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Four security personnel, three militants killed in Jordan raid

King vows to strike hard at terrorists • Amir sends condolences

AMMAN: Four members of the Jordanian security forces and three "terrorists" have been killed during a raid on a militant hideout after an officer died in a bomb blast near the capital, the government said yesterday. Five suspects were also arrested during Saturday's raid in connection with the home-made bomb that exploded under a patrol car at a music festival. A joint unit of special forces, police and army troops raided a house in the town of Salt northwest of Amman in search of a suspected "terrorist cell", government spokeswoman Jumana Ghneimat said.

She said the militants were sought in connection with Friday night's bombing that killed a police sergeant and wounded six others in the town of Al-Fuhais west of Amman. "The suspects refused to surrender and opened heavy fire toward a joint security force," Ghneimat said on Saturday. They also "blew up the building in which they were hiding, and which they had booby-trapped earlier", she added.

Three members of the security forces were killed in the shootout with the gunmen who were holed up in an apartment in the four-storey residential block in Salt, she said in a statement. A fourth who was critically wounded died of his injuries yesterday, she added. The bodies of three "terrorists" as well as automatic weapons were found under the rubble of the building, and a total of five militants were arrested during the operation, Ghneimat said.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to the Jordanian King Abdullah II, offering his condolences over the vic-

tims of the raid in Salt. The Amir stressed Kuwait's principled position, which rejects any aggressive act that threatens the kingdom's security and stability, wishing mercy for the "martyrs" and a swift recovery for the injured. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Jordanian monarch.

Bomb blasts targeting security forces are rare in Jordan, although the small desert kingdom bordering Syria and Iraq has had to struggle with a rise in fundamentalism in recent years. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Friday's bomb blast in Al-Fuhais, a mostly Christian town, and the identities of the suspects were not known. "A clean-up operation is still under way," Ghneimat said, adding that units of the civil defense were at the scene to assess the damage at the building and sift through the rubble. Ghneimat urged civilians to stay away, warning that "it could totally collapse at any minute". An excavator was later seen demolishing the structure.

Medical sources said that 11 people were wounded during the raid, including members of the security forces and civilians who were residents of the building where the militants were hiding. Women and children were among those hurt, they said, without giving further details. Ambulances, bulldozers and police cars were deployed around the building in the Naqab Al-Dabour residential neighborhood in Salt, television footage showed.

Continued on Page 24



SALT, Jordan: Jordanian security forces gather near a damaged building in this city northwest of the capital Amman yesterday. —AFP

Amir, Erdogan discuss bilateral ties; president slams lira 'plot'

KUWAIT/ISTANBUL: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed bilateral ties, issues of mutual importance and regional and international affairs. This came amid a telephone conversation between the two leaders on Saturday, during which Erdogan wished Kuwait further development and prosperity under the wise leadership of HH the Amir. In turn, the Amir expressed his appreciation for the warm sentiments.

Meanwhile, Erdogan said the crash of the

Turkish lira, sparked by a bitter dispute with the United States, was a "political plot" against Turkey and warned Ankara would now seek new markets and partners. The dispute between the two NATO allies - which reached new intensity over the detention of an American pastor in Turkey - has hammered the lira and also raised questions over the future partnership between Washington and Ankara.

The already embattled Turkish lira tumbled some 16 percent to new record lows against the dollar on Friday as US President Donald Trump said he had doubled steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey. All eyes will be on the lira when foreign exchange markets reopen on Monday after the weekend pause. But Erdogan indicated he was in no mood to offer concessions to the United States, or financial markets.

"The aim of the operation is to make Turkey surrender in all areas, from finance to politics," Erdogan told ruling party members in the Black Sea city of Trabzon. "We are once again facing

a political, underhand plot. With God's permission we will overcome this," he added. Erdogan appeared unworried by the punitive measures imposed by the US, saying Turkey could turn to other partners and again terming the crisis an "economic war".

"We will give our answer, by shifting to new markets, new partnerships and new alliances, to the one who waged an economic war against the entire world and also included our country," Erdogan said. "Some close the doors and some others open new ones," added Erdogan, who has built closer ties over the last years with countries from Latin America, Africa to Asia. Erdogan appeared to indicate that the entire alliance between Turkey - which joined NATO in 1952 with strong American backing - and Washington was at stake.

"We can only say 'good-bye' to anyone who sacrifices its strategic partnership and a half century alliance with a country of 81 million for

Continued on Page 24



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man holds a one US dollar bill next to a five Turkish lira banknote at a currency exchange yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



AKTAU, Kazakhstan: (From left) Azeri President Ilham Aliyev, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov pose after the signing ceremony at the 5th Caspian Summit yesterday. — AFP

Caspian Sea nations sign landmark deal

AKTAU, Kazakhstan: The leaders of the five states bordering the resource-rich Caspian Sea signed a landmark deal yesterday on the legal status of the inland sea which boasts a wealth of oil and gas reserves and sturgeon. The leaders of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and

Turkmenistan signed the agreement on the status of the inland sea, which has been disputed since the collapse of the Soviet Union rendered obsolete agreements between Tehran and Moscow.

The host, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, said before the signing that the leaders were "participants in a historic event". "We can admit that consensus on the status of the sea was hard to reach and not immediate, the talks lasted more than 20 years and called for a lot of joint efforts from the parties," Nazarbayev said.

Continued on Page 24

Nobel-winning writer Naipaul dies aged 85

LONDON: British author V S Naipaul, a famously outspoken Nobel laureate who wrote on the traumas of post-colonial change, has died at the age of 85. Naipaul, who was born in Trinidad and the son of an Indian civil servant, was best known for works including "A House for Mr Biswas" and his Man Booker Prize-winning "In A Free State". "He died surrounded by those he loved having lived a life which was full of wonderful creativity and endeavour," his wife Lady Nadira Naipaul said in a statement on Saturday. She described the outspoken author as a "giant in all that he achieved".

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul settled in England and studied English literature at Oxford University on a scholarship. But he spent much of his time travelling and despite becoming a pillar of Britain's cultural establishment, was also a symbol of modern rootlessness.



V S Naipaul

Continued on Page 24



CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: A Delta IV-Heavy rocket with the Parker Solar Probe onboard launches yesterday. — AFP

NASA launches historic probe to 'touch Sun'

TAMPA: NASA yesterday blasted off its first-ever spaceship to explore the Sun, the \$1.5 billion Parker Solar Probe, on a strategic mission to protect the Earth by unveiling the mysteries of dangerous solar storms. The launch of the car-sized probe aboard a massive Delta IV-Heavy rocket lit the night sky at Cape Canaveral, Florida at 3:31 am (0731

GMT). The unmanned spacecraft's mission is to get closer than any human-made object ever to the center of our solar system, plunging into the Sun's atmosphere, known as the corona, during a seven-year mission.

The probe is guarded by an ultra-powerful heat shield that can endure unprecedented levels of heat, and radiation 500 times that experienced on Earth. When it nears the Sun, the probe will travel at some 692,000 km per hour. That will make it the fastest ever human-made object, speedy enough to travel from New York to Tokyo in one minute. "This mission truly marks humanity's first

Continued on Page 24

Local

Kuwait blocks caller ID apps for violating privacy of individuals

State departments to upgrade Kuwait Bay protection mechanism

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology began blocking caller ID smartphone applications from Internet providers in Kuwait after finding that such applications violate an individual's privacy, obtain their private information and compromise their security, and this has led to family disputes and bank thefts. The information technology security department explained that when the user installs a caller ID application, he allows the app to access all information on his phone such as phone numbers and addresses.

Kuwait Bay

A joint meeting was held at the Environment Public

Authority with the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, environment police and coastguards. The discussions focused on upgrading the work mechanism between said entities in order to tighten supervision over Kuwait Bay, in addition to cooperating in fighting overfishing in off-limit areas, and implementing the environment protection law 42/2014 and its amendment.

Eid clothes

Kuwait Food Bank launched the 2018 'Kiswat Al-Eid' (Eid clothes) project for distributing clothes in cooperation with Al-Sayer Holding Group, as part of its care of poor and needy families and to bring happiness to children and families. Kuwait Food Bank's Director General Salem Al-Hamar said the Kiswat Al-Eid project is one of the many

successful charity projects through which the society seeks to fulfill its social responsibility in caring for orphans and needy families. Hamar thanked Al-Sayer Holding Group and its continued support of charity works.

Notable improvement

Director of Commercial Planning at Kuwait Airways Shurooq Al-Awadhi said Kuwait Airways' Istanbul station witnessed notable improvement during the past years as two flights are operated everyday with wide and narrow bodied aircrafts. She said the Trabzon station during this summer also witnessed success, adding that Kuwait Airways will launch new routes in the coming period. Al-Awadhi said she is proud of Kuwait Airways as it is the official carrier of Kuwait, adding it went through several

successful transitional stages over the past few years and upgraded its fleet. Al-Awadhi thanked the Kuwait Embassy in Turkey for its continued support. Kuwait Airways had celebrated the opening of a new office in Istanbul on Friday amid the state carrier's expansion plans and Kuwait's launch of the new state-of-the-art airport Terminal 4.

Housing project

An informed source said Kuwait Municipality will soon write to the director general of the Public Authority for Welfare with regards to redrawing the borders of East Taima housing project. This action will help prevent the area's project from overlapping with the metro project, which is planned to run through parts in the same area under its current blueprint.



KUWAIT: Officials from Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) and the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC) met yesterday to discuss details about a fire that was reported recently at a building under construction in Al-Zour. An agreement was reached to activate coordination according to the rapid response plan in case similar incidents happen in the future.



KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with the new undersecretaries.

Interior Minister meets new assistant undersecretaries

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received yesterday the new Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for

Administrative Affairs Maj Gen Talal Maarafi, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Research and Studies Maj Gen Majid Al-Majid and Assistant Undersecretary for Reform Establishments and Sentences implementations Maj Gen Farraj Al-Zoubi.

WFP official praises KRCS efforts

KUWAIT: Director of World Food Program (WFP) Office in UAE and WFP Representative in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdul-Majid Yahya yesterday praised Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) role in capability-building, partnerships and coordination in humanitarian work.

Yahya said after a meeting with KRCS Secretary-

General Maha I-Barjas that Kuwait is one of the leading countries in humanitarian work locally, regionally and globally. KRCS plays a special role in promoting humanitarian work in the Gaza Strip and helping in providing a decent life for Palestinians everywhere, Yahya added.

Meanwhile, Barjas welcomed the WFP official, hailing the WFP's efforts to reach important goals, and the program's cooperation with KRCS in helping people in need all over the world. She stressed that KRCS seeks to continue its cooperation with regional and international organizations to achieve its goals to meet the needs of suffering people all over the world. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Director of World Food Program's Office in UAE and WFP Representative in Gulf Cooperation Council Abdul-Majid Yahya (left) meets with Kuwait Red Crescent Society's Secretary-General Maha Al-Barjas. — KUNA

PAAET eager to mold 'creative youth'

KUWAIT: It is imperative to instill in the nation's youth a sense of creativity, Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) said yes-

terday. PAAET has a profound desire to allow youngsters the opportunity to hone their creative and professional skills, its Deputy Director General Tarek Al-Omairi told reporters as he signed a deal for cooperation with local software development firm Creative Bits Solutions.

He explained that such partnerships would propel Kuwait to the upper echelons of the digital industry, expressing hope that the initiative would meet its objective. The deal mainly entails workshops and field training programs over digital manufacturing in an age of meteoric scientific discovery, Omairi added. — KUNA

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Local

Millions helped with Amir's generosity: IOM Director General

Amir, Crown Prince receive senior officials

KUWAIT: Millions of vulnerable people have been helped through the generosity of His Highness the Amir and that of the people of Kuwait, said Director General for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing. "I came primarily just to express the gratitude of not only the International Organization for Migration but the millions of vulnerable people who have been helped with generosity of His Highness the Amir and that of the Kuwaiti people," Swing said in a statement yesterday after being received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "I was very honored to be received by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait. It is the end of the series of meetings I have had. I have been to Kuwait more than any other country in the Gulf area, and he has always been generous in receiving me," Swing noted.

"Whether it is Syria, Iraq, Yemen and other areas, I wanted to thank him for that. Explore with him whether there are other areas where we might be able to support the Kuwaiti government's priorities," he continued. "We talked a

bit also about the state of the world right now with the many armed conflicts that show no sign of solution in the short to medium terms, the need for a stronger leadership in the world, and so forth."

"My meetings with [His Highness the Amir] were among the most satisfying experiences that I've had since I took this position 10 years ago," he added.

His Highness the Amir had received at Bayan Palace Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, escorting Swing on the occasion of the latter's visit to the country. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Director General for the International Organization for Migration William Lacy Swing. —KUNA photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah.

Foreign Minister receives IOM chief



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing. —KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received the visiting Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing. The meeting covered the IOM's humanitarian activities and projects aiming to help migrants who are affected by the conflicts and crisis in the Middle East. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled praised the IOM's close cooperation, and its relation with Kuwait, reiterating Kuwait's commitment to strengthening this relationship to achieve noble humanitarian goals.

The Director General of the IOM expressed gratitude towards Kuwait's role in the field of humanitarian work around the world and its support for projects and programs of the organization. The meeting included a number of diplomats and four ministry officials. The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting included Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the Foreign Minister's Bureau Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loghani, Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Mohammad Al-Mutairi and several other senior ministry officials. —KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti divers look for pearls in shells they picked during this year's pearl diving season off the port of Khalran, 100 kilometers south of Kuwait City. Pearl-diving trips are held annually under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in order to keep alive traditions that accompanied the once-important national pearl trade before the discovery of the oil wealth. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwaitis showcase art at global festival in Istanbul

Featuring works of around 170 artists from 17 nations



KUWAITI ARTISTS' GROUP COORDINATOR NAJLAA AL-OTAIBI TAKES PART IN THE EXHIBITION.



ISTANBUL: THE KUWAITI ARTISTS WHO TAKE PART IN THE GLOBAL ART FESTIVAL HELD AT THE TURKISH CITY OF ISTANBUL. — KUNA

ISTANBUL: Several Kuwaitis are taking part in a massive global art festival held at the Turkish city of Istanbul, which is showcasing the works of around 170 artists. The event has united people of different backgrounds, reflecting a sense of peace, affection and cooperation.



ARTIST SUHAILA AL-ATYIA TAKES PART IN THE EXHIBITION.

Najlaa Al-Otaibi, the Kuwaiti participation's organizer said on Saturday. The group of artists aim to learn from the experiences of others from around the world, she said. Their art, which depicts the Kuwaiti culture, is being displayed in the form of sculpture and canvas, including paintings and Arabic calligraphy. Around six Kuwaitis have travelled to the ancient city - a bridge between two continents.

Ibtisam Al-Asfoor said she hopes to gain an insight into the traditions of the artists from the 17 nations present at the exhibition. A number of literary and art forums, theatre productions and world music performances are being held within the event. — KUNA



ARTIST IBTISAM AL-ASFOOR TAKES PART IN THE EXHIBITION.



ARTISTIC PIECES SHOWCASED IN THE EXHIBITION.

Local

Man arrested, charged after placing daughter in trunk

No injuries in three-car Khaitan fire

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A man who placed his daughter in the trunk of his car was arrested by criminal detectives and charged with negligence and causing psychological and bodily harm to the child. Police identified the man following investigations after video footage showing him standing next to a child seated in a vehicle's trunk went viral on social media. The man was sent to societal police following his arrest to be questioned, as he faces legal action under the child protection law.

Khaitan fire

Firemen dealt with a blaze that engulfed three vehicles in Khaitan. Firemen from Farwaniya fire station led by Maj Abdullah Al-Mutairi responded to the call, and were able to extinguish the flames. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire.

House under attack

The Information and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry released a statement commented on a video on social media showing an attack on a woman's house. It explained that Bayan police station sent patrolmen to the scene in response to an emergency call. Police apprehended a number of people who were standing in front of the house, and sent them to the police station for questioning.

Without a police order

Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Nahham sent five expatriates for questioning for repairing vehicles without a police order, as the law stipulates an order must be obtained before any repairs are done. A security source said the undersecretary saw sports cars being repaired in



KUWAIT: This screengrab released by the Interior Ministry shows a man standing next to a child seated in a vehicle's trunk. The man was arrested yesterday on child negligence and abuse charges.



Firemen extinguish flames engulfing a vehicle at an open square in Khaitan.

Forged banknotes

The financial crimes department, in cooperation with detectives, are looking for unidentified persons who spread forged KD 10 notes in the market. A security source said the search began following official reports from gas stations about the forged notes.

Drug traffickers arrested

Three expats were sent to the public prosecution and charged with trading in drugs by the director general of Drugs Control General Department. Tips were received about a household driver in Adailiya who sold drugs to expats and

used his employer's car for delivery. The driver's room was searched and 30 gm of shabu was found. Meanwhile, tips were received about an Egyptian man selling marijuana in Salmiya, so an undercover agent was sent to him and the arrest was made during the exchange. Police found 50 gm of marijuana at his place. He said his roommate also traded in drugs, so he was arrested too.

Sheep stolen

Sheep thieves seem to be active days before Eid Al-Adha, as nine sheep were stolen from two holding pens in Wafra, according to complaints by two citizens.

Three drug dealers caught

people's property and causing harm deliberately await the suspects.

Search for suspects

Ahmadi prosecutor ordered the arrest of two identical vehicles for ramming into a citizen's vehicle. The citizen said one of the drivers pulled a firearm in his face before escaping. Charges of possession of a firearm, damaging other

542,805 passengers expected during Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT: Number of passengers travelling via Kuwait International Airport during Eid Al-Adha holiday is expected to reach 542,805, up 52 percent in comparison to last year, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) chief Youssef Al-Fouzan said

yesterday. The number of flights departing during the holiday will be 1,665, carrying 223,533 passengers, while the arriving flights will be 1,675, carrying 319,272 passengers, he added. Kuwait's Cabinet announced Eid Al-Adha holiday will last five days, starting from August 19th. — KUNA



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



Caged Lion of Punjab:
The fall of Pakistan
ex-leader

Hundreds of Sikh separatists rally in London



MANILA: Residents clean their mud-filled homes after flooding brought about by heavy downpour due to exiting Tropical storm Yagi, submerged their homes in Marikina City, suburban Manila yesterday. — AFP

For wetter or worse: Bride defies storm

‘Even if it floods or it rains, nothing can stop me’

MANILA: A beaming bride defiantly marching up a flooded church aisle in the Philippines has won hearts as the country suffers a fresh bout of monsoonal rains. Jobel Delos Angeles, 24, married the father of her two children on Saturday as Tropical Storm Yagi and the southwest monsoon brought heavy flooding to the capital Manila and nearby areas, including their home province of Bulacan.

In a Facebook video shared over a thousand times, Delos Angeles is all smiles as she walks through brown floodwaters in a white gown and veil before her suited groom clad in flip-flops takes her to the altar. “Even if it floods or it rains, nothing can stop me. You only get married once, will you postpone it? I was marrying the man I love,” Delos Angeles told AFP by phone. “My gown got wet and heavy but I told myself it was as if I was walking on a red carpet.”

The Philippines endures an average of 20 typhoons and storms each year. The latest storm brought misery to many, with 20,000 residents fleeing the riverside district of Marikina in the national capital region where

floods swept away cars, authorities said. But for Delos Angeles, the weekend was cause for celebration. She said she and her partner of seven years did not expect bad weather but never considered calling off their wedding even after floodwaters entered the church in Hagonoy town. It was a double ceremony, with their five-month-old daughter baptized in the same event, she added.

Guests were photographed barefoot, including children who were afraid to slip. “We didn’t want a new schedule as we were already stressed out. Our hometown is really flood-prone,” Delos Angeles added. “No car wanted to bring us to the church so I just rode a boat. We didn’t expect so many people would still turn up, even the entourage.” The bride’s aunt, Teresa Bautista, posted the video of her niece which has drawn comments from social media users hailing the event as the “wedding of year”. “I felt bad for them but at the same time I am happy they got it through,” Bautista told AFP. Delos Angeles said she had no regrets. “It is truly memorable. I am so happy. It shows the lesson that there are no what ifs.” — AFP

Latest storm
brings
misery as
many flee



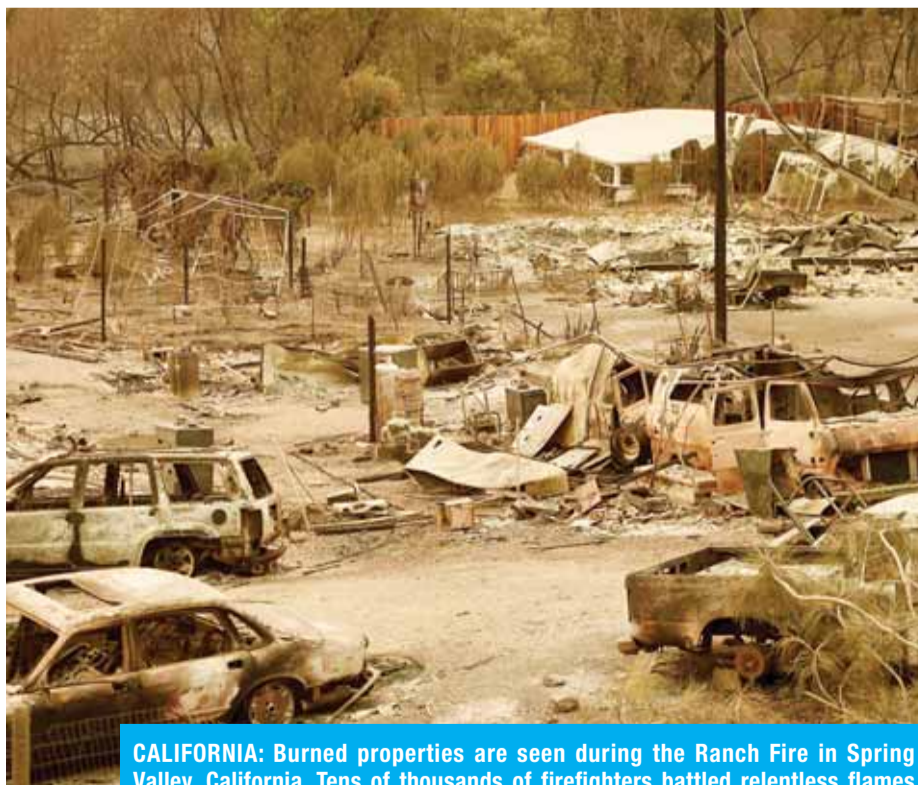
HAGONOY, Philippines: Photo shows the bride Jobel Delos Angeles, 24, and her groom during their wedding amidst a flooded church in Hagonoy town, Bulacan town, north of Manila. — AFP

Over 100 large wildfires in US

WASHINGTON: Six large new wildfires erupted in the United States, pushing the number of major active blazes nationwide to over 100, with more expected to break out sparked by lightning strikes on bone-dry terrain, authorities said yesterday. More than 30,000 personnel, including firefighters from across the United States and nearly 140 from Australia and New Zealand, were battling the blazes that have consumed more than 1.6 million acres (648,000 hectares), according to the National Interagency Coordination Center.

“We are expecting that there will be more fire-starts today,” Jeremy Grams, lead forecaster with the National Weather Service’s Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma, said in an interview on Saturday. He said dry thunderstorms, which produce lightning but little rain, are expected for parts of the Rocky Mountain region, while the US northwest has critical fire weather conditions that include strong winds and low relative humidity. Firefighters were battling another day of extremely hot temperatures and strong winds on Saturday, the National Interagency Coordination Center said.

The fires have scorched states from Washington to New Mexico, with



CALIFORNIA: Burned properties are seen during the Ranch Fire in Spring Valley, California. Tens of thousands of firefighters battled relentless flames ripping across California, as the death toll rises. — AFP

California among the hardest hit. A mechanic helping to fight the Carr Fire near Redding in northern California was killed in a car crash on Thursday, the eighth person to die in that conflagration. The 190,873-acre (77,243-hectare) Carr Fire has destroyed nearly 1,100

homes. About 100 miles (160 km) southwest of the Carr Fire, about 3,500 firefighters are battling the Mendocino Complex Fire, which has burned 328,226 acres (132,828 hectares) as of Saturday and was the largest fire on record in California. — Reuters

Splits deepen over UK former minister burqa’s comments

LONDON: Former British foreign minister Boris Johnson returned from his summer holiday to face both criticism and support over his remarks about burqas, amid deepening divisions in Britain’s ruling Conservative Party yesterday. Johnson, seen as the biggest threat to Prime Minister Theresa May’s struggling leadership, has become a lightning rod for discontent within the party after a newspaper column in which he said Muslim women who wear burqas look like letter boxes or bank robbers.

The comments came in a piece arguing against a ban on the Islamic full-face veil, but have been criticized as Islamophobic. Others saw the remarks as colorful rhetoric that strikes a chord with many Britons. May has scolded Johnson, stirring anger amongst those of his supporters who see him as the focal point for resistance to her proposed “business-friendly” Brexit plan.

The party has also launched an investigation into his remarks.

Under the headline “Boris sparks cabinet war” the Sunday Times said four unnamed senior ministers were dismayed at May’s handling of the situation. “They have managed to engineer a total disaster,” one minister was quoted as saying. “Trying to silence Boris is stupid, especially when the majority of people agree with him.” Johnson resigned from the cabinet last month in protest at May’s Brexit plan, setting himself up as a talisman for the many Conservatives who want a more radical departure from the European Union.

Meanwhile, May has struggled to hold her cabinet together on Brexit and faces a testing few months in which she hopes to secure a deal on leaving the EU, face the party’s unhappy grassroots, and win a crucial vote in parliament. Johnson’s burqa remarks were defended by, amongst others, Donald Trump’s former political strategist Steve Bannon, who told the Sunday Times that his overall message had been lost because of a “throwaway line”. Bannon has previously called on Johnson to challenge May’s leadership. But a Conservative member of the upper house of parliament and former government polling adviser, Andrew Cooper, accused Johnson of “moral emptiness” and populism over the remarks. — Reuters

International

Caged Lion of Punjab: The fall of Pakistan former PM Sharif

3 times he ruled Pakistan, and 3 times he was deposed

ISLAMABAD: Three times he has ruled Pakistan, and three times he has been deposed. Now Nawaz Sharif, the "Lion of Punjab", is being forced to watch the triumph of his great rival Imran Khan from behind bars. Sharif, imprisoned since mid-July, is starting one of the last chapters of his long career from a cell, where the 68-year-old is serving a 10-year sentence for corruption. His daughter and political heir Maryam is similarly imprisoned, while his wife Kulsoom is fighting cancer thousands of miles away in London. Sharif himself is also in frail health. And the great gamble he took in returning to Pakistan days ahead of the July 25 election has failed to galvanize support. Instead, Khan is set to take the oath as prime minister and usher in a "New Pakistan" on August 18.

"Now is the time to see how history remembers him," says Muhammad Zubair, a senior member of Sharif's eponymous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Such a scenario seemed unthinkable a year ago when Sharif, then a popular prime minister hailed for his infrastructure projects, seemed to be moving towards easy re-election. The Supreme Court shattered his momentum on July 28, 2017, controversially deposing him following a corruption investigation. He was banned from politics, and finally jailed just two weeks before the vote.

The "Lion of Punjab", named for the wealthy province which is his family stronghold, has insisted that the powerful Pakistani army-assisted

by the judiciary-orchestrated his fall. Khan, who captained Pakistan to World Cup cricket victory in 1992, has dismissed the claims, as have the generals. But Sharif is not alone: observers have described the campaign as the "dirtiest" in Pakistan's history because of widespread allegations of military interference. The opposition is protesting against alleged electoral fraud.

Supporters say Pakistanis will remember that Sharif and daughter Maryam were in London with his ailing wife when their jail sentences were handed down. They chose to return to Pakistan, where they were arrested as soon as they landed. But the hoped-for surge of support for his party-led into the campaign by his less charismatic brother, Shahbaz, has not materialized. Once ubiquitous in the media, Sharif has issued no public statement in weeks. "They wanted to sell this politically. But the gamble didn't pay off," analyst Fahd Husain said.

Political legacy

Sharif is "being punished only for one reason, and that reason is that he is not bowing his head" to the military, Mushahidullah Khan, a former PML-N minister said. Imran Khan, who first instigated the corruption charges against Sharif, has told AFP the PML-N's claims are "conspiracy theories" and a "smokescreen". The court decision ousting Sharif may have been controversial, but repeated accusations over decades mean he is widely perceived as corrupt. Critics

dismiss him as a leader who stole billions from Pakistan, giving Khan's vow to end graft an extra edge. But Sharif's supporters staunchly frame his ouster as part of the long battle between the civilian and military leadership for power in Pakistan, whose history is punctuated by coups and assassinations.

"(Sharif) is fighting for civilian supremacy. If he is going to jail, it is worth giving that sacrifice," says the PML-N's Zubair. Sharif has been down and out before. Expelled from power in 1993 on suspicion of corruption, he won the 1997 election, only to be ousted and exiled after a military coup in 1999. He returned in 2007, and took power once more in 2013. Zubair said he will not fight for a fourth term. Now, it is his political legacy at stake. Saving that might not be up to him. "If (Imran Khan's party) does well, Nawaz Sharif's narrative will be diluted," said the analyst Husain.

Comeback?

The PML-N has criticized the conditions of Sharif's detention. Sharif, who suffers from high blood pressure, was briefly hospitalized in late July. "He looks far better than the first time," Zubair, who visits Sharif regularly, told AFP. The ex-prime minister is "not in the worst possible cell", and even has a television with three channels-state-run PTV, a weather channel and a sports channel. But he is in solitary confinement. "He is not even allowed to meet Maryam, other than on Sundays," Zubair said. His fate has divid-



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistani opposition parties carry placards with the picture of ousted Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif outside the election commission office against the alleged election rigging in Islamabad. — AFP

ed once-fervent supporters. "Many PML-N leaders told him not to speak against the army and judiciary, but he didn't listen," said Naja Nisar, an estate agent in Rawalpindi. Kashan Arshid, a former party youth leader in

Rawalpindi, is unwilling to write Sharif off. "It's the third time he's suffered. Each time ... people say he is finished," Arshid said. "But every time he comes back, stronger. The lion will roar again." — AFP

US envoy urges Britain to ditch Iran nuke deal

LONDON: The United States urged Britain yesterday to ditch its support for a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and instead join forces with Washington to counter the global threat it says Tehran poses. Despite opposition from European allies, US President Trump in May pulled the United States out of a deal between world powers and Tehran under which international sanctions were lifted in return for curbs on Iran's nuclear program. Since then, Britain, France and Germany have sought to

keep the deal alive, while Trump has prepared new sanctions, saying a broader and more balanced deal is needed. Iran has denounced the sanctions as "US unilateralism".

US Ambassador to Britain Woody Johnson criticized Tehran for funding "proxy wars and malign activities" instead of investing in its economy. He said Iran needed to make tangible and sustained changes to behave like a normal country. "Until then, America is turning up the pressure and we want the UK by our side," Johnson wrote in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper. "It is time to move on from the flawed 2015 deal. We are asking global Britain to use its considerable diplomatic power and influence and join us as we lead a concerted global effort towards a genuinely comprehensive agreement."

Asked about Johnson's article, the British foreign office pointed to comments from Middle

East minister Alistair Burt, who last week ruled out Britain going along with the United States. Burt said the deal was an important part of regional security and that, with the European Union, the government was trying to protect British companies from the US sanctions when dealing with Iran. Britain remained open to talks with the United States on how to address concerns about Iran.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said last week that Trump's repudiation of the nuclear deal was illegal and Iran would not yield to Washington's renewed campaign to strangle Iran's vital oil exports. But protests have broken out in Iran as its currency has collapsed in value and inflation has soared. The protests have often begun with slogans against the high cost of living and alleged financial corruption, but quickly turned into anti-government rallies. — Reuters

Netanyahu demands 'total' Gaza ceasefire

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday demanded a "total" ceasefire from Gaza's Hamas rulers in his first public comments on another deadly flare-up between the two sides. There have been efforts by UN officials and Egypt to secure a long-term truce between Israel and Hamas, though Israeli officials have not commented on them. Since July, there have been three major flare-ups of violence. "We are in the midst of a campaign against terror in Gaza,"

Netanyahu said at the start of a cabinet meeting. "It will not end with one blow. Our demand is clear: a total ceasefire. We shall not be satisfied with less than that," he added. "Until now we have destroyed hundreds of Hamas military targets and with every round of attacks the Israel Defense Forces exact another heavy price from Hamas."

Netanyahu has come under political pressure to act more strongly against Hamas, though both sides are reluctant to start a fourth war between them since 2008. Israel has also sought an end to kites and balloons carrying firebombs over the Gaza border fence to burn Israeli farmland. An informal truce reached on Thursday night has largely held despite the deaths of three Palestinians since then from Israeli army fire during border protests and clashes. — AFP



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International

Mali 'Highway of Death' highlights jihadist peril, troops on red alert

Hotspot ahead! Curt message warns troops

DORO: "Hotspot ahead!" The curt message comes over the radio, warning troops aboard the eight-vehicle UN peace-keeping convoy to check their weapons one more time and go on maximum alert. A grim sight greets the Germans as their armored contingent approaches the village of Doro in the savannah south of Mali's broiling desert: a line of burned-out fuel tankers, pickup trucks and military vehicles.

They have been destroyed by homemade bombs and armed raiders - a reminder of the jihadist threat that hangs over northern Mali like a leaden pall. The scorched, dusty north has been in the grip of an Islamist uprising since 2012. The following year, intervention by French troops drove the jihadists out of key northern towns, but the insurgency was displaced rather than crushed.

Conflict spread to the centre of the vast Sahel state and spilled into Burkina Faso. But jihadism is just one factor in a mosaic of violence that includes ethnic clashes and gangster activity. The RN15 - the highway that leads from Gao, the main town in the north, and reaches down into Mopti, in the centre - has seen dozens of attacks over the past three years. A map used by the German paratroopers in the UN operation MINUSMA is studded with markers of attacks since 2016 between Gao and Doro: "IED", or improvised explosive devices, "holdups", "armed attacks" and "complex attacks", or combined operations.

"This part is called the 'Highway of Death,'" a UN official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Recently, there have been lots of bus holdups," the official added. "The bandits rob all the passengers - they even order people to transfer their money with their mobile phones." Such incidents led road transporters to use the highway only in convoys on a dangerous stretch of 150 kilometers (about 95 miles), but that is still not sufficiently safe and UN forces decided to patrol, looking for IEDs.

"Today we want to collect data for the roadbook, because we have to know what are the vulnerable points of the road," German Lieutenant-Colonel Mickael Weckbach said. The convoy rolled cautiously into Doro, where the main street doubles as the local market and sidestreets are a de-facto parking lot for camels. The village of mud huts also has a detachment of the Malian army. Peasant farmers, stock breeders, traders and children mill around in a crush of buses and lorries, while the heavily-armed UN vehicles weave their way through.

'Soldier or militiaman?'

As the convoy pulls out, highway watchfulness returns. "We're approaching a place where there have already been four attacks," a slightly nervous observer warns on the radio. "A motorbike's coming with an AK," adds a soldier riding



BAMAKO: Malian anti-riot police officers patrol in the streets of Bamako yesterday. — AFP

atop one of the armoured personnel carriers, referring to an AK47 assault rifle. But the two men on the bike, one wearing battledress, rode past the UN troops with a thumb's-up. "Was that a Malian soldier or a militiaman?" asks a sergeant manning a 12.7 mm machine gun. The German UN convoy reaches

the scene of the four past ambushes, but troops on the site order all the vehicles to back off while ordnance experts inspect a small bridge next to the crater left by a bomb blast. Half an hour later, the specialists declare the route clear and the convoy moves on. — AFP



Jihadism, conflict spread, spill into Burkina Faso

News in brief

12 'terrorists' killed

CAIRO: Egyptian security forces have killed "terrorists" in a shootout in the north of the Sinai Peninsula, where the Islamic State group is active, an interior ministry source said yesterday. The Egyptian army has since February been conducting a major operation focused on Sinai to wipe out jihadists from IS. The deadly exchange of fire took place in the coastal city of El-Arish after the authorities received information that "terrorist elements" were hiding in the area, the source said. Twelve militants were killed in the shootout, the source said, without reporting any casualties among security forces or specifying when the incident took place. Guns, ammunition and explosive devices were discovered at the scene, the source said. — AFP

Driver rams into mosque

LILLE: French police yesterday searched for a driver who rammed his car through the front doors of a mosque in a suburb of Lille in northern France, a police source said. No one was injured in the incident which occurred at about midnight. France is on alert after a wave of Islamist attacks in past years that have killed more than 240 people. "The car broke through the doors of the Al Wifaq mosque," the police source told Reuters. An official in the local prefecture told regional newspaper Voix Du Nord that the incident did not appear to be "racially" motivated. — Reuters

Indonesian plane crashes

JAKARTA: Indonesian search and rescue teams found eight victims and one survivor after a small plane crashed in the eastern province of Papua, police said yesterday. The Dimonim Air passenger plane carrying nine people, including a 12-year old child who survived, lost contact with air traffic control on Saturday afternoon and was later found by local residents in Pegunungan Bintang district. The child suffered broken bones and was being treated at the local hospital. Indonesia has a patchy aviation safety record with frequent accidents. An AirAsia flight from Surabaya to Kuala Lumpur crashed in the Java Sea in late 2014, killing all 162 people on board. — Reuters

Mr Gay 2018 crowned

POZNAN: The final of this year's edition of Mr Gay Europe took place on Saturday in the western city of Poznan in Poland, a conservative and devout Catholic country where many do not accept homosexuality. "I hope this will help us in our fight for the same rights as those enjoyed in the rest of Europe," event organizer Pawel Zabalski said. Enrique Doleschy, the 30-year-old German who beat six other finalists to win the title, said the event was necessary so long as gay individuals continue to be disrespected and unable to be themselves. "As long as there's one person feeling like this, we need competitions like this to bring out the best in people and to force them, to drive them, to be better for each other," he told AFP. A gay pride parade was held earlier in the day to coincide with the event and notably drew a couple of hundred protesters. — AFP

Egypt monk detained

CAIRO: An Egyptian Coptic monk accused of murder has been detained and will remain in custody for four days pending investigations into the suspicious death of a bishop, his lawyer said. Bishop Epiphanius, 68, was the head of Saint Macarius monastery in Wadi el-Natrun, northwest of Cairo. His body was found in late July in a corridor of the monastery with injuries to the head, according to the church. Isaiiah al-Makari "was presented yesterday (Friday) to the prosecutor's office (in Alexandria) and was informed for the first time of the murder charge against him", lawyer Amir Nassif said. Nassif said he expected Makari's detention to be extended for another 15 days. — AFP

Iraq PM cancels Iran visit

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has cancelled a visit to Iran, his press office said yesterday, days after Baghdad announced it would comply with US sanctions against Tehran. Abadi will still go ahead with a planned visit to Turkey on Tuesday but has scrapped the Iran leg of the trip "because of his busy schedule", the office said. — AFP

US to return war booty church bells to the Philippines

MANILA: The United States will return to the Philippines church bells seized by American forces in a bloody campaign more than a century ago, its embassy said yesterday, following a demand by President Rodrigo Duterte. American forces took three bells from the Catholic church of Balangiga town on the eastern island of Samar in 1901 as war booty in what historians said was a particularly brutal military operation in the new US colony.

Duterte and previous Philippine governments had urged Washington to return the bells, with the president

often raising the issue in his anti-American tirades as he builds closer ties with China and Russia. The US had initially given a non-committal response to Duterte's demands but yesterday said it would return the bells.

"The Secretary of Defense has notified Congress that the Department (of Defense) intends to return the Bells of Balangiga to the Philippines," said Molly Koscina, spokeswoman for the US embassy in Manila. "We've received assurances that the Bells will be returned to the Catholic Church and treated with the respect and honor they deserve," she added, saying there was no date scheduled for the move. Duterte's spokesman welcomed the announcement. Two of the bells are installed at a memorial for US war dead in the state of Wyoming, while the third is with US forces in South Korea.

Some US politicians oppose the dismantling of the memorial, and the issue had sparked an emotional response from the descendants of American soldiers who

served in the Philippine campaign. The Philippines, a Spanish colony for centuries, was ceded to the United States in 1898 at the end of the Spanish-American War. The country gained independence from the US in 1946. The brutal Samar campaign was launched about a month after Filipino rebels killed 34 US troops in Balangiga on September 28, 1901, according to a US Army War College research paper.

Seven other American soldiers perished during the escape from Balangiga, and US reinforcements razed the town the day after, it added. Then-Philippine president Fidel Ramos first sought but failed to recover the bells during a 1998 Washington trip. Duterte, who took office in mid-2016, demanded the return of the bells during his State of the Nation address last year: "Give us back those Balangiga bells. They are not yours. They are ours. They belong to the Philippines. They are part of our national heritage." — AFP

Hundreds of Sikh separatists rally in British capital

LONDON: Hundreds of Sikh separatists and their supporters gathered in London's Trafalgar Square yesterday to demand a referendum on an independent homeland to be carved out of India. They brandished banners reading "Free Punjab, End Indian occupation", "Punjab Referendum 2020 for Khalistan" and "We will re-establish Punjab as an independent country". The protest was organized by the US and Canada-based group Sikhs for Justice, and drew people from all over the world, many of them chanting "Khalistan". The Indian government has expressed concern to London over the activity of expatriate Sikh separatists, who want to create a homeland of Khalistan in India's northern Punjab state.

The Foreign Office confirmed it discussed the rally with the Indian High Commission, but a spokeswoman told AFP: "Peaceful protest is a vital part of a democratic society." Gurpatwant S. Pannun, legal advisor to Sikhs for Justice, said: "This is a peaceful, democratic campaign to give Sikhs the right to determine their own future." Jas Singh, 26, a demonstrator from London, told AFP: "In India, anybody who speaks for a referendum gets picked up and put in jail." There was a small counter-demonstration of about a dozen people singing and holding up signs saying: "We stand for one united India." — AFP



LONDON: Members of the Sikh community gather to call for a referendum of the Sikh global community to establish India's Punjab state as an independent country, in Trafalgar Square in central London yesterday. — AFP

Mali in presidential runoff in shadow of security crisis

BAMAKO: Malians were voting yesterday in a presidential runoff likely to see Ibrahim Boubacar Keita returned to office despite criticism of his handling of the country's security crisis and allegations of election fraud. The second round is a rerun of a 2013 faceoff that Keita, 73, won by a landslide over former finance minister Soumaila Cisse.

This year's campaign saw fierce attacks on Keita's perceived failure to dampen a wave of jihadist bloodshed and ethnic violence, as well as mounting accusations of vote fraud. But public enthusiasm has been low and the opposition is fractured. After the July 29 first-round vote the pool of candidates was reduced from 24 to two, as Keita was credited with 42 percent of the vote and Cisse, 68, picked up 18 percent. "We hope the new president does better and knows how to make up for past mistakes," El Hajd Aliou Sow, a retired civil servant, told AFP as he left a group of early-morning voters.

Mali, a landlocked nation home to at least 20 ethnic groups where the majority of people live on less than \$2 a day, has battled jihadist attacks and intercommunal violence for years. The first round was peppered by violence and threats from armed groups that led to several hundred polling stations being closed, mainly in the lawless central region. Security services said Saturday they had disrupted a plot to carry out "targeted attacks" in the capital Bamako on the eve of the runoff. Keita cast his vote in the capital Bamako shortly after 0900 GMT and warned against "staged" electoral fraud after accusations of ballot box stuffing and other irregularities.

"How could you stage fraud when you are assured of the support of your people?" Keita said. Cisse's party told AFP in the early hours of yesterday that ballot papers were already circulating, several hours before polls

opened. But he has failed to unite the opposition behind him, and first-round challengers have either backed the president or refused to give voting instructions. Few Malians attended a string of planned marches and protests called for by opposition leaders in the capital Bamako ahead of the run-off. As a result, Keita, commonly named "IBK" after his initials, is the clear favorite.

Security boosted

Voting will close at 1800 GMT and results are expected within five days. Turnout was low in the first round at around 40 percent. Security has been tightened for the second round, an aide in the prime minister's office said, with 20 percent more soldiers on duty. This means 36,000 Malian military will be deployed, 6,000 more than two

weeks earlier, with a particular focus on the Mopti region in the centre of the country where voting stations had been closed. The three main opposition candidates mounted a last-ditch legal challenge to the first-round result, alleging ballot-box stuffing and other irregularities. But their petition was rejected by the Constitutional Court.

Outside Mali, the hope is that the winner will strengthen a 2015 accord that the fragile Sahel state sees as its foundation for peace. The deal brought together the government, government-allied groups and former Tuareg rebels. But a state of emergency heads into its fourth year in November. Jihadist violence has spread from the north to the centre and south of the vast country and spilled into neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger, often inflaming communal conflicts. — AFP



Analysis

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Alex Jones and Boris Johnson: Pioneers in the new politics

By John Lloyd

Two men of influence - the conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and the politician Boris Johnson - now face media bans and/or ridicule for what they saw as speaking their minds. Both, though quite different in background, manner and actions, are pioneers in the new politics. In the United States, Jones claims censorship after his podcasts and posts were removed by Facebook, Apple, YouTube and Spotify. In the United Kingdom, former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is under investigation by his Conservative Party for likening Muslim women wearing burqas to letter boxes and bank robbers.

Jones and Johnson work within, indeed work to create and further, the themes and dramas of contemporary populism. Their clout derives from a contemporary form of the centuries' old merging of media and political power. In the more than 500 years since printing presses began turning out pamphlets and news sheets, markets were spawned for journalism, advocacy and propaganda - concepts that were not, and in many places still are not, differentiated. The word, the image and in the more recent past moving images with words attached, have been used to shift the minds of millions. So what's new about these two guys?

In large part, the novelty is their rise to fame within a season of the weakening of mainstream democratic politics in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Jones is a radio show host and diet supplement merchant who, on his Infowars YouTube channel, specializes in conspiracy theories, arguing that the US government was behind events like the 9/11 attacks, that a pizza parlor in Washington was used for a pedophiles' sex ring run by Hillary Clinton and that the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook elementary school - where the 26 killed included 20 first-grade children - was a hoax. A man with a rifle turned up at the pizza parlor to rescue the child sex slaves he believed were held there; he was later sentenced to four years in prison for firing a rifle inside the restaurant.

One who has become wealthy through peddling his theories, and more recently by using his network to sell dietary supplements of doubtful use, Jones has for some years been a source for, and even a mentor to, US President Donald Trump. Jones' power is to give the president leads, messages and themes - often prefacing these with "people are saying".

Johnson was, until July, the British foreign secretary, a post he had held for almost exactly two years - resigning after a Cabinet compromise was reached on the terms of Brexit which he argued would, if implemented, reduce the UK to the status of a colony. His early career in journalism as the Brussels correspondent for the right-wing Daily Telegraph saw him write a series of stories either hugely exaggerated or flat out false. When, in 2008, he was elected Mayor of London - a Conservative leader in a Labour-voting city - he remained popular, getting elected for a second term in 2012 and using his wit, charm and contacts in the media to remain in the public eye. His record was judged as mixed, with the 2012 Summer Olympics considered a triumph (though not one in which he did much organizing).

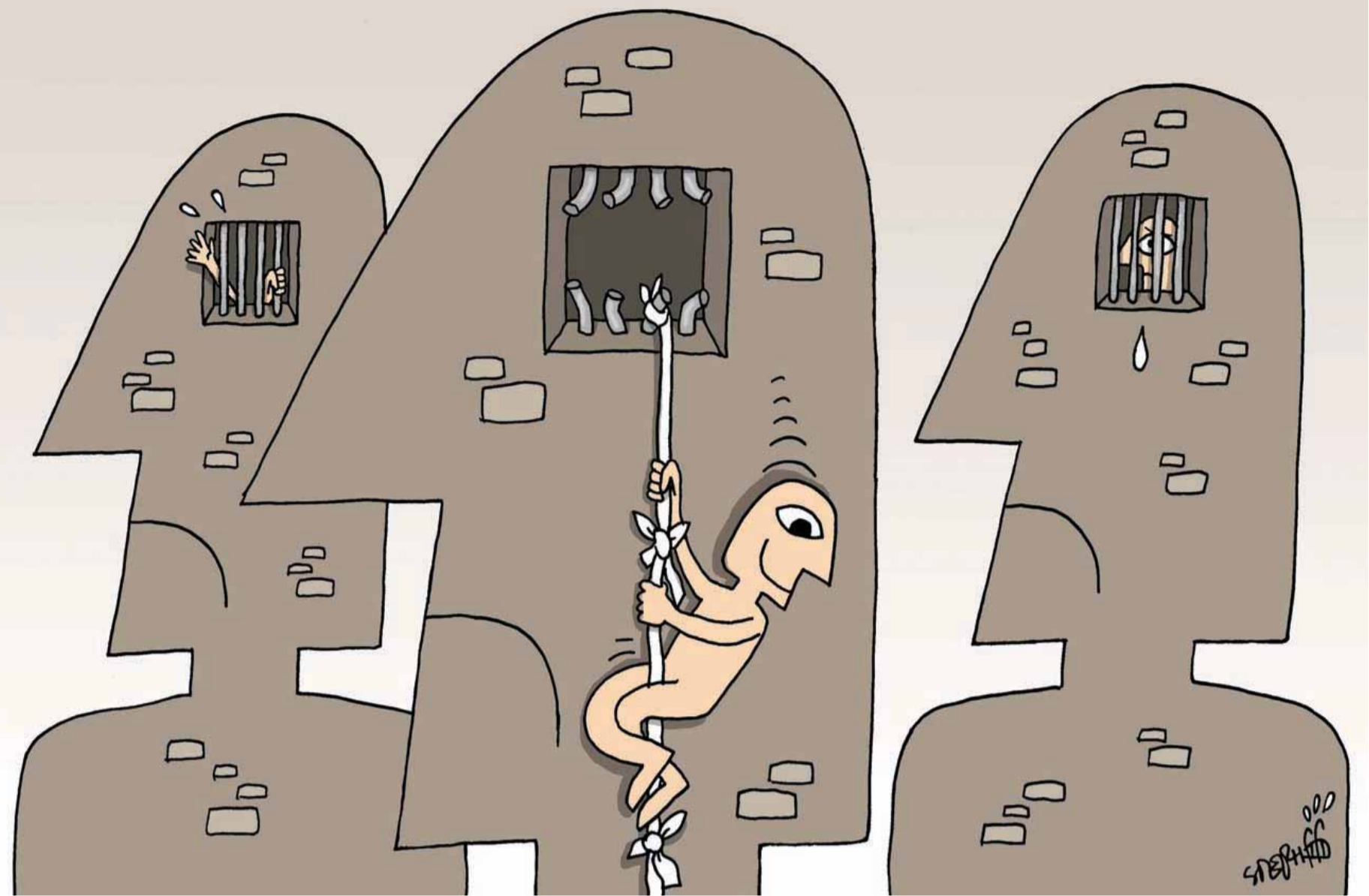
Johnson unites politics and media in one body. His early journalism, and his continuing column in the Telegraph, places him as a man of generally liberal social views, but increasingly as a politician willing to steer away from conventional center-right conservatism into a stronger stance on English nationalism.

His ambitious, wants to become prime minister - but at present, is only at a middling level in the bookmakers' odds on who will follow Theresa May. The Conservative Party chooses its leader; thus his strategy must be to go to the people, to create a wave of support and belief in his capacity to rouse the country behind him, which would make doubts about his grasp of policy, his past indiscretions and his increasing tendency to create shock irrelevant. He must be the Peoples' Boris.

Speaking for and with the people unites Johnson and Jones and illuminates the changing basis for politics as a whole - both democratic and authoritarian. They must counter pose themselves to "them" - the establishment in all its manifestations, mainstream politics, mainstream media, mainstream policies, mainstream institutions. They must be against the streams - must be turbulent cross currents, bringing new forms of governance and representation, more genuinely of the people, by the people and for the people, impatient of the old inhibitions and cautions. It's essential for them to be outside of the establishment, to be the victims of "them" - and both Jones and Johnson have achieved that in the last few days. Jones has been banned from major social media for, in Facebook's words, "glorifying violence, which violates our graphic violence policy, and using dehumanizing language to describe people who are transgender, Muslims and immigrants, which violates our hate speech policies."

NOTE: John Lloyd co-founded the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, where he is senior research fellow

Cartoon for the Soul



Tesla: Musk's tweet a bridge too far?

Tesla chief executive Elon Musk got into legal hot water this week after announcing on Twitter he had sufficient financing already in hand to take the electric automaker private. Many in US financial circles are wondering where he will get all this money, and have turned skeptical despite the reverence in which they normally hold Musk, who founded the company in 2003 to transform cars into tech marvels. The transaction could amount to at least \$50 billion if Musk keeps his 20 percent stake in the company.

On Tuesday, the irascible entrepreneur tweeted that funding for the transaction at \$420 a share had been "secured", but offered no proof or documentation. A classic way of de-listing from stock markets is a leveraged buyout, a deal in which investors purchase a company's equity and finance this with loans. But none of the six major US banks has offered to lend the necessary amount to Musk, and they learned about the plans on Twitter with the rest of the public, several banking sources told AFP. "We were not aware of any transaction. We haven't even heard from Tesla," one source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

And it is unlikely a Wall Street firm would risk backing Tesla, which is burning through about \$1 billion a quarter and has not had a single profitable year in its 15 years of existence, said another. Tesla borrowed at hefty interest rates last year, the person said, an additional cost burden for a company that had only \$2.2 billion in cash flow at the end of June. The sources said any potential creditor would have to consider whether Tesla will be able to finance its operations once it goes private.

US market regulators are reportedly stepping up their scrutiny of Musk's claim and have asked Tesla if the CEO's remarks were genuine. Securities laws forbid market manipulation by corporate leaders who announce pending stock purchases or sales

when they have no intention or no means of carrying them out.

Debating Musk's credibility

Tesla has been targeted by short sellers - the hedge fund managers Jim Chanos and David Einhorn in particular - who are betting on the company's failure and, according to S3 partners, have lost more than \$4.4 billion since January as Tesla's share price rose. They have



It is unlikely a Wall Street firm would risk backing Tesla

frequently been the target of Musk's ire, and in announcing the plan this week he cited the advantage of getting away from short-term pressures and the "wild swings" in the stock price. Thomas Farley, former head of the New York Stock Exchange operator NYSE Group, said Wednesday on Twitter the matter would be an "easy one" for the SEC to investigate. "Ask TSLA to show you the agreement(s) signed by their funding source(s) by 5 pm EST that demonstrates funding is 'secured' and 'certain,'" he wrote, using the company's ticker symbol. "If there is no such agreement, require a statement by 5:30 pm. Inspire market confidence."

In a research note, Bernstein analyst Toni Sacconaghi said, "if no firmer details emerge... investors would likely increasingly debate Musk's credibility and seemingly



unhealthy focus on the shares' price and volatility." Tesla declined to comment when contacted by AFP. "Perhaps he has a few anchor investors and assumes they will work to find more capital," said Nicholas Colas, co-founder of DataTrek research.

Musk, who envisions sending tourists to the Moon and slashing travel times between major cities with advanced trains, is respected in Silicon Valley, where he could tap venture capital. He could also seek funding from sovereign wealth funds such as Saudi Arabia's, which has just taken a stake in Tesla estimated at between three percent and five percent.

Furthermore, JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Citigroup are looking at different ways a deal might be structured, banking industry sources say. One possibility involves a deal that would persuade most small shareholders to sell their stakes. This way, there would be no floating capital even if shares continued to be tradable on markets. The cost of such a maneuver, banking sources say, would be more affordable, somewhere between \$10 billion and \$20 billion. — AFP

Israel seeks early re-tender of mining rights to shore up Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is shrinking at the rate of about a meter a year, leaving behind deserted beaches and sinkholes in a slow-motion environmental disaster. The main culprit is the drying up of the Jordan River, its main tributary, as communities upstream draw on it for farming and drinking. But mineral extraction makes the crisis worse - of the 700-800 million cubic meters of water lost each year, 250-350 million cubic meters is due to mining, Israel estimates.

Up to now, the Israeli government has rarely intervened in the operations of the biggest extractor: The Dead Sea Works, formerly state-owned and now operated under a 70-year concession by Israel Chemicals (ICL). That is about to change. Israel wants to re-tender the Dead Sea mining concession as much as eight years ahead of schedule, in 2022. It is motivated not only by environmental concerns but also by worries ICL will hold off on new investments in the concession's final years.

The government believes ICL will agree to its proposal, first because the firm will have the right of first refusal but also because it too has a powerful reason to scrap the current concession: an article that gives the government the rights to interfere in investments starting in 2020. The plant is one of ICL's core assets, producing potash that goes into fertilizers, bromine for flame retardants and other products sold for billions of dollars worldwide.

The company, controlled by billionaire Idan Ofer's Israel Corp, has not made its position clear. It declined to give an immediate comment on its stance when contacted by Reuters. "This is a one-time opportunity, as the concession comes to an end and

we enter a new period, to set standards for the factory's operations and the environmental impact on the whole area," said Galit Cohen, deputy director-general for policy and planning at the Environmental Protection Ministry.

Cohen was on the high-ranking inter-ministerial committee that produced a preliminary report in May with guidelines that aim to balance profits with environmental interests in the Dead Sea for the first time. At the moment, ICL is largely free to do whatever it wants to maximize production, Cohen said, speaking to Reuters underneath a date tree on a northern beach at the lake. "They have no incentive to reduce the amount of water they pump or think about from where they get the earth to build their dikes," she said.

The Dead Sea has been popular for millennia for health seekers and tourists who come to float in its high-density waters and smear its mud on their skin. Without intervention, it will keep losing water, essential to the mineral extraction process, though experts believe it may eventually reach equilibrium at a much smaller size. ICL said in a July 5 letter to the committee that its report raised "complicated legal, economic, operational and engineering issues, and ICL has significant reservations about part of what was said in it". "The company is studying the report and will relate to it as customary within the framework of the public hearing," ICL said in a statement to Reuters. In its 2017 annual report, the company said its ability to refinance debt in the next decade "... depends, among other things, on extension of the concession beyond 2030."

Setting limits

The factory's new license, whose term has not been set, will include pumping limits coupled with financial incentives to use less water, the committee's report said. The amount of territory open to quarrying and drilling for wells will be reduced. Final recommendations due around September are not expected to differ materially from the interim report's, said a senior government official, who asked not to be identified given the sensitivity of the issue. "We think everyone has an interest in making the tender earlier,"

the official said. "The value of the asset gets lower as we get closer to the end of the concession period and it's unclear what will happen after 2030."

When the company was privatized in the 1990s, the government kept a "golden share" that gave it some oversight, in addition to the obligation under the terms of the concession that the company seek its approval for any new investment. Michael Vatine, an analyst with Halman-Aldubi Investment House, said ICL was likely to want to avoid a decade of close government scrutiny. "I think the company understands it needs to clear the fog regarding the long-term ... and not leave its investors feeling uncertain," he said.

With revenue of \$5.4 billion in 2017, ICL manufactures a range of products from industrial chemicals to food additives. It is the world's sixth-largest producer of potash and supplies about a third of the world's bromine, used in fire retardants. The company does not share publicly how much of its revenues come from the Dead Sea, where it also mines magnesium and salts. Costs at the factory are lower than at conventional mines, which are often hundreds of meters deep. Solar evaporation is less energy intensive and the climate allows mountains of potash to be stored outside and sold when prices are high.

According to their annual reports, ICL produced 3.7 million tonnes of potash at the Dead Sea in 2017 vs 2.1 million tonnes extracted by Arab Potash, which has exclusive rights on the Jordanian side that expire in 2058. As ICL describes it, there is a virtually unlimited supply. Bidders in a new tender would likely include the usual suspects from the small number of leading potash producers, including Russia's Uralkali, Germany's K+S AG and Canada's Nutrien, the report said.

Committee chair Yoel Naveh said it was possible competitors would be scared off by ICL's numerous advantages: not just right of first refusal but also its deep knowledge of the project. "The state needs to set a price and below that not give it to a private concessionaire," he told parliament in June. If the minimum failed to be met, the state should take over, he said. If someone else won, ICL would be compensated, he said, without naming a figure. — Reuters

Business

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018

12 Risk appetite diminishes in an era of sanctions, trade tariffs**13** Trump's trade war with China may backfire on meat imports**14** Farmers in war-torn Afghanistan hit by worst drought in decades

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti counts two-hundred Turkish lira banknotes at a currency exchange in Kuwait yesterday. The value of the Turkish lira dropped significantly this week after the US imposed sanctions against Ankara. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Tariffs, sanctions destroy growth: Germany

Europe not to bow to US pressure on Iran

BERLIN: German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier has sharply criticized US President Donald Trump's tariffs and sanctions policies, saying such measures were destroying jobs and growth and that Europe would not bow to US pressure regarding Iran.

The United States has triggered a bitter tit-for-tat trade dispute with import tariffs meant to protect American jobs against what Trump calls unfair trade practices from China, Europe and other countries.

Trump's determination to push ahead with sanctions on Tehran which also target European companies doing business with Iran has opened another battle front. "This trade war is slowing down and destroying economic growth - and it creates new uncertainties," Altmaier told Bild am Sonntag newspaper, adding that consumers suffered the most because higher tariffs were driving up prices.

Altmaier lauded the agreement reached by European

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker during negotiations with Trump last month, saying the interim deal had saved hundreds of thousands of jobs in Europe.

The US and the European Union are embroiled in a spat after Trump imposed tariffs on aluminum and steel imports and Brussels responded with retaliatory tariffs on some US goods. Trump had also threatened to impose tariffs on EU auto imports but reached an agreement to hold off on taking action after meeting with Juncker at the White House last month. "The agreement between the EU and US can only be a first step. Our goal is a global trade order with lower tar-

iffs, less protectionism and open markets," Altmaier said.

Turning to the US sanctions against Iran, the minister said Germany and its EU allies would continue to support companies doing business with Iran despite US pressure.

"We won't let Washington dictate us with whom we can do business and we therefore stick to the Vienna Nuclear Agreement so that Iran cannot build atomic weapons," Altmaier said.

German companies should be allowed to continue to invest in Iran as much as they want and the German government is looking for ways together with its European allies to ensure that financial transactions

could still take place, he added. Several European companies have suspended plans to invest in Iran in light of the US sanctions, including oil major Total as well as carmakers PSA, Renault and Daimler. German business associations have warned that companies are increasingly suffering from Trump's sanctions policies - including those against Iran - as well as the tariffs he is imposing in the escalating trade conflict with China.

The trade and sanctions disputes are clouding the growth outlook for Germany, Europe's largest economy, but Altmaier said he nonetheless expected strong growth this year due to vibrant domestic demand, record-high employment and rising wages. The Federal Statistics Office will publish preliminary gross domestic product figures for the second quarter tomorrow, with analysts expecting the quarterly growth rate to pick up to 0.4 percent after 0.3 percent in the first quarter. — Reuters

China struggles to defuse anger over P2P lending crisis

BEIJING: Peter Wang was asleep at his home in Beijing last Monday when police officers arrived before dawn to detain him, saying he had helped organize a protest planned for later that day. Across the city, others who had lost money investing in China's online peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms - including some who had travelled from as far away as Shandong and Shanxi provinces - got similar visits from police.

By the time they were released, the demonstration they had planned using social media chat groups had fizzled amid a massive security response around the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) headquarters in the heart of Beijing's financial district. Instead of demanding that the government bail out the hundreds of collapsed P2P companies, those who made it to the protest area were forced onto buses and carted away to Jiujingzhuang, a holding center for petitioners on the outskirts of Beijing, according to two P2P investors.

"Once the police checked your ID cards and saw your petition materials, they knew you are here looking to protect your rights. Then they put you on a bus directly," said Wang, who works at an auto repair shop. He joined a separate, smaller protest in a different part of Beijing after

his detention. "There was no channel to solve any problems. All they care about was preventing any disturbance." The size of China's P2P industry is far bigger than in the rest of the world combined, with outstanding loans of 1.49 trillion yuan (\$217.96 billion), according to data tracker p2p001.com, run by the Shenzhen Qiancheng Internet Finance Research Institute.

P2P, in which platforms gather funds from retail investors and loan the money to small corporate and individual borrowers, promising high returns, started flourishing nearly unregulated in China in 2011. At its peak in 2015, there were about 3,500 such businesses.

But after Beijing began a campaign to defuse debt bubbles and reduce risks in the economy, including the country's enormous non-bank lending sector, cracks began to appear as investors pulled their funds.

Since June, 243 online lending platforms have gone bust, according to wdjz.com, another P2P industry data provider. In that period, the industry saw its first monthly net fund outflows since at least 2014, the data provider said. The latest burst of anger, which led to the planned protests, flared up ahead of a June 30 deadline for companies to comply with new business practice standards, which are still being finalized.

Many of them shut down rather than face tougher regulations. Zane Wang, chief executive of online micro-loan provider China Rapid Finance, told Reuters.

That caused panic in the broader market. Investors tried to pull funds from P2P companies, causing liquidity problems for many smaller

operators, Wang said, although larger ones are faring better. "Some platforms might become a winner out of this, and some platforms, probably a large portion of the platforms, might not be able to make it," he said.

China's propaganda machine has swung into action as Beijing seeks to reassure people that the Chinese economy and financial markets are healthy despite a trade war with the United States and steep declines in the value of stock prices and the yuan. No mainland Chinese media - official mainstream papers or more independent-leaning publications - reported the attempts to protest in China's capital.

Many would-be protesters were forced to give fingerprints and blood samples and prevented from travelling to Beijing. Some were even removed from Beijing-bound trains ahead of the protests, said a Shanghai-based P2P investor who lost 1.3 million yuan. She declined to be named out of fear for her safety. Even after the demonstrations were effectively snuffed out, hundreds of security personnel patrolled around CBIRC's office, highlighting authorities' sensitivity to any form of social instability.

The CBIRC did not respond to an emailed request seeking comment. The Ministry of Public Security did not respond to a fax seeking comment. On Sunday, state media outlet Xinhua reported that the government has proposed 10 measures to reduce risk in the P2P sector, including a strict ban on new P2P companies and online finance platforms, and a blacklist under China's social credit rating system for those who don't repay their loans. — Reuters



Berlin hails Trump-Juncker deal on tariffs

Russia says will ditch US securities amid sanctions

MOSCOW: Russia will further decrease its holdings of US securities in response to new sanctions against Moscow but has no plans to shut down US companies in Russia, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said on state TV yesterday, RIA news agency reported.

On Friday, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Russia would regard any US move to curb the activities of its banks as a "declaration of economic war" and would take retaliatory action.

Washington said on Wednesday it would impose fresh sanctions by the end of August after it determined that Moscow had used a nerve agent against a former Russian agent and his daughter in Britain, sending Russia's ruble currency to a two-year low. Speaking on a weekly TV talk show, Siluanov said the new US sanctions, some of which could restrict purchases of

Russian government bonds, were "unpleasant but not fatal." "We have lowered to the minimum level and will further decrease our investment in the US economy, in the US securities," Siluanov said, shedding light on the nature of an unexpected drop in Russia's holdings of U.S. Treasury bonds.

Russia has ditched its holdings of US Treasuries in the past few months as relations between Moscow and Washington have deteriorated, data showed last month.

Russia will also have more settlement in rubles and other currencies, such as the euro, than in dollars, Siluanov said. "Eventually, this will negatively impact US investors. But we are not planning now any limitations such as shutting down McDonalds," Siluanov said. He referred to calls by some lawmakers to shut down prominent US companies in Russia starting from 2014, when relations with the West soured over Russia's annexation of Crimea and its role in Ukraine's crisis.

"Our citizens work in these companies, these companies pay taxes into the budget of our country," Siluanov said. While admitting that US sanctions would boost inflation in Russia as they hurt the ruble, Siluanov said there were no plans to ban using the dollar in Russia. "Of course, the government has no such plans. That would be a step to an impasse." — Reuters

Business

Trump's trade war with China may backfire on meat imports

Chinese meat importers are simply turning to other sources

SHANGHAI: A key objective of President Donald Trump's trade war is to pressure Beijing to "buy American", but when it comes to millions of dollars of US meat imports, China may simply take its business elsewhere.

Beijing's retaliatory tariffs on US pork and beef are making them prohibitively expensive and Chinese importers are simply turning to other sources, a trend expected in other sectors as well.

"When the US prices go so expensive after the duties... we will source from other origins," said Zhang Lihui, Shanghai manager for global meat company PMI Foods. "Like for beef, we will buy more from Australia, we will buy more from South America, and maybe a little bit more from Canada."

PMI Foods has already ceased importing cuts of US meat into China after Beijing's tariffs imposed last month in response to Trump's initial duties on Chinese goods-drove prices up.

Shifting patterns

Shifting trade patterns caused by the tariff battle will "definitely" benefit other countries at the US's expense, Zhang said. "The Chinese market will certainly look for

replacements," she said. The outcome of the trade battle, spread across a range of sectors, remains hard to predict. But analysts warn that US exporters will lose significant China business. The US exported around \$140 million worth of meat, beef and related by-products to China in June, before tariffs kicked in, according to the US Meat Export Federation, about 10 percent of all US beef and pork exports.

China is clearly targeting imports of commodities such as meat, soybeans, wheat and petrochemicals that are easily replaced in the global market, said Julian Evans-Pritchard, a China economist with Capital Economics.

"That's the idea of tariffs: you are trying to hurt the other side while not hurting yourself too much," he said. "I think (the trade war) could lead to some quite significant shifts in the flow-which country getting what from where."

The impact on prices of imports, however, will be largely negligible as "the global trade system is quite flexible," he added, and because suppliers on both sides will absorb much of the tariff costs themselves to maintain their exports.

That is the case with Lin Zhengu, chef and owner of Shanghai's upscale Stone Sal

steak restaurant, which serves mainly high-end American and Australian beef.

Costs of prime US beef cuts are already up 30-40 percent due to the trade war, Lin said, but he and his US suppliers are eating the losses themselves rather than pass them on to customers. "The only way we will switch to other (non-US) beef is if the gate is totally closed. For now, we still want to work with our suppliers and farms," he said.

Filling the gap

Trade experts say some of the most valuable US exports to China such as Boeing aircraft and American-made cars are threatened as China can instead import Airbus jets or autos from Europe and Japan.

Even US soybeans, seen as a key American leverage point due to the massive quantities China imports, might not be irreplaceable. The head of Chinese state grain trading giant Cofco said it was looking at increasing imports of soybeans from Brazil, and other grains from places such as Ukraine and Russia.

Shanghai Xinshangshi International Trade Co, a major formerly state-owned Chinese food importer, brought in \$40 million worth of US beef and pork in 2017 and had planned to raise that to \$100 million



SHANGHAI: This photo shows Lin Zhengu, chef and owner of steak restaurant Stone Sal, cooking a piece of beef imported from the US, at his restaurant in Shanghai. A key objective of President Donald Trump's trade war is to pressure Beijing to "buy American", but when it comes to millions of dollars of US meat imports, China may simply take its business elsewhere. — AFP

this year. But due to the trade war, its general manager Xu Wei is turning to Europe, Australia and South America instead.

"The gap will be filled very soon," Xu

said. "So for the trade war, if we Chinese importers still want to maintain our trade volumes, it would hurt the US suppliers and exporters the most." — AFP

The Caspian Sea: Rich in oil and gas and caviar

AKTAU, Kazakhstan: The leaders of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan are meeting in the Kazakh port city of Aktau on Sunday to sign a landmark deal on the Caspian Sea. Here are some facts about the inland sea whose legal status has been the subject of fraught negotiations for over two decades since the Soviet Union's collapse.

Vast inland sea

The Caspian is the largest inland body of water in the world. With around 70,000 cubic kilometers (16,800 cubic miles) of water, it is bigger by volume than both the North and Baltic seas. The region's countries have long disputed whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake, which carries legal consequences. No rivers flow out of it and it is surrounded by land which means it is technically closer to being a lake. The new draft agreement calls it a sea while Russia said the provisions give it a special legal status.

Energy-rich

One of the reasons the Caspian has been contested so fiercely by the five littoral states is its abundance of hydrocarbon reserves. According to the US Energy Information Administration's latest estimate in 2012 there were 48 billion barrels of oil and 292 trillion cubic feet (8.3 trillion cubic meters) of natural gas in proved and probable reserves in the Caspian Sea's basins and its surrounding area.



The Caspian's largest oil field, Kazakhstan's Kashagan, has 13 billion barrels of recoverable reserves and is the biggest offshore oil and gas find since it was discovered in 2000. Extracting the hydrocarbons from the water and on to the market has not always been easy though, and delays to the Kashagan project have led to it being nicknamed "cash all gone".

Costliest caviar

As home to the world's largest stocks of the

giant Beluga sturgeon fish, the Caspian is also an important source of one of the world's priciest delicacies-caviar. The most expensive Caspian caviar comes from the eggs of the rare albino sturgeon found in its southern waters, but environmental campaigners warn that sturgeon stocks are being overfished, and hope the new agreement will boost preservation efforts. According to Guinness World Records, a kilogram of the costliest caviar from albino sturgeon off the coast of Iran regularly fetches over \$25,000. — AFP

Zain launches hajj roaming promotion for free

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of its special promotion for customers traveling to perform Hajj this year. The promotion offers postpaid and prepaid customers the opportunity to enjoy Internet roaming at the Hajj rituals locations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without any additional charges.

Zain's annual promotion comes as part of its keenness to keep customers connected to each other and to their loved ones during Hajj season each year and without any additional charges from their part. The offer allows postpaid customers to use their existing local Internet capacities, and prepaid customers will use 2GB internet roaming capacity at the Hajj rituals locations in holy Makkah and Madina with no additional charges.

Upon arrival to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, postpaid and prepaid customers can simply activate the promotion by sending DATA ON to 99990 to enjoy the internet roaming offer. The limited time offer starts from today until 26 August. Additionally, when prepaid customers exceed the limit of internet roaming capacity, they will receive a FREE renewal with no additional charges.

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Business

Farmers in war-torn Afghanistan hit by worst drought in decades

A huge shortfall in snow and rain decimates winter harvest

MAZAR-I-SHARIF: After his wheat crop failed and wells dried up, Ghulam Abbas sold his animals and joined thousands of other farmers migrating to cities as Afghanistan's worst drought in living memory ravages the war-torn country.

A huge shortfall in snow and rain across much of the country over the normally wet colder months decimated the winter harvest, threatening the already precarious livelihoods of millions of farmers and sparking warnings of severe food shortages.

Like hundreds of farming families in Charkint village in the normally fertile northern province of Balkh, Abbas, 45, has moved with 11 family members to the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif to find work. "I don't remember a drought as severe as this year's," Abbas, who has been a farmer for more than three decades, told AFP. "We never had to leave our village or sell our animals because of a drought in the past."

As dry conditions and high temperatures persist, there are growing concerns about the spring and summer crops that will be harvested later this year. Afghanistan's 2018 wheat harvest is already expected to be the lowest since at least 2011, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, set up by USAID in 1985.

Faced with an estimated shortfall of 2.5 million tons of wheat this year, more than two million people could become "severely food insecure" and would be in "desperate need" of humanitarian assistance in the next six months, the United Nations has warned.

Tens of thousands of sheep and goats have died and many farmers have eaten the seeds for the next planting season, as rivers and wells dry up and pastures turn to dust.

"If the authorities and the international community don't step up to this challenge now, Afghanistan could face a calamity as we head into the next winter," UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan Toby Lanzer told AFP recently. But thousands of farmers like Abbas

have already given up hope, abandoning their land and moving their families to towns and cities to survive.

The UN estimates more than 70,000 people have been displaced to urban areas due to the drought.

"Three years ago it rained and snowed well in our village," Abbas said. "The crops yielded well and I made more than 300,000 afs (afghanis, or nearly \$4,300). But this year, even though I sold my sheep and goats, I made less than 100,000 afs (about \$1,400)."

Not enough help

The lack of precipitation in Balkh has left most of its farming and grazing land parched, Zabiullah Zoobin, provincial director of crops and cultivation management, told AFP recently.

More than 450,000 farmers and nomadic herders in the province have slaughtered their cattle, goats and sheep, or sold them for a pittance, he added. "All villagers are wondering what to do with their livestock and how to keep them alive because that is all they have in life," Haji Sorab, a sheep and goat herder in Dawlat Abad district, said.

The drought adds to Afghanistan's woes as its security forces struggle to beat back Taleban and Islamic State militants, and civilian casualties remain at record levels. Agriculture is the backbone of the Afghan economy. Nearly 15 million people are employed in the sector in the 20 provinces worst affected by the drought, according to the UN.

With already high unemployment made worse by record numbers of Afghans returning from Iran and many more internally displaced by the conflict, their chances of finding other work are grim.

Prices of sheep and goats have plunged as farmers rush to sell their animals before they become even weaker, agriculture and livestock ministry spokesman Akbar Rustami said.

At the same time, the cost of fodder has soared. Rustami said most of the country's livestock are in



MAZAR-I-SHARIF: This file photo shows an Afghan boy using a water pump to collect water in Sakhl village on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif. —AFP

"urgent need of food". Afghan authorities have so far provided limited assistance to farmers and international aid agencies are struggling to meet the growing demand.

UN food and other assistance has reached more than 460,000 people in drought-affected provinces in recent months, Lanzer said—less than a quarter of those who need it.

An agreement between international agencies and the Afghan government to release 60,000 tons of wheat currently held in the country's strategic grain reserve and turn it into mineral-fortified flour will help.

"It won't be enough for what is needed, but it's a very good start," Lanzer said.

If much-needed aid does not reach farmers soon, more might turn to more drought-resistant crops such as opium poppies, Abbas warned. Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, despite billions of dollars being spent on counter-narcotics efforts since the US-led invasion in 2001.

"A government which is hardly able to pay its soldiers to fight cannot reach out to help people in these remote areas," Abbas said. "The conditions will eventually force people to turn to illegal crops." —AFP

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

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

The lucky winners are:

1. Sameerah Abbas Hussain Sheerazi
2. Ameenah Zayed Khamees Alsaadouni
3. Bashir Fakhir Fazlul
4. Fadel Habeb Hussein Hasan
5. Abdulhameed Haider Hasan Altamimi

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Ooredoo launches new Shamel Home plans

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced the launch of three new comprehensive Shamel Home plans, inclusive of internet and entertainment for all family members. Starting at the price of KD 18, the plans include unlimited home internet, unlimited mobile internet, unlimited local calls, and online entertainment from Ooredoo's digital entertainment partners, all under one single subscription.

The launch of the product comes to reiterate Ooredoo's commitment to embracing digitalization, with the growing demands for online and digital services in Kuwait, especially in the fast-paced telecom industry. The new plans target families, with the ability to be shared among multiple users. As part of this plan, customers can benefit from high-speed home internet with unlimited capacity courtesy of FASTtelco, a company owned by Ooredoo Kuwait, with speed up to 10 Mbps. Additionally, customers can get 30, 100, or 500 GB of high-speed mobile internet, unlimited local calls, and can choose between OSN's WAVO or STARZPLAY. WAVO includes a comprehensive range of entertainment, movies, series and sports programs as well as 21 live TV channels, STARZPLAY, which has 10,000+ Hours of blockbuster Hollywood movies, latest series, Arabic shows, Bollywood. The content can be streamed through the service providers' websites and their apps for smart devices, including smart TVs, phones.

It is worth mentioning that customers can choose from a diverse portfolio of devices which include handsets and home security cameras. The offers are available in any of Ooredoo's branches and official dealers, and on its online store.

VIVA, Al-Aaly ink strategic partnership agreement

KUWAIT: VIVA and Al-Aaly Communications, one of the leading payment solution specialists in Kuwait, inked a strategic partnership agreement that authorizes Al-Aaly to be the master and exclusive distributor for VIVA prepaid lines and recharge cards in the Kuwaiti telecom market, during a ceremony held at Al-Aaly Headquarters in Leila Gallery, Salmiya area, in presence of VIVA's CEO, Eng Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, Al-Aaly's CEO, Dhari Hamad Al-Wazzan, in addition to executives from both companies.

On this occasion, Al-Badran, said: "This strategic partnership with Al-Aaly Company is part of our expansion plans in 2018, and we will put all our expertise to ensure the success of this partnership, and look forward to a number of innovative achievements together to serve the market and the customers, meet their needs and offer the latest products and solutions."

On his part, Al-Wazzan said: "This is a partnership that we honor, and we thank VIVA for its trust. Our part-

On Istanbul streets, defiant Turks see US hand behind currency crisis

ISTANBUL: Serap, a 23-year-old clerk at a clothes store in central Istanbul, is sure of who to blame for the precipitous slide in Turkey's lira currency.

"This crisis is created by America," she said. The lira has lost more than 35 percent against the dollar this year and hit a fresh low on Friday, its biggest one day fall since Turkey's 2001 financial crisis.

Food, rents and fuel prices in Turkey have all surged. The state pipeline operator last week raised the price of natural gas for electricity production by 50 percent.

Serap's sentiments about the causes of the crisis are shared by many Turks and hint at why support for President Tayyip Erdogan, who won re-election in June with super-charged presidential powers, looks untouched, at least for now. His loyal supporters see the currency sell-off as a US attempt to undermine their country and president.

"If they have their dollars, we have our people, our God," Erdogan said in a speech overnight, casting the lira's slide as a campaign against the nation. The comments dominated Turkey's overwhelmingly pro-government media on Friday. Newspapers and TV stations have cast the lira crisis as a political assault, spiralling out of US sanctions imposed on two Turkish ministers last week in a row over the detention of a US evangelical pastor, Andrew Brunson.

"They issued a scandalous decision last week about our ministers," said Serap, the store clerk. She didn't know exactly what steps Washington had taken against Turkey, but said her country would not be pushed around. "It's not so easy to make us bow down to their demands."

Opposition newspaper Sozcu this week showed Brunson, still under house arrest in western Turkey, launching a \$100 note folded up as a paper plane. The



VIVA and Al-Aaly signing ceremony

nership reflects our timeless work, and we are confident that this is only the first step of a successful path ahead."

Al-Aaly is one of the leading payment solution specialists in Kuwait. Its humble beginning was

from a great vision to make possible a value added service for the customers to get rid of the tiresome and time consuming conventional methods of payment solution.



ANKARA: People change money at an exchange office in Ankara on Friday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Turks to support their struggling currency, the lira, by exchanging any foreign money, saying Turkey faces an economic war. —AFP

lira sell-off, driven by fears about Erdogan's influence over monetary policy and Turkey's worsening relations with the United States, has sent tremors through global emerging markets and dominated international financial headlines. But the Turkish media has largely ignored the crisis, aside from covering Erdogan's comments.

"The newspapers didn't even report the natural gas and electricity price raises," said Veysel, an Istanbul taxi driver. He said he learns about the slumping lira and steep fuel price rises when he fills up his tank or quizzes his passengers, rather than from the media.

American crisis

Relations between Ankara and Washington have collapsed over the last year.

Further US measures are expected if the two NATO allies fail to resolve the Brunson dispute, as well as wider differences over issues including US sanctions on Iran and Ankara's plans to buy a Russian missile defense system.

Erdogan has bitterly chastised the United States for failing to extradite a US-based cleric. Ankara blames for a failed 2016 coup, supporting a Kurdish militia in northern Syria which Turkey says is a terrorist organization, and for demanding its allies comply with US sanctions on Iran. —AFP

Celebrate India's 72nd Independence Day with Jet Airways global fare sale

KUWAIT: Jet Airways, India's premier full-service international airline, yesterday announced a special nine-day global fare sale to celebrate India's 72nd Independence Day. The sale, starting August 07, 2018, will offer guests an attractive discount of up to 30 percent on Economy and Premiere fares.

Applicable on both one-way and return tickets, guests can fly from Doha across India or via world-class airports in Mumbai and Delhi onwards to Bangkok, Colombo, Dhaka, Hong Kong, Kathmandu and Singapore.

The sale offer is valid only on Jet Airways operated flights and can be purchased through www.jetairways.com, the Jet Airways Mobile App or by contacting a travel agent. The Independence Day offer ends on the 15th August 2018 with immediate travel available.

Shakir Kantawala, Vice President Gulf, Middle East and Africa, Jet Airways, said, "The special Independence Day fares offer an opportunity to our guests the chance to experience our airline's excellent services and unmatched network. Jet Airways uses every opportunity to create memorable experiences for its guests and India's Independence Day is another such occasion for us to help our guests explore new destinations using our attractive, limited period fares."

Technology & Science

Samsung eyes youth with gaming in Galaxy Note 9

Samsung is counting on the Note 9 to outsell the Note 8

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Co Ltd unveiled the Galaxy Note 9 "phablet" in New York in a key product launch that it hopes will attract younger customers with stepped-up features and services for gamers and music-lovers. Launching the Note 9 at 11 am in New York, or Friday midnight in Seoul, Samsung also announced partnerships with global hit game Fortnite and music-streaming service Spotify Technology SA in a stepped-up challenge to Apple Inc in the premium-phone race.

Samsung's new focus marks a shift away from its previous positioning of the Note as a multi-tasking device popular with graphic designers and artists. But the hefty price tag - at \$999.99 for the base 128 gigabyte model, according to US carrier Verizon Communications Inc - has raised questions as to whether features such as a longer battery life and quick cooling would be enough to attract customers.

"I couldn't find anything that was eye-catching enough to prompt customers to ignore the high price tag," said Greg Roh, an analyst at Hyundai Motor Securities. Shares of Samsung were down 3.5 percent in Seoul, mirroring weakness in other chip-related stocks. Samsung is under pressure to jump-start faltering smartphone sales after posting its slowest quarterly profit growth in more than a year, as rivals such as China's Huawei Technologies nipped at its heels with cheaper, feature-packed models.

The Note 9 will support up to 1 terabyte of memory - a 512GB version that can take another 512GB through a memory card - making Samsung the first major smartphone maker to sell a 1TB phone. The phablet - a cross between a smartphone and a tablet - will hit stores on Aug. 24, Samsung said. Verizon said the Note 9 will be available for pre-order from Aug. 10, with the 512GB model priced at \$1,249.99. Sprint Corp will introduce the



NEW YORK: Drew Blackard, Samsung's Senior Director of Product Marketing, speaks about the new Samsung Galaxy Note 9 smartphone during a product launch event at the Barclays Center on August 9, 2018 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. —AFP photos

device on Aug. 24 at a 50 percent discount as part of a promotional scheme.

Music and games

The Note 9 is the first Android phone to support Fortnite, a hugely popular video-and-smartphone survival game that was only playable on computers, consoles and Apple products until now. It also comes with a Bluetooth-enabled stylus designed to act as a remote for snapping photos and controlling YouTube video playback.

The New York event also featured a Samsung

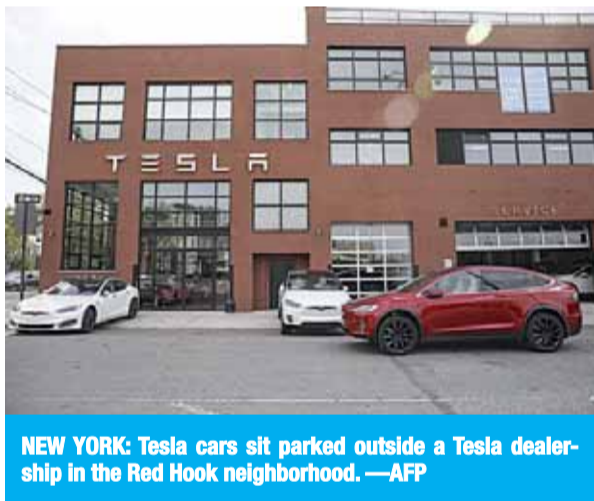
Galaxy watch and Galaxy Home speaker, a device that will use its Bixby voice assistant and compete with similar products from Amazon.com Inc, Apple and Alphabet Inc's Google. Spotify will be supported on the speakers, along with all other Samsung devices - news that sent shares in the music-streaming service provider up nearly 5 percent.

Samsung is counting on the Note 9 to outsell the Note 8 to stem a sales slump. It said last month its flagship Galaxy S9 phone missed sales targets, sending profits in the mobile division down by a third in the April-June quarter. Samsung does not break out ship-

ments of its smartphone models, but analysts reckon it has shipped around 10 million Note 8 models so far.

"The jury is still out if the device can boost sales of Samsung's premium category," mobile phone market tracker Counterpoint Research said in a blog, pointing to stiff competition from the iPhone X, Huawei's P20 Pro and the Find X from China's Oppo Electronics. "The price is a big factor." Huawei predicted last week it would become the world's top smartphone seller by volume - displacing Samsung - in the final quarter of next year, while Apple sold more of its \$1,000 iPhone Xs in the June quarter. —Reuters

Investors sue Tesla's Musk over go-private tweets



NEW YORK: Tesla cars sit parked outside a Tesla dealership in the Red Hook neighborhood. —AFP

NEW YORK: Two investors filed suit against Tesla CEO Elon Musk and the electric car company after he tweeted he wanted to take the firm private, causing the share price to inflate and short-selling investors to lose millions.

On Tuesday, Musk said he could finance the buyout of Tesla, founded in 2003, at a large premium to current valuation, at a price of \$420 a share. As a result, Tesla shares jumped 11 percent, causing so-called short-sellers who have been betting on the stock crashing for years to lose millions. Short-selling involves borrowing overpriced shares in the belief that their price will decline, so they can be sold and then bought back at a lower price.

Musk, often the center of controversy, did not prove he had the funds to finance the operation—despite tweeting "funding secured." Kalman Isaacs, one of the investors who filed suit Friday in a San Francisco court, claimed Musk's tweets were "designed to completely decimate short-sellers." He said he had to buy around 3,000 Tesla shares on Wednesday, the day after Musk's tweets, to limit his losses.

William Chamberlain, another investor, also filed suit with accusations of artificial inflation. Chamberlain said Musk and Tesla "artificially drove the price of Tesla shares up as much as \$45.47 from their August 6, 2018 closing price (\$341.99)." The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulator contacted Tesla to inquire whether Musk's statements were factual and why the disclosure was made on Twitter rather than in a regulatory filing, according to media reports.

Musk has done little to hide his disdain toward financial speculators, whom he regularly mocks on his Twitter account. In a blog post, he said going private would liberate the company from the quarterly reporting cycle, allowing it to be "free from as much distraction and short-term thinking as possible."

Facing questions

Tesla's board of directors said Wednesday it will evaluate possibly taking the electric car maker private as US securities regulators reportedly questioned chief executive Elon Musk's unorthodox announcement of the proposal. A statement from the Tesla board said directors had met "several times" to discuss the idea after Musk raised going private as a better solution for the automaker's long-term growth.

The board "is taking the appropriate next steps to evaluate this," the statement added. Musk jolted markets Tuesday by announcing the proposal on Twitter and saying he could finance the buyout at a large premium to current valuation, at a price of \$420 a share. The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources, reported Wednesday afternoon that the US Securities and Exchange Commission inquired whether Musk's statements were factual and why the disclosure was made on Twitter rather than in a regulatory filing.

Companies can come under scrutiny for misleading statements, but the agency in 2013 said firms may use social media "to announce key information ... so long as investors have been alerted about which social media will be used to disseminate such information." The SEC declined comment. Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Tesla shares, which surged 11 percent Tuesday on Musk's statements, dropped 2.4 percent to close at \$370.34 on Wednesday. —AFP

New Zealand to ban single-use plastic bags

WELLINGTON: New Zealand became the latest country Friday to outlaw single-use plastic shopping bags, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern saying they will be phased out over the next year as a "meaningful step" towards reducing pollution. New Zealand uses "hundreds of millions" of single-use plastic bags each year, many of which end up harming marine life, Ardern said.

"We need to be far smarter in the way we manage waste and this is a good start," she said. "We're phasing-out single-use plastic bags so we can better look after our environment and safeguard New Zealand's clean, green reputation." Ardern said her coalition government, which includes the Green Party, was facing up to environmental challenges and "just like climate change, we're taking meaningful steps to reduce plastics pollution so we don't pass this problem to future generations."

Single-use plastic bags are among the most common items found in coastal litter in New Zealand and the environmental group Greenpeace welcomed the decision to outlaw them. "This could be a major leap forward in turning the tide on ocean plastic pollution and an important first step in protecting marine life such as sea turtles and whales. From the growing plastic waste epidemic," Greenpeace Oceans Campaigner Emily Hunter said.

A United Nations report in June said up to five trillion grocery bags are used globally each year, which is nearly 10 million plastic bags per minute. "If tied together, all these plastic bags could be wrapped around the world seven times every hour" and like most plastic garbage barely any is recycled, said Erik Solheim, head of UN Environment. The UN said more than 60 countries had introduced bans and levies on single-use plastic items like bags. But better waste management, financial incentives to change consumers' buying habits and research into alternative materials were needed to make any real change, it added.

France penalty

France plans to introduce a penalty system that would increase the costs of consumer goods with

New Congo Ebola cases as medics prepare treatment

GOMA: Four new cases of Ebola virus have been confirmed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the health ministry said, as authorities prepare to deploy an experimental treatment. The latest confirmed cases near the town of Mangina in Congo's North Kivu province bring the total for the current outbreak to 21, the ministry said in a statement late on Friday.

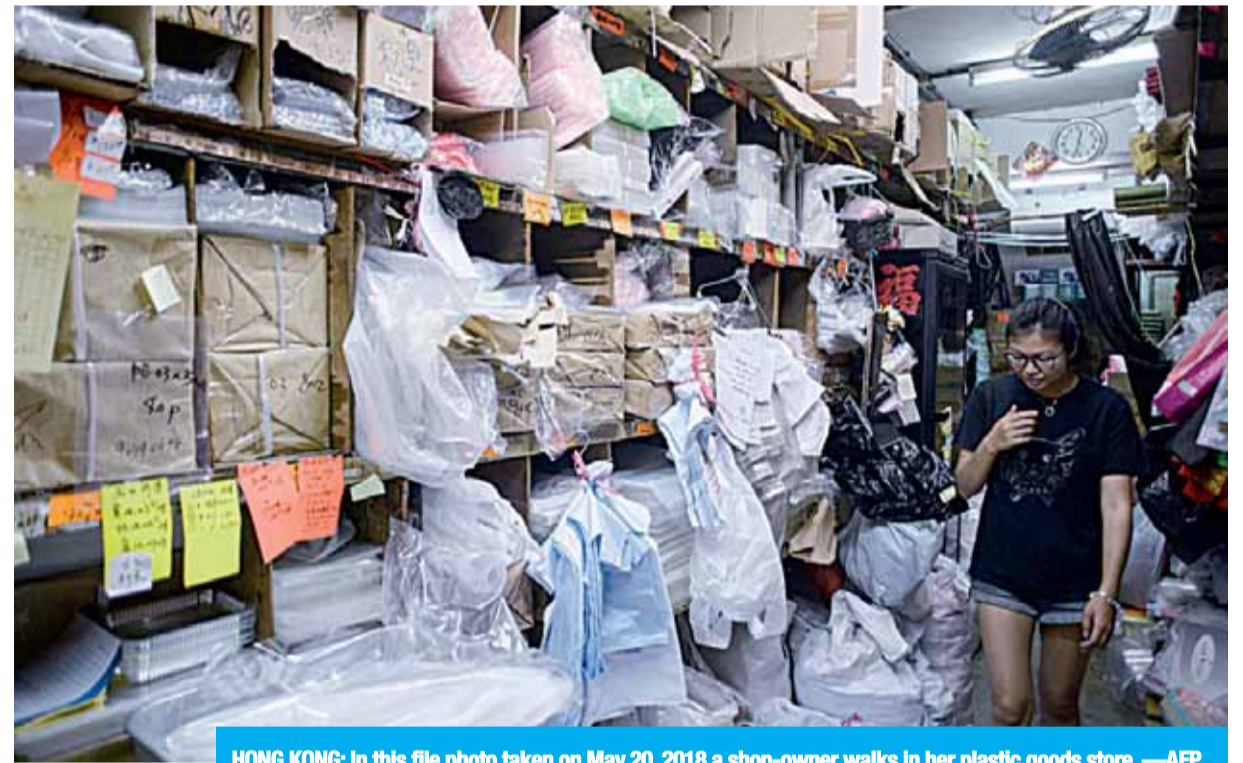
Two more people - one near Mangina and another in the city of Beni - died of Ebola, the ministry said. In all, the hemorrhagic fever is believed to have killed 38 people, although several of these cases have not been confirmed. Authorities this week began vaccinating health workers and people who had contact with confirmed cases. The experimental vaccine, manufactured by Merck, proved effective against an outbreak in western Congo that ended late last month.

Officials are also ready to use an experimental treatment called mAB114 on Ebola patients for the first time, Steve Ahuka, a virologist at the National

Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB) in the capital Kinshasa, told Reuters. The treatment was developed in the United States using the antibodies of the survivor of an Ebola outbreak in the western Congolese city of Kikwit in 1995 and was 100 percent effective when tested on monkeys.

"It's experimental. So we are following the protocol. It has been submitted to the ethical committee and the ethical committee gave its okay," Ahuka said, adding it could be used within days. He said other experimental treatments, including ZMapp, a similar antibody drug made by Mapp Biopharmaceuticals in San Diego, could also be used.

Ebola, which causes fever, vomiting and diarrhoea, is spread through direct contact with body fluids. It killed more than 11,000 people during the largest-ever outbreak in West Africa from 2013-16. Authorities in Congo, which has experienced 10 outbreaks since 1976, have been more successful in containing it. But the current flare-up poses fresh challenges as it is in a part of Congo stalked by myriad militia groups that regularly battle one another and kill and kidnap civilians. So far, however, the disease has not touched so-called "red zones" where security risks would severely limit access for health workers. —Reuters



HONG KONG: In this file photo taken on May 20, 2018 a shop-owner walks in her plastic goods store. —AFP

packaging made of non-recycled plastic, part of a pledge to use only recycled plastic nationwide by 2025, an environment ministry official said yesterday. Brune Poirson, secretary of state for ecological transition, said the move was one of several to be implemented in coming years, including a deposit-refund scheme for plastic bottles.

"Declaring war on plastic is not enough. We need to transform the French economy," she told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper. Under the new plan, products with recycled plastic packaging could cost up to 10 percent less, while those containing non-recycled plastic up to 10 percent more, Poirson said.

The government also aims to increase taxes on burying trash in landfills while cutting taxes for recycling operations, hoping to address the growing problem of tons of plastic finding its way into oceans. In a sign of growing public awareness of the problem, France is among several countries hit recently by a wave of "plas-

tic attacks"-where shoppers dump all the packaging of their purchases outside stores.

"When non-recycled plastic will cost more, that will eliminate much of the excessive packaging," Poirson said. France currently recycles around 25 percent of its plastic, according to the magazine 60 Million Consumers. It has already outlawed single-use plastic bags in supermarkets unless they can be composted, hoping to encourage people to shop with their own bags.

The Carrefour and Leclerc supermarket chains have also said they will quit selling plastic straws in the coming months, ahead of a law outlawing them by 2020. The European Commission also wants to sharply cut down on single-use plastic objects, announcing in May rules requiring the use of alternative materials and incentives for businesses. Plastic production has soared more than 40 percent globally over the past 10 years, mainly for packaging. —AFP

Canon Middle East signs distribution agreement with Logicom in Jordan



Jordan has been an integral part of our growth and a strategic market for Canon Middle East. Through our local partnerships with UEC and Logicom, we aim to become closer to our customers in Jordan and continue strengthening our presence," said Venkatasubramanian Hariharan, B2C Business Unit Director at Canon Middle East.

DUBAI: Canon Middle East (CME), a provider of imaging technologies and services, signed a distribution agreement in Jordan with Logicom, the leading regional distributor of technology solutions and services. As part of the agreement, Logicom Jordan will distribute and promote Canon's comprehensive consumer product portfolio of photo, video and B2C printing solutions to the entire Jordanian market. Canon is already present in Jordan through its long-standing partner United Electronics Company (UEC), and the recent agreement with Logicom will further expand Canon's reach nationwide and position Canon as the imaging leader in the Jordanian market.

"For 80 years, Canon has been at the forefront of new imaging technologies, supported by our strong research and development capabilities, which has led us to be leaders in the imaging industry.

Murad Mutawi, General Manager of Logicom Jordan, said of the agreement, "We are proud to partner with Canon. With the company's comprehensive product portfolio of photo, video and printing solutions, we are confident that our network of committed channel partners will play a key role in increasing the presence of the Canon brand and its solutions in Jordan." The partnership with Logicom will help increase channel coverage and support the vertical integration of Canon's solutions, co-selling alongside partners and creating dedicated marketing campaigns. In addition, dedicated Logicom teams will be on hand to provide technical pre-sales support as well as training programs for customers.

CLINIC PAGE



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Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad
Surgery Department
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

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What's On

LOYAC concludes social pioneering program



LOYAC concluded its program for social work pioneering on Thursday at the American University Kuwait under the patronage of the National Bank of Kuwait, Agility and its subsidiaries and Zain. The program is the third consecutive one in cooperation with Babson college, USA that is specialized in the field of social work pioneering.



Indian Lawyers' Forum conducts legal seminar

A legal seminar of Indian Lawyers' Forum was convened at the residence of Adv Thomas Panicker, the President of the Forum. He welcomed everybody and thanked all for attending the meeting. The President highlighted the activities of 'Indian Lawyers' Forum'. He enumerated all the free legal aids the FORUM has rendered in the recent past.

He said the FORUM is very successful in providing a platform for the Indian Lawyers in Kuwait to meet and interact with and help each other. He observed that the FORUM enjoys the membership of Indian lawyers who has 15 to 20 years Court Practice in India and who are working for high profile legal firms/Corporations and holding key legal positions in various companies in Kuwait. Forum is well equipped to deal with any sort of legal and business consultations pertaining to Kuwait as well as India. Already

around 50 to 100 Indian Community members approach our members for redressal of their legal problems they face in India and Kuwait. Forum decided to enhance these activities.

He said that Forum has been successfully participating and conducting legal seminars for different associations in Kuwait. He also said that Forum is ready to cooperate with any association in Kuwait which intends to conduct Legal Seminar for its Members/Public. The FORUM will write to inform all associations in Kuwait of our intentions/offer to Conduct legal seminar for them in the meetings which that associations convene.

Forum decided to approach medias for their help to publicize the news about FORUM, so that the public get a chance to know about the FORUM and approach the forum members for redressal of their legal issues. Adv Rema opined that Legal seminar to public to be considered and that will be a real service to society.

Adv Shivadas opined that the FORUM should initiate some charity programs for the benefit of public. He said individually we can collect the used Dress from the public and distribute to needy people. Mohammed Basheer suggested appointing one Additional Secretary to coordinate the Forum activities in a better way. And based on that Adv Jamshad

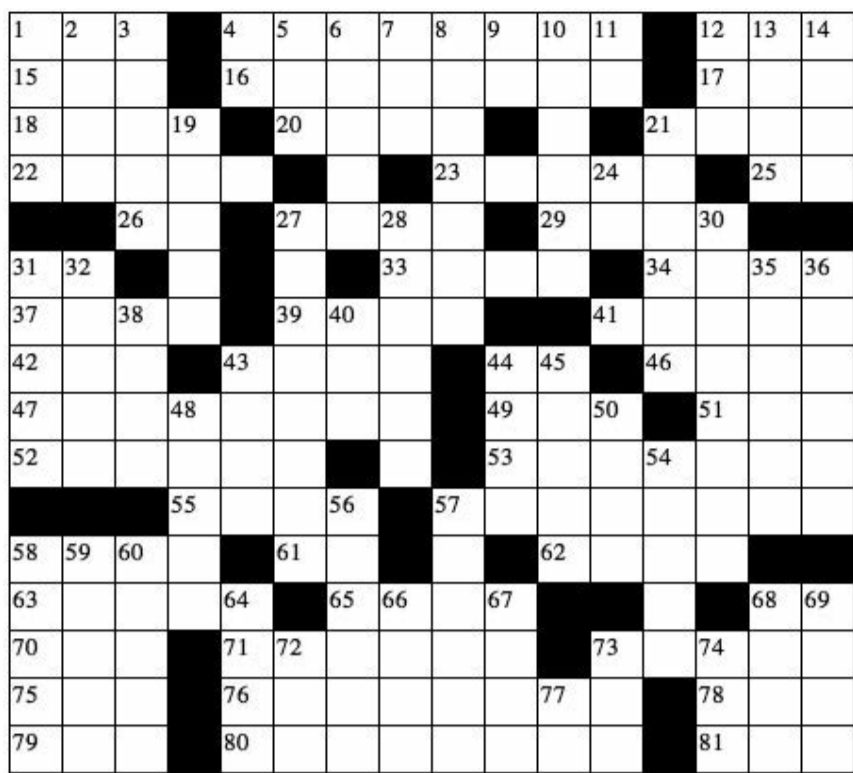


is elected as Additional Secretary. Adv Rajan suggested that a new Members' ILF Directory to be published soon. He stressed the importance of Law/Legal Education among members and stressed the importance of legal awareness within the Lawyers. Forum decided to continue with the in-house legal seminars for updating legal informa-

tion among lawyers. Next meeting will be on 31st August 2018, at the residence of Suresh Pulikkal. Adv Mini Shivadas will present a legal subject for discussion. The meeting came to an end after a sumptuous dinner and vote of thanks by President, the host of the meeting.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1984



ACROSS

1. The compass point that is one point west of due south.
4. A war measure that isolates some area of importance to the enemy.
12. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
15. An actor's line that immediately precedes and serves as a reminder for some action or speech.
16. A man whose wife is dead especially one who has not remarried.
17. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
18. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
20. Type genus of the Nepidae.
22. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
23. A group of southern Bantu languages.
25. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
26. A Loloish language.
29. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
31. A son who has the same first name as his father.
33. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
34. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
37. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
39. An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
41. Deciduous shrub of North America.
42. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
46. Report or maintain.
47. Third month of the Revolutionary calendar (November and December).
49. An elegantly dressed man (often with affected manners).
51. (informal) Of the highest quality.
52. A town in central Belgium.
53. The capital and largest city of Venezuela.
55. Elegant and stylish.
58. Not only so, but.
61. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
62. Stalk of a moss capsule.
63. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
65. Having a horizontal surface in which no part is higher or lower than another.
70. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
71. Cosmopolitan herbs especially southern hemisphere.
75. A passage with access only at one end.
76. A member of a clan.
78. (informal) Roused to anger.
79. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
80. An extraordinary writ commanding an official to perform a ministerial act that the law recognizes as an absolute duty and not a matter for the official's discretion.
81. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.

DOWN

1. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
2. A branch of the Tai languages.
3. Physically and mentally fatigued.
4. The use of bacteria or viruses of toxins to destroy men and animals or food.
5. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
6. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
7. (informal) Uncomplimentary terms for a policeman.
8. A festival featuring African-American culture.
9. Before noon.
10. The 2nd longest European river.
11. Half the width of an em.
12. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
13. A small cake leavened with yeast.
14. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
19. A port in northwestern Israel on the Bay of Acre.
21. North American bluebirds.
24. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
27. Having qualities characteristic of Jesuits or Jesuitism.
28. The capital of Croatia.
30. Small free-swimming tunicates.
32. Father of the storm gods Marut.
35. A mass of ice and snow that permanently covers a large area of land (e.g., the polar regions or a mountain peak).
36. A gentle affectionate stroking (or something reflecting it).
38. A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports.
40. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
43. A wound made by cutting.
44. Beyond what is natural.
45. A partly sheltered anchorage.
48. Soft suede glove leather from goatskin.
50. Soft creamy white cheese.
54. One of the proteins into which actomyosin can be split.
56. A woman's dress style that imitates the caftan cloaks worn by men in the Near East.
57. Drought-resistant Asiatic tree-like shrub bearing pleasantly acid small red edible fruits commonly used in sherbets.
59. The twelfth month of the civil year.
60. Moving quickly and lightly.
64. Electronic warfare undertaken to insure effective friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum in spite of the enemy's use of electronic warfare.
66. A city in southeastern Sweden.
67. Russian physicist (1895-1971).
68. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
69. An informal term for a father.
72. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
73. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
74. A United Nations agency to promote trade by increasing the exchange stability of the major currencies.
77. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, it seems the focus in your life is beginning to change. You have a strong desire to be in total control of everything and everyone surrounding you. You are ready to get things organized. You are driven by ambition and are becoming very responsible. You may find you are so focused you are moving full steam ahead. Pace yourself as to not burn out before you accomplish all of your goals. Sometimes you need to remind yourself to work smarter, rather than harder. Do not let frustration get in your way. Keep your focus and drive but remember to do always do the right thing. You can expect great rewards from your hard work, Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, today may not be an easy one for you. You may feel as your emotions do not align with the way things truly are in your world today. You need to take a step back and relax. You may find if you push too hard you may break something that can not be repaired. Patience is needed and you need to wait this one out and let it blow over. You may find these circumstances aggravate and anger you. Do not let yourself become over emotional and fly off the handle. Nothing good can come from a negative reaction. Find a positive way to look at the situation you are in and sit back and wait for it to change, Taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, taking charge and being in control are two things that seem very appealing to you now. You may find that you are more determined than ever to get your life in order. You will begin to get not only things in your life, but also people organized. There is a place for everything, and everything has a place. You are on a mission to make that happen. This is a very ambitious and responsible now. You may need to take a step back and slow yourself down a bit. You do not want to burn out. Remember, work smarter, not harder, Gemini.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, you are ready to take total control of your life. Taking charge of your situation has become a major focus for you. You are ready to get things organized. You really have the initiative and drive to get things done. This is a time of ambition and responsibility for you. Keep your cool, stay focused, and pace yourself. Too much of anything can be a bad thing. Do not push too hard. There is no need to burn yourself out, Cancer.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, if you could choose any magic trick to be able to perform, today's choice would be a disappearing act. You need to take a break. An escape is in order. Try spending some time curled up with a romantic book or watching a movie. The only way you will be able to get back to being your productive self is by taking care of yourself. Everyone has their breaking point and you passed it miles ago. You are the only person you can change, Leo. Keep this in mind.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, don't be surprised if you cross paths today with someone who just doesn't sit right with you. You have a feeling that something about them just isn't right. You may feel as if you want to get away from this person as soon as possible. Your virtues are simple. You prefer this way of life. Today may be a day you are having difficulty with focus and performing your daily tasks. You seem in a dreamy mood and unable to snap back. Deep in thought you seem to have too much on your mind. This may be a good time to sit back and reorganize and restructure your surroundings and goals. You are in a way shutting down due to an emotional overload, Virgo.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, you are a natural at managing and directing others. When people try to get things accomplished, you are the one that may have to take the first steps. You should enjoy a great deal of support from those around you. You may be pleased to find co-workers volunteering to help you with a project. It should not be hard for you to enjoy and value your own position in life or to feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. You and your friends pull together to make something special happen for a mutual friend. Being among friends and working together should be a very pleasant experience for you at this time, Libra.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, it seems as if your romantic and social relationships are comfortable. Getting along with those closest to you seems very natural. You are persuasive with others and able to communicate with ease when it comes to relationships, new and old. This may be a time of great financial gain in your life. You could find yourself crossing paths with others who and find business opportunities seem to fall in your lap. You desire power and control and it seems as if you are gaining both of these in every aspect of your life. This is a great time for you, Scorpio, face every new opportunity with an open mind.



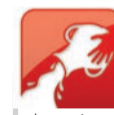
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, you have the ability to get outside yourself and see what is going on with others. This may mean you see things others don't see. It's a gift that could serve you well in journalism or in crime detection. Or, you may just find it useful in personal relationships. You can see beyond the "what" and identify the "why" of behavior. It helps. You will be able to use this gift in a very positive manner today, Sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, talk about bringing home the bacon and frying it up in the pan! This is you all day every day. You are able to balance career and home life all with ease. You are a jack of all trades. You have a deep desire to strengthen the foundation you have built for all. You desire a sense of roots and family, home, and relatives are where your focus is. You want to feel as if you belong on a personal and private level. You have an intimate desire to know that you are needed, Capricorn. The energy and effort you put into taking care of others does not go unnoticed. You are loved, needed, and appreciated.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Aquarius, taking charge and being in control seem to be major desires in your life. You want to get things organized and now is the time you have the initiative to do it. This is a great time of ambition and taking on new responsibilities for you. Keep your cool and pace yourself. You know it is always best to work smarter rather than harder. You should accomplish much at this time. Your ambition and drive are to be admired. You are not only making clear decisions about your life and the path you are taking but you are able to be clear decision concerning the lives of those close to you. You may find someone seeking your advice today, Aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, emotionally you may have one desire, but it could be at odds with what is in your best interest. Doing for others comes naturally for you. This is a time you need to put you and yours first. Being too generous could leave you in a bad situation. This is a great time to work on budgeting your resources. Taking charge and being in control seem to be a great desire you have now. Take control of yourself, your life, and your finances first, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

80's Radio Hitmakers

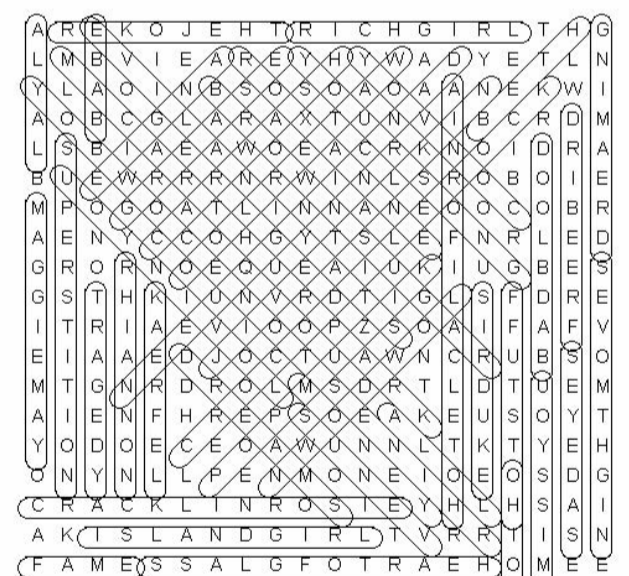
Find and circle all of the 1980's music artists that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a hit song by the Bangles.



- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| ASIA | ERASURE | NENA | THE FIXX |
| BANGLES | EURHYTHMICS | NEW ORDER | THE MOTELS |
| BERLIN | FALCO | PRINCE | THE POLICE |
| BILLY JOEL | FOREIGNER | QUEEN | TIFFANY |
| BILLY OCEAN | GENESIS | QUIET RIOT | TOM PETTY |
| BON JOVI | HEART | ROXETTE | TONI BASIL |
| CHICAGO | INXS | SCANDAL | TOTO |
| DAVID BOWIE | JOURNEY | SOFT CELL | VAN HALEN |
| DEBARGE | KAJAGOOGOO | TALK TALK | WANG CHUNG |
| DURAN DURAN | MADNESS | TEARS FOR FEARS | WHAM! |
| | MADONNA | THE CARS | |

Yesterday's Solution

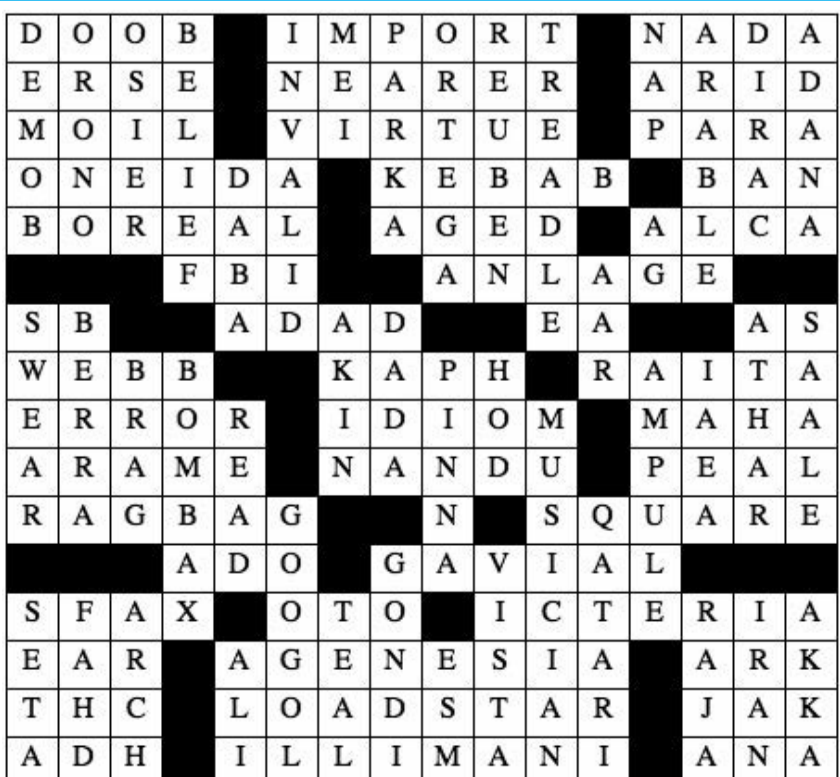
70's Songs



- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| ANGIE | FAME | LOVIN' YOU | RICH GIRL |
| BABE | FREE BIRD | LOWDOWN | ROXANNE |
| BAD BLOOD | GREASE | MACARTHUR PARK | SAD EYES |
| BETH | HEART OF GLASS | MAGGIE MAY | SIR DUKE |
| BROWN SUGAR | HOT STUFF | MISS YOU | STAYIN' ALIVE |
| CAR WASH | HOTEL CALIFORNIA | MONEY | SUPERSTITION |
| CONVOY | ISLAND GIRL | NIGHT MOVES | THE JOKER |
| CRACKLIN' ROSIE | JIVE TALKIN' | OHIO | TRAGEDY |
| CROCODILE ROCK | LAYLA | POP MUZIK | VENUS |
| DANCING QUEEN | LE FREAK | RHIZANNON | WATERLOO |
| DREAMING | LOLA | RHINESTONE COWBOY | YOUR SONG |
| DREAMS | | | |

The hidden song is: TIE A YELLOW RIBBON 'ROUND THE OLE OAK TREE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018



A Pakistani vendor stand next to his camels while waiting for customers at a market ahead of Eid Al-Adha festival in Karachi. Muslims around the world will mark the upcoming Eid Al-Adha, as the biggest holiday of the Islamic calendar, celebrated the Islamic festival Eid Al-Adha by slaughtering sheep, goats, cows and camels to commemorate Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail on God's command. — AFP

China's new online cosmetics stars: Men



This picture shows Lan Haoyi doing make up before recording video at his home in Beijing. — AFP photos



This picture shows Jiang Cheng recording video at his home in Beijing.



Lan Haoyi doing make up before recording video at his home in Beijing.

When Jiang Cheng first tried a bit of concealer during his first year of university in China it gave him self-confidence and he was instantly hooked. Now he is among hundreds of Chinese men sharing beauty tips online and cashing in on the booming male cosmetics industry. "I found that putting on make-up is actually quite easy," the 24-year-old said as he gently brushed his face with some foundation. "Women may not fully grasp the concept of male make-up. If a girl puts on my make-up, they may not be able to achieve the effect that I really want," Jiang said.

Every weekend, Jiang spends a couple of hours in front of his iPhone at his cozy makeshift studio in Beijing trying on the latest balms and blush for hundreds of live viewers, who can simultaneously buy the products he reviews. "This color is not that outrageous that men can't wear it safely even in a conservative environment," he explains to his fans.

Online beauty stars form an enormous industry in China, with internet celebrities known as "wang hong", or online stars, blurring the line between entertainment and e-commerce. Companies like Alibaba and JD.com have launched live-streaming platforms that allow viewers to purchase on the go while watching videos. And cosmetics brands pay big money for online celebrities, almost always female, to review their new products.

But now the market and gender norms are changing, with cosmetics no longer seen as exclusively for women and male celebrities showing that it is okay for men to dab on a bit of blush. Jiang says a firm that manages bloggers pays him around 5,000 yuan (\$730) per month to feature products from cosmetics companies. The male



Jiang Cheng preparing for a video live at his home in Beijing.

beauty market is expected to grow 15.2 percent in the next five years in China compared to an 11 percent global increase over the same period, according to research firm Euromonitor.

'Little Fresh Meat'

Increasingly, foreign firms like La Mer and Aesop work with video bloggers such as Lan Haoyi, known as Lan Pu Lan online, to promote their products to his nearly 1.4 million followers. The 27-year-old spends up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,460) a month on beauty products and says China's "Little Fresh Meat"—a term referring to young good-looking men—is spearheading this trend. "We're seeing more men in the media wearing make-up. This will naturally become the norm," Lan said.

Despite what appears to be social progress in many of the country's cosmopolitan cities, the video blogger says

he still receives hate messages and criticism for appearing in smoky red eyeshadow. "Why would a man need to wear make-up? These are some of messages I get," Lan says, adding he has been called a "sissy" and other slurs. For Jiang, the fear of being ridiculed by his own parents stops him from picking up the make-up brush in front of them. "I don't want to have conflict with my parents. We don't see eye to eye, our values and concepts of life are different. "I'm not saying that they don't think me putting on make-up is bad or what, but they are just unable to accept the daily make-up routine for a man," he says.

Internet strategy

But Mo Fei, the executive director for Chetti Rouge, a Chinese cosmetics company targeting men exclusively, says that will change over time. "There will be more and more men who take more care in how they look and the demands will increase. Men in the East are more accepting," Mo says. He opened Chetti Rouge in 2005 with few products. Now the beauty company sells a wide variety of cosmetics ranging from foundation to lipstick solely for men and has moved the entire business online.

"We saw potential in the market very early on," Mo told AFP, adding that the company expanded to Thailand three years ago. "It might be that men have accepted make-up. For men to browse products in shopping malls, may be for some men a little intimidating, hence the best way for them to buy is online, which is why our sales strategy is mainly on the internet." — AFP

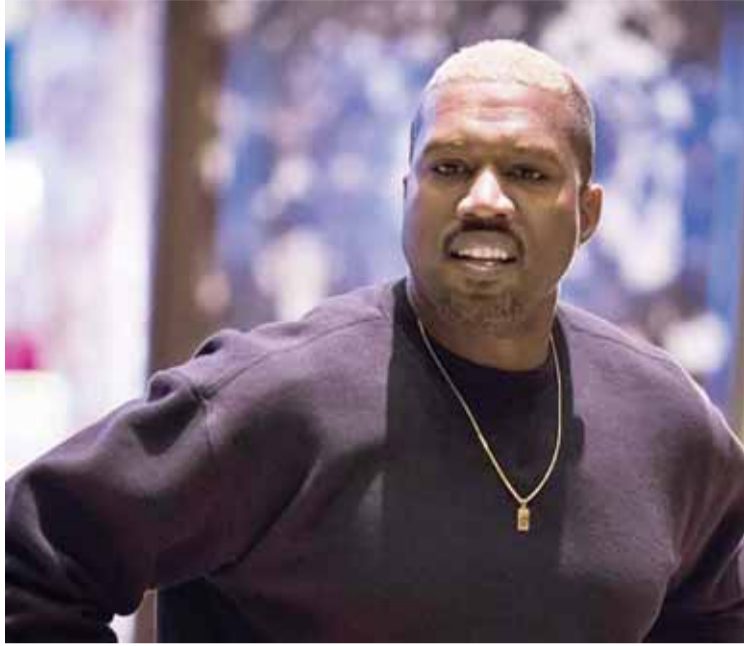


Jiang Cheng preparing for recording video at his home in Beijing.



Jiang Cheng selecting a lipstick at his home in Beijing.

Lifestyle | Gossip



Kanye West shocks with sister lyrics in new song

Kanye West declared he'd sleep with all four of his sisters-in-law in a new song. The 41-year-old rapper - who has children North, five, Saint, two, and seven-month-old Chicago with wife Kim Kardashian West - has caused a stir with the racy lyrics to his track 'XTCY', which was released on Saturday. In the song, Kanye raps: "You got sick thoughts? I got more of 'em. You got a sister-in-law you would smash? I got four of 'em. 'Damn...those are your sisters? You did something unholy to them pictures. 'Damn, you need to be locked up! Nah, we need a bigger hot tub.' Kim, 37, has older sister Kourtney Kardashian, 39, younger sibling Khloe Kardashian, 34, and half-sisters Kendall Jenner, 22, and 21-year-old Kylie Jenner. The track was posted online by DJ Clark Kent. He shared it on Instagram alongside a picture of the famous sisters and wrote: "KANYE Told Me To Drop His New Song... So... New KANYE WEST i

"XTCY" i Link In Bio. (You're welcome.)(sic)" In 2016, Kanye referenced wanting to sleep with Taylor Swift - who he has feuded with for years - in his song 'Famous'. He rapped: "I feel like me and Taylor [Swift] might still have sex: Why? I made that b***h famous." Meanwhile, earlier this week, the rapper admitted he still watches porn and even divulged what he liked to watch. The 'Bound 2' hit-maker was asked if becoming a father to girls had changed his views on women, to which he replied: "Nah I still look at Pornhub. Blacked is my favourite category. What's the point of being Kanye West if you can't let's break down the porn categories. A lot of black on white, obviously." After the interview aired, Pornhub rewarded him with a lifetime premium membership.

Stewart could reunite with Beck Group

Rod Stewart insists it isn't "too late" for the Jeff Beck Group to reform. The 73-year-old singer was an original member of the band, which also featured guitarist Jeff Beck, Ronnie Wood on rhythm guitars and various drummers and bassists, until they split after two years in 1969 and he'd like to see them put their differences aside and go out on the road again. He said: "I'm still in contact with Ron. He sends me videos of his kids. 'But with Jeff, we did try and get together again. I still don't think it's too late for us to shrink our egos a little bit and do it.'" Rod and Ronnie went on to team up with Small Faces members Ian McLagan, Ronnie Lane and Kenney Jones to form The Faces and though both Ian and Ronnie Lane have passed away, the 'Maggie May' hitmaker would love to get back on the road with drummer Kenney and the Rolling Stones guitarist if their schedules will allow it. Asked if he's still in touch with Kenney, Rod told Uncut magazine: "I might invite him over for Christmas once or twice if we're having a party at the house but we don't keep in touch like me and Ron do. 'There's always a chance of the Faces getting back together.' Just every time I'm about to start a tour, the



Stones are going to start a tour, then I start and they star. We can't go on forever. But I said that 20 years ago." Rod and Ronnie initially bonded over their big noses and love of fashion. Rod recalled: "We introduced each other. I said, 'Ello Nose' and he said, 'Ello Nose'. We both had big noses. 'I think what brought us together was our sense of clothing - we both liked style - and our unique sense of humor. 'That's bonded us together over the years. I don't see so much of him now, of course."

James Arthur feared he would die on stage

James Arthur thought he was going to "die" on stage after suffering an anxiety attack whilst performing. The 'Say You Won't Let Go' hitmaker was performing at the Monte Verde Festival in Ribeira Grande, Azores on Friday when he had the attack and admits it is "maybe the scariest thing he's ever experienced in my life". He wrote on Twitter: "I had an anxiety attack on stage in front of 12,000 people tonight and no one would've known but I thought I was gonna die on stage which is maybe the scariest thing I've ever experienced in my life but it really made me appreciate my blessings, thanks everyone for everything x (sic)" Meanwhile, the former winner of the UK 'X Factor' has admitted to being "baffled" by the music industry's attitude towards the issue. He reflected: "In sport, they have sports psychologists to get these people ready for the big games and big crowds, and getting scrutinized by the newspapers. Whereas in the music business you don't really have a lot of people keeping your head right. They seem happy to see people suffering. It's mad ... 'I've been a tortured soul. I've been through a lot of heartache so I definitely put that in my music. It's where I express it the best. That's the thing I rely on the most.' James grew up in foster care and believes it also helped to make him a more resilient character as a whole. He said: "It was a bit scary. I lived with a lady who'd taken up fostering children and they were always fairly troubled kids. There was a lot of tension because you'd be fighting a lot and looking over your shoulder. And I just wanted to be back with my sisters and my family. But it probably toughened me up in a good way. I learnt the value of family through that."



Tony Hadley's difficult months

Tony Hadley's departure from Spandau Ballet was "difficult" for his marriage. The 58-year-old singer left the group - which also features Gary Kemp, Martin Kemp, Steve Norman and John Keeble - last July because they reportedly weren't keen on him doing solo work in between their group projects, and he's admitted he and Alison Evers have found the impact of his decision tough, but they'll always stick together. He said: "Relationships are never easy. There is a degree of compromise but you've got to have fun together. 'My resigning from the band has been difficult for both of us, but you stick together, love and support each other.'" Tony - who has children Zara, 11, and Genevieve, six, with Alison, and adult kids Thomas, Toni and Mackenzie from his first marriage - is embracing life as a solo artist again, though he admits it was a bit scary at first. He said: "I love it. It was scary but you get used to making your own decisions. I was solo for 20 years when the band first ended but people forget that." The 'Gold' hitmaker has insisted he was forced out of the group and he channeled his anger at their rift into his solo single 'What Am I?'. He admitted to OK! magazine: "It was a little bit autobiographical. I put all my thoughts on paper and my co-writer said, 'I detect anger in there. We're going to have to pull back from that a little bit.' The song is about being your own person no matter who you are. People are judgmental but you've got to hold your head high and be dignified." The band split in 1990 due to a row over royalties, but eventually put their differences aside in 2009 for a reunion tour and the album 'Once More'. They came together again in 2015 for another tour before Tony walked away. Tony still insists that he was in the "right" in the court battle, in which he, John and Steve claimed they were entitled to hundreds of thousands of the songwriting royalties songwriter Gary receives. However, he accepts that even if he was still in the band, it could never be the same - even if they put water under the bridge. He said previously: "It could never ever be the same. That's impossible. But you learn to get along, and put the past and the angst behind you."

Dua Lipa calls for equality in music

Dua Lipa has called for greater equality in the music industry. The 22-year-old singer insisted there needs to be a better representation of female artists amongst performers are award ceremonies, and suggested her contemporaries don't get enough recognition on the prize shortlists. Speaking to Rolling Stone, she said: "You want to see a lot more female artists and a lot more awards performances, getting nominated for a lot more awards. I feel like equality in the music industry is something that's needed a lot more." The 'New Rules' hitmaker explained how things are changing, with female pop stars slowly getting rid of the "stigma" surrounding them. She added: "I feel like for so long there's always been this stigma behind female pop stars. Because when a male pop star comes on the scene, people instantly believe that they write their own songs, that they direct their own videos, that they do all this. 'Whereas if you're a female artist and you're not sat by a piano, or a guitar, or you're not playing an instrument and you're kind of performing a song, people instantly think that you're manufactured and you're no longer kind of authentic to yourself.'" Dua admitted things were improving now after a tough fight for her fellow stars, and they are now in a position to be "confident" in themselves without being judged or diminished. She said: "I think now, [it's] just come a point in time where we feel very, very confident in our skin and we allow ourselves to be whoever we want to be without the fear of thinking other people are going to diminish that."



BEN EARLE HAS HYPNOTHERAPY FOR STAGE FRIGHT

The Shires' Ben Earle has had hypnotherapy to combat his stage fright. The country star wishes he has the confidence of his bandmate Crissie Rhodes because performing for their fans leaves him feeling very anxious. He said: "I get stage fright sometimes and I've had hypnotherapy for it. 'That's the annoying thing about Crissie, she goes on stage and comes alive, whereas I get real anxiety.'" The duo are preparing to hit the road to support Shania Twain on tour and Ben - who has River, two, and three-month-old Tennessee with his fiancée Vicki - will be taking his kids on the road with him, which could prove tough. He said: "My son is only three months old and we've got a two year old too. Sometimes I walk on stage and I'm shattered. 'But I have a job that I love and hope one day they will have the same. 'River loves the tour bus - he went on a normal bus the other day and was so disappointed when he couldn't find the Xbox.'" Though Ben feels anxious when he performs on stage, he'd jump at the chance to sing with Dolly Parton. He told Britain's HELLO! magazine: "To perform with Dolly Parton would be incredible. She's an amazing lyricist and role model. That would be the dream." Ed Sheeran wrote 'Stay the Night' for the duo, who he met at an afterparty for one of his gigs. Ben recalled: "I went up to Ed to say hi. I was so shocked when he said, 'I know who you are, you're from The Shires. I pre-ordered your album and my favorite song was 'Other People's Things'. 'We got chatting and he said he had a song he wanted to send us, which was 'Stay the Night.'" Crissie added: "He's wonderful, so down-to-earth and lovely. At the party he was shouting, 'Come on Crissie, jelly shots.' I think I stumbled out about 4.30am."



Cardi B plans new release

Cardi B plans to release new music next month. The 'Bodak Yellow' hitmaker is planning to unveil at least five new tracks on September 1, which didn't make her debut album 'Invasion Of Privacy'. In an Instagram live earlier this week, she said: "There's about five songs that I was supposed to put on 'Invasion Of Privacy' but they didn't fit and make sense. So I'm gonna put it on this project that I really want to put out on September 1st, but I'm missing like four or five songs." However, she confessed she might not meet that deadline as she's got a lot on her plate in the coming weeks. She added: "I got four or five songs I gotta finish for this project and I got like six features I still got to do [for other artists]." Cardi B returned to work late last month, just three weeks after giving birth to her daughter Kulture, whom she has with her husband Offset. She shared at the time: "Work. Today I'm going to finally step out and hit the studio. Cook up some new music for yaa (sic)" It comes after the 25-year-old rapper previously said she was worried that her career would be over now that she's a mother. She explained: "A lot of successful women have kids, and a lot of successful artists have kids, but not at the peak of their career. [When I told people]. It was like, 'You can't do this. This might sabotage up your career.'"



Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Putting sex in sexagenarian: Madonna still shocks at 60

Whether by brazenly injecting sex in the public sphere, adopting gay subculture for mainstream audiences or becoming the top-selling female musician of all time, Madonna has asserted an incalculable influence. The pop superstar is turning 60 on August 16 and is again breaking barriers—this time as a mature woman who is still brash, carnal and unapologetic.

Giving new meaning to the term sexagenarian, Madonna openly dates men three decades younger, maintains a svelte figure that would be the envy of most people half her age and on her latest tour put on a characteristically provocative show that simulated most conceivable sex acts.

Madonna is hardly the first female entertainer to stay active while growing older, with singers as diverse as Aretha Franklin, Cher, Dolly Parton and Stevie Nicks on stage in their 70s. But Madonna—who entered pop culture at the same time as MTV—has embodied the cult of youth like few other artists and, while others reinvented themselves or staged nostalgic comebacks, the Material Girl has never gone more than four years without an album since her blockbuster self-titled debut in 1983.



“And finally, do not age. Because to age is a sin. You will be criticized, you will be vilified, and you will definitely not be played on the radio,” said Madonna, likely referring to BBC Radio 1 declining to play one of her recent singles as it pursued a younger audience.

Madonna has persisted in her political outspokenness, delivering a fiery speech to last year’s Women’s March a day after President Donald Trump’s inauguration, vowing that women would not accept “this new age of tyranny.”

Both sexy and maternal

Madonna has also challenged conceptions of motherhood, adopting four children from Malawi in addition to her biological son and daughter. Madonna, who last year moved to Lisbon where one of her sons is attending a youth football academy, is marking her 60th birthday by encouraging fans to donate to her charity for children in Malawi. Even as a mother, Madonna has pursued her relationships. The attention stands in contrast to the comparative societal yawn over older men who date much younger women, with still active stars Mick Jagger and Billy Joel both recently becoming fathers again.

The title of a single off her latest album, “Rebel Heart,” summed up her unwavering attitude: “B**ch, I’m Madonna.” Freya Jarman, a music scholar at the University of Liverpool who co-edited a book on Madonna, said the pop star has already left her legacy, with younger artists such as Lady Gaga so evidently influenced by her. But she emphasized that Madonna was now demonstrating a new kind of relevance. “As an aging, female popular musician who is still so much in the public eye, she is absolutely relevant,” Jarman said. “Madonna stands out in a way that she always has done, in that she has always been interested in creating a stir which someone like Cher, for my money, does not, really.” Many stars “seem to fade in and out of focus, while Madonna doesn’t seem to fade out,” Jarman added.

‘To age is a sin’

Madonna, as throughout her career, has faced harsh commentary as she grows older. An ex-girlfriend of one of her former lovers, Brazilian model Jesus Luz, branded her a “ridiculous old bag,” while numerous social media users heaped scorn when Madonna locked lips on stage at the Coachella festival with the much-younger Drake. And tabloids have fixated on Madonna’s hands, one part of the body that can uncharitably betray age.

In a 2016 speech as she accepted an award from music magazine *Billboard*, Madonna said that society allowed women to be “pretty and cute and sexy” but not to share their opinions—or sexual fantasies. “Be what men want you to be. But more importantly, be what women feel comfortable with you being around other men,” she said, describing unwritten rules of the music business.

‘Many stars seem to fade in and out of focus, while Madonna doesn’t seem to fade out’

“As a feminist, I would say good for Madonna. If that’s your sexual taste and she can pull it off, she is doing a fantasy that most women either don’t want or can’t do,” said Pepper Schwartz, a sociologist at the University of Washington in Seattle who studies aging and sexuality. Older women have also enjoyed growing prominence in Hollywood, but their love interests—especially as depicted in films—are rarely younger men.

Among leading mature actresses, Diane Keaton in “Something’s Gotta Give” and Meryl Streep in “Hope Springs” both played in roles of rekindling romance with senior men. Schwartz said Madonna had a more difficult task as an older woman as sexual outrage is so integral to her persona. But she said that Madonna, along with aging Hollywood stars, was offering a new model for women of their baby boom generation. “The baby boom, which has always been at the edge of trying to give new definition to sex and gender, is trying to say—you know, we’re not ready to be written off just because we’re older now.” — AFP



In this file photo British actor, director and executive producer Idris Elba poses during a photo call for the film “Yardie” shown in the “Panorama Special” category during the 68th edition of the Berlinale film festival in Berlin. — AFP

The name’s Idris: Actor Elba fuels Bond speculation

British actor Idris Elba fuelled speculation yesterday that he may be named the first black James Bond, with a cryptic tweet. “My name’s Elba, Idris Elba,” he tweeted, echoing the super spy’s famous catch line, “The name is Bond, James Bond.” The message sent fans into a frenzy of excitement, as rumors abound that Elba may be named to succeed Daniel Craig as the next incarnation of 007. Elba, 45, made his name in gritty US television drama “The Wire” and won a Golden Globe for his role as a murder detective in “Luther”, before moving to the big screen. The son of a car factory worker from east London, he is now one of Hollywood’s most sought-after stars. He has been in blockbusters such as “Thor”, “Pacific Rim” and “Star Trek”, and was nominated for a Golden Globe for playing the title role in “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom”.

Elba has been linked to the Bond franchise for years, although he has previously said that he thought he might be too old. Fresh rumors emerged this week amid reports that Bond producer Barbara Broccoli said it was now “time” for a black actor to take the role.

However, a spokesman for the alleged source of this quote, director Antoine Fuqua, told the Hollywood Reporter that he and Broccoli had never discussed Bond or casting. Craig will return for the fifth time as Bond in 2019, in an as yet unnamed movie directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Danny Boyle. It is expected to be Craig’s final outing as 007, having previously starred in “Casino Royale”, “Quantum of Solace”, “Skyfall” and “Spectre”. — AFP

60 scandalous years for Madonna

Madonna remains one of the most controversial artists of all time, with the Material Girl refusing to hold back with age from the unbridled sexuality that helped make her a superstar. With Madonna turning 60 on Thursday, here is a look back at some of her more scandalous moments:

Bringing sex to MTV

When MTV threw its first Video Music Awards in 1984, the young network quickly shattered the staid formula of established shows such as the Grammys and Oscars with a sensational performance by Madonna. The pop star emerged from a five-meter (16-foot) cake to sing “Like a Virgin” in a wedding gown and a belt buckle that said “boy toy,” rolling about on the floor to reveal her undergarments. Her reputation was sealed—and she repeatedly turned to music videos to cause a sensation.

‘Like a Prayer’

Debuting the title track off her fourth album “Like a Prayer” in 1989, Madonna could barely have hoped for a bigger audience, with Pepsi teasing the video in a commercial broadcast around the world, including during “The Cosby Show,” one of the most popular shows on television. The video itself, debuting on MTV, stunned viewers with its incorporation of sex with religious iconography. Addressing interracial romance, a topic then still controversial in parts of the United States, Madonna makes love to the statue of a black saint and dances in front of burning crosses, the symbol of the racist Ku Klux Klan. The Vatican protested and religious groups threatened to boycott Pepsi, which bowed to pressure and canceled its advertising campaign with Madonna.

Too hot for MTV

A year later, Madonna became too controversial even for MTV, which banned her video for “Justify My Love.” Shot by the French fashion photographer Jean-Baptiste Mondino in a stylized black-and-white that evoked 1950s cinema, “Justify My Love” depicts bondage and other kinky sex in a hotel, with the actors later saying that the lines between performance and reality were blurred during filming. Cashing in on the controversy, Madonna released “Justify My Love” as the top-selling ever video-single, a format that has vanished in the age of YouTube.

Taking controversy on road

Madonna’s antics were not only on camera. She injected a new sensationalism to her tours, several of which have grossed her more than \$100 million. Her “Blond Ambition” tour in 1990 took on a revolutionary feel with its celebration of sex and, through the dancers, homosexuality—which was much less widely accepted at the time.

The dancers pretended to masturbate Madonna as she sang “Like a Prayer,” a scene that led police in Toronto to threaten to arrest her, although they ultimately backed down. The “Blond Ambition” tour also gave birth to one of Madonna’s enduring fashion statements—the pointed cone bra worn on the outside, designed by Jean Paul Gaultier.

‘Sex,’ the book

Even some fans of Madonna thought she had gone too far in 1992 with a coffee-table book simply entitled “Sex” that featured her posing in made-to-shock positions. The book became a bestseller but overshadowed the simultaneous release of her comparatively subdued album “Erotica.” Madonna has insisted that she has no regrets over the book and “Sex” has gradually won over some fans, who say she was at the forefront of the new proliferation of pornography.

Kissing as statement

Madonna has in recent years become a musical elder—one still able to generate headlines. At the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards, Madonna locked lips with two younger stars eager to shed innocent images—Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears, whose kiss with the Material Girl was especially passionate. Madonna made a surprise appearance in 2015 at the Coachella festival, where she again provoked shock by giving a wet kiss to headliner Drake. — AFP



People enjoy trumpet music during the trumpet and brass band festival in the Serbian village of Guca, about 160 km (100 miles) south of Belgrad. — AFP photos



Revelers descend on Serbian town for raucous trumpet festival

Rowdy brass bands and revelers ruled the streets of the small Serbian town of Guca on Saturday as its annual trumpet festival hit full stride with music, meat and alcohol flowing in abundance. The four-day affair, which ended yesterday, sees hundreds of thousands of music-lovers from Serbia and abroad descend on Guca, a mountain town of several thousand people that locals say is best described as “quiet” during the rest of the year.

Now in its 58th edition, the festival draws the best players of “Balkan brass”—a distinct regional style—to battle it out on stage for prestigious awards. During the day musicians also go table-to-table in restaurants and bars lining the streets, stirring up spontaneous dance parties as they blare their horns for tips. “We’re very fascinated by the rhythm of this kind of music,” said Martin Miers, a trombone player who travelled from Germany with his wife for the festival. “It’s the spirit of the community... this mixture of very popular bands and very high level, very sophisticated bands, that’s impressive,” he added.

The crowds draws a mix of Serbians, music aficionados and foreign tourists and backpackers, with many camping out in tents and vans parked along the town’s river. Food and drink fuels the fun, with whole lambs and plenty of drinks and rakija—a local drink—to wash the meat down. “Guca lives for these five days of the year,” said Aleksandra Radicevic, a 26-year-old who comes to Guca, her parents’ hometown, every year to sell cheeses and other local products during the festival. She said she loves the sound of the trumpet but admits that after four days of non-stop cacophony, she “needs a break”. — AFP



Festival-goers pose for pictures in front of the trumpeter statue in the city center during the trumpet and brass band festival in the Serbian village of Guca, about 160 km (100 miles) south of Belgrade.

Oscars move to honor ‘popular’ movies sparks swift backlash

The Oscars will introduce a new award for popular films and the annual ceremony will be limited to three hours, organizers said on Wednesday, in a bid to stave off slumping audiences for the movie industry’s most prestigious honors. The decision to create a special category for popular films sparked an immediate backlash, with one critic saying it smacked of desperation.

The sweeping changes also include handing out some of the 24 Academy Awards during commercial breaks in the Feb 24 broadcast on Walt Disney Co’s ABC network. “We are committed to producing an entertaining show in three hours, delivering a more accessible Oscars for our viewers worldwide,” the board of governors at the Academy of Motion Pictures said in a letter to members.

The US television audience for the almost four-hour Oscar ceremony in March 2018 was 26.5 million viewers, the smallest in awards’ 90-year history. The telecast is an important showcase for the film industry, and nominated movies typically attract a new wave of ticket buyers. “The accidental implication is here’s the award for popular film, and here’s the unpopular films,” said Alison Willmore, critic and culture writer for *Buzzfeed News*.

The changes are the biggest since the Academy in 2016 pledged to double its female and minority membership by 2020 in response to the #OscarsSoWhite criticism of its nominees. In 2009, it expanded the number of best picture nominees from five to 10 in a bid to open up the competition. Yet in recent years, the Oscars have tended to honor art house fare and performers, like best picture winners “Moonlight” and “The Shape of Water,” for its biggest prizes rather than box office hits like the “Star Wars” franchise or superhero movies such as 2017 blockbuster “Wonder Woman.” Fans of this year’s superhero sensation “Black Panther,” from Disney’s Marvel Studios, have been arguing that it deserves a best picture nomination.

Wednesday’s letter did not give details of the new category recognizing “achievement in popular film,” saying those would come later, but critics on Twitter said it seemed to create a second-tier honor and mocked it as “the Black Panther award.” “This is desperation,” wrote Kristopher Tapley, awards editor for Hollywood trade publication *Variety*. “Here comes the Academy, establishing a corner to which voters can banish (Black Panther) and other films like it with a pat on the head and a “thanks for playing.” The Academy could have waited to see the impact on the best picture race from its push to diversify its membership, Willmore said. “There’s a lot of reasons to believe that would have shaken up the hidebound ideas of what an Oscar movie is,” she said.—Reuters

Lifestyle | Fashion



Dorina Hanza, a 52-year-old embroiderer, shows two traditional outfits from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania in Beius, Romania.— AFP photos



A local woman explains her work on a newly made traditional outfit from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania in Beius, Romania.



A woman working at the local museum shows a 100 years-old traditional outfit from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania in Beius.



A traditional outfit from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania is displayed at the local museum of Beius.



A woman shows a traditional outfit from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania in Beius.



Traditional outfits from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania are displayed in Beius.



Traditional outfits from Bihor northwestern region of Romania are displayed at the local museum of Beius, Romania.

Romanian dressmakers revel in Dior folk coat vogue

They may feel aggrieved at not obtaining an official seal of approval, but traditional Romanian dressmakers are riding a wave of demand for their folk designs after a top fashion house inadvertently showcased their craft. Clothes makers from the northwestern Bihor region were more than a little bemused when they got wind of a 2017 Dior collection. Their jaws notably dropped when they saw an embroidered folk coat which looked strikingly similar to the "cojocel binsenes" waistcoat their region has been producing for around a century. A Romanian version of the garment, historically worn on important occasions, sells at home and abroad for around 500 Euros (\$580) — almost a month's salary in one of the European Union's poorest countries.

from the Romanian people," said Hanza, adding "the tradition might have been lost" had the current controversy not emerged.

'Thanks Dior'

Diana Naprodean, 44, also sees an upside to the Dior garment. "That proves it's really pretty," said the librarian, a hobbyist crocheter and embroiderer who has just produced her own first attempt at the traditional waistcoat. "Thanks Dior. Thanks to you we have begun to love our traditional costume again," said Diana Herdelo, 33, another from the Beius group who is weaving one of her own. The waistcoat is made from local Bihor sheepskin after a tanning process of around three weeks. It is then tailored and decorated with local style embroidery



Family pictures of the beginning of the 20th century showing people wearing traditional outfits from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania are displayed at the local museum of Beius.

'Tradition doesn't allow a woman to wear a man's cojocel or the other way around'

The Dior coat did not go unnoticed among the wider population either, after a resident of the regional city of Beius spotted it in a Singapore shop and posted it on Facebook, sparking a strong response from users which was picked up by the media. "That day, I posted my first comment on Facebook, thanking the Dior fashion house for appreciating this beautiful item," Dorina Hanza, a 52-year-old embroiderer who cottoned on to the similarity, told AFP. La Blouse Roumaine, which promotes the Romanian blouse to encourage women to wear it, juxtaposed the different versions side by side on Twitter, adding #givecredit. Yet Dior, which did not respond to AFP's requests for comment, may well have done the Bihor designers a favor.

Demand has soared since the social media posts pointing out the similarities between both versions of the heavily embroidered, multicolor, sheepskin sleeveless jacket with black fur edging. "Since then, everybody wants one" from the traditional source, enthused Ana Florea, who runs a designers' group in Beius, near the Hungarian border. "This waistcoat is 100 percent ours," she insisted.

Hanza, while happy to see the Romanian version in the limelight, said she just wished Dior could have given a nod to their apparent inspiration. "They could have said, 'we borrowed this

and worn by both men and women, although the length and motifs differ.

With traditional regional costumes being worn by fewer and fewer people, demand for the clothes had almost died out until the controversy over the Dior jacket reignited interest. One important detail on the Dior version did not escape the notice of Bihor residents though—the



Family pictures of the beginning of the 20th century showing people wearing traditional outfits from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania are displayed at the local museum of Beius.

jacket worn by the fashion model was adorned with motifs—a phallic symbol—strictly worn only by men. "Tradition doesn't allow a woman to wear a man's cojocel or the other way around," Hanza said.

With interest piqued, Romania's Beau Monde magazine and the McCann advertising agency have launched an ad campaign entitled Bihor Couture, along with a website where fans can order a jacket and other traditional items. The site has already taken around 1,000 orders. "Our goal is to help people in this region and showcase their work and their traditions which were in danger of dying out," says Beau Monde's former editor-in-chief Roxana Dobrita.

McCann's creative director for Romania Catalin Dobre said he believes that "the fashion industry should do more to support traditions. Across the globe, the leading brands take their inspiration from different cultures without recognizing it," he told AFP in an email.

Horatiu Ilea, curator of the Romanian Peasant Museum, said he believes any accusations against Dior in this case are unjustified. "Culture is a living thing. Ideas get bounced around, you can't stop that," he told AFP, adding that "cultural appropriation" has been going on since ancient times. Rather than demand some form of redress, Ilea urged Romania "to benefit from this incident, by, for example, launching a campaign promoting traditional and artisanal work."— AFP



A woman wears a traditional outfit from the Bihor northwestern region of Romania in Beius.

Mischa Barton wore fake Chanel on The O.C.

Mischa Barton wore fake Chanel on 'The O.C.' Mischa's character Marissa Cooper was renowned for her designer style, however the show's fashion budget tiny in the beginning and Mischa, 32, often graced the screen in fake designer goods. Costume designer Alexandra Welker told Page Six: "It was a challenge because everything had to look super high-end. There was absolutely no borrowing [from brands] involved either, because nobody had ever heard of us, so they were very leery of loaning anything."

"I'll be honest: Those Chanel bags that she carried, those weren't something I could have on my budget. But I found this amazing store in Downtown LA that sold the best-looking fakes I'd ever seen! So we used some really, really good knockoffs." The show, which ran from 2003 to 2007, followed a group of wealthy teenagers in Southern California's Orange County and the Chanel boy bag, which Marissa used as a book bag, cost approximately \$1650 at the time. Alexandra said: "People got really worked up over that Chanel book bag; they thought that

the idea of a teenage carrying one to school was obscene!"

Alexandra recalls trying to raise money before the show had aired and being turned down by every designer she asked. She said: "In the pilot, I remember we did a fashion fundraiser...I called every designer out there to explain what we were doing and who I was, and they all turned me down. So for those runway looks, we used everything from sale-rack clothes to things from costume houses to things I'd designed myself."— Bang Showbiz



Mischa Barton

Hailey stuns again for Tommy Hilfiger timepiece campaign

Hailey Baldwin is the face of Tommy Hilfiger's Fall Winter 2018 Women's watch and jewelry campaign. The 21-year-old star - whose fiancé is pop hunk Justin Bieber - is seen modeling the label's new timepieces and accessories which have been inspired by American icons. The collection is manufactured by The Movado Group Inc. under license from Tommy Hilfiger and is available to buy at uk.tommy.com, at select Tommy Hilfiger stores, major department stores and from specialty watch dealers around the world. Newly-engaged Hailey has worked with Tommy Hilfiger since 2016 and in May she was named as a global brand ambassador alongside 23-year-old Winnie Harlow for their fall capsule collection, Tommy Icons.

Announcing the signing of the two catwalk legends, Hilfiger said: "As two of the most sought-after models in the world, Hailey Baldwin and Winnie Harlow are becoming

the icons of tomorrow, captivating their audience with their powerful drive and inner fire. They are leading the way for the next generation of Tommy women, approaching everything with confidence and optimism. These shared qualities and values are why I'm excited to welcome them into our family." Hailey - whose father is actor Stephen Baldwin - has been walking in TommyNow experimental runways since 2016 and has appeared on the covers of Vogue, Marie Claire, Elle and Harper's Bazaar whilst modeling for many other luxury names.

Hailey added: "Fashion is how I express my individuality to the world, and Tommy Hilfiger's designs are perfect to make bold statements. I love styling each outfit to make it my own, and I can't wait to show fans of the brand how I infused my own twist into the fall Tommy Icons styles."— Bang Showbiz

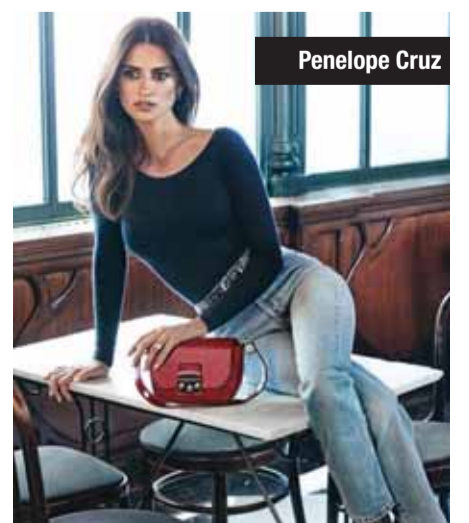
Penelope Cruz returns as the face of Carpisa

Penelope Cruz has returned as the face of Carpisa for the Italian brand's Autumn 2018 campaign. The Oscar-winning actress models the label's new range of handbags and purses which are geared towards everyday use. Cruz, 44, is seen in the photos and a video entitled 'One day with Penelope in Madrid' walking around her hometown of Madrid, in Spain, with a variety of Carpisa bags on her arm. The short film begins with the caption 'One day with Penelope in Madrid' in front of the Edificio Metr?polis at the corner of the Calle de Alcal? and Gran V?a.

The shoot was carried out by photographer Xavi Gordo and among the bags on display are the mini leather-look flap bag 'Alena' in burgundy, and the 'Idra' leather-look shopping bag. Carpisa's aim for the range is to celebrate "those daily habits that form part of each and every one of our lives, simple yet important gestures that reveal our personal values and comforts". As well as appearing in the new Carpisa campaign, Cruz was last month announced as the new face of Chanel and is the star of the forthcoming cruise campaign shot by creative director Karl Lagerfeld.

Speaking about her new job, the 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona' star said: "It's such an iconic brand and Karl is a genius, and I've

been admiring everything he's done since I was a little girl, so it's such a pleasure working with Karl. He's like the king of fashion and we had a really, really interesting photo shoot, so to be in front of his camera is an adventure." Cruz is a lifelong fan of the fashion house and has been attending its shows for nearly two decades, and she previously launched her own underwear line with her sister, in partnership with Agent Provocateur as well as designing a handbag for Loewe. — Bang Showbiz



Penelope Cruz

Classifieds

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 12/08/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	35 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	31 °C			
ABDALY	47 °C	30 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	48 °C	33 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	30 °C			
SALMIYAH	42 °C	34 °C			
AHMADI	41 °C	36 °C			
NUWAISIB	44 °C	33 °C			
WAFRA	47 °C	30 °C			
SALMY	44 °C	28 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	08/13	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Tuesday	08/14	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	47 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	08/15	Very hot	47 °C	32 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h
Thursday	08/16	Very hot	47 °C	31 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:49
Sunrise	05:15
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:31
Isha	19:54

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	26 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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 X-ray and CT scan technician
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 OPD nurses, cardiology and diabetic nurse
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 - Transferable visa, Knowledgeable in Microsoft office
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Finance
 Senior accountant, Cashier, Insurance officer

Admin Division
 Support service Manger
 Secretary, Receptionist,
 Patient Representative
 PR officer, Maintenance Supervisor
 Marketing & sales assistant
 IT technician
 Concierge, Call Centre Officer
 Store in Charge

Pharmacy
 (Pharmacist, Pharmacy technician)

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
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

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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 13/8/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 13/8/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	241D	Amman	00:20	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	1516	TXZ	00:40	RIA	645	Amman	14:15
KAC	102	London	00:50	FEG	342	Sohag	14:50
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
WAN	866	TXZ	01:45	WAN	415	Beirut	15:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	124	Bahrain	15:40
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	ETH	1269	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	792	Madinah	03:05	KAC	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	OMA	560D	Sohag	04:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	644	Muscat	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	MSC	416	Sohag	04:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
JZR	185D	Dubai	04:35	JZR	1538	Cairo	05:30
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	RIA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:10	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	167	Paris	07:30
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	238	Amman	08:00
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	193	TXZ	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	117	New York	09:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	161	Geneva	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	JZR	541	Cairo	09:45
JZR	561D	Sohag	10:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC	541	Paris	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	WAN	101	London	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	873	Istanbul	10:15
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	JZR	750	Madinah	10:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:50	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	MSC	406	Sohag	11:15
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	WAN	883	Sarajevo	11:45
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:40
				RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
				JZR	176	Amman	13:10
				THY	767	Istanbul	13:40

Children among 39 civilians dead in Syria arms depot blast



Destroyed buildings are seen yesterday following an explosion at an arms depot in a residential area in Syria's northern Idlib province city of Sarmada. — AFP

NASA launches historic probe...

Continued from Page 1

visit to a star," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "We've accomplished something that decades ago, lived solely in the realm of science fiction," he added, describing the probe as one of NASA's "strategically important" missions.

NASA has billed the mission as the first spacecraft to "touch the Sun". In reality, it should come within 6.16 million km of the Sun's surface, close enough to study the curious phenomenon of the solar wind and the Sun's atmosphere, known as the corona, which is 300 times hotter than its surface. Scientists hope this close encounter will give them a better understanding of solar wind and geomagnetic storms that risk wreaking chaos on Earth by knocking out the power grid. These poorly understood solar outbursts could potentially wipe out power to millions of people.

A worst-case scenario would cost up to two trillion dollars in the first year alone and take a decade for full recovery, experts say. "The Parker Solar Probe will help us do a much better job of predicting when a disturbance in the solar wind could hit Earth," said Justin Kasper, a project scientist and professor at the University of Michigan. Knowing more about the solar

wind and space storms will also help protect future deep space explorers as they journey toward the Moon or Mars.

A highly advanced heat shield just 11.5 cm thick was devised to keep the probe from melting. The sunlight is expected to heat the shield to just around 1,370 degrees Celsius. Yet the inside of the spacecraft will stay at just 30 degrees Celsius. The probe is set to make 24 passes through the corona, collecting data. "The sun is full of mysteries," said Nicky Fox, project scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. "We are ready. We have the perfect payload. We know the questions we want to answer."

The spacecraft is the only NASA probe in history to be named after a living person - 91-year-old solar physicist Eugene Parker, who first described the solar wind in 1958. Parker watched the launch at Cape Canaveral, and said it was his first time seeing a rocket blast off in person. "All I have to say is wow, here we go. We are in for some learning over the next several years," Parker told NASA television.

Scientists have wanted to build a spacecraft like this for more than 60 years, but only recently did the heat shield technology capable of protecting sensitive instruments become available. Tools on board will measure high-energy particles associated with flares and coronal mass ejections, as well as the changing magnetic field around the Sun. The first launch attempt on Saturday was postponed at the last minute due to technical problem related to a helium gas sensor on the rocket. But yesterday's bid "went off like clockwork", said NASA launch manager Omar Baez. — AFP

Nobel-winning writer Naipaul...

Continued from Page 1

Naipaul's early works focused on the West Indies, but came to encompass countries around the world. He stirred controversy in the past, describing post-colonial countries as "half-made societies" and arguing that Islam both enslaved and attempted to wipe out other cultures.

When he was awarded the 2001 Nobel prize for literature, the Swedish Academy described him as a "literary circumnavigator, only ever really at home in himself, in his inimitable voice". It said he was "the annalist of the destinies of empires in the moral sense: what they do to human beings". "His authority as a narrator is grounded in his memory of what others have forgotten, the history of the vanquished," it said.

Naipaul, who was knighted in 1990, mixed fiction, non-fiction and autobiography without distinction. One of his seminal novels was "A House for Mr Biswas" (1961), which looked at the almost impossible task for Indian immigrants in the Caribbean of trying to integrate into society while keeping hold of their roots. Overall he wrote more than 30 books, and was one of the first winners of the Booker Prize, now Britain's leading literary award, in 1971 for "In A Free State".

During his early career Naipaul was dogged by money worries and loneliness. He met his first wife, Pat,

at Oxford, who became his constant literary support. She died in 1996, and he later revealed that he felt he hastened her death by publicly admitting, while she fought cancer, that he had frequented prostitutes. The admission "consumed her. I think she had all the relapses and everything after that... It could be said that I had killed her," Naipaul said in a tell-all biography by British author Patrick French, "The World Is What It Is: The Authorized Biography Of V.S. Naipaul".

He had a quarter-century, sometimes violent, affair with an Argentinian, and he married Pakistani journalist Nadira Alvi the same year Pat died. He was famously outspoken and had a reputation for cutting people out of his life, and once retorted: "My life is short. I can't listen to banalities." The objects of Naipaul's ire ranged from corruption in Indian politics to the West's cynical treatment of its former colonies to the cult of personality in "The Return of Eva Peron".

He likened former British prime minister Tony Blair to a pirate at the head of a socialist revolution, and was also disparaging about "sentimental" female novelists. "Women writers are different, they are quite different. I read a piece of writing and within a paragraph or two I know whether it is by a woman or not. I think (it is) unequal to me," he told the London Evening Standard newspaper in 2011. He said this was due to women's "sentimentality, the narrow view of the world". Naipaul also fell out with US travel writer Paul Theroux, who later wrote a bitter, no-holds-barred memoir of their long association. They later resolved their differences. — AFP

to follow the developments, the state-run Petra news agency reported. Prime Minister Omar Al-Razzaz, who chaired the meeting, vowed Saturday that Jordan would "not be complacent in the hunt for terrorists".

Jordan has played a key role in the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, using its air force against the jihadists and allowing coalition forces to use its bases. The kingdom was hit by a string of attacks in 2016, including a shooting rampage claimed by IS that killed 10 people including a Canadian tourist in Karak, known for its Crusader castle. The United States "strongly condemned" the attacks against Jordanian security forces in Al-Fuhais and in Salt, in a statement released Sunday by its Amman embassy. "The United States stands in solidarity with Jordan in the face of these terrorist actions and emphasizes our shared resolve to counter the plague of terrorism," it said. — Agencies

Four security personnel, three...

Continued from Page 1

A security official, who asked not to be named, said that "all the terrorists who were killed or arrested were Jordanians and residents of Salt."

Jordan's King Abdullah II said the country would "strike mercilessly and forcefully" against those who sought to harm the country. "This cowardly terrorist act, and any act that targets the security of Jordan, will only add to our unity, strength and determination to wipe out terrorism and its criminal gangs," he told a meeting of top security officials. The government set up a crisis cell

SARMADA, Syria: An explosion at a weapons depot that toppled buildings in a rebel-held town of northwest Syria killed at least 39 civilians including a dozen children yesterday, a monitor said. An AFP correspondent at the site in Sarmada in Idlib province near the Turkish border said the explosion of unknown origin caused the collapse of two buildings. Rescue workers used bulldozers to remove rubble and extract trapped people from the flattened buildings, the correspondent said. A civil defense source told AFP that rescue workers had pulled out "five people who were still alive".

But the death toll rose as more bodies were retrieved from the rubble, according to Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group. Three Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) members were also killed, apart from the 39 civilians, he said. "The explosion occurred in a weapons depot in a residential building in Sarmada," said the head of the Britain-based monitor, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria.

But the cause of the blast was "not yet clear", Abdel Rahman added. He said most of those killed were family members of fighters from HTS, an alliance led by jihadists from Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, who had been displaced to the area from the central province of Homs. A rescue worker carried the motionless body of a small child

from the wreckage to an ambulance, the AFP correspondent said. White Helmet rescue workers attempted to lift part of a floor of one of the buildings with a tall crane, as three young boys watched on in silence, perched on a rock. Behind mounds of rubble, the facade of a building was scorched black, due to a fire after the blast.

Most of Idlib is controlled by rebels and HTS, but the Islamic State group also has sleeper cells in the area. The regime holds a small sliver of southeastern Idlib. In recent months, a series of explosions and assassinations - mainly targeting rebel officials and fighters - have rocked the province. While some attacks have been claimed by IS, most are the result of infighting since last year between other groups. Regime forces have since last week ramped up their deadly bombardment of southern Idlib and sent reinforcements to nearby areas they control.

On Friday, 12 civilians, three of them children, were killed in regime bombardment of the towns of Khan Sheikhun and Al-Tah. President Bashar Al-Assad has warned that government forces intend to retake Idlib, after his Russia-backed regime regained control of swathes of rebel-held territory in other parts of Syria. On Thursday, government helicopters dropped leaflets over towns in Idlib's eastern countryside urging people to surrender. — AFP

Caspian Sea nations sign...

Continued from Page 1

Russian leader Vladimir Putin, whose country was seen as driving the deal, said the convention had "epoch-making significance" and called for more military cooperation between the countries on the Caspian. Nazarbayev said the convention allows for the construction of underwater oil and gas pipelines as well as setting national quotas for fishing and forbids any foreign military presence.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was quick to hail the clause that prevents non-Caspian countries from deploying military forces. "The Caspian Sea only belongs to the Caspian states," he said. Putin also praised this clause, saying it would help "ensure the peaceful status of the Caspian Sea". The deal provides a means of delimiting national boundaries in the sea whose underground energy resources are estimated at 50 billion barrels of oil and just under 300 trillion cu ft (8.4 trillion cu m) of natural gas. But Rouhani stressed several times during the summit that these boundaries still need to be worked out between the countries. Iran, which ended up with the smallest share of the sea under the terms of the convention, is viewed as a potential loser in the deal.

Yesterday's summit was the fifth of its kind since 2002 but there have been more than 50 lower-level meetings since the Soviet breakup spawned four new countries on the shores of the Caspian. The deal goes some way to set-

ling a long-lasting dispute on whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake - which means it falls under different international laws. While the convention refers to the Caspian as a sea, provisions in the agreement give it "a special legal status". Russian deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin told Kommersant daily earlier this week. The agreement also offers hope for the Caspian's ecological diversity and its depleted stocks of the beluga sturgeon, whose eggs are prized globally as caviar.

While it remains to be seen how the deal will be implemented, the summit in Aktau was another opportunity for Moscow to present itself as a diplomatic deal-maker. After years of unsuccessful negotiations on the Caspian the Kremlin "gains political kudos for breaking a log-jam," said John Roberts, a non-resident senior fellow at Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center.

Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov greeted the deal enthusiastically as his country wants to send gas to markets in Europe via a long-planned Trans-Caspian underwater pipeline. The project is billed as allowing European countries to ease their dependence on gas from Russia at a time of heightened geopolitical confrontation. Nevertheless, Iran and Russia could still challenge the pipeline on ecological grounds. They have previously blocked the project, which could cost up to \$5 billion to build and would have a projected capacity of 30 billion cu m per year.

Kate Mallinson, Associate Fellow for the Russia and Eurasia Program at Chatham House, urged caution over the prospects for the pipeline, saying the Aktau deal "is not a legal prerequisite for the construction". "Neither will a major transport corridor to export Turkmen gas to Europe emerge overnight." — AFP

Amir, Erdogan discuss bilateral...

Continued from Page 1

the sake of relations with terror groups," he said. "You dare to sacrifice 81-million Turkey for a priest who is linked to terror groups?" American pastor Andrew Brunson has been held since October 2016 on charges of terror and espionage, and if convicted, could face a jail term of 35 years. Trump has described his detention as a "total disgrace" and urged Erdogan to free him immediately.

A delegation led by Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal failed to secure a deal last Wednesday in talks in Washington on a number of issues including Brunson. Washington earlier this month already imposed sanctions on senior Turkish officials over the Brunson case, angering Erdogan and prompting retaliatory measures by Ankara. In Trabzon, Erdogan confirmed media reports that Washington gave Onal's delegation a deadline for the release of Brunson. "They tell us to release the priest by Wednesday 6:00 pm, otherwise the sanctions will begin," said Erdogan, adding

Turkey was not a country to agree to such requests.

Analysts say that while Washington's sanctions against Ankara sparked the immediate crisis, Turkey's economy has been risking trouble for a while due to high inflation and the weak lira. The central bank has over the last weeks defied calls from markets for rate hikes to combat these problems, raising fears of interference from Erdogan who has repeatedly called for low interest rates.

Erdogan had on Saturday described interest rates as a "tool of exploitation", in remarks that may not be warmly welcomed by the markets. And the Brunson case is just one of many bones of contention between Turkey and the United States, ranging from Syria to Ankara's increasingly cosy relationship with Moscow. Erdogan also hit back at US authorities for convicting Mehmet Hakan Atilla, 47, deputy director general of Turkish lender Halkbank on charges of helping Iran evade US sanctions on billions of dollars of oil proceeds. "You arrest my Halkbank general deputy director? You impose sanctions on our Halkbank ... and then you expect different treatment from Turkey?" said Erdogan, in a second speech in the same city. He said Turkey's response was not going to be based on "reciprocity", adding: "Those who commit a crime will pay a price." — Agencies

Sports

Colorado Rockies stun Los Angeles Dodgers on McMahon home run

Brantley, Ramirez power Indians past White Sox, 3-1

LOS ANGELES: Ryan McMahon hit a three-run home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, and the Colorado Rockies rallied to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 in Denver on Saturday night. It was the second straight night McMahon hit a game-winning home run against L.A. His two-run homer in the seventh inning Friday night gave the Rockies a 5-4 win. Trevor Story started the rally with a one-out double off Scott Alexander. JT Chargois came on to face pinch hitter Nolan Arenado, who didn't start because of a sore right shoulder that forced him out of Friday's game. Chargois (2-4) hit Arenado to put runners on first and second, and then got Ian Desmond on a force play that put runners on the corners. McMahon hit a 1-0 fastball over the fence in right-center field to give the Rockies the win and deny the Dodgers an opportunity to move into sole possession of first place in the National League West.

REDS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Pinch hitter Tucker Barnhart hit a two-run, go-ahead double in a four-run eighth inning to lead Cincinnati past visiting Arizona. Barnhart hit a two-out double on a 3-2 pitch from Archie Bradley (3-4), and Billy Hamilton and Joey Votto added RBIs singles off reliever T.J. McFarland as the Reds improved to 14-5 in their last six series against division leaders. David Peralta and Eduardo Escobar homered for the Diamondbacks, who have lost three of four. The game was delayed 40 minutes at the start because of rain.

INDIANS 3, WHITE SOX 1

Michael Brantley and Jose Ramirez went deep in consecutive at-bats, and Cleveland held off host Chicago. Indians right-hander Trevor Bauer (12-6) stymied the White Sox through 6 1/3 innings before he was drilled on the back of his right leg by a line drive from White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu. Bauer spoke with the team's trainer near the mound before slowly walking off the field and into the clubhouse. Bauer allowed one run on two hits. He walked none and fanned eight, pushing his season total to 214 strikeouts in 166 innings.

YANKEES 5, RANGERS 3

Rookie Miguel Andujar hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning. Aroldis Chapman escaped a bases-loaded jam in the top of the ninth and New York held off Texas at Yankee Stadium. Andujar broke a 3-3 deadlock when he lined a first-pitch 94 mph fastball from Chris Martin (1-3) into the right-center-field seats. It was Andujar's 17th homer-fifth since the All-Star break-and 50th extra-base hit, the most among all first-year players. Before the eventful seventh, the Yankees took a 3-1 lead on Giancarlo Stanton's fourth homer in five games in the first inning, combined with an RBI double by Greg Bird in the first and a run-scoring single by Neil Walker in the sixth.

RED SOX 5, ORIOLES 0 (GAME 1)

Jackie Bradley Jr. homered twice and Eduardo Nunez added one more while starter David Price struck out 10 in six innings as Boston defeated host Baltimore in the opener of a day-night doubleheader. Price (12-6) always has been dominant at Camden Yards and turned in another solid performance in this win. The left-hander scattered five hits in those six shutout innings and

didn't surrender a walk. The victory improved Price to 8-0 in his career at Baltimore. His 10 strikeouts were a season high and the most he's had in a game since July 10, 2016.

RED SOX 6, ORIOLES 4 (GAME 2)

J.D. Martinez homered twice, and the second one was a two-run tiebreaking shot that gave Boston a sweep of the doubleheader at Baltimore. Martinez hit a solo homer earlier in the game, but his big hit came off Mike Wright Jr. (3-1) in the eighth. The two-run shot to left-center snapped a 3-3 tie. Martinez finished 2-for-2 with two walks, two runs and three RBIs. He now has 37 homers and 104 RBIs, leading the majors in both categories.

NATIONALS 9, CUBS 4

Ryan Zimmerman bombed Jon Lester for the 21st multi-homer game of his career, powering visiting Washington past Chicago. Zimmerman connected on a two-run shot in the first inning and a three-run homer in the fourth, mixing in a sacrifice fly in the third inning for a career-high-tying six RBIs. Lester (12-5) was torched for nine runs (eight earned) in just 3 2/3 innings. He allowed 10 hits and one walk, striking out five, in his worst start of the season.

MARINERS 3, ASTROS 2

Wade LeBlanc rebounded well from his previous start against Houston, and visiting Seattle turned a two-out ambush in the fourth inning into a third straight win. The Mariners evened the season series with the Astros at 6-6 and will go for the sweep of the four-game weekend series on Sunday. The Astros have dropped seven consecutive games at Minute Maid Park, spanning three series. LeBlanc continued what has been a solid showing by Seattle starters, allowing two runs on three hits and two walks with five strikeouts over five innings. Mariners closer Edwin Diaz recorded his 45th save with a perfect ninth inning, including two strikeouts.

ATHLETICS 7, ANGELS 0

Edwin Jackson took a shutout into the eighth inning, and Marcus Semien blasted two home runs to lead Oakland to victory at Los Angeles. Jackson held the Angels scoreless on two hits through seven innings, but Los Angeles put a couple runners on base in the eighth, ending his night. The A's bullpen bailed him out of the inning, and Jackson (4-2) wound up throwing 7 1/3 scoreless frames, allowing three hits and three walks while striking out six. Semien led the A's 14-hit attack with the two homers and a double, while Stephen Piscotty had three hits and Khris Davis hit his 34th home run of the season.

PIRATES 4, GIANTS 0

Josh Bell hit the only home run on Barry Bonds jersey retirement night in San Francisco, a three-run shot in the fourth inning that propelled Pittsburgh to victory. Trevor Williams (10-8) continued his brilliant pitching with seven innings of five-hit ball, helping the Pirates clinch the season series over the Giants with a fourth win in six games. The Giants retired Bonds' No. 25 prior to the game with a ceremony that included appearances from Willie Mays, Willie McCovey and Dusty Baker. The ceremony included in-stadium speeches and



DENVER: Trevor Story #27 of the Colorado Rockies is tagged out at home by Yasmani Grandal #9 of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the third inning of a game at Coors Field on Saturday in Denver, Colorado. — AFP

video tributes to the all-time home run king.

BREWERS 4, BRAVES 2

Mike Moustakas delivered a two-run double to spark a three-run eighth-inning rally and help Milwaukee defeat host Atlanta. Christian Yelich began the inning by reaching on a throwing error by reliever Jesse Biddle (3-1), and Lorenzo Cain followed with a single. Moustakas then banged a one-strike pitch into the left field corner to drive in two runs. Milwaukee, which had lost four of its last five games, evened the three-game series with the Braves.

PHILLIES 5, PADRES 1

Aaron Nola worked six scoreless innings and Maikel Franco and Cesar Hernandez hit solo home runs as Philadelphia cruised at San Diego to move back into sole possession of first in the National League East. Nola improved to 13-3 while lowering his ERA to 2.28. He allowed four hits and three walks while striking out five. Padres rookie Walker Lockett fell to 0-3, giving up five runs on five hits and two walks with two strikeouts in 4 1/3 innings, as the Phillies evened the series at a win apiece.

CARDINALS 8, ROYALS 3

Rookie Jack Flaherty tossed seven strong innings and five St. Louis batters collected two hits apiece in a rout at Kansas City. The Cardinals scored all the runs they'd need with five straight two-out hits in the third off Danny Duffy (7-11). Yadier Molina doubled, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Jose Martinez's single. Marcell Ozuna (triple), Paul DeJong (double) and Jedd Gyorko (single) followed with RBI hits to make it 4-0. The Cardinals have won the first two games of the three-game interleague "I-70" series and

four straight overall to improve to 15-9 under interim manager Mike Shildt.

TWINS 4, TIGERS 3

Tyler Austin blasted a two-run homer in his Minnesota debut, and Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong innings in a win at Detroit. Austin was acquired from the New York Yankees on July 30 in the Lance Lynn trade and recalled from Triple-A Rochester this weekend. He hit eight homers in 34 games with the Yankees earlier this season. Gibson (6-9) gave up one run on seven hits and struck out four. Trevor Hildenberger survived a two-run Niko Goodrum homer in the ninth to record his first save this season and second of his career.

RAYS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

Joey Wendle had two hits, including an RBI double, and Willy Adames also had two hits and an RBI as visiting Tampa Bay defeated Toronto. The Rays have won the first two games of the three-game series and lead the season series 7-1. Blue Jays starter Sam Gaviglio (2-5) allowed two runs (one earned) and six hits while striking out seven in 5 1/3 innings and is still looking for his first win since May 25, a span of 14 starts.

MARLINS 4, METS 3 (11 INNINGS)

Pinch hitter Bryan Holaday pulled a walk-off, RBI double down the third base line in the 11th inning as host Miami defeated New York. Seven Marlins relievers-including winner Javy Guerra (1-0) — combined to pitch 6 1/3 scoreless innings. Mets rookie reliever Jacob Rhame (0-2) took the loss, allowing a leadoff single by Miguel Rojas, a Magneuris Sierra sacrifice bunt and then Holaday's double on a 1-1 slider. Todd Frazier led New York with a double and three RBIs. — Reuters

Vikings QBs lead rout of Broncos

MINNESOTA: Trevor Siemian threw for 165 yards and two touchdowns, one covering 78 yards, and Kyle Sloter and Kirk Cousins, Minnesota's big offseason acquisition, threw for a touchdown apiece as the Vikings defeated the host Denver Broncos 42-28 on Saturday night.

Cousins, who signed a three-year, \$84 million contract with the Vikings in March, completed all four of his passes for 42 yards, including a 1-yard score to Stefon Diggs in the first quarter.

Siemian, who began his career with the Broncos, came on to hit on 11 of 17 passes with one interception. Both of his scores came on connections with running back Roc Thomas, a 13-yard strike in the first quarter and the 78-yard play just before halftime.

Sloter completed 9 of 11 passes, including a 9-yard strike to wide receiver Chad Beebe in the fourth quarter. Sloter also ran 14 yards for a score with about three minutes left in the game. Case Keenum completed only 1 of 4 passes for the Broncos. Denver's third quarterback of the evening, rookie Chad Kelly, had the bigger night, hitting on 14 of 21 passes for 177 yards and two scores. Broncos rookie running back Royce Freeman had a 23-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

CARDINALS 24, CHARGERS 17

Veteran quarterback Geno Smith, who is trying to win the job of backing up Phillip Rivers, threw for 218 yards and one touchdown as Los Angeles lost to Arizona in Phoenix. Smith, who spent five seasons in New York, four with the Jets and last season with the Giants, hit 14 of 23 passes on the night, including a 47-yard scoring play to wide receiver Jeremy Davis. He was also intercepted once. Smith's competitor for the backup role, Cardale Jones, hit on 6 of 12 passes for 50 yards. The Cardinals used four quarterbacks, with rookie Josh Rosen completing 6 of 13 passes for 41 yards. Chad Kanoff finished up by completing 3 of 5 passes for 66 yards, including a 14-yard touchdown toss to Bryce Williams. — Reuters

Former Pistons coach Van Gundy considering retirement

DETROIT: Former coach Stan Van Gundy is contemplating retirement after failing to land a coaching job following his dismissal from the Detroit Pistons at the end of last season. "If I could get a job [for next season], I had planned to coach," Van Gundy said in an interview with the Real Talk Basketball with Rex Walters podcast published Friday. "Now, I really don't know. I'm really lost right now. I don't have an idea. My

I don't wanna be new Phelps, says American Dressel

TOKYO: American Caeleb Dressel is making swimming sexy again and has been described as the "Usain Bolt of the pool" — just don't call him the new Michael Phelps. The 21-year-old, who last year became only the second swimmer to win seven gold medals at a single world championships after Phelps in 2007, admits to being flattered by comparisons to his countryman but insists he is his own man.

"What an honour, if people want to make that comparison," Dressel told AFP at the Pan Pacific championships in Tokyo. "It doesn't bother me, but it's not something I'm striving to be or something that's crossing my mind day in and day out."

Dressel joined forces with Phelps in the latter's final Olympics in Rio two years ago to win gold in the 4x100 metres freestyle relay. Phelps retired after Rio as the most decorated athlete in Olympic history with 28 medals, a staggering 23 of them gold.

But despite being billed as the next big thing in swimming, Dressel was anxious to play down the hype two years before the 2020 Tokyo Games, where celebrity beckons for the tattooed Florida native.

wife wants me to retire." In the interview, Van Gundy, 58, said he would be open to working in media or teaching at the college level. "I want to do something, but if I'm not coaching, I don't want to work too hard," Van Gundy said. "If I'm going to be grinding, then I want to coach. If I'm not going to be coaching, I want to be semi-retired, at least. I really don't know."

The Pistons fired Van Gundy in May following a 39-43 season. In four seasons serving as head coach and president of basketball operations, Van Gundy guided the Pistons to one winning season, amassing a 152-176 overall record and getting swept in his only playoff appearance. Van Gundy, who has also coached the Miami Heat and Orlando Magic, has a career record of 523-384. His head coaching career began in the 2003-04 season and includes a 2009 NBA Finals appearance with the Magic. — Reuters



Stan Van Gundy



Caeleb Dressel

"I'm a completely different swimmer to him," said Dressel. "We swim way different events—the only time we really match up is in the 100m fly." "It was awesome watching him, there's no doubt about that," he added. "I remember Beijing, watching all of his races, he's certainly someone that was just spectacular for a lot of people, even outside the swimming world."

"Our careers crossed paths for about a year, so it was cool and really an honour." Despite his protests, comparisons were made after Dressel broke Phelps' old championship record to capture Pan Pacific gold in the men's 100m butterfly on Saturday.

"I had no idea what the record was," shrugged Dressel, beaten by Australia's Kyle Chalmers in Friday's 100m freestyle final. "All that was on my mind was getting my hands on the wall first," he added. "I was happy with that, I can't ask for anything more."

Dressel returned to the pool later on Saturday to help the United States finish first in the 4x100m free, only for them to be disqualified for swimming out of order, gifting gold to Brazil. He will look to add the Pan Pacific titles to the gold medals he won in the 50m freestyle and 4x100m medley relay later, the final day of the four-day Tokyo meet. — AFP

Sports

Dananjaya skittles out S Africa as Sri Lanka win one-day finale

Captain Angelo Mathews hit 97 off 97 balls

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard from the fifth one day international between Sri Lanka and South Africa in Colombo yesterday:

Sri Lanka	
Niroshan Dickwella c de Kock b Phehlukwayo	43
Upul Tharanga c de Kock b Dala	19
Kusal Perera c Klaasen b Mulder	8
Kusal Mendis c de Kock b Maharaj	38
Angelo Mathews not out	97
Dhananjaya de Silva c Hendricks b Mulder	30
Thisara Perera c Amla b Phehlukwayo	13
Dasun Shanaka c Duminy b Rabada	21
Akila Dananjaya run out	5
Extras (b 10, lb 5, nb 3, w 7)	25
Total (50 overs - eight wickets)	299
Did not bat: Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara	
Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Tharanga, 8.3 ov), 2-64 (Perera, 9.6 ov), 3-114 (Dickwella, 18.6 ov), 4-142 (Mendis, 25.2 ov), 5-195 (de Silva, 37.4 ov), 6-247 (Perera, 44.5 ov), 7-291 (Shanaka, 49.2 ov), 8-299 (Dananjaya, 49.6 ov)	
Bowling: Rabada 10 0 47 1, Dala 9 0 57 1, Mulder 8 0 59 2, Phehlukwayo 8 0 60 2, Maharaj 10 0 32 1, Duminy 5 0 29 0	

South Africa	
H. Amla b Lakmal	0
Q. de Kock b Dananjaya	54
A. Markram c & b Dananjaya	20
R. Hendricks b Dananjaya	0
H. Klaasen lbw b Dananjaya	3
J-P. Duminy c & b de Silva	12
P. Mulder lbw b Kumara	2
A. Phehlukwayo c Dickwella b Dananjaya	3
K. Maharaj c Lakmal b Dananjaya	8
K. Rabada not out	12
J. Dala c de Silva b Kumara	5
Extras (lb 1, w 1)	2
Total (24.4 overs)	121
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Amla, 0.4 ov), 2-31 (Markram, 5.4 ov), 3-31 (Hendricks, 5.5 ov), 4-39 (Klaasen, 7.5 ov), 5-85 (Duminy, 15.1 ov), 6-92 (Mulder, 16.4 ov), 7-94 (de Kock, 17.6 ov), 8-95 (Phehlukwayo, 19.3 ov), 9-115 (Maharaj, 23.5 ov), 10-121 (Dala, 24.4 ov)	
Bowling: Lakmal 4 0 22 1, Dananjaya 9 0 29 6, de Silva 4 0 21 1, Perera 2 0 14 0, Kumara 5.4 0 34 2 Sri Lanka win by 178 runs South Africa win the series: 3-2.	

COLOMBO: Akila Dananjaya claimed six scalps and picked up widespread tributes as Sri Lanka hammered South Africa by 178 runs in the final one-day international yesterday. While the result did not stop South Africa taking the series 3-2, Dananjaya's performance established the pint-sized 24-year-old as one of the most threatening spinners on the international circuit.

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews hit 97 off 97 balls as his side made 299 for eight off their 50 overs. Dananjaya then ripped through the South Africa batting lineup as they aimed for the biggest target score taken on by a visiting country at Colombo's R. Premadasa stadium.

The tourists were all out for 121 two balls short of 25 overs. Dananjaya, who took six for 29, became one of just four spin bowlers with two six-wicket hauls in one-day internationals. South African skipper Quinton de Kock made 54, with seven fours and a six, before he was bowled by Dananjaya.

"Akila knows what he's doing with the ball. It's hard to take on someone like this when he has so many variations up his sleeve," said de Kock, who got precious little support. "We have batted well against him in this series, but today he bowled really well."

Dananjaya's spin accounted for four of South Africa's top five batsmen-de Kock, Aiden Markram, Reeza Hendricks and Heinrich Klaasen. Apart from the captain, they managed just 23 runs between them.

Niroshan Dickwella set the tone for a determined batting display by Sri Lanka, hitting 43 off 65 balls before Mathews proved he is becoming a force again after a series of injury layoffs. Mathews also started slowly, but his final 47 runs came off just 31 balls.

"This was a performance we were looking for but it came in the last match. "If we had been like that in the first three games things could have been a lot different," said Mathews. Despite the fightback in the last two matches of the series, Mathews insisted that the team are still "a work in progress" as they head for the World Cup in England next year.

"We have got about 20 more games so we are looking to get better. We want to make the most of it."



COLOMBO: South Africa's Reeza Hendricks (L) gets dismissed by Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya (unseen) as wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella look on during the fifth and final one day international (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

After South Africa lost both Test matches in Sri Lanka, de Kock said it was a relief to win the one-day series. "It is never easy coming here and winning in Sri

Lanka." South Africa's tour ends with a T20 game against the Sri Lankans at the same Colombo stadium on Tuesday. —AFP

Halep, Stephens in Montreal final

MONTREAL: Sloane Stephens sent defending champion Elina Svitolina crashing out of the WTA Canada tournament in Montreal on Saturday to set up a rematch of the French Open final against Simona Halep. American third seed Stephens surged into Sunday's final against world number one Halep after overpowering Svitolina 6-3, 6-3 in the day's second semi-final.

Stephens had dominated the first set, scoring two early breaks to race into a 4-0 lead against a hesitant Svitolina. Svitolina rallied briefly to get back to 5-3 but then handed Stephens another break and the first set when she sent a forehand wide. The second set was a similar story, with Stephens going 3-1 up after an early break.

The 25-year-old from Florida then overcame a wobble in the fifth game, double-faulting three times before eventually holding for a 4-1 lead and closing out the set. US Open winner Stephens will go against Halep later, having only beaten the Romanian twice in their previous eight meetings.

Halep, who defeated Stephens in three sets at Roland Garros in June, earlier cruised past Australia's Ashleigh Barty 6-4, 6-1 to book her place in the final. Halep was in control from the outset against a nervous-looking Barty, whose challenge was undone by a string of unforced errors.

Barty was in trouble on her opening service game, an error giving French Open champion Halep a break point which she duly converted with a superb backhand crosscourt winner. The next three games went with serve to leave Halep 3-1 up and the 26-year-old then bagged her second break in the fifth game when another Barty error let Halep off the hook to take the game to deuce.

A sensational backhand winner down the line gave Halep a break point and when Barty limply returned into the net on the next exchange she found herself 4-1 down. Barty grabbed a consolation break of serve to make it 4-2, but was unable to claw back another break as Halep took the first set 6-4.

Halep went for the jugular in the second set, opening with two quick breaks to take a 3-0 lead. Barty offered a flicker of resistance in the fourth game after earning three break points to go to 0-40.

But once again Halep's experience came to the fore and she fought back to deuce and saved another break point before holding for 4-0. Both players then held before Halep soon took three match points at 0-40 in the seventh game.

Barty fought back to deuce to delay the inevitable, but Halep secured another break to reach her third Canadian final in four years. — AFP

England rout India by an innings and 159 runs in 2nd Test

LONDON: England thrashed India by an innings and 159 runs to win the second Test at Lord's yesterday with visiting skipper Virat Kohli admitting: "We deserved to lose." Victory, achieved on the fourth day of a rain-marred match featuring a total first-day washout, put England 2-0 up in this five-match series.

"I am not very proud of the way we played," said Kohli. "England deserved to win; we deserved to lose." India slumped to 130 all out in their second innings, with James Anderson taking his 100th Test wicket at Lord's en route to four for 23, with Stuart Broad's four for 44 featuring two wickets in two balls.

But, appropriately, Chris Woakes ended the match when he had Ishant Sharma caught at leg-slip by debutant Ollie Pope. Woakes, recalled in place of Ben Stokes after his fellow all-rounder was omitted because of an ongoing trial for affray, made 137 not out—his maiden Test century—in England's first-innings 396 for seven declared.

His stand of 189 with Jonny Bairstow, an England record for the sixth-wicket against India, helped the hosts recover after they had slumped to 89 for four. Anderson took five for 20 in swing-friendly conditions as India collapsed to 107 all out in their first innings.

India batted for just 82.2 overs in the entire match, with England's lone innings occupying 88.1 overs. The third Test at Trent Bridge starts on Saturday, with India now looking to become only the second team in history to win a five-Test series from 2-0 down after a Don Bradman-inspired Australia achieved the feat against England back in 1936/37. —AFP

Lorenzo holds off Marquez to win Austrian MotoGP

SPIELBERG: Jorge Lorenzo struck the final blow in a dog fight with fellow Spaniard Marc Marquez, overtaking at the start of the final lap yesterday to win the Austrian MotoGP. Ducati's Lorenzo and Marquez, on a Honda, traded first place over the closing laps before Lorenzo powered past on the home straight and then held off Marquez on the next corner to pull away to win. Lorenzo, who will be moving to Honda next season, said he made an effort to conserve his tyres in the early part of the race. "Ten laps to the end, I decided to attack," Lorenzo said immediately after the race. "I was stronger in some areas, like uphill, he was stronger on the second corner. When I passed him, I gave everything and pushed to the limit. One of my best victories."

Marquez could afford to savour the battle because his closest rival in the standings, Italian veteran Valentino Rossi, started from 14th on the grid and could only climb to sixth. The Red Bull Ring remains the only circuit in the championship where Marquez has not won, with Ducati taking all three races since MotoGP returned to the track in 2016. "This race I enjoyed," Marquez said. "There was a moment when I thought I



LONDON: England's James Anderson (R) celebrates taking the wicket of India's Mohammed Shami for zero runs on the fourth day of the second Test cricket match between England and India at Lord's Cricket Ground in London yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between England and India at Lord's yesterday:

India 1st Innings 107 (J Anderson 5-20)		India 2nd Innings	
England 1st Innings (overnight: 357-6)			
A. Cook c Karthik b Sharma	21	M. Vijay c Bairstow b Anderson	0
K. Jennings lbw b Shami	11	KL Rahul lbw b Anderson	10
J. Root lbw b Shami	19	C. Pujara b Broad	17
O. Pope lbw b Pandya	28	A. Rahane c Jennings b Broad	13
J. Bairstow c Karthik b Pandya	93	V. Kohli c Pope b Broad	17
J. Buttler lbw b Shami	24	H. Pandya lbw b Woakes	26
C. Woakes not out	137	D. Karthik lbw b Broad	0
S. Curran c Shami b Pandya	40	R. Ashwin not out	33
Extras (b11, lb10, nb1, w1)	23	M. Shami lbw b Anderson	0
Total (7 wks dec, 88.1 overs, 401 mins)	396	I. Sharma c Pope b Woakes	2
Did not bat: A Rashid, S Broad, J Anderson		K. Yadav b Anderson	0
		Extras (b6, lb6)	12
		Total (all out, 47 overs, 235 mins)	130
		Result: England won by an innings and 159 runs.	

could lose the two Ducatis, but they came back.

"I gave everything, everything. I would try to defend my position but he did it to me on the straight. Great show." Marquez now leads the standings by 59 points as he closes in on a fifth top-class world title. Lorenzo jumped to third overall, one point ahead of Andrea Dovizioso who finished third on the other Ducati. The Italian, who won last week in Brno, could not quite keep up with the pace of the two leaders.

"I was third and I couldn't ride in the way I wanted," Dovizioso said. "Three riders using three different tyres and I used a little too much tyre. I don't know maybe it was the wrong tyre. But anyway, another Ducati won." In Moto2, Italian Francesco Bagnaia overtook Portuguese Miguel Oliveira on the final corner to regain first place in the standings. Oliveira (KTM) started two points ahead of Bagnaia (Kalex) and grabbed an early lead. The pair pulled clear of the field with Bagnaia on Oliveira's rear wheel trying to find a way past. The Italian briefly grabbed the lead with five, four and two laps to go, but each time the Portuguese rider struck back on the next corner.

The same thing happened on the last lap, but Bagnaia then conjured one last attack, and this time Oliveira could not reply. "When it was possible to overtake him and when I did on the last corner it was amazing," Bagnaia said.

The victory means Bagnaia leads Oliveira by three points in the standings. "It sucks a little bit to lose like this," said Oliveira. In Moto3, Italian teenager Marco Bezzecchi won to extend his lead over injury-stricken Jorge Martin at the top of the riders' standings. KTM



SPIELBERG: Ducati Team's Spanish rider Jorge Lorenzo celebrates with the trophy on the podium of the Austrian MotoGP Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria yesterday. — AFP

rider Bezzecchi, 19, who started from pole for the first time in his career, held off Enea Bastianini and Martin to move 12 points clear of the Spaniard in the championship race. Martin, despite racing with a broken wrist, finished third in a brave ride to keep his hopes of a first world title alive. It was an incredible podium finish from the 20-year-old Honda man, who missed the Czech Grand Prix last weekend after crashing in practice. —AFP

Sports

Keepers shine as Southampton held to a goalless draw by Burnley

Jack Cork had effort disallowed in eighth minute

SOUTHAMPTON: Southampton were held to a goalless draw at home to Burnley in the Premier League yesterday with Joe Hart making some key saves on his league debut for the Clarets and Saints keeper Alex McCarthy in inspired form.

Burnley dominated the first half and thought they had gone ahead in the eighth minute when former Southampton midfielder Jack Cork side-footed home, but the effort was ruled to have been offside.

McCarthy then did well to keep out a close-range shot from Aaron Lennon and a header from Jeff Hendrik as Burnley pushed for the opening goal.

Despite having played in Istanbul in the Europa League on Thursday, Burnley looked confident and moved the ball around midfield well but lacked a cutting edge in attack.

Danish defender Jannik Vestergaard, signed by Southampton during the close-season, made a strong debut and the Saints defence looked well-drilled and solid. Mark Hughes's side looked the more likely to

score after the break but England international Hart, who joined Burnley last week from Manchester City, produced some fine saves.

Hart foiled a Jack Stephens close range effort at the back post and produced a fine reaction save to keep out a glancing header from Mario Lemina.

A misplaced header from Ben Mee beat Hart but Burnley defender Matt Lowton headed clear off the line. Danny Ings, brought in on loan from Liverpool, came off the bench to make his Southampton debut against his former club and added some variety and

invention to the attack.

But a draw was a fair result, as Hart acknowledged.

"We played really well in the first half but they changed it round at halftime and pushed us in the second half. I think we're both happy with a point in the end," he said. His opposite number McCarthy agreed. "They were the better side in the first half and we think we were better in the second half. I was just happy to keep the ball out the back of the net," he said. — Reuters

“We played really well in the first half but they changed it at halftime”



West Ham United's English goalkeeper Joe Hart. — AFP

Vieira bemoans bad luck after defeat in first Nice game

PARIS: Patrick Vieira said that his Nice side "ran out of luck" as he tasted defeat in his first league match as a coach in Europe with a 1-0 loss at home to newly-promoted Reims on Saturday. The former Arsenal and France midfielder was brought in to replace Lucien Favre after his departure for Borussia Dortmund, but his reign got off to a miserable start.

Moussa Doumbia scored the only goal of the game in just the second minute of his Ligue 1 debut after joining Reims from Russian side Rostov. The Malian midfielder cut inside two defenders before beating Nice goalkeeper Yoan Cardinale at his near post with a low shot from long range.

Nice dominated the rest of the match-enjoying 71 percent of possession-but only one of their 19 shots on goal was on target as they missed the injured Mario Balotelli. "The goal made things much more difficult. A goal at the start like that is disappointing," said Vieira.

"I was surprised. We ran out of luck. We created opportunities, especially in the second half." Visiting keeper Edouard Mendy was equal to a low effort from Allan Saint-Maximin, but Nice created little else as Reims clung on to mark their return to the top flight after winning the Ligue 2 title with an unlikely win.

Italy striker Balotelli scored 26 goals in 38 games for Nice last season, but Vieira refused to confirm that the 27-year-old's future still lies at the Allianz Riviera. "Balotelli? It's useless to talk about him because he's not here," said the Frenchman. "I want to focus on the players who are here and want to be here."

Vieira, who had been briefly linked with the manager's job at Arsenal during the close-season, will take his new team to Caen next Saturday, as the 42-year-old looks for his first win since leaving New York City.

FALCAO HELPS MONACO

Radamel Falcao came off the bench to score and set up another goal as Monaco brushed aside Nantes 3-1 to get their Ligue 1 campaign off to a strong start. With



NICE: Nice's French coach Patrick Vieira reacts at the end of the French L1 football match Nice vs Reims on Saturday at the Allianz Riviera Stadium in Nice, southeastern France. — AFP

Falcao left out of the starting XI following his World Cup exertions with Colombia and big summer signing Aleksandr Golovin out injured, Monaco struggled for long periods.

But the game changed when Falcao was introduced in the 66th minute, and Rony Lopes continued his excellent form from last season by stooping to nod in the opening goal just three minutes later.

Falcao set Stevan Jovetic free with 10 minutes to go, and the Montenegrin coolly slotted home. Samuel Grandsir, who also came on with Falcao to make his Ligue 1 debut for the club, crossed low for the Colombian to tap into an empty net in the 83rd minute, as Monaco cruised to victory despite Emiliano Sala's injury-time consolation.

"We still have a lot to improve, but this victory is good to start the season well," Portuguese youngster Lopes told Canal+. "Last week (4-0 Champions Trophy loss to Paris Saint-Germain) was difficult, but here, first game of the championship, a win, we're happy."

Elsewhere, Nimes scored three goals in the last 14 minutes to grab a thrilling 4-3 victory at Angers in their first top-flight match since 1993. Whabi Khazri scored on his debut as Saint-Etienne beat Dijon 2-1, while Lille came from behind to win 3-1 against Rennes and Montpellier lost at home to Dijon.

Reigning champions PSG get their title defence underway when they host Caen. Marseille opened the season in style on Friday night as Dimitri Payet scored twice in a 4-0 thrashing of Toulouse. — AFP

Brazil's Ronaldo expects to be out of hospital by today

IBIZA: Former Brazil and Real Madrid great Ronaldo Nazario said yesterday he is recovering from flu in an Ibiza hospital and expects to be discharged today. "Friends, I had a strong bout of flu in Ibiza and had to be taken to hospital on Friday but everything is ok," the 41-year-old said in a message on his official Twitter account.

"Tomorrow I will be allowed to leave hospital and I will return home. Thanks for all your support and your messages." Local newspaper Diario de Ibiza reported that Ronaldo had been taken to hospital with pneumonia. The hospital where Ronaldo is recovering could not be reached by Reuters for comment.

Ronaldo, who was on holiday in Ibiza when he was taken ill, retired from football in 2011 following a hugely successful career which featured stints at PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Brazilian sides Corinthians and Cruzeiro as well as Real Madrid, where he is a club ambassador.

He won two La Liga titles with Real, the UEFA Cup with Inter and lifted the World Cup in 1994 and 2002 with Brazil, also reaching the tournament's final in 1998, and picked up the Ballon d'Or award for the best player in the world in 1997 and 2002. — Reuters

India's Madappa wins first Asian Tour title at 20

BANGALORE: Indian golf unveiled a new star yesterday when Viraj Madappa hit a four under par final round 67 to take the Bangalore Masters aged just 20. Madappa, cheered on by hordes of teenaged fans as he finished the \$350,000 event on 16 under par, became the youngest Indian to claim an Asian Tour title.

It was a new boost for Indian golf, coming a week after Gaganjeet Bhullar's win at the Fiji International, co-sanctioned by the Asian and European tours. Madappa, who only turned professional in 2017, ended one shot ahead of Zimbabwean Scott Vincent who finished with a 68, Argentine Miguel Carballo (71) and Thai duo Suradit Yongcharoenchai (66) and Danthai Boonma (70).

He started the final day two shots behind leader Carballo at 12-under and tied for fourth place. After a front nine with a bogey and birdie, Madappa holed four birdies on the final nine to complete a superb win.

Madappa birdied the 15th and 16th to take the lead and was two shots ahead going into the 18th as his rivals fell away. "Last night I thought about a win, the winning putt and so much else, so I was kind of nervous," he said. "Then, to get my first pro win on the Asian Tour is a dream come true. It is yet to sink in." —AFP

Koepka grabs PGA lead, Tiger joins crowded title hunt

ST LOUIS: Two-time US Open champion Brooks Koepka seized a two-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the PGA Championship while Tiger Woods charged into contention for his first major title in 10 years.

Fourth-ranked Koepka, who had stretched the lead as large as five shots, fired a four-under par 66 to stand on 12-under 198 after 54 holes at Bellerive Country Club in the year's final major event.

The laid-back 24-year-old American has never before led a major entering the final round but he shrugged off having 13 rivals within five strokes, even a long-awaited Woods challenge among seven major champions in that pack.

"I'm just focused on me. I feel like, if I do what I'm supposed to, I should win the golf tournament," Koepka said. "I'm extremely confident. I like the way I'm hitting the ball."

Koepka, who became the first back-to-back US Open winner since 1989 in June at Shinnecock, birdied five of the first nine holes but stumbled with bogeys at 14 and 15 only to boost his lead with a birdie at the par-5 17th.

"I played pretty well. Got off to a hot start," Koepka said. "On the back just made a couple bad swings. It was nice to right the ship there. Made a couple of key putts. I feel really good."

Australian Adam Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, was second on 200 after shooting 65 Saturday with Spain's Jon Rahm and Americans Rickie Fowler and Gary Woodland, each chasing his first major title, sharing third on 201. — AFP



LYON: Lyon's French midfielder Nabil Fekir presents the World cup trophy to fans before the French L1 football match between Lyon and Amiens yesterday, in Decines-Charpieu near Lyon, central-eastern France. — AFP

Lyon win as Fekir parades WCup trophy

PARIS: Bertrand Traore and Memphis Depay scored for Lyon in a season-opening 2-0 victory over Amiens yesterday, as France international Nabil Fekir showed off the World Cup trophy to home fans ahead of kick-off. Burkina Faso forward Traore fired Lyon ahead on 24 minutes when he broke down the right side of the area and sneaked the ball through the legs of Amiens goalkeeper Regis Gurtner from a tight angle.

Fekir, who came on as a substitute in France's 4-2 win

against Croatia in last month's World Cup final, was not included in the Lyon squad having only returned to training today. He scored a career-best 18 goals in Ligue 1 last season and appeared to be on the verge of a move to Liverpool in June before negotiations with the Premier League club broke down.

Bruno Genesio's side coped without their captain at the Groupama Stadium as Dutch star Depay made the points safe with a terrific 20-yard free-kick on 75 minutes. "I'm happy to be in form. I've never enjoyed being on the pitch as much even at Manchester United or PSV," said Depay, who has played a part in 18 goals in his last 10 league games for Lyon. "I'm the happiest right now and not just in football but also in my private life. I hope that's going to continue." Defending champions Paris Saint-Germain begin their campaign at home to Caen later, with Gianluigi Buffon in line to make his Ligue 1 debut following his arrival from Juventus. —AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
ARAB CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE		
Al Nassr v Aljazira	AD SPORTS 1 HD	17:30
Al Ahly v Nejmeh	AD SPORTS 1 HD	20:30

25 Colorado Rockies stun Los Angeles Dodgers on McMahon home run



26 England rout India by an innings and 159 runs in 2nd Test



27 Lyon win over Amiens as Fekir parades World Cup trophy



City spoil Emery's Arsenal bow

Sterling opens scoring with a clinical finish



LONDON: Manchester City's German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan (R) vies with Arsenal's German midfielder Mesut Ozil during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium in London yesterday. — AFP

LONDON: Manchester City ruined the start of the Unai Emery era at Arsenal as the champions signalled their intent to retain the Premier League title with a stylish 2-0 win yesterday. Pep Guardiola's side swept to the title last term with a record 100 points and they were quickly back in the groove at the Emirates Stadium.

Raheem Sterling opened the scoring with a clinical finish early in the first half and Bernardo Silva's thunderous strike capped a City success that served as a resounding warning to their title rivals. No team has successfully defended the English title since Manchester United in 2008-09.

But on the evidence of this composed display, City have every chance of emulating their rivals' achievement. Picking up where they left off last term, City had too much class for Arsenal and easily repelled the hosts' few dangerous moments.

"We played at a high level. We created a lot of chances. We are satisfied for many reasons," Guardiola said. "In the first half we deserved to score two or three more." City's

excellence underlined the size of the task facing new Arsenal boss Emery as the Gunners begin life without Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal were playing a competitive match without Wenger in charge for the first time since September 1996. Emery was hired to replace Wenger following the Frenchman's exit at the end of a dismal campaign which saw Arsenal labour to a sixth-place finish in the Premier League — 37 points behind City.

The Spaniard will need time to make his mark on a moribund club and, while Arsenal couldn't be faulted for effort against City, there was precious little quality about their play.

"We wanted to show our best performance, but the first half we didn't play like we wanted. We spoke at half-time about taking more responsibility," Emery said. Guardiola started with Kevin De Bruyne and Leroy Sane on the bench as he recalled Sterling and gave a Premier League debut to Algeria winger Riyad Mahrez, whose move from Leicester was Guardiola's only major close-season signing.

STERLING IMPRESSES

Sterling proved to be City's creative fulcrum, but he was fortunate to escape with a yellow card for a studs-up foul on Arsenal debutant Matteo Guendouzi in the early stages. The England winger showed the more pleasing side of his game with an incisive burst past Shkodran Mustafi that took him into the Arsenal area and ended with Petr Cech saving his rising drive.

Having spent the dying embers of Wenger's reign subjecting the Frenchman to vitriolic abuse, Arsenal's fans were energised by the sight of Emery on the touchline. But that noisy optimism was punctured in ruthless style by Sterling in the 14th minute. Taking possession on the left edge of the Arsenal area, Sterling glided past Hector Bellerin and Guendouzi before drilling a fierce shot that flashed past the unsuspected Cech from 18 yards.

Arsenal finally threatened when Bellerin's blast forced City goalkeeper Ederson to make a good stop. Arsenal still looked anxious and Cech almost scored a bizarre own goal when his miscued pass across the penalty area crept wide

of his unguarded net. Making amends for that blunder, Cech kept out a Mahrez free-kick before alertly recovering to block Aymeric Laporte's effort from the rebound. Arsenal were pressing with more urgency than under Wenger, but City looked far more potent and Mahrez went close with a curling effort at the end of a rapid break.

Emery has challenged Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to finish as the Premier League's top scorer after the Gabon forward netted 10 times in 13 games following his January move from Borussia Dortmund.

However, Aubameyang will need better service than he received against City to achieve that target. Emery sent on Alexandre Lacazette soon after the interval and the France forward had an immediate impact, taking Aubameyang's pass and shooting just wide. City responded in emphatic fashion and Silva wrapped up the points in the 64th minute. Sterling and Mendy outnumbered Bellerin on the right, with the French defender's cross picking out Silva, who cleverly peeled away from his marker Stephan Lichtsteiner to fire past the exposed Cech. — AFP

Liverpool live up to title hype, hits West Ham for four

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp warned much tougher challenges lie ahead of Liverpool's quest to end a near three-decade wait to win the Premier League after brushing aside West Ham 4-0 at a jubilant Anfield on Sunday.

Mohamed Salah opened his account for the season, Sadio Mane scored twice and Daniel Sturridge added a late fourth in an impressive display by Klopp's men as £65 million (\$83 million) goalkeeper Alisson Becker kept a clean sheet on debut.

Liverpool haven't been crowned champions of England since 1989/90 and finished 25 points behind City last season.

But after reaching the Champions League final in May and spending more than anyone else in the Premier League in the off-season, there is palpable belief that wait will come to an end in May.

"We know about our expectations and noticed the very positive atmosphere around us in the whole pre-season," said Klopp.

"It's good people are positive, but the season again will be unbelievably hard."

Klopp has tried to keep a lid on expectations given the gap to City last season despite spending a reported £170 million.

"We cannot be anything different than the challenger because we have not won anything since I've been in (charge), a long time. We have to invest more, fight more," he added.

"West Ham will play a good season but they are not the (Manchester) Uniteds or (Manchester) Citys. We have to be ready week in, week out for the different challenges."

Salah starts over

There was little tinkering for Klopp to do up front after Salah, Mane and Roberto Firmino combined for 91 goals last season, and they again provided the firepower to outclass a sorry West Ham despite their own near £100 million outlay on nine new players.

Salah and Mane's pain at international level was Liverpool's gain as early exits at the World Cup with Egypt and Senegal meant they could join the club's pre-season tour of the United States, unlike a host of Premier League stars who returned to training just last week after their exertions in Russia.

A revelation in his first season at Anfield with 44 goals in all competitions, Salah is now

a marked man.

Yet, he was given the simplest of tasks to tap home the opener into an empty net on 19 minutes from Andy Robertson's pinpoint cross after he was freed down the left by the impressive Keita.

Salah should have had more as he was well picked out by a bursting run by Firmino only to place his shot too close to Lukasz Fabianski, who also made a brilliant save to turn Trent Alexander-Arnold's free-kick behind.

Fabianski was by far the busier 'keeper with Alisson making just one comfortable save and impressing far more with his feet to launch a series of Liverpool attacks.

The hosts finally doubled their lead to give the score the half-time reflection it deserved when another teasing Robertson cross was pulled across goal by James Milner and Mane left unmarked to side-foot home.

Mane produced a fine finish for his second eight minutes after the break after good work by Firmino, but had the linesman to thank just as much for the assist as he somehow wasn't flagged offside before firing past Fabianski.

Former City and Real Madrid boss Manuel Pellegrini is used to competing at the top of the table.

Yet, despite the vast investment in the East Londoners, on this evidence Pellegrini will do



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Senegalese striker Sadio Mane (R) shoots to score their third goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and West Ham United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

well to better West Ham's 13th-placed finish last season as the visitors were happy to limit the damage after the break.

"Every time that you bring so many players it is difficult. We are just starting the season,

but we need to analyse this game," said Pellegrini. "We are clear and sure that we need to improve." Sturridge inflicted the final blow two minutes from time with his first touch after replacing Salah. — AFP