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Top court delays ruling in Assembly storming case

Tabtabaei warns PM over oil violations • Ashour ready to quit if allegations proven

Lebanese vote in first election in nine years



BEIRUT: A Lebanese woman casts her ballot as she votes at a polling station in the capital yesterday. — AFP

BEIRUT: Lebanon held a much-delayed general election yesterday, with a new civil society list hoping for a breakthrough but traditional parties expected to renew their fragile power-sharing bargain. Polling stations closed after 12 hours of voting that were marred only by minor incidents and were marked by what provisional estimates suggested was a low turnout. Lawmakers extended their own mandate three times since 2009, ostensibly over security concerns linked to neighboring Syria's war and political divisions that led to long and crippling institutional crises.

"This means that I voted, and I'm happy that I voted and took part in change," said Guy Farah, a 36-year-old salesman showing the ink stain on his thumb as he walked out of a Beirut polling station. One of the main

changes in this election is a complex voting system that introduces a degree of proportional representation which has allowed smaller parties to contend. The traditional big players of Lebanon's sect-driven political life were under no immediate threat of having to loosen their decades-old stranglehold on parliament however.

Analysts predict that influential Shiite movement Hezbollah, backed by Iran and wielding a formidable arsenal it refused to give up after the civil war, would retain or slightly increase its clout in the legislature. Prime Minister Saad Hariri's Sunni-dominated movement, which seems to have lost the lavish support it once enjoyed from Saudi Arabia, may shed a few seats but the 48-year-old is tipped to save his job.

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By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of cassation yesterday decided to delay until July 8 rulings against around 70 opposition activists and MPs who are accused of storming the National Assembly. The court, whose rulings are final, was scheduled to issue its verdicts in the highly sensitive case yesterday, but the judge decided to delay the proceedings for two more months.

The activists have been charged with storming the Assembly following a demonstration outside the building in Nov 2011. They were also charged with using violence against police. The criminal court in Dec 2013 acquitted all the defendants, saying that they had no criminal intent and that they were expressing their anger over reports of corruption.

But the appeals court in November last year condemned all the defendants - except one who had died - and sentenced them to harsh jail terms of between one and nine

years. The terms of two defendants were suspended. The defendants include three current lawmakers - Jamaan Al-Harbash, Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Mohammad Al-Mutair - and as many as eight former MPs, including opposition leader Musallam Al-Barrak and Faisal Al-Mislem. The rest are opposition activists.

Meanwhile, MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei yesterday warned the prime minister that MPs will take measures against him if he does not take the necessary actions regarding the violations mentioned in the grilling against Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi. Tabtabaei, who along with MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain grilled the oil minister over alleged violations in the oil sector, warned the prime minister that "you are under the microscope and if you do not take any step, we will take steps against you". He wondered how "oil executives with all their shortcomings have been given the responsibility of the fate of Kuwait".

The grilling against the oil minister ended with 10 lawmakers signing a no-confidence

motion, and voting on it will take place on Thursday. Tabtabaei said he is waiting to see the outcome of the voting and what action the government takes in connection with the grilling. The lawmaker also criticized a number of MPs, whom he accused of striking deals with the government.

MP Saleh Ashour, who had grilled Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh, said yesterday that he will step down if the minister can prove her allegations in the grilling that the Al-Thaqalain Society - which he heads - had taken a KD 100,000 loan. Ashour distributed a copy of the resignation he said he intends to submit immediately if the minister proves that the loan was taken and that he had benefited from it. The minister had dissolved the society over financial violations that breached the charity law in the country. At the end of Ashour's grilling, 10 lawmakers filed a no-confidence motion against the minister. Voting on it is also scheduled to take place on Thursday.

Tunisia votes in first free municipal polls

TUNIS: Tunisia held its first free municipal elections yesterday as voters expressed frustration at the slow pace of change since the 2011 revolution in the cradle of the Arab Spring. The election has been touted as another milestone on the road to democracy in the North African country, which has been praised for its transition from decades of dictatorship. But Tunisia has struggled with persistent political, security and economic problems as well as corruption since the revolution, and observers expected a low turnout for yesterday's poll.

At a polling station in the capital, 58-year-old Ridha Kouki acknowledged that voting is "a right and a duty" but said Tunisians "have little hope" of any change. Chokri Halaoui, 45,



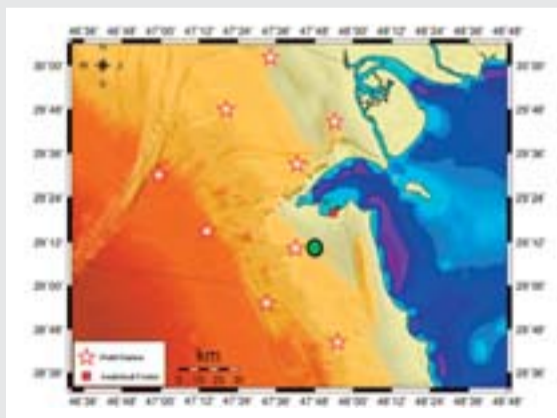
KASSERINE: A Tunisian man casts his vote at a polling station during local elections yesterday. — AFP

said he wanted to send a "message to politicians to tell them 'we have voted now show us what you can do.'" Turnout, two hours after polling began, was at around 4.5 percent, the

election commission said. Tunisians have already voted in parliamentary and presidential elections since the 2011 fall of dictator

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News in brief



Earthquake jolts Kabd

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Seismic Network (KNSN) of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) recorded yesterday an earthquake measuring 3.0 on the Richter scale in eastern Kabd and southern Jahra. KISR mentioned in a press release the quake struck at 1:50 am local time at a depth of 3.7 km below the earth's surface. Many people in Kuwait felt the jolt. Another tremor with a magnitude of 3.2 on the Richter scale was also recorded in the same areas at 12:17 local time and at a depth of 4.7 km. — KUNA

Pak interior minister shot

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's interior minister Ahsan Iqbal has been shot in the arm in a suspected assassination attempt ahead of nationwide elections due this year, but will survive, his aide and officials said yesterday. The suspect, who police said was named "Abid" and is believed to be in his early 20s, shot Iqbal at close range with a 30-bore pistol, hitting him in his right arm as he was preparing to leave a public meeting in Punjab province. — AFP

Iran: US will regret quitting nuclear deal

TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday that if the United States quits the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers then Washington would regret it "like never before". US President Donald Trump has threatened to withdraw from the agreement when it comes up for renewal on May 12, demanding his country's European allies "fix the terrible flaws" or he will re-impose sanctions.

"If the United States leaves the nuclear agreement, you will soon see that they will regret it like never before in history," reformist Rouhani said in a televised speech in northwestern Iran.

Stormy Daniels taunts fake Trump as lawyer presses media blitz

WASHINGTON: Porn actress Stormy Daniels took aim at Donald Trump on Saturday Night Live with comedy as her lawyer pressed forward yesterday with a straight-faced media offensive against the president. Daniels and her lawyer Michael Avenatti appear emboldened by the revelation that Trump reimbursed his attorney for a payment to the porn star, undercut-

"Trump must know that our people are united, the Zionist regime (Israel) must know that our people are united," Rouhani said. "Today all (Iran's) political factions, whether they be from the right, the left, the conservatives, reformers and moderates are united," he added.

The nuclear deal was struck in 2015 between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, then led by Barack Obama. Under the pact, sanctions were eased in return for a commitment not to pursue a nuclear bomb, but Iran says it is not reaping the rewards despite complying with the deal. Trump has consistently complained about the agreement, citing perceived flaws including "sunset" provisions lifting some nuclear restrictions from 2025.

In an attempt to salvage the deal, French President Emmanuel Macron has recently pushed to extend its scope to address this issue, as well as the absence

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ting the president's assertion that he did not know about it.

On SNL, Daniels took a call from the president's personal lawyer Michael Cohen - played by comedian Ben Stiller - at the request of Trump, represented by Alec Baldwin. Trump said he would just listen in as they spoke, and Cohen asked Daniels if she was alone. "What are you wearing?" the fake Trump blurted out, to laughter, before cutting the faux Cohen out of the call. Trump has denied allegations from Daniels, a porn star whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, that they had an affair in 2006. In a skit that got playfully raunchy at times, Trump is asked by Daniels what it would take to make the whole thing go away. "A resignation," she said with a smile.

While Daniels made the comment on a comedy show, Avenatti echoed it to The Guardian. "Ultimately,

(Trump) is going to be forced to resign," he told the newspaper. "I firmly believe there is going to be too much evidence of wrongdoing by him and those around him for him to be able to survive the balance of his term," Avenatti said.

Cohen has admitted he paid Daniels \$130,000 just days before the 2016 election as part of a nondisclosure agreement he insists she has since repeatedly violated. Trump had denied knowing anything about the payment until his new lawyer Rudy Giuliani acknowledged that the president had in fact reimbursed Cohen for the payoff, which arguably may have violated federal campaign finance laws. "We have evidence that the president knew in the months at least following the campaign of this payment, certainly knew it long before his statement on Air Force One in April of this year

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SABZEVAR, Iran: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addresses crowds during a rally in this northwestern city yesterday. — AFP

Amir, Crown Prince receive senior state officials

Defense Minister receives sports authority chief



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



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



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Humoud Al-Flaiteh, in presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Board Chairman of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society (IHRS) Tareq Al-Issa and his accompanying delegation.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Deputy Chief of the National Guards Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri as well as Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hossam Al-Abdullah Al-Roumi.

Separately, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad received Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Humoud Al-Flaiteh. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah attended the meeting, the ministry's Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a press statement. Earlier yesterday, Sheikh Nasser received Board Chairman of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society (IHRS) Tareq Al-Issa who briefed the minister on the IHRS's charity work,

the statement added.

In other news, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received Iraq's Cabinet Secretary General Mahdi Al-Alaq, and head of the Reconstruction Fund of Areas Affected by Terrorist Operations Dr Mustafa Al-Hiti. The meeting was attended by Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Abdulwahab Al-Bader; Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah; Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab World Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani; Assistant Foreign Minister for International Development and Cooperation Affairs Plenipotentiary Nasser Al-Sabeeh, and a host of senior officials at the foreign ministry. Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashmi also attended. — KUNA



Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Iraq's Cabinet Secretary General Mahdi Al-Alaq.

Kuwait's Ambassador inaugurates mosque, Islamic center in Canberra

CANBERRA: The State of Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia, Najeeb Al-Bader, has inaugurated Sabah Al-Ahmad Masjid (Mosque) and Islamic Education Centre in Canberra. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr Walid Al-Shuaib, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for the Holy Quran and Islamic Studies, representing Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahd Al-Afasi. Also present was Chris Crewther MP, Member for Dunkley - Victoria, representing Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, alongside representatives from ACT Government, heads of diplomatic missions and Islamic organizations and a large crowd.

Ambassador Bader delivered a speech noting that complex construction reflects depth of the friendly bilateral relationship between the State of Kuwait and Australia. He noted that this blessed project was accomplished through the productive cooperation between the Embassy of the State of Kuwait and Canberra Islamic Centre, and by means of the generous contribution of the Council of Ministers of the State of Kuwait with a value of about two million Australian dollars. Furthermore, he expressed deep satisfaction that collaborative hard work has contributed towards finishing all construction work on time, noting that the contract of this Islamic edifice was signed in April, 2016. He emphasized that the mosque, along with the center, was named after the Amir of wisdom and leader of humanitarian work, His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He explained that as a result of His Highness's policies and guidance in taking outstanding generous initiatives, His

Highness was recognized as a great humanitarian leader "of our world, and Kuwait has obtained prominence among the countries of the world in the last 10 years as a "center of global humanitarian action." Hence, the Ambassador expressed his hopes that this project will contribute further towards highlighting the constructive and positive efforts of the State of Kuwait in relation to leading international humanitarian initiatives and humanitarian projects. Al-Bader clarified that Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Canberra has supervised all the phases of the project construction.

He explained that it was launched in response to a request from Canberra Islamic Centre due to urgent need for a mosque and a center that provide educational and religious services to the Muslim community in Canberra, which is about 10,000 Muslims. He also noted that naming this Islamic edifice after His Highness the Amir reflects genuine recognition of the Muslim community to the His Highness' humanitarian work around the world.

The Ambassador stressed in his address that the contribution of the Government of the State of Kuwait to Canberra Islamic Centre intended to help and empower members of the Muslim community to integrate into the Australian society, aimed at spreading the message of Islam, embodied in moderation and tolerance and promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and constructive cooperation. He added that the establishment of this masjid comes as a part of the efforts of the State of Kuwait to clarify and correct stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam through the most powerful method which is spreading knowledge as it eradicate ignorance and prejudice.

"We hope that this masjid and educa-

tional center will have a leading role in showing the distinctive Islamic heritage and culture, as well as clarifying the moderate ideology of Islam which is based on tolerance," he said. He also passed a message to all those who visit this Masjid to wisely preserve this edifice and all its elements, underscoring that it is highly important to focus on spreading the spirit of harmony and respect for others. The ambassador conveyed his high appreciation and gratitude to the ACT government for their genuine cooperation in this project, the first of its kind in Canberra and Australia.

He noted that this masjid is the first of its kind in Canberra and Australia; it is spacious enough to accommodate 1200 male and female worshippers. It also includes classrooms for the Holy Quran memorization, prophet Mohammad teachings and Arabic language program, in addition to outdoor gardens for social functions. Ambassador Al-Bader forwarded his keenness to continue the fruitful cooperation between the Kuwaiti Embassy and Canberra Islamic Centre, since the Embassy will be a permanent member of the Executive Committee of the Centre and in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the desired goals and aspirations. Chris Crewther MP addressed the audience of the ceremony on behalf of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Honorable Malcolm Turnbull. He congratulated the Muslim Community on this new Islamic, educational and cultural establishment, praising the crucial facilities and educational and religious services it will provide. He also noted the importance of this achievement for the Muslim Community, which clearly reflects multicultural Australian society and its religious integration. Furthermore, he commended all those who contributed towards the achievement of this project, as well as the role of this project in promoting awareness, guidance and tolerance. He expressed his pleasure to participate in the opening ceremony of Sabah Al-Ahmad Masjid and Islamic Education Centre and forwarded the greetings of the Prime Minister of Australia on this occasion.



CANBERRA: Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader (right) is seen during the inauguration ceremony of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Masjid and Islamic Education Centre in Canberra, Australia. — KUNA



Muslims pray at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Masjid and Islamic Education Centre in Canberra, Australia.

Dr Shuaib, representing minister Afasi, emphasized the humanitarian effort of the State of Kuwait which entitles it to obtain a good global reputation, for being one of the most generous countries in providing humanitarian and charity assistance to the disadvantaged anywhere in the world, regardless of their religion, country, gender or color. Dr Shuaib added that the complex is a great Islamic edifice in Canberra and a manifestation of the humanitarian Kuwaiti initiatives. He stressed the importance of this project in promoting the concepts of tolerance and equality as well as its role in teaching the

young generation the Islamic values, virtues and moderation.

The president of Canberra Islamic Centre, Zafar Ahmad, also delivered a speech in which he forwarded the gratitude of the Muslim community in Australia to the Kuwait Government and people, as well as its appreciation for the generous contribution of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, which made the construction of this project possible. He noted that Sabah Al-Ahmad Masjid and Islamic Education Centre will enhance the Islamic values based on moderation and rejection of violence. — KUNA

Local

We can keep up with Kanye



By Nejouad Al-Yagout

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Kanye West's comments are inflammatory, to say the least, but as an Arab, I want to ask Americans: Who are you? And what have you done to America?

It is the Americans who have shown us that freedom of speech and press is healthy, but you seem to be showing us that people should not voice their opinions lately because of the number of people getting offended. Is this a new phenomenon or is this only more pronounced because social media has highlighted an issue that managed to disguise itself for decades? We expect to see people get sensitive in this part of the world, a region steeped in dogma and conservatism, but it is strange, if not disconcerting, to see such a clampdown on freedom of opinion in the land of the free, home of the brave. Whatever Kanye's intentions were - whether to garner attention for his upcoming five albums or to highlight his troubles with opioids - is not for us to judge. Everywhere we go, thanks to social media, we have mobs of people, trolls, and analysts ever-ready to fulfill the role of a jury. But again, it is not for us to judge.

We all know slavery was and is and will always be wrong and most certainly was not a choice in the literal sense. Why would we argue about something we know is true? Why would we defend a statement that makes no sense? And when other celebrities say that his words are dangerous because of his influence, one might ask: Dangerous to who? Nobody in their right mind will be influenced by a statement that cannot be backed by history. Were you, who is reading this, influenced? Did it make you have less compassion for slaves? And if he influenced you, it says more about your mind than it does about Kanye.

And if we look beyond the literal diction of the statement, we can understand that as a black man, Kanye is inviting his fellow black Americans to transcend victim mentality. He thinks enough centuries have been spent living in the shadows of whites, and it is time to let go of the slave narrative in an ever-changing world. Perhaps what Kanye is reminding all of us is that holding on to the past is dangerous. There is a point where we have to catch up with reality and live in the now.

We see it here, in this region. Many people glamorize history at the expense of the present and the future, and this is causing turmoil, because we are trying to evolve, but are kept in our shackles. Perhaps Kanye wants everyone who was oppressed in the past to break free from what he sees as a trap. The present rewards people who let go. The universe rewards people who let go.

And once again, who has he influenced? Many racists will applaud his comments because it alleviates their own guilt. But we are not here to police everything that comes out of someone's mouth. Twitter has become a battlefield, a platform for fragile egos ready for any opportunity to ride on the coat-tails of celebrities. When you retaliate, whether or not you are a celebrity yourself, you are rewarded with recognition and more followers. In short: trending is good for business.

And in case none of the above arguments are convincing, let us remember that the statement regarding slavery was uttered by a man who has admitted he suffers from mental issues. Debating him, as we have seen, will not change his stance. We should feel sorry for him for wanting attention at the expense of offending others. And if we think that his words have repercussions, it is time to teach our children that sticks and stones may break our bones and words will never harm us and really, really mean it.

What are we teaching future generations? To take to Twitter each time our egos are bruised? To fight back any time we hear anything deemed offensive? What happened to good old-fashioned discussion? What happened to compassion and communication? Do we really think a black man in America is against his own race? Do we think he is denying what happened? It is taking too long to mature, to evolve from sensitivity.

As an Arab woman, this is easy for me to understand. We have been marginalized for cons. forced into marriages, subjugated. But if you come to the Arab world now, you will see promising signs of equality. In many professional fields, women are holding the fort. We have female ambassadors, ministers, Members of Parliament, women activists, artists, writers. And we have mothers who choose not to work, who raise our children. How much strength is in that as well? A twenty-four hour job.

We know we are not victims. We are looking toward the future. We are dissolving the patriarchy by immersing ourselves in our passion and reminding our

brothers that anything they can do, we can do. We are fighting for our rights vigorously without being held by the past. If I heard an Arab woman say that women subjugation is a choice, I would not get offended: I would know she is asking us to stop believing we are below men and to step up our game. I would know she is telling us to stop caving into a feminine narrative and be ourselves. I would know that - as an Arab woman - she belongs to the same minority as me, and is asking us to remember, regardless of all our strides, that the status quo is not serving us. And sometimes it takes an extreme slap on the face to galvanize us. If we want the patriarchy to dissolve, we need to reclaim our power.

Oh, and change does not happen when we see ourselves as victims. By knowing my strength as a woman, I can manifest this as reality. But, if I insisted on being a victim, like some of our ancestors, then I could never change and show my power to the world. The hero or heroine is not someone with power, but someone whose power was taken away and reclaimed stronger than ever before. All the movers and shakers in our world taught or are teaching us to get up, stand up from victimhood and make a difference - from Paval Jangid and Rosa Parks to Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousefzai. These icons knew they were forced into victim mode, but the divine spark within them forced themselves out of it. They know the world will always find ways to offend us, but they don't get offended: they are too busy transforming our world.

In the meantime, though the world is tired of Kanye's rants, it is more tiring to read the responses and the comments and the hashtags, the movements to stop playing his music and the petitions against him. Punishing a man who claims to be mentally ill is brutal. He was hospitalized. Where is our sympathy? Kanye needs compassion and understanding. We are not helping by throwing stones at him.

What warrants attention is when someone kills or suppresses another human being because of gender, race or religion; or when we praise a soldier for fulfilling the duty of his or her country; when an adult molests a child; when children are sold into sex, when women are raped, when drugs are sold, when diseases become widespread. These are the matters we should focus on eradicating on our planet.

But instead, we spend time analyzing what celebrities, who are not monolithic, are saying. Celebrities are entertainment. They are not preachers nor do we have to follow them. If something insults us, there is a choice to silently unfollow without making a scene. It is different when someone actually does something. Then we have to speak out to protect each other. But can we let thoughts be thoughts and words be words? Words are only dangerous when they spur people to action. We know Kanye's words will not spur people to take slaves. Why can't we see that? What should concern us is action, such as when a racist person galvanizes members of his own race to shun others, or when walls are built to divide countries, or when a leader sends troops to invade a country because of resources, or when members of a religion or certain countries are denied visas, something that does not only happen in America, but everywhere, including - if not especially - in our region, lest we forget.

What happened to free speech? Yes, there are bigots out there. Yes, there are people who do not share our views. Yes, people will say insane things that are insensitive, but it has reached a point where people are so tired of censorship and suppression that people are rebelling by putting their feet (yes, not just one foot) in their mouths.

It is not our business how things evolve. We are not here to love or embrace everyone. Tolerance and coexistence entail respecting the rights of others even if we do not like them. It is very simple. Kanye did not tell people that slavery was good or that we should have slaves. Had he called people into taking slaves, the outrage would be justified. How much longer will we allow our fragile egos to take a beating each time someone insults our labels?

We are sending the message that we believe in freedom of speech as long as it reflects what we are thinking. When we are so attached to our labels, skin colors and belief systems, anything said to us can shatter our core. When we honor a sacred relationship with the unifying thread and know we are beyond physical matter, we can, like heroes and heroines in our past, present, and future - focus on changing ourselves and the world for the better.

Ahmadi has highest Kuwaiti population

Farwaniya most expat populated governorate

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Recent Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) statistics revealed that Ahmadi governorate has a majority of Kuwaiti residents, while Farwaniya has a majority of non-Kuwaiti residents. According to statistics, Ahmadi's total Kuwaiti population is 290,000, compared to 942,000 non-Kuwaitis residing in Farwaniya. Statistics also showed that Farwaniya is the most densely-populated governorate with 1,175,000 residents, while Mubarak Al-Kabeer is the least populated with a total of 262,000 residents.

Statistics also showed that the Capital governorate has a total population of 573,000 (260,000 Kuwaitis and 313,000 non-Kuwaitis), while the total population of Hawally is 947,000 (233,000 Kuwaitis and 713,000 non-Kuwaitis), the total population of Ahmadi is 985,000 (290,000 Kuwaitis and 694,000 non-Kuwaitis) and the total population in Jahra is 555,000 (193,000 Kuwaitis and 361,000 non-Kuwaitis).

In addition, statistics showed that Saad Al-Abdullah is the area most densely populated by Kuwaitis, with 63,000 residents, followed by Sabah Al-Salem with 53,000 residents and Sabahiya with 37,000, followed by Rumaithiya, Jaber Al-Ali, Ardiya and Abdullah Al-Mubarak with 35,000 residents each.

Schools warned

Education Ministry's assistant undersecretary for private education affairs Abdul Mohsen Al-Howailah warned all private schools against barring students from sitting for the final exams because of not paying tuition fees. Howailah promised to take serious measures against schools that violate such regulations, as well as against those collecting extra unauthorized fees.

Oil sector

Official oil sources said a total of 2,553 employees have been appointed in the oil sector over the past two years, including 2,004 citizens, in addition to 694 noncitizens appointed through contractors. "Citizens make up 26 percent of contractors' staff," the sources said, noting that starting from this fiscal year, this percentage was raised to 30 percent in all new contracts.

The sources expected the total number of employees working in the oil sector to reach 26,000 by 2021. They added that as part of the policy of replacing expatriate employees with citizens, oil sector companies have classified their staff into three categories - easily replaceable, gradually replaceable and hard to replace. The sources added that the policy will be applicable to the first two categories in the short term, and there are long term plans to replace the third cate-

gory by 15 percent annually.

Labor allowance

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh announced that the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) have agreed to pay the national labor support allowance by the 25th of every month. Sabeeh also noted that CSC had been contacted on March 11 to arrange for paying the allowance to citizens working in non-governmental bodies. Moreover, Sabeeh stressed that transferring MGRP to the Public Authority for Manpower is part of measures to achieve economic and financial reform through merging or scrapping some authorities to cut expenses. She added that this merger was done on April 1, 2018 with the advent of new fiscal year 2017-2018.

Separate authority

The Interior Ministry yesterday rejected a proposal by the parliamentary interior and defense committee to establish a separate authority for criminal evidence and forensic medicine. In its rejection, the Interior Ministry explained that article 39 of law 17/1960 states that the police is the administrative body authorized to maintain order and prevent crimes and conduct investigations needed to identify culprits.

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Local

Student killed in accident outside school

Disabled man died in Bneid Al-Gar fire

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 13-year-old student was killed yesterday when a vehicle ran her over as she left school in Salmiya. The victim, Egyptian, was pronounced dead on the scene while police apprehended the vehicle's driver, a Kuwaiti woman, for questioning. In a statement commenting on the incident, Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi expressed his deepest sympathies and sadness over the death of the middle school student who was run over while returning home from school after sitting for her first final exam. Azmi extended the ministry's condolences to the girl's parents, schoolmates and the school's administration.

Bneid Al-Gar fire

A 91-year-old disabled Iranian man died in a fire that

burned his Bneid Al-Gar house yesterday. The body was recovered by the coroner. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Smuggling foiled

Director General of the Customs Department Jamal Al-Jalawi thanked Abdaly customs officers for foiling attempts to smuggle banned substances. Jalawi called his deputy when he learned about the foiling of an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of Captagon tablets inside a gas cylinder by a Gulf national. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities. Separately, Nuwaiseeb land border outlet customs officer Mohammad Abdulrahman and his assistant Bilal Al-Khamees caught a man attempting to smuggle 300 cartons of cigarettes out of the country.

Security crackdowns

The general security sector carried out several campaigns under the supervision of Acting Assistant Undersecretary Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Traah from April 29 to May 5, resulting in the arrest of 433 wanted persons on felony and civil cases, in addition to 743 residency violators and others who didn't have IDs. Twenty-three wanted vehicles were seized, while police dealt with 81 drugs cases, 12 liquor cases, four theft cases, 94 roaming laborers and 419 fights. They also issued 1,846 traffic citations and impounded 172 vehicles.

Environmental violation

The relations and security information department

at the interior ministry said following a video on social media showing a tanker truck driver dumping waste in the Abdaly farms area, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) was informed to take samples. Meanwhile, the Indian suspect was arrested and sent to concerned authorities.

New graduates

Under the patronage of the interior ministry's assistant undersecretary and presence of Acting Director General of Saad Al-Abdullah Security Sciences Academy Maj Gen Nasser Bourseli, a graduation ceremony was held of the 35th batch of corporals with 396 graduates, the 88th policemen's batch with 54 graduates and the 9th batch of Gulf children of Kuwaiti women.

KSHR stresses domestic labor's right of equality

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Responding to the Cabinet's resolution on transferring domestic labor affairs department from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and keeping current regulations in effect until they are amended or cancelled, the Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR) issued a statement in which it stressed that treating domestic helpers equally with other workers is one of the rights regulated in national legislations that match ILO regulations and treaties. However, KSHR expressed concerns about the lack of a clear working mechanism or regulations that will help domestic helpers the way the Interior Ministry had been doing through a long chain of services, such as facilitating departure and other procedures.

Employee transfers

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday issued a resolution renewing the suspension of all forms of employee transfers amongst state departments for another year, effective from May 27.

'Year of Starvation'

Kuwait Food Bank (KFB) took part in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the infamous 'Year of Starvation' at a symposium held in Riyadh entitled "100 Years of Starvation to Wasting Food" to remind the community of the necessity of preserving and wisely consuming food and heeding lessons from the events of that year. The symposium was held under the auspices of Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Deputy Governor of Riyadh and with the participation of KFB Chairman Meshaal Al-Ansari. Ansari said KFB's participation in the symposium stems from the bank's main message and mission of 'A World Without Hunger', a message from the land of humanity. He added KFB is one of the first bodies serving humanity both regionally and internationally through providing food and basic needs to the poor and needy around the world. Ansari added that the aims of the symposium match those of KFB, including calling for wise consumption of food and making use of extra food. He also said that commemorating the year of hunger aims at comparing it with the amount of food wasted nowadays.

Kuwait eyes renewable energy: Minister

KUWAIT: The Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rashidi affirmed yesterday plans to avail renewable energy technologies. Using such services could save up to \$750 million of costs until 2030, Rashidi said in his speech at the Fourth Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Kuwait. Kuwait's hosting of the forum's fourth edition reflects its significant role, under its wise leadership, and efforts in assisting Arab countries with making use of their own resources, he said.

Rashidi also pointed out Kuwait's efforts to benefit from renewable energy in order to generate electric power as part of attaining His Highness the Amir's desire to make Kuwait's renewable energy production reach 15 percent of the total electric production by 2030.

The ministry has come a long way in attaining His Highness the Amir's desire, in cooperation with several bodies in the country, he said, noting international investment in renewable energy projects has become an economic and environmental necessity. "It is important to support and boost such projects, especially with the current presence of promising opportunities in the Arab region," said the minister. Despite the abundant renewable energy sources in Arab states, these countries started late in investing in them compared to other countries around the world with no resources, he noted.

It is necessary to take advantage of renewable sources at this time in light of the ongoing decrease in production and technology development costs, he added. The decrease in solar panels costs by 80 percent since 2008, in addition to the low costs of wind power turbines and other renewable energy services have prompted world countries and decision makers to make real investment in these technologies, said Rashidi.

Arab nations constantly seek to import best practices and expertise from countries that succeeded in the renewable energy field, he affirmed. Arabs also strive to address the best solutions for overcoming challenges facing nationalizing their renewable energy technologies, Rashidi added. They also exert all efforts to support energy efficiency programs and services in order to make a worthy investment out of them on regional and international levels, he added.— KUNA

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Crackdown shakes China 'Little Africa'

Anger in France, UK over Trump's gun law speech

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ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses his supporters during a rally yesterday. —AFP

Erdogan vows more cross-border offensives

AKP releases election manifesto before snap polls

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday vowed to launch further cross-border offensives against terror groups as he revealed his ruling party's manifesto ahead of snap elections on June 24. Erdogan made a series of promises about the economy and uniting the country during a rally in Istanbul attended by several thousand people. The Turkish head of state last month announced snap presidential and parliamentary elections on June 24 to the surprise of Turkish politics observers.

Experts say Erdogan wants to exploit the rising nationalist feeling after an operation in Syria this year and to hold polls before the economy worsens. After June 24, Turkey will implement constitutional changes approved in an April 2017 referendum to create an executive presidency which expands the head of state's powers. Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002 and has since remained the country's biggest political force. "June 24 is going to be a milestone for Turkey," Erdogan said.

The president said Turkey would launch cross-border offensives, similar to previous military operations in Syria, adding that Turkey would never give up its fight against terror. "Turkey will launch additional offensives

like Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch operations to clear its border of terror organizations in the new era," Erdogan said. Operation Euphrates Shield took place between August 2016 and March 2017 against the Islamic State group, while the Olive Branch offensive targeted the People's Protection Units (YPG) militia in its western enclave of Afrin earlier this year.

Turkey committed to EU

The president did not give any details on where the next operation could take place although there has been speculation Ankara could launch an offensive in northern Iraq. Turkey says the YPG is linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been waging an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984. The PKK has bases in the Qandil mountain area of Iraq. Erdogan also repeatedly threat-

ened in the past to expand the Afrin offensive to YPG-held Manbij, which raised fears of a confrontation with United States forces there.

During his 70-minute speech, Erdogan discussed a range of domestic and foreign issues. He repeated Turkey's commitment to joining the European Union despite prior tensions with several EU member states and long-stalled membership negotiations. Erdogan highlighted the AKP's success in starting formal membership talks in 2005. "We have absolutely not given up our objective of full membership of the European Union even if we have not seen the same determination and desire recently from our interlocutors," he insisted.

Erdogan said interest rates - despite the Turkish lira's decline in value against the US dollar - would fall

alongside inflation and the widening current account deficit.

Inflation hit 10.85 per cent in April while the lira has lost over 11 percent of its value against the greenback since January.

'Media embargo'

Erdogan's speech was broadcast live on all the main television channels but the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) candidate Muharrem Ince, chosen two days earlier, hit back at the "media embargo" against the opposition. Ince's first rally in Yalova, north-western Turkey, was not broadcast live on Saturday by the main news channels including CNN Turk and state broadcaster TRT. "The TV channels which even broadcast AKP's district congresses live did not broadcast our splendid rally live," Ince said on Twitter earlier yesterday, blaming Erdogan. "We will go on to break this media order. If the media embargo against the opposition at the orders of the palace continues, we will hold our rallies outside TV channels." In recent months, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim and Erdogan have given speeches to district-level party congresses each weekend which have always been broadcast live. —AFP



Turkey committed to joining EU

Erdogan said interest rates - despite the Turkish lira's decline in value against the US dollar - would fall

First-time voters eager to weigh in on Lebanon's poll

BEIRUT: Hanin Terjman was among the first outside her Beirut polling station yesterday: like many young Lebanese, she is voting for the first time and wants to see new faces in parliament. Clicking away on her smart phone, the chic 21-year-old student waited nervously for the school-turned-polling station in the Ras Al-Nabah district to open for Lebanon's first parliamentary elections in nine years. She was surrounded by delegates from the country's elite parties, who sported hats with pictures of Prime Minister Saad Hariri and T-shirts in support of the rival powerful Shiite Amal Movement. But Terjman wants to throw her support behind a list of outsiders including engineers and activists.

"We're in a country whose rulers are putting pressure on us over who we are going to vote for. We should vote for new people who are going to change," she said. Terjman, who became of age to vote just one month ago, is among 800,000 registered voters - more than a fifth of the electorate - who were too young to cast a ballot in previous polls. "It's nice to feel like I belong to my country," she said, donning a pink top, white headscarf, and thick black eyeliner. Terjman, who studies education at the Lebanese University, said she will vote for the civil society list Kulluna Beirut, despite being told by friends that veteran politicians would not be easily unseated.

"I want to tell people to go vote for the person they think is appropriate and will improve their country, not people who 'belong' to, because that won't get you anywhere." As she spoke, half a dozen supporters of Hariri's Future Movement rushed to the school gate, waving ID cards and asking the soldier positioned there when they could be let in. Beirut is split into two voting districts, with 19 seats up for grabs for candidates from Christian and Muslim sects. Many powerful politicians, including Hariri, are



BEIRUT: Lebanese women voters queue in line to cast their votes at a polling station in the capital Beirut yesterday, as the country votes in the first parliamentary election in nine years. —AFP

running in Beirut, where massive posters of the rival candidates are omnipresent.

First timers

Lebanon elected 128 members to parliament in 2009, but a planned 2013 vote was delayed because of discontent with the majoritarian electoral law and concerns about a spillover from the war in neighboring Syria. Ali al-Ahmad, 21, came to the Ras Al-Nabah station with a friend just moments after polls opened. "It's the first time for me, and we're excited. A lot of people told me not to vote," said Ahmad, who wore a black tee-shirt. He said he would support candidates from the Shiite movement Hezbollah, which is backing the Damascus regime in the Syria war, and which many analysts say would likely hold on to its seats. "Just as we were on the front lines and barricades, we'll be behind the ballot boxes, we want a strong country with a strong economy," said Ahmad. Supporters of candidates running in Sunday's race were distributing boxed breakfasts at decked-out stands near polling stations.

Many young voters came holding their

elderly relatives, guiding them into the polling stations and trying to explain the new, more proportional electoral system to them. Siwar Ibrahim came alone. He is registered to vote in the Tariq al-Jdideh district, a built-up and conservative neighborhood where Hariri's party has strong support. "It's my first time and I hope I don't get disappointed. I turned 21 on January 1," said Ibrahim, a curly-haired visual artist, as he stood in line to head into the booth.

He said he turned down cash payments from traditional parties, instead opting for Kulluna Beirut. Ibrahim, who dreams of legislation that would back gender minorities, health care and human rights, said coming into the packed polling station felt threatening. "I had to dress the opposite of what I usually look like in order to come here to vote safely. I had to take my earrings out, I had to look like what a man is supposed to look like," he said. "I'm here, at least I tried. I don't want to spend four years at home regretting that I didn't vote." "It's ok to be scared, that's the challenge. Be scared, and vote." —AFP

A new hope for young Armenians; opposition hero set to take power

YEREVAN: The audience goes crazy in the Armenian capital Yerevan's Downtown Club as rapper Narek goes on stage. "How is it going, Armenia, a nation of winners?" he exclaims. His fans are jubilant. On Tuesday, their hero, opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan could ascend to power after three weeks of peaceful protests that ousted longtime leader Serzh Sargsyan last month. "Armenians! Armenians!" shouts Narek before starting to sing a rap song about an everyday life in the streets of Yerevan.

For one of his fans, Eduard Eghoyan, the hit song is a call for "hope" despite a litany of problems in the poor ex-Soviet country of 2.9 million people. "This rap comes from the depths of our souls and speaks of our hardships," said the young IT engineer. "Armenia's biggest problem today is corruption". The small South Caucasus nation ranks 107th out of 180 countries in the Transparency International's corruption perception index. Another fan, Karen Vardanyan, likes Narek's lyrics but was forced to skip the concert at the Downtown Club.

"The ticket costs 10,000 drams (17 euros), it's too expensive," he said. The 23-year-old web designer said he earns 175,000 drams (300 euros) a month and has to pay 260,000 drams in tuition fees every year. "And I'm enrolled in a public university!" he fumed. Like most Armenians, Eghoyan and Vardanyan pin their hopes on the 42-year-old leader of the opposition movement, Pashinyan. The only candidate for the country's top political office, Pashinyan is expected to be elected prime minister by lawmakers on Tuesday after a huge wave of opposition protests against the ruling elites shook the country in recent weeks. "There is no alternative (to Pashinyan) and I expect a lot from him," said Vardanyan.

'The only one'

Sporting a tousled beard, a bronze tan and a baseball cap, Armenia's political supereva has channelled people's desire for change into a broad protest movement which led to the resignation of veteran leader Sargsyan last month and transformed the country's political landscape. Pashinyan has built his popularity on promises to tackle widespread poverty, oust corrupt elites and reign in powerful oligarchs that wield massive influence over Armenian politics. Tens of thousands of Pashinyan supporters for several weeks rallied in Yerevan and other cities and last week virtually shut down the capital after the ruling Republican Party blocked Pashinyan's first attempt to get elected prime minister. Pashinyan called for a halt to protests after the Republicans gave in and said they would back the opposition leader's candidacy after a nationwide general strike cut key transport links and suspended railway traffic.

Ahead of the crucial vote, life in Yerevan, a city with a population of one million people and a provincial feel, was back to normal, with posters virtually gone from the streets and residents seeking refuge from the blistering sun. Lectures resumed at Yerevan State University after students took to the streets en masse, blockading entrances to government buildings and disrupting traffic across the city. Sirarpi Ohanyan, a 22-year-old international relations student, said she was confident in the outcome of the vote. Pashinyan "is the only one who can make Armenia win," she said. —AFP

International

Dozens of casualties as blast hits Afghan voter registration centre

7 Indian engineers kidnapped in Afghanistan

KHOST: A blast at a voter registration centre in Afghanistan's restive east yesterday killed or wounded at least 30 people, officials said, capping a bloody week in the war-torn country. The bomb had been placed in a tent being used to register voters on the grounds of a mosque, marking the latest attack on preparations for the long-delayed legislative elections. "A crowd of people who had come out of the mosque had gathered to register" when the blast took place, Khost provincial police chief Abdul Hanan Zadran said.

Zadran said the casualty toll stood at "about 30". But provincial deputy director of public health Gul Mohammad Mangal told AFP at least 12 people had been killed and 33 wounded in the explosion. Mangal warned the toll could rise, with several of the wounded in a critical condition. "Ambulances are still bringing more people," he added. It was the latest attack on election preparations and comes almost a week after 25 people were killed in a double bombing in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Nine journalists including AFP chief photographer Shah Marai were among the dead. BBC reporter Ahmad Shah was killed in a separate attack in Khost province. The latest assault on a voter registration centre is likely to deter more people from signing up for the long-delayed parliamentary and district council elections scheduled for October 20. On April 22 a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a voter registration centre in Kabul, killing 60 people and wounding more than 100. That was among a series of attacks across the country on places where people were signing up to vote.



At least 30 people killed or wounded

Low turnout fears

The Taliban and IS have made clear their intentions to disrupt the elections. Officials are concerned that a low voter turnout will undermine the credibility of the poll. Just over 1.2 million adults had registered by Saturday, three weeks after the two-month long process began, data compiled by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) showed. The IEC, which is overseeing preparations for the vote, hopes to register up to 14 million adults at more than 7,000 polling centers. But if the current trend were to continue, fewer than three million people would be registered by the mid-June deadline. Authorities have deployed planes to drop leaflets in a number of provinces raising awareness about the elections, which are seen as a test run for next year's presidential poll.

A radio and television campaign is also under way and civil servants have been granted a day off to sign up. The IEC has placed many of the voter registration centers inside schools and mosques, triggering concerns that students and worshippers could be at risk. Another hurdle to voter registration is a sticker placed on national identification certificates showing the holder has signed up for the poll. There are concerns that the stickers could put voters in restive districts at risk of being targeted by Taliban or Islamic State militants.

Engineers kidnapped

In another development, seven Indian engineers and an Afghan national working for a power plant in northern Baghlan province of Afghanistan were kidnapped yesterday,



KHOST: An Afghan wounded man lays on a trolley as others rush him to a hospital following blast at a voter registration centre in Khost Province yesterday. — AFP

officials said. Zabihullah Shuja, spokesman for Baghlan police, said the engineers were travelling to a government-run power station in a minibus when unknown gunmen abducted them and their Afghan driver. Two officials at the Indian embassy in Kabul confirmed the kidnapping of the engineers, all working for the Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) that operates power generating stations.

A senior Indian embassy official said over 150 Indian engineers and technical experts are currently working across Afghanistan on large infrastructure projects. "We

are working out ways to ensure the release of our engineers," an official said. It is not known who is responsible for the kidnapping or whether a ransom has been sought for their release. Kidnapping of locals for extortions are common in Afghanistan. Rampant poverty and rising unemployment has worsened the situation. In 2016, an Indian aid worker was kidnapped in Kabul. She was released after 40 days. The Indian government regularly issues a security alert for Indians residing in Afghanistan and travelling to the war-torn country.—Agencies

Crackdown shakes China 'Little Africa'

GUANGZHOU: The Ghanaian university student was roused after midnight by police shouting and pounding on his door in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, where a crackdown on illegal immigration has left many residents of its "Little Africa" neighborhood feeling scared and angry. After demanding to see his visa, the agents carefully checked his papers before leaving to knock on other doors.

The commercial hub has long been a magnet for fortune-seeking Africans, but traders and students say they face unfavourable visa rules and increasingly heavy policing. "They do this because Africans live here," the Ghanaian student told AFP as he stood on a pedestrian bridge in the bustling city, still upset over last summer's after-dark visit. "I was sick of being treated like a criminal. I had to move to another neighborhood," he said, gesturing at a nearby police station and lamenting that the omnipresent security had made life more complicated. Migration from Africa has risen in recent years as China has stepped up its diplomatic links and investments with the continent.

Guangzhou draws merchants who come to buy goods such as jewelry and electronics in bulk, which they ship back to their homelands. But in January, the official Xinhua news agency reported that the African population in Guangzhou had decreased as "police have tightened enforcement on illegal immigration". There are now 15,000 Africans living in the city compared to 20,000 in 2009, but "the real number, including illegal immigrants and overstayers, is believed to have been much higher," the report said. Estimates from Chinese researchers have put the actual number of residents at over 150,000, making Guangzhou home to the largest African community in Asia.

'Harsh treatment'

Police vans with flashing lights and officers astride motorcycles congregated after nightfall recently at a small public square in Xiaobei, a "Little Africa" neighbourhood with halal restaurants on narrow winding streets. A Nigerian merchant was returning home from a meeting with wholesalers earlier this year when officers handcuffed him and hauled him to a police station because he was not carrying identification. It was only after his Chinese landlord vouched for him over the phone that police allowed him to retrieve his passport in his apartment-under close watch.

The treatment seemed "wrong" for a routine document check, the merchant told AFP on condition of anonymity. Residents who faced police checks asked not to be identified over fears of being deported. Guangzhou's police and



GUANGZHOU: People gather on a street in the 'Little Africa' district in Guangzhou, the capital of southern China's Guangdong province. —AFP

exit-entry bureau did not return requests for comment. "Sure, there are some illegal activities like the drug trade and police should target this minority of people," said Ohene Opoku Agyemang, a doctoral student in international relations at Jinan University. "But the harsh treatment of law-abiding people negatively affects Africans' view of China and hurts efforts to build friendly relations with African countries," he said.

Too much red tape

Long-time African residents of Guangzhou say they see their compatriots lapse into "illegal" status after struggling with onerous visa renewal requirements. Nigerians must submit criminal record checks for all work and student visas, and no African countries are eligible for 72-hour or 144-hour transit visa exemptions, unlike visitors from many other nations.

"My friend had to go home to give fingerprints for a criminal record check. A return flight cost \$2,000. By the time he got all his documents in order, his visa expired," said Akubakarr Sajor Barrie, director of an import-export company. "For a small business owner, this is really hard. People start to wonder if doing business in China is worth it and they go to countries like Turkey and Vietnam instead," Barrie said. In 2013, China amended its legislation governing foreign residents, the Exit-Entry Administration

he, like all of them, refused," Vaid said, confirming five rebels died in the firefight. A top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, a key rebel group, was also among the dead. As news of the trapped militants spread, residents took to the streets across southern Kashmir shouting slogans demanding an end to Indian rule, witnesses and a police officer said.

Another police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 30 people were injured in clashes with government forces who fired live ammunition, pellet guns and tear gas. A doctor at a hospital in Shopian said hundreds of injured needed treatment. "We have reached our full capacity. We have run out of essential medicines, there are no more ambulances," he said. On Saturday, three rebels and a civilian had died during a firefight in Srinagar—the latest in a string of gun battles in recent weeks across the territory disputed by India and Pakistan since they split in 1947.

A curfew was ordered in the capital on Sunday and mobile internet services were shut down in much of the Indian-administered region. Fighting in Kashmir this year has left 120 dead, according to officials, including 22 civilians, 67 militants and 28 security forces. India has deployed more than 500,000 soldiers in the restive region to tackle rising militancy as civilian support for the rebels grows. India accuses Pakistan of fuelling the insurgency, a charge Islamabad denies saying it only provides diplomatic support to Kashmiris' right to self-determination.—AFP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri residents gather at the scene of an encounter between Indian security forces and suspected rebels in the Gassi Mohalla area of Srinagar. — AFP

A rebel professor among ten killed in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Indian soldiers shot dead five Kashmir militants including a rebel university teacher in a gunfight yesterday that triggered violent protests in which five civilians were killed. Thousands took to the streets in south Kashmir to show support for the slain militants. Government forces opened fire to break up the protests, director general of police Shesh Paul Vaid said. Hundreds of people were injured in the protests, according to doctors. Government forces swooped on the village of Badigam, in Shopian district south of the capital Srinagar, following a tip-off about armed militants holed up inside a house. The rebels refused an offer to surrender, triggering a fierce gun battle, Vaid said.

A special appeal was made to Mohammad Rafi Bhat, a university sociology teacher who only went underground with the rebels on Friday. Kashmir University, where he taught, was ordered closed for two days, according to a university statement. "We brought his father from his home to persuade him to surrender, but

Malaysian election fuelling damaging ethnic 'brain drain'

SINGAPORE: Malaysia's racially divisive elections are fanning resentment among minorities, and risk escalating a "brain drain" of disillusioned ethnic Chinese and Indians in an exodus experts say is hurting the nation's economic ambitions. About 60 percent of Malaysia's 32 million people are Muslim Malays but the country is also home to large minorities, with about a quarter of the population ethnic Chinese and a substantial number ethnic Indian.

The Barisan Nasional coalition, which has been in power since independence from Britain in 1957, has long promoted affirmative-action policies that confer Malays and other indigenous groups with many advantages, including access to cheaper housing and priority in government jobs. The program, introduced in the 1970s after deadly race riots, was aimed at helping the poorer Malays catch up with the wealthier, more business-savvy Chinese and has been credited with creating a Muslim middle class and maintaining racial harmony. But it has also been blamed for fuelling resentment among ethnic minority groups and encouraging their better-educated members to move abroad.

Some young members of the Chinese and Indian communities say they feel like second-class citizens in their own country, and that staying in Malaysia would likely limit their career opportunities as they hit ethnic glass ceilings. Gabey Goh, a 34-year-old marketing executive, is one of many Malaysian Chinese who have headed to neighboring Singapore, which is predominantly ethnic Chinese, more affluent, and which she regards as having a more merit-based culture. "I was never very comfortable, and I never agreed and I don't agree, with the affirmative action policy," said Goh, who left Malaysia more than three years ago. "There's too much anger, too much of a divide."

In the run-up to Wednesday's general election, Prime Minister Najib Razak has been accused of amplifying racial tensions as he scrambles to shore up his Malay voter base with moves that may further alienate minorities. Analysts say electoral boundaries have been redrawn along racial lines, creating constituencies dominated by Malays. Najib has also warned that an opposition victory would be a "nightmare" for the country's Muslims. Speaking in December at the annual assembly of his ruling party, he said that if the opposition wins, "the bumiputras will be cast aside, insulted and damned, and left destitute in our own country". "Bumiputra", or "sons of the soil", is the term for Malays and other indigenous groups.

Toxic atmosphere

While Najib is expected to win at the polls, he faces a tough opponent in veteran politician Mahathir Mohamad, a staunch Malay nationalist who led the country for 22 years and has come out of retirement to join forces with the opposition. A scandal surrounding state fund 1MDB—founded by Najib and allegedly looted by senior fund officials and their associates—and the challenge from Mahathir has only pushed the premier to further focus on his Muslim base.

Tian Chua, vice-president of opposition group the People's Justice Party, said Najib's approach would worsen relations among Malaysia's different ethnic groups. "It is not helping people to feel they are part of larger society," he said. The World Bank has estimated that at least one million Malaysians have left to live abroad since independence, threatening the country's competitiveness. "The migration of talent across borders touches the core of Malaysia's aspiration to become a high-income nation. Human capital is the bedrock of the high-income economy," it said in a 2011 report.

"Brain drain does not appear to square with this objective: Malaysia needs talent, but talent seems to be leaving," said study which is still seen as the most authoritative on the subject. —AFP

International

EU, activists express outrage over police brutality, arrests in Russia

Nearly 1,600 protesters including opposition leader detained

MOSCOW: Foreign governments and rights activists yesterday expressed outrage over mass arrests in Russia and the brutality with which protests were broken up on the eve of Vladimir Putin's inauguration. The European Union slammed "police brutality and mass arrests" after nearly 1,600 protesters including opposition leader Alexei Navalny were on Saturday detained in 27 Russian cities during nationwide rallies ahead of Putin's swearing-in ceremony for a fourth Kremlin term today.

Thousands had taken to the streets heeding a call from Navalny, a charismatic 41-year-old opposition politician, who was barred from challenging Putin in March's presidential election and called on Russians to stage rallies under the catchy slogan "Not our Tsar". In Moscow, Saint Petersburg and a number of Russian cities the rallies were not authorized and police used force to break up the protests, beating demonstrators with truncheons and dragging them along the ground. In a new development that shocked many, police in Moscow were helped by pro-Putin activists dressed as Cossacks, a paramilitary class who served as tsarist cavalrmen in imperial Russia.



Putin to swear-in for a fourth term

Several dozen injured
Amnesty International said its representatives saw the "Cossacks" pummel protesters with whips and fists as police looked on. Pavel Chikov, head of the Agora rights association, told AFP that several dozen people received injuries, mostly haematomas, and several of them turned to his group for help. The youngest protester who turned to Agora, was 13 years old, he said. In Moscow alone some 700 people-including journalists

and minors-were detained and more than 200 people were held in Russia's second city Saint Petersburg, said OVD-Info, an independent monitor that tracks arrests.

The European Union expressed its dismay over the violence, saying it threatened the fundamental freedoms of expression and media. "Even if some of the demonstrations were not authorized in the location where they took place, this cannot justify police brutality and mass arrests," said EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic on Saturday. In Ukraine-where a popular uprising ousted a Kremlin-backed regime in 2012 - the foreign ministry said yesterday it was "especially outraged" by the illegal detention of young people and minors in Russia.

Violence by proxy
Pictures of riot police detaining minors-some apparently in their early teens-went viral on the Russian internet. Maxim Shevchenko, a member of the Kremlin's rights council, said those who pitted the paramilitary activists against the protesters should be held responsible. "It is an emergency event," he told Echo of Moscow

radio station. "Let those officials who decided to use them say their names and answer to Muscovites for what essentially is bringing paramilitary armed units into the city." Political observer and writer Viktor Shenderovich said that by using paramilitary groups to break up the Moscow rally the Russian authorities were testing a new tool-violence by proxy. "Pitting one part of society against another one means that the authorities are looking at-and are already testing-civil war as an instrument of political manipulation," he wrote. "This is very, very serious."



MOSCOW: Russian police officers detain a participant of an unauthorized anti-Putin rally called by opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Moscow, ahead of Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a fourth Kremlin term.—AFP

Up to 30 days in jail

Navalny, who was grabbed by police and carried away by his arms and legs shortly after he appeared in Moscow's packed Pushkin Square, was released shortly after midnight and now faces up to 30 days in prison, his lawyer said. "It appears they received an order 'do not put him behind bars before the inauguration,'" Navalny said on Twitter, referring to the Moscow authorities. He added that he was accused of organising an unsanc-

tioned rally and resisting police. Navalny's lawyer Veronika Polyakova told AFP that a Moscow court would convene next Friday to hear his case. In May 2012, tens of thousands took to the streets to protest Putin's inauguration for a third Kremlin term, with rallies descending into clashes with police. Criminal charges were brought against around 30 demonstrators and many of them were sentenced to prison terms of between 2.5 years and 4.5 years.—AFP

News in brief

Coal mine blast kills 23

QUETTA: The death toll from Saturday's coal mine blast and landslides in southwest Pakistan climbed to 23 yesterday, officials said, after ending their rescue operation. At least 16 miners died on Saturday and more than a dozen were trapped after an explosion in a mine in the Marwar coalfields in Baluchistan province. Director of Disaster Management Attaullah Khan said. A methane gas build-up inside the mine caused the blast, Khan said. Chief inspector of mines Iftikhar Ahmad said the rescue operation overnight pulled out 11 injured miners. He said two laborers died in a landslide on Saturday in another mine in Surrang coalfields. It was not immediately clear if that was caused by the explosion. "Rescuers retrieved five more bodies from this mine," he said. Another official, Mohammad Atif, said authorities had opened an investigation after sealing both mines.—Reuters

Rape suspect arrested

NEW DELHI: Indian police said yesterday they have arrested the main suspect in the latest gang rape-murder to shock the country as protests took place over a separate high-profile sexual assault case. The rape of a 16-year-old who was later burned alive in the eastern state of Jharkhand is just the latest to have shone a spotlight on how India handles sexual violence cases. The accused Dhanu Bhuiyan was found at a relative's house where he was hiding after he and accomplices allegedly burned the girl alive Friday. The local village chief was also among 15 people detained in the case while the teenaged victim's family have been given special police protection. Police said Bhuiyan became enraged after the local village council ordered him to do 100 sit-ups and pay a 50,000 rupee (\$750) fine following the rape.—AFP

People-smuggling ship

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has arrested more than a dozen members of an alleged people trafficking syndicate after intercepting a ship carrying 127 Sri Lankan migrants believed to be bound for Australia and New Zealand, authorities have said. Maritime authorities on Tuesday halted a modified tanker named "Etra" in Malaysian territorial waters off southern Johor state, national police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun said. Nearly 100 Sri Lankan men, 24 women and nine children were aboard the ship, which was making its way to international waters when it was stopped. The police chief said in a statement Saturday that authorities arrested 16 people involved in an "international network" of people smugglers, including three Indonesians and four Malaysians aboard a fishing vessel used to transport the migrants from the Johor coast to the tanker.—AFP

Israel hits Hamas post

GAZA: Israel struck a facility of the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers overnight, the movement's military wing said yesterday, with the Israeli army saying it was reacting to kite-borne fire bombings. A military spokeswoman said it was a direct response to a new Palestinian tactic of flying kites with firebombs attached across the Gaza border into Israel to set farmers' fields alight. "Last night an aircraft struck a terror post belonging to the Hamas terror organization adjacent to the security fence in the northern Gaza Strip," a spokeswoman said, without describing the target. Hamas's Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades military wing said in a statement that it was a border observation post and that nobody was injured in the attack.—AFP

Putin the Russian post-Soviet tsar

MOSCOW: A KGB officer turned world leader, Vladimir Putin has stamped his total authority on Russia, silencing opposition and reasserting Moscow's lost might abroad while building a strongman image through macho stunts. Putin, 65, who will be inaugurated as president for the fourth time today, has reimposed the Kremlin's grip on society since taking power 18 years ago after a lawless but relatively free decade following the demise of the USSR. On the international stage, he has dealt with three US presidents, thrust Moscow into a new rivalry with the West by snatching Crimea from Ukraine and launched a pivotal intervention in Syria.

Named the world's most powerful person by Forbes for the past four years running, the judo black belt has carefully nurtured his image as a powerful leader with photo opportunities showing him riding topless on horseback in the Siberian wilderness and darting an endangered tiger. Supporters laud him as a savior who restored pride and traditional values to a humiliated nation. To foes, however, Putin has dragged his homeland further from democracy, presided over a seizure of the state by a new elite of former secret police cronies and stoked nationalism in a bid to restore Moscow's lost empire.

'Hit first'

Putin was born into a working-class family in Leningrad-now Saint Petersburg-on October 7, 1952 and cut his teeth in the city's rough-and-tumble neighborhoods. "The Leningrad streets taught me one thing: if a fight is unavoidable, you have to hit first," Putin said in 2015. He fulfilled a childhood dream by joining the KGB intelligence service, with a posting in 1985-1990 in Dresden-then East Germany-just as Soviet power was crumbling. His political rise began after he returned to work at Saint Petersburg city hall under his mentor, liberal mayor Anatoly Sobchak.

By 1996, he was called to Moscow to work in the Kremlin under Russia's first democratically elected president Boris Yeltsin, who in 1998 made little-known Putin head of the KGB's successor, the FSB. Battling health and drinking problems, frail Yeltsin in August 1999 named Putin prime minister and his popularity shot



SAINT PETERSBURG: Opposition supporters attend an unauthorized anti-Putin rally called by opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Saint Petersburg.—AFP

up as he oversaw the launch of a second war to crush rebels in the Chechnya region. When Yeltsin sensationally resigned on New Year's Eve 1999, Putin took over as president of the biggest country on Earth.

A tsar is born

Buoyed by an influx of petrodollars that saw living standards soar, the Kremlin under Putin forged its own "sovereign democracy" in which the trappings of pluralism-such as political opposition and

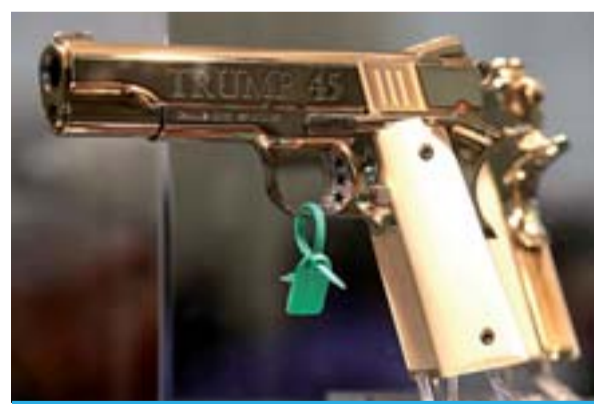
civil society-were subverted. He has guarded his private life jealously and once famously told journalists to keep their "snotty noses" out of his business. After three decades of marriage, he divorced his wife Lyudmila in 2013 but rumors of new romance-including with a former Olympic gymnast-have not been confirmed. In line with the constitution, when Putin ended his second term in 2008, he handed power to protege Dmitry Medvedev and moved to become prime minister-but few doubted who was really in charge. In 2012, he returned as president in the face of huge street protests.—AFP

Anger in France, UK over Trump's gun law speech

PARIS: US President Donald Trump caused anger in France and Britain by suggesting looser gun laws could have helped prevent deadly attacks in Paris in 2015 and linking knife crime in London to a handgun ban. In a speech to the National Rifle Association (NRA) on Friday, Trump mimicked the shooting of victims in the Paris rampage and said if civilians had been armed "it would have been a whole different story."

The French government issued its strongest criticism of Trump since he took office and one minister urged the leader to apologize, at a time when President Emmanuel Macron has been reinforcing bilateral ties following a state visit. "France expresses its firm disapproval of President Trump's comments about the Paris attacks on Nov. 13, 2015 and demands that the memory of the victims be respected," the foreign office said in a statement. "France is proud to be a country where acquiring and carrying firearms is strictly regulated." French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said he hoped Trump "would come back on his words and express regret."

"His comments are shocking and not worthy of the president of the world's greatest superpower," Le Maire told BFM television yesterday. Other French politicians, including the mayor of Paris, took issue with Trump's comments, after he acted out the scene of the massacre by Islamist assailants at Paris' Bataclan concert hall, where 90 of the 130 victims of the attacks died. "They took their time and gunned them down one by one. Boom! Come over here. Boom! Come over here.



TEXAS: A custom "Trump 45" handgun is displayed during the NRA Annual Meeting & Exhibits at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center on May 5, 2018 in Dallas, Texas.—AFP

Boom!" Trump said, using his hands in a gun gesture. Francois Hollande, who was French president at the time, said on Twitter Trump's remarks were "shameful" and "obscene".

'Knives, knives, knives, knives'

Trauma surgeons in London, meanwhile, said Trump had missed the point when, in the same speech, he linked knife crime there to an absence of guns. Comments by Trump have caused upset before in Britain. Relations with Prime Minister Theresa May cooled last year after she criticized him for retweeting anti-Islam videos by a British far-right group. Trump, who is due to visit Britain on July 13, told NRA members that a "once very prestigious" London hospital, which he did not name, had become overwhelmed with knife attack victims.—Reuters

Turkey's opposition candidate demands more media coverage

ANKARA: The presidential candidate for Turkey's main opposition has hit out at a lack of mainstream media coverage for opposition parties and candidates before elections in June. Muharrem Ince, the main opposition Republican People's Party's (CHP) candidate to challenge President Tayyip Erdogan in the June 24 snap elections, said a "media embargo" had been placed on opposition parties upon Erdogan's request.

"Television channels, which even broadcast the AK Party's provincial congresses live, did not show our rally in Yalova live. We will go on by fighting with this media structure," Ince said on Twitter yesterday. "If the media embargo ordered by the Palace continues, we will hold our rallies in front of TV stations," he said, referring to the 1,000 room presidential palace built by Erdogan in Ankara.

Neither Erdogan nor the AKP have responded directly to claims that coverage of the opposition is being curbed. Turkish media is saturated with coverage of Erdogan and his ministers, with the president's daily routine of two or three speeches being broadcast on all major channels, while opposition parties get little to no coverage. Rallies by the CHP, pro-Kurdish Peoples Democratic Party (HDP) and the fledgling Iyi (Good) Party, led by former interior minister Meral Aksener, are rarely shown by the main broadcasters.—Reuters

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Democrats target union workers who regret Trump vote

Inside Knicker's Saloon, a factory worker hangout here, Jesse Oberbroeckling has just finished his shift at the John Deere plant when he reveals his regret. Like many union workers, Oberbroeckling voted twice for former Democratic President Barack Obama before backing Donald Trump and other Republicans in 2016. Now he has buyer's remorse - and plans to support the Democratic challenger to Rod Blum, the Republican congressman in this blue-collar, eastern Iowa district. "Trump is for the rich," said Oberbroeckling, 37, sipping a rum-and-coke. "Blum's for big business. They said they were for the workers, but they're not."

That sentiment should encourage Democrats, who saw their once-reliable labor vote help send Trump to the White House after he vowed to revive Rust Belt factories with trade tariffs and ailing coal mines with environmental deregulation. Now - with coal still struggling and Trump stoking a trade war - many union workers have soured on the president ahead of November's midterm congressional elections, the Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll shows.

Between March 2017 and March 2018, union members' approval of Trump fell 15 points, to 47 percent. In more than two dozen interviews with union members, many blasted Trump's tax cut, arguing most of the benefits will flow to corporations and wealthy people. A loose coalition of union leaders, Democratic strategists and political action committees (PACs) aims to seize on that shift by directing money and campaign workers to about 30 competitive races in union-heavy districts. The party needs to gain 23 seats to retake the US House of Representatives.

But falling support for Trump is no guarantee Democrats can restore the party's historic dominance of the union vote. Nearly half of members polled still approve of the president, and their support for congressional Democrats has declined slightly from two years ago. Forty-seven percent of union members polled would support a Democratic candidate in November; 34 percent favored a Republican. That compares to 51 percent favoring Democrats and 29 percent supporting Republicans in March 2016.

The 2018 poll was conducted online, in English, and included more than 1,400 union workers nationwide. It has a credibility interval of 3 percentage points, meaning results could vary in either direction by that amount. Union membership has fallen by half since the early 1980s, to 10.7 percent of U.S. workers last year. But members can still sway close elections because they are concentrated in specific regions and vote at high rates. In the 2014 midterms, 52 percent of union workers voted, compared to 39 percent of others, according to a study by Demos, a liberal think tank. "If we don't win them back, we will never win here," said Abby Finkenauer, the leading Democrat challenging Blum in Iowa's 1st District. Blum's campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

Targeting farm, factory towns

Democratic strategists are targeting blue-collar enclaves of the Midwest, along with districts covering California farmlands, New York industry towns and Montana wilderness. They aim to trash the Republican tax cut, along with Trump's failure to back a minimum wage and his attempt to repeal Obamacare. In Iowa's 1st District, dotted with farms and factories, Finkenauer tells audiences at union halls that her father was a union pipefitter-welder and that only a Democrat can improve their wages, health care and pensions.

Blum's website says lower taxes and cutting business regulation will create jobs. Ford O'Connell - a Republican strategist who was among the first to highlight how voter anger could propel Trump's candidacy - said the party will appeal to union voters with his tariffs against China, anti-immigration efforts and the tax cut they argue helps all workers. Democrats counter they are already recapturing labor votes, citing the March special election victory in Pennsylvania by Conor Lamb, who beat an outspoken opponent of unions, Trump won the same district in 2016.

Following Lamb's victory, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) convened focus groups of voters who had supported both Trump and Lamb. Participants wanted candidates who support unions, boost jobs and wages and protect Medicare and Social Security. In interviews with Reuters, union members criticized the tax cut, along with Republican moves in some states - including Iowa - to curtail collective bargaining by public employees. And while Trump's tough trade talk attracted many union workers to his campaign, some now worry his policies may protect some blue-collar jobs at the expense of others. Trump's steel tariffs, for instance, could raise prices for the raw material used in factories supporting union jobs.

Reuters/Ipsos polling data shows union workers now view Democrats more favorably on key issues such as healthcare, the economy and taxes. The percentage of union members who favored Democratic stances on health care, for instance, rose 7 points to 42 percent since March 2017, compared with 29 percent favoring Republicans. Democrats saw similar gains on taxes, jobs and the economy.

Ken Jones, a retired mechanic and Teamster union member, backed Trump because he believed Clinton was "crooked" - borrowing Trump's signature insult - and that Trump might curtail illegal immigration, create jobs and fix Obamacare. "Now I see he's not going to do anything," said Jones, of Oklahoma, who plans to vote Democratic this fall. "The working man don't get nothing out of it. I never voted Republican until Trump, and it was the worst mistake I ever made." Other union members, however, continued to praise Republicans. "The economy is doing better," said Otis Evans, 47, of the United Auto Workers in Michigan. "Trump's straightforward and candid." —Reuters



Iraq's displaced forgotten in elections

While the election campaign is in full swing elsewhere in Iraq, the country's displaced camps holding hundreds of thousands of people barely register on the radars of those running for office. In "Camp Seven" in the western Anbar province not a single campaign poster can be seen appealing to those who have the right to cast their ballot at the parliamentary vote on May 12. The rows of UN tents are part of nine sprawling encampments in the region housing thousands of people who fled the devastating fight against the Islamic State group.

Some five months after the Iraqi government declared victory over the jihadists they remain stuck in the desert camp - and apparently ignored by the country's politicians. For many of the residents the disinterest shown by the election candidates is mirrored by their own antipathy to those running. "I have no confidence in them," says Umm Maher, who fled her home in Qaim, a former IS-stronghold.

Heightening her anger - and that of others here - is the destruction of their homes and the disappearance of male relatives they say were either killed or seized by security services during the battle against IS. "If they want our votes, they can give us back our children and our homes," adds the 50-year-old, who doesn't know the fate of her husband and son.

Going into the polls, Iraq is only just starting to recover from the years of IS dominance over swathes of the country and the punishing fight to end it. Out of a total displaced population of around two million people, some 285,000 are registered to vote, according to the electoral commission. 166 polling stations are being installed in 70 displaced camps, spread across eight of the country's 18 provinces.



Displaced Iraqis stand at the entrance of a tent in a camp for internally displaced people near Al-Khalidiyah in Iraq's western Anbar province on April 24, 2018. —AFP

'Nobody has come'

In a bid to encourage the displaced to vote, election officials say identification requirements have been eased for those in the camps. But despite that, Umm Maher is not the only female resident of Camp Seven who won't be voting, due to the scar left behind by the violence. "I will not vote until my eldest son returns," says 47-year-old Umm Ahmed, who hasn't seen her 20-year-old child since he was seized three years ago. "Besides, nobody has come to ask after us," adds the former resident of Saqlawiya, another ex-IS stronghold, a black veil partially covering her face.

Politicians admit that despite the potential votes

that could be won in the camps, few have ventured there. "The campaign is absent in the camps and no candidate goes there, even though the votes of the displaced are important," confirms Hikmat Zeydan, from the Rally for the Unity of Iraq, fielding five candidates in Anbar. Many "are afraid of finding themselves in a difficult situation, because they have done nothing to help the return of the displaced".

One candidate, running on a list for Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's Shiite-dominated Victory Alliance in Samarra, north of Baghdad is blunt in explaining why he has stayed away from two nearby camps. "We have not put up any posters and did not move (around there) because most families are Daesh," alleges

Jassem Al-Joubouri, using an Arabic term for IS.

Elsewhere in the country some have made an effort at trying to represent the interests of the displaced. Abdel Bari Abbas, fled his home west of the former IS bastion of Mosul, and is now standing as a candidate. As he runs his campaign from Baharka camp, in Arbil province in Kurdistan, he insists his experiences give him a unique insight into how to help. "My family and the majority of Mosul residents have had many struggles. It is necessary to have a candidate who will make their voices heard," says the 48-year-old Arabic teacher. "The problems will not be solved without us and I promised myself that even if I am elected, my family and I will stay in the camp." —AFP

Putin to begin fourth term, but what happens in 2024?

Vladimir Putin will be inaugurated for a historic fourth term today, extending his almost two-decade rule by another six years after predictably winning Russia's March presidential election. But with no successor and no political competition, what are the possible scenarios when his term ends in 2024?

* Fight for influence -

Without constitutional reform, Putin will not be able to run for a fifth time - Russian law forbids serving more than two consecutive terms. Putin, who will turn 72 in 2024, could decide to leave the Kremlin after 24 years in power, making way for a successor. Russian politics is now dominated by infighting between rival clans of technocrats and the "siloviki" - representatives of the security services and the army. "There is already a fight for influence," said political analyst Nikolai Petrov. "Nobody will wait passively, each group will try to promote its interests," he added.

In a March interview to American TV channel NBC, Putin said he had been thinking of a potential successor since 2000. "There is no harm in thinking about it but at the end of the day it will be the Russian people who decide." But in making sure no one can compete with him, no politician is currently popular enough to succeed the Kremlin chief. Many analysts say Putin leaving power in six years is unlikely.

Role swap

One way Putin could continue ruling Russia after 2024 is to stay in power in a different role. The Russian strongman could revisit his 2008 move, which saw him put forward Dmitry Medvedev as president while he himself became prime minister before returning to the Kremlin in 2012. "Putin may prepare the regime for a transfer of power. But not from Putin to another president but from Putin to Putin in some other role," said Petrov.

But memories of mass protests in Moscow when Putin and Medvedev swapped back and Putin returned to the Kremlin may put the Russian leader off this option. Putin's age also makes this scenario problematic. Putin will be 78 in 2030, when he is constitutionally allowed to run for another term. Konstantin Kalachev, head of the Political Expert Group think tank in Moscow, said Putin knows his successor will have to introduce unpopular economic reforms and wants to "go down in history as the man who did not lose at anything".

Needs protection

Putin could choose to follow China's Xi Jinping in abolishing presidential term limits, thus allowing him to remain president for life. "I don't think he will refuse power in 2024 even if he has had enough, he is (already) visibly tired," said independent political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin. "He can't leave because he does not believe that anyone will protect him," he added, saying that Putin has built a system in which everything depends on who is at the top.

So far, Putin has ruled out ruling Russia for life. "I never changed the constitution, especially for it to benefit me and I do not have this kind of intention today," he told NBC in March. Oreshkin said Putin does not want to be remembered for changing the constitution and that if he were to remain president for life, it would be done "more elegantly" than in China. —AFP





The pack rides during the 3rd stage of the 101st Giro d'Italia (Tour of Italy) yesterday, 229 km between Beer-Sheva and Eilat. — AFP

Stormy Daniels taunts fake Trump

Continued from Page 1

where he effectively stood there and lied to the American people" about it, Avenatti told ABC's "This Week." Giuliani said on "This Week" that he had no knowledge of other similar payments by Cohen, but that the attorney could have made them "if it was necessary". Avenatti jumped on Giuliani's remarks. "The president had effectively an extramarital affair slush fund that was administered by Michael Cohen, and that he would just be expected to take care of these things; they were a regular occurrence," Avenatti said. "That, in and of itself, should be very disturbing."

In the SNL skit, Trump rattled off what he called a series of achievements as president, including progress on the Korean nuclear crisis. Why can't he resolve things with



Stormy Daniels



Donald Trump

Daniels, too, he asked. "Sorry, Donald. It's too late for that. I know you don't believe in climate change. But a storm's a comin', baby," she said. — AFP

Iran: US will regret quitting...

Continued from Page 1

of any limits on Iran's conventional missile capabilities and Tehran's role in the region. Iran's support for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, via the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah in Syria's civil war, and its backing for Shiite Huthi rebels in Yemen have added to frictions between Tehran and Western powers.

Rouhani vehemently reiterated his country's opposition to curtailing its non-nuclear missile capabilities, in his speech yesterday. Tehran "will build as many missiles and weapons as needed" for its defense, he said. "We are honoring our commitment, but we are telling the whole world we will not negotiate with anyone about our weapons and our defense."

Iran's president also said that while he is open to

discussing the country's regional role, he would not abandon what he described as its fight "against terrorism". "We want to talk to the world so that our region is safe" but "we will not allow you to create a new Daesh" he said, using an Arabic term for the Islamic State group. While Rouhani did not elaborate on this point, Iran's ally the Syrian government has consistently referred to all armed opponents as "terrorists" and accused the West of facilitating terrorism.

Iran has always denied it sought a nuclear weapon, insisting its atomic program was for civilian purposes. Rouhani did not specify how Iran would react if the US pulls out of the 2015 deal. But he said he had given "the necessary orders", notably to Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, in anticipation of Trump's decision. As the May 12 US decision point nears, Iranian leaders have shuffled between placatory and hawkish comments, although the hardliners have taken an uncompromising stance. On Thursday, Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign policy adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Tehran would quit the nuclear deal if the United States withdraws. — AFP

Lebanese vote in first election...

Continued from Page 1

Lebanon has often been a scene where the rivalry between the region's two heavyweight has played out but their political clients in this election seemed content to maintain the status quo. With the turnout figure on course to fall short of the 54 percent mark set in 2009, several senior political leaders to made televised appeals for an eleventh-hour rush to the ballot boxes. "No one should underestimate the importance of their vote or think that heading down to the ballot box is too much to ask," said Ahmad Hariri, the secretary-general of the premier's Future Movement.

No polling extension was decided but in some areas, large numbers of people already queuing when the clock struck 7:00 pm (1600 GMT) were still voting. In other polling stations, the counting was already under way. More than 3.7 million Lebanese are eligible to vote, and will choose from 597 candidates who are running on 77 closed lists for a seat in the 128-strong parliament. President Michel Aoun's position is not up for renewal but his Christian party is a key player in the vote, for which a reformed, more proportional electoral law is in force.

"The low turnout as of midday is without a doubt an indicator of the disillusionment among Lebanese," political analyst Karim Mufti said. Experts differed on who would benefit the most from a low turnout as sce-

narios vary across the country's 15 districts, whose size and sectarian fabric are all different. The new, pre-printed ballots used yesterday perplexed some voters, causing delays in polling stations.

Other voters explained that they refused to endorse their usual candidate because of an unsavory alliance on a list that the new voting system no longer allows them to modify. Many first-time voters in Beirut seemed keen to see new faces in parliament and voted for a civil society movement that has sought to compensate its lack of patronage networks and financial firepower with a dynamic social media campaign. "It's the first time I vote," Therese, 60, told AFP outside a voting center in central Beirut. "I've come to support civil society because there's nobody else I like in this country, but I doubt they will win," she said.

The diagram of alliances across Lebanon's gerrymandered constituency map is an almost comical spaghetti jumble of local deals between parties working together in one district and competing in the next. That has fuelled already deep disillusionment in a country where the same dynasties have held political power for decades and are widely seen as self-serving and corrupt.

Results, which were due to start coming in during the night, will be closely watched but analysts say that there is little room for surprises and that uneasy, sometimes fluctuating alliances between the main parties would remain the rule. Scuffles broke out around several polling stations across the country and monitors reported a number of mostly minor incidents and violations but the European Union's observation mission said its assessment was positive. — AFP

Tunisia votes in first free...

Continued from Page 1

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, but municipal polls had been delayed four times due to logistic, administrative and political deadlocks.

President Beji Caid Essebsi has called for a "massive turnout". "For the first time (since the revolution) the Tunisian people are called to participate in municipal elections, something that seems simple but it is very important," he said on Friday. Casting his ballot on Sunday, Essebsi again urged Tunisians to vote, saying "democracy cannot be imposed but must be exercised". Rached Ghannouchi, head of the Islamist Ennahdha movement, also urged a large turnout by "young Tunisian voters", admitting however that politicians "don't hold all the keys to progress".

Tunisia is grappling with economic challenges including an inflation rate which stands at around eight percent and an unemployment rate of more than 15 percent. The country was hit by a wave of protest at the start of the year over a new austerity budget introduced by the government. "These municipal elections won't change anything for us. We will always be on the same cart without wheels or a horse," 34-year-old housewife Hilma told AFP ahead of the vote.

More than 57,000 candidates, half of them women and young people, are running for office in Tunisia's 350 municipalities. Around 60,000 police and military personnel have been mobilised for the polls, while Tunisia remains under a state of emergency, imposed in 2015 after a string of deadly jihadist attacks. European parliament vice president Fabio Castaldo, head of an EU delegation monitoring the polls, said the election was "an important step for the country's stability".

Voting ran until 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) in more than 11,000 polling stations across the country. But in Sidi Bouzid, cradle of the 2011 revolution, and the neighboring region of Kasserine in central Tunisia, a hotbed of protests during the revolt, polling stations opened later and closed earlier for "security reasons", organizers said.

In December 2010, street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire and later died of his wounds in Sidi Bouzid, in a protest over unemployment and police harassment that sparked the Arab Spring. The municipal elections, enshrined in the new constitution and one of the demands of the revolution, mark the first tangible step of decentralization since the end of Ben Ali's rule. Voters will elect municipal counselors who in turn will elect mayors by mid-June.

Experts predict Tunisia's two political heavyweights - Ennahdha movement and the secular Nidaa Tounes party founded by Essebsi - will come out on top in nearly every district. But there remains some hope that the polls will see a new generation elected into office. The municipal polls will be followed by legislative and presidential votes in 2019. — AFP

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Sports

Viviani wins second Giro stage in a row as Dennis keeps pink

Italian survived a near-brush with safety barriers

EILAT: Elia Viviani made it a double delight in Israel yesterday as he won his second Giro d'Italia stage in a row in a bunch sprint finish at Eilat. The Italian survived a near-brush with the safety barriers on the side of the road as he sprinted to the stage three finish in the Red Sea resort, edging out compatriot Sacha Modolo with Irishman Sam Bennett third. Australia's Rohan Dennis kept the race leader's pink jersey. Viviani was perfectly placed on Bennett's back wheel as the sprinters launched their charge to the line but just as he tried to dart out from behind the Irishman, Bennett lurched across the road.

He went from the far left to the far right, almost barging Viviani into the barriers. But the experienced Italian kept his cool and leant his shoulder into Bennett, who veered back to the left, leaving a channel for Viviani to burst through and win. Viviani, 29, wasn't best pleased with Bennett but his victory proved ample compensation. "I won and so don't want to start a polemic. He moved big time. We made contact but I went through," he said.

"He went on the left and so I went on the right but then he moved across the road." The fast-finishing Modolo pipped Bennett for second at the end of the long, straight 229-kilometre stage through the barren

Negev desert. Race favourite Chris Froome and last year's winner Tom Dumoulin both enjoyed an uneventful day riding safely in the peloton to finish in the same time as the winner.

Dumoulin remains in second, one second behind Dennis with Portugal's Jose Goncalves up to third at 13sec after Belgian Victor Campenaerts lost time at the finish. "It was a very long day and a little stressful with the wind," said Dennis. Froome remains in the top 20 with a 38sec deficit to Dennis ahead of Monday's rest day before the fourth stage begins in Catania following the transfer from Israel to Sicily.

After three days racing in Sicily, the Giro will move onto the Italian mainland, although not before the overall contenders have had a chance to test themselves on a summit finish at Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in western Europe.

Sunday saw a three man breakaway go clear almost right from the start with Canadian Guillaume Boivin making it into the escape group for the second day in a row. He and Italian Marco Frapporti lasted almost 225km in the lead in scorching temperatures well over 30 degrees Celsius before they were swallowed up by a charging peloton. — AFP



Dumoulin remains in second



EILAT: Italy's rider of team Quick-Step Elia Viviani (R) celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 2nd stage of the 101st Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy, on Saturday, 167 kilometers between Haifa and Tel Aviv. — AFP

Marquez wins in Spain and takes MotoGP lead

JEREZ: Marc Marquez won his home Spanish Grand Prix and took the overall MotoGP lead yesterday after the reigning champion's main rivals collided spectacularly. The Honda rider was in a race of his own for the last eight laps after the Ducati pairing of Andrea Dovizioso, the previous championship leader, and Jorge Lorenzo collided with Honda's Dani Pedrosa while fighting for second place.

Pedrosa, who had wrist surgery less than a month ago, was thrown high over his bike after trying to go past the two Ducatis on the inside. Lorenzo came across into the corner as Dovizioso went wide, colliding with Pedrosa and sending the two Ducatis into the gravel. All three riders walked away from the crash.

French Tech3 Yamaha rider Johann Zarco was gifted the runner-up slot, 5.241 seconds behind, and is now Marquez's closest rival in the championship. Four times world champion Marquez, who started the race from fifth place, now has 70 points after four races to Zarco's 58. Dovizioso dropped to fifth overall with 46.

Italian Andrea Iannone finished third for Suzuki. "I was convinced before the race that I was able to win," said Marquez, who had a big wobble when he ran over gravel left on



JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA: First placed Repsol Honda Team's Spanish rider Marc Marquez celebrates on the podium after the MotoGP race of the Spanish Grand Prix at the Jerez Angel Nieto racetrack in Jerez de la Frontera yesterday. — AFP

the track by an earlier off.

"Ok, we started on the second row but anyway today I was clever. I pushed...here the race is very long and you must manage many things." Compatriot Valentino Rossi was fifth at the Jerez circuit in southern Spain in a race that saw him reach a career milestone by completing the circumference of the

planet in race kilometres.

Rossi has now covered 40,075km in competition over 23 seasons, starting at the 1996 Malaysian Grand Prix. Britain's Cal Crutchlow started on pole position for the LCR Honda team but failed to finish, crashing out at turn one after nine laps and while in fourth place. — Reuters

Justify wins Kentucky Derby despite record rain

WASHINGTON: Undefeated Justify won the 144th Kentucky Derby on Saturday, ignoring the wettest conditions in race history to become the first Derby champion since 1882 who didn't race as a two-year-old. Trainer Bob Baffert won the Derby for the fifth time, one shy of the record owned by 1940s legendary trainer Ben Jones, while jockey Mike Smith captured his second victory in the 1 1/4-mile classic at Louisville's Churchill Downs. "It took a great horse to do what he did today," Baffert said. "I rank him up there with my top ones."

"We knew we had something special." Favored Justify, who went off at 5-2 odds, unleashed the third-fastest half-mile pace in Derby history and went on to win in 2mins 4.20 secs with Good Magic second by 2 1/2 lengths, edging third-place Audible at the line. Mendelsohn, trained by Ireland's Aidan O'Brien and hoping to become the first Europe-based horse to win the Derby, was last in the 20-horse field before 157,813 spectators.

Justify, who improved to 4-0, became the first horse since Apollo some 136 years ago to win the showdown for three-year-olds without running the

year before. "It would take a horse like him to break that curse," said Smith, whose other Derby win came in 2005 aboard 50-1 longshot Giacomo. "Wow, I don't have the words to describe what makes this horse so special."

He is just so big and talented. He has got the mind for it." Justify captured the opening leg of US flat racing's Triple Crown, which continues in two weeks at the Preakness in Baltimore, Maryland, and concludes with next month's Belmont Stakes in New York.

Only 12 horses in history have swept the triple, Baffert-trained American Pharoah being the most recent in 2015. "I think this horse is as special as American Pharoah to win a race like this, especially the way he did it," Baffert said. Despite a muddy track that absorbed a Derby-day record three inches of rain and intense downpours as horses were loaded into the starting gates, Justify broke well, starting seventh from the rail and settling into second behind early leader Promises Fulfilled.

Justify took the lead on the far turn and charged into the backstretch. Good Magic chased in pursuit but never had a move to prevent him from becoming the sixth consecutive favorite to win the Derby. Baffert admitted the wet conditions had him concerned. "This track had me worried but we saw something special," Baffert said. "When he got away I knew we had a chance." Justify's dazzling outings this year included a superb three-length victory at last month's Santa Anita Derby. While O'Brien found misery in Kentucky, there was some comfort. O'Brien-trained Saxon Warrior won the 2,000 Guineas in England on Saturday. — AFP

'Stadium surfing', a sneak preview of Olympic future?

LEMOORE: A perfect wave, again and again, made to order? It's the sort of thing that surfers all over the world might dream of as they bob about in the ocean, waiting in vain for the next foaming ticket to ride.

But while Mother Nature may be unreliable, a machine on display in this sun-baked corner of rural California this weekend, more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the Pacific Ocean, will serve up wave after wave for an elite-level surfing competition.

The Surf Ranch is the brainchild of legendary 11-time world champion Kelly Slater, a prototype of the giant wave pool that might one day be used to stage surfing competitions at the Olympics.

With surfing set to make its bow at the 2020 Tokyo games, the venue for the competition-natural waves or man-made-is still to be formally confirmed. The Slater-inspired facility on show in this sleepy California town aims to present itself as a viable option for competition.

The center-piece of the Surf Ranch is a giant 640-meter long pool, where a huge metal hydrofoil is pulled along a track at one edge of the water, churning out consistent barrels and tubes. "I always thought that if surfing is to grow it would have to be in a controlled environment," Slater told AFP.

"I like to think that this could be part of the future. I don't know if it THE future," the 46-year-old added. "I think the ocean can't be replaced. I think big waves can't be replaced. I think the randomness of what



LEMOORE: Johanne Defay of France, turns off the lip during team practice, before the WSL Founders' Cup of Surfing, at the Kelly Slater Surf Ranch in Lemoore, California. The two-day event brings twenty-five of the world's top surfers to compete on perfect machine-created waves in a half-mile long wave pool situated 100 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. — AFP

happens in the ocean and in mother nature is a big part of why we love surfing."

Unlike conventional surfing competitions, where the timetable is often at the mercy of the elements, at the Surf Ranch, waves are delivered more or less to order. For a competition like the Olympic Games, ever mindful of television audiences, that makes it an attractive proposition.

OLYMPIC FUTURE?

The World Surf League (WSL) has bought the California facility and the concept from Slater. Construction on a similar site in Japan is set to begin later this year, and will be available to Tokyo 2020 if required, accord-

ing to WSL chief executive Sophie Goldschmidt. "So we are going to be building one in Tokyo and we hope that if it's built and tested in time then the Olympics will consider using it because the waves at that time of year are not the best," Goldschmidt said. "Ultimately it is not our choice."

This weekend, Slater will captain a United States team in a WSL exhibition tournament which also includes Brazil, Australia, Europe and a team from the rest of the world. Brazil's Gabriel Medina and Australian veteran Mick Fanning and women's stars Stephanie Gilmore (Australia) and Lakey Peterson (USA) are just some of the surfers who will be taking to the water. — AFP

Higgins sets sights on fifth world snooker title

LONDON: John Higgins powered into the World Championship final on Saturday and immediately set his sights on joining snooker's all-time greats. Higgins has won the world title four times and will make his seventh appearance in the sport's showpiece match after defeating Kyren Wilson 17-13.

The Scot is just one title behind Ronnie O'Sullivan's haul of five and Higgins admitted it would be a great feeling to emulate his old rival. "Of course it would, it would be amazing. He's the best player ever in my eyes and if I got to the same amount of world titles it would be an amazing feeling," Higgins said.

Only Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis have lifted the trophy more times at Sheffield's Crucible theatre than O'Sullivan. Higgins will face Mark Williams in the two-day final, which starts on Sunday, after the Welshman, himself a two-time former world champion, overcame Barry Hawkins 17-15 in a tense last-four clash. "He'll be going for a third one, I'll be going for a fifth," said Higgins.

"He's bald and I'm grey so it'll be a mental final." Higgins first won the world title in 1998, and has twice lost in the final in 2001 against O'Sullivan and last year against Mark Selby.

Asked if he sees himself as the favourite to take this year's title, the 42-year-old said: "No. I know it's going to be another mammoth final. It'll be a great match I'm sure. "I keep using the word 'proud'. I'm proud 20 years later, after I won my first one, that I'm sitting here ready to compete in another one. It's a fantastic feeling." Higgins was 10-4 ahead against Selby yet lost in their second world final meeting 12 months ago. Determined to make amends, he said: "I felt that was probably my best ever chance to win it (for a fifth time)."

"It might still be my best ever chance. I don't know how the next game's going to transpire." Williams' appearance in the final is the latest stage in a remarkable late-career revival. He did not even qualify in 2017, and last reached the final 15 years ago, when he defeated Ken Doherty. — AFP

Sports

James floats in buzzer-beating dagger as Cavs stun Raptors

Celtics edge 76ers to reach brink of NBA playoff sweep

WASHINGTON: LeBron James banked in a running floater as time expired to cap off a 38-point effort, and the Cleveland Cavaliers took a commanding 3-0 series lead with a dramatic 105-103 victory over the visiting Toronto Raptors on Saturday night at Quicken Loans Arena.

Kevin Love recorded 21 points and 16 rebounds as fourth-seeded Cleveland defeated Toronto for the ninth straight time during the postseason. Kyle Korver made four 3-pointers while scoring 18 points, George Hill had 12 points and Jeff Green tallied 11 for the Cavaliers.

Kyle Lowry had 27 points and seven assists for the top-seeded Raptors, who are one defeat away from being eliminated by Cleveland in the playoffs for the third straight season. Sidekick DeMar DeRozan had an off night with just eight points on 3-of-12 shooting and didn't play in the final quarter.

Game 4 of the Eastern Conference semifinal series is Monday in Cleveland. On the decisive play, James received the inbound pass with eight seconds left under the opposite basket. He drove the length of the floor, headed slightly to the left of the lane and smoothly kissed the midrange jumper off the glass.

"Tie game, down 1 or whatever the case may be, I live for those moments," James said. "Like I told y'all in the Indiana series, that mental clock of being a kid and kind of telling myself, '3, 2, 1' and making the noise of the net, that 'woosh' sound, I've been doing that since I was 6, 7, 8 years old. Maybe even before that."

James added seven assists, six rebounds and three steals in his latest stellar effort. "It's my job in the fourth (quarter) to close it," James said in a postgame interview with ESPN. "We could play so much better, but it was a gutsy win."

OG Anunoby scored 18 points and CJ Miles added 13 for Toronto, which committed 17 turnovers. Serge Ibaka had 11 points, eight rebounds and four blocked shots, and Jonas Valanciunas added 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors.

Toronto recovered from a 17-point, third-quarter deficit to make it a one-possession game. Anunoby

drained a 3-pointer to tie it at 103 with eight seconds remaining before James reached into his extensive bag of tricks.

James opened the second half with a dunk to give Cleveland a 57-40 lead before Toronto answered with 12 consecutive points to move within five.

The Cavaliers again pushed the lead back into the double digits, and Love's three-point play made it 73-59 with 3:21 to play. Love scored nine straight Cleveland points, including two free throws that accounted for a 77-61 edge.

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The Raptors trailed by 14 entering the final stanza, but Lowry's 3-pointer and ensuing layup helped cut the Cavaliers' lead to 85-80 with 8:12 left. James scored the next five points to push the Cleveland lead right back to 10 points.

The Raptors eventually trimmed their deficit to 97-95 with 2:52 remaining thanks to Anunoby's 3-pointer and Lowry's two free throws. James scored 15 first-half points as the Cavaliers established a 55-40 advantage.

Cleveland led 16-4 less than seven minutes into the game as the Raptors missed 10 of their 12 shots. The Cavaliers later finished the half with a 16-2 surge to take the 15-point lead into the break.

DeRozan, who averaged 23 points per game in the regular season and was producing 25.8 points per game in the playoffs, never got going.

He said of sitting out down the stretch, "It was extremely hard. Extremely hard. I never want to be over there watching, especially the competitor I am. I just want to be out there helping my team way more than anything. So it definitely sucks to be watching. ... We've got to give credit to (the Cavaliers). We fought hard and gave ourselves a chance to win."

Jayson Tatum scored 24 points and Terry Rozier added 18 as the Boston Celtics beat Philadelphia 101-98 in overtime Saturday, reaching the brink of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals. The Celtics seized a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven second-round series and could complete a sweep of the 76ers by winning game four Monday at Philadelphia.



CLEVELAND: LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers battles with DeMar DeRozan #10 of the Toronto Raptors during the second half in Game Three of the Eastern Conference Semifinals during the 2018 NBA Playoffs at Quicken Loans Arena on Saturday in Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland won the game 105-103 to take a 3-0 series lead. — AFP

In Washington, Jaylen Brown came off the bench to add 16 points for the Celtics while Al Horford contributed 13 points and Australian Aron Baynes grabbed 10 rebounds.

Joel Embiid had 22 points and 19 rebounds to lead the 76ers, while JJ. Redick added 18 points and Aussie playmaker Ben Simmons contributed 16 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

A steal by Rozier set up a basket by Brown that gave

the Celtics an 89-87 lead with 1.8 seconds remaining in regulation time, but the 76ers equalized when Italy's Marco Belinelli sank a jumper off a pass from Simmons with 0.3 of a second remaining, sending the contest into overtime.

A Belinelli basket and Redick 3-pointer put the Sixers up 94-87, but the Celtics closed on a 12-4 run, Horford scoring the final five points to bring Boston the victory. — Agencies

Golovkin destroys Martirosyan to retain WBA, WBC belts

LOS ANGELES: Gennady Golovkin equalled the record of 20 straight world middleweight title defences with a devastating second-round knockout of Vanes Martirosyan on Saturday to retain his WBA and WBC belts.

Golovkin ended the fight with a vicious series of right and left combinations that floored the heavy underdog Martirosyan, who appeared doomed from the outset of the hastily arranged fight at the StubHub Center. "The first round I was just looking, because I know he is a good fighter," the 36-year-old Golovkin said. "The second round it was true business." Martirosyan was in big trouble from the beginning of the second round as Golovkin rendered the challenger helpless by landing a right uppercut on the chin.

He followed with a few stinging jabs and then a full throttle left hook and straight right on the ropes that put Martirosyan down for good at 1:53 of the round. The American tried to get up before the 10 count but slumped forward, ending up face down on the canvas. Golovkin, who is boxing's longest-

reigning current world titleholder, is now unbeaten in 39 fights, including 34 by knockout.

Martirosyan was a last-minute replacement following the cancellation of the Kazakh's much anticipated rematch with Canelo Alvarez of Mexico. The rematch was cancelled because of Alvarez's two failed drug tests in February, followed by his suspension by the Nevada State Athletic Commission on April 18. Alvarez will be free to fight once his suspension ends in August. Saturday's event was moved from Las Vegas to south central Los Angeles and Golovkin fought for a fraction of the money he would have received for a fight against Alvarez.

With the victory he now joins Bernard Hopkins for the division record of 20 successful title defences. Golovkin (38-0-1, 34 KOs) is now in line to surpass Hopkins in the fall when he hopes to finally get that rematch with Alvarez. "I want everybody," said Golovkin. "It doesn't matter to me. I am still the champion guys come and take my belts."

The 31-year-old Martirosyan, who



CARSON: Gennady Golovkin poses with his belts with referee Jack Reiss after a second round knockout win over Vanes Martirosyan during the WBC-WBA Middleweight Championship at StubHub Center on Saturday in Carson, California. — AFP

normally fights at light middleweight, was completely outclassed as he stepped up a division to face the hard-hitting Golovkin. "It was like being hit by

a train," Martirosyan said. "That is the hardest puncher I have ever faced. He surprised me with his power. He is a hell of a fighter." — AFP

Bellew beats Haye again in British heavyweight grudge match

LONDON: Tony Bellew appeared to have all but ended David Haye's career with a fifth-round stoppage win over his rival British heavyweight in their grudge re-match in London on Saturday. The pair had become as well-known for their pre-match dust-ups and verbal taunts as their boxing but there was no denying the comprehensive manner of Bellew's second successive victory over the 37-year-old Haye. "Tony boxed a great fight," Haye told Sky Box Office. "He did some really clever stuff. He boxed really good. I didn't, plain and simple. He had a great game plan and I had no answer."

"You have to let your fists do the talking, it didn't go my way even though I'm fully healthy. I'm taking nothing away from." An emotional Bellew said: "David Haye is an amazing fighter, he just got caught in a slugfest. He's a great fighter, he has got crazy power but speed and power always decreases. He is a legend, a credit to the sport and I'm just happy I've got the win against the odds."

Bellew was only a light-heavyweight when Haye was at the peak of his career as the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion. Haye had billed this non-title bout as the make or break contest of a fading career, having been stopped by Bellew, two years younger at 35, in the 11th round after suffering an Achilles injury when the pair met in March last year.

But Saturday's bout at London's O2 Arena rarely looked like lasting as long. In the third round, Bellew twice sent Haye to the canvas thanks to a pair of powerful right-hand punches. The bell saved Haye from further punishment that round and he tried to regroup in the fourth.

The end, however, was near and with Haye desperately looking for the knockout blow that could have turned the contest on its head, he was open to attack. As both boxers swung, it was Bellew who landed with a powerful left hook that sent Haye tumbling to the deck. He managed to regain his feet but referee Howard Foster was so concerned about his ability to defend himself, he then stopped the fight two minutes and 14 seconds into the fifth round.

Haye had hoped a win on Saturday might propel him to a lucrative bout with Britain's reigning world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua, but that dream was ended in brutal fashion by Bellew. — AFP

Larsen, Ashok, Lopez top storm-hit LPGA Texas Classic

CHICAGO: Denmark's Nicole Broch Larsen seized a one-stroke lead with three birdies and no bogeys in the first 14 holes of her second round Saturday at the storm-hit LPGA Texas Classic. Only nine players finished their second rounds at The Colony before darkness fell on the event, which was trimmed to 36 holes by officials after heavy rain wiped out almost all play Thursday and Friday. Round one ended late Saturday.

Larsen, a 24-year-old Dane seeking her first LPGA title, opened with a four-under 67 and began on the back nine in round two, making birdies at the par-5 11th, par-4 17th and par-5 fourth holes to reach 7-under par with four holes to play in her second round. India's Aditi Ashok and Mexico's Gaby Lopez were at 6-under in their second rounds while South Koreans Jenny Shin and Park Sung-hyun had yet to start their final rounds after opening on 6-under 65.

Ashok, seeking her first LPGA title sank a 12-foot par putt at the par-3 14th

to stand on 6-under when play was halted, also needing to finish four holes on Sunday. After answering a bogey at the third with a birdie at the fourth, Ashok made five birdies in six holes to leap into contention for her first LPGA victory.

The 20-year-old from Bangalore birdied the par-3 seventh and par-5 eighth before closing the front side with a bogey, then began the back side with three birdies in a row.

Lopez, who fired a first-round 68, made a day-ending birdie at the par-5 11th to reach 6-under after opening the back nine with a bogey. She began the second-round bogey-birdie but followed with birdies at the fourth, fifth and eighth. A pack of 11 players shared sixth on 4-under, including five players who will have to play 18 holes today-China's Liu Yu, Germany's Sandra Gal, American Jane Park and South Koreans Kim Seiyoun and Ko Jin-youn. Six others had from three to six holes remaining in their second round, including Canada's



THE COLONY: Aditi Ashok of India plays her tee shot at the eighth hole during the second round of the 2018 Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic at Old American Golf Club on in The Colony, Texas. — AFP

Brooke Henderson, American Katie Burnett and Australian Minjee Lee through 15 holes, Thailand's Moriya

Jutanugarn and South Korean Chun In-gee after 13 holes and American Mo Martin after 12. — AFP

Sports

Angels blow three leads in loss to Mariners, ending winning streak

Raffy hit two-run homer to help Padres beat Los Angeles

SEATTLE: Ryon Healy drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 11th inning as the Seattle Mariners rallied three times to defeat the visiting Los Angeles Angels 9-8 Saturday night at Safeco Field. With Seattle trailing 8-7 after the Angels scored in the top of the 11th, Robinson Cano led off with a walk against Jim Johnson (2-1). An out later, Kyle Seager doubled to right-center field to score Cano and tie it. Healy then greeted Eduardo Paredes, the eighth Angels pitcher, with a liner down the left field line to score Seager. The Angels took the lead in the 11th on Andrelton Simmons' two-out, infield single, his fourth hit of the night, off Mariners right-hander Erik Goeddel (1-0). Both teams scored in the 10th, with Chris Young's RBI single offset by the Mariners' unearned run on first baseman Jeffrey Marte's throwing error.

CARDINALS 8, CUBS 6 (10 INNINGS)

Koltzen Wong capped a comeback with a two-run, walk-off home run in the bottom of the 10th inning Sat, giving St. Louis a win over visiting Chicago. After the Cardinals scored twice in the last of the ninth on a double by Marcell Ozuna to tie the game at 6-6, Paul DeJong led off the 10th by drawing a walk off Luke Farrell (1-1). Wong then followed with his two-run shot, his second homer of the season, to end it. Tyler Lyons (1-0), who retired the only batter he faced in the top of the 10th, was credited with the win.

TIGERS 3, ROYALS 2

Six Detroit pitchers made three first-inning runs stand up in holding off host Kansas City. Nicholas Castellanos had three extra-base hits while scoring a run and driving in another. Victor Martinez had two hits, scored a run and added an RBI, while Leonys Martin had two hits and scored a run. Jordan Zimmermann (2-0) lasted five innings to pick up the win. Shane Greene survived some shaky fielding by striking out three batters to record his sixth save. Detroit had lost the first two games of the four-game series.

YANKEES 5, INDIANS 2

Sonny Gray pitched six effective innings as host New York capitalized on two errors by Cleveland shortstop Francisco Lindor. Gray (2-2) allowed two runs and four hits in a 93-pitch outing. It was the first time since joining the Yankees in a trade from Oakland on July 31 that the right-hander pitched at least six innings and allowed two or fewer runs. Trevor Bauer (2-3) retired the first 13 hitters before New York scored four runs in the fifth inning, helped by two errors by Lindor on one play.

PHILLIES 3, NATIONALS 1

Rhys Hoskins hit a two-run homer two batters into the game, and Vince Velasquez gave up one hit in five innings in Philadelphia's victory at Washington. Hoskins hit his fifth homer of the season and Maikel Franco added an RBI single for the Phillies, who had lost five of six. Wilmer Difo homered for the Nationals, who had a six-game winning streak broken. Difo is 12-for-22 with two doubles, two

homers, four RBIs and eight runs in his past eight games. The Nationals had won seven of nine.

PADRES 7, DODGERS 4

A day after San Diego was no-hit, Raffy Lopez hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning to help the Padres beat Los Angeles in Monterrey, Mexico. Mexico native Christian Villanueva drew a walk from Dodgers reliever Josh Fields (2-1) to open the Padres' sixth after the Dodgers had taken a 4-3 lead in the top of the inning. After Fields struck out Franchy Cordero, Lopez homered to right for his first hit of the season. The 30-year-old catcher was recalled from Triple-A El Paso Tuesday when Austin Hedges went on the disabled list with right elbow tendinitis.

TWINS 8, WHITE SOX 4

Eddie Rosario went 4-for-5 with a double, a home run and five RBIs to match a career high as Minnesota rolled over host Chicago. Rosario's outburst provided more than enough run support for Lance Lynn (1-3), who earned his first win since signing a one-year deal with the Twins at the start of spring training. Lynn held the White Sox to two runs on eight hits, no walks and seven strikeouts in six innings. Minnesota has won back-to-back games and three of four.

GIANTS 11, BRAVES 2

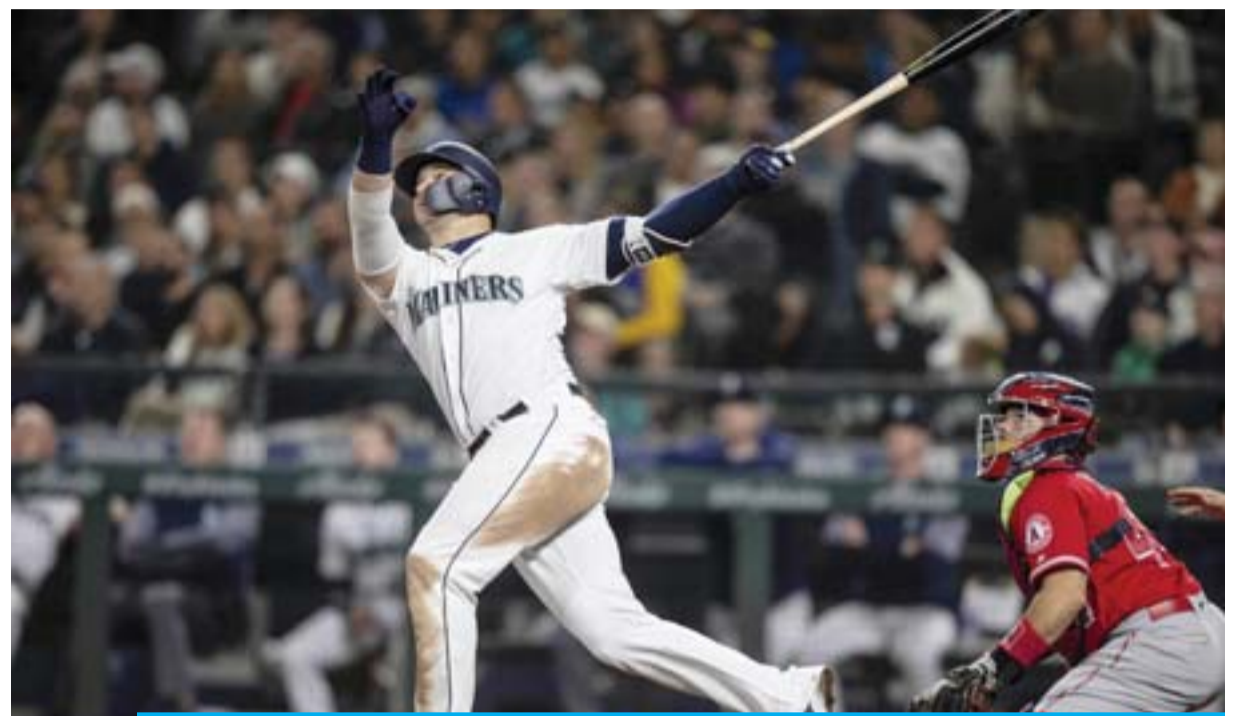
San Francisco finally provided some run support for starter Ty Blach and rolled past host Atlanta. Blach had received only 2.41 runs of support—the second-lowest average in the National League—but his teammates racked up 18 hits and a season-high 11 runs. The Giants have scored nine or more runs in three straight games and have won the first two games of the three-game series against the Braves. Blach (3-3) worked a season-high 7 2/3 innings and allowed two runs (one earned) on seven hits. He struck out two and did not walk a batter in posting his second straight win.

MARLINS 6, REDS 0

Caleb Smith (2-3) pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings as visiting Miami defeated Cincinnati. Starlin Castro and Justin Bour hit home runs to lead Miami's offense. Castro's blast was his 100th career home run, and he finished with three RBIs. Drew Steckenrider, Kyle Barraclough and Brad Ziegler completed the Marlins' four-hit shutout.

ROCKIES 2, METS 0

Chad Bettis tossed seven scoreless innings, and Nolan Arenado's first-inning homer provided all the offense Colorado would need in shutting down host New York. The Rockies have won four straight. The Mets have lost five in a row and have been outscored 31-9 in the process. They have also lost 13 of their past 19. Bettis (4-1) allowed six hits and one walk while striking out two. His outing was the seventh straight quality start for the Rockies, whose rotation has a 1.62 ERA in the past 10 games.



SEATTLE: Mike Zunino #3 of the Seattle Mariners hits a two-run home run off of relief pitcher Justin Anderson #38 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim that also scored Ryon Healy #27 of the Seattle Mariners during the eighth inning of a game at Safeco Field in Seattle, Washington. — AFP

RAYS 5, BLUE JAYS 3

Jake Faria pitched into the sixth inning, and host Tampa Bay took advantage of three errors by Toronto. Faria (3-1) allowed one run, three hits and walked one while striking out four in 5 1/3 innings for the Rays, who have won the first two games of the three-game series. Alex Colome pitched 1 2/3 perfect innings with two strikeouts to earn his sixth save. Teoscar Hernandez and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered for the Blue Jays. Toronto starter Aaron Sanchez (2-3) allowed four runs (two earned), five hits, four walks and struck out three in 3 2/3 innings.

BREWERS 5, PIRATES 3

Ryan Braun, who came on as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning and struck out, hit a two-out, two-run double in the eighth inning to lift host Milwaukee past Pittsburgh. In a 3-3 tie in the eighth against reliever George Kontos (2-3), Braun, who has been nursing a calf injury, drove in Domingo Santana, who doubled to open the inning, and Eric Sogard, who drew a two-out walk. The Brewers will go for a weekend series win Sunday after dropping the opener. The Pirates have lost five of their past six overall and nine of their past 10 road games.

RED SOX 6, RANGERS 5

Hanley Ramirez lifted a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning after Joe Kelly worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth as Boston Red Sox edged host Texas. Kelly (1-0) entered with the bases-loaded in the eighth after the Red Sox intentionally walked Nomar Mazara. Kelly fanned Joey Gallo on a 98 mph fastball, and ended an 11-pitch at-bat by striking out Jurickson Profar looking on another 98 mph fastball. With one out in the

ninth off Keone Kela (2-2), Andrew Benintendi barely missed a homer and settled for a standup triple, his third hit of the game, off the right-center-field fence. Four pitches later, Ramirez lifted a fly ball to center field, and Benintendi easily scored when Delino Deshields Jr.'s throw went up the line.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, ASTROS 3

A.J. Pollock hit a walk-off, bases-loaded single off Houston third baseman Alex Bregman's glove, and David Peralta homered for the host Diamondbacks, who broke a three-game losing streak. Jeff Mathis beat out a surprise bunt single down the third base line off Chris Devenski (1-1) to open the ninth. Deven Marrero then bunted, and pinch runner Jarrod Dyson was forced out at second. David Peralta fanned for the second out. Chris Owings and Paul Goldschmidt walked before Houston reliever Brad Peacock entered. Pollock hit Peacock's first pitch for a one-hopper toward the hole at short that kicked off Bregman's glove and into short left field.

ATHLETICS 2, ORIOLES 0

Khris Davis ended a pitchers' duel with a two-run, walk-off home run in the bottom of the 12th inning, giving host Oakland a win over floundering Baltimore. What started as a classic showdown between Baltimore's Kevin Gausman and Oakland's Trevor Cahill ended as the As' Jed Lowrie lined a one-out single off Baltimore's third pitcher, Pedro Araujo (1-3), in the 12th. Davis then unloaded with his ninth home run of the season. Gausman blanked the As over a career-high nine innings, while Cahill fanned a career-best 12 in six shutout innings. The Orioles lost their fifth straight on a six-game trip that ends Sunday, and they have dropped 11 straight on the road. — Reuters



The Rockies have won four straight

Zverev beats Kohlschreiber to win Munich Open

MUNICH: Germany's world No.3 Alexander Zverev beat veteran compatriot Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-3 to win the Munich ATP Open for a second consecutive year yesterday. The fresh-faced 21-year-old from Hamburg, who is coached by his father, beat Argentina's Guido Pella in the 2017 final. One year on and his victim was Kohlschreiber, a triple champion in Munich, who had not lost a single set coming through the rounds.

But the 34-year-old had two break points in the sixth game of the first set only to lose the game and then get broken in the next game. Zverev, the great hope of German tennis, then broke his older compatriot in the opening game of the second set and the top seed never looked back. "It is a very special event for me so I am very happy that I was able to defend my title," he said after his seventh ATP title. "I had to play my best tennis to have a chance, so that is what I did," said Zverev, a semi-finalist at the Monte Carlo Masters. "At the beginning I was struggling a little bit and then I found my rhythm and felt very good on court."

"Losing the final is never easy or fun," Kohlschreiber commented. "He (Zverev) played better in this final. He played a really good match. It was a great week for me and for sure I will be coming back next year." — AFP



Alexander Zverev



LONDON: Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger salutes the crowd as he arrives for the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Burnley at the Emirates Stadium in London yesterday. — AFP

Arsenal bid farewell to Wenger

LONDON: After 22 years as Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger took charge of his final game at the Emirates stadium yesterday as Burnley visited North London for a day tinged with nostalgia for the Frenchman and the home support. Arsenal players and fans sported red t-shirts emblazoned with "Merci Arsene" (Thank you Arsene), whilst both teams formed a guard of honour for Wenger before kick-off.

Chants of "there is only one Arsene Wenger" rang around the 60,000 capacity stadium, which was far fuller than home league games in recent months as fans stayed away in protest at a poor season on the field. "I expect today will be dominated by sadness," wrote Wenger in his final programme notes.

"It's the end of a long story for me at Arsenal. But I will also feel grateful for having led this club - that I cherish so much - for such a long time." Wenger won three Premier Leagues and a record seven FA Cups. His crowning glory coming in the 2003/04 season when Arsenal won the

league without losing a single game.

"The Arsene Wenger era is one that Arsenal fans will never forget," said a special 60-page supplementary programme given to supporters. "Legendary games and players, including an 'Invincible' achievement that allows supporters to argue they've seen the greatest team English football has ever produced."

Before the game fans were encouraged to sign tribute book, which will be given to Wenger at the end of the season. "Overwhelmingly, the emotion is sadness, because it has been 20 years coming here, seeing him," Arsenal fan James Sherwan told AFP outside the Emirates. "I'm thirty. Since I was 10 he's been a manager, and it's a lot of good memories."

However, "The Invincibles" was the last time Arsenal won the league with supporters increasingly frustrated at the Gunners' inability to compete for Premier League and Champions League honours.

A 1-0 defeat to Atletico Madrid on Thursday in the Europa League semi-finals means that for the second consecutive season, Arsenal will not even qualify for the Champions League. "We were a bit short on finishing our chances, and also on our defensive focus," said Wenger in his programme notes on defeat in the Spanish capital. "That's the story we have seen so many times before this season." — AFP

Spanish great Xavi to play on until at least end of year

DOHA: Legendary former Barcelona and Spain midfielder Xavi Hernandez has upset his own plans to retire and announced he will extend his career until at least the end of this year, he said yesterday.

Widely expected to end his illustrious playing career at the end of this season, the World Cup champion and four-times Champions League winner told AFP he feels fit enough to continue playing a little longer.

"I have decided to continue at least six months more," said the 38-year-old, who now plays for Qatari club Al Sadd. Asked why he was playing on, he replied: "Because it depends on my physical condition. Maybe in December I decide to continue."

The decision is unexpected as Xavi had signalled that the current season would be his last before he focuses on earning his coaching badges. He even spoke about not being about not being able to cope with the physical demands of professional football.

But he has now had a change of heart. Xavi, who won 133 caps for Spain, had been expected to take the reins at Al Sadd from next season and has been tipped to be the Qatar coach in 2022 when the Gulf state hosts the World Cup. The announcement that he will continue playing comes almost two decades to the day he made his first team debut for Barcelona against Leida back in 1998 and became synonymous with the club's tiki-taka style of play. He went on to make more than 700 appearances for the Catalan giants, winning eight La Liga titles and 31 trophies in all, which was a record when he left Spanish football in 2015 to move to the Gulf.

Xavi had already extended his original two-year contract to play this season and remains the biggest name in the Qatari domestic league. Although the league season has ended in Qatar-Al Sadd finished runners-up-Xavi is still involved in two cup competitions.

On Monday, Al Sadd play in Doha against Saudi Arabian side Al Ahli in the first leg of the AFC Champions League last 16. Later this week, Al Sadd will also play in the semi-final of Qatar's biggest domestic cup competition, the Emir Cup.

Xavi has so far added three more trophies to his collection while playing in the Gulf and is approaching playing 1,000 games throughout his long career. Since being in Qatar he has also been named as a global ambassador for the 2022 World Cup. — AFP

Sports

Giroud sinks Liverpool to keep Chelsea's top four bid alive

Chelsea head to Newcastle and Tottenham entertain Leicester

LONDON: Olivier Giroud boosted Chelsea's bid to snatch a place in the Premier League's top four as the France striker sealed a 1-0 win over Liverpool that brought the Champions League finalists back down to earth yesterday.

Giroud's first-half header at Stamford Bridge lifted fifth-placed Chelsea to within two points of fourth-placed Tottenham in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League. A fourth successive victory equalled Chelsea's longest league winning streak this season, keeping them in the hunt for a top four finish while denting third-placed Liverpool's challenge for the same target. It was a frustrating return to domestic action for Liverpool after their Champions League semi-final success against Roma in midweek. In a dramatic conclusion to the top four battle, Chelsea, who are three points behind Liverpool, host struggling Huddersfield on Wednesday and Tottenham face Newcastle the same evening. On the final day of the season next Sunday, Chelsea head to Newcastle and Tottenham entertain Leicester. With only one win in their last five league games, Liverpool have made their top four status an unnecessarily tense affair. Jurgen Klopp's team should still be able to guarantee a Champions League berth if they beat Brighton at Anfield yesterday.

Even if they don't finish in the top four, Liverpool can return to Europe's elite club competition by defeating Real Madrid in the Champions League final on May 26. Liverpool fans crowded into one corner of the Bridge were still in party mood after their side's

Roman conquest and regular renditions of their "Allez, Allez" European anthem served as the soundtrack to a bright opening from the visitors.

Picked out by Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass, Roberto Firmino made an intelligent run down the right-hand side of the penalty area and tested Thibaut Courtois with a dipping half-volley. Eden Hazard was the victim of a thunderous tackle from James Milner that left the Chelsea playmaker in need of treatment and the Liverpool midfielder fortunate to avoid a booking. Hazard dusted himself down and was able to play on, moments later teeing up Marcos Alonso for Chelsea's first shot on target. That was a rare incursion into the

Liverpool area from Chelsea as Klopp's men dominated possession early on.

Mane in a personal duel with Courtois

PERSONAL DUEL

Sadio Mane's 25-yard drive forced a sprawling save from Courtois and from the resulting corner, the Chelsea keeper needed to be alert to stop Virgil van Dijk heading in from close range. Mane was in a personal duel with Courtois, who kept out another powerful blast from the Senegal winger, then scrambled to his feet to deny him again from the rebound.

But despite their pressure, Liverpool were caught with a sucker punch in the 32nd minute as Giroud justified Conte's decision to select him at the expense of the out of form Alvaro Morata.

Victor Moses teased Andrew Robertson as he worked space to swing over a cross and Giroud, steal-



LONDON: Chelsea's Spanish defender Cesar Azpilicueta (CR) vies with Liverpool's Senegalese midfielder Sadio Mane (CL) and Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (L) during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday. — AFP

ing in front of the slow to react Dejan Lovren, glanced a fine header into the far corner of the net.

Giroud celebrated his fifth Chelsea goal since his January move from Arsenal by sprinting over to the bench and clambered up to hug team-mate David Luiz, who wasn't involved in the matchday squad.

Suddenly there was more verve about Chelsea and Cesc Fabregas almost doubled their lead with a low effort that flashed across goal. Mohamed Salah was anonymous in the first half until the Liverpool star was

booked for diving, a decision that drew an angry response from Klopp as he berated the fourth official.

Moses threatened with a stinging strike soon after the interval and Hazard followed suit, bringing Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius into action after a thrusting run. Egypt star Salah was finding it impossible to escape the close attention of Chelsea defenders. Liverpool were impotent as a result and Chelsea salted away the points after Liverpool substitute Dominic Solanke headed over. — AFP

United fans and rivals rally round stricken Ferguson

LONDON: Messages of support continued to pour in as legendary football manager Sir Alex Ferguson fought for his life yesterday following emergency surgery for a brain haemorrhage. Considered the most successful manager in the history of British football, Ferguson won 38 major trophies in just over 26 years in charge of Manchester United, including 13 Premier League titles and the UEFA Champions League twice.

It is a measure of the Scot's success on the pitch, and his stature off it that tributes poured in from around the world of sport, and beyond, to wish the 76-year-old a speedy recovery after he underwent surgery on Saturday.

"Everyone at AC Milan wishes Sir Alex Ferguson a full and speedy recovery," said a statement by the seven-time European champions on their official Twitter page early yesterday morning. Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, who is on the verge of leading the Turin giants to a seventh successive Serie A crown, said: "Stay strong Alex Ferguson."

News of Ferguson's condition also had an impact beyond the world of football. Top American baseball side the Chicago White Sox posted a heartfelt message on their Twitter page weeks after one of their players, Danny Farquhar, recently suffered a brain haemorrhage while sitting in the team dugout.

"The #WhiteSox stand with the @ManUtd community in sending our positive thoughts to Sir Alex Ferguson," said the message on @whitesox. "Having been recently impacted by a brain hemorrhage in our own family, we know the dramatic impact it causes, and the strength that can be drawn from those who care."

Ferguson, who retired from management five years ago, appeared in good health when presenting a commemorative vase to old rival Arsene Wenger, who is stepping down as Arsenal manager, at United's Old Trafford ground last week. But on Saturday an ambulance was called to the Scot's home in Cheadle, near Manchester, at 9:00 am (0800 GMT). Concerns for Ferguson's health mounted when it was announced his son, Darren, the manager of English third-tier club Doncaster, would miss his side's match against Wigan because of "family reasons". News of Ferguson's operation was made public by United in a statement that appeared to be cautiously opti-



OLD TRAFFORD: A visitor walks past a billboard featuring football greats, including legendary football manager Sir Alex Ferguson, (top-R), outside the Manchester United Museum at Old Trafford football stadium, Manchester yesterday. — AFP

mistic about his prospects for recovery. "Sir Alex Ferguson has undergone emergency surgery today for a brain haemorrhage," the statement said on Saturday.

"The procedure has gone very well but he needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery. His family request privacy in this matter." Pending updates—none of which had been given by medical officials or Manchester United by 1230 GMT Sunday—on Ferguson's condition, messages of support from all walks of life continued to pour in. "I wish Sir Alex Ferguson a speedy and full recovery," said British Labour MP John McDonnell, the Shadow Chancellor. "A brilliant manager and a good man, who won the respect of all of us football supporters worldwide."

Wenger, a long-time rival on the touchlines, offered his support in a short statement to the Daily Mail yesterday. "I am concerned and I'm thinking about him and his family," said the Frenchman. "I trust his strength and his strong character will get him well very quickly."

Ferguson also recently met with Pep Guardiola, taking

the Spaniard to dinner to congratulate him on winning this season's Premier League title with Manchester City. Guardiola, who is good friends with Ferguson, told Sky Sports ahead of City's match against Huddersfield: "Brian Kidd, who is here now, was with (Sir Alex) for a lot of time. "So a big hug and our thoughts are with his wife Cathy and the Manchester United family. I was glad to have dinner with him two weeks ago, and hopefully he can recover as quickly as possible."

A brain haemorrhage is bleeding in or around the brain following the rupture of a blood vessel, which can be caused by elevated blood pressure, aneurysms or physical trauma. Operations to relieve the pressure of excess blood in the brain, as has been the case with Ferguson, are crucial if sufferers are to avoid brain damage or even death. That prospect has prompted an outpouring of support from among Ferguson's former players and clubs. Former United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel perhaps summed up best the feelings of many well-wishers when he wrote: "Please Be strong Win this one." — AFP

Cardiff back in Premier League

LONDON: Cardiff City returned to the Premier League yesterday when a goalless draw at home to Reading was enough to give veteran manager Neil Warnock a record eighth promotion. Only the top two at the end of the regular season were guaranteed a place in English football's lucrative top flight and second-tier title-winners Wolves had already secured one of those spots heading into Sunday's final round of regular-season Championship matches.

A draw left Cardiff waiting on Fulham's result at Birmingham, but the Cottagers 3-1 loss left the London club facing the lottery of the play-offs, where the teams finishing third-sixth compete for the lone remaining promotion place.

The draw saw Cardiff return to the Premier League after a single season in the competition in 2013/14. When Warnock took over some 18 months ago, Cardiff were at the other end of the table but Malaysian owner Vincent Tan's decision to bring the experienced manager to the Welsh capital paid dividends. Birmingham were still facing relegation when they kicked off but first-half goals from Lukas Jutkiewicz (15) and Harlee Dean (43) settled their nerves. Tom Cairney scored for Fulham with six minutes left but Che Adams's 89th-minute goal put the result beyond doubt.

Barnsley's 4-1 loss at Derby ended their brief stay in the Championship, with Burton—managed by Nigel Clough—also relegated after a 2-1 loss at Preston. Meanwhile Bolton beat the drop in remarkable fashion after beating Nottingham Forest 3-2.

Bolton were going down with three minutes left when Forest led 2-1 after goals from Ben Osborn (70) and Jack Colback (79) overturning Adam Le Fondre's early volley. But David Wheeler (87) and Aaron Wilbraham (88) scored to keep northwest side Bolton in the division to the delight of their delirious home crowd. Elsewhere, bottom club Sunderland stunned champions Wolves 3-0, in front of prospective new owner Stewart Donald. On-loan pair Ovie Ejaria (19) and Ashley Fletcher (45) put the hosts 2-0 up before Paddy McNair scored Sunderland's third midway through the second half. — AFP

Napoli draw all but hands title to Juventus

MILAN: Juventus are practically assured of winning a seventh successive Serie A title after second-placed Napoli were held 2-2 by Torino yesterday. Juventus have a six-point lead in Serie A with two games left to play. Both teams are equal in head-to-head clashes but Juventus are well ahead of their southern rivals on goal difference.

The champions now need just one point to officially retain their crown with games to come against Roma in the Stadio Olimpico and already-relegated Verona in Turin. Torino twice battled back from a goal down to steal a point from Maurizio Sarri's side who had been bidding for a first title since the days of Argentina legend Diego Maradona in 1987 and 1990.

"Unfortunately there is a bit of regret, we didn't deserve these recent results," said

Napoli captain Marek Hamsik. "Juventus are a very strong team but I think from what we showed on the pitch we deserved a little more."

The mood in the Stadio San Paolo was one of support for Sarri after club president Aurelio De Laurentiis laid the blame on the coach after last week's 3-0 defeat at Fiorentina effectively ended their title challenge. Napoli's last win was against Juventus in Turin two weeks ago. Dries Mertens celebrated his 31st birthday by putting Napoli ahead after 25 minutes after a shocking defensive error by Torino's Nicolas Burdisso, with Hamsik coming off the bench to add a second for the hosts after 71 minutes.

But Torino dug deep with Daniele Baselli pulling the visitors level 10 minutes into the second half and Lorenzo De Silvestri heading in seven minutes from time to cancel out Hamsik's goal.

Juventus had recovered from a goal down to beat Bologna 3-1 on Saturday to open up a seven-point lead. Massimiliano Allegri's Juventus would have to lose their final two matches and Napoli to achieve high-scoring wins against Sampdoria and Crotone to make up the goal difference.

Napoli and Juventus both won 1-0 away

from home against each other this season, but the Turin giants (+61) have a considerable edge over Napoli (+45) in terms of goal difference.

With Juventus and Napoli in the top two spots, Inter Milan kept their Champions League hopes alive with a 4-0 win over Udinese to move to within two points of Lazio, who are third after being held 1-1 by Atalanta.

Lazio—without Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile—can be overtaken by Roma who play at Cagliari later. Lazio fell behind to a Musa Barrow strike after just two minutes before Felipe Caicedo grabbed the equaliser on 24 minutes following good work by Luis Alberto.

Inter assured fifth place and seal at least Europa League action next season while keeping their Champions League challenge alive. Inter have 69 points with two games left and cannot be caught by AC Milan, who are nine points behind, or Atalanta, who have 59.

"We're still convinced that we can get to the Champions League," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti. Inter put last week's last-gasp 3-2 defeat to Juventus behind them, sealing victory with first-half goals from Andrea Ranocchia, Rafinha and captain Mauro Icardi. — AFP



NAPLES: Napoli's midfielder from Slovakia Marek Hamsik (C) shoots and scores a goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Napoli and Torino at the San Paolo Comunale Stadium in Naples, yesterday. — AFP

12 Viviani wins second Giro stage in a row as Dennis keeps pink

13 Golovkin destroys Martirosyan to retain WBA, WBC belts

15 United fans and rivals rally round stricken Ferguson



City lift Premier League trophy

Huddersfield celebrate precious point



MANCHESTER: Manchester City players celebrate with the Premier League trophy on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Huddersfield Town at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, yesterday. — AFP

MANCHESTER: It took three weeks for Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany to finally get his hands on the Premier League trophy but, on a day of celebrations at the Etihad, a goalless draw may prove to have left Huddersfield Town as the big winners.

A strong showing from the struggling visitors earned a valuable point which may be enough to keep them in the Premier League next season, an impressive achievement given their limited budget.

They also kept at bay the bid by Pep Guardiola's runaway champions to set new Premier League records for the most goals, points and wins in a season—all marks which could yet be claimed by City in the season's final week in which they play Brighton and Southampton.

But, after a delay while uninvited supporters were removed from the field, Guardiola was finally able to see his team presented with the trophy, the third major country in which he has managed a team to a title following successes in Spain and Germany with Barcelona and Bayern Munich respectively.

The celebrations for City's third title in seven seasons began well before kick-off, both inside and outside their Etihad home ground. Supporters were issued with blue and white flags, creating a colourful vista to greet the champions as they were given yet another guard of honour on their way onto the field before kick-off.

They were also met by the survivors of City's famous 1968 Championship-winning side, a squad led so memorably by club leg-

ends Colin Bell, Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee who were all on hand to receive an emotional welcome from fans who remember their legacy half a century on.

Having won the league three weeks earlier, when closest rivals Manchester United surprisingly lost at home to West Brom, these title celebrations have been curiously drawn out. There had been none of the edge-of-the-seat drama that so famously brought City their first Premier League title, when Sergio Aguero scored with virtually the last kick of the season against QPR in 2012.

And the fact that City have now received three guards of honour for opponents before games has not been well received in some quarters, with some traditionalists arguing it has lessened the resolve of their rivals.

But, in contrast to comfortable City wins against Swansea and West Ham, there was no hint of Huddersfield showing the champions too much respect when the contest finally got underway at the Etihad.

Victory would have guaranteed Huddersfield safety and another season of top flight football. David Wagner's men might have been on course for just such an upset result in an entertaining, if goalless, first half but Ederson denied Florent Hadergjonaj and Alex Pritchard.

A City side that had been held goalless in just one previous league game—a draw at Crystal Palace on New Year's Eve—inevitably carved out chances of their own with Jonas Lossl saving well at David Silva's feet after five minutes and, unknowingly, stopping a

fierce Kevin De Bruyne shot.

By the interval, Huddersfield were visibly wilting in the Manchester heat and facing the prospect of a long second half of attrition. City started brightly, with Christopher Schindler clearing off his line from a scramble at a Leroy Sane corner, but otherwise Huddersfield defended manfully and substitute Scott Malone might even have snatched a dramatic injury-time winner for the visitors. But the response from Huddersfield's players, and Guardiola's heartfelt congratulations to his opposite number Wagner on the final whistle, demonstrated the importance of the point to the visitors who now join Everton and Manchester United as the only sides to have avoided defeat at the Etihad in the league this season. — AFP

Messi strike helps 10-man Barca earn draw

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi weaved his magic to keep 10-man Barcelona's unbeaten season alive as a 2-2 draw at the Camp Nou yesterday left Real Madrid sweating over an injury to Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo was forced off at half-time after appearing to hurt his ankle and Real will be hoping their star striker can now recover in time for the Champions League final against Liverpool on May 26.

The challenge from Gerard Pique had come as Ronaldo cancelled out Luis Suarez's opener before Sergi Roberto was sent off on the stroke of half-time for an altercation with Real defender Marcelo.

Barca, however, took the lead in the second half as Messi scored a brilliant individual goal only for Gareth Bale, who could earlier have been sent off, to have the last word in a thrilling Clasico, his emphatic strike earning Real a deserved draw. After initially taking treatment, Ronaldo played on for 31 minutes here before Zinedine Zidane decided to substitute him at half-time, which may at least offer Real encouragement. His injury, however, coupled with Barcelona avoiding defeat, despite playing a man down for the whole of the second half, will mean the Catalans depart the happier side.

Ernesto Valverde's men, already crowned champions, are now three matches away from becoming the first team ever to finish a 38-game La Liga season unbeaten. Andres Iniesta overcame, or perhaps ignored, a niggling calf problem to play his 38th and final Clasico while Philippe Coutinho was picked to start his first. Iniesta went off to a standing ovation in the second half. Barca exploded out of the blocks and they were ahead within 10 minutes. Suarez swept the ball out to the right where Sergi drove forward, ignored Messi's run to the near post, and returned the cross deep to Suarez. He finished into the bottom corner.

The lead, however, lasted four minutes. Just as Suarez initiated his goal, so did Ronaldo, a neat backheel freeing Toni Kroos, who found Karim Benzema at the back post. The Frenchman was cool enough to head back into the six-yard box, where Ronaldo bundled home. Pique's last-ditch attempt had been robust enough to hurt the Portuguese, who stayed down as Barca attempted to kick off. Ronaldo took treatment but was able temporarily to continue. Real dictated the

rest of the half and Ronaldo could twice have given them the lead. His first shot was saved by Marc-Andre Ter Stegen, the second fired wide of the far post.

In between, Messi had played in Jordi Alba with a sumptuous ball over the top but even he lost his cool during five mad minutes at the end of the first period. Suarez felt he had been elbowed by Sergio Ramos, prompting the first round of scuffles, before Messi was booked for flying into the defender on the touchline. Bale was then lucky not to be sent off for stabbing his studs into Samuel Umtiti's calf and moments later Sergi did see red, as he threw an arm into the face of Marcelo. The home fans were raging as the half-time whistle blew but, with Marco Asensio on for Ronaldo, they were celebrating eight minutes after the restart. Suarez's blatant kick on Raphael Varane went unpunished and from there it was all about Messi. He skipped away first from Ramos, and then Casemiro, before firing into the bottom corner.

Even Zidane was smiling on the touchline. Iniesta went off just before the hour and Messi could have put Barca out of sight soon after. He sped away from Varane but his shot was parried away by Keylor Navas. Real tried to make the most of their one-man advantage but in truth, they had been far more assertive 11 against 11. — AFP



BARCELONA: Real Madrid's Spanish defender Sergio Ramos (R) challenges Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

18 Boursa Kuwait wins the 'Most Improved Company' award**19** 2018 XTS in Kuwait featuring Cadillac's new technology**21** Exceptional Toyota Hilux celebrates 50 years of reliable performance

NEW DELHI: In this file photo, an Air India plane is seen parked on the tarmac at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. — AFP

Sale of debt-laden Air India fails to take off

Key deadline looms with no bidder in sight

MUMBAI: The Indian government's attempt to sell debt-laden national carrier Air India is in danger of hitting the skids as a key deadline looms with no bidder in sight. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration announced in March that it would privatize the beleaguered airline. But the plan has struggled to get off the ground with several prospective buyers ruling themselves out.

"Conditions put forth by the government with regards to debt and employee costs are restrictive and have put off investors," aviation expert Amrit Pandurangi told AFP.

"The government needs to address the concerns of the private investors if the stake sale is to move forward," the independent analyst added. Air India, founded in 1932, was once the country's monopoly airline, known affectionately as the "Maharaja of the skies".

But it has been hemorrhaging money for years as it has slowly lost market share to low-cost private players

in one of the world's fastest-growing airline markets. Successive governments pumped in billions of dollars to keep it afloat before Modi's cabinet last year gave the go-ahead to start the process of selling the flagship carrier. The government wants to sell a 76 percent stake in the 86-year-old airline and offload \$5.1 billion of its debt in what would be one of India's biggest ever divestments. However the proposal has failed to fly with several major airlines, including IndiGo, now India's number-one airline, and Jet Airways, which said last month they were out of the running after reviewing government bid documents.

Analysts say the company's large debts and generous pension schemes are putting off buyers. Air India is about \$8 billion in the red and reported losses of almost 58 billion rupees (\$866 million) for the financial year ending March 2017.

"We don't think any of the Indian airlines have the financial strength to bid for Air India," said Binit

Somaia, South Asia Director at the Centre for Aviation (CAPA), told AFP.

'Back to drawing board'

Airlines are also being deterred by the sale terms, experts say. The documents state that the buyer has to purchase all of Air India's six entities, three of which are loss-making. IndiGo said it was interested only in Air India's international routes and not its loss-making domestic operations. "IndiGo has been a highly successful carrier. It is a good decision on their part to focus on organic growth," said Somaia.

Under any deal the government would retain a 24 percent stake. Its insistence that the winning bidder cannot merge the airline with existing businesses as long as the government keeps its stake is seen as a key stumbling block. Last week the government was forced to extend its deadline to May 31 for companies to submit an expression of interest after none was received.

Indian media reports say the tea-to-steel conglomerate Tata Group, which founded the airline before it was nationalized in 1946, is the best hope for a sale. Others have suggested that Lufthansa, Etihad Airways and the British Airways-led International Airlines Group might come forward. The three carriers declined to comment to AFP. Singapore Airlines, which has a partnership with Tata in Indian airline Vistara, has also been touted. A spokeswoman told AFP that it will "keep its options open".

Commentators say it will be very difficult politically for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party government to sell the state carrier to a foreign group, making a domestic-international partnership most likely. But first it looks like it will have to ease its sale terms to attract any formal bids. "If the deal in its current form doesn't go through the government will have to go back to (the) drawing board and relook at the deal structure," Manish Agarwal, of PricewaterhouseCoopers, said. — AFP

Gulf Bank voted 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' by Banker Middle East



tomers might not even realize they have," said Tareq Al-Saleh upon receiving the award.

"I would like to thank the Gulf Bank team for their hard work and Banker Middle East for recognizing and endorsing our efforts." The Banker Middle East Industry Awards were first held in 1999 and have become acknowledged as the most important recognition of financial excellence in the Middle East. Every year through a combination of reader votes and in-depth analysis of financial statements Banker Middle East assesses all financial institutions in the region and celebrates the best and brightest of the banking sector in the region. Each winner has outperformed their peers across a variety of the most important key performance indicators to witness unrivaled growth and success in the last year.

tive year, which I believe is a testament to the Bank's commitment to its customers and their needs. We are working to ensure we not only meet customers' needs but also meet needs that cus-



Egypt must deepen reforms to catch window of global growth, says IMF

CAIRO: Egypt will have to deepen its IMF-backed reforms and better encourage private sector growth if it wants to cash in on a wave of global expansion that may soon come to an end, a fund official in Cairo said on Saturday. Halfway into a three-year \$12 billion IMF loan program it signed in late-2016 tied to tough austerity measures, Egypt is hoping painful reforms like tax hikes and subsidy cuts will now lure back foreign investors and kick-start an economy that crashed after its 2011 Arab Spring uprising. Speaking to government officials as part of an IMF visit to review Egypt's reform program, First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton praised the country's progress but said "broadening and deepening the reform agenda" is crucial to take advantage of ripe global conditions.

"But now the time has come to take advantage of the hard-won macroeconomic stability and push on to create jobs and raise living standards through sustainable growth," Lipton said in a prepared statement provided to Reuters. He described strong global growth, projected at 3.9 percent for 2018 and 2019, and low interest rates likely to rise as "a good window of opportunity for Egypt to undertake reforms...that may not be open for too long."

Cairo's tough reforms have included a currency float that halved the value of its pound, deep cuts to fuel and electricity subsidies and a new value-added tax. — Reuters

KUWAIT: Building on an already impressive start to 2018, Gulf Bank was awarded the distinction of 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' by Banker Middle East, the region's leading banking industry magazine. The award recognizes the Bank's outstanding performance in the retail sector and highlights its understanding of customers' needs and its commitment to delivering superior services and products. The award was received by Bank executives Tareq Al-Saleh, Assistant General Manager of Investment and Mr. Basel Al-Assad, Assistant General Manager of Branch Banking at a ceremony at the Ritz Carlton DIFC in Dubai on May 3, 2018. "It is an honor to be recognized as the leading retail bank in Kuwait for the third consecu-

Business

Boursa Kuwait wins the 'Most Improved Company' award

2018 Banker Middle East Industry Awards

KUWAIT: Building on an already impressive start to 2018, Boursa Kuwait won the 'Most Improved Company' award at the 2018 Banker Middle East Industry Awards, held at a gala dinner in the Ritz Carlton DIFC in Dubai on May 3. The award was received by Nasser Al-Sanousi, Director of Marketing at the company.

Boursa Kuwait CEO Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al-Khaled commented on the award, saying, "Boursa Kuwait is honored to receive this award. We would like to thank Banker Middle East and CPI Financial and their readers for their recognition of our efforts in building a better, more transparent stock exchange."

"Our goal of operating an efficient capital market platform that services all relevant asset classes saw amazing progress with the introduction of phase two of our Market Development Plan. As we continue on

our mission to develop a liquid, reliable and sound capital market providing issuers with efficient access to capital and investors with diverse return opportunities, and continue on our journey of evolving into a leading regional exchange, I have no doubt that the future holds great things for us at the company as well as for the economy of Kuwait."

The Banker Middle East Industry Awards were first held in 1999 and have become acknowledged as the most important recognition of financial excellence in the Middle East. Every year through a combination of reader votes and in-depth analysis of financial statements Banker Middle East assesses all financial institutions in the region and celebrates the best and brightest of the banking sector in the region. Each winner has outperformed their peers across a variety of the most important key performance indicators to witness unrivaled growth and success in the last year.



Nasser Al-Sanousi, Director of Marketing at Boursa Kuwait receives the award.

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma new prize program

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winners of the weekly and monthly draws as follows: Monthly draw prize KD 20,000 - Minor Hussain Ali Jassim Ali, Weekly draw prize KD 5000 - Saifee Bohra Khozema Bohra.

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Abdulaziz Ashkanani. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as KD 1 million and half (KD 1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality. The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 & monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 for which the draw will be held on 1st July 2018 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

Air France's future in the balance, warns economy minister

PARIS: France's economy minister yesterday warned that the survival of strike-hit Air France was in the balance following the departure of the company's chief executive over a pay dispute.

Unionized staff are set to walk out for the 14th day today as they press for a 5.1-percent salary increase this year as the company recovers from years of losses and restructuring.

Jean-Marc Janaillac, boss of parent company Air France-KLM, resigned on Friday after staff rejected a final pay offer from him which would have raised wages by seven percent over four years.

"I call on everyone to be responsible: crew, ground staff, and pilots who are asking for unjustified pay hikes," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire told the BFM news channel yesterday. "Be responsible. The survival of Air France is in the balance," he added. He warned that the state, which owns 14.3 percent of the group, would not serve as a backstop. "Air France will disappear if it does not make the

Gulf Insurance Group announces KD 3.3m net profit for Q1 2018

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group (gig) announced a net profit of KD 3.3 million (\$11.1 million), or 18.63 fils per share, for the financial period ended March 31, 2018 compared with KD 2.6 million (\$8.7 million) for the same period last year with an increase of KD 0.7 million (\$2.4 million) or 28.5 percent. This increase is due to the increase in the group's net underwriting results and increase of the share of results from its subsidiaries.

Shareholder equity reached KD 79.6 million (\$265.6 million) as at March 31, 2018. Book value per share reached fils 445 as at March 31, 2018.

US companies weigh price hikes as material costs rise

NEW YORK: Higher costs for oil, industrial metals and other materials have emerged as a headwind during US earnings season, amplifying inflation worries at the same time the labor market is tightening. Companies from across the US economy cited the drag from supply costs in conference calls, in some cases reporting lower first-quarter profits or cutting their outlook.

Arconic, a spin-off from Alcoa that focuses on aviation and auto clients, slashed its outlook due to a "steep increase" in aluminum prices, said chief financial officer Ken Giacobbe. Prices of the metal have risen further after US announcements of tariffs on imported aluminum and sanctions on Russian aluminum company Rusal. American Airlines Chief Executive Doug Parker rued that oil prices had risen "very quickly" and the company cut its forecast range for full-year profits.

Executives at Kraft Heinz also reported cost pressures for freight, packaging and oil, although the elevated prices have not affected forecasts, while Mondelez International, another food giant, also confirmed its profit outlook despite higher cocoa costs.

'Risk is building'

Worries about inflation have been a preoccupation of policymakers and money managers all

year because of the fear a sudden jump in prices would prompt the Federal Reserve to accelerate interest rate increases, potentially shocking the global economy. The Federal Reserve this week acknowledged that inflation had moved closer to its target of two percent. The statement, while not expressing alarm at pricing trends, kept the central bank on track to keep lifting interest rates this year.

Jim Corridore, an analyst at CFRA Research who covers industrial companies, said inflation was "not something we're overly concerned about." Companies managed to turn in solid profits due to higher overall sales and the lift from US tax cuts. "At this point it's not any more concerning than we expected it to be but it's certainly something you have to keep an eye on," Corridore added.

Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare said "the risk of a pickup in inflation pressures is building," in part because of rising labor costs. On Friday, the US Labor Department reported that wages increased only modestly in April even as unemployment hit a 17-year low of 3.9 percent. Still economists believe wage inflation could soon pick up, perhaps by a lot.

"Ultimately, these companies that are calling out rising input costs have a choice: They can either eat those costs at the expense of their profit margins or they can choose to pass those costs onto their customers," O'Hare said. "If they pass them along, then their customers choose to pass them along to their customers and so on, and so you get more generalized price inflation."

Raw material price increases are trending well above expectations at the industrial conglomerate 3M, especially for oil-linked materials and transportation and logistics.

But the company expects those trends to be

assets and shareholders' equity. It also underlines our continuous efforts to provide the best insurance services to our clients across all markets we operate in, supported by our strategy for regional expansion and increasing our domestic and regional market share."

He added, "We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the support of our shareholders, namely KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts."



Khaled Al-Hasan

more than offset by strong demand across its markets, including in consumer goods and home care, allowing it to raise prices. "For the year, we're still expecting our stronger price growth to more than offset the raw materials," said chief financial officer Nicholas Gangestad.

More inflation ahead?

But companies are also monitoring commodity prices to see if prices continue to rise. A report last month from the World Bank concluded that commodity prices were set to grow "more than expected" in 2018, pointing to increases across oil, metals and grains. In a May 1 investor note, Goldman Sachs also highlighted commodities as being in a "bull tilt" in part because of low inventories after a long period of under-investment. But the report also noted that many investors were "skeptical" of the outlook, in part out of fear of buying at the top of the commodity cycle.

Parker of American Airlines said the company's response would partly depend on what happened in the oil market, saying the carrier would lift ticket prices if it concludes high fuel prices are here to stay.

"As the cost of production goes up, the cost of the product generally follows," Parker said. If fuel prices stay high, "I would expect you would see higher fares to consumers over time." Ford has estimated that materials costs will be \$1.5 billion over last year's, which had already seen a jump. "It will be two years of pretty sharp increases," said Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks, adding that the estimate did not include tariffs on metals announced by the Trump administration in March. Ford believes the risk of tariffs "has essentially already been priced in by the market," Shanks said. —AFP



necessary efforts to be competitive," he warned, ruling out any government intervention to purge the company's debts. Air France-KLM reported a net loss of 269 million euros (\$322 million) in the first quarter of the year.

Despite the strike, the company says it will be able to maintain 99 percent of long-haul flights today, 80 percent of medium-haul and 87 percent of short-haul. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
British Pound	0.404068	0.411568	
Czech Korune	0.006199	0.015499	
Danish Krone	0.044544	0.049544	
Euro	0.356348	0.363848	
Georgian Lari	0.138280	0.138280	
Hungarian 0.001138	0.001328		
Norwegian Krone	0.033498	0.038698	
Romanian Leu	0.064623	0.081473	
Russian ruble	0.004785	0.004785	
Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995	
Swedish Krona	0.030317	0.035317	
Swiss Franc	0.296206	0.307206	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.220198	0.232198	
New Zealand Dollar	0.206221	0.215721	
America			
Canadian Dollar	0.230049	0.239049	
US Dollars	0.298050	0.302450	
US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302450	
Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.003002	0.003784	
Chinese Yuan	0.046047	0.049547	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036747	0.039497	
Indian Rupee	0.003930	0.004657	
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023	
Japanese Yen	0.002695	0.002875	
Korean Won	0.000270	0.000285	
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072901	0.078901	
Nepalese Rupee	0.002785	0.003125	
Pakistan Rupee	0.001988	0.002758	
Philippine Peso	0.005688	0.005956	
Singapore Dollar	0.221910	0.231910	
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001615	0.002195	
Taiwan	0.010367	0.010547	
Thai Baht	0.009201	0.009751	
Arab			
Bahraini Dinar	0.794826	0.803326	
Egyptian Pound	0.014095	0.019183	
Iranian Ryal	0.000084	0.000085	
Iraqi Dinar	0.000203	0.000263	
Jordanian Dinar	0.421552	0.430552	
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000	
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255	
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022258	0.048258	
Omani Riyal	0.778487	0.784167	
Qatar Riyal	0.078703	0.083643	
Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787	
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500	
Tunisian Dinar	0.118292	0.126292	
Turkish Lira	0.067014	0.077314	
UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539	
Yemeni Riyal	0.000982	0.001062	

Business

2018 XTS arrives in Kuwait featuring Cadillac's new design and technology

Advanced driver assistance systems for safer experience



KUWAIT: Cadillac Alghanim has announced the Kuwait arrival of the redesigned 2018 XTS, the brand's spacious and comfortable sedan with confident handling and performance. For 2018, the XTS receives technical, chassis and appearance changes to heighten the appeal of this elegant sedan.

With the enhanced next-generation Cadillac user experience, the XTS now offers a dynamic platform that can be adjusted over time to meet a customer's evolving connectivity needs.

The updated chassis has revised tire designs for 19-inch tires-improving ride comfort while reducing outside noise for a quieter and more comfortable cabin. Drivers will find front-seat luxury much more comfortable thanks to changes to seat foam geometry, wire frame structure and heat pad redesign. An increased use of engineered sound insulators (to reduce exterior noise) lessens cabin sound to create an even more serene environment.

Mohamed Eltalkhawi, General Manager, Cadillac Alghanim, said, "the newly redesigned sedan's arrival in



Freshened exterior appearances

Kuwait sets high standards of luxury and innovation, and sets the stage for customers in Kuwait who dare to own

without compromise". New exterior styling features freshened front and rear fascias, updated interior color and trim choices and new alloy wheel options highlight the updates to the XTS. The appearance change includes new fenders, front and rear fascias, grille, and the addition of LED headlights and taillamp in keeping with today's portfolio. It also brings the overall length of the car to 5,103 mm

Like the exterior, the XTS's cabin features authentic cut-and-sewn materials and an artistic integration of technology. The XTS also feature a leather-wrapped interior with microfiber suede headliner, as well as premium wood trim on the steering wheel, console, center stack, and instrument panel and door panels.

The XTS's standard 3.6L V-6 is rated at 304 horsepower (227 kW) and 355 Nm of torque (264 lb-ft). Lightweight features help reduce overall weight for greater efficiency and a more favorable front-to-rear weight balance. The engines are matched with six-speed automatic transmissions with tap-shift control.

Standard and available features across the lineup include:

- Updated chassis with improved ride comfort
- Standard Brembo front brakes
- Standard advanced all-wheel-drive system with electronically controlled limited-slip differential
- Standard 19-inch wheels with a new wheel design
- Updated next-generation Cadillac user experience infotainment system with the fastest response time ever, updated graphics, personalized profiles and smartphone-like navigation (navigation is available on Luxury and Standard Platinum V-Sport models)
- Adaptive remote start
- Four USB ports
- Standard eight-speaker Bose audio system

When it comes to trunk space, the XTS is in a league of its own, with 509 L (18 cubic feet), exceeding both midsize and full-size competitors, the cargo advantage means room for five or more suitcases.

NBK money markets report

US dollar rally continues as markets return to fundamentals

KUWAIT: The US dollar rally continued last week on expectations the US Federal Reserve and other central banks would continue to diverge on monetary policy. Markets see the Fed raising interest rates at least two more times this year while expectations of policy tightening from the European Central Bank and the Bank of England have receded further, strengthening the dollar. That view was reinforced as the recent flow of economic data from Europe and the UK in particular suggested moderating growth in the competing economies.

While the other major economies are struggling to get a proper footing on inflation, the US has essentially met its 2 percent target. The Fed's preferred inflation reading the Core PCE index was last measured at 1.9 percent year on year. In the FOMC meeting last week, policy makers acknowledged that both headline and core inflation have moved close to their 2 percent goal while dropping the reference that they are monitoring inflation developments closely. The Fed's confidence in inflation was bolstered further as they changed the description of their inflation target to "symmetric." The Fed's emphasis on the symmetrical nature of their inflation goal signals that they will tolerate a modest inflation overshoot beyond 2 percent. As a result, it should help moderate building expectations for the Fed to announce plans for an even faster pace of the rate hikes in the year ahead.

Looking at the Fed's other main concern when hiking rates, the US labor market released mixed numbers last week. Non-farm employment increased by 164,000 jobs last month, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, recovering from an upwardly revised 135,000 in March. However, this fell below economists' expectations for a gain of 192,000. At the same time, the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent, from 4.1 percent in March, partly due to a decrease in the labor participation force. Finally, the closely watched average hourly earnings number rose by 4 cents, equating to a 2.6 percent annualized gain, 0.1 percent lower than the previous month and a slightly less than expected. While the data may indicate that the US labor market may still have room to improve after years of gains, markets were unfazed. The US dollar index jumped to a 2018 high of 92.90 after the release.

Slowing growth in Europe

In the eurozone, the euro remained pressured by the US dollar rally while recent developments were dampening ECB tightening expectations. The release of the latest eurozone GDP report for Q1 confirmed that the economy slowed at the start of this year. At the same time core inflation in the euro-zone fell to just 0.7 percent in April driven down in part by the timing of Easter. The European Central Bank however, is unlikely to pay much attention to the inflation report for April because all the readings were distorted by the timing of Easter. Instead, the Governing Council is likely to focus on signs of increased wage growth for price pressure indications. Finally, the combination of a relatively muted response from the ECB's last meeting on monetary tightening and the move higher

Rates - 06 May, 2018

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	High	Low	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.2123	1.2139	1.1909	1.1958	1.1815	1.2085	1.2042
GBP	1.3785	1.3792	1.3485	1.3530	1.3345	1.3665	1.3595
JPY	109.00	110.02	108.62	109.11	108.15	110.50	108.43
CHF	0.9873	1.0022	0.9869	0.9997	0.9870	1.0100	0.9920



in US yields versus Euro zone yields is also weighing on the EUR/USD.

Disappointing data

In a similar fashion, the British pound has also been falling against the rallying US dollar. Increased Brexit uncertainties, weak figures and a sharp pull back in Bank of England rate expectations have all aided in the downturn in sterling. A May rate hike is now seen as largely dead in the water after the recent economic data flow has heightened concern that the UK economy could now be experiencing a more material slowdown. Indeed, the latest PMI surveys show growth in the manufacturing and services sectors slowing to 17 months lows. UK PMI manufacturing dropped to 53.9 in April from 55.1 with the trend in manufacturing production likely to remain subdued in Q2. The services sector showed a similar picture subdued new business growth which contributed to a further slowdown in the rate of job creation. Meanwhile, survey respondents also noted that higher payroll costs continued to drive up operating expenses and place a squeeze on margins. The disappointing data makes a near term hike in interest rates by the Bank of England look increasingly more remote.

China economy stable

In China, factory growth slowed slightly in April showing activity in the world's second largest economy holding up despite worries over trade tensions with the US. The official purchasing managers' index came in at 51.4 for April, easing from 51.5 in the previous month but still above the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction on the index's 100-point scale.

The China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing's survey found that factory output was stable but new orders and new export orders weakened for the month, indicating slowing demand. The release came amid simmering trade tensions between Beijing and Washington, with potential implications for China's sprawling export-oriented manufacturing sector. This trade conflict will be in the spotlight again this week as US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin

leads a delegation to Beijing for talks aimed at defusing the threat to economic relations between the world's two largest economies.

Activity in the rest of China's economy also held up fairly well, with further growth in the services sector, which is playing an increasingly important role as communist leaders in Beijing pivot the country away from its agricultural and industrial roots. The group's non-manufacturing purchasing managers' index rose to 54.8 from 54.6 in March.

The latest numbers eased fears about a slowdown in China's economy, which grew at an unchanged 6.8 percent pace in the first quarter. Forecasters are expecting growth to cool this year as Beijing tries to rein in rising debt levels.

Australia

The Reserve Bank of Australia held its rates unchanged for the 21st straight month in their last meeting while signaling a continuation of easy policy for some time yet. The RBA left growth forecasts unchanged from its February outlook, while estimates for inflation and unemployment this year were nudged up a little. The jobless rate is seen remaining at 5.5 percent this year before easing to 5.25 percent by mid-2019 and staying there to 2020. Underlying inflation is now seen at the lower end of its 2-3 percent target by mid-2018 and is still not expected to reach 2.25 percent until June 2020. Governor Philip Lowe pointed to subdued wages growth, at 2 percent, as a major factor weighing on inflation, but held out hope for a pick as the economy revives and the labor market tightens.

The Reserve Bank of Australia expects growth in the economy to accelerate to 3.25 percent by the end of this year before peaking at 3.5 percent by June 2019. "Overall, the Australian economy is progressing broadly on the track the Bank has been expecting for a while. The current accommodative stance of monetary policy has assisted this outcome," Lowe said.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30130
The USDKWD opened at 0.30130 yesterday.

Russian business eyes reform in Putin's 4th term

MOSCOW: Russian businesses are expecting wide-ranging reforms and are full of suggestions for a new government as Vladimir Putin begins a fourth Kremlin term with promises to revitalize the country's economy. While Moscow's relations with the West remain tense with US sanctions hurting the Russian economy like never before, the new government will be tasked to fulfil the ambitious goals Putin presented to parliament in March.

In his last major speech before winning the presidential election by a landslide, Putin set a goal of halving Russia's "unacceptable" poverty rate in six years by investing in infrastructure, housing and health services.

He also promised a growth rate of four percent against forecasts of one to 2 percent, as the Russian economy continues to stabilize following a recession that ran until 2016. But the 65 year-old Russian leader did not explain how he aimed to achieve these goals and solve the predominantly structural problems holding back the country's growth. Oleg Kouzmin, an analyst at the Renaissance Capital investment bank, said business circles hope that "concrete reforms and development plans with real steps" would be outlined after Putin's inauguration today.

'Small steps'

In recent years, the government mainly

focused its efforts on fiscal and monetary discipline to avoid dramatic changes to the deficit or debt in a country still traumatized by the 1998 financial crisis. But favorable conditions for reforms are finally coming together for Putin, who has led Russia for 18 years, in his fourth term. Kouzmin said it was hoped the new government will adopt measures to "address the weakness of the labor market and adverse demographic dynamic" as well as weaknesses in education and health provision.

Investor support and financial development of the Russian regions would also be welcome, he added. Thanks to control of inflation, a long term bete-noire of the Russian economy, these objectives could be "more achievable than in the past," according to Renaissance Capital.

Chris Weafer, founder of the consulting firm Macro Advisory, said that a public debate on infrastructure financing, taxes and public spending in the education and health sectors could take place at the start of Putin's new term. But Weafer said it "is not realistic" to hope for in-depth reforms. "Vladimir Putin received a mandate from a people who were more or less satisfied with the way the country is run," he said. "The reforms in Russia are moving forward and will continue to progress in small steps so as not to risk unexpected consequences or instability," he added.

Alexei Kudrin-a liberal former finance minister who is respected by the business community in Russia and foreign investors-is expected to return to the Kremlin in a reshuffle. The 57-year-old has said he is ready to help "provided that we do not stop at half-measures." Weafer said Kudrin could call for "an ambitious program of reforms, the only option he sees to avoid a long period of stagnation." —AFP

Oncost Cash & Carry in buy-out bid for Gulfmart

KUWAIT: Oncost Cash & Carry, Kuwait's first membership-based wholesale store in a retail format, is reported to be looking to take over the Gulfmart chain of supermarkets in the country.

Retail analysts believe that the buy-out could help Oncost, belonging to Jassim Al-Bahar's IFA Group, increase its synergy through economies of scale. Given Gulfmart's existing large retail footprint in the country, combining the strengths of both operations could lead Oncost to realize greater market share and cost reductions.

Though a spokesman for Oncost declined to confirm or comment on the reported bid for Gulfmart, reliable sources knowledgeable about the ongoing negotiations revealed that Oncost is on the threshold of signing the deal. The multi-million dollar deal would see full ownership of Gulfmart being transferred to Oncost from its present owners, the UAE-based BMA International.

Gulfmart, which began its operations in Kuwait in 1999, currently has over 16 full-fledged supermarkets spread across Kuwait, including prime locations in Shuwaikih, Salmiya, Fahaaheel, Abbasiya, Hawally, Farwaniya, Khaitan, Jahra, Salwa

and Abu Halifa. Meanwhile, Oncost Cash & Carry, which began its operations in 2011, has four centrally-located outlets in Kuwait offering customers the benefits of wholesale shopping in a modern retail environment.

Oncost is believed to be on an acquisition spree, as part of its assertive new expansion plans to rapidly increase its retail footprint across the country. Meanwhile, BMA International appears to be on a dis-acquisition drive with its food business properties. Last year, they sold their Middle-East franchise for Geant, owned by French grocery retailer Casino Guichard-Perrachon, to UAE-based multi-national conglomerate Majid Al-Futtaim.

Though Oncost Cash & Carry is a slightly different shopping format to Gulfmart's supermarket style of operations, the combined operations could see customers benefiting from added convenience and top-notch services. Oncost's pricing policy has also been constructed to focus on competitive pricing by the unit and wholesale prices by the pack or carton, to pass on substantial savings to its loyal customer base.

Business

Buffett craves more Apple shares, eyes buybacks

OMAHA, Neb: Billionaire Warren Buffett has been buying a boatload of Apple Inc shares and on Saturday suggested he would buy even more shares at the right price. At Berkshire Hathaway Inc's annual shareholder meeting, Buffett credited Apple with developing "extremely sticky" products to which consumers become attached and endorsed Apple's decision to buy back its own stock, saying it was the technology company's most productive use of cash.

"We would love to see Apple go down in price," Buffett said. Berkshire is now Apple's third largest shareholder, behind Vanguard Group and BlackRock Inc. "I'm delighted to see them repurchasing shares," Buffett said, just two days after he revealed having bought 75 million additional Apple shares, and four days after Apple said it may repurchase \$100 billion of stock. At the end of 2017, Berkshire had owned 165.3 million shares.

"I love the idea of having our 5 percent, or whatever it is, maybe grow to 6 or 7 percent without our laying out a dime." And Buffett described it as a mistake that he never thought Alphabet Inc's Google and Amazon.com Inc made sense as investments for Berkshire.

Buffett, 87, and his longtime partner and fellow billionaire Charlie Munger, 94, also took pointed questions on China, Wells Fargo & Co, guns, healthcare and their investment choices from shareholders, journalists and analysts at the more-than-six-hour meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. The questions also elicited views on politics from the "Oracle of Omaha" and Munger. Buffett said it was unlikely that the United States

and China would come to loggerheads on trade and believed the countries would avoid doing "something extremely foolish." "The United States and China are going to be the two superpowers of the world, economically and in other ways, for a long, long, long time," Buffett said, and that any tensions should not jeopardize the win-win benefits from trade. "It is just too big and too obvious ... that the benefits are huge and the world is dependent on it in a major way for its progress, that two intelligent countries (would) do something extremely foolish," he said. "We both may do things that are mildly foolish from time to time."

The Trump administration has drawn a hard line in trade talks with Beijing, demanding a \$200 billion cut in the Chinese trade surplus with the United States, sharply lower tariffs and advanced technology subsidies, people familiar with the talks said on Friday.

Buffett suggested US President Donald Trump should be an "educator-in-chief" on the invisible benefits of trade. Munger, meanwhile, answered a question on steel tariffs imposed by the White House by acknowledging that US producers are hurting. "Even Donald Trump can be right on some of this stuff," he said. Asked why Buffett was willing to do business with gun makers, he retorted, "I do not believe in imposing my political opinions on the activities of our businesses."

The billionaire investor said US corporate tax cuts were good for shareholders but cautioned that the long-term effects of economic choices could be hard to gauge. And Buffett predicted "bad endings" for cryptocurrencies, such as bit-

coin, and said long-term US government bonds were a terrible investment because inflation would consume their returns.

Cardinal sin

Buffett defended Wells Fargo and its chief executive, Tim Sloan, when asked when Berkshire would ditch the bank, one of its largest common stock holdings. Many shareholders applauded the question. Buffett said the bank had committed the "cardinal sin" of incentivizing employees into "kind of crazy conduct." US regulators imposed \$1 billion of fines last month over lending abuses. But he maintained that the bank was not "inferior," as an investment or morally, to its main rivals.

Berkshire owned \$25.2 billion of Wells Fargo stock as of March 31, down 14 percent from year end as a series of scandals weighed on the bank's reputation. Wells Fargo investors last week gave strong backing to the bank's directors and executives on Tuesday, indicating confidence in its overhauled leadership to rebound. Buffett addressed his alliance with another banker, JPMorgan Chase & Co's Jamie Dimon, and Amazon's Jeff Bezos to tackle healthcare. Buffett said US healthcare costs are a tapeworm on the economy, and he said the venture partners expect to name a chief executive within a couple months.

Cash stockpile

Buffett faces a challenge investing Berkshire's more than \$108 billion of cash and equivalents, including for acquisitions, saying his "phone is not ringing off the hook with good deals." Shortly before the meeting, Berkshire ended its more than year-long stretch of falling operating profit, while a new accounting rule caused the conglomerate chaired by Warren Buffett to suffer an overall net loss. Buffett said the net results were not repre-



OMAHA: Berkshire Hathaway shareholders attend the company's annual meeting at CenturyLink Center Omaha.

sentative of the business. The accounting change required Berkshire to report unrealized losses in its equity portfolio, which totaled \$170.5 billion at year end, regardless of whether it planned to sell those stocks. Berkshire's net loss was \$1.4 billion, compared with profit of \$4.06 billion a year earlier. But operating profit, which excludes investment and derivative gains and losses, rose 49 percent to a record \$5.29 billion, or about \$3.215 per Class A share, higher than the \$3.116 per share analysts had expected, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Giddy shareholders

Shareholders have been enthusiastic about

Berkshire, which sent out slightly more tickets to this year's extravaganza than in 2015, when an estimated 42,000 celebrated Buffett's 50th year at the helm. An even larger audience likely watched online via Yahoo Finance.

Outside the convention center, Berkshire shareholders lined up for prime seats in the middle of the night. William Robertson, a Scotland native who fights fires and does forestry work in Switzerland, said he lined up at 11:30 p.m. Friday, 7-1/2 hours before doors opened. This year's meeting is his third. "It gets me first place in the queue. I think when people go to so much effort it shows Warren how important he is for us," Robertson said. — Reuters

As debate rages, UK still weeks away from customs decision

LONDON: Britain is still weeks away from making a decision on its future customs arrangements with the European Union, a minister said yesterday, adding fuel to a debate that is all but stalling talks in Brussels and politics at home. After local elections last week when Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party did better than many expected, how to solve Britain's new border with the EU when it leaves the bloc is increasingly a headache for her team.

May, dependent on the support of a small Northern Irish party for a majority in parliament, is under pressure from Brexit campaigners to drop what some say is her preferred option of a customs partnership to keep trade flowing freely.

Yesterday, her business minister, Greg Clark, again made the case for that partnership, saying the option had not been rejected but that ministers were working on it and another high-tech option to try to reduce any new friction at the border.

Both options have been dismissed by EU negotiators. "I've never been so clear-eyed in my life about this. I do feel very strongly, for this reason. It is absolutely right that we should be leaving the customs union ... but what we replace it with is of huge importance," he told the BBC, denying he left a crunch meeting on customs teary-eyed last week. Clark, who used the example of car maker Toyota which relies on components crossing borders to manufacture cars in Britain, said businesses needed the certainty of what happens next, but warned that it could take some time not only to make a decision, but also to implement it once it had been agreed upon. "As part of the work over the next few weeks I think it would be a mistake to move from one situation and to another and to a third," he said, arguing that ministers could improve the two options while admitting they both have drawbacks.

"Whichever option is chosen it will take some time to have them put in place and available." His message was supported by some businesses, with Adam Marshall, director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, saying that whatever the deal, the government must be driven by "practical considerations" rather than ideology.

Waiting

Britain's future customs arrangements after it leaves the bloc in March next year is fast

becoming the main flashpoint in the Brexit debate, important because some fear it could usher in a return to a hard border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, possibly reigniting sectarian violence. The main opposition Labor Party says it can overcome that problem by backing a new customs union if in power, something their finance policy chief, John McDonnell, said would offer the closest possible relationship with the EU's single market.

But May has vowed to leave the customs union so Britain can negotiate its own free trade deals, and again tried to appease Brexit campaigners by repeating her pledges in the Sun yesterday newspaper. "And underpinning all of this action is my absolute determination to make a success of Brexit, by leaving the single market and customs union and building a new relationship with the EU partners that takes back control of our borders, our laws and our money," she wrote.

Arlene Foster, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party which props up May's Conservatives in parliament, said she was having regular conversations with the government on its progress on agreeing on a single customs proposal. "What we need to find out from the cabinet, the government, what is the preferred way forward," she told the BBC. "And once we have that then we will know further how we reach that preferred way forward." — Reuters

talks said. "My group just got back from China. We're going to have to rework China because that's been a one-way street for decades," Trump said at an event in Cleveland on Saturday. "We can't go on that way," he said, although he also said he has a lot respect for Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump earlier this week praised his relationship with Xi but there were no signs of significant progress at the talks on Thursday and Friday, raising fears of a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday discussed bilateral ties by phone, with Yang saying relations were at "an important stage", according to the Chinese foreign ministry. It was unclear if the call came after, or was a response to, the White House statement - or if the two had even discussed the issue of how Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau are referred to by US companies. According to a Chinese foreign ministry statement late on Saturday, Yang told Pompeo the two countries should strengthen exchanges, maintain close communication over economic and trade issues and respect each other's "core interests and major concerns". China and the United States should "properly settle disputes and sensitive issues", keep up communication and coordination on major international and regional issues and "push bilateral relations forward along the right track", Yang said.

Tariff threats

Trump has already proposed tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese goods which could go into effect next month. China has said its own retaliatory tariffs on US goods, including soybeans and aircraft, will go into effect if the US duties are imposed. It has also requested that Washington treat Chinese investment equally under national security reviews and stop issuing new restrictions on Chinese investment.

The dispute over how airlines refer to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau is another area of tension in US-China relations. A spokesman for United Airlines, American Airlines and other major carriers, said on Saturday it was working with the US government to determine "next steps" in the dispute.

In January, Delta Air Lines, following a demand from China over listing Taiwan and Tibet as countries on its website, apologized for making "an inadvertent error with no business or political intention," and said it had taken steps to resolve the issue. Also in January, China suspended Marriott International Inc's Chinese website for a week to punish the world's biggest hotel chain for listing Tibet, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as separate countries in a customer questionnaire. — Reuters

China state media see positives in trade talks with US

BEIJING: Chinese state media struck an optimistic note on trade talks between Chinese and US officials after US President Donald Trump threatened to impose tariffs on up to \$150 billion in Chinese goods over allegations of intellectual property theft.

The English-language China Daily saw a "positive development" in the two days of talks in an agreement to establish a mechanism to keep the dialogue open, despite "big differences", as part of an effort to resolve trade disputes. The newspaper said the biggest achievement was "the constructive agreement between Beijing and Washington to keep discussing contentious trade issues, instead of continuing the two-way barrage of tariffs, which pretty much brought the two countries to the brink of a trade war". The People's Daily said the talks "laid solid foundation for further talks on trade and economic cooperation, and for ultimately achieving benefits (to both countries) and win-win results". China's state-run Xinhua news agency described the talks as "constructive, candid and efficient" but with disagreements that remain "relatively big".

People familiar with the talks said on Friday the Trump administration had drawn a hard line, demanding a \$200 billion cut in the Chinese trade surplus with the United States, sharply lower tariffs and advanced technology subsidies. The lengthy list of demands was presented to Beijing before the start of talks on Thursday and Friday to try to avert a damaging trade war between the world's two largest economies.

A White House statement issued on Friday said the US delegation, led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, "held frank discussions with Chinese officials on rebalancing the United States-China bilateral economic relationship, improving China's protection of intellectual property, and identifying policies that unfairly enforce technology transfers".

The statement gave no indication that Trump would back off on his threat to impose tariffs. Capital Economics, a private economic research consultancy based in London, said in a research note that demands made by the United States were so "unrealistically high" that an agreement was unlikely this week. — Reuters

US slams China for 'Orwellian nonsense' over airline websites

WASHINGTON: The White House on Saturday sharply criticized China's efforts to force foreign airlines to change how they refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, labeling China's latest effort to police language describing the politically sensitive territories as "Orwellian nonsense." Amid an escalating fight over China's trade surplus with the United States, the White House said China's Civil Aviation Administration sent a letter to 36 foreign air carriers, including a number of U.S. carriers, demanding changes. The carriers were told to remove references on their websites or in other material that suggests Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau are part of countries independent from China, U.S. and airline officials said.

The White House said in a statement that President Donald Trump "will stand up for Americans resisting efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to impose Chinese political correctness on American companies and citizens." "This is Orwellian nonsense and part of a growing trend by the Chinese Communist Party to impose its political views on American citizens and private companies. ... We call on China to stop threatening and coercing American carriers and citizens." Taiwan is China's most sensitive territorial issue. Beijing considers the self-ruled, democratic island a wayward province. Hong Kong and Macau are former European colonies that are now part of China but run largely autonomously.

Yesterday, China's foreign ministry responded to the White House comments, saying that overseas companies operating in China should respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, follow Chinese law and "respect the national feelings of the Chinese people".

"No matter what the United States says, it cannot change the objective fact that there is only one China in the world and that Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan are indivisible parts of Chinese territory," spokesman Geng Shuang said in a statement on the ministry website.

The White House's sharp criticism follows contentious trade talks between senior U.S. and Chinese officials last week. The Trump administration demanded a \$200 billion cut in China's trade surplus with the United States by 2020, sharply lower tariffs and a halt to subsidies for advanced technology, people familiar with the

National Bank of Kuwait		البنك الوطني						
Financial Markets		NBK						
Daily Report		At 02:00 PM Previous Day						
Global Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	23,930.15	24,262.51	332.36	▲	1.39	-1.85		
NASDAQ	7,088.15	7,209.62	121.47	▲	1.71	4.44		
S&P 500	2,629.73	2,663.42	33.69	▲	1.28	-0.38		
Financial Times	7,502.69	7,567.14	64.45	▲	0.86	-1.57		
DAX	12,690.15	12,819.60	129.45	▲	1.02	-0.76		
CAC 40	5,501.66	5,516.05	14.39	▲	0.26	3.83		
Swiss	8,842.29	8,903.83	61.54	▲	0.70	-5.10		
Nikkei 225	22,508.03	22,472.78	-35.25	▼	-0.16	-1.28		
Topix	1,774.18	1,771.52	-2.66	▼	-0.15	-2.53		
Hang Seng	30,313.37	29,926.50	-386.87	▼	-1.28	0.02		
Straits Times	3,575.68	3,545.38	-30.30	▼	-0.85	4.19		
MENA Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	6,602.51	6,633.44	29.93	▲	0.45	2.96		
Saudi Arabia	8,107.47	8,149.83	42.36	▲	0.52	12.19		
Dubai	2,947.99	2,972.41	24.42	▲	0.83	-12.52		
Abu Dhabi	4,556.82	4,560.38	3.56	▲	0.08	3.60		
Bahrain	1,263.50	1,275.79	12.30	▲	0.97	-5.12		
Qatar	8,805.76	8,908.03	102.27	▲	1.16	3.31		
Oman	4,725.63	4,718.48	-7.15	▼	-0.15	-7.33		
Lebanon	1,131.34	1,131.34	0.00	-	0.00	-1.50		
Jordan	2,167.16	2,159.74	-7.42	▼	-0.34	1.90		
Egypt	17,832.86	17,845.71	12.85	▲	0.07	18.73		
Morocco	12,989.48	13,038.74	49.26	▲	0.38	5.25		
Tunisia	7,127.90	7,143.55	15.65	▲	0.22	13.47		
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.3305	3.3020	2.7604	2.4389	3.3010	360.28	4.3746
Saudi Riyal	0.08110		0.2678	0.2239	0.1978	0.2677	29.22	0.3548
US Dollar	0.30285	3.7343		0.8360	0.7386	0.9997	109.11	1.3249
Euro	0.36227	4.4670	1.1962		0.8843	1.1964	130.53	1.5865
Sterling Pound	0.41003	5.0559	1.3539	1.1308		1.3533	147.69	1.7954
Swiss Franc	0.30294	3.7354	1.0003	0.8358	0.7389		109.06	1.3253
Japanese Yen	0.00278	0.0342	0.0092	0.0077	0.0068	0.0092		0.0121
Australian Dollar	0.22859	2.8186	0.7548	0.6303	0.5570	0.7546	82.36	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30285	3.7343	0.3741	3.6270	0.3834	3.6572	17.6300
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3020		12.3305	1.2353	11.9762	1.2661	12.0759	58.2136
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08110		0.1002	0.9713	0.1027	0.9794	4.7211
Bahraini Dinar	2.6731	0.80954	9.9821		9.6953	1.0249	9.7760	47.1264
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08350	1.0296	0.1031		0.1057	1.0083	4.8608
Omani Riyal	2.6080	0.78984	9.7392	0.9757	9.4594		9.5381	45.9797
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08281	1.0211	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		4.8206
Egyptian Pound	0.0567	0.01718	0.2118	0.0212	0.2057	0.0217	0.2074	
Global Interest Rates								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year			
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.25	1.75	2.00	2.19	2.44			
US Dollar	1.75	1.92	2.36	2.52	2.77			
Euro	-0.42	-0.40	-0.35	-0.31	-0.24			
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.50	0.67	0.77	0.94			
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	-0.72	-0.64	-0.51			
Australian Dollar	1.64	1.85	1.82	1.83	1.89			
Japanese Yen	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03	0.03	0.12			
Global Bond Yields								
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year				
United States	2.50	2.79	2.95	3.12				
Europe	-0.57	-0.09	0.54	1.23				
United Kingdom	0.77	1.10	1.40	1.82				
Commodities								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait Oil	69.86	70.29	0.43	▲	0.62	9.15		
Brent	75.76	75.74	-0.02	▼	-0.03	11.46		
West Texas	69.76	69.66	-0.10	▼	-0.14	13.33		
Gold	1314.65	1314.65	0.00	-	0.00	0.92		
Silver	16.49	16.49	0.00	-	0.00	-2.81		

Business

Exceptional Toyota Hilux celebrates 50 years of reliable performance

Feel the toughness and feel the comfort with Hilux - the warrior



KUWAIT: During the past five decades Hilux has remained one of the core products and a major driver of global strategy for Toyota. Hilux illustrates its reputation as a sturdy, all-conquering vehicle constantly evolving to set new benchmarks for comfort and performance. Customers of Hilux are loyal to Hilux and considers Hilux as a reliable partners if for business or personal use.

Since the launch of the first-generation Hilux in 1968, over 17.7 million Hilux have been sold by 2017 globally in more than 180 countries and regions. The name Hilux, a combination of the words "high" and "luxury", was given to underline the truck's splendor and superiority.

Faced with the challenge of creating the eighth-generation Hilux, Toyota realized that toughness doesn't just come from the vehicle; it comes from the people inside. Whether you are battling your way up a muddy track or stuck in traffic, reducing the stress of driving is just as important as withstanding the ele-



ments. That's why the new Hilux, while improving on the model's characteristic toughness and performance, redefines toughness by being more occupant-focused and providing a stress-free driving experience.

In order to meet the evolving demands of markets around the world, Hilux has also evolved drastically. The new Hilux is best expressed through Toyota's slogan for the redesigned vehicle: A New Era for Pickup. Every Inch a Hilux. The first part of the slogan communicates the advancements of the new Hilux, which are of such significance that they set a new standard for the pickup category with a new level of SUV-like comfort. Every Inch a Hilux, meanwhile, states that the new

Hilux is completely genuine, authentic and consistent with the Hilux brand, delivering the high standards of durability and reliability that have always been the core values of the Hilux.

New 2018 Hilux TRD

Hilux TRD is the tougher and bolder yet cool new 2018 Hilux special edition powered by Toyota Racing Development (TRD) accessories. It redefines tough performance highlighting tough yet emotional design with enhanced exterior appearance and comfortable interiors. The latest edition of Hilux has a refined contemporary look as well as excellent on and off road capability. It will also appeal to active young individuals, private and family customer base. With generations of success behind, a Hilux is always the best choice.

The impressive TRD accessories available in 2018 Hilux include TRD Front bumper spoiler, Daytime Running Lights, TRD Sports bar, TRD Bed liner under rail A-Deck, TRD



Alloy Wheels R17 inch which will be available in striking colors Pearl White, Nebula Blue, Crimson Spark Red. TRD render each car instantly recognizable as unique examples, with sharper designs.

Above and beyond conventional ideas of toughness, the eighth-generation Hilux provides ride comfort that make long, tough drives less grueling, a quiet cabin that allows communication in any conditions, and enhanced cruising range thanks to improved fuel efficiency.

Turkish Airlines reveals Q1 traffic results, sheds light on aviation trends

KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines, the airline that flies to more countries than any other airline, has announced during the Arabian Travel Market 2018 in Dubai, UAE, that travellers to Turkey flying from the Middle East region has increased during the first quarter of the year.

During the first quarter, increase in demand and total number of passengers was 22 percent higher than the same period of last year. Total number of passengers from the Middle East region was 5.6 million last year.

Furthermore, during the first quarter the total Load Factor improved by 6.5 points recording the highest load factor in Turkish Airlines history for the first quarter, while international Load Factor increased by 7 points. Airline seat capacity grew by 11.4 percent.

Commenting on the results, Muhammed Fatih Durmaz, Turkish Airlines Vice President Sales, Middle East & Cyprus, said: "2017 was a successful year for Turkish Airlines in terms of our global fleet and network expansion and we have high expectations of 2018 as we see the Q1 results and continue to build momentum for our excellent in-flight and customer service. Our network expansion has also been a pivotal step in supporting the increasing customer demand in all our markets, including

the UAE and the Middle East. Through new and innovative features, as well as having a growing fleet, our aim is to provide customers with the best possible options, both in terms of new destinations and innovative products and services."

Turkish Airlines has also unveiled the results of a recent commissioned study conducted by Nielsen research on "2017 Aviation Trends in the UAE" during Arabian Travel Market, which sheds the light on where the industry is going in 2018. Internet and mobile phone connectivity, fewer queues at check-in and even onboard gyms are just some of the items on the wish list of the UAE's airline travelers.

Commenting on the study results, Muhammed Fatih Durmaz, Turkish Airlines Vice President Sales, Middle East & Cyprus, said: "It is very interesting to see how the travel and airlines industries are shifting with the transformation into the digital era, and how travellers are now relying more than any time before on automated services and convenience provided by technology. At Turkish Airlines, we continue to work closely with our different partners to provide our customers with the best travel experience and hospitality that make their journeys memorable".

As Turkish Airlines strives to understand and consider the demands of its passengers, the airline's last results are a proof of its success. In addition to providing convenient travel experiences to passengers, the top five image attributes, that it succeeded to reach almost to the top level. According to the UAE travellers, its "safe airline" perception ranked equal first with its good reputation, while good service onboard, value for money, and flying to many destinations are the primary dynamics that made the airline an optimum preference for them.



Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

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

The lucky winners are:

1. Majid Hilal Abdullhussein Altamimi
2. Sadeq Habib Sayed Shobbar Abbas
3. Sarah & Aliah Mohammed Abdullah
4. Athary Kadhem Mohammad
5. Sami Mohammed Sheref Sheref

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw



requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

MasterCard hosts region's top marketers at CMO Forum

KUWAIT: Mastercard, a leading technology company in the global payments industry, hosted its first CMO Forum in Dubai, to explore the impact of digital transformation on brand strategy and consumer engagement. The forum welcomed top executives from leading companies including Emirates, Nestle and McDonald's.

Hosted by Raja Rajamannar, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, MasterCard, the panel discussion, titled "I Don't Want Your Ads": Marketing in an Ad-Blocking World, drew attention to the evolving role of marketing in connecting brands to a new generation of consumer. During the session, MasterCard, who was recently named among the world's top companies by Brandwatch for Best-in-Class Customer Experience and

Most Pleasing Brand, shared insights on the transformation of its marketing and brand strategy, including the evolution of its globally acclaimed campaigns such as 'Priceless'.

The panelists, Samer Alhaider, Senior Manager eCommerce & Mobile, Emirates Airline; Balki Radhakrishnan, Vice President, Asia, Middle East, Africa, Nestlé; and Tarek El Kady, Senior Director, Marketing, MEA Business Unit, McDonald's, exchanged insights on creating unique and sustainable differentiation to future-proof brands.

"The birth of the 'expectation economy' has necessitated the need for brands to engage with consumers through experiential marketing. With a booming population of millennials, and a long history of innovative thinking, the Middle East and Africa offers an excellent opportunity for marketers to leverage this trend to their advantage and drive richer brand experiences that wow their consumers and enable them to create and tell their own stories. Forums like these allow the marketing community to explore these evolving consumer behaviors from an industry-wide perspective and share best practices, helping us unlock the next phase of growth for the regional marketing landscape," said Rajamannar.



VIVA launches Huawei P20 Pro starting KD 21

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the new Huawei P20 Pro device with postpaid plans starting from KD 21 that give customers KD 10 credit and 10 GB Internet.

Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "We are proud of our concrete partnership with Huawei, and joint efforts between VIVA's team and Huawei's team always lead to fulfill our customers' needs and meet their aspirations with the latest technology."

The all-new Huawei P20 Pro leads the way in smartphone photography with the revolutionary Leica Triple Camera, where aesthetic vision meets an advanced camera system for intelligent and creative photography. It is a phone that stands out with its large, spacious display. Its huge screen occupies most of its front, edgeless fingerprint sensor with smart navigation. The triple camera arrangement is comprised of a massive, 40MP camera for regular shots, a 5X hybrid zoom, and a natural tone that automatically adjusts color temperature for a paper-like viewing experience. On the inside is a powerful Kirin 970 chip, along with plenty of memory and a huge battery.



VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things 'More' for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established a pioneer position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling.

Technology

Banks don't want to be weakest link in blockchain revolution

Blockchain could reduce costs, foster more competition

LONDON: Blockchain, the cutting-edge technology behind virtual currencies like bitcoin, has the potential to play a disruptive role in the global finance sector, experts say, as banking behemoths seek to connect with its opportunities. While banks could reduce their costs, the gains could eventually shift to consumers who could benefit from quicker and cheaper services.

"Any disruptive shock-be it technology, economic or political-tends to result in winners and losers, and blockchain is no different," Colin Ellis, managing director for credit strategy at Moody's, said. "It could reduce costs for banks but at the same time could foster more competition that would put downward pressure on fees." A shared, encrypted "ledger" that cannot be manipulated, blockchains offer the promise of secure transactions that allow anyone to get an accurate accounting of money, property or other assets.

Much like it underpins trading in bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, blockchain or so-called distributed ledger technology could also support trading of other assets, thus posing a risk to banks who earn hefty fees helping their clients trade currencies and other assets. Key

areas of financial services where blockchain could have an impact are the settlement and clearing of transactions. But a recent report by Moody's found that while blockchain technology could slash cross-border transaction costs for financial institutions, it would likely ramp up competition among banks.

Cheaper and quicker

Two months ago, Dutch bank ING and its Swiss peer Credit Suisse successfully traded securities through a blockchain-style network. The pair transmitted 25 million euros of bonds almost instantaneously. The deal would normally have taken one day or more. Ellis believes that international transactions are an area where banks could cut their costs by using blockchain technology. Currently international bank transfers often take several days as several banks are often needed to act as intermediaries.

But a blockchain could eliminate the need for those intermediaries, thus speeding service and reducing costs. Santander last month began using a blockchain to allow its retail customers in Spain, Britain, Brazil and Poland to complete international transfers the same or following day. "One Pay FX uses blockchain-based technology to provide a fast, simple and secure way to transfer money internationally-offering value, transparency, and the trust and service customers expect from a bank like Santander," the bank's chief executive Ana Botin said at the launch of the service. One Pay FX uses a blockchain service for banks developed by Ripple, a start up firm with offers a cryptocurrency with the same name.

Around \$2.1 billion will be invested via blockchain globally in 2018, according to US-based consultancy IDC. One third of



PARIS: A Bitcoin is seen in an illustration picture taken at La Maison du Bitcoin in Paris, France.—Reuters

that will represent the financial services industry, IDC said. Other notable sectors using blockchain include distribution and services, retail and professional services, and manufacturing and resources. "The

technology is still at a relatively early stage" so "it is too soon to know what the final impact will be," said Ellis. "But it could ultimately make banking cheaper and quicker for consumers," he concluded.—AFP

“ There will be winners and losers ”

”

Anish Mohammed, a cryptography expert and academic at Berlin University, said that the losers would be those who failed to adapt to the latest technological trend. "There will be winners and losers, the losers will be those who do not make any changes." The world's biggest financial institutions are already experimenting with blockchain, although recent data indicates that they risk lagging behind other sectors in its use.

Ooredoo Kuwait concludes its first successful meeting in Silicon Valley

SAN FRANCISCO: Representatives and leaders from Ooredoo Kuwait have landed a few days ago in the land of the miniaturized electronics industry "Silicon Valley" in California USA. This visit comes as part of the company's commitment to continue leveraging on its digital approach towards serving its customers in a superior manner. The visit will include various meetings at some distinguished technology companies and organizations.

This special visit to Silicon Valley was commenced with a meeting held at CISCO, a worldwide leader in IT and networking; whereby Ooredoo Telecom management met a number of executives there. Ooredoo Kuwait delegation is headed by CEO



Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani



Sh. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani who stated the importance of this visit and said in an official statement: "The main objective behind our visit to CISCO comes in line with Ooredoo strategy "Digitize to Differentiate", whereby we focus on digital as a key pillar to transform our customers' experience and enriching our breadth of offerings while adopting a mobile-first mindset".

Al Thani referred to a recent collaboration between

Ooredoo Kuwait and CISCO back in March this year and said "With the support of CISCO, we will be able to deliver the best in class services to our customers, and move forward with our network modernization plans to bring the best cutting-edge technology services to the Kuwaiti Market". Ooredoo Kuwait delegation will be visiting a number of renowned tech companies while in Silicon Valley and the visit will continue for a week.

Three-quarters Facebook users as active or more since privacy scandal

SAN FRANCISCO: Most of Facebook's US users have remained loyal to the social network despite revelations that a political consultancy collected information about millions of accounts without owners' permission, a Reuters/Ipsos poll released today showed. Facebook has faced pressure from regulators, privacy advocates and shareholders since it said in March that political consultant Cambridge Analytica wrongly obtained personal data through a quiz app connected to Facebook. US lawmakers grilled Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg for two days on the matter.

The poll adds to other indications that Facebook has so far suffered no ill effects from the episode, other than a public relations headache. The national online poll, conducted April 26-30, found that about half of Facebook's American users said they had not recently changed the amount that they used the site, and another quarter said they were using it more. The remaining quarter said that they were using it less recently, had stopped using it or deleted their account.

That means that the people using Facebook less were roughly balanced by those using it more, with no clear net loss or gain in use. Among all adults, 64 percent said they use Facebook at least once a day, down slightly from 68 percent who said so in a similar poll in late March, shortly after news organizations reported Cambridge Analytica's activity. Analyst Michael Pachter of Wedbush Securities said Facebook is lucky the data apparently has been used only for political ads and not more nefarious purposes.

"I have yet to read an article that says a single person has been harmed by the breach," he said. "Nobody's outraged on a visceral level." Facebook declined to comment. Its executives have apologized for the data-harvesting, pledged to investigate others who collected Facebook user data and reduced the amount of data available to similar app developers now. The Cambridge Analytica scandal broke on March 16, sparking interest online in the hashtag #deletefacebook.

In its first quarter results, however, Facebook said the number of monthly users in the United States and Canada rose to 241 million on March 31 from 239 million on Dec. 31, growth that was roughly in line with recent years. According to the poll, more Facebook users said they knew how to guard their personal information on the site than users of other social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Pinterest and Tumblr.

It found that 74 percent of Facebook users said they were aware of their current privacy settings, and 78 percent said they knew how to change them. In comparison, 60 percent of Instagram users said they knew their current privacy settings and 65 percent said they knew how to change them. And 55 percent of Twitter users knew their privacy settings, and 58 percent knew how to use them.

Despite their understanding of Facebook's privacy settings, only 23 percent of its users said they have "total control" over the information they store on the platform. Another 49 percent said they have "some control," and 20 percent said they had "no control." The remaining 9 percent said they do not know how much control they have.

The poll was conducted online in English throughout the United States. It gathered responses from 2,194 adults, including 1,938 Facebook users, 1,167 Twitter users and 1,237 Instagram users. It has a credibility interval of 3 percentage points, meaning that the results could vary in either direction by that amount.—Reuters

Twitter urges all users to change passwords after glitch

WASHINGTON: Twitter Inc urged its more than 330 million users to change their passwords after a glitch caused some to be stored in readable text on its internal computer system rather than disguised by a process known as "hashing". The social network disclosed the issue in a blog post and series of Tweets on Thursday afternoon, saying it had resolved the problem and an internal investigation had found no indication passwords were stolen or misused by insiders. Still, it urged all users to consider changing their passwords.

"We fixed the bug and have no indication of a breach or misuse by anyone," Chief Executive Jack Dorsey said in a Tweet. "As a precaution, consider changing your password on all services where you've used this password." The blog did not say how many passwords were affected. A person familiar with the company's response said the number was "substantial" and that they were exposed for "several months."

The disclosure comes as lawmakers and regulators around the world scrutinize the way that companies store and secure consumer data, after a string of security incidents at Equifax Inc, Facebook Inc and Uber Technologies Inc. The European Union is due later this month to start enforcing a strict new privacy law, the General Data Protection Regulation that includes steep fees for violators.

Twitter discovered the bug a few weeks ago and has reported it to some regulators, said the person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The US Federal Trade Commission, which investigates companies accused of deceptive practices related to data security, declined comment on the password glitch. The agency settled with Twitter in 2010 over accusations the site had "serious lapses" in data security that let hackers access private user data on two occasions.

The settlement called for audits of Twitter's data security program every other year for 10 years. The glitch was related to Twitter's use of "hashing" and caused passwords to be written on an internal computer log before the scrambling process was completed, the blog said. "We are very sorry this happened," the Twitter blog said. Twitter's share price was down 1 percent in extended trade at \$30.35, after gaining 0.4 percent during the session.—Reuters

One scientist's 30-year quest to get under Mars' skin

PARIS: Philippe Lognonne has waited three decades to hear the heartbeat of Mars. With a little luck and some help from NASA, the instrument he designed to take the Red Planet's pulse will land before the year's end and press a high-tech ear to its dusty surface. As principal investigator for the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS), a multi-sensor seismometer, Lognonne will have a front-row seat for the scheduled launch on Saturday from Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California of NASA's InSight mission.

But he's keeping the champagne corked: three times in the past, Mars space missions featuring his ultra-sensitive seismometers have faltered, failed or been scrapped. Lognonne's cherubic features are framed by a mop of shoulder-length auburn hair, a grizzled beard and white sideburns. He has just turned 55, and has a weakness for Hawaiian shirts. A researcher at the Institute of Earth Physics in Paris, Lognonne has explored the dynamics of tsunamis and deciphered data from 1970s Apollo missions.

But from the start, his true passion and unwavering mission was to build the tools that could detect what's going on under Mars' red surface. "This planet was habitable four billion years ago, and I want to understand why, bit by bit, it stopped being so," Lognonne said in an interview at the Paris university where he teaches. Soon after completing his PhD in 1989, the young scientist focused on designing a suite of seismometers-used on Earth to detect and measure earthquakes-that could probe deep beneath the Martian surface in search of answers.

'Don't give up'

His first crack at securing passage to Mars for his instruments came in 1996, when France's National Centre for Space Studies joined a Russian mission that included an orbiter and two landers. But two small seismometers on board never made it past Earth's atmosphere-the launch failed, and the mission was aborted. Lognonne got another shot at his goal seven years later. Working with US engineer Bruce Banerdt-who 15 years later would become the scientific director for InSight-he helped prepare instruments for the European NetLander mission, which sought to set up a network of four small stations on the surface of Mars, including a seismometer. A launch date was set for 2005.

But the mission got mired in red ink and was axed in 2003. "That was a bit of let-down," Lognonne said flatly. What kept him going? Why didn't he give up at that



Philippe Lognonne

point? "I've always told my students, if you really believe that a project is scientifically important, the only reason to not carry on is if someone else is already doing it," he said. Banerdt and Lognonne went their separate ways but stayed in touch, linked in part by the dream of putting a seismometer on Mars. "We knew that the scientific consensus was that it must be done," Lognonne said.

A small leak

In 2012, NASA invited bids under its Discovery program for relatively low-budget space exploration projects, and the duo decided to try once again. They were up against 26 other projects in their category. In August of that year, they got the call from NASA saying they had been selected for a 2016 Mars launch. "Four years is very short!" Lognonne recalls thinking, as they threw themselves into the task.

The SEIS seismometer that will-with any luck at all-leave Earth on Saturday measures ground motions in a wide range of frequencies, using an array of six sensors. It will detect and record "marsquakes" and other sources of ground motion, such as meteorite impacts and the faint gravitational effects of Phobos, a Martian moon. The sensors are in a temperature-controlled and vacuum-sealed box housed within a domed, three-legged pod that resembles an autonomous vacuum cleaner.

The ensemble-protected by a wind and thermal shield-is to be placed on Martian soil by a robot arm, and is connected to the lander by a flexible tether with power and data lines. But three months before the scheduled launch in early 2016, the French team detected a tiny leak in the tether. NASA canned the launch. "That was a shock," said Lognonne. But this time the cancellation was not final. The mission was rescheduled for May to June 2018, the next window of opportunity for a Mars launch. The champagne is on ice.—AFP

Health

After death, Hawking cuts 'multiverse' theory down to size

New hypothesis relies on string theory

PARIS: With a science paper published after his death, Stephen Hawking has revived debate on a deeply divisive question for cosmologists: Is our Universe just one of many in an infinite, ever-expanding "multiverse"? According to one school of thought, the cosmos started expanding exponentially after the Big Bang. In most parts, this expansion or "inflation" continues eternally, except for a few pockets where it stops. These pockets are where universes like ours are formed—multitudes of them that are often likened to "bubbles" in an ever-expanding ocean dubbed the multiverse.

Many scientists don't like the idea, including Hawking, who said in an interview last year: "I have never been a fan of the multiverse." If we do live in an ever-inflating multiverse, it would mean the laws of physics and chemistry can differ from one universe to another, a concept that scientists struggle to accept. In his last contribution to cosmology, Hawking—with co-author Thomas Hertog from the KU Leuven university in Belgium—does not dismiss the multiverse concept, but proposes dramatically scaling it down.

"We are not down to a single, unique universe," the University of Cambridge quoted Hawking as saying of the paper submitted before his death on March 14 and published this week in the *Journal of High Energy Physics*. However, "our findings imply a significant reduction of the multiverse, to a much smaller range of possible universes." The new hypothesis relies on a branch of theoretical physics known as string theory,

and concludes that the cosmos is "clearly finite", Hertog said, though still composed of numerous universes.

Fringe idea

"It is a debate that touches on the very foundations of cosmology," Hertog said. "The underlying question is whether we can achieve a deeper understanding of where the laws of nature come from, and whether they are unique." Not everyone likes the new theory. "The idea that we live in a 'multiverse' is a fringe idea in a small part of a subfield of the physics community," said theoretical physicist Sabine Hossenfelder of the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies.

"Nobody who does serious science works with the multiverse because it's utterly useless," she said.

The main problem, Hossenfelder explains, is that any multiverse theory is "underdetermined" and "doesn't contain

enough information to make calculations". For detractors, a multiverse theory complicates our understanding of our own Universe. But it has its defenders too. For astrophysicist Aurelien Barrau of Laboratory of Subatomic Physics and Cosmology in Paris, "the concept makes sense."

"It is remarkable that today numerous types of universe can be envisaged. Several theories, reliable for some and speculative for others, lead to the prediction of a multiverse," he said. For Hertog, the new theory is a step in the right direction. It "makes the cosmology based on our new theory a lot



PARIS: In this file photo renowned cosmologist Professor Stephen Hawking attends a press conference at One World Observatory in New York, to announce a new breakthrough initiative focusing on space exploration and the search for life in the universe. — AFP

“A complete understanding of the universe”

more predictive, a lot... stronger as a scientific theory and therefore ultimately, we hope, testable", he explains on the UK Leuven website.

Assumptions

Hossenfelder disagrees. She described the new theory as just another "variant" of eternal inflation, "with some additional assumptions on top of it." Thomas Hertog,

who co-authored work on the multiverse concept with Hawking, says the measurement of gravitational waves can help determine whether the theory is scientifically sound. Hertog hopes to use gravitational waves, ripples in the fabric of spacetime caused by black hole collisions, supernova explosions, or the formation of the early Universe, to test the new hypothesis he created with Hawking.

The British cosmologist died at the age of 76 after a lifelong battle against motor neuron disease, which paralyzed him and left him unable to speak. Hawking, who once said his life goal was "a complete understanding of the universe", famously overturned a core tenet of physics by predicting that black holes—believed until then to devour everything in their vicinity, including light—leak radiation.—AFP

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What's On

ACK, Boeing sign MoA addressing Kuwait's aviation training needs

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) signed memorandum of agreement with Boeing in line with ACK's objective to support the aviation sector in Kuwait from all aspects. Together, ACK and Boeing are evaluating avenues on how both parties can best contribute to the execution of Kuwait's Vision 2035, via an investment in the aviation sector.

Through the agreement, Boeing will provide its training technology solution, keeping the majority of the pilot training programs in Kuwait. From its end, ACK will be offering Boeing the opportunity to deliver "specially maintenance" courses at ACK campus.

Mr Sager Al-Sharhan, Deputy Managing Partner - Industry - said: "Boeing is a world leading organization that we are proud to work with, to give our students the opportunity to have high quality and international training at the premises of ACK. This agreement will contribute to achieve ACK's strategic direction, vision and mission and to prove ACK Chairman's - Mr Abdullah Al-Sharhan - philosophy of enabling human potential within a culture of care."



INVITE

You are cordially invited to our Tafseer class (Divine Wisdom from the Last Testament) on May 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm. In this class, we will focus on Surat At-Taghabun (Mutual Loss and Gain), verses 1 - 2. We will discuss the general message of the surah, the implied meaning of mutual loss and gain, and who will lose and who will gain. We will also explore how the realization that Allah (SWT) sees and knows everything impacts our lives, and the benefits of believing that Allah (SWT) is our sustainer and provider. Finally, we will discuss various types of disbelief, and the destiny of children who die before puberty.



Hardee's announces its third winner of 'Go Large' campaign

Citizen Ahmad Tawfeeq Abdulwahed Abdullah won a white 2018 Chevy Camaro after participating in the Hardee's mega festival "Go Large" campaign by simply ordering a spicy chicken felet through Talabat.com. Hardee's Kuwait have allocated four 2018 Chevy Camaros and 16 Iphone mobiles for customers participating in its campaign.

Ahmad Tawfeeq was very happy as his participation was unintentional. "I am a loyal customer of Hardee's and am always drawn by promotions made by Hardee's. I was shocked when I received a phone call telling me I am the winner." Director of Hardee's Kuwait chain of restaurants Mohammad Abdrabbu said: "Hardee's is keen on improving its products while maintaining top quality, adding that the latest meal "fire house chicken" was well received by customers, adding that a powerful campaign will be launched on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan with large discounts and will be exclusive for Kuwait only."



LuLu Financial Group commences operations in Hong Kong



LuLu Financial Group, the leading financial services and payments solution brand, started its operations in Hong Kong with the inauguration of their head office in Kowloon. The branch was inaugurated by Adeb Ahmed, Managing Director, LuLu Financial Group in the presence of Surendran Ammitathody, VP-APAC, other senior officials and dignitaries. The group acquired 100 percent ownership of a local financial services company in Hong Kong, adding five more branches to its global network. Branded as "LuLu Money" in Hong Kong, this is LuLu Financial Group's tenth country of operation and second in the APAC region, after Philippines.

Speaking on the occasion, Adeb Ahmed said, "We are extremely delighted to start our operations in Hong Kong. The Asia Pacific region is home to some of the most dynamic economies and Hong Kong is one of the most strategic markets.

We are excited to be part of the region's growth story." "Further to offering our world class services, that has made us one of the most sought after financial services organisation in the world, we will be reaching out to a larger audience through our innovative digital platforms that have been created in-house," added Adeb Ahmed.

"LuLu Money" retail outlets will offer money transfer, retail currency exchange and import and export of currencies. The company is also foraying into the digital space, with an aim to revolutionize the fintech environment in the region. The upcoming "LuLu Money" app will have various features including instant online transactions, payment tracking in real time and payment history, among others. With plans to move nearly 30% of its transactions on to the digital platform by 2020, LuLu Financial Group is committed to remain on the digital fast track.



LuLu Celebrate opens in Al-Rai

LuLu Celebrate, an exclusive apparel division of regional retail heavyweight LuLu Hypermarket, was inaugurated on May 3, 2018, at the Al-Rai outlet by renowned Indian television serial actress, Laya, in the presence of LuLu Kuwait management and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers.

To celebrate the occasion, a special promotion on sarees, churidars and lehenga material is being held that allows a shopper to buy one saree or other dress material and purchase the second item at 50 percent discount. Among the sarees on offer during the promotion period are such exclusive sarees such as kancheppuram, upada, binny silk, raw cotton, villae cottons and many more. The saree promotion extends to all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait, with the exception of Salmiya and Jahra.

The huge crowds visiting LuLu Hypermarket branches during the promotion are a further attestation of the strong loyalty that shoppers attach to the LuLu brand. It also underlines shoppers' confidence that the brand continues to offer the widest range of high-quality products at the most competitive prices.



Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait wins World Travel Awards

For the second consecutive year, Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait won the Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel at the World Travel Awards 2018 ceremony. The prominent awards reflect the commitment of Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait towards excellence in customer service throughout the year. General Manager Ahmed Serafi and Cluster Director of Sales and Marketing Mr Bassem Al-Haj received the prestigious awards on the hotel's behalf at the

2018 World Travel Awards which took place on April 19, 2018, in Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaima, UAE.

Serafi said commenting on this honoring: "We are happy to receive the award during the 2018 World Travel Awards. This honoring is a testimony to the distinguished status that Millennium Hotel and Convention Center Kuwait has assumed as a luxury hotel landmark in the country. It also serves as clear proof of the dedication of the hotel's managers and teams who exert all efforts to present the best services to guests."

The awards were delivered during the annual festival that is known as the 'Oscars of Travel and Tourism', with an elite group of officials in the field and VIPs in attendance. The World Travel Awards, which marked its 25th edition this year, is one of the most prestigious awards in world tourism, and are given in appreciation of the performance of leaders in the tourism, aviation, hotel and hospitality sectors from around the world.



TV



00:15 Road House
02:25 One Good Cop
04:30 Eagle Eye
06:30 Hunting The Phantom
08:10 One Good Cop
10:15 Eagle Eye
12:15 Kung Fu Yoga
14:10 Street Fighter
15:55 The Last Rescue
17:50 Hell Or High Water
19:40 Bad Company
21:40 Harsh Times
23:40 Assassins Tale



00:45 Blue Serengeti
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Rugged Justice
03:25 Rugged Justice
04:15 Rugged Justice
04:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
05:49 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
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 The Vet Life
12:50 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
13:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
14:40 Wildest Middle East
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Rugged Justice
17:25 Expedition Mungo
18:20 Shark Attack File
19:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
20:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
20:38 Shamwari: A Wild Life
21:05 Expedition Mungo
22:00 Shark Attack File
22:55 Wildest Middle East
23:50 Lone Star Law



00:00 The Collection
01:00 Save Me
01:55 Line Of Duty
02:55 Orphan Black
03:45 Orphan Black
04:30 Doctors
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Call The Midwife
08:00 Father Brown
08:50 The Coroner
09:40 The Coroner
10:30 Doctors
11:00 Doctors
11:30 EastEnders
12:00 Father Brown
12:50 Call The Midwife
13:50 Doctors
14:20 Doctors
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 Death In Paradise
16:15 Father Brown
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Casualty
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:50 Gold Feet
20:50 Prime Suspect: Tension
21:40 Death In Paradise
22:40 Save Me
23:30 Casualty



00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:55 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
02:50 Evil Up Close
03:45 Britain's Darkest Taboos
04:30 Britain's Darkest Taboos
05:15 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
06:00 Homicide Hunter
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 It Takes A Killer
17:30 It Takes A Killer
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
21:00 Evil Up Close
22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
23:00 Crimes That Shook Australia



00:05 Teachers
00:30 Russell Simmons Presents: The Ruckus
00:55 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
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 Brotherhood
05:05 Frankanfood
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Wadzegef
06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 Brotherhood
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Frankanfood
10:35 Friends
11:00 Key And Peele
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Friendszone
12:40 Brotherhood
13:05 Friends
13:30 Friends
13:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
14:20 Workaholics
14:45 Disaster Date
15:10 Friends
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Key And Peele
16:30 Friendszone
16:55 Friends

17:20 Friends
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Hillbillies For Hire
18:35 Hillbillies For Hire
19:00 Friends
19:25 Friendszone
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Why? With Hannibal Buress
22:00 Teachers
22:25 Nathan For You
17:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 How It's Made
02:35 How It's Made
03:00 How It's Made
03:25 How It's Made
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds
05:05 Destroyed In Seconds
05:30 Destroyed In Seconds
05:55 Destroyed In Seconds
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
06:50 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 World's Toughest Expeditions With James Cracknell
13:40 Ali-As Superchargers
14:05 Ali-As Superchargers
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 Finding Bigfoot
20:20 Ali-As Superchargers
20:45 Ali-As Superchargers
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Ultimate Survival
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Ali-As Superchargers



00:45 Smooth Talker: Trail Of Death
01:40 Home Alone
02:35 Ghost Brothers
03:30 Ghost Stalkers
04:25 Bride Killers
05:20 The Perfect Murder
06:10 Shadow Of Doubt
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 I Am Homicide
08:15 Blood Relatives
09:10 Gone
10:05 Betrayed
11:00 Killer Confessions
11:55 I Am Homicide
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Gone
14:40 Betrayed
15:35 Obsession: Dark Desires
16:30 I Am Homicide
17:25 Nightmare Next Door
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Gone
20:10 Betrayed
21:05 Case Anthony: Killer Mom?
22:00 Smooth Talker: Trail Of Death
22:55 Murder Chase Me
23:50 Murder Chase Me



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermore 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
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
09:25 Loloock
09:50 Loloock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Loloock
12:45 Loloock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:15 Bunk'd
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:10 Kitty Is Not A Cat
15:35 Elena Of Avalor
16:00 Tangled: The Series
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & 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 Loloock
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
05:55 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 PJ Masks
06:50 Trulli Tales
07:30 Jungle Junction
07:50 Handy Manny
08:10 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
09:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
10:00 Trulli Tales
10:30 Puppy Dog Pals
11:00 Doc McStuffins
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 Vampirina
14:15 Vampirina
14:30 Vampirina
14:45 Vampirina
15:00 Vampirina
15:15 Vampirina
15:30 Sofia The First
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:30 Trulli Tales
17:00 Vampirina
17:30 PJ Masks
18:00 Sofia The First
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
19:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Vampirina
20:30 PJ Masks
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 P-King Duckling
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Deadliest Catch
01:05 Blue Collar Backers
01:50 Pacific Warriors
02:35 Outback Truckers
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 Blue Collar Backers
10:45 Pacific Warriors
11:30 Outback Truckers
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 Blue Collar Backers
16:15 Pacific Warriors
17:05 Outback Truckers
17:50 Alaskan Bush People
18:40 Kindig Customs
19:25 Deadliest Catch
20:15 Diesel Brothers
21:00 Jungle Gold
21:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
22:40 Gold Divers
23:30 Alaskan Bush People



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas & Ferb
07:05 DuckTales
07:32 Phineas And Ferb
08:00 Disney DuckTales: Woo-Oo
08:50 Phineas And Ferb The Movie
10:10 Phineas & Ferb: The O.W.C.A. Files
11:00 Phineas And Ferb
11:30 Phineas And Ferb
11:55 Phineas And Ferb
12:20 Gravity Falls
12:45 Milo Murphy's Law
13:00 Lab Rats
13:25 Lab Rats
13:50 Mech-X4
14:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
14:40 Milo Murphy's Law
15:05 Supa Strikas
15:32 Lab Rats
16:00 DuckTales
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
16:55 Two More Eggs
17:00 Milo Murphy's Law
17:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
17:32 Gravity Falls
18:00 Mech-X4
18:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
18:50 Lab Rats Elite Force
19:15 Walk The Prank
19:40 Phineas And Ferb
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:00 DuckTales
20:32 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
22:25 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



07:25 WAGS Miami
08:20 WAGS Miami
09:15 WAGS Miami
10:10 E! News Middle East
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
17:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



00:10 Alphabetical
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
04:50 Tracey Ullman's Show
05:15 Alphabetical
06:15 Guess This House
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
09:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
09:55 Alphabetical
11:00 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Britain's Brightest Family
16:30 Britain's Brightest Family
16:55 Shetland
17:55 Alphabetical
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Britain's Brightest Family
21:25 Britain's Brightest Family
21:50 Shetland
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
01:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
02:00 UFO Files
02:50 UFO Files
03:40 Clash Of The Gods
04:30 Clash Of The Gods
05:20 Million Dollar Genius
06:10 Million Dollar Genius
07:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
08:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
09:00 UFO Files
10:00 UFO Files
11:00 Clash Of The Gods
12:00 Clash Of The Gods
13:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
14:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
15:00 UFO Files
16:00 UFO Files
17:00 Clash Of The Gods
18:00 Ancient Impossible
19:00 America's Book Of Secrets
20:00 UFO Hunters
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 True Monsters
23:00 WWII: Lost Films



00:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith
00:45 Pawn Stars
01:10 American Pickers
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Sean Bean On Waterloo
03:40 Barbarians Rising
04:30 Milwaukee Blacksmith
04:55 Pawn Stars
05:20 American Pickers
06:00 Swamp People
06:50 Milwaukee Blacksmith
07:15 Pawn Stars
07:40 Duck Dynasty
08:05 Duck Dynasty
08:30 Barbarians Rising
09:20 Swamp People
10:10 Time Team
11:00 Milwaukee Blacksmith
11:25 Pawn Stars
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Barbarians Rising
13:30 Swamp People
14:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith
14:45 Pawn Stars
15:10 Time Team
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Duck Dynasty
17:15 Duck Dynasty
17:40 Barbarians Rising
18:30 Swamp People
19:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith
19:45 Pawn Stars
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 WW2 Treasure Hunters
21:50 James Nesbitt: Disasters That Changed Britain
22:40 Milwaukee Blacksmith
23:05 Pawn Stars
23:30 Swamp People



00:45 Places We Go
01:10 One Man & His Campervan
01:40 A Taste Of South Africa
02:05 A Taste Of South Africa
02:35 Cruise Ship Diaries
03:30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces: Snow Special
04:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
05:20 Miguel's Feasts
05:45 Miguel's Feasts
06:15 John Torode's Korean Food Tour
07:10 A Taste Of South Africa
07:35 A Taste Of South Africa
08:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
09:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces: Snow Special



09:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
10:50 Miguel's Feasts
11:15 Miguel's Feasts
11:45 John Torode's Korean Food Tour
12:40 A Taste Of South Africa
13:05 A Taste Of South Africa
13:35 Cruise Ship Diaries
14:30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
15:25 What's For Sale?
15:50 What's For Sale?
16:20 Miguel's Feasts
16:45 Miguel's Feasts
17:15 John Torode's Korean Food Tour
18:10 Carnival Eats
18:35 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
21:00 What's For Sale?
21:30 What's For Sale?
22:00 Miguel's Feasts
22:25 Miguel's Feasts
22:55 John Torode's Korean Food Tour
23:50 Carnival Eats



00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 Genius
02:00 Final Days Of Anne Frank
04:00 Wicked Tuna
05:00 Mystery Files
05:30 Mystery Files
06:00 Nazi Death Camp: The Great Escape
07:00 Car SOS
08:00 Inland Singapore Airlines
09:00 Mystery Files
09:30 Mystery Files
10:00 Chef On The Road
11:00 Taiwan's Toughest
12:00 Mega Factories
13:00 Inside The SS
14:00 Apocalypse World War I
15:00 Car SOS
16:00 Chef On The Road
17:00 Mega Food
18:00 Mega Factories
19:00 Car SOS
20:00 Chef On The Road
20:50 Mega Food
21:40 Mega Factories
22:30 Car SOS
23:20 Apocalypse World War I

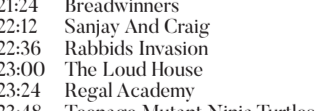


00:20 Madagascar's Legendary Lemurs
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Africa's Hunters
02:50 Animal Fight Club
03:45 Wild Galapagos
04:40 The World's Most Wanted Leopard
05:35 Africa's Hunters
06:30 Animal Fight Club
07:25 Wild Galapagos
08:20 The World's Most Wanted Leopard
09:15 World's Weirdest
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 The New Sperm Whale
12:55 Incredible Fangs
13:50 Animal Fight Club
14:45 Caught In The Act
15:40 Walking With Giraffes
16:35 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts
17:30 Moody Beasts
18:25 Man V. Monster
19:20 Caught In The Act
20:10 Walking With Giraffes
21:00 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts
21:50 Moody Beasts
22:40 Man V. Monster
23:30 The New Sperm Whale



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 Breadwinners
07:48 Sanjay And Craig
08:12 Rabbids Invasion
08:36 The Loud House
09:00 Regal Academy
09:24 Winx Club
09:48 Hunter Street
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 School Of Rock
11:00 Henry Danger
11:24 The Thundermans
11:48 I Am Frankie
12:12 Rank The Prank
12:36 Massive Monster Mayhem
13:00 Hunter Street
13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
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 Toon Marty
17:12 Toon Marty
17:24 Massive Monster Mayhem
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Harvey Beaks
21:24 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Rabbids Invasion
23:00 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

00:07 Max & Ruby
00:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:41 Kiva Can Do!
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:42 Paw Patrol
01:54 Kid-E-Cats
01:58 Kid-E-Cats
02:04 Shimmer And Shine
02:26 Nella The Princess Knight
02:37 Paw Patrol
03:01 Max & Ruby
03:23 Dora The Explorer
03:46 Sunny Day
04:08 Nella The Princess Knight
04:31 Shimmer And Shine
04:42 Shimmer And Shine
04:53 Wallykazam!
05:17 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
06:13 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
08:06 Paw Patrol
08:29 Shimmer And Shine
08:40 Shimmer And Shine
08:51 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
11:21 Shimmer And Shine
11:45 Sunny Day
12:07 Max & Ruby
12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:40 Kiva Can Do!
12:51 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Paw Patrol
13:53 Kid-E-Cats
13:58 Kid-E-Cats
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Nella The Princess Knight
14:36 Paw Patrol
15:00 Max & Ruby
15:23 Dora The Explorer
15:46 Sunny Day
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16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:42 Shimmer And Shine
16:53 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
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:22 Kiva Can Do!
19:33 Kiva Can Do!
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:06 Paw Patrol
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:40 Shimmer And Shine
20:51 Nella The Princess Knight
21:13 Paw Patrol
21:37 Rusty Rivets
22:01 Wallykazam!
22:24 The Day Henry Met
22:30 Bubble Guppies
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Kid-E-Cats
23:21 Shimmer And Shine
23:44 Sunny Day



00:45 The Princess Diaries
02:45 The Little Mermaid
04:30 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
07:00 The Princess Diaries
09:00 Alice Through The Looking Glass
11:00 Brother Bear 2
12:45 The Little Mermaid 2: Return To The Sea
14:30 Up
16:30 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
18:30 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
21:15 The Little Mermaid 2: Return To The Sea
23:00 Up



00:05 Station 19
01:00 Time After Time
01:50 The Good Doctor
02:40 Grey's Anatomy
03:30 Still Star-Crossed
04:20 Station 19
05:20 Criminal Minds
06:10 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
07:00 Boy Band
08:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
09:00 The View
10:00 Still Star-Crossed
11:00 The Good Doctor
12:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
13:00 How To Get Away With Murder

14:00 Grey's Anatomy
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 Suits
22:00 The Resident
23:00 Absentia



01:25 Baby, Baby, Baby
02:55 A Midsummer's Hawaiian Dream
04:40 Double Trouble
06:10 Article 99
08:00 Christmas Eve
09:45 A Midsummer's Hawaiian Dream
11:30 Double Trouble
13:00 Article 99
14:45 Christmas Eve
16:30 Fan Girl
18:15 Down With Love
20:15 Office Space
22:00 Born Romantic
23:40 Puerto Ricans In Paris



00:55 Brick
02:50 Christine
04:50 The Great Gatsby
07:15 Buena Vista Social Club:
Adios
09:15 One True Thing
11:25 Christine
13:25 Tini - El Gran Cambio De
Violeta
15:05 Noble
16:55 The Challenger
18:35 Convicts
20:20 Belles Familles
22:20 Jennifer Eight



01:00 Simba The King Lion
03:05 Free Birds
04:35 Bunny Tales
05:55 Emilie Jolie
07:15 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
09:00 Dinofroz The Origin
10:40 The Elf Who Stole Christmas
12:15 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine
13:50 Bunny Tales
15:10 Emilie Jolie
16:30 Shopkins - World Vacation
17:50 The Elf Who Stole Christmas
19:25 Dinofroz Return To The Past
World
21:05 Phantom Boy
22:40 Shopkins - World Vacation



00:45 Fathers And Daughters
02:40 Knight And Day
04:40 Bicentennial Man
06:55 13 Going On 30
08:35 Knight And Day
10:35 Hotel For Dogs
12:20 The Magnificent Seven
14:35 Me Before You
16:30 The Cable Guy
18:10 Dreamgirls
20:25 Runner Runner
22:00 Alien Resurrection
23:55 When I Live My Life Over Again

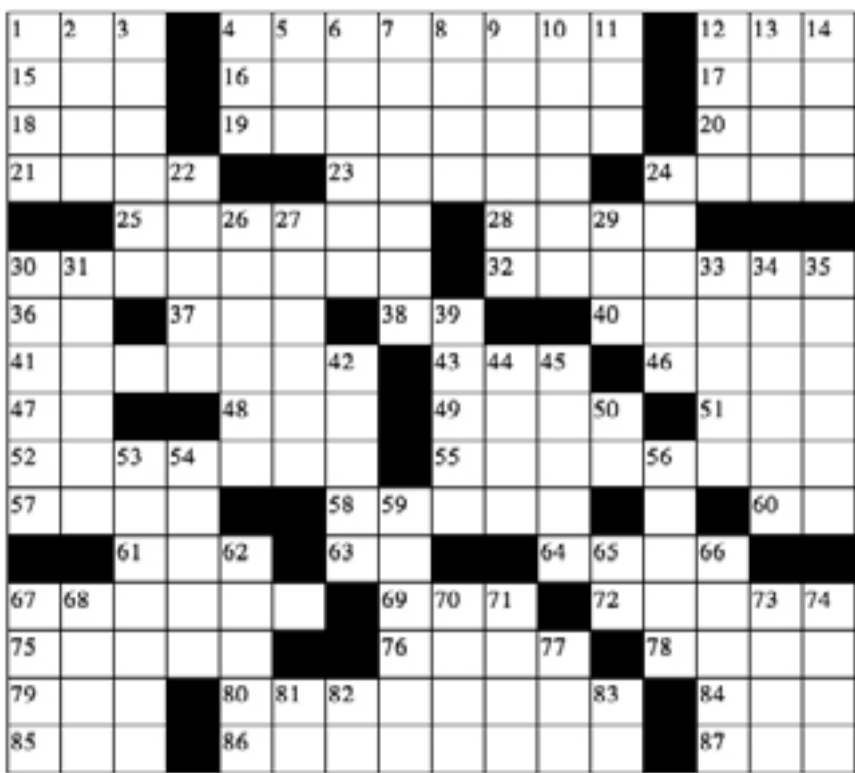


00:30 Da Vinci's Machines
02:10 How The Universe Works
03:00 Mythbusters
07:00 How It's Made
07:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Da Vinci's Machines
09:50 How It's Made
10:14 Food Factory USA
10:38 How The Universe Works
11:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How It's Made
13:26 Food Factory USA
13:50 Da Vinci's Machines
14:38 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
15:26 How The Universe Works
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Da Vinci's Machines
17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Invent It Rich
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 Food Factory USA
21:10 Mysteries Of The Missing
22:00 Invent It Rich
22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
23:40 Mythbusters



Stars

CROSSWORD 1902



ACROSS

1. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
4. A support or foundation.
12. An accountant certified by the state.
15. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
16. Place a value on.
17. A small piece of cloth.
18. A human limb.
19. Fearless daring.
20. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
21. The flesh of animals (including fishes and birds and snails) used as food.
23. With the mouth wide open as in wonder or awe.
25. Grandson of Amaterasu and first ruler of Japan.
28. Type genus of the Anatidae.
30. Testacean rhizopods.
32. A Bantu language sometimes considered a dialect of Zulu.
36. In operation or operational.
37. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
38. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
40. One of the often brightly colored and branching hornlike structures on the back of the nudibranch (and other related mollusks) that serve as gills.
41. French architect who introduced the mansard roof (1598-1666).
43. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
46. The financial means whereby one lives.
47. Before noon.
48. A Nilotic language.
49. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
51. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
52. A violent commotion or disturbance.
55. Any of various plants of the genus *Sabbatia* having usually pink cymose flowers.
57. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
58. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
60. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
61. A doctor's degree in dental surgery.
63. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
64. (informal) Exceptionally good.
67. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
69. Remaining after all deductions.
72. A doctor's degree in musical arts.
75. Of a pale purple color.
76. The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
78. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
79. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
80. Has cams attached to it.
84. (informal) Roused to anger.
85. Type genus of the family Myacidae.
86. The act of contributing to the funds of a church or charity.
87. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. The length of a straight line passing through the center of a circle and connecting two points on the circumference.
2. A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.
3. All of the inhabitants of the earth.
4. Preferred above all others and treated with partiality.
5. (Old Testament) Adam's wife in Judeo-Christian mythology.
6. The occurrence of a change for the worse.
7. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
8. The muscular back part of the shank.
9. Large highly venomous snake of northeastern Australia.
10. Be present at (meetings, church services, university), etc..
11. A field covered with grass or herbage and suitable for grazing by livestock.
12. A steep rugged rock or cliff.
13. A roughly cylindrical that is vessel open at the top.
14. God of fire.
22. Emperor of Rome.
24. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
26. Speak in a nasal voice.
27. (Greek mythology) Son of Daedalus.
29. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
31. Hard white substance covering the crown of a tooth.
33. Upright in position or posture.
34. Any of various spectacular plants of the genus *Laelia* having showy flowers in many colors.
35. The act of detecting something.
39. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
42. Constituting the full quantity or extent.
44. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
45. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
50. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
53. A white fatty substance that forms a medullary sheath around the axis cylinder of some nerve fibers.
54. A genus of Ploceidae.
56. A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
59. God of wisdom or prophesy.
62. United States anarchist (born in Italy) who with Bartolomeo Vanzetti was convicted of murder and in spite of worldwide protest was executed (1891-1927).
65. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
66. Tropical tree of Central America and West Indies and Puerto Rico having spikes of white flowers.
68. Containing an unusual amount of grease or oil.
70. Not fake or counterfeit.
71. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
73. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
74. An informal term for a father.
77. A member of the Siouan people living in the Yazoo river valley in Mississippi.
81. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
82. A metric unit of volume equal to one thousandth of a liter.
83. A state in east central United States.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may actually enjoy your own company and have kind feelings regarding yourself; this is rare. You have a lot of respect for someone older or in authority that takes you under their wing. Someone asks for your help in a secretive, sensitive personal matter. You may engage in heated discussion relating to religion, politics or the law; be careful that you don't make enemies. You may contemplate starting an organic garden or purchasing only natural, non-processed foods; this is part of the changes you're attempting to make in your life. Being outdoors is most appealing right now! Someone expects you to be quiet and do what you're told; when this person doesn't do what they have agreed to do, you could feel resentful of the treatment you receive.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An invitation to a social gathering causes and uproar that you don't want to deal with; be mindful of the possible long-lasting problems that could result if you attend. You could sense that nothing you do today can please anyone but yourself. A strong sense of self-worth is prominent today; when people see that you can't be discouraged, they give up. Coming to terms with something you detest but can't change is indicated. Staying in control of your temper could prove difficult today as someone seems determined to make you lose it! Someone shows up to take you away from the tensions of the day; this creates an abundance of positive energy. Your values change and deepen with each passing day. Laughter, good times for you tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You reach out for companionship and sharing your time with people; friends notice that you're less focused on yourself and more on others. Seeking justice in a certain situation could cause frustration as this doesn't appear to happen; reexamine your motives and attitudes regarding this! Peace comes by exercising your right to avoid someone in particular. You may enjoy the company of those who possess intellect and excellent communication skills; you find the lack of this to be disappointing. You come to the aid of a friend who simply can't do something on their own; your compassion is admirable. You experience something for the first time. New circumstances put your eye for value in charge when considering a purchase.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Though your thoughts are clear and very precise you could find that making important decisions today isn't practical; you'll know when a better time to do this arrives. You try doing something routine in a new way which proves successful. Vibrations of accomplishment are strong and readily available to you. Attention to details is strongly suggested today as you have the mental acuity to deal with this now. Mystery surrounds something that went missing but today you learn a fact that explains and clears this up. Spending time with those whose support you can depend on creates a strong sense of security. You're called upon to address a group regarding their needs. Communicating with an intelligent friend brings good information.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could find that circumstances irritate you to the point of distraction. A difficult elderly person refuses to let you take care of a matter that can be easily taken care of, instead they insist on going the long way to complete this. You long to rid yourself of unnecessary pettiness. A nice day is on tap as out of town visitors arrive for a long overdue visit. Plans for a vegetable or flower garden start to take shape. You have a strong wish to have an edible landscape. You appear at your best physically and mentally. A decision you made in the past turns out to be the very best it could have been. Your thoughts go to spiritual, paranormal matters you find fascinating. A walk, jog or yoga practice could do wonders for helping you sleep tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You rebel against doing what you believe is the right thing when you refuse to be taken advantage of in a specific situation. You're not able to ignore your own needs as your body, mind and spirit require more today. You could put too many demands on yourself which results in an emotional meltdown; it's best to separate yourself from anyone contributing to this. You struggle to focus on the positive aspects of your life just now as your opinions are very different from that of others. You're learning to ignore petty complaints from a negative person. A good book entertains and inspires you. You're starting to realize some things about yourself you have need to; the changes you need to make become clear. Recharge for the new work week.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You'd like to keep your mind occupied with flights of fancy and wonderment but you're schedule says no. Someone could accuse you of unfairly choosing sides, but the proof is in the pudding and it's perfectly clear you didn't do this! Expect abundance and get it; expect failure, that's what comes. You make sure someone is taken care of before you take care of yourself. When someone suffers a hard personal blow, you realize just how truly fortunate you are; you acknowledge that your choices have been pretty good ones. You receive praise for your taste; this is a big deal considering who this is coming from. Need for sensual interaction is strong now, as is being appreciated or loved. Making plans for a flower or vegetable garden is fun.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Doing something social appeals to you very strongly; this could be something unusual that you wouldn't normally do. You could find that two friends argue over something having to do with you. Seeking approval from a critical person nags at you today; letting go of this would probably be best for you. A new way to do things gets your full attention. Getting over someone from your past could seem impossible, but you're more than capable of doing it. Your focus on prosperity pays off. Someone makes known their disagreement with something you do. A tough project demands your attention and the attention of others. Knowing exactly what you want pushes you to go for it! You understand the suggestions of someone who loves you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You overhear something that gives you the wrong idea; give yourself a chance to cool down and let the truth become clear! If allowed your imagination could create negative thoughts and conclusions; try to separate imaginings from reality. A fine young person looks to you for guidance on a very personal level; this person looks up to and respects everything you say. You can change your bad mood if you choose; look for the cause of this and eliminate it. You may decline an invitation from a judgmental person; you hold your tongue but inside you fume. When someone claims they want to help, they actually want to change your mind. Growing up with a person doesn't mean you owe them. Being surrounded by loved ones brings joy now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You're in a happy place and decide to enjoy it while it lasts! You use the wisdom you have gained from past experience to help in the present. Being able to learn is something you have worked on for some time. Congratulations! Being complimented lightens your day. You intend to maintain control involving a hard project that requires certain knowledge; you have a way of putting the correct people in the right, most productive places. You come across a natural seasoning that brings pleasure; new tastes in food evolve as you open up to new flavors. Your teamwork is better than ever with no end in sight! A clear answer to a good question becomes known when you share a meal with someone in the know. A good night for thinking.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You could receive a challenge a dare, of sorts from someone you enjoy competing against; this is a friendly exchange. Someone could feel left out of your new plans if you're not careful; should you want to separate yourself from this person, now is the time. Looking inside at your true feelings is enlightening, you have got a lot to think about. A decision to hold off on making decisions on a very personal level works best. With time comes answers of all kinds; keep your eyes and mind open to see them. You answer the vivid urge to demand to be heard or exercise some type of rights; retain your dignity through all of this. Your attend a different genre of movie or perhaps a play; afterward, a meal originating in an exotic foreign culture.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It falls to you to take the lead on a certain, difficult project that arises unexpectedly. You could take this opportunity to try out some of the new methods you have discovered; nobody is in a position to protest as you're the only one willing to try to solve this problem! You seem to walk a dreamy path as you enjoy poetry, music or any other form of creative effort. Taking in a movie with someone fun is indicated; this could be the beginning of a new friendship. Your body feels healthy and responsive to a new diet and exercise program; stay on this path for certain success. You take the bull by the horns and explain a sticky situation to someone difficult. Learning about mystic principles captivates your thoughts and actions as you understand more about this.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Moods & Emotions 3

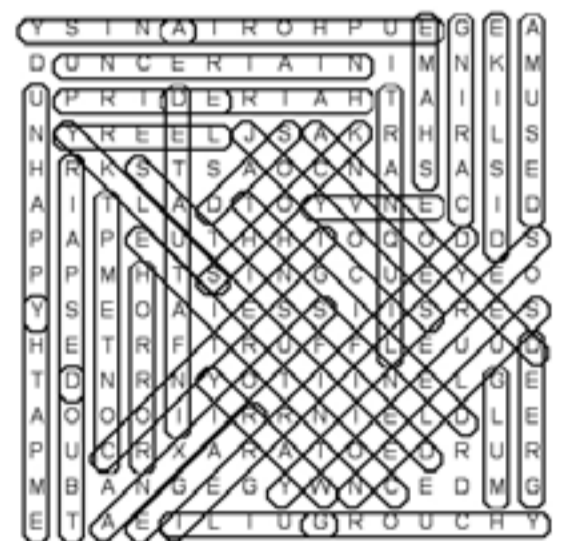
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional word.



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| ANGER | EDGY | GRUMPY | OUTRAGE |
| APPRECIATIVE | ENVOIOUS | HAPPY | PUZZLED |
| ARROGANT | EXUBERANT | HOPE | REGRET |
| BITTER | FEAR | INDIFFERENT | SADNESS |
| CALM | FRANTIC | JEALOUS | SCARED |
| CHEERFUL | FRETFUL | JOLLY | SCORNFUL |
| CONFIDENT | GLAD | JOYFUL | SORRY |
| CURIOUS | GLEEFUL | MOROSE | SURPRISE |
| DISGUST | GRATEFUL | MOURNFUL | TRANQUIL |
| DUBIOUS | GRIEF | NERVOUS | WORRY |

Yesterday's Solution

Moods & Emotions 2



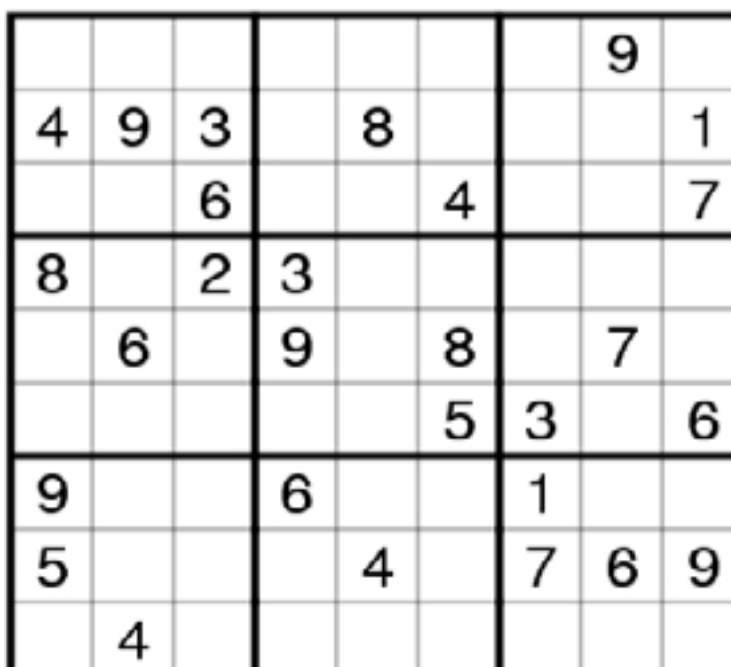
- | | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| AMUSED | DISLIKE | HORROR | SHOCK |
| ANNOYED | DOUBT | INFATUATED | SULKY |
| ANTSY | EMPATHY | JOYOUS | SULLEN |
| ANXIOUS | ENVY | LEERY | TERRIFIED |
| CARING | EUPHORIA | PRIDE | TRANQUIL |
| CONTEMPT | GLUM | RAGE | UNCERTAIN |
| CONTENT | GREED | SAD | UNHAPPY |
| CONTRITE | GROUCHY | SATISFIED | WARY |
| DELIGHT | GUILT | SERENITY | |
| DESPAIR | HATRED | SHAME | |

The hidden word is: DISCOURAGED

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Classifieds

Monday, May 7, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

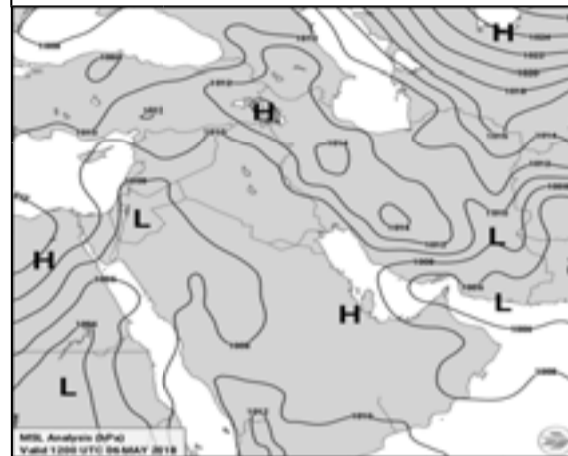
BY NIGHT: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light south easterly wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

BY DAY: Hot and Cloudy with light to moderate north easterly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	36 °C	28 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38 °C	27 °C
ABDALY	41 °C	24 °C
BUBYAN	33 °C	26 °C
JAHRA	41 °C	27 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	36 °C	26 °C
SALMIYAH	33 °C	27 °C
AHMADI	32 °C	28 °C
NUWAISIB	37 °C	26 °C
WAFRA	41 °C	24 °C
SALMY	40 °C	25 °C

SFC. CHART 06/05/2018 1200 UTC



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	05/07	Hot and Cloudy	39 °C	27 °C	NE-NW	10 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	05/08	Unstable and Dusty and Cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery	35 °C	26 °C	SE-NW	25 - 60 km/h
Wednesday	05/09	Relatively hot and Cloudy with a chance for scattered rain at times	36 °C	24 °C	N-NE	10 - 35 km/h
Thursday	05/10	Mostly Sunny	37 °C	25 °C	NE-NW	08 - 28 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:35
Sunrise	05:02
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:27
Isha	19:52

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	38 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	61 %
MIN. RH	13 %
MAX. Wind	SE 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

CHANGE OF NAME

I Shaik. Mohammad Rafi S/O Sabjan R/O.H.No 1-1124 beside L M B bank Tirupati road Piler Chittoor (Dt) A.P holder of Indian Passport No. H-1510262, do hereby change my name as Dudekula Rafi Saheb. (32147)

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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Airlines

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	a22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493

STAFF REQUIRED

Position-1: Sales Supervisor
 No. of Posts: 4

REQUIREMENTS

- DEGREE/DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.
- MBA IN marketing
- EXPERIENCE IN PROCUREMENT: - SALES & Market RESEARCH
- TRANSFERABLE RESIDENCE- ARTICLE # 18
- AGE: LESS THAN 35YEARS
- EXPERIENCE Minimum 3-5 YEARS.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY SEND C.V to
binnisf@alnisfigroup.com.kw



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 7/5/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 7/5/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	FDB	073	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FEG	344	Sohag	01:05
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	MSC	416	Sohag	04:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
WAN	416	Beirut	04:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:05
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	WAN	337D	Alexandria	05:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:45	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	FDB	070	Doha	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	167	Paris	07:20
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	161	Geneva	09:00
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	117	New York	09:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	535	Cairo	09:45
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	101	London	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
GFA	213	Beirut	10:55	WAN	133	Doha	10:15
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	JZR	750	Madinah	10:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	SAW	704	Damascus	10:30
WAN	338D	Alexandria	12:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	MSC	406	Sohag	11:15
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	12:55	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	WAN	975	Baku	13:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10

Plant has three prescription pills he was given in the 70s

Robert Plant has kept three prescription pills he was given in the 1970s to warn him away from "poison". The Led Zeppelin frontman famously partied hard at the height of the band's fame, but he leads a much quieter life now and still has an unusual keepsake of sedative Quaaludes - which have been banned in the US for over three decades because of their popularity for recreational use - to remind him of the perils of excess. He revealed: "The label on the bottle says, 'Robert Plant - for sleeplessness' - it looks like an album cover!" "Three Rorer 714s, from Schwartz pharmacy in L.A and I often think to myself, 'Wow, there they are - poison.' " The veteran rocker turns 70 this year and he might mark the occasion by turning back to prescription pills as he isn't interested in a wild celebration. Recalling his 60th birthday, which saw comics Frank Carson and Tommy Mundon provide the entertainment, he said: "Lenny Kravitz's tour bus came from Ireland and it got stuck on the hump-back bridge in my village, with its front wheels on one side and the rear wheels on the other. "But neither of those comedians are with us anymore, so if ever there's a day for opiates... I might drop an Ambien and see what happens. "If there's a bustle in the hedgerow, it'll be me, snoring." Robert is currently touring with the Sensational Space Shifters and though their gigs are "very intense", he's driven by awareness of his own mortality. He told MOJO magazine: "Being with our gang is like a fun factory. "It's very intense musically but it's all done with the greatest open heart - like open-heart surgery. That's what drives me to it, because, you know, you can't duck out from mortality. That's all going on every day, so why not sing your heart out?"



Johnny Cash's childhood home declared historic site

Johnny Cash's childhood home has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The 'Ring of Fire' hitmaker lived in a five-room farmhouse in Dyess, Arkansas, from the age of three right through high school and now the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program have announced the 1934 property will be recognized as a historic site. The house is currently owned by Arkansas State University, who spent \$575,000 on buying, furnishing, and landscaping the property, which was built as part of the Dyess Resettlement Colony by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The abode was nominated for the register in December but it was sent back by a National Register historian, who advised more emphasis should be placed on the influence of Dyess on Johnny - who died in 2003 aged 71 - as a musician, rather than the original submission, which focused more on the architecture of the property. Historian James Gabbert said: "The original nomi-

nation form presented a wealth of information about Cash and his family, and simply needed to be tweaked to justify listing it for that significance. "The property has two separate but related and intertwined areas of significance-the association with the FERA and the Dyess colony, and the effect that being a part of that colony had on Johnny Cash's development as an artist." In the title of the original nomination, it was submitted as 'Farm No. 266, Ray and Carrie Cash Home (Johnny Cash Boyhood Home)', but the new submission listed it as 'Farm No. 266, Johnny Cash Boyhood Home.' Ruth Hawkins, director of Arkansas State University's Heritage Sites, is "thrilled" about the National Register listing. She said: "People who visit this site typically leave with the comment, 'Now we understand where his music came from.' "Clearly, who Johnny Cash became as a person and as a musician was shaped by his time in Dyess."

Spice Girls getting together again

The Spice Girls are getting together again next week. The 'Wannabe' hitmakers sparked excitement earlier this year when all five members - Geri Horner, Mel B, Mel C, Emma Bunton and Victoria Beckham - got together at Geri's house to discuss potential new projects, and though the details of their plans have remained under wraps, fans may be getting closer to hearing what's in store as they are planning another meeting. Mel B shared a throwback photo to the group's July 1997 Rolling Stone magazine cover and wrote: "Can't wait to see my girls next week yipppeeee #girlpower #friendshipneverends #90s.(sic) When the 'Stop' singers got together this year, it was instantly speculated they were planning a reunion tour, but fashion designer Victoria has ruled out live shows. She said: "I'm not going on tour. The girls aren't going on tour. It was so great to see the girls..." "There's something so strong in the message of what the Spice Girls stood for. What is that in the future? What does that look like? We were just bouncing ideas around. Brainstorming. But this [fashion] is what I do." The 'Spice Up Your Life' singers are instead rumored to be voicing characters in an animated movie. A source recently said: "The Spice Girls are thinking big in terms of a franchise on a global scale. They're the most successful girl group on the planet. It's just what Marvel or Disney needs." At the heart of the project is the group's long-standing message of 'girl power', and each of the quintet's animated alter egos will land possess a special girl power which reflects their personality. Other ideas thought to be in the pipeline following their reunion lunch at Geri's London home - their first meeting in six years - include a global TV talent show to find a new girl-band, and the possibility of a Spice Girls record label to encourage new musicians who can carry on the Girl Power legacy.



McAdams went 'undercover' to research for Disobedience



Rachel McAdams went "undercover" to research her role in 'Disobedience' - but was quickly found out. The 39-year-old actress appears in the drama as Esti, who rekindles her affair with Ronit (Rachel Weisz) and though she wanted to experience the Orthodox Jewish community without being detected, people soon realized who she was but gave her a very warm welcome. She said: "I went undercover in the Orthodox Jewish community in Los Angeles, but it didn't go so well... People were very warm and helpful though. "They recognized me right away and, by the following day, everyone knew about everywhere I went. But they were very kind and I was even invited to a beautiful Shabbat dinner." The movie is based in North London so the Canadian star also spent a lot of time doing her research in the UK. She said: "I did a lot of research that took me all over London. I went to the deli, bakery and local supermarket and everyone was welcoming, no question was taboo. "The experts on the Jewish community who worked with us were incredible, they shared information on the culture and their homes. "I also hosted a book club, focusing on the novel the film is based on and I cooked traditional Jewish meals." Rachel had a "fascinating" time researching the movie. She told Psychologies magazine: "It was a fascinating exploration, which was part of the reason why I was drawn to the film, it's a community that the world knows very little about. They're so tight-knit, which is such a beautiful part of it."

Sylvester Stallone to make Rambo 5

Sylvester Stallone is set to make a fifth 'Rambo' movie. The 71-year-old actor - who first played the Vietnam veteran in 1982 - is said to be working on a script for the new movie, while his 'Expendables' collaborator Avi Lerner is on board to produce. According to Screen International, the movie - which is expected to start shooting in September - will see Rambo's path cross with a Mexican cartel. The former soldier has been working at a ranch, but when the daughter of one of his friends is kidnapped, he crosses the US/Mexico border and finds himself up against one of the country's most violent organizations. Stallone was initially expected to direct the movie as well as star, but that's not now believed to be the case. John Rambo was the lead character in the 1972 novel 'First Blood', written by David Morrell. The book was adapted into a film of the same name in 1982. The franchise then spawned sequels 'Rambo: First Blood Part II' in 1985 and 'Rambo III' in 1988. Whilst the former was a box office hit, the latter of the two flopped when it hit screens, and the character subsequently lay dormant until Stallone revived him for a 2008 movie simply entitled 'Rambo'. Stallone is currently working on another franchise, 'Creed II', the follow-up to Rocky spin-off 'Creed', and earlier this year was filming 'Expendables 4', despite previous speculation he'd quit the series. In April 2017 Nu Image/Millennium chief Lerner hinted Stallone had quit the franchise due to creative "disagreements" with him, but admitted there was still a chance he could be involved in the fourth film.



Uma Thurman wants to work with Quentin Tarantino again



Uma Thurman is willing to work with Quentin Tarantino again because they "understand" one another. The 48-year-old actress revealed earlier this year she'd been involved in a car crash - which crushed her knees, left her with a concussion and required her to wear a neck brace to recover - while shooting 'Kill Bill' with the director in 2003 but despite claiming she was forced into doing the stunt that led to the accident, she wants to move on and would have no problems collaborating with Tarantino on a fourth movie. She told Entertainment Weekly magazine: "I understand him and if he wrote a great part and we were both in the right place about it, that would be something else. "We've had our fights over the years. When you know someone for as long as I've known him, 25 years of creative collaboration...yes, did we have some tragedies take place? Sure. But you can't reduce that type of history and legacy. It would have been reduced to my car accident if I died. "Yes, do I have a chronically bad neck? Yeah. Was I mad about how it was handled and how I was treated? Yes. But does that mean I don't care about someone that I have 25 years of history with? No! My capacity to forgive exists and things happen. The accident itself was wrong, but...I tried to explain that it was the environment around it that wounded me the most." The 'Pulp Fiction' actress admitted in February that she and the 55-year-old filmmaker had fought for years over the crash before the director handed over footage of it.

Chastain's 'empowering' Ralph Lauren campaign

Jessica Chastain wants women to talk about their salaries. The 41-year-old actress has been the face of Woman by Ralph Lauren since its launch in July 2017 because the 'Molly's Game' star says the fragrance "fits in quite well with [her] entire ideology" and now she is using her work with the brand to support the Lead Like A Woman campaign to encourage conversations about the gender pay gap between men and women. And the flame-haired beauty hopes to "empower women" by appearing in three short digital videos and expose the "inequalities" in various work industries with the initiative which has been created and executed by an all-female cast and crew and was created in partnership with the Women in Film organization. Speaking to PeopleStyle, she said: "What I'm excited about is that this will focus on empowering women, and shine a light on inequality in all industries. It's OK to talk about your salary - you don't have to just be grateful that you have a job. And I would just suggest we work together to share as much as we can with our sisters. Knowledge is power." Jessica thinks the fragrance itself is "really special" because it "breaks gender stereotypes" and makes her feel powerful. "The fragrance celebrates breaking stereotypes and creating new paths of fulfillment and success. Living in a time when gender boundaries are being redefined and blurred, this empowers that."



Lifestyle | Gossip

Kelly Rowland's
skincare secrets



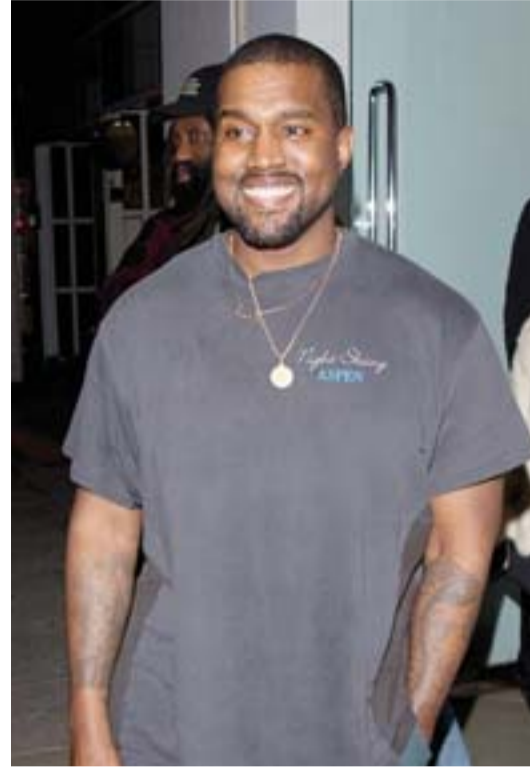
Kelly Rowland gives beauty tips to Beyonce. The 37-year-old singer - who recently reunited with her Destiny's Child bandmates Beyonce and Michelle Williams at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival - has revealed that when she finds a beauty product she loves she can't wait to share it with her famous friends and fellow parents. One product she had to tell Beyonce, 36, and Michelle, 37, about is Resurface serum by Shani Darden which she used to help her skin recover after the birth of her son Titan, three, whom she shares with her husband Tim Weatherspoon. She said: "I always tell them when I buy a new cream. I went and had a facial with Shani Darden - she's the best - she had me try her Resurface serum. It literally changed the whole game, after I had my son, my hormones were all over the place. And it was that that changed my life." Kelly - who has partnered with Schick razors for their new Unstoppable campaign - also revealed she loves to use products from Jessica Alba's Honest Company when she rocks a no makeup look, and she wishes she'd discovered their beauty range sooner. Speaking to PEOPLE, she confessed: "One beauty product that makes me feel beautiful, especially when I don't have anything on, is the Magic Balm from Honest Beauty, it's like my favorite new thing and I discovered it at the end of last year and I have just been like, 'Do you know how amazing this is?' She sent me like 10. Then my makeup artist stole one, my sister stole one."

Taylor Schilling
doesn't 'mess' with
her body

Taylor Schilling doesn't want to change her body shape to conform with Hollywood's ideal of beauty. The 33-year-old actress 'Orange Is the New Black' star admits actresses are under pressure to look a certain way but she avoids following diet and fitness "trends" because she believes her body shouldn't be "messed with". Rather than punish herself in the gym, Taylor would rather spend her free time reading a good book. Speaking to Glamour.com, she said: "I try to not mess with my body, which often means, at times, not going on any kind of prescribed plan or following any kind of trends - I actively avoid that. I do really firmly believe my body is not an object that should be moulded into a shape or a size. The truth is that I love it when I can be lying down in bed by 6pm with a book. I read for like 4 hours - I'd love to just read forever." Taylor has also opened up on the #MeToo and Time's Up movements that have swept through Hollywood in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal and is very happy that "uncomfortable" conversations she's been having with her peers are now a public debate. The star - who can be seen in Netflix movie 'The Titan' - explained: "Conversations that have been happening privately between myself and actor friends around questions of representation, what it means to be a woman and the games your need to play, becoming public is just extraordinary. It's incredible, as women, that we are making space for the future girls."



West 'made
cappuccinos' when
he interned at Fendi



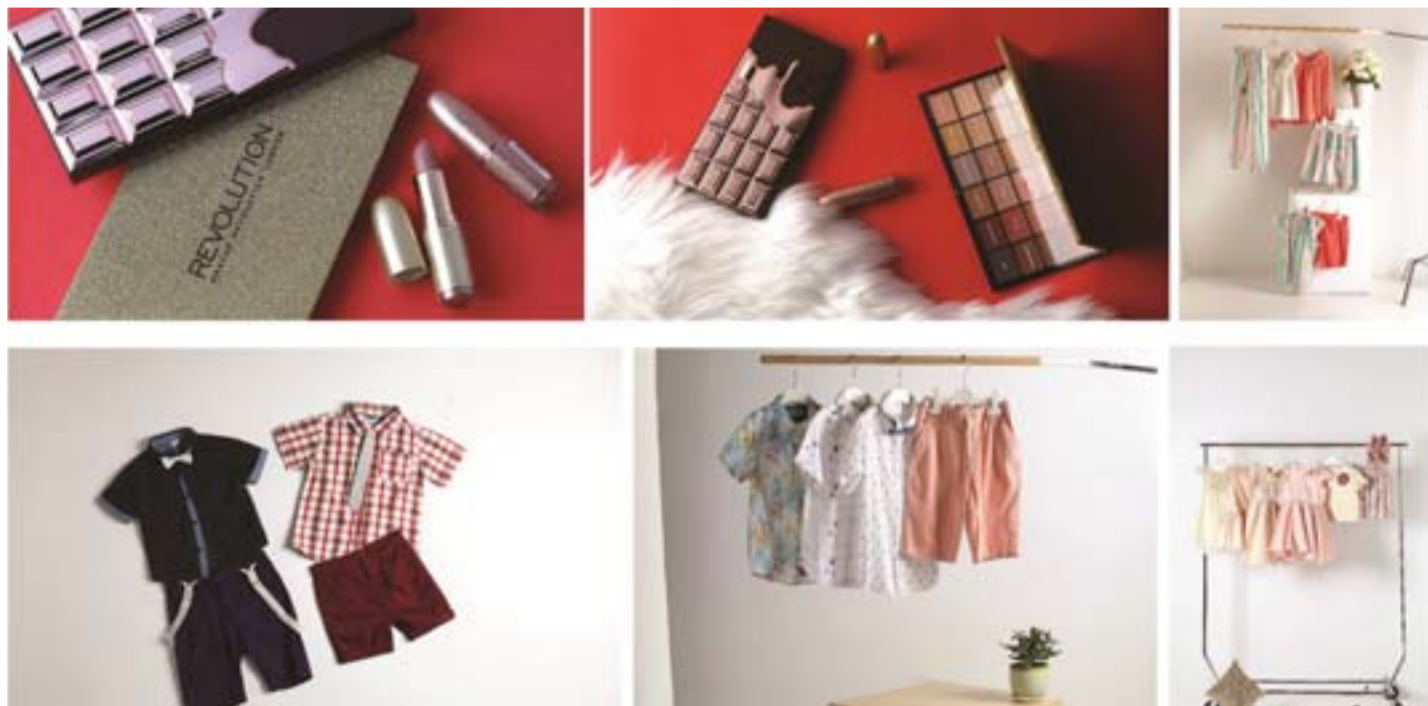
Kanye West once interned at Fendi - but he was just made to make cappuccinos all day. The outspoken rapper and Virgil Abloh, 38, wanted to learn more about the fashion industry before they landed their big breaks as renowned designers and founders of Yeezy and Off-White respectively, but the 'Ultralight Beam' singer has admitted the pair didn't do much when they interned at the Italian fashion house - whose creative director is Karl Lagerfeld - in 2009 but they were just happy to be given access to the building. Speaking to the Charlamagne Tha God on the 'The Breakfast Club's' radio show, the 40-year-old star said: "We interned at Fendi but we ain't do s**t. We ain't get to do nothing. We were just happy to have a key card. "We were doing JPEGs in Japan, we were making photoshop so much and not making clothes, we started joking about the JPEGs..." "We couldn't figure out how to actually make the clothes, so we'd just do it in photoshop. And Virgil became the fastest photoshop artist that I have ever met in my life." However, Kanye - who even had the Fendi logo shaved into his head - really enjoyed the idea of walking to work every day and standing by the coffee machines. He said: "Every day, going to work, walking to work, getting cappuccinos."

Rihanna beauty tips
for feeling your best

Rihanna learnt to contour when she "gained weight". The 30-year-old R&B superstar launched her own makeup line Fenty Beauty, which caters for all skin tones, last year and the range became an instant sell-out with her millions of fans snapping up the products. The 'Work' singer confessed to learning how to define and shape her face with her beauty products after she put on a few pounds and her Match Stix Skinsticks in the shade Mocha is her product of choice to use on her "fat days". Appearing in a makeup tutorial for the Vogue YouTube channel, she shared: "It's very important to contour your face for your face, not the way you see on every YouTube tutorial. Because everyone has a different shape. "Contour always starts off looking crazy, but I learnt how to contour when I gained weight believe it or not, that's when it comes in real handy on those fat days, when your cheeks looking like baby cheeks you just gotta [use the make-up to suck in your cheeks]." Rihanna - who is launching her own Fenty Savage lingerie line later this month - swears by the Fenty Beauty Invisible Blotting Powder for when she wants a matte look, and admits she "never leaves without it". She said: "I use this powder to set my contour, to set my makeup and to blot, when you get greasy on the fly honey it's no joke, I always have this I never leave home without it, it's always in my purse, and if it doesn't fit in my purse, I'm changing my purse." And her inspiration behind her newest body product, the Body Lava, came from her own DIY beauty products she created when she spent time in her home country Barbados.



Centrepont's 2018 Ramadan exclusive
selection delivers elegance for fashion



Centrepont's Ramadan 2018 fashion brings luxury and modest glamour to the region with a stunning collection for the whole family.

Stylish Ramadan looks for women

For women this season's collection is themed around the "desert of Arabia" with a liberal use of metallic and a range of surface finishes, from polished to brushed or perforated styles. The Splash collection displays items that offer versatility and the flexibility of wearing day to night, and are highlighted with sequins, crystals and embroideries in hues of dusty rose, champagne, black and off white in items that have been created epically for this festive season. Airy kaftans, glamorous sequined evening dresses, metallic sheath dresses and luxe and bejewelled tops will address your Iftar needs during the month of Ramadan. For a more refined, yet festive look, the collection also introduces ruffles and lace to tops and dresses, in addition to classy flowy trousers and overalls.

To complete your look, Shoemart has a range of footwear and purses to complement any outfit, from highly wearable brown and nude pink shades through to more psychotropic and glittery shades that will work all summer.

Ramadan styles for trendy tots & teens

Babyshop is taking kids out on a rollercoaster fashion ride this Ramadan. Pastels, muted and bright colours are dominating this season for boys and girls for summer warmth and brightness. The stylish girls collection includes designs in floral patterns, lace, ruffle and embroidery in wearable styles perfect for all occasions.

Boys can go all out with Centrepont's Ramadan 2018 exclusive fashion, and look dashing during the holy month at their family gatherings. The colour theme this season has white, off-white, nude brown, yellow, sky blue, blue, and grey. The collection is quite rich

with coloured stripes on plackets, stitch details on buttons, cross stitches, stripe sets, funky ties and suspenders.

Ramadan collection from lifestyle

If you're looking for new stylish handbags, look no further. Lifestyle brings you an elegant selection that will catch the eye - with sparkly embellished clutches a perfect choice for a Ramadan gathering. On the other hand, when it comes to makeup, Lifestyle offers a range of dark eyeliners perfected by dewy eyeshadow colours, and bold lipstick, giving you a flawless look, which will surely let you sparkle and glow with your family and friends at this year's Ramadan gatherings. The Centrepont Ramadan collection is available in all stores located at Al-Rai, Avenues, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibikhat, Kuwait City, Khaitan and Hawally.



Saudi Radio and Television
Corporation launches SBC channel



With the motto of 'Our Future is Here', the Saudi Radio and Television Corporation recently announced launching its new recreational channel, SBC by the beginning of the upcoming holy month of Ramadan. Notably, SBC managed to attract much attention before it was launched thanks to the vast media campaign used to promote it all over Saudi and GCC states' streets as well as on social media networks.

SBC will be the hub for the Arab World's most eloquent productions featuring stars such as Adel Imam, who will make his first debut exclusively on the channel with his Ramadan series "Awalem Khafeya" (Invisible Worlds). It will also present a variety of interesting exclusives local and Arabic programs including family recreation, comedy series, the sport pro-

gram 'the story of 94' about KSA's national soccer team's trip in USA, comic social programs, religious programs, Manarat documentaries about world mosques, cooking shows, cartoons and drama.

Notably, launching SBC marks a turning point on Saudi media which aspires to become both integrated and attracting to more audiences. SBC promises to reflect audience aspirations and ambitions through showing regionally and internationally competitive content to make a substantial shift that would help realize the slogan it chose of 'Opt to Watch, Will Surely Like'. It is expected to be prime channel for Saudi viewers. The channel's excellence will also go beyond Ramadan to reflect its identity throughout the year and assume its place amongst the leading Arabic channels.

Lifestyle | Movies

Cate Blanchett's feminist wake-up call to Cannes

Cate Blanchett knew there was something seriously awry with the Cannes film festival when the winners of its top prize, the Palme d'Or, were gathered together to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014. Among the sea of grey heads on the stage there was only one woman, Jane Campion, who had won for "The Piano" two decades earlier. "Sometimes things have to get that bad and that stark for us to say, 'Hang on a minute. There's something wrong-literally-with this picture,'" the actress said this week, days before heading the jury that will choose this year's winner.

With Cannes and the film industry still reeling from the Harvey Weinstein scandal, some saw her appointment as a quick-fix PR coup to head off critics. The world's top film festival, which likes to think of itself as "the movie Olympics", has long faced criticism for its "dismal" attitude to female directors. Only three of the 21 films in competition for the Palme d'Or are directed by women, the same number as last year. And the festival's decision to lift its ban on controversial Danish director Lars Von Trier, who has faced sexual harassment claims from the singer Bjork and whose company has been hit by multiple accusations, further raised eyebrows.

'We are not going back'

But Blanchett, one of the few women in Hollywood with the clout to carry a movie single-handed, insists the film industry must change. The double Oscar winner supports the call for "inclusion riders" or "equality clauses", which demand diversity in casting and were championed by actress Frances McDormand at the Oscars. She called McDormand's speech "one of the highlights of my year" and has been active in the Time's Up movement set up by Hollywood stars to combat sexual harassment. Blanchett said the riders are "a litmus test."

"We have nothing to lose but progress". If the producers do not match up to their commitments, they would have to pay a penalty that would help support female directors or other underrepresented groups. "We are not going back to ground zero," Blanchett told the film industry bible Variety. "We are moving onward



This combination of pictures shows (from top left) US actress and president of the jury of 71st Cannes Festival Cate Blanchett on April 11, 2017, New Zealander director and president of the 67th Cannes Festival Jane Campion on May 13, 2014, French actress and president of the jury of 61st Cannes Festival Isabelle Huppert on May 13, 2009, president of the 54th Cannes Film Festival jury, Norwegian actress and director Liv Ullmann on May 9, 2001, Isabelle Adjani, French actress and president of the 50th Cannes Festival 1997, on May 7, 1997, president of the 48th Festival de Cannes, Jeanne Moreau, president of jury of the 32nd Cannes Festival and French writer Francoise Sagan on May 10, 1979 in Cannes, French actress and president of the jury of the 28th Cannes International Film Festival Jeanne Moreau, on May 10, 1975, Swedish actress and president of the jury of the 26th Cannes Film Festival Ingrid Bergman in 1959, actress and president of the 24th Cannes Festival Michele Morgan, in May 1971, president of the jury of the 19th Cannes Film Festival and Italian film actress Sophia Loren on November 2, 1965 at the Savoy Hotel in London, US actress and president of the jury of the 18th Cannes Film Festival Olivia de Havilland, during the Cannes Film Festival, on April 16, 1953.

and forward from here. "Change is happening within the industry in a kind of positive, unstoppable way that will benefit not just women but everybody in the industry," she added.

Harassed by Weinstein

The Australian-born actress, who now lives in London, revealed that she had also been harassed by Weinstein in the same Variety interview. The disgraced mogul was an "unwanted" producer on several of her films, including "Carol" and "The Talented Mr.

Ripley", she said. Asked if he ever sexually harassed or acted inappropriately with her, she said, "Yes. I think he primarily preyed, like most predators, on the vulnerable. I mean I got a bad feeling from him.... He would often say to me, 'We're not friends'."

Blanchett, 48, said she hopes that Weinstein who is facing a raft of rape and sexual assault accusations goes to jail. "Rape is a crime the last time I looked," she said. The actress, who lives near London with her husband and their four children, made her breakthrough in

"Elizabeth" in 1998, playing the 16th-century British monarch with a distinctly feminist twist. It won her a slew of awards and the first of her six Oscar nominations.

Although her career has been peppered with blockbusters such as the "Lord of the Rings" and "Hobbit" films, she built her reputation in indie movies from the crusading Irish journalist in "Veronica Guerin" to another heavily-accented (and pregnant) reporter in Wes Anderson's "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou". Although she has never won anything at Cannes, her perform-



In this file photo Actress Cate Blanchett arrives on the red carpet for the 88th Oscars in Hollywood, California. — AFP photos



Actor Cate Blanchett at The World Premiere of Marvel Studios' "Thor: Ragnarok" at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, California.

ance in "Carol", where she played one half of a couple of illicit lesbian lovers, won her rave reviews there in 2014.— AFP

The last 10 winners of the top prize at Cannes

The Cannes film festival—the world's biggest—starts tomorrow in the French Riviera resort. Here are the past 10 winners of its top prize, the Palme d'Or:

2017: "The Square" by Ruben Ostlund (Sweden)
2016: "I, Daniel Blake" by Ken Loach (Britain)
2015: "Dheepan" by Jacques Audiard (France)
2014: "Winter Sleep" by Nuri Bilge Ceylan (Turkey)
2013: "Blue is the Warmest Color" by Abdellatif Kechiche (France)
2012: "Amour" by Michael Haneke (Austria)
2011: "The Tree of Life" by Terrence Malick (US)
2010: "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives" by Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Thailand)
2009: "The White Ribbon" by Michael Haneke (Austria)
2008: "The Class" by Laurent Cantet (France). — AFP



Weinstein's absence looms over scandal-hit Cannes

Disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein once held court like a king at the Cannes film festival, but this year it is his absence that will loom large over the competition. The world's biggest film festival has moved to align itself with the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment that has reverberated around the world since Weinstein's downfall. The festival has condemned Weinstein's "unpardonable behavior" after he was accused of four sexual assaults at Cannes over the years, including the rape of the Italian actress Asia Argento in his luxury suite when she was 21.

Director Thierry Fremaux admitted that Cannes "will never be the same again" after the Weinstein scandal, and said festival-goers will be warned about their behavior when they arrive at the huge French Riviera event, which starts tomorrow. A flyer saying "proper behavior required" will be handed out and a hotline and website set up for victims or witnesses of sexual harassment. Women also dominate the jury that awards the top Palme d'Or prize this year, including French actress Lea Seydoux, who has accused Weinstein of assault. The jury will be led by Australian actress Cate Blanchett, who helped launch the Time's Up campaign to tackle sexual harassment in Hollywood and was one of the first to speak out against Weinstein. There will also be a talk about the place of women in film, but no unifying dress theme, such as the black dresses worn at the Golden Globes in support of Time's Up or white ribbons worn at the Cesars, the "French Oscars". However, critics claim that the festival is only paying lip service to real change. "Cannes is a two-

week celebration of male brains and female beauty," said screenwriter Kate Muir, of the Women and Hollywood group which is pushing for great diversity in the industry. "Many wheeler-dealers and producers still parade with paid-for models or prostitutes on their arms, which makes female film-makers deeply uneasy about what, precisely, is valued by the money men." The Weinstein affair may have rocked the film world, but the local tourism industry in Cannes expects little disruption.

Bruno Draillard, who runs eight real estate agencies that rent apartments in Cannes during the festival, said the scandal has had "no impact" on business. "People come to do business, maybe they will just do it with a slightly lower profile," he said. During his years at the festival, Weinstein was known to wield his power as he hosted actors and actresses in his room at the exclusive Hotel du Cap, where Argento has accused him of raping her. Was his behavior well-known at the time? "We learnt about it from the media," said local hospitality union head Alain Lahouti, a sentiment echoed by others AFP spoke to in Cannes. The director of the Cannes Film Market, the huge deal-making hub that runs parallel to the main festival, also expects little change. "It is true that the Weinstein Company often brought quality films," Jerome Paillard said. But other big companies like Lionsgate have filled the gap, he added.

Hotel room scandal

Christine Welter of the Cannes hotel union said that the "film festival is above all about business". For her, another



This file photo shows US film producer Harvey Weinstein attending the De Grisogono Party on the sidelines of the 70th Cannes Film Festival in Antibes, France. — AFP

sexual harassment scandal had far more impact, that of ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn who was taken down by a US assault case brought by a hotel maid, the aftermath of which led to changes in hotel regulations. Aline Buffet, who heads a team of seamstresses that help with last minute alterations, said "when there are problems, it's rather during the summer, in certain hotels or private properties with customers who prefer a massage rather than a fitting". She said the only incident she recalled was four or five years ago, when she sent two seamstresses to the room of two film stars early one morning.

"There was a big orgy going on in the room" when they arrived, Buffet said. "They (too) were asked to undress... but I went to see the producers and it was dealt with very quickly!" There "have probably been other excesses" like Weinstein in the past, said beach worker Nathalie Di Sotto. "It was the same in the time of Marilyn Monroe or Brigitte Bardot," she added. "There has always been this domination of men over women. But now it's become an issue." — AFP

Films in the running for the top prize at Cannes

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

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

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

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

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

Three Faces: Little is known about this portrait of

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

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

At War: As France grapples with rail strikes and student protests, French director Stephane Brize's gritty drama about factory workers battling to keep their jobs may hit a timely nerve.

Cold War: Amazon Studios is pinning its hopes on this tender black-and-white period romance set among the members of a touring folk group in the Eastern Bloc in the 1950s from Oscar-winning Polish-British director Pawel Pawlikowski.

The Image Book: Cinema's oldest and most enigmatic rebel, French-Swiss legend Jean-Luc Godard, has let little slip about his new film other than this enigmatic synopsis: "Nothing but silence, nothing but a revolutionary song, a story in five chapters like the five fingers of a hand."

Girls of the Sun: Kurdish women fighters battling the Islamic State are at the centre of French actor-director Eva Husson's new film. Iranian star Golshifteh Farahani plays Bahar, the leader



Workers set up the official poster of the 71st Cannes film festival on the palais des Festivals facade, two days before the opening of the festival yesterday in the French Riviera city of Cannes. — AFP

of the Yazidi Sun Brigade, who hunts down the extremists who had earlier captured her.

The Wild Pear Tree: Turkish auteur Nuri Bilge Ceylan, who won the Palme d'Or four years ago for "Winter Sleep", is back with another Anatolian talkie, this time about a young provincial writer raging at his father.

Ayka: Kazakh Sergey Dvortsevov—who won many fans and prizes for his 2009 debut "Tulpan"—was a late entry with his new docudrama about a young homeless single mother adrift in the post-Soviet Central Asian state.

Capernaum: Lebanese actress-turned-filmmaker Nadine Labaki's third film is set in a Middle

Eastern town. Her previous film "Where Do We Go Now?" premiered at Cannes in the Un Certain Regard section in 2010.

Burning: South Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong's new mystery drama is drawn from a short story by Japanese master Haruki Murakami. "Barn Burning", about a writer who becomes fascinated by a woman whose boyfriend burns barns. His first film in eight years, the cult director of "Oasis" and "Secret Sunshine" has an almost fanatical following.

Knife + Heart: French singer and actress Vanessa Paradis stars in the latest tale from Yann Gonzalez, who had a hit on the festival circuit with his quirky orgy drama, "You And The

Night", with Beatrice Dalle and former footballer Eric Cantona.

Asako 1 & 2: In this Japanese drama by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, a young woman meets her first love in Osaka. When he disappears without a trace, she moves on-until his perfect double shows up two years later.

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

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

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

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

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

Lifestyle | Features

Robot fast-food chefs: Hype or a sign of industry change?



A worker lift a lunch bowl off the production line at Spycy, a restaurant which uses a robotic cooking process. — AFP photos



Charles Renwick lead software engineer at Spycy Food Company, right, assists a customer with an order at the Spycy restaurant, which uses a robotic cooking process.

Robots can't yet bake a soufflé or fold a burrito, but they can cook up vegetables and grains and spout them into a bowl - and are doing just that at a new fast casual restaurant in Boston. Seven autonomously swirling cooking pots - what the restaurant calls a "never-before-seen robotic kitchen" - hum behind the counter at Spycy, which opened Thursday in the city's downtown. Push a touch-screen menu to purchase a \$7.50 meal called "Hearth." A blend of Brussels sprouts, quinoa, kale and sweet potatoes tumbles from hoppers and into one of the pots. The pot heats the food using magnetic induction, then tips to dunk the cooked meal into a bowl. Water jets up to rinse it off before a new order begins. Is this a robot chef or just another high-tech novelty machine? Experts differ, but more such automation is likely headed for the fast-food sector in coming years. A report last year by the McKinsey Global Institute said that food preparation jobs are highly vulnerable to automation because workers spend so much time on predictable physical tasks.

Currently, there's one big thing holding back the chefbots: "The human labor also tends to be lower-paid," said McKinsey partner Michael Chui, making it less economical to automate those jobs. But that could change as businesses develop cheaper and more efficient robot chefs. Spycy has those, and automated order-taking kiosks to boot, although it still employs plenty of humans. Founded by four former MIT classmates who partnered with Michelin-starred chef Daniel Boulud, the restaurant has hired people to do the trickier prep work - parboiling rice, rinsing and chopping vegetables, cutting meat and reducing sauces in an off-site commissary kitchen. It also employs a handful of people for customer service and to garnish the

robot-cooked blends with fresh toppings. But the mesmerizing machinery, equipped with dozens of motors, sensors and moving parts, is the real draw.

Our robot doesn't get sick

"The openness of the design was something we knew we wanted from the beginning," said Brady Knight, a co-founder and engineer. "It is kind of a show. It's fun to see what's going on behind the scenes. We didn't want to hide anything because we think what we made is pretty cool." Automation in the food industry isn't

It can't make decisions

exactly new, though it's often unseen by customers. Think of the chocolate factory conveyor belt that led to comedic mishaps in a famous "I Love Lucy" episode in the 1950s, or machines that wash dishes and brew coffee. There was also the early 20th century fad of waiterless "automat" cafeterias that served hot food when customers fed a coin to open a glass door.

But while food processing machines are prized for their speed and hygiene - "our robot doesn't get sick," Knight said - they have a harder time handling the complexities of fresh food. In Mountain View, California, the founders

of Zume Pizza spent years tinkering with a robotic kitchen that can form pizza dough, apply tomato sauce and transfer the pizza in and out of the oven. Other jobs that require more dexterity and judgment - such as layering on toppings - are left to humans, and the robot only performs tasks it can do dramatically better, CEO Alex Garden said.

Garden said his philosophy is that "automation exists to improve the quality of human life," so he invests savings from the increased productivity in higher wages for employees and higher-quality ingredients for customers. Spycy's founders said they chose a relatively simple type of meal - grain bowls - and avoided trying to use robotic arms. With each "degree of freedom," a robotics term for movement on a joint or axis, more things can go wrong with the machines, they said. "Butchering is pretty hard to do," said Chui, the McKinsey partner. "On the other hand, machines do a pretty good job of taking the kernels out of corn and a lot of sorting tasks."

There's no feedback loop

Restaurants marketing themselves as powered by robots or automation have grabbed attention from gawking first-time customers in recent years, but haven't usually lived up to the hype. In 2007, a sit-down restaurant in Nuremberg, Germany, began delivering food by gliding it down curvy rails and onto a big turntable. The restaurant's owner, Michael Mack, told The Associated Press at the time that he was trying to eliminate "uncomfortable" fast-food experiences such as long lines, carrying meals to the table and cleaning up. The restaurant has since closed. Its online reviews complain of high prices and traffic jams involving backed-up serving pots. Also stalled is a



Customer wait as their automatically prepared food is dropped from a cooking pot into a bowl at Spycy, a restaurant which uses a robotic cooking process.

burger-flipping robot named Flippy that was put on leave from a Southern California restaurant just days after its March debut.

Its maker, Miso Robotics, said Thursday that the robot should be back in service later this month after some tweaks to speed up its performance. Spycy has generated enthusiasm among downtown Boston office workers, though technology experts in a city known for spawning robotics startups aren't sure what to call it. "I really wouldn't consider that a robot," said Tom Ryden, director of Boston-based startup incubator MassRobotics, who reserves that definition for a device with the ability to react to its environment.

"It can't make decisions," Ryden said of Spycy's auto-pot. "It can't say something's cooked too long. There's no feedback loop. It's

just an automated system." But Ryden said he's still eager to join the lunchtime crowds in trying it out. — AP



A customer carries away a prepared lunch bowl at Spycy.

Swimming-pool landscaping: Pretty with a minimum of debris



A contrasting mix of long-flowering plants separated from the pool water by a walkway in Dayton, Ohio. — AP photos

Landscaping around an outdoor swimming pool requires no-muss, no-fuss plant selections. The pool can be a flowery focal point, but don't open it to litter from leaves and limbs. "Both in- and above-ground pools offer unique design challenges and opportunities," said Tim Moloney, an instructor in landscape design at the University of Missouri. "In-ground pools offer the ability to provide screening with lower height plants" but may have more issues with litter falling into the pool.

"Above-ground pools are somewhat sheltered from ground debris, but are more of a challenge for visually softening the walls of the pool and (adding) privacy from outside viewers," Moloney said. Start by considering plant needs - sun or shade. Then decide what you want your poolside landscaping to achieve. "Privacy screening versus sun exposure is typically the strongest pool-owner concern," Moloney said. "This is followed closely by litter and tracking of grass clippings and mulch materials. After function is addressed, we focus on form," he said. "Making the space as enjoyable as possible." Brightly colored flowers attract pollinators, and that could mean bee stings. Some of the most attractive ornamental plants have thorns. Both are obviously annoying to thinly clad and barefoot bathers.

"Typically, I have found that insects will generally ignore us if we ignore them," Moloney said. "Just the mere presence of bees in the landscape does not initiate attack. However, if severe allergies or phobias of bees exist, I recommend concentrating on other ways to brighten up the landscape - brightly colored foliage, for example." Or turn to marigolds, chrysanthemums, mint, foxglove,

geraniums and zinnias whose blooms don't typically attract stinging insects.

And thorns?

"Cacti are very climate specific, but can offer huge aesthetic benefits for arid environments," Moloney said. "Roses offer us what few other plants can - an entire summer of repeat blooms. In my opinion, the benefits of these plants outweigh the hazards as long as the plants are positioned an appropriate distance from well-trafficked areas." Some other poolside gardening do's and don'ts:

- Watch where you stockpile organic materials such as pine straw or bark. "They can blow or be tracked into the pool by wet feet on pool decking," Moloney said.
- Select plants for year-round interest, even in cold weather when the pool is closed. Think evergreens.
- Choose trees and shrubs that produce a minimum of litter. "Almost any organic material that falls from trees - needles, leaves, spent blooms, fruit - has the potential to stain hardscape elements like pool decks and patios," Moloney said. "I simply try to balance the benefits with the concerns, and reach a compromise we can all live with."
- Think about both day and night use. "Evenings can be accented by soft peripheral lighting or featuring tree trunks with up-lights," said Robert Brzuszek, a landscape architecture professor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service.
- Eliminate the use of dark-colored pavement around the pool; it adds reflected heat to plants, especially in hotter, dryer climates. "Plants that have smaller or waxy leaves will also lose less water than large thin leaves which dry out quickly," he said. — AP

Freak out: Telling a fashion life, Gaultier taps Nile Rodgers

Deciding how to tell his story as one of fashion's edgiest designers, Jean Paul Gaultier knew there had to be music. And he knew it had to come from Nile Rodgers. The designer who has brought playful and provocative clothes to the world's runways for four decades is turning the focus to himself with an autobiographical show to open on October 2 in Paris. More than a catwalk and not quite a musical, the genre-blurring "Fashion Freak Show" will bring out Gaultier's iconic designs as well as new outfits and tell his life through actors, models and a live singer.

Spearheading the music will be the creator of "Le Freak" himself-Nile Rodgers, the force behind disco titans Chic and the behind-the-scenes producer for a who's who of stars from Madonna to Diana Ross to Daft Punk. "Truly, honestly, if there was one person I would think about for the music, it was him," Gaultier told AFP at Rodgers's seafloor home in Connecticut, the walls covered with guitars and framed records of the producer's hits by artists including David Bowie and The B-52s. "He is part of my life," Gaultier said. "Everybody loves his songs, has danced to them, has been in love with someone because of his music."

Rodgers-who affectionately calls the 66-year-old Gaultier, five months his senior, "JP"-said that the show would feature both new music and classic songs. But Rodgers said he plans to rework some of the better-known tracks to serve as underscores during the show, which will take place at the celebrated Folies Bergere cabaret hall. "When you're dealing with a theatrical piece, you are absolutely dealing with an emotional arc," Rodgers said. "And that emotional arc may not be served properly with the original music. It has to change a bit."

Fashion to advance music

Gaultier has been deeply involved in the music world. In 1989, he recorded a now-obscure dance track, "How to Do That," his vocals delivered in his rapid-fire, irrepressibly enthusiastic yet heavily accented English. But his biggest influence in music came through his work with Madonna. He designed some of the more headline-grabbing items from her "Blond Ambition" tour in 1990 including her bullet-like cone bra and the golden corset she sported when she sang "Like a Virgin," a track produced by Rodgers. Gaultier, who has also designed clothes for Beyonce, Kylie Minogue, Lady Gaga and Rihanna as well as plenty of Hollywood royalty, rocked the fashion world by mixing up traditional gender roles and has been wildly experimental when imagining costumes for films such as Luc Besson's science-fiction "The Fifth Element."



Fashion Designer Jean Paul Gaultier and Record Producer Nile Rodgers pose for a picture in Westport, Connecticut. — AFP photos

But the French designer, who was inspired as a child by playing in his grandmother's closet, said he saw more creativity in music. "I don't think of fashion as art," Gaultier said. "Fashion is supposed to be superficial. It's true that by fashion you can express yourself a little and tell things, but it's not like music that goes through your nose, your ears, everywhere," he said. "Music is something very beautiful and that we truly need, like eating."

Creating an 'emotion'

Rodgers, sporting a white sports coat made

of a collage of newspaper prints, said he did consider fashion to be art-but saw the overwhelming power of music. "It's the only art that chases you down the street," Rodgers said. The "Fashion Freak Show" is scheduled to run through April. Rodgers said he imagined shaking it up frequently, including making adjustments during intermission, and could envision creating a television version. "What we're trying to create is not only an experience that happens with you, but I think an emotion that you internalize and that you take back home with you," Rodgers said. — AP



Fashion Designer Jean Paul Gaultier and Record Producer Nile Rodgers pose for a picture.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018



The Color Sky Festival



People gesture and dance as they take part in the Color Sky Festival yesterday at Kadikoy district, in Istanbul. — AFP photos

Swiss Guards: World's oldest standing army gets new headgear



An unidentified Swiss Guard puts his helmet on the head of his girlfriend during a ceremony in the 'Honor Courtyard' at the Vatican.

The world's oldest standing army is getting some new headgear. The Swiss Guards plan to replace their metal helmets with plastic PVC ones made with a 3-D printer, giving the pope's army cooler and more comfortable headgear when standing guard for hours at a time. The Swiss Guards unveiled the helmet prototype before their annual swearing-in ceremony Sunday. Thirty-two new recruits - all of them single Swiss men under age 30 and upstanding Catholics - will join the small corps for a minimum two years by pledging to protect the pope and his successors. The new helmets won't be donned Sunday since more formal helmets are used for the elaborate, pomp-filled swearing-in ceremony in the San Damaso courtyard of the Apostolic Palace.

But Swiss Guard spokesman Sgt Urs Breitenmoser said the Guards hope to replace their existing metal helmets by next year if they can find sponsors to pay for the new ones, which cost around 880 euros (\$957) apiece, half the cost of the old ones. The Swiss Guards are famous for their billowy blue, red and yellow striped uniforms. According to a history on the Guards' website, the "Gala Uniform" as it is known, was designed by Commander Jules Repond in the early 1900s and is based on the colors of the Medici family. It's only one of several outfits the guards wear. Those policing the Vatican's main entrances don far more sober navy uniforms topped with a snap-py beret for their regular shifts.

The corps, which historians consider the oldest standing army in the world, was founded in 1506 by Pope Giulio II. Tradition has it that he was so impressed by the bravery of Swiss mercenaries that he asked them to defend the Vatican. Ever since, for more than 500 years, Switzerland has been supplying soldiers to the Vatican. — AP



Color runs from the feathered helmet of a Swiss guard, during a rainy mass in St Peter's Square at the Vatican. — AP photos