

Friday Times

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Local

Respecting police



Local Spotlight
By Muna Al-Fuzai

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With repeated incidents of attacks on police, social media in Kuwait has been filled with rejection of this abhorrent phenomenon that poses a security and social threat to society and threatens the prestige of the police in particular and the authorities in general. This subject is dangerous and worth talking about.

When you are in danger, the first thing you do is to contact the police, but if the police face danger while maintaining the security and safety of people, then who can protect you from criminals and deviant people, who often believe that as long as there is *wasta* for them, they don't have to fear imprisonment or punishment.

An assault on a policeman a week ago that was all over social media was not the first such incident and will not be the last, especially with the documentation of these incidents with audio and video. I believe that the first culprit is the spread of *wasta*, because it's like a free pass for the aggressor that no matter what he does, he will go scot-free. Also, the policeman should be an example by his actions on the street. Nevertheless, I think no one should justify the crime of assaulting the police, because it is worse than admitting guilt.

All government bodies need to work with public campaigns to educate the people, starting from the family, the mosque, the school and the ministry of information, as a police officer needs help to perform his duties according to the law. Just as we demand that the policeman must respect his uniform while applying the law because he represents the state and not himself, the people must respect the laws that are put in place not only for them, but for other innocent lives.

In the past, we did not hear of conflicts with policemen, either verbal or physical, or that they were attacked, because the majority of people respected the uniform and the law. I think one way to stop and reduce attacks on police is by not accepting reconciliation in cases of assault on police, because it leads to a fall in the prestige of security personnel, which is a dangerous indicator.

I believe that the naturalization process in recent years absorbed a group of people who came from a different culture that does not acknowledge or respect the importance of the law or policemen. Therefore, the behavior of these people is contrary to the nature of our peaceful society. This is undoubtedly clear in the nature of the heinous crimes in recent years, with the spread of terrorism and intellectual extremism.

I believe that every policeman in the street must be required by the interior ministry to perform physical exercises and possibly some weightlifting and join a sports club to strengthen his body and muscles so that he is able to protect himself physically.

There have been claims that the police have Tasers for use in case of attacks, which is good and required in these situations. It is also necessary to prevent any official or MP from using his connections or *wasta* to let off the hook any person who assaults a policeman.

The protection of the policeman is a protection of the society and the security of the country and the people. This should not be a matter of dispute or debate.

Marginal laborers, a staple of Kuwait's economy

By Ben Garcia

Manoj (not his real name) has been working as a porter for the last 10 years, and he is thankful for the opportunity of living a decent life with this job. He hails from Rajasthan in India and has two small children. "I got married five years ago, so every year I've got to go back to my country. I play with my kids for two months, then return back here to work," he said. His work needs a lot of patience, especially if he wants to make a specific amount of money daily.

"If I earn KD 7 to KD 8 every day, I am happy. This is my average. Sometimes I only make KD 5, but sometimes I get more than KD 10 a day, especially on weekends," Manoj said. The job is sometimes hard, as he has to carry heavy bags if shoppers spend two or three hours in Mubarakiya. He works from 10 am to 2 pm, then from 4 pm to 10 pm daily without a day off. There are dozens of porters roaming around in Mubarakiya, making customers feel relaxed when shopping in the traditional market.

Manoj targets customers when they are buying from shops or carrying bags or baskets. "I see everyone here as potential customers, especially those who are carrying bags. I always approach people carrying bags - this is the easiest way to get customers. I don't wait to be called - I offer my services. This is what I do when starting the day. Even if we have many porters now in Mubarakiya, there are many customers who need our services," he said.

For one hour of work, he usually gets KD 1, but sometimes more. "Once I only carried a customer's three bags, but I was given KD 5. People here are generous, especially Kuwaitis and Europeans," said Manoj.

To reach Kuwait in order to earn a living, Manoj and many other porters in Mubarakiya pay KD 600 to KD 700 to recruiters back in India as well as sponsors here for a two-year work visa. According to Kuwait's private sector labor law, foreigners should only work for their *kafeel* (sponsor), and any employee caught working elsewhere can be penalized and deported. But visa trading is common and tens of thousands of low wage earners work in this way.

Part-time work is allowed by Kuwait law, but only under certain conditions. Workers must secure necessary approval from their sponsor and authorization from Kuwait's Manpower Public Authority. But most either can't or don't.

Despite this, there is a constant demand for marginal labor. Menial jobs remain in demand in Kuwait and many 'marginal' laborers may supplement meagre salaries by doing odd jobs or freelance work in order to survive. Kuwait is home to 2.9 million expatriates, who make up 70 percent of the country's 4 million population.

Most marginal workers are from impoverished countries like Bangladesh, Egypt or India. Babu, from Bangladesh, works full time but also picks up extra work in a local souq after hours. "I come to work in Mubarakiya at 7 pm because I have regular work in the morning. I am a tea boy in an office of a ministry. I work here till 10 pm. At the ministry, I work from 8 am to 5 pm. I get a salary of KD 60 per month, which is not enough to live on. So I rent this trolley for KD 3 daily; only if I work I will pay the KD 3. If there's no work, I don't pay. Sometimes it's hard, but I need to work for my family," Babu said.

Babu was hired by a contracting company as a cleaner in 2014. "During my first years in Kuwait, I usually worked 12 hours as a street cleaner. I had no choice but to do the job because they gave us the visa. I worked for two years there, before I got this job in the ministry. They transferred me to the ministry in 2016," he said.

In the morning when there are no calls from his regular customers, 35-year-old Lukman sits in an open area near the Hawally governorate building or between Al-Bahar Mall and Al-Rehab Complex. His aim is to sell his expertise and services - mainly repairing cabinets, making extra rooms and beds or making the kitchen look better. Lukman's expertise is one of the most-sought services in Kuwait, as skilled workers like him are not easily available and there is no specific office to find and hire them.

"I get calls maybe four or five times a week from my regular customers. Some are from referrals or people whom I have met. I make at least KD 15 daily. If I get no calls or if I am not expecting any, you'll find me here waiting for customers," he told Kuwait Times.

At five or six in the morning, workers can be found sitting on



street curbs in Bneid Al Gar, Hawally, Salmiya, Farwaniya, Khaitan, Shuwaikh and other areas. They gather and wait until a vehicle pulls up and offers a job. They negotiate until a deal is reached, then one, two or maybe several workers hop in and are taken by the driver to their job for the day. This might be at a construction site, a private house or a farm in Wafra. These are the day laborers of Kuwait.

Lukman is a father of a three-year-old boy. His wife and son live in Egypt, and he also goes back home annually. "I go home to be with my family every year. This is now my fourth year in Kuwait. I pay KD 40 for my room nearby and if there is no work, I just stay home," he added. Lukman pays around KD 600 a year for his residency visa. He has no boss, but the moment he is hired, the new customer immediately becomes his boss - at least till his day ends.

12

YEARS IN KUWAIT

DAYS OF GREAT OFFERS

MST1AB9-24CR1

Split AC

24000 BTU/hr



139
199

60
SAVE

Highly Efficient
Energy Saving
Low Noise
Smart APP Control

MWTF-12CM

Window AC

12000 BTU/hr



66
96

30
SAVE

AC120-5

Multifunction Fan

• Humidifier
• Cleaner
• Fan
• Heater

20
29

8
SAVE



HD-663FWE

663
LIT



• 23 Cubic Feet
• White
• No Frost

60
SAVE

109
169

HS-235L

235
LIT



• Single Door
• 8.5 Cubic Feet
• Glass Shelves
• Silver Color

15
SAVE

49
64

YL1536S

Water Dispenser



• 2 Tap, Hot & Cold
• Cold Water Tank 3 Liters
• Hot Water Tank 1 Liter

9
SAVE

19
29

MAC-120FMPS

غسالة
WASHER

12
Kg



69
95

26
SAVE

• 8 Programs
• 8 Water Level Selection
• Delay Start Option

MTE160-P2002S

غسالة
WASHER

16
Kg



58
99

41
SAVE

• Spin Capacity 9 Kg
• 15 Minutes Wash Timer
• 5 Minutes Spin Time
• Air Dry

20BME61058

Cooker

50X55cm

Smart Touch



• 4 burners
• Gas grill and oven
• Stainless steel cooktop

29
45

15
SAVE

MM720CTB

Microwave

20
LIT



9
18

8
SAVE

• Defrost Settings

MJ-BL40G1

Blender

1.5
LIT



4
9

4
SAVE

• 2 speeds+Pulse
• 4 slices Blade

VCB37A14C

Careless VC

400
Watts



8
15

7
SAVE

• Hepa Filter
• 1.5 M Hose

Local



Chef Feras Al-Zaid



Nuqat by Chef Feras Al-Zaid



Canard a l'orange by Chef Feras Al-Zaid



Chef Faisal Al-Nashmi



Pain perdu by Chef Faisal Al-Nashmi

A Kuwaiti touch: Local chefs excelling in the art of French cuisine

French cuisine is known throughout the world for its unique texture, outstanding flavor, and distinctive presentation, making it one of the most famous cultural exports of France. Like their other global peers, Kuwaiti chefs have made it their mission to excel in the art of French cuisine by adding a bit of local flavor to the whole process. Most people probably enjoy the famous French “duck breast” dish, but they would surely be astonished by its succulent Kuwaiti derivative, one of the creations of chef Feras Al-Zaid, which adds orange to the mixture.

Zaid uses fresh ingredients from Kuwaiti farms to reinvent classic French dishes, like his “orange duck”. Before indulging in the main course, Zaid offers an appetizer - a soup inspired by the recipe of the great French chef Guy Savoy - using truffles from the Kuwaiti desert instead of mushrooms. For this creative young chef, French cuisine is not only the essence of gastronomy, but also a school of culture that teaches the restaurant industry how to structure a kitchen.

“The concept of setup and the brigade system helped me to organize who does what: The chef, the clerk, the party manager,” he said. In addition to executing the recipes, specific French cooking techniques are applied in the preparation of all the dishes, even non-French ones, he affirmed, adding that the techniques and approaches of other kitchens have for most originated from French cuisine. The young creative chef is also founder of the “Community Table”, a platform that celebrates food and culture

by hosting pop-up menus and workshops in top restaurants around Kuwait. Sharing Zaid’s opinion, chef and expert Ahmed Al-Bader believes French cuisine is “the mother of all cuisines”. Since joining “Le Cordon Bleu” in 2004 and the French Culinary Institute in 2008, Bader noted that he always referred to the basics of French cuisine in all of his projects, namely the technique of cutting vegetables using the batonnet and julienne macedoine.

In his experience in developing a new menu, Bader said that “I made sure to brew the two cultures, French and Kuwaiti, without killing the original taste”. For example, the tuna dish with ginger and watermelon - a sort of a Kuwaiti-French cuisine invention - is one of the creations of Chef Bader. The fish replaces white poultry and watermelon as base soup.

On his part, the only Kuwaiti representative at the world gastronomic event “Gout de France” -organized by Michelin-star chef Alain Ducas - talented chef Faisal Al-Nashmi insisted on the integration of French cooking techniques, either in his Asian based restaurant (Street Al-Makan) or even in the American brasserie (Table Otto). He proudly serves many French dishes including aligots, a famous French side dish that consists of potatoes cooked with care accompanied by sous vide tenderloin steak and grilled basil oil on top.

Prestigious and inspiring, the Kuwaiti chefs stressed that learning French cuisine is a “must” to excel in the business and it would not be wrong to add a bit of Kuwaiti flavor to the mix. - KUNA



Chef and expert Ahmed Al-Bader



Tuna tartare on watermelon and ginger jelly by Chef Ahmed Al-Bader

Local



KUWAIT: 10 year old author Yaseen Heikal poses with his book, From Earth To Mars. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

Update your contact details or risk having account blocked



By Nawara Fattahova

As part of the government's precautionary measures to combat money laundering and terror financing, the Central Bank of Kuwait has issued some guidelines for banks to follow that includes demanding information or updating data of clients. According to these instructions, the bank sends warning messages advising clients to visit the bank and update their information, especially if their civil IDs have expired. But the Central Bank hasn't set an exact timeframe to take action against negligent clients who don't respond to the notices and do not update their data.

Renewing visas of expats can take a few weeks, but some banks take immediate action and freeze their cards, and later the entire account. The bank should be aware of this generally known fact and should take it into consideration. Clients should be given some time after the expiry of their civil IDs to complete their paperwork before their account is blocked.

One local bank immediately blocked the debit card of a client whose civil ID expired - on the same day. The renewal of his visa was delayed due to the manpower department's delay in renewing his work permit, so the client had to stamp a temporary one-month visa in his passport. On visiting the bank, it refused to unlock his account unless he submitted a valid civil ID. The bank employee claimed this was a decision of the Central Bank.

Contacting the Central Bank, an employee of the information department said the Central Bank has indeed issued this rule of obliging clients to update their information, but the bank hasn't set any cutoff period. The employee advised the client to fill a complaint form at the bank.

Five other banks including Islamic and conventional banks all sent reminders to the same client to update his information, yet none of them blocked his debit or credit cards. Calling two of these banks, they said they are also following the instructions of the Central Bank and demanding information updates, but are not blocking clients' accounts until three months after expiry.

Based on this inconvenient experience with this bank, clients are advised to withdraw some money from their accounts before the expiry of their IDs for daily expenses till they get their new civil IDs, to avoid the inconvenience of being left broke.

10-year-old author explains his love of the written word

By Faten Omar

Typical 10-year-old boys enjoy football, spending time with friends and things like video games. Yaseen Heikal is anything but typical. Heikal recently launched his writing career by publishing his first book "From Earth to Mars". The Egyptian boy has written many short stories, and decided to publish this book for young space lovers and cosmos enthusiasts. Kuwait Times spoke with Heikal and his mother Iman about his accomplishments and dreams. Iman said that her son has proven that anyone can change the world by changing the people in it, no matter how old they are. Some excerpts:

Kuwait Times: Tell us more about yourself, your hobbies, likes and dislikes?

Yaseen Heikal: I'm like any kid my age - I love playing soccer and reading books. I also like to swim and paint, and want to learn to dive like my big brother.

KT: Your first book has been published. Tell us a bit about the story and the delightful characters involved.

Yaseen: My brother suggested to use my family members as my main characters. They were inspired by my siblings - my elder brother for the character of Zoy, and my sister for the character of Sara.

KT: What motivated you to write?

Yaseen: I knew I wanted to write books for children from my experiences being a kid. It's just so inspirational - not only for me but for younger children.

KT: What's the hardest thing about writing for you? Did you find it hard to write a story and correct the grammar?

Yaseen: I needed a little help from my family and publisher to fix the grammar. Anyone can overcome the most challenging struggles.

KT: Who and what things have you read that especially helped your writing?

Yaseen: Space books, school and my family.

KT: What made you want to start writing, and not just read?

Yaseen: I think a lot of young people are scared to write a book because they think they can't do it. But let's face it - your dreams can come true. You have to be fearless and be passionate and take all the chances you have and do it with an open mind. Set a goal - it doesn't have to be a huge one. My goal was to get published, which is a pretty big goal. Everything starts somewhere.

KT: Who is your favorite writer/novelist? What sort of novels do you like?

Yaseen: My favorite author is Roald Dahl.

KT: What are your future plans?

Yaseen: I'm working on writing more stories. I already have three in mind.

KT: How do you balance between writing and schoolwork?

Yaseen: There is always a gap between school and playing football. I write in my free time and I manage in my head to make a schedule to balance between them.

KT: Did you face any problem finding a publisher?

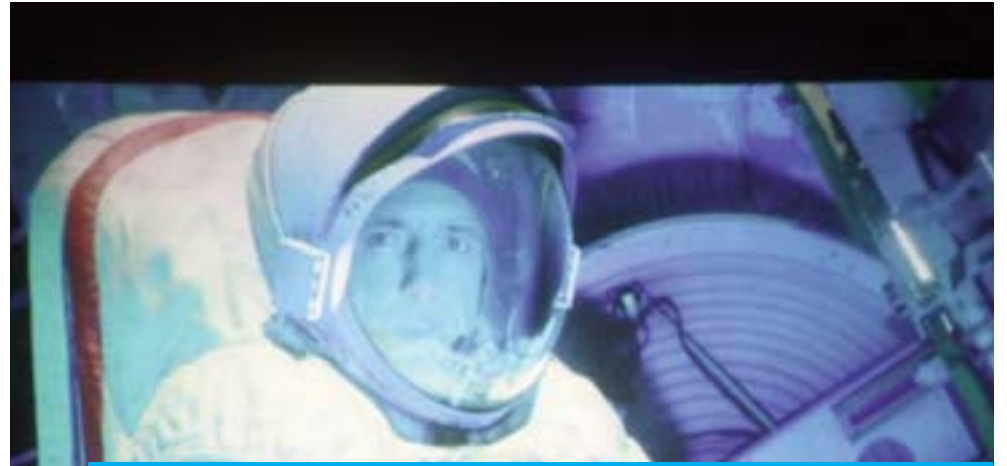
Iman: I emailed AuthorHouse in the UK and they accepted to publish the book. The entire family supports him. Yaseen is the youngest Arab author to publish a book and fifth youngest child in the world, as my research revealed.

Local

Russian Embassy holds 'Film Week'



Alexey V Solomatn, Ambassador of Russia to Kuwait, speaks during the inauguration ceremony of 'Russian Film Week'. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



A photo grab from Salyut-7.

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of Russia has organized the 'Russian Film Week' from April 30 to May 5, 2018. The screening is being held at the National Library in Kuwait City. The first day (April 30) saw the screening of the movie "Salyut-7" directed by Klim Shipenko. Salyut-7 is about an unmanned

Soviet space station which suddenly stops responding to commands from the control center, and in order to prevent catastrophic disaster on earth, the country decides to send a mission to Salyut-7, considered the most challenging in the history of space exploration.

Ambassador of Russia to Kuwait Alexey V Solomatn inaugurated the event on Monday, which was attended by various ambassadors and dignitaries. On second day, "The Ice Breaker", directed by Nikolay Khomeriki, was

screened. It is based on actual events in 1985, when an iceberg crushed the icebreaker 'Mikhail Gromov'. On the third day, "Champions", directed by Artyom Aksenenko, was screened. It's about athletes trying their best to win gold medals. Yesterday night, "Ghost" was screened, about an aircraft engineer who died. The only way to finish his unfinished aircraft is to show himself (as a ghost) to a boy who can actually pursue his (the ghost's) dream of flying innovative aircraft.

Today, "The 'Spacewalker'", directed by Dmitry Kiselyov, will be screened. It's based in the 1960s, during the Cold War and when the space race between the USSR and United States was at its peak. The final film will be screened at the Russian Embassy tomorrow at 2 pm. The movie is entitled "Battle for Sevastopol". The movie is based on a true story of a legendary woman sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko, a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. Her very name made terrified enemies.

ACK holds exhibition of students' grad projects

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) held the eighth students' graduation projects exhibition for the spring 2018 semester yesterday at Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater and Hall in Salmiya, where students from four engineering programs - mechanical, electrical, civil and petroleum - showcased their final graduation projects. The exhibition was developed as a platform to provide students with the opportunity to present their innovative concepts, reflecting their knowledge, competency and special technical skills acquired during their studies at the School of Engineering.

In his opening speech, Dr Mohammed Abdul-Niby, dean of the School of Engineering, congratulated the students on their success, noting that this semester saw 57 projects by 217 students. "I'm enchanted that each student took full ownership of the step-by-step process involved in their project. At ACK, we believe that the students will profit from completing the graduation project only when they work self-sufficiently and as a team member on the project," he pointed out.

He affirmed that ACK emphasizes that the graduation project is a positive learning activity and will benefit the students in their educational careers, while meeting a state-mandated requirement. "The student's graduation projects exhibition is the culmination of what has been a challenging and hopefully a very rewarding experience for the students," he said.

"The feeling is indeed a great range of emotions, relief that they have made it, pride in their abilities, and a sense of reward in the recognition of their qualifications. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support and the hard work of our faculty members who have given the skills to the students to build solid foundations in their workplaces," Abdul-Niby added.



Officials open ACK's eighth students' graduation projects exhibition at Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater and Hall in Salmiya. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Students are seen with their projects.



Kuwait  Times

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Local

Kuwait marks 101 years of teaching English in the state

US mission, Iraqi teachers opened early English schools

KUWAIT: The education process in Kuwait officially started with the establishment of Al-Mubarakiya and Al-Ahmadiya schools in 1911 and 1921 respectively, marking a turning point in history of the country. With the inauguration of the American mission hospital and the increase of the numbers of foreigners and diplomats in Kuwait, people started paying much attention to learning the English language, especially when trade boomed after World War I, Abdulaziz Al-Rasheed said in his book titled "Kuwait History".

Previously, unconventional schools, which were known as kut-tabs, were the main source of education in the early 1900s. The education process was based on writing, reading and algebra. In his book titled "Old Crafts, Professions and Activities in Kuwait", Mo-

hammad Abdulhadi Jamal, historian and researcher in Kuwait's heritage, said learning the English language caught people's attention, so the US mission inaugurated the first school to teach English in 1917 and then the American mission hospital.

Jamal added that Ismail Kaddo opened the first private school, which taught English in Kuwait in 1925. Kaddo came from Mosul in Iraq to stay in Kuwait at that time on an invitation by Abdullatif Eissa Al-Abduljalil to teach his children English. The author noted that Kaddo joined the American mission school and then the British consulate. Jamal pointed out that Kaddo taught English at night at places close to Khalil Al-Qattan market in the east of the city. Kaddo was teaching a book called "Oxford" to youth and employ-

ees, Jamal said. The process at that time depended on translating some paragraphs.

Gergis Eissa School was also one of the first private facilities teaching English. Eissa, who was an Iraqi teacher, joined the American mission school and then opened his private school to teach English. Many from the first generation benefited from the Kaddo and Eissa schools. Some of them later opened a number of private schools to teach English to the next generation. Also, some other members of the first generation occupied key posts at Kuwait Oil Company when it was set up in the 1940s. Others worked at the British consulate as translators, while several others had prominent roles in politics and foreign companies working in Kuwait. — KUNA

Those involved in minor accidents should move aside

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The interior ministry's relations and security information department said the strategy of the traffic sector aims at ensuring security and safety of motorists and reduce traffic jams. It said according to the amendment of article 133 of ministerial decree (76/81) with regards to minor accidents that do not involve injuries or deaths or the vehicles becoming immobile, those involved in the accident must move their vehicles to the shoulder without obstructing traffic. If this is not adhered to, a citation will be issued to motorists for obstructing traffic.

Two killed in crash

Two persons were killed in a horrific car accident between a vehicle with three persons onboard and a truck on Sixth Ring Road. The injured were rushed to hospital. Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said Jleeb fire center responded and dealt with the fire that broke out in the vehicle.

Transformer fires

A transformer caught fire, prompting Kabd fire center to respond and put out the fire after power was cut off. Meanwhile, Kazma fire center dealt with a fire in a power transformer on Subbiya road near kilo 5.

Employers warned

Informed sources said the Public Authority for Manpower has asked business owners not to employ any person not registered on their file so as not to face legal action, which includes imprisonment of the employer for three years or a minimum fine of KD 2,000 and a maximum of KD 10,000 for each employee, or both punishments. An awareness campaign for employers and employees was launched on the importance of complying with the laws. — Al-Anbaa

MoI and MoD participate in security drill



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The interior ministry participated in the "Country Shield 2" exercises yesterday, as part of cooperation and coordination with the defense ministry, in the presence of Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Al-Khader, Deputy Chief Lt Gen Sheikh Abdullah Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Operations Affairs Maj Gen Jamal Al-Sayegh, Acting Assistant Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Special Security Maj General Shukri Al-Najaf and Director General of Coordination Command Coordination to protect domestic security Maj Gen Dr Mohammad Al-Daihani.



Low pressure roils weather

KUWAIT: Seasonal Sudanese low pressure, coupled with incoming hot and humid heath waves, are currently causing unfavorable weather conditions in Kuwait. These factors have clouded the skies over the country, causing bouts of rain at times and spewing dust at others, according to the Kuwait meteorology center. The skies yesterday were forecast to remain cloudy, fully or partially, amid dust-triggering unsteady southeasterly winds (15-50 km/h), along with more rainfall. Temperatures ranged between 34 and 37 degrees, while waves at the sea oscillated between two and six feet.

Today, Kuwait is forecast to witness some clouds and unstable north-westerly winds ranging between 8-28 km/h amid light and scattered rainfall. Tonight, the winds will be largely identical, while temperatures will be between 21-23 degrees. The winds will turn southeasterly tomorrow and temperatures will soar to 36-39 degrees. — KUNA



Local

Kuwait Airways opens new operations control center



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Chairman Yousuf Al-Jassem and President of the Civil Aviation Directorate Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah open KAC's new control center yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways opened its integrated operations control center yesterday as part of its plan to enhance the operations sector. The center has two sections - a control center and an airplane dispatch department. The center is equipped with state-of-the-art systems that can organize a large number of flights simultaneously and deal with all circumstances.

Kuwait Airways Chairman Yousuf Al-Jassem said during the center's opening, in the presence of President of the Civil Aviation Directorate

Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah, that KAC is keen on having the most modern systems in the field of aviation regardless of cost. He said KAC's responsibility makes it imperative that it provides the best services to achieve aviation safety and secure aircraft and passenger lives, so financial cost should not stand in the way of achieving quality and comfort for customers.

Jassem expects the number of passengers to reach 4.5 million per year, adding KAC has the lion's share. He said Kuwait Airways

seeks honest competition with other carriers, be they Kuwaiti or foreign. About the supporting KAC terminal and its operation, Jassem said it is another dream that everyone is seeking to realize, adding the terminal is expected to be handed to the Civil Aviation Directorate this month, and it will be handed to Kuwait Airways as soon as it is received. He hoped that KAC will start operations from the new terminal this month, as the Civil Aviation Directorate and the operating company will sign an agreement on May 8.

Indian expat from Kuwait wins AED 7m in UAE raffle draw

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: Anil Varghese, an Indian expat and a Kuwaiti resident, won 7 million UAE dirhams (KD 574,000) in the Big Ticket raffle draw that was held in Abu Dhabi yesterday. "I am lucky because of my son Rahul," a joyful Varghese told Kuwait Times yesterday when asked about his reaction to the surprise win. Varghese, who bought the ticket (Super 7 Draw Series) online last month, said: "I hit the jackpot on the ticket number 11197 that matches my son's date of birth of 11/97."

Varghese has been working in a private company in Kuwait for the last 26 years. "I still cannot get over the shock win. I can't believe that I am the first-prize winner and 7 million dirhams richer today," he said. He had bought the raffle ticket for the second time.

Varghese is married to Renu. Rahul, his 21-year-old son, is currently studying in Kerala. Varghese said he has not yet made up his mind as how to use the prize money. He has submitted the documents for processing the prize money and the cheque is expected to arrive in one week's time. Seven other winners were announced at the raffle draw, each of whom won AED 100,000 each. One winner was a Bangladeshi and one a Moroccan, while the rest were all Indians.



KUWAIT: Anil Varghese is seen with his wife Renu and son Rahul.

JACC wins MEED excellence award

DUBAI: Kuwait's Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center won MEED magazine's award as the best cultural landmark in the Arabian Gulf in 2018. Abdul Aziz Ishaq, Chairman of Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Amiri Diwan, received the prize at a ceremony held by MEED for winners of its awards for top construction and architectural accomplishments in the region.

The Kuwaiti center has earned international awards for the second consecutive year, said Ishaq in a statement to KUNA. Last August, it won the International Property Award for its distinguished construction, architectural and interior designs. The center, he said, depicts Kuwait's heritage with modern architectural features, on par



DUBAI: Kuwait's Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center wins MEED magazine's award as the best cultural landmark in the Arabian Gulf in 2018. — KUNA

with world's iconic cultural centers. Its buildings appear like glistening gigantic jewels decorating Kuwait City's seaside district. It has three theatres - the largest is the national theatre, which accommodates 2,000 people and the 700-seat drama theater, in addition to a movie hall and historic documents li-

brary. It also hosts vast halls for conventions and seminars, a 600-seat theater and a number of halls with state-of-art equipment. The center, construction of which was overseen by the Amiri Diwan, won the American Award of Merit Excellence in Construction in 2017. — KUNA

Kuwait signs codesharing agreement with Lebanon

BEIRUT: The civil aviation authorities of Kuwait and Lebanon yesterday signed a deal on arrangements for codesharing that will allow the state carriers in both to engage in bilateral trade cooperation. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both head of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Yusef Al-Fawzan and his Lebanese counterpart Mohammad Shehab-Eddin.

Codesharing is a marketing practice in which two airlines share the same two-letter code used to identify carriers in computer reservation systems used by travel agents. Fawzan said the deal is in line with efforts to promote Kuwait's open-skies policy and welcomed airlines to increase their flights to Kuwait International Airport. The MoU seeks to streamline passenger traffic and air freight linking the Kuwaiti airport to others around the world, in addition to bolstering trade exchange between the two countries, he added.



BEIRUT: The civil aviation authorities of Kuwait and Lebanon sign the deal. — KUNA

Head of the Lebanese Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the MoU will help enhance cooperation between the two sides for better services to passengers as well. It is a complementary deal to an MoU they both signed in Aug 2005 on codesharing arrangements, he noted. — KUNA



Slain Afghan journalists remembered on World Press Freedom Day

In first under Trump, Guantanamo Bay inmate transferred

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AGRA: This photo shows a tree that fell in high wind during a storm onto a vehicle in Bareilly in India's northern Uttar Pradesh state.—AFP

Storms kill 100 in north India

His Highness the Amir offers condolences

AGRA, India: Powerful dust storms tore across northern India killing at least 100 people and injuring more than 140 as they flattened houses in their path and warnings were made yesterday of more chaos to come. Winds of more than 130 kilometers per hour ravaged Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab states and the death toll was expected to rise, officials said. The dust storms brought down feeble mud houses, killing people as they slept.

Walls, trees and electricity pylons were all torn down by the winds which were followed by fierce lightning storms. Similar storms kill hundreds of people each year in India, but these were some of the most severe in recent decades. Shivam Lohia, who owns a resort hotel in Alwar district of Rajasthan, said he abandoned his car on the road near for his life after it was almost blown away. "I haven't seen such a devastating storm in at least 25 years. Everyone was scared and running for cover as trees and homes were getting blown away. It was a nightmare," Lohia said.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a

cable of condolences to the Indian President Ram Nath Kovind over victims of the severe storms that struck Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in northern India. His Highness wished the injured swift recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Indian President.

More storms to come

There were 65 confirmed deaths in Uttar Pradesh in the north, 33 in the desert state of Rajasthan to the west, and two in Punjab. Agra district of Uttar Pradesh was one of the worst hit with more than 40 people killed. The Taj Mahal is in Agra city but officials said the monument escaped damage. Last month, a similar storm killed at least 15 people in Uttar Pradesh and destroyed two minarets over an entry house to the Taj Mahal.

Most of the victims were killed as they slept by houses that collapsed or by falling walls, trees and electric pylons, officials said. Many people in India sleep outside during the summer months

to escape the high temperatures. Rescuers were still going through the rubble of felled homes yesterday. "We can confirm at least 65 deaths from around 40 of the state's 75 districts," T.P. Gupta of the Uttar Pradesh relief commissioner's office said. He called the death toll "unprecedented" from such a storm in the past 20 years.

Gupta said there were 43 deaths in Agra district. More than 150 cattle and other animals were also killed across the state. "There is a forecast for more storms in the next 48 hours across the state so people should be alert," he added. Hemant Gera, head of Rajasthan's Disaster Management and Relief Department said emergency services are on alert and that people should not sleep outdoors. In Punjab, Kumar Amit, deputy commissioner of Patiala district, said that a wall collapsed killing two people.

Power cut

India's Meteorological Department said there would be more storms over a wider area up to Saturday. Three districts in Rajasthan, a state popular with tourists for its heritage palaces and colorful culture, were hit the hardest on Wednes-

day. "Most of the 33 deaths and 102 injuries across our state were from three districts Alwar, Dholpur and Bharatpur," Gera said. Weather department officials in New Delhi said the storm was caused by a collision of rival eastern and western weather systems over the humid northern plains. Charan Singh, a scientist at Indian Meteorological department, said winds of 132 kph hit Agra while even in the capital, Delhi, there were winds of 59 kph. Power supply was cut in many parts of Rajasthan as thousands of electricity pylons were destroyed. Officials said it could take more than two days to restore power. The state government quickly released funds to compensate the families of those killed or for damage. About \$6,000 would be given to the families of each of the dead.

"Saddened by the loss of lives due to dust storms in various parts of India. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter. "Have asked officials to coordinate with the respective state governments and work towards assisting those who have been affected," he added.—Agencies

International

In first under Trump, Guantanamo Bay inmate transferred

Saudi inmate returns to kingdom

RIYADH: A Saudi inmate from Guantanamo Bay has arrived back in the kingdom after the Pentagon said it was transferring him to his homeland, the first such move under President Donald Trump. The widely expected transfer of Ahmed Haza al-Darbi, who pleaded guilty to helping plan a 2002 attack on a French oil tanker, was announced Wednesday and reduced the notorious jail's population to 40. But news of the move came the same day as the Pentagon said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had sent the White House guidance on how Guantanamo might again start receiving new inmates—an oft-stated goal of Trump.

Darbi entered a plea deal in February 2014 that saw him admit to planning, aiding and supporting an attack on the MV Limburg, which killed a Bulgarian sailor, injured a dozen and caused a large oil spill in the Gulf of Aden. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison, starting from the date of the plea. However, the deal included a provision that after four more years at Guantanamo, he could serve the remainder of his term at a luxurious rehab centre in the Saudi capital Riyadh, where former extremists are given counseling and ideological detoxification.

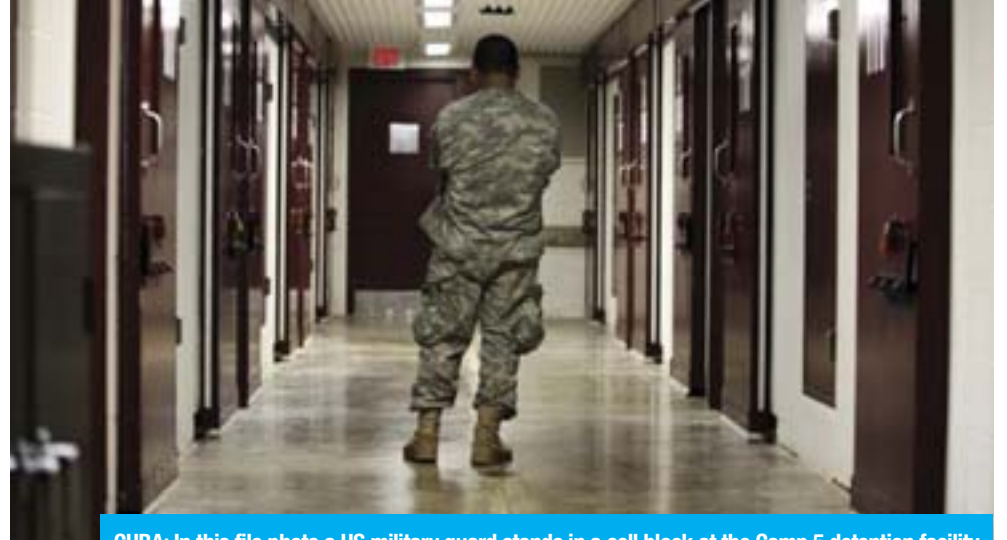
A security spokesman told Saudi Arabia's state news agency SPA that Darbi arrived back in the kingdom late on Wednesday evening. His family had been informed of his return and arrangements were being made for him to meet

them, the spokesman said, confirming that Darbi would now join a "rehabilitation program". Guantanamo has not received any new inmates since 2008, but on the campaign trail Trump vowed to load the facility with "bad dudes," and said it would be "fine" if US terror suspects were sent there for trial.

Trump in January signed an executive order reversing his predecessor Barack Obama's ultimately fruitless 2009 directive to shutter Guantanamo. Mattis's recommendations to the White House provide "our warfighters guidance on nominating detainees for transfer to Guantanamo detention should that person present a continuing, significant threat to the security of the United States," Pentagon spokeswoman Commander Sarah Higgins said. The Pentagon did not provide any additional details on the recommendations, and it was not clear what impact they would have. The president's National Security Council declined to comment.

History of torture

Any attempt to send new inmates to Guantanamo would likely run into a plethora of legal challenges. "Given the history of torture, unlawful detention and complete lack of justice provided there, no new detainees should ever be transferred to Guantanamo," Daphne Eviatar, a director at Amnesty International USA, said in a statement. Trump's January executive order gave



CUBA: In this file photo a US military guard stands in a cell block at the Camp 5 detention facility at Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base, Cuba.—Reuters

Mattis and the heads of other agencies 90 days to recommend policies on wartime detainees and whether they should be sent to Guantanamo.

US military officials have been openly discussing the fate of Islamic State group detainees, mainly foreign fighters, held by US-backed militias in northern Syria. Mattis on Monday said the

US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, who have been fighting IS, had more than 400 prisoners. The Pentagon chief added that he was "absolutely certain that there is not one thing going on down there (at Guantanamo) that would not be in accordance with" the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war.—AFP

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International

Gunmen kidnap German nurse in Somalia capital

Compound security guard involved in kidnapping

MOGADISHU: Armed men abducted a German nurse working for the International Committee of the Red Cross from a compound in Somalia's capital Mogadishu in what the government said yesterday was believed to be an inside job. The Red Cross said the attack happened around 8.00 pm local time on Wednesday evening when unidentified armed men entered its compound, adding it was "in contact with various authorities to try and secure her release". "We are deeply concerned about the safety of our colleague," said Daniel O'Malley, ICRC's deputy Somalia head.

"She is a nurse who was working every day to save lives and improve the health of some of Somalia's most vulnerable people." Red Cross staff in Somalia said the gunmen appeared to have evaded the compound's security guards and snuck the nurse out through a back entrance into a waiting vehicle. Security ministry spokesman Abdiaziz Ali Ibrahim said initial investigations showed "one of the security guards of the compound was involved in the kidnapping."

"The security forces have tracked the kidnapers and founded an abandoned vehicle that was used in the kidnapping mission." A witness, who lives near the ICRC compound, said: "One of the security guards assisted the kidnapers to take the lady, a vehicle was waiting outside." Ibrahim said the vehicle was abandoned after breaking down, and witnesses said the car had a punctured tyre. It was unclear whether the kidnapers had managed to leave Mogadishu with their hostage.

“Deeply concerned about the safety of our colleague”

A local ICRC employee, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two other foreign staff members had been evacuated along with senior Somali staff. The abduction is the second attack on ICRC employees in Somalia in just over a week. Abdulhafid Yusuf Ibrahim, a Somali national who had worked for the group for only five months, died on March 25 after an improvised bomb exploded beneath his car as he left the ICRC office.

Bombings, assassinations, abductions

Unlike many other international aid agencies working in Somalia, the ICRC does not base itself within the well-defended perimeter of Mogadishu's airport, which is protected by African Union soldiers. The airport acts as the city's "Green Zone" housing foreign embassies and the United Nations which coordinates the humanitarian and political responses to Somalia's crises.

Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who is visiting Ethiopia and Tanzania this week, told journalists in Addis Ababa he would not comment "on any hostage cases". "I have deep respect for all people, especially people from Germany, working abroad in order to help others," Maas added. Somalia, which collapsed into civil war in 1991 and has been the site of an Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist insurgency since 2006, is one of the most dangerous countries for aid workers, but abductions remain relatively unusual.

In the past, foreigners, including journalists and aid workers, have been kidnapped by



MOGADISHU: A woman walks in front of the compound of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) where armed men kidnapped a German nurse on May 3 evening in Wadajir district of Mogadishu.—AFP

armed gangs or Shabaab militants and held for ransom, sometimes for years at a time. Terrorist bombings and assassinations are common and frequently claimed by the Shabaab which is fighting to overthrow the internationally backed government in Mogadishu. International aid agencies, including the independent Switzerland-based ICRC, provide health care and other basic services in the war-torn country and are regarded as supporters of the government by the Shabaab and as a ready source of income by other militants and armed gangs.

On Tuesday a local employee of the World Health Organization (WHO) was shot in Mo-

gadishu. The WHO said in a statement Wednesday it was "shocked and saddened" by the killing of Mariam Abdullahi Mohamed, "a dedicated frontline worker". Between 2008-12 piracy off the coast of Somalia became a big business with crew members and their ships held for million-dollar ransoms, but in recent years attacks have become rare.

Gradually improving stability in Somalia allowed the holding of limited elections in 2016, but insecurity remains widespread. In October, Somalia suffered its deadliest-ever bombing, with over 500 people killed in an attack blamed on the Shabaab.—AFP

In US Gulf, robots, drones take on dangerous offshore oil work

HOUSTON: At BP's massive Thunder Horse oil platform in the US Gulf of Mexico, a dog-sized robot called Maggie uses magnetic tracks to creep along pipes connecting the giant oil facility to the sea floor. Before MaggHD, dubbed "Maggie" by BP, the dangerous inspection job was reserved for highly paid specialist technicians who did their jobs while rappelling along the platform. The energy industry has turned to robots and drones to cut costs and improve safety in some of the world's tougher working environments.

Drones inspect gear high up on floating rigs. Robots crawl underwater to test subsea equipment for microscopic metal cracks. Remotely operated mini submarines can replace divers. Big oil producers such as BP and Statoil are racing to create the oilfields of the future, where smart devices replace workers. They have the potential to cut costs, save lives, and reduce the scope for human error.

"This is going to change the way oil and gas does business," Carri Lockhart, senior vice president of offshore at Statoil USA, said in an interview earlier this year, referring to the push towards autonomous gear and facilities.

Maggie belongs to a group of devices known as magnetic crawlers, which can move across rigs, platforms, and pipelines above and below water using ultrasonic test devices and high-definition cameras. They can cost \$60,000 apiece. BP, the largest operator in the US Gulf of Mexico, piloted Maggie on its Thunder Horse platform last year and expects to roll out similar crawlers across all its Gulf of Mexico platforms in coming years.—Reuters



HOUSTON: Representative Steve Scalise (R-LA) views BP's Thunder Horse Oil Platform in the Gulf of Mexico, from the air, 150 miles from the Louisiana coast in this handout photo.—Reuters

International

Macron struts global stage, but is he influential?

Macron returns from White House with little to show

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has made clear his ambitions to be remembered as a global statesman who shaped world events. But after a busy first year in office, how much influence does he actually wield? Armed with bilingual tweets, endless selfies and his “France is back” catchphrase, savvy communications and endless travel have won Macron a reputation as Europe’s most visible leader and a staunch defender of Western democratic values.

The 40-year-old centrist has forged an unlikely relationship with Donald Trump, launched air strikes against the Syrian regime and campaigned passionately for reforms of the European Union. And despite his careful efforts to flatter Trump, the political upstart also used a trip to Washington last week to rail before Congress against the US president’s “America First” agenda. Francois Heisbourg, chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, described Macron’s pragmatic approach to world affairs as “neo-realist”.

“You deal with the world as it is, while at the same time making clear what you represent, including your values,” he said. “He is the sole European leader who is able to speak substantively at the same time with Trump, Putin, Sisi, Erdogan,” he added. Despite back-slapping and jokes with Trump during his recent trip, however, critics say Macron came back from the White House with little to show for his efforts in terms of having swayed the president. Macron himself acknowledged he had probably not managed to change Trump’s mind on abandoning the hard-

fought 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, and he has so far failed to coax the US back to the landmark Paris climate change accord.

Analysts are likewise skeptical that pleas from Macron and other European leaders will successfully stave off a trade war, despite a temporary EU reprieve from Trump’s new steel and aluminum tariffs. “The things that Macron wants him to do are things that it would be pretty difficult for Trump to accept without losing credibility with his populist base,” said John Springford, deputy director of the Centre for European Reform.

Liberal white knight?

At home Macron is pushing through his pro-business domestic reform agenda, but opinion polls suggest more than 60 percent of voters are dissatisfied with their president after a year in office. Abroad, with the US withdrawing internationally under Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May both politically weakened, some have asked if Macron wants to take on the mantle of leader of the free world.

“Many people, especially here in Washington DC, tend to see him as a white knight of the liberal world order who challenges Trump and populism,” said Paul Zajac, a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute on leave from the French diplomatic service. Fresh from beating far-right leader Marine Le Pen to the presidency, Macron gave an indication of his plans for the world stage as early as his victory speech on



NEW CALEDONIA: French president Emmanuel Macron walks down the stairs after disembarking from his plane at the Tontouta airport in Noumea, on the French overseas territory of New Caledonia.—AFP

May 7, 2017. “Europe and the world are expecting us to defend everywhere the spirit of the enlightenment which is under threat in so many places,” he said. Since then he has waded into crises from Syria to Lebanon, rallied support for anti-jihadist troops in West Africa and announced conferences in Paris on everything from climate change to the war in Yemen. Yet his influence abroad is hampered by his inability to find powerful leaders who share his agenda, analysts say. “He’s a liberal who’s come to power in an illiberal age,” said Springford.—AFP

announced conferences in Paris on everything from climate change to the war in Yemen. Yet his influence abroad is hampered by his inability to find powerful leaders who share his agenda, analysts say. “He’s a liberal who’s come to power in an illiberal age,” said Springford.—AFP

Anti-elitist protest shuts top French university

PARIS: One of France’s most prestigious universities was forced to shut yesterday after student protesters staged a campus occupation against government plans to make higher education more competitive. The Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris is the latest of numerous universities across France to face sit-ins against President Emmanuel Macron’s shake-up of the education system. At present, anyone who graduates from high school is guaranteed a place at a public university, but Macron’s government wants to introduce more selective criteria to tackle overcrowding and high dropout rates.

Protesters say the plan is an attack on France’s egalitarian tradition of offering a public higher education to all. But Prime Minister Edouard Philippe expressed amusement at the idea of students at the “Normale Sup”—part of a separate tier of highly selective top universities known as “grandes écoles”—joining the movement. “It’s quite charming, given the extremely selective nature of the Ecole Normale Supérieure,” he said. “But that’s how it is, and I’m following it with great interest.”

Founded during the French Revolution, the Normale Sup’ counts giants of French philosophy including Jean-Paul Sartre and Michel Foucault among its alumni. Riot police could be seen outside the campus on Thursday after protesters several dozen, according to students—began their sit-in following a meeting on Wednesday night. All classes were cancelled, and the university’s director Marc Mezard asked students living in nearby halls to stay away as staff could not “totally” guarantee their security.

Photos taken by students before the campus shutdown showed graffiti scrawled across corridors and smashed doors, scenes similar to those at other university sit-ins in recent weeks. The occupiers included students and alumni as well as some outsiders, according to students at the scene. The government has accused anarchist groups of infiltrating the movement that has disrupted work at universities across the country just as students are preparing for their summer exams.

Three of France’s 73 public universities are currently blocked completely in the cities of Toulouse, Rennes and Nanterre—though this is down from a height of around 15. Some faculty buildings at other universities also remain occupied and protesters at another prestigious Paris school, the EHESS social sciences school, began a sit-in this week. The student protests have added to a mood of discontent in France among various groups opposed to Macron’s reforms.

Yesterday saw the latest of a wave of strikes



PARIS: Students take part in a demonstration near the Ecole normale supérieure (ENS) school in Paris.—AFP

launched in early April by rail workers protesting against Macron’s planned overhaul of state operator SNCF. But the train strikes, like the student protests, have lost some steam in recent

weeks, with the scale of the disruption easing. Half of high-speed and suburban trains were running yesterday, up from around an eighth at the beginning of the walkouts.—AFP

International

After Obama, a Nobel prize for Trump - or not so fast?

'I appreciate it but the main thing is to get it done,'

WASHINGTON: A decade after Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize, could his White House successor Donald Trump follow suit for navigating the thorny North Korean nuclear standoff? The very idea, put forward by a handful of Republican lawmakers in a Wednesday letter nominating the US president for the esteemed award, is enough to make his American and international detractors cringe. And many observers have been left flummoxed by a debate widely seen as premature-to put it mildly. But the whispers are no doubt sweet music to the ears of the 71-year-old businessman, who assumed the presidency with no political, military or diplomatic experience, and whose thirst for recognition is firmly established. "That's very nice, thank you. That's very nice," a smiling Trump said Saturday as supporters at a campaign-style rally in Michigan chanted "Nobel! No-bel!" "I just want to get the job done," he proclaimed, after fondly pronouncing the word "Nobel."

Three days later in the Oval Office Trump returned to the topic, saying it was "very generous" of South Korea's President Moon Jae-in to suggest the US leader-rather than himself-was deserving of the prestigious prize. "I appreciate it but the main thing is to get it done," Trump said. "I want to get peace." The spectacular Korean detente of recent months, with a summit approaching between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and the-still theoretical

prospect of denuclearization, have fed hopes of a historic turning point in the region.

But as remarkable as the imagery and symbolism have been recently, many analysts point out that it is early-very early indeed-to speculate on the outcome of ongoing negotiations with a regime that has been led with an iron fist by the Kim dynasty for nearly 70 years.

Surreal

"It's surreal in the sense that it's clearly premature to be talking about giving anybody a Nobel Peace Prize," said Aaron David Miller, a former US diplomat and negotiator in several Democratic and Republican administrations. But "if in fact the diplomacy goes the right way," the scenario is "conceivable," he said. The Nobel chatter also reflects an impassioned debate taking place over the exact role of America's president in the ongoing diplomatic overtures.

On both sides of the US political divide, the reasoning can border on the absurd, with one camp asserting that Trump played no part in the ongoing detente on the Korean peninsula, while the other attributes it solely to his intervention. In Washington's fevered political climate-in which "it's virtually impossible for one party to give credit to the other"-Trump's personality and "inability to think about the 'we' rather than just the 'me'" is further reinforcing the antagonism, Miller said.

"The aversion to giving him the Nobel on the



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump arrives for the National Teacher of the Year reception in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC.—AFP

Democratic side is caught up in the aversion to him." For Trump's fervent supporters, the looming summit with Kim-all but unimaginable just months ago-is proof that his often-impulsive presidency can break through barriers, change the rules of the diplomatic game, and succeed

where his predecessors have failed. On Wednesday, 18 House Republicans sent a letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee urging it to consider Trump for next year's award in recognition of "his tireless work to bring peace to our world."—AFP

Police body-cam footage shows tense moments after Vegas shooting

WASHINGTON: Police have released video footage of heavily armed officers storming the Las Vegas hotel room of the man behind the worst mass shooting in modern US history. The body-camera footage, which the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department publicly released Wednesday, shows police assembling outside the 32nd-floor Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino suite of Stephen Paddock, who turned his gun on himself after raining bullets over a country music festival, killing 58 people and wounding 851 more.

The video recording offers a humanizing glimpse of police in the moments they responded to the bloody October massacre. "Breach, breach, breach," an officer says in hushed tones in the clip, before the door explodes open. After entering the room police find the gunman already dead, saying "we found him like this," and then securing the room, which is full of weapons, the blinds drawn shut.

Police note an intricate system of wires linked to an elaborate camera system, which they say Paddock used to monitor the hallway for authorities. The footage's release came after a judge sided with media organizations including The New York Times and The Washington Post that lobbied in court that the evidence be made



LAS VEGAS: In this file photo, Las Vegas police stand guard along the streets outside the Route 91 Harvest country music festival grounds after an active shooter was reported on Sunday in Las Vegas, Nevada.—AFP

public. Paddock, a 64-year-old wealthy retired accountant, amassed an arsenal of weapons including assault rifles in his hotel room and unleashed fury on the evening of October 1, 2017, firing more than 1,100 rounds.

Authorities have yet to pinpoint a motive for the attack, which galvanized oft-repeated appeals to tighten US gun laws. Since then advocates have intensified those calls in the wake of subsequent shootings, including at a Florida high school in February that saw 14 teens and three adult staff members shot dead by a troubled former classmate armed with an AR-15-style automatic weapon.—AFP

Nine aboard US military plane destroyed in fiery crash

WASHINGTON: An aging US military cargo plane carrying nine troops was destroyed in a fiery crash Wednesday as it made its final scheduled flight before being mothballed, officials said. The C-130 "Hercules" cargo plane from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard crashed around 11:30 am near the Savannah airport. Footage of the crash showed it falling from the sky then exploding in a fireball. Officials at first said five crewmembers were killed, but it later emerged that other people were also on board.

"We've confirmed nine people, consisting of five crewmembers and four additional passengers" were on board, Puerto Rico National Guard spokesman Major Paul Dahlen said. He said the four others were also members of the military. Dahlen could not immediately confirm all nine had died, but said images of the crash spoke for themselves. Photographs on Twitter showed the charred wreckage of a plane engulfed in flames and billowing black smoke. US President Donald Trump tweeted he had been briefed on the incident, and offered his condolences to the families of the victims. —AFP

International

Trump reimbursed lawyer for payment to porn star: Giuliani

Daniels paid the sum as part of 'hush agreement'

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump reimbursed his long-time lawyer Michael Cohen for a \$130,000 payment made to porn star Stormy Daniels, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani said Wednesday, appearing to contradict the president's own statements on the matter. Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, claims she had an affair with Trump in 2006 and was paid the sum as part of a "hush agreement." "They funneled it through a law firm and the president repaid it," Giuliani, who recently joined Trump's legal team, told Fox News host Sean Hannity.

"That was money that was paid by his lawyer, the way I would do, out of his law firm funds or whatever funds, it doesn't matter. The president reimbursed that over a period of several months," Giuliani said. He added that the payment did not represent a campaign financing violation because it was "not campaign money." The sum was wired to Daniels just days before the November 2016 presidential election, and there had been suggestions Cohen could have fallen foul of campaign finance laws because it represented a contribution aimed at preventing negative press from arising.

Speaking to The New York Times shortly after the television appearance, Giuliani said he

had spoken with Trump before and after talking to Fox—and that the president and his other lawyers knew what the former New York mayor would say. Giuliani told the paper he had documentation proving Trump had reimbursed the sum, which he said "removes the campaign finance violation" prospect.

"Some time after the campaign is over, they set up a reimbursement, \$35,000 a month, out of his personal family account," Giuliani told the Times, adding that Trump gave Cohen between \$460,000 and \$470,000 via this method to repay the sum to the porn star as well as "incidental expenses."

Trump had previously denied all knowledge of the payment to Daniels, before admitting last week that Cohen struck a "deal" with the porn star on his behalf. Asked by reporters on Air Force One earlier this month about the deal, Trump said: "You'll have to ask Michael Cohen. Michael is my attorney. You'll have to ask Michael," he said. Pressed on whether he knew where Cohen got the money to make the, he said: "No, I don't know. No."

Blatant lie

Giuliani also told The Wall Street Journal Trump was "probably not aware" of the payment



WASHINGTON: This combination of pictures shows US President Donald Trump speaking at The Generation Next event, in Washington, DC, and actress Stephanie Clifford, who uses the stage name Stormy Daniels, arriving to perform at the Solid Gold Fort Lauderdale strip club in Pompano Beach, Florida. —AFP

at the time it was made, having given Cohen broad "discretion to solve these." Daniels' lawyer Michael Avenatti reacted swiftly to the revelation, calling out the US president over his "lies." "We predicted months ago that it would be proven that the American people had been lied to as to the \$130k payment and what Mr Trump knew, when he knew it and what he did in connection with it," he wrote on Twitter.

"Every American, regardless of their politics, should be outraged by what we have now

learned. Mr Trump stood on AFI and blatantly lied." Daniels filed a lawsuit against the president on Monday for defamation after he trashed her claim that she had been threatened by a man representing Trump in 2011. Cohen, meanwhile, has legal troubles of his own. The FBI raided his home and office in early April and seized documents and other material in connection with a criminal investigation. The nature of the alleged criminal wrongdoing by Trump's personal attorney has not been revealed. —AFP

US asylum seekers with children face wrenching choice

TIJUANA: Yolany Reyes is adamant about one thing: no one is going to separate her from her three-year-old son. "It would be like taking away part of me," said the 26-year-old Honduran. Reyes and her child have traveled across Mexico by train, bus and on foot with a migrant caravan, and now she's at the US border hoping to gain asylum. Along with 150 other Central Americans, they have been camped out since Sunday in a little plaza in Tijuana that abuts a border crossing into southern California.

Across the frontier beckons the US city of San Diego. But to get there, they must navigate a nerve-racking asylum process that can separate mother from child. It will begin with their arrest when Reyes presents herself to an immigration officer without a visa. She will then undergo a screening to determine whether she has a "credible fear" of political persecution or violence, says Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor of immigration law at Cornell University. "They then proceed to a full asylum hearing on the merits before an immigration judge," he says.

"An asylum applicant doesn't have to be detained at that point in the process, but often is, because the government wants to make sure they show up for their hearing." And in that process, children can be taken away from their parents. According to The New York Times, about 700 children have been separated from



TIJUANA: Central American migrants travelling in the 'Migrant Via Crucis' caravan sleep outside 'El Chaparral' port of entry to US while waiting to be received by US authorities, in Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico. —AFP

on the border for deterrent purposes." "DHS has an obligation to protect the best interests of children crossing our borders and occasionally this results in separating them from the adult they are traveling with if a parental relationship cannot be confirmed or if we think the child is in danger," he said.

Horrific practice

Reyes doesn't know what to do: She says she can't be separated from her child and she can't go back home to Colon, Honduras, where she says her father, a farmer, was killed for political reasons. "We have suffered many tragedies," said the young woman, who says she will only be safe in the United States, where her husband arrived a month ago. "I am in danger." The number of detentions at the border have soared — 90,033 between January and March 2018 compared to 62,525 in the same period of 2017, according to government figures. —AFP

Trump hints of imminent news on Americans detained in N Korea

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump hinted Wednesday that there would be imminent news about three Americans detained in North Korea, after sources said they had been relocated ahead of their possible release. The development comes as Trump is preparing for a historic summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, following months of tense saber-rattling over the North's nuclear and missile programs.

"The past Administration has long been asking for three hostages to be released from a North Korean Labor camp, but to no avail. Stay tuned!" Trump wrote on Twitter. Two of the three hostages were detained in 2017, after Trump had assumed office. The United States has been demanding the North free Kim Hak-song, Kim Sang-duk and Kim Dong-chul and reports have said the two sides were close to reaching a deal on their release.

"They are staying in a hotel on the outskirts of Pyongyang," Choi Sung-ryong, a South Korean activist with contacts in the North said earlier, adding the three

were being kept separately but "going on tours, receiving medical treatment and eating good food." Diplomatic sources in Pyongyang have said there were rumors that the three had been relocated, but there had been no confirmation of their exact whereabouts.

A State Department official could not confirm the reports, but added: "We are working to see US citizens who are detained in North Korea come home as soon as possible." The matter was discussed when US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo travelled to Pyongyang last month, according to The Wall Street Journal. And speaking to Fox News on Sunday, National Security Advisor John Bolton said releasing the hostages would be "an opportunity" for the North to "demonstrate their authenticity."

Kim Dong-chul, a South Korea-born American pastor, has been detained in the North since 2015 when he was arrested for spying. He was sentenced to 10 years' hard labor in 2016. Kim Hak-song and Kim Sang-duk—or Tony Kim—were both working at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, founded by evangelical Christians from overseas, when they were detained last year on suspicion of "hostile acts."

CNN had said the prisoners' release was also discussed at three-day talks in Stockholm between the North's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Swedish counterpart Margot Wallstrom in March. Sweden represents Washington's interests in the North. —AFP

International

Slain Afghan journalists remembered on World Press Freedom Day

Deadly assaults shake Afghanistan's journalist community

KABUL: Afghanistan's slain journalists were remembered on World Press Freedom Day yesterday, days after the deadliest attack on the country's media since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Ten journalists, including Agence France-Presse chief photographer Shah Marai, were killed in assaults on Monday, underscoring the dangers faced by the media as the war-torn country slips deeper into violence. "Afghanistan's journalists are among the bravest in the world," said Omar Waraich, Amnesty International's deputy director for South Asia.

"Working in some of the most difficult conditions, they have faced threats, intimidation and violence for simply doing their jobs." A double suicide blast in Kabul on Monday, claimed by the Islamic State group, left 25 people dead including Marai and eight other journalists, while a BBC reporter was killed in a separate attack in eastern Khost province. Media workers from Tolo News, ITV, Radio Free Europe and Mashal TV were also among the dead in Kabul.

The deadly assaults have shaken Afghanistan's tight-knit journalist community. Most of them are close friends as well as colleagues who look out for one another as they work in an increasingly hostile environment. But they remain defiant, with dozens of Afghan news editors and executives returning to the site of the Kabul blast hours later Monday in protest. "World Press Freedom Day reminds me and my colleagues of the importance of reporting-reporting for a vibrant democracy,"

“

Among the bravest in the world

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Parwiz Kawa, editor-in-chief of the Hasht-e-Subh Daily newspaper, said.

ITV editor-in-chief Abdullah Khenjani said yesterday was a "mourning day" for the broadcaster, which lost a reporter and cameraman in Monday's blast. He said his colleagues were heartbroken, "especially when we see the empty chairs... in our newsroom". "Afghan journalists who work in an increasingly hostile environment deserve more support and protection," said Lotfullah Najafzada, director of Tolo News.

End journalists' slaughter

Afghanistan was last year ranked the third most dangerous country in the world for journalists by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Afghan media outlets

have condemned the government's failure to protect them, particularly at the scene of suicide attacks where secondary blasts are a constant concern. The British embassy in Kabul also released a statement yesterday vowing to stand behind Afghan journalists, with the UK's minister for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field saying their bravery "has been noted the world over".

"Despite the risks, they stand firm together, determined never to be cowed by terrorists," he said in the statement. The attack on the Afghan journalists comes amid increasing concerns over press freedom across Asia, including in the Philippines, Myanmar and Pakistan. On the same day as the Afghan journalists were killed, Philippine radio broadcaster Edmund Sestoso was shot by as-



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani journalists chant slogans as they carry placards bearing images of slain journalists during a rally on the World Press Freedom Day in Islamabad. — AFP

sailants in the southern city of Dumaguete, said Human Rights Watch. Sestoso died Tuesday.

"That he died on the eve of World Press Freedom Day serves as a reminder that much needs to be done for press freedom around the world and end the slaughter of journalists," said HRW researcher Carlos Conde. A collaborative of press advocates said in a report that attacks against journalists in the Philippines have spiked since Rodrigo Duterte won the presidency in May 2016, citing 85 cases—including murder.

In Myanmar, hopes have been dashed of more press freedom under the government of Aung San Suu Kyi, which took power in 2016. The country has fallen six places to 137th on the 2018 World Press Freedom Index. A recent survey of journalists cited an increase in threats, physical attacks and arrests of reporters. Two Reuters journalists, who were investigating the extrajudicial killing of Rohingya Muslims, face charges that could result in 14-year jail sentences if convicted. — AFP

India splutters in anger after toilet water used for train tea

KOLKATA: An Indian tea vendor caught on video taking water from a train toilet before selling his drinks to passengers has been fined amid heightened concern in India over food safety. The vendor on the Chennai-Hyderabad Express was caught after footage of him and two others coming out of a toilet with large cans used to serve tea and coffee on Indian trains was widely shared. Indian Railways said in a statement that the "incident has been inquired into in detail" and that the tea seller had been fined the equivalent of \$1,500.

The video was made on a train at

Secunderabad in Telangana state. Out of the three vendors seen only one was licensed. The vendor claimed the group were transferring milk from one can to another and did not want to do it in the open. "The very fact that tea/coffee cans were seen being brought out of the toilet, is in itself a wrong practice," the railway company said. A series of recent incidents have put the spotlight on food safety in India. In the eastern city of Kolkata, famed for its Bengal delicacies, police this week unearthed a racket in which tons of rotten meat from dumps was being sold to restaurants. — AFP

Two teenagers gang raped in India, one commits suicide

NEW DELHI: Two teenagers have been gang raped in separate incidents in India in the past four days, highlighting a rape epidemic that shows no sign of abating despite tougher penalties introduced last month. Police said they had not made any arrests in either case. One victim was a 16-year-old girl who committed suicide after being raped by eight men on Sunday in the Nuh district of the northern state of Haryana, senior police official Nazneen Bhasin said.

On Tuesday, a 19-year-old woman was raped by five men, including the driver of an auto rickshaw she hailed in another district of the same state. The driver duped the woman into believing that she had missed her bus and offered to drop her off at another bus depot, said a police spokesman, Ravindra Kumar, citing the victim's complaint. She was then taken to a deserted area near Gurugram town and raped by the driver and four accomplices who were waiting there, Kumar said.

"A case of gang rape has been registered after the

medical examination of the victim confirmed the same. The matter is under investigation," Kumar said. Gurugram, on the southwest outskirts of New Delhi, is a rapidly expanding satellite town, where scores of international companies have set up offices due to its role as an industrial, financial and technology hub. Media reports said the 16-year-old girl was abducted from her home when she was alone and raped by men from her village.

The victim hung herself on Monday and the police registered a case of rape, kidnapping and abetment of suicide though the perpetrators had not been caught. The incidents come less than a month after India approved the death penalty for the rape of girls younger than 12, and increased the prison term for the rape of older girls and women following nationwide disgust over a particularly gruesome rape and murder of a Muslim girl in Jammu & Kashmir state.

Registered cases of sexual violence have been steadily rising despite the national outrage that followed the fatal gang rape of a student on a bus in New Delhi in 2012. Amid the wave of anger at that time, the government promised to speed up rape trials, introduce harsher penalties, including the death sentence in extreme cases, and introduced a law against stalking. But statistics show that since 2012, reported rape cases climbed 60 percent to about 40,000 in 2016, with child rape accounting for about 40 percent of them. — Reuters

International

Myanmar to screen displaced villagers in war-torn Kachin

Myanmar to ensure ethnic insurgents do not receive aid

YANGON: Myanmar will “scrutinize” the identity of displaced people in war-torn Kachin State to ensure ethnic insurgents do not receive humanitarian aid after weeks of fighting, a government spokesman said yesterday. One of Myanmar’s strongest rebel groups, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), has regularly clashed with government troops in the mountainous region bordering China and India since 2011, when a 17-year-old ceasefire broke down.

The latest fighting has escalated since early April, driving more than 5,000 people from their homes, the United Nations said. A UN human rights expert on Myanmar voiced deep concern on Tuesday, citing reports of the army using aerial bombings, heavy weapons and artillery fire on civilian areas. The KIA and aid workers say the fighting is the most intense since the early 1960s, when Kachin guerrillas took up arms against the government in a bid for greater autonomy.

“We got information that shows KIA members might be among the refugees for humanitarian aid...we need to scrutinize whether members of the armed force are among them,”

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Screening makes things more difficult

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government spokesman Zaw Htay said, adding that children, women and the elderly would get priority in receiving aid. He did not elaborate on how the displaced people will be screened. Zaw Htay confirmed reports that about 2,000 people were trapped in a remote forest near the village of Aung Lawt. Aid workers say they have had no access to humanitarian aid for more than three weeks.

Fears of a delay in delivering aid should not compel the government to give unconditional humanitarian support to those trapped in Aung Lawt, said Zaw Htay. “The security forces have concerns. We are trying our best to work out the two situations,” he said. KIA spokesman Colonel Naw Bu denied the government’s allegation and

said the screening would “make things more difficult” for the displaced people. Myanmar’s military did not respond to requests for comment.

The fighting has put a spotlight on Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi’s stuttering efforts to bring peace to the diverse, Buddhist-majority country that has seen near-perpetual war since its independence from Britain in 1949. The conflict has sent more than 1,000 people fleeing to

tionality as “Afghan”, a term used in the past to denote Pashtuns, traditionally the most politically powerful ethnic group. Some members of other groups, notably Persian-speaking ethnic Tajiks, say that use of the term on the cards is intended to entrench the power of the Pashtuns by suggesting that their identity is equivalent with that of the nation as a whole.

Like almost all kings and presidents of Afghanistan, Ghani is an ethnic Pashtun and he has faced increasing opposition from Tajiks as presidential elections next year approach. Shortly after the ceremony, Ghani’s partner in government, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, whose Jamiat party mainly represents ethnic Tajiks from northern Afghanistan, rejected the new cards. “Large national processes need more work and strategy that can achieve people’s satisfaction,” he told a news conference. “There are far important priorities.”

“I am not against electronic ID cards, but this was not the time for it, because there are disagreements among the people about the e-ID cards.” The new cards have faced long delays for both technical and political reasons and Ghani’s original intention of using them to register voters and reduce fraud in parliamentary elections scheduled for October has been abandoned. Registration will be based on the old paper ID cards, although as many Afghans do not even have one of these, millions will have to be issued by October for sufficient numbers of voters to be included, a process already behind schedule. — Reuters

Afghan president launches new ID cards amid row over ethnicity

KABUL: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani launched new electronic ID cards yesterday and faced immediate opposition in his own government towards a system that has fuelled bitter rows over ethnic politics only months before parliamentary elections are due. The much delayed “e-tezkera” system, named after the local term for identity cards, is intended to reduce fraud, streamline public administration and give a clearer picture of the population by centralizing data on one digitized card.

“E-tezkera will help security in the country,” Ghani said at a ceremony at which he received the first card to be issued. “The problem with the traditional ID card was that the foreign terrorists could easily make fake national Afghan IDs and challenge our security.” But the inclusion of a national identity denomination that is rejected by some groups in Afghanistan has laid bare the persistent ethnic divisions that have widened sharply over the past year.

The new system has been the subject of furious argument because it designates a holder’s na-



MYANMAR: This picture shows displaced Kachin residents crossing Malikha river on a ferry to escape the fighting in Injanyan village near Myitkyina. — AFP

the village of Tanghpri, where a church has been distributing food and providing shelter for displaced villagers, mostly from Kachin’s eastern township of Injangyang.

“I’d like to urge both sides to make sure that the fighting will not spread into this area as there are more than 1,000 people taking shelter in this village,” said Stephen Supma Sut Awng, a priest at the Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. “My biggest concern for them is education for the

children because there is no government facility in Tanghpri,” he said.

Thousands of people rallied in Kachin this week to demand humanitarian access for villagers trapped by fighting. Fighting between government forces and ethnic minority Kachin and other insurgents has been eclipsed in media coverage by the plight of nearly 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who have fled to neighboring Bangladesh since last August. — Reuters

Greek court sentences Turk for illegal entry on tractor

THESSALONIKI, Greece: A Greek court yesterday handed a suspended prison sentence to a Turkish man who illegally crossed the border on a tractor, near to where Turkey captured two Greek soldiers in March. The court in Orestiada, northern Greece, released the 38-year-old after suspending his five-year sentence for three years, officials said. The suspect claimed he was digging a water pipeline ditch for Turkey’s Edirne municipality, which borders Greece. He is expected to appeal.

The incident occurred in the same area where two Greek soldiers were caught in March after crossing the border, claiming

to have lost their way in the fog. They were charged with espionage and have been held in pre-trial detention in Turkey ever since, sparking a diplomatic row between Athens and Ankara. Turkey has sought to link the incident with the case of eight Turkish soldiers who sought asylum in Greece following the failed 2016 army coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Athens has demanded the Greek soldiers’ release, but Erdogan over the weekend said his government would consider the case if Athens extradited the Turkish soldiers, whom Ankara has branded terrorists. Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos on Sunday rejected the suggestion of a swap deal. Greece’s Supreme Court has ruled that the eight men will not be extradited, despite Turkish demands for them to face charges at home. The men deny involvement in the coup attempt. Earlier this week, Turkish hackers hijacked the website of state news agency ANA and the Greek portal of Japanese automakers Suzuki to post messages accusing Greece of harboring terrorists. — AFP

International

US, South Korea pursue North Korea deal

Activists fear rights will be ignored in denuclearization talks

SEOUL: Absent from last week's summit between the leaders of North and South Korea was Pyongyang's human rights record, and the issue appears to have faded from US President Donald Trump's public agenda as he prepares for his own meeting with Kim Jong Un. Rights activists and North Korean defectors fear that when Trump sits down with Kim, possibly as soon as this month, he may avoid the thorny issue of rights altogether if that helps seal a deal on getting North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons.

Just a few months ago, rights abuses were a focal point of Trump's criticism of North Korea, along with its pursuit of nuclear-armed missiles. Trump called Kim "obviously a madman who doesn't mind starving or killing his people". More recently, Trump called Kim "very honorable" and "open".

"President Trump should raise human rights concerns with Kim Jong Un, but I would be very surprised if he does," said Phil Robertson, deputy director of advocacy group Human Rights Watch's Asia division.

"He will not let human rights stand in the way of a deal, that's for sure." Former US officials and diplomats have criticized Trump for often playing down rights in his foreign policy, except when it comes to abuses by certain US adver-

saries like Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea - at least until recently. The White House did not respond immediately to a question on whether Trump would raise human rights broadly with Kim at their summit.

But it referred to Trump's recent assurance to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that he would bring up the issue of North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens. The US State Department said on Wednesday it remained "gravely concerned and deeply troubled" by rights abuses and "will continue to press for accountability for those responsible". Last month, the State Department labeled China, Russia, Iran and North Korea as "morally reprehensible" governments it said violated human rights within their borders on a daily basis, making them "forces of instability".

During his visit to Pyongyang last month, then-CIA director Mike Pompeo also spoke to Kim about the fate of three American citizens held in North Korea, and in a tweet on Thursday, Trump said to "stay tuned" for news of the men. The North Korean mission at the United Nations did not respond to requests for comment, but state media has released a steady flow of commentaries in recent weeks, warning that taking issue with rights could undermine the recent detente.

“ Gravely concerned and deeply troubled ”



PANMUNJOM: This picture shows North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un speaking with South Korea's President Moon Jae-in (unseen) during the Inter-Korean summit in the Peace House building on the southern side of the truce village of Panmunjom. —AFP

Counting on Trump

UN investigators have reported the use of political prison camps, starvation and executions in North Korea, saying security chiefs and possibly even Kim himself should face international justice. Between 80,000 and 120,000 people are held in four known North Korean political prison camps, the UN's top North Korea rights official reported last year. Kim himself is suspected of ordering the assassination of his half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, in Malaysia in February, as well as the execution

of his uncle, Jang Song Thaek, in 2013.

But South Korean officials not only did not make rights a major feature of last week's summit, they also agreed to stop propaganda broadcasts and leaflet distributions on their border, disappointing some defectors pressing for better rights in the reclusive country. For decades, with only a few breaks, the two sides have pumped out propaganda at each other, with the South broadcasting a mixture of news, Korean pop songs and criticism. —Reuters

Beijing 'installs missiles' on South China Sea islands

BEIJING: Beijing yesterday reasserted its right to build "defense" facilities in the disputed South China Sea, but declined to confirm reports it had installed new missiles on artificial islands it has built in the region. The Chinese army installed anti-ship and air-to-air defenses on outposts also claimed by Vietnam and the Philippines over the last 30 days, US network CNBC reported Wednesday, citing sources close to US intelligence.

If the information is verified, it could provoke renewed tensions between countries bordering the strategically vital maritime region. At a regular briefing yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying neither confirmed nor denied the deployment. "China's peaceful construction in the Spratly archipelago, including the deployment of necessary national defense facilities, is aimed at protecting China's sovereignty and security," she said. "Those who don't intend to violate (this sovereignty) have no reason to worry," she said.

The South China Sea issue has been brewing for years, with China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam making competing claims in waters with vital global shipping routes and what are believed to be significant oil and natural gas deposits. In addition to land-reclamation efforts on reefs it controls and building civilian facilities there, China also has air bases, radar and communications systems, naval facilities and defensive weaponry in place including landing strips able to accommodate military planes.

The new Chinese missiles were reportedly deployed on Fiery Cross Reef, Subi Reef and Mischief Reef, according to CNBC. They are all in the Spratly archipelago located in waters south of mainland China between Vietnam and the Philippines. Beijing's territorial claims, based on its own historical records, have also pitted it against the United States. While Washington takes no position on the sovereignty claims, it has raised concerns that Beijing is "militarizing" the South China Sea.

But the US Navy itself frequently sends warships and aircraft carriers to patrol the area. China's defense ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment but has previously stressed that the islands were "part of Chinese territory" and that it was up to China alone to decide what it does there. —AFP

China's foreign minister in N Korea on rare visit

SEOUL: Beijing hopes that talks between the United States and North Korea will be "smooth and achieve substantial progress", China's foreign minister said Wednesday during a rare visit to Pyongyang as the Asian superpower tries to mend ties with its nuclear-armed neighbor. The two-day visit by Wang Yi—the highest-ranking Chinese official to travel to North Korea in years—follows a landmark inter-Korean summit and precedes a meeting between the North's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump in coming weeks.

Beijing "fully backs... (North Korea's) efforts to achieve the goal of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula," Wang said during talks with his North Korean counterpart Ri Yong Ho, China's official Xinhua news agency reported. He also said that China was "willing to strengthen communication... (with North Korea) and continue to play a positive role in seeking a political solution to the Korean peninsula issue", Xinhua reported. The two top diplomats met in Beijing last month, days after Kim travelled to China for talks with President Xi Jinping. It was Kim's first overseas trip since he took power in 2011 and came amid signs of a diplomatic thaw. Ri said the talks between Xi and Kim had paved the way for the two countries to develop



PYONGYANG: China's foreign minister Wang Yi, left, shakes hands with North Korea's foreign minister Ri Yong Ho at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang. —AFP

"friendly relations from a new starting point", Xinhua reported. He said the regime would "maintain close communications with China on how to realize denuclearization and establish peace mechanisms on the Korean peninsula, while enhancing dialogue with all parties concerned", according to Xinhua.

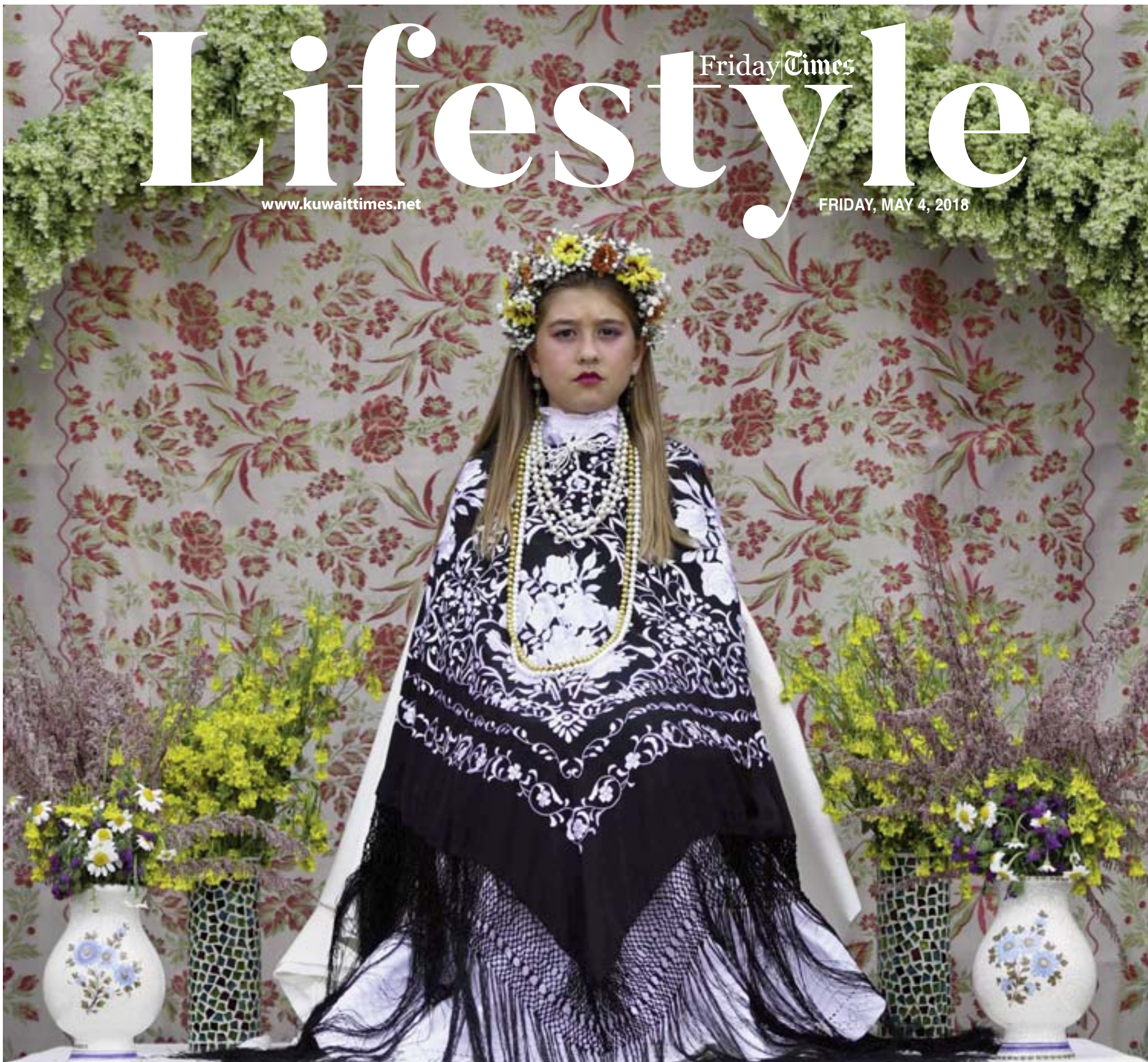
Pyongyang hosted a reception to welcome Wang on Wednesday evening, with Ri in attendance, the North's state-run KCNA news agency reported. Wang, who arrived in Pyongyang on Wednesday, is the first Chinese foreign minister to visit the North since 2007, a lapse that highlights the rough patch in relations between the allies in recent years. China-North Korea's sole diplomatic ally and economic benefactor has supported a series of United Nations sanctions against the North over its nuclear and missile programs. —AFP

Lifestyle

Friday Times

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018



Nieves Avila Laguna takes part in the 'Las Mayas' festival in Colmenar Viejo near Madrid on May 2, 2018. The Mayas, young girls aged between 7 and 11, are required to sit still in a decorated altar derived from pagan rites celebrating the arrival of spring. — AFP

**Bollywood greats Bachchan,
Kapoor reunite after 27 years**

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Bollywood greats Bachchan, Kapoor reunite after 27 years



Indian Bollywood actors Rishi Kapoor (left) and Amitabh Bachchan (right) during the song launch for their comedy-drama Hindi film "102 Not Out" in Mumbai. — AFP

Two of Bollywood's greatest stars, Amitabh Bachchan and Rishi Kapoor, will share a screen together for the first time in almost three decades when comedy "102 Not Out" is released today. The movie, directed by Umesh Shukla, sees Bachchan play a 102-year-old who dreams of becoming the world's longest-living man by making it to 118. But to do so, he decides he has to put his downbeat 75-year-old son, played by Kapoor (who is 65 in reality), into an old people's home. The two actors—who were the stars of a string of hits throughout the 1970s and '80s—last paired up for a film in 1991.

"Getting together after a gap of 27 years with Rishi ji, was just like getting off a bicy-

cle and getting on it again," Bachchan, 75, told the Press Trust of India news agency this week. The cinema icon affectionately known as "Big B" shot to stardom in the early 1970s on the back of powerful roles in hits "Zanjeer" and "Sholay". He was dubbed India's "angry young man" for portraying violent heroes fighting an unjust system and injecting a new aggressive element into Bollywood movies, which had previously consisted of polite romances. Kapoor, part of India's legendary Kapoor acting family, made a name for himself as a romantic hero following his breakthrough role in the 1973 classic "Bobby". Bachchan and Kapoor's first film together was the 1976 romantic

drama "Kabhi Kabhie" ("Sometimes"). "Amar Akbar Anthony" followed in 1977, "Naseeb" in 1981, "Coolie" in 1983 and "Ajooba" ("Prodigy") in 1991.

"You played my step father-in-law in 'Kabhi Kabhie', we were brothers in 'Amar Akbar Anthony' and 'Naseeb'. We were friends in 'Coolie' and ... in 'Ajooba,'" Kapoor, 65, said to Bachchan at a promotional event attended by AFP. Lately the two have enjoyed success playing cantankerous old men, notably Bachchan's turn in "Piku" (2015) and Kapoor's role as a 90-year-old in "Kapoor & Sons" (2016). "102 Not Out" is an adaptation of a popular Gujarati play by Saumya Joshi. — AFP

'Jackass' prankster Knoxville on his latest eye-popping role

Slapstick superstar Johnny Knoxville was relaxing in his hotel after his latest on-set mishap when some dried blood in his nostril caused him to blow hard and his eyeball popped out. Luckily, he hadn't been eating hot and sour soup or taking a bubble bath, and he was able to reach under, scoop it up and push it back into the socket. It was the latest in a litany of injuries that would make the blood drain from the toughest stunt professional's face—but it was far from the most stomach-churning. "I have, like, 15 doctors for different parts of my body and they all have a special talk with me. I don't know what to tell 'em," Knoxville shrugs in an interview with AFP.

The star—who rose to fame mesmerizing fans with his shocking stunts in MTV's 2000–2002 reality prank series "Jackass"—was at Las Vegas Cin-

emaCon to promote his new movie "Action Point." He recalls a day's shooting for the comedy about a disastrous theme park when he landed flat on his face after flying 20 feet (six meters) through the air off a slide.

Knoxville, whose 31 movies include "Men in Black II," "The Dukes of Hazzard" and four releases in the "Jackass" canon, was rushed to the emergency room with a bad case of concussion and a fractured eye socket. "I go back to the hotel room and I blow my nose because I had blood there. My left eyeball just pops out of my head. It's like a cartoon. I was like, 'Oh no!' I pushed it back in and I called the producer," he said. "I was like, 'You've got to come get me. My left eyeball just popped out of my head.' He's like, 'Ah ha ha ha ha!' I'm like 'I'm serious.' He goes, 'I'll be right there.'"

'Complete anarchy'

The actor, born Philip John Clapp Jr, came up with the idea for "Jackass" 20 years ago, and it quickly became a hit among the skating crowd, making stars of Knoxville, Ehren "Danger Ehren" McGeheey and Stephen "Steve-O" Glover. Cast members struggled with alcoholism, drug addiction and depression, however. And the series was rocked by the 2011 death of Ryan Dunn in a drunk driving accident. Knoxville, devastated by the loss of his friend, threw himself back into work, writing and appearing in "Movie 43," "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

In "Action Point," due out on June 1 in the US, Knoxville plays a daredevil who designs and operates his own theme park with his friends. The comedy is inspired by Action Park, which opened in 1978 in Vernon, New Jersey, and built up a reputation for poorly designed, unsafe rides and intoxicated and underage staff. Six people are known to have died at the center—dubbed "Accident Park" by nearby hospitals—and eventually it was buried under an avalanche of personal injury lawsuits. "Gene Mulvihill ran it and he didn't have any rules for the kids. He let them design their own rides. I mean, it was just complete anarchy," said Knoxville. The movie contains some of the daredevil's most hair-raising stunts yet, but he insists he doesn't actually enjoy pain. He's not even that addicted to the adrenaline rush, he says. — AFP



Johnny Knoxville attends Teton Gravity Research's "Andy Iron's Kissed By God" World Premiere at Regency Village Theatre in Westwood, California. — AFP



Live Nation buys key stake in iconic Rock in Rio festival

Entertainment giant Live Nation said Wednesday it will acquire a controlling stake in the iconic Rock in Rio festival, the latest consolidation in the fast-growing world of live music. The Los Angeles-based company said it will take a majority stake in Rock in Rio in 2019, although a representative for the festival in Brazil said that the arrangement would be a 50-50 split. The festival's Brazilian founder, Roberto Medina, will maintain a key role in organizing the festival, Live Nation said. "The partnership will generate a number of synergies that will enable the realization of even greater ambitions for Rock in Rio," Medina said in a statement.

Rock in Rio has its roots in the fall of Brazil's military dictatorship in 1985 when a total of nearly 1.4 million people came out for 10 days of music that included Queen, Rod Stewart, AC/DC and Yes. With a seventh edition taking place last year, Rock in Rio has become South America's

best-known music festival. It has also expanded overseas with editions in Lisbon, Madrid and, in 2015, a first US version in Las Vegas that starred some of the top names in pop music including Taylor Swift and Bruno Mars.

Live Nation is the largest live entertainment company, promoting tours and handling sales through Ticketmaster. Like its rivals, it has increasingly set its sights on festivals and has acquired major events such as Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo and Austin City Limits in the United States and the Leeds and Reading festivals in England. Festivals have grown sharply in number, attendance and profitability since the turn of the century, becoming a rite of passage for many young people in the Western world. With their growth, festivals have also turned into one of the music industry's major money generators, and companies such as Live Nation look set to maximize efficiency by running multiple events. — AFP



In this file photo visitors check Gibson's guitars during the 2014 International CES at the Las Vegas Convention Center. —AFP photos



In this file photo taken on August 6, 2005, musician BB King receives a giant 80th birthday card in the shape of his famous Gibson guitar "Lucille" at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, California.

Iconic American guitar maker Gibson files for bankruptcy

Gibson, maker of iconic guitars for the likes of John Lennon, Elvis Presley and BB King, filed for bankruptcy protection on Tuesday after facing mounting debt and other financial challenges. The company, based in the American country music capital Nashville, Tennessee since 1894, filed for Chapter 11 protection-meaning it aims to reorganize its business and restructure its finances. The company said in a statement it had reached a deal with a majority of its creditors that would give them an ownership stake.

The historic maker of Gibson- and Epiphone-branded guitars will wind down a consumer audio business which makes headphones, speakers and other products under Philips and other brand names, and focus on its core musical instrument and professional audio equipment operations. The company had been featured last year at the White House's "Made in America" week as part of President Donald Trump's promotion of US manufactured goods over allegedly unfair imports. Other American brands manufacture some of their guitars outside the

United States. Gibson CEO Henry Juszkiewicz said in a statement the company had been working to improve its finances "over the past 12 months." "We have sold non-core brands, increased earnings and reduced working capital demands," he said.

"The decision to re-focus on our core business, musical instruments, combined with the significant support from our noteholders, we believe will assure the company's long-term stability and financial health." Gibson has struggled to stay afloat after a series of brand

acquisitions, and in February hired a new financial director.

It had some \$375 million in debt due later this year, according to US media reports. The restructuring comes four years after Gibson spent \$135 million to expand, purchasing the Dutch entertainment brand Philips. Gibson instruments are part of modern music history-graced by the hands of legends such as Rolling Stone Keith Richards and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin. A year earlier, one of Lennon's favorite Gibson guitars sold for \$2.4 million. — AFP

Wife: Cosby convicted by 'mob justice, not real justice'

Bill Cosby's wife called yesterday for a criminal investigation into the suburban Philadelphia prosecutor behind his sexual assault conviction, saying the case that could put the 80-year-old comedian in prison for the rest of his life was "mob justice, not real justice" and a "tragedy." Camille Cosby made her first comments on the verdict in a three-page statement sent to the media through a family spokesman. She compared her husband of 54 years, convicted a week

ago on three counts of aggravated indecent assault, to Emmett Till and other blacks mistreated by the justice system. Cosby's lawyers have vowed to appeal. "Once again, an innocent person has been found guilty based on an unthinking, unquestioning, unconstitutional frenzy propagated by the media and allowed to play out in a supposed court of law," she said. "This is mob justice, not real justice. This tragedy must be undone not just for Bill Cosby, but for the country."

Camille Cosby said chief accuser Andrea Constand was a liar whose testimony about being drugged and molested at Cosby's home in January 2004 was "riddled with innumerable, dishonest contradictions." She echoed Cosby's lawyers, who contended that Constand framed him to score a big payday. Her statement did not address behavior Cosby has admitted to, such as philandering and contention that he was having a consensual affair with Constand. Constand's lawyer bristled at Mrs. Cosby's statement and asked, "why would any reputable outlet publish that?" "Twelve honorable jurors - peers of Cosby - have spoken," lawyer Dolores Troiani said. "There is nothing else that needs to be said." Constand said in a tweet last week that "Truth prevails." The jury, in a state-



Bill Cosby, left, arrives with his wife, Camille, for his sexual assault trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa. — AP photos

ment Monday, said she was "credible and compelling."

Constand sued Cosby in 2005 when prosecutors dropped a criminal investigation after four weeks. Cosby wound up settling for nearly \$3.4 million after giving four days of depositions, including testimony about giving quaaludes to women before sex, that a juror said Monday was instrumental in his conviction. Camille Cosby compared the dozens of other women who've accused her husband to a "lynch mob" spurred on by the media's "frenzied, relentless demonization" of

him. She compared his treatment to Till, the black teenager who was kidnapped and murdered after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman in a Mississippi grocery store in 1955, and Darryl Hunt, a black man wrongly convicted of raping and murdering a white woman in North Carolina in 1984. Constand is white. "Someday the truth will prevail, it always does," Camille Cosby said.

'Exploitive and corrupt'

She said her husband's prosecution was politically motivated, repeating his

team's contention that he had been a pawn in a heated race for district attorney. Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele attacked opponent Bruce Castor in campaign ads over his decision not to charge Cosby in 2005 and announced Cosby's arrest a month after winning the November 2015 election. She said Steele and his team were "exploitive and corrupt" and that their "primary purpose is to advance themselves professionally and economically at the expense of Mr. Cosby's life." "If they can do this to Mr. Cosby, they can do so to anyone," she said. Steele's office declined to comment. Camille Cosby, 74, stayed away from both of her husband's trials, except for the defense's closing arguments.

Before the jury came in last week to hear from Cosby's lawyers, she went to the defense table and put her arm around Cosby, who is legally blind. They embraced, smiled and chatted, and he gave her a peck on the cheek. When it was the prosecution's turn to argue, she left the courtroom, and Constand entered. Cosby is on house arrest while awaiting sentencing that could put him in prison for the rest of his life. The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, as Constand has done. — AP



In this Sept 12, 1965, file photo, Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, arrive at the 17th Emmy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.



Maria Moreno Guapo takes part in the 'Las Mayas' festival in Colmenar Viejo near Madrid. — AFP photos



Andrea Ramos Diaz takes part in the "Las Mayas" festival.

'Las Mayas' festival



Marah Corrales Alfonso takes part in the "Las Mayas" festival.



Natalia Ciriza Berrocal takes part in the "Las Mayas" festival.



Nieves Avila Laguna, takes part in the "Las Mayas" festival.

Belly of the bull: Bali's Hindu cremations for peace in the afterlife



This photo shows Balinese family members and villagers transporting the bodies in a “wadah”, or portable shrine, in a procession as part of a cremation ceremony in the village of Buruan Kelod in Tabanan on Indonesia's Bali island. — AFP photos



Family members releasing the remains into the river after a cremation ceremony in the village of Buruan Kelod in Tabanan on Indonesia's Bali island.

Flames engulf a wooden bull with the body of an elderly Balinese man inside its belly, an elaborate cremation that many on the mostly Hindu island see as crucial for peace in the afterlife. Following the blaze, the 81-year-old's ashes are spread on a large piece of fabric dressed with flowers. Villagers in traditional sarongs march to a river where the remains are released into the gurgling water. Called Ngaben, the ceremony is intended to set free a person's soul so it can enter a higher realm where it will be reborn or liberated from evil spirits.

In the village of Tabanan, hundreds of friends and relatives came together to witness the cremations of two elderly cousins at the end of a days-long ritual. A band plays traditional music with prayers as the bodies are washed and dressed in colorful attire. The coffins are paraded through town so people can say goodbye, and also to confuse evil spirits that might want to disturb the solemn ceremony.

Relatives come together to prepare offerings of flowers, money, fruit and holy water to be placed around the coffins, which are later moved to the belly of the four-meter (13-foot) tall wooden animal. Cows are sacred throughout Hinduism, the religion practiced by most of Bali's residents. But Ngaben is distinctive to this Indonesian island. “To us Balinese, there has to be Ngaben,” said I Gusti Putu Artayasa, the son of one of the deceased. “Because without Ngaben, it's not perfect yet. The spirit will be everywhere.” — AFP



A large wooden bull with the remains of I Gusti Ketut Tika and Gusti Ayu Made Lemuh burning during a cremation ceremony in the village of Buruan Kelod in Tabanan on Indonesia's Bali island.



Balinese family members carrying offerings as part of a ritual ahead of a cremation ceremony in the village of Buruan Kelod in Tabanan on Indonesia's Bali island.



Balinese musicians performing during a cremation ceremony procession in the village of Buruan Kelod in Tabanan on Indonesia's Bali island.



Balinese family members carrying offerings as part of a cremation ceremony.

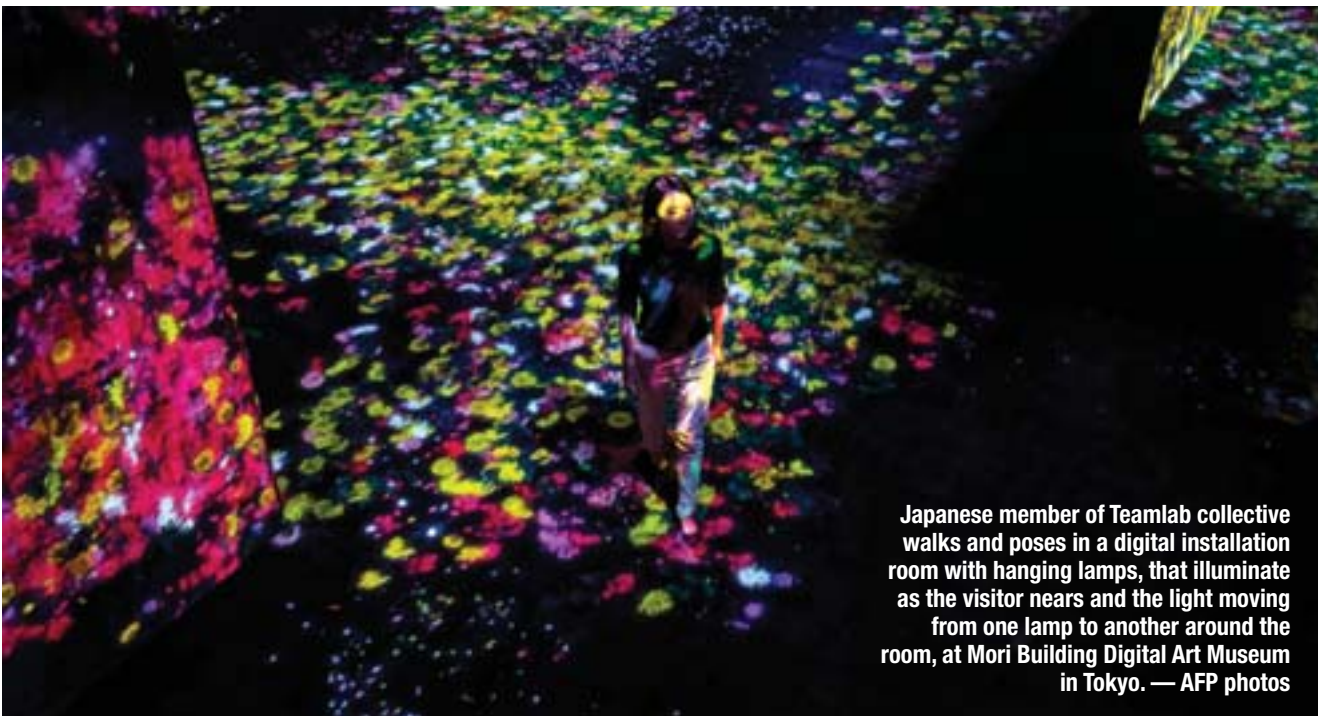


Tokyo digital art museum

looks to 'expand the beautiful'

The waterfall appears to run down the wall of a room and across the floor, but the flow is an illusion—a digital exhibit at a new interactive museum in Tokyo. The flower-filled waterfall is the work of Japanese collective teamLab, known internationally for their innovative “digital art” that combines projections, sound and carefully designed spaces to create other-worldly, immersive experiences. After exhibitions around the world, they are opening this summer a museum dedicated entirely to their unique brand of artwork.

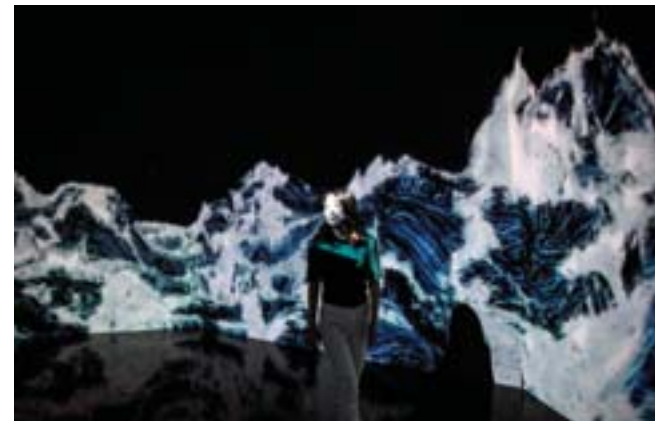
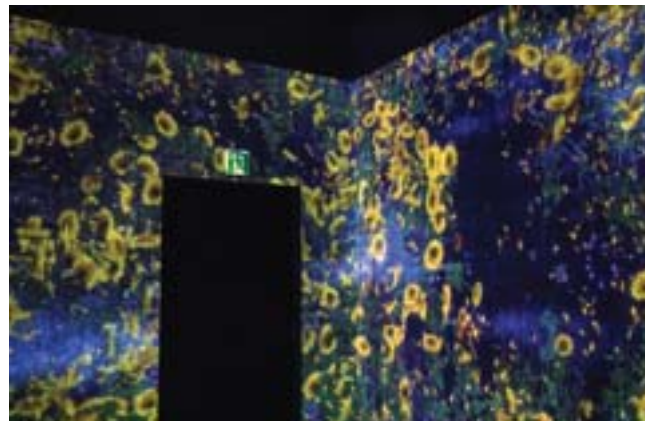
The space is being billed as a first, a digital museum with artwork that envelopes and interacts with visitors. One space features a bucolic rice field, another is filled with seemingly endless hanging lamps that illuminate as the visitor nears, the light moving from one lamp to another around the room. Elsewhere, a waterfall filled with flowers appears to flow over a hill or waves crash along the walls, throwing spray towards the ceiling. The exhibits are designed to flow into one another and interact with each other and the viewer. Some follow visitors or react in different ways when they are



Japanese member of Teamlab collective walks and poses in a digital installation room with hanging lamps, that illuminate as the visitor nears and the light moving from one lamp to another around the room, at Mori Building Digital Art Museum in Tokyo. — AFP photos



Lifestyle | Feature



touched. "We have created a borderless world made up of pieces of artwork that move by themselves, communicate with each other and mix perfectly with others," teamLab co-founder Toshiyuki Inoko, 41, told AFP.

"I would like this space to become a place where we can remember that borders do not exist in our world," he said. Some exhibits also encourage visitor participation—in one, viewers are "propelled into space" by bouncing on a trampoline in the midst of an intergalactic projection, in another they can dance in unison with performers who appear as translucent silhouettes. Inoko, who has a background in physics, founded teamLab in 2001 with four fellow Tokyo University students, but the collective didn't make its artistic debut until 2011, with a show at a gallery in Taipei.

Three years later, New York's Pace Gallery began promoting their work, and in 2015, they organized their first exhibition in Japan, drawing nearly 500,000 visitors over 130 days. Since then, they have shown across the world, with exhibitions in London, Silicon Valley, China and elsewhere and the collective has grown to some 500 members.

'Liberating art'

They describe themselves as "ultratechnologists", who combine expertise in specialty fields, including engineering, robotics and architecture, with hands-on manual labor to produce art. While teamLab works are now in several permanent collections, the new museum will be the first permanent space completely devoted to the collective's pieces. The cost of the project has not been disclosed, but a team member told AFP that each piece of artwork can cost around \$1-2 million. The collective will have some 50 exhibits in the 10,000-square-metre (more than 100,000 square-foot) space in the bayside Odaiba area of Tokyo. They have partnered with property management company Mori Building, and secured support from Japanese companies ranging from Panasonic to Epson. Dubbed the "Mori Building Digital Art Museum: teamLab Borderless," the facility will open its doors on June 21, charging 3,200 yen a ticket (\$29). Maintaining the artwork requires a bank of 520 computers and 470 projectors, but the real key is the set of sophisticated algorithms that generates images in real time. The artworks are "neither pre-recorded animations nor images on loop," says teamLab.

The collective say they want to use digital technology to "expand the beautiful". "Unlike a physical painting on a canvas, the non-material digital technology can liberate art," they say in an explanation of their work. "Because of its ability to transform itself freely, it can transcend boundaries." "The fact that the universe transforms with the presence of the other is very important for us," Inoko told AFP. "I am as much a part of the artwork as the other visitors," he said. — AFP



AVENGERS

INFINITY WAR

Marvel raises the bar yet again

By Aakash Bakaya

Feeling like a review is futile is never the best place to start. It's futile because if you liked 'Infinity War', nothing I can say here would possibly change your mind. On the other hand, there are those who don't watch Marvel or comic book movies in general so they have little to no reason to go watch the epic culmination of over 15 comic book films. Now both you and I are thinking - so what is this for? Well I think I have a certain obligation here. As a huge fan of the material and a critic as well, I think I can toe the line that has become increasingly controversy especially in this genre. Rotten Tomatoes scores are monitored and scrutinized; IMDB ratings have become quasi popularity contests and Metacritic is usually forgotten even when it's usually the most accurate barometer to determine the difference between audience vs critic reaction. Let's cut to the chase shall we - 'Infinity War' was fantastic, a comic book film so stuffed with characters and inter-connected plot lines that as no right to be this massively entertaining. Surpassing the benchmarks they themselves have placed - Marvel Studios had made one of the best comic book adaptations ever put on the big screen.



Ok for the rest of this review, I will attempt to restrain myself from 'geeking out' too much but I cannot guarantee that it still won't happen. Also this is going to be filled with 'spoilers'. There isn't much of an option in that department as everything past the five minute mark would be considered a spoiler. If you haven't seen it yet, turn back! You've been warned.

Thanos: Origins

In a film full of subverted expectations, the biggest one has to be the time and effort given to fleshing out 'Thanos' as a character. He's more central to the film than the Avengers themselves and that's saying a lot as there are an enormous amount of key players present here. Everyone (except for poor Hawkeye and to a lesser extent Ant-Man) is given a variable amount of time

to shine and each of these scenes, small as some were, are memorable and play into the plot. But it's Thanos that truly shines. Coming out of seemingly nowhere simply due to the fact that the films leading up to this barely touched on him, Josh Brolin gives a brilliant mo-cap performance of a being severely weighted by his choices and what he feels his is destiny.

The huge frame and menacing baritone are terrifying enough while starting off the movie with him man-handling the Hulk really kicks his character arc straight to into 11th gear. He then proceeds to choke Loki to death and destroy the last remaining ship of Asgard. It's a brutal start for our heroes and the Russo brothers (in their third Marvel outing) boldly paint a picture of the stakes at hand. Bruce Banner gets beamed back to Earth and crash lands into the house of Dr. Strange (replacing The Silver

Lifestyle | MixTape



Surfer who carries the same message in the same fashion in the comics) with the warning that Thanos is coming and everything is going to get real very quickly. It gets real in 30 seconds in fact when one of Thanos' second-in-command Ebony Maw shows up to retrieve Strange's Time Stone (one of the six infinity stones) but even after a pretty even fight, Maw is able to capture Strange while Stark and a stowaway Spider Man are stranded on the same ship.

Justifying the means

Obviously it all sounds a bit convoluted if you haven't been keeping up with the consistent barrage of Marvel films we've been getting over the years but in the likely case you have, then it's safe to say the movie juggles these multiple storylines extremely well. After the prologue and this intro, the plot is divided into five separated but inter-linked subplots that keep the overall pace quick and no storyline ends up over-shadowing another. Yes of course it is all a bit...too much, but that's more of a consequence of trying to wrap up so many storylines at once. The overall result isn't the most polished but it surprisingly ends up working.

Conversely, how well it works may depend on who your favorite or preferred characters are. Loki fans will be upset he died literally in the first five minutes, Captain America and Black Widow both don't get much screen time or any real dialogue for that matter which was strange and the side plot with Thor, Rocket and Groot was given way more screen time that it deserved. Getting back to Thanos, 'Infinity War' has easily elevated him into the highest tiers of comic book rogue galleries. His quest to obtain all the Infinity Stones is possibly the most dramatic end to a storyline in comic book history.

As I said earlier, The Russo brothers puts up the film's stakes

immediately and not once do they back down from them. When Thanos is given a choice to sacrifice a loved one for the Soul Stone, he throws Gamora off a cliff and watches her fall to her death. Later, when told he must spare Tony Stark's life for the Time Stone he does so even at the end when characters are fading away into dust. In that same fight, he tells Tony - 'you are not the only one burdened with knowledge' thus basically saying he stills himself equal some request to a mere human. He's complex for the lack of a better word and driven insane in his mission to wipe out half of the universe, unable to see the futility of his cause but completely willing to bear the consequences of it. No Marvel villain comes even remotely close in terms of power and character depth.

Creeping death

But Like Thanos, 'Infinity War' is itself burdened with a little too much on its shoulders. The entire Wakanda plotline, a location we were introduced to just a few months ago, feels more like an afterthought. We travel there solely to remove the Mind



Stone from Vision's head and out of all the third act storylines - it was easily the least exciting. Tony and the Guardians taking on Thanos on Titan is a much more exhilarating and creative fight filled to the brim with teamwork and stunning CGI. Strange is a whirlwind of magic and some of the moves he pulls off left me breathless. I never cared much about him even in his own stand-alone film but here I was even invested in his cape. It also contained a crucial element setting up the sequel and I loved how subtly they handled it.

By the end though, more than half of our main characters are wiped from existence. Having them dissolve into dust might have sounded like a strange decision on paper but the experience of watching it unfold in a packed cinema will remain one of my most memorable movie-going experiences. There were gasps and hushed whispers, some remained silent but almost everyone was feeling the weight of those on-screen 'deaths'. I put that word in quotes since it's hard to seriously be affected by them with 'Black Panther', 'Spider-Man' and even the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' already slated for sequels in the future. I am sure this particular event will have its own consequences down the line but I'm also confident that it's not going to be the last time we see the same characters, in some capacity at least, again on the big screen.



There's a lot to take in and I couldn't possibly tackle the many things 'Infinity War' does right and I can't make the minor issues I have with it not sound like nitpicks. For instance, I don't usually like Marvel humor and it remains a bit hit-and-miss here but every scene with any of the Guardians was hilarious. Drax fighting with Strange's cape calling it a 'blanket of death' was maybe my favorite line in the film and the entire scene when they first interact with Thor was great comedy. The film succeeds because it balances so many of its moving parts so well and in keeping with that balance - we are left with a cliff-hanger that will have audiences hungering for more. Thanos is set to return in the next installment and I along with a legion of fans will be dying to see what happens next.



IN 20 MINUTES, YOU CAN HAVE SUMMER ON THE PLATE WITH FISH

By Melissa D'Arabian

Grilled fish is the official dish of summer around our house. There is nothing I love to eat more in warm weather than a piece of fresh seasonal fish cooked on the grill - the slightly sweet flesh offset by a tiny bit of char.

You can use some fish from your freezer stash in a pinch, but ask at the fish counter what is seasonal and freshest, and you won't regret the few extra dollars you'll pay. I used Alaskan halibut for today's recipe, but any firm white-fleshed fish will work great. (Skip the flaky thin fish like Dover sole for indoor cooking, or use a special fine-meshed metal grate.) Halibut is mild, tender and sweet, and it's a fantastic lean source of protein. A 4-ounce serving has 24 grams of protein, a little over 2 grams of fat, and offers a nice showing of B vitamins and minerals, all for 120 calories.

My go-to strategy for grilling mild white fish is to keep it super simple on the actual grill, and then top it with a quick sauce made from a few ingredients. Pat the fish dry gently, and toss on the grill with just a little salt, pepper and olive oil.

Once the fish is cooked, I top it straight from the grill with the sauce. While the fish is cooking, whip up a sauce with a little acid (like lemon or vinegar), aromatics (like minced garlic, shallot or green onion), herbs, and a tiny touch of fat (like olive oil or butter). Pouring it on while the fish is hot makes the simple flavors come alive like Hugh Jackman playing PT Barnum. Grilled Halibut with Butter Caper Herb Sauce is an excellent starting point for mastering this easy fish-grilling blueprint that you'll use both on weekends and busy weeknight meals. In under 20 minutes, you can have summer on the plate.



Grilled Halibut with Butter Caper Herb Sauce

Ingredients

Servings: 6
Start to finish: 20 minutes
1 3/4 pounds of fresh Alaskan halibut fillet (or other firm white-flesh fish), checked for bones
1/2 lemon, for squeezing
2 teaspoons olive oil
Salt and pepper

Sauce

2 tablespoons butter
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tablespoons capers, plus a little of the juice

2 tablespoons lemon juice
A handful of chopped tender herbs, like basil, parsley, or cilantro

Preparation

Heat a gas or charcoal grill to medium high. Scrub the grill grates with a wire brush or tongs and ball of foil to clean off burnt food debris, and lightly oil the grates. Squeeze a little lemon juice on the halibut and let it sit a few minutes before blotting it dry gently with a paper towel.

Season the fish with a little salt and pepper. Drizzle the olive oil over both sides of the fish, and use your fingers to coat the whole fillet lightly with oil. Once the grill is hot, place the fish flesh side down on the grill. Allow to cook about 5-6 minutes on

the first side. Use a metal spatula to flip the fish to cook the second side, until cooked through but not dry, about 3-4 more minutes. (To help keep the fish from sticking, don't flip it too soon, and flip the fish with a purposeful, quick motion.)

Meanwhile, heat the butter and garlic in a small sauce pan on the stove at medium heat until the garlic is aromatic, about 2 minutes. Add the capers with a little caper liquid and the lemon juice and whisk to combine. Remove from heat, stir the herbs into the sauce and then pour over the fish just as it comes off the grill. Serve.

Chicken in a pressure cooker takes the pressure off dinner

By Melissa D'Arabian

Not a day goes by that I don't get a recipe request or question about the Instant Pot. So, dear readers, today is the day for my starter recipe for you Instant Pot (Multi-Pot, etc.) fans. I'll start by pointing out that we are really talking about here is an automated, easy-to-use electric pressure cooker. I hear a collective sigh of recognition from a whole generation of home-cooks who have relied on a pressure cooker for years to deliver stews, chilis and braises to their families in quick order.

But for the rest of us who were freaked out by managing the pressure on the stovetop ourselves, fearing exploding hot liquids or bursts of scalding steam, an automated pressure cooker welcomes us into the fold. Cooking under high pressure speeds up

the process quite a bit, meaning you can have tender braised meat in minutes instead of hours, which can be a boon for week-night meals.

In case you decide to get an electric pressure cooker, here are a few tips. First, read the entire manual before you start cooking anything. Even if you are one to put an entire Ikea living room set together with nary a glance at the instructions, read the manual. It will explain how the cooker works, and give you step-by-step operating instructions.

My second tip is to start with something easy that can't be overcooked: stock or bone broth, for example. Load up the pressure cooker with bones and a few hunks of onion and celery, cover with water (don't overfill), and set the timed cooker (exactly how long is in - you guessed it - your manual - see it's paying off already!).

Next tip: Use less liquid than you would use stovetop as evaporation is eliminated, and don't overcook. High pressure means you can't easily open the lid to check on food's progress and texture as you would with a typical stovetop braise. Be extra aware of the possibility of overcooking if you are cooking tougher meat with tender vegetables.

Finally, be aware that "instant" is a bit of a misnomer. While "cook time" in any recipe is relatively short - today's recipe for Instant Dijon Chicken only "cooks" for 10 minutes - don't forget to add the time it takes to come to pressure (about 5-15 minutes) plus time for pressure release, if you aren't manually releasing the pressure (which I don't recommend for a newbie). Just in case any of you thought that dinner would be done in an actual instant.

INSTANT DIJON CHICKEN

Ingredients

Servings: 6
Start to finish: 40 minutes
1 14-ounce can diced tomatoes

2 teaspoons dried tarragon (or 1 teaspoon fresh, chopped)
1/2 large yellow onion, chopped, about 3/4 cup
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 pounds boneless skinless chicken thighs, trimmed of excess fat
1/2 pound white button mushrooms, wiped clean and halved
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
1/4 cup Dijon mustard
Additional tarragon or chopped parsley for garnish, optional

Preparation

Spray the inside of an electric pressure cooker with an olive oil mister for easy cleanup. Place the canned diced tomatoes, tarragon and garlic at the bottom of the pot and stir with a wooden spoon to blend. Sprinkle the chicken thighs with salt and pepper, and cut each thigh twice (into three pieces), and place on top of the tomato mixture. Place the halved mushrooms and cut carrot pieces on top of the chicken. Place the lid on, secure, and close the pressure valve. Set the timer to 10 minutes at high pressure. Once the cooking is done, allow the pressure cooker to sit for 10 minutes, allowing the pressure to release slowly (without moving the valve). Then, carefully turn the pressure valve to open, releasing any remaining pressure. (Note: it will take 8-10 minutes for the cooker to come to pressure, plus 10 minutes of cooking time, plus the release time, so total cooking time will be near 30 minutes.) Spoon about 1/2 cup of the cooking liquid into a small bowl and whisk in the Dijon mustard until creamy. Whisk the mustard mixture into the pot of cooked chicken. Top with parsley or additional tarragon, if desired. Serve with cooked cauliflower rice, spaghetti squash, quinoa or brown rice.

Chef's Note: The dish can be made in a conventional pot on a stove. Simmer, covered, on low heat until meat is tender, about 60-75 minutes.



Wasabi Cracker-Crusted Salmon is a quick weeknight meal

By Sara Moulton

Wild salmon season starts very soon, so be on the lookout for it at your local market. But, you say, I can find salmon at my supermarket all year-round. Yes, you can, because farmed salmon, which is what you find fresh at the store all the time, doesn't really have a season; wild salmon does.

Farmed salmon is raised in a controlled man-made environment; wild salmon is subject to the seasons. You can find frozen wild salmon year-round. It's flash-frozen, meaning frozen very quickly, which does little damage to the cell structure so the fish is perfectly good to eat. However, why not buy it fresh when you can?

The two types of salmon differ in both flavor and texture. Wild salmon has a more robust, distinct salmon taste and is leaner than farmed. It is also higher in omega-3 fatty acids, the fat that's so good for us. Farmed salmon has a more sub-

tle flavor and higher fat content, which means it's more forgiving when it's overcooked.

This Wasabi Cracker-Crusted Salmon is a ridiculously simple recipe, perfect for a quick weeknight meal. The fish is first lathered with sour cream spiked with hot mustard, topped with crushed wasabi rice crackers and then baked. The general rule for baking fish is to cook it at 400 F for 10 minutes for every inch of thickness. How do you know when it is done? Stick a knife in it; if a knife goes through it easily, it's cooked through. I prefer to slightly undercook salmon, especially the wild variety (the government advises cooking salmon well done) since it's so lean, so take it out of the oven when you find just a little resistance in the middle of the fillet.



Wasabi Cracker-Crusted Salmon

Ingredients

Start to finish: 30 minutes (10 minutes hands-on)

Servings: 4

1/3 cup sour cream

1 1/2 teaspoons prepared English mustard (Coleman's mustard)

1/4 teaspoon packed light brown sugar

35 to 40 wasabi rice crackers

Four 6-ounce pieces center-cut salmon fillet, skin removed

Preparation

Preheat oven to 400 F. In a bowl, combine the sour cream, mustard and brown sugar. Add salt to taste. Put 35 crackers in a re-sealable plastic bag and coarsely crush them using a rolling pin. (You should have about 1 cup crushed crackers; if not, crush a few more.) Season the salmon on all sides with salt. In a shallow baking pan, arrange the fillets in one layer, skinned side down, spread the top of each piece with the sour cream mixture and top with the crushed crackers. Bake the salmon in the top third of the oven for 10 minutes, until barely cooked through.

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Moods & Emotions 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 12 letters spell an additional word.

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

- | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| AFRAID | ELATION | JADED | PEACEFUL |
| AGITATED | FURIOUS | JOVIAL | PLEASED |
| ANGUISH | GENIAL | LONELY | REMORSE |
| BLUE | GLOOMY | LOVE | SOMBER |
| BORED | GROUCHY | MELLOW | SUNNY |
| CHEERY | HELPLESS | MERRY | SYMPATHY |
| DARK | HOPEFUL | MISERY | UNEASY |
| DOWN | HUMILIATED | OFFENDED | UPBEAT |
| DREAD | HURT | ORNERY | WEARY |
| EDGY | IRKED | PANIC | |

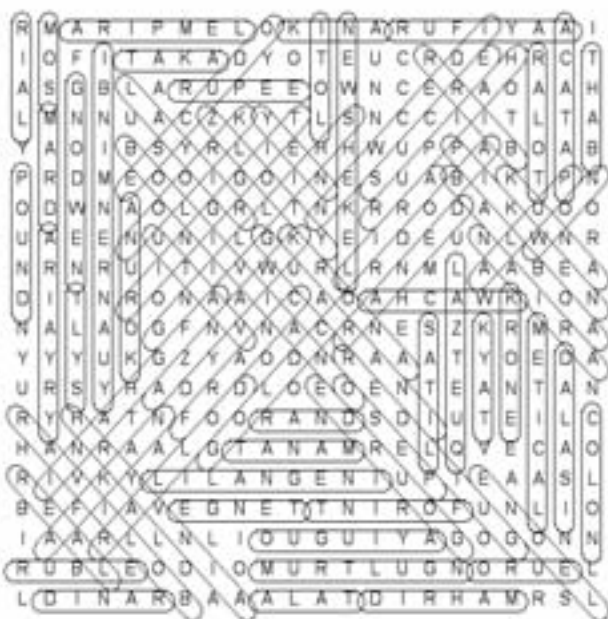
CROSSWORD 1900



- ACROSS**
- A proportion multiplied by 100.
 - Brightly colored carnivorous fish of western Atlantic and West Indies waters.
 - (slang) A gangster's pistol.
 - A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
 - Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
 - A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
 - Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
 - A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
 - A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
 - Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
 - Fabric dyed with splotches of green and brown and black and tan.
 - The 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
 - A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
 - United States physicist (born in Austria) who proposed the exclusion principle (thus providing a theoretical basis for the periodic table) (1900-1958).
 - A republic consisting of 26 of 32 counties comprising the island of Ireland.
 - A person who is physically weak and ineffectual.
 - Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
 - A state in northwestern North America.
 - Weave together into a fabric or design.
- DOWN**
- An archaic name for Easter or Passover.
 - Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
 - A conveyance that transports passengers or freight in carriers suspended from cables and supported by a series of towers.
 - A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
 - 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
 - (Mexican) Corn and cornmeal dough stuffed with a meat mixture then wrapped in corn husks and steamed.
 - A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
 - A narrow way or road.
 - Radiation lying in the ultraviolet range.
 - A manner of performance.
 - Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
 - Mentally or physically infirm with age.
 - Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
 - An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
 - Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
 - A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
 - A cap with no brim or bill.
 - (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
 - Medium-sized tree-dwelling monkey of the Amazon basin.
 - An arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line.
 - An informal term for a father.
 - The month following February and preceding April.
 - A genus of Indriidae.
 - A city in west central Mexico.
 - A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
 - Inability to walk.
 - A plant fiber used for making rope.
 - Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
 - Goat grass.
 - A boy or man.
 - Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
 - Small genus of deciduous West Indian trees or shrubs.
 - A deep opening in the earth's surface.
 - United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
 - Swiss mathematician (1707-1783).
 - Having or showing keen interest or intense desire or impatient expectancy.
 - English monk and scholar (672-735).
 - Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 - Jordan's port.
 - Long coarse hair growing from the crest of the animal's neck.
 - Alsatian artist and poet who was co-founder of Dadaism in Zurich.
 - A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
 - A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
 - A state in the western United States.

Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies



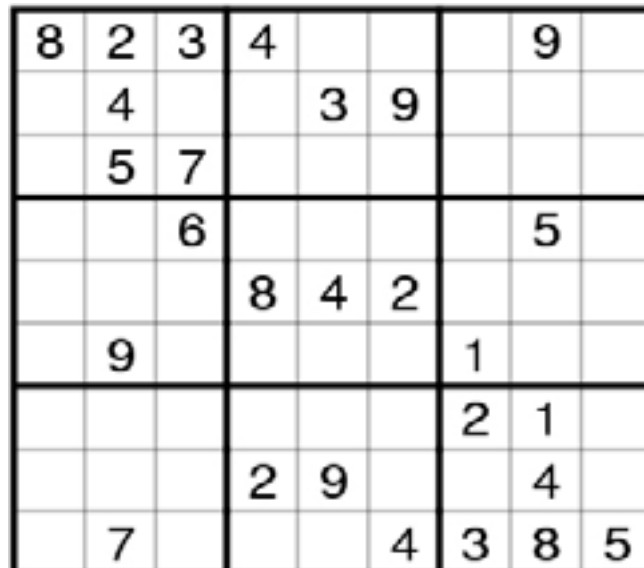
- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|---------------|
| AFGHANI | EURO | KWANZA | NEW SHEKEL | RUPEE |
| ARABIAN DOLLAR | FOREIGN CURRENCY UNIT | KYAT | NGULTRUM | RUPIAH |
| BAHT | FRANC | LEMPURA | DUGUTYA | SHELLING |
| BALBOA | GOLD CORDOBA | LEONE | PATACA | SOM |
| BIRR | GOURDE | LIANGENI | PESO | SUCRE |
| BOLIVAR | GUARANE | LIRA | POUND | SYLLI |
| BOLIVIANO | GULDER | LITAS | PULA | TAKA |
| COLON | HRYVNYA | LOTI | QUETZAL | TALA |
| DALASI | KINA | HANAT | RAND | TENGE |
| DENAR | KORUNA | HETICAL | REAL | TOLAR |
| DENAR | KRONA | NAIRA | REAL | VATU |
| DIRHAM | KRONE | NAKFA | RINGGIT | WON |
| DOLLAR | KROON | NEW CEDI | ROYAL | YEN |
| DRAM | KUNA | NEW DONG | RUBLE | YUAN RENMINBI |
| ESCUDO | KWACHA | NEW KIP | RUFYAA | ZLOTY |

The hidden sentence is:
 IF YOU CAN COUNT YOUR MONEY, YOU DON'T HAVE A BILLION DOLLARS

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



TV Listings



00:10 Bloodrayne: The Third Reich
01:45 American Ninja II: The Confrontation
03:30 Street
05:15 Countdown
07:00 A Kind Of Magic
08:45 American Ninja II: The Confrontation
10:30 Street
12:15 Resident Evil: Vendetta
14:05 Countdown
15:50 Jack Reacher: Never Go Back
18:00 Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
20:15 The Viral Factor
22:20 The Running Man



00:45 Rugged Justice
01:40 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
02:35 Shamwari: A Wild Life
03:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 North Woods Law
05:02 Wildest Middle East
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life
07:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life
08:15 Rugged Justice
09:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
10:05 Wildest Middle East
11:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life
11:28 Shamwari: A Wild Life
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 North Woods Law
13:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
14:40 Wildest Middle East
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Rugged Justice
17:25 The Vet Life
18:20 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
19:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
20:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
21:00 The Vet Life
22:00 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:55 Wildest Middle East
23:50 Lone Star Law



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



00:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Case-book
01:00 Cold Case Files
01:55 Crimes That Shook Australia
02:50 It Takes A Killer
03:20 It Takes A Killer

03:45 Fred Dineage: Murder Case-book
04:30 Cold Case Files
05:15 The First 48
06:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:20 Cold Case Files
08:05 Homicide Hunter
08:50 The First 48
09:35 Crimes That Shook Australia
10:30 Evil Up Close
11:25 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
12:20 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:15 Cold Case Files
14:10 Homicide Hunter
15:05 The First 48
16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
17:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
18:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
21:00 Evil Up Close
22:00 Escaping Polygamy: After The Escape
23:00 The First 48



00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 Must Love Cats
03:00 Tanked
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How The Universe Works
05:30 Secret Space Escapes
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds
07:25 Destroyed In Seconds
07:50 Must Love Cats
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 Must Love Cats
15:20 How It's Made
15:45 How It's Made
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Must Love Cats
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 React To That
19:55 React To That
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 React To That
23:15 React To That
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect



00:45 Most Evil
01:40 Betrayed
02:35 Bride Killa
03:30 Deadly Sins
04:25 Blood Relatives
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Gone
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 I Am Homicide
08:15 Blood Relatives
09:10 Grave Secrets
10:05 Betrayed
11:00 Deadly Affairs
11:55 I Am Homicide
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Gone
14:40 Betrayed
15:35 Killer Confessions
16:30 I Am Homicide
17:25 Blood Relatives
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Gone
20:10 Betrayed
21:05 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:00 The 1980s: The Deadliest
Decade

22:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
23:50 Bride Killa



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 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Tangled: The Series
07:20 Stuck In The Middle
07:45 K.C. Undercover
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
09:25 Lolirock
09:50 Lolirock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Lolirock
12:45 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:00 The Zhuzhus
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 & 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 & Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & 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
07:30 Jungle Junction
07:50 Handy Manny
08:10 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Miles From Tomorrow
09:25 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Puppy Dog Pals
10:30 Puppy Dog Pals
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 The Lion Guard
12:00 Sofia The First
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 P-King Duckling
14:30 Vampirina
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Sofia The First
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 PJ Masks
17:05 PJ Masks
17:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
19:00 Trulli Tales
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Vampirina
20:30 PJ Masks
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 Miles From Tomorrow
22:25 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Deadliest Catch
01:05 Huntwatch
01:50 Invisible Killers
02:35 Kidnap And Rescue
03:20 Diesel Brothers
04:05 Alaskan Bush People
04:50 Kindig Customs
05:35 Storage Hunters
06:00 The Liquidator
06:23 Property Wars
06:45 Storage Hunters
07:10 Storage Wars Canada
07:35 Alaskan Bush People
08:20 The Liquidator
08:45 Property Wars
09:10 Kindig Customs
09:55 Alaskan Bush People
10:45 Kindig Customs
11:30 Deadliest Catch
12:20 The Liquidator
12:43 Property Wars
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Kindig Customs
14:40 Deadliest Catch
15:30 Huntwatch
16:15 Invisible Killers
17:05 Kindig Customs
17:50 Impossible Engineering
18:40 Flipping Ships
19:25 Deadliest Catch
20:15 Diesel Brothers
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Gear Dogs
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
23:30 Jungle Gold



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas & Ferb
07:05 DuckTales
07:32 Phineas And Ferb
08:00 Milo Murphy's Law
08:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
08:30 Phineas And Ferb
08:55 Star Wars Rebels: Spark Of...
09:45 Phineas And Ferb
10:00 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures

10:25 Kid vs. Kat
10:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
10:55 Marvel's Ant-Man
11:00 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
11:30 Phineas And Ferb
11:55 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
12:20 DuckTales
12:45 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
13:10 Phineas And Ferb
13:25 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
13:50 Big Hero 6 The Series
14:15 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
14:40 Phineas And Ferb
15:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
15:32 Lab Rats
16:00 DuckTales
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
17:00 Milo Murphy's Law
17:32 Gravity Falls
18:00 Phineas And Ferb: Star Wars
18:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:55 Two More Eggs
19:00 Star Wars Rebels: Spark Of...
19:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:55 Two More Eggs
20:00 DuckTales
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 Two More Eggs
22:00 Phineas And Ferb: Star Wars
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 Botched
03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Botched
10:05 Botched
11:00 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
19:00 E! News
20:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
21:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
22:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:10 Alphabetical
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 A Right Royal Quiz
04:20 Change Your Tune
05:15 Alphabetical
06:15 Guess This House
07:10 The Chase
08:05 A Right Royal Quiz
09:00 Change Your Tune
09:55 Alphabetical
11:00 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street

14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets
16:55 Diana: The Day The World Cried
17:50 Alphabetical
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets
21:55 Diana: The Day The World Cried
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Impossible
01:00 America's Book Of Secrets
02:00 UFO Hunters
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Impossible
04:30 WWII: Lost Films
05:20 UFO Files
06:10 UFO Files
07:00 Ancient Impossible
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
09:00 UFO Hunters
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Ancient Impossible
12:00 WWII: Lost Films
13:00 Ancient Impossible
14:00 America's Book Of Secrets
15:00 UFO Hunters
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Ancient Impossible
18:00 Ancient Impossible
19:00 America's Book Of Secrets
20:00 UFO Hunters
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Missing In Alaska
23:00 WWII: Lost Films



00:15 United Plates Of America
00:45 The Food Files
01:10 One Man & His Campervan
01:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
02:35 Eat Street
03:00 Carnival Eats
03:30 A Is For Apple
04:25 Dog Whisperer
05:20 Dog Whisperer
06:15 Isa Rodeo Outback Adventure
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce India
07:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
08:05 Eat Street
08:30 Carnival Eats
09:00 A Is For Apple
09:55 Dog Whisperer
10:50 Dog Whisperer
11:45 Isa Rodeo Outback Adventure
12:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
13:05 Eat Street
13:35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
14:30 A Is For Apple
15:25 Dog Whisperer
16:20 Dog Whisperer
17:15 Places We Go
17:40 Places We Go
18:10 Carnival Eats
18:35 A Taste Of South Africa
19:05 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
20:00 A Is For Apple
20:30 A Is For Apple
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Dog Whisperer
22:55 Places We Go
23:20 Places We Go
23:50 Carnival Eats



00:10 Inside The SS
01:00 Apocalypse World War I
02:00 My Fighting Season
03:00 One Strange Rock
04:00 Inside The SS
05:00 Situation Critical
06:00 Mega Factories
07:00 Final Days Of Anne Frank

TV Listings

09:00 Situation Critical
 10:00 Breakout
 11:00 My Fighting Season
 12:00 Somewhere In China
 13:00 Mega Factories
 14:00 Genius
 15:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
 16:00 Breakout
 17:00 My Fighting Season
 18:00 Inside The SS
 19:00 Apocalypse World War I
 20:00 Breakout
 20:50 My Fighting Season
 21:40 Inside The SS
 22:30 Apocalypse World War I
 23:20 Situation Critical



00:20 Kings Of The Kill
 01:10 Jobs That Bite!
 02:00 Africa's Hunters
 02:50 Deadly Instincts
 03:45 Wild Amazon
 04:40 Alaska's Deadliest
 05:35 Africa's Hunters
 06:30 Deadly Instincts
 07:25 Wild Amazon
 08:20 Alaska's Deadliest
 09:15 Snakes In The City
 10:10 Wild Nile
 11:05 Alaska's Deadliest
 12:00 Shark Eden
 12:55 Lion Battle Zone
 13:50 World's Deadliest Compilations
 14:45 Animals Gone Wild
 15:40 Man V. Monster
 16:35 Snakes In The City
 17:30 Wild Sri Lanka: Paradise Island
 18:25 The World's Most Wanted Leopard
 19:20 Animals Gone Wild
 20:10 Man V. Monster
 21:00 Snakes In The City
 21:50 Wild Sri Lanka: Paradise Island
 22:40 The World's Most Wanted Leopard
 23:30 Shark Eden



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 00:36 Rabbids Invasion
 01:00 Rabbids Invasion
 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
 02:12 Winx Club
 02:36 Winx Club
 03:00 Harvey Beaks
 03:24 Harvey Beaks
 03:48 Rabbids Invasion
 04:12 Rabbids Invasion
 04:36 Breadwinners
 05:00 Breadwinners
 05:24 The Loud House
 05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
 06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 06:36 Harvey Beaks
 07:00 Breadwinners
 07:24 Get Blake
 07:48 Sanjay And Craig
 08:12 Rabbids Invasion
 08:36 The Loud House
 09:00 Regal Academy
 09:24 Winx Club
 09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
 10:12 Game Shakers
 10:36 School Of Rock
 11:00 Henry Danger
 11:24 The Thundermans
 11:48 Hunter Street
 12:12 Hunter Street
 12:36 Hunter Street
 13:00 Hunter Street
 13:24 Hunter Street
 13:48 Toon Marty
 14:00 Toon Marty
 14:12 Harvey Beaks
 14:36 Breadwinners
 15:00 Sanjay And Craig
 15:24 Rabbids Invasion
 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 16:36 The Loud House
 17:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
 17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

18:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
 18:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
 19:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
 19:24 Game Shakers
 19:48 The Thundermans
 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 21:00 Harvey Beaks
 21:24 Breadwinners
 21:48 Get Blake
 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
 22:36 Rabbids Invasion
 23:00 The Loud House
 23:24 Regal Academy
 23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:06 Max & Ruby
 00:28 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 00:39 Kiva Can Do!
 00:50 The Day Henry Met
 00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 01:41 Paw Patrol
 01:53 Kid-E-Cats
 01:58 Kid-E-Cats
 02:03 Shimmer And Shine
 02:25 Nella The Princess Knight
 02:37 Paw Patrol
 03:00 Max & Ruby
 03:23 Dora The Explorer
 03:46 Sunny Day
 04:08 Nella The Princess Knight
 04:31 Shimmer And Shine
 04:41 Shimmer And Shine
 04:53 Wallykazam!
 05:16 Zack & Quack
 05:27 The Day Henry Met
 05:32 The Day Henry Met
 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 06:00 Rusty Rivets
 06:14 Paw Patrol
 06:37 Dora The Explorer
 07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
 07:22 Kiva Can Do!
 07:33 Kiva Can Do!
 07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 08:07 Paw Patrol
 08:30 Shimmer And Shine
 08:40 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
 11:16 Kid-E-Cats
 11:22 Shimmer And Shine
 11:44 Sunny Day
 12:06 Max & Ruby
 12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 12:40 Kiva Can Do!
 12:50 The Day Henry Met
 12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 13:42 Paw Patrol
 13:54 Kid-E-Cats
 13:59 Kid-E-Cats
 14:04 Shimmer And Shine
 14:26 Nella The Princess Knight
 14:38 Paw Patrol
 15:01 Max & Ruby
 15:24 Dora The Explorer
 15:47 Sunny Day
 16:09 Nella The Princess Knight
 16:32 Shimmer And Shine
 16:42 Shimmer And Shine
 16:54 Wallykazam!
 17:17 Zack & Quack
 17:28 The Day Henry Met
 17:32 The Day Henry Met
 17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 18:00 Rusty Rivets
 18:14 Paw Patrol
 18:37 Dora The Explorer
 19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
 19:22 Kiva Can Do!
 19:33 Kiva Can Do!
 19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 20:06 Paw Patrol
 20:29 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
 22:53 Team Umizoomi
 23:16 Kid-E-Cats
 23:21 Shimmer And Shine
 23:44 Sunny Day



00:15 How I Met Your Mother
 00:40 How I Met Your Mother
 01:05 Seinfeld
 01:30 Seinfeld
 01:55 Til Death
 02:20 Men At Work
 02:45 Men At Work
 03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 05:40 The Michael J. Fox Show
 06:05 Til Death
 06:30 The Good Place
 06:55 Mom
 07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 09:50 The Simpsons
 10:15 The Last Man On Earth
 10:40 The Michael J. Fox Show
 11:05 Til Death
 11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 12:20 The Good Place
 12:45 Mom
 13:10 How I Met Your Mother
 13:35 How I Met Your Mother
 14:00 Seinfeld
 14:25 Seinfeld
 14:50 The Michael J. Fox Show
 15:15 The Simpsons
 15:40 The Last Man On Earth
 16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 17:00 The Good Place
 17:30 Mom
 18:00 How I Met Your Mother
 18:30 How I Met Your Mother
 19:00 Seinfeld
 19:30 Seinfeld
 20:00 The Carmichael Show
 20:30 The Carmichael Show
 21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 22:00 Better Late Than Never
 23:00 You're The Worst
 23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



01:15 Old Dogs
 03:15 Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs
 05:00 The Lone Ranger
 07:45 Old Dogs
 09:45 The Jungle Book
 11:45 Aladdin
 13:45 The Lion King
 15:30 Mulan
 17:30 The Pacifier
 19:30 Herbie Fully Loaded
 21:30 The Lion King
 23:30 Mulan



00:00 The Americans
 01:00 Time After Time
 01:50 The Good Doctor
 02:40 Lethal Weapon
 03:30 S.W.A.T.
 04:15 The Americans
 05:20 Supergirl
 06:10 Switched At Birth
 07:00 Good Morning America
 09:00 The View
 10:00 S.W.A.T.
 11:00 The Good Doctor
 12:00 Switched At Birth
 13:00 How To Get Away With Murder
 14:00 Lethal Weapon
 15:00 The View
 16:00 Live Good Morning America
 18:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
 19:00 The Good Doctor
 20:00 How To Get Away With Murder
 21:00 Survivor: Ghost Island
 22:00 Once Upon A Time
 23:00 WWE Experience



00:00 My Man Is A Loser
 01:40 Hit By Lightning
 03:15 Dad's Army
 05:00 Mr. Wrong
 06:40 Big Momma's House
 08:20 Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks
 10:10 Mr. Wrong
 11:55 Big Momma's House
 13:40 Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks
 15:30 Daddy's Home
 17:15 The Tiger Hunter
 19:00 Big Momma's House 2
 20:45 Jeff, Who Lives At Home
 22:15 Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo
 23:45 Road Trip: Beer Pong



00:30 Born To Be Blue
 02:15 The Hollars
 03:50 The Meddler
 05:40 I Am Bolt
 07:35 Tumbledown
 09:30 The Hollars
 11:05 I Am Bolt
 13:00 True Heart
 14:45 I Believe In Miracles
 16:45 It Boy
 18:25 The Ticket
 20:10 Gattaca
 22:05 Martha Marcy May Marlene



00:50 The Emperor's Secret
 02:30 The Apple & The Worm
 03:55 Moomins And The Comet Chase
 05:20 Papelucho & The Martian
 06:45 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
 08:15 Micropolis
 09:50 Ploddy Police Car
 11:15 Help And Freedom
 12:55 Moomins And The Comet Chase
 14:20 Papelucho & The Martian
 15:45 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
 17:15 Ploddy Police Car
 18:40 Jake And The Giants
 20:05 Operation Arctic
 21:50 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
 23:20 Micropolis



00:30 Janie Jones
 02:25 A Monster Calls
 04:20 Spotlight
 04:50 Nim's Island
 06:35 Life On The Line
 08:25 A Monster Calls
 10:15 Nim's Island
 11:55 Storks
 13:30 Finding Altamira
 15:05 Batman: The Killing Joke
 16:25 Dragonheart
 18:10 The Internship
 20:15 Dirty Dancing
 22:00 Dude, Where's My Car?
 23:25 The Big Short



00:30 How Do They Do It?
 00:55 Food Factory USA
 01:20 Street Science
 01:45 Street Science
 02:10 Da Vinci's Machines
 03:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 03:48 Mythbusters
 04:36 How Do They Do It?
 05:00 Food Factory USA
 05:24 Street Science
 05:48 Street Science

06:12 Da Vinci's Machines
 07:00 How Do They Do It?
 07:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 08:14 Mythbusters
 09:02 Da Vinci's Machines
 09:50 How Do They Do It?
 10:14 Food Factory USA
 10:38 Street Science
 11:02 Street Science
 11:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 12:14 Mythbusters
 13:02 How Do They Do It?
 13:26 Food Factory USA
 13:50 Da Vinci's Machines
 14:38 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 15:26 Street Science
 15:50 Street Science
 16:14 Mythbusters
 17:02 Da Vinci's Machines
 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 18:40 Mythbusters
 19:30 How The Universe Works
 20:20 How It's Made
 20:45 Food Factory USA
 21:10 Da Vinci's Machines
 22:00 How The Universe Works
 22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 23:40 Mythbusters



01:25 Gang Of Ghosts
 03:00 Gang Of Ghosts
 03:40 The Front Row
 04:05 Koffee With Karan
 05:00 Janani
 07:15 Ek Phool Do Mali
 10:15 Naukar
 12:35 Ghar Dwaar
 15:20 Arjun Pandit
 17:40 Hawaizaada
 20:00 Aiyary
 22:55 Golmaal Again



00:00 Gangs Of New York
 03:00 When Love Came To Town
 04:35 Smilla's Sense Of Snow
 06:30 Dirty Dancing : Havana Nights
 08:00 Butterfly On A Wheel
 09:30 McFarland
 11:45 The Yards
 13:45 When Love Came To Town
 15:30 Admission
 17:15 Gangs Of New York
 20:00 Chicago
 22:00 The Air I Breathe
 23:30 Cloud Atlas



00:00 Mistresses
 01:00 Mistresses
 02:00 Grey's Anatomy
 03:00 The Fashion Fund
 04:00 All Hail The Veil
 05:00 Devious Maids
 06:00 Mistresses
 07:00 Mistresses
 08:00 Grey's Anatomy
 09:00 The Fashion Fund
 10:00 All Hail The Veil
 11:00 Devious Maids
 12:00 Mistresses
 13:00 Mistresses
 14:00 Grey's Anatomy
 15:00 Devious Maids
 16:00 All Hail The Veil
 17:00 Devious Maids
 18:00 The Fashion Fund
 19:00 The Fashion Fund
 20:00 Project Runway All Stars
 21:00 Project Runway
 23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Hayley Ever After: The Dress
 01:05 90 Days To Wed

01:50 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days
 02:35 Unveiled
 02:57 Unveiled
 03:20 Big & Little
 04:05 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
 04:50 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
 05:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK
 06:00 Our Little Family
 06:22 Our Little Family
 06:45 Our Little Family
 07:30 Our Little Family
 08:15 Hayley Ever After: The Dress
 09:00 Cake Boss
 09:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
 13:10 7 Little Johnstons
 13:55 Say Yes To The Dress
 14:40 Cake Boss
 15:02 Cake Boss
 15:25 Cake Boss
 15:47 Cake Boss
 16:10 Cake Boss
 16:35 Cake Boss
 17:00 Little People, Big World
 17:50 Diva Brides
 18:50 Sister Wives
 19:40 Cake Boss
 20:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK
 20:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK
 21:00 Sister Wives
 21:50 Little People, Big World
 22:40 My Fat Saved My Life
 23:30 Return To Amish



00:00 Nathan For You
 01:20 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
 01:45 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
 02:10 South Park
 02:35 Tosh.0
 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 03:25 Tosh.0
 03:50 South Park
 04:15 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
 04:40 Workaholics
 06:50 Lip Sync Battle
 08:55 Friends
 10:10 Hillbillies For Hire
 11:00 Friends
 13:05 Disaster Date
 14:20 Brotherhood
 15:35 Workaholics
 16:00 Workaholics
 16:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand
 17:20 Friends
 19:25 Nathan For You
 20:12 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
 20:35 Graves
 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
 22:00 DL Hugley: Shocked And Appalled
 22:50 This Is Not Happening
 23:15 Graves
 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith
 00:45 Pawn Stars
 01:10 American Pickers
 02:00 Swamp People
 02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
 03:40 Buried: Knights Templar Revealed
 04:30 Milwaukee Blacksmith
 04:55 Pawn Stars
 05:20 American Pickers
 06:00 Alone
 06:50 Time Team
 10:10 Swamp People
 14:20 American Pickers
 18:30 President Obama: In His Own Words
 20:10 Tbc
 21:00 Counting Cars
 21:25 Car Hunters
 21:50 Alone

Stars

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

You've come to a point where you're willing to stand up for your beliefs. You truly want nothing more than to gain sacred knowledge to take with you on your life's journey; enjoy and nurture this vibration. You feel drawn to traveling and exploring new people, places and ideas. Someone exhibits an unsettling attitude which could be the result of a disagreement between you. Feeling disconnected or separated could serve to help you go deep within for a quick boost through meditation. Someone needs your serious input on what looks like a healthcare issue; use your best judgement here. You're able to step away from what could turn out to be a nasty confrontation between coworkers; they could try to pull you into this, but you decline. Sneaking away, taking some time alone, creates a new you tonight.

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

Take your time when making decisions as this could be a period of having doubts about exactly what you want. Otherwise, your thoughts are sharp regarding a project at home or work that's finally coming together. Knowing what you want is only half the battle; figuring out how to get it is the other half. You want to tell someone something you think they need to know, but you're not sure about the timing; relax, you'll know when the time is right. Moving your body by walking or other types of exercise also refreshes your mind and the desire to move is strong. Someone urges you to attend a social function you're not sure about; think about this one before you act. You find great value in the areas of both material prosperity and spiritual abundance; you take special steps to pursue and attain both.

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

The beauty you create in your environment holds your attention right now; perhaps there's been a move or one is coming. Outdoor projects take up a large portion of your time; this is where you get your best therapy. A stronger interest in organics sends you to some interesting places to shop and learn; you gain important knowledge you'll always have. Home is closest to your heart at this time; you could consider finding a position that allows you to work remotely from home. You fight the urge to shop because you feel the vibration of overspending around you; pay attention! This is a great time to let your thoughts and ideas mature. You could find that you've been volunteered to attend some sort of workshop. Later this evening, you find something creative to pass the time.

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

You're in a new cycle emphasizing stable energy that supports your practical side. An ability to put correct value on people, places and things is prevalent at this time; this serves you well in business and personal dealings. You make a point of stopping to enjoy life and beauty. Interest in some sort of new flavors in your diet is forecast. An in-depth study of your life helps in making decisions that could affect the rest of your present incarnation. The way you present your message makes it easy to understand; moving forward with a project makes complete sense to you now. You no longer lack the confidence to expect the best for yourself; you're more deserving than you know! It's strongly indicated that your plans for a special event come together later this evening.

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

You come across as charming and witty when you find yourself socially interacting with those who think like you. If you feel blocked or disconnected, consider that you've created this energy yourself; there's nothing wrong with keeping to yourself to think, but try not to be hard on yourself. You could find your company in demand as those you spend time with seem to follow your lead. The timing's right to make changes in your career if you want something new in this area. You're happy with a large purchase you decide to make. You have strong need for emotional security and balance right now. Relax and let good things come straight to you without your lifting a finger! Home is where you prefer to be later when the weather could turn ugly; a sense of peace and comfort are dominant this evening.

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

Being on a nice, even keel helps as you try to work with someone who lives a completely different way from you. After thinking things through, you determine that something you want to do isn't practical just now. You feel drawn to new people and ideas that help with your efforts to learn more about things eternal. You're laying the foundation for future success with certain things in mind; some of these seem impossible, but they're not. You shine brightly when stepping up to take something over. You give your best at all times. You move into living life a whole new way during this cycle; exciting new opportunities spur this on. Taking time to look at things through spiritual eyes brings important knowledge. Using past gains to create new ones is highly likely for quite some time to come. You're in a good place.

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

You appear to be comfortable on the outside, on the inside you could be experiencing high levels of frustration or anxiety. This isn't a great time for decision making, so you hold off. You tend to romanticize something you probably shouldn't; it's best to see the truth of this matter before you dive in. You receive an interesting invitation to an event you never thought of attending before. Some sort of new class could invigorate your senses. New interests are strongly indicated at this time. Dreams and intuition are at their strongest; listen to what you're being told as there's wisdom to be gained through these spiritual gifts. You could have someone from the past on your mind and this might cause you to look them up. You may have close friends from out of town as guests this evening.

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

You feel grateful for some decisions you made that make your house a home. A change in your work environment is definitely for the best. You consider calling someone and asking for forgiveness. Your common sense is in strong tune and it guides you down the best path to abundance; opportunities abound in the area of abundance and thriving during the phase you're in now. The heavens indicate movement toward discovering the root of a problem you want to end; this could prove to be very simple. Something regarding your health gets your total attention. You're seen as elegant and attractive by many when you make an appearance at a social event you didn't want to attend. Enjoy sincere compliments while you can! Being surrounded by very beautiful things brings out the best in you.

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

You answer the call of the outdoors! Your sense of independence and strength seems to be increased by the energy you find in, and draw from, nature. People feel good when they spend time with you today; your inner glow extends outwardly as you're in close union with the universe! New karmic debts are created or paid back with some plans you make today; take care you do no harm. General support and best wishes are present during this entire phase. You're a true and trusted friend. A deeper look into the spiritual side of life awakens your connection to a specific time and place; this could indicate past life memories of another incarnation. Look closely to find the underlying reason for having these memories at this time; it could be important! You continue to add nice pieces to a collection.

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

The past intermingles with the present to reveal the truth; acute intuition leads you to knock down emotional walls. Your thoughts and pursuits take on a mystic tone as you contemplate your world and the different paths you've followed. Your tastes are changing drastically and you're willing to follow where this leads. The stars say you've entered a cycle of focusing on finances, health and practicalities. Your dry wit is appreciated today and may bring a valuable new friend into your inner circle. You're in the mood to let bygones be bygones. You're secure with your understanding of the person you are and how you go through life; your values support good choices. You're in a position to come to someone's aid and you're eager to do it. Creating good karma helps you drift into restful sleep tonight.

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

You've entered a cycle of deep introspection, and can actually see and accurately weigh your assets; you're forming a better opinion of yourself and what you're doing for your financial and personal wellbeing; it's about time! You have respect for an elder or supervisor; an old person loves you. You let your thoughts stay on the mysteries of life such as the heavens and what comes next. Your evolution is strongly indicated during this time and those around you clearly notice the changes. You separate yourself from the mundane and ordinary facts of life to explore exciting topics. Exploring new technologies is at the fore and you could find an excellent investment opportunity, or ideas of your own could be inspired now. You're profoundly moved by hopes and by letting go of old hurts and grudges.

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

The heavens open up to bestow mystical energy into your world; this is persistent throughout the new phase your sun sign has entered. Love could grow between you and a lover or child; this could even mean a pet! Intuition and dreams color your thoughts and actions as you move toward making decisions regarding a tender issue; remember you're not the only one involved in this that could be hurt. Your ability to assess situations is right on and fair if you put your personal wants and opinions to the back and let your inborn sense of fairness prevail. Plans for the week unfold flawlessly and cost much less than you thought; good times unfold regarding expenses and spending! Sex and romance could be the best way to go this evening; your mate loves you! Something you wished for could happen soon.

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 Faso	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

Scientists devise new peanut allergy test

LONDON: British scientists have developed a far more accurate blood test to diagnose peanut allergy, offering a better way to monitor a significant food hazard.

Peanuts are the most common cause of fatal food-induced anaphylaxis, or severe allergic reaction, and allergy cases among children have risen sharply in recent years. Britain's Food Standards Agency estimates up to one in 55 children have a peanut allergy. In contrast to existing skin-prick and other blood tests that produce a large number of false positive results, the new diagnostic has 98 percent specificity, researchers from the Medical Research Council (MARC) reported yesterday.

Current tests, in use for decades, are based on looking for antibodies - but they cannot differentiate between sensitivity and true food allergy. As a result, doctors often have to conduct a further round of testing in which patients are fed incrementally larger doses of peanut in a controlled hospital setting to confirm their allergy, a process that can itself trigger anaphylactic shock.

So-called oral food challenges require the presence of an allergist and specialist nurses and they cost around 1,000 pounds (\$1,360) to conduct. The new blood test is five times cheaper.

Dr. Alexandra Santos, an MRC scientist and paediatric allergist at King's College London, who

led the research, believes the new test will not only save money on testing but also reduce by two-thirds the number of stressful oral food challenges that are needed. The development of the new test follows advances in science that allow the detection of biological signals from much small blood samples than in the past.

"The technology has evolved. Now we have better ways to look at immune cells and to see how they respond," Santos said. The new tests focuses on mast cells, which play a pivotal role in triggering allergic symptoms, such as skin reactions or constricting of the airways.

In a study involving 174 children, published in

the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Santos and colleagues showed the new test tracked closely the severity of allergies, with the worst-affected patients having the most activated mast cells.

The team is now discussing plans for the widespread roll-out of the test with an unnamed commercial partner. There are also plans to adapt it to other foods, such as milk, eggs, sesame and tree nuts. There are currently no approved drugs for peanut allergies, although two biotech companies - US-based Aimmune Therapeutics and France's DBV Technologies - are working to develop rival treatments. —Reuters

CLINIC

PAGE





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Kuwait Times Classifieds

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Cloudy to partly cloudy and Clouds will decrease gradually with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind to easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain with a

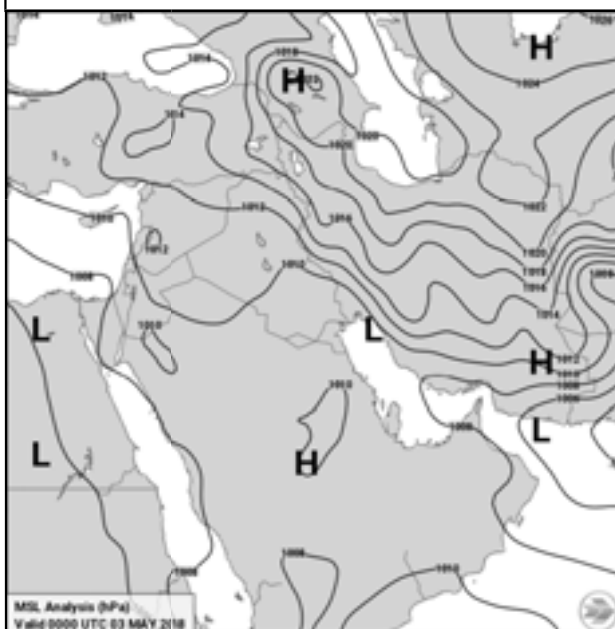
BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING

No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	28 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	36 °C	28 °C
ABDALY	33 °C	24 °C
BUBYAN	32 °C	27 °C
JAHRA	38 °C	28 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	27 °C
SALMIYAH	31 °C	27 °C
AHMADI	31 °C	27 °C
NUWAISIB	34 °C	26 °C
WAFRA	36 °C	25 °C
SALMY	37 °C	24 °C

SFC. CHART 03/05/2018 0000 UTC



4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	05/04	Partly cloudy and Relatively hot	37 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Saturday	05/05	Partly cloudy and Hot	39 °C	28 °C	VRB-S	06 - 26 km/h
Sunday	05/06	Hot and Clouds will increase later	41 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Monday	05/07	Partly cloudy to cloudy	40 °C	28 °C	SE	12 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	03:39
Sunrise	05:05
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:25
Isha	19:49

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	35 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	48 %
MIN. RH	21 %
MAX. Wind	E 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

CHANGE OF NAME

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I Shaik Ayesha W/O Sahik. Mohammad Rafi R/O H.No 1-1124 beside LMB bank Tirupati road Piler Chittoor (Dt) A.P. holder of Indian Passport No. L6712169, do hereby change my name as Dudekula Ayesha. (32147) 3-5-2018

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Business

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DUBAI: An Emirati man talks on his mobile phone at the Dubai Financial Market in this Nov 30, 2009 file photo. —AP

Dubai stocks dive to 27-month low

Real estate woes hit DFM amid sharp drop in liquidity levels

DUBAI: Dubai stocks hit a 27-month low yesterday on the back of sharp falls in the real estate market and a drop in liquidity levels. The Dubai Financial Market Index ended the day's trading down 1.83 percent on 2,947.99 points breaching the 3,000-point psychological barrier. The Dubai bourse, the most exposed to the global markets in the Gulf region, dropped 3.1 percent by the close of the Muslim trading week. The market has shed 12.5 percent since the start of the year as cash injections dropped sharply, with the main fall coming from the vital real estate sector.

"Dubai market has underperformed its (Gulf Cooperation Council) GCC markets losing over 12 percent (YTD) dragged by the sell-off in Real Estate sector," M R Raghu, head of research at Kuwait Financial Center (Markaz) said. Most of the seven Gulf bourses have made good gains in 2018 due to a partial recovery in oil prices, with Saudi stocks rising 12 percent. "Fundamen-

tally, the real estate prices have been falling and the market has been sluggish," Raghu told AFP. Dubai real estate witnessed a 46 percent fall in off-plan sales by value in the first quarter, and a 24 percent decline in previously owned resales, he said. The real estate sector is one of the main pillars for Dubai's highly diversified economy, which is not dependent on oil. The index of the real estate sector on Dubai bourse has shed around 18 percent since the start of the year with property giant and market leader Emaar dropping 22 percent. Damac Properties, a leading real estate developer, was down 26 percent and troubled Drake and Scull International shed 50 percent since January 1. A massive fall in liquidity levels and reports that international investors, an important component in the market, have moved to Saudi Arabia, are other causes for the downturn, analysts said. According to local economic reports, liquidity levels dropped a massive 35 percent in April alone.

Boursa Kuwait

Meanwhile, Boursa Kuwait ended trading yesterday on mixed note with the premier market index up 13.46 points to reach 4,791.84 points. The main market index lost 15.1 points to stand at 4,815.54 points while all share market index rose by 3.3 points to stand at 4,800.65 points. The value of trades was at KD 9 million with the volume reached 59.5 million shares done through 3,016 deals.

Meanwhile, world stocks made little progress yesterday as worries over global trade tensions weighed, while the US dollar consolidated recent bumper gains after the Federal Reserve reaffirmed the outlook for more rate hikes. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, traded flat in percentage terms. Europe's pan-European STOXX 600 index was down 0.1 percent as the euro held firm. As the Fed policy meeting threw up no surprises with rates left un-

changed, the focus shifted back to simmering trade tensions between the United States and China, as well as the ongoing first quarter earnings season.

In Europe, earnings disappointments from medical technology company Smith & Nephew and postal services provider Bpost soured the mood as the stocks fell 5.9 percent and 10.9 percent respectively, while German drug and crop chemicals maker Bayer flagged a stronger euro in its update. E-Mini futures for the S&P 500 crept 0.3 percent higher, with overnight results from Kraft Heinz, Tesla and Spotify in focus. So far it has been a strong earnings season, with the year-on-year blended earnings growth estimate coming in at more than 25 percent in the first quarter for S&P 500 companies, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S data, while the equivalent figure for the MSCI EMU index (European Economic and Monetary Union) is 14.6 percent in dollar terms. —Agencies

Business

China's Xiaomi submits HK filing, with big IPO expected

Xiaomi to tie up with CK Hutchison to sell its products

HONG KONG: Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi yesterday kicked off what could be the world's biggest initial public offering (IPO) for four years as it takes advantage of listing rule in Hong Kong. Xiaomi submitted a heavily redacted filing to the Hong Kong exchange late Wednesday laying out its financial details and setting the stage for a full announcement.

The papers, which appeared on the Hong Kong bourse's website, did not indicate how much Xiaomi is potentially looking to raise but Bloomberg News, citing people close to the matter, said it was expected to be worth at least \$10 billion and could value the business at as much as \$100 billion. That would make it the biggest new listing in the world since Chinese giant Alibaba's \$25-billion debut in 2014 in New York.

The offering would mark a coup for Hong Kong, which was said to be vying with New York and Shanghai for Xiaomi's listing after being dealt a blow by losing out on Alibaba.

In a bid to make the city more attractive, Hong Kong authorities last month announced they would allow companies with dual voting rights to list. Several global corporate titans such as Facebook have differing share classes that give

stronger voting rights to founders in order to protect their influence even after going public. Exchange head Charles Li said at the time that there were a number of firms lining up to list in light of the changes. The statement on Wednesday also showed revenue for Xiaomi surged 67.5 percent in 2017. It was accompanied by a bullish-sounding letter from the company's founder and chairman Lei Jun saying Xiaomi intends to become a "part of the lives of billions of people globally in the future".

James Yan, an analyst at Counterpoint, said: "Investors will like Xiaomi's business model because growing user numbers guarantee profits in the future.

"A bigger hardware user base will translate to stronger profitability from services and at the ecosystem end." Xiaomi announced in a press conference yesterday that it will link up with Li Ka-shing's CK Hutchison to sell its products from mobile phones to household goods in Hong Kong and beyond through the retail giant's international network.

"I believe buying things with good quality and cheap prices is the universal value shared by everyone," said Xiang Wang, Senior Vice President of Xiaomi. "Our expansion overseas is borderless." — AFP



HONG KONG: Mobile phones are displayed during a joint press conference by Xiaomi and CK Hutchison (CKHH) in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

Gold hits lowest Q1 demand in decade: WGC

LONDON: Global gold demand hit the lowest first-quarter level in a decade as low price growth took the shine off investment appetite, industry body the World Gold Council said yesterday.

Global annual demand sank seven percent to 974 tons in the first three months of 2018, the WGC said in a performance report on the precious metal. That was the weakest first-quarter level since the same portion of 2008 and compared with 1,047 tons in the first quarter of 2017.

The WGC said the "main cause was a fall in investment demand" as gold prices limited gains.

Gold, seen as a safe haven investment in times of economic turbulence, saw its price struggle faced with uncertainty over the health of the United States economy. "There are mixed signals on the US economy and no clear direction on the gold price," WGC spokesman John Mulligan told AFP.

The main two drivers of gold market are investment buying and jewelry. In the first quarter, investment demand collapsed by almost a third to 287 tons compared with a year earlier.

Jewelry demand was stable at about 488 tons, as Chinese growth partly compensated for weaker Indian demand. Gold prices put on 2.5 percent during the quarter to finish at \$1,341.24 per ounce. It traded at \$1,309.95 yesterday. — AFP

Greece's new startup culture: Technology, seagrass sunglasses

ATHENS/PATRAS, Greece: Greek student Stavros Tsompanidis was walking on a beach when he saw a business idea in the piles of dried-up seagrass. He decided to recycle it to make iPhone cases, sunglasses and gift boxes. Four years on, his startup, PHEE, sells its products across Greece and abroad. He represents a change in mindset among young Greeks who are turning to entrepreneurship as a result of the crisis.

"If we don't act, in the next five years we'll be saying the same things: that Greece isn't going well, that there are no jobs ... that we have a new program by the International Monetary Fund and European Union to support us," the 25-year-old said. Greek startups are mushrooming in a financial crisis that started in 2008. The economy is only just recovering. It shrank by a quarter and cut off traditional routes to employment—jobs in government and family businesses.

"Startups" were virtually unheard of a decade ago but they are now creating jobs and offering some hope that Greece can reverse an exodus of its highly skilled youth.

Greece has no official startups register but several private databases show they number between around 600 and 1,100. The earliest count of startups, made in 2010 by non-profit advisory Endeavour Greece, stood at just 16. AngelList, an online database, puts the current number at 600 while audit firm Grant Thornton found 1,127 in a 2017 report. Greek venture capital firm Marathon VC, established only last year, counts about 1,000 tech startups in its database.

Venture capital in the sector is growing.

A European Investment Fund (EIF) initiative, supported by private investors, is expected to pump about 400 million euros (\$479.48 million) into Greek startups and other small businesses over the next five years. In 2008, when George Tziralis, a partner at Marathon VC, launched a networking event for startups, about 12 people turned up. Now, between 200–300 people attend each month and three to five new startups are presented.

"Ten years ago there was almost nothing," Tziralis said. "Today we're seeing something much more mature which we believe to be the tip of the iceberg." Marathon VC has made five investments so far, has three more in the pipeline and Tziralis believes it can allocate its entire 32 million-euro fund in under a year. Tourism and shipping, Greece's two main industries, are driving a tentative economic recovery. The structure of the economy could change if the number of startups continues to grow, economists say.

During the crisis thousands of firms shut and unemployment peaked at 27.9 percent, with six in 10 young job-seekers out of work. About 223,000 Greeks aged 25–39 emigrated in 2008–13 to richer countries, central bank data shows.

The austerity that was a condition of repeated international financial bailouts deepened the depression. Those who stayed in Greece had to innovate to survive. "The crisis created necessity entrepreneurship," said Panagiotis Zamanis, vice chairman of the Hellenic Startups Association.

Greek lender National Bank says the tech startup sector is showing particular promise even though it only has a total valuation of around 300 million euros. "The Greek ecosystem of tech startups is still in its infancy though it already shows signs of high growth potential," it said in a report.

Three engineers founded Ex Machina, a software startup offering predictive analytics for weather-sensitive industries in the summer of 2015 when capital controls were imposed.

"We wanted to take more risk because we believed that—the way things were—it couldn't get worse," said one of the founders, 38-year-old Manolis Nikiforakis. He was speaking in Ex Machina's Athens office in Greek lender Eurobank's startup hub EGG, where cubicle walls are covered in business plans and Post-it notes. Ex Machina now has Greece's biggest gas supplier among its customers and is in talks for funding to expand abroad.

Fighting brain drain

The owners of Ex Machina and other startups say they have succeeded despite the constraints of Greece's business environment. Red tape, high taxes and funding constraints are holding back entrepreneurs, they say. Greece ranks 87th out of 137 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, behind Tajikistan and Ukraine. Taxation, which has climbed as a result of austerity, and crippling bureaucracy are cited among hurdles to business. —Reuters

Business

Barclays Africa dumps KPMG in latest blow to the auditor

KPMG caught up in second scandal in as many years

JOHANNESBURG: Barclays Africa Group, South Africa's second-biggest lender by market value, dropped KPMG as its joint auditor yesterday, joining a host of local clients breaking ties with a company caught up in scandals. The decision will test South African regulators' conviction that the big four auditing firms are key pillars of financial stability, and raises further questions about the survival of the local unit of the global accountancy business.

Barclays, one of KPMG's major financial customers, joins more than 10 other clients including the South African government and broker Sasfin in breaking ties with KPMG South Africa.

The auditor has struggled to retain clients since 2017 due to work done for a company owned by the Gupta family - who have been accused of using their links to former president Jacob Zuma to amass wealth - and more recently for small lender VBS Mutual Bank.

The Guptas and Zuma have denied any wrongdoing. KPMG's own investigations found flaws in work it did for the Gupta family and

the national tax agency. It has said it is cooperating with authorities and addressing its shortcomings.

The latest scandal, in which a top KPMG auditor failed to disclose a loan from a small bank he was auditing, was the last straw for Barclays Africa, whose board had proposed a month ago that KPMG be reappointed as its joint auditor along with EY at a shareholder meeting later this month.

"Subsequent to the release of our AGM notice, the board has carefully evaluated the ongoing and more recent developments and decided that it is no longer able to support the reappointment of KPMG," the bank said in a statement.

KPMG South Africa said it was disappointed by, but accepted, the decision. Barclays Africa said it would start the process of appointing a second auditor from the beginning of next month, when KPMG completes work on its 2017 financial statements. But that appointment will have to be approved by the South African Reserve Bank, which has been keen to keep KPMG as an auditor for the country's big four banks.

CB says no need for banks to use Big Four



Central bank spokesman Jabulani Sikhakhane did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Under South African rules, lenders must appoint two joint auditors from the big four: KPMG, EY, Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

To stop the relationships from getting too cosy, they have to rotate auditors every five

years. Remove one firm from the pool and the system grinds to a halt. KPMG is also a joint auditor for Standard Bank and Nedbank, both of which considered ditching KPMG as auditor last year. Standard Bank said it would assess recent negative media statements about KPMG, while Nedbank did not immediately respond to requests for comment. —Reuters

Tesla reports narrower than expected losses, shares swerve

SAN FRANCISCO: Tesla yesterday reported that it lost less money than the market expected and said it was making progress ramping up production of Model 3 electric cars. Shares in the automaker rose briefly, then dove about five percent to \$286.15 after an earnings call during which chief executive Elon Musk dismissed as "boring" some questions about money.

The automaker reported net losses of \$784.6 million on revenue of \$3.4 billion in the first three months of this year. The adjusted loss per share was \$3.35, against expectations of \$3.42 on revenue of \$3.32 billion.

The California-based firm said that it made "significant progress" in ramping up production of Model 3 vehicles considered key to its success in the mass market. Prior to a planned shutdown of production to make the system more efficient, Tesla managed to reach 2,270 vehicles a week. That rate is still shy of a goal that Musk had set. "We continue to target Model 3 production of approximately 5,000 per week in about two months, although our prior experience has demonstrated the difficulty of accurately forecasting specific production rates," Musk said in an earnings letter to shareholders.



SALTA: This handout picture released by Green Expedition Suite shows a Tesla S85 electric car of the team Sojasun, taking part in the "Green Expedition" an eco-raid of more than 5,000 kilometers along the Argentinian Route 40 in electric vehicles, during the 18th stage of the race in Salta, Argentina. —AFP

To achieve those Model 3 production numbers, Tesla will shut down its line again this quarter to make modifications, according to Musk. Tesla expects to shut down production for about 10 days to clear out "bottlenecks" across the lines.

'High time' for profit

If improvements go to plan, Tesla could begin showing profit in the second half of this year, he said. "It is high time we became profitable," Musk said during an earnings call. "The truth is, you are not a real company until you are. That is our focus right now."

Investors and analysts have expressed worry about how fast Tesla has been burning through cash, and stopping losses would be a major step for the company. —AFP

UK services firms struggle to recover from slowdown

LONDON: Britain's services sector struggled to recover in April from a sharp slowdown in March, according to a major survey which seals expectations that the Bank of England is now highly unlikely to raise interest rates next week.

The IHS Markit/CIPS services purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 52.8 in April from March's 20-month low of 51.7, a smaller increase than economists had forecast in a Reuters poll and its second-lowest level since September 2016. Sterling fell and British government bonds rose as investors modestly marked down the chances of a rate rise on May 10, which now hover near 15 percent according to one measure.

Britain's economy, which has underperformed its peers for most of the period since the 2016 Brexit vote, grew by just 0.1 percent in the first three months of 2018, its weakest in five years, due in part to heavy snow in late February and early March. But since then business surveys have recovered less than expected and BoE Governor Mark Carney has suggested the central bank could wait before raising rates for only the second time since the 2008-09 financial crisis, causing a sharp shift in financial markets away from

bets on a rate hike next week. "The disappointing services data will add to expectations that the Monetary Policy Committee will take its finger firmly off the rate hike trigger," IHS Markit economist Chris Williamson said. "Any further slowing will also raise questions as to whether the November rate hike may have been ill-timed."

Business said they were hurt both by weaker demand from consumers, whose budgets have been squeezed by a year of above-target inflation, and by the reluctance of corporate clients to spend due to an uncertain economic outlook. Terms for Britain's departure from the European Union in less than a year remain unclear, and the euro zone economy slowed in the first three months of 2018.

Limited bounce-back

Britain's smaller construction sector - the part of the economy most directly hurt by the harsh weather - showed a rebound last month, according to an IHS Markit survey published on Wednesday.

But April's recovery in the manufacturing sector was muted and IHS Markit said the PMI data overall suggested Britain's economy was growing at a quarterly rate of 0.25 percent, well below its long-run trend. "These figures suggest that factors such as the continued uncertainty around the UK's future trading relationships outweigh the impact of poor weather," said Chris Sood-Nicholls, a managing director at Lloyds Bank's business banking unit. —Reuters

Business

Trump hails China's Xi as US team arrives for trade talks

Chinese media expresses caution ahead of trade talks

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump praised his relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping as a US delegation arrived in Beijing yesterday for talks on tariffs, with state media saying China will stand up to US bullying.

A breakthrough deal to fundamentally change China's economic policies is viewed as highly unlikely during the two-day visit, though a package of short-term Chinese measures could delay a US decision to impose tariffs on about \$50 billion worth of Chinese exports. The discussions, led by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, are expected to cover a wide range of US complaints about China's trade practices, from accusations of forced technology transfers to state subsidies for technology development.

"Thrilled to be here. Thank you," Mnuchin told Reuters on arriving at his hotel, when asked if he expected progress. He made no other comments.

As Mnuchin arrived, Trump tweeted: "Our great financial team is in China trying to negotiate a level playing field on trade! I look forward to being with President Xi in the not too distant future. We will always have a good (great) relationship!"

It was not clear when Trump and Xi might

meet again next, though both will likely attend some of the same multilateral summits this year, including G20 and APEC. Throughout his 2016 election campaign, Trump routinely threatened to impose a 45 percent across-the-board tariff on Chinese goods as a way to level the playing field for American workers. At the time, he was also accusing China of manipulating its currency to gain an export advantage, a claim that his administration has since dropped. The US Embassy in Beijing said the delegation planned to meet Chinese officials on both days, in addition to US Ambassador Terry Branstad, before leaving on Friday evening.

China, US in ugly trade dispute

Asked about the talks, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said they had just begun and she had no information. She reiterated that China welcomed the talks but that

they had to be founded on equality and mutual respect. "The outcome should be mutually beneficial and win-win," Hua said, speaking at a regular briefing.

In a commentary widely cited in Chinese media on Thursday, the official Xinhua news agency said if things went poorly and a trade war did break out, China would never yield and would hit back strongly.

"China will inevitably suffer losses, but China

granting market access to foreign banks, clearing houses, fund managers and insurers if their home rules are in line with the bloc's. It is used by financial firms in the United States, Singapore and elsewhere.

Britain has rejected it, saying it is one-sided, patchy and access can be withdrawn at a month's notice. Gramegna said Luxembourg and France wanted to explore how the equivalence regime could be "enhanced".

"If equivalence plays a much bigger role than it plays today then we need enhanced equivalence, that means putting on the table how does this equivalence work," he told Reuters during a visit to London.

"It's about making the procedure such that both sides can live with it, and that there is enough dialogue and transparency in the system," Gramegna said.

"You can take away equivalence at short notice, and that is a problem as it does not give you security." It could also be made to cover a broader range of financial services, he suggested. Britain and the EU have agreed on a "standstill" transition period from Brexit, due to take place in March 2019, to the end of 2020. "We must avoid that after the transition period that we have not solved this issue of equivalence in a smooth manner," Gramegna said. —AFP



BEIJING: The Huawei logo is seen on flags outside a telecom store in Beijing yesterday. Top US and Chinese officials prepared to kick off crucial trade talks in Beijing but both sides sought to dampen expectations for a quick resolution to a heated dispute between the world's two largest economies. —AFP

has the political advantage of a centralised and unified leadership and support of a massive domestic market," it said.

The official China Daily said in an editorial China would "stand up to the US' bullying as necessary". "The US wants greater access to China's market, but it should not use trade actions as a battering ram to force China to open its doors. It is already in the process of opening them wider," the English-language newspaper said. In doing so, China expected Washington to

reciprocate and open its market to Chinese investment and competition, it said.

'Negotiations are best'

Widely read Chinese tabloid the Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily, said it hoped the talks were a beginning of a resolution of the dispute. "Washington and Beijing should be clear: neither side can scare the other down. Negotiations are the best way to resolve the problem." —Reuters

Luxembourg says UK banks must be realistic about EU access after Brexit

LONDON: Making the current system of European Union market access for non-members more workable is Britain's best bet after Brexit as the more ambitious alternative sought by banks is unrealistic, Luxembourg's finance minister told Reuters.

Britain's financial sector, with backing from the government, wants two-way market access based on Britain and the EU accepting each other's banking rules to avoid damaging the UK economy's most important sector. But such a bespoke "mutual recognition" trade agreement has never been agreed before and has found little support in Brussels so far.

Luxembourg Finance Minister Pierre Gramegna said the way forward was to re-vamp the EU's current "equivalence" system to cope with a global financial center on its doorstep. Equivalence refers to Brussels

Property boom in China border town as world warms to N Korea

BEIJING: The dramatic diplomatic thaw on the Korean peninsula is sparking an unexpected economic windfall on the Chinese border, where property prices are skyrocketing. The northeastern border city of Dandong—the main artery for China's trade with North Korea—has been in the doldrums since the United Nations punished Pyongyang for its nuclear and long-range missile tests last year. The sanctions put a squeeze on trade in seafood, textiles and other commodities, and forced hundreds of North Korean workers to leave Chinese factories there.

But property prices in the city surged in the weeks leading up to the historic summit between the two Koreas, with speculators snapping up homes expecting prices to rise further. It's an unexpected bonanza for a region that was bracing itself for an influx of North Korean refugees and even possible radiation just months ago amid worries about war on the peninsula. On April 26 — a day before the inter-Korean summit—the Dandong Property Registration Office posted a notice on its door, saying "the number of applications to register property transactions in recent days has exceeded our daily capacity of 260 cases per day". The influx of homebuyers to the city of



This file photo shows a woman standing near Chinese flags on a section of the Broken Bridge, in the border city of Dandong, in China's northeast Liaoning province. —AFP

nearly 2.4 million residents began in March, when Kim passed through in his armored train on his way to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping—the North Korean leader's first overseas trip in office.

"Over the last two weeks, the number of people that have called to inquire about properties or come to buy homes has jumped," Li Xinyu, CEO of Aijia Real Estate Co. in Dandong, told AFP. "Now I receive... (as many as) 20 calls a day, and there are about 10 people who visit with the intention of purchasing an apartment."

Dandong lies on the northern bank of the Yalu River, which marks the border. North Korean guard posts and soldiers can be seen on the other side, with patrol boats regularly traversing the river. Two bridges connect the neighbors, allowing road and rail traffic. —AFP

Business

EU calls US trade threats 'dangerous' for growth

Recovery in Europe losing steam after a strong 2017

BRUSSELS: The EU warned yesterday that a rise in trade protectionism exemplified by the Trump administration's tariffs was the biggest threat to eurozone growth despite solid economic forecasts for the next two years. Brussels unveiled the optimistic forecasts for 2018 and 2019 a day after official data showed growth slowed in the eurozone, fuelling fears that the recovery in Europe was losing steam after a strong 2017.

Sparking particular worry about the economy is an ongoing trade dispute with US President Donald Trump, who has threatened to impose major metals tariffs and provoke a trade war. "The biggest risk to this rosy outlook is protectionism, which must not become the new normal: that would only hurt those of our citizens we most need to protect," said EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici. The commission, the EU's executive arm, said the 19-country single currency bloc would expand by a robust 2.3 percent in 2018, and by 2.0 percent in 2019, the same forecast as in February.

But the commission warned that policies taken by Trump, including a massive tax cut,

had created a real threat to Europe's economy. The tax cuts "and inward-looking trade policies present a dangerous nexus," the commission wrote in its forecast.

The Europeans and other allies have so far won a US exemption on the metals tariffs to June 1, but have prepared a long list of countermeasures in case Trump delivers on his threat.

"An escalation of trade protectionism presents an unambiguously negative risk to the global economic outlook," the commission said.

Moscovici warns of looming Brexit risks

Brexit 'risks remain'

The commission also had a warning for Britain ahead of Brexit, predicting that the UK economy would grow by a sluggish 1.5 percent in 2018, well below the EU pace of 2.3 percent.

Britain's growth would slow even further to 1.2 percent in 2019, the year it is officially to divorce from the bloc.

"Within Europe, risks related to the outcome of the Brexit negotiations remain," the EU added.

In its forecast, the commission delivered welcome news to pro-reform French President Emmanuel Macron, with France officially

need to decide over the summer whether to shut it down after several extensions. But inflation has failed to rise for years according to expectations and in April it also missed the ECB's prediction of a rate "around" 1.5 percent for the rest of the year.

Perhaps more worryingly for the ECB, all measures of closely-watched underlying inflation fell, indicating that pressures remain weak, despite robust employment growth and a healthy wage deal in Germany, the bloc's biggest economy.

Inflation excluding volatile food and energy prices, the ECB's preferred measure, slowed to 1.1 percent from 1.3 percent. The rate excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, an even more narrow measure often looked at by market analysts, eased to 0.7 percent from 1 percent.

ECB chief economist Peter Praet said the slowdown had come sooner than expected and factors holding back growth may persist in the near term, but he played down the data.

"We cannot yet declare 'mission accomplished' on the inflation front, but we have made substantial progress on the path towards a sustained adjustment in inflation," he said in Paris.

Too early to panic

Economists said it was too early for the ECB to panic as one-off factors such as the effects of the Easter holidays - which in 2018 fell right at the start of the month compared with mid-April in 2017 - on the year-on-year comparison. Higher oil prices could still boost inflation in the coming months. —Reuters



BRUSSELS: EU Commissioner Pierre Moscovici for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs addresses a press conference to present the EU's spring 2018 economic forecast, at the European Commission in Brussels, yesterday. —AFP

in position to emerge from the deficit procedure after nearly a decade.

The EU said that after 2.6 percent in 2017, the French deficit will reach and an even lower 2.3 percent in 2018. France is indeed one of the last two countries in the eurozone, along with Spain, still concerned by the excessive deficit procedure, which can lead to sanctions and fines, even if this has never happened.

During the worst of the eurozone crisis in

2011, 24 EU countries were simultaneously under the procedure, which when the public deficit exceeds three percent of GDP.

Powerhouse Germany once again blew through targets on public spending, though remained open to criticism that it overly privileges austerity which punishes the wider European economy. The German public budget is forecast to run a stunning surplus of 1.2 percent of GDP in 2018. —AFP

Eurozone inflation slowdown adds to ECB's headache

BRUSSELS/FRANKFURT: Euro zone inflation unexpectedly slowed last month, adding to a string of data that points to a cooling economy and possibly makes it more difficult for the European Central Bank to curb its lavish monetary stimulus later this year. Last month the rate slipped to an annual 1.2 percent, missing economists' expectations in a Reuters poll that it would remain at the March level of 1.3 percent.

The weak reading follows disappointing GDP, output, export and sentiment figures, which suggest that euro zone economic growth has peaked after a five-year run and will at best slow to a more moderate level, below optimistic forecasts at the start of the year.

This comes at a sensitive time for the ECB as policymakers are debating whether to end a 2.55 trillion euro (\$3.1 trillion) bond buying scheme this year, satisfied that healthy growth will eventually raise inflation back to its target of almost 2 percent.

Introduced more than three years ago to boost flagging growth and inflation, the ECB's bond purchases helped to revive the economy with a flood of cheap cash. The program is due to run out at the end of September and policymakers

Confident Adidas reports Q1 profit leap

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German sporting goods firm Adidas said yesterday efficiency savings had powered a leap in profits in the first quarter, staying confident of hitting its full-year targets as the World Cup looms. Net profit attributable to shareholders surged 18.7 percent year-on-year, to 540 million euros (\$647 million) between January and March.

Operating or underlying profit increased 17.1 percent to 746 million euros, far outpacing revenue growth of just 1.9 percent, to 5.5 billion. "We managed to grow the bottom line significantly faster" than revenues, chief executive Kasper Rorsted highlighted, "while continuing to invest into creating brand desire." The group added that adjusting for currency effects, sales had increased around 10 percent, powered by Adidas' fashion-oriented Originals line as well as its running, training and football segments—the last in starker focus this year with the Russia World Cup kicking off in June.

US sports subsidiary Reebok suffered a 3.0-percent fall in sales, although it managed a rebound in America itself and Rorsted promised further investments in the brand.

Adidas saw especially powerful revenue growth in North America, at 21 percent, and China at 26

percent. Growth in the Asia-Pacific regions overall and Latin America was also in the double digits.

Meanwhile western Europe added just 5.0 percent while sales fell in Russia, eastern Europe and central Asia. Russian sales are a particular dark spot, having fallen from 10 percent to just 3.0 percent of Adidas' global turnover in the past five years. The firm has closed around 100 of its 700 stores in the country as economic woes continue to bite.

Meanwhile, Adidas would face "very little impact" if a trade war breaks out between Washington and Beijing, Rorsted said, as its biggest manufacturing sites are in Vietnam and Indonesia rather than China. Historic German rival Puma said in April it was working on contingency plans to move some production from China to other Asian countries, faced with US President Donald Trump's threats to impose tariffs on tens of billions of dollars in imports from the world's second economy.

Looking ahead to the full year, Adidas expects a roughly 10-percent increase in worldwide currency-adjusted sales, again fuelled by North America and Asia-Pacific. As its drive to increase margins continues, the group aims for a faster increase in net income from continuing operations of between 13 and 17 percent, at up to 1.675 billion euros. Shares in Adidas lost 0.8 percent by early afternoon in Frankfurt, trading at 205.50 euros around 1140 GMT. —AFP

Sports

Betts put on a show as Red Sox edge visiting Royals 5-4

Yankees overpower Astros 4-0

BOSTON: Mookie Betts put on a show, hitting solo home runs in three consecutive at-bats as the Boston Red Sox rallied from an early three-run deficit and beat the visiting Kansas City Royals 5-4 on Wednesday afternoon. Betts collected four hits and recorded his 13th multi-homer game of his career and third this season. It was his second three-homer game in 2018 and fourth of his career, moving past Hall of Famer Ted Williams for the team record.

The 25-year-old outfielder also became the first player to have four three-homer games in his career before age 26, and joined Cleveland's Edwin Encarnacion on the first day with multiple three-homer games since May 29, 2013, when Dioner Navarro and Ryan Zimmerman did it. In his second game back from a brief absence caused by a hamstring injury and first game back in the starting lineup, Betts homered in the fourth, fifth and seventh innings off Royals starter Danny Duffy (0-4). Drew Pomeranz (1-1) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings for the win.

Indians 12, Rangers 4

Encarnacion drove in six runs as Cleveland romped past visiting Texas. The slugger produced his third career three-homer game, his first since 2015, and his 30th multi-homer game. Encarnacion hit a three-run home run in the first inning and added a two-run shot in the second, both off Rangers starter Matt Moore. He tagged a solo shot in the eighth inning off Jesse Chavez. The Rangers' Nomar Mazara, Juan Centeno and Joey Gallo each hit solo home runs off Indians starter Corey Kluber (5-1). Mazara's fifth of the season came in the second inning, and Centeno's first of the season came in the third. Gallo hit his 10th homer in 2018 in the seventh inning.

Yankees 4, Astros 0

Luis Severino pitched a dominant five-hitter for his first career complete game, and Giancarlo Stanton hit two homers as visiting New York beat Houston. Severino saw his velocity reach 100 mph in the ninth inning. Severino (5-1) controlled the strike zone and completed a 110-pitch gem, walking just one. He struck out 10 for his sixth career double-digit strikeout game and first this season. He threw 27 first-pitch strikes to 33 hitters. Stanton recorded his second multi-homer game of the season and the 30th of his career. He entered the game hitless in his past 10 at-bats but hit a two-run homer in the first and a solo homer in the fourth, both off Dallas Keuchel (1-5).

Angels 10, Orioles 7

Albert Pujols continued his assault on the record books with a home run and double and Los Angeles ripped visiting Baltimore early and held on late as the slugger got to 2,998 in his career, leaving him two shy of becoming the 32nd player in major league history to reach the 3,000-hit mark. His home run was No. 620 of his career (No. 7 all-time), and his double increased his career total to 625, moving him past Hank Aaron and into the No. 10 spot all-time. It was all part of an Angels offense that had just nine hits, but seven of them went for extra bases. Mike Trout hit his 11th home run of the season in the first inning, tying Betts for the major league lead. Justin Upton's three-run home in the fifth inning boosted the Angels' lead to 7-1. Martin Maldonado homered in the eighth inning, one of his three hits in the game, helping send the reeling Orioles to their 14th loss in 17 games.

Braves 7, Mets 0

Sean Newcomb allowed two hits over a career-high seven innings as surging Atlanta moved into first place in the National League East with a victory over host New York, which may have lost something bigger than a game. The Mets have dropped 10 of 16 but worse, in the fourth inning ace right-hander Jacob deGrom left with a hyperextended right elbow. He was sent for an MRI exam, and results are expected Thursday, multiple media outlets reported. The Braves have won the first two games of the three-game series and their past four overall to move into first place for the first time since April 14, 2015.

Dodgers 2, Diamondbacks 1

Los Angeles rookie Alex Verdugo had two doubles and scored twice, Cody Bellinger had two singles, and the Dodgers survived an early exit by left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu to beat host Arizona. Ryu, who had been the Dodgers' best pitcher the first month of the season, left with a strained left groin in the second inning, and five relievers combined to give up one run in 7 2/3 innings as Los Angeles broke a four-game losing streak. AJ Pollock had two hits and John Ryan Murphy had a two-out, run scoring single in the ninth inning as the Diamondbacks (21-9) remained tied for the best start in franchise history despite the loss, their second in seven games.

A's 3, Mariners 2

Mark Canha homered in the ninth inning as visiting Oakland rallied to spoil an outstanding start by Seattle's James Paxton, tagging Mariners closer Edwin Diaz (0-1) with his first loss of the season and just his second run. Canha snapped the tie with a leadoff shot over the scoreboard in left field. Jed Lowrie tied the score for Oakland in the eighth with a two-run homer off Juan Nicasio. Paxton pitched seven scoreless innings, striking out a career-high 16 batters. He allowed five hits and walked one. The left-hander eclipsed his previous best of 10 strikeouts.

Rockies 11, Cubs 2

Nolan Arenado went 3-for-6 with a double, two home runs and five RBIs, and Colorado pulled away for an easy victory over host Chicago. Trevor Story and Chris Iannetta also homered for the Rockies, who won the rubber match of the three-game series. Tyler Anderson (2-0) held the Cubs to two runs on three hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out nine in his first appearance since leaving his Friday start after 1 1/3 innings because of lightheadedness and shortness of breath. Cubs right-hander Yu Darvish (0-3) remained winless since joining the team on a six-year, \$126 million deal in the offseason. The 31-year-old gave up six runs (five earned) on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings as his ERA ballooned to 6.00.

Cardinals 3, White Sox 2

Carlos Martinez pitched 7 1/3 strong innings and hit his first major league homer, and Dexter Fowler also went deep as St. Louis swept its two-game series against visiting Chicago. Martinez broke a scoreless tie with a two-out homer in the sixth inning, and Fowler hit a two-run homer for a 3-0 lead in the seventh to lift the Cardinals over the struggling White Sox. Chicago has lost four in a row and is 4-13 since April 12. The White Sox are 3-9 in one-run games. Martinez (3-1) gave up five hits and one run while striking out five and



BOSTON: Hector Velazquez #76 of the Boston Red Sox douses Mookie Betts #50 as he is interviewed after the Boston Red Sox defeated the Kansas City Royals 5-4 at Fenway Park on May 2, 2018. Betts hit 3 solo home runs. —AFP

walking two in his first May start. He allowed two earned runs in 33 1/3 innings in April for an 0.54 ERA.

Phillies 6, Marlins 0

Aaron Nola (4-1) pitched 7 1/3 scoreless innings to lead visiting Philadelphia past Miami. He allowed four hits—all singles—and one walk, striking out seven and lowering his ERA to 2.17. The Phillies' offense was led by Cesar Hernandez, who hit a solo home run on the fourth pitch of the game, and Maikel Franco, who had two doubles and one RBI. In six games against Miami this year, Franco has 13 RBIs. Marlins starter Jose Urena (0-5) continued his hard-luck season. He allowed seven hits, one walk and two runs, one earned, in seven innings. He has three starts this season in which he has allowed one earned run in seven innings but has come away with two losses and a no-decision in those outings.

Nationals 9, Pirates 3

Bryce Harper homered for the second consecutive night from the leadoff spot, and Matt Adams also went deep as Washington defeated visiting Pittsburgh to win the first three games of a four-game series. Harper finished the night 3-for-5 with three RBIs. He has homered in both games since manager Dave Martinez moved him to the top spot of the order. Harper now has 10 homers, while Adams hit his sixth. The Nationals finished with 14 hits. Washington starter Stephen Strasburg (3-3) went seven innings, giving up three runs (two earned) on seven hits and striking out 11 with just one walk. Pittsburgh starter Ivan Nova (2-2) gave up eight runs (five earned) on 11 hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Giants 9, Padres 4

Nick Hundley collected a career-high-tying four hits, and Derek Holland recorded his first win of the season as San Francisco rolled past visiting San Diego to win two of three in their series. Hundley and Brandon Crawford drove in three runs apiece. Hundley had a home run, two doubles and a single in his first four-hit game since 2015 for the Colorado Rockies. The homer, his third of the season, came in the fourth inning against Padres starter Clayton Richard (1-4). Holland (1-3) benefitted from a 14-hit attack in winning for the first time as a Giant. The veteran went five innings, allowing three runs and four hits. He walked one and

struck out four in his sixth start of the season.

Twins 4, Blue Jays 0

Eddie Rosario hit a home run, Fernando Romero pitched into the sixth inning to win his major league debut, and Minnesota defeated visiting Toronto, avoiding a sweep in the three-game series to finish its homestand at 2-4. The 23-year-old Romero (1-0) allowed no runs, four hits and three walks while striking out five over 5 2/3 innings. Blue Jays starter Marcus Stroman (0-4) allowed two runs, six hits, one walk and struck out five in seven innings, his longest outing of the season. Rosario hit his fifth homer of the season on a first-pitch two-seam fastball with one out in the second inning. Blue Jays manager John Gibbons was ejected in the top of the third after Teoscar Hernandez struck out swinging on an appeal play and Aledmys Diaz, who had stopped running between first and second thinking it was ball four, was caught stealing.

Tigers 3, Rays 2 (12 innings)

John Hicks laid down a bunt single on a squeeze play to bring home JaCoby Jones, giving host Detroit a walk-off win over Tampa Bay after Jones had ripped a triple to center field to lead off the 12th. Hicks bunted him home on the next pitch. Jones had three hits and Hicks contributed two while also scoring a run for Detroit, which took two of three in the series. James McCann added a game-tying solo homer. Warwick Saupold (1-0) pitched a perfect inning with two strikeouts to collect the victory. Matt Andriese (0-1) took the loss.

Brewers 3, Reds 1

Wade Miley pitched six sharp innings in his Milwaukee debut and knocked off host Cincinnati, a team the Brewers have beaten in five of six meetings this season. Miley (1-0) signed a minor league contract with the Brewers and made the team in spring training, only to see a groin injury delay the start of his season. He gave up only a run-scoring double to Devin Mesoraco in the fourth inning. Miley allowed three hits and three walks while striking out four. The Brewers hitters, meanwhile, were mustering just enough offense against Reds right-hander Luis Castillo (1-4), who allowed two runs on nine hits in six innings. He issued only one walk while striking out seven. —Agencies

Sports

‘Earn respect’ - Langer vows new culture as Aussie coach

Langer takes reins of Australia after scandal

SYDNEY: Justin Langer vowed to fix the scandal-hit Australian cricket team's behavior and win back respect after being named head coach in all three formats of the game yesterday. The former Test opener, 47, starts his new role on May 22 for a four-year term which takes in two Ashes series, a World Cup and a World Twenty20 tournament. He takes the reins at a time of crisis following the 12-month suspensions of ex-captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner over a ball-tampering scandal which also saw previous coach Darren Lehmann quit. "The expectations are high in the Australian cricket team. We have got to make sure the behaviors are good. If we do that, I think the outcomes will look after themselves," Langer told a media conference.

"I think one of the things that's really important is that we keep looking to earn respect. To me, respect is worth more than all the gold in the world." Cricket Australia has ordered a review of the damaged sport's culture in the wake of the scandal during the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town that tarnished Australian cricket's reputation. "We all know what the acceptable behaviours are. There is a difference between competitiveness and aggression and we've got to be careful with that," Langer said.

"We look to encourage great cricketers, but also great people. So we if we can encourage great people and great Australians over the next four years, I think that's a really important foundation for us." Langer opened the door for a return of Smith, Warner and Cameron Bancroft, who was also banned for the tampering incident. "We'll learn from what's happened," he said.

"They are great kids and it was such a surprise they made the mistake they did. But they are great kids, we have all made mistakes, we can all get better at things. "If we can keep mentoring and helping them and they want to meet the standards of the Australian cricket team, then of course they'd be welcomed back."

Succession plan

Langer comes into the job after dominating domestic cricket in recent years as coach of Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers. CA chief executive James Sutherland said he was the "clear standout" choice. "Whilst Darren Lehmann was not due to complete his term until next year, we have had a succession plan in place for this role for some time," Sutherland said.

"The plan has allowed us to consider several worthy candidates, but Justin was the clear standout, particularly based on his recent coaching and player development achievements. "We firmly believe Justin is the right person to lead this team and have huge confidence in what he will bring to the role." Langer had a highly decorated playing career, representing Australia in 105 Test matches and eight ODI matches. He scored more than 7,500 Test runs—including 23 centuries—and was an integral member of the team during one of its most successful eras.

His playing career spanned almost 20 years and 360 first-class matches, scoring more than 28,000 first-class runs. As a coach, he had been in charge of Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers since November 2012. Langer led the Scorchers to Big Bash League T20 championships three times, the most of any coach, in



COLOMBO: In this file photo, Australian cricket batting coach Justin Langer (right) walks with captain George Bailey during an ICC Twenty20 Cricket World Cup practice session ahead of their semi-final match against West Indies. The 47-year-old, Justin Langer, appointed national coach yesterday, is a striking contrast to his laid-back predecessor Darren Lehmann, who resigned. — AFP

2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17. He also led the WA Warriors to one-day Cup titles twice, in 2014-15 and 2017-18. Langer was involved in the Australian team as an assistant coach for three

years from November 2009 and has twice been head coach on an interim basis—in an ODI tri-series in the Caribbean in 2016, and a home T20 series against Sri Lanka in 2017.—AFP

Barshim figurehead in Qatar's battle of the bulge

DOHA: Mutaz Barshim admits he has emerged as a trailblazer in Qatar's battle of the bulge, encouraging compatriots to incorporate exercise and healthy living as part of a worrying lifestyle trend. The Gulf state, like many of its neighbors, is racked by increasing rates of obesity, vitamin D deficiency, cholesterol and diabetes, largely linked to a lifestyle that includes little or no exercise and a penchant for fast food. In world track and field, Barshim has established himself as one of the real stars ahead of the 2019 world championships on home soil and the Summer Olympics in Tokyo a year later.

But the world high jump champion, who was named IAAF World Athlete of the Year last season after finishing his campaign undefeated, realizes he has a greater responsibility off the track. "I'm a sportsperson," he said. "But it's be-

coming a duty for me because I'm now becoming an ambassador for the sport. "When I'm talking about sport, it's not professional sport but sport as a lifestyle. You have to add sport to your lifestyle, it's each house, each family.

"From that you never know what will happen." Latest studies show that more than 70 percent of the Qatari population are obese and a 2016 report by the Qatar Biobank medical research facility, based on 5,000 nationals, shockingly revealed that 83 percent of the population enjoyed little or no physical exercise. Amid growing concerns over obesity, more than a million Qataris are even given a day off work each year to take part in a nationwide day of sport.

'Moving forward'

But Barshim, talking at a press conference in a downtown Doha shopping mall where there was no mistaking the wafts of roasting coffee and cinnamon buns, argues that things were changing. "I've been participating in a lot of programs with the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), with health departments," he said. The QOC's motto is, tellingly, "Sport for life", in full knowledge that the eyes of the world will be on Qatar in the run-up to it hosting not only next year's world athletics championships but also the 2022 football World Cup. — AFP

Froome motivated by history bid at Giro d'Italia

JERUSALEM: Chris Froome is trying to put his tumultuous Giro d'Italia preparations behind him as he focuses on making history. Froome has won the last two Grand Tours—the Vuelta a Espana in September and the Tour de France before that in July. Should he win the Giro this month, he would become only the third man—and first in 35 years—to hold all three Grand Tour titles at the same time. The other two—Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault—are amongst the sport's greats having both won the Tour de France a record five times.

Four-time winner Froome, 32, would like to try to emulate them in July, should he be allowed to race, but for now it is the Giro occupying his

thoughts. "That's a huge motivation for me, that was part of my decision-making process in deciding to be here, in that I won the Tour last year and the Vuelta," he said when asked about the cycling Grand Tour grand slam. "I can't remember the last time a rider won three Grand Tours consecutively like that—it's a huge point for me."

His adverse analytical finding from a doping test during the Vuelta last year hangs heavy on his shoulders, though, with much of the talk leading up to the Giro centered on whether or not he should even be participating. The sport's world governing body, the UCI's rules do not preclude him from continuing to race as he fights to clear his name and avoid a doping ban. But the UCI's own president, David Lappartient has said he should withdraw from professional racing pending a solution to his case. Organizers, though, are delighted to have the sport's biggest star lining up in a dream scenario, taking on last year's champion Tom Dumoulin and home hope Fabio Aru.

And even the potentially explosive decision to start the race in Jerusalem, followed by two stages around Israel, hasn't dampened Froome's enthusiasm.—AFP

Sports

Tiger puts clubs in closet after frustrating Masters

McIlroy aims to move on from Masters misery

MIAMI: Tiger Woods returns to competition at this week's Wells Fargo Championship in North Carolina eager to see the benefits of the extended break he took after finishing in a share of 32nd place at last month's US Masters. Woods, 42, said it felt great to shut things down after Augusta National, where he finished 16 shots back of champion Patrick Reed, and focus on what he needs to do to return to winning ways. "I threw my clubs in the closet for about 10 days," Woods told reporters after playing in the pro-am on Wednesday. "I got away from the game, didn't touch a club, didn't make a golf swing."

Woods, who this week will chase his second victory at Quail Hollow following his triumph in 2007, will tee off in Thursday's opening round alongside Reed and reigning US Open champion Brooks Koepka. While Woods took a break from swinging a club after the Masters, he used the down-time to work on his physical fitness. "I started to lift a little bit, but I just tried to make sure I kept flexible," said Woods, who returned to competition this year after spinal fusion surgery last April. "But then I started grinding to get my muscle strength back and, eventually, my speed. And I've got them all back."

Woods will use a new set of irons this week at Quail Hollow after failing to produce any magic with his old set at Augusta. "I didn't hit my

irons very good. I drove it great on the weekend, but I kept hitting the ball above the hole or in the wrong spot," he said. "And I had defensive putts on most of the days. Even on Sunday when I shot four-under par, I was in some tough spots. I needed to be more precise and I wasn't. "I need to continue working on it and get sharp and hopefully this will be a good week."

Masters misery

Meanwhile, Rory McIlroy is aiming to bounce back from a disheartening Masters finish when he tees it up this week at the PGA Wells Fargo Championship, where the Northern Ireland star is a two-time winner. McIlroy, who turns 29 today, admitted it took him awhile to "decompress" after his latest Masters miss—a tie for fifth after he'd gone out in the final pairing on Sunday only to fire a two-over 74 and fall short again in his bid to complete a career Grand Slam.

It wasn't the horror show of 2011, when McIlroy took a four-shot lead into the final round and carded an 80. But he was unable to apply any real pressure to eventual winner Patrick Reed. "I was disappointed because I just didn't give a good account of myself the last day," McIlroy said. "I was sort of holding it together, and then, obviously, under the pressure of Sunday trying to chase Patrick down it just never quite clicked



CHARLOTTE: Tiger Woods plays a shot during the Pro-Am for the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow Club on May 2, 2018 in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP

for me. It was disappointing that's the way the week finished."

McIlroy said that after he'd binge watched a couple of TV shows, read a couple of books and drunk a few bottles of wine his wife, Erica, finally "dragged" him out of the house. "Once I sort of got back into my routine, I was fine," said McIlroy, whose appetite for a first green jacket has

only intensified. "The Masters has become the biggest golf tournament in the world, and I'm comfortable saying that," he said. "I don't care about the US Open or the Open Championship, it's the biggest tournament in the world. It is the most amount of eyeballs, the most amount of hype, the most amount of everything is at Augusta." — Agencies

Talking points in Super Rugby

SYDNEY: A drunken cow, the trans-Tasman streak and a row over kicking: talking points ahead of week 12 of the Super Rugby season.

Phipps, moos and Blues

The NSW Waratahs could have done without the stag-party antics of Wallaby Nick Phipps before they try to end the drought of Australian sides against New Zealand opposition in Sydney tomorrow. Phipps was stripped of the Waratahs' captaincy and fined \$4,000 after drunkenly urinating on a bar while dressed as a cow during his pre-wedding celebration last week, when the club had a bye. Presuming the Melbourne Rebels don't cause an almighty upset on Friday against the Super Rugby-leading Canterbury Crusaders, the Tahs are

eyeing a great chance of ending what will be, by then, a 37-match trans-Tasman losing streak against the struggling Blues. No word yet on how Phipps and team-mates might celebrate if they win.

Aussies face tests

Although the Waratahs are favorites against the Blues, Crusaders coach Scott Robertson says the lack of depth in Australian teams could be exposed in the next few weeks. The record eight-time champions face the Rebels in Melbourne on Friday and are strongly expected to record a 37th consecutive New Zealand club win over Australian teams. The Rebels have lost their last four games—and they conceded 126 points in their previous two matches against the Crusaders. "The depth of squad is always tested and that's the most critical thing in Super Rugby," Robertson said. "The next two to three weeks, there's some games where we'll see if there's still a gulf or if it's been bridged by the Australians. I know they're hungry and we need Aussie rugby to be really strong." — AFP

'Proud' Semenya back on track after IAAF rule change

DOHA: Caster Semenya will bid to move the spotlight from new IAAF rules for female athletes who have high testosterone levels firmly back to the track as the Diamond League gets under way in Doha today. The South African, the double Olympic 800 meters champion, will race in the 1500m in the opening of the IAAF's elite 14-meet competition. It will be her first outing since the rule changes were announced. Semenya has long come under scrutiny because of her powerful physique and deep voice related to hyperandrogenism, the medical condition which causes a person to produce high levels of male sex hormones.

The new rules introduced by track and field's governing body and which come into effect on November 1, 2018, will allow such athletes to compete only if they take medication to reduce naturally occurring levels of testosterone. The rules, which the IAAF puts under the heading "Difference of Sexual Development" (DSD), cover races from 400m to the mile, including 400m, hurdles races, 800m, 1500m, one-mile races and combined events over the same distances. Semenya hits the Diamond League in top form, having most recently claimed the 800m-1500m double at the Commonwealth Games.

"God made me the way I am and I accept myself. I am who I am and I am proud of myself," the defiant South African tweeted Tuesday. That tweet followed

two more by the 27-year-old stating: "Opinions aren't facts. Stop worrying about what people think about you" and "Not everyone deserves to know the real you. Let them criticize who they think you are." Either way, Semenya's trademark last-lap burst to the front of the pack will be fully tested at the Qatar Sports Club by a field including five Kenyans and four Ethiopians sure to seek to hamper the South African with team tactics.

Barshim carries Qatari hopes

Mutaz Barshim will wave the flag for local athletes, the high jumper and Doha native kicking off his outdoor 2018 campaign on the back of his most successful season ever. Last year, he was crowned world champion, Diamond League champion, IAAF World Athlete of the Year and became the first high jumper since 2004 to be undefeated for a whole season.

"Last year was extraordinary for me. I didn't lose anything—it was the perfect season," said Barshim, who has set his sights firmly on victory at a home World Championships in 2019, Olympic gold in 2020 and the long-standing world record of 2.45m set by Cuba's Javier Sotomayor in 1993. "I always try to find things that I haven't achieved yet and make them my target, and this is how I always find new motivation. I want to achieve as much as possible."

With temperatures forecast to be hovering around 32 degrees Celsius (90F) come today evening, a top-notch field has gathered in the Qatari capital with a guaranteed balmy start to the outdoor season for many. Reigning Olympic champion Elaine Thompson of Jamaica will go head to head with current 200m world champion and Olympic silver medalist Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands in an extremely strong line-up for the women's 100m. — AFP

Sports

Palat pots two as Lightning take series lead over Bruins

Sharks overwhelm Vegas Golden Knights

LOS ANGELES: Ondrej Palat scored twice and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 28 shots as the Tampa Bay Lightning defeated the Boston Bruins 4-1 to seize a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference NHL playoff series. Palat, of the Czech Republic, scored two unanswered goals in the first period on Wednesday with the first coming just 1:47 in and the second at 3:19 for the Lightning who have won two consecutive games after losing the second round series opener on home ice. "Boston came in and took one of our games at home, we had to take one of theirs on the road," said Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper. "We did that."

Palat's first goal came after Boston defenseman Matt Grzelcyk lost track of the puck in his own end resulting in a two-on-one chance for the Lightning which they finished off in front of a crowd of 17,500 at the Boston Garden arena. Palat made it 2-0 just 92 seconds later on a shot that deflected off Bruins defenseman Torey Krug past Boston goaltender Tuukka Rask. The Bruins cut the lead to 2-1 at 14:12 when Patrice Bergeron scored on the powerplay for his fourth goal of the postseason. Cirelli, with his first career NHL postseason goal, scored just over two minutes later to restore the Lightning's two-goal lead.

Tampa forward Steven Stamkos closed out the scoring with a long shot into the empty net

on the power play with 42 seconds left. It was just the second goal of the playoffs for Stamkos who had 86 points in the regular season. "It's not good, obviously, but we've come back a lot," said Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy. "So this is nothing new." Rask finished with 33 saves for the Bruins, who host game four on Friday night. Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy said they are just going to have to regroup for the next game. "Playoffs are desperate hockey," McAvoy said. "You don't ever go into any games saying 'Oh, we have the luxury of being able to lose this one.'"

In San Jose, the Sharks scored twice in the first period en route to a 4-0 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights that tied their Western Conference series at two games apiece. Marcus Sorensen, Joonas Donskoi, Tomas Hertl and Joe Pavelski all scored for the Sharks and goaltender Martin Jones stopped 34 shots in his sixth career playoff shutout. "I thought that was probably our most complete game of the series," Jones said. "We managed the puck really well tonight, we made them work for offence. "Our penalty kill was big tonight as well," he added after Vegas failed to convert all five power-play chances. Game five of the series, which has seen the teams alternate victories, is in Las Vegas today. — AFP



BOSTON: Chris Kunitz #14 of the Tampa Bay Lightning and Torey Krug #47 of the Boston Bruins compete for control of the puck during the second period of Game Three of the Eastern Conference Second Round on May 2, 2018. — AFP

NHL set to go back to China

BEIJING: The league announced Wednesday the Boston Bruins and Calgary Flames will face off in two exhibition games in China, Sept 15 in Shenzhen and Sept 19 in the capital Beijing. The city of Shenzhen shares a border with Hong Kong, part of one of the most populous Metropolis' in the world. With the Winter Olympics coming to Beijing in 2022, the NHL is hopeful that China's investment in getting the country geared up for it can include plenty of excitement for hockey.

The games between the Bruins and Flames will be part of the 2018 ORG NHL China Games. The Flames will play host at Shenzhen, with the Bruins doing so at Beijing. "The Boston Bruins are excited to be part of the 2018 NHL International Games in China," Bruins president Cam Neely told CBS Boston. "Over the past three years we have collaborated with Mr. Zhou Yunjie, the Chairman of ORG Packaging, on growing the game both within the Chinese community in Boston and with youth hockey players in China. "We look forward to continuing these efforts by bringing Bruins hockey to China with these two preseason games."

With a population over 1.3 billion, the Chinese government is trying to have 300 million engaged in winter sports before the Olympics begin, and the NHL is trying to get engaged on a grass-roots level. "I think this is going to be a great experience for our guys," Flames general manager Brad Treliving told NHL.com. "This is a great opportunity for us to experience a different culture while showcasing our league and our product. The next question is whether NHL players will participate in Beijing in 2022 after commissioner Gary Bettman decided the league's players should skip the 2018 Olympic games in Korea. — Reuters

Capitals enforcer Wilson banned for three games

LOS ANGELES: The NHL has slapped Washington Capitals enforcer Tom Wilson with a three-game suspension for a check to the head that left Pittsburgh Penguins Zach Aston-Reese with a bloody face and a broken jaw. It is second time in as many games that Canada's Wilson was involved in a controversial hit to the head of a Penguins player in their Eastern Conference second round playoff series.

Penguins defenseman Brian Dumoulin left game two after Wilson blindsided him with a similar shoulder check to the head. Wilson was not penalized by the game officials on either play. In Tuesday's game two, Aston-Reese, of the US, had just moved the puck near the Capitals' bench when Wilson launched himself at him, knocking Aston-Reese to the ice. Aston-Reese eventually got to his feet, leaving behind a small pool of blood as he headed to the dressing room for repairs.

"We lose a guy to a broken jaw that's going to require surgery and a concussion because of another high hit to the head," Penguins head coach Mike Sullivan after Tuesday's 4-3 loss. "At some point, we would hope that the league might do something." The Pittsburgh players also didn't like Wilson, 24, laughing on the Capital's bench while their teammate was bleeding on the ice. "It's disrespectful. Guy's hurt, laying on the ice. Not too good to be laughing at something like that," Penguins defenseman Justin Schultz said. Wilson had 14 goals and 187 penalty minutes in 78 games during the regular season. — AFP

Ding defiant after falling short again

LONDON: Chinese star Ding Junhui insists he will win the World Championship one day despite crashing to a painful 13-5 quarter-final defeat against Barry Hawkins. Ding, 31, had been ranked as title favorite at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre after the first-round exit of defending champion Mark Selby and the second-round departure of five-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan. But Hawkins, who beat Ding in 2013 on the way to a runners-up finish in the World Championship, led 11-5 overnight and clinically rounded off the victory by taking the first two frames on offer on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old Englishman finished with a flourish with a superb break of 117 - his second century of the encounter - to earn himself a semi-final spot for the fourth time in the past five editions. However, Ding, whose best performance at the worlds is losing to Selby in the 2016 final, insisted that despite falling short he would eventually lift the trophy. "I believe I can still win this one day," he said at a press conference. "I'll always keep up my hopes and I'll never give up. I'm a sportsman, I can't give up." Ding, who had been magnificent in his 13-4 second-round win over Scotsman Anthony McGill, was philosophical about his limp performance against Hawkins.

"Some days you play well, some days are different," said Ding. "I tried to play well and score heavily but what can I say? It wasn't working out there." Hawkins, who faces two-time champion Mark Williams in the semi-finals, said Ding had perhaps wilted under the weight of expectation back in China. "I punished him every time he made a mistake and when someone is doing that against you, it is easy to miss a few," said Hawkins. "I managed to keep him under pressure. And there is a lot of pressure on his shoulders too. "Winning 6-2 last night was huge and I am happy to get over the line. I felt like he gave up at the end." — AFP

Sports

Kop that! Liverpool ready for new golden era; Salah shines

First time in 11 years, Liverpool reach Champions League final

LONDON: Fuelled by Mohamed Salah's astonishing feats and inspired by Jurgen Klopp's tactical mastery, Liverpool are ready to launch a new golden era after sealing their return to the Champions League final. For the first time in 11 years, Liverpool have reached the showpiece of Europe's elite club competition as a dramatic 4-2 defeat against Roma in Wednesday's semi-final second leg clinched an incredible 7-6 aggregate success.

Rome was the perfect setting for Liverpool's return to splendour after the Eternal City played host to the club's 1977 and 1984 European Cup triumphs. If Liverpool beat holders Real Madrid in the final in Kiev on May 26, they will celebrate the first silverware of Jurgen Klopp's three-year reign on the grandest stage of all.

For Klopp, getting his hands on the Champions League trophy would be concrete proof his Red revolution has been worth all the blood, sweat and tears. And it would be fitting for the 50-year-old German to enjoy a breakthrough moment at the same age as the godfather of the modern Liverpool. Bill Shankly was also 50 when the first truly iconic manager in Liverpool's illustrious history served notice he had created a burgeoning dynasty on Merseyside.

Under the Scottish manager, Liverpool became English champions in 1964 after a 17-year gap. Liverpool won the title three times under Shankly and also collected two FA Cups and a UEFA Cup—the club's first European trophy—as his magnetic personality and fierce will to win fulfilled his dream of turning the club into “a bas-

tion of invincibility”. Building on the foundations put in place by Shankly, Liverpool went on to dominate Europe for the next decade.

The thought of emulating that generational success at such a historic club lured Klopp—who possesses the same charismatic character as Shankly—to follow in his footsteps at Liverpool in 2015. Winning Liverpool's sixth European Cup would rank Klopp alongside Anfield immortals Shankly, Bob Paisley and Kenny Dalglish. Ray Clemence, the legendary Liverpool goalkeeper who played under Shankly, sees some uncanny similarities between Klopp and his former boss. “I thought Shankly was a one-off, but then I'd have to say that Klopp is the nearest thing,” Clemence said.

“The relationship Klopp has with the players and fans, it is exactly what Shankly had. “He pulled the club together so it was one strong unit and Klopp has revived that.” Regardless of whether he leaves the Ukraine empty-handed, Klopp knows this season has confirmed Liverpool's emergence as genuine contenders at last. Liverpool have gone 28 years without winning the English title, a barren run that has often seen them written off as a faded force rendered obsolete by the vast wealth of Manchester City, Manchester United and Chelsea.

Klopp masterclass

When Liverpool last won the Champions League in 2005, their miraculous comeback from three goals down in the final against AC Milan obscured the pedestrian nature of Rafael



ROME: Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah controls the ball during the UEFA Champions League semi-final second leg football match AS Roma vs Liverpool FC at the Stadio Olimpico on May 2, 2018. — AFP

Benitez's side. Aside from Steven Gerrard, Xabi Alonso and Jamie Carragher, the heroes of Istanbul were largely inconsistent journeymen. Liverpool finished a whopping 37 points behind Premier League champions Chelsea that year.

Gerrard, who captained Liverpool to that 2005 victory, said Klopp has made the difference: “This manager has got them flying, if they go one step further this could be the start of something special.—AFP

Barcelona measure domestic triumphs against Real success

BARCELONA: La Liga and King's Cup champions Barcelona will be flying high when they host Real Madrid on Sunday in the ‘Clasico’ but their arch rivals will be feeling equally smug after reaching the Champions League final for a third year in a row. After clinching a seventh league title in 10 years last Sunday, Barcelona's only incentive is to finish the La Liga season without losing a game.

Third-placed Real's motivation, however, is to leapfrog Atletico Madrid, who hold a four-point advantage but have played one more game. There will be plenty of tension on the pitch in Sunday's eagerly anticipated fixture. Barca will be keen to further cement their domestic hegemony over Madrid and extend their gap over them to 18 points, which would be the biggest gap they have ever held over their rivals. Zinedine Zidane's side can avenge December's humiliating 3-0 home defeat by Barca by snapping the Catalans' Liga record of 42 games without defeat.

Zidane has already angered Barca by declaring his side will not give the newly crowned champions a guard of ho-

nour before kickoff, a gesture the Catalans did carry out in 2008 when Madrid had won the title. Sunday's game is also the first ‘Clasico’ since 2008 to take place after the title race has been decided. Real have had a disappointing Liga campaign and could finish third for the first time in four years. But their domestic woes has not stopped them from storming into the Champions League final with a 4-3 aggregate win over Bayern Munich. In contrast Barca crashed out of Europe to AS Roma in the quarter-finals.

Madrid will play Liverpool in the final in Kiev on May 26, when they will be targeting a record-extending 13th European Cup. They will also be looking to become the first team since Bayern Munich in 1976 to win the trophy three years in a row. Madrid captain Sergio Ramos believes winning Europe's top prize again could trump Barca's achievements on the domestic front. “Barca have had a great year, they have won two trophies and they deserve credit for that but winning the Champions League is equivalent to those two or even more,” Ramos said.

He also confirmed his side would follow Zidane's orders to deny their rivals a guard of honor. “What Zidane says is gospel. We're making too much fuss out of all this. Barca have the title, which is what they wanted, but there will be no guard of honor, full stop,” he said. Elsewhere, Valencia can seal their return to the Champions League by clinching fourth spot if they win at local rivals Villarreal tomorrow. Getafe, Sevilla, Girona and Real Sociedad will continue to fight for seventh spot and a place in next season's Europa League, with three points separating the four teams. Malaga, Las Palmas and Deportivo La Coruna have already been relegated.—Reuters

Hamburg face Eintracht in latest do-or-die game

BERLIN: Hamburg SV travel to Eintracht Frankfurt tomorrow for their last away game of the season, knowing they need to keep winning if they are to have any chance of staying up. The former European champions are the only team to have played in the Bundesliga every season since its creation in 1963, a feat that even record champions Bayern Munich, promoted to the Bundesliga two years later, cannot claim for themselves. But a disastrous season has seen Hamburg deep in relegation trouble, in 17th place, with two matches to go.

Christian Titz's team, however, has staged a fine comeback so far, winning three of their last four games to hold on to some slim hope of staying up. The northern club, who won their last silverware of any kind more than two decades ago, are now on 28 points, with VfL Wolfsburg, on 30, sitting on the relegation playoff spot. Hamburg need to win their last two matches and hope Wolfsburg drop points to reach the playoff spot. In a more optimistic scenario, with two victories Hamburg can still secure 15th place and climb above Freiburg and Mainz 05, who are currently on 33 points and into safety.

“We have not achieved anything at the moment, we just closed in to within two points,” said Hamburg coach Titz of their key win over Wolfsburg last week. Titz took over in March and has so far managed to quickly instil a sense of urgency among his players while also getting the frustrated Hamburg fans behind the team. Hamburg have played two relegation playoffs and narrowly avoided two more in the previous six seasons.—Reuters

Sports

Jazz hold off Rockets to level NBA playoff series

Joe Ingles delivers a scintillating shooting performance

LOS ANGELES: The Utah Jazz started strong then held their nerve to beat the top-seeded Houston Rockets 116-108 on Wednesday and level their NBA playoffs second-round series at one game apiece. Australian Forward Joe Ingles scored a playoff career-high 27 points and star rookie Donovan Mitchell added 17 as Utah used a big fourth quarter to thwart a second-half comeback bid by superstar James Harden and the Rockets in Houston. Ingles, a 30-year-old who played internationally as a pro for eight years before landing in the NBA in 2014, drained seven of nine three-point attempts. That included two late in the fourth, when his three from the left corner with 4:25 remaining took the Jazz lead to 108-96.

Rookie star Mitchell's 17 points included an one-handed dunk off the rebound of his own missed shot—an emphatic jam that keyed Utah's 16-2 fourth-quarter scoring run. "To be honest I was just trying to shoot a floater and grab a rebound, but I was up there so I figured why come down with it," Mitchell said. Moments before, Mitchell had forced Harden into a 24-second violation, just one solid defensive move from a Jazz team that held the vaunted Rockets offense to 24 percent shooting in the final period. "The biggest thing is we defended," Mitchell said. "We'll take this win, but we need three more."

'Series is on'

NBA scoring champion Harden notched 32 points with 11 assists and seven rebounds for the Rockets, who erased a 19-point first-half deficit to take a five-point lead in the third quarter. "We

came out a little to lackadaisical," said Harden. "We were kind of going through the motions." Just when it looked like the potent Rockets had warmed up and might pull away, the Jazz responded and were up 86-85 heading into the final period. "They're obviously a good team," Ingles said of the Rockets, who posted the league's best record in the regular season. "They made runs—we knew they were going to make runs.

"Sticking together, I think we did a really good job of that," he added. "We were able to make our own runs when it was our turn as well." Jazz coach Quin Snyder was pleased with the poise his young team, still coping with the injury absence of Spanish point guard Ricky Rubio, displayed. "(Houston) not only made it a game but basically took control of the game, I think we could feel that," he said of the Rockets' surge to the lead in the third. "So at that point for our guys to keep their focus on what we were trying to do says a lot about the team—that they didn't break at that point."

The Rockets, who made 17 of 32 three-pointers in a 110-96 game-one romp, connected on just 10 of 37 from beyond the arc and were 38-for-95 from the field overall. "We did a pretty good job of fighting back," Harden said, but he echoed Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni in saying the effort to climb out of a 19-point hole was tiring. "You've got to get greedy and try to get every stop after that, it's just draining," Harden said. The Jazz, seeded fourth in the West, will try to grab the series lead when they host game three on Friday in Salt Lake City. "The series is on," D'Antoni said. "Get it going now."—AFP

of safety, despite battling to three successive draws. "When we do get chances we have to take them - this is a must win game for us," Stoke manager Paul Lambert told Premier League Productions. "They (the fans) can see the fight and the spirit that the lads have given them and I think that's what Stoke City fans want - they want players battling for everything. That's what they've done since we've been here and because of that we're still well within the fight."

West Bromwich Albion, bottom on 28 points, have also shown fight recently but it's almost certainly come too late and anything other than a home win over Tottenham Hotspur will seal their fate. Southampton also occupy a relegation place, on 32 points, though they have three games remaining and still have a chance to get clear. They visit Everton on Saturday ahead of a potentially decisive clash with Swansea and a last-day appointment with champions Manchester City.

Southampton produced an excellent performance to beat Everton 4-1 at St Mary's in November and though they would dearly love a repeat, a draw at Goodison Park might prove a good result. Swansea, a point above the Saints, have their future in their own hands with games against Bournemouth, Southampton and Stoke to come but, having not won for two months, they are very short of confidence.—Reuters



HOUSTON: Jae Crowder #99 of the Utah Jazz goes up for a shot defended by Chris Paul #3 of the Houston Rockets in the first half during Game Two of the Western Conference Semifinals of the 2018 NBA Playoffs on May 2, 2018. — AFP

Sunderland slide brings relegation battle into focus

LONDON: Sunderland's precipitous plunge from top flight to third tier in successive seasons will have sent shock waves through the Premier League, where almost half the teams go into the final weeks of the season still haunted by the spectre of relegation. Instead of filling their coffers from the off-the-scale TV revenues and fixtures against some of the biggest clubs in the world, Sunderland will next year be playing Accrington Stanley and Fleetwood.

Their demise will further sharpen the focus of players, fans, owners and shareholders of the many clubs desperately trying to scramble clear of the log jam at the bottom of the Premier League. So congested is the bottom half of the table that Crystal Palace, who began the season by failing to score a goal in seven successive defeats, have climbed to 11th, 38 points and probable safety. They visit Stoke City on Saturday with the hosts in dire trouble on 30 points, three adrift

Serie A could go out with a whimper rather than a bang

MILAN: Serie A is threatening to go out with a whimper rather than a bang as Juventus could wrap up their seventh successive title at the weekend with two matches to spare. One week ago, Italian fans were reveling in one of the most enthralling titles races in years after Juve's lead at the top was cut to one point over Napoli. Excitement mounted even further when Juve trailed Inter Milan 2-1 at San Siro last Saturday—but within 24 hours the momentum had shifted dramatically.

First, Juventus struck twice in the last five minutes to beat Inter 3-2, then Napoli slumped to a 3-0 defeat at Fiorentina, leaving them four points behind with three games to play. Juve now need only to win home games against Bologna and Verona, both in the lower half of the table, to clinch the title, no matter what happens in their visit to

AS Roma. The title could even be theirs on Sunday if they beat Bologna on Saturday and Napoli then lose at home to Walter Mazzarri's Torino.

Juventus forward Gonzalo Higuain, who headed the winner against Inter, said that game had been a potentially decisive moment in what has been a memorable title race. "It was fundamental to beat Inter, in the last few minutes we knew how important those moments were for us and for the Scudetto," he said. "To come back in that manner gave us a vital boost in the title race." Napoli, meanwhile, have struggled in recent home matches against modest opposition. They scraped past Genoa 1-0, needed two goals in the last two minutes to beat Chievo 2-1 and twice came from behind in a 4-2 win over Udinese.

There has also been speculation about the future of coach Maurizio Sarri, even though he is under contract until June 2020. Italian media have reported the talks over a new contract have broken down and that he could leave the club at the end of the season. Elsewhere, Inter Milan need to win at struggling Udinese to maintain any realistic chance of qualifying for the Champions League next season and ending a six-year absence from the competition.—Reuters

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HOUSTON: Rudy Gobert #27 of the Utah Jazz goes up for a dunk defended by Clint Capela #15 of the Houston Rockets in the first half during Game Two of the Western Conference Semifinals of the 2018 NBA Playoffs on May 2, 2018. — AFP

Jazz down Rockets

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