie rock bible Pitchfork, compiling the nearly 1,000 performers booked for 23 leading US and Canadian festivals last year, found that merely 14 percent of artists were female, with another 12 percent of acts either comprising both men and women or not identifying in binary gender terms.

Some link the low female representation to the broader nature of the music industry where men historically have called the shots and the phallogocentric motto of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll shaped the culture. "I think now there are a lot more female acts that really deserve to be booked, so I think what's possibly happened is the structures haven't kept up with the change in talent," said Vanessa Reed, the CEO of PRS Foundation, the British charitable fund that leads the Keychange initiative to address the gender imbalance at festivals.

Under the Keychange campaign, some 60 festivals in Europe and North America have pledged at least 50 percent representation for women by 2022. The festivals include the BBC Proms—the premier classical event that will meet the goal by ensuring 50 percent of performed works come from female composers—as well as Midem, the prominent industry networking event in southern France. But many of the major-name festivals have balked, a re-



Beyoncé

luctance that Reed attributed to their concerns about finding enough female performers at the right times.

Dominating crowds, if not stages

Festivals have enjoyed rapid growth in the past five years, becoming both vital sources of revenue for musicians and rite-of-passage experiences for many young people in developed countries. A Nielsen report found that roughly half of US festivalgoers in 2015 were millennial with women forming the narrow majority. Reed said that festivals' transformative value for young

people made it all the more important to ensure diversity among performers, including in gender. "If you can't see yourself on stage, then you're never going to aspire to be a musician or get involved in a creative industry. It's really important to make sure to promote role models of all backgrounds," she said.

The spotlight on festivals comes amid an uproar over the dearth of female winners at the latest Grammys. Neil Portnow, the head of the Recording Academy which administers the awards, inadvertently inflamed the controversy when he told reporters that women needed to "step up" if they wanted more recognition. Leading female alternative rocker Kim Deal, who is the frontwoman of The Breeders and formerly the bassist of The Pixies, told AFP in a recent interview that festivals have not tried hard enough to book women. "Just because you don't find woman bands in festivals this year doesn't mean there aren't any women in bands. They're just not getting invited," she said.

An exception in LA

One event that will have only female headliners this year is the two-day FYF Fest in Los Angeles, with Janet Jackson and Florence and the Machine. The lineup comes a year after the festival's founder was accused of sexual misconduct, leading promoter Goldenvoice—which also runs Coachella—to sever ties with him. Coachella, which takes place in the desert of southern California over two consecutive weekends with identical lineups, has managed to stay highly lucrative, attracting celebrity fashionistas and consistently booking attention-grabbing headliners.

Beyoncé's sets Saturday and again on April 21 mark her first live appearances since the pop superstar gave birth last year to twins with her husband Jay-Z. Coachella's other headliners are rap titan Eminem and R&B sensation The Weeknd, both fresh from releasing new music. — AFP

In first, London Symphony ties up with California academy

The Music Academy of the West, a leading classical school and festival set on the California coast, announced yesterday that it will offer a seasonal home for the London Symphony Orchestra. In its first long-term educational partnership in the United States, the premier British orchestra signed on to a four-year relationship with the academy which recently concluded a similar arrangement with the New York Philharmonic. The full London Symphony Orchestra will take up residence in 2019 and 2021 at the Music Academy of the West, set on the Pacific in Santa Barbara in southern California wine country.

The school selects promising young adults each year to spend the summer. As part of the partnership, 12 students will be chosen to train further each winter in London under the orchestra's music director Simon Rattle, one of the world's most prominent conductors. "Nurturing the next generation of musicians is central to the LSO's mission," the orchestra's managing director, Kathryn McDowell, said in a statement. Michael Tilson Thomas, the music director of the San Francisco Symphony and former principal conductor in London, will spend each summer in Santa Barbara.—AFP



US singer and actor David Haselhoff performs on stage during a concert yesterday at the Friedrichstadt-Palast in Berlin. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features

Night owls risk dying younger, should sleep in

People who stay up late and have to drag themselves out of bed are likelier to die younger than those who rise and set with the Sun, researchers said yesterday. A survey of more than 430,000 people in Britain found that night owls had a 10-percent higher risk of dying in the 6.5-year study period than “larks”. “This is a public health issue that can no longer be ignored,” said study co-author Malcolm van Schantz of the University of Surrey and argued that “night types” should be allowed to start and finish work later in the day.

“Night owls trying to live in a morning-lark world may (suffer) health consequences,” said fellow author Kristen Knutson of the Northwestern University in Chicago. The duo gathered information on nearly half-a-million people aged 38-73 from a public database. The participants had defined themselves as either “defi-

nately a morning person” (27 percent), “more a morning person than evening person” (35 percent), “more an evening than a morning person” (28 percent), or “definitely an evening person” (nine percent).

They also listed their weight, smoking habits, and socioeconomic status. Deaths in the group—just over 10,500 in total—were documented for six-and-a-half years. The night owl group, the team found, had a 10-percent higher risk of dying than those in the extreme early-morning group. People in the late-night group were more likely to suffer from psychological disorders, diabetes, and stomach and breathing troubles, and slept fewer hours per night.—AFP

LA prosecutors reviewing Kevin Spacey sex crime case

Los Angeles prosecutors are reviewing a sex crimes case against Kevin Spacey, whose acting career came to a grinding halt last year following a wave of allegations of misconduct. “I can confirm our office received a case” involving Spacey, said Greg Risling, a spokesman for Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey told AFP. But according to celebrity news site TMZ, the case will likely be rejected because it involves an allegation from the 1990s and is outside the statute of limitations.

The 58-year-old is also being investigated over similar allegations in London and Nantucket, an island off the coast of Massachusetts. Two-time Oscar winner Spacey has disappeared from public life. Considered one of the pre-eminent actors of his generation, he was dropped from Ridley Scott’s “All The Money In The World” and expunged from the Netflix hit show “House of Cards.”

Case files on Harvey Weinstein, the Hollywood producer whose downfall sparked the #MeToo movement against powerful male harassers, and martial arts star Steven Seagal “remain under review,” said Risling.—AFP



Kevin Spacey

‘PERMANENT IDENTITIES’



Lebanese artist Katya Traboulsi talks about her work during a solo exhibition titled “Permanent Identities” at the Salih Barakat Gallery in the capital Beirut. Traboulsi put on display 46 hand-crafted replicas of Lebanese war bombshells, each of them associated with a different national identity.—AFP photos



Theatre actress Carol Magenga (left) interpreting Zimbabwe's former first lady Grace Mugabe, theatre actor Khetani Banda (second left) in the role of former Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe and Theatre actor Charles Munganasa as Zimbabwe's former army commander General Costantino Chiwenga (right) perform on stage during a satirical play called "Operation Restore Regasi" at Theatre in the Park in Harare. — AFP photos

Zimbabwe play smashes taboo, mocking ousted Mugabes

The president is in charge and that means me too," says Zimbabwe's "former first lady Grace Mugabe" to howls of laughter from the theatre audience. "Everyone must rally behind me, the mother of the nation. I am the wife of the president." "Grace" was on the stage of Harare's Theatre in the Park, brought to life by actress Carol Magenga in a recent three-day run of a production called "Operation Restore Regasi". The play, which chronicles the final days of former president Robert Mugabe's rule, marked a watershed in Zimbabwe, where satirical productions that mocked Mugabe used to be ruthlessly suppressed.

It has been a resounding hit with audiences starved for decades of incisive and topical humor—and so far, there has been no official backlash. Trevor Chisvo, a 26-year-old teacher, called the dialogue, a mix of English and Shona, "hilarious". "It is funny that we're enjoying events in our country that could have turned violent," he said. "The guys did very well." The play was sold out and extended its run for three further performances. The production and its reception are a far cry from the recent past when artists were intimidated by security forces if their work was deemed to insult Mugabe or his government.

In the early 1990s, playwright Denford Magora was forced into hiding after state security agents went to his home to confront him about his work, "Dr. Government". The script portrayed the government as an incompetent doctor asked to make way for a better-trained nurse in the effort to resuscitate a critically-ill patient called Zimbabwe. Another production which portrayed Mugabe surrounded by sycophantic "yes men" was banned.

But the tide turned against Mugabe dramatically in November last year when the army took control of key sites across Harare including the state broadcaster and parliament. Zimbabwe's top military commander Constantino Chiwenga denied staging a coup d'état, insisting they were conducting an operation against "criminals" around Mugabe which was widely accepted to mean his wife Grace and her supporters. Mugabe finally resigned when his own ZANU-PF party began impeachment proceedings against him and tens of thousands of ordinary Zimbabweans took to the streets.

'We are finished, Grace'

"Operation Restore Regasi", set at Mugabe's opulent Blue Roof private residence in Harare, depicts the mounting tensions between Grace and the military in the run-up to the momentous events of November. "Bring your guns and your soldiers to shoot me," says a cackling Grace in one scene. "Even if we give some

of you guns, you will not dare shoot but you will shoot yourselves," she adds, capturing the shrill egoism that defined Grace's reputation as first lady. The plot follows the real-life drama when the military puts Mugabe and Grace under house arrest prompting her to demand that the president intervenes. "I can't do anything—even the police have been arrested," a suddenly helpless President Mugabe, played by Khetani Banda, responds meekly.

Throughout the play Mugabe, who is now aged 94, is often shown asleep, only stirring to parrot party slogans. "Who fired Mhangagwa?" Mugabe wonders aloud in one scene, forgetting



Theatre actress Carol Magenga (left) interpreting Zimbabwe's former first lady Grace Mugabe and theatre actor Khetani Banda (right) in the role of former Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe perform on stage during a satirical play called "Operation Restore Regasi".

that it was he who sacked his deputy Emmerson Mnangagwa, who later succeeds him as president. "We are finished, Grace," says a broken Mugabe to his wife, prompting her to accuse him of failing to protect their family. Mugabe retorts that the situation is down to her provocative actions. Director Charles Munganasa, who also played the part of Chiwenga, said that he sought to achieve a form of documentary storytelling with the play.

'A parasite to progress'

"The Robert Mugabe story is going to be told for generations and generations to come. It's a form of documentary theatre," he told AFP following a packed performance. "I was very terrified

and I was wondering what is going to be the future of Zimbabwe and the people. "Every Zimbabwean was happy when Mugabe decided to resign. He was not just a parasite to the people of Zimbabwe—but also a parasite to progress and to the world." Prominent playwright and actor Daves Guzha, who runs Theatre in the Park, said that the response of the authorities to the play "bodes well for the future of Zimbabwe". Even the play's title is a pun, as Chiwenga struggles to pronounce "Ls"—and so "Legacy" became "Regasi" (pronounced "Regasy") in the "Operation Restore Legacy" that triggered Mugabe's fall.



Theatre actor Khetani Banda (left) in the role of former Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe performs on stage during a satirical play called "Operation Restore Regasi" at Theatre in the Park in Harare.

The new production coincides with hopes of freer expression after Mugabe's downfall, and with the advent of elections due in July. But whether artists will regain full liberty over time remains unclear. "Maybe there is now more freedom of expression that is beginning to build up and we need to keep the momentum," suggested Guzha. "We need to keep on pushing the boundaries before these guys in power start actually saying 'it's enough'." — AFP

ROASTED RADISHES MELLOW THEM INTO THE PERFECT SIDE DISH

By Melissa D'arabian

We're not a huge radish-eating country here in the United States, and I think that's a mistake. Radishes carry in their little bodies a tremendous variety of vitamins and minerals, so they're a smart addition to our five-a-day veggie eating, but the spicy flavor can keep many home cooks away.

In France, I learned to love radishes as common cocktail hour snack (or "aperitif"), eaten raw, smeared with a small glob of butter and a dash of salt. If that sounds a little crazy, I dare you to try it and tell me that the French are not the wisest radish-eating culture out there. Of course, falling in love with a veggie only when topped with creamy fatty butter isn't exactly a recipe for healthy eating, but it did get radishes on my radar, which led me to: roasting them.

If you haven't roasted radishes before, you are in for a surprise. The sharp flavor mellows into a sweet earthiness that is completely family-friendly. In fact, my four girls have love roasted radishes since they were toddlers, owing to the gorgeous shade of pink they turn in the oven. Radishes are delicious simply tossed in a little olive oil and salt and pepper, and then roasted until tender in a hot oven - about 20 minutes at 400 F. Or, add some minced garlic and dried herbs before cooking and then a squeeze of lemon before eating. Today's recipe tops plain roasted radishes with a quick green goddess dressing made from Greek yogurt, lemon juice, dill and parsley. Drizzle the dressing over hot radishes and serve as a side dish, or let the radishes cool to use as finger food to dip in the gorgeous herbaceous sauce.



ROASTED RADISHES WITH GREEN GODDESS DRESSING

Ingredients

Servings: 6
Start to finish: 30 minutes
1 pound radishes, about 15, cut in half, lengthwise
2 teaspoons olive oil
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Green Goddess Dressing
1/2 cup low fat plain Greek yogurt

1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon olive oil
1/4 cup chopped green onion
1/4 teaspoon minced fresh garlic (about 1/2 a clove)
1/4 cup roughly chopped fresh parsley
1 tablespoon fresh dill (or 1 teaspoon dried)
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Place the halved radishes, olive oil

and salt and pepper in a small bowl and stir to coat. Pour the radishes onto a parchment-lined baking sheet and roast until tender, about 20 minutes (no need to flip). Meanwhile, place all the dressing ingredients into a blender and blend just until mixed, but a few green flecks remain, about 20 seconds. (The recipe makes extra dressing.) Serve the radishes warm or room temperature with about half of the sauce - either drizzled on top, or served in a small bowl as a dip.

Easter's gone but the cake remains

Easter pie recipes seem to be a lot like tomato sauce recipes. Every family has their own and every family's recipe is the best. And with that, we cannot disagree. However not everyone is familiar with this holiday classic. We offer a starting point to those home cooks who want to bake up a new, luscious Easter tradition ... this one is from the King Arthur Flour website.

Italian Easter Meat Pie

Ingredients

CRUST

4 3/4 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons instant yeast
2 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons King Arthur Easy-Roll Dough Improver; optional, but very helpful
2 tablespoons Pizza Dough Flavor; optional, but tasty
1/4 cup olive oil
1 1/2 cups warm water

FILLING

6 large eggs
4 cups part-skim ricotta cheese
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
2 cups ham, diced into 1/2-inch cubes
2 cups Genoa salami, diced into 1/2-inch cubes
2 cups pepperoni, diced into 1/2-inch cubes
8 to 10 slices very thinly sliced prosciutto
Olive oil, for brushing on the crust

Preparation

To make the dough: Mix and knead together all of the dough ingredients - by hand, in a mixer, or in a bread machine - until you've made a soft, smooth dough. Place the dough in a lightly greased bowl, cover, and allow it to rise for 1 to 2 hours, until it's not quite doubled in bulk. To make the filling: While the dough is rising, stir together the eggs, ricotta, mozzarella, Parmesan, salt and pepper. Stir in the ham, salami, and pepperoni. Divide the filling in half (each about 4 1/2 cups), and refrigerate. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Have ready two 9" pie pans.

Gently deflate the dough and divide it into four pieces. Two of the pieces will be bottom crusts and should be just slightly larger than the other two pieces. Place one of the larger pieces of dough on a lightly greased silicone rolling mat, or lightly greased work surface. Roll it into a circle that's about 16 inches in diameter; go away for 5 minutes, then come back; the circle will probably have shrunk.

Roll it out again, and drape it into the pie plate, anchoring the

edges to the pan by folding them underneath the rim; you don't want it shrinking down the sides of the pan while you're rolling the other crust. Roll one of the smaller pieces of dough the same way you did the larger, giving it time to shrink and then rolling again, if necessary. Line the bottom crust with half the prosciutto slices. Spoon half the filling on top. Drape the top crust over the filling, and bring the edge of the bottom crust up over the edge of the top crust, sealing the two together and smoothing them as best you can.

Cut a 1-inch circle in the center of the top crust, to allow steam to escape. Make another pie with the remaining dough

and filling. Place both pies on a large, parchment-lined baking sheet; if you don't have a big enough sheet, use two. The baking sheet makes it easier to transport pies in and out of the oven, and parchment will catch any spills. Bake the pies for 80 minutes, until they're a light golden brown. Five minutes before the end of the baking time, remove them from the oven, brush or spray with olive oil, and return to the oven; this will give the crust a nice glow. Remove the pies from the oven, and let them rest for at least 1 hour (preferably 2 hours) before cutting. Serve warm, or at room temperature. Don't serve until Easter Saturday. Refrigerate any leftovers for up to 4 days.



STRAWBERRIES BAKED ALASKA

is relatively simple to prepare

By Sara Moulton

This recipe celebrates one of the first - and sweetest - harbingers of spring: local strawberries. Sure, the supermarket offers strawberries all year 'round, but the gems that are grown locally and show up in season boast way more flavor than their cousins from the other side of the world. What you're looking for is a bright red color from stem to tip.

These local heroes are perfect even if you eat them raw, but here I've gussied them up quite a bit with some borrowings from an old-fashioned dessert called Baked Alaska, the basics of which are spongecake and ice cream frosted with a thick layer of meringue and briefly set under the broiler. A generation ago, Baked Alaska was as much showbiz as it was dessert, doused in alcohol and set aflame just before your cruise-ship waiter paraded it through the dining room on a platter and landed it on your table with a flourish.

I've kept the ice cream, swapped out the cake for the crushed cookie of your choice (I chose gingersnaps because I

love the way ginger plays with fruit), added strawberries to the mix and finished it with the key ingredient: meringue, aka beaten egg whites and sugar.

A few notes about making a successful stiff meringue: first, the fresher the egg whites, the better; fresh egg whites produce more volume. Second, let the whites come to room temperature before beating. (If you're in a rush, just set the metal bowl in a larger bowl of hot water, which will warm it up quickly.) Third, be sure to beat the whites in a small clean bowl, preferably stainless steel (which is easy to get very clean), because any kind of fat will deflate them. Finally, add the sugar slowly in a steady stream. After all the sugar is added, keep beating until the peaks are stiff. This is a relatively simple (and thoroughly scrumptious) dessert to make, not least because we have dispensed with the pyrotechnics. I promise your guests will be wowed without them.

Strawberries Baked Alaska Ingredients

Start to finish: 30 minutes

Servings: 4

1/2 cup vanilla ice cream, 10 medium to large strawberries, 1 large egg white at room temperature, Pinch of cream of tartar, 3 tablespoons plus 1/2 teaspoon sugar, divided, 1 1/2 teaspoons Grand Marnier or balsamic vinegar, 1/4 cup crushed gingersnaps or cookies of your choice, Mint sprigs for garnish

Preparation

Using a melon baller, scoop out 12 balls from the container of ice cream, put them on a plate, cover them with plastic wrap and freeze them while you prepare the rest of the recipe. Cut off the leaves from the top of each strawberry. Cut 4 of the strawberries into 1/4-inch pieces and in a bowl toss them with 1/2 teaspoon sugar and the Grand Marnier. Halve the remaining strawberries lengthwise and, using a melon baller, scoop out a hollow on the cut side of each strawberry half (this is where you will put the ice cream ball). Cut a tiny sliver off the other side of each strawberry half so the half will lay flat when the cut side is up.

In a small bowl beat the egg white on medium speed with electric beaters. When it is foamy add the cream of tartar.

Continue beating the egg white until it holds soft peaks. Slowly add the remaining 3 tablespoons sugar in a stream, beating the whole time. Increase the speed to high and continue beating until the meringue holds stiff peaks.

Preheat the broiler. Position an oven rack about 6 inches from the flame. Arrange the strawberries on a rimmed sheet pan with 2 or 3 inches between them. Fill the hollow of each strawberry half with a ball of ice cream. Working quickly, spoon the meringue over the ice cream and top of the cut strawberry and spread it out with a small offset spatula or butter knife, making little peaks with the meringue if desired. Place the sheet pan on the rack set 6 inches from the broiler and broil the strawberries for 45 seconds to 1 minute or until the meringue is lightly browned. Transfer 3 strawberries to each of 4 plates. Spoon a mound of the marinated strawberries next to them, sprinkle the cookie crumbs over the plate and garnish with a sprig of mint. Serve right away.



A lighter eggplant dish

begins with roasting

By Melissa D'arabian

Many eggplant recipes start with slicing or dicing and sauteing in oil. But this approach can add a lot of unnecessary fat to your dish, as porous eggplant flesh absorbs oil like a sponge as it cooks, leading most of us to add more fat than we realize. Instead, consider roasting the eggplant whole. Simply pop the entire eggplant in a hot oven - prick a few holes for steam to escape and lightly spray or rub with the tiniest bit of olive oil to keep the skin moist - and in 20-45 minutes (depending on size), your eggplant will be cooked and ready to join almost any recipe. Besides being a healthier cooking method than frying, roasting is easier, almost completely hands-off. Today's recipe is a one-dish-wonder, where you have veggie, complex carbohydrates, and chicken - simple enough for family meals, but pretty enough for company.

Eggplant and Chicken Marinara **Ingredientes**

- 4 small eggplants ("baby" or "Japanese" eggplant at the grocery store)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, divided
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian herbs
- 1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice
- 2 cups cubed cooked chicken breast
- 2 cups prepared marinara sauce (no sugar added)
- 3/4 cup shredded Italian cheese (half mozzarella; half parmesan), divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- Fresh basil for garnish (optional)

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Rub 1 teaspoon of the olive oil over all the eggplants, prick once or twice each with a fork, and roast them on a baking sheet until soft, about 30 minutes. Allow to cool 15-30 minutes. Once cool enough to handle, slice the eggplants in half lengthwise, and scoop out the flesh. Select the 6 prettiest eggplant skin halves for stuffing and set aside. Roughly chop the eggplant flesh into cubes (don't worry if it's "pulpy" from roasting and doesn't hold a cube shape.)

In a large saute pan, cook the diced onion, salt and pepper in the remaining 2 teaspoons of olive oil over medium heat until soft, about 5-7 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the eggplant flesh, garlic and dried herbs and cook another 3 minutes. Add the wine and stir, allowing most to evaporate over a minute or two, and then remove from heat.

Stir in the cooked rice, the chicken, and 1/4 cup of the cheese. Taste the filling for seasoning and adjust if needed. Gently spoon the filling into the reserved 6 eggplant skin halves. Pour the marinara sauce into the large saucepan (wipe out any remaining filling first, if needed). Place the filled eggplant skins gently on top of the sauce and top with remaining shredded cheese. Place the saucepan in the oven and bake until sauce and filling are hot and cheese is melted, about 20 minutes. Serve with fresh basil, if desired. Six servings.





Approaching the pole of inaccessibility: The vast landscape of the Kyrgyz Tien Shan.

Lost at the centre of the world: Kyrgyzstan's wild Tien Shan

The Tien Shan Mountains steal the breath from your lungs. It isn't just the height of this range shaped by the flow of melting glaciers, nor even the spectacle of their summits streaked by crystal sunlight; rather, it's the spine-tingling knowledge that here, you stand encircled by Kyrgyzstan's 'celestial mountains',

in the most landlocked place on Earth.

The beauty of inaccessibility

The Tien Shan range, which takes its name from the Chinese tian shan - literally 'mountains of heaven' - is an ambling collection of peaks and valleys that forms the border between

China and Central Asia. The range curves southwest along pincer-shaped Kyrgyzstan, where it meets up with the towering Pamirs and the hulking Himalaya, finally escalating skyward into the planet's highest point.

The pole of inaccessibility - a continent's furthest-away place from any ocean - is only a

few hundred miles north of where I am standing, in a wide valley in southern Kyrgyzstan less than 20km from the Chinese border. Eurasia is the world's largest continent and its pole of inaccessibility is the most landlocked place on Earth. Hemmed in on every side by two thousand kilometres of soil, I am simultane-

Lifestyle | Travel

ously at the centre of the world and about as far away from anywhere as a human can be.

Driving to heaven

My journey to this remote corner of the Kyrgyz mountains starts with a five-hour drive from the country's capital, Bishkek (four if the driver is fast, including a tea break, as is compulsory on all journeys in Kyrgyzstan), to Naryn. In this provincial town, which stretches along its namesake river for several miles in an arid valley, we pick up new travel companions, sleeping bags, rucksacks and a bottle of Kyrgyz cognac (the best in Central Asia, I'm told). Conversation flows quietly on the next leg of the journey, another five-and-a-half-hour drive in a sturdy SUV into the wilds of the Tien Shan.

Plains spread high and wide to bare mountains framed by the bluest of skies. Horses graze, step and graze on the hillsides in both directions. The road bumps over dirt tracks built by the Soviets to guard the border with China. We pass a parked and very dusty pickup truck next to which a few nomads clad in furry hats are taking a smoke break from rounding up their herds of chubby equines. The road continues on and on, veering sometimes to small side tracks that local drivers have carved into the jailoo (pastures) to avoid the washboard-bumps of the main road, which is only graded by the local government once a year. Here, it's easier to drive off-road.

Sleeping like nomads

I spend three days at a yurtcamp in the Tuyuk Botomoymok Valley, but this place feels without time. Cut through by a shallow, slate-green river and surrounded in every direction by high and jagged peaks, there is not a tree or bush to be seen anywhere. I scan my memory for how far back down the road we'd need to venture before spotting a plant again. Or find-

ing phone signal. Four hours at least.

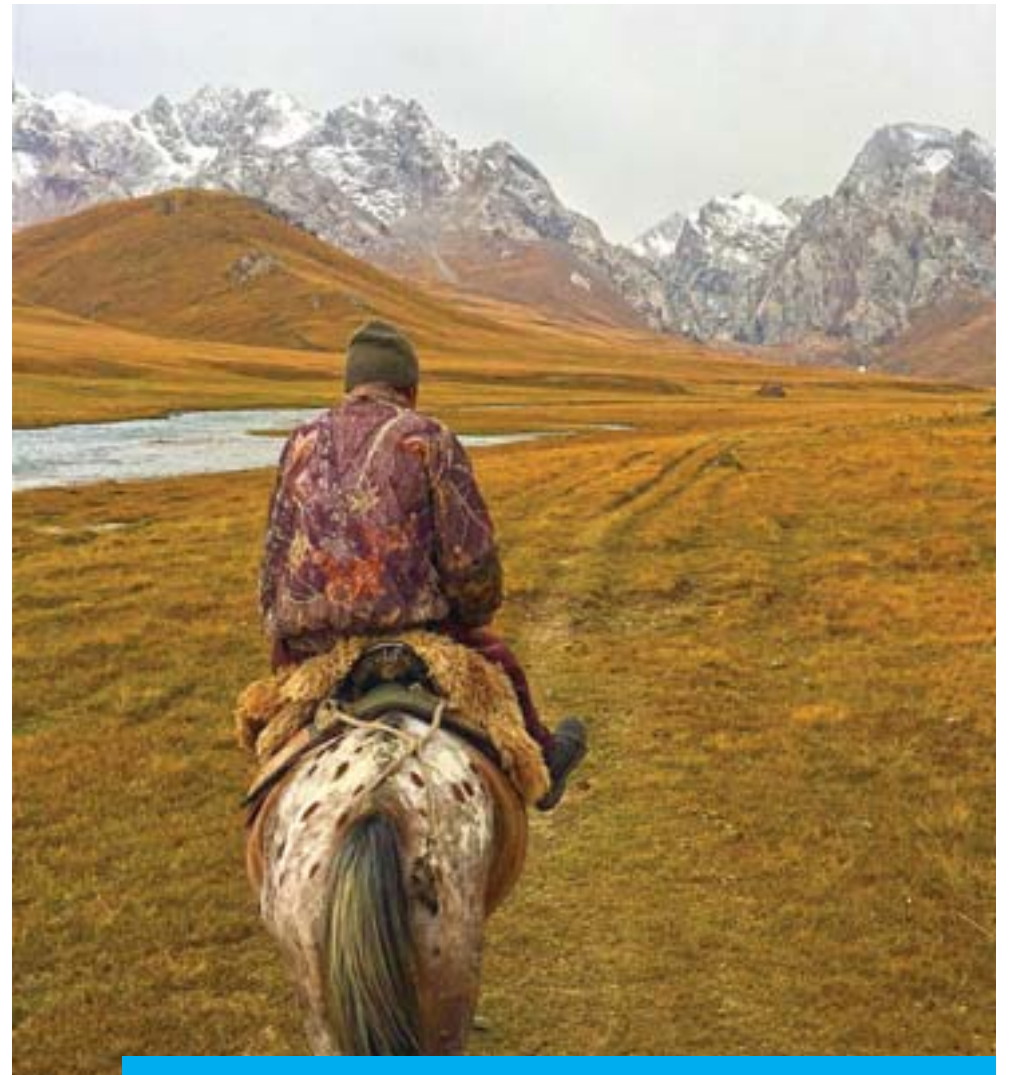
Five yurts stand in a semi-circle next to an old Soviet wagon where a Kyrgyz family - mum, dad and pre-teen daughter - live through the warm season. They rely on the few, mostly foreign, visitors who make it to this remote land each summer for their living. It's now mid-September and they are already starting to take down the camp for the year. Snow is predicted for tonight.

A yurt sleeps five comfortably, but since it's late season, two of us have the run of the place. We scatter backpacks, bottles of water, hats and gloves around, and kick off our hiking boots next to a temporary wood burner installed to keep the yurt warm, padding around sock-footed on oriental rugs laid down to create flooring over the dirt. It's hours until dinner and the only things to do are gaze at the mountains until sundown, and after that, read by the light of a single, buzzing light bulb powered by a petrol generator.

Sun up. It's hard to sleep past dawn, although precious little light penetrates the yurt's thick felt walls. A human body can sense the day and wakes in a natural rhythm, to the soundtrack of the host family just outside clanging tin pots of water, their soft conversation and a horse's far-off whinny. We gobble down breakfast at a table set up in a spare yurt: huge loaves of warm bread and wild-berry jam, sliced melon, fried eggs - sustenance for a frigid day of trekking ahead.

Riding to the beyond

Humans and horses have been partners here for two and a half millennia, and reaching the remote interior of this country almost always involves an equine partner. Kyrgyz horses are short, stout and honest as the day is long. And they are family members: valued, respected, looked after and expected to work hard for



Horse trekking to Kol-Suu: Our guide leads us into the mountains.



The lumbering Tien Shan foothills under a light dusting of September snow.

Lifestyle | Travel

their keep. Shivering into layers, I snap a few photos with a quickly-freezing camera battery, then approach the horses, who are tied loosely to a series of shanty hitching posts near the yurts. Unfazed by the bright, chilly morning, they stand with hind legs cocked while worn felt blankets, saddle frames, and more blankets are cast carefully over them.

Offered a choice of steed, I aim for a little gelding whose grey is a dark-steel shade, giving away that he's a youngster. The ride lasts two hours up a stubby brown, fescue-grass-laden valley fronted by craggy shale peaks. The nomad father, who sags into a comfortable slump on his veteran horse, acts as a silent guide. We follow an aqua-coloured river, which sometimes is a deep rushing tarn and at other points widens into a series of shallow offshoot streams that flow into a semi-frozen bog in between boulders. Finally, we reach the top of the valley, letting the horses put their heads down to pick their way, surefooted, up the rocky slope of an ancient glacial flow. At the crest of the hill, an expanse of water and rock: we have arrived at K'l-Suu, the place of moving waters.

The place of moving waters

Until a few years ago, even most locals didn't know about this mythical lake, but a tiny trickle of tourists has begun at K'l-Suu and it's not difficult to see why: with its milky turquoise water hemmed by jagged grey peaks, the whole place feels of another dimension.

It begins to spit snow, so we let the horses graze and instead take to an only semi-water-worthy rowboat, oaring against a forceful breeze up the narrow length of the lake. Locals who have been further suggest it goes on for 15km back towards China, but we only manage to row a short while, wind-whipped, to where the water bends south, for a staggering glimpse of a huge glacier receding away up from the waterline. The return ride to the yurt-camp is silent, contemplative. The horses trot here and there, and the snow starts to fall hard and thick, leaving a white film across legs and arms and saddles.



Stormy weather over Kol-Suu's glacial waters.

Lost in starshine

Sometime before midnight. I drag myself, heaving for air, from a cosy sleeping bag and slip on hiking boots, kept unfrozen by the gentle heat of the yurt's burner. I tuck the laces into the sides of the boots, not bothering to tie them, and pull on a second coat and a head torch. Pushing back the yurt's heavy door-flap, frigid air stings my eyes and my feet crunch uncertainly into a thin, frozen blanket of snow.

The sky has cleared at this late hour, and there are stars. A disorienting number of stars.

So many stars that whole constellations are completely lost within a sky pin-pricked by thousands of white glimmers. The head torch is pointless: celestial glow illuminates the path down a small embankment to an outhouse, and back up again to the camp, each tent softly lit by starshine.

My travel companion is awake now, too, and the bottle of cognac is produced for defense against the sub-zero temperatures. We stand outside, craning our heads back and trying to take in the firmament. With no light pollution

for hundreds of miles in any direction, the Milky Way streaks unabridged from horizon to horizon, and it's impossible to see everything.

I laugh through chattering teeth and say I can't find Arcturus or Vega or any of the familiar bright stars - they are obscured in this sea of heavens. We stay here agape for an endless number of minutes, silently passing the bottle back and forth, shivering and contemplating the night sky.



The author enjoying the lack of light pollution in the Tuyuk Botomoymok Valley.



The sun sets over the yurtcamp.

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Circus

Find and circle all of the Circus words that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

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

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| BEARS | JUGGLERS | RINGMASTER |
| CAGE | LION TAMER | STILTS |
| CLOWNS | LIONS | TIGERS |
| ELEPHANT | NET | TIGHTROPE |
| FIRE | PEANUTS | TRAPEZE |
| HOOPS | POPCORN | UNICYCLE |
| HORSES | | |

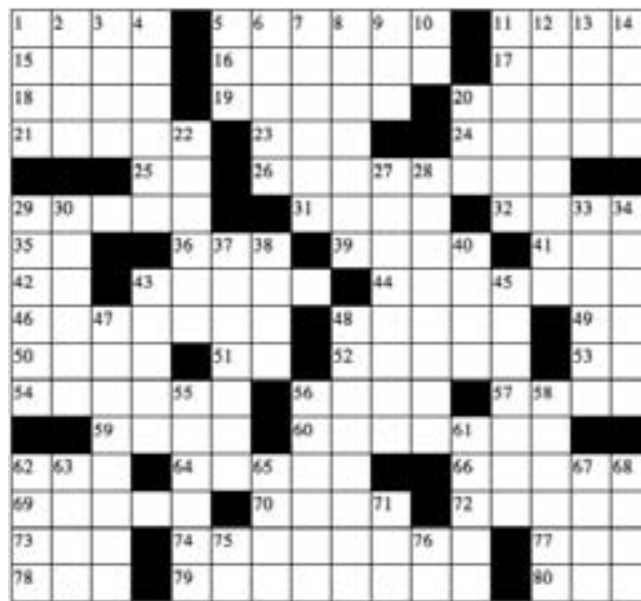
Yesterday's Solution

The Beach

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

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| BEACH BALL | PAIL | SUN |
| BOAT | SAILING | SURFBOARD |
| CLOUDS | SAND | SWIMMING |
| KITE | SEASHELL | SWIMSUIT |
| LIFEGUARD | SKY | WATER |
| OCEAN | STARFISH | WAVES |

CROSSWORD 1883



- ACROSS**
- (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
 - A woman's cap with two long flaps pinned on.
 - Make anew.
 - German industrialist who was the first in Germany to use an assembly line in manufacturing automobiles (1871-1948).
 - An acute but unspecific feeling of anxiety.
 - Deciduous South African tree having large odd-pinnate leaves and profuse fragrant orange-yellow flowers.
 - The products of human creativity.
 - A yellow pungent volatile oil (trade name Agene) formerly used for bleaching and aging flour.
 - A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
 - Rhizomatous herb of India having aromatic seeds used as seasoning.
 - A spontaneous loss of consciousness caused by insufficient blood to the brain.
 - Injure or wound seriously and leave permanent disfigurement or mutilation.
 - Being on the left side.
 - Being one more than one.
 - A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
 - Sheet glass cut in shapes for windows or doors.
 - A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
 - A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
 - A genus of birds including.
 - Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
 - Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
 - A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
 - A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
 - A folded part (as a fold of skin or muscle).
 - An artificial language for international use that rejects all existing words and is based instead on an abstract analysis of ideas.
 - Too numerous to be counted.
 - (Welsh) A warrior god.
 - (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
 - The phenomenon of not permitting the passage of electromagnetic radiation.
 - (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
 - (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
 - Emperor of Rome who introduced a degree of freedom after the repressive reign of Domitian.
 - Not still wet.
 - Have supper.
 - A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
 - A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
 - Lacking gonads.
 - Neckwear consisting of a long narrow piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.

- In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
- A light-weight hat worn in tropical countries for protection from the sun.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- The capital and largest city of Equatorial Guinea on the island of Bioko in the Gulf of Guinea.
- A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
- Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- A postulated biochemical change (presumably in neural tissue) that represents a memory.
- Remove the strap or straps from.
- Vietnamese New Year.
- A period of time equal to 1/24th of a day.
- French writer who generalized surrealism to literature (1897-1982).
- (Old Testament) An Israelite prophet who is remembered for his angry lamentations (jeremiads) about the wickedness of his people (circa 626-587 BC).
- Chief port of Yemen.
- Capital and largest city of Italy.
- Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
- Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
- One species.
- Suffering from a partial loss of memory.

DOWN

- In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
- A light-weight hat worn in tropical countries for protection from the sun.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- The capital and largest city of Equatorial Guinea on the island of Bioko in the Gulf of Guinea.
- A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
- Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- A postulated biochemical change (presumably in neural tissue) that represents a memory.
- Remove the strap or straps from.
- Vietnamese New Year.
- A period of time equal to 1/24th of a day.
- French writer who generalized surrealism to literature (1897-1982).
- (Old Testament) An Israelite prophet who is remembered for his angry lamentations (jeremiads) about the wickedness of his people (circa 626-587 BC).
- Chief port of Yemen.
- Capital and largest city of Italy.
- Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
- Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
- One species.
- Suffering from a partial loss of memory.
- Deciduous shrub of eastern North America having tough flexible branches and pliable bark and small yellow flowers.
- Tropical American feather palm having a swollen spiny trunk and edible nuts.
- Greek poet whose existing works describe rural life and the genealogies of the gods and the beginning of the world (eighth century BC).
- The trait of lacking restraint or control.
- A collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn.
- Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
- An Australian boomerang.
- A collection of Psalms for liturgical use.
- A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- An odorous gum resin formerly used in medicines.
- A port city in southwestern Iran.
- United States rhythm and blues pianist and singer and composer (born in 1928).
- Of a leaf shape.
- A linen tape used for trimming as a decoration.
- Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
- A material effigy that is worshipped as a god.
- Characteristic of false pride.
- On or toward the lee.
- The capital and largest city of Japan.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- An associate degree in nursing.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings

OWN MOVIES ACTION

00:45 Entrapment
02:45 Bloodsport
04:20 Lost & Found
06:00 Captain America: Civil War
08:30 Being Evel
10:15 A Kind Of Murder
11:55 Nick Of Time
13:30 Captain America: Civil War
16:00 Suicide Squad
18:05 Rob The Mob
19:55 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
22:15 Tiger House
23:40 The Asian Connection



00:45 River Monsters
01:40 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:00 Swamp Brothers
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 North Woods Law
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Swamp Brothers
07:50 Swamp Brothers
08:15 River Monsters
09:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
10:05 Mutant Planet
11:00 Swamp Brothers
11:28 Swamp Brothers
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 North Woods Law
13:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
14:40 Mutant Planet
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Mekong: Soul Of A River
17:25 The Vet Life
18:20 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
19:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
20:10 Swamp Brothers
20:38 Swamp Brothers
21:05 The Vet Life
22:00 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:55 Mutant Planet
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:25 Mum
00:55 Death In Paradise
01:50 Holby City
02:45 Orphan Black
03:30 Orphan Black
04:10 Mum
04:40 Hold The Sunset
05:10 The Coronor
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Holby City
08:00 Doctors
08:30 Doctors
09:00 EastEnders
09:30 Bad Move
09:50 I Want My Wife Back
10:25 Death In Paradise
11:20 Casualty
12:15 Holby City
13:10 Doctors
13:40 EastEnders
14:10 Casualty
15:05 Bad Move
15:25 I Want My Wife Back
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
18:30 I Want My Wife Back
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 The Last Post
21:00 Father Brown
21:50 Poldark
22:45 Poldark
23:40 Doctors



00:00 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?
01:00 The Eleven
01:55 Homicide Hunter
02:50 The First 48

03:45 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?
04:30 The Eleven
05:15 The First 48
06:00 Live PD: Police Patrol
06:30 Live PD: Police Patrol
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:20 The First 48
08:05 Cold Case Files
08:50 Homicide Hunter
09:35 The First 48
10:30 Crimes That Shook Australia
11:25 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:20 Cold Case Files
13:15 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
14:10 The First 48
15:05 Crimes That Shook Australia
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
20:00 Live PD: Police Patrol
20:30 Live PD: Police Patrol
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 Waco: Madman Or Messiah



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Space Dealers
02:10 Secret Space Escapes
03:00 How The Earth Works
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Tanked
05:30 How It's Made
05:55 How It's Made
06:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
06:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
07:50 How It's Made
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
09:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
09:30 Tanked
10:20 How The Earth Works
11:10 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
11:35 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
12:00 The Carbonaro Effect
12:25 The Carbonaro Effect
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:30 Tanked
15:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
16:10 How The Earth Works
17:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
17:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Tanked
21:10 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
21:35 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 How The Earth Works
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

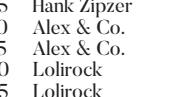


00:45 Blood Relatives
01:40 Evil Lives Here
02:35 Bride Killers
03:30 Deadly Sins
04:25 Blood Relatives
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Suspicion
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 A Crime To Remember
08:15 Blood Relatives
09:10 Nightmare Next Door
10:05 American Monster
11:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
11:55 A Crime To Remember
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Suspicion
14:40 Evil Stepmothers
15:35 I Am Homicide
16:30 A Crime To Remember
17:25 Blood Relatives
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It

19:15 Suspicion
20:10 Evil Stepmothers
21:05 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:00 The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade
22:55 American Monster
23:50 Murder In The Heartland



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
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 Disney Mickey Mouse
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 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
06:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
06:25 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Tangled: The Series
07:20 Stuck In The Middle
07:45 K.C. Undercover
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:25 Lolirock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Lolirock
12:45 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:00 The Zhuzhus S1
14:15 Bunk'd
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:10 Bizaardvark
15:35 Elena Of Avalor
16:00 Tangled: The Series
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
16:50 Raven's Home
17:15 K.C. Undercover
17:40 Raven's Home
18:05 K.C. Undercover
18:30 Bunk'd
18:55 Descendants Wicked World
19:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
19:25 Liv And Maddie
19:50 Jessie
20:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:20 Tangled: The Series
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:15 Ice Cold Gold
01:05 Killing Fields: Murder Isle
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
02:35 Kidnap And Rescue
03:20 Street Outlaws
04:05 Buying Alaska
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 Storage Hunters
06:00 Garage Gold
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Storage Hunters
07:10 Storage Wars Canada
07:35 Buying Alaska
08:20 Garage Gold
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Buying Alaska
10:45 Dirty Jobs
11:30 Ice Cold Gold
12:20 Garage Gold
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Dirty Jobs
14:40 Ice Cold Gold
15:30 Ice Cold Gold
16:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
17:05 Garage Gold
17:28 Dallas Car Sharks
17:50 Buying Alaska
18:40 Flipping Ships
19:25 Ice Cold Gold
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud
21:50 Gear Week
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
23:30 Street Justice: The Bronx



00:00 Trulli Tales
00:30 PJ Masks
00:55 Trulli Tales
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster

02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
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
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 PJ Masks
07:00 Trulli Tales
07:30 Jungle Junction
07:50 Handy Manny
08:10 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:00 Puppy Dog Pals
11:00 The Lion Guard
12:00 Sofia The First
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 P-King Duckling
14:30 Vampirina
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Sofia The First
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 PJ Masks
17:05 PJ Masks
17:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
19:00 Trulli Tales
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Vampirina
20:30 PJ Masks
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 P-King Duckling
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Ice Cold Gold
01:05 Killing Fields: Murder Isle
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
02:35 Kidnap And Rescue
03:20 Street Outlaws
04:05 Buying Alaska
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 Storage Hunters
06:00 Garage Gold
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Storage Hunters
07:10 Storage Wars Canada
07:35 Buying Alaska
08:20 Garage Gold
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Buying Alaska
10:45 Dirty Jobs
11:30 Ice Cold Gold
12:20 Garage Gold
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Dirty Jobs
14:40 Ice Cold Gold
15:30 Ice Cold Gold
16:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
17:05 Garage Gold
17:28 Dallas Car Sharks
17:50 Buying Alaska
18:40 Flipping Ships
19:25 Ice Cold Gold
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud
21:50 Gear Week
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
23:30 Street Justice: The Bronx



06:00 Supa Strikas
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Marvel's Spider-Man

07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
07:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
08:35 Supa Strikas
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Mighty Med
09:50 Mighty Med
10:20 Phineas & Ferb
10:45 Phineas & Ferb
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Lab Rats
12:00 Right Now Kapow
12:25 Two More Eggs
12:30 Right Now Kapow
12:55 Kirby Buckets
13:20 Kirby Buckets
13:45 Gravity Falls
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gravity Falls
14:40 Pair Of Kings
15:05 Pair Of Kings
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Two More Eggs
16:00 The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody
16:25 Lab Rats
16:50 Walk The Prank
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Kickin' It
18:30 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
18:45 Kickin' It
19:10 Mini Ninjas
19:25 Walk The Prank
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Kid vs. Kat
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:05 WAGs Atlanta
00:55 WAGs Atlanta
01:50 E! News
02:50 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 Botched
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 WAGs Miami
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 WAGs Atlanta
17:10 WAGs Atlanta
18:05 WAGs Atlanta
19:00 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched
22:00 Botched
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Cannonball
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Royal Recipes
06:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Cannonball
09:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:55 Royal Recipes
11:00 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street

14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Dancing On Ice
17:50 Royal Recipes
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Dancing On Ice
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:00 The Universe
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Impossible
04:30 The Lost Evidence
05:20 Your Bleeped Up Brain
06:10 Your Bleeped Up Brain
07:00 Ancient Discoveries
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
09:00 The Universe
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Ancient Impossible
12:00 The Lost Evidence
13:00 Ancient Discoveries
14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
15:00 The Universe
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Ancient Impossible
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
20:00 The Universe
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Missing In Alaska
23:00 The Lost Evidence



00:15 Poh & Co.
00:45 Maximum Foodie
01:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
01:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:05 Poh & Co.
02:35 Bangkok Airport
03:30 What's For Sale?
03:55 What's For Sale?
04:25 Dog Whisperer
05:20 Dog Whisperer
06:15 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
07:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
07:35 Poh & Co.
08:05 Bangkok Airport
09:00 What's For Sale?
09:25 What's For Sale?
09:55 Dog Whisperer
10:50 Dog Whisperer
11:45 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
12:40 Stepping Out
13:05 Poh & Co.
13:35 Bangkok Airport
14:30 What's For Sale?
14:55 What's For Sale?
15:25 Dog Whisperer
16:20 Dog Whisperer
17:15 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
18:10 Street Food Around The World
18:35 Poh & Co.
19:05 Bangkok Airport
20:00 What's For Sale?
20:30 What's For Sale?
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Dog Whisperer
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:50 Street Food Around The World



00:10 Nazi Attack On America
01:00 Apocalypse: The Second World War
02:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
03:00 One Strange Rock

TV Listings

04:00 Nazi Attack On America
05:00 Situation Critical
06:00 Mega Factories
07:00 For The Love Of Fashion
08:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
09:00 Situation Critical
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
11:00 Miracle Hospital
12:00 Route Awakening
13:00 Route Awakening
13:00 Mega Factories
14:00 Jane Goodall: Saving Paradise
15:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
16:00 Breakout
17:00 My Fighting Season
18:00 Nazi Attack On America
19:00 Apocalypse: The Second World War
20:00 Breakout
20:50 My Fighting Season
21:40 Nazi Attack On America
22:30 Apocalypse: The Second World War
23:20 Engineering Connections

15:00 Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Toon Marty
17:12 Toon Marty
17:24 Massive Monster Mayhem
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Harvey Beaks
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Get Blake
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Rabbids Invasion
23:00 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:20 Crocopolypse
01:10 World's Deadliest Compilations
02:00 Betty White Goes Wild!
02:50 Animal Fight Club
03:45 Wild 24
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Betty White Goes Wild!
06:30 Animal Fight Club
07:25 Wild 24
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snake Underworld
10:10 Wild Indonesia (2015)
11:05 Chasing Rhinos
12:00 Hunting The Hammerhead
12:55 Dark Side Of Crocs
13:50 My Life Is A Zoo
14:45 Wild 24
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Wild New Zealand: Lost Paradise
18:25 The Miracle Cheetah
19:20 Wild 24
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Wild New Zealand: Lost Paradise
22:40 The Miracle Cheetah
23:30 Hunting The Hammerhead



00:06 Max & Ruby
00:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:40 Kiva Can Do!
00:51 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Paw Patrol
01:53 Kid-E-Cats
01:58 Kid-E-Cats
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Nella The Princess Knight
02:38 Paw Patrol
03:01 Max & Ruby
03:24 Dora The Explorer
03:47 Sunny Day
04:09 Nella The Princess Knight
04:32 Shimmer And Shine
04:54 Wallykazam!
05:17 Zack & Quack
05:28 The Day Henry Met
05:33 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 Nella The Princess Knight
07:21 Kiva Can Do!
07:32 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:06 Paw Patrol
08:29 Shimmer And Shine
08:52 Nella The Princess Knight
09:14 The Day Henry Met
09:20 Paw Patrol
09:43 Rusty Rivets
10:07 Wallykazam!
10:30 Bubble Guppies
10:53 Team Umizoomi
11:16 Kid-E-Cats
11:21 Shimmer And Shine
11:43 Sunny Day
12:06 Max & Ruby
12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:39 Kiva Can Do!
12:50 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Paw Patrol
13:53 Kid-E-Cats
13:58 Kid-E-Cats
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Nella The Princess Knight
14:37 Paw Patrol
15:01 Max & Ruby
15:23 Dora The Explorer
15:47 Sunny Day
16:09 Nella The Princess Knight
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:53 Wallykazam!
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:27 The Day Henry Met
17:32 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:21 Kiva Can Do!



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 Rabbids Invasion
04:12 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 The Loud House
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
06:36 Harvey Beaks
07:00 Breadwinners
07:24 Get Blake
07:48 Sanjay And Craig
08:12 Rabbids Invasion
08:36 The Loud House
09:00 Regal Academy
09:24 Winx Club
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 School Of Rock
11:00 Blurt!
11:48 I Am Frankie
12:12 Rank The Prank
12:36 Massive Monster Mayhem
13:00 Hunter Street
13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
13:48 Toon Marty
14:00 Toon Marty
14:12 Harvey Beaks
14:36 Breadwinners

19:32 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:05 Paw Patrol
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:14 The Day Henry Met
21:20 Paw Patrol
21:43 Rusty Rivets
22:07 Wallykazam!
22:31 Bubble Guppies
22:55 Team Umizoomi
23:17 Kid-E-Cats
23:23 Shimmer And Shine
23:45 Sunny Day



00:25 How I Met Your Mother
00:50 How I Met Your Mother
01:15 Seinfeld
01:40 Seinfeld
02:05 According To Jim
02:30 According To Jim
02:55 According To Jim
03:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:05 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Marry Me
06:05 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 Fresh Off The Boat
06:55 Mom
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 The Simpsons
10:15 The Last Man On Earth
10:40 Marry Me
11:05 The Bernie Mac Show
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Fresh Off The Boat
12:45 Mom
13:10 How I Met Your Mother
13:35 How I Met Your Mother
14:00 Seinfeld
14:25 Seinfeld
14:50 Marry Me
15:15 The Simpsons
15:40 The Last Man On Earth
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Fresh Off The Boat
17:30 Mom
18:00 How I Met Your Mother
18:30 How I Met Your Mother
19:00 Seinfeld
19:30 Seinfeld
20:00 The Carmichael Show
21:00 The Carmichael Show
21:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Better Late Than Never
23:00 Difficult People
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:15 Up
02:15 The Jungle Book
04:15 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
06:15 Race To Witch Mountain
08:15 Up
10:15 The Jungle Book
12:15 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
14:15 Race To Witch Mountain
16:15 Tarzan II
17:45 The Lion King
19:30 Oz The Great And Powerful
21:45 The Game Plan
23:45 Tarzan II



00:00 The Americans
01:00 Grimm
01:50 Stüchters
02:40 Lethal Weapon
03:30 S.W.A.T.
04:20 The Americans
05:20 Chicago Med
06:10 The Gifted
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
10:00 S.W.A.T.
11:00 Chicago Med
12:00 The Gifted
13:00 Chicago P.D.

14:00 Lethal Weapon
15:00 The View
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 The Gifted
19:00 Chicago Med
20:00 Chicago P.D.
21:00 Survivor: Ghost Island
22:00 Once Upon A Time
23:00 WWE Experience



01:40 Office Space
03:20 Murder Of A Cat
05:05 SuperBob
06:35 Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks
08:30 The Discoverers
10:20 Murder Of A Cat
12:05 SuperBob
13:35 Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks
15:30 The Discoverers
17:20 Down To Earth
18:55 Down With Love
20:40 Without A Paddle
22:20 The Colossal Failure Of The Modern Relationship



00:55 Hungry Hearts
02:55 Not Without My Daughter
05:00 Tumbledown
06:55 I Believe In Miracles
08:55 One True Thing
11:10 We Are Many
13:10 Once Upon A Crime
14:55 Lawrence Of Arabia
18:35 The Man Who Knew Infinity
20:35 Reds
23:55 Once Upon A Time In America



00:25 Beyond Beyond
01:55 Nur And The Dragon's Temple
03:15 Dwegons And Leprechauns
05:00 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
06:30 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
07:55 Moomins And The Comet Chase
09:20 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine
10:50 The Emperor's Secret
12:25 Nur And The Dragon's Temple
13:45 Dwegons And Leprechauns
15:30 Dinofroz The Origin
17:05 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine
18:35 The Happy Cricket And The Giant Bugs
20:10 Help And Freedom
21:40 Dinofroz The Origin
23:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase



01:50 The Big Year
03:40 Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked
05:15 Eyes Of An Angel
06:55 7 Chinese Brothers
08:20 The Big Year
10:05 Brooklyn
12:05 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip
13:45 My All American
15:50 Bicentennial Man
18:10 Star Trek Beyond
20:20 Zoolander 2
22:05 Natural Born Killers



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory USA
01:20 Street Science
01:45 Street Science

02:10 Engineering Volcanoes
03:00 Prototype This
03:48 Mythbusters: The Search
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory USA
05:24 Street Science
05:48 Street Science
06:12 Engineering Volcanoes
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Prototype This
08:14 Mythbusters: The Search
09:02 Engineering Volcanoes
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory USA
10:38 Street Science
11:02 Street Science
11:26 Prototype This
12:14 Mythbusters: The Search
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory USA
13:50 Engineering Volcanoes
14:38 Prototype This
15:26 Street Science
15:50 Street Science
16:14 Mythbusters: The Search
17:02 Engineering Volcanoes
17:50 Prototype This
18:40 Mythbusters: The Search
19:30 How The Universe Works
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory USA
21:10 Curiosity: Sun Storm
22:00 How The Universe Works
22:50 Prototype This
23:40 Mythbusters: The Search



00:45 The King's Speech
03:00 Kite
04:30 Cloud Atlas
07:15 Head In The Clouds
09:05 The Hundred-Foot Journey
11:05 Man Of The Year
12:55 Strangerland
14:45 Kite
16:15 Gimme Shelter
18:00 The King's Speech
20:00 Babel
22:15 The Jane Austen Book Club



00:00 Mistresses
01:00 Mistresses
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Married At First Sight
04:00 Black Box
05:00 Devious Maids
06:00 Mistresses
07:00 Mistresses
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 Married At First Sight
10:00 Black Box
11:00 Devious Maids
12:00 Mistresses
13:00 Mistresses
14:00 Grey's Anatomy
15:00 Married At First Sight
16:00 Black Box
16:50 Along For The Bride
17:35 Along For The Bride
18:00 The Fashion Fund
19:00 The Fashion Fund
20:00 Project Runway All Stars
21:00 Project Runway
22:00 Project Runway
23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress
01:05 90 Days To Wed
01:50 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days
02:35 The Baby With A New Face
03:20 Outdaughtered: Busby
Quints
04:05 The Undateables
04:50 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Outdaughtered: Busby
Quints
06:45 Outdaughtered: Busby
Quints
07:30 Outdaughtered: Busby

Quints
08:15 Say Yes To The Dress
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK
09:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:32 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:55 Say Yes To The Dress UK
11:17 Say Yes To The Dress UK
11:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK
12:02 Say Yes To The Dress UK
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK
13:10 7 Little Johnstons
13:55 Say Yes To The Dress
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 Little People, Big World
17:50 Diva Brides
18:50 Hair Goddess
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK
21:00 Hair Goddess
21:50 Little People, Big World
22:40 Too Ugly For Love?
23:30 Return To Amish



00:05 This Is Not Happening
00:30 Another Period
00:55 Russell Simmons Presents: The Ruckus
01:20 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
01:45 South Park
02:10 Nightcap
02:35 Another Period
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 South Park
03:50 South Park
04:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
04:40 Workaholics
06:50 Lip Sync Battle
08:55 Friends
10:10 Hillbillies For Hire
11:00 Friendszone
13:05 Disaster Date
13:30 Disaster Date
13:55 Disaster Date
14:20 Key And Peele
16:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand
17:20 Friends
19:25 Nathan For You
19:50 Workaholics
20:12 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
20:35 Graves
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
22:00 Joe Derosa: You Let Me Down
22:50 This Is Not Happening
23:15 Nathan For You
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:20 Forged: Iron & Fire
00:45 Pawn Stars
01:15 Swamp People
02:00 American Pickers
02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
03:40 Hoard Hunters
04:30 Hoard Hunters
05:20 American Pickers
06:00 Alone
06:50 Alone
07:40 Alone
08:30 Alone
09:20 Alone
10:10 Ice Road Truckers
11:00 Ice Road Truckers
11:50 Ice Road Truckers
12:40 Ice Road Truckers
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 American Pickers
15:10 American Pickers
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 American Pickers

Stars

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

You will feel very glad to be alive and blessed with the advantages you have in your life. Something will cause you to be far more appreciative of, and humbled by, your position. Watch that you don't overindulge in shopping trips for now. Enjoy a visit to the museum or park. You will effortlessly infuse your projects with your unique personality. Enjoy a favorite pass time later today. Your moods change like the sun, enjoying foods and customs from all over the world. You are a born communicator; you are happiest when everyone is on the same page. No matter what you do today or this evening your one of a kind energy will attract attention from new people; your time has come to shine.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

You will receive compliments and encouragement from coworkers and family members. You may feel exceptionally well balanced and the ability to reach out to others with encouragement is strong. Your opinion of which direction to take could change as former ways of doing things no longer promote forward movement. You long for a legacy that is written in stone and unbreakable. There should be no complications or interruptions while performing tasks that require concentration. You could try doing something in a new way. You may feel more in tune with your work. Move your body today by walking, bicycling or yoga. Later, prepare a wonderful dinner and desert for family and company.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

The stars are aligned for fun times with family, friends and acquaintances. You are satisfied and happy with your place in life and the people in it; a grateful energy surrounds you. This is a great time to tie up any loose ends you may have personally or professionally. You will be held in high esteem for the things you do for others. Someone listens to your views today and completely agrees. Friends will approach you about working on a project that could be problematic; your methods and opinions are highly respected. Your appreciation of family and friends is heartwarming. Blockages and complications will finally be cleared. After a very busy day, relax with those you love and enjoy this evening.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Remember the old adage mind over matter when you encounter difficult situations today. A temper tantrum might be appealing, but for the sake of your own peace of mind make every effort to avoid one. Tension can work against you, exhausting your vitality. You may be able to work with a group of people to figure out exactly what they want to do regarding a difficult project. Friends want to share some time with you doing something care-free and just plain old fun! Remember to stop and smell the roses; it's important especially now. Domestic projects could get out of hand if some of the responsibilities are not shared. This way you will be able to free up some time for more productive activities or perhaps a needed break.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

You will desire new people, places and things; perhaps a new professional position tempts you now. You will feel very strongly that you can pursue anything your heart desires during this cycle. You may feel that you would like to do something on a deep level that helps people in a hard situation. Some issues could light a fuse and cause you to get into an argument with someone who has different views; try to remember, fiery Leo, that everyone is entitled their opinion. You could feel like breaking free for a little social nightlife with friends; beware that you could do something to offend someone you care for. An important discussion with family or friends you are close to could make a wonderful, positive ending to a very long day.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

You may come across as bossy when you make your feeling known regarding a situation affecting several people. This is a perfect time to incorporate past lessons into your present circumstances; remember when we don't learn the same things keep happening. You will see someone you haven't even thought of in years. It could appear that the more you try, the worse things disintegrate before your eyes. There will likely be a confrontation with someone over who should have done what. Step back and watch patiently as things work themselves out. You can't force the river to run backward and you can't force people to change their views to match yours. This evening will offer an opportunity for recharging your body and spirit for another day.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Your private interests will go deeply into the whys of what people do; discovering motivations will show clearly who is calling all of the shots in a certain project. You could be called on to create an advertisement or public service announcement; you will intuitively know which approach will appeal to audiences. You may need to make choices for an elder or perhaps a child, your judgment will be perfect in this. You could see something today that will make you send up thanks for your own circumstances in life. You may be in the mood for deep and penetrating conversations or thoughts this afternoon. There may be a new and exciting way to make some good money on the side, so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

When you are at the right place at the right time the constellations conspire to send magical results. You will have the midas touch today, meaning all you put your hand to will prosper. Should someone try to slip you up, your words will serve as the perfect defensive tools. There are some petty, niggling little things that could pester you but you will put those to rest quickly. You can get what you want if you use your winning personality with a certain customer or client. Your help on a difficult assignment will pay off later. An investment you made will show promise for the long term. Excellent trends exist for new interests. Overall, your situation seems happy and healthy and becoming more fulfilling each day.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

A strong energy of looking back is present in this cycle; are you perhaps attending a graduation or perhaps a class reunion legacy is another thought repeating through your mind and you admittedly want to leave one. Family and other close ties are at the forefront of your contentment and you find great joy here. You are interested in the concept of give and take, it's all right to take occasionally, you know! You could feel more interested in staying close to home today, but hold on the weekend is almost here. Your intuitive thinking may lead you to work on a difficult relationship in or near your own home this evening. Your empathy is closely tied to someone this evening, perhaps to a difficult degree. End the day your way, rest well.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

You will find yourself in a position of learning today. Your ideas and solutions don't coincide with others and they state their opinions clearly. You could want to retreat into your daydream mode but circumstances won't allow it. Directions taken in the past could be the problem here. A new hobby is on the horizon; you will participate with a like-minded person. There could be conflict with a younger person. You will get through the day's obstacles only to face more this evening. Others could want to impose their opinions and advise; your humor fades as does your patience. Something fun and distracting is in order for the evening with someone who gets you and your moods; take a deep breath, Capricorn, tomorrow is another day.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**

You could experience a strong effort to keep things equalized and stable on the home front. Two sides of a situation demand to be pleased; you will use your best judgment here. You could discover that your thoughts are in the opposite vein of a stubborn elder; you will soon find ways to create a healthy balance. You will have an opportunity to learn more about a possible investment. It would be to your advantage to seek out like-minded people who have the same goals. You could feel dominant urges to create something unique with modern lines, approach this with confidence and without succumbing to inhibitions. Your work will take on its own life and evolve along with you. Rest well tonight.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

A sense of peace and calm will manifest through the day and evening. Solid personal and work environments are a big part of your fulfillment and happiness; you are one to have a grateful heart. You may find that you are on a financial high, as though you have the midas touch. Now might be a good time to move forward with larger purchases such as a home or vehicle; could be an expensive piece of jewelry showing up soon. A young person will seek your help in an important matter that could affect his or her life for years to come. Your experience with an unpleasant event will serve to help you later today in an unexpected meeting. You will get to the bottom of something that will help clear up some bad feelings with someone you care for.

COUNTRY CODES

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

Health

Punk, butt-breathing turtle joins unlucky club

PARIS: Boasting a green, punk hairdo and the unusual ability to breathe through its backside, an Australian turtle has become famous overnight—but not only for its eccentricity. Unfortunately, just as many of us are discovering the Mary River Turtle's tantalizing traits, it has become the latest creature to join the "EDGE of Existence" list of endangered species compiled by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). A native of Queensland, Australia, the turtle was one of 100 reptiles added to the catalogue this week. It lives only in the Mary River from which it took its name.

The inventory has no shortage of weird and wonderful creatures—a limbless lizard, the world's largest sea turtle, a blind snake, and a chameleon

named after Tarzan. But the Mary River Turtle might just be the strangest of them all. "The turtle is highly distinctive," states a ZSL description of the species known to scientists as *Elusor macrurus*. It can breathe underwater through specialized glands in butt organs known as cloaca-orifices through which the turtle excretes urine and waste, and lays eggs.

"This turtle is able to spend so much time underwater—up to three days without coming up for air due to its strange ability to breathe through its bum," Rikki Gumbs of the Imperial College London, who helped compile the EDGE reptile list, said. "They have specialized organs in their cloaca which process oxygen from the surround-

ing water." But perhaps the computer screen-sized turtle's most distinguishing feature is the bright green, spiky mohawks sprouting on the heads of some.

This is not hair, but algae. "The Mary River Turtle spends so much time submerged underwater that some individuals become covered in algae—and can end up with some pretty impressive bright green hairstyles!" said Gumbs.

Popular pet

According to Australia's department of the environment, the Mary River Turtle's rapid decline was sparked by its popularity as a house pet in the 1970s and 80s, known then as the "Penny Tur-

tle". The creature was only recognized and listed as a distinct species in 1994. "The Mary River Turtle takes an exceptionally long time to reach sexual maturity, with individuals not breeding before the age of 25," said the ZSL.

Destruction of the creatures' natural habitat through the building of dams, as well as the collection of its eggs for the pet trade, piled on the survival pressure. "Reptiles often receive the short end of the stick in conservation terms, compared with the likes of birds and mammals," added Gumbs. "Just as with tigers, rhinos and elephants, it is vital we do our utmost to save these unique and too-often overlooked animals. Many EDGE reptiles are the sole survivors of ancient lineages." —AFP

Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
 Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.

Telephone: 1871111

@globalmedcenter
 www.globalmed-center.com

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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

Classifieds

Friday, April 13, 2018



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Partly cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

BY DAY: Dusty and Partly cloudy with fresh to strong south easterly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 40 - 60 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WARNING			Drop in Visibility	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 12/04/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	29 °C	23 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29 °C	23 °C		
ABDALY	31 °C	21 °C		
BUBYAN	26 °C	00 °C		
JAHRA	32 °C	22 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	27 °C	22 °C		
SALMIYAH	26 °C	23 °C		
AHMADI	26 °C	23 °C		
NUWAISIB	31 °C	22 °C		
WAFRA	31 °C	21 °C		
SALMY	30 °C	21 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	04/13	Relatively hot	31 °C	20 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 30 km/h
Saturday	04/14	Relatively hot	31 °C	19 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 28 km/h
Sunday	04/15	Mostly Sunny	32 °C	20 °C	SE	12 - 32 km/h
Monday	04/16	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on	30 °C	22 °C	SE-NE	15 - 40 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:04
Sunrise	05:26
Zuhr	11:49
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:12
Isha	19:32

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	22 °C
MAX. RH	83 %
MIN. RH	38 %
MAX. Wind	SE 60 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
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
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

EMERGENCY

112

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967

Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlis	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

Business

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

38 Vietnam eyes cryptocurrency crackdown**39** New Zealand halts offshore oil and gas exploration**41** Scandal-hit Volkswagen expected to name new CEO

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters is seen in Geneva. —AFP

Protectionism threatens growth, WTO warns

China vows to defend itself through reciprocal measures

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization said yesterday that it expects strong trade growth through this year and next but warned progress would be “undermined” if governments implement threatened protectionist measures. The WTO forecast 4.4 percent growth in trade volume this year and a more moderate four percent expansion in 2019. But the body’s director-general Roberto Azevedo cautioned that “this important progress could be quickly undermined if governments resort to restrictive trade policies, especially in a tit-for-tat process that could lead to an unmanageable escalation.”

“A cycle of retaliation is the last thing the world economy needs,” he added in a statement. Last year saw the most robust rise in trade volume expansion since 2011, fuelling hope that the world economy was finally on a sustained path to recovery following the finan-

cial crisis. In its latest forecast, the WTO said risks “had appeared to be more balanced than at any time since the financial crisis,” but noted that uncertainty was rising again.

No war ‘yet’

Speaking to reporters, Azevedo noted that while some of the announced tariffs remain proposals for now, even the prospect of a further escalation had already affected global market confidence. Asked if he believed the world was currently in the midst of a trade war, the Brazilian-born economist said: “technically, I would say no we are not there yet... “There are still a number of measures that have been

announced but not implemented.... Politically I think we might be seeing the beginning of that (a trade war) and that is exactly what I have been urging members to try to avoid,” he said.

US President Donald Trump’s administration has announced tariffs on steel and aluminum and targeted China for an additional 25 percent in punitive duties on nearly \$50 billion in goods for its alleged theft of US intellectual property. China has vowed to defend itself through a series of reciprocal measures. Azevedo reiterated his call for nations to try to resolve their disputes through the multilateral system, instead of via face-to-face standoffs.

“The pressing trade problems confronting WTO members (are) best tackled through collective action,” he said. Azevedo underscored that if tensions cannot be eased and a full blown trade war breaks out, “the effects would be globalised, reaching far beyond those countries that are directly involved.” The world’s poorest countries could end up being the hardest hit, he added.

Trump administration has expressed hostility towards to the 164-member WTO—and the president has personally called it a “disaster,” a “catastrophe”, “unfair to the US” and threatened a pullout.

But Azevedo said that Washington’s trade envoys have continued substantive engagement in WTO meetings and personally assured him that the US views the Geneva-based organization as “an important institution.”—AFP

“ Important progress could be quickly undermined ”

Business

Easing Middle East anxiety helps stocks recover

World stocks fall 0.1 percent

LONDON: European shares began to recover yesterday as Wall Street futures pointed to a positive US open, with investors' anxiety over a threatened clash between Western powers and Russia in Syria easing ahead of a strong US earnings season. The ratcheting up of geopolitical tensions over an alleged chemical attack by Syrian government forces kept bond yields low, while crude prices eased back, having surged to 2014 highs as a result of political risk in the oil-rich region.

MSCI's world equity index fell for the second day, while European shares managed a 0.3 percent gain. Attention in Europe turned to the minutes of the March European Central Bank meeting expected at 1130 GMT. Investors hoped for greater clarity on the bank's timing for the unwinding of quantitative easing. Losses among European stocks were limited by strong oil and gas shares, boosted by this week's jump in crude prices, and sentiment also improved ahead of Wall Street's open with futures up 0.4 to 0.5 percent.

Investors were anticipating very strong results from US corporates in the upcoming quarterly earnings season, keeping them from turning overly bearish on stocks despite political risks. US President Trump amended yesterday his earlier warning of a swift military strike on Syria, writing on Twitter "it could be very soon or not so soon at all", sending the dollar higher. Trump had declared on Wednesday that

missiles "will be coming" in Syria, taunting Russia for supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad after the suspected chemical attack in Douma. Damascus and Moscow have denied any responsibility.

His comments raised the prospect of direct conflict over Syria for the first time between the two world powers backing opposing sides in the seven-year-old civil war. Heightened geopolitical tensions have piled pressure on investors already rattled by a trade spat between the US and China and a generally more volatile market environment. "We are seeing this regime shift take place in terms of drivers

Geopolitical tensions pile pressure on investors

to volatility," said Norman Villamin, chief investment officer of private banking at UBP in Zurich. Villamin expects the VIX gauge of S&P 500 volatility to stay around the 20 mark - roughly twice its average level last year. "If your portfolio today looks like it did last year, then you probably haven't done enough to adapt your exposure," he said. Crude prices eased back after three sessions of strong gains took them to their highest levels since late 2014 on Wednesday.

US crude futures last traded down 0.2 percent at \$66.66 a barrel, having risen 7.4 percent so far this week. They traded as high as \$67.45 on Wednesday. Brent declined 0.5 percent to \$71.73 a barrel, having touched a high of \$73.09 on Wednesday. European government bond yields remained low as caution dominated ahead

Hong Kong dollar touches red line but no intervention as yet

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's de facto central bank said it would not necessarily step into the currency market to support the local dollar despite it touching the bottom end of its trading band yesterday. As trading began in Asia, Hong Kong's dollar fell to HK\$7.85 against the US dollar—the lower limit of its permitted HK\$7.75-7.85 band—for the first time since the range was introduced in 2005. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority said it is required to buy the local currency at HK\$7.85 to US\$1 under the city's Linked Exchange Rate System if such requests were made by banks.

But the authority added that this practice, known as the weak-side Convertibility Undertaking, will not be automatically triggered. "So long as other banks are willing to buy

HKD at that level, the interbank market will continue to buy and sell HKD at 7.85," the HKMA said. Hong Kong has maintained a decades-old peg with the US dollar, which keeps the city at the mercy of Federal Reserve policymakers.

The dollar slump comes against a backdrop of rising trade tensions between China and the United States, the world's biggest economies and key drivers of global growth. HKMA chief executive Norman Chan said in March that the weakening local dollar, driven lower by US interest rates and capital outflows "should not cause any concerns" and that the authority would take action to ensure it doesn't fall below the band.

The HKMA intervened in the foreign exchange market in 2008, buying billions of dollars to maintain the local currency's peg to the greenback. During the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis several Asian currencies were de-pegged under severe pressure from speculators, but Hong Kong maintained the link despite having to raise interest rates to spectacular levels.—AFP



NEW YORK: The closing numbers are displayed on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange in New York.—AFP

of ECB minutes and speeches from several ECB members. Germany's 10-year Bund yield rose 1 basis point to 0.512, staying near the one-week low it hit on Wednesday.

"Investors are really torn on bonds right now because they know the economy is strong and inflation is coming up," said UBP's Villamin. He started adding to government bonds last month for the first time since 2016, hoping to benefit from

bonds' relatively low volatility. Safe-haven gold slipped 0.5 percent from an 11-week high after minutes from the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Wednesday raised expectations the US could raise rates at a faster pace. Currency markets settled as some strong risk-averse moves unwound. The dollar index rose 0.2 percent to a session high after Trump's latest comments, though it was still near a two-week low.—Reuters

Vietnam eyes cryptocurrency crackdown after alleged \$660mn scam

HANOI: Vietnam has vowed to tighten regulations on cryptocurrencies as authorities investigate an alleged multi-million-dollar fraud in the country, where digital units are traded in a shadowy and unregulated market.

Paying with cryptocurrencies is illegal in Vietnam, where they are not recognized as a legitimate tender by the central bank. However there are currently no laws explicitly banning the possession of assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum.

Regulators have battled to gain control of cryptocurrency markets across Asia, from China to South Korea and Thailand, amid fears that Bitcoin and others—untaxable assets that are exchanged independent of governments and banks—could be used to launder money and fund criminal or terrorist networks. A directive signed by Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc on Wednesday requested to "strengthen the man-



HANOI: This photo illustration shows a Vietnamese cryptocurrency investor looking at the latest Bitcoin values on a smartphone in Hanoi.—AFP

agement of activities related to cryptocurrencies". It comes after a Vietnamese company, Modern Tech Jsc, was accused of scamming \$660 million from tens of thousands of people who bought iFan and Pincoin cryptocurrencies, according to state media. The Ho Chi Minh City-based company promised to repay clients monthly interest—and more if they could attract other customers—but has been slow to pay them back as the value of iFan and Pincoin slumps, VNEExpress reported. City authorities have asked police to investigate.—AFP

Business

New Zealand halts offshore oil and gas exploration

Existing drilling, exploration permits not to be affected

WELLINGTON: New Zealand is halting all new offshore oil and gas exploration to become a global leader in the fight against climate change, the centre-left government said yesterday, but opponents accused it of “economic vandalism”. “(We are) taking an important step to address climate change and create a clean, green and sustainable future for New Zealand,” Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.

The oil and gas industry in New Zealand generates about NZ\$2.5 billion a year, including NZ\$1.5 billion in exports, and employs about 11,000 people. Ardern said existing drilling and exploration permits would not be affected, meaning no existing jobs would be lost. She said there would also be limited new on-shore permits around the North Island’s Taranaki region, where most of New Zealand industry is concentrated.

“We’re striking the right balance for New Zealand—we’re protecting existing industry and protecting future generations from climate change,” she said. The move by New Zealand comes two weeks after the Netherlands announced plans to rapidly cut production at and eventually close-Europe’s biggest gas field as it too seeks to slash fossil fuel use. Ardern campaigned

Companies thwarting global drive to end forced labor by 2030

LONDON: Modern slavery lurks across global supply chains yet competition between companies to produce ever cheaper goods means the world is unlikely to meet a United Nations goal to end forced labor by 2030, anti-slavery experts said on Wednesday. Businesses are fuelling modern-day slavery as they seek to maximize profits by cutting labor costs to meet rising consumer demand for cheaper goods and services while turning a blind eye to worker abuses in their operations, said a panel in London.

“Labor exploitation has been built into companies’ business models because we as consumers want products cheaper and faster,” said Britain’s anti-slavery commissioner Kevin Hyland. With forced labor increasingly seen as a major global ill, there is growing scrutiny on the role of business in meeting a UN target to end by 2030 a crime estimated to enslave about 25 million people and raise annual illegal profits of \$150 billion. “As it stands, the world is not on track to meet the 2030 target set by

heavily on environmental issues when she won a general election last year and is in a three-way coalition government that includes the Greens.

She said she saw the impact of climate change first-hand last month when she visited the cyclone-ravaged Pacific island nations of Samoa and Tonga. This, she said, underscored the fact that climate change was real and New Zealand needed to be at the forefront of efforts to address it. “We’ve been a world leader on critical issues... by being nuclear free, the first to support women to vote,” she said.

“Now we could be a world leader in becoming carbon neutral. We owe this to future generations.” The government said there were currently 31 oil and gas exploration permits, with 22 of them offshore. Environmental groups welcomed the move, with Greenpeace declaring

“the tide has turned irreversibly against Big Oil in New Zealand”. “This is a huge step forward for New Zealand and a landmark moment in the transition to a clean-energy economy,” WWF New Zealand chief Livia Esterhazy said.

Kick in the guts

But the conservative opposition National Party accused Ardern of “economic vandal-

ism” that could put thousands of jobs at risk. Opposition energy spokesman Jonathan Young said gas helped ensure New Zealand’s electricity supply and when existing reserves ran out in 10 years it would be forced to import emissions-heavy alternatives such as coal. “This decision is devoid of any rationale. It certainly has nothing to do with climate change,” he said. “These changes will simply shift production elsewhere in the world, not reduce emissions.”

the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals),” said Alison Campbell from Britain’s foreign aid department (DFID).

“Due to stigma, businesses do not want to stand up and say they have slavery in their supply chains ... but we need them to do that to work towards change,” the slavery specialist added. From cosmetics and clothes to smartphones, supply chains are complex with multiple layers across various countries, and big brands are under pressure from consumers to disclose what they are doing to ensure products are free of forced or child labor. “(Yet) we have a perverse scenario in which companies and even countries are competing for business on grounds of offering cheaper labor costs,” said Cindy Berman of the Ethical Trading Initiative, an alliance of trade unions, firms and charities.

“Governments must also be willing to set the red line below which nobody can fall otherwise (forced labor) will thrive.” The world’s top economies have boosted spending on the anti-slavery drive, according to new UN data exclusively, but activists say companies must to play a bigger role by ensuring their products are slave-free. Many businesses say audits and certification schemes such as Fairtrade help them clean up their supply chains yet such tools are ineffective in an economy that encourages forced labor, said Genevieve LeBaron of Britain’s University of Sheffield. —Reuters



SYDNEY: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern reacts during a joint press conference in Sydney, Australia. —Reuters

ism” that could put thousands of jobs at risk. Opposition energy spokesman Jonathan Young said gas helped ensure New Zealand’s electricity supply and when existing reserves ran out in 10 years it would be forced to import emissions-heavy alternatives such as coal. “This decision is devoid of any rationale. It certainly has nothing to do with climate change,” he said. “These changes will simply shift production elsewhere in the world, not reduce emissions.”

New Plymouth mayor Neil Holdom said the decision was “a kick in the guts” for the Taranaki region. “Nobody’s going to be losing their jobs overnight but in terms of the long-term outlook for those industries... people are going ‘my career doesn’t actually have a future’,” he told Radio New Zealand. Industry group Petroleum Exploration and Production NZ (PEPANZ) said it had been blindsided by the announcement and had not been consulted by the government. —AFP

China says Xi pledges unrelated to US trade spat

BEIJING: China denied President Xi Jinping’s pledge to further open the country’s economy amounts to concessions in a trade spat with the United States, and warned it was ready to hit back at any new US protectionist moves. Xi on Tuesday vowed to ease tariffs and open the economy up more in what was seen as a conciliatory gesture to temper fears of a US trade war after Donald Trump last week threatened fresh levies on billions of dollars of Chinese goods.

The US president welcomed the speech and said he saw an end to the dispute, which has roiled markets since the start of March. But Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng warned Beijing was ready to strike back if the United States presses on with its nationalist economic agenda. “If the US side takes its own

course and insists on carrying out unilateralism and trade protectionism, the Chinese side will fight resolutely and take them on until the end,” Gao told reporters at a regular news briefing.

World markets rallied after Xi pledged at an economic forum to lower car tariffs, protect intellectual property and take other steps to open China’s economy “wider and wider”. “China took the initiative to open up and made it possible for all countries across the world to ride on the express of China’s economic development,” Gao said. But, he added, it “has nothing to do with China’s trade friction with the US” and “we hope some people in the US don’t misjudge the situation”.

Gao once again struck down market hopes that the world’s two largest economies have been negotiating on trade issues. “Up to now China and the US have not carried out negotiation at any level on the trade frictions,” he said, blaming the US for not showing “sincerity” in its actions. “China will not carry out negotiations under unilateral coercion,” Gao told the press briefing. —AFP

Business

BOJ upbeat on regional Japan but wary over labor shortage, trade risk

Kuroda repeats resolve to maintain easy policy

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan mostly held an optimistic view on regional economies, in a sign of its conviction over a broadening recovery but warned that labor shortages and a US-China trade war could cloud the outlook. The central bank's assessment in a report yesterday suggests it will probably maintain its upbeat growth and price forecasts when it conducts a quarterly review of its projections at a rate review on April 26-27.

BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda stressed his resolve to maintain the central bank's massive stimulus program to achieve his elusive 2 percent inflation target, even as the economy continues to expand moderately. "With the output gap improving and medium- to long-term inflation expectations seen heightening, we expect inflation to accelerate as a trend and head toward 2 percent," Kuroda told a quarterly meeting of the BOJ's regional branch managers yesterday.

In the report issued by the BOJ's branch managers, the central bank upgraded its assessment for two of Japan's nine regions and maintained its rosy view for six areas as a tightening job market drove up household income and consumption. It described six regional economies as "expanding" or "expanding moderately" - the most upbeat language it uses to describe the state of the economy - and cut its view on just one re-

gion. A senior BOJ official told parliament yesterday there were promising signs in the economy that would help the central bank meet its price goal. "Medium- and long-term inflation expectations are recently emerging from weaknesses, while wages and inflation are rising moderately," said BOJ Executive Director Eiji Maeda.

Trade spat risk

But the BOJ's regional report cited some companies complaining that labor shortages - while positive for wages and consumption - were hurting their businesses.

"We have a severe shortage of experienced production line workers," a steelmaker in Hokkaido, northernmost Japan, was quoted as saying. "Our pay is relatively high and yet, we're seeing people quit for other jobs," said a

construction firm in the region.

Yoshitake Matsumoto, the BOJ's branch manager overseeing the Kyushu southern Japan region, said labor shortages were the primary concern for companies in the area. "We need to see whether labor shortages could become a bottle-neck for the economic recovery," Matsumoto told a news conference. Some companies in the western Kinki region, home to electronic giants such as Panasonic, said the trade row between China and the United States was a potential risk to their overseas businesses.

“We’re seeing people quit for other jobs”



TOKYO: Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, center, speaks to the media with Japan's Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister Taro Aso, 2nd right, and Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, right, after meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Abe's official residence in Tokyo. —AFP

"The trade spat and the strong yen are seen as possible risks," said Kimihiro Eto, the BOJ's Osaka branch manager, but added it was uncertain how these risks would affect Japan's overall economy. "There could be a real negative impact to external demand, which has been a driver of Japan's economy, if the US-China trade friction escalates and leads to protectionism on a global scale," said Eto, who oversees the Kinki region.

Eto, however, said many companies in

the western part of Japan did not see the yen's recent ascent to around 105 to the dollar as severely hurting their profits. Japan's economy expanded an annualized 1.6 percent in the October-December quarter, marking the eighth straight quarter of growth, on robust global demand and capital spending. But core consumer inflation stood at 1.0 percent in February, well below the BOJ's 2 percent target, as slow wage growth keeps consumers from boosting spending.—Reuters

Uganda plans tax on social media use from July, rights activists cry foul

KAMPALA: Uganda plans to slap a new tax on social media users from July to raise revenue, which human rights activists denounced as another attempt by President Yoweri Museveni to stifle freedom of expression and quash dissent to his 32-year-rule. The move is unlikely to go down well in a country where more than 40 percent of people use the internet. Data costs in Africa are already among the world's highest, according to digital advocacy group World Wide Web Foundation.

Finance Minister Matia Kasaija told Reuters in a phone interview that the tax will charge each mobile phone subscriber using platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook 200 Ugandan shillings per day. He dismissed concerns it could limit people's use of the internet. "We're looking for money to maintain the security of the country and extend electricity so that you people can enjoy more of social media, more often, more frequently," he said.

Human rights activists begged to differ and some took to social media to criticize the proposal. "It's part of a wider attempt to curtail freedoms of expression," Rosebell Kagumire, a human rights activist and blogger, said. Of Uganda's 41 million people, 23.6 million are mobile phone subscribers and 17 million use the internet. Kasaija said the proposal, to be included in the budget for fiscal 2018/19 starting in July, had been sent to parliament this week for review after the cabinet approved it.—Reuters

Czech antivirus targets London's biggest tech float

LONDON: Czech antivirus software maker Avast announced yesterday that it will float on the London stock market next month in the British capital's biggest ever technology IPO. "Avast ... today announces that it intends to proceed with an initial public offering" in London, it said in a statement, adding that it was expected to occur in early May. Prague-based Avast, one of the world's biggest online security software companies, will seek to float at least 25 percent of its share capital.

The IPO could value it at \$4.0 billion, according to the Financial Times. "Over

the past thirty years, Avast has grown from a visionary start-up to the number one consumer cybersecurity company," said Avast chief executive Vincent Steckler. "This transformation of our company has happened because of the dramatic increase in the number and types of threats around the world which are a growing concern to people, and Avast's ability to stay ahead of the bad guys with new and evolving technologies and products."

The group is well positioned to take advantage of an expanding consumer cybersecurity market, which Steckler said was forecast to grow 10 percent annually and reach \$21 billion by 2021. Avast is 46-percent owned by its founders, while investment company CVC has a 29-percent stake. The group, which has more than 435 million users around the world, has a workforce of 1,700 people and generated sales of \$653 million in 2017. Avast purchased Dutch rival AVG Technologies in 2016.—AFP

Business

Scandal-hit Volkswagen expected to name new CEO

Mueller open to play a part in the changes

BERLIN: German car giant Volkswagen is set to replace chief executive Matthias Mueller yesterday, as it seeks to turn the page on the “dieselgate” emissions scandal that has dogged the company since 2015. The supervisory board of the world’s leading carmaker will meet a day ahead of schedule and announce its decisions in a statement, a source close to the company said. The meeting will begin at 5:00 pm and end “late in the evening”, the source said.

Volkswagen on Tuesday announced it was considering reshuffling its board and replacing Mueller, in a move that sent stocks in the company surging. Mueller had “signaled he was open to play a part in the changes” in conversations with supervisory board chief Hans Dieter Poetsch, the company said. German business newspaper Handelsblatt and national news agency DPA reported Herbert Diess, head of the VW brand—one of the group’s 12 makes of cars, trucks and motorbikes—was slated to take Mueller’s place.

Dieselgate fallout

Mueller, a former chief executive of sports-car-building VW subsidiary Porsche AG, was brought in to replace Martin Winterkorn in 2015 and was contracted to serve until 2020. Long-time CEO Winterkorn quit days after the firm admitted to installing software in 11 million diesel

vehicles worldwide designed to cheat regulatory emissions tests in a scandal that became known as “dieselgate”. Mueller, 64, has steered the mammoth carmaker into a massive restructuring, aiming to offer electric versions of many of its models and slim down its operations over the coming decade.

On his watch, the VW group last year held on to its title as the world’s largest carmaker and made a net profit of 11.4 billion euros. But he has himself landed in prosecutors’ sights over suspicions he may have known about the diesel cheating before it became public and failed in his duty to inform investors. “The most important part of getting the crisis under control is over now, so it’s right for VW to look in a new direction,” judged analyst Juergen Pieper of Metzler bank.

Diess, known as a “very good cost manager”, would be “the best solution as a successor for the next five years,” he added. Shares in Volkswagen climbed 1.7 percent to 176.06 euros in late morning trade in Frankfurt, vastly outperforming the Dax index of leading shares that was up just 0.1 percent.

Ambitious cost cutter

Dieselgate has so far cost VW more than 25 billion euros in buybacks, fines and compensation, and the carmaker remains mired in legal woes at home and abroad. Suspicions of emissions cheat-

triggered the auto industry’s biggest-ever safety recall. Last June, the firm filed for bankruptcy protection with liabilities reportedly exceeding one trillion yen. Takata faces lawsuits and huge costs over the defect blamed for 21 deaths, including some cases still under investigation, a company spokeswoman said.

The company’s operations—not including the airbag business linked to the scandal—have now been taken over by US-based auto parts maker Key Safety Systems (KSS). KSS, which has been renamed Joyson Safety Systems after the takeover, paid an estimated \$1.58 billion for the purchase. The airbag defect was linked to a chemical, ammonium nitrate, used as a propellant in Takata’s airbag inflator canisters.

The chemical degraded, especially in humid conditions, meaning that in some cases the airbag did not inflate properly and sometimes ruptured, firing metal shrapnel at the vehicle’s occupants. Honda, a major Takata customer, first sounded the alarm in 2008. But the crisis peaked in 2014 when earlier deaths started getting more media attention and the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration became involved in the ballooning recalls. —AFP



BERLIN: This file photo shows a man polishing the car logo of German car maker Volkswagen (VW) prior to the company’s annual press conference in Berlin. —AFP

ing have also spread to other carmakers, shattering diesel’s image as a clean engine and prompting several smog-clogged German cities to mull diesel driving bans. Despite the challenges, Mueller has managed to bring VW’s share price and profits back up to pre-crisis levels, as customers appeared to largely shrug off the negative headlines.

But observers say he made little progress in shaking up VW’s famously hierarchical corporate culture, which some critics believe discouraged employees from speaking up about the diesel scam. Having joined from BMW just a few months before the cheating became public knowledge, Diess has the advantage of being largely un-

tainted by dieselgate—giving VW a chance at a fresh start. In addition to taking on the top job, the 59-year-old Austrian is expected to stay on as VW brand chief.

Described as highly ambitious, Diess has earned a reputation as a fierce cost cutter unafraid of pushing through big changes. “Diess has no problem making enemies,” the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily wrote, recounting how the “tough-as-nails” executive drove a hard bargain with suppliers as head of purchasing at BMW. VW’s supervisory board meeting is also expected to see human resources chief Karlheinz Blessing replaced by works council executive Gunnar Kilian. —AFP

Airbag-maker Takata brand disappears as CEO quits

TOKYO: Japan’s Takata said yesterday its chief had formally resigned after the completion of a takeover by a US firm, bringing the curtain down on the crisis-hit brand tainted by a deadly airbag scandal. The takeover resulted in the extinction of the 85-year-old Takata brand, with CEO’s Shige-hisa Takada grandfather starting the company in 1933 as a textile maker. “We again express sincere apologies to our customers, creditors, shareholders and many others for the great deal of inconvenience related to our airbags,” Takata said in a statement announcing the resignation.

Takata’s name is now synonymous with the deadly airbag scandal which affected almost every major global automaker, including Toyota and General Motors, and

IAG considers bid for budget carrier Norwegian

LONDON: IAG, the owner of British Airways and Spanish carrier Iberia, is mulling a potential takeover of low-cost airline Norwegian Air Shuttle after building up a minority holding, it said yesterday. Norwegian’s shares jumped by nearly 20 percent on the Oslo stock exchange following the news. London-listed International Airlines Group (IAG) revealed the news in a brief statement in which it noted press speculation over a possible bid for Europe’s third largest low-cost carrier after Ryanair and Easyjet.

“IAG considers Norwegian to be an attractive investment and has acquired a 4.61 percent ownership position in the airline,” it said the group that includes British Airways and Ireland’s

Aer Lingus, as well as Spanish airlines Iberia and Vueling. “The minority investment is intended to establish a position from which to initiate discussions with Norwegian, including the possibility of a full offer for Norwegian.”

“IAG confirms that no such discussions have taken place to date, that it has taken no decision to make an offer at this time and that there is no certainty that any such decision will be made.” A further announcement on the matter would be made if appropriate, it added. Norwegian is one of the few low-cost airlines to venture into long-haul flights, which has long been the preserve of major carriers, and has been rapidly adding flights.

This year, Norwegian wants to boost its offer by 40 percent. Norwegian said in a statement released via the Oslo stock exchange that it had been unaware that IAG had acquired a stake until press reports yesterday and had not held any discussions with the airline group. “Norwegian believes that IAG’s interest in the company confirms the sustainability and potential of our business model and global growth,” it said, adding it had no further comments at this stage. —AFP

Sports

Red Sox-Yankees brawl as benches clear after Joe Kelly hits Tyler Austin

Chicago wiped out early 3-0 deficit to rout Pittsburgh

BOSTON: Gary Sanchez hit two home runs Wednesday as the visiting New York Yankees earned an emotional 10-7 victory that ended the Boston Red Sox's nine-game win streak. The game between the longtime rivals included two bench-clearing incidents, the second of which, in the seventh inning, turned into an on-field brawl after Red Sox reliever Joe Kelly hit the Yankees' Tyler Austin with a pitch in the back. That pitch appeared to be in retaliation for Austin's hard slide in the third inning when his lead foot clipped the foot of Red Sox shortstop Brock Holt during a forceout. The benches cleared then as well, but there was no further incident. Both Austin and Kelly were ejected in the seventh inning after Austin slammed his bat to the ground after being hit with the pitch then charged the mound. Sanchez, who entered with just two hits, had three in the game by the fourth inning: a home run in the first, a double in the third and another home run in the fourth, his third of the season. He finished with four RBIs.

ROCKIES 6, PADRES 4

Colorado emerged from a benches-clearing brawl to score five runs in the third inning to beat visiting San Diego despite having three players ejected. Five players in full were ejected following the brawl, which started when Padres right-handed starter Luis Perdomo threw his first pitch of the third inning behind the back of Rockies All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado. Both benches and bullpens rushed the field. Perdomo and catcher A.J. Ellis were the Padres ejected. Arenado, who charged the mound after Perdomo's pitch, starting pitcher German Marquez and left fielder Gerardo Parra were the Rockies ejected. Earlier Wednesday, the Padres placed center fielder Manuel Margot on the 10-day disabled list with bruised ribs after he was hit by a 95 mph fastball thrown by Colorado's Scott Oberg on Tuesday night.

METS 4, MARLINS 1

Zack Wheeler twirled seven innings of two-hit ball as New York scored four in the eighth inning to win their eighth straight game, beating host Miami as Wheeler made a spot start after being recalled from Triple-A Las Vegas. With the Mets trailing 1-0, pinch hitter Adrian Gonzalez ripped a single into center off Chris O'Grady (0-1) to score Kevin Plawcki and Michael Conforto, who had a pinch-hit double, to give New York a 2-1 lead in the eighth. Wilmer Flores hit an RBI double off Junichi Tazawa to plate Gonzalez, and Todd Frazier added a sacrifice fly. Wheeler (1-0) struck out seven and walked one.

ANGELS 7, RANGERS 2

Jaime Barria won his major league debut, giving up one run in five innings during Los Angeles' win over host Texas that completed a three-game sweep. Barria, 21, began last season at Class-A Inland Empire before being promoted to Triple-A Salt Lake. He gave up just one hit against Texas—a solo homer to Ryan Rua in the third inning. Barria (1-0) walked three and struck out three while making 71 pitches. Kole Calhoun had three hits and Jefry Marte had two to lead the offense for the Angels, who improved to 10-3, matching their best record through 13 games in franchise history (1979, '82). Los Angeles has won seven of eight and 10 of the past 12.

PHILLIES 4, REDS 3 (12 INNINGS)

Scott Kingery hit the decisive sacrifice fly in the 12th inning as Philadelphia defeated visiting Cincinnati, which has dropped four straight games and owns the worst record in the majors at 2-9. J.P. Crawford belted his first career homer, a two-run shot, as Philadelphia finished off a three-game sweep. Cesar Hernandez also homered as the Phillies (6-5) won for the fifth time in their last six games to move above .500 for the first time this season. Pedro Florimon began the bottom of the 12th with a grounder to Reds second baseman Scooter Gennett, who overthrew first baseman Joey Votto, and Florimon ended up at second. A sacrifice bunt moved Florimon to third, and Hernandez was intentionally walked by right-hander Austin Brice (0-1) before Kingery hit a fly to right to score Florimon.

CUBS 13, PIRATES 5

Javier Baez homered twice for the second straight game as the Chicago wiped out an early 3-0 deficit to rout visiting Pittsburgh. Baez, who belted a pair of solo shots in an 8-5 loss on Tuesday, cracked a three-run blast to right-center in the bottom of the second inning to give the Cubs a 4-3 lead. He capped the scoring in the bottom of the eighth when he hit a 424-foot shot to left-center. He didn't homer in the team's first nine games. Chicago snapped a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the sixth with four runs. Baez scored the go-ahead run when he beat Josh Harrison's throw from second to the plate on a Tommy La Stella grounder. Kris Bryant followed with the first of two RBI doubles, and Ben Zobrist capped the outburst with a two-run single.

ORIOLES 5, BLUE JAYS 3

Jonathan Schoop had a pair of clutch RBI hits as Baltimore beat visiting Toronto. Orioles starter Kevin Gausman (1-1) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings, striking out seven and walking three on 106 pitches. Schoop snapped a pair of slumps with an RBI double in the fourth inning off Marco Estrada (1-1). He was hitless in his previous 12 at-bats and hitless in his first 13 at-bats with runners in scoring position before lining a double to left. Schoop then added a run-scoring single in his next at-bat off Estrada with no outs in the fifth. The second baseman's third multi-hit game of the season raised his batting average from .189 to .211.

INDIANS 5, TIGERS 1

Carlos Carrasco continued his dominance of Detroit with a complete-game gem as Cleveland cruised at home. Carrasco (3-0) allowed only three hits and two walks while striking out six. Over his past 12 starts against Detroit, he is 8-1 with a 1.45 ERA. Carrasco threw 110 pitches while recording his third win in as many starts this season. Yonder Alonso knocked in two runs during a four-run fourth and reached base three times for the Indians, who have won the first three games of a four-game series. Michael Brantley and Francisco Lindor each had two hits and an RBI.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, GIANTS 3

Paul Goldschmidt greeted reliever Sam Dyson with a tiebreaking double in the sixth inning, sending Arizona to a road victory over San Francisco. John Ryan Murphy and Ketel Marte combined to score four runs and drive in three for the Diamondbacks. Arizona won two of three from the Giants to capture its fourth straight series to open the season. The loss spoiled the major league debut of Giants left-hander Andrew



BOSTON: Brett Gardner No 11 of the New York Yankees steals second past Eduardo Nunez No 36 of the Boston Red Sox during the sixth Inning at Fenway Park on Wednesday in Boston, Massachusetts. —AFP

Suarez, who was promoted from Triple-A Sacramento fill in for injured Johnny Cueto. Suarez (0-1) retired the first 10 Diamondbacks he faced until Marte singled with one out in the fourth and came home ahead of Goldschmidt's second home run of the season. Suarez ended up allowing four runs in 5 1/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 2, RAYS 1

Matt Davidson hit a two-run homer with one out in the eighth inning as Chicago halted a five-game losing streak with a win over visiting Tampa Bay. James Shields overcame five walks and held the Rays to one run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. Davidson struck out twice to extend his slump to 3-for-26 before lifting a 1-1 changeup from Austin Pruitt (1-2) into the center field seats. Jose Abreu, who narrowly missed an extra-base hit in the fifth, set up Davidson's fifth homer with a single to left field. Bruce Rondon (1-0) breezed through the eighth for his first win with the White Sox, and Nate Jones struck out two in a scoreless ninth for his fourth career save after issuing a leadoff walk to Matt Duffy.

MARINERS 4, ROYALS 2

Kyle Seager hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning and drove in three runs in visiting Seattle's victory over Kansas City. Dee Gordon and Robinson Cano had a hit apiece while extending hitting streaks for the Mariners. Gordon has hit safely in all 10 games this season and has a 16-game hitting streak dating to Sept. 26, 2017. Cano extended his hitting streak to nine games and has reached safely in all 10. Mitch Haniger walked with two outs in the eighth off Justin Grimm (0-1) before Seager hit his second homer of the season just over the fence in right field as the Mariners completed a three-city road trip at 4-3.

TWINS 9, ASTROS 8

Max Kepler homered twice, including a walk-off blast to right field with two outs and two strikes in the ninth inning, in Minnesota's victory over visiting Hous-

ton. Kepler turned on a 3-2 slider from Astros reliever Brad Peacock (1-1) to clinch the series in the rubber match, but that came after Houston rallied from a seven-run deficit to pull even in the ninth. After leaving the bases loaded in the seventh inning with a flyout to left field, Astros center fielder George Springer drove home one run and a second scored via a throwing error in the ninth off Fernando Rodney (1-0). The Twins closer blew the save but ultimately got credit for the win.

BREWERS 3, CARDINALS 2

Hernan Perez and Eric Thames clouted solo homers while Junior Guerra pitched 5 1/3 solid innings in his first start of the year as Milwaukee edged host St. Louis. Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina sat out, serving his one-game suspension. Guerra, who was called up late Tuesday night from Triple-A Colorado Springs, gave up just four hits and a run with two walks and four strikeouts. Three relievers got the final 11 outs, with Matt Albers pitching the final two-thirds of an inning to garner his first save.

Adam Wainwright (0-2) absorbed the loss despite turning in a quality start. Molina's suspension stemmed from Sunday's incident in which he erupted after Arizona Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo referred to him by a profane term while arguing with plate umpire Tim Timmons.

BRAVES 5, NATIONALS 3 (12 INNINGS)

Peter Bourjos delivered a two-run single in the top of the 12th inning that gave Atlanta the victory over host Washington. Kurt Suzuki smacked two solo homers for the Braves. Ozzie Albies and Freddie Freeman led off the 12th with singles off Ryan Madson (0-1). Nick Markakis then walked to load the bases. One out later, Bourjos hit a soft single to short right that scored Albies and Freeman for a 5-3 lead. Bourjos was 0-for-11 this season before going 2-for-3 after entering in the seventh. Despite blowing a save chance in the 11th, Shane Carle (2-1) threw the final two innings and earned the win. —Reuters

Sports



Faltering Jamaicans give Bolt the Commonwealth blues

Miller-Uibo romp to victory for Bahamas in women's 200m

GOLD COAST: Even the presence of sprint legend Usain Bolt failed to inspire Jamaica's track athletes at the Commonwealth Games yesterday as they suffered another beating in the women's 200 metres.

As Bolt looked on from the VIP seats in his new ambassadorial role, double Olympic champion Elaine Thompson failed even to medal, adding to Jamaica's troubles on the Gold Coast after missing out on both 100m titles. Shaunae Miller-Uibo romped to victory for the Bahamas in the women's 200m in a new Games record of 22.09 to further darken Bolt's mood after Yohan Blake's 100m flop on Monday, when he had to settle for bronze.

Miller-Uibo was presented her gold medal by none other than Bolt, the eight-time Olympic champion.

"It's a pleasure getting it from a great like him," Miller-Uibo told reporters. "Me and Elaine, we compete a lot and she always brings her A-game. I think we put on a great show."

Shericka Jackson did at least take silver for Jamaica behind Miller-Uibo as England's Dina Asher-Smith pipped Thompson for the bronze. But Miller-Uibo, who bagged gold in the 400m at the 2016 Rio Olympics, proved a cut above and powered away in the final third of the race to take the title. "I'm not sure what happened," shrugged Thompson.

"There's nobody that doesn't want to chase a double Olympic champion because everybody's fit, everybody's hungry and everybody wants a medal." There was some consolation for Jamaica, however, as Janieve Russell won the women's 400m gold in 54.33, more than half-a-second clear of Scotland's Eilidh Doyle, who took silver for the third successive Commonwealth Games. It was only Jamaica's third track gold after Ronald Levy won the men's 110 metres hurdles and Aisha Praught-Leer made off with the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase crown.

“Tonight the gold meant a lot for the country”

HUGHES STRIPPED

Bolt also watched forlornly as Jamaica well outside the medals in a controversial men's 200m final. England's Zharnel Hughes appeared to have beaten Trinidad and Tobago's Jereem Richards in a photo finish, only to be dramatically stripped of the gold moments later for impeding him. Replays showed Hughes catching Richards in the face with his left hand, causing his opponent to stumble. Earlier, Kyron McMaster won an emotional first-ever Commonwealth Games gold medal for the British Virgin Islands in the men's 400m hurdles, seven months after his coach was killed by Hurricane Irma. The 21-year-old clocked 48.25 with Jeffery Gibson of the Bahamas taking silver and Ja-



GOLD COAST: Jamaica's Elaine Thompson (L) and England's Dina Asher-Smith cross the finish line of the athletics women's 200m final during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast yesterday. —AFP

maica's Jheel Hyde bronze. "Tonight the gold meant a lot for the country," said McMaster, who survived the deadly hurricane and has a tattoo dedicated to former coach Xavier Samuels on his left arm.

"I have him with me everywhere I go... I've learnt not to take life for granted because at any moment stuff could happen." Wycliffe Kinyamal won the first gold medal of the Games for Kenya, who were top of the athletics table in 2014, after winning the men's

800m race in 1:45.11. Elsewhere at the Commonwealth Games, England's Olympic gold medallist Jack Laugher made it two gold medals in two days when he won the three-metre springboard diving. Annie Last also captured gold for England in the women's mountain biking as former wrestling world champion Sushil Kumar struck completed a Games hat-trick by beating South Africa's Johannes Botha to win the 74kg category. —AFP

Canadian beach volleyballer adds gold to family story

COOLANGATTA: Her father represented Chile in volleyball, her mother was a ballet dancer and Melissa Humana-Paredes yesterday won Commonwealth Games gold in beach volleyball for Canada to add another chapter to the family story.

The 25-year-old and playing partner Sarah Pavan were the party-poopers as the Canadian pair beat Australia to deprive the hosts of double gold in the inaugural Commonwealth beach volleyball competition. Just a couple of hours earlier, the Australian duo of Chris McHugh and Damien Schumann won the men's title against their Canadian opponents on Coolangatta Beach.

But, with the rain falling on occasions in the night sky, Australia's Taliqua Clancy and Mariafe Artacho del Solar could not pull off a similar feat. In front of watching South African star swimmer Chad le Clos, celebrating his 26th birthday with a beer and fresh from his medal heroics in the pool, Humana-Paredes and Rio 2016 Olympian Pavan won a nervy final 21-19, 22-20.

"We just found out that this is the first gold medal for Canada in beach volleyball at any multisport Games so it's doubly special," said a beaming Humana-Paredes, her medal slung around her neck. Volleyball runs in the blood of Toronto-born Humana-Paredes, as it does Pavan's, whose mother was in Canada's national team in the 1980s. Humana-Paredes' volleyball-mad father Hernan represented Chile in the 1970s before fleeing to Canada, and then coached Canadians John Child and Mark Heese to Olympic



GOLD COAST: Canada's Sarah Pavan (L) and Melissa Humana-Paredes (R) show their gold medals after winning the women's beach volleyball final against Australia at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast yesterday. —AFP

bronze at Atlanta 1996 in beach volleyball. Hernan wrote the book, "Playing Under The Gun: An Athlete's Tale of Survival in 1970s Chile", about life under the Pinochet dictatorship. Humana-Paredes' older brother Felipe is also a member of the Canadian national beach volleyball squad, though he did not feature in Australia. With mother Myriam once in Chile's national ballet, Humana-Paredes was probably always destined to make her mark one way or the other. "I often say that volleyball does run through my blood," said Humana-Paredes, who started playing beach volleyball aged 12. "I grew up loving it, I was always on beaches at a young age, I think that's why both Sarah and I have such a great volleyball 'IQ'," said Humana-Paredes, whose family were watching on TV back home in Canada. "Sarah and I have a certain sense of the game that not everybody has, and that is probably why we are so successful. "And what is going to continue to help us be successful is that knowledge and love for the sport that we've grown up with and had all of our lives." —AFP

Red-hot Laugher secures Games diving double

GOLD COAST: England's Jack Laugher said he had been "on fire" after giving a masterclass to win the three-metre springboard for his second gold medal in the Commonwealth Games yesterday.

The Olympic silver medallist totalled 519.40 points from his six dives for a whopping 66.7-point victory over Canada's Philippe Gagne with Australia's James Connor taking the bronze. Laugher, who is now chasing a Gold Coast hat-trick, won the one-metre title on Wednesday.

"I was on form this evening, I was on fire from the start and because I wanted that title so much it meant that I really tried quite hard," Laugher said. "I pretty much made the medal position before my last dive, so that's obviously confidence boosting. "It really meant a lot to me," added the 23-year-old. "I'm really proud of my score first time finally competing outdoors and almost what I got in Rio."

Laugher's score was just four points off his silver medal performance in the event behind China's Cao Yuan at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Laugher pulled away from the field with a smooth reverse 2-1/2 somersault on his second dive, earning him 94.5 points from the judges and 95.00 points on his fifth forward 4-1/2 somersaults dive. "I am a bit behind this year because of my injuries but to get a score like that today and dive like the way I did made me very happy," he said. "I think I am on track, still working through those injuries but to get 520 points is a very good international score and I think there is more in there. I'm over the moon." —AFP

Sports



Gold medal mountain biker Sam Gaze apologises after criticising team mate

'I've got the utmost respect for the guy, still, even with that move'

GOLD COAST: Sam Gaze's elation at winning the Commonwealth Games' mountain biking gold medal yesterday quickly turned sour after he criticised New Zealand team mate and silver medallist Anton Cooper of poor sportsmanship.

He later issued an apology for his comments. Gaze, who finished second behind Cooper at Glasgow four years ago, reversed the result on the Nerang mountain bike trails despite having to stop and have a puncture fixed on the final lap.

Cooper, however, continued to race and tried to pull away from the 22-year-old Gaze, who still managed to catch his compatriot and South Africa's Alan Hatherly on the final lap of the 32.2-kilometre circuit and win by about two bike lengths.

Gaze was not impressed by the fact Cooper had exploited his misfortune. In road cycling typically the peloton will slow if the leader has suffered mechanical difficulties. "There is good sportsmanship and there's not, and I feel like that wasn't there today," Gaze said of Cooper's decision to ride away. "It's a bit of a shame really, I've got the utmost respect for the guy, still, even with that move.

"That's racing, you can't get along with every-

one." Cooper said that he initially had no idea why Gaze had temporarily stopped. "I saw him pull into the tech zone so I was aware that something had happened but I had no idea what," he told Radio New Zealand.

"I thought it was odd because we followed him down the last downhill and through the start-finish area and his tire looked fine. "I heard he had a flat or something but I thought I'm not going to sit around and ask questions why.

"If you have a puncture in a mountain bike race it's a personal error. That's the part of mountain bike racing, it's not road racing. We get back on and just crack on."

Gaze later issued an apology for his comments and said he realised they had taken the gloss off the second 1-2 finish for the duo at the Commonwealth Games.

"I have caught up with Anton and apologised personally," Gaze said in a statement later. "I acted in the heat of the moment... and want to apologise for my words and my actions.

"I am really embarrassed for how I acted and how the impact of how special of a day it was for New Zealand Cycling was tainted by my actions." — Reuters



Sam Gaze

Gatlin, Coleman form elite relay team

GOLD COAST: World champions Justin Gatlin and Christian Coleman have formed their own relay team and will learn tomorrow how fast they can run.

The idea originated with Gatlin and one of his sponsors. "They wanted to see some fast guys work together," the 100 metres world champion told Reuters in a telephone interview. So Gatlin talked to Coleman, the world indoor 60 metres record holder and champion, and they recruited indoor world bronze medallist Baker and longtime sprinter Rodgers.

The result: The top four ranked U.S. 100 metres runners for 2017 will be trying to beat the clock in a 4x100 metres relay at the Tennessee Relays at Knoxville where Gatlin and Coleman were collegiate champions.

The team has no name nor coach, and in a break with tradition, the four men, rather than a coach, will determine the order in which they run. "Athletes, we know what we are good at," said Gatlin.

And in another move that is out of the norm for early season relays, there is a nice pay check, thanks to the sponsor, Pro Form Sports. "The guys are getting paid more than they would get paid for a relay," Renaldo Nehemiah, Gatlin's agent, told Reuters.

Tennessee organisers are billing the race as an attempt at the American record of 37.38 seconds, but Gatlin, who ran on the two US teams that share the record (with Rodgers on one of them), would settle for at least the fastest time of the year. — Reuters

Manyonga eyes long jump world record

GOLD COAST: South African long jumper Luvo Manyonga said he aimed to go another season unbeaten and set his sights on the world record after snatching a brilliant victory at the Commonwealth Games.

The former crystal meth addict, who shook off his problems to claim Olympic silver in 2016, underlined his growing status with a final leap of 8.41m to set a new Games record and grab gold from Australia's Henry Frayne.

Manyonga said that with more time to acclimatise he could have challenged Mike Powell's world record of 8.95m set in 1991 — the year he was born. "If I could get some more time, I could give it a try," he said of the damp and slippery Gold Coast track. "Anything can happen. I just have to focus on the run-up and technique, the rest will do itself."

Such confidence underlines the heady rise of Manyonga, who was banned after testing positive for methamphetamine in 2012 and struggled with addiction before his triumphant return.

Now, a first Commonwealth Games title is all in a day's work for the 27-year-old as he targets staying unbeaten for a second straight season, with the 2020 Tokyo



GOLD COAST: South Africa's Luvo Manyonga (gold) poses with his medal after the athletics men's long jump during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast. — AFP

Olympics approaching.

"It was on my bucket list of the major competitions and now I've ticked off the Commonwealth Games. I'm looking for the Intercontinental (Cup) and there's still more to tick," he said.

"It's a medal in the bag, I'm just going to go home and start working again," added Manyonga. "It's the same as a normal person going to the office: you just tick the box and go back home."

Manyonga set what was then his personal best in winning Olympic silver in 2016, and he will be looking for another breakthrough in 2020 in Tokyo—where

Powell set the existing world record in his famous duel with Carl Lewis. A year ago, he leapt 8.65m in South Africa's Potchefstroom—the longest jump recorded since American Dwight Phillips soared 8.74m in 2009. Even after his latest victory, Manyonga had a word of advice for drug-users in Australia, which has the world's highest per capita consumption of crystal meth.

"I just want to tell everyone who's struggling with drug addiction or whatever, it doesn't matter what addiction they have, just accept that you're powerless over it, you have a problem. And ask for help," he said. — AFP

Sports

Former heavyweight Tyson Fury to make boxing comeback in June

'I can't wait to get in there and prove I am the best'

LONDON: Former heavyweight world boxing champion Tyson Fury is to make his comeback for a first fight in two-and-a-half years in Manchester on June 9 with his opponent still to be named, promoter Frank Warren announced yesterday. The 29-year-old Briton—who has not fought since his shock win against Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015 to become the then undisputed heavyweight world champion—was cleared to fight again in December by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) after accepting a backdated two-year ban for testing positive for the banned steroid Nandrolone.

"I can't wait to get in there and prove I am the best, even after all this time out," said Fury. Fury and his cousin and fellow heavyweight Hughie Fury, 23, tested positive in February 2015. However, they were not charged by UKAD until June 2016, by which time Fury had beaten Klitschko.

Both fighters blamed the result on eating wild boar. A rematch with Klitschko was scheduled for July 2016 but Fury postponed the fight, citing a sprained ankle, on the same day the UKAD

charge was announced. Fury also failed a test for cocaine in September 2016 and later admitted using the recreational drug to deal with depression related to his injury and UKAD problems.

He has previously laid down a challenge to compatriot Anthony Joshua, who unified the WBO, IBF and WBA titles against New Zealand's Joseph Parker in Cardiff last month.

However, Fury will have to wait for his shot at Joshua, who is targeting a blockbuster unification bout with fellow unbeaten world champion Deontay Wilder, who holds the WBC heavyweight belt. Fury said he believes Wilder is "top of the pile" of the current crop of heavyweights but insisted "they're all very vulnerable and very beatable too". Warren, though, believes Fury needs "three or four fights" before being ready to take on Joshua.

"He's going to be busy. He needs to get some rounds under his belt," Warren said. "He needs to get himself fighting fit. He's fit but he needs to be fighting fit." — AFP



MANCHESTER: Former British heavyweight world boxing champion Tyson Fury (L) shakes hands with promoter Frank Warren during a press conference to announce Fury's comeback, in central London yesterday. — AFP

Hamilton tries to bury hatchet with Verstappen

SHANGHAI: Lewis Hamilton said he apologised yesterday to Max Verstappen for sparking controversy with a coarse slur aimed at the hard-driving Dutchman after the two collided in the Bahrain Grand Prix. The English world champion has faced questions after he was heard referring to Verstappen as a "di•••ead" shortly before podium ceremonies in Bahrain, a comment picked up by microphones in the drivers' room. Hamilton had later gone on to say the 20-year-old Verstappen's youth and inexperience were harming Red Bull's chances.

But with the two set to race again this weekend in the Chinese Grand Prix, the 33-year-old Hamilton said he approached Verstappen in Shanghai in a bid to lower the temperature. "Being that I am the older driver I thought it important that I went to him," the four-time world champion said.

"So I just shook his hand and said I'm sorry about the last race. Regardless if it is his fault or my fault, it doesn't really matter. It's in the past," he added. "Hopefully that sign of respect... helps you kind of turn the page and move forward."

It wasn't clear how Verstappen reacted to the apology. But the Dutch driver, whose aggressive style has made him a fan favourite on the Formula One tour, earlier told reporters he won't change how he operates. Asked why he thinks Hamilton took aim at him, Verstappen said: "Why?"

Because its quite simple and easy to blame the younger driver." "That's the only way I can see it. But like I said, you know, these things happen. There's no reason for me to change anything," Verstappen and Hamilton collided early in the race in Bahrain, forcing the Dutchman to retire and the Briton to settle for third, just behind his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.



Lewis Hamilton

The race was won by Sebastian Vettel for Ferrari, giving him two straight victories after also taking the season-opener in Australia. Hamilton has blamed Verstappen for what he called a "silly" and "unnecessary collision", while Verstappen has insisted Hamilton was at fault. On Thursday, Hamilton praised Verstappen's ability. "I have a lot of respect for Max and he's got great potential to be a champion. He's such a talented driver," he said.

"Still, it's such a learning process with all the pressure being in a top team, and you're constantly learning... So he's going to have some great rides and he's going to have some bad races, just as I will." "But I think respect needs to be kept between all the drivers." — AFP

Hamilton is going for a record sixth Chinese Grand Prix win this week with Mercedes aiming to bounce back after Ferrari's two consecutive victories. — AFP

Biathlon rocked by raids over 'cover-up' of Russian doping

PARIS: Biathlon's world governing body said yesterday that its president is stepping down after raids in Austria and Norway over allegations that officials took bribes to cover up Russian doping. Anders Besseberg "has informed the IBU Executive Board that he is stepping down from his position as long as the investigation is ongoing," the International Biathlon Union said.

According to a damning World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) assessment reported by France's Le Monde, the IBU did "everything so that no proceedings would be opened against the Russians" over doping. WADA confirmed to AFP on Wednesday that it had conducted "an investigation into the activities of the IBU... related to doping" but gave no further details.

Austrian prosecutors said Thursday following their raid on IBU headquarters in Salzburg this week that are investigating possible doping, fraud and bribery. In their sights are IBU staff and athletes and officials from Russia's biathlon team, prosecutors said.

The allegations include that possible cases of doping "were not reacted to in an appropriate manner" and that "bribes of \$300,000 were promised and/or accepted", a statement said.

It added that in addition to Austria, other raids took place in Norway as well as in Germany as part of the enquiry. The allegations centre on the 2017 biathlon world cup in Hochfilzen, Austria as well as activities date back to 2012, prosecutors said. According to WADA, areas of concern included fears over "biological passports", "Besseberg's unwavering support of Russian interests"... and "the initial awarding of the 2021 world championships to Russia". — AFP

Sports

Buffon blasts referee Oliver after red card fury

‘Clearly you cannot have a heart in your chest, but a garbage bin’

MADRID: Gianluigi Buffon’s Champions League quest ended with a display of wild-eyed fury, a red card and bitter recriminations after seeing his Juventus side knocked out in the quarter-finals by Real Madrid on Wednesday. Italy’s great goalkeeper was left incandescent by referee Michael Oliver’s decision to award Real a debatable but decisive stoppage-time penalty at the Bernabeu in Juve’s 3-1 win that was to secure Real a 4-3 aggregate victory in the quarter-final tie.

In the saddest, ugliest moment of the 40-year-old’s peerless career, he rounded on the English official, jostling him and screaming in his face until an alarmed Oliver, also being hounded by other Juve players, showed him a red card. The episode left Buffon criticising Oliver bitterly afterwards, saying that he had been out of his depth, should have been in the stands eating crisps and must have had a garbage bin for a heart.

The merited red card denied Buffon the chance for one more moment of glory in his 117th and probably final Champions League game—he is tipped to retire at the end of the season—by trying to stop Cristiano Ronaldo’s spot kick.

His replacement Wojciech Szczesny could get nowhere near the bullet but Buffon was still blaming Oliver for what he felt were two injustices—the penalty and the sending off—after the match had finished.

“It was a 10th of a penalty... a human being cannot destroy dreams like that at the end of

an extraordinary comeback on a dubious situation,” he told Mediaset Premium. “Clearly you cannot have a heart in your chest, but a garbage bin.” On top of that, if you don’t have the character to walk on a pitch like this in a stadium like this, you can sit in the stands with your wife, your kids, drinking your Sprite and eating crisps.

“You cannot ruin the dreams of a team. I could’ve told the referee anything at that moment, but he had to understand the degree of the disaster he was creating.

“If you can’t handle the pressure and have the courage to make a decision, then you should just sit in the stands and eat your crisps.” In injury time, with extra-time just 30 seconds away, Lucas Vazquez tumbled under the challenge of Mehdi Benatia and it looked a soft award of a penalty.

Buffon had to be restrained by his team mates before reluctantly leaving the pitch. It turned what could have been his finest night, as he had already been given an ovation by the Bernabeu crowd after halftime, into a nightmarish one.

It was the fourth time he had been sent off but the first in his distinguished Champions League career. The European Cup had been the one big prize that had always eluded him.

Zinedine Zidane, the Real Madrid boss, would have recognised better than anyone the poignant nature of all this. The last match in the Frenchman’s glorious career, of course, saw him sent off for headbutting Marco Materazzi in the 2006 World Cup final, the game



MADRID: Juventus’ Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (2L) argues with the referee during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg football match between Real Madrid CF and Juventus FC at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid Wednesday. —AFP

which saw Italy win a penalty shootout thanks to a certain goalkeeper called Buffon. “I don’t think he deserved to be sent off,” Zidane said.

“In any case, this should not erase everything Buffon has done for football. He’s been an enormous player.” —Reuters

Ribery signs one-year Bayern extension

BERLIN: Veteran winger Franck Ribery, 35, has signed a year’s contract extension to stay at Bayern Munich for the 2018/19 season, according to German magazine Kicker yesterday. Kicker claim Ribery has been told to fight for his place with wingers Kingsley Coman, 21, and Serge Gnabry, the 22-year-old who will return from a loan spell at Hoffenheim, set to be preferred next season. Bayern reportedly received interest in Ribery from clubs in China, Qatar and Turkey.

His new contract until June 2019 is a reward for long service at the German champions. He joined from Marseille in 2007 and has made 380 appearances, scoring 117 goals and delivering 176 assists. Ribery played in Bayern’s goalless draw at home to Sevilla on Wednesday when they reached the semi-finals of the Champions League for the seventh time in nine seasons. Ribery has played in each campaign and was a key figure when Bayern won the 2013 treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup. He has won the Bundesliga eight times, the German Cup on five occasions and the Club World Cup in 2013. —AFP

Hamburg cling to slim hope of relegation playoff spot

BERLIN: Hamburg SV travel to Champions League contenders Hoffenheim yesterday still clinging to the hope they can pull off a miracle and force a relegation playoff to protect their perfect Bundesliga record with five games left in the season.

Hamburg, the only club to have featured in the top division in every season since the Bundesliga’s creation in 1963, are in 17th place, five points behind Mainz 05, who occupy the relegation playoff spot.

But last week’s stunning 3-2 victory over second-placed Schalke 04 reignited their desperate battle to stay up with Christian Titz’s team showing signs of life.

“It will be all about being able to be carried by this emotion,” Titz, who took over only a month ago, said of his team’s chances after beating Schalke. “We are no

longer looking at what the others are doing. If what we are doing is good then we will get our chances.”

Hamburg will, however, be without suspended central defender Kyriakos Papadopoulos against Hoffenheim, who hunt a top four finish for a spot in next season’s Champions League group stage.

Hoffenheim are seventh on 43 points, five off fourth-placed Bayer Leverkusen. Hamburg might have already started planning for life in the second division and top talent Fiete Arp could be among the first to leave.

The club survived successive relegation playoffs in 2014 and 2015 and only narrowly avoided playing one last season with the former European champions struggling in recent years. At the other end of the table Schalke and Borussia Dortmund will battle it out for control of second place in the Ruhr valley derby on Sunday. Schalke are second on 52 with Dortmund a point behind.

Dortmund spectacularly squandered a 4-0 lead to draw 4-4 when they met earlier in the season and victory over their bitter local rivals would put a shine on an inconsistent season. “We will never forget that first match so that is why we really want to win this time,” said Dortmund’s Nuri Sahin. “That needs to be our goal.

Because if we win we will be second and the world will look a lot different then.” Bayern Munich, who secured their sixth successive Bundesliga title last week with a win over Augsburg, host Borussia Muenchengladbach. —Reuters

Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves beat Denver Nuggets to claim last play-off spot

Westbrook first player in NBA history to average triple-double

LOS ANGELES: Jimmy Butler scored 31 points, and Andrew Wiggins added 18, including two huge free throws with 14.6 seconds to play in overtime, as the Timberwolves outlasted the visiting Denver Nuggets 112-106 on Wednesday in the teams' finals regular-season game, giving Minnesota the last Western Conference playoff spot. Minnesota earned the eighth seed in the West and is in the postseason for the first time since 2004. The Wolves will play the top-seeded Houston Rockets in the first round of the playoffs. Denver, which had won six consecutive games to force this winner-take-all contest, was eliminated from playoff contention. The Nuggets have not played in the postseason since the 2012-13 season.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Timberwolves, while Wiggins hit for 18 points and Jeff Teague scored 17. Denver's Nikola Jokic led all scorers with 35 points.

THUNDER 137, GRIZZLIES 123

Oklahoma City star Russell Westbrook became the first player in NBA history to average a triple-double in multiple seasons, and Paul George scored 40 points as the Thunder ripped visiting Memphis. Westbrook collected 20 rebounds to raise his season average to 10.05 per game. He also had six points and 19 assists against the Grizzlies to finish the season with averages of 25.4 and 10.3, respectively, in those categories. The Thunder's seeding placement for the Western Conference playoffs will be officially known later Wednesday night, but the victory assures that the Thunder will at least be the No. 6 seed and will play Utah in the first round. If the Jazz lose to Portland, Oklahoma City would get home-court advantage.

PELICANS 122, SPURS 98

Jrue Holiday scored 23 points as New Orleans finished the regular season with its fifth consecutive victory, downing San Antonio in a battle of playoff-bound teams. Anthony Davis had 22 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans. The Pelicans (48-34) will play Portland in the first round of the playoffs and the Trail Blazers will have home-court advantage, though seedings weren't finalized pending the outcome of Portland's home game against Utah late Wednesday. The Blazers will be either the third or fourth seed and New Orleans will be either fifth or sixth. The Spurs (47-35) are the seventh seed, and they will play second-seeded Golden State in the first round. Nikola Mirotic had 21 points and 15 rebounds, Rajon Rondo had 19 points and 14 assists for the Pelicans. LaMarcus Aldridge, Tony Parker and Dejounte Murray scored 11 points each for the Spurs.

TRAIL BLAZERS 102, JAZZ 93

Damian Lillard scored 36 points and dished out 10 assists as Portland tripped up visiting Utah. The victory allowed Portland (49-33) to edge Utah (48-34) for the third seed in the Western Conference playoffs. The Blazers will open the postseason against the sixth-seeded New Orleans Pelicans, while the Jazz fell to the fifth seed, and they will oppose the fourth-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder. CJ McCollum

added 19 points for the Trail Blazers. Jusuf Nurkic chipped in 13 points and nine rebounds for Portland, which snapped a four-game losing streak. Donovan Mitchell and Ricky Rubio each scored 17 points for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert collected 13 points and 13 rebounds for Utah, which had won six games in a row.

HEAT 116, RAPTORS 109 (OT)

Wayne Ellington scored 32 points to lead Miami to an overtime victory over visiting Toronto. Miami's win, coupled with Milwaukee's loss at Philadelphia, assured the Heat a sixth-place finish in the Eastern Conference and a first-round series against the third-seeded Philadelphia 76ers. Toronto (59-23) had long since clinched the East's No. 1 seed. The Raptors will begin the playoffs against the eighth-seeded Washington Wizards. Kyle Lowry led Toronto with 28 points, and he added 10 rebounds and nine assists.

KNICKS 110, CAVALIERS 98

LeBron James scored 10 points in 11 minutes to cap the first season of his career in which he played in all 82 games, but playoff-bound Cleveland fell to visiting New York. James extended his NBA record by scoring in double figures for the 873rd straight regular-season game, a streak that stretches back to Jan. 6, 2007. He intended on playing until he reached double figures, and James reached 10 points with about two minutes left in the first quarter before checking out for the rest of the game with 87 seconds left in the period. The Cavaliers (50-32) will begin their attempt at a fourth straight Eastern Conference title as the fourth seed, facing the fifth-seeded Indiana Pacers.

76ERS 130, BUCKS 95

Dario Saric scored 24 points, Justin Anderson added 25 points off the bench, and Philadelphia roared into the postseason with a rout of visiting Milwaukee to secure the third seed in the Eastern Conference. The Sixers closed the regular season on a 16-game winning streak, the longest ever for a team entering the postseason, winning half of those games with All-Star center Joel Embiid sidelined by a facial fracture. As the No. 3 seed, Philadelphia will take on the sixth-seeded Heat. Meanwhile, the Bucks slipped into the No. 7 seed and will face the second-seeded Boston Celtics in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. Milwaukee got 25 points from Jabari Parker.

KINGS 96, ROCKETS 83

Willie Cauley-Stein scored 22 points and collected 11 rebounds as host Sacramento recorded a victory over NBA-best Houston. Buddy Hield added 14 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic and Vince Carter scored 12 apiece as Sacramento (27-55) completed its 12th consecutive losing season. Meanwhile, the setback was just the fourth in the past 35 games for Houston (65-17). One night after the Rockets lost forward Luc Mbah a Moute to a dislocated shoulder, coach Mike D'Antoni held out his star backcourt of James Harden (ankle) and Chris Paul (rest) plus



MINNEAPOLIS: Jimmy Butler #23 of the Minnesota Timberwolves goes to the basket against the Denver Nuggets on Wednesday at Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. —AFP

four other players. Gerald Green led the depleted Houston roster with a season-high 31 points.

CELTICS 110, NETS 97

Aron Baynes powered a short-handed Boston squad with a career-high 26 points and 14 rebounds to help the Celtics beat visiting Brooklyn. Jonathan Gibson added a career-high 18 points for the Celtics. Guerschon Yabusele had a career-best 16 and Shane Larkin totaled 12 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Celtics, who played only nine players and rested regulars Al Horford, Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Terry Rozier and Marcus Morris. Boston finished second in the Eastern Conference. Nik Stauskus had 18 points and Allen Crabbe added 16 and seven rebounds to lead Brooklyn. The Nets lost six of their last 11 and finished outside the playoffs for the third straight year.

MAGIC 101, WIZARDS 92

Rodney Purvis scored 16 points while Mario Hezonja scored 15 for Orlando in a win over visiting Washington. The Wizards (43-39) came into the game as the final seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs, and the loss prevented Washington from moving up. John Wall and Otto Porter Jr. sat out for the Wizards. Jodie Meeks led Washington with 18 points.

LAKERS 115, CLIPPERS 100

The Los Angeles Lakers extracted a small measure of revenge for six years of frustration when rookie Josh Hart poured in a season-best 30 points in a thumping of the rival Los Angeles Clippers. The win was just the Lakers' third in 24 meetings with the Clippers since 2012 and allowed them to avoid what would have been a

fourth season-series sweep over that six-year run. Lakers guard Gary Payton II, who had never previously scored more than eight points, added 25 points and a career-high 12 rebounds. Tobias Harris had a team-high 23 points for the Clippers, who finished the season losing six of their last seven.

PISTONS 119, BULLS 87

Rookie swingman Luke Kennard scored a career-high 23 points, and Detroit blew out Chicago in a game featuring teams that missed the playoffs. Eric Moreland also had a big night, posting career highs with 16 points and 17 rebounds along with four assists, four steals and four blocks. Anthony Tolliver had 18 points, and Henry Ellenson contributed 14 points with 10 rebounds for Detroit. Lauri Markkanen had 20 points and eight rebounds and Sean Kilpatrick scored 14 points for Chicago. —Reuters



MATCHES ON TV LOCAL TIMING

SPANISH LEAGUE	
Girona v Real Betis beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:00
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
VfL Wolfsburg v FC Augsburg beIN SPORTS HD 5	21:30
FRENCH LEAGUE	
SCO Angers v OGC Nice beIN SPORTS HD 6	21:45

Sport Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

www.kuwaittimes.net

GOLD COAST: Canada's Sarah Pavan (L) and Melissa Humana-Paredes (R) kiss their gold medals after winning the women's beach volleyball final against Australia at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast. — AFP

Canadian beach volleyballer adds gold to family story

Page 43