Saudi Arabia’s price for normalising relations with Israel is the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, a senior member of the Saudi royal family said on Wednesday he expected Saudi Arabia to join a deal announced last week by Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalise ties.

The statements were signed by Fayza al-Sisi, head of the UN-recognised unity government based in the capital Tripoli, and Aguila Saleh, speaker of the eastern-based parliament backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

They were published in Turkey’s official gazette declared “the Religious Affairs Directorate, and (the mosque) open to worship.”

Converting the historic Chora church, one of Istanbul’s most celebrated Byzantine buildings, into a mosque on Monday, a month after the opening of Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship.

The medieval Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, built near the ancient city walls of Constantinople in the 11th century, contains 14th-century Byzantine mosaics and frescoes showing scenes from biblical stories.

Turkey’s historic Chora church also switched to mosque

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan re-converted the historic Chora church, one of Istanbul’s most celebrated Byzantine buildings, into a mosque on Monday, a month after the opening of Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship.

The Chora (Kariye) museum (courtesy of lonely planet)

Last year a Turkish court annulled a 1944 govern ment decision converting Chora — known as Kariye Museum in Turkish — into a museum run by the Education Ministry. On Friday, an edict signed by Erdogan re-converted the historic Chora church, one of Istanbul’s most celebrated Byzantine buildings, into a mosque on Monday, a month after the opening of Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship.

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The Kariye (Chora) museum (courtesy of lonely planet)

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Conversion plans.

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Parts of southern Israel were partially cordoned off by the security forces. Israeli planes launched raids against Gaza shortly after midnight Thursday and then again later on Friday morning.

Bahrain agrees ceasefire

Announces plans to organise nationwide elections

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C O NGRATULATIONS poured in from all quarters of the Kingdom for Bahrain’s Supreme Council for Women (SCW) yesterday on the occasion of the council celebrating the 19th anniversary of its establishment.

The council, considered the apex body and a prominent official body related to women affairs in the Kingdom, was established in the year 2001 on 22nd August the 19th anniversary of its establishment of SCW, a guarantor of women’s rights: Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Dij Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a Member of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), hailed the continuing efforts of the SCW in preserving women’s rights in the Kingdom.

"SCW worked to guarantee women’s rights alongside men in all fields, with a high sense of responsibility and competence," said Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Dij Al Khalifa highlighting the role of the committees for equal opportunities and national gender policy programmes in securing women’s rights to justice and equality in the society.

The Undersecretary pledged on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue working to enhance the status of Bahraini women and highlight their achievement.

SCW enhanced women’s role, says Speaker
Representative Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulrahman Al Zayani said, “SCW’s innovative initiatives, viable strategies and plans, based on an equal partnership,” enhanced women’s role in national development march.

In this regard, she commended the government’s efforts chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and hailed the support of His Majesty Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Fruits of the pioneering reform project: Al-Saleh
Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, in a statement, described the establishment of SCW as “one of the fruits of the pioneering reform project, initiated by His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to promote women’s rights and engage them in national development.”

Al-Saleh said the achievement of SCW ensured the progress of Bahraini women and bolstered their pivotal role in spearheading social development.

Separately, Dr Bahia Jawad Al Fashi, the Bahraini Ambassador to Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Representative to the European Union and NATO, with the Director of the Department of the Middle East and North Africa Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Mission of the European Union and NATO, and the Director of the Department of the Middle East and North Africa Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Mission of the European Commission, praised SCW’s achievements yesterday on the occasion of the council celebrating the 20th anniversary of its establishment.

"SCW enhanced women’s role," Al-Saleh, said, "as a guarantor of women’s rights and engagement in national development. SCW represented by “one of the fruits of the pioneering reform project, initiated by His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to promote women’s rights and engage them in national development.”

SCW enhanced the status of Bahraini women. Al-Saleh highlighted the pivotal role played by SCW in uplifting Bahraini women’s status in the society.

Al-Zayani stressed that the SCW also plays an important role in the national campaign to curb the spread of the coronavirus in the Kingdom, citing its humanitarian campaigns, including the “Together for the Safety of Bahrain” campaign which has been appreciated by everyone.

The council, Al-Zayani said, had presented several projects in cooperation with the Justice ministry, the most prominent being the opening of “Family Reconciliation Office” in Muharraq and Sitra, which helped in resolving many disputes and reaching out-of-court settlements.

"Al-Zayani stressed that the SCW had harnessed its potentials to enhance the development of the Bahraini women. She pointed out that the strong constructive cooperation among public and private institutions, in addition to individuals, led to win the “Her Royal Highness Princess Sheikha bint Hamad Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Women’s Development” award.

The apex authority
Headquartered in Riffa, under the guidance of His Highness Princess Sheikha bint Hamad Al Khalifa SCW enjoys the jurisdiction to express an opinion in all matters, both direct and indirect, concerning the position of women in the Kingdom.

The authority’s mission is to “empower Bahraini women and merge their needs in the development programmes to ensure the sustainable quality of life stability and familial bond.”

SCW ensures equal opportunity, diverse opportunities, competitiveness and lifelong learning to enhance the quality of life of women in the Kingdom.

Princeess Sabeka chairs the council which includes not less than 16 members, representing public female figures experienced in women’s affairs.

SCW enhanced development of several families: Al-Zayani
The Director General of the Ministry of the Northern Region, Lamia Al Fadala, announced launch of the Jadari Waaf Directive yesterday on the occasion of the council of Ashura in the Northern Region, to support women’s initiatives implemented by various institutions aimed at empowering women and enhance the role of the committees for equal opportunities and national gender policy programmes in securing women’s rights to justice and equality in the society.

The Undersecretary pledged his full support and cooperation in achieving the achievement of SCW.

She explained that this year’s Ashura commemoration will be different from the previous ones due to the coronavirus pandemic. She added that this year, the heads of Matams were presided over by Princess Sabeeka bint Hamad Al Khalifa.

"The Ashura commemoration is an occasion of the tolerance of coexistence and freedom that our beloved Kingdom enjoys, which we may not find in other countries of the world, thanks to Bahraini leadership."

She explained that this year’s campaign will be accompanied by general instructions to improve cleanliness, commitment to pandemic precautions measures, urging others to ensure the safety and security of citizens and residents.
45,166 recoveries, 3,314 active cases, 181 deaths

Store front ad of IKEA, now changed, reads in Arabic, “Same text but in Arabic” below its English translation

There are currently ____ COVID-19 cases in the Kingdom receiving treatment

| Manama

“Genius marketing move, or a rookie mistake?”

Bahrain yesterday reported two more coronaviruses (COVID-19) deaths raising the tally of fatalities to the deadly infection in the Kingdom to 234.

Two Bahraini women, aged 73 and 81, are the latest casualties of Bahrain coronavirus battle, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on its twitter handle.

Ministry officials, announcing the deaths, extended condolences to the families of the deceased.

There are currently 75 COVID-19 cases in the Kingdom admitted to various treatment centres, of which 36 patients are critically ill, the ministry said.

The total number of active cases in the Kingdom, as of yesterday, stand at 3,184, out of which 3,178 patients are in a stable health condition.

The health ministry said it carried out 9,899 COVID-19 tests in the Kingdom yesterday increasing the total number of tests carried out in the Kingdom, after detecting the first case in February, to 102,803.

Some 358 new coronavirus cases were detected yesterday, the ministry said adding that 123 of the new cases were expatriate workers, 210 were the contact of active cases and five were travel related.

The ministry also reported 538 new recoveries yesterday taking the total number of people cured of their infections till date to 45,166.

In the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, the number of infections has almost touched 700,000, with death nearing 1,500. Saudi is the worst affected in GCC with around 306,000 infection and more than 3,500 deaths.

UAE could reintroduce curfew

The United Arab Emirates in a statement yesterday said it could reintroduce a de-facto overnight curfew in some areas of the country if there are a high number of COVID-19 infections there.

Asked if the national sterilization programme, which had included a nighttime curfew, could again be enforced, National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) spokesman Seif al-Zaeabi told Emirates TV: “Yes, that’s possible in certain areas where we observe high infection cases.”

COVID will last less than two years: WHO

Meanwhile, The World Health Organisation said it hopes the coronavirus pandemic will be shorter than the 1918 Spanish flu and last less than two years.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the 1918 Spanish flu “took two years to stop.”

“And in our situation now with more technology, and of course with more connectivity, the virus has a better chance of spreading,” he can move fast because we are more connected now,” he told a briefing in Geneva.

“At the same time we have also learned more about it and the knowledge to stop it. So we have a disadvantage of globalisation, mobility, connectedness but an advantage of better technology.”

“So we hope to finish this pandemic (in) less than two years.”

Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) spokesman Seif al-Zaeabi told Emirates TV: “Yes, that’s possible in certain areas where we observe high infection cases.”
Turkey hits gas in Black Sea

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waves as Turkey's drilling vessel Fatih departs for the Black Sea during a ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020

“Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waves as Turkey’s drilling vessel Fatih departs for the Black Sea during a ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey.”

This reserve is actually part of a much bigger source. God willing, much more will come. At a country that depended on the outside for gas for years, we look to the future with more security now,” Erdogan said.

“Can we say that safely with the economic and exploratory potential, we will remove the current account deficit from the agenda of our country?” said Finance Minister Berat Albayrak, speaking from the deck of the Fatih.

“The lira has strengthened detailed the find and was down 0.4 pc at 1330 GMT. Officials and analysts had cautioned that it could take up to a decade for gas from the Black Sea find to come online, and would need billions of dollars of investment to build the infrastructure for production and supply.

The gas find is located in waters, 2,000 metres deep. Energy Minister Fatih Donmez said, with drilling extending another 1,400 metres below the seabed “Our operations here have not finished. We will go down a further 1,000 metres … and data shows it is probable we will reach gas there too.”

TurkStat has been exploring for hydrocarbons in the Black Sea and in the Mediterranean - where its survey operations in disputed waters have drawn protests from Greece and Cyprus.

Erdogan said Turkey would accelerate operations in the Mediterranean.

US business activity surges to early 2019 levels: Markit flash PMI

US business activity snapped back to the highest since early 2019 this month as companies in both the manufacturing and services sectors saw a resurgence in new orders even as new COVID-19 cases remained stubbornly high across the country, a purchasing managers’ survey showed yesterday.

Data firm IHS Markit said its flash U.S. Composite PMI Index rose to a reading of 54.7 this month – the highest since February 2019 – from 50.3 in July. Its flash – or preliminary – indicator for the manufacturing sector stood at its highest since January 2019 and for the services sector it was the highest since March 2019.

A reading above 50 indicates growth in private sector output.
The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, received in his office at the Ministry's General Court, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Margaret Nardi, in the presence of the Ministry's Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Member of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), Dr. Shaikha Hana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, received the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Maggie Nardi, in the presence of Head of the International Cooperation Department at the General Secretariat of the SCW, Nora Al Rifai.

Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa has chaired the 11th coordination council meeting, which was held remotely. He commended efforts aimed to enhance security and community awareness and promote compliance with the precautionary measures from combating the novel coronavirus. He stressed coordination and follow-up with a joint team, which includes the Southern Municipality, the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) and the Southern Police General Directorate.

Bahrain Malayalee Business Forum (BMBF) and Bahrain Kerala Social Forum (BKSF) have been conducting the program Help & Drink 2020 beating the heat. They distributed cold water bottles and fruits to the low income construction site workers at all areas of Manama, Juffair and Hidd. It will continue till the end of August. Fifteen volunteers led by Basheer Ambalayi, Subair Kannur, Kasim Padathakayil, Ajeesh, Latheef Marakat, Anwar Kannur, Saleem Nambra and Mansoor are implementing the programme.

Flight IX 1376 to Kozhikode departed from Bahrain International Airport with 154 passengers and 3 infants on board as part of Vande Bharat Mission by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
Biden promises to end ‘darkness’ of Trump era

Joe Biden vows to end ‘season of darkness’ as he accepts presidential nomination
President Mike Pence yesterday launched the Republican counterattack to the scathing criticism that President Donald Trump received at the Democrats’ nominating convention this week, countering that a Joe Biden presidency would crush the US economy and allow civil unrest to spread.

"The Democrats are offering a vision for this country that would crush our economy and promote the kind of policies that will result in more violence in our streets," Pence told Fox News in one of a series of morning television interviews following the four-night Democratic convention.

Trailing Biden in many national polls, Trump is under pressure to convince Americans they should re-elect him amid double-digit unemployment and an economic downturn that Democrats blame on his failure to address the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 170,000 Americans.

Democrats used their convention, held virtually because of the pandemic, which has killed more than 170,000 Americans, to paint a grim picture of what Trump would do while promising a broad coalition working to oust the president.

"The European royals in calling for a change that we all need and mobilized and energized to the bilized and energized to the

"The Democrats are offering a vision for this country that would crush our economy and promote the kind of policies that will result in more violence in our streets," Pence quoted from Fox Business Network that the Democrats painted a grim picture of America and said most of the convention was "an ad hominem attack on the president of the United States."

The vice president outlined what would be the main thrust of Republicans at their own national convention next week, appropriating a line from Biden’s speech that character, decency, science and democracy are "all on the ballot."

"The economy is on the ballot. Law and order is on the ballot, and the American people know it," Pence countered.

They will contrast that with the Democratic agenda of high taxes, government-funded healthcare, immigration reform "and continued calls to cut, defund, disassemble law enforcement, that's driving violence in the streets of our major cities," Pence said on Fox Business Network.

He dismissed the array of high-profile Republicans, including former Secretary of State Colin Powell and former Ohio Governor John Kasich, who have crossed party lines to criticize Trump, as "an ad hominem attack on the president of the United States."

"He told me that we were members of the same club. We shutter. It was really amazing to hear that someone like me became vice president," Brayden said, hating on some of the words.

As a child, Biden, now 77, was hampered by a stutter so severe he was cruelly nicked "Dash."

The candidate occasionally tells the story on the campaign trail of his effort to overcome the condition, about how he read from books in Irish poets and practiced his diction at night with a flashlight in front of a mirror.

Biden made me more confident about something that's bothered me my whole life," the boy said. "Joe Biden cared. Imagine what he can do for all of us."

A video about Biden’s life that ran before he accepted his party’s nomination Thursday night mentioned the candi- date’s childhood stutter, and about how his mother drove him back to school when he came home saying he had been mishandled by a teacher.

Meghan Markle, the wife of Prince Harry, broke from the palace protocol normally followed by British royals in calling for a “change” in the upcoming US presidential election.

Her speech came during a virtual “voter registration couch party” organized by When We All Vote, an outreach program backed by former first lady Michelle Obama, actor Tom Hanks and others to increase participation at the polls.

“We all know what’s at stake this year. I know it, I think all of you certainly know it,” Markle said. “You’re just as mo- bilized and energized to the change that we all need and deserve.”

Scientists peer inside ancient Egyptian cat, snake and bird mummies

Scientists are gaining new insight into the ancient Egyptian practice of mumming animals, using high-resolution scans to peer inside mummies of a cat, a bird and a snake to learn about their treatment before being killed and embalmed.

Researchers on Monday said they digitally “unwrapped” and “dissected” the three mummies using X-ray micro CT scanning, which generates three-dimensional images with a resolution 100 times greater than a medical CT scan. Actual unwrapping can damage and dislodge structures within a mummy.

Ancient Egyptians mummi- fied not only human corpses but millions of animals including cats, dogs, birds, snakes and crocodiles, particularly during a period of more than 1,000 years starting around 700 BC.

The three mummies appar- ently were made as “votive of- ferings” to gods at temples to act as a go-between between deities and living people, ac- cording to study co-author Car- olyn Graves-Brown, curator of the Egyptian Centre at Swansea University in Britain. They were long in Swansea’s collection and their precise age and origin in ancient Egypt are un- clear.

The researchers found evi- dence that the snake, a juvenile Egyptian Cobra, had been de- nied water while alive, based on its calcified kidneys, and appa- rently was killed by spinal fracture after being lifted by the tail and whipped in the air.

The coiled snake’s mouth contained a substance called natron and its jaw was placed in a wide-open position, con- sistent with the animal possibly having undergone the “opening of the mouth” ceremony, said Swansea engineering professor Richard Johnston, lead author of the study published in Scien- tific Reports.

This ritual was conducted so mumified subjects could re- gain their senses in the afterlife. “This would be additional information supporting other evidence that the openings of the mouth” was done on mumified animals. We know it was carried out on humans,” Graves-Brown said.

The domestic cat also was a juvenile: a 5-month-old kit-}

Meghan Markle sits in a discussion during a visit to a school in Evans

Meghan Markle sits in a discussion during a visit to a school in Evans | AP | London

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The Democrats are offering a vision for this country that would crush our economy and promote the kind of policies that will result in more violence in our streets. Mike Pence

Scientists peer inside ancient Egyptian cat, snake and bird mummies | Reuters / Washington

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This ritual was conducted so mumified subjects could regain their senses in the afterlife. “This would be additional information supporting other evidence that the openings of the mouth” was done on mumified animals. We know it was carried out on humans,” Graves-Brown said.

The domestic cat also was a juvenile: a 5-month-old kit-ten, based on unerupted teeth below the lower jaw. Its neck was broken at the time of death or during the mumification process.

“The bird appears to be a Eur- ake, head of the falcon family. Snakes were associated with numerous ancient Egyptian gods. Cats were often associated with the fertility goddess Bastet. Raptors were associated with sky gods such as Re and Horus.

“Like us, the ancient Egyp- tians used and abused animals,” Graves-Brown said. “There is evidence from the mumified remains of maltreatment.”
Taylor Swift donates to London schoolgirl’s university fund

AFP | London

U.S. pop icon Taylor Swift has donated more than $23,000 (26,000 euros, £23,000 (26,000 euros, €23,000) to a London schoolgirl raising funds to go to university.

Victoria Mario, 18, won a place to study mathematics at Britain’s University of Warwick but could not afford to support herself.

She asked hundreds of companies for help and even posted notes through the letter boxes.

"I was a big fan of the genre," she said. "But it was safe to me, like roller coaster rides, adding that she "loved helping to build something from the ground up." Because it gave her a chance to say she loved the experience involved from the very beginning, to make sure that this project met, we really clicked. It was a mystery new expected journey that loved loss, and them--

Prime Video on Mayim Bialik reminisces on ‘The Big Bang Theory’

Mayim Bialik looks back fondly on her time on “The Big Bang Theory,” especially in her decade of staying with the series, titled “Call Me Kat,” with Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper, her former on-screen husband).

In the interview with Fox News, the former couple. He officiated their August 2014 wedding in a way that a lot of us don’t exist," she said. "We don’t have a relationship with people when the thing that brought you together doesn’t exist," Bialik said. "We don’t have a place to hang out and to hang out together. We’ve had some group communicati--

FOX | Los Angeles

A mother and daughter are the parties’ own children, who continue to be deprived of custody issues,” it reads. “In the documents, Pitt’s legal team accused Jolie of making a “transparently tactical gambit” to delay proceedings and said ultimately it will hurt their children the most. “Unfortunately, the individ--

USA Today | Los Angeles

More than a year after the finale of the long-running sci-fi show “The Big Bang Theory,” Mayim Bialik is still working with a few of her co-stars.

In an interview with Fox News published Thursday, the actress looked back fondly on the show as a place that "fostered a really nice sense of job security, and also a way that of us don’t get that opportunity," ac--

Lili Reinhart opens up on debut as producer

LILIANA FLORES | Los Angeles

Actress Lili Reinhart has turned producer, and she says she loved the experience because it gave her a chance to build something from ground up.

Reinhart has executive-produced the upcoming film “Chemical Hearts,” where she stars with Austin Abrams. The film is based on the novel “Our Chemical Hearts” by Krystal Sutherland.

“Chemical Hearts” is a coming-of-age romance high school senior, who falls for a long--

Across


Down


SUDOKU

Across


Down


How to play

Place a number in each empty box in such a way that each row across, each column, and box contains each number from 1 to 9. No number may repeat in a row, column, or box.
Maguire arrested on Greek island after brawl
Man Utd captain Harry Maguire facing possible charge of assaulting police officer

Manchester United captain Harry Maguire has been arrested on the Greek tourist island of Mykonos for an alleged assault and attacking duty officers, police said yesterday.

Yesterday said that three men aged 27, 28 and 30 had been arrested in Mykonos.

A police statement yesterday said that three men aged 27, 28 and 30 had been arrested in Mykonos.

A police officer in Syros, the capital of the island group that includes Mykonos, confirmed to reporters that the suspects are “three British men, including a British football club player” but did not name Maguire.

The police statement said officers responding to an “altercation” had been verbally abused and one officer had been punched.

A second fight broke out at the location before the three men “strenuously resisted” (arrest), pushing and striking three officers, the statement said.

One of the suspects then tried to run away and, as he was bringing up the incident, the police said.

The Syros officer said four of Mykonos’ officers had sustained slight injuries in the fracas.

The suspects are accused of assault, resisting arrest, verbally insulting and threatening the arresting officers, and attempted bribery, the police said.

Greek state sector agency ANA said the police had asked the suspect to follow them to the police station in a mini-van but when they arrived, they attempted to flee.

The incident on Mykonos came ahead of a COVID-19 night curfew in nightclub and restaurants that came into effect yesterday.

If found guilty of an offence it will cause Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, United’s manager, a serious problem and could threaten Maguire’s status as United captain the suspects to follow them to the police station in a mini-van but when they arrived, they attempted to flee.

Machaeve has big plans for BRAVE CF 40 and beyond, including a double title run

Bayern squad better than 2013 treble winners, says Neuer

Since the division system was established in the sport of Mixed Martial Arts, the status of double-champion, which means holding two belts in different divisions at the same time, is saved only for a handful of special talents.

A true prodigy of Mixed Martial Arts, Mokhamed Machaev wants to join this distinct group becoming a two-division title-holder at BRAVE Combat Federation. Judging by how fast Machaev was able to leave his voters of the Featherweight division.

I want to win the next fight, which I’m very excited about. I want to fight for the Featherweight belt. And then I want to fight Stephen Loman.

I don’t have any opinions then I want to fight Stephen Loman. And then I want to fight Stephen Loman. And then I want to fight Stephen Loman.

I want to fight for the Featherweight belt. And then I want to fight Stephen Loman.