

Britain's new prince is Louis Arthur Charles

London

The new prince has a name — in fact three. The infant son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge has been named Louis Arthur Charles, Kensington Palace announced Friday.

The palace said the baby's full title is His Royal Highness Prince Louis of Cambridge.

William and Kate's third child was born Monday, a brother to 4-year-old Prince George and Princess Charlotte, who is almost 3.

Louis — pronounced LOO-ee — is fifth in line to the throne after his grandfather Prince Charles, his father and his older siblings.

The name pays tribute twice over to Prince Charles, who has Arthur as one of his middle names.

The choice also honors Louis Mountbatten, Charles' great-uncle and beloved mentor, who was killed by an Irish Republican Army bomb in 1979.

Bookmakers had been doing a brisk trade in bets on the new prince's name, but Louis wasn't among the favorites. The royal couple has used it before, as one of George's middle names.

Arthur, Albert and James had been considered front-runners.

Twitter users with personal connections to the fresh prince's names offered peals of joy.

Author JK Rowling's digital publishing company, Pottermore, noted that the Weasley family in the Harry Potter books had members named Louis, Arthur and Charles.

"Louis Arthur Charles, you were named after three iconic Weasleys," the company tweeted.

A baby camel born at England's Blackpool Zoo on the same day as Louis has been named in his honor.

A tiny, double humped Bactrian camel calf, born on Monday morning, has now been named in honor of the new Prince Louis!!" the zoo tweeted.

Former One Direction star Louis Tomlinson — a noted devotee of the Adidas brand — tweeted: "Young Louis welcome to the world. I'll take you under my wing lad. The Adidas tracksuit is in the post!" (AP)



Russia ran election interference, no Trump collusion: Republicans

Washington

Russia ran an information warfare campaign to disrupt the 2016 U.S. presidential election, but there is no evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Moscow, Republicans on a congressional panel said in a report released on Friday.

The findings of majority Republicans on the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee were immediately challenged by minority Democrats following a year of rancorous disputes on a panel whose role is to oversee intelligence agencies in a spirit of bipartisanship. Republicans, over Democratic objections,

voted in March to end the committee's investigation of election meddling.

The 253-page report was seized on by Trump, a Republican, who posted its conclusions on Twitter and repeated his view that the Russian investigation is "A total Witch Hunt! MUST END NOW!" despite probes by a U.S. special counsel and other congressional committees that are still open.

Trump has repeatedly denied receiving help from Moscow for his election campaign. The Kremlin denies meddling in the election.

The heavily redacted Republican report contains little new information about

Russia's election interference or the Trump teams contacts with Russia. But it criticizes an array of actors for their response to the election meddling.

Then U.S. President Barack Obama's response to Russia's actions was insufficient, it said, while the FBI's notification to hacking victims was "inadequate."

The report said that the Trump campaign should not have held a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower with Russians who claimed to have damaging information about Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, nor praised and communicated with WikiLeaks, which released documents hacked by Russia.

The interaction with

WikiLeaks was "highly objectionable and inconsistent with U.S. national security interests," it said.

Separately, a Russian lawyer who attended the Trump Tower meeting, Natalia Veselnitskaya, said in an interview to be broadcast Friday with NBC News that she had Russian government ties, the New York Times reported.

In the U.S. election campaign, the report says Twitter identified 36,746 automated accounts and 2,752 human-operated accounts linked to the Russian effort. Russian operatives used paid advertising on Facebook to reach 5 million Americans, it said.

Thinking green



Rehan Ahmed

Energy Efficient Appliances

Do you know that an average home actually causes more air pollution than the average car? This is due to more energy utilization in our homes which comes from the power plants burning fossil fuel. This electricity supplied to our homes power the lighting, cooling, heating and electronic gadgets. As we are aware that the cost of electricity has and will be increasing further in March 2017. Thus, saving energy is our top priority which also saves money. By using energy-efficient appliances, households can considerably save on their electricity bills.

Once you visit any hyper electronic market, mall or home appliances center, the gadgets looks pretty much the same from outside, with different colours, forms and designs but do we realize that they vary greatly in terms of energy-efficiency and operating costs? The more energy-efficient an appliance is, the less it costs to run. Thus, if we lower our electricity consumption and bill, it will also protect our environment.

Usually when we buy electronics, we buy based on price (often on sale), model and manufacturer rather than our actual need, energy consumption and pollution potential. First, we need to first assess the number of users, capacity required, location where to keep the appliance, price and its estimated energy use. So once you are in for buying, ask about special energy-efficient items and related discount offers.

Bahrain like other GCC countries is also embarking on taking strict measures to adopt energy efficient labeling and importing only safe and efficient appliances. The label on the items will mention the estimated energy consumption of the appliance. Reading the Energy Guide label will help you to compare the efficiency or annual energy use with other competing brands and similar models.

The recent news is that as part of the GCC strategy to save power, electrical appliances that are not energy efficient will no longer be imported into the country. The list includes 13 household items including AC units, microwaves, washing machines, water heaters, refrigerators and other appliances. All imports will now bear a special logo stating if the product meets new energy efficient standards set by the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO). Other non-standard products will not allowed to be imported from this year. However, the old stocks available in the market can still be sold by the retailers.

The GSO has established committees in all six Gulf countries to unify the standards for products. Since the inception of GSO in 2004, more than 23,000 standards for different commodities like cars, construction materials, electronics and other products have been issued. This was in line with the customs union and the common market of the GCC states. The GSO standards are similar to those set by Europe, US, UK and other developed countries. As part of 2016- 2020 strategy, they are focused on promoting energy efficient products in Gulf countries. For example, all new cars sold have to mention fuel efficiency while AC units have a minimum energy labeling requirements. This means they all have the G-logo and have star rating.

Energy Star is the symbol for energy efficiency. It's a label created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to help consumers save money and minimize air pollution. An appliance receives the Energy Star rating if it is significantly more energy efficient than the minimum government standards, as determined by standard testing procedures.

Modern appliances, such as, freezers, ovens, stoves, dishwashers, and clothes washers and dryers, use significantly less energy than older appliances. For example current energy efficient refrigerators use 40% less energy than conventional models did in 2001. If all households in Europe change their more than ten-year-old appliances into new ones, 20 billion kWh of electricity would be saved annually, hence reducing CO2 emissions by almost 18 billion kg. In the US, the corresponding figures would be 17 billion kWh of electricity.

Let us start auditing our existing and in use appliances and electronic gadgets and see which needs replacement to save on energy consumption and its allied cost.

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(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)