

MPs: No human rights violations, no political prisoners in GCC



Former US House speaker: Cruz is 'Lucifer in the flesh'



Villarreal strike late to dent Liverpool hopes



GOVERNMENT STEPS UP DEPORTATION OF EXPATS

MOST DEPORTATIONS 'ADMINISTRATIVE' • TRAFFIC OFFENDERS INCLUD-



Min 24°
Max 36°



ALEPPO: A Syrian family runs for cover amid the rubble of destroyed buildings following an airstrike on the rebel-held neighborhood of Al-Qatarji in this northern Syrian city yesterday. — AFP

VIOLENCE ROCKS ALEPPO

CITY LEFT OUT OF 'FREEZE' • 'LOVELIEST DOCTOR' KILLED

ALEPPO: Regime aircraft yesterday pounded rebel areas of Syria's second city Aleppo, which was left out of a deal to freeze fighting despite international outrage over renewed violence. Shelling and air raids in the city over the past week have killed more than 230 civilians and brought a landmark February 27 ceasefire to the verge of collapse. Despite the carnage, Aleppo has been excluded from a fresh "freeze" in fighting brokered by the United States and Russia.

Syria's armed forces said that the freeze would begin at 1:00 am today and last for 24 hours in Damascus and the nearby rebel bastion of Eastern Ghouta, and 72 hours in the coastal Latakia province. A Syrian security source said the deal was brokered by the US and Russia, but that Moscow had refused a request by Washington to include Aleppo. US special envoy for Syria Michael Ratney said yesterday the agreement was a "general recommitment" to the original truce, "not a new set of local ceasefires".

Violence shook Aleppo for the eighth consecutive day yesterday, as crude barrel bombs crashed into residential neighborhoods amid wailing ambulances. At least 17 people were killed in regime bombardment of the city's eastern districts, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Rebel groups fired a barrage of rockets on government-controlled western neighborhoods, killing at least 13 people, the monitor said. "The earth is shaking beneath our feet," one resident of the densely populated Bustan Al-Qasr district told AFP.

One raid hit a local clinic in the rebel-held Al-Maja neighborhood, wounding several people including a nurse, the civil defence group known as the White Helmets said. The clinic, which had been provid-

ing dental services and treatment for chronic illnesses for about five years, was badly damaged. Medical equipment lay scattered across the clinic's floor, covered in debris and dust, an AFP correspondent there said. "We serve civilians in this establishment, there were no fighters here," said Hassan Al-Ahmad, who heads the clinic.

It was the second time this week that an air strike hit one of the few medical facilities still operating in rebel areas. Late Wednesday, air strikes hit the Al-Quds hospital and a nearby block of flats in the Sukkari neighborhood, killing 30 people. Dr Mohammad Wassim Maaz, known as the most qualified pediatrician in eastern Aleppo, was among the dead. "He was friendly, kind and he used to joke a lot with the whole staff. He was the loveliest doctor in our hospital," Dr Hatem, a colleague, wrote in a letter published by The Syria Campaign advocacy group.

US Secretary of State John Kerry called on Moscow to press its Damascus ally "to stop attacking civilians, medical facilities, and first responders, and to abide fully by the cessation of hostilities." Al-Quds was supported by both Doctors Without Borders and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The UN's rights chief yesterday slammed world powers backing opposing sides in Syria. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the renewed violence showed a "monstrous disregard for civilians lives by all parties to the conflict". "In the minds of many, the world's great powers have in effect become accomplices to the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of human beings, and the displacement of millions." — AFP

KUWAIT: Kuwait has stepped up deportations of expatriate workers this year, a newspaper reported yesterday, with most expelled for overstaying their residency permits but others sent home for traffic offences. In the first four months of the year, authorities deported 14,400 expats, compared with 26,600 in the whole of 2015, Al-Anbaa newspaper reported. Expatriates make up some 70 percent of Kuwait's 4.3 million population, greatly outnumbering its 1.3 million citizens.

In April 2013, then labor minister Thekra al-Rashidi announced plans to deport around 100,000 expatriates each year for the next decade to reduce the number of foreigners living in the state by one million. The government made a string of traffic offences punishable by deportation, including skipping red lights and driving without a license, a document difficult for many expats to obtain. Al-Anbaa said most of the deportations were carried out without trial, known as administrative deportations, using controversial powers given to senior interior ministry officials that have drawn criticism from human rights groups. — AFP

COPTER CRASH OFF NORWAY KILLS 13

OSLO: A helicopter transporting North Sea oil workers crashed off the coast of western Norway yesterday, killing all 13 people on board, rescue services said. The Super Puma chopper went down around midday in the archipelago off the coast of Bergen, Norway's second-biggest city. Eleven bodies have been recovered and the two remaining people are presumed dead, rescue services said. "We presume that all 13 are dead," Sola rescue centre spokesman Borge Galta told AFP. Search and rescue operations were called off late yesterday afternoon.

The aircraft was carrying 11 Norwegians, one Briton and one Italian, rescue services said. The cause of the accident was not immediately known. The helicopter broke into pieces near a small island and debris was found scattered on land and at sea. Part of the chopper was resting on the seabed under five to seven metres of water, around 20 m from land, rescue officials said.

Another Sola rescue center spokesman, Anders Bang Andersen, told AFP the chopper had been on its way to Bergen's airport when it crashed with 11 passengers and two crew members on board. It was returning from the Gullfaks B platform, in one of Norway's biggest offshore oil fields, which is operated by state-owned Statoil. Several witnesses described seeing the aircraft spiral downwards, followed by a powerful explosion, and people were seen in the sea.

"There was an explosion and a very peculiar engine sound, so I looked out the window. I saw the helicopter falling quickly into the sea. Then I saw a big explosion," an island resident told local daily Bergensavisen. "Pieces (of the helicopter) flew into the air," she said, adding that she saw the rotor detach. The crash was the deadliest helicopter accident in Norway since 1978, when a chopper plunged into the sea, killing 18 people. "Horrible reports of a helicopter crash," Prime Minister Erna Solberg tweeted. — AFP



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL LAUDS AMIR'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

KUWAIT: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed appreciation to support given by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to various humanitarian causes. Ban made this remark during a phone call he made to His Highness the Amir yesterday. The UN chief also

hailed Kuwait for hosting intra-Yemen peace talks that aimed at ending a war that brought havoc to the country for many years. He hoped that after these talks, a reconstruction and rebuilding process will begin in Yemen, with the help of the international community. — KUNA

KUWAIT TO SIGN EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA: MINISTER

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education intends to sign some agreements with South Korea on boosting educational cooperation, including an agreement to dispatch Kuwaiti students to study at the Korean universities, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa announced. The agreements will be signed during His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to South Korea, the minister said on Thursday. During the visit, Essa would discuss with Korean officials sharing expertise and dispatching of Kuwaiti students for studying there, he said. The visit reflects the desire of the two sides to promote constructive cooperation between the two friendly countries in scientific fields, he added. He noted that Kuwait is keen on benefiting from successful experiments of South Korea in developing education. — KUNA



Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENDS DRILL

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah applauded the efforts made by participants in Al-Bayrak-6 (flag-6) maneuver to reach the set goals and enhance the preparedness of the Armed Forces. He thanked the military top brass for planning and setting the stage for the war games, according to a statement released by the Defense Ministry's Public Relations and Moral Guidance Department on Thursday.



Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

During his visit to the command staff of the drill, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah was briefed on the scenarios of dealing with emergency situations and coordinating the efforts of the defense and, logistics and public mobilization departments. He was accompanied by the Army's Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Khaled Al-Khider, Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah Nawaf Al-Sabah, Assistant to the Chief of Staff Major General Staff Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Omairi and Commander of the Ground Force Major General Staff Khaled Salh Al-Sabah.

The drill, which started on April 21, was meant to promote preparedness of the Kuwaiti Army and enabled the military personnel gain practical knowledge about how to discharge their missions in keeping with the military doctrine. It falls in the framework of the Army's annual training programs for boosting the operational performance of the various military departments, the statement added. — KUNA

PREMIER RETURNS HOME

KUWAIT: After representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in signing the Paris Climate Agreement (PCA) in New York, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation returned home late Thursday. Upon arrival, His Highness the Premier was received by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh as well as a number of Sheikhs, ministers, advisors and senior officials at the Premier's Diwan. — KUNA



YEMENI PARTIES RENEW COMMITMENT TO DEAL POSITIVELY WITH UN ENVOY PROPOSALS

KUWAIT: The Yemeni parties renewed, during direct sessions of peace negotiations Thursday, their commitment to responding positively to proposals of UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed aiming to resolve the country's crisis peacefully.

Following the talks, the Yemeni government delegation said in a statement that it submitted a proposal to the UN envoy on the withdrawal of the armed group from the areas, handing over weapons and forming security committees.

The delegation discussed during today's talks key points of the proposed paper, the statement added, noting that some issues were also discussed with the envoy, mainly urgent economic measures to revive the country's economy. The delegation

renewed also its commitment to abide by the code of ethics in media and the peaceful option as the only solution to outstanding issues.

Two papers are prepared on how the Yemeni government's vision address security and political issues in the upcoming period, it said. The delegations will return to the negotiating table on Saturday, the statement pointed out.

Face-to-face session

Heads of the negotiating teams of the three main stakeholders in Yemen had held a direct session of talks at Bayan Palace on Thursday evening following separate meetings with the UN Special Envoy. The representatives of the Yemeni government, the General People's Congress and Ansarullah movement discussed agenda of the intra-Yemeni peace talks suggested by Cheikh

Ahmed and the measures necessary to bolster up the ceasefire in Yemen.

The UN envoy seeks to capitalize on the positive atmospheres, provided over the last week, to build consensus and bring close the viewpoints of the three parties regarding the political, security and economic topics of the draft agenda.

Separate talks

Cheikh Ahmed's separate talks with Yemeni parties addressed the UN proposal on the structure and framework of the political, security and economic pivots over the coming period. The UN envoy discussed with the Yemeni stakeholders, separately, the political issues on the agenda, namely consolidating the current ceasefire, in bid to get negotiators' views closer and reach a consensus formula for proceeding to direct talks.

During the separate talks, reaffirma-

tion was made on the necessity of maintaining the positive atmosphere that dominated the talks over the past two days, as well as demands of good will and desire for peace, to end the sufferings of the Yemeni people.

The Yemeni-Yemeni talks achieved noticeable progress on Tuesday after the delegations agreed upon the UN proposal on the structure and framework of the coming period, in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and the Biel meeting held in Switzerland in December 2015.

Kuwait is hosting the Intra-Yemeni talks since on April 21st with the aim of concluding an overall agreement among the Yemeni warring parties to end the crisis at home, and to pave the way for a comprehensive political dialogue in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and other relevant ones. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Scenes from ACK's fourth Engineering Students Graduation Project Exhibition. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ACK HOLDS ENGINEERING STUDENTS GRADUATION PROJECT EXHIBITION

131 STUDENTS DISPLAY 68 PROJECTS



By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) held the fourth Engineering Students Graduation Project Exhibition at its premises on Thursday. This exhibition is held twice a year after each semester - in December and May. It includes four engineering disciplines - civil, mechanical, electrical and petroleum engineering.

Dr Mohamed Ghaith, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, ACK, said the expo saw 68 projects by 131 students. "The students worked very hard to reach to this level and utilized the accumulated engineering skills and all available educational tools to broaden their knowledge about a particular self-selected topic. We believe that platforms like these offer students and faculty a precious opportunity to showcase their achievements, interact with partners from the industry, exchange knowledge and share ideas," he noted during the launch of the exhibition.

Hands-on knowledge

"It is an exciting time at ACK as we are constantly transforming the way we operate to improve our academic standards both in theory and practice. The projects showcased are a testimony to the practical hands-on knowledge through Projects Based Learning (PBL) that we are strongly advocating," he added. "The 68 projects presented today have been put together by our students under the guidance from the School of Engineering faculty members who are leaders in their field. We are very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed," concluded Ghaith.

Portable Inverter

Portable Inverter is a project by a group of students including Abdulaziz Al-Awadhi, Asmaa Al-Quraishi, Dana Al-Muhanna, and Kawthar Al-Boushi. "This tool or machine transfers solar energy of 12 volts into 240 volts AC, which is similar to the power used in houses. This machine is portable to be practical for carrying when going on a picnic or trip," Muhanna told the Kuwait Times. "We are planning to contact the institu-



tions in charge in order to register a patent for our invention. We can then work of marketing it to be a commercial project," she added.

The Smart Traffic Lights System (STLS) is another project participating in this exhibition. Four students also worked on this project: Ahmad Al-Mokaimi, Anoud Al-Failakawi, Mariam Fawaz and Farah Al-Foudari. "Our machine decreases congestions at an intersection. It's time-based on the number of vehicles. With this machine, the delay time is reduced by up to 60 percent compared to the existing system (for 84 cars)," explained Fawaz.



MPS: NO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GCC EUROPEAN, GCC PARLIAMENTS TO FOSTER COOPERATION

BRUSSELS: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Joint Parliamentary Committee held a meeting with the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament on Thursday and exchanged views on issues like human rights, freedom of speech, respect of law and fight against terrorism.

The aim of the first visit of the GCC joint Parliamentary Committee to the European Parliament is to convey the 'correct and clear picture' to the EP on the interest and care of the GCC parliaments on human rights, freedom, women's rights and the democratic rule, Kuwaiti MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf said.

In the meeting, the GCC parliamentarians informed the EP committee on the wrong information it has about the human rights situation in the Arab Gulf countries, he said. "Both the governments and the people of the GCC countries are working to strengthen and solidify the democratic rule and freedom of speech," said Maayouf and stressed that "there is no human rights violations" in the six-member GCC which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. He said that respect of human rights is enshrined in the noble teachings of Islam and the Prophet (PBUH) and is "part of our tradition which does not allow any injustices or wrongdoings."

The Gulf parliamentarians said that terrorism is a global phenomenon and not restricted to any region or faith. They stressed that Islam is free of any accusations of terrorism and that Islam does not permit any acts of terror or violence against anybody. "We in Arab and Muslims countries are also suffering from terrorism as evident from attacks in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey," said Maayouf.

They also stressed in the meeting that there should be one standard to measure human rights and not double standards. The GCC side noted that the human rights of Palestinians are being violated on daily basis by the Israelis. The two sides also agreed on more exchange visits between their parliaments to strengthen cooperation.

Meanwhile, MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi said that the aim of their visit is to exchange information between the GCC and the EP and to discuss human rights laws and their implementation and the freedom of expression. "The GCC is an open region and there are no political prisoners," he stressed. Referring in particular to



BRUSSELS: Kuwaiti MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf speaks during a meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Parliament on Thursday. — KUNA

Kuwait, Qudhaibi said the country is ruled on the basis of constitution and laws and respect of freedom of speech and human rights.

The GCC Joint Parliamentary Committee later held a separate meeting with the chairman of the EP foreign relations committee, Elmar Brok, and discussed bilateral EU-GCC ties and regional developments.

Strategic partner

Earlier on Thursday, the GCC Joint Parliamentary Committee held its first meeting with the European Parliament's Delegation, led by chairperson Michele Alliot-Marie, who said that the GCC is a "significant strategic partner" and noted that the meeting aims to get closer to tackle the common challenges like terrorism which Europe and the Gulf countries are facing.

Alliot-Marie, a former French defense minister, expressed her delight that "we have set up a joint parliamentary committee with the GCC to enhance our dialogue," and said this will contribute in building trust and confidence. "We

hope that this first meeting will be followed by many other meetings," she said. Alliot-Marie praised the efforts of the GCC ambassador to the EU Amal Al-Hamad, to strengthen ties between the EU and GCC and with the EP.

Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al-Amr, secretary general of the Saudi Majlis and head of the GCC delegation, said meanwhile that "we seek to strengthen ties with (the EP) on the basis of mutual trust and interests for the benefit of our people and for the stability of the region."

He referred to the European Parliament resolution of 2011 which calls for a strategic partnership with GCC and said "We look forward to activating the terms of this resolution in the interest of both parties."

"We parliamentarians today are in much need to exercise justice, fairness and objectivity and to seek information on which we base our decisions on parliamentary reliable sources, especially that we live in an age of information revolution and open communication where it is easy to pass on lies and rumors," he said.

He noted that peoples in the Arab region are facing a number of challenges, and "We look forward to deepening our cooperation to overcome them and ease their damage, and the first of these challenges for the Arabs and Muslims is the Palestinian question."

Seventy years

Palestinian people have suffered more than seventy years of killing, displacement and injustice and oppression, and still the Israeli occupation authorities exercise their terrorist settlement policies indifferent to the right of the Palestinian people, he said.

He called for a just solution in accordance with the Arab peace initiative and international legitimacy resolutions, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967. Amr also referred to the developments in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, GCC ties with Iran, the refugee crisis and the GCC efforts to fight against terrorism.

In the meantime, Hamad spoke of the fruitful developments in EU-GCC ties following a number of recent bilateral meetings and upcoming important meetings to boost bilateral EU-GCC relations. MP Maayouf in his intervention called for justice and fairness as the basis of promoting mutual ties. "We Muslims feel that there are double standards in dealing with the Palestinian cause and in the application of human rights," said the Kuwaiti MP. He referred to the contribution and efforts of the GCC to deal with the refugee problem and noted that they are not treated as refugees in GCC countries but like brothers and sisters.

Several other members from the GCC committee and the EP also addressed the meeting and called for closer ties and cooperation between the two sides. Hoda Abdurrahman Al Helaissi, member of the Saudi Shura Council called for the respect of other cultures and values and identities and be tolerant of our differences. "Our Islamic values are our identities and none of us want to lose our identities. On the contrary we want to emphasize it and give it to our younger generation," she stressed. Speaking after the meeting, Dr Amr said that the meeting was "fruitful and we emphasized on the importance of more meetings and cooperation." "We also agreed to create mechanisms to promote dialogue on concrete issues to achieve results," he added. — KUNA

KUWAIT SEEKS TO BOOST TIES WITH NATO

BRUSSELS: Kuwait seeks to foster relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) parties, especially as it would host the regional headquarters of NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative states by the end of this year.

Kuwait also supports efforts of UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura aiming to resolve the country's crisis, Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium, EU and Luxembourg Dharar Abdul Razzak Razzoqi said in a press statement Thursday. This came during the ambassador's meeting with NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative at its headquarters, the statement said.

Razzoqi stressed the importance of abidance by the Geneva 1 conference outcome as a framework to implement political transition in Syria and meet Syrian people's aspirations. The State of Kuwait backs political

solution in Syria, which was described by the ambassador as the only solution to the crisis, he said. The ambassador voiced Kuwait's keenness on supporting Iraq, urging Baghdad to ensure inclusion of all segments of the Iraqi society in the political process, according to the statement.

During the meeting, Razzoqi highlighted Kuwait's efforts to combat the so-called Islamic State (IS) as it is part of the international coalition against the IS. He also pointed to current Kuwait's efforts exerted to resolve Yemen's crisis as it is hosting the UN-brokered Yemen's peace negotiations to implement the UN Security Council resolution 2216. Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and UAE are members of NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative formed in 2004, with the aim of enhancing ties between NATO and GCC member states. — KUNA



Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium, EU and Luxembourg Dharar Abdul Razzak Razzoqi



KUWAITI DOCTOR USES ADVANCED TECHNIQUE TO RECONSTRUCT SKULL

KUWAIT: A craniofacial team led by a Kuwaiti neurosurgical consultant has succeeded in the reconstruction of the skull of a six-year-old boy using an advanced technique. The critical surgery employed a new technique, used for the first time in the Middle East, and was conducted

with an American medical team, neurosurgical consultant Dr Hisham Al-Khayat said on Thursday. The procedure lasted about 90 minutes.

He added that the child had an abnormal skull shape that caused the head to be elongated and narrowed, almost like light boat. The boy suffered scaphocephaly (from Greek skaphe meaning light boat or skiff), premature closure of sagittal suture, which causes both parietal bones to be held together.

The new technique used in the surgery depends on remodeling the whole skull to achieve a normal shape immediately and permanently, through cutting the skull in strips with the base attached, then and reconnect them like juggle puzzle, Dr Khayat explained. The child lost only 200 cc of blood. He was discharged in great condition four days after the procedure.

According to Dr Khayat, craniosynostosis is a rare condition that affects 1 in 2,000 to 2,500 live births worldwide. Sagittal synostosis is the most common phenotype, representing 40 percent to 55 percent of nonsyndromic cases. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Neurosurgical consultant Dr Hisham Al-Khayat (right) with his team. — KUNA

MAN INJURED IN TWO-TRUCK COLLISION

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two lorries collided on Sixth Ring Road near Slayel Jahra. Jahra fire center responded and an injured man was freed from a truck. He was handed to paramedics.

No injuries in fires

Firemen from the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Fire Station put out a fire in a tent in Sabah Al-Nasser. The tent was near a house, and the flames were tackled and kept from spreading to the house. No injuries were reported. Separately, fire broke out in a vehicle in industrial Ardhiya. Ardhiya Fire Station responded and put out the fire.



LNG PRICES FOR MAY ANNOUNCED

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced yesterday the new prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas products (propane or butane) for May. Propane will be sold at \$325 per metric ton, up \$5 compared with that of April, KPC said. Butane is priced at \$380 per metric ton, up \$30 compared to April sales. Propane and butane prices are affected by the price of crude oil, and the value of the US dollar, along with geopolitical factors and natural disasters. The two substances are used in the petrochemical industry, cooking, heating and other uses. — KUNA

FUGITIVES ARRESTED IN MUBARAK AL-KABEER, TAIMA

KUWAIT: Two men, Kuwaiti and bedoon (stateless) were arrested by Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives, the former on theft charges and the other for attempted murder. Both were sent to concerned authorities. A security source said a patrol suspected the two in car, and when they stopped them, they smelled liquor and the two were in an abnormal condition. Separately, Taima detectives arrested an ex-convict wanted to serve jail sentences. The bedoon (stateless) man also confessed to stealing the car of a deputy prosecutor. He resisted arrest before being brought under control.

stray camel on Subbiya road, killing the camel and destroying the patrol car. A policeman and an employee were slightly injured.

Assault

A Syrian man sought the help of police when one of his compatriots stormed his apartment, beat and threatened to kill him, over previous disputes between the two. The Syrian gave Maidan Hawally police details of the attacker, but he did not respond to phone calls, so detectives were asked to arrest him. Separately, a citizen beat one of his friends badly during a fight, accusing him of talking bad things about him behind his back in a diwaniya that they both often visit. The victim attempted to convince him that he did not talk about him. The citizen went to Jahra police and told them he met a friend in a public place and was surprised after he attacked him. — Al-Rai

Smuggling foiled

Customs officers arrested an Indian man for attempting to smuggle 700 illicit tablets. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DGCA) to face charges.

Policeman injured

A general security police patrol car hit a



KFSD TEAM INSPECTS CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A team from the prevention sector at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) visited the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center project in Maidan Hawally to inspect the project's buildings and follow up the implementation of all preventive require-

ments that were mentioned in the approved plans. Brigadier Khalid Abdullah Fahd, Acting Deputy Director General for Prevention Sector Affairs at KFSD, said he was happy with what he saw and thanked those working on the project, which is considered an outstanding example of the country's development projects.





KUWAIT FOOD AID REACHES 1,350 DISPLACED IRAQI FAMILIES IN BASRA

FOOD PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED IN LEBANON

BASRA/BEIRUT: Over 1,350 displaced families in the city of Basra in southern Iraq have been recipients of food aid distributed by Kuwait in its ongoing campaign to provide nutritive assistance to needy Iraqis in that city, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. This food aid campaign is carried out in coordination between the Kuwait consulate in Basra, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), and the Red Crescent Society of Basra, said Kuwait's general consul in Basra Yousef Al-Sabbagh, according to a statement issued by the consulate.

Kuwaiti food aid distributed during this week only has benefited 563 displaced families in Basra, said the statement, promising more such aid in the upcoming weeks, until all displaced fami-

lies get their share of the Kuwaiti largesse.

Ahmad Al-Faq'a'an, KRCS envoy to Basra, said that food distribution in the past week covered 216 displaced families in the downtown Basra area, 100 families in the Khor Zubair area, and 247 families in the province of Zubair in western Basra.

The current food aid campaign, which is the second of its kind so far, was announced by the Kuwait consulate on April 26 at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in a generous gesture to come to the assistance of the displaced Iraqi families in Basra. The first campaign of food aid had concluded on April 7. Both campaigns are part of Kuwait's donation of \$200 million to alleviate the plight of the displaced Iraqi families in Basra.

1,500 packages

In other news, Kuwaiti Zakat House distributed 1,500 food packages to Syrian and Lebanese families in the city of Tripoli, north of Lebanon. The food packages were distributed with the help of the Lebanese army, Relief and Humanitarian Aid Organization of Dar Al-Fatwa director Riad Itani said yesterday. He praised generous donations made by Kuwaiti charity institutions to help the burdened in Lebanon and other countries. Zakat House and International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) had offered a \$919,000 worth of aid in 2013 to the Syrian refugees. The total value of help that was given to the Zakat fund in Lebanon amounted to \$20 million. — KUNA



BUSINESSWOMAN LAUNCHES HUMANITARIAN, CHARITABLE INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN CANCER PATIENTS

Kuwaiti businesswoman Muntaha Al-Ajeel has launched a humanitarian charity in her name. Choosing the National Bank Specialist Pediatrics Hospital as a first venue, she visited the wings for children cancer patients where she helped put a smile on the faces of the patients and shared with them and their mothers happy moments that helped lessen their suffering.

Ajeel said in a statement on the occasion: "Muntaha Al Ajeel's humanitarian charity aims primarily to offer moral and psychological support to cancer patients especially the children who are in urgent need for compassion with a good word and kind touch to relieve their daily and continuous suffering with this malignant disease, which would reflect on their general health condition and support them in their fight against

their cancer tumors and lift their morale."

She added: "My initiative is a continuation of the charitable course of my father the philanthropist Mohammad Al-Ajeel which has its echoes in several Arab and Islamic countries."

Ajeel encouraged others to visit the patients and boost their morale. She noticed that some of the patients' mothers were sad and depressed and in need of psychological and moral support

to help them overcome their physical and psychological pain.

She concluded by promising to repeat her visits to the hospital in Ramadan and the holidays.

She also called on other philanthropists to follow her lead by engaging in charitable and humanitarian activities, pointing out that good deeds do not require great effort and reflect positively on both the giver and receiver.



International

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COSTA MESA, California: Protesters demonstrate at Donald Trump rally at The Pacific Amphitheatre on Thursday. — AP

FIGHTS FOLLOW TRUMP RALLY IN CALIF

FORMER US HOUSE SPEAKER: CRUZ IS 'LUCIFER IN THE FLESH'

COSTA MESA, California: Raucous protesters and supporters of Donald Trump took to the streets in California leading to some 20 arrests as the Republican presidential contender brought his campaign to conservative Orange County after sweeping the Northeast GOP primaries. Dozens of protesters were mostly peaceful Thursday as Trump gave his speech inside the Pacific Amphitheatre. After the event, however, the demonstration grew rowdy late in the evening and spilled into the streets.

Approximately 20 people were arrested by Costa Mesa police, according to a tweet from the Orange County Sheriff's Department. One Trump supporter had his face bloodied in a scuffle as he tried to drive out of the arena. One man jumped on a police car, leaving its front and rear windows smashed and the top dented in and other protests sprayed graffiti on a police car and the venue's marquee. Dozens of cars - including those of Trump supporters trying to leave - were stuck in the street as several hundred demonstrators blocked the road, waved Mexican flags and posed for selfies.

Police in riot gear and on horseback pushed the crowd back and away from the venue. There were no major injuries and police did not use any force. The crowd began dispersing about three hours after the speech ended. Earlier in the evening, a half-dozen anti-Trump protesters taunted those waiting to get into the venue. Trump supporters surrounded one man who waved a Mexican flag and shouted "Build that wall! Build that wall!" - a reference to Trump's call to create a

barrier between the United States and Mexico to stop illegal border crossings.

At one point, seven women wearing no shirts and Bernie Sanders stickers over their breasts entered the square outside the amphitheater. They said they were protesting Trump's lack of engagement on issues of gender equality and women's rights. "I feel like he wants to make America great again, but certainly not for women, for the LGBTQ community or for the lower class," said one of the women, Tiernan Hebron. "He has, like, done nothing to help with gender equality or women's rights or reproductive rights or anything."

Trump has drawn large crowds to most of his campaign events, and Thursday was no exception. The Pacific Amphitheatre was filled to its capacity of about 18,000 and many hundreds more were turned away.

Boehner slams Cruz

Meanwhile, former US House speaker John Boehner has let fly with a stunning critique of fellow Republican and 2016 presidential hopeful Ted Cruz, labeling him the devil incarnate. "Lucifer in the flesh" is how the ever-blunt Republican heavyweight - who stepped down as speaker last year - described the Texas senator, who is struggling to block Trump's march to the Republican presidential nomination, according to the Stanford Daily newspaper.

"I have Democrat friends and Republican friends," Boehner said. "I get along with almost everyone, but I have never

worked with a more miserable son of a b**** in my life." In an audio recording of the stunning remarks played on a loop on US television Thursday, Boehner is heard to add about Cruz: "Over my dead body will he be president."

Boehner's comments were made at a public talk late Wednesday at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. Asked for his reaction on Thursday while campaigning in Indiana, Cruz sniffed that Boehner "allowed his inner Trump to come out". Cruz is widely seen as one of the more intransigent members of Congress, and critics on both sides of the aisle blame him for triggering a 16-day federal government shutdown in late 2013.

"When John Boehner calls me Lucifer, he's not directing that at me. He's directing that at you," he said, alluding to his conservative supporters. "What Boehner is angry with me for is standing with the American people, is energizing and encouraging House conservatives to stand with the American people and actually honor the commitments we have made," he said.

For his part, Boehner rarely held back during his tenure as the top lawmaker in Congress when frustrated or dissatisfied - especially on the subject of gridlock in Washington. He revealed during the Stanford interview that he is "texting buddies" with Trump and has played golf with the brash billionaire for years. Apparently feeling even more liberated since leaving office, he is taking aim at the senator who is seen as one of the chief instigators of gridlock on Capitol Hill and arguably one of the least popular members of Congress. — Agencies

BOHRA LEADER UNDER FIRE FOR SUPPORTING FGM

MUMBAI: The leader of the only South Asian Muslim community known to practice female genital mutilation (FGM) came under criticism yesterday by campaigners who accused him of urging followers to continue the centuries-old custom. Little is known about FGM in India, where it is carried out in great secrecy by the close-knit Dawoodi Bohra community, a Shiite Muslim sect thought to number over 1 million that considers the practice to be a religious obligation.

An audio clip of Syedna Muffadal Saifuddin's speech at a mosque in Mumbai, has been authenticated by several members of the community. According to a transcript, he said: "The act must be done. It needs to be done discreetly when it is a woman, but it needs to be done." Calls and e-mails to

a spokesman for the Syedna and the leader's administrative office received no response.

"The speech is a huge disappointment for us," said Masooma Ranalvi, who was cut as a seven-year-old and leads an online petition as part of the 'Speak Out on FGM' campaign, which has drawn almost 50,000 signatories, including Mia Farrow, who tweeted her support on Thursday. "Ever since we began the campaign, there has been only silence from the clergy. But now that it's out in the open, at least there's no ambiguity about where they stand," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. A person described as a close friend of the Syedna family told the Times of India newspaper that the remarks were a "general comment" and that people

were "interpreting it differently".

FGM, which can cause serious physical and psychological problems, is more commonly linked to African countries which have led international efforts to end the practice. India is not included on UN lists of countries affected by FGM. Campaigners estimate that up to three quarters of Bohra girls are cut. Although it is not mentioned in the Koran, the Bohras consider 'khatna' - the removal of part of the clitoris - to be part of their religious duty, and debate on the subject has long been taboo.

But the practice among Indian Dawoodi Bohras hit the headlines in November when a court in Australia found two members of the diaspora community guilty of cutting two girls. A Bohra religious leader was convicted

of being an accessory. Since then, more than a dozen Bohra communities in Europe and the United States have passed resolutions against the practice. "Why should girls in some parts of the world be spared from circumcision, while girls in other countries continue to be cut?" the non-profit group Sahiyo, which aims to end FGM in India, posted on its website yesterday. "The strongest form of opposition to khatna is now coming from within the community."

Campaigners will now focus on petitioning the government while still working with the community, said Ranalvi. "There is hypocrisy in the clergy's stance, so the government is the most important route open to us now," she said. "We need them to step in to protect our girls." —Reuters



JUBA: (From left) First Vice President and former rebel leader Riek Machar, South Sudan President Salva Kiir and Second Vice President James Wani Igga shake hands after the formation of the new cabinet of the transitional government at the cabinet affairs ministry yesterday. — AFP

SOUTH SUDAN FORMS UNITY GOVERNMENT

JUBA: South Sudan's transitional unity government was sworn into office yesterday, with President Salva Kiir sharing power with ex-rebels in a key step in a long-delayed peace process. Under terms of an August 2015 peace deal, the 30 ministerial posts are split between Kiir, former rebel chief turned first vice president Riek Machar, opposition and other parties. "We are going to work together," Kiir said after the ministers were sworn into office, and he shook hands with Machar. "We must learn how to forgive and we must learn how to apologize."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the naming of the ministers was an "important milestone" in the peace process, urging the parties "to cease immediately all hostilities". The transitional government is to remain in place until Oct 2018. Machar returned to the capital Juba on Tuesday and was immediately sworn into the post of vice president - a position he was sacked from five months before war broke out. Fighting erupted in December 2013 when Kiir accused Machar of plotting a coup, claims he always denied.

The conflict, which has torn open ethnic divisions, has been characterized by horrific rights abuses, including gang rapes, the wholesale burning of villages and cannibalism. "Cooperation is important," Machar told the new ministers, saying people were still fearful and that leaders needed to show them the peace deal would work. "If we act as groups in the cabinet, we will fail the people of South Sudan."

Kiir loyalists remain in key positions, with Kuol Manyang staying on as defense minister and David Deng Athorbei as finance minister with the job of rebuilding an economy left in ruins by more than two years of war. The all-important petroleum portfolio was handed to Dak Duop Bichok. The foreign ministry goes to Deng Alor, a post he held under a united Sudan, before South Sudan won its independence in 2011. Alor belongs to a group of influential politicians known as the "former detainees", who were jailed at the outbreak of fighting but later released following regional pressure. — AFP

IRAN REFORMISTS EYE MORE GAINS IN RUN-OFF ELECTION

FOUR INJURED IN SHOOTING

ROBAT KARIM, Iran: Voting was extended yesterday in second round elections for almost a quarter of the seats in Iran's parliament, a crucial showdown between reformists and conservatives seeking to influence the country's future. The polls will decide who has the most power when lawmakers are sworn in next month, opening or potentially closing a path to social and political change in the Islamic republic. Tension over the vote's high stakes was underlined by a shooting involving supporters of rival candidates in a southern province, a security official said. The rare incident of political violence left four people wounded.

Iran's reformists - who have encouraged foreign investment, support moves for greater diplomatic rapprochement and seek social reforms at home - are allied with President Hassan Rouhani's government and made major gains in the first round on Feb 26. That came just six weeks after Tehran's implementation of a nuclear deal with world powers lifted crippling economic sanctions long blamed for hobbling the economy.

Polling stations opened at 8:00 am (0330 GMT) for the second round which is taking place in 21 provinces, but not the capital Tehran, with 68 of 290 seats in parliament at stake. Around 17 million citizens were eligible to vote in constituencies where no candidate won the minimum 25 percent required in the first round. Voting had been scheduled to close at 1330 GMT but the interior ministry said polling stations would stay open two hours longer. No reason was given. Final results are expected tomorrow.

Mehdi Saadatmandi, who voted in Robat Karim, a city southwest of Tehran, said he came to the ballot box "to finish what was done in the first round". "If the economy is fixed, the politics will be fixed also and if the parliament is in line with the government then things will move forward much better," the 50-year-



ROBAT KARIM, Iran: Iranian family members display their ink-stained fingers after casting their ballot to vote in the second round of parliamentary elections at a polling station in this town yesterday. — AFP

old said, opting for the reformists. Conservatives, including vocal opponents of the nuclear agreement which reined in Iran's atomic program, lost dozens of MPs in the first round, suffering a wipeout in Tehran, where reformists took all 30 seats.

However yesterday's voting - the top two candidates from the first round are competing head to head - covers 55 smaller towns and cities where conservative support held up. "We should protect the country from the arrogant powers and their infiltration," said Zahra Karimdoost, a schoolteacher in Robat Karim who voted conservative, referring to the United States.

Rivals Seek a Majority

"They follow the leadership more seriously," she said, alluding to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other clerics at the top of the establishment who have warned that rising foreign

interest in Iran must not be accompanied by Western culture or social values. Nationally, reformists won 95 seats and the conservatives 103 in February with nominally independent candidates and minorities sharing others, meaning no faction won a majority.

The outcome of the second round could change that. Khamenei urged a strong turnout and has said yesterday's voting is no less important than the first round. Mohammad Reza Aref, a partly US-educated engineer and leader of the reformist pro-Rouhani List of Hope, has set a target of at least another 40 lawmakers. Gains for the president's allies would make legislative reforms more likely. However, if conservatives perform more strongly amid concern over the nuclear deal - officials including Khamenei have complained that the United States is not honoring its commitments - Rouhani's hopes for a more supportive parliament could founder. — AFP

LONDON RIVALS TACKLE HOUSING IN 'BOX THAT ROCKS'

LONDON: The two men battling to become London's new mayor confronted the city's housing crisis in the campaign's biggest event, as they faced 6,000 citizens in a thunderous Olympic arena. Labour candidate Sadiq Khan and his Conservative rival Zac Goldsmith were grilled on the key issue gripping London voters on Thursday, with exactly a week to go in the race for control of western Europe's biggest city.

In one of the most striking events of the campaign, they were put to the test by London Citizens, a giant and influential agglomeration of largely faith-based local groups seeking to improve life in their communities. Londoners will choose their replacement for the charismatic Conservative Boris Johnson on May 5 and Thursday's clash was the biggest chance for Goldsmith and Khan to set out their plans to tackle the sky-high prices and lack of housing stock forcing people to the fringes of their city. The event was held in the Copper Box, an arena built in east London for the 2012 Olympics. It staged the handball competition and was dubbed "The Box that Rocks" for its raucous acoustics.

Christian, Muslim and Jewish community leaders joined together for an event that included choirs, Latin American dancers and a "march of the key workers" - in which medics in uniform, cleaners in rubber gloves and men with open laptops paraded around the arena in a mass singalong to "Our House" by the 1980s London ska band Madness. "We want London to be prosperous, competitive, get good jobs and earn a living wage," Bishop of London Richard Chartres told the crowd, setting the scene. "But above all we want London also to be liveable and a place of real community."

The average price of a London home was £534,785 (\$781,000) in March. The London-wide median weekly rent is £276 for a one-bedroom property. Meanwhile the British capital's population is at a record high of 8.6 million and growing at around 100,000 a year. "Londoners on decent wages are being priced out of our city," said former human rights lawyer Khan. "I'm committed to 50 percent of new homes being genuinely affordable," the MP said, and "giving Londoners first dibs on homes rather than investors in the Middle East and Asia".

He added: "If you want to do business with me as mayor, you must pay your staff the London living wage," a figure calculated at £9.40 an hour and paid by 2,500 accredited London employers. The British national minimum wage is £7.20 an hour.

While Khan has a punchy, rallying style, Goldsmith has a more softly-spoken demeanor. The Conservative ecologist said he would deliver 50,000 new homes a year - double the current rate - by freeing up publicly-owned brownfield land. "We have a housing crisis. Prices are out of control," Goldsmith said, saying he would "relentlessly pursue rogue landlords". "There is no value in building lots of new homes and having half of them bought by investors and left empty... I don't want to build developments, I want to build mixed communities."

Though 12 candidates are standing, the winner is set to be decided by second preference votes for the top two - comfortably Khan and Goldsmith, according to polls. Both candidates were presented with a bunch of flowers and the event ended with the sight of Muslim and Jewish prayers being said side by side. — AFP

DEFENDING THE INDEFENSIBLE?

PARIS: Every suspected terrorist, mass murderer or war criminal needs a lawyer - but the person who takes on this role can often provoke incomprehension, disgust and even violence. In choosing to represent Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam, French lawyer Frank Berton has taken on a client seen as a "monster" or "public enemy number one". "Yes, I hesitated," Berton admitted on French television Wednesday as he was thrust into the public eye upon his client's extradition from Belgium to France.

As the sole known surviving member of the terror squad that left 130 dead on Nov 13 in Paris, Abdeslam offers France the only tangible target of their grief and anger at the carnage. Berton is all too aware of a job in which "one is often lumped together with their client". "Of course there are people who won't understand what my job is... but we are in a democracy and Salah Abdeslam is a person, he has things to say. "Justice is served when we understand things; otherwise there is no point to a trial, no usefulness for the victims," Berton said.

Abdeslam's Belgian lawyer Sven Mary for his part said that representing the jihadist had brought him "nothing but troubles". Mary told the French daily Liberation he had suffered physical and verbal attacks and his daughters had even needed a police escort to school.

'Devil's Advocate'

Defence lawyers to hated criminals have used varied tactics to get their clients off, often in the face of overwhelming evidence. Famous French-Algerian lawyer Jacques Verges boasted a chilling client list that earned him the nickname "Devil's advocate". From Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie to former Khmer Rouge head of state Khieu Samphan and a string of Algerian bombers, Verges used his trademark "rupture strategy" - reframing the trial by accusing the prosecution of the same offences as the defendant.

In a French trial against an Algerian guerrilla fighter, for example, he said France was the guilty one for crimes against humanity over its colonial rule and claimed his client was a freedom fighter. Belgian lawyer Mary has used a different tack, calling Abdeslam a "little moron" with the intellect of an "empty ashtray" in an apparent attempt to minimize his client's role in the attacks.

"Defence is compulsory in a court, it is the fundamental rule of democracy," said veteran French lawyer Henri Leclerc, 81, who was attacked by an angry mob while representing Richard Roman, who was found not guilty in 1989 of raping and killing a seven-year-old girl. "A lawyer's role is to be present during the investigation to verify the legality of proceedings, that all elements that could be favorable (to his client) are taken into account," Leclerc said. "In court he must be able to present his client's defence. If he cannot manage, if he has problems with his conscience, he must leave. A lawyer doesn't defend a crime, but a criminal." — AFP

LABOUR UNDER PRESSURE OVER ANTI-SEMITISM ROW

FORMER LONDON MAYOR SUSPENDED

LONDON: Britain's Labour opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn yesterday faced intense pressure over alleged anti-Semitism among far-leftists in his party less than a week before his leadership is tested by local elections. Corbyn was forced to cancel a campaign trip to Wales but denied there was a crisis after senior party member and former London mayor Ken Livingstone was suspended for linking Adolf Hitler to Zionism. Labour deputy leader Tom Watson told BBC radio that the remarks about Hitler were "provocative" and "obviously caused great offence", promising "zero-tolerance" against anti-Semitism. "We are going to deal with this," he said.

The dispute has been simmering for months - ever since veteran socialist Corbyn was elected party leader in September. He has been criticized in the past for referring to Lebanon's powerful Shiite militia Hezbollah as "friends" and urging dialogue with the Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement, as well as meeting representatives of both organizations.

In February, Labour launched an investigation into its Oxford University student branch after the chairman stepped down complaining that many members "have some kind of problem with Jews". Last month Vicki Byrne, deputy chairwoman of a local party branch, was suspended after it was reported she had posted anti-Semitic remarks on Twitter. Corbyn's own brother was drawn into the row earlier this month when he dismissed complaints about anti-Semitic abuse as part of an argument about Israel.

But the row exploded on Wednesday when Labour MP Naz Shah was suspended by the party pending an investigation into allegations that she shared anti-Semitic posts on social media before being elected. Defending Shah in a series of interviews on Thursday, Livingstone also said that criticism of Israel's policies was being confused with anti-Semitism. "When Hitler won his



LONDON: Britain's Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is pictured as he leaves his home yesterday. — AFP

election in 1932 his policy then was that Jews should be moved to Israel. He was supporting Zionism before he went mad and ended up killing six million Jews," he said. "I have been in the Labour Party for 40 years and I have never heard anyone say anything anti-Semitic. "I have heard a lot of criticism for the state of Israel and its abuse of Palestinians, but I have never heard someone be anti-Semitic," he added.

The remarks by Livingstone, a longtime Corbyn ally, were widely condemned within the party and some of those leading the charge are critics of the Labour leader, including members of his own shadow cabinet, leading some observers to suspect an internal power struggle. Former leadership contender Andy Burnham, now the party's spokesman on home affairs, has said allegations of anti-Semitism had "not been dealt with properly and quickly enough".

The row has raised wider concerns in civil society. Jonathan Arkush, the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a representative body, told BBC radio: "It was

much more than offensive language". "What Ken Livingstone deliberately did was to draw an equation between Nazism and Zionism," he said. "He therefore crossed a line into certainly what most people would regard as distinctly anti-Semitic." Jewish Chronicle editor Stephen Pollard wrote an editorial in the Daily Telegraph saying Labour "is now run by a cadre for whom anti-Semitism really is ok, so long as it is dressed up as anti-Zionism".

Guardian columnist Gaby Hinsliff said: "The ferocity of the backlash against Livingstone from left to right of the party is a measure of MPs' deep frustration and shame that a party that prides itself on fighting discrimination should have come to this." "This is about a party trying desperately to stop itself being dragged into the gutter, and to assert values it once thought people took as read," she said. The row is sensitive for Corbyn as it comes ahead of regional elections in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and a mayoral vote in London that are the first litmus test for his leadership. — AFP

GOVT, BIAFRA ACTIVISTS STEP UP WAR OF WORDS

ABUJA: Nigeria's government and pro-Biafra activists are increasingly trading accusations of deadly violence, threatening to aggravate a tense stand-off prompted by the detention of the group's leader. Earlier this month, Nigerian intelligence accused the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement of abducting and killing five ethnic Fulani people and burying them shallow graves.

The Department of State Services (DSS) claimed the murders were proof of the group's "true divisive color and objectives", as it sought to "ignite ethnic terrorism and mistrust". The escalating rhetoric has fanned animosity between the predominantly-Christian Igbo people of the southeast and the Fulani that dates back decades. Igbos have long accused ethnic Fulani political leaders in federal government posts of marginalizing them by denying them senior positions and fund-

ing for infrastructure and development.

Many in the region see it as a "punishment" for declaring independence in May 1967, which sparked a brutal civil war that lasted until 1970. The significance of the DSS accusation is not lost on Nigerians because of violence before secession against Igbos living in the mainly Muslim north, where Hausa-speaking Fulani are dominant. Igbo resentment towards the federal government has not abated since the end of the conflict but is growing because of President Muhammadu Buhari's tough response to IPOB.

Feelings of alienation have been exacerbated at a desperate time when Nigeria is experiencing its slowest growth in more than a decade, inflation is at a four-year high, and chronic fuel shortages. Now, it is feared alleged Fulani attacks in the southeast - common in the religious-

ly-mixed central states - are stoking ethnic grievances and drawing people to the separatist cause.

For weeks, Fulani herdsmen - nomadic Muslim cattle raisers - have been accused of killing farmers in Nigeria's agricultural heartland, according to local media. But on Tuesday, police said at least seven farmers in the southeast state of Enugu were killed in a Fulani raid that IPOB said could spark a "second genocide". "I can assure you more people are coming to Indigenous People of Biafra," said Prince Emmanuel Kanu, whose brother Nnamdi is the group's leader and is facing treason charges for "propagating a secessionist agenda". "IPOB is conducting serious meetings all over Biafraland to find a solution," he told AFP. "For how long to you want to continue killing us and for how long do you want us to remain quiet?"

Despite being jailed since October, Nnamdi Kanu's trial has yet to get under way, a delay his lawyers attribute to the state's inability to bring a strong case against him. Meanwhile, mass protests calling for his release in the southeast cities of Aba and Owerri have been halted as a result of what Prince said were "the incessant killings" by security forces. According to human rights lawyer Onkere Kingdom Nnamdi, the police and military have killed more than 50 protesters between October and February this year.

He is filing a lawsuit against the government for damages on behalf of the injured protestors and families of the deceased. "There are over 200 people in detention," the lawyer said, adding: "Do you know the worst aspect of it? There are those that are missing, their whereabouts cannot be traced." — AFP

FEARS OF INTOLERANCE GROWING IN CROATIA

ZAGREB: "Nostalgia" for a pro-Nazi past, spurning of ethnic minorities and pressure on the press: Croatian activists say an alarming climate of intolerance is taking hold under a new conservative government. Since the ruling coalition took power in the European Union country in January, critics say authorities have turned a blind eye - and even contributed to - concerns over a far-right surge. Last week, in response, angry Jewish, ethnic Serb and anti-fascist groups refused to attend a ceremony remembering tens of thousands who died at Jasenovac, the most notorious concentration camp under Croatia's pro-Nazi Ustasha regime during World War II.

The boycott was a "brave and correct decision in the face of the wave of neo-fascist Ustasha nostalgia which is sweeping Croatia", said Efraim Zuroff at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international Jewish rights organization. Although the Ustasha's so-called Independent State of Croatia was a Nazi puppet state - killing hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Roma and others - their modern sympathizers see them as the country's founding fathers.

The downplaying of their atrocities "has existed for years, but in a different intensity," historian Tvrtko Jakovina told AFP. "It has now penetrated cabinet ministers and the mainstream media." Among the controversial appointments to the new government was that of Zlatko Hasanbegovic, a historian and alleged Ustasha sympathizer, as culture minister. A new documentary about the Jasenovac death camp, slammed by Jews as an attempt to revise Croatia's dark past, was praised by Hasanbegovic as "the best way to finally shed light on many controversial parts of Croatia's history".

Fascism and Football

Prime Minister Tihomir Oreskovic was criticized for failing to react at a March football match against Israel when chants of the Ustasha salute "Za dom spremni!" ("Ready for the homeland!") rang out in the stadium. A day later the government condemned "symbols of totalitarian regimes", without clearly singling out the Ustasha. "The state is simply not doing anything... and does not want to" prevent a far-right revival, said Ognjen Kraus, leader of Croatia's Jewish community.

Eventually both Oreskovic and President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic specifically condemned the Ustasha's crimes, when the US special envoy for Holocaust issues paid a visit earlier this month. Observers have likened Croatia's rightward shift to those in other parts of Eastern Europe, namely Hungary led by strongman Viktor Orban and Poland under the conservative Law and Justice party, which swept to power in October.

But while these leaders were decisively elected, Croatia's main conservative party, the HDZ, failed to win a November election outright and embarked on weeks of horse-trading to cobble together a coalition. Political scientist Zarko Puhovski suggested the new government, which also lacks a genuine economic programme to boost fragile growth, was using a strong nationalist ideology to "create an illusion of a political victory". Respect for minority rights was a key condition for Croatia's entry to the EU in 2013. — AFP

COURT: ZUMA SHOULD FACE ALMOST 800 GRAFT CHARGES

PRETORIA: South African President Jacob Zuma should face almost 800 corruption charges that were dropped in 2009, a judge said yesterday, piling further pressure on the embattled leader. The charges, relating to a multi-billion dollar arms deal, were dropped by the chief state prosecutor in a move that cleared the way for Zuma to be elected president just weeks later. "The decision... to discontinue the charges against Mr Zuma is irrational and should be reviewed and set aside," Pretoria High Court judge Aubrey Ledwaba said. "Mr Zuma should face the charges as applied."

The prosecutor had justified dropping the charges by saying that tapped phone calls between senior officials in then-president Thabo Mbeki's administration showed political interference in the case. The recordings, which became known as the "spy tapes", were kept secret but finally released in 2014 to the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), after a five-year legal battle.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane said yesterday's court ruling was a major blow against the president, who has faced months of criticism over various corruption scandals and the country's dire economic outlook. "Today is a great victory for the rule of law. Ultimately Jacob Zuma must face prosecution," Maimane said after attending the court hearing. "We are deeply, deeply delighted. Jacob Zuma must have... his day in court."

The DA called for the National Prosecuting Authority to immediately revive the 783 charges of corruption, racketeering, fraud and money laundering dating back to 1999. But the legal wrangling is set to continue, with the ruling likely to go to appeal. "These charges were formally withdrawn... and as such there is no pending litigation before court against President Zuma," the presidency said in a statement. "The President has noted the decision of the court and will give consideration to the judgement and its consequences."

The president last month lost another



PRETORIA: South Africa's main opposition party Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane talks to journalists following the Pretoria High court's ruling on the decision that corruption charges against South African president Jacob Zuma could be re-instated yesterday. — AFP

major legal case when the country's highest court found he violated the constitution over the use of public funds to upgrade his private residence. The so-called "security" work, which cost taxpayers \$24 million, included a swimming pool, chicken run, cattle enclosure and an amphitheatre. The DA and other opposition parties attempted to impeach him, but the ruling African National Congress (ANC) used its majority to easily defeat the motion in parliament.

Zuma has also been beset by allegations that a wealthy Indian migrant family had such influence over him that it could decide ministerial appointments. Pressure on the president to be ousted or to resign has grown with several veteran leaders of the party that brought Nelson Mandela to power in 1994 calling for him to step down. Zuma, 74, will have completed two terms in 2019 and is not eligible to run for president again, but the ANC - which is packed with his loyalists - could replace him ahead of the next general election.

Last week, a commission he set up

cleared all government officials of corruption over the 1999 arms deal. Zuma himself was accused of having accepted bribes from international arms manufacturers. His advisor, Schabir Shaik, was jailed for 15 years on related charges in 2005, with the judge saying there was "overwhelming" evidence of a corrupt relationship between the two. Shaik was released on medical parole in 2009, the year Zuma was elected president.

Opposition parties hope to gain ground against the all-powerful ANC at local elections on Aug 3. "The judgement may not necessarily force the president to resign," Shadrack Gutto, director for the Centre for African Renaissance Studies at the University of South Africa, told AFP. "He will try to manoeuvre through the legal processes and so on, but it could have serious implications for the ruling party as we go to elections." Zuma's competency was also questioned when he sacked two finance ministers within days in December, triggering a collapse in the rand and a major withdrawal of foreign investment. — AFP

OPPN CLAIMS MILLION SIGNATURES AGAINST MADURO

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition tried to sack the food minister Thursday for shortages in the crisis-hit country and claimed a million people backed its call for a referendum to remove the president. President Nicolas Maduro promptly rejected the demand, the latest offensive in the battle to replace the government over a crisis that has families queuing up for food rations. "We are facing the worst food emergency in Venezuela's history," said Ismael Garcia, the lawmaker leading the motion to sack minister Rodolfo Marco Torres.

The speaker of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, Henry Ramos Allup, said the government must remove Torres from his post after two-thirds of the lawmakers present approved a no-confidence motion against him. But Maduro retorted: "No one will remove the minister." He vowed to pass new emergency measures to head off attempts of "sabotage" by lawmakers. He even threatened to cut the power to the legislature, as part of widespread blackouts he has imposed to save power. His opponents meanwhile said they had gathered more than five times the 200,000 signatures needed to begin organizing a referendum to remove Maduro.

Senior opposition leader Henrique Capriles said more than a million people had signed a petition calling for a recall referendum. The signatures will be handed over to the National Electoral Board (CNE) early next week for verification.

Looting

The socialist president has already blocked several bills brought by the opposition by challenging them in the Supreme Court. His critics say he controls the court and the electoral authorities. The political tension, shortages and now enforced electricity blackouts that started this week have raised fears of unrest in the South American oil state. Looting and clashes were reported in towns including the country's second-biggest city Maracaibo after daily power cut-offs were formally launched on Monday.

To save power the government has also slashed the workweek to two days for state employees and ordered schools to close on Fridays. It says the El Nino weather phenomenon has dried up the country's hydroelectric dams. The opposition says mismanagement is also to

blame for the power crisis as well as for the shortage of food and basic supplies. "The situation is critical," said Norvelis Contreras, a 26-year-old housewife, who had been queuing for five hours to buy rice and oil on Thursday at a supermarket in Maracaibo. "We are suffering and trying to survive."

In a survey published by pollster Venebarometro on Thursday, 13 percent of Venezuelans said their household only ate once a day. Another Venebarometro poll indicated more than two thirds of Venezuelans wanted Maduro to quit.

Risk of Unrest

In the no-confidence debate, opposition lawmakers said Torres had overseen corruption and ruined Venezuela's production capacity. Once-booming Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves, has plunged into economic chaos as global crude prices have collapsed. Maduro blames the situation on an "economic war" against the country by capitalists. He has vowed to press on with the socialist "revolution" launched by his late predecessor Hugo Chavez in 1999. — AFP

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY IN CUBA, A FIRST SINCE 1959

HAVANA: Britain's foreign secretary met Cuban officials Thursday on the first such visit to the island since 1959, for talks on boosting trade and tourism ties with the communist state. Philip Hammond's trip comes a month after US President Barack Obama's historic visit to the Caribbean nation, which is opening up to warmer ties with its old Cold War rivals. Hammond told reporters in Havana that he was "the first UK foreign secretary to visit Cuba since the revolution" that brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959.

His visit also follows meetings in recent months between Cuba's President Raul Castro and other top officials and leaders from the European Union. Hammond met with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez and signed several cooperation agreements with other communist government officials. They covered areas such as financial services, energy, culture and education, he said. Hammond said he wanted "enhanced bilateral cooperation underpinned by increased trade, increased investment and more tourists coming to Cuba" from Britain.

Britain was the second-biggest source of foreign tourists to Cuba last year after Canada, with 160,000 Britons making the trip, he said. His ministry said earlier that he would sign a "bilateral agreement restructuring Cuba's debt to the UK," but Hammond did not comment about that during his news conference later in Havana. He also met with representatives from Cuban civil society and the British business community in Havana, the Foreign Office said.

Raul Castro met with French President Francois Hollande on a visit to Paris in February. In March, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini became the highest-ranking EU official ever to visit Cuba when she travelled to Havana. She signed a deal to normalize relations with Cuba, including an agreement on human rights. Hammond's office said he, too, would broach the sensitive topics of human rights and social and economic reform in Cuba. — AFP



HAVANA: Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond (left) is welcomed by his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez in the Foreign Affairs Ministry on Thursday. — AFP



RIVERSIDE, California: An unidentified US Marshall court security officer escorts Rafia Farook, the mother of Syed Raheel Farook, out of federal court on Thursday. — AP

THREE LINKED TO CALIF TERROR ATTACK ARRESTED

CHARGES INCLUDE CONSPIRACY, MARRIAGE FRAUD

LOS ANGELES: The FBI arrested three people on Thursday, including the older brother of San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook, on charges of marriage fraud and lying to investigators, authorities said. Syed Raheel Farook, 31, was arrested in the early morning at his home in the California town of Corona, along with his wife Tatiana Farook, also 31. Mariya Chernykh, Tatiana's 26-year-old sister who lives in the nearby town of Ontario, was also arrested.

The five-count indictment against the trio centers on Chernykh's alleged sham marriage to Enrique Marquez, who is awaiting trial on charges of aiding the December 2 attack carried out by Syed Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik. The pair were later killed in a dramatic shootout with police. "This is the latest step in the comprehensive investigation into the horrific attacks in San Bernardino last year that took the lives of 14 innocent Americans and deeply affected so many more," US attorney Eileen Decker said in a statement. "As I have said previously, we owe the victims, and the entire community

of San Bernardino, a thorough investigation that uncovers all criminal activity surrounding these events."

The trio appeared in federal court after their arrest on Thursday and entered not guilty pleas, a Justice Department official said. They were all given bail but were ordered to turn in their passports and banned from traveling outside Southern California pending their trial which was set for June 21, the official told AFP. If convicted, they face up to five years in prison on a charge of lying to immigration officials. Chernykh also faces up to 25 years in prison on charges of fraud and misuse of visas as well as lying to federal agents.

Marquez told investigators after his indictment in December on charges of buying weapons used in the San Bernardino assault that he had entered into a fake marriage with Chernykh in November 2014 and had lied about living with her. Chernykh and her sister are both from Russia and Syed Raheel Farook's marriage to Tatiana has also come under scrutiny. Investigators have executed sev-

eral search warrants at his house since the massacre, the deadliest terror attack on US soil since September 11, 2001.

Syed Raheel Farook served in the US navy between 2003 and 2007 and is a decorated veteran. His attorney Ron Cordova underlined before the judge at Thursday's hearing that the case against Syed Raheel Farook and his wife was about a "misrepresentation in an act of marriage, it's not about an act of terror."

Several neighbors expressed surprise at the couple's arrest on Thursday telling local media that they were pleasant and minded their own business. "This is a family that has suffered much, particularly by reason of the horrible, horrible acts of a family member who is no longer living," Cordova told reporters after the hearing. "But those acts should not be attributed to the family." The probe into the massacre is ongoing and the FBI last month dropped a pitched legal battle with Apple after managing to hack into the iPhone used by Syed Farook without the tech giant's help. — AFP

PACQUIAO NOW A POLITICAL HEAVYWEIGHT

SAN PABLO CITY, Philippines: Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao smiles as he soaks up the sounds of adoring fans screaming his name, their cheers heralding a new career as one of the Philippines' most powerful politicians. After winning his farewell fight against Tim Bradley, the eight-time world champion hit the campaign trail this week in a bid to secure a seat in the Senate when Filipinos go to the polls on May 9. Pacquiao's rise from desperate street kid to boxing superstar has made him one of the nation's biggest heroes and, in a nation where celebrities often become lawmakers, he is effortlessly translating sporting success into the political ring.

Surveys show Pacquiao is virtually guaranteed to win a Senate seat and his journey through shanty towns near Manila, where he threw caps and other souvenirs to joyous fans holding life-sized posters of him, appeared more a victory lap than an effort to convince sceptical voters. "I'm happy campaigning right now. So many people are shouting, cheering for me. I'm glad with the warm welcome in every rally. I really didn't expect that," Pacquiao told AFP on Thursday during a break from the festivities.

With constant speculation that another megabucks bout against American rival Floyd Mayweather might lure him out of retirement, Pacquiao insisted he was enjoying "retired life" and that he was not

thinking about boxing at all. "I'm now a full-time politician. I remember when I dedicated myself to be a boxer and become a champion. It's my feeling right now," he said.

Pacquiao, who has served two terms as a congressman, is running for a seat in the 24-member Senate as part of a long-term strategy to become president, a not unrealistic ambition given his wild popularity. Pacquiao's international reputation took a huge hit in February when the devout evangelical Christian described homosexuals as "worse than animals".

Major sponsor Nike immediately cancelled its partnership with him and a host of US celebrities voiced outrage. But the comments had far less impact in the Philippines, with surveys showing his popularity slumping only slightly afterwards then quickly recovering. Boosted by his success against Bradley this month, Pacquiao is now in third place in the Senate race and a near certainty to take one of the 12 seats available, according to the latest survey from a major pollster.

Message for the Poor

Campaigning in the bustling city of San Pablo

Thursday, there was no sign of rancour. Vendors and tricycle drivers mobbed Pacquiao as he got off a flatbed truck, eager to touch their hero and pose for selfies. A high school drop-out, Pacquiao entered boxing to feed his family, and he says his political ambitions are anchored in his desire to help the poor. He is promising to increase the salaries of teachers, offer scholarships to poor students and give subsidies to farmers, selling himself as a beacon of hope for millions of poor who have not felt the benefits of stellar economic growth under President Benigno Aquino.

"I tell them not to be discouraged because our life was worse than theirs. We did not have our own house, our own land and sometimes even food," Pacquiao said. "I experienced what it was like to sleep on the streets. I want to serve so they will be proud that Manny is for the poor."

Many in San Pablo said they were drawn to Pacquiao's message, as they talked about their own hardships. "I hope he gives projects for non-college graduates," said housewife Jessica Bautista, 29, who only finished grade school. "I hope we get training because the government and companies only prioritise graduates but we have no diploma." — AFP



Manny Pacquiao



TAIPEI: Pro-Taiwan and China unification activists chant slogans outside the Japan Exchange Association during a demonstration yesterday. — AFP

TAIWAN SUMMONS JAPANESE 'ENVOY'

TAIPEI: Taiwan summoned Japan's representative yesterday to protest its seizure of one of the island's fishing boats in an area where Tokyo claims exclusive rights. The 50-tonne Taiwanese boat was chased for hours by a Japanese vessel and finally seized earlier this week, some 150 nautical miles from Okinotori-shima, an atoll administered by Japan. The seizure of the "Tung Sheng Chi 16" prompted protest from Taipei, which said Japan had no authority in the area and demanded the release of the ship and 10 crew.

They were later freed, but tensions remain as the release came only after the ship's owner paid a "lawsuit deposit" of 6 million yen (\$54,000) as demanded by the Japanese authorities, Taiwan's foreign ministry said in a statement. Taiwan's Foreign Minister David Lin expressed the island's displeasure to Mikio Numata, who handles relations with Taipei in the absence of official diplomatic ties. "We've told them we've never recognized the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around Okinotori-shima and they have no right to seize the fishing boat," he told reporters.

Okinotori-shima is an uninhabited atoll in the Philippine Sea which is mostly submerged at low tide. The Japanese EEZ claim has also been rejected by China and South Korea, although neither country has made its own claim. Taiwan's outgoing Premier Chang San-cheng issued a stern warning to Japan as Taipei pledged to protect its fishing boats and said it would send patrol vessels to the area on Sunday. "Don't ever think we'll be weak (on this issue). Don't test our determination," an angry Chang told reporters. — AFP

HK WORKING POOR CHOOSE STREETS OVER BAD HOUSING

NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE RISING

HONG KONG: A plastic sheet, a blanket, a sleeping bag: A makeshift bed laid out in the shadow of towering apartment blocks by a man who would rather be homeless than cooped up in Hong Kong's cramped and overpriced housing units. Bright-eyed, neatly turned out but painfully thin, 54-year-old Ah-po works in a warehouse by day. By night he sleeps in the stands of a neighborhood football pitch in an urban public park, and has done for three years.

In a city where the wealth gap is becoming an unbridgeable gulf, Ah-po is among an increasing number of low earners opting to sleep outside rather than in minuscule units known as "cubicle" or "subdivided" flats, apartments carved into tiny living spaces by landlords capitalizing on demand as public housing remains in short supply. "I work so hard in the day time - I just hope to live comfortably and well in the evening," Ah-po told AFP. "But nowadays the rent is so high."

He says he can make up to HK\$12,000 (\$1,500) a month when his health permits - he suffers from arthritis - and has been in and out of lower-rent accommodation since his business failed eight years ago. However, with property prices rocketing in the past decade, even a unit measuring less than 100 sq ft can cost several thousand Hong Kong dollars per month. There is no legal stipulation for landlords over minimum apartment size or provision of basic amenities.

Cubicle flats seen by AFP measured as little as 28 sq ft, just enough room to squeeze in a bed. A grimy toilet and kitchen are often shared by multiple tenants. Even these units can cost around HK\$2,000. For Ah-po, the park is a more pleasant environment and removes financial pressure - he fears his arthritis may stop him working, leaving him unable to



HONG KONG: This picture taken on April 18, 2016 shows a man watching his television in his "cubicle" flat built within a subdivided "rooftop house" which he shares with other tenants built on the roof of a ten-storey residential building in the Kowloon district. — AFP

pay the bills. "I've got familiar with people who come here for morning exercise and we will greet each other," he says. "I have a sense of belonging."

Research by Hong Kong universities and NGOs shows the number of homeless rose to more than 1,600 in 2015, up 14 percent since their last survey in 2013. More than a third have jobs. "If they pay rent, (the accommodation) is small, it's hot, it's humid, there are many insects...If they go into the park or under the flyover it's noisy, but they can sleep," says Professor Wong Hung at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's department of social work.

The problem has got worse in the last two to three years as salaries have not kept up with rent hikes, Wong adds. There are long waiting lists for public housing

and temporary accommodation is often on the outskirts of the city, meaning extra cost to travel to work, Wong says. Now the average age of the homeless is rising as they now tend to stay on the streets long-term. The government says it is trying to "reintegrate" the homeless, with a range of services from emergency shelters to social security payments.

But campaigners argue it is not enough. Authorities should focus on building low-cost dorms in urban areas where homeless people could settle for two or three years, says Ng Wai-tung, of the Society For Community Organisation (SOCO), a Hong Kong NGO helping the poor. "It's very sad that people can't afford to rent a place even though they have work," says Ng. — AFP

ADVERTORIAL

EVER-VICTORIOUS KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY

April 25 is the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army. Founded in 1932 in the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle for the liberation of the country, the KPA has demonstrated its invincibility in the severe showdown with the imperialist powers. The KPA owes its invincibility, first of all, to the fact that it has upheld peerlessly great men as its supreme commanders.

Kim Il Sung, founder of the KPA, advanced, based on the view that the decisive factor of victory in war is not weaponry but the masses of the soldiers, the Juche-oriented military idea that any formidable enemy can be defeated if one relies on one's own strength. He put this idea into practice, thus creating original military tactics. By applying those tactics into the 15-year-long anti-Japanese struggle fought without any state backing and support from regular armed forces, he defeated the one-million-strong Kwantung Army of Japan and achieved the historic cause of the liberation of Korea.

In the Korean war (1950-1953) started by the US, he inflicted serious defeat on the US for the first time in its history, who boasted of its being "the strongest" in the world, and defended the sovereignty and dignity of the country with credit. Kim Jong Il, inheriting the idea and cause pioneered by Kim Il Sung, developed the latter's Songun idea in depth to establish the mode of Songun politics in the fullest scale, the first of its kind in the history of world politics. And on the strength of Songun he achieved one victory after another in the severe nuclear showdown with the US and its satellite forces.



The immortal military exploits performed by Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are now being carried forward by Kim Jong Un, the supreme commander of the KPA. He strengthens the overall defense capabilities of the country to the maximum with the KPA as the core, and smashes all the challenges by the US with his outstanding military tactics and matchless courage and will. Recently he ensured that decisive blows were delivered to the US and its followers, who picked a quarrel with the launch of peaceful artificial satellite by Korea, by taking important measures including a nuclear test.

Another factor for the KPA's invincibility is its superior political and ideological might. The KPA prides itself as a pillar and motive force of the socialist cause. It defends the socialist cause and

the country's sovereignty and dignity by force of arms. Another characteristic that distinguishes the KPA from armed forces of the other countries is that all its officers and men are equipped with the idea and faith of their supreme commander, move as one under his command, and never hesitate to sacrifice their lives for carrying out his orders. They entrust their life and destiny to their supreme commander, and defend him unto death, becoming human shields, bullets and bombs. It is natural that these service personnel, who are boundlessly faithful to their idea and cause and are ready to sacrifice their lives for their supreme commander, will surely emerge victorious in the showdown with those who fight to earn money. Another factor for the KPA's invincibility is its great military and technological might.

During the long period since its founding the KPA has fought both the guerrilla and regular warfare and a showdown without gunfire, in the course of which it has acquired its peculiar tactics and profound experience; it is now prepared for modern warfare which demands all kinds of cutting-edge technologies.

At present the KPA is equipped with not only conventional weapons but also strategic rockets and even minimized A-bombs. That is why the imperialist allied forces headed by the US, accustomed to resorting without any consideration to invasion and war against the countries that are not to their liking dare not unleash a war against the DPRK.

The last factor is its unity with the people. The KPA is the army for people. It defends the lives and property of the people, builds structures for the good of the people and makes a breakthrough in economic construction, upholding the slogans "Let us take upon ourselves both national defense and socialist construction!" and "Let us help the people!"

The Korean people are proud of their army and aid it with all their sincerity. The traditional army-people unity is not merely the relations by which they help and lead one another but unity in ideology and fighting spirit based on the revolutionary soldier spirit. In other words, the soldiers and civilians are revolutionary comrades and comrades-in-arms who share ideology, will and even destiny. This single-hearted unity centered on the leader is, in fact, the mightiest in the world, more powerful than A-bombs. The KPA will always emerge victorious in the future, too.

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US SOLDIERS ACCUSED OF PROVOKING DPRK TROOPS

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday accused US soldiers of trying to provoke its front-line troops with "disgusting" acts and encouraging South Korean soldiers to aim their guns at the North. A North Korean military statement warned US soldiers to stop what it called "hooliganism" at the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom or they'll meet a "dog's death any time and any place".

"GIs hurled fully armed MPs of the South Korean puppet army into perpetrating such dangerous provocations as aiming at" the North Korean military side last week, said the statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. It said US troops pointed their fingers at North Korean soldiers and made strange noises and unspecified "disgusting" facial expressions.

North Korea occasionally accuses South Korean and US troops of trying to provoke its border troops and vice versa. After North Korea's first nuclear bomb test in 2006, the US accused North Korean troops of spitting across the border's demarcation line, making



PAJU, South Korea: North Korean defectors prepare to release balloons carrying leaflets condemning North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a rally against North Korea near the border yesterday. — AP

throat-slashing hand gestures and flashing their middle fingers.

The latest North Korean accusation came a day after South Korean and US officials said two suspected medium-

range missile launches by North Korea ended in failure. In recent weeks, North Korea fired a barrage of missiles and artillery shells into the sea in an apparent response to annual South Korea-US

military drills that end today. Separately, South Korean and US activists yesterday launched anti-Pyongyang leaflets over the border where tensions have been running high since the isolated state's last nuclear test in January.

Some 20 activists, including former defectors from North Korea, launched around 300,000 leaflets in packages tied to gas-filled balloons from a spot near the heavily-militarized frontier. The regular leaflet exercises have long angered Pyongyang, which has threatened military retaliation against the activists.

In Oct 2014, North Korean guards attempted to shoot down some of the balloons, sparking a brief exchange of fire across the border. One balloon launched yesterday carried a portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un and a slogan calling for his overthrow. "The people of North Korea need to know the enemy of the North Korean people is Kim Jong-Un," said Suzanne Scholte of the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. — Agencies



PYONGYANG: Kim Dong Chul, a US citizen detained in North Korea, is escorted to his trial yesterday. — AP

NORTH KOREA GIVES KOREAN-AMERICAN 10 YEARS HARD LABOR

SEOUL: North Korea's Supreme Court yesterday sentenced a Korean American man to 10 years of hard labor for subversion, North Korean media reported, in the latest conviction of a foreigner for crimes against the isolated state. Kim Dong Chul, 62, was arrested in North Korea in October and had admitted to committing "unpardonable espionage" including stealing military secrets, the North's official KCNA news agency reported earlier.

"The accused confessed to all crimes he had committed ... and gathered and offered information on its party, state and military affairs to the South Korean puppet regime, which are tantamount to state subversive plots and espionage," it said. State prosecutors sought a 15-year sentence. His defense attorney requested leniency considering his old age, KCNA said. Kim was shown in photographs handcuffed and wearing a tie and blue jacket. He looked distressed and was flanked by uniformed guards.

North Korea, which has been criticized over its human rights record for years, has used detained Americans in the past to extract high-profile visits from the United States, with which it has no formal diplomatic relations. It has previously handed down lengthy hard labor sentences to foreigners, though eventually freeing them before they served their full terms. Six foreigners, including Kim and three South Koreans, are known to be detained in the North.

Kim, who has said he is a naturalized American citizen, had confessed to committing espionage under the direction of the US and South Korean governments and apologized for his crimes, according to the North's KCNA news agency in March. He told foreign media in March that he was born in 1953 in Seoul and moved to the United States when he was 19. He said he set up a business in the North Korean special economic zone of Rason in 2008. — Reuters

YEARNING FOR N KOREA, THE NATION THEY FLED

'DEFECTORS' MISS SIMPLER DAYS

INCHEON, South Korea: For much of the world, North Korea is a Stalinist nightmare, an isolated enclave of prison camps, poverty and hunger. But for tens of thousands of people scattered across South Korea and living underground in China, it's something far more complicated. It's a memory they wrestle with. It's home. It's the place they left behind. And even if there is plenty they hate about it, there is also much that they miss, sometimes aching.

They miss relatives and friends and the small-town neighborliness that can come, admittedly, in not having many recreation choices. They miss dancing to accordion music in public parks on their days off, and the greasy street food they'd yearn for when they were most hungry. At times, they even miss the three generations of dictators - Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and now Kim Jong Un - who have controlled the country for nearly 70 years.

"I think all the time about the people I knew there," said a former coal miner, a gentle man who works at least 12 hours a day in a Seoul convenience store, and who has the disheveled look of someone who rarely gets enough sleep. He left North Korea a decade ago with his family. "Whenever we're together, and we're eating a good meal, we think about those people."

More than 27,000 North Korean refugees live in South Korea. Thousands more live underground in China, often working menial jobs for low pay, though just how many remains widely debated. A handful of other refugees live in countries ranging from England to the United States. The convenience store manager, whose muscular arms still betray his years as a miner, misses the siblings he left behind, and the nieces and nephews he may never meet. Relatives in South Korea paid smugglers to get his family out, he said, but his siblings wouldn't go.



PAJU: In this Sept 27, 2015 file photo, North Korean defectors bow to respect for their ancestors in North Korea to mark Chuseok, the Korean version of Thanksgiving Day, at the Imjingak Pavilion near the demilitarized zone of Panmunjom. — AP

"They were too afraid," he said. "Now they regret it." Like nearly all North Korean exiles, he spoke on condition his name not be used, fearing retribution against extended family still in the North. Researchers say relatives of refugees, particularly those known to live in South Korea, can face punishments from job demotions to imprisonment.

Fondness

He has no warmth for the Pyongyang government, railing against the regime for leaving nearly all North Koreans in poverty as a handful grow rich. But some other refugees disagree. Polls of North Korean refugees, often known here as defectors, say many still have some fondness for the leaders in Pyongyang. "All three (of the Kim family dictators) really did think of the North Korean people," said another exile, a former North Korean policeman who acknowledged that he is torn about his feelings.

North Korea, he noted, has spent billions of dollars on its military even as so many of its people have gone hungry. In the worst times, hundreds of thousands of people are thought to have died in a famine that ripped through the country in the mid-1990s, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea's most important patron at the time.

But, he added, his homeland is also a small, poor country that has successfully stood up to the world, surviving international isolation and years of economic sanctions. So when Pyongyang sets off a nuclear test or test-fires a missile, he sees a leader proving he cannot be bullied. "Maybe this is the way Kim Jong Un can protect his family, protect his people, protect his country," said the former policeman, pride filling his voice. "If I was in his position, sometimes I think I might do the same thing." He paused: "Well, sometimes." — AP

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BAKERSFIELD: Oil pumping jacks and drilling pads at the Kern River Oil Field where the principle operator is the Chevron Corporation in Bakersfield, California. US energy firm Chevron reported yesterday a loss of \$725 million in the first quarter, joining the growing list of petroleum giants that finished the period in the red. — AFP

OPEC OIL OUTPUT NEAR RECORD HIGH IN APRIL

IRAN-IRAQ GROWTH OFFSETS OUTAGES, STRIKE HITS KUWAIT OUTPUT

LONDON: OPEC's oil output rose in April to close to the highest level in recent history, a Reuters survey found yesterday, as production increases led by Iran and Iraq more than offset a strike in Kuwait and other outages.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia, however, made no major change to output, the survey found, despite the kingdom hinting it could boost supply after OPEC and non-member nations failed to agree to freeze output at a meeting on April 17. Oil has rebounded more than 75 percent from a 12-year low in January to reach \$48 a barrel, helped by the freeze initiative and signs that lower prices are starting to curb higher-cost supply, despite high inventories and other persistent reminders of a glut. "The market is massively oversupplied," said Eugen Weinberg, analyst at Commerzbank in Frankfurt. "This rally doesn't have strong legs."

Supply from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries rose to 32.64 million barrels per day (bpd) this month, from 32.47 million bpd in March, according to the survey, based on shipping data and information from sources at oil companies, OPEC and consultants. That almost matches January's 32.65 million bpd, when Indonesia's return as an OPEC member boosted production and output from the other 12 members was the highest in Reuters survey records, starting in 1997.

OPEC output has surged since it abandoned in 2014 its historic role of cutting supply to prop up prices, led by higher supply from Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Iran saw the sharpest increase in production in April after Western sanctions were lifted in January. Tehran, which wants to recover the market share it lost, has refused to limit its supply until it reaches pre-sanctions output.

At 3.40 million bpd, Iranian output is within sight of the 3.50 million bpd it pumped at the end of 2011 before sanctions were tightened, according to Reuters surveys. However, some of the crude may have come from storage, giving a temporary boost to April supply, sources said.

Iraq, which saw the fastest growth in production in OPEC in 2015, also raised output. Southern exports have risen to what may be a new record in April - depending on whether tankers loading at the end of the month are treated as April or May. Shipments of Kurdish crude from the north also rose. OPEC's third-largest supply increase in April came from the United Arab Emirates, following the end of maintenance work on oilfields that produce Murban crude.

Of the countries that reduced output, the largest decline was in Kuwait due to a three-day workers' strike which temporarily more than halved oil output and curbed refinery operations.

Nigerian output fell due to the continued lack of Forcados crude exports and a brief disruption to shipments of another stream, Brass River. Repairs on a pipeline to the Forcados terminal will take until June, the government said.

Loading problems, power failures and other problems dented Venezuela's supply by an estimated 40,000 bpd. Oil services firm Schlumberger is cutting activity in the cash-strapped nation, posing a threat to future output. Saudi Arabia kept output steady compared with March, sources in the survey said, even though use in domestic power plants is rising. Saudi production was estimated at 10.15 million bpd versus 10.18 million in March.

"Exports are lower," said a source who monitors Saudi output. "The month is not over yet so let's wait for the final number, but that's what I am seeing here and now." OPEC meets on June 2 in Vienna and may discuss the freeze initiative again. However, OPEC officials have been encouraged by the price recovery, which may take the urgency out of a renewed attempt to forge a deal.

Meanwhile, analysts are growing increasingly confident that a near-two-year rout in oil has ended, and raised their price forecasts for a second month running, as healthier demand and a drop in US shale output balance the market by 2017. The inability of OPEC and non-OPEC producers to

agree to limit oil output at a meeting earlier this month is not expected to slow the rebalancing of global demand and supply.

The survey of 29 analysts projected a slightly more bullish outlook, raising their average forecast for Brent crude futures in 2016 to \$42.30 a barrel, compared to \$40.90 in the March poll.

Last month's survey saw an upward revision in 2016 Brent forecasts for the first time in 10 months. Brent has averaged about \$40 a barrel in 2016. Oil prices are headed for a fourth straight week of gains and a rise of around 20 percent in April, their largest monthly increase in a year.

Analysts said the failure of the Qatar meeting among the world's largest producers to reach an agreement to keep output at January's levels has had little or no impact on prices. "The status quo is already such that virtually all producers, except Iran, have little to no room to increase production from current levels," said Raymond James analyst Luana Siegfried.

Since the April 17 stalemate in Doha, the oil price has rallied 21 percent to its highest since November. Iran's oil output will rise only modestly this year and next, but it will be enough to stop global supply and demand from rebalancing in 2016, according to a Reuters poll earlier this month. — Reuters

POLITICAL SPLITS THREATEN TUNISIA ECONOMIC REFORM

CENTRAL BANK AUTONOMY LAW ONLY FIRST IN PACKAGE

TUNIS: Political divisions in Tunisia's ruling coalition risk undermining economic reforms and paralyzing the government as it tries to revive the country's post-revolution economy and tackle Islamist militancy. Until recently, compromise between secular and Islamist parties in the governing alliance had helped keep Tunisia's transition on track after the 2011 overthrow of Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, which inspired uprisings across the Arab world.

But that consensus looks increasingly threatened by squabbling among secular allies and splits within the coalition. When lawmakers voted for part of an economic reform package last week, the ruling alliance managed to force the bill through by just two votes after many of its lawmakers opposed the motion or abstained.

The vote on the bill to protect central bank autonomy was just one of the financial overhauls Tunisia's international lenders are demanding to set the North African state's economy on track after five years of upheaval. But for ruling coalition parties to muster only 73 votes of the 150 they control in the 217-member congress underscored how political splits are starting to undermine those efforts.

Tunisia is struggling with lower tourism revenue after three militant attacks last year, protests over unemployment and slow economic revival. "There are some in the coalition that think they can be in the government and the opposition at the same time," said Ajmi Ourimi, a lawmaker with the Islamist Ennahda party, which is part of the coalition. "We're in a crisis of coordination."

After elections in late 2014, Prime Minister Habib Essid's cabinet, including ministers from secularist Nidaa Tounes party, Ennahda and other minor parties, has struggled to make progress on economic reforms

to match Tunisia's political progress.

The International Monetary Fund this month reached a preliminary deal to assist Tunisia with a four-year loan program worth about \$2.8 billion tied to economic reforms. That came after offers of aid from European partners.

But IMF Tunisia mission chief Amine Mati urged the government to start work immediately. Splits in secular party Nidaa Tounes and its ally Afek Tounes have angered Essid, who felt the loss of political support as he seeks to pass more sensitive austerity-style reforms needing consensus to overcome any popular reactions. "I feel frustrated after I saw the result of the vote on the Central Bank law. I held meetings with the four coalition parties in order to avoid the same scenario," Essid told reporters.

But it is far from clear whether their positions will unify for new bills, especially with widening political divides among the four, Ennahda, Nidaa Tounes, Afek Tounes and Free Popular Union UPL party. Nidaa Tounes, the party of President Beji Caid Essebsi, has already splintered over a dispute about the role his son might play in the party and its secretary-general and a group of lawmakers broke away to form a new political movement. In a sign of more rifts, Yassin Ibrahim, the leader of Afek Tounes party, has suggested the formation of a new parliamentary bloc which includes liberal parties but excludes Ennahda.

Although Nidaa Tounes leaders rejected the proposal, Ibrahim's comments could further weaken the fragile government. "There has been a crisis in the coalition since the announcement of possible new front in parliament and after the central bank law vote," Abd Elaziz El Koti, a Nidaa Tounes lawmaker. "We're in talks over better coordination now."

BAD TIMING

Political infighting could not come at a worse time. Tunisia's economy has faltered since the revolt against Ben Ali and problems have been exacerbated by last year's attacks by Islamist militants who targeted foreign visitors and the tourism industry which accounts for 8 percent of gross domestic product. Economic growth in Tunisia was 0.8 percent last year and officials expect 2.5 percent this year, but unemployment stands at 15.3 percent and is far higher among young people.

Protests and rioting over jobs and economic opportunities at the start of the year illustrated how sensitive any austerity reforms may be given the simmering social tensions. The rest of the reform package will be presented to parliament in the coming weeks, after a long delay, including the investment bill, retirement bill and banks project law.

Analysts say the banks bill may cause controversy after financial experts criticized the Islamic finance portion for favoring Islamic banks over traditional banks. The government's proposal to raise the retirement age by five years - part of efforts to reduce public spending on pensions - is also facing a strong resistance from the powerful labor union UGTT.

Labour union protests have already forced the cabinet to act. The government scuppered an attempt to apply a fiscal law obliging thousands of doctors and lawyers to give details on their income after their unions threatened strikes. "Prime minister Essid is now without partisan support, he is alone engaged in small and large wars," local newspaper Tunisie Telegraph newspaper said in a column. "Two lawmakers saved the central bank law and perhaps the country from early elections." — Reuters

IRAN SNAGS MORE EUROPEAN OIL BUYERS IN SLOG FOR MARKET SHARE

LONDON: Two European refiners are set to receive their first oil cargoes from Iran since international sanctions were lifted in January against the country, which is ramping up crude exports in a battle to take back market share. Iran has pledged to increase production following sanctions lifting, and it declined to participate in a meeting on April 17 of producer group OPEC and non-member nations aimed at reaching a deal to freeze output to prop up prices. The talks collapsed.

Italy's IPLM booked a 1 million barrel cargo of Iranian crude that is sailing towards the country aboard the Poetic, industry sources told Reuters. It will be the first post-sanctions cargo to arrive in Italy. Oil trading and shipping sources said Greek refiner Motor Oil Hellas would also receive its first post-sanctions delivery of Iranian crude aboard the Kriti Breeze, which loaded at Kharg Island on April 20.

The company did not respond to a request for comment. Both refiners bought Iran's oil before sanctions against the country's nuclear program effectively halted its shipments to Europe, which had accounted for more than a third of its exports. France's Total, Spain's Cepsa and Greece's Hellenic Petroleum have booked Iranian crude for their European refineries this year.

Others, including Italy's Saras and ENI, have expressed interest in buying. But exports have been much slower than Iran targeted due to struggles with shipping and insurance. Iran's exports peaked at just over 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2011, making it the second-largest exporter that year after Saudi Arabia. Its exports fell to a little more than 1 million bpd after tougher sanctions in 2012.

According to data from Energy Aspects, global imports of Iran's crude rose in March to 1.90 million bpd, from 1.51 million bpd in February. "Buyers are gradually finding ways to handle the issues with shipping insurance and banking transactions, which in the end are hurdles rather than insurmountable barriers," said Richard Mallinson, an analyst with Energy Aspects.

"As more buyers join in we could see flows to Europe increase, which is certainly a goal for Iran." — Reuters

LIBYA OUTLINES AMBITIOUS PLANS TO RESTORE OIL OUTPUT

LONDON/TRIPOLI: Libya's National Oil Corporation has ambitious plans to restore output to pre-2011 levels after years of violence and disruption, officials said. Oil output is now less than a quarter of the 1.6 million barrels per day Libya pumped before Muammar Gaddafi fell in 2011, and the National Oil Corporation (NOC) in Tripoli hopes to ramp it up swiftly with the backing of a new unity government.

Full recovery could take years because of shutdowns by disgruntled workers, political rivalry and attacks by Islamic State militants. Militants hit the al-Ghani, Mabrouk, and Dahra fields in the Sirte basin over a year ago, forcing the NOC to declare force-majeure on 11 fields, and there have been further attacks since then. An NOC official in Tripoli told Reuters that at least 200,000 bpd of capacity had been damaged in attacks on oil fields in the western Sirte basin, Libya's most prolific.

It may take the NOC until late 2017 or 2018 to bring those fields back to full capacity, the official said, if it can afford the repairs.

The first phase of a three-stage recovery plan can be implemented within three months, a second NOC official in Tripoli said, allowing fields like El Sharara and Elephant, with a combined capacity of around 430,000 bpd, to come back on stream.

But other fields, including those that have been directly attacked and others that feed via pipeline to Libya's largest export terminals at Ras Lanuf and Es Sider, may take longer to bring back online, he added. Phase two covers six to eight months down the line while the final phase covers fields that will take between eight months and several years to reopen.

Infrastructure damage at the ports could take years to repair and will delay the restart of the fields feeding to them. Another big factor is the cost of the repairs. "All those plans depend on security. If proper and robust security at the oil facilities is not in place, then our plans will be in jeopardy," the second official said.

Earlier this year militants attacked Ras Lanuf and Es Sider, which can handle 600,000 bpd of crude exports. The two terminals had been closed since December 2014, after an attack on Es Sider.

The latest assault left just 12 out of 32 storage tanks at the terminals operational, NOC chairman Mustafa Sanalla told Reuters in February. It may take NOC "many years" to rebuild damaged "long lead items" at the ports, he added. — Reuters



COLOMBO: A ship is loaded with containers at the Chinese-majority owned Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT) in Colombo yesterday. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed a \$1.5 billion loan for Sri Lanka to support economic reforms aimed at reversing a two-decade decline in tax revenue and reviving growth, it said yesterday. — AFP

HOW FRANCE SANK JAPAN'S \$40BN AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE DREAM

TOKYO/PARIS/SYDNEY: In 2014, a blossoming friendship between Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe looked to have all but sewn up a \$40 billion submarine deal. Then French naval contractor DCNS hatched a bold and seemingly hopeless plan to gatecrash the party.

Almost 18 months later, France this week secured a remarkable come-from-behind victory on one of the world's most lucrative defense deals. The result: Tokyo's dream of fast-tracking a revival of its arms export industry is left in disarray. Interviews with more than a dozen Japanese, French, Australian and German government and industry officials show how a series of missteps by a disparate Japanese group of ministry officials, corporate executives and diplomats badly undermined their bid.

In particular, Japan misread the changing political landscape in Australia as Abbott fell from favour. The Japanese group, which included Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI), also failed to clearly commit to providing skilled shipbuilding jobs in Australia. And Tokyo realized far too late its bid was being outflanked by the Germans and particularly the French, the sources involved in the bid said.

France, on the other hand, mobilized its vast and experienced military-industrial complex and hired a powerful Australian submarine industry insider, Sean Costello, who led it to an unexpected victory.

Japan's loss represents a major setback for Abe's push to develop an arms export industry as part of a more muscular security agenda after decades of pacifism. "We put our utmost effort into the bid," the head of the Ministry of Defense's procurement agency Hideaki Watanabe said after the result was announced on Tuesday. "We will do a thorough analysis of what impact the result will have on our defense industry."

By the end of 2014, Japan was still comfortably in the driving seat thanks to the relationship between Abe and Abbott, which had begun soon after Abbott's 2013 election and strengthened quickly. Japan and Australia - key allies of the United States - had wanted to cement security ties to counter to China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea and beyond.

FRENCH OVERTURES

Still, France saw an opportunity to get into the game. In November 2014, DCNS CEO Herve Guillou prevailed on French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian to visit Australia and start the pitch for France. Le Drian travelled to Albany in the country's remote southwest, where officials had gathered to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the first sailing of Australian soldiers to fight on France's Western Front during World War One.

The poignant shared history opened the door to discussions about the submarine contract, a source close to the French Ministry of Defense told Reuters. "The French minister wished to be there for this important event. There, he held talks with his Australian counterpart David Johnston and with ... Abbott," said the source, who along with other officials asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

FIGHTING FOR JOBS

Soon after, however, Australia's political instability would erode Japan's advantage with the old guard. In December 2014, Johnston, the Australian defence minister, was forced to resign after disparaging the skills of Australian shipbuilders.

South Australian lawmakers, worried that Abbott had quietly agreed to Japan supplying the new submarines, insisted the government look at options to build them in their state. They pressured the prime minister into holding a competitive tender which DCNS and Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems quickly joined.

In February 2015, Abbott called his "best friend in Asia", as he had previously described Abe, to tell him about the new bidding process. Abe sympathized and said he would do his best to comply, two sources with knowledge of the conversation said. Yet, convinced the deal was still in the bag, Japan's bidding group dithered. "Even though we were in the competition we acted as though nothing had changed," said one Japanese government source involved in the bid. "We thought we had already won, so why do anything to rock the boat?"

The Japanese did not attend a conference for the Future Submarines project in March, failing to understand the importance of the crucial lobbying event and leaving the field to their German and French rivals, sources within the Japanese bid said.

Japan's belated attempt to engage with potential local suppliers at a follow up event in August 2015 went badly. Companies complained Tokyo was unwilling to discuss substantive deals. Having only ever sold arms to Japan's military because of a decades-old ban on exports that Abe lifted in 2014, neither Japanese company had any Australian military industrial partners. — Reuters



LITTLE HAVANA: Grocery shoppers browse an aisle at a local grocery store in the Little Havana area of Miami. The Commerce Department issued its March report on consumer spending, which accounts for roughly 70 percent of US economic activity. — AP

TAME US INFLATION BOLSTERS FED CAUTION ON RATE HIKES

CONSUMER SPENDING EDGES UP, LABOR COSTS INCREASE

WASHINGTON: US inflation barely rose in March as consumer spending remained tepid, making it less likely that the Federal Reserve will be able to follow through on its projected two interest rate hikes this year. The tame inflation backdrop was reinforced by another report on Friday showing labor costs increasing moderately in the first quarter.

The Commerce Department said the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, excluding the volatile food and energy components, edged up 0.1 percent last month after an upwardly revised 0.2 percent increase in February.

The so-called core PCE rose 1.6 percent in the 12 months through March, after advancing 1.7 percent in February. The core PCE is the US central bank's preferred inflation measure and is running below its 2 percent target. Following its latest policy meeting, the Fed said on Wednesday it was continuing to "closely" monitor inflation. It left its benchmark overnight interest rate unchanged and suggested it was in no hurry to tighten monetary policy further.

It hiked rates in December for the first time in nearly a decade. Fed policymakers earlier this year forecast two more rate hikes for 2016. But market-based measures of Fed policy expectations are mostly leaning toward one increase this year.

Prices of US Treasuries hit session lows after the data, while US stock futures added to losses. The dollar fell to an eight-month low against a basket of currencies.

MODEST WAGE INFLATION

In a separate report, the Labor Department said its employment Cost Index, the broadest measure of labor costs, increased 0.6 percent in the first quarter after gaining 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter. Labor costs rose 1.9 percent in the

12 months through March, well below the 3 percent threshold that economists say is needed to bring inflation closer to the Fed's inflation target. The ECI increased 2.0 percent in the year to December.

The ECI is widely viewed by policymakers and economists as one of the better measures of labor market slack. It is also considered a better predictor of core inflation. Inflation is being restrained by a strong dollar and cheaper energy. Wage growth has been frustratingly slow and could remain moderate as the fairly robust labor market attracts people who had given up looking for work.

Though employment gains have been broad, they have tended to be concentrated in the services industries, especially restaurants and the retail sector, which typically pay less compared to manufacturing and construction jobs. Lack of strong wage growth has contributed to moderate consumption growth. Consumer spending ticked up 0.1 percent in March after an upwardly revised 0.2 percent gain in February. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, was previously reported to have risen 0.1 percent in February. — Reuters

BRENT CRUDE SET FOR BIGGEST MONTHLY GAIN IN 7 YEARS

LONDON: Brent crude was heading for its biggest monthly rise in seven years yesterday, touching fresh 2016 highs as a weak dollar and falling US production tempered concerns about a lingering excess of physical oil. Recent gains have given analysts reason to become more bullish on oil price forecasts, with those polled by Reuters raising their price expectations for the second month in a row after a two-year price rout.

A looming rise in Middle East output capped gains, but investor sentiment held the optimism that has helped lift oil futures nearly 80 percent higher than January lows.

Brent futures were trading at \$48.26 a barrel at 1211 GMT, up 12 cents from their last close. US crude was up 42 cents at \$46.45 a barrel, with both contracts hitting 2016 highs earlier in the session.

Investment bank Jefferies yesterday

said the market "is coming into better balance" and would flip into undersupply in the second half of the year. But others warned that the rally was happening too soon, and driven in large part by investors taking speculative positions in oil.

"The issue is that we haven't seen price rallies ... correlate with fundamentals," said Hamza Khan, senior commodity strategist at ING. "The fundamentals - high stocks, high production - haven't changed." Deutsche Bank said a looming rise in production by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - due to climbing Iranian output and following outages in Iraq, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates - could cap recent price rises.

Additionally, Saudi output is expected to edge up by 350,000 barrels to around 10.5 million barrels per day, sources told Reuters, just as tankers filled with unsold oil are at sea seeking buyers. — Reuters



BOBIGNY: People wave CGT union flags as they gather in front of the Bobigny courthouse yesterday to call for the release of two of their colleagues, arrested yesterday during demonstrations against the government's proposed labor law. — AFP

FRANCE TOUTS GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS AS PROTESTS PERSIST

GDP GREW BY 0.5% IN Q1 BEATING EXPECTATIONS

PARIS: France's embattled Socialist government seized on good economic news showing "solid growth" yesterday after fresh protests over planned labor reforms descended into violence.

At least 170,000 workers and students took to the streets across France on Thursday, as clashes erupted in several cities with scenes of burning cars, stone-throwing protesters and police firing tear gas. Nearly 80 policemen were injured, three seriously. It was the fourth major protest day in two months, with more demonstrations set for Sunday—the traditional May Day holiday—and again on Tuesday, when parliament formally opens debate on the labour law.

In what the government hopes will provide an antidote to anger over the reforms' potential impact on employment and job security, this week has brought some upbeat news on the struggling economy.

Official data showed yesterday that France's gross domestic product grew by 0.5 percent in the first quarter of this year, beating expectations of 0.4 percent expansion.

That came on top of figures earlier in the week showing the biggest drop in jobless numbers in nearly 16 years, with the ranks of the unemployed falling by 1.7 percent in March to 3.5 million job seekers.

"Our action is bearing fruit," said Finance Minister Michel Sapin. "It is solid growth that's under way."

But the protests have stymied government efforts to free up the job market by making it easier for companies to hire and fire. Anger on the streets forced the government to water down the proposed reforms—only to anger bosses while failing to assuage workers.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls admitted that the government should review its strategy, telling *Society* magazine, a trendy bi-weekly: "We must be able to analyse our own actions and recognise our mistakes." Valls said his team had erred in "the timing and manner of presenting the labour law" to the French people.

Young people have been at the forefront of the protest movement, with many young

workers stuck on short-term contracts or internships while hoping to secure a permanent job. While overall joblessness in France has stood at 10 percent for years, some one in four people under 25 are out of work.

Blame game

President Francois Hollande has staked his presidency on a pledge to reduce unemployment, and the clock is ticking down on his term in office, with elections little more than a year away. He is likely to seek re-election despite approval ratings that are currently among the lowest ever for a post-war French leader. Opponents of the labour reforms, billed as an effort to reduce chronic unemployment, say it will threaten cherished rights and deepen job insecurity for young people. The wave of protests inspired a new youth movement dubbed "Nuit Debout" (Up All Night) that kicked off on March 31. It has since embraced a range of grievances, spreading from Paris to several other cities.

The event, which has drawn up to 3,000 mainly young people at a time in the capital, has increasingly been marred by violence, with police warning the organizers not to let their peaceful causes be hijacked by troublemakers.

Several dozen young protesters clashed with police in the early hours of yesterday in a central Paris square after refusing orders to disperse, police said. The unrest has sparked a blame game, with the far-left accusing the Socialist government of heavy-handedness while the right says it has been too lax.

But Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve rejected demands for an outright ban on demonstrations from right-wing politicians who argue that France remains under a state of emergency since the November jihadist attacks in Paris. Student leader William Martinet admitted Friday that organizers could "do more" to prevent protests from spiralling out of control, but said it was a "joint responsibility" of the unions and the security forces. Prime Minister Valls said the government had "under-estimated how fractured French society is." — AFP

YEN HEADS FOR BEST WEEK SINCE 2008 AS DOLLAR BULLS SAG

LONDON: The yen built further yesterday on strong gains since a shocking Bank of Japan policy meeting, moving to an 18-month high against the dollar and on course for its biggest weekly gain since the 2008 financial crisis. Poor US growth numbers and the Federal Reserve's cautious tone this week has squeezed hedge funds still backing a stronger dollar in the face of a market positioned negatively on the US currency for the first time in a year.

The yen's 3 percent rise after the BOJ meeting on Thursday added to the range of headwinds facing the greenback, which also include a steady recovery in oil prices over the past month. By 0726 GMT, the euro was up 0.25 percent against the greenback, helping push the dollar index a third of a percent lower. Sterling, relieved

by an easing of Brexit nerves in the past two weeks, hit a 3-month high of \$1.4658.

The Canadian dollar, the major currency most correlated with crude prices, hit a 10-month high of C\$1.2500.

"If you were a dollar bull, you were holding on for some support from the Fed this week. When it didn't quite materialise, people just gave up," said Richard Benson, co-head of portfolio investment at currency managers Millennium Global.

"If you ask me there is some significant nuance (taking us closer to a June hike) in what the Fed said. They maybe thought that statement would lead to people pricing it at 50-50 but the market just did not want to know." Some Japanese banks are skeptical on the yen's ability to gain further. — Reuters

LUXLEAKS WHISTLEBLOWER 'SHOCKED' BY TAX BREAKS

LUXEMBOURG: A whistleblower who helped expose the LuxLeaks scandal told a court yesterday he had decided to do his duty as a citizen after he was "shocked" by Luxembourg's huge tax breaks for multinational firms. Raphael Halet, one of three people on trial over the theft of thousands of documents from accounting firm PwC, retracted an earlier statement that he was asked for documents by a journalist.

Instead the 40-year-old Frenchman told the court in Luxembourg that had taken the decision by himself to carry out his "duty to alert" the tax practices in the tiny EU state as a "citizen". "After a while, I now take responsibility for my actions," said Halet, who appeared tired after repeated questioning. He said he decided to act after seeing a report by French journalist Edouard Perrin on state-owned France 2 television in 2012, which it later turned out was based on leaks by another PwC employee, Antoine Deltour. "After the report, I was able to better understand the content of the documents that we saw passing (at PwC). These were practices that shocked me."

Deltour and Halet are both accused of stealing documents from the database of the firm, revealing business secrets, violation of professional secrets and money laundering.

Perrin is charged with acting as an accomplice in those crimes. All three face up to 10 years in jail if convicted. The LuxLeaks of around 30,000 pages of documents from PwC exploded onto the world stage in November 2014, exposing "sweetheart" deals that saved firms including Apple, IKEA and Pepsi billions of dollars in taxes. They were particularly controversial as the deals were made when Jean-Claude Juncker, now the president of the European Commission, was prime minister of Luxembourg. LuxLeaks was the biggest expose of its kind until this month's publication of the Panama Papers, which revealed links between a number of international leaders and offshore shell companies that can be used to hide or launder wealth. — AFP

TURKEY CB PROMOTES HEAD OF MARKETS TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR

ANKARA: Turkey's central bank will promote the head of its markets division to the position of deputy governor, officials told Reuters yesterday, elevating another banker with Islamic finance experience to its policy-setting committee. Erkan Kilimci is due to be named as one of the bank's four deputy governors shortly, the officials said, declining to be identified because the information has not yet been made public.

One of the deputy governor positions was vacated last week when Murat Cetinkaya was promoted to governor, replacing Erdem Basci whose five-year term had ended. Another deputy governor, Turalay Kenc, is serving the last day of his five-year tenure yesterday.

Officials for the central bank could not be reached for comment. Like his new boss, Kilimci is a 40-year-old graduate of the political science and international relations department of the prestigious Bosphorus University, according to information on his Linked In profile and the Istanbul bourse website.

And like Cetinkaya - the first Islamic finance specialist to become central bank governor in Turkey - Kilimci's resume includes work in the field which prohibits the charging of interest. Kilimci has worked on projects such as the first Islamic Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) in Turkey as well as some of the country's first Islamic bond issuances. Before his appointment to the central bank as an adviser in 2013, Kilimci worked at Istanbul based banks, including Islamic bank Kuveyt Turk.

Financial markets are watching the set-up of the central bank's top management closely as it still remains an unknown quantity for investors, who fear the bank will buckle to political pressure and cut rates further, even as inflation remains above target. President Tayyip Erdogan, who favors consumption-led growth, has repeatedly railed against high interest rates, equating them with treason. Erdogan says that high interest rates cause inflation, a stance at odds with orthodox economics. — Reuters

A PERIOD OF OPTIMISM FOR PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY

ISLAMABAD: The current years are a period of optimism for Pakistan's economy, which is home to tremendous opportunities due to its favorable foreign investment with growing market demand for industrial production and the status of reasonable economic conditions.

With the advent of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, Gawadar Port, Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status and the GCC opportunities, Pakistan's current volume of trade is prospectively targeting up to \$350 billion by year 2020.

The economic strength of a nation is the sole factor significantly recognized as main source of international stature. Likewise, the economic progress is the main source of any nations' endurance in the era of globalization that guarantees nations survival and prestige while interacting with other nations of the world. Right from its inception, Pakistan has always been struggling with its economic conditions and quite often, the country reached significant levels of economic growth through its agro-economy and the productivity through industrial development.

Pakistan's economy has remarkably continued to augment in the last two-year i.e. 2014-15, since the progressive economic reforms of the current regime and security measures have been great sources for the economic development. Despite the factors of global economic fluctuations, Pakistan's national economic growth continued the progression with a moderate pace; and the foresight of

strategic policies of the government having particular regard for bringing up the structural and macroeconomic reforms at the national level significantly proved fruitful. In addition, during the aforementioned fiscal period, the inflation rate previously 4.02 percent witnessed a significant decline at the lowest levels of 3.49 percent, whereas, the prevalent deficit also shrunk through the tapering opportunity of globally-low oil prices that consequently also contributed in the further affordability for the other commodities essential for common masses in the day-to-day life.

During the past two years, Pakistan's GDP growth rate increased from the past years and it slightly remained low at the 4.2 percent than the set target of five percent, but shows two successive years of increased growth than the previous years of stagnancy. The comparative analysis proves that Pakistan remained at the second place in South Asia in terms of GDP growth. The grant of GSP Plus status to Pakistan in 2013 by the European Union has so far played a significant role in boosting the country's stagnant economy. The revival of the war-torn further affected at the hands of natural calamities, Pakistan has benefited out of the duty-free setup. This allowed Pakistan with 20 percent goods export opportunity without any tariff, whereas the rest is also passing through favored rate policies. Such concessions comprise a list of more than 600 items ranging from textile to agriculture and industrial production means.

Positive direction

The spokesperson for Finance Ministry of Pakistan, Dr. Shujat Ali told KUNA, "Pakistan's economy witnessed higher and broad based economic growth during the last two year of the present government (2013-14 and 2014-15). The growth above four percent in consecutive two year is remarkable at time when most emerging economies are facing much slower economic growth." He further said that economic indicators are moving in positive direction with the world rating agencies, like S and P, Moody's and Fitch have upgraded Pakistan rating. GSP Plus status is helping Pakistan's exports. Pakistan's exports to EU have increased from \$6.21 billion during 2013 to \$7.54 billion in 2014; an increase of \$1.32 billion in one year. External sector has become much more stable on the back of a robust growth in worker remittances and strong reserve position and stable exchange rate. The policy rate is at 42 year low level and helping in credit expansion to private sector which bode well for continued economic activity and brighter future outlook, said the spokesperson. This indicated a stable advancement in terms of economic position. However, the constant energy crisis and the natural calamities remained main reasons to lack behind the set targets. These factors of production shortages obstructed between the industrial production and the external demands where the persisting efforts are still essentially required to sustain the conditions and overcome the hindrances that cause setbacks in the foreign investment opportunities.—KUNA

GOLD HITS 7-WK HIGH, SILVER SHINES AS DOLLAR SLIDES

LONDON: Gold hit a seven-week peak yesterday and silver its highest since January last year as the Bank of Japan's decision the previous day to hold off expanding monetary stimulus weighed on stock markets and the dollar. The US currency posted its biggest daily loss against the yen in more than five years after the BoJ decision, and fell another 0.3 percent against a currency basket on Friday. That lifted precious metals, which are priced in dollars. Spot gold was up 0.9 percent at \$1,277.61 an ounce at 1130 GMT, having earlier peaked at \$1,280.60. US gold futures for June delivery were up \$13.60 an ounce at \$1,280.00.

For the week, the metal is up 3.5 percent in what would be its biggest weekly rise since the week ended Feb 12. The Federal Reserve's decision on Wednesday to leave interest rates unchanged also supported bullion. The Fed kept the door open to an increase in June, but showed little sign it was in a hurry to tighten monetary policy.

"Investors' confidence is in jeopardy after the Bank of Japan's decision, and further fuel has been added by US corporate earnings," Ava Trade's chief market strategist Naeem Aslam said. "The FOMC statement released earlier has not supported sentiment, and all these elements have added to one thing - risk off trade. Hence we are experiencing this surge in the gold price. The next level of 1,300 is very much reality now."

Gold is highly sensitive to rising interest rates, which lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced. US data on Thursday supported views the Fed will take a cautious stance in raising rates this year. The US economy grew its slowest pace in two years in the first quarter. Silver was up 1.4 percent at \$17.78 an ounce. The metal has risen 15 percent this month and is on track for its biggest monthly rise since August 2013, as it plays catch-up after lagging gold during its first-quarter surge.

"(Thursday's rally in silver) rounds off four consecutive sessions of higher highs and higher lows, which reinforces our bullish view for the metal," ScotiaMocatta said in a note.

The gold/silver ratio, which measures the number of silver ounces needed to buy an ounce of gold, fell to a six-month low yesterday of 71.8, down from 81.3 at the start of the month. Platinum was up 1.6 percent at \$1,061.66 an ounce, off an earlier 10-month high of \$1,066.26, while palladium was up 0.9 percent at \$626.50 an ounce. — Reuters

HOW BARCLAYS PLC TURNED A \$10BN PROFIT INTO TAX LOSS

MOVE HELPED BARCLAYS TO EARN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

LONDON: When Barclays Plc sold a fund management business to US financial group Blackrock Inc. in 2009, the larger-than-expected \$15.2 billion price tag was not the only good news for the British bank's investors. The way Barclays structured the sale-by booking part of the proceeds in Luxembourg-allowed it to do something not possible under most tax systems: generate a tax loss from a tax-exempt transaction, a Reuters analysis of previously unreported company filings and statements shows.

The move has helped Barclays to earn billions of dollars almost tax free. The entirely legal deal is the latest example of the ways in which some companies are able to benefit from tax regimes that regulators around the world are trying to crack down on so they can raise more tax revenue at home. The small European state of Luxembourg is among those coming under scrutiny for its tax regime that local authorities and lawyers say is a legitimate way to attract business.

Barclays' tax loss was made possible because it sold its Barclays Global Investors (BGI) business tax free in Britain, but had part of the sale proceeds — \$9 billion in Blackrock shares - paid to a subsidiary in Luxembourg. That way, Barclays was able to offset the risk of the shares losing value, something not normally possible in a tax-free deal. A rise would have netted Barclays profits. When instead the shares fell, Barclays used the loss to claim a tax deduction in Luxembourg that was not available in the UK.

Barclays' subsidiary in Luxembourg, one of Europe's smallest states with just half a million people, lost \$2.6 billion when the Blackrock shares fell, but has earned almost double the amount virtually tax free since 2012, partly by offsetting some of the Blackrock loss.

Barclays spokeswoman Candice MacDonald said the structure of the BGI sale was not aimed at securing a tax reduction but intended to secure a simpler and more certain tax treatment and avoid volatility in the bank's regulatory capital. Blackrock declined comment. Tax advisers say there is nothing wrong with companies organising their affairs to take advantage of generous tax treatments offered by different countries. "It would be very odd to criticise that or say it's inappropriate," said Neal Todd, tax partner at Berwin Leighton Paisner. "If governments aren't happy with the law, they should change it."

TAILS YOU DON'T LOSE

The European Commission is investigating whether Luxembourg has broken EU rules by not applying its tax rules appropriately, offering companies an unfair tax advantage. Last year it said the state did break those rules in a deal with carmaker Fiat. The Grand Duchy, a founder member of the bloc, says it is making itself an attractive financial centre using only legitimate means.



LONDON: The logo hangs on a branch of Barclays Bank in London. — AP

Barclays is not part of the EU investigation, since the structure of the BGI sale involves using an unusual law in a straightforward manner rather than any inappropriate interpretation of the rules.

The bank is one of hundreds of companies which lawyers say have benefited from Luxembourg's little-known 'Heads you win, tails you don't lose' tax treatment of significant shareholdings which Reuters reported on in 2013. The treatment runs counter to the symmetry principle fundamental to most tax systems: where profits are taxable, losses are tax deductible, but if a gain or income is tax-exempt, corresponding losses cannot reduce tax on other income.

What some politicians say sets Barclays apart is that, like all UK banks, it got significant support from taxpayers during the financial crisis. The government offered more than £600 billion in credit to the banking sector through support schemes and bought stakes in some banks, enabling them to pay their debts to others like Barclays.

Campaigners like Molly Scott Cato, member of the European Parliament for the Green Party, say this makes Barclays' tax savings unacceptable. "They should have greater social responsibility after the financial crisis that we are all still paying for," she said.

She also said the Grand Duchy's tax rules should not deviate from international norms like the symmetry principle and help companies shift profits and losses. "It is creating an uneven playing field," she said. The Luxembourg Ministry of Finance did not respond to requests for comment but has previously denied using tax rules to unfairly attract investment and jobs.—Reuters



BEIJING: People buy tomatoes on a street in Beijing yesterday. Chinese steel output rose in March, despite repeated pledges by the world's top producer to cut capacity as the worldwide industry languishes under a global glut. — AFP

SPAIN POSTS STEADY GROWTH DESPITE POLITICAL IMPASSE

MADRID: Spain's economy grew at a steady pace in the first quarter, official data showed yesterday, despite a political stalemate that has left the country without a government since December. Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 0.8 percent between January and March from the previous three months, matching growth in the previous two quarters, according to preliminary figures from national statistics institute, INE.

On a year-on-year basis, Spain's GDP grew by 3.4 percent during the first quarter, a slight slowdown from the final three months of 2015 when it rose by 3.5 percent, it added.

Spain was hit hard by the global financial crisis, experiencing five difficult years of on-off recession that saw unemployment rocket from a low of around eight percent in 2007 to a high of 27 percent in the first quarter of 2013. Spain's conservatives, who came to power in 2011, implemented a tough austerity program as the country teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, cutting spending and raising taxes in a bid to stimulate growth and reduce unemployment.

Last year, the Spanish economy, the eurozone's fourth largest, expanded by 3.2 percent-one of the fastest growing rates in Europe. The government predicts the economy will expand by 2.7 percent this year before picking up to 2.9 percent in 2017.

Spain has been without a fully functioning government since an inconclusive December 20 general election that resulted in a hung parliament with power divided among four main groupings, none of them with enough seats to govern alone. The country is heading for its second general election in six months in June after King Felipe on Tuesday concluded that it would be impossible for parties to piece together a governing majority. — AFP

EUROZONE ECONOMY EXPANDS, REACHES SIZE IT WAS IN 2008 BLOC EXPANDED BY A QUARTERLY RATE OF 0.6%

LONDON: It's been a long and tortuous journey, but the eurozone economy is finally back to the size it was before the global financial crisis. Official figures released yesterday show that the eurozone, which as a bloc is the world's second-largest economy, accelerated unexpectedly at the start of the year to bring it back to the level it was before the recessions of the past eight years.

Eurostat, the European Union's statistics agency, said the 19-country currency bloc expanded by a quarterly rate of 0.6 percent in the first three months of the year. The increase was double the previous quarter's rate and ahead of market expectations for a more modest 0.4 percent.

The increase means that the eurozone economy is now 0.4 percent bigger than it was in the first quarter of 2008, before the deep recession stoked by the global financial crisis. Since then, the eurozone has had a torrid time, falling in and out of recession as the global financial crisis morphed into a regional debt crisis that at various times threatened the future of the euro currency itself.

Though the size of the eurozone economy is back to where it was in 2008, the region still has a way to go to heal fully. That's most evident in the unemployment rate, which at 10.2 percent is still 3 percentage points higher than it was in 2008. It is far higher in the countries that have suffered most financially, such as Greece and Spain.

While the eurozone was dealing with the debt problems of a number of its member states, other economies, such as the US and Britain were recouping the ground lost in the wake of the global financial crisis, which triggered the deepest global recession since World War II. The US, for example, regained its pre-recession size back in 2011 and has since managed to eke out consistent growth and seen unemployment fall sharply.

The eurozone's last recession ended nearly three years ago, but growth has been slow. The acceleration in the first quarter may be the clearest indicator yet that the eurozone is finally moving into a higher gear - particularly as it came during a period when financial markets were volatile due to worries over a Chinese economic slowdown and a sharp fall in the price of oil.

On an annualized basis, the eurozone growth in the first quarter was about 2.5 percent, way more than the US rate of 0.5 percent. Though no details were offered by Eurostat beyond the headline numbers, it seems that the eurozone has benefited from a number of factors, particularly the fall in oil prices, which helps an economy that is a net importer of crude. The fall in the value of the euro

FORMER EXECUTIVES OF CHINA'S BIGGEST BROKERAGE ARRESTED

SHANGHAI: Three former executives of China's biggest brokerage and a well-known fund manager have been arrested for insider trading, state media said yesterday, after months of investigation following a stock market slump. Police in the eastern city of Qingdao arrested former Citic Securities general manager Cheng Boming along with two other ex-executives, the official Xinhua news agency said.

China's market regulator said in November that the firm was under investigation for violating unspecified regulations, and state media have reported that authorities had investigated or questioned at least eight executives since August. Police also arrested Xu Xiang, former boss of private equity fund

Zexi Investment Management Co. on similar charges of insider trading and market manipulation, Xinhua said, but gave no details.

He was detained in November, reports said. The benchmark Shanghai stock index tumbled nearly 40 percent in a period of little more than two months after peaking in mid-June, sparking a costly government bailout. Authorities had encouraged investors to pour in, stoking a bubble, but officials have sought to pin blame on market manipulators since it burst in spectacular fashion.

Besides Citic, Haitong Securities and Guosen Securities are also being probed by market watchdog the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the companies said in November. — AFP

has helped the region's exporters, particularly in Germany. In addition, the European Central Bank's monetary stimulus measures and less stringent budgetary policies by governments appear to be helping.

Whether the economic will keep expanding at this rate will depend on a number of factors, many of which are external to the eurozone, such as the British vote on June 23 on whether to leave the European Union and slowing demand from China. Within the eurozone, worries over Greece's future in the single currency bloc could flare up again and the upcoming Spanish general election may cause jitters. "False dawns have been common since the financial crisis and nowhere more so than in Europe," cautioned Alasdair Cavalla, senior economist at the Centre for Economics and Business Research.

In a further positive development, Eurostat reported that the unemployment rate across the region fell to 10.2 percent in March from the previous month's 10.4 percent, bringing it to its lowest since August 2011. The number of unemployed fell by 226,000 during the month, taking the total to 16.44 million. Though the growth and unemployment figures are on the right path, the lack of inflation remains a problem.

Eurostat said that consumer prices in the year to April fell by 0.2 percent. That's down from the previ-

ous month's annual rate of zero and below market expectations for a more modest decline to minus 0.1 percent. The core rate, which strips out the volatile items of food, alcohol, tobacco and energy, also declined, to 0.8 percent from 1 percent.

That will be disappointing for the European Central Bank, whose primary policy aim is to keep inflation just below 2 percent. As a result, the market reaction to Friday's economic data was muted. While the growth and unemployment figures may have encouraged traders to think that the ECB will be less likely to enact a further stimulus, the inflation data suggest the opposite. The euro was steady just below \$1.14 following the data.

The ECB is worried that low or subzero inflation could lead to deflation, a long-term drop in prices that can choke the life out of an economy for years. That's the primary reason why it's cut its interest rates, including its main one to zero, and launched a bond-buying program that it hopes will stoke economic activity and lift prices in the longer-term.

No further stimulus is expected from the ECB soon but if prices keep falling for longer than anticipated, then it could be forced to act again. The ECB expects prices to start picking up soon, partly because of its stimulus programs but also because of the recent pick-up in oil prices, which should lead to higher energy bills and prices at the pump.—AP



LONDON: Shoppers walk down Oxford Street in London. The eurozone economy has finally recouped all the ground lost in the recessions of the past eight years after official figures yesterday. — AP

Weekender

Victoria Beckham Tops List Of World's Best Dressed Travelers

SEE PAGE 28

BOSTON: Three of 12 gigantic bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Zodiac by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, stand in a circle on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. — AP (See Page 26)

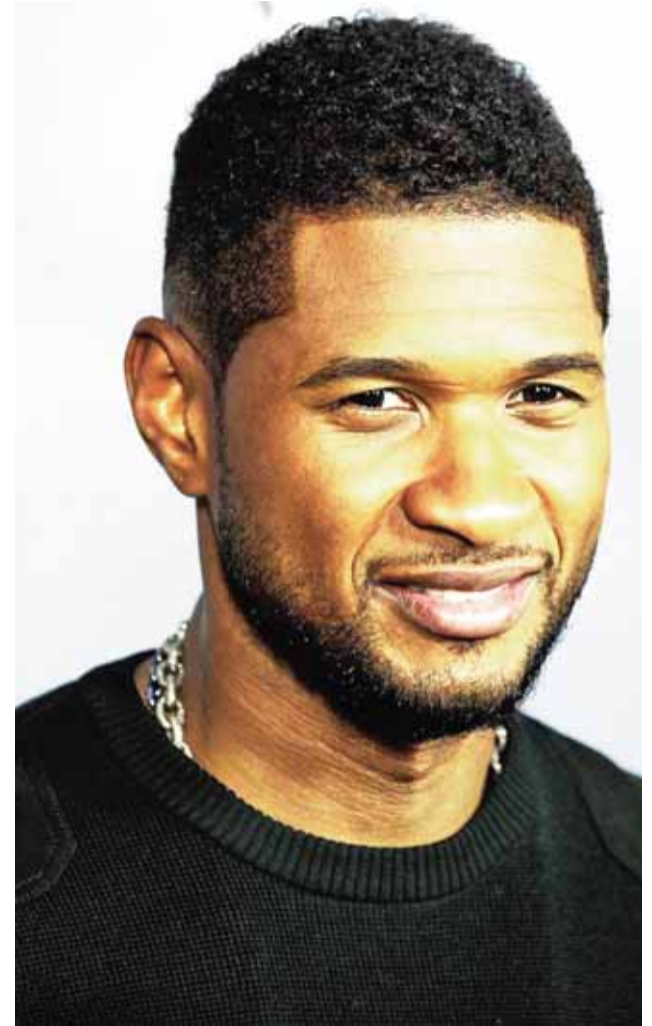


Prince's sister reportedly stormed out of a meeting with siblings about the singer's estate

The 'Purple Rain' singer passed away earlier this month and Tyka has been granted the right to be executor of the estate, after it was revealed her brother never created a will for his assets, reputed to be worth around \$300 million. Tyka, Prince's younger sister, met brothers Alfred and Omarr in Minnesota to discuss the singer's estate, but after a two-hour meeting in which Alfred expressed his frustration at Tyka's decision to exclude him from Prince's memorial service, a row erupted, according to TMZ. The brothers reportedly feel that Tyka believes she is entitled to a great proportion of Prince's assets. But under Minnesota law, all six of Prince's siblings are entitled to an equal share of his estate, which includes a musical catalogue of his work and potentially thousands of unheard songs. Meanwhile, a source claimed that after Tyka stormed out of the tense meeting, Alfred was given a tour of Prince's home and the area where he died "so he could properly grieve" by a representative from the bank that was appointed as the administrator.

Usher has posed naked for an explicit selfie

The 37-year-old rapper set pulses pumping on Thursday night when he uploaded a raunchy photo of himself in the nude relaxing in his steam room on his Snapchat account. The 'Yeah!' hitmaker oozed confidence as he propped himself up on a wooden bench in the high-humidity room and gazed up at his phone, while a shock-faced emoji was strategically placed over his penis to protect his modesty. However, Usher was no doubt left a little red-faced when it was brought to his attention that the enlarged icon failed to hide his manhood completely and the tip hung out the top. Meanwhile, the handsome star's cheeky upload will no doubt shock his wife Grace Miguel, whom he married in secret sometime last year. The loved-up couple have refused to share when they officially got hitched but Usher admitted in December that the romantic nuptials took place when they were in Cuba on a cultural exchange. Meanwhile, the hunky singer previously gushed about Grace and praised her for understanding every part of him. He shared: "I have an incredible partner and manager. She has helped me through some of the hardest times in my life and my career. She's someone who's been able to support and understand all of who I am. Not just as a dancer or as a performer or as a singer, but as a humanitarian and a business man and as a person."



Katy Perry is to headline amfAR's annual Cinemas Against AIDS event

The 'Roar' hitmaker is to head to the glitzy French town of Antibes in May to perform at the A-list fundraiser, which is held annually during the Cannes Film Festival and raises money for AIDS research. The performance will be watched by a host of big-name celebrities, including Sharon Stone, amfAR's global campaign chair, as well as 'Superman Returns' actor Kevin Spacey and German model Heidi Klum. The event is in its 23rd year and in 2015, raised more than \$170 million for AIDS research. In addition to Katy's much-anticipated performance, the fundraiser will also feature a fashion show curated by former editor-in-chief of Vogue Paris, Carine Rotifeld. Meanwhile, Katy recently won a significant step in her battle to buy a Roman Catholic convent in Los Angeles. The pop star is keen to buy the eight-acre property from the archdiocese of Los Angeles, run by Archbishop Jose Gomez. However, the nuns living in the building considered the singer an unsuitable owner and instead wanted to sell to Dana Hollister, a businesswoman who wanted to use it as a hotel. But earlier this month, Los Angeles superior court judge Stephanie Bowick approved the archdiocese's motion to block the sale to Hollister as she ruled the sale was improper.

Ryan Reynolds has paid an emotional tribute to a young fan who died after a battle with cancer

The 'Deadpool' actor first met Connor McGrath and his family through the Make-A-Wish foundation three years ago and the pair became close friends before Connor tragically passed away earlier this week. Paying tribute to his "great friend", Ryan wrote on Facebook: "For three straight years, my friend, Connor McGrath drop-kicked cancer... Not sure how... Maybe the cancer cheated... But the fight came to an end two nights ago. "Connor was 13. But this kid... He was smart. He was funny. And not just funny 'for a kid' - or funny 'for a person battling something awful'. He was unqualified funny. He had that... thing. That thing you see in great performers or comedy writers. A running commentary/observational skill people are just lucky to be born with. "He went way too early and it's impossible to reconcile. Connor was a great friend, a great son, and a light to the people lucky enough to know him. While repeatedly punching cancer in the balls, he made everyone laugh. Including the entire staff who cared for him at Edmonton's Stollery Children's Hospital." Ryan also revealed that Connor was the first person to see 'Deadpool' after he surprised him with a rough cut of the movie before its release and Ryan, 39, believes his late friend embodied all of the best parts of the hilarious comic book character. In the post - which included some pictures of him and Connor - he

said: "Connor was the first person to see Deadpool. I traveled up to Edmonton, Alberta to surprise him with a rough cut of the film. Before you jump down my throat for showing a 13 year old an R-Rated film, please know this kid knew more swear words than a British chef. I'm grateful I got to orbit Connor's world for a brief time. Grateful for the pages and pages of hilarious texts between us. Grateful to his parents for allowing Connor to spend time with a foul-mouthed child in the body of a 39 year old. I called Connor, "Bubba". And he called me "Bubba2". We met because he loved Deadpool. In a certain sense he WAS Deadpool. Or, at least everything Deadpool aspires to be; balancing pain, fearlessness, love and a filthy (filthy!) sense of humor in one body. I wish he could've stuck around a lot longer (sic)." And Ryan - whose wife Blake Lively is expecting the couple's second child - encouraged others to make a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He added: "If you'd like to donate to The Make-A-Wish Foundation, I can pretty much guarantee, your money's going to a damn good place. These people do not suck. They are heroic. Full stop."



Will Smith, Jada Pinkett Smith join Obama youth initiative

Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith are adding their star power to President Barack Obama's initiative to boost opportunities for vulnerable young Americans. The Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation said Friday it will launch a "Careers in Entertainment Tour" to support Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative on its two-year anniversary. In keeping with the initiative's goals, the tour will be aimed at helping underserved high school and college students interested in entertainment industry careers, the foundation said. "The Careers in Entertainment Tour is an engine for change in our industry, and a means of closing the gap between dreams and the tools necessary to achieve them," Pinkett Smith said in a statement. The president's initiative was launched in 2014 with the goal of helping boys and young men of color and other young people overcome barriers to fulfilling their potential. It has enlisted businesses, nonprofit organizations and local

government in the effort. The task force "applauds the Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation for responding to President Obama's call to action to ensure all youth have clear pathways to opportunity and success," said Broderick Johnson, who chairs My Brother's Keeper, in a statement. The announcement comes two months after the Oscars faced criticism for an all-white slate of acting nominees, which some observers said reflected both the movie academy's and industry's closed ranks. The tours, set to begin this fall, will be done in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration and other organizations, the foundation said. Students will hear from film and TV industry professionals about a wide variety of jobs involved in the creation, distribution and marketing entertainment projects. The foundation said it and affiliates will help students identify skills and knowledge needed for jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Alicia Vikander takes on Lara Croft role in 'Tomb Raider'

Alicia Vikander is following in Angelina Jolie's butt-kicking footsteps. The Swedish actress has signed on to play the role of Lara Croft in a new "Tomb Raider" movie from Norwegian director Roar Uthaug. MGM, Warner Bros. and GK Films announced the news Thursday. Jolie was the first actress to bring the popular video game character to life on the big screen. Both Jolie films were poorly received by critics, but the

first was a big box office success. Vikander had a breakout 2015 with roles in films like the mind-bending thriller "Ex Machina" and "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." She is fresh off of an Oscar win for her supporting performance in the period drama "The Danish Girl." She can be seen this summer in the new "Jason Bourne" film.





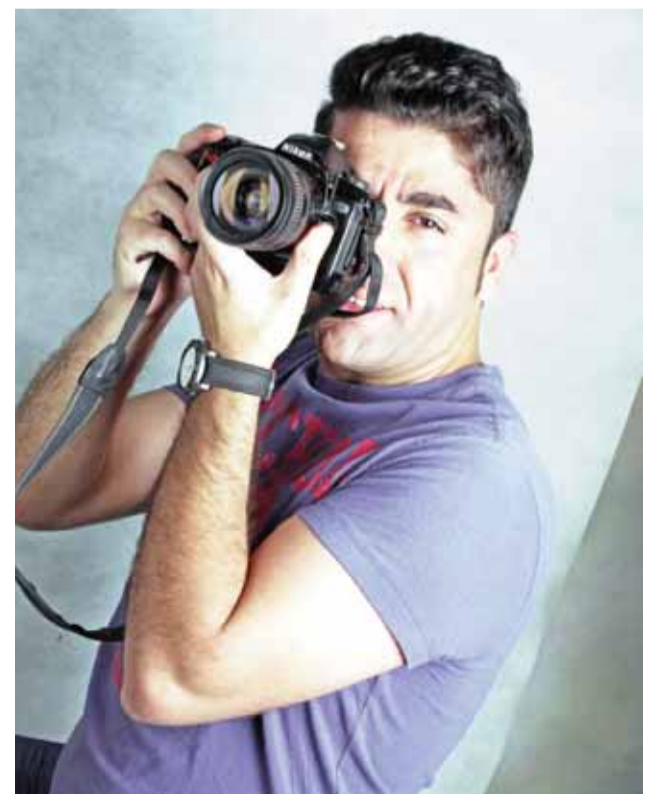
Street photography the spirit of the place

Street photography is photography that features the chance encounters and random accidents within public places. Street photography does not necessitate the presence of a street or even the urban environment. Though people usually feature directly, street photography might be absent of people and can be of an object or environment where the image projects a decidedly human character in facsimile or aesthetic

Street Photography is beautiful. Street Photography is thrilling. Street Photography is ugly. Street Photography is funny. Street Photography is rude. Street Photography has many silhouettes and shapes. Street Photography is about faces...

According to how we understand Street Photography, it is many things. Depending on the style of the Photographer, a Street Photo can be Artistic, or Rude, or Intrusive or all those together. A Street Photo can be Amazing, Boring, Full of people or devoid of people. So, you see, there are many styles of Street Photos out there. Today we are going to present the Types of Street Photography. We will examine what defines each Type and through this examination we will better understand the scope that Street Photography covers.

Street Photographer
Mohamad Jawhar





Here's my own little list of different types of street photographers:

- 1. Expert** - These are street photographers who are very confident and knowledgeable of their niche. They managed to spread the word about street photography through their blogs and videos and held workshops and teach their methods and styles
- 2. Purist** - These are street photographers who set their own rules and guidelines— no long lens, no back of people photos, no homeless, beggars, children images, no street portrait, no post processing
- 3. Aggressive** - These are street photographers who have no qualms in invading the personal space of people. They poke their cameras in front of your face whenever and wherever they like it
- 4. Timid** - Timid street photographers prefer not to be seen or visible when on the streets. They are very patient and willing to wait and wait until that "decisive moment" unfolds to their eyes
- 5. Wannabes** - Sometimes called beginners, these types of street photographers shoot whatever (with people or without) or wherever (in public or private place) they like. They usually have sophisticated gears but mostly shoot in auto mode
- 6. I-phonist** - These street photographers don't want to carry their bulky cameras around, their shoulders hurt. They are more comfortable using their cell phones because they are less noticeable with it when shooting in public place

- 7. Fly-by-night street photographers** - These are come and go street photographers. They join photographers group in social networking site but don't post so many photos there.

If you'd like a long and fruitful career as a street photographer, Kuwait might not be the most welcoming place for you to pursue it. Shooting public photos and sharing them online is becoming more and more popular in the Middle Eastern Kuwait, but many practitioners are unaware that the country's strict cybercrime law could bring down huge fines and even jail time for their snapshots.

Here some ethics about the people privacy in street photography

But based on my experiences shooting street photography, I think the best way to approach someone is openly and honestly.

This means if you take a photo of someone (without permission) you don't pretend you didn't take the shot. You then approach the person and tell them why you took the photo and what you found interesting about them. You then take a potentially negative experience and make it into a positive one in which people actually feel humbled to have gotten a photograph taken of them.

Also, I would encourage people interested in street photography to take an extraordinary photo of an ordinary person, rather than taking an ordinary photo of an extraordinary person (homeless, street performer, etc).

Prepared and photo shoot by street photographer Mohamad Jawhar

Drake releases new album Views on iTunes

Everyone can join Drake in running through the 6 with their woes. The Toronto rapper unleashed on iTunes and Apple Music his fourth studio album, Views, Thursday night.

It's Drake's third high-profile release since February 2015, when he released his long mixtape If You're Reading This It's Too Late. He and Future dropped a joint record, What A Time to Be Alive, in September.

Views - which features production from Kanye West, Boi1da, Southside, and Drake's go-to man 40 - is Drizzy's longest album to date, spanning 20 songs. His sophomore release, Take Care, stands at 18.

The featured artists on Views, which Drake primarily teased on Instagram on Thursday afternoon, are top-notch: West, Jay Z, Rihanna, Future, PartyNextDoor, Popcaan, the late Pimp C, WizKid, and dvsn.

Before the album's release, Drake posted a photo of 40, his longtime producer, along with a thank you note. "Thank you for caring about the people in this city as much as I do. Thank you for a lifetime of hard work and surreal moments," Drake wrote. "This story would have gone a lot different without you."



Rapper Drake



BOSTON: Mastellone Orlane, visiting from France, photographs one of 12 gigantic bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Zodiac by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, displayed in a circle on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.



BOSTON: One of 12 gigantic bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Zodiac by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei stands behind businessmen eating lunch on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. — AP photos



BOSTON: Three of 12 gigantic bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Zodiac by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, stand in a circle on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.



BOSTON: Two of 12 gigantic bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Zodiac by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei stand in a circle on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Giant Chinese zodiac sculptures are turning heads in Boston

A dozen giant bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Chinese zodiac are stopping people in their tracks in downtown Boston and sparking conversations. "Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads," by contemporary Chinese artist and human rights activist Ai Weiwei, is the latest in a series of outdoor public art projects on the Rose Kennedy Greenway intended to delight, awe, and educate the thousands of tourists and workers who walk through the park daily. "The goal of all public art is to engage people," said Lucas Cowan, the public art curator of the Greenway Conservancy, which oversees the 1.5-mile long ribbon of open space that was once a dim, grimy place in the shadow of an overhead highway. "To be able to bring people here where they see them up close and not in a museum is very important," he said. "If people just walk past this, then we've failed."

The 10-foot-tall cast bronze sculptures, which weigh 1,600 to 2,100 pounds apiece when the stem and base are included, are arranged in an outward-facing circle surrounding a popular children's splash area called the Rings Fountain. They are positioned in order - rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

They are based on similar but smaller zodiac sculptures that once adorned the fountain clock in the European-style garden at the Yuanming Yuan, an imperial summer palace outside Beijing. The palace was ransacked by British and French troops in 1860, and the heads stolen. Most have been recovered and returned to China, but two remain missing, Cowan said. "By enlarging them like this, the

artist is saying, 'They belong to us; give them back,'" he said. Cowan also hopes people who see the sculptures educate themselves about the social justice and political issues the artist is involved in. Ai this year has been drawing attention to the European refugee crisis. The Boston installation, which will be in place until October, is part of a world tour of the animal heads owned by a private collector that started in 2010 and has already visited several U.S. and international cities.

Even as workers put the finishing touches on the exhibit earlier this week, dozens of people stopped to take pictures or just gaze up at the detailed sculptures. "We live just down the street, and we knew they were putting them in, but when we saw them, we just said, 'Wow,'" said Davida Carvin, who was checking out the sculptures with her friend, neighbor and walking partner, Andrea Mattisen-Haskins. "I've seen a lot of art along the Greenway, and this is right up there with the best."

"The quality is spectacular and the detail and texture is amazing," said Mattisen-Haskins, as the pair snapped pictures. Howard Wu, a Bishop, California, resident visiting Boston for the first time, stumbled upon the animal heads on his way to the nearby New England Aquarium and was astonished. Wu, who is half Chinese, immediately recognized them as the Chinese zodiac and understood their cultural significance. "They are just exceptional," he said as he snapped dozens of pictures. "They will bring Boston good luck." — AP



BOSTON: Four of 12 gigantic bronze animal heads representing the signs of the Zodiac by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei stand in a circle on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Nigerian princess seeks funds to help Boko Haram survivors

It pains Nigerian princess Modupe Ozolua every time she hears about the suicide bombings, killings and kidnappings by the Boko Haram militant group in her ancestral homeland. But Ozolua feels just as troubled when the plight of survivors dealing with the aftermath of the attacks goes unheard. The princess, a member of Benin Empire in southern Nigeria, doesn't want those victims to be forgotten.

Ozolua is taking a step toward raising awareness and money to assist displaced victims at her inaugural "Rise Above Terror" African Art Gala at the Besharat Gallery on Saturday in Atlanta. She hopes the money can help rebuild schools, homes, provide medical relief and food to help some of the millions who have been unable to leave an area with destroyed schools and burnt villages.



ATLANTA: Princess Modupe Ozolua of Benin Empire, Nigeria, poses for a portrait. — AP

"When people hear about Boko Haram, you think about 'Bring Back Our Girls' only, but it's much bigger than that," Ozolua said. "Figures are being thrown around about how many people are being killed. It's bigger than that. There are millions of people who have survived these attacks, seeing their families killed in front of them. Their lives are completely traumatized. Nobody is giving much attention to them. Our focus is on them. They should be assisted."

"Vampire Dairies" actress Kat Graham will co-host the gala. The event will auction off African artwork including 29 paintings and 11 handmade wood and brass carvings. Ozolua, a cosmetic surgery philanthropist, has brought aid to victims in Africa since she started her nonprofit foundation, Empower 54, in 2003. But this is first time she is holding the fundraiser in the United States, calling it a "coming out party."

"It's my privilege to join Empower 54 and help internally displaced persons in northeast

Nigeria," said Graham, who is of Liberian descent. "The horrors of IDPs losing their loved one's possessions and rendered helpless does not make them hopeless." The Boko Haram militant group has killed and kidnapped thousands in a campaign of violence in recent years as it seeks to establish an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country of 170 million people that is divided almost equally between mostly Christians in the south and Muslims in the north. The Nigeria-based Islamic extremist group has forced young men to be its fighters and girls to be sex slaves or even suicide bombers.

The nearly seven-year insurgency, that has launched attacks beyond Nigeria's borders into Cameroon, Chad and Niger, has killed at least 20,000 people, according to Amnesty International. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says the violence has also displaced 2.8 million people in the region, mostly those from Nigeria. Millions more face dire food shortages.

Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sinful," in the local Hausa language, in 2015 swore allegiance to the Islamic State group. While Boko Haram is thought to have abducted thousands of people over the years, the mass kidnapping of more than 200 girls from a school in the town of Chibok in 2014 brought the extremist group to the world's attention.

Ozolua said she wants to give underprivileged children in Nigeria a better option. Last year, the princess said her event in Nigeria raised \$100,000. She hopes the gala on Saturday can produce more than \$400,000. "A lot of the children there are resentful and hurt," Ozolua said. "If we do not start giving them a reason to have self-worth, and get past this hurt, then someone will give them another direction to point to. Money will be applied to those camps. We have to continue to rebuild schools and provide books so they can have something positive."

Ozolua attended college in Los Angeles and traveled much of the country. But she chose Atlanta for the fundraiser after hearing about the work of MedShare, a medical supply recovering organization in suburban Atlanta.

The princess said she also felt good about bringing her efforts to Atlanta because of the established Nigerian community and the presence of a consulate general. She doesn't have an official sponsor, but has several partners for the event including the city of Atlanta, the Andrew Young Foundation and the Nigeria High Consulate in the city. "We are a global city with a large diaspora of people from different communities and cultures," Atlanta City Councilman Kwana Hall said. "Atlanta's legacy in the movement for civil and human rights compels us to partner on issues such as this." — AP

Racist statements lead lawmakers to reject proposed John Wayne Day

What a California lawmaker intended as a benign resolution honoring a late, world-renowned movie icon exploded into an emotional debate over decades-old racist comments. The state Assembly defeated the official ode to John Wayne Thursday after several legislators described statements he made about racial minorities and his support for the anti-communist House Un-American Activities Committee and John Birch Society.

Known as "Duke," a nickname he picked up as a boy in Glendale, California, Wayne grew into the star of movies including "The Alamo," "The Green Berets" and "True Grit," for which he won an Academy Award, while portraying the gruff, rugged cowboys and brave soldiers who were his stock in trade.

Republican State Assemblyman Matthew Harper of Huntington Beach sought to declare May 26, 2016, as John Wayne Day to mark the day the actor was born.

"He had disturbing views towards race," objected Assemblyman Luis Alejo, D-Watsonville, leading off a 20-minute debate. Alejo cited a 1971 interview with Playboy in which Wayne talked disparagingly about blacks. "I believe in white supremacy until the blacks are educated to a point of responsibility. I don't believe in giving authority and positions of leadership and judgment to irresponsible people," he told the magazine.

Assemblyman Mike Gipson, D-Carson, who is black, said he found Wayne's comments personally offensive. Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, cited his comments defending white Europeans' encroachment on American Indians who Wayne once said "were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

Wayne is the latest deceased white icon to recently come under attack. Former President Andrew Jackson, a slave owner and Indian fighter, is being removed from the face of the \$20 bill. Princeton University recently announced that former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's name will remain on its public policy school despite calls to remove it because he was a segregationist.

Harper's resolution fell on a 35-20 vote to what Harper called "the orthodoxy of political correctness." "Opposing the John Wayne Day resolution is like opposing apple pie, fireworks, baseball, the Free Enterprise system and the Fourth of July!" he said later in a written statement.

Harper said he sought the resolu-

tion, ACR137, to keep up with a Texas resolution commemorating Wayne's birthday a year ago. He represents the legislative district that includes John Wayne Airport in Orange County. The airport, among the largest in California, was renamed after Wayne's death in 1979 and hosts a nine-foot-tall statue of the actor. "I think the assemblyman would know if there was a cross word about having the airport named after him," said Harper's spokeswoman, Madeleine Cooper.



Actor-Director John Wayne

Several lawmakers supported the resolution, recalling Wayne as an American hero whose family created a namesake cancer foundation after his death. "He stood for those big American values that we know and we love," said Assemblyman Travis Allen, R-Huntington Beach. Lawmakers have honored others despite controversies that eventually clouded their legacies, said Assemblyman Donald Wagner, R-Irvine. Wagner cited President Franklin Roosevelt, who has been honored despite his internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"Every one of us is imperfect," Wagner said. — AP



1. Victoria Beckham absolutely wants an empire and as far as I can see she is well on her way to building one. Wife, mother of four with her own brand, UN goodwill ambassador and all with lovely etiquette, warmth and effortless style.



2. Amal Clooney has brains, beauty and style. Amal got thrown under the style microscope when her relationship with Mr Clooney started. She wears clothes beautifully. Amal looks like she can go from the airplane to a meeting or into a page of Vogue and not look out of place. She is all business. Wow!



3. Kendall Jenner embodies today's youth. As a quintessential "It Girl" and major model she is representing our fashion world beautifully. She has evolved from just jeans and a t-shirt to cool, sophisticated clothing. From her professional runway to the airport runway, she knows how to work it!



4. Angelina Jolie, not only the mother of six, actress, filmmaker, humanitarian and wife. She is the epitome of classic style. If you had to pinpoint it, it could be that she has an "Audrey Hepburn-ish style". A classic flat, simple sweater or top and black trouser, usually with a handbag that probably holds all her travel needs.

VICTORIA BECKHAM TOPS LIST OF WORLD'S BEST DRESSED TRAVELERS



5. As a musician, mother, actress and fashion designer let's just be honest, Gwen Stefani's style is the definition of cool. What is so wonderful about Gwen is that she is continuously surprising us with her individuality. There is always a variation of a black trouser or a fun detailed jacket or top, but it is her little touches that make her a style star. The red lipstick, the platinum hair sometimes mixed with another color, the leopard print belt, the fun phone case, the nail polish. She owns her look and she wears it well.

British Airways teams up with top Hollywood stylist Elizabeth Saltzman to celebrate today's jetsetter icons #best-dressedtraveller.

Victoria Beckham has been named the best dressed celebrity traveler by British Airways, which today unveiled its inaugural list of the World's Best Dressed Travelers.

With her effortless ability to turn the airport arrivals lounge into her personal fashion runway, Victoria piped Amal Clooney to the coveted top spot. The list has been compiled by British Airways and top Hollywood fashion stylist Elizabeth Saltzman to celebrate the relationship between flying and fashion and to honor today's globe-trotting trendsetters, spanning the worlds of film, music and entertainment. As one of the world's leading global premium airlines, British Airways exudes style and sophistication with every detail of its cabins designed to make customers feel special.

Elizabeth, whose clients include Gwyneth Paltrow, Uma Thurman and Academy Award-nominated Saoirse Ronan, said: "Victoria Beckham always gets it right when flying and it's so impressive. Usually there is a menswear element to her travel wardrobe, it is chic and sophisticated but still classic and comfortable."

Featuring some of the world's most famous female fashion icons, the British Airways World's Best Dressed Travelers list is a mix of inspiring celebrities who travel in style and instigate major wardrobe envy every time they step on the plane. The judges reviewed hundreds of images of the international jet setters taken at airports around the world last year to help compile the list. The full top 10 is:

1. Victoria Beckham
2. Amal Clooney

3. Kendall Jenner
4. Angelina Jolie
5. Gwen Stefani
6. Charlize Theron
7. Taylor Swift
8. Marion Cotillard
9. Lupita Nyong'O
10. Heidi Klum

Abigail Comber, British Airways' Head of Customer, said: "We've always been associated with travelling in style - most recently with our elegant, new short-haul cabins and our new-look First cabin, created especially for the 787-9 aircraft. We wanted to honour today's style elite and those frequent flyers who embrace the enduring glamour and excitement of jumping on a plane."

"Flying today is more accessible than ever," added Elizabeth Saltzman. "People are more aware of themselves, whether it is their health and beauty regimes, time management or carbon footprint. The women on this list are all powerful examples of the modern world. Their style is classic with a personal twist. This is about the power of women and being able to balance it all."

Hollywood fashion stylist and British Airways ambassador Elizabeth Saltzman started her career at Giorgio Armani in 1983. A prominent figure in the world of fashion, Elizabeth is often listed as one of the most influential industry insiders and one of the most accurate trend spotters. Here, she shares her exclusive insights on the World's Best Dressed Travellers:

Top tips for travelling in style from British Airways' style ambassador and fashion stylist to the stars, Elizabeth Saltzman

1. If possible I prefer a carry-on only unless you are going for more than four days. Make your outfits versatile so you can use things more than once. Plan ahead, for instance if you pack a navy blue tuxedo as an outfit to wear in the evening, you can also use the tuxedo jacket with your jeans, white shirt and flats for the day. Brooks Brother, J Crew, Saint Laurent and Tom Ford tuxedos are my favorites! A small amount of effort when packing can help you get really organized, plus there are some packing tips at
2. Travel with clean, well-moisturized skin. Everyone has their favorite products. I swear by Charlotte Tilbury Magic Cream, Elizabeth Arden Eight Hour Cream and Shiseido Eye Mask. I love to freshen my face up during the flight with the Crème de La Mer Mist. I can't travel without these products!
3. Water, water, water. Hydrating yourself inside as well as outside helps with jet lag and dehydration. Also, keeps hair looking glossy and your skin looking fresh.
4. Stretch! Every hour you should get up and stretch your legs and do at least 30 seconds or one minute of exercise to get your blood circulating. I always stretch my arms over my head and move my hands like I'm playing a phantom piano. Try leaning against the doorway to stretch your shoulders and to open up your chest. And for three simple options without even getting up from your seat: try a seated spinal twist; a half-forward bend; and slow neck rolls, five times in each direction.

- Pearly whites! Nothing is more welcoming than a pretty smile. I can't fly without toothpaste and a toothbrush. Keeping my mouth fresh and my teeth clean is a priority and certainly one that is appreciated when greeting people after a long flight. British Airways' Club World amenity kits are great as they contain both items!
- I like to tie my hair up on a plane. I think it gets less static and less dirty that way, and if I twist it up into a bun I can let it out when I deplane. Magic: it's like an instant blow-dry effect. If you have to go straight to a meeting I use Frederic Fekkai Dry Shampoo to quickly freshen my hair.
- Sunglasses are a great way to accessories an outfit while travelling. I firmly believe in my Tom Ford glasses, as well as a solid pair of Ray Bans. It's the ultimate jet-setter accessory.
- Speaking of accessories... Scarves, everyone should have one in their bag while travelling. Great for warmth on the plane. They can be used as a blanket for your children or hoodie or neck warmer. I also love them during my trip to change up an outfit, it can be a sarong or an evening shawl.
- Reset your watch and try to eat and sleep in sync with your new time zone as soon as you board. Immerse yourself in that film you've always wanted to see. British Airways has an exceptional catalogue of entertainment, from silver screen classics to Oscar buzz-worthy films.
- Hats are hard to pack so choose one wisely. A fedora works in many situations, it's great for sun protection, it's great for styling and it's great if you didn't have time to style your

hair before travelling. My favorite is Maison Michel.

- Bring a bag that isn't too big to carry and that doesn't unbalance your shoulders. The last thing you need is a crater-sized knot in your back. As my tote, I would choose something simple and streamlined, like the Michael Kors Collection Large Leather Tote; or opt for a little whimsy with the Tory Burch Penn Applique Canvas Tote. As for a carry-on suitcase, I love the Tumi Tegra Lite Carry-On; the Victorinox Spectra 2.0 Carry-on; and both Globe-Trotter and Rimowa are firm favorites. Of course, you can never go wrong with Hermès... It was good enough for Grace Kelly.
- Shoes! They are every woman's guilty pleasure. Rather than packing more shoes than are necessary for your trip it is great to travel in ones that you can use more than once. If that means you are wearing a pair of heels, just remember to take them off in flight, stretch your toes, put on your circulation socks and relax. I always have a pair of Laurence Dacade sandals in my carry-on.
- As any sports person knows layering is essential. I consider travelling a sport. Every person is different, layers are easy for travelling. You can always add one when you are cold or take one off if you get too warm. I always have a navy blue Celine cardigan in my bag when travelling.
- A great trench by Burberry Prorsum can travel the world with you. It goes over a LBD (little black dress) or blue jeans. It is extremely versatile. For instance look at Heidi Klum's airport look.
- Wear minimal jeweler when travelling and

pack statement pieces. I love jeweler, so I always have a small Smythson travel case with me where I keep my accessories.

- Invest in headphones. My favorites are Beats by Dr Dre or Bose. They allow you to get in your own headspace and really enjoy your favorite tunes.
- Clothing is only part of looking good at the airport but feeling healthy only makes you look better. I love vitamins and vitamin boosters, Berocca is a savior as is Bee Prepared. After a long flight anything that revitalizes is great to have on hand.
- Everyone seems to have a phone, iPad or laptop in their hand at some point while travelling. Accessorizing your electronics brings your personal style to their lives. My favorite way to accessorize is with the Anya Hindmarch permanent stickers, every designer seems to have a fun phone case at the moment.
- A quick touch up before landing. Lips, bronzer and concealer are all you need. My personal favorites are the Tom Ford bronzer, Trish McEvoy concealer and Charlotte Tilbury's Kissing Lipstick in pale pink. Make sure you have a small bottle of your favorite fragrance too.
- Use the time wisely. Get some rest. Use the flight as a mini-vacation. You're away from your emails! You have the luxury of not being bothered for a few solid hours so de-stress with a coloring book for adults! Write a letter to an old friend, and just take some time to think and savour this uninterrupted sojourn.



6. Oscar-winning actress and mother, Charlize Theron, is chic and understated. What is so wonderful about her personal travel style is she keeps it neutral and stylish. In an airport you would take a triple take thinking, "Wow, she is so beautiful" without realising who she is at first. Her aesthetic is simple and effortless.



7. Mega pop star, Taylor Swift's aeroplane looks don't scream travel to most, however she pulls it off perfectly. Her never-ending legs and her array of fabulous handbags paired with her flirty skirts and rockin' heels are cute and fun. She represents her brand identity without a flaw.



8. Marion Cotillard, is the most beautiful mother, actress, singer, songwriter and environmentalist - she's the definition of French style. Marion's effortless travel looks exude confidence and comfort. What is so terrific about Marion is nothing ever looks contrived, whether it be a leopard print cape with a blue and white striped sailor shirt, somehow she makes you want to run and buy it.



9. Lupita Nyong'O is always stylish. One of the most wonderful things about Lupita Nyong'O's personal style is she is not afraid to use color. This chic portrait collared coat is set off by the pink cowl neck accessory as well as the light colored handbag added with a finishing touch of shades and fedora makes her super stylish for travelling.



10. Heidi Klum is one busy woman, mother of four, model, actress, TV host, designer and always looks upbeat with a natural glow. Heidi knows how to rock a great pair of jeans and always does so brilliantly. She oozes sex appeal and knows how to make heads turn, that's what you would expect from this supermodel.

APPLE RELEASES SOFTWARE FOR MEDICAL APPS

CUPERTINO, California: Apple is edging its way a little further into health care with the release of new iPhone apps that patients can use to manage their own medical conditions - from diabetes to pregnancy and even depression. While there are hundreds of health-related apps on the market, Apple wants to put its stamp on a new ecosystem of treatment programs. Rather than build the apps itself, the tech giant developed a set of software tools and templates, called "CareKit," that health-care groups and health-tech startups can use to create their own programs.

Apple says it wanted to help developers build easy-to-use apps for patients to record symptoms, get useful information, track their progress and even send reports to a doctor. Experts say the CareKit pro-

gram could help bring standards to a relatively new and unruly industry, while giving Apple a foothold in the growing health-tech market.

CareKit apps hitting the Apple online store this week include One Drop for diabetics; Start for people taking anti-depression drugs; and two apps from health startup Glow, aimed at women who are pregnant or caring for newborns. Apple says larger organizations, including the University of Rochester and hospitals at the Texas Medical Center, are working on CareKit apps for people with Parkinson's disease and patients who've undergone heart or lung operations.

"These mobile tools can help people reach their health goals," said Thomas Goetz of Iodine, a startup that used CareKit

in the latest version of its Start app. Along with providing information about side-effects to depression medications, the app asks patients to record their symptoms and answer standardized questions to track how they're doing. Start uses a CareKit feature that lets patients send reports to their doctors; eventually, Goetz said, doctors will be able to respond by adjusting their instructions for medication, diet or exercise.

Data stored on iPhones is encrypted, and Iodine's app provides cautions to make sure patients understand they're sending sensitive information to their doctors. Goetz said his company is also developing back-end software for medical offices that will comply with federal confidentiality rules.

But Goetz acknowledged that doctors and insurers "are still trying to make sense of the world of health care apps. They're trying to understand which ones are valid tools and which aren't necessarily useful."

Apple's software could help validate new apps, he said, by letting developers build on a standardized template from a well-known company whose products are used by large numbers of people. Apple says it isn't making money directly from CareKit, which grew from tools the company previously developed for researchers to create apps that collect iPhone users' data for health studies. But Apple could benefit if the apps gain wide adoption, making the iPhone an even more useful tool for millions of people with medical conditions. — AP

KINDLE OASIS AIMS AT AVID READERS, PRICED FOR OTHERS

AMAZON'S SLEEKEST, LIGHTEST E-BOOK READER YET

NEW YORK: The Kindle Oasis is Amazon's sleekest, lightest e-book reader yet - and at \$290, unnecessary unless you're a die-hard reader. The Oasis, which started shipping this week, is meant to be a luxury e-book reader - a solid, top-of-the-line device, when money is no object. It's designed strictly for reading, without Facebook, streaming video and other distractions common on full-functioning tablets.

Though the Oasis has a lot going for it, I didn't find any feature that sucked me in or won me over after a few days toting around three Kindles in New York. Amazon would have had a stronger case if its cheaper readers weren't already good.

Here's how the Oasis compares with the \$100 Paperwhite and the \$200 Voyage:

COMFORT FOR READING

Unlike previous Kindles, the Oasis is designed for one-handed reading. One side is thicker, for a better grip, and the text flips so you can use either hand. At just 4.6 ounces (131 grams), the Oasis feels as light as a paperback. Amazon executives say

their goal is to make the device disappear so you can focus on the pages you're reading. I found it a breeze to hold and flip the pages with one touch, either by touching the screen or using the page-turn buttons on the side.

But I also enjoyed reading with the Voyage and Paperwhite. I get lost when reading novels, whether it's one-handed or two.

BETTER SCREEN

Text looks crisp and bright on the Oasis, with a screen resolution of 300 pixels per inch. But the Voyage and the latest Paperwhite have that, too (The original Paperwhite was duller.) All three also have built-in lights, but the Oasis is packed with more LEDs for a display that's brighter and more evenly lit. The display adjusts automatically to ambient lighting. Reading in bright sunlight, I didn't find the screen any brighter than the Voyage, but in a dim coffee shop, it did stand out. The Oasis also offers more fonts to choose from, including a new one called Amazon Ember meant for

easier reading, as it removes the tiny strokes, or serifs, at the tips of letters. Frankly, I prefer the strokes, as printed pages typically have them. Ember is only on the Oasis for now, though older Kindles might get them later.

Because I spend my day at the computer, I don't want to feel like I'm staring at a screen when reading. The Oasis is much easier on the eyes than a phone or tablet because there is no glare and the screen is lit from the front, rather than behind - as in directly into the eyes. But the Voyage and the Paperwhite have those characteristics, too.

A CASE PACKED WITH POWER

The Oasis comes with a leather case, in black, merlot or walnut, so you're saving \$15 or so, presuming you'd be buying a case with a cheaper Kindle. The case attaches to the Oasis with a magnetic snap and makes the device easier to hold. In fact, I prefer reading with the case, even though it covers up the thicker edge meant for better grip.

There's a spare battery in the case, so you get nine weeks of reading combined, based on 30 minutes of reading a day. Though that's more than previous Kindles, it's not a crucial feature. It simply means you need to recharge it every other month rather than monthly.

GET MORE, PAY MORE

The Oasis is sleek and chic, and given that it's out of stock until June 1, it looks popular with at least some readers. But it's hard to overlook that price tag.

The basic version is \$290 and comes with ads on the screensaver. Add \$20 to turn them off and another \$70 for 3G cellular connectivity, which allows you to buy and download e-books when you don't have Wi-Fi. The data plan is included. With the extras, the device costs \$380, or about the same as a tablet with far more functionality. Amazon's other Kindles already provide a pleasant e-book reading experience. You could buy both a \$100 Paperwhite and a \$180 Fire HD tablet for the price of an Oasis, with \$10 to spare for your first e-book. — AP



An H-2A rocket carrying an X-ray astronomy satellite called "Hitomi", is launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture, southern Japan. — AP

JAPAN AGENCY ABANDONS COSTLY X-RAY SATELLITE LOST IN SPACE

TOKYO: Japan's space agency has abandoned its efforts to restore the operations of a multimillion-dollar satellite that was to probe the mysteries of black holes using X-ray telescopes.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency announced Thursday that it would stop trying to fix the satellite after determining that it was "highly likely" that its two solar arrays had broken off at their bases. Contact was lost with the satellite on March 26, more than a month after its launch from southern Japan on Feb 17.

The satellite, named Hitomi, was much larger than previous Japanese scientific satellites, measuring 14 meters (46 feet) in length and weighing 2.7 tons. It was designed to study X-rays emitted by black holes and other objects in space. The X-rays cannot be detected on Earth, because they are blocked by its atmosphere. The space agency initially thought it had received signals from the lost satellite on three occasions, but later concluded that the frequencies of the communications indicated they were not from Hitomi.

NASA was a principal partner in the Japan-led mission, which involved eight other nations, including Canada and the Netherlands. Japan's Kyodo News agency reported that Japan spent about 31 billion yen (\$290 million) on the project, and NASA had invested about \$70 million. — AP



NEW YORK: Amazon's Kindle Oasis, far right, the company's sleekest, lightest e-reader, which sells for \$290, is shown in comparison with two earlier Kindle models, the Voyage (left) at \$200, and the Paperwhite, on sale for \$100 (center) in New York. — AP

FACEBOOK REPORTS STRONGER-THAN-EXPECTED 1Q RESULTS

MENLO PARK, California: Facebook posted stronger-than-expected results for its first quarter, helped by a growing number of users and higher advertising revenue, especially on mobile devices. The social media giant on Wednesday reported earnings of \$1.51 billion, or 52 cents per share, up from \$512 million, or 18 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were 77 cents per share in the latest

quarter, well above the 62 cents that analysts polled by FactSet were expecting.

Revenue was \$5.38 billion, up from \$3.54 billion. Analysts had forecast \$5.26 billion. Facebook had 1.65 billion monthly users as of March 31, an increase of 15 percent from a year earlier. Of these, 1.51 billion signed on using mobile devices at least once a month, an increase of 21 percent. Separately, Facebook also announced

that it will create a new class of non-voting stock, known as "Class C capital stock," designated to let CEO Mark Zuckerberg keep tight reins on the company even as it issues more shares to compensate employees and investors. Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg said that a "big part of Facebook's success is due to Mark's leadership." The proposal, which must still be approved by shareholders, is intended to keep Zuckerberg in an

active leadership role at Facebook, the company said.

As in previous quarters, Facebook attributed its success to its mobile advertising strength. Sandberg said that as customers have shifted to mobile, businesses have followed. Menlo Park, Calif.-based Facebook's shares jumped \$9.82, or 9 percent, to \$118.31 in after-hours trading. At that rate, the stock is set to open at an all-time high Thursday. — AP

FIAT CHRYSLER, GOOGLE IN PARTNERSHIP TALKS

DETROIT: Fiat Chrysler and Google's self-driving car project are in advanced talks to form a technical partnership. The talks were confirmed Thursday by a person familiar with the discussions. The person asked not to be named because the discussions are private.

The partnership would be the first to match an automaker with Google's 7-year-old autonomous car project, which is now part of the so-called X lab at Alphabet Inc, Google's parent company.

Details haven't been revealed. But Google has repeatedly said it doesn't intend to make self-driving cars and would prefer to license its technology to carmakers. Google has been testing versions of self-driving cars on highways since 2009 and on city streets since 2014. It has a fleet of Lexus SUVs specially outfitted with autonomous software as well as a pod-like prototype vehicle it designed.

"We want to partner to bring self-driving to all the vehicles in the world," Google co-founder and Alphabet President Sergey Brin told media at a self-driving car event last spring.

Last fall, Google hired John Krafcik, an auto industry veteran and former executive at Ford Motor Co. and Hyundai Motor Co., to be the CEO of its self-driving car project. Google said Thursday that the company doesn't comment on speculation. Fiat Chrysler - which has lagged bigger, richer rivals like Volkswagen AG and General Motors Co. in the development of self-driving cars - might welcome the chance to test Google's technology. The Italian-American automaker also has manufacturing expertise and factories that Google lacks.

Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne has been vocal about seeking a partner to share the cost of research and development. But other automakers, including GM, have so far rebuffed him. A tie-up with Google would help his company leapfrog competitors in the race to develop self-driving cars.

Google has set a goal of having self-driving cars in the public's hands by 2020. Earlier this year at the Detroit auto show, Marchionne said, "Consolidation, in my view, is unavoidable, especially if you lend any credence at all to all this noise and buzz that has been created about the fact that we're really not into the car business anymore we're all transportation companies who are interested in connectivity and autonomous driving." — AP



MOUNTAIN VIEW: Google's new self-driving prototype car is presented during a demonstration at the Google campus in Mountain View, California. Fiat Chrysler and Google's self-driving car project are in advanced talks to form a technical partnership, a person familiar with the discussions confirmed on Thursday. — AP



Amazon boxes in Phoenix. Amazon reported financial results on Thursday. — AP

HOW AMAZON CONVINCED YOU TO PAY UP FOR SHOPPING

NEW YORK: Amazon is clearly entering its Prime. Meaning, of course, its \$100 annual membership program, now a decade old, which has accomplished the remarkable feat of convincing millions of people to pay an annual fee for the privilege of, well, shopping.

Prime is now central to Amazon's strategy of dominating the world of commerce. What started as a yearly fee for free two-day shipping now offers a sometimes bewildering array of perks, including household product subscriptions, one and two hour Prime Now delivery, streaming music and video, e-books, groceries (for an additional \$200 a year), photo storage and more. "Prime has become an all-you-can-eat, physical-digital hybrid," Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos wrote in his annual shareholder letter in April. He wants the service to be such a good deal that you'd be "irresponsible" not to sign up, he wrote.

Why the emphasis on Prime? Simply put, members of the loyalty program shop more frequently and spend more money, analysts say. Prime shoppers helped drive Amazon's surprise profit surge in the first quarter. Shares of the e-commerce giant jumped in after-hours trading Thursday after it reported a 28 percent jump in revenue, to \$29.13 billion. Net income was \$513 million, compared to a loss in the year-earlier quarter.

Amazon doesn't release detailed numbers on Prime, although Bezos wrote that Prime has "tens of millions" of subscribers.

Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter estimates there are about 50 million Prime members. Even a 25 percent price increase in 2014, the only one for Prime in 10 years, hasn't appreciably dampened enthusiasm for the program. Membership grew 51 percent last year, including 47 percent growth in the US, according to Bezos.

Pachter estimates that Prime members spend about four times what others do, and account for about a third of all Amazon purchases. "That's why Prime matters," he said.

Tawnie Knight in Tuscon, Arizona joined Prime about two years ago for the convenience of free shipping. Since then Amazon has become her default shopping site. "I call it the \$100 cart, because every time I go on there I spend about \$100," she said. "Before Prime I probably spend around the same amount, just with other retailers like Walmart."

Brandon Kraft joined Prime when it began 10 years ago to get cheap textbooks while in school. Now he finds it essential - with five kids ranging in age 17 months to 6 years at home - for ordering diapers and wipes and other household goods. "I think it's fair to say we spend \$125 or \$150 a month at Amazon that we wouldn't have been spending if we didn't have Prime," Kraft said. "We go to the Amazon site first when we need something, and if they don't carry it we start the actual shopping process of looking elsewhere."

Of course, Amazon Prime isn't for everyone. Those that shop infrequently online won't find the \$100-a-year fee worth it. With an estimated 244 million registered Amazon accounts, a large majority of Amazon shoppers - roughly 80 percent, in fact - haven't signed up yet.

Amazon continues to add Prime offerings to entice more users. Last week Amazon started offering a monthly Prime subscription for \$11 a month, aimed at hooking shoppers during the holidays when the majority of Prime members sign up. In 2015, 3 million shoppers joined Prime in the third week of December alone.

Amazon also introduced a standalone video service for \$9 a month, setting itself up to directly compete with other streaming services like Netflix. Investors have long griped about Amazon's strategy of investing the revenue it makes into new offerings, leading to little or no earnings growth. But the first quarter results were the fourth in a row in which Amazon reported a profit, which some analysts interpret as a willingness to rein in costs when needed.

Chief financial officer Brian Olavsky, however, told reporters on a conference call that the company's profits stem mostly from strong growth in sales. The company isn't slowing its investments, he said, citing recent spending on logistics and original programming for its streaming video service. — AP



00:40 The Believer
02:20 The Blair Witch Project
03:40 High Tide
05:20 Charge Of The Light Brigade
07:25 Clifford
08:55 Pieces Of Dreams
10:35 Mirromask
12:15 Big Screen
12:30 Teen Witch
14:00 Robinson Crusoe
15:30 The Magnificent Seven Ride!
17:10 Groundhog Day
18:55 Big Screen
19:10 Follow That Dream
21:00 Fear The Walking Dead
22:00 Talking Dead: Fear Edition
23:00 Fear The Walking Dead

07:00 Bloomberg West
08:00 Countdown
09:00 Countdown
09:30 On The Move
10:00 On The Move
11:00 The Pulse
12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
14:00 Bloomberg Go
15:00 Bloomberg Go
16:00 Bloomberg Go
17:00 Bloomberg Markets
18:00 Bloomberg Markets: European
Close
19:00 Bloomberg Markets
20:00 Bloomberg Markets
21:00 Bloomberg Markets
21:30 Brilliant Ideas
22:00 Bloomberg Markets
23:00 What'd You Miss?



00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 The Heat
02:30 News Update
03:00 Global Business
04:00 News Update
05:00 News Update
06:30 Dialogue
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update
12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update

14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 News Update
16:15 Global Business
17:00 News Update
17:15 World InSight
18:00 Asia Today
18:30 Culture Express
19:00 News Update
19:30 The Heat
20:00 Africa Live
21:00 Global Business
21:30 Dialogue
22:00 News Update
22:15 China 24
23:00 News Update
23:15 World InSight



00:00 CNBC Conversation: Felipe Calderon
00:30 CNBC Conversation: Kyriakos Mitsotakis
01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
02:00 Asia Squawk Box
05:00 Asia Street Signs
07:00 Capital Connection
08:00 Squawk Box Europe
11:00 Europe Street Signs
12:00 Worldwide Exchange
13:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
16:00 Squawk On The Street
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell



00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Salvage Hunters
02:00 Redwood Kings
02:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Auction Hunters
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 Fifth Gear
06:00 You Have Been Warned
06:50 Troy
07:40 The Carbonaro Effect
08:05 Superhuman Science
08:30 The Island With Bear Grylls
09:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
11:00 Salvage Hunters
11:50 Redwood Kings
12:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
13:30 Misfit Garage
14:20 Overhaulin'
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
16:00 So You Think You'd Survive?
16:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
17:40 So You Think You'd Survive?
18:30 So You Think You'd Survive?
19:20 So You Think You'd Survive?
20:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
21:00 Misfit Garage
21:50 Overhaulin'
22:40 Extreme Car Hoarders
23:30 Killing Fields



00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

01:08 Secret Space Escapes
01:55 Moon Machines
02:42 How The Earth Works
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Secret Space Escapes
05:03 Moon Machines
05:50 Nyc: Inside Out
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 How The Earth Works
08:53 Nyc: Inside Out
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:23 Secret Space Escapes
11:08 Moon Machines
11:53 Nyc: Inside Out
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:10 How The Earth Works
14:57 Invent It Rich
15:44 Moon Machines
16:31 Future Firepower
17:18 How The Earth Works
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Da Vinci's Machines
19:40 Moon Machines
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
21:15 How The Earth Works
22:00 Da Vinci's Machines
22:45 Moon Machines
23:35 Mythbusters



00:00 Crime Stories
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
03:00 My Crazy Ex
04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
05:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover
06:00 I Killed My BFF
07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
08:00 Crime Stories
09:00 Surveillance Oz
09:30 Private Crimes
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
11:00 After The First 48
12:00 The FBI Files
13:00 I Killed My BFF
14:00 Crime Stories
15:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
16:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
17:00 After The First 48
18:00 The FBI Files
19:00 I Killed My BFF
20:00 Crime Stories
21:00 The First 48
22:00 The Killer Speaks
23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia



00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Violetta Recipes
17:10 Invisible Sister
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Violetta
20:20 Violetta Recipes
20:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place - The Movie
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer

00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow
11:25 Special Agent Oso
11:40 The Hive
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 Gummi Bears
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Miles From Tomorrow
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jungle Cubs
21:25 Aladdin
21:50 Gummi Bears
22:20 Lilo And Stitch
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster



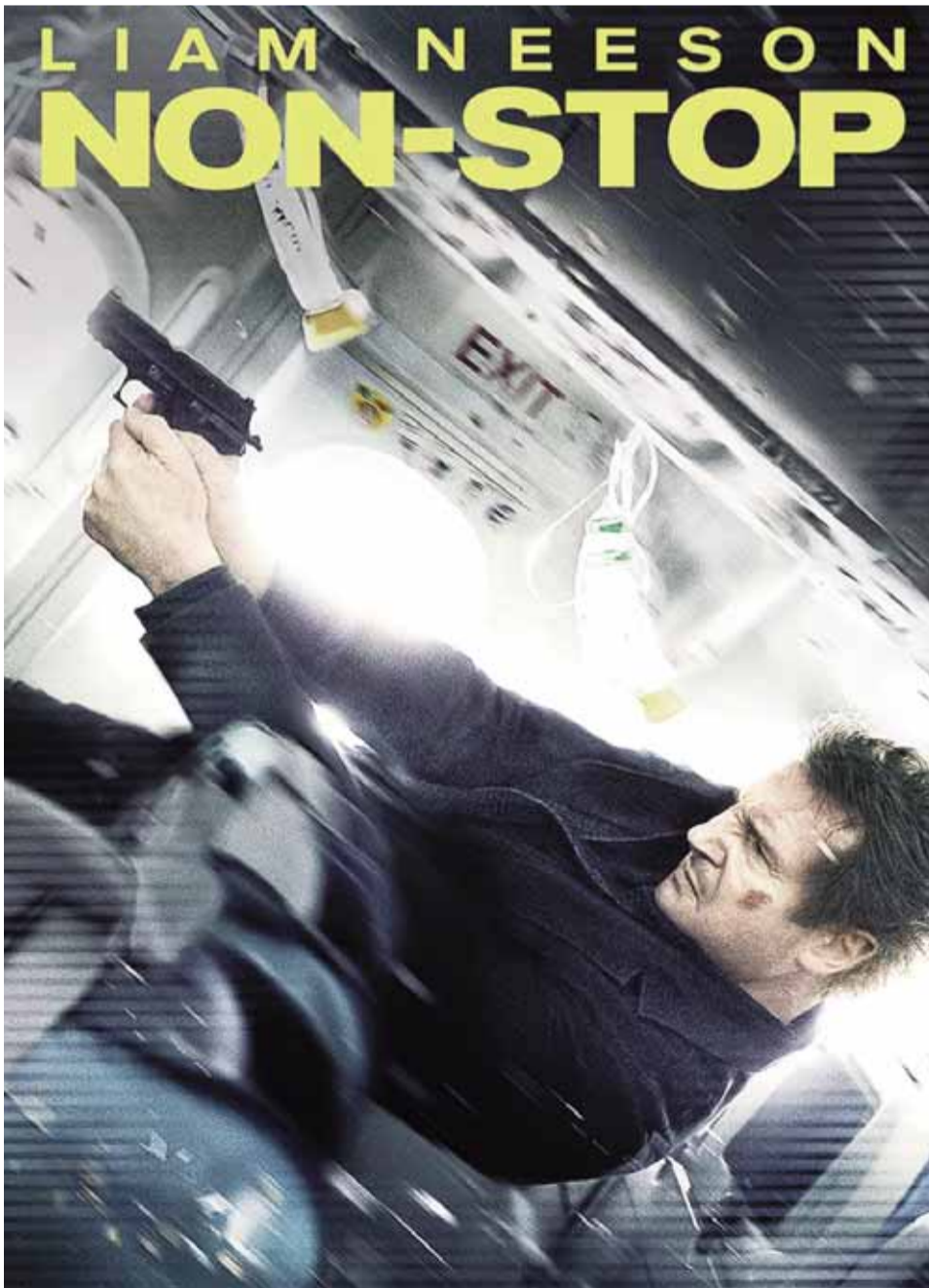
00:45 Human Prey
01:40 River Monsters
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life
03:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 River Monsters
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Treehouse Masters
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Dog TV
11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
12:50 Queens Of The Savannah
13:45 Queens Of The Savannah
14:40 Queens Of The Savannah
15:35 Animal Cops South Africa
16:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:25 Queens Of The Savannah
18:20 Rugged Justice
19:15 Gator Boys
20:10 In Search Of The King Cobra
21:05 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
22:00 Rugged Justice
22:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
23:50 Gator Boys



00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Holby City
01:50 Stag
02:45 Silent Witness
03:40 Waking The Dead
04:40 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:00 Dickensian
08:50 Death In Paradise
09:45 Doctor Who
10:50 Doctor Who
11:40 Doctor Who
12:35 Doctor Who
13:25 Holby City
14:25 Doctors
14:55 Eastenders
15:25 Death In Paradise
16:20 Death In Paradise
17:15 Death In Paradise
18:15 Doctors
18:45 Doctors
19:20 Father Brown
20:05 Happy Valley
21:00 Happy Valley
22:00 Undercover
23:00 Stag
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Charlie Rose
01:00 Bloomberg West
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau
04:00 Trending Business
05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge



NON-STOP ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

- 23:20 Calimero
 - 23:35 Zou
- 
- 06:00 Boyster
 - 06:10 Super Matrak
 - 06:35 Super Matrak
 - 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
 - 07:25 K.C. Undercover
 - 07:50 Supa Strikas
 - 08:15 Annedroids
 - 08:40 Lab Rats
 - 09:10 Kirby Buckets
 - 09:35 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 - 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
 - 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man Web Warriors
 - 10:50 Boyster
 - 11:20 Boyster
 - 11:45 Pair Of Kings
 - 12:10 Pair Of Kings
 - 12:35 Lab Rats
 - 13:00 Lab Rats
 - 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
 - 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
 - 14:20 Kickin' It
 - 14:45 Kickin' It
 - 15:10 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 - 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
 - 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 - 16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
 - 16:30 Kirby Buckets
 - 16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 - 17:25 K.C. Undercover
 - 17:50 Supa Strikas
 - 18:15 Lab Rats
 - 18:40 K.C. Undercover
 - 19:05 Cars Toons
 - 19:10 Annedroids
 - 19:35 Phineas And Ferb
 - 20:00 Kirby Buckets
 - 20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 - 20:55 K.C. Undercover
 - 21:20 Pickle And Peanut
 - 21:30 Pickle And Peanut
 - 21:45 Lab Rats
 - 22:10 Mighty Med
 - 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
 - 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
 - KSA
- 
- 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
 - 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
 - 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 - 02:20 E! News
 - 03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 - 04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 - 05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 - 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 - 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 - 07:50 Style Star
 - 08:20 E! News
 - 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
 - 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
 - 11:10 The Grace Helbig Show
 - 11:35 The Grace Helbig Show
 - 12:05 E! News
 - 13:05 Dash Dolls
 - 14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 - 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 - 16:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 - 17:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 - 18:00 E! News
 - 19:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
 - 20:00 WAGS
 - 21:00 WAGS
 - 22:00 E! News
 - 23:00 Botched
- 
- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 - 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 - 01:00 Private Chef
 - 01:30 Private Chef
 - 02:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
 - 02:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
 - 03:00 Man Fire Food
 - 03:30 Man Fire Food
 - 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 - 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 - 05:00 Iron Chef America
 - 06:00 Chopped



SON OF A GUN ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 07:00 Man Fire Food
 - 07:30 Man Fire Food
 - 08:00 Chopped
 - 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
 - 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
 - 10:00 The Kitchen
 - 11:00 Anna Olson: Bake
 - 11:30 Anna Olson: Bake
 - 12:00 Chopped
 - 13:00 The Pioneer Woman
 - 13:30 The Pioneer Woman
 - 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 - 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 - 15:00 Man Fire Food
 - 15:30 Man Fire Food
 - 16:00 Chopped
 - 17:00 The Kitchen
 - 18:00 Anna Olson: Bake
 - 18:30 Anna Olson: Bake
 - 19:00 Chopped
 - 20:00 Iron Chef America
 - 21:00 Chopped
 - 22:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
 - 23:00 Kitchen Casino
- 
- 00:20 Pawn Stars
 - 00:45 Pawn Stars Australia
 - 01:10 Down East Dickering
 - 02:00 Ice Road Truckers
 - 02:50 Ax Men
 - 03:40 American Restoration
 - 04:05 American Restoration
 - 04:30 Pawn Stars
 - 05:00 Grave Trade
 - 06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
 - 06:50 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
 - 07:40 Hunting Hitler
 - 08:30 American Restoration
 - 08:55 Mountain Men
 - 09:45 Ax Men
 - 10:35 Swamp People
 - 11:25 Fifth Gear
 - 12:15 Counting Cars
 - 12:40 Counting Cars
 - 13:05 American Pickers
 - 13:55 Grave Trade
 - 14:45 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
 - 15:35 Hunting Hitler
 - 16:25 Counting Cars
 - 16:50 Shark Wranglers
 - 17:40 Aussie Pickers
 - 18:30 Duck Dynasty
 - 18:55 Duck Dynasty
 - 19:20 Ax Men
 - 20:10 Swamp People
 - 21:00 Storage Wars: New York
 - 21:25 Storage Wars: New York

- 21:50 Pawn Stars
 - 22:15 Pawn Stars Australia
 - 22:40 Hunting Hitler
 - 23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 
- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
 - 01:05 Emmerdale
 - 01:30 Eggheads
 - 02:00 Coronation Street
 - 02:30 Keep It In The Family
 - 03:25 Black Work
 - 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
 - 05:15 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
 - 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 - 07:00 Eggheads
 - 07:30 Black Work
 - 08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
 - 09:20 Keep It In The Family
 - 10:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
 - 11:05 Eggheads
 - 11:35 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
 - 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 - 13:25 Emmerdale
 - 13:50 Emmerdale
 - 14:20 Coronation Street
 - 14:45 Keep It In The Family
 - 15:35 Royal Stories
 - 16:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
 - 16:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
 - 17:25 Home Fires
 - 18:20 Emmerdale
 - 18:45 Emmerdale
 - 19:10 Coronation Street
 - 19:35 Royal Stories
 - 20:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
 - 20:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
 - 21:25 Home Fires
 - 22:20 Coronation Street
 - 22:50 Emmerdale
 - 23:15 Emmerdale
 - 23:40 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 
- 00:10 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
 - 00:35 Tom's Istanbul Delight
 - 01:00 Cesar To The Rescue
 - 01:50 Chefs Run Wild
 - 02:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
 - 02:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
 - 03:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
 - 03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 03:55 Street Food Around The World
 - 04:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 04:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia

- Australia
 - 05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 06:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
 - 06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
 - 07:40 Chefs Run Wild
 - 08:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
 - 08:30 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
 - 08:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
 - 09:20 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 09:45 Street Food Around The World
 - 10:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 10:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 11:00 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 11:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
 - 12:40 Cesar To The Rescue
 - 13:35 Chefs Run Wild
 - 14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 - 14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 - 14:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
 - 15:25 Miguel's Feasts
 - 15:50 Street Food Around The World
 - 16:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 16:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 17:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 18:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
 - 19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
 - 19:30 Miguel's Feasts
 - 20:00 Street Food Around The World
 - 20:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 20:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 - 21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 21:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
 - 22:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
 - 22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
 - 23:45 Chefs Run Wild
- 
- 00:30 Hot In Cleveland
 - 01:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
 - 01:30 Web Therapy
 - 02:00 The Brink
 - 02:30 You're The Worst
 - 03:00 Mad Love
 - 03:30 Living With Fran
 - 04:00 Two And A Half Men
 - 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 - 05:30 My Name Is Earl
 - 06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
 - 06:30 Community
 - 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

- 08:00 Two And A Half Men
 - 08:30 My Name Is Earl
 - 09:00 Mad Love
 - 09:30 Kevin From Work
 - 10:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
 - 10:30 Community
 - 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 - 12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
 - 12:30 Two And A Half Men
 - 13:00 My Name Is Earl
 - 13:30 Community
 - 14:00 Living With Fran
 - 14:30 Kevin From Work
 - 15:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
 - 15:30 Hot In Cleveland
 - 16:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
 - 16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 - 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 - 18:00 Fresh Off The Boat
 - 18:30 Black-ish
 - 19:00 2 Broke Girls
 - 19:30 The Simpsons
 - 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 - 21:00 Hot In Cleveland
 - 21:30 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
 - 22:00 Comedians
 - 22:30 The Brink
 - 23:00 You're The Worst
 - 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 
- 00:00 Inside
 - 02:00 Stranded
 - 04:00 Destruction: Las Vegas
 - 06:00 Non-Stop
 - 08:00 Crimson Tide
 - 10:00 Dying Of The Light
 - 12:00 The X Files
 - 14:00 Non-Stop
 - 16:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target
 - 17:45 Crimson Tide
 - 19:45 Oblivion
 - 22:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For
- 
- 00:00 The Starving Games
 - 02:00 The Bounty Hunter
 - 04:00 My Father The Hero
 - 06:00 Mr. Destiny
 - 08:00 Sweet Home Alabama
 - 10:00 My Father The Hero
 - 12:00 The Bounty Hunter
 - 14:00 Bottle Rocket
 - 16:00 Sweet Home Alabama
 - 18:00 The Devil Wears Prada
 - 20:00 I Give It A Year
 - 22:00 American Reunion

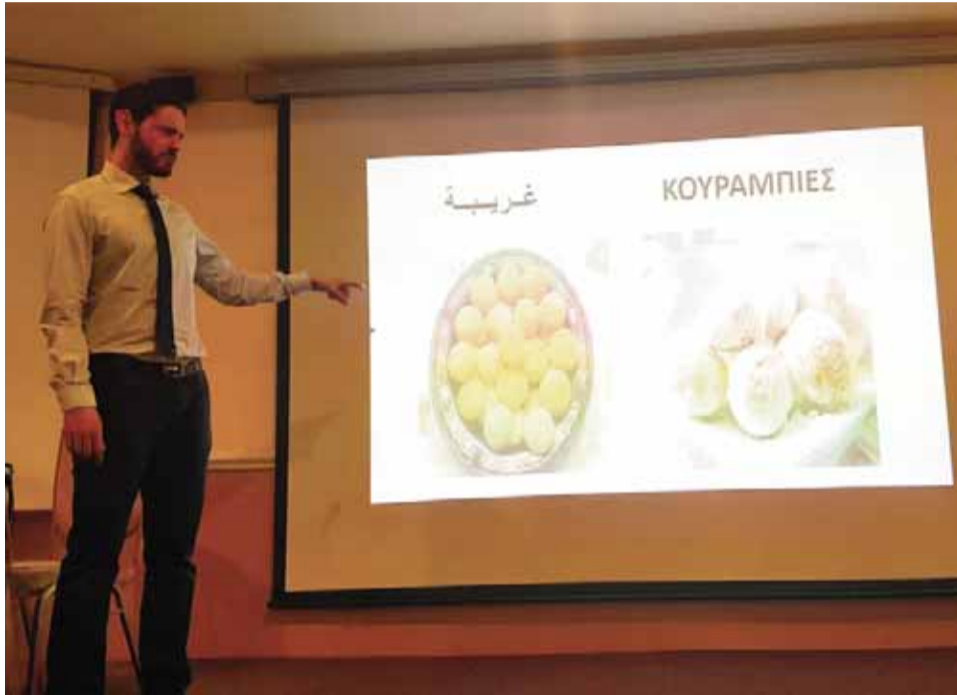
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- 01:30 One Last Look
 - 03:00 Foxcatcher
 - 05:15 A Valentine's Date
 - 07:00 1911
 - 09:00 10 Years
 - 11:00 A Valentine's Date
 - 13:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
 - 15:00 God Help The Girl
 - 17:00 10 Years
 - 19:00 Not Fade Away
 - 21:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones
 - 23:00 By The Gun
- 
- 01:00 Vanity Fair
 - 03:30 Gattaca
 - 05:30 The Apostle
 - 08:00 Won't Back Down
 - 10:30 Happiness
 - 12:30 What Dreams May Come
 - 14:30 Gattaca
 - 16:30 Won't Back Down
 - 19:00 True Colors
 - 21:00 Jersey Boys
 - 23:15 The People vs Larry Flynt
- 
- 01:15 The Expendables 3
 - 03:30 McFarland, USA
 - 05:45 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time
 - 06:45 The Theory Of Everything
 - 09:00 The Maze Runner
 - 11:00 McFarland, USA
 - 13:15 Ant-Man
 - 15:15 Batman: Assault On Arkham
 - 16:30 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
 - 18:45 Tomorrowland
 - 21:00 The Water Diviner
 - 23:00 Son Of A Gun
- 
- 00:00 Careful What You Wish For
 - 02:00 Next Goal Wins
 - 04:00 Not Safe For Work
 - 06:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
 - 08:00 Until She Came Along
 - 10:00 Son Of Batman
 - 12:00 Fast Girls
 - 14:00 Ashes
 - 16:00 Until She Came Along
 - 18:00 High Road
 - 20:00 No Good Deed
 - 22:00 Sleeping Beauty
- 
- 00:00 Super League
 - 02:30 Inside The PGA Tour
 - 03:00 PGA Tour
 - 06:30 European Tour Weekly
 - 07:00 Golfing World
 - 08:00 World Rugby
 - 08:30 Welsh Open Snooker
 - 10:00 Super Rugby Highlights
 - 10:30 Live Super Rugby
 - 12:40 Live Super Rugby
 - 15:00 World Rugby
- 

INDONESIAN EMBASSY CLOSURE

On the occasion of the International Labor Day, the Embassy of Indonesia in Kuwait will be closed on May 1, 2016 and will resume its activities on 2 May 2016. For any emergency inquiries, please call 97206060.

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY CLOSURE

On the occasion of the Labor Day, the South African Embassy will be closed on Sunday, May 1, 2016. The Embassy will resume its normal working hours on Monday, May 2, 2016. Please note the working hours of the Embassy is from Sunday to Thursday, 8:00 to 16:00 and the Consular Section operation hours will be from 8:30 to 12:30. For Emergency calls please contact: 94924895.



GREEK CULTURE CELEBRATED AT TIES CENTER'S DIWANYA

The Ties Center strives for merging both Eastern and Western cultures. Recently, the diwanya lecture series started at 6:30. However, this time the Arabian Diwanya series celebrated the Greek culture. A Kuwaiti Greek language learner and Dimitris Gkantis, delivered their message that explained how close the Greek and the Arabian languages are.

The speakers reviewed the shared words in a play. The act was started by the Kuwaiti language enthusiast, she explained to Dimitris, in Arabic, the names of the flash pictures on the screen, and Dimitris only replied to her in Greek. They had a conversation about foods, decorations and tools, to the amazement of both the Arab and Greek families to realize how close both languages sounds were. The crowd enjoyed learning about a musical instrument the 'Kanun' which was particularly almost identical in both languages. The families of the attendees were educated and entertained, experience of the eastern side of Greece proved to be fitting for the Diwanya. During the lecture the speaker was asked whether or not did the influx of Christianity erased the ancient side of Greece? He answered that in Greece our most ancient traditions are intact.

Firstly, how close culturally we are? Dimitris explained that economic relations were active between both worlds from ancient times, his student added that her Greek professor taught her that we are in fact easterners in Europe, and both of our traditions are in fact related. Secondly, how deep is our linguistic relations? With confidence, Dimitris said that the Phoenician roots of both languages are related.

Finally, "Do you see that the future will bring us closer together, culturally and linguistically?"

The student said "Why not?" Dimitris argued that the Syrian flee to Greece, and the encouragement of projects and tourism from Arabia well in fact bring us even more closer. Dr Teresa the GM of the Ties center thanked both speakers and presented gifts as expression of gratitude for both speakers who achieved Ties' goal.





Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa welcomes you to indulge your senses in the newly refurbished Arabesque Cafe and Terrace. The restaurant now boasts of a fresh new look with exquisite furniture and decor that offers a comfortable dining experience.



BRITISH ACADEMY OF SPORT VISITS ROMANIA

The British Academy of Sport (BAS) organized for the second year another successful trip to Transylvania, in Romania. A group of 19 students and three teachers enjoyed a fun filled adventure holiday as part of their Spring break.

The trip was for 6 days in the Predeal region which is a beautiful mountain resort with an altitude of 1600 meters and located very close to Brasov City in Transylvania. An unexpected snowfall in April added to the thrills of the trip with sledging and snowballing as well as archery in the snow adding to the many sports on offer. These included swimming in the Olympic pool at Aqua Park and at Therme Bucharest, the biggest thermal wellness center from Europe.

Having enjoyed the magnificent swimming in the Galaxy waves pool in Therme the students took part in a range of sporting activities with professional coaches. These included Horse Riding at Maggie's Ranch; Zip Wire, Tubing, Bowling, Climbing, Laser Tag, Hiking and Archery.

BAS students also enjoyed visits to many of Romania's unique tourist venues such as Dracula's Castle, Peles Palace, Rasnov Fortress, and they also travelled 2,000 meters to the top

of the mountains by Cable Car in Sinaia and Chair Lift in Predeal. The group was invited to the Olympic Federation in Brasov to meet with one of the best Romanian Ski Champions, Ioan Achiriloaie, who participated in the Winter Olympics Games at Sochi in 2014.

The trip culminated with an Awards Evening where most of the students participated in the "BAS Got Talent Show" and all received medals, certificates and souvenirs of this historic trip to Romania. A special surprise for the students was to visit the International School of Bucharest where they had a school tour, lunch and made new friends during the sports competition with Year 6 students from Romania.

Also on the last day the group was invited to visit the Kuwait Embassy in Bucharest where they met with HE the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Romania, Mr Mubarak Al Sheaijan, who gave them a short briefing about the Embassy activities and enjoyed a presentation on the trip from Year 5 student Mohammed Ekrouf.

Following the success of the 2015/2016 trips to Spain and Romania BAS is planning two sports trips for 2016/2017, in October to Greece and in April to Italy. For more details about BAS Trips and Activities please call 99458013 or visit www.bas.edu.kw.



LARGE PARTS OF BARRIER REEF DEAD IN 20 YEARS: SCIENTISTS

SYDNEY: Large parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef could be dead within 20 years as climate change drives mass coral bleaching, scientists warned yesterday.

The World Heritage-listed reef is currently suffering its worst bleaching in recorded history with 93 percent of corals affected due to warming sea temperatures.

Experts from the government-backed ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science said in a study that if greenhouse gases keep rising, similar events will be the new normal, occurring every two years by the mid-2030s. Given reefs need some 15 years to completely recover from bleaching of this magnitude, the centre said "we are likely to lose large parts of the Great Barrier Reef in just a cou-

ple of decades". Researchers found climate change had added 1.0 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming to the ocean temperatures off the Queensland coast in March, when corals were first noted turning white. "These extreme temperatures will become commonplace by the 2030s, putting a great strain on the ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef," said lead author Andrew King.

"Our research showed this year's bleaching event is 175 times more likely today than in a world where humans weren't emitting greenhouse gases. We have loaded the odds against the survival of one of the world's greatest natural wonders."

Bleaching is a phenomenon that turns corals white or fades their colours as they

expel tiny photosynthetic algae, threatening a valuable source of biodiversity, tourism and fishing.

They can recover if the water temperature drops and the algae are able to recolonise them.

The study is yet to be peer-reviewed, but the centre took the unusual step of releasing it early because the reef is in such a dire predicament. "We are confident in the results because these kind of attribution studies are well established but what we found demands urgent action if we are to preserve the reef," said King.

"For this reason, we felt it was vital to get our findings out as quickly as possible."

Earlier this month, researchers at Australia's James Cook University said only seven percent of the huge reef had

escaped the whitening, following extensive aerial and underwater surveys.

The damage ranges from minor in the southern areas-which are expected to recover soon-to very severe in the northern and most pristine reaches of the 2,300 kilometre (1,430 miles) site off Australia's east coast. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, from the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland, who published a controversial study in 1999 forecasting such an event, said his predictions were now looking conservative.

"Reefs need time, around 15 years, to completely recover from a coral bleaching event of this magnitude," Hoegh-Guldberg said. "Recovery rates are being overwhelmed by more frequent and severe mass coral bleaching." — AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian woman sitting on a boat moored on the banks of the Pahang river in Temerloh, outside Kuala Lumpur. In Malaysia, the extreme weather has shrunk reservoirs, dried up agricultural lands, forced water rationing in some areas, and caused repeated school closures as a health precaution. — AFP

EL NINO DRYING UP ASIA AS ITS STORMY SISTER LA NINA LOOMS

ECONOMIC LOSSES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA COULD TOP \$10BN

TEMERLOH, Malaysia: Withering drought and sizzling temperatures from El Nino have caused food and water shortages and ravaged farming across Asia, and experts warn of a double-whammy of possible flooding from its sibling, La Nina. The current El Nino which began last year has been one of the strongest ever, leaving the Mekong River at its lowest level in decades, causing food-related unrest in the Philippines, and smothering vast regions in a months-long heat wave often topping 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

Economic losses in Southeast Asia could top \$10 billion, IHS Global Insight told AFP. The regional fever is expected to break by mid-year but fears are growing that an equally forceful La Nina will follow. That could bring heavy rain to an already flood-prone region, exacerbating agricultural damage and leaving crops vulnerable to disease and pests. "The situation could become even worse if a La Nina event-which often follows an El Nino-strikes towards the end of this year," Stephen O'Brien, UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and relief, said this week.

He said El Nino has already left 60 million people worldwide requiring "urgent assistance," particularly in Africa. Wilhemina Pelegrina, a Greenpeace campaigner on agriculture, said La Nina could be "devastating" for Asia, bringing possible "flooding and landslides which can impact on food production." El Nino is triggered by periodic oceanic warming in the eastern Pacific Ocean which can trigger drought in some regions, heavy rain in others.

Much of Asia has been punished by a bone-dry heat wave marked by record-high temperatures, threatening the livelihoods of countless millions.

Millions left out to dry

Vietnam, one of the world's top rice exporters, has been particularly hard-hit by its worst drought in a century. In the economically vital Mekong Delta bread basket, the mighty river's vastly reduced flow has left up to 50 percent of arable land affected by salt-water intrusion that harms crops and can damage farmland, said Le Anh Tuan, a professor of climate change at Can Tho University.

More than 500,000 people are short of drinking water, while hotels, schools

and hospitals are struggling to maintain clean-water supplies. Neighbouring Thailand and Cambodia also are suffering, with vast areas short of water and Thai rice output curbed.

In Malaysia, the extreme weather has shrunk reservoirs, dried up agricultural lands, forced water rationing in some areas, and caused repeated school closures as a health precaution. Fisherman Abdul Rafar Matarrh said his daily catch in central Malaysia's Pahang River has been decimated as the normally broad river has shrunk to a third its size, leaving dead fish to rot in the dry bed.

"Last year I could catch about 20 kilos (44 pounds) of fish a day. Now, to get one kilo is very hard," said Abdul Rafar, 80, after netting just one small fish in an entire morning under an unforgiving sun.

In India, about 330 million people are at risk from water shortages and crop damage, the government said recently, and blazing temperatures have been blamed for scores of heat-stroke deaths and dead livestock. Authorities in Palau warned recently the tiny Pacific island nation could completely dry up soon in a "total water outage". — AFP

PARTS OF INDIA BAN DAYTIME COOKING AS HUNDREDS DIE OF HEAT

PATNA: With sizzling temperatures claiming more than 300 lives this month in India, officials said yesterday they were banning daytime cooking in some parts of the drought-stricken country in a bid to prevent accidental fires that have killed nearly 80 more people. The eastern state of Bihar this week took the unprecedented step of forbidding any cooking between 9 am and 6 pm, after accidental fires exacerbated by dry, hot and windy weather swept through shantytowns and thatched-roof houses in villages and killed 79 people. They included 10 children and five adults killed in a fire sparked during a Hindu prayer ceremony in Bihar's Aurangabad district last week.

People were instead told to cook to night. Hoping to prevent more fires, officials have also barred burning spent crops or holding religious fire rituals. Anyone defying the ban risks up to a year in jail.

"We call this the fire season in Bihar," said Vyas, a state disaster management official who goes by one name. "Strong, westerly winds stoke fires which spread easily and cause great damage."

Much of India is reeling under a weekslong heat wave and severe drought conditions that have decimated crops, killed livestock and left at least 330 million Indians without enough water for their daily needs.

Rivers, lakes and dams have dried up in parts of the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, and overall officials say that groundwater reservoirs are at just 22 percent capacity. In some areas, the situation is so bad the government has sent tankers of water for emergency relief. Monsoon rains are still weeks away, expected to start only in June.

At least 300 people have died of heat-related illness this month, including 110 in the state of Orissa, 137 in Telangana and another 45 in Andhra Pradesh where temperatures since the start of April have been hovering around 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit).

That's about 4-5 degrees Celsius (8-10 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than normal for April, according to state meteorological official YK Reddy. He predicted the situation would only get worse in May, traditionally the hottest month in India. The southern state of Andhra Pradesh is running ads on TV and in newspapers urging people to stay indoors during the hottest hours. Construction and farm laborers are advised to seek shade when the sun is directly overhead. — AP



JAMMU: An Indian girl carries drinking water in a plastic container on her head as she walks back to her village after collecting it from an almost dried up well in Samba district, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Jammu yesterday. — AP

KENYA CALLS FOR IVORY SALES BAN AS IT PREPARES TO BURN TUSKS

ELEPHANT NUMBERS HAVE PLUNGED SINCE 1970S

MOUNT KENYA, Kenya: Kenya wants a ban on all sales of elephant ivory, its president told other African leaders and conservationists at talks yesterday on how to save the continent's embattled elephant and rhino populations. From 1.2 million in the 1970s, the number of elephants roaming Africa has plunged to around 400,000. Poaching for ivory killed 30,000 a year from 2010 to 2012. The future for rhinos, now numbering less than 30,000, is even bleaker unless poaching is checked.

"The future of the African elephant and rhino is far from secure so long as demand for their products continues to exist," said President Uhuru Kenyatta, adding any sale, even in legal domestic markets, increased risks to the animals. Kenya would seek a "total ban on the trade in elephant ivory" at a meeting on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in South Africa later this year, the president told the "Giants Club" summit.

Signalling its commitment, Kenya will burn 105 tons of seized ivory today. CITES approved a ban on commercial trade in African elephant ivory in 1989, but since then has permitted one-off sales.

Conservationists want more prosecutions of poachers, the slashing of demand for ivory and rhino horn, most of which is in east Asia, and deeper cooperation across borders to fight poachers.

"It has taken a crisis to get us to better collaboration, and the successes are still very fragile," said Iain Douglas-Hamilton, chief executive of the charity Save the Elephants. In Kenya, 93 elephants were killed in 2015, down from

384 in 2012. But conservationists say the East African nation remains a transit point for poached wildlife parts from other countries.

Leaders from Uganda and Gabon attended the summit to outline efforts to curb illegal hunting by poachers, who in some regions have used belt-fed machineguns to mow down animals.

POLITICAL WILL

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said population pressure threatened animal habitats. "The strategic challenge is to make the African population shift from low-technology agriculture to industry and services," he said. "Political will, that is the key ingredient," Max Graham, the

founder of charity Space for Giants, told reporters at Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy ahead of the summit, which was held at a hotel nearby on the slopes of Mount Kenya.

Ol Pejeta has been protecting and slowly rebuilding Kenya's rhino numbers. Airborne rapid reaction rangers, a helicopter with night vision and better intelligence in the local community have helped. But it seems too late for the north white rhino. Just three individuals of the species remain, guarded 24 hours a day at the Ol Pejeta site. Scientists are racing against time to work out artificial reproductive techniques for the aging animals.

Ol Pejeta is also home to many more black rhino. — Reuters

GAO: HEALTHCARE ACCESS HARD TO MEASURE FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona: Access to healthcare for American Indians is difficult to gauge because the agency that oversees it does a poor job of tracking patient wait times, a report by a federal watchdog found.

Long wait times are a known problem at hospitals and health centers run by the Indian Health Service, particularly in rural areas where unemployment and poverty levels are high, the US Government Accountability Office said Thursday. New patients waited up to four months to see a physician at a facility on the Navajo Nation and up to a month for a routine vision check at a clinic in the

Billings, Montana, region, staff told fed-

eral investigators. But until the Indian Health Service develops a way to monitor patient wait times across all its facilities, it won't be able to tell whether health care has improved for a population that disproportionately suffers from diseases like diabetes and chronic liver disease, the report said. Officials with the Indian Health Service say they struggle to provide timely care because of staffing shortages and outdated equipment. Some of its hospitals are decades old and some equipment doesn't work or is used long past its usual lifetime. Messages left with the Indian Health Service and the US Department of Health and Human Services were not immediately returned. — AP



United Nations' Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism Ikponwosa Ero addresses a press conference at the end of her official visit to Malawi yesterday. — AFP

WITCHCRAFT THREATENS MALAWI ALBINOS WITH EXTINCTION: UN EXPERT

LILONGWE, Malawi: Malawi's estimated 10,000 albinos face "systematic extinction" if they continue to be murdered for their body parts for use in witchcraft, a UN expert warned yesterday.

Ikponwosa Ero told journalists at the end of a 12-day assessment in the country that the situation "constitutes an emergency, a crisis disturbing in its proportions". Her call for action came as a court in Malawi slapped a 17-year jail term on two men arrested last week for murdering a 21-year-old albino woman.

"The two pleaded guilty," police spokesman Kondwani Kandiado told AFP. Kandiado said the victim's uncle Gerald Phiri, 38, and an accomplice told the court they "blamed Satan for their action and pleaded for leniency". Ero, who is herself an albino from Nigeria and is the UN human rights council's expert on albinism, said Malawian police had recorded 65 attacks, abductions and murders of albinos since the end of 2014. Albinos were targeted because of beliefs that their body parts "can increase wealth, make businesses prosper or facilitate employment", she said. "Even in death, they do not rest in peace as their remains are robbed from graveyards." Albinos, who have white skin and yellow hair as a result of a genetic disorder, are regularly killed in several African countries including Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. Ero said she was "particularly alarmed by reports from persons with albinism that they are being called 'money' as they walk the streets and their neighbourhoods." — AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (28/04/2016 TO 04/05/2016)

SHARQIA-1
THE TRUST 12:00 PM
THE TRUST 2:00 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 4:00 PM
THE TRUST 6:15 PM
THE TRUST 8:15 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 10:15 PM
THE TRUST 12:30 AM

SHARQIA-2
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM
NO WED
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:15 AM
NO WED

SHARQIA-3
MOTHER'S DAY 1:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:30 PM
FRI
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 3:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 5:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-1
MOTHER'S DAY 1:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:30 PM
FRI
MOTHER'S DAY 3:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 5:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-2
THE TRUST 12:15 PM
THE TRUST 2:15 PM
THE TRUST 4:15 PM
BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi 6:15 PM
THE TRUST 9:00 PM
THE TRUST 11:00 PM
THE TRUST 1:00 AM

MUHALAB-3
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:30 PM
NO WED
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:45 AM
NO WED

FANAR-1
THE TRUST 12:30 PM
THE TRUST 2:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 4:30 PM
THE TRUST 6:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 8:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:30 PM
THE TRUST 12:30 AM

FANAR-2
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 11:30 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 1:45 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 4:00 PM
BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi 6:15 PM
FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:15 AM

FANAR-3
GREEN ROOM 12:00 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 2:00 PM
GREEN ROOM 4:15 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 6:15 PM
GREEN ROOM 8:30 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 10:30 PM
GREEN ROOM 12:45 AM

FANAR-4
THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:00 PM

THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:15 PM
NO WED
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 PM
NO WED

FANAR-5
MOTHER'S DAY 12:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 PM
NO WED
MOTHER'S DAY 12:15 AM
NO WED

MARINA-1
MOTHER'S DAY 1:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 3:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 5:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 11:45 PM

MARINA-2
THE TRUST 11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:45 PM
THE TRUST 11:00 PM
THE TRUST 1:00 AM

MARINA-3
I AM WRATH 12:15 PM
I AM WRATH 2:15 PM
I AM WRATH 4:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:15 PM
I AM WRATH 8:30 PM
NO WED
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM
NO WED
I AM WRATH 12:45 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 AM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 4:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 6:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 8:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:45 PM
NO WED
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:00 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-3
MOTHER'S DAY 11:30 AM
MOTHER'S DAY 2:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 4:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:05 AM

AVENUES-4
FAN- Hindi 11:45 AM
THE TRUST 2:45 PM
FAN- Hindi 5:00 PM
FAN- Hindi 8:00 PM
THE TRUST 11:00 PM
NO WED
THE TRUST 1:15 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-5
MOTHER'S DAY 12:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
NO WED
"THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR" 5:30 PM
WED
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 PM
NO WED
MOTHER'S DAY 12:30 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-6
THE TRUST 12:30 PM
THE TRUST 2:45 PM

THE TRUST 5:00 PM
THE TRUST 7:15 PM
THE TRUST 9:30 PM
NO WED
THE TRUST 11:45 PM
NO WED

AVENUES-7
GREEN ROOM 11:45 AM
GREEN ROOM 1:45 PM
GREEN ROOM 3:45 PM
GREEN ROOM 5:45 PM
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 8:00 PM
GREEN ROOM 10:15 PM
NO WED
GREEN ROOM 12:30 AM
NO WED

360°- 1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:15 PM
NO WED
CRIMINAL 12:30 AM
NO WED

360°- 2
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 3:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 5:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:05 AM

360°- 3
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 11:45 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:00 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR -3D 4:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:45 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR -3D 9:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 11:45 PM

AL-KOUT.1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:30 PM
NO WED
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:45 PM
NO WED
GREEN ROOM 1:00 AM
NO WED

AL-KOUT.2
I AM WRATH 11:30 AM
MOTHER'S DAY 1:30 PM
I AM WRATH 3:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 5:45 PM
I AM WRATH 8:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:15 PM
I AM WRATH 12:30 AM

AL-KOUT.3
THE TRUST 12:00 PM
THE TRUST 2:00 PM
THE TRUST 4:00 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:00 PM
THE TRUST 8:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM
THE TRUST 12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.4
GREEN ROOM 11:30 AM
GREEN ROOM 1:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 3:30 PM
GREEN ROOM 5:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
NO WED
GREEN ROOM 11:45 PM
NO WED

BAIRAQ-1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 2:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:30 PM

SITUATION WANTED

M.Com sixteen years experience in independently handling accounts of medium sized companies upto finalization, familiar with accounting systems, at present working in hospital, seeking suitable position. Mobile: 66019422.
C 5161)
28-4-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

Kanagamani Packirisamy son of Packirisamy and Saroja bearing an Indian Passport No. Z2443141 and having address A2K Vilavanapadugai, Kalam Pulivalam, Thiruvavur Dt, Tamil Nadu, India had embraced Islam and changed the name as Kamaludeen. **(C 5167)**

Balveni Dadala daughter of Dadala Pullaiah and Dadala Nagaratnamma bearing an Indian Passport No. G0613666 and having an address D.No 2-13-3, Plot No. 10/2 Reddy buildings Venkat Nagar Kakinada, east Godavari Dt, Andhra Pradesh, India, had embraced Islam and changed the name as Ayesha. **(C 5167)**
25-4-2016

ACCOMMODATION

Room available in Salmiya, near City Centre, Indian or Pakistani bachelor, rent KD 100. Tel: 99959140.
(C 5166)
23-4-2016

EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988



Prayer timings

Fajr: 03:51
Shorook 05:15
Duhr: 11:47
Asr: 15:22
Maghrib: 16:18
Isha: 19:40



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 30/4/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
BAW	157	London	06:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
IRC	6511	ABD	11:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:35
TBM	6313	Mashhad	13:45
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:50
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:05
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	118	New York	16:30
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45

KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KNE	382	Taif	20:10
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
BBC	050	Dhaka/Dammam	22:40
THY	764	Istanbul	22:55
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
KNE	533	Jeddah	23:05
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45

Departure Flights on Saturday 30/4/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	00:55
MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1071	Doha	10:45

KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IRC	6512	ABD	12:40
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
NIA	152	Cairo	13:20
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
IRC	527	Mashhad	14:35
TBM	6314	Mashhad	14:40
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
FBA	832	Al Najaf	15:10
KNE	381	Taif	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
JZR	189	Dubai	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
NIA	252	Alexandria	17:50
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	554	Alexandria	18:50
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KNE	234	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
KNE	534	Jeddah	23:50

Word Search Puzzles

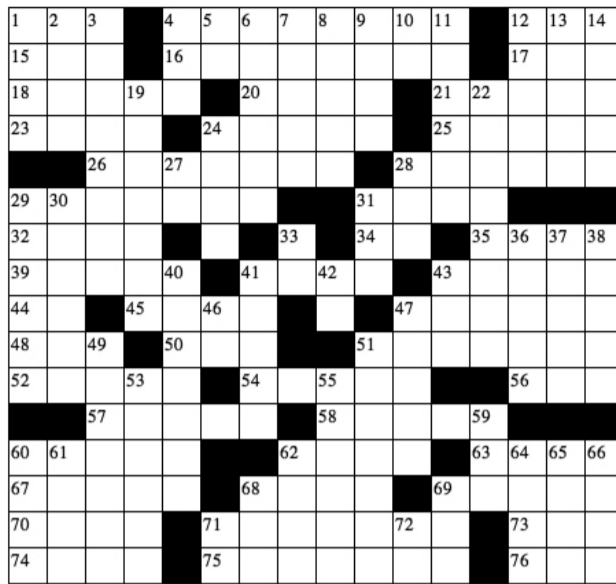
Real Estate 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 22 letters spell a common Real Estate phrase.

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

- ACREAGE DEBT LANDLORD SELLER
- AMENITIES DEFAULT LEASE SHOW HOME
- APARTMENT DOWN PAYMENT LISTING SOLD SIGN
- APPRAISER EQUITY MARKET SUBDIVISION
- ASSESSOR EVICTION MORTGAGE SUBLET
- BANK FLIP PARCEL SURVEY
- BROKER FLOOR SPACE PHOTOS TENANT
- BUYER FOR SALE SIGN PRINCIPAL TITLE
- CLOSING FORECLOSURE PROPERTY TAX TOWNHOUSE
- COMMISSION HIGH RISE PUBLIC AUCTION VALUE
- CONDO FEES INSPECTION RENT VIRTUAL TOUR
- CONTRACTOR INTEREST RATE ROW HOUSE ZONING

CROSSWORD 1242



ACROSS

- 1. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- 4. A river in central Brazil that flows generally northward (with many falls) to join the Tocantins River.
- 12. The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
- 15. The month following March and preceding May.
- 16. A town in southeastern New Mexico on the Pecos River near the Mexican border.
- 17. An enclosed space.
- 18. A major biotic community characterized by the dominant forms of plant life and the prevailing climate.
- 20. A disdainful pouting grimace.
- 21. Lower in esteem.
- 23. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
- 25. Capital and largest city of the Czech Republic.
- 26. A stronghold into which people could go for shelter during a battle.
- 29. A loose cloak with a hood.
- 32. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 34. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 35. Male red deer.
- 39. A woman of refinement.
- 44. A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.
- 45. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
- 48. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- 50. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..
- 52. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus *Draba* having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
- 54. Wood of a sumac.
- 56. (British) Your grandmother.
- 57. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
- 58. Isolated from others.
- 60. A member of an American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles.
- 63. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
- 67. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.

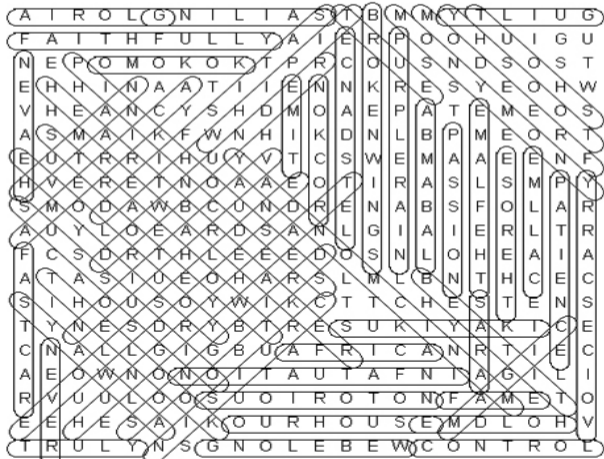
- 70. Wild plum of northeastern United States having dark purple fruits with yellow flesh.
- 73. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 74. A river in northern England that flows east to the North Sea.
- 75. Dragonflies and damselflies.
- 76. An associate degree in applied science.

DOWN

- 1. Being or befitting or characteristic of an infant.
- 2. The capital of Western Samoa.
- 3. Inflexibly entrenched and unchangeable.
- 4. (informal) Of the highest quality.
- 5. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- 6. A large fleet.
- 7. The 3rd planet from the sun.
- 8. Occurring or encountered or experienced or observed frequently or in accordance with regular practice or procedure.
- 9. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
- 10. A state in midwestern United States.
- 11. Extinct small mostly diurnal lower primates that fed on leaves and fruit.
- 12. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- 13. A Bantu language.
- 14. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
- 19. Pouch used in the shipment of mail.
- 24. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- 27. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
- 28. Tag the base runner to get him out.
- 30. An implement used to erase something.
- 31. (often followed by 'of') A large number or amount or extent.
- 33. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- 36. Large heavily built goat antelope of eastern Himalayan area.
- 37. Squash bugs.
- 38. Greek anatomist whose theories formed the basis of European medicine until the Renaissance (circa 130-200).
- 40. Tropical American feather palm having a swollen spiny trunk and edible nuts.
- 41. A large and imposing house.
- 42. Being nine more than ninety.
- 43. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- 46. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 47. French biochemist who (with Jacques Monod) studied regulatory processes in cells (born in 1920).
- 49. Dead and rotting flesh.
- 51. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
- 53. The agent to whom property involved in a bailment is delivered.
- 55. Large long-jawed oceanic sport fishes.
- 59. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- 61. In a competent capable manner.
- 62. Panel forming the lower part of an interior wall when it is finished differently from the rest.
- 64. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- 65. A wine bottle made of leather.
- 66. Type genus of the Anatidae.
- 68. (Brit) A tough youth of 1950's and 1960's wearing Edwardian style clothes.
- 69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 71. A radioactive metallic element that is similar to tellurium and bismuth.
- 72. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).

Yesterday's Solution

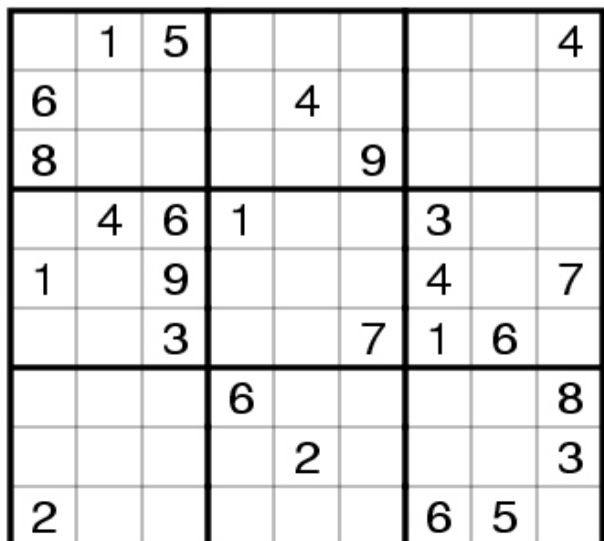
More 80's Songs



- AFRICA GLORIA NEVER SUSSUDIO
- ALWAYS GUILTY NOTORIOUS THE FLAME
- AMERICA HEARTBREAKER OUR HOUSE THE LOOK
- BEAT IT HEAVEN PASSION THE ROSE
- BROKEN WINGS HOLD ME PATIENCE TIME
- CALL ME HUMAN PINK HOUSES TOO SHY
- CONTROL HUNGRY HEART PURPLE RAIN TRUE
- CRUISIN' INFATUATION ROCK ON TRULY
- DOWN UNDER KOKOMO SAILING TWO HEARTS
- ENDLESS LOVE LA BAMBA SARA VACATION
- FAITHFULLY LET'S DANCE SATISFIED VOICES CARRY
- FAME MAGIC SHOUT WE BELONG
- FAST CAR MONEY MONDAY SONGBIRD WHIP IT
- FREEDOM MONEY MONY SUKIYAKI YOUR LOVE

The hidden song is: I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES

Daily SuDoku



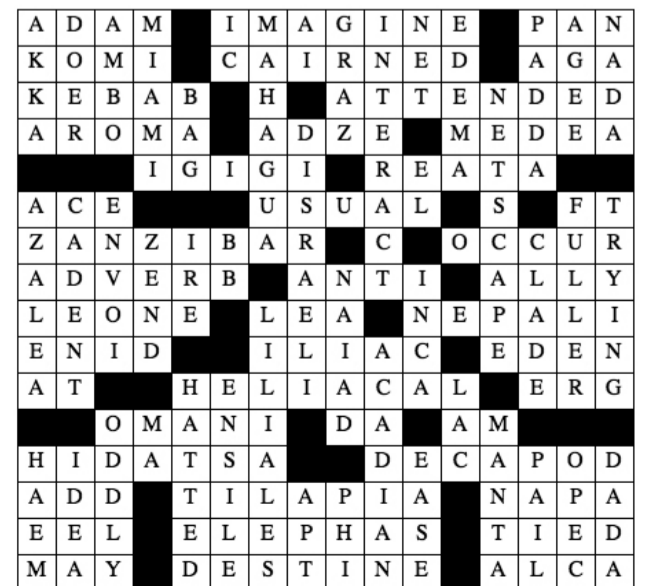
very hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

Yesterday's Solution



SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

CUBS BEAT BREWERS 7-2

CHICAGO: Jake Arrieta's bid for a second straight no-hitter ended after five pitches and the Cubs ace went on to win his 16th straight decision, leading Chicago over the Milwaukee Brewers 7-2 Thursday. Arrieta (5-0) gave up one run, three hits and four walks in five innings - the first run he allowed at Wrigley Field since July 25. Alex Presley's fifth-inning RBI double ended Arrieta's home scoreless streak at 52 2/3 innings, four outs shy of the big league record. At 16-5, Chicago is off to its best 21-game start since 1907. Ben Zobrist hit a two-run single in the first off Taylor Jungmann (0-4), who gave up five runs, six hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

PHILLIES 3, NATIONALS 0

Cameron Rupp hit a tiebreaking, two-run double off Jonathan Papelbon in a three-run ninth, and Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep. Aaron Nola, Dalier Hinojosa, Elvis Araujo (1-0) and Jeanmar Gomez combined on a four-hitter and extended Washington's scoreless streak to 22 innings. Odubel Herrera singled off Felipe Rivero (0-1) opening the ninth and took third on Freddy Galvis' double. Maikel Franco was walked intentionally, and Papelbon came in to strike out pinch-hitter Darin Ruf. Rupp hit a drive that landed over a backpedaling Bryce Harper at the warning track in right, and David Lough followed with a run-scoring single. Gomez got a save for the third straight day, his seventh overall.

TIGERS 7, ATHLETICS 3

Anthony Gose doubled and homered, and Anibal Sanchez (3-2) allowed two runs and three hits in 5 2/3 innings. Sanchez struck out nine, but walked seven - one shy of his big league high. Chris Bassitt (0-2) gave up seven runs, 10 hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings as Oakland lost for the fifth time in six games. Francisco Rodriguez got one out for his fifth save.

ORIOLES 10, WHITE SOX 2

Manny Machado had a grand slam and a career-high five RBIs, helping Baltimore stop Chicago's six-game winning streak. Chris Davis and Mark Trumbo hit consecutive third-inning homers for the Orioles, 8-1 at Camden



LOS ANGELES: Miami Marlins shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria (left) spins after tagging out Los Angeles Dodgers' Chase Utley at second base during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Thursday, April 28, 2016. — AP

Yards. Machado stopped an 0-for-17 slide with an RBI double in a four-run third against John Danks (0-4) and homered in the sixth off Jake Petricka. Mychal Givens (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings. Danks gave up six runs and nine hits in six-plus innings. He has lost seven straight starts.

BRAVES 5, RED SOX 3

Nick Markakis had three singles, a double and three RBIs, helping Atlanta Braves end an eight-game losing streak. Mallex Smith doubled twice and had an RBI single for the Braves, a big league-worst 5-17. Jhoulys Chacin (1-1) gave up two runs and six hits in five-plus innings to win for the first time since signing with the Braves as a free agent. Clay Buchholz (0-3) allowed five runs, eight hits and four walks in 6 1/3 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, CARDINALS 0

Rubby De La Rosa struck out a career-high 10 and pitched two-hit ball through seven innings and Chris Herrmann and Brandon Drury homered for Arizona. The Diamondbacks forced a split in the four-game series. De La Rosa (3-3) had been shaky this year and was demoted to the bullpen for a time but turned in his second straight strong start. Herrmann's two-run home run - after Drury's blooper dropped in for a double - gave the Diamondbacks a 2-0 lead in the second. Drury lined a 2-1 pitch from Michael Wacha (2-1) into the seats in left for a solo shot in the fourth. It was Drury's second home run in two days. Wacha (2-1) lasted seven innings. He struck out nine with two walks and allowed three runs and five hits.

MARLINS 5, DODGERS 3

Dee Gordon and Martin Prado drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with consecutive two-out singles in the seventh inning, and Miami got home runs from Giancarlo Stanton and JT Realmuto to complete a four-game sweep. Jose Fernandez (2-2) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings, striking out eight and walking three. Kenta Maeda (3-1) was charged with four runs and seven hits over 6 2-3 innings in his fifth big league start, after allowing just one run in 25 2-3 innings. The Dodgers held a 2-1 lead into the seventh before Gordon chased Maeda with his RBI single. Prado then greeted Pedro Baez with a first-pitch single, and the right-hander balked home Gordon with the Marlins' fourth run. Stanton added his 18th homer in the eighth against Baez, and AJ Ramos got three outs for his sixth save. — AP

CYCLING

YATES 'NOT SUSPENDED' AFTER FAILING DRUG TEST

LONDON: British rider Simon Yates, a strong contender to make Britain's Olympic cycling team, will not be provisionally suspended after failing a drugs test, the sport's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), said yesterday. Yates, one of the brightest prospects in British cycling, failed the test due to an "administrative error" over the use of an asthma inhaler, his team Orica-GreenEDGE said. The UCI said in a statement that Yates had not been suspended because "such a substance does not entail imposition of a provisional suspension". The Bury-born 23-year-old had returned an adverse analytical finding for Terbutaline, a common treatment for asthma, from a test conducted at the Paris-Nice stage race last month, Orica-GreenEDGE said in a statement. "The substance was given in an ongoing treatment of

Simon Yates' documented asthma problems," the Australian team said.

"However, in this case the team doctor made an administrative error by failing to apply for the TUE (therapeutic use exemption) required for the use of this treatment. "This is solely based on a human error that the doctor in question has taken full responsibility for," they added. "There has been no wrongdoing on Simon Yates' part. The team takes full responsibility for this mistake and wishes to underline their support for Simon during this process." In its statement, the UCI said: "As per the UCI's anti-doping rules, such substance does not entail the imposition of a provisional suspension. "The rider has the right to request and attend the analysis of the B sample. At this stage of the procedure, the

UCI won't comment any further."

Orica GreenEDGE added it was submitting documentation to the UCI in order to clarify everything. Yates, the twin brother of fellow professional cyclist Adam, won the points race title at the 2013 world championships in Minsk. The positive test is another blow to British Cycling which has been rocked by the departure of technical director Shane Sutton this week following allegations of sexism and discrimination. Yates received backing from one of his British team mates Owain Doull. "Tweet my thoughts on Yates yesterday and people calling me naive and stupid for believing in him," he said on Twitter. "I'm not naive, I just know and trust the lad I raced and lived with for years and have seen first hand how he has struggled with asthma." — Reuters

LIN POWERS TO SEMIS IN CHINA

BEIJING: Badminton star Lin Dan beat his South Korean opponent at the quarter-finals of the Asian Badminton Championship in China yesterday, setting up a semi-final with Malaysian rival Lee Chong Wei. Lin-ranked third in the world-powered past Lee Dong-keun of South Korea 21-15, 21-11 in a quarter-final match in the central city of Wuhan. World number two Lee beat Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen 21-16, 21-18 to set up an exciting face-off with his Chinese rival.

In the women's competition Japan's Nozomi Okuhara triumphed over China's Wang Yihan in a hard fought 8-21, 21-13, 21-19 match. India's Saina Nehwal set up a semi-final with Okuhara by dispatching China's Wang Shixian in straight 21-16, 21-19 sets. Saina, who had lost the last two meetings with Wang, prevailed despite energy-sapping rallies, Indian press agency PTI reported. The other men's semi-final will see world Number one Chen Long of China play teammate Tian Houwei. The championship is worth \$500,000 in prize money, according to the organizer's website which reported the scores. — AFP

RAMS NAME CALIFORNIA'S GOFF AS TOP DRAFT PICK

CHICAGO: The Los Angeles Rams chose Jared Goff as the number one pick in the NFL draft on Thursday, handing the young quarterback from California the task of leading the ambitious franchise into their new era. Goff, from the University of California Berkeley, had faced a nervous wait to learn where he will begin his National Football League career. The Rams had stunned the NFL after securing the number one pick from the Tennessee Titans in a blockbuster deal this month. The move was widely seen as a statement of intent by the Rams, who are determined to rapidly establish themselves as a force after returning to Los Angeles from St Louis during the close season.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell announced the Rams selection in front of a packed house at the Auditorium Theatre of Chicago's Roosevelt University. "We had a little bit of an idea (I would go number one), but nothing set in stone yet," Goff told the NFL Network after his selection. "I'm ready to go, I'm ready to make a difference." "It's an unbelievable moment, a once in a lifetime experience. I can't really put it into words right now, I'm very happy and very excited to move on with my professional career," Goff said.

Goff said he had struck up an instant rapport with Rams officials after he was scouted at the NFL Combine earlier this year. "I felt very comfortable with their whole staff and had an immediate connection with them." Goff posed for photographs holding a Rams jersey and wearing a team cap after the announcement, which was watched by a crowd of fans on giant screens gathered in downtown Los Angeles. The 21-year-old 6-

foot-4-inch quarterback is the first quarterback from California to be picked in the first round since Green Bay Packers star Aaron Rodgers was chosen in 2005.

Goff's quick release and footwork impressed his many admirers during a college career which saw him pass for 12,200 yards and 96 touchdowns in three seasons as a starter. However his critics have pointed to the fact that his 14-23 record is the worst by a number one pick entering the NFL since the start of the modern draft era in 1967. Goff is expected to be pitched into the fray immediately for the Rams, who open their 2016 season against the quarterback's boyhood team the San Francisco 49ers. With Goff chosen by the Rams, North Dakota State's Carson Wentz, the other prime quarterback in the draft, was snapped up by the Philadelphia Eagles as second outright pick.

It is only the seventh time in NFL history that the top two picks in the draft are quarterbacks. "It's an exciting time. Real exciting, and happy to be an Eagle," Wentz told the NFL Network. "I'm bringing it. They're getting a passionate player themselves, so it's going to be fun. The chips fell where they may tonight, and I'm pumped and ready to get to work." Questions about Wentz's pedigree having played college football at a second tier school have been offset by his 20-3 record and impressive showing at the Senior Bowl in January.

Tunsil tumbles

Not all the draft picks were celebrating on Thursday as offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil



CHICAGO: California's Jared Goff poses for photos after being selected by the Los Angeles Rams as the first pick in the first round of the 2016 NFL football draft on Thursday, April 28, 2016. — AP

tumbled to the 13th overall pick. The Miami Dolphins chose Tunsil despite a video that appeared on his Twitter account just minutes before the start of Thursday's draft appearing to show him smoking marijuana through a bong while wearing a gas mask. Tunsil explained the video by saying his Twitter account had been hacked. The video was

quickly deleted and Tunsil later suspended his account. But the damage was already done as a number of teams selecting in the top 10 passed on Tunsil. "It was a mistake. It happened years ago," Tunsil told the NFL Network of the video. "Someone hacked my Twitter account. It's a crazy world, things happen for a reason." — AFP

HAMILTON FASTEST IN RUSSIA, VETTEL STOPS

SOCHI: Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton boosted his morale with the fastest lap in Russian Grand Prix practice yesterday after Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg set the early pace and Ferrari suffered reliability problems. Rosberg, chasing his seventh win in a row and fourth of the season, was quickest in the morning around the Olympic Park used for the 2014 Winter Games in the Black Sea resort. The championship leader dropped to third in the afternoon, however, with Hamilton setting a best time of one minute 37.583 seconds on supersoft tyres compared to Rosberg's 1:38.450.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel stopped on track during the second session. Hamilton is the only driver to have won in Russia since the race's debut in 2014 and he needs to complete the hat-trick on Sunday to eat into his team mate's hefty 36 point lead after just three of the 21 races. The Mercedes pair, who have won 35 of the last 41 races between them, were comfortably ahead of the rest in the morning but Vettel was second fastest for Ferrari after lunch. The four-times world champion, whose team have suffered power unit problems in two races this season, was halted by an electrical failure with an hour to go.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was fourth in both practices. Australian Daniel Ricciardo, who tested a new head protection device at the start of the session and has finished fourth in all three races, was sixth and fifth for Red Bull in the two sessions. Russian team mate Daniil Kvyat was seventh, with McLaren's Jenson Button eighth and Fernando Alonso 10th in a boost for Honda-powered McLaren as they fight their way back up the pecking order after a nightmare 2015 season. Renault's Russian test driver Sergey Sirotkin, who will be competing in the GP2 support series this season, replaced Denmark's Kevin Magnussen for the first session. He ended up 13th fastest with regular race driver Jolyon Palmer 18th. —Reuters



SOCHI: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton steers his car during the second practice session of the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit yesterday. — AFP

SERENA'S ABSENCE BLOWS TOURNAMENT WIDE OPEN

MADRID: In the absence of world number one Serena Williams, who withdrew from the tournament yesterday after suffering with flu, a whole host of players will be targeting victory at the WTA Madrid Open. Williams has played just three tournaments all season, losing in the final of the Australian Open and at Indian Wells. With the world's dominant player missing for so much of the season, 16 different women have already lifted WTA titles this year, with Sloane Stephens, Victoria Azarenka and Angelique Kerber the only multiple winners.

That makes it hard to pick a winner for the tournament that starts this weekend, with Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska now the top seed, while five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova is still in the wilderness after failing a drugs test at Melbourne Park in January. Williams's conqueror at the Australian Open, Kerber, is in fine form after backing up her first Grand Slam by retaining her title on the indoor clay of Stuttgart last week.

And the German is looking to build on her positive start to the European clay-court season in Madrid and Rome before the French Open next month. "I know I can play well on clay," said Kerber. "This is the attitude I'll take to Paris." The faster conditions than a normal clay surface in Madrid due to the slight altitude of the Spanish capital could help Kerber even more. Two-time champion Petra Kvitova returns to defend her crown at the Caja Magica and strongly believes the conditions favour her style. "One reason is that the altitude really helps the players who are playing fast and aggressively," the Czech told the tournament website. "The balls really fly and I think that the players who are just pushing the ball don't really have a chance to finish the ball."

World number five Azarenka is the most in-form player on the Tour as the Belarusian arrives in Madrid on the back of a 14-match winning streak having won in Indian Wells and Miami, as well as helping her country relegate Russia in the World Group II in the Fed Cup earlier this month. Azarenka has never won in Madrid, but does have a good track record as she reached the final in 2011 and 2012 and blew three match points against Williams in the last 16 last year before losing a final set tie-break. Home hopes are carried by Garbine Muguruza as the world number four hopes to become the first Spanish woman to win the Madrid Open. However, Muguruza has had a disappointing season so far as she has failed to make it beyond the quarter-finals in seven tournaments. — AFP

BEST AND WORST OF TIMES: RIO COUNTDOWN HITS 100 DAYS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Two years ago, the Australian IOC member John Coates called the preparations for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics "the worst" in recent memory. A lot has happened since then as the countdown clock reaches 100 days on Wednesday. The venues that Coates worried about are 98 percent ready, and American television network NBC has just passed \$1 billion in advertising sales and will set revenue records. The Olympic Park in the upscale suburb of Barra da Tijuca looks spectacular. Television cameras will love the aerial shots above Copacabana beach, or views from the famous Christ the Redeemer statue as it peers over Sugar Loaf mountain and Guanabara Bay.

But problems still hang over South America's first games, the most unsettled in decades. Brazil President Dilma Rousseff is being impeached and is likely

to be suspended when the games open Aug. 5, partly as fallout from Brazil's worst recession in decades, 10 percent unemployment, and a \$3 billion bribery scandal involving the state-run oil company Petrobras. Away from politics, the Zika virus threatens athletes and tourists. Ticket sales are lukewarm, and the bacteria and virus-filled venues for sailing, rowing, canoeing and open-water swimming could put 1,600 athletes competing there at risk.

The deaths of two people last week when a new Olympic legacy cycling path collapsed into the sea have raised doubts about construction standards in the rush to build. In addition, a labor minister report Monday said 11 workers have died on Olympic-related projects since January 2013. The Associated Press asked a wide range of Brazilians - and non-Brazilians - to

predict how the games will unfold. Here are some of the replies. Briton Michael Payne, former marketing director of the International Olympic Committee: "The Rio Olympics will surprise everyone. No question, the country is facing the 'perfect storm' - political and economic meltdown, Zika, construction delays.

But in the end, the unique and incredible stage of the city - perhaps one of the most dramatic visual backdrops of any Olympics to date - and the carnival atmosphere of the Brazilians will overcome these problems. There is clear potential to be truly great games. For those working behind the scenes, it will be tough. Very tough." Brazilian Sergio Praca, political scientist at the Getulio Vargas Foundation: "The Rio de Janeiro Olympics will, at best, be a non-event. Brazilians are too occupied with politics. At worst, we'll see violence and the

collapse of the city's infrastructure."

Brazilian Juliana Barbassa, author of "Dancing with the Devil in the City of God": "The games will be a beautiful, tightly-controlled spectacle set against a backdrop that has stunned visitors for nearly 500 years. Those marveling from afar may not even notice the serious budgetary crisis facing the city and the state, and the tremendous cost that this global party has had for locals. But that cost - both in money and in missed opportunities and misplaced priorities - is significant, and Rio will not recover for decades to come." American Susan Francia, two-time Olympic rowing gold-medalist: "The Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will go off without a hitch. The IOC always pulls it together, even if it's at the last minute. I think Brazil will put on a fantastic event and the Brazilians will show their incredible hospitality." — AP



BOSTON: Atlanta Hawks Dennis Schroder knocks Boston Celtics Isaiah Thomas to the hardwood during the second half in Game 6 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Thursday, April 28, 2016, in Boston. The Hawks won 104-92. — AP

HAWKS OVERWHELM CELTICS, MOVE TO THE SECOND ROUND

BOSTON: The Atlanta Hawks had their best regular season in franchise history spoiled last year by a dismal showing against Cleveland in the Eastern Conference finals. They will get another shot at the Cavaliers in the second round of the NBA playoffs. Paul Millsap had 17 points and eight rebounds, and the Hawks advanced to the second round with a 104-92 Game 6 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

Al Horford and Kent Bazemore each added 15 points for the Hawks, who earned their first playoff series win over Boston since the St. Louis Hawks beat the Celtics in the 1958 Finals. "Good to finally beat them," said Hawks point guard Jeff Teague, who was on Atlanta's 2012 team that lost to Boston in the first round. "It feels good." The Hawks open the second round on Monday at Cleveland. The Celtics' last three playoff appearances have ended in first-round exits. Coming off a 27-point win in Game 5, the Hawks took advantage of poor shooting by Boston on Thursday, building as much as a 28-point lead.

Atlanta blew the game open with a 39-

point third quarter in which it shot 74 percent from the field. "I think we learned from before with this team that no lead is safe," Horford said. "To start the third it was important for us to get off to a good start and just keep attacking and have that mentality of keep attacking play after play. "I felt we did that consistently in the third and that was the big difference." The Celtics shot just 36 percent for the game.

They made a final charge to get as close as 10 points, but Atlanta was able to close it out. Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 25 points and 10 assists, but most of that came in the second half during the comeback effort after being bottled up early. "We just wore them down," Teague said. "We tried to make other players beat us. He (Thomas) is a one-man wrecking crew. They have other good players over there, but everybody feeds off him."

Jae Crowder added 15 points for Boston, but it wasn't enough to turn around the second straight game underlined by their inconsistencies. For most of the game, the Hawks simply benefited from Boston's struggles. The Celtics played most of the second half with

Crowder battling foul trouble. He went to the bench after picking up his fourth foul with 11:21 left in third quarter. Coach Brad Stevens rolled dice and re-inserted him, only for Crowder to be called for his fifth foul with 8:13 to play. Crowder fouled out with 3 minutes to play. But most of the damage was done much earlier.

There was lots of energy inside TD Garden from the home fans at tipoff, and Boston did a decent job of matching it on the defensive end, forcing four early turnovers. The offensive end was another story. The Celtics started game by connecting on just four of its first 18 field goal attempts and shot 28 percent in the first half. It let the Hawks get a little separation with Boston managing only four points in the first 6 minutes of second quarter. "I think we should give the Hawks credit. They're better right now," Stevens said. "It pains me to say that, it's a sour ending. But they just proved it over six games. That's just kind of how my world works. There's a scoreboard and if you're on the losing end then you're not as good as the other team." — AP

CELTICS' SWEDE JEREBKO FINISHES SEASON STRONG

BOSTON: The Boston Celtics may have crashed out of the playoffs after being pummeled by Atlanta on their home floor, but power forward Jonas Jerebko is not too down-hearted after finally getting a chance to show the Boston crowd what he can do as a starter. Thrust into the starting lineup by coach Brad Stevens last Friday with the Celtics 2-0 down in the series, the Swede helped extend it to a sixth game before the Celtics lost 104-92 at home on Thursday to bring their season to a close.

On a night when Boston struggled with its shooting, Jerebko scored the opening five points of the game for the Celtics, finishing up with 13 on the night in another strong performance since being promoted from the bench. "You have to give it a little time and then take a look back, but I'm happy with the season," Jerebko told Reuters in a telephone interview following the defeat. "We didn't move the ball like we usually do, we held onto it a little too much. We had a lot of open shots that we missed and you can't do that if you want to beat Atlanta in the playoffs," the 29-year-old said. "Everyone has to speak for themselves but I felt no pressure," Jerebko said of the Celtics' poor shooting on the night.

Acquired from the Detroit Pistons in February 2015, Jerebko quickly became a key player in the Celtics rotation with his tough defense and ability to come off the bench and spread the floor. Finally given the chance to start, he finished the season strongly and posted double-doubles in the two home victories that sent the series back to Atlanta, and though he and the Celtics came up short, Jerebko is not too disappointed. "It feels good, that's how you want to play. That's what I've worked for the whole season. I got to finish the season in the best possible way (as a starter), so that was good."

The Celtics, who have a slew of prime picks to use in the upcoming NBA draft, also have an option to re-sign Jerebko in the summer, and he feels he has shown enough make it worth their while to do so. "It was a long season with a lot of games, it's been up and down, like every other NBA season. For my part it feels like I've gotten better. I've felt better and better the more I've played," he said. With Boston's playoff journey at an end, Jerebko's focus now switches to fatherhood, as his partner gave birth to a baby daughter three weeks ago. "I'm going to take some time off and be with the family and take it easy," he said. — Reuters

MASSARO, EL SHERBINI SET UP WORLD TITLE REMATCH

WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

KUALA LUMPUR: England's Laura Massaro and Nour El Sherbini of Egypt yesterday set up a clash for the world squash championship, in a rematch of the 2013 edition won by the British world number one. The pair will meet today after Massaro prevailed in a tightly contested semi-final against Egyptian Raneem El Welily, while Sherbini, the world's number two player, cruised past her teammate Nouran Gohar. Massaro has looked strong in Malaysia but had her hands full against El Welily, squandering a 10-6 lead in the fifth and final game and allowing the Egyptian to pull level at 10 points each.

But Massaro closed out the world number three to win 11-2, 7-11, 11-9, 6-11, and 12-10. Massaro said afterwards she was looking forward to proving she belonged at squash's pinnacle despite not always winning the biggest events. "Some people get talking when you don't make the finals of big events. I had my reasons for that and it's nice to prove people wrong," she said.

El Sherbini had dispatched squash star Nicol David, the defending champion, in the quarterfinals to crush the Malaysian's hopes of a ninth world title, and she was in devastating form again against her younger compatriot. El Sherbini won 11-5, 11-5, 11-5, needing just 29 minutes to secure her second shot at the world's top prize. A win would make her Egypt's first women's world champ. "Laura has been playing good in this tournament but I am going to give it everything I have and I am sure it is going to be a good match," she said. "I really want to win this tournament, for my country, for Raneem and Nouran, and for everyone."

David's loss to El Sherbini left her hometown fans stunned and provided further evidence that her decade-long dominance of the game has ended. The



BUKIT JALIL: Laura Massaro of England (right) and Raneem El Welily of Egypt eye the ball during their semi-final match of the PSA Women's World Championships squash tournament in Bukit Jalil, outside Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

Malaysian has a record eight world championships but has suffered a dip in form over the past year. In September she surrendered her phenomenal nine-year stranglehold on the world's number one ranking. But David expressed confidence that she could

stay among the sport's elite despite falling to a previously unthinkable world number five, and she shot down speculation that she may consider retiring soon. "Disappointed-but not even close to retirement," she tweeted late Thursday after her loss. — AFP

JAPAN'S DANIEL KNOCKED OUT OF ESTORIL BY CARRENO BUSTA

ESTORIL: Japan's Taro Daniel succumbed 6-4, 7-5 to Spanish eighth seed Pablo Carreno Busta in the second round of the ATP Estoril Open on Thursday. On another sunny day on the Iberian peninsula, Daniel was twice made to pay for losing his serve at crucial moments in both sets as Carreno Busta moved into his second career quarter-final. "I'm happy to win in straight sets against a really tough opponent," said Carreno Busta after overcoming New York-born Daniel who trains in Valencia.

The finalist this season in Sao Paulo added: "He fought a lot and I relaxed a bit in the second set. I had to re-focus my tennis and play aggressive to win. I could have lost that set." French top seed Gilles Simon put out compatriot Paul-Henri Mathieu 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 and will

next face Carreno Busta. Simon stands 12-8 on the season after winning a fourth match on clay. "I've had four days to prepare, I played a good first match but it's just a start," Simon said. "I want to continue with this kind of game for three more matches if possible. I feel I can win here."

Argentine seventh seed Leonardo Mayer battled to beat Italian Paolo Lorenzi 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. Host nation Portugal lost the last of its four players in the tournament as Spain's Nicolas Almagro put out fourth seed Joao Sousa 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. World number 34 Sousa had run away with the opening set but was unable to keep up his momentum against Almagro who next plays Mayer. Almagro, winner of a dozen ATP titles and ranked 71st, hammered 13 aces in a victory lasting just under one and three-

quarter hours on the Estoril clay. The 30-year-old Almagro leveled his 2016 match record at 9-9 by reaching his second quarter-final of the season.

He finished runner-up two months ago in Buenos Aires to Austrian Dominic Thiem. "Playing in Portugal against the best Portuguese player in history, I knew from the start it would be a very tough match," Almagro said. "There were high expectations about his campaign. He was very motivated and in the beginning didn't make any mistakes." Sousa, broken four times, dropped to 5-13 since the start of January as he lost his fourth match on his preferred clay. In yesterday's quarterfinals, second seed Nick Kyrgios faced Croatian Borna Coric in a battle of fast-rising youngsters while French third seed Benoit Paire will take on Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez. — AFP

SWIMMING - 'SO SORRY' HACKETT TO QUIT BOOZE AFTER PLANE MELTDOWN

SYDNEY: Australian swimming great Grant Hackett yesterday said he plans to quit drinking after a highly publicized meltdown on a plane which left him with a "deep sense of shame". The dual Olympic champion, 35, was accused of drunkenly squeezing the nipple of a fellow business class passenger on a flight from Adelaide. Hackett, who failed to qualify for the Rio Olympics at this month's Australian trials in Adelaide, admitted he had been binge-drinking and that his reputation has been blackened. "It has definitely got a tarnish to it unfortunately and I have to live with that," he said on the Gold Coast, in his first public appearance since the incident on April 17. "It is very difficult. A deep sense of shame, guilt, embarrassment, of regret. I am so sorry for my actions and the people it has impacted."

The former long-time 1,500m world record-holder said he had let down his family, friends, Australian swimmers and all athletes involved in the sport. Australian swimming is trying to turn a corner after a flop at the 2012 Olympics when their campaign was marred by ill-discipline, drug use and drunkenness. "I only wanted to be an advocate and a help to the sport and I love the sport and I love the athletes within the sport and what they are trying to achieve," Hackett said. "I wanted to support that through my actions, but (through) pure stupidity, making poor decisions at crucial times in my life, I have compromised that and myself and (I have) a huge amount of regret around that."

Australian Federal Police did not lay charges against Hackett over the plane incident. The swimmer said he has since apologized to the man whose nipple he pinched and "everything is fine now". Hackett retired after the 2008 Beijing Olympics after winning the 1,500m freestyle at both the 2000 and 2004 Games. He went through a divorce and then did a stint in rehab in 2014 after seeking help for an addiction to sleeping pills, before coming out of retirement with hopes of becoming the oldest Australian swimmer to qualify for an Olympics.

But he missed out when he failed to qualify for the 200m freestyle final at the Australian Swimming Championships in Adelaide. Hackett said he planned to get professional help to stop drinking and wanted to set a positive example for his children. "I will seek help. I have decided to get off the drink-I don't want to see my life in this situation again," he said. "That is an issue, something that needs to be addressed and I am doing that. I want a happy and prosperous life and I have two little children that I love and I want to make sure everything that I do is positive for them." — AFP



Dual Olympic champion Grant Hackett

French League Preview

QUARTET SCRAPPING FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BERTHS

PARIS: While Paris Saint-Germain have long since had the Ligue 1 title wrapped up, the battle for Champions League qualification beneath them is only intensifying in the final weeks of the French season. Just two points separate Lyon in second from Saint-Etienne in fifth with three matches remaining, including a crucial set of fixtures this today. Lyon sit second ahead of Monaco on goal difference, with Nice and Saint-Etienne both two points back. Only second carries with it automatic qualification for next season's Champions League group stage, with the team in third facing entry in the third qualifying round in late July. Monaco are desperate to avoid that fate after losing to Valencia in the Champions League play-offs at the start of this season, but their form has dipped rather alarmingly of late.

Leonardo Jardim's side have won only two of their last eight matches, allowing Lyon to catch them up thanks to six wins and two draws over the same period. The two teams meet each other in a huge game on the penultimate weekend of the season, but first Monaco entertain Guingamp at the Stade Louis II on Saturday just before Lyon entertain relegation-threatened Gazelec Ajaccio. "It is a decisive match, a bit like a semi-final. There will be something to play for at Lyon only if we win against

French Ligue 1 table															
PARIS: French Ligue 1 table ahead of this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):															
Paris SG	34	27	5	2	89	1886	-	Montpellier	35	12	7	16	44	43	43
champions								Guingamp	35	11	10	14	43	50	43
Lyon	35	17	8	10	58	37	59	Lorient	35	10	13	12	46	54	43
Monaco	35	15	14	6	51	42	59	Bastia	35	12	7	16	33	41	43
Nice	35	16	9	10	53	38	57	Bordeaux	34	10	13	11	42	53	43
Saint-Etienne	35	17	6	12	42	34	57	Marseille	35	8	17	10	45	41	41
Lille	35	13	14	8	37	27	53	Gazelec Ajaccio	35	8	13	14	36	51	37
Rennes	35	13	13	9	51	46	52	Reims	35	9	9	17	38	52	36
Angers	35	13	11	11	38	33	50	Toulouse	35	7	12	16	41	53	33
Caen	35	14	5	16	36	51	47	Troyes	35	3	8	24	25	77	17
Nantes	35	11	12	12	31	38	45	relegated							

Guingamp," said Monaco coach Jardim, whose side drew 1-1 at Rennes last weekend.

"The fact OL are favorites now changes nothing. There are four of us fighting for second place and all the teams will give everything to get it. "The draw against Rennes doesn't change much. We are still obliged to win our next three matches. If we do that we will finish second." Lyon, whose leading scorer Alexandre Lacazette has this week been linked with a move to Barcelona, will look to defend their unbeaten record at their new Parc OL when they host Gazelec.

"It is a very important match and we are really concentrated on it. We are not thinking about the match against Monaco," said midfielder Corentin Tolisso. "Everything depends on a victory on Saturday. We need to be in front of them before playing Monaco."

Vegas visit

With Hatem Ben Arfa in the form of his life, Nice have lost just once to PSG in their last seven games and go to Nantes looking to keep alive their hopes of a first podium finish since 1976. Ben Arfa, who has scored

17 Ligue 1 goals this season, has been nominated for the player of the year award in France along with PSG duo Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Angel Di Maria and Marseille midfielder Lassana Diarra. Nice need points before hosting Saint-Etienne next weekend, before which Les Verts entertain Toulouse today. Christophe Galtier's side are bidding to secure a fourth consecutive top-five finish and are on a run of five successive wins, all without conceding a goal.

PSG's win against Lille last weekend ensured fifth place would bring with it a Europa League berth, while sixth will also offer European qualification if PSG beat Marseille in the French Cup final next month. Lille, who visit Lorient today, are currently sixth, one point ahead of Rennes, who went to Paris yesterday. Champions PSG can equal their own record for the most points in a Ligue 1 season with a win against Rennes after a week in which several stars used their days off to take a mini break in Las Vegas. "My players do what they want. They had three days off, I gave them to them, and I think that's a good thing," coach Laurent Blanc said in response to media criticism after Ibrahimovic and Javier Pastore were among those who visited Vegas.— AFP

Spanish League Preview

ZIDANE HOPEFUL OF RONALDO, BENZEMA AGAINST MAN CITY

MADRID: Real Madrid will be without Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema for today's trip to Real Sociedad in La Liga but Coach Zinedine Zidane is hopeful of having both back to face Manchester City next week. Ronaldo has missed Madrid's last two games, including the 0-0 draw away to City in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final on Tuesday, while Benzema came off in that match and his club later confirmed he was suffering from a thigh injury.

Zidane admitted it was not worth risking either player against Real Sociedad but indicated both could feature in the semi-final second leg against City at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday. "The most important thing for now is that they recover. We can't take risks with Cristiano or Karim, or anybody. The idea is that they come back as soon as possible," Zidane told a press conference on Friday ahead of today's game in San Sebastian. "I can't say how likely it is that they will play (against City). I hope both are back at 100 percent but I can't say for certain." Ronaldo sat out last weekend's 3-2 win at Rayo Vallecano with a thigh strain but Zidane said it was a different problem that kept him from playing at the Etihad Stadium.

Meanwhile, Zidane had said Benzema would be out for "seven or eight days", leaving the Frenchman with a race against the clock to recover for the City showdown. Madrid come into the weekend one point behind Barcelona and Atletico Madrid at the top of the table with three matches remaining. Zidane's side have

won their last nine league games, but he is wary of the trip to Anoeta, where Barcelona lost recently. "We know it will be a difficult match at a difficult venue, but as always we need to focus on ourselves," he said.— AFP

Spanish La Liga Table							
MADRID: Spanish La Liga table before this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):							
Barcelona	35	26	4	5	102	29	82
Atletico Madrid	35	26	4	5	59	16	82
Real Madrid	35	25	6	4	104	32	81
Villarreal	35	17	10	8	42	31	61
Celta Vigo	35	16	9	10	49	55	57
Athletic Bilbao	35	16	7	12	53	43	55
Sevilla	35	14	10	11	49	42	52
Valencia	35	11	11	13	44	42	44
Las Palmas	35	12	7	16	42	46	43
Malaga	35	10	12	13	31	32	42
Eibar	35	11	9	15	46	54	42
Real Sociedad	35	11	9	15	42	46	42
Real Betis	35	10	11	14	31	48	41
La Coruna	35	7	18	10	43	57	39
Espanyol	35	10	7	18	35	67	37
Rayo Vallecano	35	8	11	16	48	69	35
Granada	35	8	9	18	39	63	33
Sporting Gijon	35	8	8	19	35	61	32
Getafe	35	8	8	19	33	64	32
Levante	35	7	8	20	33	63	29

BARCELONA AWAIT REAL, ATLETICO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE'S HANGOVER

MADRID: Barcelona hold the slightest of advantages in a thrilling three-way La Liga title race with just three games remaining ahead of their trip to Real Betis today. The Catalans lead Atletico Madrid solely thanks to their better head-to-head record with Real Madrid just a point behind the leaders in third. However, Barca's chances of retaining their title could be boosted by Atletico and Real's European commitments as their respective clashes with Rayo Vallecano and Real Sociedad are sandwiched between the two legs of their Champions League semi-finals. Atletico and Real remained on course for a second Madrid derby final in three years in midweek as Atletico will travel to Germany with a 1-0 lead over Bayern Munich, while Real host Manchester City at the Santiago Bernabeu with the scores level at 0-0.

By contrast, Barca have enjoyed just their second free midweek of 2016 and appear to have turned the corner with 14 goals without reply against Deportivo la Coruna and Sporting Gijon in their last two outings after a run of three straight league defeats. "There are people who say it is better to play every three days to not lose the rhythm of competition, others say it is better to rest, but the most important thing is winning," Barca defender Gerard Pique said on Thursday. "We need to win the three games that are left to win La Liga and then the Cup final. "It is in our hands which is the most important thing. If we win the three games we will be champions."

Ronaldo injured

Luis Suarez scored four times in each of Barca's last two games to streak three

ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo in the race to be the league's top scorer. The Uruguayan is well set to win at least that personal duel as Ronaldo is expected to miss a third straight game with a thigh injury as Real travel to San Sebastian. Karim Benzema will join the three-time World Player of the Year on the sidelines after he picked up a hamstring injury in the first leg at City.

In their absence Gareth Bale will be charged with leading the Madrid attack as he did with a double when they came from 2-0 down to register a ninth straight La Liga win at Rayo Vallecano last weekend. And Real coach Zinedine Zidane refused to accept he will prioritize the upcoming second leg with City ahead of their trip to Anoeta. "It is another final. From here until the end of the season we only have finals remaining," he told Madrid's website.

"We have not had much time to prepare, but we know that. We have to play every three days and it is both a difficult stadium and a difficult team to play against." Atletico look to have the easiest task of the three title contenders today when they welcome struggling Rayo to the Vicente Calderon in a Madrid derby. Coach Diego Simeone has resisted the temptation to rotate his squad in recent weeks, but may have one eye on the return in Munich on Tuesday with only six days separating the two legs. Defender Diego Godin and winger Yannick Carrasco are both expected to miss out through injury with Atletico hopeful both will be fit in time to face Bayern.— AFP

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

GRIFFITHS BEMOANS 'DISAPPOINTING' SEASON AS TITLE NEARS

GLASGOW: Leigh Griffiths says it has been a disappointing season for Celtic, despite the Hoops closing in on the Scottish Premiership title. The Scotland striker has been in the form of his career and is the country's top scorer with 38 goals. His goal-scoring exploits and match-winning performances have led to a PFA Scotland Player of the Year nomination alongside Aberdeen's Jonny Hayes and Dundee duo Kane Hemmings and Greg Stewart. Celtic, who are nine points clear at the top, could clinch their fifth consecutive title this weekend if they can defeat Hearts at Tynecastle and Aberdeen fail to pick up three points against Motherwell.

However, cup semi-final defeats to Ross County and Old Firm rivals Rangers, allied to another disappointing European campaign, saw manager Ronny Deila announce his decision to leave the club in the summer. And Griffiths admitted these factors have soured what is likely to be another championship-winning season. "Personally, it's been the best season of my career. I can't really complain, with 38 goals, and hopefully there's still a lot more to come. "I got myself back in the Scotland squad, which was good, and hopefully I can add another league title to my collection," the Celtic striker said. "It's always nice to win individual awards, but collectively, as a team, it's

been disappointing. The European campaign wasn't great, and neither was going out of the cup competitions, but we need to stick together as a squad and we can make history by getting five-in-a-row." The Hoops, who drew 1-1 with Ross County last Sunday, take on Hearts on Saturday and were held to a 2-2 draw on their last visit to Tynecastle. "We've got a difficult venue today but we're looking to go and get all three points," said Griffiths. "It's come to the business end of the season and we just want to get over the line, whether it's this Saturday or the following week. We just want to get it done as soon as possible. "The semi-final was a disappointment

and then the manager announcing his departure was hard to take, and then it was a frustrating game on Sunday, but we need to bounce back and quickly. "Expectation levels at Celtic are exceptional. The demand is for you to win every game and if you don't there are questions asked, and rightly so, but we're still going for five-in-a-row." On Monday, Dundee will have the chance to relegate their city rivals Dundee United if second bottom Kilmarnock pick up a win away to Hamilton at the weekend. A win for Killie would lift them 11 points clear of United, who would then be condemned to the Scottish Championship if they suffer defeat at the home of their fierce rivals. — AFP

German Bundesliga table

BERLIN: German Bundesliga table ahead of this weekend's fixtures (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Bayern Munich	31	26	3	2	74	14	81
Borussia Dortmund	31	23	5	3	75	30	74
Bayer Leverkusen	31	16	6	9	50	35	54
Hertha Berlin	31	14	7	10	40	38	49
Moenchengladbach	31	15	3	13	62	48	48
Mainz 05	31	13	6	12	43	41	45
Schalke 04	31	13	6	12	43	46	45
Cologne	31	10	10	11	36	40	40
Ingolstadt 04	31	10	10	11	29	35	40
VfL Wolfsburg	31	10	9	12	42	43	39
Hamburg	31	10	7	14	37	44	37
Augsburg	31	9	9	13	40	48	36
Darmstadt 98	31	8	11	12	35	48	35
Hoffenheim	31	8	10	13	36	48	34
VfB Stuttgart	31	9	6	16	46	63	33
Werder Bremen	31	8	7	16	43	63	31
Eintracht Frankfurt	31	7	9	15	31	50	30
Hanover 96	31	6	4	21	28	56	22

GERMAN LEAGUE PREVIEW

BAYERN SET TO MAKE HISTORY DESPITE ATLETICO DISTRACTION

BERLIN: Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich can become the first club to win a fourth consecutive Bundesliga title by beating Borussia Moenchengladbach today, amidst the distraction of their Champions League semi-final. Bayern hold a seven-point lead and with three games left, a win over Gladbach at Munich's Allianz Arena will confirm a fourth straight German league title, a feat no other team has achieved before.

But Bayern are still smarting from Wednesday's 1-0 Champions League defeat at Atletico Madrid. Guardiola has been criticized by the German media ("Has Pep mulled Bayern's final chances?", asked Bild), plus ex-Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld ("the tactic didn't work"), for his selection. Thomas Mueller, Bayern's top-scorer in Europe, and Franck Ribery both started on the bench leaving Bayern with it all to do in Tuesday's return leg in Munich.

Guardiola scoffed when asked if he would rest some of his stars against Gladbach. "We still need another win, we only have a few days to prepare and then we face Atletico three days later," he said. "We have to win against Gladbach first." In the wake of the Atletico defeat, only their fifth of the season, Bayern are feeling the pressure in their bid for a repeat of the 2013 treble. "We would make a mistake if we quarrel now, I want to go to Milan," said chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge as the Champions League final will be held in the Italian city on May 28. Guardiola is likely to start with Germany's World Cup winner Mario Goetze up front against Gladbach.

Defender Jerome Boateng could well play his first minutes since suffering a groin injury in January. Having beaten Munich 3-1 at Borussia

Park in December, Gladbach are chasing a rare home-and-away double but will be without US international Fabian Johnson, who has a leg injury. Should Gladbach shock Bayern, Borussia Dortmund will look to delay the Munich title party with victory over last season's runners up VfL Wolfsburg at the Signal Iduna Park. Dortmund are set to lose their third star player to Bayern in three years after captain and defender Mats Hummels announced he wants to join the Bavarian giants next season.

Dortmund have said they will accept only "an exceptional offer" for the World Cup-winner, who has a market value of 32 million euros (\$36.32m). Should he leave with a year left on his contract, Hummels will follow Goetze, who left for Bayern in 2013 for 37m euros, and striker Robert Lewandowski, who signed on a free transfer in 2014. Dortmund have won their last three games by a 3-0 scoreline and have already qualified for the Champions League. Despite reaching the quarter-finals of the Champions League, Wolfsburg have lost their Bundesliga bite in 2016 and are now 10th, six points away from the European places. Their 2-0 defeat to Augsburg last Saturday meant they have dropped 16 points in their previous six games.

Bayer Leverkusen could take a big step towards a direct Champions League berth when they host fellow European aspirants Hertha Berlin today. Leverkusen have won their last six, conceding just two goals in the process, and could secure their place in the Champions League's group stage with a win. Fourth-placed Hertha have not won since March. — AFP

ITALIAN LEAGUE PREVIEW

EVRA'S JUVENTUS DOUBTS; NAPOLI, ROMA VIE FOR 2ND

MILAN: Juventus left-back Patrice Evra said he could leave the Serie A giants at the end of the season after hailing "incredible" Massimiliano Allegri one of the best coaches he has played under. With three games remaining in Serie A, there's still plenty to play for with Napoli and Roma notably contending second place and the last automatic Champions League qualifying spot. But all eyes on Sunday will be on Juventus celebrating winning a record-equaling fifth consecutive title after their match against relegation-threatened Carpi in Turin.

Juventus secured a fifth consecutive 'scudetto' on Monday, equaling the record set by the club in the 1930s, when Radja Nainggolan's late goal allowed Roma to beat second-placed Napoli 1-0. The Turin club now host Carpi looking to stretch their unbeaten run to 26 games. Ahead of perhaps Evra's penultimate outing at Juventus Stadium, the France international said of Allegri: "For me he's been incredible, I've never seen that before." Allegri is now on track to secure a second consecutive league and Cup double—they meet AC Milan in the May 28 final of the Coppa Italia—a year after they lost out to Barcelona in the Champions League final.

But as for 34-year-old Evra's future, the France international told Gazzetta dello Sport

on Thursday: "I haven't made a decision yet. At Juventus, I've had two special years and at the end of the season we'll meet and I'll say yes or no. "I have to be honest with myself and with Juventus. There are no problems, I just have to make my decision." With a 12-point lead over Napoli, Juventus have again triumphed with room to spare, leaving former champions like AC Milan and Inter well in their wake. After last week's defeat in Rome, when Nainggolan's 89th-minute strike handed the title to Juventus, a wounded Napoli are now looking over their shoulder.

Totti to stay?

Roma remain third but are now just two points behind Napoli before travelling to Genoa on Monday, when club icon Francesco Totti could be absent. However, speculation is mounting Roma could perform an about-turn and hand the 39-year-old a new contract for a 24th, and final, year at the club. The ageing playmaker's hopes were boosted when he came off the bench twice in succession to score three, decisive late goals recently. In midweek, the affectionately-known 'Re di Roma' (King of Rome) got some influential backing in none other than Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) chief Giovanni Malago. "Totti is an amazing story, a fairytale that is almost too good to be true. — AFP

Italian Serie A table

MILAN: Italian Serie A table ahead of weekend fixtures (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Juventus	35	27	4	4	67	1885	— champions
Napoli	35	22	7	6	72	30	73
Roma	35	20	11	4	74	38	71
Inter Milan	35	19	7	9	47	32	64
Fiorentina	35	17	8	10	56	40	59
AC Milan	35	14	11	10	44	37	53
Sassuolo	35	13	13	9	44	39	52
Chievo	35	13	9	13	43	42	48
Lazio	35	13	9	13	45	47	48
Genoa	35	12	7	15	39	43	43
Empoli	35	11	9	15	37	46	42
Torino	35	11	9	15	45	50	42
Atalanta	35	10	10	15	37	43	41
Sampdoria	35	10	10	15	48	51	40
Bologna	35	11	7	17	33	44	40
Udinese	35	10	8	17	32	52	38
Carpi	35	8	11	16	34	51	35
Palermo	35	8	8	19	33	63	32
Frosinone	35	8	6	21	32	68	30
Verona	35	4	13	18	30	5825	— relegated

Note: Top two qualify for Champions League, third place into Champions League qualifying, next two into Europa League.

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Everton v Bournemouth	17:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Newcastle v Crystal Palace	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Watford v Aston Villa	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
West Brom v West Ham	17:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Stoke City v Sunderland	17:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN	
Arsenal v Norwich City	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid	17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Atletico v Rayo Vallecano	19:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Real Betis v Barcelona	21:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Granada v Las Palmas	23:05
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
GERMAN LEAGUE	
Borussia v Wolfsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Bayern v Monchengladbach	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Hannover v Schalke	16:30
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Mainz v Hamburger	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Hoffenheim v Ingolstadt	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Darmstadt v Eintracht	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Hertha	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
ITALIAN LEAGUE	
Udinese Calcio v Torino	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Chievo Verona v Fiorentina	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Nantes v Nice	15:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Saint Etienne v Toulouse	18:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Monaco v Guingamp	20:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Troyes AC v Girondins	20:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lorient v Lille	20:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Caen v Bastia	20:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Stade de Reims v Montpellier	20:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lyon v Ajaccio	22:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	

VARDY ABSENCE 'WON'T STOP LEICESTER TITLE CORONATION'

LONDON: Leicester City defender Danny Simpson insists the prolonged absence of star striker Jamie Vardy won't stop the Premier League leaders clinching the most incredible title triumph in English football history at Manchester United tomorrow. Claudio Ranieri's side have the eyes of the world on them as they head to Old Trafford knowing a victory against United would see the 5,000-1 outsiders crowned champions for the first time in their 132-year history.

In an era where the greed is good mantra of the Premier League's big spenders has proved a turn-off for many, Ranieri's collection of unsung heroes have captured the imagination of fans across the globe by making the seemingly impossible into a reality. Completing their astonishing charge to the title at the home of the 20-time English champions would be a fitting final chapter in the Leicester fairytale.

But the Foxes' first shot at sporting immortality comes with leading scorer Vardy banished to the stands after the England international was this week handed an additional one-game ban for angrily confronting referee Jonathan Moss following his dismissal for diving against West Ham United earlier this month. Although Vardy's presence wasn't missed as Leicester crushed lowly Swansea City 4-0 in the first match of his ban last weekend, the trip to United could be a trickier proposition. Leicester last won at Old Trafford in 1998, each of their

last six visits have ended in defeat and they take on a United outfit who are chasing a top-four berth with their spirits lifted by reaching the FA Cup final.

However, few teams epitomise against-the-odds success better than Ranieri's men and, with Vardy's replacement Leonardo Ulloa having scored twice against Swansea, Simpson sees no reason why Leicester's coronation can't come this weekend. "I think we have just sent a message to everyone who has been a bit negative about us," said Simpson, whose side have won seven and drawn two of their last nine matches. "We have players who can come in and do well. Leo (Ulloa) was man of the match and Jeff (Schlupp) has come in and was excellent. "Yeah, we have had a settled team but we have always known the players who are trying to get in the team can do well."

Fallen short

Even if Leicester only draw tomorrow, they would take the title if second-placed Tottenham Hotspur, seven points adrift with three games remaining, fail to win at Chelsea on Monday. Defeats for both Leicester and Tottenham, who haven't won at Chelsea since 1990, would also mean Ranieri's team are confirmed as champions. Having harbored genuine hopes of a first title since 1961, Tottenham appear to have fallen short after a lacklustre second half led to Monday's damaging 1-1 draw against West

Bromwich Albion.

With England midfielder Dele Alli now ruled out for the rest of the season following his three-match suspension for punching Albion's Claudio Jacob, even Tottenham striker Harry Kane concedes Leicester look out of reach. "It makes it a lot, lot harder now we haven't won. It's not in our hands, it's in Leicester's hands," Kane said. "They'd have to lose two and draw one and we'd have to win all three. It's not impossible but it looks unlikely the way their season has gone so far." Tottenham can at least take encouragement from the fact United need the win almost as much as the north Londoners.

Louis van Gaal's side are five points behind fourth-placed Arsenal and third-placed Manchester City but have a game in hand in the race for Champions League qualification. Slumping Arsenal, with just one win in their last four matches, host third-bottom Norwich City, who are in the relegation zone on goal difference below Sunderland. City travel to Southampton before focusing on next week's second leg of their Champions League semi-final against Real Madrid. Sunderland aim to maintain their climb to safety when they visit Stoke City. Newcastle United, second from bottom and one point from safety, host FA Cup finalists Crystal Palace as Eagles boss Alan Pardew, an unpopular figure on Tyneside, makes his first return to St James' Park since quitting in 2014. — AFP

IT'S RED LEICESTER THANKS TO CHINA'S NUMBER 1 FAN

BEIJING: He has never seen a Premier League match live or even set foot outside China, but Leicester City's fairytale season has made Zhang Tianbo, 16, their most high-profile fan in the country. For the last two years Zhang has run the most active Chinese social media account devoted to the Foxes, racking up more than 3,000 posts on the Twitter-like Sina Weibo.

When the season began with the team as 5,000-1 outsiders, he had around 3,000 followers. As they stand poised to take the championship, that has more than doubled to over 7,000. "The team's performance has been extraordinary," Zhang said. "Everyone wants to witness this miracle." It is a far cry from his solitary early days. "It was lonely. I couldn't find anyone to discuss things with," he lamented. The teenager happened upon Leicester City by chance in 2013 while picking a Premier League team to run while playing the simulation game FIFA Manager.

When Zhang, a fan of Manchester United goalkeeping great Peter Schmeichel, discovered that his son, Kasper, played for the team, "it was love at first sight". "I've never left China, but my heart is in Leicester; all along, I've been following the team's developments," he said. But domestic media outlets carried

no reports on his favourite team, and China's strict online censorship regime, which blocks numerous Western news sites and services such as Twitter, left him devoid of information. The teenager bought software to circumvent the "Great Firewall" and started to translate and share the information he was gathering online. "I've been feeling great ever since this season began," he said.

'Losing so embarrassingly'

The world's second-largest economy is a crucial market for many of football's biggest teams, who regularly play off-season friendly matches in China. But until now Leicester has had a decidedly muted presence in China, and set up its own verified Weibo account only two weeks ago. It has posted fewer than 50 times but has already attracted more than 10,000 followers—a tiny fraction of Manchester United's 8.6 million or Chelsea's 2.5 million. Many of Leicester's more longstanding Chinese fans developed their loyalty as students in the unglamorous Midlands city.

Wang Song Aohan, now a 25-year-old communications officer in Beijing, lived just 10 minutes from the King Power Stadium and went every weekend he could. "Even when they were losing so embarrassingly that I felt

even I couldn't watch it any more because it was so painful, I still couldn't avoid being a part of it, and still hoped they'd win," said Wang. He has met players and coaches, and collected signed jerseys, and while he has supported other teams his relationship with the Foxes is unlike any

other. "It's one thing to show up and root for the teams who are already big, but their success will always be a bit removed from you, versus when the little team that's been scorned all along makes it to the position it is in today—that's a whole different feeling," he said. — AFP

NO HARD FEELINGS FOR ALAN PARDEW

NEWCASTLE: Crystal Palace manager Alan Pardew insists he has no hard feelings towards Newcastle United as he prepares to return to his struggling former club for the first time today. Pardew claims he would love to see current Magpies boss Rafael Benitez lead Newcastle to safety as they battle to avoid relegation from the Premier League. But he could still get a frosty reception from Magpies supporters as he leads his side at St James' Park for the first time since leaving Newcastle to take charge at Selhurst Park in December 2014. Pardew had a rollercoaster four years in charge in the North-East, earning the manager of the year award for orchestrating an impressive fifth-place finish in 2012, but leaving on a sour note after fans helped speed his demise by turning on the 54-year-old as results tailed off towards the end of a turbulent reign.

"I loved being manager of that club," Pardew said. "I had some fantastic moments there and fantastic games. "We got to the quarter-finals of the Europa League, we finished fifth and I was manager of the year. — AFP

English Premier League table

LONDON: English Premier League table ahead of this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Leicester	35	22	10	3	63	33	76
Tottenham	35	19	12	4	65	26	69
Man City	35	19	7	9	66	34	64
Arsenal	35	18	10	7	58	34	64
Man Utd	34	17	8	9	42	30	59
West Ham	34	14	14	6	57	43	56
Liverpool	34	15	10	9	58	45	55
Southampton	35	15	9	11	49	37	54
Chelsea	34	12	11	11	53	46	47
Stoke	35	13	8	14	37	51	47
Everton	34	9	14	11	53	48	41
Watford	34	11	8	15	33	40	41
West Brom	35	10	11	14	32	43	41
Bournemouth	35	11	8	16	42	61	41
Swansea	35	10	10	15	34	49	40
Crystal Palace	35	10	9	16	36	45	39
Sunderland	34	7	10	17	39	57	31
Norwich	34	8	7	19	35	60	31
Newcastle	35	7	9	19	38	64	30
Aston Villa	35	3	7	25	25	69	16 — relegated

Note: Top four teams qualify for Champions League; teams finishing 5th-6th qualify for Europa League; bottom three teams relegated to Championship.

Sports



Vardy absence 'won't stop Leicester title coronation'

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VILLARREAL: Villarreal's players celebrate a goal during the UEFA Europa League semifinal first leg football match Villarreal CF vs Liverpool FC at El Madrigal stadium on April 28, 2016. — AFP

VILLARREAL DENT LIVERPOOL EUROPA HOPES

GAMEIRO NETS LATE PENALTY AS SEVILLA DRAW 2-2 AT SHAKHTAR

LONDON: Villarreal's Adrian Lopez produced a stinging sucker punch in stoppage time to leave Liverpool reeling and move the Spaniards closer to a maiden European final after their Europa League last four first leg clash finished 1-0 on Thursday. Liverpool, who got a taste of their own medicine having scored deep in added time to knock Borussia Dortmund out in the quarter-finals, looked comfortable before Denis Suarez broke into the box and unselfishly squared for Lopez to sweep home. In the other semi-final, holders Sevilla had their fingers briefly loosened from the trophy before grabbing a 2-2 draw at Shakhtar Donetsk that left them well-placed to progress.

Sevilla's bid to become the first side to lift the trophy three years running got off to a great start when they opened the scoring through Vitolo after six minutes. Shakhtar pro-

duced a spirited response, though, with goals from Marlos and Taras Stepanenko to lead at halftime before Kevin Gameiro's 82nd-minute penalty left the Spaniards as favorites to progress with two away goals. Five times European champions Liverpool had not lost in 12 Europa League games this season and were facing a Villarreal side out to banish a last-four curse and reach a European final for the first time at their fourth attempt.

Villarreal had proven to be shrewd opponents in Europe's second tier competition and in Cedric Bakambu boast a striker with nine goals in this season's Europa League, while no Liverpool player has scored more than two. The Merseysiders' manager Juergen Klopp decided to leave the most prolific marksman at his disposal, Daniel Sturridge, on the bench for the entire 90 minutes and in his absence the visitors

looked cautious and laboured in attack. They had their chances, with Joe Allen firing straight at keeper Sergio Asenjo from close range after five minutes while Roberto Firmino hit the post midway through the second half.

Fine saves

Villarreal, however, had chances of their own with Liverpool's Simon Mignolet making fine saves to deny Tomas Pina and Bakambu, who also hit the post with a header. The winner arrived after Liverpool looked to have absorbed everything the hosts could throw at them and Lopez's late goal has left Klopp's side facing a tricky task next week, where an away goal would leave them needing to win by at least two. "It is only the first leg," said Klopp. "It is 1-0 and they have to come to Anfield where we know how strong we are. We had our

moments, we defended really good. This race is not over." Sevilla and Shakhtar are the only remaining sides who parachuted into the competition after the Champions League group stage and it was not long before their clash sparked into life.

Everything had seemed to be going to plan for Sevilla when Vitolo gave scored after six minutes, beating Andriy Pyatov at his far post with a curling effort. Shakhtar, however, turned the match around with two goals in 14 first-half minutes. Marlos drew them level when he galloped onto a long ball from Yaroslav Rakitskiy and placed his finish past David Soria after 23 minutes, before Stepanenko made it 2-1 with a thumping header from close range. Facundo Ferreyra, however, brought down Vitolo and Gameiro stepped up to blast home his penalty with eight minutes left. — Reuters