

Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17547

RAMADAN 16, 1439 AH | FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

4 Memories of a mariner and his time in Kuwait



18 Pompeo, DPRK official plan summit as Lavrov meets Kim



رمضان
Ramadan, Mawsem.

IMSAK	03:05
FAJR	03:15
DHUHR	11:46
ASR	15:20
MAGHRIB	18:43
ISHA	20:14



Zidane drops bombshell by quitting as Real coach

See Page 47

Local

Hunger strike



Local Spotlight
By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The department of public relations and security information at the interior ministry reported that 600 employees of a cleaning company in Abbasiya gathered in protest because they did not receive their salaries. The ministry and concerned authorities dealt with the crowd without any incident, but I do not think the issue is over for those poor people who are not demanding the impossible. They only want their right as agreed according to the contracts. If they receive their money, they won't strike. Luckily, the issue ended peacefully and hopefully by now, they have been paid.

The strike is nothing new. We regularly see workers rallying to demand what is rightfully theirs and what is being wrongly and unjustly held: their salaries.

These salaries are in accordance with the contracts they agreed upon before coming to Kuwait. What angers me is the recurrence of such gatherings by poor workers who have no other option, no other recourse and no one to help them. The owners of companies who deny the salaries of their workers must be punished.

I think the problem here is that the issue is not about a worker who needs and demands his salary and the greedy owner who does not want to pay up, but the administrative corruption and the spread of *wasta* that have encouraged some owners of companies to persist with injustice and denying people's rights.

Who among us would accept not being paid fairly and in a timely manner? These people work long hours and they earned that money. It is theirs by right and by law.

It is really hard for these poor workers who suffer from homesickness, being away from their families as well as the pressure of long working hours in a very hot climate to find that when it's the end of the month, they can't even access their meager wages.

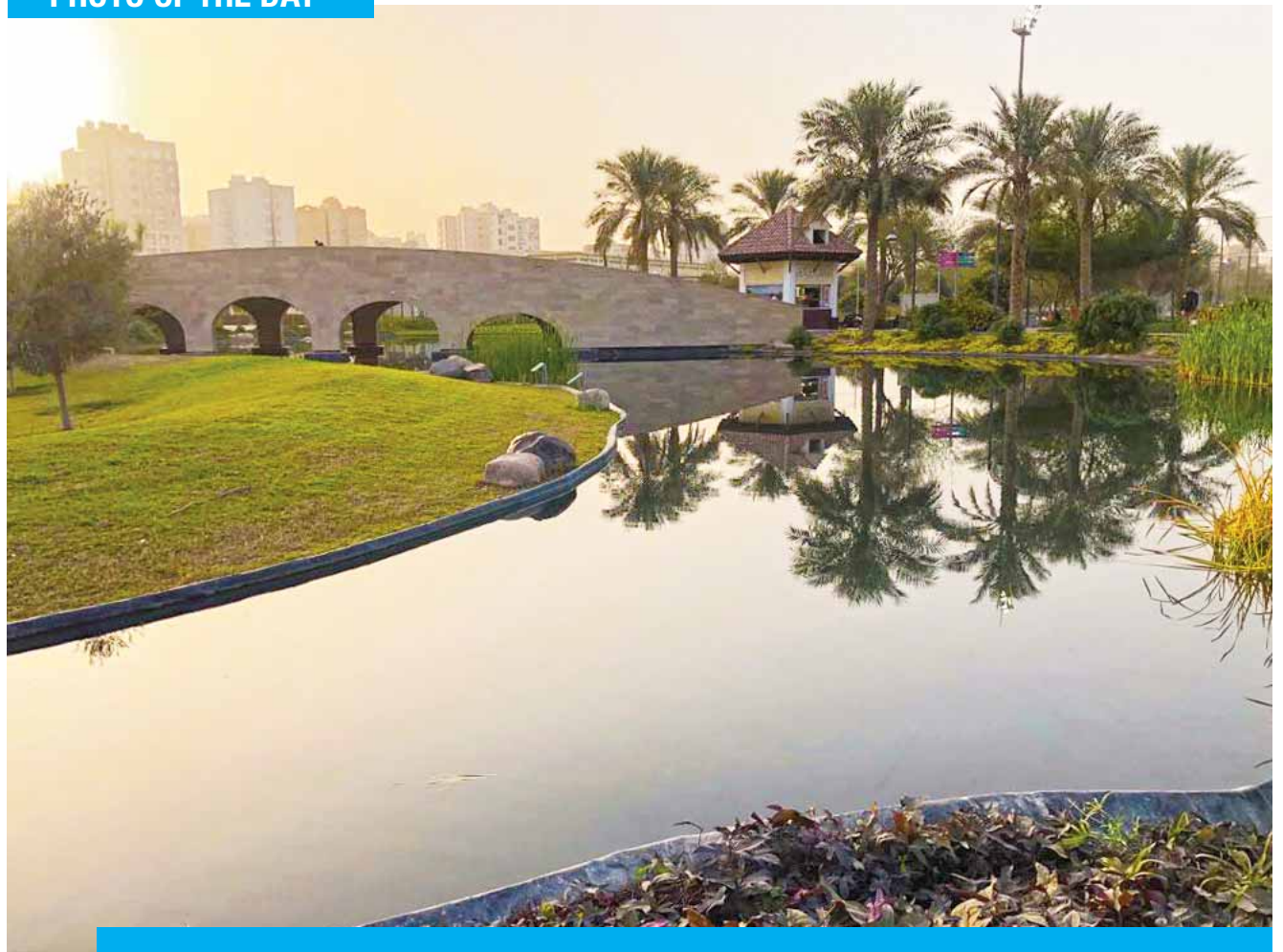
Some are forced to begging, others paid so low they cannot survive without begging. When you see cleaners in the street, they never ask you openly for money, but they may give you a hint like by greeting you, and I personally don't see any harm in giving them some money to make them happy. This quarter or half dinar may not mean a thing to you, but for them it can buy food. I think that humanitarian aid for them, either by old clothes or a small amount of food, will not hurt anyone.

Recently, a local newspaper published an investigation into suicide in Kuwait, and I know that this issue is sensitive and undesirable to speak about openly. But the truth of the matter is that suicide rates in Kuwait are rising compared to previous years - 78 people ended their lives over the past year. The report mentioned that the previous year recorded 73 cases of suicide, while 2015 saw 75 suicides, and 2014 about 61 suicides.

We are a very small society and the population is not large. These figures are huge. We must look into the reasons that led those people to commit suicide. I see that as a society, we are also responsible for expatriates who are living in our country and the problems they may face such as not receiving salaries, abuse and injustice, and we should not see the matter as a personal or private one.

Most expat workers come from poor countries and often borrow money to find a way to be here, all hoping to earn some money for their families. I think it is important for the health and social affairs ministries to follow up such issues. The cleaning workers are one of the most poorly paid, so they should be cared for and protected.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Sunset at a local park in Salmiya, Kuwait. —Photo by Tareq Alhakim / KUNA

When disbelief trumps belief



IN MY VIEW
By Nejouad Al-Yagout

local@kuwaittimes.com

When we speak of racist or prejudiced people, we forget that we are talking about our ancestors, our parents - in some cases, a sister, a brother, a cousin. And most importantly: Ourselves. There is nothing wrong with harboring such thoughts. We all have them, swimming in our veins, dancing in our brains. They have been taught to us, conditioned within us, and this is nothing to be ashamed of if we ignore these thoughts and disbelieve in them.

People are always talking about the beauty of being a believer, but how majestic is it to be a disbeliever in our thoughts - a so-called infidel of the neurons that try to shape our perception, an apostate of the mental matrices of our psyche? So that if a homophobic thought arises, we smile and embrace our brothers and sisters; if a religiously-inspired phobic thought arises, we smile and embrace our brothers and sisters; if a gender-biased thought arises, we smile and embrace our brothers and sisters. That's what we came here for: To transcend divisiveness and remember our inter-connectedness.

What a boring planet it would be if we could not embrace diversity. All shades on the palette of consciousness are divine. All colors of the rainbow are stunning, shimmering strokes of genius on the canvas of love. All

scriptures can teach us something about ascension. All of us have something to contribute, and this is what can help us unlearn all that we have learned, and approach life with awe and love for one another. It is about befriending the so-called other to realize we are the other. Most people think that racism is whites against non-whites, but whites face discrimination too. In many countries, the whites are blamed for all the world's disasters. People tend to forget the violent leaders in the Eastern Hemisphere who were anything but white! This is another example of conditioning. Violence has nothing to do with creed or race as history and the modern day teaches us.

So the next time we judge a person or ourselves for divisive inclinations or thoughts, let us remember, regardless of the hue of our own skin, we are merely believers in our mind chatter, and shift our focus to universal recovery. If a part of our body has cancer, we are considered a cancer patient; so if any one of us acts upon racism, it is something that is a part of our collective psyche, not just one faction, one sect, one individual. We have to work together instead of condemning one another. We are all in this together, and we need to take care of each other and see beyond skin color, race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual inclination, gender, social standing or financial status.

The hardest thing to do would be to recognize prejudices in our ideologies, our education systems, our interactions with others, and our own conditioning. This is difficult, because guess what? Our very structures will crumble as we navigate unknown terrain. But, sometimes we need to destroy our foundation to build a new one: More powerful, more sturdy, more inclusive. Sometimes we have to be willing to be an empty phoenix rising from the ashes of thoughts.

Kuwait Times



SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW

KD 25



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



50+ طلقة Paintballs

تذكرة دخول 1 Entrance Ticket Value KD 9.250

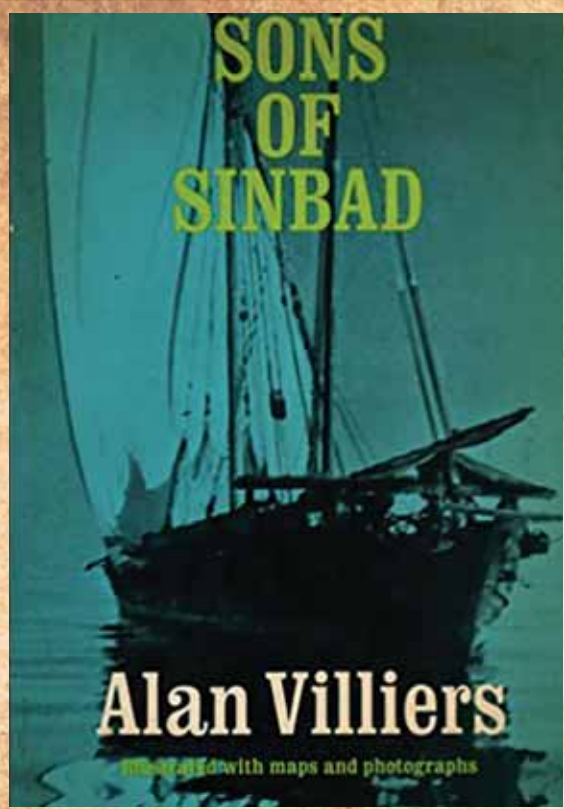


* This campaign is limited to participants in Kuwait only. Ministries and their departments, companies and NGOs cannot enter the festival.
* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

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

توزيع: جاري 10666

Local



Front cover of Villiers' book, Sons of Sinbad



Kit Villiers (right) and Kathy Chetwynd (left) the son and daughter of 'Sindbad' Villiers.



River Cherwell

MEMORIES OF A MASTER MARINER AND HIS TIME IN KUWAIT

By C. Shalgosky

Some years ago in a charity fundraiser I won a raffle prize: a book entitled 'Sons of Sindbad'. Written by Australian journalist and master mariner Alan Villiers, the book vividly recounts a voyage from 1938 to 1939 on Al Bayan, an old Kuwaiti sailing ship, known locally as a boom.

With the blessing of the Al-Hamad brothers, the Kuwaiti merchant family who owned Al Bayan, the 35 year-old Villiers set sail from Aden spending the next months travelling to ports in East Africa, Oman and finally, Kuwait.

Villiers was an intrepid mariner determined to document the last days of sail, shooting both stills and cine film of his journey, recording the hardships and the heroism of the Kuwaiti crew and the infinite skills of the captain, Ali bin Nasr Al-Najdi. His humor and humanity filled the book. On land too, he captured daily life in Kuwait in the last decades before independence.

Captain Najdi navigated with no modern instruments, using the stars, winds and ocean currents as his guide. In dangerously shallow waters, a line weighted with a block of camel fat was dropped from the bow periodically to check depths. If the fat picked up sand the captain knew to change course.

Villiers' respect for the Kuwaiti crew was evident, no more so when an infant falls overboard and he tells how the captain deftly maneuvers the huge vessel around in time to save it from the shark-infested seas.



Alan Villiers' study where he wrote his books.



Villiers brought back cotton dishdashas from the Gulf.



The boathouse by the river.

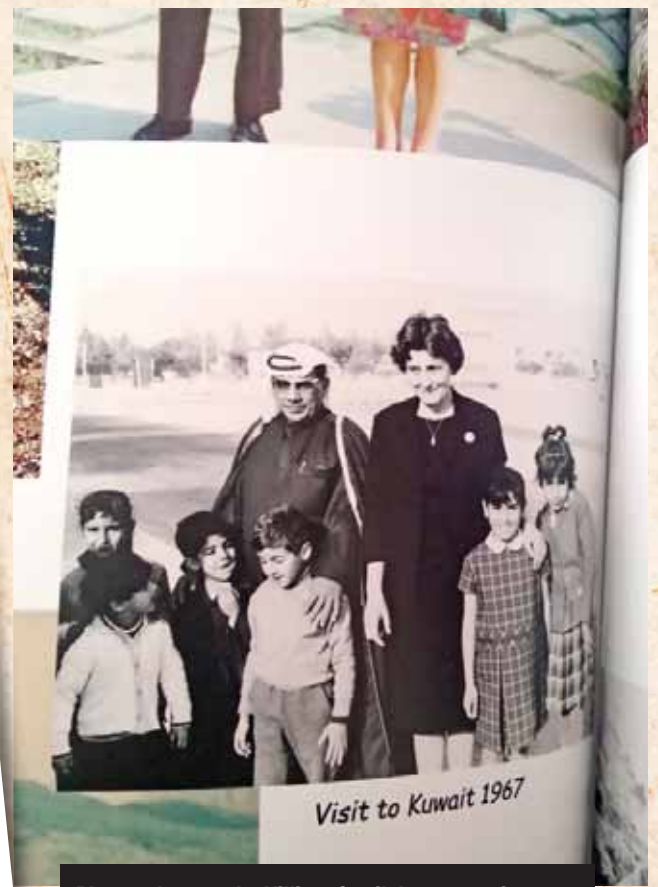


Photo taken on the Villiers family's return trip to Kuwait with wife Nancie in 1967.

Local

After reading Villiers' book in 2016, it struck me it was almost 80 years since his journey. Over the weeks and months I traced the large archive of Villiers' films and photographs and started to put together a proposal for a project that included a TV documentary that would celebrate Alan Villiers' contribution to maritime heritage in the Gulf.

A chance trip to the dhow-makers diwaniya in Sharq introduced me to an apprentice carpenter called Mohammed Al-Qallaf. Villiers had photographed one of his family members, Khaleel, who had been the ship's carpenter on that same voyage. Even today, Kuwaitis hold Villiers in high esteem.

After a long search, I was put in touch with the Villiers family in England, where Alan had settled after World War II. They loved the idea of the project and offered to meet me.

'A visit to the family home of the author of *Sons of Sinbad*'

One bright May weekend, I found myself in the company of Alan Villiers' daughter Kathy Chetwynd, and his sons Peter and Christopher 'Kit' Villiers. They had just attended the Alan Villiers Memorial Lecture held annually at a college in Oxford. We talked about Alan's life and work; they were affable, supportive and gracious enough to invite me to the family home, where they care for Nanie, Alan's wife, who is 103 years-old.

Alan Villiers' former home in north Oxford turns out to be two houses not one, next door to each other. This arrangement, explains Kit Villiers cheerfully, allowed his father to live in one house and go next door to a study overlooking the River Cherwell to write his books.

A blue memorial plaque dedicated to Alan, hangs by the front door, in official recognition of Alan's maritime contributions.

At the house I was joined by a fellow Villiers enthusiast and Kuwaiti historian Dr. Hasan Ashkanani and his nephew, who were visiting Oxford. They had brought from Kuwait a first edition copy of 'Sons of Sinbad' signed by Alan. As the talk turned to Kuwait, Alan's daughter Kathy produced from the closet some unexpected souvenirs from the 1930s: an old model dhow, light Yemeni-style dishdashas, two old-fashioned types of 'agal', one of black Iraqi silk and one of white rope, and a variety of cotton 'guttrah'. To my surprise, they mentioned that their father and mother had returned to Kuwait in 1967.

Kit and Kathy then took us down to the riverbank to the small boathouse just a few meters from Alan's study. Even after a life at sea, it seems Alan Villiers could not be separated from water.

Alan died in 1982 having prolifically documented the last years of sail not just in Arabia. Throughout his life, he steered countless ships, circumnavigating the globe twice. He was courageous too - he could not swim.

As we said our farewells and left the upstairs living room filled with paintings, model ships, family photos and sailing mementoes, hidden in the corner I caught sight of a large sandouq, a traditional Kuwaiti wooden chest with brass rivets.

Maybe just as the memory of Alan Villiers remained with the young ships' carpenters in Kuwait, a part of



Villiers family photos adorn the living room.

Kuwait had remained with him in Oxford in the form of that sandouq; a legacy of an extraordinary voyage made 80 years ago; a journey borne of courage and humanity that should not be forgotten.

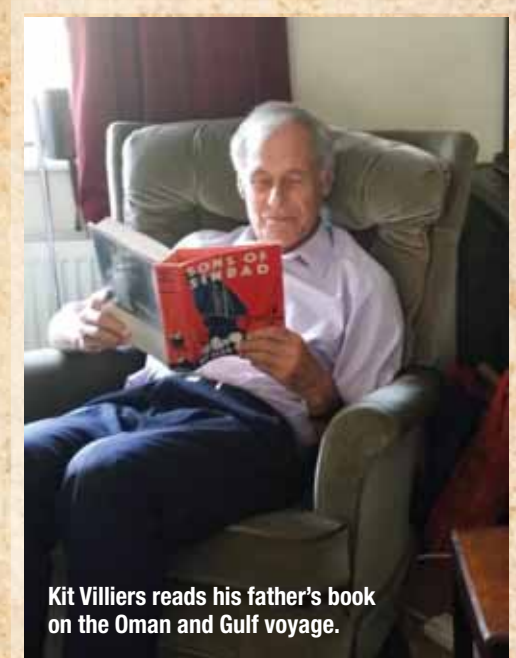
If your family has any photos or memories of Alan Villiers' voyage on Al Bayan or of his return visit to Kuwait in 1967 please kindly contact: springblossom18@yahoo.com



A model dhow brought back from Arabia.
— Photos courtesy of C. Shalgosky



The blue plaque commemorating Villiers' life.



Kit Villiers reads his father's book on the Oman and Gulf voyage.

Local

Love match or arranged? Youth of today divided on how to find a spouse

By Faten Omar

Many seek the key to happy marital life. Some think it is in the money. Others see it in romance. A question remains about young people coming to marriage: which is more successful, the marriage resulting from love or that based on mental calculations and better to be arranged?

Kuwait Times spoke with young people to learn more about their ideas of love and arranged marriages. It seems the jury is out on the question. Though more and more youth are turning to love matches for their life long happiness, others still see the value and importance of an arranged marriage.

Love and all its derivatives

Love matches aren't always that exactly. Sometimes what is meant by a love match is simply that the youth in question have more input on the choice of a spouse. It may be someone that they already know or are already in love with. But it may also be simply that they are not being forced or merely accepting that their parents will find the right person for them. Instead they are involved in the choice and in fact hold the final decision, yay or nay.

Khaled Nassar, 34, a married man, did not agree with Abeer where he sees the marriages. He thinks marriages based on love as more successful than arranged marriages. "The love story is full of feelings and romance, and marriage will continue with love. Traditional marriage often fails or remains rigid between the husband and wife because of a

lack of feelings that create the atmosphere for the continuation of life, to avoid clashes."

For Bijoy Rajan, 25, single, said: "The marriage of love prepare us for a beautiful and stable life. Feelings and emotions make the parties succeed in their married life and the problems disappear. Even if certain problems occurred it would be easy to contain them. My older sister had a rational marriage from a man who was older than her 15 years and because he was a rich man who she thought that she will be

value of their parents' wisdom, especially when it comes to stability in life.

Abeer Waleed, 20, a single young woman, said: "The arranged marriage is more successful than the marriage of love because of the economic conditions always prevent the continuation of the emotional relationship and the termination of marriage, as many cases."

She added that romantic time is over. "Today, young people cannot achieve the needs desired by any girl, so most of the girls of this generation - and I am one of them - are looking for a husband who provides the basics of life and requirements more than looking forward to a romantic husband," she said.

Rabab Banasan, 27, married, said: "My marriage was arranged by my mother. But marriage is a destiny we cannot escape it. So a proper basis must be laid for it, and this basis does not depend on emotion without reason or mind without passion, the heart cannot resolve the matter in isolation from the mind," adding that when a girl or young man lives a love story before marriage, she is full of emotions where she cannot think clearly. After the marriage many problems may appear on both sides that is when the marriage will start to collapse. "I believe arranged marriages are more successful because you have the chance to think with reason and develop emotions toward the future person who will share the life," she explained.

“ My marriage was arranged by my mother ”

happy mistook in married life, but her dreams went wild and the differences began to creep in and their relationship ended with divorce."

Arranged marriages, more stability?

At the same time, many youth continue to appreciate the



IN MY VIEW

By Jeri Al-Jeri

local@kuwaittimes.com

The challenges of being a divorcee in the GCC

In Kuwait and in other GCC states, unfortunately, there is a cultural stigma around divorced women, yet there are none for divorced men, as if divorced women are somehow less effective in getting back to married life compared to divorced men. The only logical explanation of this cultural attitude is sexism. And it is carefully hidden behind the curtains of social taboos. This whole manner of treating divorcees in my society is sexist, and it is my goal to expose these fallacies that have prompted divorced women to tolerate feeling sorry for themselves, as if they are in jail.

There are a number of popular social ideas that created this stigma, that I feel the need to shed some light on.

1. "A virgin will be more loyal."

2. Divorcees will persist on comparing the new husband to the old; thus he will have the burden of having to continuously "win" over his lady.

3. Women are sculpted by men, therefore, it is simply either too late or too tiresome to have an already sculptured woman as a wife, and sadly by sculptured I mean disciplined, as if marriage is some kind of a police academy or a psychiatry clinic.

First of all, loyalty is not dependent on anything other than a person's moral code and not on his psychological dispositions. In fact men have a tougher time in this department, according to statistics. Secondly, a divorcee

has already been detached from her previous knight-in-shining armor who lost his chance of making her happy with him. Thus, she is in more urgent need to replace him. And lastly, women are the sculptors of people's perceptions and lifestyle more than "hunters" are or were, since time immemorial.

I created a small survey from a few divorcees to hear their answers with Kuwait Times readers:

1. Do you feel that your society's point of view of you changed after your divorce?

"Certainly, people's way of looking at me did change.

Some saw me as a strong woman, because I went through all of this alone. Some saw that it was best for me to stay on with my ex-husband.

2. Was divorce easy or difficult for you?

"It is never easy psychologically nor procedurally. Because it is never easy to destroy a dream."

3. Did you feel divorce was your last recourse?

"I had two choices. Either to stay and endure all the disappointments and sorrows, or venture back to being single and start rebuilding my life again. I chose the latter, and it was the right choice, thank God."



FREE

Subscribe & Read

Kuwait Times



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

*Enjoy the paper
right on your phone*

Local

Kuwait holds Israel responsible for escalation in Palestinian territories

Kuwait lauds UN support to Iraq

NEW YORK: Kuwait on Wednesday held Israel responsible for the recent flare-up of violence in the Palestinian territories, especially Gaza Strip, and backed Palestinians' right to struggle against the Israeli occupation. "The Israeli occupation authority bears full responsibility for the recent escalation in the occupied territories," Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said at a special UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Palestinian territories. "As long as this occupation continues, Palestinian people have the right to confront it and defend their aspirations and dreams of independence and a free and dignified life."

He expressed Kuwait's support to the Palestinian people's struggle and admiration of their steadfastness against the Israeli oppressive regime. "Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories cannot be justified. The occupation itself is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, and must end because it is the core and root cause of conflict in the region," Otaibi argued.

He also reiterated Kuwait's condemnation of any attack on civilians. "We would like to emphasize here our principled and firm stance in condemning the targeting of civilians by any party,

anywhere and at any time," he laid it bare. He added that it was unacceptable that the international community remained silent in face of violations of international humanitarian law and the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Otaibi also lamented that the unlawful unilateral measures to Judaize the occupied Jerusalem continued, as had incursions into Al-Aqsa mosque. He reminded that audience that those actions provoked Muslims, as did the blockade of Gaza, which had lasted more than a decade. "In the past few weeks, Israel has used live ammunition against civilian demonstrators who came out to peacefully express themselves and commemorate the Great March of Return. More than 120 people, including children, were killed and thousands wounded, some of them become disabled. We have submitted three statements (the UNSC) to express concerns about the fall of victims and assert their right to protest peacefully and called for an independent and transparent investigation into the massacres, but unfortunately they have all been rejected," he said.

He noted that Kuwait had tabled a draft resolution requiring international protection for Palestinians and had taken many amendments on board. Therefore, he called for transparency and

inclusiveness in the negotiations over the draft and hoped it would be adopted by the UNSC soon. He expressed hope that the Council would send a message that it would stand by the side of the Palestinians, he said, welcoming the Human Rights Council's 18 May resolution to send a committee to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially Gaza, to investigate Israel's violations.

Kuwait supporting Iraq

Kuwait also hailed the UN support to Iraq to overcome daunting security, economic and humanitarian challenges. "I commend the efforts of the United Nations to provide advice and assistance to the government and the people of Iraq in pursuant to the UN Security Council resolution No. 2367 (2017) through the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and its chief Jan Kubis," Otaibi said at a special UN Security Council meeting on developments in Iraq. He stressed the importance of continuing international support for Iraq in the coming time to address the security, political, economic and humanitarian challenges it faces especially in restoring security, stability and reconstructing the cities liberated from the so-called Islamic State group.

Otaibi shed light on Kuwait's efforts to allevi-

ate the suffering of Iraqi people including the hosting of the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq in mid-February, which succeeded in rallying world support and attracting international donors to the rebuilding of the areas devastated by the war to pave the way for the return of displaced people to their homes. "All these augur well about the future of Iraq and its security and stability, which is an integral part of the security and stability of Kuwait and the whole region," he said.

On issues relating to missing Kuwaitis and third-party nationals and properties, including national records, he expressed disappointment over the lack of progress on those matters, despite efforts made in terms of excavations and further information on possible burial sites. There had been a lack of information on Kuwait's national records, he regretted. He advocated a new approach that involved the technical subcommittee headed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as current efforts had been insufficient to end the 27-year-old suffering of families. He looked forward to further cooperation with Iraq as the countries sought to settle problems and build relationships based on good neighborliness and noninterference in state affairs. — KUNA

MoH: About 3% of Kuwaiti students vape

KUWAIT: The health ministry said raising public awareness and establishing more smoking-prevention clinics are the best ways to open channels of communications with citizens and residents in Kuwait. This was manifested in the opening of seven accredited clinics under the umbrella of the national program to combat smoking.

Furthermore, increasing taxes on tobacco products and reducing their affordability will also contribute in limiting this epidemic, rapporteur of the standing committee of the national program for combating smoking at the ministry of health and the national communication officer for tobacco control with the World Health Organization Dr Amal Al-Yahya told KUNA. Her remarks came on the UN's "World No Tobacco Day", which falls on May 31 every year.

Restructuring the anti-smoking national program revolutionized amendments of the national legislation concerned and is in line with international agreements, resolutions and developments, she noted. The latest MoH statistics indicate that rate of smoking in Kuwaiti society increased to 39.2 percent among male citizens and 3.3 percent among female citizens. The study confirmed that 16.7 percent of students between the ages of 13 to 15 years at public schools smoked.



The proportion of male and female students smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes and the likes amounted to 2.7 percent, spread between 3.1 percent males and 2.3 percent females, the study showed, adding that Kuwaiti citizens start smoking at age 17, while females start at age 21. Male smokers smoke 20 cigarettes daily, while female smokers smoke eight cigarettes a day. Yahya confirmed that the ministry is still operating the distribution program of nicotine patches to help smokers quit, stressing that Kuwait is probably the only country in the Middle East that provides free medical consultation and treatment, with a success rate of about 30 percent.

Yahya said most electronic smoking devices (vapes, e-cigarettes) in the market contain nicotine, emphasizing that studies conducted by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2009 indicated that such products contained large amounts of it. — KUNA

Girgian: Ramadan's trick-or-treat

KUWAIT: While many children of the world eagerly await Halloween each year to wear elaborate costumes and go trick-or-treating, their peers in Kuwait and most of the eastern parts of the Gulf region have their own version - Ramadan's Girgian festivity. Though both customs might seem similar on the surface, Girgian is more connected with the religious spirit of the holy month, when Muslims fast from dawn until dusk.

Girgian - which dates back hundreds of years and falls in the middle of Ramadan - more or less maintains and follows the same patterns and rituals despite the passage of time. As in the old days and after breaking the fast, boys and girls wear traditional garments and clothing before heading out with their colorful and neatly designed pouches to gather all

the candies and sweets that they can possibly carry.

Heading out to a number of neighborhoods and going door-to-door, children sing traditional songs to attain their ultimate prize - whether it is candy, and if lucky, some money. While some maintain this tradition of heading out into what seems like an endless open world for children, much like other festivals, Girgian nowadays has a rather commercial vibe that is evident in the lavish advertisements promoting Girgian-related products and the huge festivities held in malls and similar venues.

It would be interesting to see whether Girgian continues to evolve through the years, but one thing is for certain - the activity will forever remain an integral part of Ramadan tradition in Kuwait and elsewhere in the region. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Children in traditional garb go trick-or-treating in the neighborhood with bags to collect candy. — KUNA

Local

National Assembly term to close on June 28: Speaker

MPs urge return of revoked citizenships

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday that the current term of the National Assembly is scheduled to close on June 28 after the approval of the state budget. Ghanem said he would call for a special session either on June 24 or 25 to complete the debate on budgets of the independent government bodies which were supposed to have been approved yesterday but the session could not be convened due to a lack of quorum.

There will be no Assembly sessions through the remaining part of the holy fasting month of Ramadan and the Eid Al-Fitr days. Asked if the Assembly will hold a special session to debate and approve urgent legislation, the speaker said that he did not look into the request, which was submitted yesterday. Eleven lawmakers signed the request which demanded the Assembly meet in a special session to approve a number of draft laws, since the Assembly will now go into summer recess for four months.

Meanwhile, opposition MPs Mohammed Hayef and Jamaan Al-Harbash yesterday called on the government to return the citizenships that had been revoked from leading opposition figures. Hayef said the issue is political in nature regardless of the suspicions they raise about forgery and



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem gestures as he is surrounded by lawmakers at the National Assembly yesterday. — KUNA

other alleged violations. He said there were meetings with HH the Amir, HH the Prime Minister and other ministers to resolve the issue after suspending a planned grilling of the prime minister.

Hayef reiterated that the issue was part of political score settling between conflicting sides, for which a number of people have suffered immensely for the past four years. "The revoked citizenship must be returned at the earliest because the grilling that was suspended can be revived", Hayef said. He said that it was agreed in March 2017 that the citizenships would be re-

turned and the Amir blessed the issue and a committee was formed. The committee returned the citizenship of former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash and his family members, then stopped functioning.

Hayef said the committee has been idle for the past one year but recently the government revived the committee and it is hoped that the citizenships will be returned to the opposition figures. Harbash also said that the issue must be resolved once and for all and citizenships withdrawn for political reasons must be returned as soon as possible.

Kuwait aviation sector flying high

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah said Kuwait Airways' T4 terminal will open in summer as scheduled. "This will increase the capacity of Kuwait airport. The DGCA supports aviation and is always developing it, and the services provided to passengers best reflect this role. It also supports travel agencies as part of its responsibilities," he said during a ghabqa organized by the Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association (TTAA) and Sabre Travel Network at the Four Seasons Hotel on Wednesday, which was attended by owners and directors of travel agencies and airlines.

"The DGCA is cooperating with TTAA, which is reflected positively on Kuwait, and allows providing the best services and facilities for the passengers. Kuwait is regaining its important position as the regional center of travel and tourism in the GCC region," added Sheikh Salman.

Head of TTAA Mohammed Al-Mutairi said that the aviation sector in Kuwait is



KUWAIT: Director General of the DGCA Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah attends a ghabqa organized by the Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association (TTAA) and Sabre Travel Network at the Four Seasons Hotel. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

witnessing a quantum leap due to capital spending on the sector of \$8 billion. "The new Jazeera T5 terminal proved that the private sector can make great achievements in a short time. This new terminal can serve 2.5 million passengers annually, and will support Kuwait International Airport and relieve the pressure. The T4 terminal will serve another four million passengers flying with Kuwait Airways, which will increase passenger growth in Kuwait," he said. "The Kuwaiti travel market has the best reputation in the region for the past 47 years, as it has recorded the lowest number of violations among GCC

countries," Mutairi added.

Deputy Executive Officer of Sabre Raymond Fraynhok gave a presentation on Middle East markets. "I realize the excellence of Kuwait's market as it has great ability and many opportunities to grow and succeed, which is supported by high technology. The travel and tourism sector is one of the main financial sources in the world, and investing in his sector is always effective. In Kuwait, this sector makes up about 3 percent of GDP, and has grown quickly in the past four years. The travel and tourism market forms around 10 percent of global GDP," he explained.

Kuwait 'bans' food imports from India

By Meshal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Secretary of the higher committee for food safety at the Food and Nutrition Authority said the committee recommended a ban on importing fresh, refrigerated and frozen food-stuff from India due to the outbreak of the Nipah virus until further notice, and the commerce and industry ministry issued a decision to this effect.

Saudis, Kuwait, UAE to meet

Energy ministers from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait plan to meet tomorrow to discuss OPEC matters, about a week after the Saudis and Russia announced a new policy to revive oil production. Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih will meet with Kuwait's Bakheet Al-Rashidi and the UAE's Suhail Al-Mazrouei - also the holder of OPEC's rotating presidency - in Kuwait City, according to informed sources. Oman's Oil Minister Mohammed Al-Rumhi may join, they said. Oil prices fell after Saudi Arabia and Russia last week signaled they'll restore some of the output they halted as part of an accord with 22 other nations to help erode a global crude glut. Most producers weren't consulted about the proposal to revive supplies.

Smartphone attendance

The planning and administrative development department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor asked all departments to provide it with the names of employees who will be included in the check-in system through smartphones. The planning sector has started trial operations of the system, which allows registered employees to sign in and out through their mobile phones provided they are in the vicinity of not less than 250 meters. Those who have the right to join the system are nursery inspectors and those who are tasked to carry out duties outside their work premises, along with specialized workers.

No more ready houses for citizens

Kuwaiti housing authorities are no longer delivering built houses to eligible citizens. The Public Authority for Housing Welfare's strategy is now different; whereby it is distributing residential units with a construction loan from the Credit Bank of Kuwait, said Jenan Boushehri, Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services. She said the PAHW's new strategy will "provide the full opportunity for the citizen to build his house according to his needs". She affirmed the financial sustainability of the Credit Bank, saying 12,000 residential units have been distributed. Increasing renovation loans may be examined for relieving nationals of financial burdens, she added.

Actress files complaint

The Baqer and Wawan law office lodged a complaint at the e-crimes prosecution against actor Tariq Al-Ali, accusing him of insulting actress Hayat Al-Fahd in a recording published on social media. Separately, the public prosecution ordered the jailing of five lawyers for 21 days on charges of manipulating the documents of one of the most important fraud cases submitted by a group of citizens. They were sent to the central prison.

Service road opens

Director General of the Public Roads Authority Ahmad Al-Hussan said the authority will open part of the permanent service road adjacent to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training from Kuwait University roundabout in the direction of Kuwait City until the Ghazali intersection with Jamal Abdul Nasser St. The opening will take place at dawn tomorrow.

Call for fodder subsidy

Deputy Chairman of the Animal Wealth Society Faisal Al-Bughaili demanded that barley should be imported by animal farmers so that feed prices can drop, especially since barley prices have risen sharply recently. He said the rise in prices will destroy animal stocks and lead to a huge rise in livestock prices. He said the black market must be eradicated by subsidizing barley prices.



Pakistan's heatwave drives up water use, health risks

For displaced Syrians, plentiful Ramadan cannot erase the loss

Page 12

Page 17



GAZA CITY: Palestinian paramedics carry away an injured protester during a demonstration along the border between Israel and the Gaza strip. —AFP

Gaza health crisis faces disaster

Violence has triggered a health crisis of unparalleled magnitude

GENEVA: The Red Cross warned yesterday that Gaza was facing an “epic” crisis, after weeks of violence has left more than 13,000 Palestinians wounded, overwhelming an already disastrously weak health system. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was stepping up its assistance in the beleaguered Palestinian enclave, and was sending in two surgical teams, additional medical specialists and supplies to help face the crisis.

“The recent demonstrations and violent activities along the Gaza border... have triggered a health crisis of unparalleled magnitude,” Robert Mardini, who heads the ICRC’s Near and Middle East operations, told reporters. At least 122 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the unrest that flared up at the end of

March. No Israelis have been killed.

More than 13,000 Palestinians have been wounded, including more than 3,600 by live ammunition, some multiple times, and there had been nearly 5,400 limb injuries, ICRC said. Mardini’s comments came as calm appeared to return to the Gaza Strip and nearby Israeli communities following the worst military flare-up in the area since a 2014 war, raising fears of yet another full-blown conflict in the narrow strip. Mardini said that in the seven weeks since the demonstrations and violence began “we have exceeded the wounded caseload of the August 2014 war”.

‘Brink of collapse’

“This did not happen in a vacuum,” he said.

“This epic health crisis took place against the backdrop of multiple, protracted, chronic crises affecting all sectors of life in Gaza.” Warning that the Gaza health system was on “the brink of collapse”, he said ICRC would boost its assistance over a six-month period to reinforce medical facilities “which are clearly struggling to cope”. Of the thousands wounded, some 1,350 people have complex injuries and will require between three and five surgeries each, Mardini said.

That is “a total of more than 4,000 surgeries, half of which will be carried out by ICRC teams,” he said. “I think such a caseload would overwhelm any health system in the world.” The ICRC has appealed to donors for a \$5.3-million budget extension to fund a

new 50-bed surgical unit in the Al-Shifa Hospital, medical supplies and other additional assistance.

That comes on top of its annual budget for its work across Israel and the Palestinian territories of around \$49 million—far less than half of which is funded. But while Mardini voiced hope the boost in aid would help, he cautioned that it was far from a permanent fix for Gaza which has sky-high unemployment, limited supplies of electricity and clean water, and a sanitation system unable to cope. “The whole Gaza is a sinking ship,” he said. And while health workers are focused squarely on “saving lives and limbs”, other health services, for instance during child birth or to respond to a heart attack, are suffering, he said. — AFP

International

Italian populists launch bid to resurrect government coalition

It would be an olive branch to President Sergio Mattarella

ROME: Italy's populist parties launched a last-ditch bid yesterday to resurrect a coalition government that collapsed as the president vetoed their controversial pick for economy minister. Luigi Di Maio, head of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement, said Wednesday he was prepared to offer a compromise candidate in the place of economist Paolo Savona, who has called for Italy to drop the euro.

It would be an olive branch to President Sergio Mattarella, who at the weekend ruled out approving the coalition's cabinet lineup if it included Savona—prompting Di Maio to demand the president's impeachment. Nearly three months of political turmoil following an inconclusive election in the eurozone's third biggest economy have rattled financial markets, although they rebounded slightly on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Milan Stock Exchange was up 0.79 percent by 1100 GMT after closing up 2.09 percent Wednesday while the bond market continued to strengthen. Investors have deep doubts over Italy's financial stability, with the country struggling under a debt mountain of 2.3 trillion euros. Popular support has soared for the nationalist League party, Five Star's more powerful coalition partner, leading many to fear that fresh elections could essentially become a referendum on euro membership.

Mattarella has asked pro-austerity econo-

mist Carlo Cottarelli to form a caretaker government, but now says he is assessing Di Maio's offer of a compromise with "great interest". The League has been beating the drum for new elections, but its leader Matteo Salvini said Wednesday he had "never closed the door" on hammering out a government. Salvini, 45, and the 31-year-old Di Maio were to meet later Thursday in Rome.

Cottarelli meanwhile has a caretaker team ready to step in should the Five Star-League negotiations fail—but the lineup is doomed to lose a confidence vote in the populist-dominated parliament, meaning that elections would likely be held after August. The timing of polls is already the subject of heated debate, with the centre-left Democratic Party saying they should be held in July while the League says they should take place after the summer holidays. But if they are held in September or October, parliament would have scant time to approve the 2019 budget.

Banks on ratings watch

The uncertainty prompted Moody's to place a dozen Italian banks on negative ratings watch Wednesday, including Intesa Sanpaolo, UniCredit and Mediobanca, having already Friday placed Italy's Baa2 rating on review for a possible downgrade over its political crisis. Fuel giant Eni, postal service Poste Italiane, public TV net-



ROME: A deputy casts his vote at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome on March 23, 2018, during the first session after the March 4 vote. — AFP

work RAI and gas companies Snam and Itaglas were also put under surveillance by Moody's.

More than half of ordinary Italians — 54 per-

cent—are "worried" about the political situation, according to a survey conducted Tuesday and Wednesday by the Demopolis Institute.—AFP

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

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

MEGA SALE

15-BS009-15

159 الان
990
~~189~~ قبل
900

- Intel Core i5-7200U
- 6GB RAM + 1TB Storage
- 2GB Dedicated Graphics
- 15.6" Display

1TB Storage

6GB RAM

3567-INS-1045-GRY
3567-INS-1045-BLK

129 الان
990
~~139~~ قبل
900

- Intel Core i3
- 4GB RAM
- 1TB
- 15.6" Display

Windows 10

Intel Inside CORE i3

PS4 1TB+FIFA 18+2JOY

1TB

119 الان
990
~~154~~ قبل
900

- Limited Stock
- PS4+FIFA 2018+2 Games+ controller

+ 2 PS4 GAMES

Credit: Start from 5KD + Up to 48 month + Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

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

International

For displaced Syrians, plentiful Ramadan cannot erase the loss

Memories of life in Ghouta are stained with siege

MAARET MASRIN: After years of Syrian government siege, Umm Samer can finally prepare an appetizing spread to end her family's daily Ramadan fast. But war has given the holy month a bitter aftertaste. Crouched near a tiny gas stove in the mud hut that is now her home in northwest Syria, the 51-year-old from Eastern Ghouta slices a juicy aubergine into large chunks for the evening meal.

"Yes, there's plenty of food here, but being far away from home is really hard for us," Umm Samer says of her hometown of Zamalka, in the former rebel enclave. Umm Samer, her husband and five children—two of them disabled—fled Ghouta around two months ago as it came under government control, setting up near the town of Maaret Masrin in Idlib province.

Their memories of life in Ghouta are stained with siege: during the government's five-year encirclement, medicine was hard to find and child malnutrition rates soared as affordable food became scarce. Every day, Umm Samer did her best to stave off her children's hunger with a meagre diet of radishes, spinach and parsley.

When they could, they ate small portions of bulgur wheat or barley bread, which often gave them stomach aches. When the month of Ramadan came around, the family would observe the day-long fast like millions of other Muslims around the world. But

instead of breaking their fast at sundown with traditional multiple-course meals and desserts, Umm Samer's family gathered around the same sparse spread. "We'd eat it all with spoons because there was no bread. We couldn't even get biscuits for the kids," she recalls. "Sometimes we'd wait two days before breaking our fast because there was nothing to eat," she says.

Donated meals

Across the Islamic world, Ramadan is a month of prayer and remembering the less fortunate, but also a time of endless gatherings with loved ones. In Ghouta, says Umm Samer, the heavy raids made that impossible. "We wouldn't dare meet up for iftar anymore," she says, referring to the fast-breaking sunset meal. "This year in Idlib it's very different. There's rice, meat, vegetables, fruit and sweets," says Umm Samer, sitting down cross-legged on a simple mat for iftar.

They begin with sips of chilled water, then dig into dishes of turmeric-flavored rice, salad and stewed vegetables. The meal is plentiful compared with what they were eating just a year ago, but Umm Samer says starting a new life for a seven-member household is tough. "Over there, you're fine because it's your hometown, your home and your land," she says. "None of us work here. The relief groups help us but



MAARRAT MISRIN: Um Samer and her family, displaced from eastern Ghouta, gather to break their fast at their home. —AFP

it's limited," she worries. Like in Muslim communities around the world, aid groups in Idlib are distributing iftar meals to families in need. One of them, Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous, prepares dozens of sealed packages of rice and meat every day. Men and women line up outside their centre to pick up the food packages.

Missing loved ones

Such meals are life-changing for Umm Mohammed, 53, who was displaced from Ghouta a month ago with her husband, two daughters and two

sons. They too resettled in the camp of earthen huts in Maaret Masrin, but siege is still on their mind. "We once spent 11 days without me putting a single pot on the fire", says Umm Mohammed.

Cooking radishes was unheard of before Syria's war erupted, but it became a staple in Ghouta: "We were under siege and whatever was available, we would cook." She crouches down on a wool carpet as her husband pours her a glass of juice to break her fast, before they begin a donated iftar of rice, chicken and meat pies. —AFP

UAE sentences activist to a decade in jail

DUBAI: An Emirati court has sentenced an award-winning human rights activist to 10 years in prison for insulting the "status and prestige of the UAE and its symbols", pro-government media reported yesterday. The Abu Dhabi court also imposed a fine of one million dirhams (\$275,000 or 235,000 euros) and ordered Ahmed Mansoor be placed under surveillance for three years after his release. The National and Gulf News reported.

The 48-year-old was convicted of attempting to harm his country's relations with its neighbors by spreading misinformation on social media, The National said. Foreign journalists are not allowed to attend such trials in the United Arab Emirates, whose ruling families rarely tolerate opposition. Mansoor was cleared of conspiring with a "terrorist organization". His court-appointed lawyer Tariq Al-Shamsi had told an earlier hearing that Mansoor should be cleared of all charges.

Mansoor's arrest in March 2017 triggered an international outcry led by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Mansoor, a father of four, won the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders in 2015 for his efforts to introduce greater political and civil rights in the UAE.

During his detention, the prosecutor accused him of using social media to "publish false information and rumours, spread contentious ideas that would sow sedition, sectarianism and hatred", state news agency WAM reported. He was also accused of harming "national unity and social peace" and "the state's reputation". The Gulf Centre for Human Rights described his punishment as "shocking". The sentence "demonstrates the UAE's brazen disregard for its obligations under international law to respect the right to free speech as well as to protect human rights defenders," the group said in a statement.

Mansoor was part of a group of activists known as the UAE Five, who were arrested in April 2011 and released later that year by a presidential pardon—although authorities confiscated his passport and banned him from leaving the country. He was re-arrested in March 2017 under the Gulf state's cyber-crime law. —AFP

Experts urge Western response to Turkish 'hostage diplomacy'

WASHINGTON: Turkey is using foreign prisoners in its jails as diplomatic bargaining chips and Western governments should adopt a coordinated response, US-based experts warned yesterday. According to a new report, more than 30 Western nationals have spent time in Turkish jails since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government launched a crackdown in the wake of a July 2016 coup attempt. At least six of these, including two US citizens, are still in custody. Others have been released, but Turkey has not paid a price for what the report's authors call "Erdogan's hostage diplomacy."

Yesterday's report, which tracks the cases of 55 prisoners with Western ties, was written by former Turkish parliamentarian Aykan Erdemir and a former US ambassador to Turkey, Eric Edelman. Erdemir, an internationally renowned advocate for religious freedom, is now a fellow at Washington think tank the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, which published the 36-page report. Edelman, a senior associate of the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, advises the foundation's Turkey program.

In an interview with AFP, Erdemir said that in the aftermath of the failed coup, which Turkey has blamed on US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen,

several North American and European Union nationals were arrested. In many cases the detainees faced secretive investigations and charges alleging ties to Gulen's "terrorist" organization or to Kurdish guerrillas, often on apparently flimsy evidence.

This may not have been an organized, centralized effort to sweep them up—in many cases local issues combined with anti-Western sentiment drove the arrests—but the government sought to exploit the situation. "There really seems to be a systematic attempt, through these bogus political charges to go after Western nationals, often based on secret witness testimony or arbitrary and long detention," Erdemir said. "Our argument is this is part of an overall policy of hostage diplomacy. There seems to be an attempt to use these individuals as bargaining chips, as pawns, often to extract concessions from Turkey's counterparts." Turkey has, for example, more or less explicitly links demands for the release of detainees to its own calls for alleged Gulenists to be extradited from the West and in some cases for arms sales.

'Concerted strategy'

The report notes that so far, Western governments have attempted to secure the fair treatment of their nationals in quiet bilateral negotiations with Turkey, with varying degrees of success but little cost to Ankara. Two US citizens have been in jail for the past two years: Andrew Brunson, a Christian pastor based in Turkey, and Turkish-American NASA physicist Serkan Golge, who was picked up while he was on holiday there. —AFP

International

Ukraine under fire after faking journalist's death

Death was faked to foil an assassination plot by Moscow

KIEV: Ukraine was under fire yesterday after it admitted staging the murder of anti-Kremlin journalist Arkady Babchenko, despite relief in Russia and Ukraine that he was alive. Babchenko made a shock reappearance at a press conference in Kiev on Wednesday, less than 24 hours after the Ukrainian authorities reported he had been shot dead at his home in a contract-style killing blamed on Russia.

Ukraine's security services said his death was faked to foil an assassination plot by Moscow, but Russian officials reacted with anger to what they branded an "anti-Russian provocation". The Kremlin said the story was "at the very least bizarre" and dismissed accusations that it had attempted to assassinate Babchenko. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said ahead of a visit to Kiev on Thursday that it is "indispensable to shed light on what happened" and called on Ukraine to clarify the situation in order to "encourage trust". Babchenko's staged killing fooled the world's media and angered press freedom groups which raised fears about the impact it could have on the work of journalists around the globe. Some said the staged death could only lead to more accusations of "fake news" against the media, at a time when the distinction between credible and non-credible sources is becoming ever more crucial.

'Line between truth and fiction'

"By spreading false evidence about his murder, Ukrainian authorities have seriously eroded the credibility of information," the president of the International Federation of Journalists Philippe Leruth said in a statement. "The International Federation of Journalists fights against impunity, which benefits journalists' murderers, but it also demands transparency of information," he added.

Reporters Without Borders had described the faked assassination as a "pathetic stunt". An editorial in Russian daily Vedomosti argued that the Babchenko operation "blurred the border between truth and fiction" and would lead to more distrust towards the media. A number of Kremlin critics have been killed in Ukraine in recent years, with one gunned down on a Kiev street in broad daylight and another whose car exploded. Several Western commentators and reporters said it would also be difficult to trust official statements from the Ukrainian state again. Babchenko, who told the press he had been preparing to stage his death with secret services for several weeks, dismissed the criticism. "I wish all these moralizers could be in the same situation—let them show their adherence to the principles of their high morals and die proudly holding their heads high without misleading the media," he wrote on Facebook. —AFP



KIEV: An activists hangs portraits of journalist Arkadi Babchenko to the fence of Russian embassy. — AFP

Denmark bans face veils in public

COPENHAGEN: Denmark has banned the wearing of face veils in public, joining France and other parts of Europe in outlawing the burqa and the niqab worn by some Muslim women. Parliament voted yesterday for the law proposed by the centre-right government which said face veils were contrary to Danish values. Opponents say the ban, that comes into effect on Aug. 1 infringes women's right to dress as they choose.

Justice Minister Soren Pape Poulsen said police would not order offenders to remove their veils, but would fine them and tell them to go home. Fines will range from 1,000 Danish crowns (\$160) for a first offence to 10,000 crowns for the fourth violation. France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and the German state of Bavaria have all imposed some restrictions on full-face veils in public places.

Justice Minister Pape Poulsen, head of the conservative party in a government backed by the nationalist Danish People's Party, said when the bill was proposed in February: "It is incompatible with the values ?? of the Danish society or the respect for the community to keep the face hidden when meeting each other in the public space." Zainab Ibn Hssain, who lives in Copenhagen and has been wearing the niqab for the last year, told Reuters: "It's not nice. It will mean that I won't be able to go to school, go to work or go out with my family. "But I won't take my niqab off so I have to find another solution," the 20 year-old added. Human rights group Amnesty International called the ban "a discriminatory violation of women's rights". "All women should be free to dress as they please and to wear clothing that expresses their identity or beliefs," it said. —Reuters

Trio on trial for helping migrants to enter France

GAP: Three people appeared in a French court yesterday on charges of illegally assisting a group of migrants trying to cross into the country from Italy, a case that has fuelled protests that prosecutors are punishing a "crime of solidarity". Eleonara Laterza, a 27-year-old Italian student; Bastian Stauffer, 26, a Swiss student; and Theo Buckmaster, a 23-year-old Swiss-Belgian, were detained for 10 days in April after participating in a march of 100 activists to escort some 20 migrants over an Alpine pass.

They were responding to a blockade set up by several dozen members of a far-right group, Generation Identitaire (Identity Generation), at a nearby pass to keep them out. The trial is the latest involving activists trying to aid migrants on the move through Europe, in protest at a tough new immigration law being pushed by French

President Emmanuel Macron. About 120 leading French education, scientific and political figures signed a tribune in French daily Le Monde this week supporting the three activists, accusing prosecutors of flouting France's constitutional promise of fraternity and equality for all.

Several dozen protesters gathered outside the courthouse in Gap, south-east France, as the proceedings opened to stage a "reverse trial" against the government. "We're accusing the state and the government's migrant policies," said Michel Rousseau of the Tous Migrants (We're All Migrants) association. Lawyers for the three told AFP they would seek to postpone the hearing while awaiting a ruling from France's top Constitutional Court on whether aid to illegal immigrants should be considered a criminal offence. They also hope to ease the terms of their conditional release from jail, so they can pass end-of-term exams or return to their jobs. The activists risk up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to 750,000 euros (\$880,000), as well as a ban on entering France.

Tougher laws

Their trial comes a day after a 73-year-old Amnesty International volunteer appeared in court in the southern city of Nice on charges of helping two

underage Africans illegally enter the country. French lawmakers voted last month to soften laws criminalising acts of solidarity with illegal migrants, to exempt those who provide them with free food, shelter, medical care or legal advice.

Helping migrants illegally cross the border remains a crime, however. The government argues that tighter controls are needed to check the rise of anti-immigration populists who claim Europe has allowed in too many people seeking a better life. The law being debated in parliament aims to both cut waiting times for asylum applications—to six months from around a year currently—and make it easier to deport those turned down as "economic" migrants, as opposed to those fleeing political strife.

NGOs have contrasted the treatment of the campaigners with that of "Spiderman" Mamoudou Gassama, the illegal Malian migrant who was fast-tracked for French citizenship this week after rescuing a young boy hanging from a balcony in Paris. "A black person who saves a white person deserves praise, a white person who helps a black person deserves prison," said Giscard Destin, a 23-year-old from Cameroon, at a rally to support the three activists in nearby La Roche-de-Rame on Wednesday. —AFP

International

Trump sets target on red-state Democrats ahead of elections

A strategy aimed at firing up his loyal supporters

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is in full campaign mode five months before pivotal mid-term elections, employing a mix of anti-immigration rhetoric, Democrat-bashing and off-script improvisation in a bid to help Republicans hold their congressional majority. Democrats, riding a swell of grass-roots activism and buoyed by Trump's poor approval numbers and an ongoing investigation into possible coordination between Russia and Trump's campaign, are seeking to flip the US House and Senate.

Trump is pushing back, hitting the road—including at a fiery Tuesday night rally in Tennessee—as he seeks to energize his base to come out and vote in November for Republican Senate candidates in states where he can have a major impact. But the strategy apparently seeks to minimize his exposure in states where Republicans in close House races might feel the divisive president's presence would be more of a hindrance, motivating Democrats and independents instead of helping moderate GOP candidates.

Despite the risks of an unrestrained Trump addressing large crowds at campaign-style events, it is a strategy aimed at firing up his loyal supporters in red states where vulnerable Senate Democrats are running for re-election, or challenging for open seats. Such was the case Tuesday when Trump rallied in Nashville in support of congresswoman Marsha Blackburn's bid

to succeed retiring Senator Bob Corker.

"We need more Republicans," Trump boomed. "If you want your country to be safe, then you must go out and get the Democrats the hell out of office." A sitting president's party often loses seats during mid-term elections. While analysts say Democrats have a decent shot at flipping the 24 seats needed to reclaim the House, the opposition party is up against an extraordinarily tough Senate election map.

Of the 35 Senate races, Democrats are defending a whopping 26 seats — 10 of them in states that Trump won in 2016. And Democrats are seeing their overall mid-term advantage shrink. In December, according to a RealClearPolitics polling average, Democrats enjoyed a 13-point advantage among voters who were asked which party they would support in the 2018 congressional election. That figure this week stood at just four points.

Trump 'coming after' vulnerable Democrats

The president has grown increasingly annoyed at his party's 51-49 Senate majority as he seeks to push through his policy agenda, including a dramatic curtailing of illegal and legal immigration. Highlighting his rigid stance during his Nashville rally, he recalled the term he used recently to describe undocumented immigrants, including members of transnational gang MS-13, targeted for deportation.

"What was the name?" Trump goaded the



WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump speaks during a bill signing ceremony at the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Building. — AFP

crowd. "Animals!" they shouted. Trump also savaged the Democratic candidate, former Tennessee governor Phil Bredesen, insisting he would be in the pocket of the Senate and House Democratic leaders. "He's an absolute total tool of Chuck Schumer and of course the MS-13

lover, Nancy Pelosi," Trump said. Over the past month Trump has held campaign-style rallies or speeches in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee—all states he carried in 2016, and where Republicans are facing tough Senate races. On Thursday he heads to Texas.— AFP

Sarah Sanders chokes up amid question on guns

WASHINGTON: Press Secretary Sarah Sanders' teared up as she fielded an unexpected question about school shootings from a kid reporter at the White House Wednesday. Sanders' voice wobbled and she became visibly upset after 13-year-old Benje Choucroun asked a question about kids feeling unsafe at school. The cub reporter-on assignment for "Time for Kids"—asked what the administration was doing to tackle the scourge of gun violence.

"At my school, we recently had a lockdown drill," Choucroun began, describing the practice of training to hide if a shooter gets in the building. The drills are a regular occurrence for US kids as young as three, who are sometimes told they are pretending to hide from "bears" or "bad guys". "One thing that affects mine and other students' mental health is the worry about the fact that we or our friends could get shot at school," Choucroun continued, reading from a written question.

"Can you tell me what the administration has done and will do to prevent these senseless tragedies?" Sanders, a mother of three, better known in public for her pugilistic approach to briefings, appeared taken aback by the question. "I think that as a kid, and certainly as a parent, there is nothing that could be more terrifying for a kid to go to school and not feel safe. So I'm sorry that you feel that way," she said. "This administration takes it seriously," Sanders said struggling to continue, before adding that administration was discussing ways to "do every single thing within our power to protect kids in our schools and to make them feel safe and make their parents feel good about dropping them off."—AFP

Parkland killer boasted of plans in phone videos

PARKLAND: The teen charged with shooting 17 people dead at his former high school in Parkland, Florida, boasted of plans to commit mass murder in a series of cell phone videos recorded by him before the rampage and released on Wednesday by prosecutors.

In one of the three video clips, Nikolas Cruz, 19, calmly declares, "Hello. My name is Nik and I'm going to be the next school shooter of 2018." He goes on to say: "My goal is to kill at least 20 people with an AR-15," referring to the assault-style rifle he is seen holding in the footage. Brandishing the rifle at another point, Cruz says: "You're all going to die," adding with a chuckle, "Can't wait."

The video clips were part of an inventory of prosecution evidence recently shared with the defense team during the pre-trial discovery process, said Constance Jones-Simmons, a spokeswoman for the Broward County state attorney's office. The Miami Herald and other media outlets obtained copies through a public records request after seeing mention of the footage in court documents, she told Reuters.

The three videos, none longer than 90 seconds in duration, are believed to have been made a short time before the shooting rampage on Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, but Jones-Simmons said she did not know pre-

cisely when they were recorded. Cruz, a former Stoneman Douglas student expelled for disciplinary problems, has been described by former classmates as a social misfit and trouble-maker who was fascinated with guns. Police have said they responded to numerous calls related to the teenager in the years leading up to the massacre.

But authorities, who say Cruz confessed to the killings after his arrest, have never offered a possible motive for the bloodshed. Release of the video "selfies," posted online by the Herald, shed little new light on that question except to suggest Cruz felt he was treated as an outcast. In one video, Cruz said his former classmates thought he was "an idiot and a dumb ass." He also professed his love for a girl he mentioned only by first name, and said he hoped to see her in the "afterlife."

The gun seen in the video is apparently the rifle authorities say Cruz legally purchased from a licensed gun dealer last year and ultimately used as the murder weapon. He is charged with 17 counts of murder and 17 counts of attempted murder stemming from the Parkland killings, which rank as the second-greatest loss of life from gun violence at a public school in modern U.S. history, after a 2012 shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that left 20 first-graders and six adult educators dead.

The Florida shooting triggered an extraordinary protest movement and lobbying campaign for tougher gun control restrictions led by student survivors of the Parkland massacre and parents of the victims. Cruz, whose own lawyer had called him a "broken human being" who feels remorse for his crimes, is being held in the Broward County jail without bond in Fort Lauderdale, and is on suicide watch, officials said. — Reuters

Brazil's trucker's strike chaos stirring talk of military coup

Loud calls for the military to take over the country altogether

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's army is often called to help when things go wrong, so it was no surprise to see soldiers deploy during a crippling truckers' strike. The difference this time: loud calls for the military to take over the country altogether. Truckers launched their action 10 days ago, gumming up the food and fuel supply system across Latin America's biggest economy.

Their protest began over rising fuel prices. However, public backing for the shutdown indicated much wider discontent at Brazil's floundering economy, unpopular government and rampant corruption. In response, center-right President Michel Temer ordered the army to escort non-striking trucks safely past picket lines. But far from being angry at the arrival of troops, a number of strikers greeted them with banners reading: "Intervention now!"



Banners reading: "Intervention now!"

"Intervencao ja!" as it goes in Portuguese, is shorthand for a return to the military dictatorship that ruled here between 1964-1985, or at least a coup, followed by new elections. The slogan appears periodically on the fringes of mainstream anti-government rallies. Now, though, it took center stage during national media coverage, with drivers unafraid to voice support for a takeover.

"We want military intervention, if possible, to sort out this country," said Alexandre Bastos, 43, who was taking part in a truckers' blockade of a refinery outside Rio de Janeiro, told AFP. "Intervention would have nothing to do with dictator-

ship. We just want the army to intervene." There was even a fake news rumor spread on WhatsApp that the constitution required military intervention once the strike lasted seven working days and six hours, which would have meant on Tuesday.

The supposed deadline came and went. But all of a sudden this normally toxic subject had become that much more mainstream. "It's a feeling that is growing in the population, which sees the military as the solution to the nation's problems," reserve army general Augusto Heleno told Folha de S.Paulo newspaper Wednesday. Heleno, who commanded UN peacekeepers in Haiti, insisted that the armed forces "do not intend, do not seek" a coup. But he then went on to praise the dictatorship's image of "a more organized country, where people had a better life." "I'm not saying it was like that. But this is the image a lot of people have."

Soldiers to the rescue

Brazilians have got used to seeing the military step in where other institutions fail. Residents of Rio de Janeiro no longer bat an eyelid at the sight of soldiers in full battle dress. During the 2016 Rio Olympics and again, starting last year, soldiers regularly deployed everywhere from Copacabana beach to the chaotic, violent favelas where drug gangs rule.

A government decree this year went a step further, putting generals in charge of Rio's police, firefighters and other emergency services, citing



SAO PAULO: Soldiers take part in an operation to clear highway Regis Bittencourt, 30 km from Sao Paulo, on May 30, 2018 as a truckers' strike against rising fuel costs in Brazil that has left much of the country paralyzed is now over. — AFP

the regular leaders' failure to control crime. It's not just bringing law and order, either. When Brazil was in the midst of a Zika crisis in 2016, with the Olympics coming, it was the military that again came to the rescue, going house to house to eradicate mosquitoes in at-risk areas.

The military's sterling reputation is a big part of the presidential campaign for former army captain Jair Bolsonaro, a frontrunner in the October polls. Although Bolsonaro often expresses nostalgia for the dictatorship, he declined to support the

truckers demanding intervention, saying that the right wing should come to power through the ballot box, rather than being told "there was a coup."

Still, even if coup talk is mostly hot air, the subject was worrying enough to prompt Supreme Court Chief Justice Carmen Lucia on Wednesday to pronounce: "Democracy is the sole legitimate path." Temer's institutional security minister, Sergio Etchegoyen, also sought to reassure Brazilians. "Military intervention is a topic from last century," he said. — AFP

Cuban leader defends Maduro on his first foreign visit

CARACAS: Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel rallied to the defense of embattled ally Nicolas Maduro on his first foreign visit Wednesday, calling on Latin American nations to support his Venezuelan counterpart's cause. The Cuban, who succeeded Raul Castro on April 19, was received with open arms by Maduro's government-Cuba's closest political and economic ally-on his arrival at Caracas' Maiquetia airport.

"Very happy to be in Venezuela; and long live the Bolivarian revolution, and also, long live President Maduro," Diaz-Canel said. After being honored at the presidential palace by Maduro, Diaz-Canel stressed: "No matter how big the troubles and challenges may be, you can rely on Cuba-today and always. The sup-

port is unconditional." Diaz-Canel said the main reason for his visit to Venezuela was to show solidarity with Maduro after his May 20 reelection was widely dismissed as a sham by the US, EU and 13 other Latin American states.

He described the elections, boycotted by the main opposition, as an "overwhelming success." "Maybe that sound rising up from the majority so bothered the United States and the right that they are not capable of recognizing legitimacy," he said. The Cuban leader's visit coincided with Canada's announcement of further sanctions against Maduro associates, including his wife Cilia Flores, for holding "illegitimate and anti-democratic" elections.

Canada rejected the result as "fraudulent," and along with its G7 partners has called on Maduro to schedule another vote, release all political prisoners and restore the authority of the country's National Assembly. Beaten candidate Henri Falcon has called for fresh elections and filed an appeal with the country's highest court Wednesday to have the result annulled. Speaking to the Constituent Assembly-set up by Maduro last year to usurp the opposition-dominated body-Diaz-Canel said the main purpose of international sanctions was to obliterate Maduro's reelection victory.



CARACAS: Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel (L) and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro chat during a meeting at Miraflores presidential palace. — A FP

And he called on "the people of the Americas" to show solidarity as Venezuela resists a "political, diplomatic, economic and financial war" waged by what he called US "imperialism."

Venezuela under Maduro had fallen victim to "the imperialist actions of submission, harassment, isolation and blockades," Diaz-Canel told the Assembly to loud cheers. — AFP

International

Taleban, Afghan officials in ceasefire talks: US general

‘Diplomatic activity and dialogue is occurring off the stage’

WASHINGTON: Senior Taleban officials have been secretly negotiating with Afghan officials on a possible ceasefire, the Pentagon said Wednesday, even as US forces killed over 50 Taleban leaders in a series of strikes. “A lot of the diplomatic activity and dialogue is occurring off the stage, and it’s occurring at multiple levels,” General John Nicholson said in a teleconference with reporters at the Pentagon.

He would not identify the figures involved in the negotiations, except to say that they included mid- and senior-level Taleban officials. “I should point out they met in secret. This is how they were able to advance the talks,” he said, adding that the success of the effort depends in part on the “confidentiality of the process.” Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in late February proposed peace talks with the Taleban, saying they could be recognized as a political party if they accepted a ceasefire and recognized the country’s 2004 constitution.

The Taleban have not officially responded, but deadly attacks have prolifer-

ated since then, particularly in Kabul, which has become the most dangerous place in the country for civilians. On Wednesday, militants launched a gun and bomb attack on the Interior Ministry in Kabul, killing a policeman in another demonstration of their ability to strike at the heart of the Afghan capital.

The negotiating table

The Taleban also claimed responsibility for a predawn attack on a police station in the capital of Logar province, about 70 kilometers southeast of Kabul. Six police officers were killed and eight civilians were wounded, provincial police spokesman Shapoor Ahmadzai said. But Nicholson, who has sought to drive the

Taleban have not officially responded



Taleban to the negotiating table by bringing to bear increased US military pressure, maintained that violence and progress can coexist.

He likened the situation in Afghanistan to that of Colombia where the fighting continued up until the FARC guerrilla group and the government signed a peace accord in 2016. In a statement Wednesday, the US command in Afghanistan said the strikes



JALALABAD: Taleban fighters stand handcuffed near seized weapons as they are presented to media. —AFP

against those behind a recent attack in the Helmand provincial capital of Farah resulted in “more than 50 casualties.” After pushing out fighters in Farah, Afghan and US forces continued to pursue them, Nicholson told reporters at the Pentagon via video link.

Under surveillance by the Marines, the Taleban fighters returned to their Helmand

stronghold, a center for poppy cultivation. On May 24, they were spotted in a known Taliban command center in Musa Qala. Among the dead was the number two Taleban leader in Helmand, Abdul Manan, and several district governors and local leaders in Kandahar, Kunduz, Herat, Farah, Uruzgan and Helmand provinces. —AFP

Australian minister apologizes for tirade

SYDNEY: A senior Australian politician apologized yesterday after a torrent of foul language he unleashed at a female mayor sparked accusations of misogyny. Health Minister Greg Hunt, who has been spoken of as a possible future prime minister, let rip at Fay Miller, the mayor of the northern town of Katherine, during a meeting in December. As well as swearing, he was accused of intimidating her by wagging his finger in her face.

Hunt only apologized after Miller wrote a letter to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull highlighting his “unwarranted, disrespectful and unacceptable behavior”. “During the course of the conversation, I used strong language,” Hunt admitted. “I have apologized to the mayor of Katherine and today I want to repeat that apology publicly and sincerely, and absolutely.”

Asked in parliament if he had been involved in any other similar incidents, Hunt said one other case had been raised with him regarding a “strong discussion” he had with a former health department secretary.

Hunt’s outburst against Miller came when she suggested more funding to deal with contamination arising from the use of fire-fighting foam in her region.

He replied that she would need to take it up with Northern Territory senator Nigel Scullion. Miller said in her letter to Turnbull that at that point, she told Hunt “Senator Scullion comes to Katherine but I don’t see him”. “He (Hunt) relocated his chair, pointing towards me and said ‘you need to fucking get over it, you need to fucking make Senator Scullion your best friend,’” Miller wrote. “I didn’t move. I was absolutely totally gobs-macked,” she added.

Miller told ABC radio Hunt’s next two sentences also contained the F-word. “And then he sat back a little in his chair and said, ‘I’ve heard you’re feisty,’” she said. “And I thought, ‘Really?’ I hadn’t said a word, not a word at this stage, because I was in such a state of shock at what he was saying.” Asked by the ABC how she found Hunt’s attitude, Miller replied: “That was misogynist.” Former prime minister Julia Gillard famously accused her opposition counterpart Tony Abbott of misogyny in a fiery parliamentary speech in 2012 that went viral. She later spoke of her “murderous rage” at her sexist treatment while in politics. —AFP

Nine jailed in HK for ‘Fishball Revolution’ riots

HONG KONG: Nine protesters were jailed in Hong Kong yesterday after being found guilty of rioting during the “Fishball Revolution” clashes with police two years ago, the latest in a series of legal actions against demonstrators. Aged from their late teens to over 70 years old, they were handed sentences ranging from 28 months to over four years for their involvement in the city’s worst violence for decades.

The 2016 demonstrations were triggered by official attempts to remove illegal hawkers from the bustling Mong Kok commercial district during Lunar New Year celebrations. The “Fishball Revolution” moniker refers to a favorite Hong Kong street snack sold by the hawkers. At least seven people have already been jailed over the clashes, which reflected underlying tensions over the erosion of the city’s traditions.

They were led by activists seeking more autonomy from Beijing, as fears grow that Hong Kong’s freedoms and identity are under threat from Chinese authorities and the city’s pro-China local government. As the unrest

escalated, police fired warning shots in the air as protesters hurled bricks torn up from pavements and set rubbish alight.

Eight of the defendants jailed yesterday had pleaded guilty to rioting charges, while one had pleaded guilty. Another young defendant, who also pleaded not guilty, was sent to a training centre and an 11th had absconded. None were known activists. When handing down his verdict earlier this month, the judge said the defense used by some that they had participated in the protests out of fun could not be justified, according to local media.

Hong Kong’s most prominent localist activist and pro-independence campaigner Edward Leung, who is accused of being one of the ringleaders of the Mong Kok protests, will be sentenced next month after being found guilty of rioting at the city’s High Court. Leung could face up to 10 years in prison. The violent protests contrasted with the largely peaceful pro-democracy Umbrella Movement rallies of late 2014, which brought some busy streets to a standstill for more than two months.

Three Umbrella Movement leaders were jailed for up to eight months for their role in the rallies, although those sentences were later quashed. The failure of the 2014 rallies to win reform triggered new calls from some young campaigners for complete independence from Hong Kong, infuriating Beijing. —AFP

International

Pakistan's 'shocking' spring heat drives up water use, health risks

A new record world temperature for April: 50.2 degrees

ISLAMABAD: Nawabshah, a city in Pakistan's southern Sindh province, made headlines last month when it hit what may be a new record world temperature for April: 50.2 degrees (122 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the World Meteorological Organization. But that blisteringly hot day was just the latest of many for Pakistan this year, as it faces fast-rising spring temperatures, with 45-degree Celsius days coming as early as March, weather officials say.

In March, all 34 meteorological stations across the country showed temperatures more than 10 degrees Celsius above the monthly average between 1981 and 2010, said Ghulam Rasul, director-general of the Pakistan Meteorological Department. "This is really shocking for us to see March becoming warmer every year. Temperatures we used to record in the peak summer months (of June and July) about eight years ago are being recorded now in March," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

As climate change takes hold in Pakistan, it is bringing worryingly rapid temperature increases that threaten lives and harvests and are driving up water and power use as families struggle to stay

cool. Authorities in some parts of heat-baked Sindh province have banned outdoor work in the hottest part of the day to save lives if temperatures push past 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Extreme heat

In parts of Pakistan, summer crops also have dried before ripening as extreme heat evaporates the water from irrigation channels, farmers said. "March and April used to be cool to mild months", which helped the soil hold on to moisture, said Khalid Ahmed Kazi, an agro-meteorologist at the Pakistan Meteorological Department's station in Tando Jam, in southern Sindh province.

But today, as temperatures get warmer and spring weather drier, "soil moisture is around 80 percent less compared to some eight to 10 years ago," he said. That is raising demand for irrigation water from rivers or wells, putting additional pressure on Pakistan's already fast-declining groundwater stores and river flows, he said.

Weather forecasters say hot conditions are likely to continue through June and July in southern and central Pakistan, with southern cities like Karachi "most likely to grapple with more sizzling heatwaves,"

Police seek Korean Air 'nut rage' matriarch

SEOUL: The woes of the troubled Korean Air dynasty deepened further yesterday as Seoul Police announced they were seeking an arrest warrant for matriarch Lee Myung-hee over allegations she assaulted employees. Lee, 69, faces multiple allegations of assault against drivers and housekeepers from her personal staff as well as construction workers renovating her home and building a Korean Air-affiliated hotel. "Lee used her superior status to habitually abuse, insult and injure the socially disadvantaged without a sense of guilt," according to a statement from the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency. "Despite the gravity of the case, she has denied the allegations by saying she has no recollection, raising concerns over destruction of evidence," it added. Lee was summoned by the police twice this week for questioning over the alleged abuses.

They range from cursing and screaming at em-

ployees to kicking, slapping and even throwing a pair of scissors at them. A video that emerged last month showed a woman, reportedly Lee, shoving a female construction worker and throwing a pile of documents on the ground. A Korean Air spokesman declined to comment on the matter citing the ongoing investigation.

Lee's two daughters, who held management positions at South Korea's top carrier, became viral sensations for their own temper tantrums which were dubbed the "nut rage" and "water rage" scandals online. Her older daughter Cho Hyun-ah made global headlines in 2014 for kicking a cabin crew chief off a Korean Air plane for being served macadamia nuts in a bag rather than a bowl. She later served a short prison sentence.

Earlier this year, her younger sister Cho Hyun-min was accused of throwing a drink at an advertising agency manager's face in a fit of rage during a business meeting. Their father, Korean Air chairman Cho Yang-ho, issued a public apology over the "immature" behavior of his offspring and removed his two daughters from their management roles. Authorities have since launched a flurry of official probes into the family's reported abuse of workers, as well as smuggling and immigration law violations. —AFP



KARACHI: A Pakistani paramedic treats a heat stroke victim in an ambulance during a heatwave. —AFP

Rasul said. Karachi authorities are working to avoid a repeat of the nearly 2,000 heatwave-related deaths in the city in June 2015, using early warning systems put place after the disaster, said Abdul Rashid, director of climatology at the Pakistan Meteorological Department's Karachi office.

With monitors installed across the city in 2016, authorities can now forecast

heatwaves about three days in advance and issue alerts, he said. So far three heat alerts have been issued for Karachi this year, he said. Overall, average annual temperatures in Pakistan have risen by about half a degree Celsius over the last half-century, which has led to a fivefold rise in heatwave days since 1987, according to a 2017 report by the Asian Development Bank.—Reuters

Nipah virus death toll rises to 15

KOCHI/MUMBAI: Two new cases of the deadly brain-damaging Nipah virus have been confirmed in the southern Indian state of Kerala, where another two people were killed by the virus, a health official said yesterday. The two new Nipah cases in Kerala take the total number of confirmed cases to 17, Kozhikode district medical officer V. Jayashree told Reuters. Fifteen of those people have died, she said.

The latest victims, identified as Madhusudhanan, 55, and Akhil, 28, were be-

lieved to have contracted the virus from a medical college, Jayashree said. No confirmed cases of the virus have been found yet outside Kerala despite fears it had spread. Several other Indian states have sent samples for testing from people who reported Nipah-like symptoms in the past few days.

Samples taken from bats in Kozhikode district, the suspected epicenter of the infection, have been sent for testing to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, animal husbandry officer A. Mohandas said, as officials continue to try to track the root of the outbreak. There is no vaccine for the virus, which is spread through bodily fluids and can cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, the World Health Organization says. —Reuters

International

Pompeo and top N Korean official plan summit as Lavrov meets Kim

Working to finalize planning for a June 12 summit

NEW YORK: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a top North Korean official were set to continue talks in New York yesterday to try to salvage next month's nuclear summit, as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov flew into Pyongyang for discussions with Kim Jong Un. Kim Yong Chol, considered the North Korean leader's right-hand man, is the most senior official from Pyongyang to visit the United States in 18 years.

Pyongyang's envoy joined Pompeo at the apartment of a US diplomat on Manhattan's East side on Wednesday for talks over an evening meal that lasted about an hour and a half. Two more meetings are scheduled for Thursday. "Good working dinner with Kim Yong Chol in New York tonight," Pompeo tweeted. "Steak, corn, and cheese on the menu."

It was the third meeting between the two officials who are working to finalize planning for a June 12

summit designed to end a nuclear standoff that has threatened to plunge Korea back into war. "They are meeting to see what needs to be done in the two weeks that remain," a senior US official said. "Between now and if we're going to have a summit, they're going to have to make clear what they're willing to do."

US and North Korean envoys have also been meeting in Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, and an American team is in Singapore to make logistical arrangements for the meeting. Washington wants North Korea to quickly give up all its nuclear weapons in a verifiable way in return for

sanctions and economic relief. But analysts say North Korea will be unwilling to cede its nuclear deterrent unless it is given security guarantees that the US will not try to topple the regime.

Russia urges caution

Meanwhile, Russia's foreign minister, who arrived in Pyongyang yesterday for talks with Kim Jong Un, warned against setting expectations too high and urged all sides to "avoid the temptation to demand 'everything and now.'" "We believe it is very important to treat these contacts in a very delicate manner, not to make any abrupt movements, to artificially speed up the process that requires a significant amount of time," Lavrov said, according to a transcript released by the Russian foreign ministry. "We call on all involved sides to fully appreciate their responsibility for not allowing this very important but still fragile process to break down," he said, adding

that Russia was ready to contribute to ongoing diplomatic efforts. Photos and video released by Russian state media showed Kim and Lavrov, who was making his first visit to the North since 2009, shaking hands.

Lavrov passed on greetings from President Vladimir Putin to Kim and invited him to visit Russia, the Russian foreign ministry said. Russia is the latest major nation to reach out to North Korea since Trump accepted Kim's proposal for a summit to defuse tensions. Kim has already had two meetings each with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and Pompeo—once as CIA director and then as

secretary of state. Lavrov spoke with Pompeo by telephone for the first time Wednesday, ahead of his Pyongyang trip. Earlier this month, President Donald Trump suddenly announced a cancellation of the summit, before reversing course 24 hours later.

PYONGYANG: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (R) shakes hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a meeting. — AFP



“US will not try to topple the regime”

Philippine peasants fight for land 30 years after reform

TAGUM CITY: A dozen bamboo and tarpaulin tents are pitched on the pavement, festooned with washing and banners - the department in charge of agrarian reform in Tagum City is sporting a new facade. Inside the tents there are hammocks, boxes of groceries and cooking vessels, presenting a tranquility that belies the urgent appeals on banners demanding land for peasants, and an end to the killing of farmers on the island of Mindanao.

Peasant farmers and leaders in the camp say they want genuine reform, as the government's agrarian reform program, known as CARP and enacted in 1988, has failed. "Thirty years after the law was passed, land has not been given to peasant farmers who have tilled the land for genera-

tions," said Lito Lao, chairperson of the agricultural workers' union in Mindanao, known by its Tagalog acronym UMA.

"Instead, farmers are getting killed for demanding their right to land, and dummy beneficiaries have been settled by landlords on land meant for the landless," he said. CARP, signed into law by then president Corazon Aquino, was initially set for 10 years, with an aim to distribute about 7.8 million hectares of land - roughly the size of Portugal - to reduce inequality and help alleviate poverty. In 1998, the program was extended by another 10 years. In 2009, Gloria Arroyo, who was president, unveiled CARPER, adding an Extension with Reforms to CARP and a deadline of 2014. Of a total area of 5.4 million hectares that fell under CARP's scope, the government has distributed 4.8 million hectares as of December 2017, according to a spokesman for the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). Activists say officials accepted thousands of fraudulent claims, and that about 44 percent of land distributed is public, requiring farmers pay to an amortisation fee they say is excessive.

Land reform has long been a contentious

Frenetic meetings

Pompeo has scheduled a news conference on Thursday, at the end of his meetings with Kim. The recently-appointed secretary of state called his South Korean and Singaporean counterparts over the weekend, and Japan is also keenly watching summit preparations. Kim Yong Chol, who is making his first US visit, is the most senior North Korean on US soil since Vice Marshal

Jo Myong Rok met then-president Bill Clinton in 2000. The general has played a key role during recent rounds of diplomacy aimed at ending the nuclear stalemate on the Korean peninsula. He sat near to Trump's daughter Ivanka during February's closing ceremony for the Winter Olympics in South Korea, an event that was seen as a turning point in the nuclear crisis. He also accompanied Kim Jong Un on both of his recent trips to China to meet President Xi Jinping, and held talks with Pompeo in Pyongyang. The key task ahead of the June 12 summit is to settle the agenda. The main stumbling block is likely to be the concept of "denuclearization"—both sides say they are in favor of it, but there is a yawning gap between their definitions. — AFP

issue in the Philippines, where a lasting legacy of Spanish colonial rule was a concentration of ownership among a wealthy few. Large corporations came to control the bulk of farm land for plantations of coconuts, bananas and pineapples. Matters came to a head in 1987, when the military attacked peasants marching in Manila, killing more than a dozen.

Enacted the following year, CARP allowed land owners to retain up to five hectares, in addition to three hectares for each heir. The state would acquire the remainder for distribution among the landless. But inaccurate and missing land titles slowed acquisitions, according to DAR. Landowners filed petitions for exemptions, or installed fraudulent beneficiaries on their land, activists say.

"Landlords and corporations who own large holdings are a powerful lobby, so acquisition of private lands fell well below target," said Marlon Manuel, an advisor to the legal advocacy group Namati. "Where land was distributed, there were no other services like funding or marketing. The farmers had little experience in managing land, and many of them ended up leasing or selling the

land and finding themselves landless again," he said. An official at the provincial DAR office in Tagum City said all qualified beneficiaries had been identified, and that distribution is still underway. "There is a procedure to become an Agricultural Reform Beneficiary (ARB), and we believe it is nearly perfect. Those who say they did not receive land - perhaps they did not qualify," Jocelyn Seno said in an interview in her office. "As for those who say fake ARBs have been installed in land holdings, there are legal options open to them, and it is up to them to prove they are fake. We have installed ARBs after identification and verification, and we stand by the process."

Protests by farmers have sometimes erupted into violent clashes with private security forces of landlords who refused to honor titles issued by DAR, activists say. Hundreds of farmers have also been arrested, and at least 114 have been killed amid a rural crackdown since President Rodrigo Duterte took office in 2016, according to rights groups. The Department of Justice did not respond to e-mails seeking comment on attacks on farmers. —Reuters

Friday|Times

Lifestyle

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

www.kuwaittimes.net

A model presents a creation for Gucci during the 2019 Gucci Croisiere (Cruise) fashion show at Alyscamps in Arles. — AFP

Silly old bear: Exhibition explores world of Winnie-the-Pooh

See Page 23

Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Cannes winner Kore-eda shines light on Japan's hidden poor

Veteran director Hirokazu Kore-eda says his Cannes Palme d'Or-winning film "Shoplifters" aims to shine a light on social problems in Japan, which he says are still underportrayed in the country's cinema production. In an interview with AFP in Tokyo, Kore-eda also said he aims to start shooting his next film in Paris this year and has already auditioned some actors for the roles. Kore-eda scooped the top prize at the Cannes film festival with a movie described as a "modern-day 'Oliver Twist,'" about a bunch of misfits and crooks in Tokyo who form a family.

The film was seen at Cannes as showing people finding comfort even in the worst economic conditions and exposing how the state can fail individuals struggling at the lower end of society. Kore-eda said that "the problem of poverty" in Japan, the

world's third-largest economy, "had an impact on the foreign viewer." "At the beginning of the century, when I went to foreign film festivals, I was often told in a critical way that there not many films showing social or political problems in Japanese cinema. It was seen as a fundamental weakness," he told AFP. While the number of films taking on this difficult subject matter has increased, the criticism stands, the 55-year-old said.

In his film, he said he was aiming "not to avoid the problem of poverty that exists in the background of the Japanese society I live in." After winning fame with the Palme d'Or top prize in Cannes, Kore-eda said he was starting to look beyond Japan, a "long-held" desire for him. However, he admitted that filming in Paris would not be easy for this Tokyo resident. The Japanese capital is "a fa-



Director Hirokazu Kore-eda

miliar place to me and therefore easy to shoot in but with Paris, I don't know its features, what feels right or wrong. I don't know anything."

"I'll go there to work out the lay of the land," after "Shoplifters" opens in Japan, he added. "I've been contacted by some French actresses and I started to write with them in mind. There is no official announcement yet, but I will start shooting this year," he revealed.

As in "Shoplifters", Kore-eda has constructed his own cinematic family of actors who appear in many of his films, including Hiroshi Abe, and Kirin Kiki, who often plays nasty grandmother figures. He said he had some concerns about working with non-Japanese given he "only speaks Japanese" and admitted it would be a "big challenge" to shoot with foreign actors. "I was 50 percent hope, 50 percent fear, but as the auditions went on, the hope ratio won out. I reckon we can make it work." — AFP

Michael Jackson's estate sues ABC for copyright infringement

Michael Jackson's estate sued ABC on Wednesday, arguing that a special network aired last week about the pop singer's final days used his songs and music videos without permission. The copyright infringement lawsuit, which also names ABC's corporate parent Walt Disney Co as a defendant, was filed in Los Angeles federal court and took aim at "The Last Days of Michael Jackson," a two-hour show broadcast on May 24. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. "Like Disney, the lifeblood of the estate's business is its intellectual property," the complaint said. "Yet for some reason, Disney decided it could just use the estate's most valuable intellectual property for free." An ABC News spokesperson said the company had not yet reviewed the lawsuit but defended the broadcast.



"The ABC News documentary explored

the life, career and legacy of Michael Jackson, who remains of great interest to people worldwide, and did not infringe on his estate's rights," the spokesperson said via e-mail. Jackson, known as the "King of Pop," died in 2009 from a prescription drug overdose at age 50. The estate raised objections to the show before it aired last week. According to the lawsuit, a lawyer for Disney told the estate the special's use of copyrighted music was "fair use" because of its documentary nature, an argument the estate called "absurd."

"If Disney's position on fair use of the estate's copyrights were accepted, a network, studio or producer could make a documentary about Walt Disney, and spend most of the documentary's time using, without Disney's permission, extensive clips of Mickey Mouse, Walt Disney, and Disney movies," the lawsuit said.

The show employed "at least 30 different copyrighted works," according to the lawsuit, including hit songs like "Billie Jean" and "Thriller" and video footage owned by the estate. Jackson has led Forbes' list of the highest-earning dead celebrities five years running, with an estimated \$75 million last year thanks to a Cirque du Soleil show in Las Vegas and a new posthumous album, among other sources of revenue. — Reuters



Actor Darren Criss and Actress Lea Michele perform at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

NY grand jury indicts Weinstein on rape, sex crime charges

A Manhattan grand jury Wednesday indicted Harvey Weinstein on rape and sex crime charges, the next step in efforts by prosecutors to bring the disgraced Hollywood mogul to trial for alleged sex crimes. The 66-year-old was initially charged last week in what was hailed a landmark for the #MeToo movement, nearly eight months after his career imploded in a blaze of accusations of misconduct. "This indictment brings the defendant another step closer to accountability for the crimes of violence with which he is now charged," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said Wednesday.

"Our office will try this case not in the press, but in the courtroom where it belongs," added Vance, who has been criticized for failing to prosecute Weinstein in a separate case three years ago. "This investigation remains active and ongoing. We continue to urge additional survivors and others with relevant information to call us," he added. Weinstein intends to plead not guilty and "strongly denies" the "unsupported allegations," his defense lawyer Ben Brafman confirmed Wednesday.

"We will soon formally move to dismiss the indictment and if this case actually proceeds to trial, we expect Mr Weinstein to be acquitted," Brafman said. The fallen producer declined to testify before the grand jury, on the advice of his legal team, which accused Vance's of-

fice of bowing to political pressure. The twice-married father of five is indicted with rape in the first and third degrees, stemming from an attack on a woman in 2013, and a criminal sex act against another woman in 2004. Neither victim has been named. — AFP



In this file photo Harvey Weinstein leaves the Manhattan Criminal Court in New York. —AFP



Tom Cruise

Cruise tweets as production starts on 'Top Gun' sequel

Tom Cruise is back on the flight line for a sequel to the 1986 film "Top Gun." The actor yesterday tweeted a photo of himself as Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in a flight suit, looking at a fighter jet.

The photo includes the phrase "feel the need." In the original movie, Cruise's character talks about how he feels the need for speed. Cruise writes #Day 1 of production of "Top Gun: Maverick." The movie is scheduled for release in July 2019. — AP

Judge sweeps clouds away for makers of R-rated puppet movie

A judge in New York ruled Wednesday against the makers of "Sesame Street" in a dispute with the distributor of the upcoming Melissa McCarthy movie, "The Happytime Murders." US District Judge Vernon Broderick ruled that distributor STX Productions can continue to use the tagline "No sesame. All street" in promoting the R-rated film, which features Muppet-like puppets in a comedic crime story. Sesame Workshop sued last week, seeking to end the inclusion of the tagline in promotional materials ahead of the film's Aug 17 release. The company argued the public would be confused and think the movie was supported by "Sesame Street."



The judge heard oral arguments before issuing his ruling. He said Sesame Workshop didn't demonstrate that moviegoers were confused or that sponsors or parents were complaining. "We fluffing love Sesame Street and we're obviously very pleased that the ruling reinforced what STX's intention was from the very beginning - to honor the heritage of The Jim Henson Company's previous award-winning creations while drawing a clear distinction between any Muppets or Sesame Street characters and the new world Brian Henson and team created," STX said in statement. — AP

'SAW,' 'INSIDIOUS' CREATOR LEIGH WHANNELL TURNS TO CYBORG HORROR

Part man, part machine—the ultimate expression of humanity's dominion over nature—cyborgs have been a staple of popular culture since they were unleashed in a short story by Edgar Allan Poe 175 years ago. Today they walk among us, in our movie theaters and in the real world, where pacemakers are prolonging lives and prostheses are helping paralympians win gold medals. More plausible than zombies or interstellar travel, cyborgs offer sci-fi fans a glimpse of a future that is already upon us, speaking to ancient paranoid fears about untrammelled technology wielded without responsibility. "I worry a lot more about human beings than tech," says Leigh Whannell, the writer of the best "Saw" movies and the entire "Insidious" franchise, whose cyborg thriller "Upgrade" hits US theaters on Friday.

"Even my fears about tech have to do with human beings. We are the ones creating this stuff, the great minds of tech, from Elon Musk to Steve Jobs, at one time," the 41-year-old Australian tells AFP. "These are the minds that are able to conceive and build these worlds and I'm worried about our tendencies." A cyborg—short for "cybernetic organism"—is a person with restored or enhanced mechanical or electrical body parts, typically giving them abilities beyond those of normal humans. They are not to be confused with androids, robots that have been made to appear human. So the Terminator, for example, doesn't count—but Robocop does. Their first appearance in fiction is generally credited to the 1843 Poe short story "The Man That Was Used Up," which describes a disabled war veteran with extensive prostheses.

'Undercurrent of anxiety'

"Upgrade" is the latest of several dozen mainstream cyborg, android and robot movies made since 1980, with Box Office Mojo attributing an average North American box office among the wide releases of about \$100 million. Cyborgs have been good guys and baddies down the years, from "The Six Million Dollar Man" through "Inspector Gadget" and perhaps the most iconic cyborg of them all, "Darth Vader."

They continue to captivate, says Whannell, because they tap into a persistent dread about augmented reality, artificial intelligence and other advances—that the technology is gradually becoming our master. Whannell uses the example of his smartphone, which makes him anxious whenever he opens it and checks the news. And it's the messenger, not the message, that's the problem.

"You could say smartphones are a first world problem, like people in Syria aren't worried about Twitter, they've got bigger things to worry about," the Australian tells AFP. "But I think that there is an undercurrent of anxiety in modern society that has to do with our reliance on tech and the bombardment of information that comes from it." In "Upgrade," curmudgeonly mechanic Grey Trace (Logan Marshall-Green), a technophobe sore thumb in a digital near-future, takes his wife Asha as



he delivers a restored classic car to tech billionaire Erin King. On the way home their self-driving car crashes and they are attacked by a gang who shoot dead Asha (Melanie Vallejo) and leave Grey a quadriplegic. King (Harrison Gilbertson) visits Grey in hospital and convinces him that his cutting-edge computer chip—he calls it "Stem" — will help him regain control over his ravaged body.

Souped-up Siri

Stem operates like a souped-up Siri, speaking in a voice only Trace can hear and able to operate his body independently, turning him into a cross between Usain Bolt and Bruce Lee. Since his 2004 portrayal as terrified hostage Adam Stanheight in James Wan's "Saw," Whannell has become one of the most influential voices in 21st century horror. He wrote three of the "Saw" movies—including that landmark first film, an early pioneer in the controversial "torture porn" genre—while his "Insidious" films made half a billion dollars worldwide on a

combined budget of \$27 million.

Whannell made his directorial debut with the third chapter in the series three years ago and was asked to direct 2018's "Insidious: The Last Key," but declined, preferring instead to strike out on his own. He still speaks with awe—and no small amount of humility—about his involvement in "Saw," and recalls, laughing, how Wan phoned him with the idea for the first and last scenes while Wan was on the toilet.

"It still gives me goosebumps to this day to think that this idea that we talked about back in Melbourne has connected with people around the world, that it has become a part of the pop culture zeitgeist," Whannell said. "You can make a 'Saw' reference now and everyone knows what you're talking about. You just to see an image of that puppet's face and people know what it's all about. 'It's up there with 'E.T.,' 'Jaws' and 'The Simpsons' and Coca-Cola and all the other pop culture memes that go around the world. That's pretty amazing for us." — AFP

Roberts to present AFI award to Clooney



This combination photo shows George Clooney and Julia Roberts. — AP

Julia Roberts is stepping out to present her longtime friend and frequent co-star George Clooney with one of the highest honors in film. The American Film Institute says Wednesday that Roberts will be on hand to give Clooney the 46th AFI Life Achievement Award at a gala to be held at the Dolby Theatre on June 7.

Roberts has co-starred with Clooney in a number of films including "Ocean's Eleven," "Ocean's Twelve" and "Money Monster." She also starred in his directorial debut "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind." The AFI tribute to Clooney will be broadcast on TNT on June 21 at 10:00 pm Eastern and Pacific. — AP

BEYOND THE PLASTIC GATE: BABY-PROOFING IN STYLE

It's a headache known to many new parents: Suddenly, your stylish abode morphs into a menagerie of outlet covers and cabinet locks. While the phrases "baby-proofing" and "kid-friendly" rarely conjure up images of elegance or sophistication, recent years have seen a range of more modern and stylish products available to those who want them. Baby-proofing has gone glam, so to speak.



A two-year-old Bradan Brook sits atop the open staircase in Arvada, Colo.



A 3-year-old Imran Sethna examines a child safety latch on the refrigerator door in Broomfield, Colo.

Parents can now cover the corners of their furniture with a variety of soft materials, or cordon off stove burners with a slick-looking adhesive guard. There are products for window-blind cords, door pinch protectors, locks for doors and toilet seats, covers for stove knobs, and more. No need any longer to block your stairway with a white plastic fence. A Georgia-based com-

pany, Qdos, sells a "crystal hardware mount gate," a clear acrylic panel that looks like a window. Qdos also sells outlet covers that can be slid open when you want to plug something in, and an adhesive stove guard that attaches around the front and sides of the four burners.

An Illinois company, Fusion Gates, makes baby barriers that resemble stained-glass windows. They come with a satin nickel, white pearl or black finish. For table corners, the online retailer Ellas Homes makes clear orb-shaped covers. The products are made of adhesive plastic but look like gel.

If you can't find what you're looking for locally, there's always the Internet, says Philadelphia mother Danielle Cormier-Smith. "I live in an older home and we have narrow stairwells that need smaller gates," she said. Stylish, inconspicuous baby-proofing was a priority for Rebecca Stanton, a New York City mom. "We sprang for a wooden safety gate and playpen that looked nicer and wasn't a giant hunk

of plastic," Stanton says. "We got magnetic, childproof cabinet locks that are invisible from the outside."

Such baby-proofing accessories are a boon to retailers. A 2016 report by market analysts Sandler Research said many parents are hiring child safety specialists to outfit their homes. Jeff Baril, who owns Safe Beginnings, Inc., a Billerica, Massachusetts-based baby-proofing and child safety business, warns against putting too much emphasis on chic. "Style and sophistication have improved, but stylish is not always safest," he says. "Parents should evaluate for safety, which should always come first." And then there are many parents who question whether all of this baby-proofing is necessary. Maya Brook of Arvada, Colorado, has embraced a minimalist stance. When asked how many safety products she uses with her three boys, who range in age from an infant to a 4-year-old, Brook responds, "not many."

"It's all about logical consequences," she says. "Even a toddler is



Photo provided by Fusion Gates shows one of company's styled baby gates.

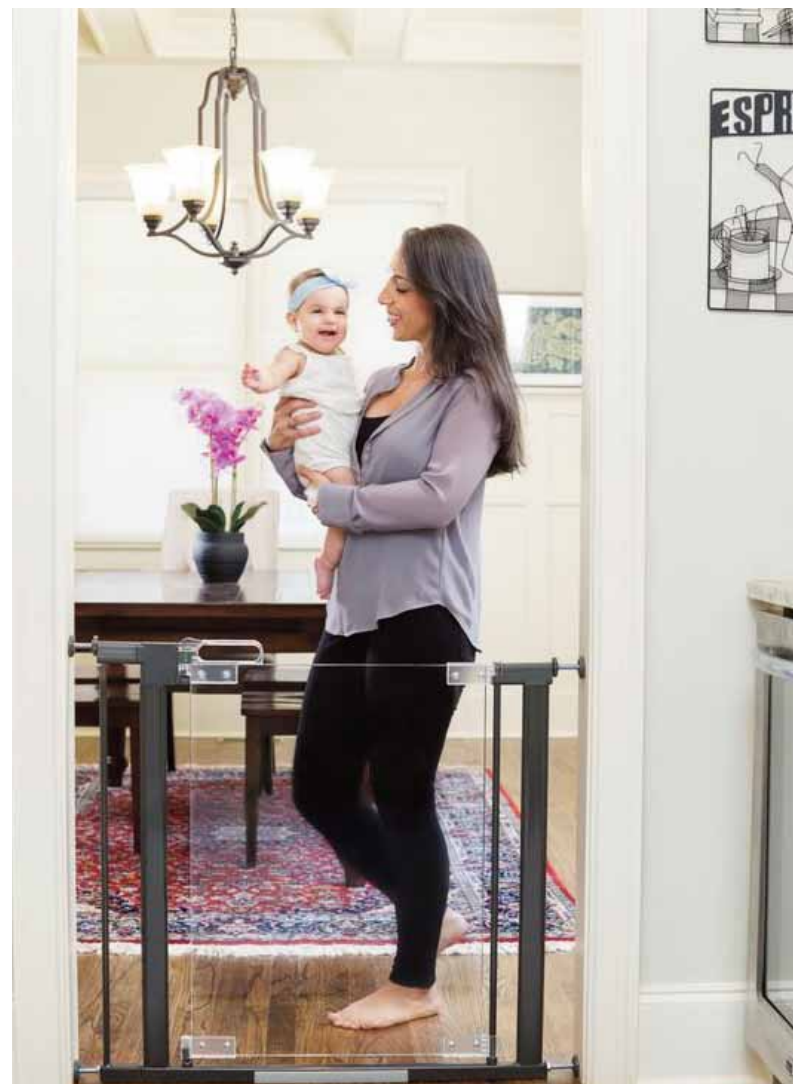


Photo provided by Regal Lager shows the Qdos Crystal Baby Gate. — AP photos

very capable of reason." "If you keep clean-green products in your home, keep breakables up high, teach your children to trust their bodies, to re-

spect their things, and teach them 'no' when you need to, then you don't need all those baby-proofing gadgets," she says. — AP



Photo provided by Fusion Gates shows one of company's styled baby gates.



Photo provided by Fusion Gates shows one of company's styled baby gates. — AP photos



Photo shows framed illustrations from Winnie-the-Pooh stories hanging among blown-up images of the stories' characters on the walls of Atlanta's High Museum of Art.

SILLY OLD BEAR: EXHIBITION EXPLORES WORLD OF WINNIE-THE-POOH

A new exhibition in Atlanta celebrates Winnie-the-Pooh, wandering through his magical world and giving visitors a peek behind the scenes at the people, relationships and inspirations behind the “silly old bear” and his friends. “Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic” opens Sunday at the High Museum of Art. It highlights the intensely collaborative relationship between author A.A. Milne and illustrator E.H. Shepard, who brought the stories to life, and guides visitors through those tales and their lessons.

“It’s the idea that a writer can imagine a whole world but the written descriptions can only go so far, and then the illustrations take you the next step,” said Virginia Shearer, the High’s director of education. Milne was inspired by his young son’s stuffed toys to create stories about a boy named Christopher Robin (his son’s first and middle names) and his beloved Winnie-the-Pooh, also known as Pooh Bear. The bear and his plush friends come to life on the page just as they do in the imagination of a child, animated by witty prose and playful drawings.

In a room hung with pale blue and white striped wallpaper to evoke a nursery, a faux window looks out on the imaginary world created by Milne and Shepard as the only known recording of Milne reading from the “Winnie-the-Pooh” book of stories plays in the background. A glass case houses replicas of the plush toys that inspired the characters.

Milne invited Shepard to his home to draw portraits of his son’s toy animals “from life” and hosted Shepard at his country home so he could observe and sketch the trees and landscapes that inspired the Hundred Acre Wood, where Pooh and friends live. Some of the pencil-sketched studies that resulted are on display in a part of the exhibition that explores their collaboration.

Encouraging people

Drawings grouped by the chapters in “Winnie-the-Pooh” and “The House at Pooh Corner” are the exhibition’s main focus. Story panels at adult eye-level give brief summaries of the chapters. Panels at child eye-level are written for beginning readers and encourage children think about the lessons learned. The exhibition ends with a room filled with Winnie-the-Pooh merchandise, ranging from the earliest days to the present, to illustrate the spread and growth of the brand. It in-



Photo provided by Regal Lager shows the Qdos Crystal Baby Gate.

cludes the familiar plush bear with a red T-shirt reading “Pooh” marketed by Disney, which bought the character rights in 1961.

The exhibition is a continuation of a series at the High that puts the spotlight on children’s book authors and illustrators. “I think with all of these projects we’re encouraging people to look closely at what they have at home and realize they have works of art in their own homes,” said co-presenting curator Ginia Sweeney. Another goal, she said, is to provide children with skills they can use to visit and enjoy the rest of the museum and to give parents the tools to help them. Shearer and Sweeney said they hope the exhibition inspires children to get outside, away from screens, to have adventures.

“Christopher Robin says his favorite thing to do is nothing because you have so many possibilities when you have nothing to do,” Sweeney said. The exhibition was organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. After its US premiere at the High Museum, where it will be on view from Sunday through Sept 2, the exhibition is set to be on display at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts from Sept 22 through Jan 6 before heading to Japan. — AP

Artist forces French ministry to remove graffiti star’s homage

The maker of France’s most famous modern public artwork has forced the country’s culture ministry to take down a piece of street art it had put up next to it. Veteran artist Daniel Buren, whose 260 candy-stripy columns at Palais Royal were once themselves condemned as a carbuncle, objected to the temporary work which was meant to be a homage to his own. The ministry confirmed that it had taken down the striped posters put up by Parisian graffiti artist Le Module de Zeer.

He had covered the 17th-century colonnade around Buren’s work with black and white horizontal stripes, which were meant to be “in dialogue” with Buren’s vertical ones. But the 80-year-old, who has brought the state to court in the past for not properly looking after his work, said that he had not been informed and demanded they be taken down. Le Module de Zeer, whose real name is Mehdi, has built up a cult following in the French capital, covering a nightclub and a giant disused factory chimney with futuristic doodles.

Jean Faucheur, the curator who helped put up Le Module de Zeer’s work at Palais Royal, said the controversy had been “very hurtful” for the artist. “It is a real pity, it’s a scandal which could have been avoided,” he said. But the French culture ministry said they had no choice but to act after admitting that they had not asked Buren’s permission. “We are the ministry of intellectual property and copyright... and we have to be exemplary,” a spokesman told AFP. — AFP



These handout picture taken by French artist and curator Jean Faucheur, shows a piece of art by French street artist LeMoDuLeDeZeer aka LMDZ installed on the columns of the Palais Royal in Paris, facing the Colonnades de Buren by French artist Daniel Buren. — AFP

GUCCI RESORT 2019

SHOW TOOK PLACE IN A GRAVEYARD



By Palesa Kgasane

Alessandro Michele presented his resort show in the last place anyone would ever think of having a runway show... a burial ground in the Roman city of Arles. Spooky much? Interestingly enough, the cemetery is one of UNESCO's world heritage sights and was completely transformed by the candles and lights used for the runway show.

With no less than 114 looks, the death ritual inspired show consisted of a funeral procession-like model army clad in eccentric and retro Gucci regalia, embellished with feathers, crosses, granny sunnies, earrings and bags. All in all, we loved it! What's a Gucci show without a little quirkiness?



Lifestyle | Fashion



Models present creations for Gucci during the 2019 Gucci Croisiere (Cruise) fashion show on May 30, 2018 at Alysamps in Arles. — AFP photos

The games of May: Completing my growing Steam wish-list

By Aakash Bakaya

The summer heat might be charring my skin but at least there's something to look forward to - the upcoming Steam Summer Sale. For us PC gamers', Christmas comes four times a year i.e whenever Steam bestows us with a great seasonal sale. So before Steam plunders my wallet once again I wanted to clear out some games from my small (but growing) wish-list. These three games do not make up the entire wish-list but they are definitely some of the oldest titles on it.



DOOM (2016)

A franchise I love, a sick heavy metal soundtrack, a strong focus on the campaign and bloody gratuitous violence - DOOM has everything I could ask for in an FPS. But maybe, just maybe, I had set my expectations way too high. Bethesda and id Software's critically acclaimed rebirth of the DOOM series is a fantastic game that excels in everything it set out to do but there are departments I feel it fell slightly short in. I think it's just the series of contradictions the game finds itself in. Firstly, the gun play feels fast, furious and fantastic but a few of the guns don't have the wow factor I was expecting. The Pulse cannon and the Mini-Gun are slightly under-powered, the Combat Shotgun is a mediocre version of the vastly superior Double Barrel Shotgun and many of the weapon upgrades are not that exciting. This issue is rectified when you play the campaign missions again as you can get all the upgrades you want but it might hinder your initial run.

Then there's the story. It's harsh to overly scrutinize an FPS campaign especially in an age where developers are abandoning the concept all together and DOOM certainly tries to tell compelling story. I just think it should have focused more on the Doom Marine himself and less on the

overbearing and tired UAC corporate corruption angle. Everything regarding the UAC felt forced and even the writers themselves seemed like they were going through the motions. The Doom Marine however is so much more fun and the animations they give him during key story moments are criminally under-used. It only gets better after you journey through Hell and find out about the legendary 'Doom Slayer', a mythological figure that has crushed the forces of Hell countless of times in countless of lives. I wanted to know more about that! I wanted to get a huge a** sword and go to town on those mountain-sized Hell Barons but alas the more interesting aspects of the back-story are relegated to text.

I digress. DOOM for all its minor shortcomings remains a symphony of brutality that simultaneously honors its forebears and kicks down the door for the future of first-person shooters as a whole. I didn't think I would have so much fun (sometimes even more so) after completing the story and going back to find all the secrets scattered around the well-designed maps so that has certainly deepened my appreciation for the game even more. I have only played a few rounds of multi-player but I couldn't really get into it. If stamping down on Hell Knights and snapping necks off Imps sounds like something down your alley then DOOM is highly recommended.





Firewatch (2016)

From the cut-throat, breakneck action of DOOM to a somber walking-simulator, the transition to 'Firewatch' was jarring but purposely so. I was looking for something different after DOOM and this game certainly filled that criteria. A debut production by dev team Camp Santo - 'Firewatch' was a grounded, hyper-realistic gaming experience I won't soon forget.

I had little idea of what to expect coming into the game. I have a great fondness for the American outdoors so after watching a recent video on the game detailing those aspects I was immediately interested. It created quite a stir when it was released two years ago but the apprehension over its ending and its overall short length never really intrigued me enough to warrant a purchase. I am happy to report that after finally coming around to playing it, those fears were unfounded.

The game firmly puts you into the camping boots of its protagonist Henry. Henry is in the midst of a grueling family crisis and decides he needs to get away from it all. So he decides to become a fire lookout in Wyoming's Shoshone National Forest. There you get to know Delilah, your supervisor and in-charge who is situated at one of the neighboring fire look-outs. The story, a dialogue-heavy affair is told almost entirely through walkie-talkie conversations you have with Delilah. You also get to shape the nature of your back story and a bit of your personality through smart and most importantly realistic dialogue options.

'Firewatch' puts a hefty amount of effort into keeping both the story and the game play mechanics as realistic as possible. These gameplay 'mechanics' (which can be argued are not really mechanics at all but that's a discussion for another time) revolve around the only two tools the game gives you - a map and a compass. No seriously that's all you get. You must chart your way through your surroundings and mark pathways and points of interests to help

you get around. It isn't difficult at all but the game's commitment to keeping your character grounded is laudable. The story follows a similar trajectory till the very end and it's easy to see why people were disappointed by the tragic but simple ending. I personally loved the fact that it never went overboard with conspiracies or any other cliché-horror element, something that was hinted at throughout the narrative. But the game sticks to its strengths and the experience ultimately is all the more rewarding for it.

One of the best features of the game that surely must be mentioned is the writing that develops the endearing relationship between Henry and Delilah. It truly stands as a high watermark for videogame narratives and although it ends up feeling a bit short, the few touches the writers add and the confident way they handle the time jumps (the game takes place over a course of three months but you only get to play about two weeks of it) make up for it. I can't say 'Firewatch' is really worth its full asking price but do keep an eye out for it during the next Steam sale.

South Park: The Stick of Truth (2014)

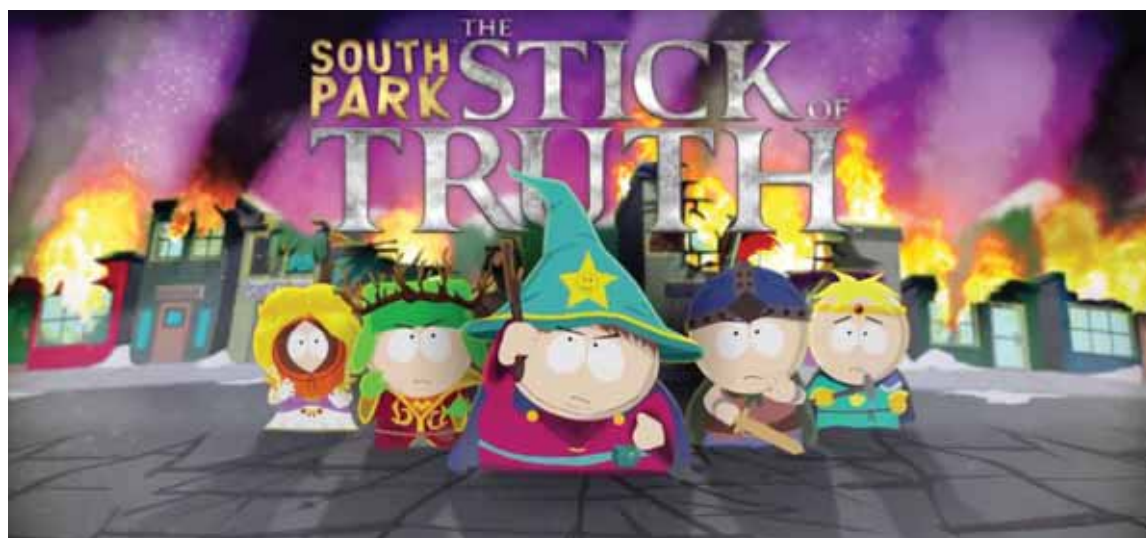
Most probably the game that has been longest on my wish-list, 'Stick of Truth' easily matched my long burrowing expectations I had for it. A wonderful homage to the long-running series, Matt Stone and Trey Parker (the creators of South Park) nail the look, feel and the gross-out humor the show is famous for. Collaborating with Obsidian Entertainment was another genius move on their part as the studio's vast experience in the RPG genre provides the game with just enough mechanical and role-playing depth to keep the experience both approachable and fresh.

The story elements are way too graphic and bonkers to be even remotely described in a family-friendly paper but as a long-time fan of the show, I was satisfied with all the throw-backs and sheer amount of characters they managed to squeeze into this 10-12 hour game. It certainly felt like I was watching an entire season of the show but with even more twists and turns than usual. The only complaint I had with the story was that I wish they added a few more original characters and story-lines as the opportunity was certainly there to do so. As fun as it was getting abducted by Aliens and helping Al Gore with his Man-Bear-Pig problem

I couldn't help but feel like I've seen all this before on the show.

The heavy-set RPG gameplay mechanics on the other hand doesn't come off as innovative as it might have been when it was released in 2014. The turn-based combat is implemented well with your character (which is fully customizable) being able to choose from four main classes (Warrior, Mage, Rogue and Jew) and as fun as it is to see iconic fantasy abilities recreated in a wacky South Park style, there simply wasn't as much variety needed to sustain a 10+ hour runtime. You get a total of only 6 abilities, the last of which is only unlocked at the very end while the "party" system consists of only 5 other companions from which you can only choose one to fight beside you during combat. It is bursting with flavor and humor but it gets so ridiculously easy. By the time you reach the late-game the numerous fights the game throws at you become more tedious than challenging.

'Stick of Truth' has issues beyond the tame combat system. The game turned into buggy mess at times, one especially irritating issue that affected me was the fact that my character became completely invisible during the final cut scenes. I don't know why or how that happened. However the game as a whole was a fun and memorable experience and even managed to dethrone 'Portal 2' as the funniest game I've ever played. The package comes together exceptionally and I'll definitely be looking to pick up the sequel.



Grill protein-packed tempeh for a twist on barbecue

By America's Test Kitchen

Cooking protein-packed tempeh on the grill gives it great smoky flavor and char. We cut it into cubes and thread the cubes onto skewers with firm, sweet bell peppers and meaty mushrooms, then brush the whole thing with sweet barbecue sauce, which helps temper the slightly bitter tempeh. A portion of the barbecue sauce, thinned with oil and water, also serves as a marinade for the tempeh, infusing it with barbecue flavor. We took advantage of the grill being in use to create a simple but flavor-packed salad of grilled romaine and charred lemon. You will need eight 12-inch metal skewers for this recipe.



BARBECUED TEMPEH SKEWERS WITH GRILLED ROMAINE

Ingredients

Servings: 4
Start to finish: 1 hour
1 3/4 cups barbecue sauce
6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 pound tempeh
1 pound cremini mushrooms
2 red bell peppers
2 romaine lettuce hearts (12 ounces)
1 lemon
Salt and pepper

Preparation

Heat Grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Leave all burners on high.

Marinate Tempeh and Mushrooms: While grill heats, combine 1 cup barbecue sauce, 1/4 cup oil, and 1/4 cup

water in 1-gallon zipper-lock bag. Cut tempeh into 1 1/2-inch pieces and add to bag with marinade. Trim mushrooms and add to bag. Press out air from bag, seal, and turn to coat; set aside.

Prep Vegetables: Stem and seed bell peppers, then cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces. Halve each romaine heart lengthwise (do not core). Halve lemon crosswise.

Prep Skewers and Lettuce: Remove tempeh and mushrooms from marinade and thread in alternating order with peppers onto eight 12-inch metal skewers. Pat dry with paper towels. Brush romaine with remaining 2 tablespoons oil and season with salt and pepper.

Grill Skewers: Clean and oil cooking grate. Place skewers on grill and cook, covered, turning as needed, until tempeh is well browned and vegetables are tender and slightly charred, 10 to 12 minutes. Brush 1 side of skewers with 1/4 cup barbecue sauce and turn sauced side down. Grill until

sizzling and well browned, about 1 minute. Repeat on second side with additional 1/4 cup barbecue sauce. Transfer to platter and tent with aluminum foil.

Grill Lettuce and Finish Dish: Place romaine and lemon cut side down on now-empty grill and cook until lightly charred, 3 to 5 minutes. Flip romaine and cook until second side is lightly browned, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer romaine to second platter and squeeze grilled lemon over lettuce. Slide tempeh and vegetables off skewers. Serve with remaining 1/4 cup barbecue sauce and romaine.

Nutrition information per serving:

311 calories; 157 calories from fat; 17 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 312 mg sodium; 24 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 10 g sugar; 20 g protein.

For delicious cake pops at home, ditch the store-bought mix

By America's Test Kitchen

There's no denying the novel appeal of cake pops; after all, everyone loves food on a stick, and if it's dessert, even better. Most recipes call for starting with cake made from a store-bought mix, breaking it into crumbs, combining it with canned frosting, and forming the mixture into balls. We knew we could do better.

Making a simple homemade yellow cake was easy enough and far superior to anything from a box; baking it in an 8-inch

square pan gave us just enough cake for about three dozen pops. While traditional frosting worked as a binder, tasters found the pops overwhelmingly sweet. Moistening the crumbs with milk worked just as well, and a couple of tablespoons of confectioners' sugar provided just enough sweetness.

Briefly freezing the cookie dough-like cake balls made them firm enough to stay put on their sticks, and also helped set the coating of melted chocolate chips (chips worked better than bar chocolate because their stabilizers created a smooth, snappy coating).

We like to use a 2-cup liquid measuring cup to melt the chocolate; its tall, narrow sides allow for easier coating of the cake balls. You'll need a floral foam block (available at craft stores and online) to stand the cake pops upright as the coating sets. If you're unable to find one, stand the dipped cake pops upside down on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet (note that this will give the tops a flat appearance). To make different colors for the coating, add drops of food coloring to the melted white chocolate chips.

PARTY CAKE POPS



Ingredients

Makes: 36 cake pops

Start to finish: 4 hours

1 1/2 cups (7 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour

1 cup (7 ounces) granulated sugar

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

1/2 cup sour cream

1 large egg plus 2 large yolks, room temperature

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/4 cup milk

2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

2 1/2 cups (15 ounces) white chocolate chips or semisweet chocolate chips

Lollipop sticks

Multicolored nonpareil sprinkles

Preparation

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8-inch square baking pan, line with parchment paper, grease parchment, and flour pan. Whisk flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, and salt together in bowl of stand mixer. Fit stand mixer with paddle; add butter, sour cream, egg

and yolks, and vanilla; and beat on medium speed until smooth and satiny, about 30 seconds. Scrape down bowl with rubber spatula and stir by hand until smooth and no flour pockets remain.

Scrape batter into prepared pan and smooth top with rubber spatula. Gently tap pan on counter to release air bubbles. Bake until light golden and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating pan halfway through baking. Let cake cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan, discarding parchment, and let cool completely on rack, about 2 hours. (Cake can be wrapped in plastic wrap and stored at room temperature for up to 24 hours.)

In clean, dry bowl of stand mixer fitted with paddle, break cake into rough 1-inch pieces. Add milk and confectioners' sugar and beat on medium-low speed until broken into fine, evenly moistened crumbs and cohesive dough begins to form, about 1 minute, scraping down bowl as needed.

Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Working with 1 packed tablespoon cake mixture at a time, roll into balls and place in single layer on prepared sheet. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze until firm but still pliable, 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Microwave 2 cups chocolate chips in 2-cup liquid measuring cup at 50 percent power, stirring occasionally, until melted, 1 to 2 minutes. Working with 1 cake ball at a time, in-

sert lollipop stick into cake ball, stopping at center. Dip entire cake ball into melted chocolate and turn until completely coated (tipping measuring cup to the side as needed). Lift up from chocolate (do not turn upright) and gently shake side to side to allow excess coating to drip off evenly. Turn cake pop upright, gently twist back and forth to even out coating, and insert stick into foam block. Sprinkle with nonpareils. Stir and rewarm chocolate in microwave as needed to stay fluid; add remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips and melt when chocolate level becomes too low to dip easily. (If cake balls become too soft, refreeze until firm.)

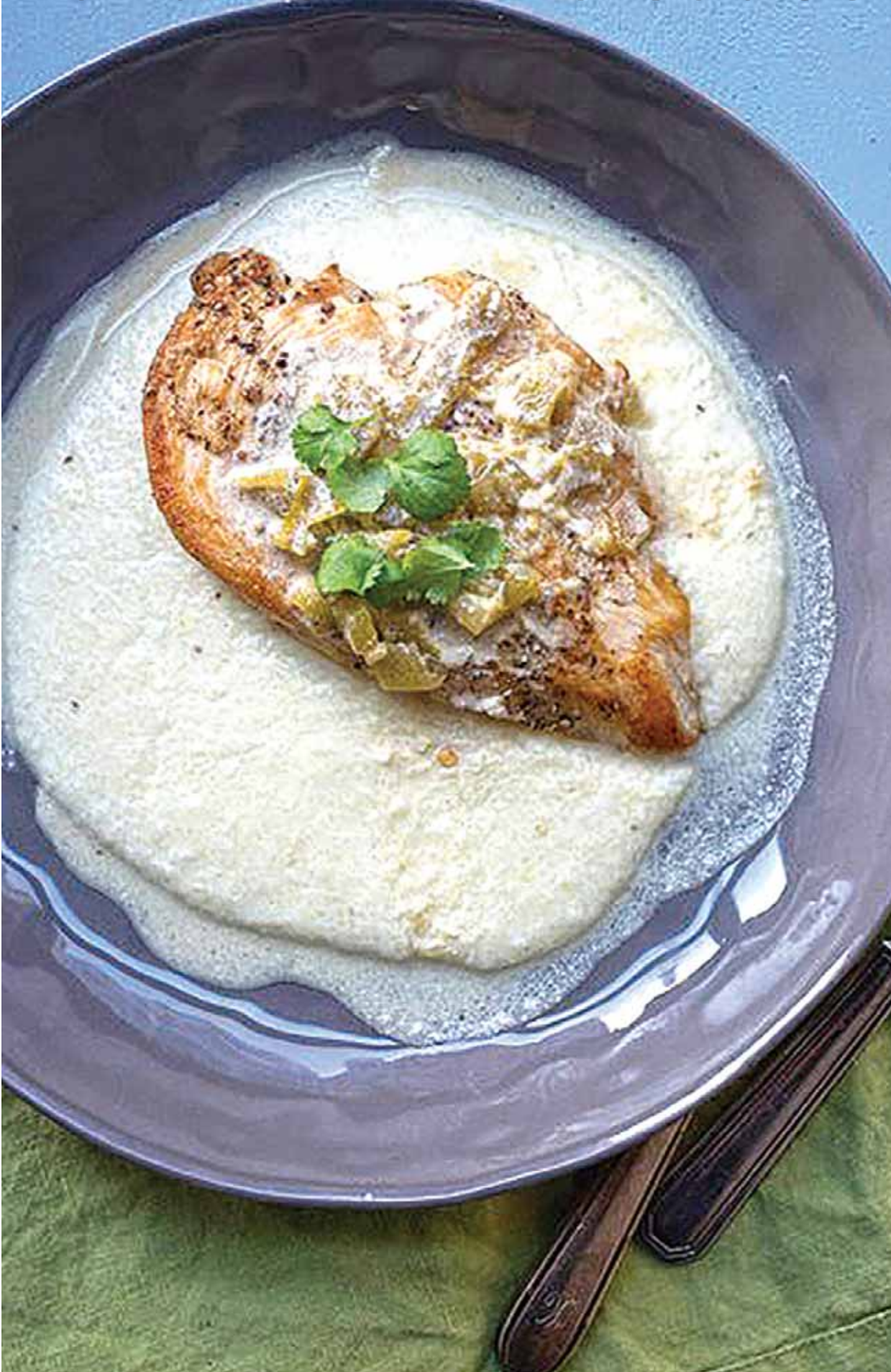
Let cake pops sit at room temperature until coating is set, about 30 minutes. Serve. (Cake pops can be kept at room temperature for up to 4 hours or refrigerated for up to three days; bring to room temperature before serving.)

Nutrition information per cake pop

132 calories; 62 calories from fat; 7 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 27 mg cholesterol; 35 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 12 g sugar; 2 g protein.

COOKING ON DEADLINE:

Grits with Chicken and Tomatillo Sauce



By Katie Workman

If you are from the American South, then you do not need grits explained to you. Slide right on down to the recipe. If you need a little more edification (and if you aren't familiar with grits, your world is about to be rocked), here we go. Grits are ground dried corn. Traditionally, grits most often come from white corn. The whole shebang is similar to polenta, from the ground dried corn (usually yellow in the case of polenta) to how it is prepared. Purists in the grits or polenta camps would beg to differ. Grits are usually a bit creamier in texture after being cooked, and appear on plates or in bowls at breakfast, lunch and dinner in the South. There are different kinds of grits, which take different amounts of time to cook. I often use quick-cooking grits (or polenta) because in less than 10 minutes you can have your grits ready to serve. If you have a little more time, the texture of the longer-cooking varieties is a bit more interesting. Be sure to read package instructions, as cooking times vary widely. Also note that the amount of liquid each kind requires can vary.

For breakfast, grits are usually served in a sweet way, with maple syrup or brown sugar on top, and generous amounts of butter (basically whatever you use to top oatmeal is appropriate for grits). For lunch or dinner, they usually take a savory twist - then they are more akin to rice or mashed potatoes in the way they round out a meal. Here, they are enriched with some cream and cheese for an addictively fine base for quickly sauteed chicken breasts and a slightly creamy sauce. One little can of green chilies packs a nice amount of piquancy but not too much heat. There are lots of ways to get acquainted with grits. Once you get to know them, be prepared for a deep, lifelong relationship.

GRITS WITH CHICKEN AND TOMATILLO GREEN CHILI AND SOUR CREAM PAN SAUCE

Ingredients

Serves 4
 Start to finish: 25 minutes
 2 cups water
 1 cup whole milk
 Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
 3/4 cup quick cooking (not instant) grits
 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into pieces
 1/2 cup heavy cream
 1/4 cup grated Parmesan
 4 (8-ounce) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 teaspoon finely minced garlic
 1 (4-ounce) can diced roasted green chilies
 1 cup chicken broth
 1/2 cup sour cream

Preparation

Place the milk and water in a saucepan with salt and pepper, and bring to a simmer over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium and slowly add the grits, stirring constantly. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring frequently for about 8 minutes until the grits are smooth and creamy. Stir in the butter, heavy cream, and Parmesan until the butter is melted and the grits are hot and very creamy.

While the grits are simmering, season the chicken breasts with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium high heat. Add the chicken breasts and saute until done, about 4 to 5 minutes on each side. Remove the chicken breasts to a plate and set aside. Do not wipe out the skillet!

Add the garlic to the skillet and saute over medium heat for 1 minute, until it starts to color. Add the green chilis, turn the heat up to medium high, then add the broth and stir to scrape up all the little flavorful bits that may be stuck to the bottom of the skillet. Simmer for about 4 minutes until the mixture reduces slightly. Whisk in the sour cream until well combined and heat just until the mixture is hot, but don't allow it to come to a simmer. Scoop some hot grits onto each of four individual plates. Place a chicken breast on each plate, on top of the grits, and pour the sauce over the chicken breasts. Serve hot.

Nutrition information per serving:

585 calories; 297 calories from fat; 33 g fat (17 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 167 mg cholesterol; 448 mg sodium; 35 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 35 g protein.

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Old TV Shows 3

Find and circle all of the old TV shows that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional old TV show.

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

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ADAMS FAMILY | FAMILY TIES | KNOTS LANDING | QUANTUM LEAP |
| AVENGERS | GET SMART | KUNG FU | QUINCY |
| BATMAN | GOLDEN GIRLS | LONE RANGER | ROCKFORD FILES |
| BEWITCHED | GUNSMOKE | MAGNUM P.I. | ROSEANNE |
| BRADY BUNCH | HAPPY DAYS | MANNIX | STAR TREK |
| CHARLIE'S ANGELS | HARRY O | MASH | THE SAINT |
| COACH | HIGHLANDER | MCCLLOUD | TWIN PEAKS |
| COLUMBO | HOGAN'S HEROES | MONKEES | WINGS |
| COSBY SHOW | HOTEL | NIGHT GALLERY | WONDER YEARS |
| CYBILL | I LOVE LUCY | PRETENDER | X FILES |
| DRAGNET | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Old TV Shows 2

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

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A-TEAM | DOCTOR WHO | HEE HAW | NEWHART |
| ALF | DYNASTY | HUNTER | NIGHT COURT |
| AIRWOLF | EQUALIZER | JEFFERSONS | OUTER LIMITS |
| BARETTA | FALCON CREST | KNIGHT RIDER | PRISONER |
| BARNABY JONES | FAME | MACGYVER | S.W.A.T. |
| BENSON | FANTASY ISLAND | MAVERICK | SILVER SPOONS |
| BIG VALLEY | FISH | MAYBERRY R.F.D. | T.J. HOOKER |
| BONANZA | FLINTSTONES | MISTER ED | TWILIGHT ZONE |
| CHEERS | FULL HOUSE | MUNSTERS | VIRGINIAN |
| COACH | GROWING PAINS | NANNY | WEBSTER |
| DALLAS | HAWAII FIVE-O | | |

The hidden TV show is: MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS

CROSSWORD 1924

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15				16							17		
18				19							20		
21				22							23		
		24		25						26			
27	28			29					30	31	32	33	
34		35		36		37	38		39		40		
41				42	43	44			45	46			
47			48	49		50			51			52	
53				54					55	56			
57				58					59	60			61
				62					63		64	65	
66	67	68		69			70		71			72	73
74				75		76		77	78			79	
80				81		82						83	
84				85								86	

ACROSS

- Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- Cause to be more favorably inclined.
- Inquire about.
- A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
- Device that has a sheet perforated with printing through which ink or paint can pass to create a printed pattern.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
- A band around the crown of a hat just above the brim.
- The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- Little known Kamarupan languages.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
- A formal dance held for a school class toward the end of the academic year.
- A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
- The cry made by sheep.
- Physically and mentally fatigued.
- A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- A luminance unit equal to 1 candle per square meter measured perpendicular to the rays from the source.
- A genus of Mustelidae.
- Of or relating to or involving an area.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- On the contrary.
- An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- In operation or operational.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Perceive sound.
- A major waterfall in southern Africa.
- A civil or military authority in Turkey or Egypt.
- The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
- Hormone released by the hypothalamus that controls the release of thyroid-stimulating hormone from the anterior pituitary.
- Relating to or resulting from arbitration.
- The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
- Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
- Canadian writer (born in Sri Lanka in 1943).
- A tight-fitting headdress.

DOWN

- One of several parallel sloping beams that support a roof.
- Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- Jordan's port.
- A soft blackish-brown resinous exudate from various rockroses used in perfumes especially as a fixative.
- The residue that remains when something is burned.
- The male reproductive organ of a flower.
- Annual or perennial grasses of warm regions.
- Remove a bar from (a door, for example).
- Mites and ticks.
- Strong liquor flavored with juniper berries.
- Late time of life.
- A city in northern India.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- Erect leafless flower stalk growing directly from the ground as in a tulip.
- Informal terms for a mother.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
- The basic monetary unit in many countries.
- A hard protective sheath as secreted by certain protozoists e.g..
- The sodium salt of amobarbital that is used as a barbiturate.
- Terminate before completion, as of a computer process, a mission, etc..
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A tax on employees and employers that is used to fund the Social Security system.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
- City in northeast Pakistan.
- Large genus of tropical American trees that yield a bast fiber used for cordage and bark used in tanning.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 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.
- Half the width of an em.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- Of or relating to or containing barium.
- The basic monetary unit of most members of the European Union (introduced in 1999).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- An outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- The general activity of selling.
- A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
- A program under which employees regularly accumulate shares and may ultimately assume control of the company.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- A vacuum tube in which a hot cathode emits a beam of electrons that pass through a high voltage anode and are focused or deflected before hitting a phosphorescent screen.
- A pilgrimage to Mecca.
- A bachelor's degree in religion.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily Sudoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings



00:45 My Stepdaughter
02:25 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
04:55 Star Trek: Generations
07:00 Falsely Accused
08:35 My Stepdaughter
10:15 A Kind Of Murder
12:00 X-Men
13:55 Deepwater Horizon
15:55 Armageddon America
17:35 Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope
19:45 Jack Reacher: Never Go Back
21:45 Extortion
23:40 Flight World War II



00:45 The Jeff Corwin Experience
01:40 My Tiny Terror
02:35 SSPCA: On The Wildside
03:00 SSPCA: On The Wildside
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 North Woods Law
05:02 Wildest Latin America
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Meet The Orangutans
07:00 Meet The Orangutans
07:25 SSPCA: On The Wildside
07:50 SSPCA: On The Wildside
08:15 The Jeff Corwin Experience
09:10 My Tiny Terror
10:05 Wildest Latin America
11:00 SSPCA: On The Wildside
11:28 SSPCA: On The Wildside
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 North Woods Law
13:45 My Tiny Terror
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 The Jeff Corwin Experience
17:25 Surviving Harvey: Animals After The Storm
18:20 Life At Vet University
19:15 My Tiny Terror
20:10 SSPCA: On The Wildside
20:38 SSPCA: On The Wildside
21:05 Surviving Harvey: Animals After The Storm
22:00 Life At Vet University
22:55 Wildest Latin America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:25 The Detectorists
00:55 New Tricks
01:50 Holby City
02:45 Liar
03:30 Liar
04:15 Friday Night Dinner
04:45 The Detectorists
05:15 Agatha Raisin
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Holby City
08:00 Doctors
08:30 Doctors
09:00 EastEnders
09:30 Hold The Sunset
10:00 Carters Get Rich
10:25 New Tricks
11:20 Casualty
12:15 Holby City
13:10 Doctors
13:40 EastEnders
14:10 Casualty
15:05 Hold The Sunset
15:35 Carters Get Rich
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
17:00 Doctors
17:30 Doctors
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Carters Get Rich
19:00 New Tricks
20:00 Trust Me
21:00 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators
21:50 Maigret
23:25 Doctors
23:55 Carters Get Rich



00:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Case-book
01:00 Cold Case Files
01:55 Marcia Clark Investigates
Comedy Central
00:05 Important Things With Demitri Martin
00:30 Friends
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
01:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
02:10 Disaster Date
02:35 Important Things With Demitri Martin
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Catch A Contractor
05:05 Snack Off
05:30 Snack Off
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
06:50 I Used To Be Fat
07:40 Impractical Jokers
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
09:25 Catch A Contractor
10:10 I Used To Be Fat
11:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 House Of Food
13:05 Framework
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:20 Ridiculousness
14:45 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 House Of Food
16:55 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
17:20 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
17:45 Ridiculousness
18:10 Ridiculousness
18:35 Takeshis Castle Thailand
19:00 Friends
19:25 Friends
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand
22:00 Jo Koy: Don't Make Him Angry
22:50 Friends
23:13 Friends
23:35 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef

00:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Case-book
01:00 Cold Case Files
01:55 Marcia Clark Investigates
Comedy Central
00:05 Important Things With Demitri Martin
00:30 Friends
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
01:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
02:10 Disaster Date
02:35 Important Things With Demitri Martin
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Catch A Contractor
05:05 Snack Off
05:30 Snack Off
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
06:50 I Used To Be Fat
07:40 Impractical Jokers
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
09:25 Catch A Contractor
10:10 I Used To Be Fat
11:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 House Of Food
13:05 Framework
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:20 Ridiculousness
14:45 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 House Of Food
16:55 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
17:20 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
17:45 Ridiculousness
18:10 Ridiculousness
18:35 Takeshis Castle Thailand
19:00 Friends
19:25 Friends
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand
22:00 Jo Koy: Don't Make Him Angry
22:50 Friends
23:13 Friends
23:35 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef



00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 Dogs: The Untold Story
03:00 Tanked
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How The Universe Works
05:30 Weather Top Tens
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds
07:25 Destroyed In Seconds
07:50 Dogs: The Untold Story
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Tanked
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Destroyed In Seconds
11:35 Destroyed In Seconds
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 React To That
13:15 React To That
13:40 The Carbonaro Effect
14:05 The Carbonaro Effect
14:30 Dogs: The Untold Story
15:20 How It's Made

15:45 How It's Made
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Dogs: The Untold Story
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 Don't Blink
19:55 Don't Blink
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Ultimate Survival
22:50 Don't Blink
23:15 Don't Blink
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect



00:45 Drew Peterson: The Wife Killer Cop?
01:40 Betrayed
02:35 Blood Relatives
03:30 Deadly Sins
04:25 Nightmare Next Door
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Evil Stepmothers
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 Shadow Of Doubt
08:15 Nightmare Next Door
09:10 Evil Stepmothers
10:05 The Perfect Murder
11:00 Deadly Affairs
11:55 Shadow Of Doubt
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Evil Stepmothers
14:40 The Perfect Murder
15:35 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
16:30 Shadow Of Doubt
17:25 Nightmare Next Door
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Evil Stepmothers
20:10 The Perfect Murder
21:05 Love Kills
22:00 Murder Calls
22:55 Murder Calls
23:50 James Patterson's Murder Is Forever



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Kitty Is Not A Cat
06:25 Elena Of Avalor
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Tangled: The Series
07:20 Stuck In The Middle
07:45 K.C. Undercover
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:25 Lolirock
09:50 Lolirock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Lolirock
12:45 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:15 Bunk'd
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:10 Kitty Is Not A Cat
15:35 Elena Of Avalor
16:00 Tangled: The Series
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:50 Bizaardvark
17:15 Stuck In The Middle
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:05 K.C. Undercover
18:30 Bunk'd
18:55 Descendants Wicked World
19:00 Raven's Home
19:25 Liv And Maddie
19:50 Jessie
20:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:20 Tangled: The Series
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Trulli Tales
00:30 PJ Masks
00:55 Trulli Tales
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 PJ Masks
07:00 Trulli Tales
07:25 Welcome To Mcstuffinsville
08:10 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
09:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:55 Unbungalievable
10:00 Trulli Tales
10:30 Puppy Dog Pals
11:00 Sofia The First: The Mystic Isles
12:00 Sofia The First
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:20 Unbungalievable
14:30 Vampirina
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Lion Guard: Rise Of Scar
16:20 Unbungalievable
16:30 Trulli Tales
17:00 Vampirina
17:30 PJ Masks
18:00 DuckTales
18:30 DuckTales
19:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:00 Mickey's Pirate Adventure
20:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 P-King Duckling
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals

23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Deadliest Catch
01:05 Hot Grease
02:35 Strip The City
03:20 Street Outlaws
04:05 Alaskan Bush People
04:50 Kindig Customs
05:35 Storage Hunters
06:00 The Liquidator
06:23 Container Wars
06:45 Storage Hunters
07:10 Storage Wars Canada
07:35 Alaskan Bush People
08:20 The Liquidator
08:45 Container Wars
09:10 Kindig Customs
09:55 Alaskan Bush People
10:45 Kindig Customs
11:30 Deadliest Catch
12:20 The Liquidator
12:43 Container Wars
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Kindig Customs
14:40 Deadliest Catch
15:30 Mosquito
16:40 Container Wars
17:05 Strip The City
17:50 Bushcraft Build-Off
18:40 The Wheel
19:25 Deadliest Catch
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Sticker Shock
21:50 Transam
22:40 Twin Turbos
23:30 Jungle Gold



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas & Ferb
07:05 DuckTales
07:32 Furiki Wheels
07:45 Phineas And Ferb
08:00 Milo Murphy's Law
08:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
08:30 Phineas And Ferb
08:55 Last Day Of Summer
09:45 Milo Murphy's Law
10:00 Big Hero 6 The Series
10:25 Big Hero 6 The Series
10:50 DuckTales
11:15 DuckTales
11:40 Phineas And Ferb
12:05 Phineas And Ferb
12:32 Walk The Prank
13:00 Disney Ducktales: Woo-Oo
13:50 Mech-X4
14:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
14:40 Milo Murphy's Law
15:05 Supa Strikas
15:32 Lab Rats
16:00 DuckTales
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
16:55 DuckTales
17:00 Milo Murphy's Law
17:25 Big Hero 6 The Series: Shorts
17:32 Furiki Wheels
17:55 Two More Eggs
18:00 Mech-X4
18:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
18:50 Lab Rats Elite Force
19:15 Walk The Prank
19:40 Phineas And Ferb
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:00 DuckTales
20:25 Two More Eggs
20:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
21:25 Star Wars Rebels
21:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:55 Phineas & Ferb
22:10 Furiki Wheels
22:25 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
00:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian

01:50 E! News
02:50 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 So Cosmo
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 So Cosmo
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Botched
10:05 Botched
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 WAGs LA
13:10 WAGs LA
14:05 WAGs LA
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Citizen Rose
22:00 Citizen Rose
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



00:10 Broadchurch
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Inside Windsor Castle
04:20 Inside Windsor Castle
05:15 Broadchurch
06:15 Cash Trapped
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Inside Windsor Castle
09:00 Inside Windsor Castle
09:55 Broadchurch
11:00 Cash Trapped
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Cash Trapped
15:10 The Chase
16:00 One Night With My Ex
16:55 Invitation To A Royal Wedding
17:50 Broadchurch
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 One Night With My Ex
21:55 Invitation To A Royal Wedding
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street
00:00 Hoard Hunters
01:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
02:00 UFO Files



02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 A Distant Shore: African Americans Of D-Day
04:30 The Colour Of War
05:20 Cities Of The Underworld
06:10 Cities Of The Underworld
07:00 Hoard Hunters
08:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
09:00 UFO Files
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 A Distant Shore: African Americans Of D-Day
12:00 The Colour Of War
13:00 Hoard Hunters
14:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
15:00 UFO Files
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 A Distant Shore: African Americans Of D-Day
18:00 The Colour Of War
19:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
20:00 UFO Files
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Missing In Alaska
23:00 The Colour Of War



00:20 Dream Teams
00:45 Dream Teams
01:10 Mountain Men

TV Listings

02:00 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
 02:50 Football's Greatest Moments
 03:40 World's Greatest Head-To-Heads
 04:05 World's Greatest Head-To-Heads
 04:30 Dream Teams
 04:55 Dream Teams
 05:20 American Pickers
 06:00 Football's Greatest Moments
 06:50 Football's Greatest Moments
 07:40 Football's Greatest Moments
 08:30 Football's Greatest Moments
 09:20 Navy Seals: America's Secret Warriors
 11:00 Football's Greatest Moments
 11:50 Football's Greatest Moments
 12:40 Football's Greatest Moments
 13:30 Navy Seals: America's Secret Warriors
 15:10 Football's Greatest Moments
 16:00 Football's Greatest Moments
 16:50 Football's Greatest Moments
 17:40 Football's Greatest Moments
 18:30 Navy Seals: America's Secret Warriors
 20:10 Football's Greatest Moments
 21:00 Football's Greatest Moments
 21:50 Football's Greatest Moments
 22:40 World's Greatest Head-To-Heads
 23:05 World's Greatest Head-To-Heads
 23:30 World's Greatest Head-To-Heads
 23:55 World's Greatest Head-To-Heads



03:30 A Is For Apple
 03:55 A Is For Apple
 04:25 Dog Whisperer
 05:20 Dog Whisperer
 06:15 Glamour Puds
 06:40 Chocolate Covered
 07:10 David Rocco's Dolce India
 07:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 08:05 Pond Stars
 09:00 A Is For Apple
 09:25 A Is For Apple
 09:55 Dog Whisperer
 10:50 Dog Whisperer
 11:45 Glamour Puds
 12:10 Chocolate Covered
 12:40 Dog Whisperer
 13:35 Dog Whisperer
 14:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
 15:25 Places We Go
 15:50 Fish Tank Kings
 16:45 Fish Of The Day
 17:15 Fearless Chef
 18:10 Eat Street
 18:35 Sara's Australia Unveiled
 19:05 Dog Whisperer
 20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
 21:00 Places We Go
 21:30 Fish Of The Day
 22:00 Fish Tank Kings
 22:55 Fearless Chef
 23:50 Eat Street



03:00 One Strange Rock
 04:00 Who Sank The Bismarck
 05:00 Situation Critical
 06:00 Mega Factories
 07:00 The Human Family Tree
 08:00 Prince Harry's Story: Four Royal Weddings
 09:00 Street Genius
 09:30 Street Genius
 10:00 Breakout
 11:00 Inside Combat Rescue: Horrors Of War
 12:00 Two Tales Of China
 12:30 Two Tales Of China
 13:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
 14:00 Operation Royal Wedding
 15:00 Youtube Revolution
 16:00 Breakout
 17:00 Airport Security: Peru
 18:00 Who Sank The Bismarck
 19:00 Apocalypse World War I
 20:00 Breakout

20:50 Airport Security: Peru
 21:40 Who Sank The Bismarck
 22:30 Apocalypse World War I
 23:20 Situation Critical



03:45 Animal Outlaws
 04:40 Man V. Monster
 05:35 Game Of Lions
 06:30 Strangest Bird Alive
 07:25 Animal Outlaws
 08:20 Man V. Monster
 09:15 Snakes In The City
 10:10 Wild Chile
 11:05 1000 Days For The Planet
 12:00 Shark vs Predator
 12:55 Botswana
 13:50 Man V. Monster
 14:45 Natural Born Monsters
 15:40 Going Wild
 16:35 Snakes In The City
 17:30 Russia's Wild Sea
 18:25 Giant Carnivorous Bats
 19:20 Natural Born Monsters
 20:10 Going Wild
 21:00 Snakes In The City
 21:50 Russia's Wild Sea
 22:40 Giant Carnivorous Bats
 23:30 Shark vs Predator



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 00:36 Rabbids Invasion
 01:00 Rabbids Invasion
 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
 02:12 Winx Club
 02:36 Winx Club
 03:00 Harvey Beaks
 03:24 Harvey Beaks
 03:48 Rabbids Invasion
 04:12 Rabbids Invasion
 04:36 Breadwinners
 05:00 Breadwinners
 05:24 The Loud House
 05:48 Harvey Beaks
 06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
 07:00 Breadwinners
 07:24 Bunsen Is A Beast
 07:48 Toon Marty
 08:00 Toon Marty
 08:12 Rabbids Invasion
 08:36 The Loud House
 09:00 Regal Academy
 09:24 Winx Club
 09:48 Game Shakers
 10:12 School Of Rock
 10:36 Henry Danger
 11:00 The Thundermans
 11:48 The Thundermans
 12:12 The Thundermans
 12:36 The Thundermans
 13:00 Blur!
 13:48 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
 14:12 Legends Of The Hidden Temple
 15:24 Bunsen Is A Beast
 15:48 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
 16:12 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
 16:36 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
 17:00 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
 17:24 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
 17:48 Hunter Street
 18:12 Henry Danger
 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
 19:00 School Of Rock
 19:24 Game Shakers
 19:48 The Thundermans
 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 21:00 Harvey Beaks
 21:24 Breadwinners
 21:48 Bunsen Is A Beast
 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
 22:36 Rabbids Invasion
 23:00 The Loud House

23:24 Regal Academy
 23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:05 Max & Ruby
 00:28 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 00:39 Kiva Can Do!
 00:50 The Day Henry Met
 00:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 01:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 01:40 Paw Patrol
 01:52 Kid-E-Cats
 01:57 Kid-E-Cats
 02:02 Shimmer And Shine
 02:24 Nella The Princess Knight
 02:37 Paw Patrol
 03:02 Max & Ruby
 03:25 Dora The Explorer
 03:48 Sunny Day
 04:10 Nella The Princess Knight
 04:32 Shimmer And Shine
 04:54 Wallykazam!
 05:18 Zack & Quack
 05:29 The Day Henry Met
 05:35 The Day Henry Met
 05:40 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 06:02 Rusty Rivets
 06:14 Paw Patrol
 06:37 Dora The Explorer
 07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
 07:21 Kiva Can Do!
 07:32 Kiva Can Do!
 07:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 08:06 Paw Patrol
 08:30 Shimmer And Shine
 08:52 Nella The Princess Knight
 09:14 Paw Patrol
 09:38 Rusty Rivets
 10:02 Wallykazam!
 10:25 The Day Henry Met
 10:30 Bubble Guppies
 10:54 Team Umizoomi
 11:17 Kid-E-Cats
 11:22 Shimmer And Shine
 11:44 Sunny Day
 12:07 Max & Ruby
 12:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 12:40 Kiva Can Do!
 12:52 The Day Henry Met
 12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 13:41 Paw Patrol
 13:52 Kid-E-Cats
 13:58 Kid-E-Cats
 14:04 Shimmer And Shine
 14:26 Nella The Princess Knight
 14:38 Paw Patrol
 15:02 Max & Ruby
 15:25 Dora The Explorer
 15:48 Sunny Day
 16:10 Nella The Princess Knight
 16:32 Shimmer And Shine
 16:54 Wallykazam!
 17:18 Zack & Quack
 17:29 The Day Henry Met
 17:35 The Day Henry Met
 17:40 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 18:02 Rusty Rivets
 18:14 Paw Patrol
 18:37 Dora The Explorer
 19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
 19:21 Kiva Can Do!
 19:32 Kiva Can Do!
 19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 20:06 Paw Patrol
 20:30 Shimmer And Shine
 20:52 Nella The Princess Knight
 21:14 Paw Patrol
 21:38 Rusty Rivets
 22:02 Wallykazam!
 22:25 The Day Henry Met
 22:30 Bubble Guppies
 22:54 Team Umizoomi
 23:17 Kid-E-Cats
 23:22 Shimmer And Shine
 23:44 Sunny Day



00:15 How I Met Your Mother
 00:40 How I Met Your Mother

01:05 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
 01:30 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
 01:55 Marry Me
 02:20 The Orville
 03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 05:40 My Boys
 06:05 Marry Me
 06:30 Superstore
 06:55 Speechless
 07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 09:50 The Simpsons
 10:15 Fresh Off The Boat
 10:40 My Boys
 11:05 Marry Me
 11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 12:20 Superstore
 12:45 Speechless
 13:10 How I Met Your Mother
 13:35 How I Met Your Mother
 14:00 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
 14:25 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
 14:50 My Boys
 15:15 The Simpsons
 15:40 Fresh Off The Boat
 16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 17:00 Superstore
 17:30 Speechless
 18:00 How I Met Your Mother
 18:30 How I Met Your Mother
 19:00 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
 19:30 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
 20:00 Ghosted
 20:30 American Housewife
 21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 22:00 The Orville
 23:00 The Last Man On Earth
 23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



01:30 The Jungle Book
 03:30 Tinker Bell And The Pirate Fairy
 05:30 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
 07:30 The Jungle Book
 09:30 Queen Of Katwe
 11:45 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
 13:45 The Lion King
 15:30 Herbie Fully Loaded
 17:30 The Pacifier
 19:30 College Road Trip
 21:30 The Lion King
 23:15 Herbie Fully Loaded



00:00 The Americans
 01:15 Riverdale
 02:00 Suits
 03:00 Time After Time
 03:45 9-1-1
 04:35 The Americans
 05:20 Suits
 06:20 The Blacklist
 07:10 Good Morning America
 09:00 The View
 10:00 9-1-1
 11:00 Suits
 12:00 The Blacklist
 13:00 Scandal
 14:00 Supergirl
 15:00 The View
 16:00 Live Good Morning America
 18:00 The Blacklist
 19:00 The Flash
 20:00 Scandal
 21:00 Survivor: Ghost Island
 22:00 Once Upon A Time
 23:00 WWE Experience



00:30 Wiener Dog
 02:15 UHF
 04:15 Breaking The Bank

06:15 Are We Done Yet?
 08:00 UHF
 09:45 Breaking The Bank
 11:45 Are We Done Yet?
 13:30 Big Trouble
 15:15 Mystery Date
 17:00 Daddy's Home
 18:45 The Tiger Hunter
 20:30 Jeff, Who Lives At Home
 22:00 What An Idiot
 23:45 What's Your Number?



00:30 Convicts
 02:25 The Benefactor
 04:15 Lawrence Of Arabia
 08:00 The Salesman
 10:05 Where Angels Fear To Tread
 12:10 All Things Must Pass
 14:00 Dare To Be Wild
 15:50 I Believe In Miracles
 17:45 The Childhood Of A Leader
 19:50 Frankie And Johnny
 22:00 The Keeping Room
 23:50 I Believe In Miracles



01:20 Ethel & Ernest
 03:00 Deep
 04:35 Twigson Ties The Knot
 06:00 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
 07:40 Catcher: Cat City 2
 09:20 Micropolis
 10:50 Dwegons And Leprechauns
 12:30 Deep
 14:10 Twigson Ties The Knot
 15:35 Funny Little Cars
 16:40 Micropolis
 18:10 The Fairy Tales Tree
 19:30 Elias And The Royal Yacht
 20:50 Funny Little Cars
 21:55 Catcher: Cat City 2
 23:35 The Fairy Tales Tree



00:35 Around The World In 80 Days
 02:35 Healing
 04:35 The Guilt Trip
 06:15 The Break-Up
 08:00 Around The World In 80 Days
 10:00 Finding Altamira
 11:35 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
 13:25 Bridge To Terabithia
 15:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
 16:40 The Firm
 19:15 Daylight
 21:10 Knight And Day
 23:10 Out Of Sight
 Discovery Science HD
 00:30 How It's Made
 00:55 Food Factory USA
 01:20 Strangest Weather On Earth
 02:10 Secrets Of The Underground



00:35 Shaadi Karke Phas Gaya Yaar
 03:00 Shaadi Karke Phas Gaya Yaar
 03:40 The Front Row
 04:05 Koffee With Karan
 05:00 Blue
 06:55 Yaad Rakhegi Duniya
 09:55 Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha
 13:00 Hawaizaada
 15:30 Highway
 17:55 Veerappan
 20:00 Raid
 22:30 Jodi Breakers



00:30 Movie
 03:45 The Imitation Game
 05:35 Reclaim

07:10 Frank
 08:40 Breakfast Of Champions
 10:20 The Hoax
 12:15 The Legend Of Bagdad
 Vance
 14:20 Foxcatcher
 16:30 That's What I Am
 18:15 America's Sweethearts
 20:00 Jerry Maguire
 22:15 London
 23:45 Sliding Doors



00:00 Mistresses
 01:00 Mistresses
 02:00 Devious Maids
 03:00 Married At First Sight
 04:00 Project Runway
 05:00 Cougar Town
 05:30 Cougar Town
 06:00 Mistresses
 07:00 Mistresses
 08:00 Devious Maids
 09:00 Married At First Sight
 10:00 Project Runway
 11:00 Cougar Town
 11:30 Cougar Town
 12:00 Mistresses
 13:00 Mistresses
 14:00 Devious Maids
 15:00 Married At First Sight
 16:00 Project Runway
 17:00 Devious Maids
 18:00 Fashion StartUp
 19:00 Fashion StartUp
 20:00 Project Runway All Stars
 21:00 The Fashion Fund
 22:00 The Fashion Fund
 23:00 Devious Maids



00:05 Important Things With Demitri Martin
 00:30 Friends
 00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 01:20 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
 01:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alvagef
 02:10 Disaster Date
 02:35 Important Things With Demitri Martin
 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
 04:15 Catch A Contractor
 05:05 Snack Off
 05:30 Snack Off
 05:55 Disaster Date
 06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alvagef
 06:50 I Used To Be Fat
 07:40 Impractical Jokers
 08:05 Impractical Jokers
 08:30 Disaster Date
 08:55 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alvagef
 09:25 Catch A Contractor
 10:10 I Used To Be Fat
 11:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
 11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
 12:15 House Of Food
 13:05 Framework
 13:55 Ridiculousness
 14:20 Ridiculousness
 14:45 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
 15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
 16:00 House Of Food
 16:55 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
 17:20 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
 17:45 Ridiculousness
 18:10 Ridiculousness
 18:35 Takeshis Castle Thailand
 19:00 Friends
 19:25 Friends
 19:50 Friends
 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 21:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand
 22:00 Jo Koy: Don't Make Him Angry
 22:50 Friends

Stars

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

You may feel unclear and confused about something going on around you; wondering if this is true or if you're just being paranoid is indicated. It never hurts to look at things from all sides for a balanced conclusion. Going the extra mile to please someone in particular could rub you the wrong way, but you truly do want to please them! Making purchases of any size is ill-advised during this time; be patient and save your money while you wait for better opportunities. Letting your eyes wander away from the rational approach to a creative undertaking and letting them drift to more whimsical subjects or designs could be the perfect move to make. You want to learn more about mystic matters, but you can't wrap your head around some of it just now; no worries because the universe is always ready when you are.

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

Finances are your focus as you dig your way out of a mess from a while back; a windfall appears to help with this and you consider this a lesson learned! Taking time to be grateful happens on and off, as you know when you've been blessed. The stars are aligned for luck and at the same time, growth; be aware that any time growth is involved it can be tough but combined with luck this could be an enjoyable time of learning and gain! Dining outdoors is a pleasure when you're with those whose company you enjoy. A new endeavor breaks the ice with different people and places. Beauty is important so you create all of it you can! Your thoughts are sharp on a new project at work; this could be your key to success. Gaining knowledge brings enjoyment, and rewards of other kinds. Kind words about you later.

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

The theme of this new cycle is self-transformation and as you meet each obstacle you let it contribute to the "new you" that's emerging. Changes on a cellular level are indicated which equals profound makeover. Being who you truly are frees you from the confines of who others think you should be; there could be quite a few people shocked by your life changes. Helping someone anonymously creates a buzz, but you manage to remain unknown! Finding fun in drudgery makes the time fly! Someone comes to you with a project on a shoe string and you manage to make it work. Finding a way to repair something without calling for help gives you satisfaction. Someone is given credit for something you did, but they insist that the credit is yours; this is a true-blue, trustworthy person.

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

You may feel disgruntled and uncooperative and this is due to the energy surrounding you; you can raise this vibration by raising the quality of your thoughts and words. Moving things in the right direction is all-important at this time and you may have to make a few stops along the way to do this correctly. Home is where your heart is, and you decide to make improvements which hit the pocket book big time. Being comfortable in your own skin means a lot to you as it enables you to go forward with confidence. Something you did a while back comes back to you in spades; doing good, brings you good! Someone who's always there lets you down much to your surprise. A new challenge awakens something inside you that's been quiet. Stepping into a new role brings joy and happiness.

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

An independent streak leads the way during this phase and you gain a good deal of ground in several of your personal quests. You appreciate your opportunities as you come to open new pathways to abundance and well-being. Figuring out how to put something complicated together could fluster your nerves, but this eventually comes out very well with the help of someone. You could experience being willful and impatient on many levels today; hang on, this passes quickly! You're fearless while in pursuit of a new purchase needed by someone you care for. The examples you follow change as you venture into new areas of learning. Being punctual is extremely hard, but you're able to pull it off; daydreams of a carefree lifestyle could be prominent. Knowing what you want takes stress out of the picture.

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

Intimate relationships have potential to deepen and grow during this time; this could indicate sweetheart, family or close friends. A new diet and exercise program appeal to you and you're finally ready to find the right place to start. New cultures become part of your life and could have something to do with a hobby or new career opportunity. Optimism and a bright outlook bring all that you desire, maybe even more than you desire! You receive praise for an accomplishment that brings pride and a sense of worth. Watching out for yourself pays off when someone tries to steer you the wrong way, unfortunately, this could be an older relative. Taking one day at a time has brought you this far, and it makes sense to keep things as they are for now in the name of progress.

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

The vibration is positive that surrounds you and a positive outlook is indicated far into this cycle. Watching what you eat, how much you move and other types of things help take you toward a healthy condition. Accumulating knowledge and abundance is where you're led, and by willingly listening to intuition you uncover something valuable. Reconciling with the past makes the present easier to navigate and enjoy what comes! Understanding that you're not in control of everything is hard to accept, but you learn to work with this and allow for obstacles. Things aren't what they appear to be and this becomes obvious when you take a better look into the workings of the situation. When you call on others for help they gladly step up, pitch in and support your efforts. You're at a good place on the path of life.

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

Letting go of control is difficult, but you realize it's definitely for the better. Others step up to help with a daunting domestic project that needs some extra helping hands. The way you saw something wasn't correct, but you're able to see the truth now. You could feel as though you're in limbo. Striking out on something new and perhaps controversial, or not well understood, excites and motivates you and you feel you have nothing to lose! Wanderlust inspires you to look around, make decisions that take you away from being root-bound and stymied. You create a new approach to home, work and family that others notice. You come to a place that requires a decision be made as to whether you accept a number of responsibilities or stay true to a liberating plan you're looking forward to putting into action.

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

Things could seem to be sliding out of control but when you change the way you look at this, you see a pattern you can follow. You have a chance to have the freedom to do what you see fit in a situation you've been concerned over. Looking past something that irritates you takes you to a higher place, a place of better perspective. When someone tries to make you feel obligated they soon understand you have no intention of being controlled in any way, shape or form. Relationships of old or new standing are severed as you assess your ties; all toxic or negative influences must go to clear the way for the abundance and positive energies that await you! You feel perfect balance regarding work and life, but you're determined to pull more financial security into the picture. Fun with friends tonight.

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

Being independent is a strong trait, but now you need the help of others in a special effort that means a lot to you; this could also mean good things for the community in general. Trying to stay ahead of a certain game wears you down and sets you up to fail; recognize when to stop and let things unfold on their own. New exciting activities fill your days and nights beginning now; this is something that adds to the betterment of your financial security. Life seems to be a balancing act because of all the activity but at the end of it all you see there was some order to the madness. The study of the moon, stars and planets holds fascination for you now as does science in general; creation is a wonderful place while looking through eyes wide open to the facts. Life is good, vibes are positive and productive.

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

A crusading energy surrounds you now and this could spill over into causes close to your heart. Strong interests in science and philosophy sharpen your senses and raise your mental capabilities; being open and aware is a big part of what makes you successful. Wisdom sees that there are no one and only answers; faith and belief play a large role in our behaviors. Run the other way when someone approaches you regarding a legal matter; this may or may not have to do with you anyway. When someone insists you're wrong about how to accomplish a task you may experience a flare in temperament which is most unusual for you! You're getting closer to the finish line with a secret project and you can't wait to reveal it. Being with loved ones brings warmth and satisfaction to your evening.

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

You relish the thought of love and togetherness and this could motivate what you do today and possibly tomorrow. Being in the know about something puts you ahead of the game; tickets could be involved here. Taking a quick trip is indicated and you find an item you've searched for a while now. Pulling things together, manifesting what you need and desire, is becoming more and more prominent in your life; this pertains to any area of your choosing. Something calls to you an old habit, lover, meme like a hypnotic siren song but you're able to resist, by the hardest! Taking out some insurance on a risk you decide to take pays off. Being wise in every way you can think of is beginning to get old and you'd like to run away for some decadent fun with friends. Taking time for you is necessary now.

COUNTRY CODES

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

Health

In China, industry push-back stubs out anti-smoking gains

BEIJING: Earlier this year, the city of Hangzhou, home to the internet giant Alibaba, was poised to join Beijing, Shanghai and a handful of other urban areas in banning smoking in public places, part of a long-running campaign against tobacco use in China. But, like the country's broader anti-smoking campaign, the Hangzhou initiative then lost momentum. Instead of blanket bans on smoking in public indoor spaces, the city revised its regulations to allow smoking in designated areas in train or bus stations, as well as in bars or karaoke clubs. Opposition to the

tougher rules, according to a top national tobacco control official, was led by China National Tobacco Corp, the state monopoly.

The company has reported rising sales over the last year, which anti-tobacco campaigners say has helped to stall earlier successes in the national anti-smoking campaign. The official declined to be named, citing a lack of approval to speak to the media. "When it comes to the tobacco industry's obstruction and interference in implementing specific tobacco control articles, China has a

serious problem," Yang Gonghuan, the former head of tobacco control at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a recent launch event for her book, "Tobacco Control in China." In the book, Yang details what she characterizes as China Tobacco's efforts to thwart control measures by interfering with policy-making, spreading "false science" about the safety of low-tar cigarettes, promoting a smoking culture and criticizing anti-tobacco advocates for working with foreign organizations.

The company did not respond to faxes and phone calls

seeking comment. In official statements, China Tobacco says it is trying to improve public health by fulfilling tobacco control obligations and working to decrease things like tar in cigarettes. China Tobacco is huge, powerful and opaque. Selling 98 percent of the cigarettes in China under brands such as Red Pagoda Mountain and Double Happiness, the unlisted company is the world's biggest cigarette-maker by volume, generating revenue last year of 1.1 trillion yuan (\$172 billion). It accounts for roughly 7 to 11 percent of China's taxes. —Reuters

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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

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

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

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



Telephone: 187111

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

@globalmedcenter
www.globalmed-center.com

Information

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

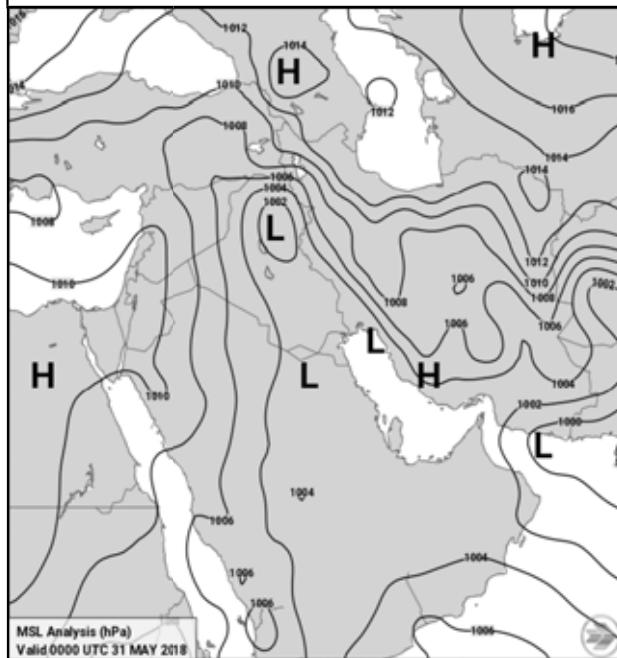
BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING

No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	44 °C	34 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	29 °C
ABDALY	45 °C	31 °C
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C
JAHRA	46 °C	33 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	30 °C
SALMIYAH	39 °C	33 °C
AHMADI	40 °C	34 °C
NUWAISIB	44 °C	29 °C
WAFRA	45 °C	26 °C
SALMY	45 °C	31 °C

SFC. CHART 31/05/2018 0000 UTC



4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	06/01	Hot and some high clouds will appear	45 °C	29 °C	S-SE	12 - 38 km/h
Saturday	06/02	Hot + causing rising dust over open areas and some scattered clouds will appear	44 °C	28 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h
Sunday	06/03	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	43 °C	28 °C	SE-VRB	12 - 38 km/h
Monday	06/04	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	44 °C	29 °C	SE-VRB	12 - 35 km/h

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	03:15
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:43
Isha	20:13

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	44 °C
MIN. Temp.	29 °C
MAX. RH	32 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	E 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Kuwait Times
 THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Read it, Share it, Watch it, Tweet it, Scan it

Get your news any way you want it

Kuwait Times is the first daily in the Arabian Gulf providing all the news and information on business, politics, local, sports and entertainment in Kuwait.

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Business

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

38 German carmakers hit by report Trump threatens to drive them off US streets



40 Sony's push into entertainment aims for stability, not splashiness

SONY

41 Long-haul fight: Japanese farmers battle Narita airport



This picture taken on April 19, 2018 shows employees working on the production line for domestic appliances at a factory in Jiujiang in China's central Jiangxi province. — AFP

China rejects US trade war escalation

China factory activity rises at fastest pace in eight months

BEIJING: China said yesterday it wanted to avoid an escalation of trade tensions with the United States, as the two sides held new talks and Beijing decided to lower some tariffs. The overture came two days after the White House said its planned trade sanctions against China were still in the works despite the announcement of a truce following a previous round of talks earlier in May. China has threatened to hit back with tit-for-tat tariffs on tens of billions of dollars in US goods.

A 50-strong US delegation arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for follow-up meetings, Chinese commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said, without proving more details. "We hope that China and US economic and trade cooperation can benefit people in both countries, and we are not willing to see trade frictions escalate," Gao told a regular press briefing. The delegation is laying the groundwork for a weekend visit by US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

The Trump administration said Tuesday that US sanctions announced in March - including restric-

tions on Chinese investment, export controls and 25 percent tariffs on as much as \$50 billion in Chinese tech exports - remain under development. Gao slammed the proposal, saying US measures to implement investment restrictions and export controls against China "do not conform with the basic principles and spirits of the WTO (World Trade Organization)". "China will carefully evaluate the US measures and relevant impact and retain its rights to adopt relative measures."

Separately, the Chinese government announced in a statement late Wednesday that it would further cut import tariffs on daily consumer goods from July 1. The average tariff on clothing, shoes and hats, kitchenware, and sports and fitness supplies will be reduced from 15.9 percent to 7.1 percent. The rate for home appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators will be lowered from 20.5 percent to eight percent.

Gao said China will also publish a "negative list" of foreign investment by June 30 to ease restrictions in fields including energy, resources, infra-

structure and transportation. A negative list includes all the industries with foreign investment restrictions. Beijing previously said it would relax restrictions on foreign investment in automobiles, shipbuilding and aircraft firms.

At a meeting Wednesday chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, the State Council - or cabinet - also decided that China would widen market access through more foreign investor-friendly measures, according to the official Xinhua news agency. "We should raise our innovation capacity in the new round of opening up and see that all intellectual property be fully protected," Li said. "No forced technology transfer will ever be imposed on foreign-invested enterprises and IPR (intellectual property rights) infringements will be penalized to the full extent of the law."

Donald Trump has accused China of forcing US firms to hand over their industrial secrets to Chinese firms in order to do business in the country, a charge that Beijing has rejected. In other measures announced by Xinhua, overseas traders will be en-

couraged to participate in crude oil and iron ore futures trading. Severe measures will be taken to punish infringements, counterfeiting, commercial secret violators and trademark squatters.

Separately, activity in China's factories expanded at its fastest pace for eight months in May, official data showed Thursday, as demand at home and overseas improved despite brewing trade tensions with the United States. The purchasing managers index came in at 51.9, up from 51.4 last month, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, in line with a Bloomberg News survey.

The reading, the first monthly economic indicator to gauge the world's second largest economy, was well above the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction. NBS analyst Zhao Qinghe said in a statement that high-tech manufacturing and improved export orders both contributed to the growth. The May reading marks the fastest rate of expansion since September despite US President Donald Trump's threats to impose tariffs on China, and Beijing's vows to hit back. — AFP

Business

German carmakers hit by report Trump threatens to drive them off US streets

German automakers face €4.5bn hit with 25% tariffs

BERLIN/FRANKFURT: A report that US President Donald Trump has threatened to pursue German carmakers until there are no Mercedes-Benz rolling down New York's Fifth Avenue dented shares in the luxury car manufacturers yesterday. An excerpt from German magazine *Wirtschaftswoche's* article, which cited several unnamed European and US diplomats but did not include any direct quotes, could not be independently verified, while a United States Embassy spokesman in Berlin referred questions to Washington.

The news and current affairs magazine said Trump had told French President Emmanuel Macron in April that he aimed to push German carmakers out of the United States

together. Macron's administration in Paris declined to comment on the report. The Trump administration last week opened a trade investigation into vehicle imports, which could result in a 25 percent tariff on cars on the same "national security" grounds Washington used to impose metals duties in March.

This could destroy exports by German car-

makers, which control 90 percent of the US premium market and are the biggest European Union exporters of cars to the United States. BMW owns Rolls-Royce, while Daimler has Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen controls Bentley, Bugatti, Porsche and Audi. BMW shares were trading 0.5 percent lower at 0939 GMT, while Daimler and VW's shares were down 1 percent and 1.6 percent respectively, underperforming Germany's blue-chip DAX.

Trump has railed against German carmakers before and in early 2017, in an interview with German newspaper *Bild*, had said he would impose 35 percent tariffs on imported cars. At the time, the president called Germany a great car producer but said that

the business relationship with the United States was an unfair one-way street. Germany's auto industry association VDA says its members exported 657,000 vehicles to North America last year, with total exports of vehicle components, cars, engines, as well as second-hand vehicles totalling €31.2 billion in 2016.

Imports from the United States to Germany



Daimler shares down 1%, BMW down 0.5%



HAMBURG: A road sign on Max Brauer Allee warns motorists that older diesel vehicle are banned from using this stretch of road in this north German city yesterday.—AFP

amounted to A7.4 billion, meaning a trade deficit of €23.8 billion the VDA's latest available figures show. However, German brands also have huge factories in the United States, where they built 804,000 cars last year, VDA said, providing jobs for US workers.

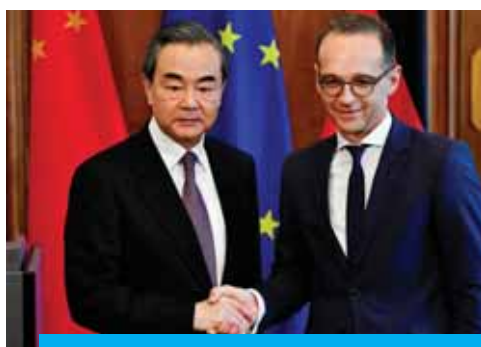
Berlin has reacted angrily to the US vehicle

imports investigation, but the head of Germany's BDI industry association Dieter Kempf yesterday called for prudence in the growing trade tensions between the EU and the United States. If the EU imposes countermeasures, it must expect Trump to come up with further measures, he told Deutschlandfunk radio.—Reuters

Germany against 'protectionism getting upper hand'

BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned yesterday against the threat of protectionism in global trade ahead of a deadline for steep US import duties on steel and aluminium imports from Europe. Maas told reporters that international partners could have "no interest in the clock being turned back in trade policy" as today's deadline for the new tariffs ticked down. "To put it clearly: protectionism and isolation with regard to free trade must be kept from getting the upper hand again," he said after talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Trade officials from Washington and Brussels have continued discussions to find a solution, such as import quotas, that would convince US President Donald Trump to extend the exemption for the European Union from the 25 percent tariff on steel and 10 percent on aluminium. But *The Wall Street Journal* cited people familiar with the matter saying a last-minute deal appeared unlikely, and the tariff announcement could come as early as yesterday. Trump imposed the tariffs in March to address global oversupply of the metals, but though it was largely aimed at China it hit US allies as well.



BERLIN: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas shake hands after a joint press conference yesterday.—AFP

Wang said Beijing shared Berlin's concerns about upheaval in the international order. "We both think that there are unprecedented deep changes in global affairs," he said. "There are many problems - unilateralism, protectionism. China and Germany as responsible countries... must help provide stability." Wang said China aimed to "deepen dialogue and coordination" and announced a visit to Germany in July by Premier Li Keqiang.

The EU has vowed to hit back at the US with tariffs on American goods, including iconic items such as Harley-Davidson motorbikes, blue jeans and bourbon whiskey. Germany, the EU's top economy, would be particularly vulnerable to the steel and aluminium tariffs due to its heavy reliance on the auto industry.—AFP

Eurozone inflation leaps, delivering 'headache' to ECB

BRUSSELS: Inflation in the eurozone leaped to the ECB's target in May, data showed yesterday, fuelled by a huge increase in oil prices as the US decided to pull out of a nuclear deal with Iran. The EU's statistics authority, Eurostat, said inflation in the eurozone jumped to 1.9 percent in May, a sharp pick-up from the 1.2 percent recorded in April. That puts inflation right at the European Central Bank's target of close to, but just below 2.0 percent.

Analysts believe higher inflation will heap pressure on the ECB to end its massive stimulus program that has helped keep government borrowing prices in Europe at super low levels. This would be especially sensitive in heavily-indebted Italy, which is hit by a political crisis and closely benefits from the ECB bond-buying program. "The drama in Italy creates something of a headache for the ECB," said Stephen Brown, European economist at Capital Economics.

"But provided that the situation remains contained, we doubt that it will prevent the ECB

from bringing its QE program to an end this year," Brown said, referring to the ECB's so-called quantitative easing program.

The strong jump in inflation was mainly due to energy prices, which shot up by a dizzying 6.1 percent in May compared to 2.6 percent the month before. This comes as oil trades at 3.5-year highs amid concerns about supply disruptions caused by the United States' decision to quit the Iran nuclear deal, as well as unrest in Venezuela. But the potentially more significant news was that core inflation - which excludes food, energy, alcohol and tobacco - that also increased to an eight-month high of 1.1 percent.

Analysts said that while this could be due to seasonal factors, including an unusually high number of public holidays in May, it pointed to a tightening jobs market, which was also confirmed by data. Eurostat said yesterday the jobless rate in the single currency area fell to 8.5 percent in April, a nine-year low and down from 8.6 percent a month before. German unemployment dropped to a super-low 3.4 percent in April, with the Netherlands at 3.9 percent.

But Italy, where populist and extreme right parties are struggling to form a government, saw its rate rise to 11.2 percent with youth unemployment up to an alarming 33.1 percent. Bailed out Greece stood at 20.8 percent in February, the last month for which figures were available, with Spain dipping to a still high 15.9 percent.—AFP

Business

Saudi housing crisis testing reform drive

Many Saudis saddled with debt, struggle to save

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's crown prince wants to build a mega-city with the latest robotics under his grand plan to reform the kingdom. Civil servant Amer Al-Ghamdi has a simpler dream: To buy an affordable home. Whether Ghamdi and some 1.2 million Saudis in a similar financial position manage to do so will be vital if Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is to convince his people that the reform plan will benefit not just the super-rich.

Ghamdi, 35, spends most of his \$2,670 monthly wage paying back loans he took to get married and buy a car. He and his wife, Hanan, now have three children and struggle to save money. Buying a home is out of the question. A 250-sq-m house in Saudi cities costs from 700,000 to 850,000 riyals (\$186,000 to \$226,000), said Ibrahim Albuloushi, head of US property consultant Jones Lang LaSalle in Saudi Arabia. That is up to 10 times the annual salary for a low-income family in the Gulf Arab state.

"I tried to look for one of my relatives in Saudi to pay off my debts and give me a down payment to apply for a house at one of the commercial banks, but the interest will be very high and I am already paying a lot," said Ghamdi, who lives in the capital Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, was once awash in petrodollars. This helped it provide a cradle-to-grave welfare system for its citizens with almost no taxation.

But a slump in oil prices has made fiscal discipline and diversification away from oil vital. Prince Mohammed's Vision 2030

plan sets out to modernize the economy and reform the deeply conservative country, the birthplace of Islam. The young prince, 32, has moved forcefully and rapidly where earlier leaders moved gradually and achieved moderate results.

Affordable homes

Some Saudis, however, are skeptical. Some critics say the pace of reform is too fast. They cite cuts to a generous subsidy system and the introduction of value-added tax early this year, moves that have hit some Saudis hard and eaten away at savings. Compounding problems, the population has grown. It reached 32.55 million in 2017, a rise of 44 percent from 2004, and Riyadh's boundaries are growing rapidly.

The housing minister says there are plans to build 1 million houses in five years with an investment of over \$100 billion, mainly through public-private partnerships. Deals have been signed with South

Korean and Chinese firms and US companies have expressed interest. "Real estate is the mirror of the economy. You cannot build homes if people cannot afford to buy them," said Abdullah Al-Sudairy, chief executive of mortgage finance company Amlak International. "Affordable housing means cost is five to six times annual income... We are not there yet." The ministry wants 60 percent of Saudis to own homes by 2020. It is working with local banks to facilitate financing and help developers increase the supply of affordable units by reducing red tape.—Reuters



Solving housing problems is vital to reforms

China's free trade talks with Lanka hit major hurdles

COLOMBO: Talks between China and Sri Lanka for a free trade agreement have hit major hurdles, mainly because Beijing will not agree to Colombo's demand for a review of the deal after 10 years, Sri Lanka's top negotiator said. China has invested billions of dollars building ports and roads and power stations in the Indian Ocean island nation just off the southern toe of India as part of its Belt and Road Initiative to increase its trade and other connections across Asia and beyond.

But concerns have grown in recent months that such investments can drive the country of 21 million people deeper into debt and undermine its sovereignty, prompting greater scrutiny of deals with China. China's exports to Sri Lanka dwarf the trade that goes in the other direction, leaving Colombo with a big deficit with Beijing. Sri Lanka's chief trade negotiator K J Weerasinghe said this week that Colombo was insisting on a right to review the free trade pact after ten years, but China was not ready to agree that.

Ministerial level discussions about an agreement have not been held since March last year. Lower-level discussions between officials have made little progress, according to Weerasinghe. "The talks have come to a standstill. China wants to remove the review clause," Weerasinghe told Reuters. Beijing was opposed to such an option because it wanted longer-term stability, he said. China's commerce ministry did not respond to Reuters requests for comment. The review clause that Sri Lanka wants would allow it to change some of the deal terms if they were hurting the island nation's local businesses.



COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan surveyor points to Sri Lanka's reclaimed land under a \$1.5 billion Chinese-funded real estate development next to the main sea port yesterday. The Sri Lankan surveyor general issued a new map of Colombo incorporating the reclaimed land that is being added to the capital. — AFP

Another contentious issue

Weerasinghe said another point of contention was that China wanted zero tariffs on 90 percent of goods the two countries sold to each other as soon as an agreement is signed while Colombo would rather it started with zero tariffs on only half of the products concerned and expanded gradually over 20 years. China has been pushing for free trade pacts with countries in the region and last year sealed an agreement with the Maldives that drew criticism from opposition political groups in the tropical islands' nation. They said it had been rushed through parliament with less than an hour of debate.—Reuters

Reliance to halt oil imports from Iran

NEW DELHI/LONDON: India's Reliance Industries Ltd, owner of the world's biggest refining complex, plans to halt oil imports from Iran, two sources familiar with the matter said, in a sign that new US sanctions are forcing buyers to shun oil purchases from Tehran. Reliance's move, expected to take effect in October or November, came after US President Donald Trump abandoned a 2015 nuclear agreement this month and ordered the reimposition of US sanctions on Tehran.

Some sanctions take effect after a 90-day "wind-down" period ending on Aug. 6, and the rest, notably on the petroleum sector, after a 180-day "wind-down period" ending on Nov 4. India has said it does not follow US sanctions but companies with links to the US financial system could be liable to penalties if they do not comply. Reliance, an Indian conglomerate controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, has significant exposure to the financial system of the United States, where it operates some subsidiaries that are linked to its oil and telecom businesses among others.

Reliance, whose modern refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat can process about 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude, has told officials of the National Iranian Oil Co (NIOC) that the firm would stop oil imports from Tehran in October or November, one of the sources said. A second source said the company could halt imports from Iran earlier than that if European nations and Tehran failed to salvage the nuclear deal. This source said that some insurance companies have asked Reliance to end exposure to Iran before November.

Global insurers have already warned about doing business with Iran while some shipping lines have said they would not take new bookings for Iran. The United States has threatened to impose sanctions on European companies that do business with Iran. In the interim period until it stops buying Iranian oil, Reliance has asked NIOC to supply Iranian oil in vessels owned by National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), the sources said. The sources did not wish to be identified as the matter is sensitive. Reliance did not respond to an email from Reuters seeking comment. In 2017, Reliance's oil imports from Iran surged by about 45 percent to 67,000 bpd, according to ship tracking data. In Jan-April 2018, the company has imported about 96,000 bpd.

Rethinking dealings

Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear deal has spurred global insurers and other companies to rethink their dealings in Iran as they await further guidance from the United States and European Union. Earlier this month French energy giant Total said it might quit a multi-billion-dollar gas project if it could not secure a waiver from US sanctions. Italy's Eni, which last June signed a provisional agreement with Tehran to conduct oil and gas feasibility studies, has said it had no plans for new projects in Iran. Reliance, which deals with some of the top-notch foreign bankers with huge exposure to the US financial system, exports fuel to the United States and imports ethane from there for its petrochemical plants. Trade sources have said Reliance recently bought up to 8 million barrels of US crude. After a gap of six years, Reliance resumed purchases from Iran in 2016 when Western powers eased restrictions on trade with Iran in return for the OPEC member agreeing to end its disputed nuclear program.—Reuters

Business

Sony's push into entertainment aims for stability, not splashiness

CEO says no plans to go toe-to-toe with Apple, Amazon

TOKYO: Sony Corp's new chief executive is embracing entertainment content, but for now appears to be steering clear of direct competition with tech giants such as Apple Inc and Netflix Inc. The company last week announced a \$2.3 billion deal for EMI Music Publishing, and CEO Kenichiro Yoshida said he would focus on collecting stable profits from existing music, movies and other intellectual property. The deal made Sony the world's largest music publisher in an industry that has found new life on the back of streaming services such as Spotify.

But for now, Sony is doing little to step up its game in Hollywood, where it is lagging behind bigger studios and where Apple, Amazon.com and Netflix are battling to become dominant streaming platforms. "I don't think we should aim to build platforms of their level or compete with them," he told reporters last week. "A key pillar of our strategy is, how can we survive, how can we actually shift the turf."

His strategy is good news for longtime investors, who have watched Sony extract itself from loss-making projects in the past few years. In 2017, Sony wrote nearly \$1 billion off the value of its movie business. Trying to find safer ground to fight on is an extension of Yoshida's numbers-focused approach. As former chief financial officer, he is credited with turning around the

consumer electronics giant using cost cuts and a focus on seemingly bland but highly profitable sensors.

Sony also recently took a 39 percent stake in Peanuts Holdings, of Snoopy fame, for \$185 million. In movies and TV, the company wants to further leverage film rights to its old franchises rather than investing in new star-studded movies and TV shows.

Examples would fall along the lines of last year's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," which unexpectedly grossed more than \$900 million. The studio plans to release another film based on the 1995 classic "Jumanji" in late 2019. Macquarie Capital Securities analyst Damian Thong said the new strategy meant "lower cost, faster decision-making, greater synergies, and a potential turning point in theatrical film margins."

The Right Notes

Yoshida has said that rather than trying to make all of Sony's divisions complement each other, it was important for each to be profitable on its own. In-

vestors have also speculated that he may be less averse to the idea of putting the movie studio up for sale than his predecessor, Kazuo Hirai, who fought off activist shareholder Daniel Loeb's recommendation to partially spin off the entertainment division. Yoshida has not suggested a sale, but he made no secret that Sony's new emphasis on intellectual property favours music over movies.

Consumers listen to songs more than once but don't often watch the same movie twice. Similarly, they demand larger song libraries while being satisfied with just a few shows on a platform such as Netflix, he said. One decision he may have to make is what to do with the company's struggling internet TV service PlayStation Vue, which is struggling to gain subscribers after launching in the United States in 2015.

With the exception of the PlayStation video game console, Sony has had little success at offering an entertainment platform since losing out to Apple's iPod and iTunes music store a decade ago. Walt Disney



Movie studio faces industry consolidation

SONY

and cable operator Comcast, meanwhile, are battling for 21st Century Fox Inc's entertainment assets, while AT&T is trying to persuade the US Justice Department to allow it to buy Time Warner Inc.

Sony's Hollywood studio, which lags behind Buena Vista, 20th Century Fox and Warner Bros, could become an even smaller player ahead thanks to the rapid rise of Netflix as a content provider. "The movie industry requires scale to some extent, so perhaps it isn't absolutely necessary for Sony to remain independent there," said Atsushi Osanai, a former Sony official who is now a professor at Japan's Waseda University Business School.

Anthony Vinciguerra, CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment, said the company was happy to sit out the current round of mergers. "In the longer term, as these companies begin to consolidate and form their ecosystems, we will be developing alliances somewhere along the way. We don't know with whom yet, because we don't know what the landscape is going to look like. But we are very confident," he told investors last week. —Reuters

Japan moves closer to controversial labor reforms

TOKYO: Japan's lower house yesterday approved controversial labor reforms that the government has defended as necessary to boost the economy but critics warn could result in more death by overwork. The legislation would scrap hourly overtime pay for some employees while setting overtime caps for others for the first time. The government says the measures will boost efficiency and equality, and they form a key plank of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" policy to kick-start the country's sluggish economy.

But critics argue that loosening hourly overtime pay will only encourage overwork in a country that is infamous for the phenomenon of "karoshi", or death by overwork, and some opposition members booed loudly as the bill was approved. The legislation must still pass the upper house, though local media said approval there was likely. The reform's key feature is letting Japan's corporate sector hire select, highly paid professionals, such as currency traders and consultants, on contracts which include no overtime pay.

The category only applies to those who earn at least 10.75 million yen (\$97,800) annually, with employers required to seek the consent of professionals involved. Financial

analysts and stockbrokers are expected to be among the likely targets of the new contracts, while professionals like doctors whose case load can vary by the hour will be exempt. The law contains the first legal caps on overtime, setting an annual limit of 360 hours for normal cases, and up to 720 hours for "temporary" and "special" cases.

It also promotes flexible work schedules including telecommuting, allows office workers to develop side businesses, and encourages equal pay for workers on different contracts doing the same job. Abe's government argues the reforms are necessary to respond to the challenge of an ageing and shrinking population. But sceptics say they will endanger workers by allowing contracts that could include almost unlimited overtime with no extra pay, and setting overtime caps for other professions that are still too high to prevent overwork.

"This is a type of system that could result in long work hours and increases the risk of 'karoshi'," said Emiko Teranishi, whose husband killed himself due to depression linked to overwork, in recent testimony to parliament. The bill has also been controversial because key data cited by Abe's government to back it turned out to be incorrect, forcing an embarrassing U-turn on one part of the planned reforms. Shortly before the legislation passed, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said it would help "bring about a society which makes it possible for every worker to choose work styles that suit their individual conditions". "We think it will contribute greatly to (welfare of) workers and the development of the Japanese economy," Suga told a regular briefing. —AFP

Escalating trade battle embroils G7 finance meet

WHISTLER, Canada: Amid threats of imminent tariffs on metals and auto imports, escalating trade tensions between Europe and the United States were casting a shadow over a meeting of finance ministers from the world's top economies. Long a bastion of multilateralism, the Group of Seven ministerial in a Canadian mountain resort will serve as the latest battleground for the discord now at the heart of the global economy. As the US engages in a multi-front trade battle, with allies and adversaries alike, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Wednesday rejected calls to extend exemptions on punishing import tariffs on steel and aluminum and warned that duties for massive US imports of automobiles were on the horizon.

This means the metals tariffs would take effect on Friday, the second day of the G7 meeting as frustration mounts in Europe, the single-largest source of US steel imports. The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Washington would allow the EU exemption to expire, after weeks of talks failed to yield a compromise, such as a quota arrangement. The harsh duties imposed in March to combat global overcapacity of the metals and boost domestic production, were only one part of a dizzying pace of developments, coinciding with a political crisis in Italy, which this week has roiled markets fearful for the future of the euro and bringing turmoil to the European Union, the G7's largest economic bloc.

New G7 agenda

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is due to hold meetings with his European counterparts

to discuss President Donald Trump's confrontational trade agenda, officials said. But Jacob Kirkegaard, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told AFP that the agenda Canada, the current G7 chair, set for the meeting - which included uncontroversial themes such as inclusive development and innovation in finance - would be swept aside amid raw relations between America and its traditional allies.

"Hopefully they can agree to keep talking about these issues, although that is unlikely," he said, adding that Trump's recent actions proved to US allies that Washington would not de-escalate the dispute. "I think the only thing you can hope for is no further harm." In recent weeks, Trump has repeatedly switched course on key foreign policy and trade issues, first imposing then easing sanctions on Chinese telecoms equipment firm ZTE, and declaring a "hold" on a looming trade war with Beijing but then announcing he would press ahead with \$50 billion in tariffs on China's tech sector.

Last week, the administration also launched a national security-based investigation that could result in stinging tariffs on the hundreds of billions of autos the US imports annually, just as it has for the smaller aluminum and steel industries. And Ross also vetoed a traditional joint statement at an annual economic meeting in Paris this week which denounced protectionism, further angering US allies.

About faces hinder consensus

Relations among G7 nations represent particularly high stakes as they account for more than 60 percent of global GDP. And the sectors where Trump has chosen to wage his battles are key to trade in the economic bloc. More than 60 percent of US auto imports - an industry that closely binds US and Canadian manufacturing - come from G7 countries, as well as more than 50 percent of aluminum imports and nearly 36 percent of steel. —AFP

Business

Long-haul fight: Japanese farmers battle Narita airport

Controversial airport wants to build third runway

NARITA, Japan: You can't choose your neighbors, as Japanese organic farmer Takao Shito knows all too well after a decades-long battle against Narita - the country's second busiest airport. His farm is virtually surrounded by Narita airport, and jets from around the world roar down right next door to his rows of peas and radishes, whose green leaves wave in the spring breeze. "You get used to the noise," the soft-spoken 68-year-old told AFP on his farm, most of which is only accessible via tunnels underneath the airport.

"These are pieces of land farmed by three generations for nearly a century, by my grandfather, my father and myself. I want to continue living here and farm," he said. His fight, along with a handful of other families, has proved a major headache for Narita, which marks its 40th anniversary this year. The airport is Tokyo's main international gateway and handles 40 million passengers and 250,000 flights a year. Narita has been controversial in the region since it was first proposed by the government in 1966 as a three-runway facility, sparking protests by activists and farmers including Shito's father.

The demonstrations turned violent, ending with the deaths of several police officers and protesters. The airport opened in 1978, with authorities only apologizing years later for their heavy-handed response to protests. But continued local opposition meant it operated with just a single runway until 2002, when a second opened. The airport purchased farm lots adjacent to the planned second runway's route from

the legal landowners, including some who had rented to Shito's family for decades.

But Shito refused to move, arguing his livelihood depended on the land and pointing to Japan's Agricultural Land Act, which gives farmers broad legal protection. So the airport altered the route leading to the runway, which now curves around Shito's farm, encircling one of his lots.

'Not about money'

With increasing tourist numbers and Tokyo hosting next year's Rugby World Cup and then the Summer Olympics in 2020, the airport now wants to build a third runway. It won't run near Shito's farm, but the airport faces negotiations with other nearby farmers. Seen from above, the plots that Shito and his neighbors farm are fenced-in brown soil islands, trapped inside a web of taxiways used by planes. With planes thundering in and out of the airport throughout the day and into the night, it is hardly an idyllic farming existence.

But Shito is undeterred. He is currently involved in five separate lawsuits with the airport and has steadfastly refused compensation in return for relocating. "This is not at all about money," he told AFP, in a blue, buttoned shirt and cargo trousers, his hair well groomed. "I do organic farming with no pesticides. You cannot just move the top soil and hope it will be the same in different lots." While the area around the airport may not seem the ideal location for organic farming, air and water quality monitors in and around Narita show no sustained and elevated

levels of contaminants.

The airport has already won a major case against Shito and convinced some other farmers to take compensation to move. But they are tight-lipped about whether they might evict him. "We will determine our future actions by consulting with attorneys and others concerned while also reviewing the situation," the airport said in a response to written questions from AFP. Shito's tense relations with the airport lead to occasional run-ins with security. On a recent morning, a black SUV cruised by and followed a group of visitors to one of his lots outside the airport, monitoring from afar. "Police or airport security," Shito said. "There are times I get

stopped. They ask for my ID, even though they know who I am."

'This is my life'

But he says he is happy on the land, and has some 400 clients in and around Tokyo who buy his organic produce. "I have fun growing vegetables here. This is my life: Growing vegetables on this soil. They taste different," he said. And he has plenty of supporters. At a recent hearing at Chiba District Court, roughly 60 activists filled a courtroom and loudly heckled the judge in a noisy show of solidarity. Some even want the entire airport to be dismantled and the region returned to its pastoral past.—AFP

“ This is my life: Growing veggies on this soil ”



This picture taken on April 12, 2018 shows Japanese farmer Takao Shito working beside a runway of the expanding Narita airport, Tokyo's main international gateway, in Chiba prefecture. —AFP

Indian govt heads for airline auction flop

MUMBAI: India's government could be forced to rethink the auction of a majority stake in its debt-stricken airline Air India, with no bids yet received with a deadline yesterday. The cut-off date has already been put back by three weeks because of the lack of interest and Civil Aviation Secretary R N Choubey said late Wednesday there had been no contact from prospective buyers so far. The government official remained "quite hopeful" of a late offer - the deadline is at 1130 GMT - but added that the auction would not be extended further, Press Trust of India reported.

Aviation analysts have said however there is little chance of a bid until the government changes the terms of the sale. "Lack of bids is disappointing for the government," a Mumbai-based research firm analyst told AFP. "The gov-

ernment can keep postponing the dates but the markets have spoken and there is zero interest. It is back to the drawing board."

The government announced on March 28 that it plans to sell up to 76 percent of the carrier, but airlines and other investors have been spooked by the sale terms, with the government refusing to carve up the firm. India's Tata Group, Singapore Airlines (SIA), which together run Vistara, and InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, owner of the Indigo carrier, were all linked to a takeover but have ruled themselves out. Indigo wanted Air India's international operations.

Air India, founded in 1932, was once the country's monopoly airline, known affectionately as the "Maharaja of the skies". But it has been haemorrhaging money for years and it has lost market share to low-cost rivals in one of the world's fastest-growing airline markets. Successive governments had spent billions of dollars to keep it flying before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet last year gave the go-ahead to a selloff. Air India is about \$8 billion in the red and reported losses of almost 58 billion rupees (\$866 million) for the financial year ending March 2017. —AFP

levels of contaminants.

The airport has already won a major case against Shito and convinced some other farmers to take compensation to move. But they are tight-lipped about whether they might evict him. "We will determine our future actions by consulting with attorneys and others concerned while also reviewing the situation," the airport said in a response to written questions from AFP. Shito's tense relations with the airport lead to occasional run-ins with security. On a recent morning, a black SUV cruised by and followed a group of visitors to one of his lots outside the airport, monitoring from afar. "Police or airport security," Shito said. "There are times I get

stopped. They ask for my ID, even though they know who I am."

'This is my life'

But he says he is happy on the land, and has some 400 clients in and around Tokyo who buy his organic produce. "I have fun growing vegetables here. This is my life: Growing vegetables on this soil. They taste different," he said. And he has plenty of supporters. At a recent hearing at Chiba District Court, roughly 60 activists filled a courtroom and loudly heckled the judge in a noisy show of solidarity. Some even want the entire airport to be dismantled and the region returned to its pastoral past.—AFP

Korean Air raided over embezzlement by founding family

SEOUL: South Korean prosecutors raided the headquarters of Korean Air Lines Co Ltd yesterday over suspected tax evasion, embezzlement and breach of trust by members of its founding family, in what has become the broadest-ever chaebol probe. The investigation is the latest involving the family-controlled conglomerate, or chaebol, after a tantrum in April by the chairman's youngest daughter re-ignited public resentment toward the perceived unchecked behavior of chaebols' powerful family-owners.

Cho Hyun-min's alleged throwing of a drink at a business meeting attendee sparked protests which, coupled with a liberal government willing to pursue wrongdoing among the elite, has led to an unprecedented number of family members being subject to

multiple investigated simultaneously, analysts said. Cho Hyun-min is the younger sister of Heather Cho. The elder Cho was jailed in 2014 for demanding a Korean Air Lines plane return to its gate at a New York airport, after losing her temper over the way she was served nuts in a first class cabin.

Meanwhile separately yesterday, police sought an arrest warrant for matriarch Lee Myung-hee on assault charges. Park Sang-in, an economics professor at Seoul National University, said workers at Korean Air Lines coming forward against the owner-family has particularly fuelled the probes. "The family appears to have a lot of issues, as one investigation is leading to another, supported by testimonies from workers," Park said.

Korean Air Lines workers this month held rallies in Seoul calling for Chairman Cho Yang-ho to step down. Days later, authorities considered cancelling the license of budget airline Jin Air Co Ltd because Cho's younger daughter had been a board member despite being a US national - a potential regulatory breach. Chairman Cho subsequently stepped down as Jin Air's co-chief executive. —Reuters

Sports

Eovaldi lifts Tampa Bay Rays over Oakland Athletics 6-0

Indians overpower White Sox 9-1

FLORIDA: Nathan Eovaldi threw six no-hit innings in his first start since 2016, and Rob Refsnyder belted a three-run home run Wednesday, lifting the visiting Tampa Bay Rays to a third win in three days over the Oakland Athletics, 6-0. Making his Rays debut, Eovaldi (1-0) was pitching for the first time since undergoing elbow surgery, which cost him the entire 2017 season, and a follow-up procedure that stalled the start of his 2018 season. The 28-year-old walked the second batter he faced, Matt Chapman, before retiring 17 in a row to carry a no-hitter and a 4-0 lead through six innings. Having thrown 70 pitches, he was pulled after getting 18 outs, four of which were strikeouts. The no-hit bid ended two batters into the seventh when Jed Lowrie singled to right-center field off reliever Wilmer Font, whom the Rays had acquired last week from Oakland.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 4

JD Martinez blasted a go-ahead, two-run home run in the sixth inning to help host Boston complete a three-game sweep of Toronto. Martinez's shot over the Green Monster in left-center field pulled him into a tie with Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels for the major league lead with his 18th homer of the year. Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper would later join the two with his 18th homer. Eduardo Nunez also knocked a solo home run and had an RBI double while both Jackie Bradley Jr and Brock Holt had one RBI for the Red Sox, who have won nine of their last 11 games. Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run homer and Kendrys Morales had a two-run double for the Blue Jays, who lost for the 13th time in 17 games.

Nationals 2, Orioles 0

Max Scherzer took the major league lead in wins, and Bryce Harper homered for the second consecutive night as Washington won at Baltimore. Scherzer (9-1) allowed two hits in eight innings. He struck out 12 and walked just one. The Nationals stretched their winning streak to six games and swept a second consecutive series. The Orioles lost their fifth consecutive game as their offense continued to struggle, managing just four hits.

Indians 9, White Sox 1

Corey Kluber struck out 10 over six scoreless innings, and Michael Brantley extended his hitting streak to 19 games, the longest in the majors this season, as Cleveland routed visiting Chicago. Jose Ramirez and Edwin Encarnacion hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning as the Indians won their fifth consecutive game. Cleveland swept the three-game series against the White Sox by a combined score of 25-10. Kluber (8-2) did not walk a batter. When he struck out Daniel Palka in the fourth inning, he extended his streak to 100 consecutive batters without issuing a walk.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 2

Orlando Arcia ripped a two-out, RBI single to send home Jesus Aguilar with the deciding run in the seventh inning as Milwaukee defeated visiting St. Louis. The Brewers finished the month 19-8, the franchise's best-ever win total in May. Milwaukee starter Junior Guerra was lifted after six innings of scoreless, four-hit pitching with seven strikeouts. He was replaced by Jeremy Jeffress, who promptly surrendered a leadoff home run in the seventh to the Cardinals' Harrison Bader that tied the game at 1 before St. Louis moved ahead.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 4

Adam Duvall and Scott Schebler homered, and Cincinnati overcame a four-run deficit to salvage the finale of a three-game series with a victory over Arizona in Phoenix. Schebler's two-run homer off Patrick Corbin (5-2) in the sixth inning broke a 4-4 tie after Duvall's grand slam in the fourth inning knotted the score as the Reds broke a three-game losing streak. John Ryan Murphy had three hits and a homer, Jarrod Dyson had three hits and Paul Goldschmidt homered for the Diamondbacks, who had won two in a row after a stretch in which they lost 15 of 17.

Yankees 5, Astros 3

Luis Severino tied his season high with 11 strikeouts in seven effective innings as New York beat visiting Houston. Severino recorded his eighth career double-digit strikeout game, third this season and second against the Astros. Severino (8-1) won his sixth straight decision, allowing just a two-run home run to Max Stassi among four hits. David Robertson fanned Altuve and Carlos Correa for the final two outs of a scoreless eighth. Aroldis Chapman allowed an RBI double by Stassi in the ninth but recorded his 12th save by fanning George Springer on three pitches.

Pirates 2, Cubs 1

Josh Harrison hit a home run, and Pittsburgh hung on to beat visiting Chicago and end a four-game losing streak. Colin Moran had three hits for the Pirates. Pittsburgh's Joe Musgrove (2-0) gave up one run and seven hits in seven innings. Felipe Vazquez, who had failed to convert on his past three save opportunities, gave up two hits in a scoreless ninth for his 10th save. Jason Heyward had three hits for Chicago, which had won three in a row and four of five.

Mets 4, Braves 1

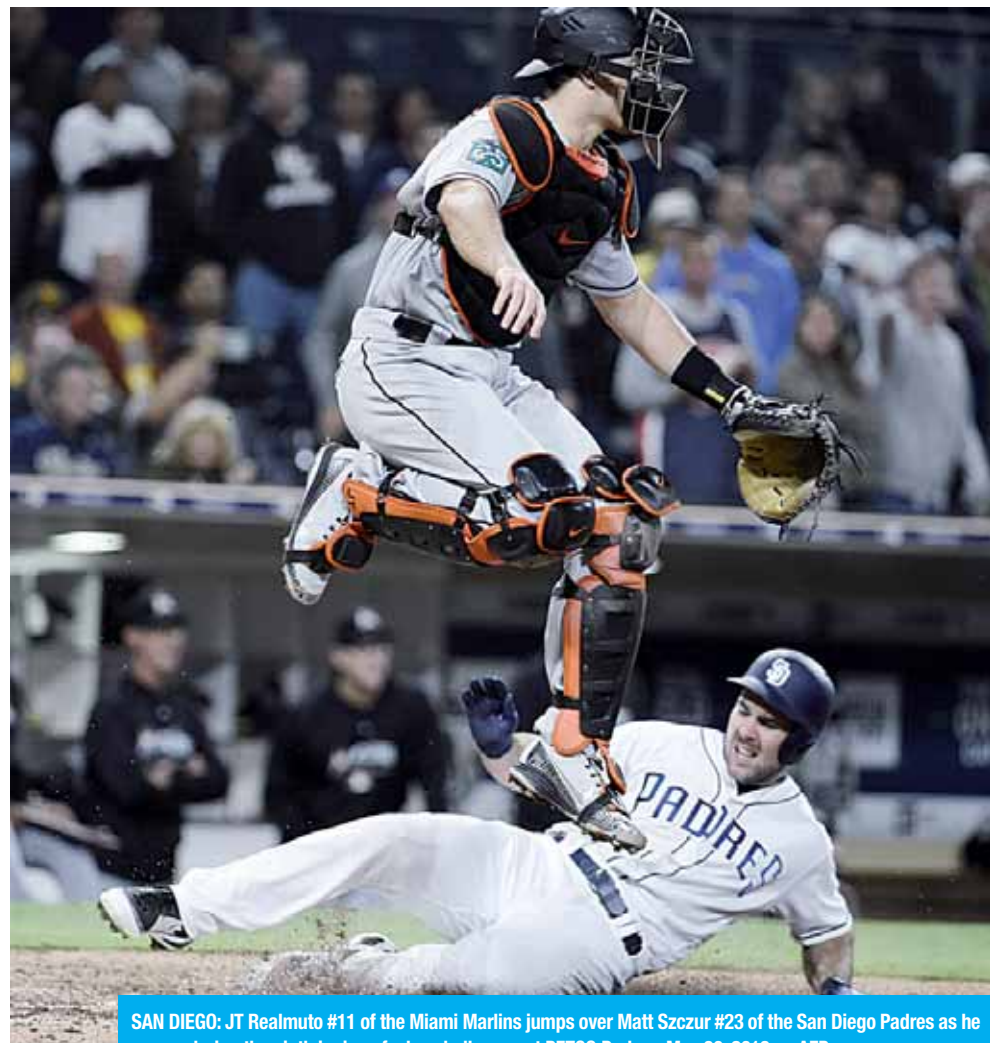
Jason Vargas, working on three days' rest, pitched five scoreless innings as New York got a split of a four-game series at Atlanta. Vargas (2-3) entered the game with a 10.62 ERA, but he limited the National League's top offensive team to two hits and one walk. Robert Gsellman pitched a perfect ninth inning to earn his second save. The New York attack was led by Adrian Gonzalez and Brandon Nimmo, who each went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Amed Rosario added two hits and two runs.

Tigers 6, Angels 1

Jose Iglesias ripped a two-run, go-ahead single during a five-run uprising in the sixth inning, lifting Detroit past visiting Los Angeles in a game twice delayed by rain. Leonys Martin reached base four times and had a run, an RBI and a stolen base for Detroit. Nicholas Castellanos supplied three hits, including two doubles, and an RBI. Iglesias left the game after the sixth due to a right hip contusion. Both starters came out after the second rain delay. Angels rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani gave up one run on three hits with three walks and five strikeouts in five innings. Detroit's Mike Fiers allowed one run on seven hits with a walk and four strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

Royals 11, Twins 8

Mike Moustakas homered and drove in four runs to help Kansas City notch a victory over visiting Minnesota. Jorge Soler went 4-for-5 with a homer and two RBIs, and Hunter Dozier smacked his first major league homer for Kansas City. Ryan Goins added a two-run



SAN DIEGO: JT Realmuto #11 of the Miami Marlins jumps over Matt Szczur #23 of the San Diego Padres as he scores during the ninth inning of a baseball game at PETCO Park on May 30, 2018. —AFP

triple for the Royals, who were on top 9-0 after two innings before seeing most of the lead evaporate. Miguel Sano had three RBIs for the Twins, who have dropped six of their past seven games. Ehire Adrianza and Brian Dozier homered, while Eduardo Escobar and Adrianza each had two RBIs.

Giants 7, Rockies 4

Derek Holland settled down after a shaky opening to pitch five innings. Evan Longoria hit a tiebreaking triple and San Francisco beat Colorado in Denver. Buster Posey, Brandon Crawford, Mac Williamson and Andrew McCutchen had two hits apiece to help the Giants salvage the finale of the three-game series at Coors Field. San Francisco won for just the second time in eight games. Nolan Arenado homered for Colorado while Jon Gray struggled for the fourth straight start, allowing four runs in 3 1/3 innings. Holland (3-6) yielded four runs on eight hits.

Padres 3, Marlins 2

San Diego scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth on a bases-loaded infield single by pinch hitter Hunter Renfroe and a throwing error by Marlins third baseman Miguel Rojas to defeat visiting Miami. The walk-off win was the Padres' second of the season and extended the strange streak of Marlins starting pitcher Jose Urena.

Miami has lost in all 12 of Urena's starts this season and have lost a franchise-record 14 straight games when Urena starts dating back to last season. The Marlins went into the bottom of the ninth leading 2-1 thanks to Starlin Castro's two-run homer off Padres starter Clayton Richard in the fourth inning.

Dodgers 8, Phillies 2

Ross Stripling had nine strikeouts over seven innings and also contributed an RBI single as Los Angeles routed visiting Philadelphia. Matt Kemp added four RBIs, delivering a run-scoring double in the first inning, a two-run home run in the third and a sacrifice fly in the eighth. Max Muncy also hit a home run as the Dodgers won for the 10th time in 13 games. Nick Williams ended Los Angeles' shutout bid with a home run in the seventh inning.

Rangers 7, Mariners 6

Robinson Chirinos went 3-for-5 with three RBIs, including a two-run double with the bases loaded in the seventh inning that snapped a tie, and Texas won at Seattle. Relievers Tony Barnette (1-0), Jose Leclerc, Alex Claudio and Keone Kela combined for 3 2/3 innings of one-run relief. Kela pitched the ninth for his 12th save of the season. The Rangers overcame a 5-3 deficit by batting around in a four-run seventh. —Reuters

Sports

Capitals edge Knights 3-2 to level NHL Stanley Cup final

Ovechkin scores the go-ahead goal

LAS VEGAS: The Washington Capitals held on to beat the Las Vegas Golden Knights 3-2 on Wednesday, handing the upstart expansion club a rare home defeat to level the NHL Stanley Cup final at one game apiece. Washington captain Alex Ovechkin scored the go-ahead goal in the second period as the Capitals knotted the best-of-seven championship series as it heads to Washington for games three and four on Saturday and Monday. Vegas, who surged back to win game one on Monday, lost at home for just the second time this post-season. The Knights had opened the scoring through James Neal less than eight minutes into the contest. Washington answered with a goal from Lars Eller late in the first, and seized the lead with second-period goals from Ovechkin and Brooks Orpik.

Shea Theodore scored on a powerplay late in the second to pull the Golden Knights within one, but the Capitals—who lost leading scorer Evgeny Kuznetsov to injury in the first period—held on. Goalie Braden Holtby's 37 saves included a sprawling stop against Alex Tuch with 1:59 remaining to preserve the win. "Obviously, these boards have been really true all the time and somehow it bounced out," said Holtby, who reached back to save Tuch's shot with his stick. "It was the hockey gods," said Caps coach Barry

Trotz. "A great save with 1:59 left and you could see the emotion on our bench. I knew we were going to win the game after that."

Earlier in the third, the Capitals penalty killers thwarted a 5-on-3 power-play opportunity for 68 seconds, and Holtby said that was a key to the contest. "We have a really proud group of penalty killers," he said. "They live and die by that. They did an amazing job. That was the turning point of the game." After Neal beat Holtby with a shot from the left face-off circle to put Vegas up 1-0 at 7:58 of the first period, Washington scored the next three goals.



Eller holds hot hand as Caps vanquish Golden Knights

Facing adversity

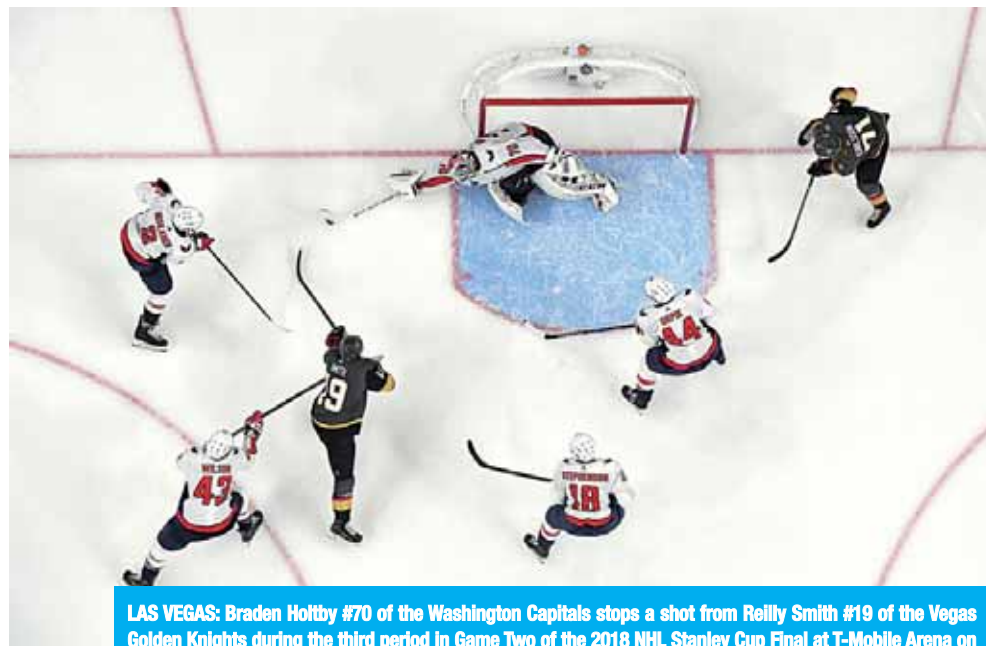
Eller tied it 1-1 at 17:27 of the first, firing in a shot from the bottom of the right circle off a pass from Michal Kempny. Eller set up Ovechkin for a power-play goal from the bottom of the left circle to give

Washington a 2-1 lead at 5:38 of the second. Eller one-touched a pass from the goal line on the right side to Ovechkin and the Russian star one-timed the puck for his 13th goal of the playoffs. While the Golden Knights are trying to become the first debut team in major US sports history to win the title in their first year, the Capitals are vying for a first title in their 43-season history—having reached the final for just the second time, 20 years after they were swept by Detroit in 1998.

respect and understanding." At least 30 players taking part had played in one of Europe's top divisions, according to the Times newspaper. Some have played in the Champions League. "We are excited to be able to host our largest ever tournament in Greater London, the historic home of the beautiful game," added Blind.

"With some teams based in the United Kingdom, some having large diaspora communities here and plenty of neutral favorites, we are confident of support." The 10-day tournament kicks off Thursday with an opening ceremony at Hayes Lane, the 5,000-capacity home of English fifth-tier side Bromley. The subsequent match is nominal tournament hosts Barawa versus Tamil Eelam, two diaspora sides representing southern Somalia and Sri Lankan Tamils. Barawa manager Abdikarim Farah told a press conference: "It's Ramadan for us so most of the players will be fasting, so that's an additional challenge for us."

Padania, representing northern Italy, are the pre-tournament favorites at 2/1, followed by Abkhazia at 3/1, then Panjab and Barawa at 5/1. Possibly the tournament's top player is Padania's Marius Stankevicius, 36, who starred for Lithuania, Lazio, Seville and Valencia. An Yong Hak, 39, is coaching and playing for United Koreans in Japan. Eight years ago, the former J-League midfielder was playing for North Korea against Brazil in the 2010 World Cup in front of 54,000 people in Johannesburg. On Thursday his side will be taking on Western Armenia at Carshalton's War Memorial Sports Ground. The Dalai Lama blessed the Tibet team before they left for London.—AFP



LAS VEGAS: Braden Holtby #70 of the Washington Capitals stops a shot from Reilly Smith #19 of the Vegas Golden Knights during the third period in Game Two of the 2018 NHL Stanley Cup Final at T-Mobile Arena on May 30, 2018.—AFP

Eller was on the first power-play unit in place of Kuznetsov, who departed clutching one arm at 14:42 of the first after a hit by Knights defenseman Brayden McNabb. "I think every time we've faced adversity whether it's we're down in games or we lose guys, everybody just steps up

a bit," Eller said. "The more I'm out there, the better I feel on the puck." Orpik made it 3-1 with a goal from the right circle off a pass from Eller at 9:41 of the second. It was Orpik's first goal in 220 games, his first playoff goal since April 21, 2014.—AFP

Far from Russia, rival World Cup kicks off in UK

LONDON: Far from the showpiece razzmatazz of this year's official World Cup in Russia, 16 teams are set to do battle at an alternative World Cup for those outside the system. The CONIFA World Football Cup 2018, being contested at non-league grounds around London, will see the likes of Tibet and Northern Cyprus mix it with Matabeleland, the Punjabi diaspora and the Russian-backed Abkhazia breakaway region of Georgia.

CONIFA, the Confederation of Independent Football Associations, is the federation for teams outside FIFA, the sport's world governing body. With a wider interpretation of international identity, its 47 members include sovereign states, nations, minorities, isolated dependencies and cultural regions. The 16 world cup teams represent an estimated 334 million people worldwide. "Many of our members have a history that is quite tragic," CONIFA president Per-Anders Blind told AFP. "Even if they never met before, they come on the same pitch and share similar stories."

Ramadan challenge

"Many of these teams have been bullied, abused and neglected from governments, perhaps somebody wanted to take their territories. So there is a

Tiger, learning to win again, seeks his sixth victory

OHIO: Muirfield Village has been a particularly happy hunting ground for Tiger Woods, who hopes to bag a sixth victory at Jack's place at this week's Memorial tournament in Ohio. But as he tees off in Thursday's first round of the Jack Nicklaus-hosted tournament nearly five years removed from his most recent victory, Woods is still re-learning the art of closing the deal. At least that is what Nicklaus says of the man who a few years ago seemed destined to surpass him as the game's most prolific major winner. "We all have to learn how to win again," said 18-times major winner Nicklaus, who remembered the difficulty of winning the 1986 Masters after a six-year drought on tour. "Tiger has it to draw on but he's got to get through the barrier of not having done it for a while."

A tie for second at the Valspar Championship in March proved Woods still has the

game to contend, but victory can be an elusive beast. "I've been on runs where it came pretty easy. Other stretches where it was very difficult," Woods told reporters on Wednesday. "This is a little different because I'm coming back off not really playing for a while." He was referring to the back issues that hobbled him literally and figuratively for some four years before last April's spinal fusion. Now six months into his comeback, Woods has yet to close the door. "I remember the feelings at Valspar. I had a chance to win and it really felt comfortable," he said.

Nicklaus said he wouldn't be a bit surprised to see a breakthrough for Woods, who was fitted this week for his American team uniforms for September's Ryder Cup. He will be on the US plane to Paris one way or another, either as an assistant captain or a player. While the Memorial has been good to Woods, Rory McIlroy has yet to win it, and the Northern Irishman said he would have to steer clear of the long rough to have a chance this week. "It's US Open rough out there," McIlroy said. "You can't control your ball at all. You can hardly get it to the greens out of the rough. There will be a lot of (emphasis to) put it in the fairway and take your chances from there." —Reuters

Sports

Cilic, Thiem battle into the French Open last 32

Thiem finishes off Tsitsipas to reach third round

PARIS: Title challengers Marin Cilic and Dominic Thiem struggled into the French Open last 32 yesterday as Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova and Rafael Nadal waited to join them. Third seed Cilic reached the third round for the eighth time with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-7 3/7, 7-5 win over Polish qualifier and world number 188 Hubert Hurkacz. Former US Open champion Cilic, who reached the quarter-finals in Paris last year, will face Steve Johnson of the United States for a place in the last 16.

However, it was a roller-coaster of a performance by newly-wed Cilic who cracked 48 winners but also 52 unforced errors. He also squandered a match point in the third set. "I was in control but played a poor third set so I had to start all over again," said 29-year-year-old Cilic after his 20th match win of the season. "I had to be positive, positive, positive. I screamed just to let it all out and I got the break in the 11th game."

Seventh seeded Thiem, a semi-finalist in 2016 and 2017, racked up his 31st win of the year. The Austrian, the only man to beat world number one Rafael Nadal on clay this year, saw off Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a match which had been suspended overnight after the third set. Next up for Thiem is Italy's Matteo Berrettini. Highly-rated Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov was knocked out by Germany's Maximilian Marterer 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 6-4. World number 70 Marterer, 22, has now reached the third round at successive Grand Slam events and will face Estonian lucky loser Jurgen Zopp.

Pakistan's Amir aims for win of a lifetime against England

LONDON: Mohammad Amir has had some of the greatest and undoubtedly the worst days of his career in England—sometimes during the very same match. But fresh from helping bowl Pakistan to a crushing nine-wicket win over England in the first Test at Lord's, the left-arm pacesetter hopes he can enjoy the "best memory" with a series win in the second and final Test at Headingley, starting Friday. Amir, who burst on the world scene as a teenager, got his name on the Lord's honors board with a six-wicket haul against England in 2010. But in the same game at the 'home of cricket', Amir was caught up in a spot-fixing scandal at the which led to a jail sentence and a five-year ban.

That same season, Amir took three wickets for 20 runs in 11 overs at Headingley during a sensational bowling display as an Australia side featuring Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey and Steven Smith were dismissed for just 88 in the first innings of the second 'neutral' Test. The match, which Pakistan eventually won by three wickets, saw Amir stake a claim to 'The Ball of the 21st Century' when an all-but-unplayable delivery that pitched on the middle-and-leg stump of Mitchell Johnson seamed away late to

Catsuit to reappear

Spanish third seed Garbine Muguruza, the 2016 champion, was too strong for France's number 257 Fiona Ferro 6-4, 6-3. "She was unknown to me. It's always tricky when you face a French, a young, talented player," said Wimbledon champion Muguruza. Meanwhile, Australian 24th seed Daria Gavrilova came back from a set and 5-2 down, saving a match point in the process, to defeat America's Bernarda Pera 5-7, 7-5, 6-3. Later, Williams, the three-time champion in Paris and playing her first Slam since winning the 2017 Australian Open while two months pregnant, took on Australia's 17th seed Ashleigh Barty. All eyes will again be on her striking black catsuit which dominated headlines after her first round win over Kristyna Pliskova and has caused some to question whether or not it's legal.

Manufacturers Nike insisted yesterday that the suit, which Williams claims also helps prevent the return of blood clots which put her life in danger after giving birth to her daughter in September, will get another airing on Court Philippe Chatrier. Williams, 36, who is ranked at 451 in the world after her lengthy absence, defeated Barty in their only previous meeting, needing less than an hour to secure a straight sets win at the 2014 Australian Open. Victory for Williams will take her a step further to a potential last-16 clash with old rival Maria Sharapova. The Russian, a two-time champion at Roland Garros, is playing in Paris for the first time since 2015. She missed 2016 while serving a doping suspension and

clip the top of the left-hander's off-stump. Amir, who helped Essex win the English County Championship last season when he also starred in Pakistan's outstanding one-day Champions Trophy final victory over arch-rivals India at The Oval, has rarely hit those Headingley heights in Test cricket since his return to the international stage two years ago. Amir, however, took five wickets—including four for 36 in the second innings—as Pakistan outclassed England in all areas to win inside four days at Lord's on Sunday. "It's a big achievement winning in Test cricket in England against England at home," Amir said on Wednesday. "If we win the series I think it will be the best memory of my life," the swing bowler added.

'Block out the noise'

Pakistan will be forced into a change, with Fakhar Zaman set to replace Babar Azam after his fellow batsman suffered a broken arm facing all-rounder Ben Stokes at Lord's. England have recalled opener Keaton Jennings in place of the dropped Mark Stoneman, who managed just 13 runs in total at Lord's. "You will only get judged on the amount of runs you score," said Jennings, one of Alastair Cook's 12 opening partners in the six years since Andrew Strauss's retirement.

England made a late addition to their squad, with uncapped left-arm seamer Sam Curran called up Wednesday after Stokes suffered a hamstring strain. Regardless of Stokes's fitness, England may recall all-rounder Chris Woakes, if only to bolster their fallible batting, in place of fast bowler Mark Wood. — AFP



PARIS: Croatia's Marin Cilic returns the ball to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz during their men's singles second round match on day five of The Roland Garros 2018 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

2017 when organizers refused her a wild card.

Sharapova, seeded 28, had to come back from 0-3 down in the final set to beat Dutch qualifier Richel Hogenkamp in the first round. Yesterday, out on Court 1, she faces Donna Vekic, the world number 50 from Croatia. Men's top seed and world number one Rafael Nadal tackles fellow

left-hander Guido Pella of Argentina. Pella, the world 78, has never got beyond the second round at the Slams. Women's top seed Simona Halep, the 2014 and 2017 runner-up, plays big-hitting Taylor Townsend of the United States. Halep needed three sets to see off Alison Riske in the first round on Wednesday. — AFP

Young people do like cricket, ICC chief insists

LONDON: England's top cricket administrator may feel young people no longer care about cricket, but the man running the sport's global governing body is adamant youth interest is rising worldwide. And David Richardson, the chief executive of the International Cricket Council, added that that next year's World Cup in England and Wales represents a brilliant opportunity to prove the doubters wrong. Colin Graves, the England and Wales Cricket Board chairman, sparked controversy with his recent comment that young people "are just not attracted to cricket".

It appeared he was trying to justify the proposed introduction of a new 100-ball format into the English game in 2020. But many cricket lovers were aghast at Graves's seeming lack of faith in his own sport, while others were equally dismayed by what they saw as a slap in the face for various youth cricket initiatives, including those of the ECB itself. Photographs of young fans enjoying themselves at various English county grounds and other games started appearing on Twitter in response to Graves's statement.

Richardson, too diplomatic to join in the criticism, was nevertheless keen to defend cricket's appeal to the next generation while speaking in London on Wednesday at an event marking a year

to the start of the 2019 World Cup. "That is very much an English viewpoint," Richardson said, when asked about Graves's comments. "Globally we are seeing in our sport, compared to other sports, the average age of the fan is lower than even football and certainly rugby. "Market by market, it varies widely—in England, I think, there is a bit of a challenge making sure we re-engage with the youth and grow the game from a participation point of view—but elsewhere in the world, it is quite positive."

No 'appetite' for new format

Meanwhile Richardson, while noting domestic limited-overs cricket had been played in a variety of formats down the years, was in no hurry to add the 100-ball game to an international schedule already groaning under the weight of Tests, one-day internationals and Twenty20s. "Our strategy is clear in that we've got three formats of the same game, which is challenging in itself to keep them from cannibalizing each other," he said.

"But what it does do is provide us an opportunity to provide an offering to everybody, every type of cricket fan, from the traditional old Test cricket fan to a youngster who wants something to be happening every ball.

"And the 50-over version, I think, is that perfect fit between Test and T20. It provides a perfect day's entertainment, we've seen that around the world - it is very popular elsewhere in the world—and the World Cup has got that prestige which I think will help cement 50-over cricket's popularity well into the future." — AFP

Sports

LeBron at 'all-time level' for eighth straight NBA Finals

33-year-old superstar defies Father Time

OAKLAND: LeBron James says he's playing at an "all-time level" entering the NBA Finals even as the 33-year-old superstar defies Father Time to stretch the prime years of his career. "They always kind of talked about the NBA prime is like 27 and like 31, 32. That's if you're lucky, you'll get to that point," James said. "I've just never really bought into that." James recalled saying this season that "this is the best I've felt in my career.... And I continue to just play at an all-time-level standard for the rest of this season. Hopefully I can continue it in this Finals also." James spoke Wednesday on the eve of his eighth consecutive NBA Finals appearance, and ninth overall, as he prepares to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers into a fourth straight championship series against the Golden State Warriors, who seek their third title in four seasons.

Exactly what level James can produce in the final is uncertain after playing 100 games in the season and playoffs combined since late October. "The level that I can play at is to be seen, but the level I put into the

game and put into my craft is who I am," James said. "So numbers and things like that kind of take care of itself. But for me, I understand and I know how much I put into the game. So everything else is OK. "I don't really have a ceiling. I want to just try to maximize as much as I can and be as good as I can." This season might



James lead Cavaliers into a fourth straight championship series

have done it. He has sparked the Cavaliers in the playoffs with 34.0 points, 9.2 rebounds, 8.8 assists, 1.4 steals and 1.1 blocked shots per game." "It's amazing to watch," said Cavs forward Jeff Green.

"That guy has done everything for us. He's playing outstanding, amazing, phenomenal basketball in year 15. I've seen him play some great games,

but collectively his playoffs have been truly remarkable." James, whose 102 million combined social media followers leads all NBA players, has stressed being fit to play this season, the first in which he did not miss a regular-season contest. "I've been blessed to be available. That's what I take pride in more than anything, is being available to my teammates every single day," James said. "I've been a leader to my teammates all year and I've put in the work. It's allowed me to be able to tomorrow suit up for the 101st consecutive time. We'll see what happens."

'Body of work is amazing'

Cavaliers guard Kyle Korver is amazed at how quickly and well James can recover after a superlative outing. "The thing that I'm most impressed with him is his ability to just keep on going, recover mentally, physically," Korver said. Every night he deals with double teams, with scrutiny, with so much stuff, but the next day he's the first person at the gym.

"For him to have done this eight



OAKLAND: LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers works out during the 2018 NBA Finals Media Day at ORACLE Arena on May 30, 2018 in Oakland, California. — AFP

years in a row, to still be the first guy in the gym every day, to do shooting contests after practice with guys on two-way contracts, there aren't people that do that. Superstars in the NBA, there's not many that do that. "His body of work is amazing." That's in part because James keeps his body in amazing shape with daily treatments and workouts sustaining

world-class conditioning so he can play all 48 minutes if necessary. "It's a big luxury," Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue said. "When he's playing those amount of minutes throughout the course of the regular season, that gets him ready for the playoffs. "That's why he's probably one of the top conditioned athletes in the world." — AFP

Familiarity breeds respect for the NBA Finals foes

OAKLAND: Defending champion Golden State and the Cleveland Cavaliers take their epic rivalry to historic levels with a fourth consecutive NBA Finals showdown—a challenge that both say never gets old. It's the first time in major American sports history that the same clubs have played for a crown four years in a row. The Warriors seek their third title in four years to cement their dynasty as the best-of-seven championship series kicked off yesterday.

The Cavaliers, boasting superstar LeBron James in his eighth consecutive finals, try to level their rivalry with Golden State at 2-2. James has no patience for those that say the matchup has grown stale. "Teams have had their opportunities to beat the Cavs over the last four years, and teams have had the opportunities to beat the Warriors over the last four years," James said. "If you want to see somebody else then you got to beat them."

It nearly happened as for the first time in 39 years both the Eastern and Western Conference finals went to seven games be-

fore the Cavs downed Boston and the Warriors ousted Houston. Television ratings were up 40 percent from last year, when the Warriors went on a 16-1 playoff run to the crown. The conference finals game sevens produced the second-most NBA game viewers in US cable television and ESPN history. If those viewers were hoping to see a new set of finalists emerge, that's just too bad, said Warriors guard Klay Thompson. "I think the rest of the NBA has got to get better," Thompson said. "We're happy to be a part of history. It's pretty cool."

'Good, healthy rivalry'

Just as the Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtics dominated the 1980s, the Warriors and Cavs have built a strong rivalry in which each has lifted a trophy. "We respect each other as professionals but there's obviously some dislike because we've been facing it for four years and they beat us, we beat them," Thompson said. "So there's some natural competitiveness that brews between the fan bases and teams that makes for fun, energetic nights in this arena. So it's a good healthy rivalry." Warriors star forward Kevin Durant, who won his first title last year after the Cavs dethroned Golden State in 2016, says fans should enjoy the rivalry while they can.

"It may not be as suspenseful as a lot of people want it to be or as drama filled, but that's what you've got movies and music for," Durant said. "If you enjoy bas-

ketball, I don't feel like you should have any complaints because it's a great set of players on both teams." Some would argue that, saying the Cavaliers rely too much on James. Late night comedy show "Saturday Night Live" shared an internet video called "The Other Cavaliers" with a Roomba robotic cleaning device at point guard, a dog at center and teammates giving James back rubs, high fives and providing anything else he needs "as long as what he needs isn't basketball." "I run the pick and roll," actor Mikey Day says in the video. "That's when I pick up LeBron's laundry and roll it over to his house."

Punch to the punchlines

The real Cavaliers reserves hope to add some punch to the punchlines. "He's definitely a big part of our team. But if you watch the games, we have guys that have big moments," said Cavs forward Tristan Thompson. "LeBron definitely has done a great job for us, but he's not alone. He has help." But James is a force to be reckoned with, Cavaliers guard Kyle Korver said. "I think the other team always knows that ... if you're going to win the game you have to go through him," Korver said. That means the latest installment of the Cavs-Warriors rivalry will add to someone's legendary legacy. "Golden State is one of the best teams I've ever played. It's one of the best teams that's ever been assembled," James said. "I don't know where they will fall in my book, but they will have a nice chapter." — AFP

Hot and hilly: Tokyo 2020 marathon set for tough finish

TOKYO: Competitors at the Tokyo 2020 marathon will face a grueling uphill finish, organizers said yesterday as they outlined the route, an additional challenge to summer heat that has already sparked concern. The race, which will start at finish at the Olympic Stadium, features an elevation of some 30 meters in the last several kilometers. Naoko Takahashi, a former Japanese marathon runner who won gold in Sydney in 2000, said the climb would likely be a "decisive factor" in the race and should result in a dramatic finish. "The course is flat until 37 kilometers but there are two large hills from 37 kilometers to just before 40 kilometers," Takahashi said. "I guess it is likely to be a dramatic race in which no one can predict the results until the bitter end."

The race will take in some of the Japanese capital's iconic landmarks, including the Tokyo Tower and the Imperial Palace. Koji Murofushi, sports director for the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee, hailed it "the best-ever Olympic marathon course". Organizers said they are taking measures against the summer heat, including coating pavements with a substance to reduce the surface temperature in the capital where the mercury regularly tops 35C (95F). Takahashi said the heat would be an additional challenge for the runners—and indeed for all athletes. "The heat is the biggest issue in the entire Tokyo Olympics," she said. "I hope athletes will prepare well for it." — AFP

Sports

Japan's coach Nishino opts for experienced World Cup squad

Honda, Kagawa and Okazaki included

TOKYO: Japan head coach Akira Nishino named an experienced final 23-man squad for the 2018 World Cup in Russia yesterday. Coming off the back of a disappointing 2-0 loss to Ghana on Wednesday, Nishino's sole game in charge so far since taking over in April, the former international midfielder decided to stick with a travelling party filled with established players.

The squad includes three players with more than 100 caps—Yuto Nagatomo, Shinji Okazaki and captain Matoko Hasebe—and only two outfield players with fewer than 10 international appearances. Eleven of the selected players featured at the last World Cup in Brazil. The players cut from the original 27-man squad were forward Takuma Asano and midfielders Yosuke Ideguchi and Kento Misao, while another midfielder, Toshihiro Aoyama, had already pulled out of the squad through injury.

Ideguchi was the only one of the omitted players to take part in the loss to Ghana. "The experienced players have been doing very well recently. So the idea is to have a mix of experienced players and the young players," Nishino said at a news conference in Tokyo, without specifying why the trio had been omit-

ted. Ideguchi and Asano's non-selection means that the players who secured Japan's World Cup berth with goals against Australia will not feature in Russia, as well as former coach Vahid Halilhodzic, who led them through Asian qualifying.

Playmakers Shinji Kagawa and Keisuke Honda have also been included, with the former proving his fitness over 45 minutes against Ghana following a troublesome ankle injury. Prior to that, Kagawa had only played 15 minutes of football for Borussia Dortmund since February. Leicester City's Okazaki will be relied on for goals, having scored 50 for his country in 112 appearances. The other two forwards chosen, Werder Bremen's Yuya Osako and Yoshinori Muto of Mainz, have only scored nine international goals between them.

Turning his attention to the finals, Nishino said he was aiming to make the second round for the third time in Japan's history. "If we can achieve that result then that means we have correctly expressed Japanese soccer," the 63-year-old said. First up in Russia will be Colombia, who Japan face on June 19 in Saransk. "Now, I want to focus on defeating Colombia. That would be a small miracle," added Nishino, who cast a glum figure throughout the news conference. As well as



YOKOHAMA: Japan's head coach Akira Nishino speaks to the audience at a farewell ceremony for the national team after the international friendly football match between Japan and Ghana at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama on May 30, 2018. — AFP

Colombia, Samurai Blue will face Senegal and Poland in a tough-to-call Group H. Nishino will get two more chances to run his eye over the

squad before Russia when Japan face Switzerland and Paraguay in their final warm-up matches early next month.— Reuters

Ibrahimovic scores twice but Galaxy fall to FC Dallas

LOS ANGELES: Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned from a one-game suspension to score two goals Wednesday, but it was too late as his Los Angeles Galaxy fell 3-2 at home to FC Dallas. The Galaxy had won two games in a row and hoped to continue the trend when they welcomed back Ibrahimovic, who sat out a match after receiving a red card for slapping Montreal's Michael Petraso on May 21. But FC Dallas, solidifying their status as Major League Soccer Western Conference contenders, had the game well in hand by the time Ibrahimovic broke through.

Ryan Hollingshead scored his first goal of the season in the 33rd minute as he finished off a crisp sequence by FC Dallas. Hollingshead then set up the visitors' second goal, his cross from the left headed in by Cristian Colman shortly before halftime. After Ibrahimovic had a goal waved off for offside just after the hour mark, the Galaxy saw two chances off of corner kicks go begging. Dallas seized a 3-0 lead in the 66th minute after Michael Barrios' shot forced a one-handed save from Galaxy goalkeeper David Bingham and Carlos Guezo to headed home the rebound. Ibrahimovic, the former Manchester United and Sweden striker who made a dramatic arrival in MLS in March, produced the Galaxy's first goal in the 69th, and the hosts gained an edge when Colman was sent off in the 80th. Ibrahimovic took advantage with a goal in second-half stoppage time, but the rally would go no further. It was another disappointing home defeat for the Galaxy, who have lost more matches at StubHub Center than they have won. Dallas, meanwhile, extended their unbeaten run to five games and on 23 points are two points behind Western Conference leaders Kansas City.—AFP

Danilo comes to Sterling's defense in gun tattoo row

LONDON: Manchester City defender Danilo has played down the row surrounding team mate Raheem Sterling's gun tattoo. A picture of Sterling's tattooed leg appeared on the front page of Britain's popular Sun tabloid on Tuesday and prompted criticism from anti-gun campaigners. But the 23-year-old England forward insisted there was a deeper meaning behind the tattoo than was apparent from first glance. In an Instagram post from England's pre-World Cup training camp at St George's Park, Sterling wrote: "When I was 2 my father died from being gunned down to death I made a promise to myself I would never touch a gun in my life time, I shoot with my right foot so it has a deeper meaning N still unfinished."

England's governing Football Association backed what it said was Sterling's "honest and heartfelt account" of why he had the new tattoo and now City teammate Danilo has also come to his defense. "Many times in football we give too much attention to these details," he said Wednesday at the training ground of Tottenham Hotspur in north London, where Brazil are holding a pre-Russia 2018 training camp of their own.



LONDON: Brazilis defender Danilo (center) takes part in a training session at Tottenham Hotspur's Enfield Training Centre, north-east of London. — AFP

"It is something that is up to him. It is something that he is feeling and makes sense to him." Danilo, 26, saw his first season in England end with the Premier League title following his arrival from Spanish giants Real Madrid. Although he had to share full-back duties with Kyle Walker, Danilo was de-

lighted by his time working with City manager Pep Guardiola during the defender's inaugural campaign in English football. "It was an incredible experience," he added. "I'm a big fan of Guardiola and how he plans the game. It was a great experience to work with him."— AFP

Sports

Zidane makes a shock decision to leave European champions

Real Madrid coach drops a bombshell, resigns

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane dropped a bombshell yesterday, quitting the Spanish giants just days after winning the Champions League for a record third year in a row. The 45-year-old former international decided to quit at the top saying that it was time for a change for himself and the club and admitting he was unsure of his ability to maintain his winning record at Real.

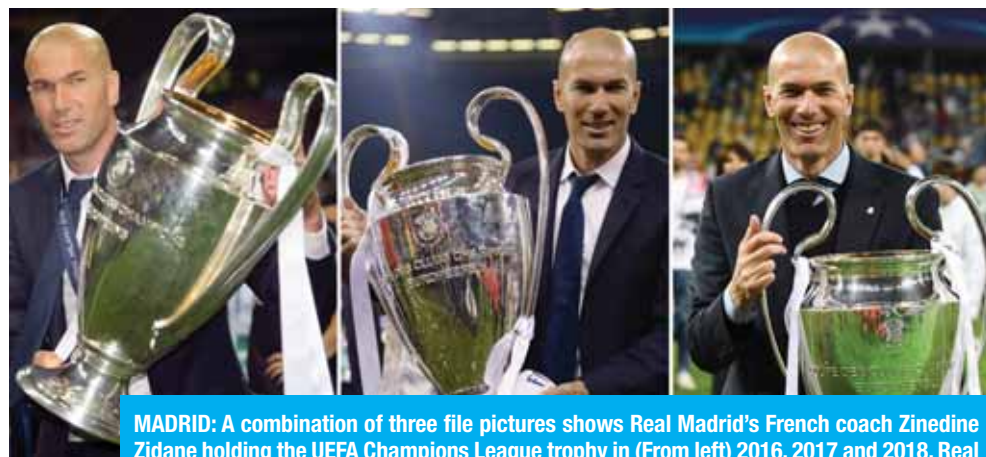
But he said that no other club was involved in his decision to part ways with Real and although experts have linked him to the French national team coaching job, Zidane insisted he is eyeing no other position at this time. "I have taken the decision to not continue next year as Real Madrid coach," the Frenchman told a hastily convened press conference. "This club deserves to continue to win and needs a change" he said, adding that he believed the "moment has come."

"After three years the club needs another discourse, another method of working," he added. Zidane said he was unsure of his ability to inspire the team to more victories. "I don't see myself continuing to win this year and I am a winner, I don't like to lose," added Zidane, who was under contract with Real until 2020. "I have thought a lot about this decision and I can't go back on it." Real beat Liverpool 3-1 in the final in Kiev on Saturday, making Zidane the first coach in his-

tory to win three successive Champions League titles. Zidane has now won nine trophies since replacing Rafael Benitez in the Santiago Bernabeu dugout in January 2016. He was flanked at the press conference by Real Madrid president Florentino Perez who said Zidane's announcement was "totally unexpected". When Benitez was sacked in January 2016, Barcelona daily Mundo Deportivo dismissed Zidane as merely a "sticking plaster", who would be replaced quickly by a permanent coach. But Zidane won the confidence of players and the rest is history. "This is a sad day," Perez said. "This house will be his family forever, he triumphed and won everything, as you know. I thank him for his commitment, his passion. I have no doubt that he will return."

Stunning blow

Zidane said his decision had nothing to do with Real icon Cristiano Ronaldo hinting that he will also leave the club following the Champions League triumph on Saturday. It had perhaps more to do with the side's mixed performance in La Liga, where they finished a disappointing third, and were left for dead by champions and bitter rivals Barcelona. "We say it, it was complicated this year in the league, these are moments that I don't forget," he said. The bombshell decision came 12 years after another stunning



MADRID: A combination of three file pictures shows Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane holding the UEFA Champions League trophy in (From left) 2016, 2017 and 2018. Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday he was leaving the Spanish giants, just days after winning the Champions League for the third year in a row. — AFP

blow from Zidane brought a controversial close to the midfielder's international career.

He earned a red card in the 2006 World Cup final, probably costing France the title, for his full-blooded headbutt against Italian Marco Materazzi. The next step for the former Real Madrid star player is unclear but he has time on his side. Guy Lacombe, Zidane's first coach when

he joined AS Cannes, his first professional club, in 1988, said that there was little left to challenge the coach who had already won virtually everything. "But there is one thing..." Lacombe told AFP. "He would like one day to coach the French national team. He has made no secret of that ambition. "It will happen at the right time. In the right conditions. There is no rush." — AFP

Do you speak Super Rugby?

WELLINGTON: Five talking points ahead of this week's games in Super Rugby: Do you speak Super Rugby? New Zealand Rugby has released a video detailing how to correctly pronounce the names of some Super Rugby players. The clip is hosted by former All Black Piri (Pee-ree, not Perry) Weepu, who says pronouncing names properly is a way of being respectful to different cultures. Among those featured are Crusaders prop Michael Alaalatoa (Alla-alla-taw-ah), Blues flanker Dalton Papali'i (Pa-pa-lee-ee) and Chiefs flanker Pita Gus Sowakula (So-a-cool-a).

There are some names certain to trip up unsuspecting television commentators, such as Hurricanes back Wes Goosen, whose surname is pronounced Hoi-sin like the Chinese sauce, and Chiefs assistant coach Tabai Matson, whose first name is pronounced Tum-bye, with a silent M. Chiefs halfback Te Toiroa Tahuriorangi, recently referred to as "Triple-T" by All Blacks coach Steve Hansen, was given a separate video to spell out his tongue twister Teh Toy-roar Tah-hoo-ree-or rung-ee: <https://bit.ly/2IYROzq>.

Highlanders prime big guns

Otago Highlanders have recalled their big names as they start a late-season push for the

play-offs by hosting Wellington Hurricanes on Friday. The Dunedin-based side have named 10 current or past All Blacks in their line-up including Ben Smith, Aaron Smith and Luke Whitelock, who were all rested for last week's patchy win over Queensland Reds. Flanker Liam Squire also returns from a broken thumb. Assistant coach Mark Hammett said that after five weeks on the road the side were excited to be back home, where they have won 11 games in succession. "We want to give a huge push towards making the play-offs this week before we hit the June break," he said. "The players are really looking forward to being back under the roof in front of a vocal home crowd."

Crusaders test

Waikato Chiefs also take an 11-match home winning streak into their clash with Canterbury Crusaders on Saturday, although their recent form against the reigning champions has not been convincing. The Chiefs have lost their past three meetings with the Crusaders, including 45-23 towelling in February. The visitors are also on a high after overcoming numerous injuries to beat Wellington Hurricanes last week and give themselves a five-point lead at the top of the table. Crusaders coach Scott Robertson said there was no room for complacency as he looks to take his team into the Test break in a commanding position. "The Chiefs have an extremely good scrum," Robertson said. "Given their injuries they have done a great job with the players that have come in for them-as have we, so it will be a great battle." — AFP

England to focus more on attack in South Africa tests

LONDON: England will change their gameplan and put more emphasis on attacking play against South Africa, coach Eddie Jones said ahead of next month's three-test tour. England head into the series on the back of a poor Six Nations campaign during which they lost their last three matches to finish fifth. They were also beaten 63-45 by the Barbarians at Twickenham on Sunday. "We are investing more time into attack now, which we always were going to do, which was part of the plan," Jones told British media. "We've got a reasonable base in defense and set-piece... now it's time to put more effort into attack... that'll manifest itself into possibly more tries. We are looking to play the game slightly differently, which we saw parts of on Sunday."

Jones said his focus was also on next

year's World Cup in Japan. "We want to win in South Africa but we want to win the World Cup and the big thing is that you keep on changing, that you understand what you are good at but you keep on adapting." Jones responded to Bath owner Bruce Craig's criticism of his training methods by saying that a high-intensity regime is required to prepare players for international matches. Bath prop Beno Obano suffered ligament and hamstring tendon damage in England's training camp at Brighton this month, taking the number of players from the Premiership club injured during Jones's tenure to five.

British media quoted Craig quoted as describing the situation as "totally unacceptable". "I haven't seen any figures to suggest they are," Jones added. "No one in our staff has suggested they are but Bruce is obviously an expert on training-ground injuries, so I'll have to be subservient to his greater knowledge." Centre Ben Te'o was also ruled out of the South Africa tour after sustaining a thigh muscle injury this week. Jones said there were still concerns over Billy Vunipola's fitness despite the number eight playing in Saracens' Premiership final win over Exeter last weekend. England face South Africa in Johannesburg (June 9), Bloemfontein (June 16) and Cape Town (June 23). — Reuters

Sport Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

www.kuwaittimes.net

PARIS: Austria's Dominic Thiem smashes the ball to Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas during their men's singles second round match on day five of The Roland Garros 2018 French Open tennis tournament yesterday. — AFP



Cilic and Thiem book French Open last 32

See Page 44