

Apollo 11

'We're all hard work'

Apollo 11's 'amiable strangers' Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla, July 13, (AP): Mission commander Neil Armstrong was the flying ace, Buzz Aldrin the scholar. Michael Collins was a crack test pilot, too, but also a wordsmith who described the trio as "amiable strangers."

Apollo 11's astronauts had six months to gel as a crew and prepare for humanity's greatest space feat. The three had never served together on the same spaceflight before, and the "almost frantic" preparation left little if any time for bonding, Collins said.

"Apollo 11 was a little different than some of the other flights," Collins explained. "We didn't cruise around in color-coordinated Corvettes or anything like that. We were all business. We were all hard work, and we felt the weight of the world upon us."

A brief look at each man:



Armstrong

■ Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon but the least inclined to talk about it.

Last year's film, "First Man," captured his private nature; his two sons served as movie consultants. Such reticence merely reinforced the mystery surrounding the late astronaut, who by skill, hard work and chance became the

first human to set foot on another world.

Armstrong was superbly qualified for the job: fighter pilot in Korea, X-15 test pilot, one of only two civilians selected for the second astronaut group in 1962, Gemini 8 command pilot, backup commander of Apollo 8 and, finally, commander of Apollo 11.

He'd proven his mettle again and again. He had to gain control of his tumbling Gemini 8 spacecraft in 1966 and bring it down early, and he ejected from a lunar lander training device in 1968 just before it crashed in flames in Houston.

Armstrong left NASA two years after Apollo 11 and taught engineering at the University of Cincinnati until 1979. He spent his remaining years in his home state of Ohio. He finally agreed to a biography: 2005's "First Man" by historian James Hansen, the basis for last year's film.

Armstrong died in 2012 at age 82.

■ Buzz Aldrin was the second man to walk on the moon, but the first astronaut to have a doctorate and dance with the stars.

Aldrin, now 89, had a long list of accomplishments by the time NASA chose him for the third astronaut group in 1963: third in his class at West Point, fighter pilot in Korea, Air Force officer, a doctorate in astronautics. He was dubbed Dr Rendezvous for his expertise in orbital dockings.

He flew on Gemini 12 in 1966 and was on the backup crew for Apollo 8. Then came Apollo 11.

He later legally changed his name from Edwin E. Aldrin Jr to his childhood nickname Buzz. His name was the inspiration for the character Buzz Lightyear in the animated "Toy Story" films. His mother's name: Marion Moon.

After Apollo 11, Aldrin spent years struggling with mental depression and alcoholism. He left NASA in 1971 and briefly headed the test pilot school at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Drawn toward the spotlight, Aldrin portrayed himself in a 1994 episode of the TV program "The Simpsons" and took a spin in 2010 on TV's "Dancing with the Stars." He's traveled the globe, including the South Pole, pushing for Mars travel.

Last year, two of his three children sought to declare him mentally incompetent, then he sued them. Both sides dropped the case in March.

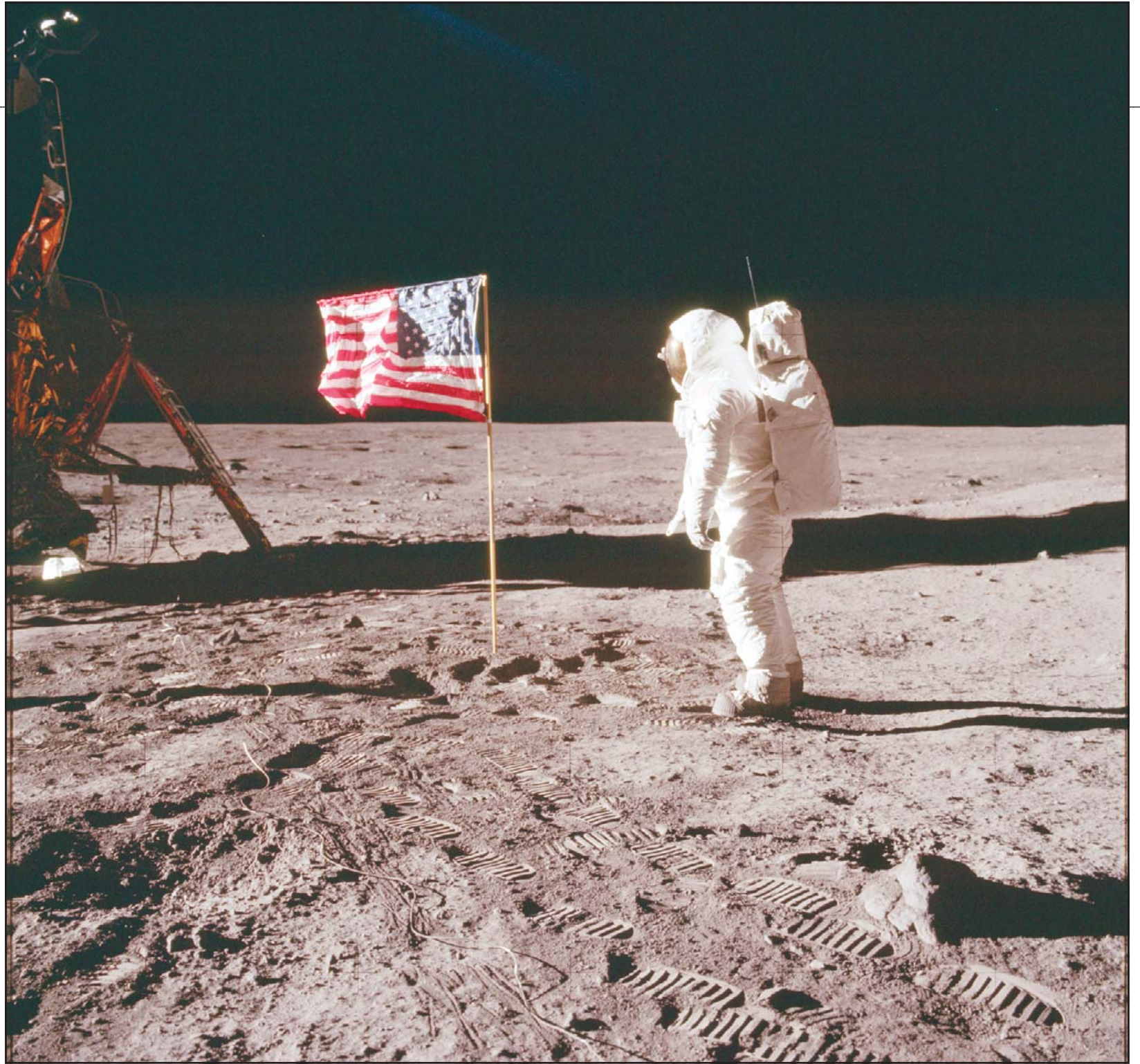
Aldrin moves between Satellite Beach, Florida, and Southern California.

■ Michael Collins was "The Forgotten Man" during the Apollo 11 lunar landing: While the two others were walking on the moon, he circled overhead in the command module. For previous Apollo 11 anniversaries, Collins was content to be forgotten. But with the "huge gap" left by Armstrong's death, Collins, 88, feels compelled to speak up even though "my first inclination for celebrating the 50th anniversary ... is to go hide under a rock somewhere."

His two daughters have helped him navigate the avalanche of requests.

The Air Force officer and former test pilot flew on Gemini 10 in 1966, three years after being accepted into the third astronaut group. He was supposed to be command module pilot of Apollo 8, the first manned flight to circle the moon, but was bumped because of a bone spur in his neck. Surgery corrected the problem, and he wound up on Apollo 11.

See Also Page 11



In this July 20, 1969 photo made available by NASA, astronaut Buzz Aldrin Jr poses for a photograph beside the US flag on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission. Aldrin and fellow astronaut Neil Armstrong were the first men to walk on the lunar surface with temperatures ranging from 243 degrees above to 279 degrees below zero. Astronaut Michael Collins flew the command module. (AP)



In this July 16, 1969 photo made available by NASA, the 363-foot Saturn V rocket carrying the Apollo 11 crew, launches from Pad A, Launch Complex 39, at the Kennedy Space

Discovery

Storm, flooding hammer Gulf:

Tropical Storm Barry could affect the environment of the Gulf coast and Lower Mississippi Valley in numerous ways, from accelerating runoff of farmland nutrients to toppling trees and damaging wildlife habitat and fisheries, scientists say.

But the extent of the damage — and whether it will be at least partially offset by benefits such as disruption of the notorious Gulf of Mexico "dead zone" — is hard to predict, they say. That's because the region faces a rare one-two-three punch: the storm's anticipated tidal surge and torrential downpour, combined with record-high water levels in the Mississippi River.

"We don't know how the system is

Climate

Germany urged to put price on carbon emissions

Call to reform UK energy policy

LONDON, July 13, (Agencies): Britain must urgently reform its "failing" national policy on energy efficiency to have any prospect of meeting an ambitious target to slash its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, parliamentarians said on Friday.

The state should invest more in energy efficiency, designate it a national infrastructure priority and tighten rules to force builders to improve standards in homes and offices, said the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Committee.

"Improving energy efficiency is by far the cheapest way of cutting our emissions and must be a key plank of any credible strategy to deliver net zero by 2050," said the parliamentary committee's chairwoman Rachel Reeves in a statement.

"If the government lacks the politi-

cal will to deliver energy efficiency improvements, how can we expect it to get on with the costlier actions needed to tackle climate change?"

Britain last month became the first G7 country to adopt an ambitious law to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

However, it has failed to set sufficient policies to combat climate change and must act urgently to cut greenhouse gas emissions to meet the new net zero target, the advisory Committee on Climate Change warned earlier this week.

Energy used to heat buildings creates nearly 20% of Britain's emissions, most of which comes from residential homes, Friday's BEIS Committee report said.

"The government is presiding over a failing policy," it said, pointing to shrinking investment in energy efficiency and builders exploiting legal loopholes to avoid meeting efficiency standards.

Robert Gross, director of the Centre for Energy Policy and Technology at Imperial College London, one of Europe's most innovative universities for science, said the report echoed the views of many energy experts.

Also:

BERLIN: A panel of economists advising the German government is recommending that the country should put a price on carbon emissions if it wants to meet its targets for reducing the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

In a report delivered Friday to German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, the expert panel suggested that the government make transport and heating with fossil fuels more expensive, and end subsidies that currently encourage the use of gas-line, natural gas and coal.

going to respond to all this because it's so unusual," said **Melissa Baustian**, a coastal ecologist with the Water Institute of the Gulf in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

One of the wettest-ever springs in the nation's heartland engorged the Mississippi, sending massive volumes of water southward toward the Gulf. Levees and dams were breached and millions of acres of cropland flooded in the Midwest. Barry threatens to hurl a storm surge of up to 3 feet (1 meter) onto coastal regions. And



Baustian



Michalak

forecasters said the storm could stall inland and dump up to 2 feet (61 centimeters) of rain.

Yet even if this year's oxygen-depleted area winds up smaller than expected, historical data suggests that Barry — like other big storms — will flush additional nutrients into the Mississippi and other Gulf tributaries, leading to bigger dead zones in the long run, said **Anna Michalak** of the Carnegie Institution for Science in Stanford, California. (AP)

SUPER BRANDS

Bringing your favourite brands closer to you!



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 1838281 Ext.: 175 Fax: 24911307 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

grandcinemas
always entertaining

GUIDE
JULY.11 - JULY.17

PHONE BOOKING AND INQUIRIES
GATE MALL 220 56 464
HAMRA LUXURY CENTER 222 70 333
GrandCinemasme.com

GCKuwait @GC_Kuwait

NOW SHOWING

EXPERIENCE IT IN **MX4D**

ESCAPE PLAN THE EXTRACTORS

STEP UP

STUBBER

TROUBLE IN CINEMAS SOON

ANNABELLE

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME

THE LION KING IN CINEMAS JULY 18

THE QUEEN'S CORGI IN CINEMAS SOON