



MoH signs retirees' health insurance contract worth KD 82m



Tokyo elects Yuriko Koike as first woman governor



Harry Potter magic hits Asia as fans celebrate new book



PSG sink Leicester in clash of champions



KUWAIT TO INVEST KD 4.75BN IN NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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E-VISA PART OF SECURITY REVAMP: MOI

KUWAIT: The newly-launched e-visa service is a component of the Ministry of Interior's strategic outlook to revamp security tasks by employing state-of-the-art technology, a senior MoI official said yesterday. The MoI plans further expansion and development of electronic services soon, said Maj Gen Talal Al-Maarafi, the ministry's General Director of Residency Affairs, at a news conference.



Talal Al-Maarafi

He affirmed the approach for full deployment of such high-tech features to facilitate services for citizens, residents and guests of Kuwait. Maarafi, who made a detailed presentation about the recently-

launched e-visa service, explained that its response to applications will be immediate during working hours and via email. The instant visa is given to citizens of 52 countries and residents of GCC countries engaged in 13 professions, with residencies valid for not less than six months.

Brig Gen Ali Al-Muaili, in charge of MoI information systems, said the e-visa is available on the ministry website - www.moi.gov.kw. Brig Gen Adel Al-Hashash, in charge of security information and public relations, affirmed that applicants should have no criminal records or traffic tickets. — KUNA (See Page 5)

200 ARRESTED IN SHUWAIKH RAID



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd (second left) supervises operations in a dilapidated building inhabited by workers in Industrial Shuwaikh yesterday. The crackdown in the area resulted in the arrest of 200 people, including residency violators, absconders and wanted persons. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait plans to invest KD 4.75 billion (\$15.75 billion) in its 2017-2018 development plan, in which KD 1.59 billion will be borne by the state budget, the secretary general of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development said yesterday. Khaled Mahdi told a news conference that the rest of the funds would come from the public sector, including the energy industry, and from private investors.

Mahdi also said that financing of the current five-year development plan was being shared by both the public and private sectors.

He said that the general government sector was providing 49.3 percent, oil sector was contributing 33.8 percent while the private sector was contributing 16.9 percent.

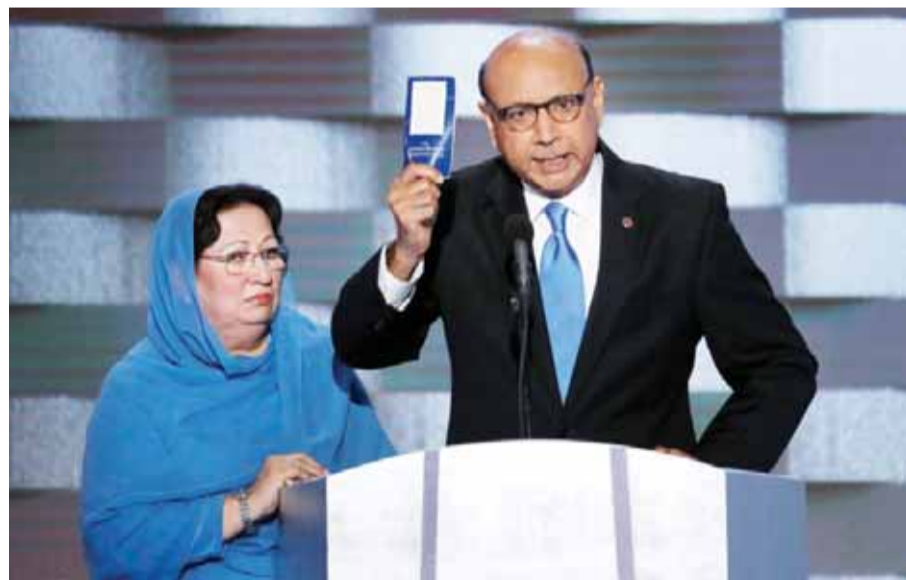
The scheme is based on "foundations," namely effective government, sustainable and diversified economy, developed infrastructure, sustainable livelihood environment, high-quality healthcare, creative manpower and Kuwait's international status. The first axis encompasses two programs - e-government and structural reforms, in addition to eight projects aimed at revamping the administration. One of the most important projects is upgrading the state structure and setting up an urban monitor, due to finish by Sept 30, 2019, and execution of the five-year IT plan due to finish by Dec 31, 2019.

As to boosting manpower skills and capacities, the relevant plans tackle upgrading quality of education, expanding accommodation at higher studies colleges, integration of citizens of special challenges into the society, improving care services for the elderly, boosting



Khaled Al-Mahdi

Continued on Page 13



PHILADELPHIA: Khizr Khan, father of fallen US Army Capt Humayun Khan, holds up a copy of the constitution of the United States as his wife Ghazala listens during the final day of the Democratic National Convention on July 28, 2016. — AP

SLAIN GI'S DAD CALLS TRUMP A 'BLACK SOUL' UNFIT TO LEAD

WASHINGTON: The father of a slain Muslim American soldier assailed Donald Trump as a "black soul" yesterday in an impassioned exchange with the Republican presidential candidate over the qualities required in a US leader. Khizr Khan electrified the Democratic convention last week with a tribute to his fallen son that ended with a steely rebuke that Trump had "sacrificed nothing" for his country. Trump defended himself in an interview with

ABC's "This Week," insisting he had made "a lot of sacrifices" while suggesting that Khan's wife, who stood silent on the convention stage as her husband spoke, had not been allowed to talk.

But Khan shot back in interviews on US television news shows, while his wife Ghazala explained in a Washington Post op-ed that she had been too grief-stricken to speak.

Continued on Page 13

INDIA FEEDING LAID-OFF WORKERS

THOUSANDS STRANDED IN SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT

NEW DELHI: New Delhi was working yesterday to feed more than 10,000 Indian laborers stranded in the Gulf with no wages after losing their jobs, in what Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj called a "food crisis". In a series of tweets, Swaraj said the migrant workers were facing "extreme hardship" and that two junior foreign ministers will be sent to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to take up the issue with authorities.

"Large number of Indians have lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The employers have not paid wages (and) closed down their factories," Swaraj said late on Saturday. "As a result our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are facing extreme hardship. While situation in Kuwait is manageable, matters are much worse in Saudi Arabia. The number of Indian workers facing food crisis in Saudi Arabia is over ten thousand."

Indians are among millions of poor Asians working in the Gulf states where human rights groups say many suffer exploitation and abuses including non-payment of wages, with no channels for redress. Indian media yesterday said the workers were "starving" in camps with no way of returning home, as Gulf countries face a drop in oil revenues from falling prices, prompting a downturn in construction and layoffs.

The Indian consulate in Jeddah posted a series of pictures on Twitter showing its nationals queuing up for food packets, eggs, spices and salt provided by its officials. Swaraj was responding late Saturday to a series of tweets from people saying Indians had gone without food for three to four days in the camps where they were living. Foreign ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup told AFP that a decision on bringing the workers home would be taken only after a junior minister visits Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of foreign workers at construction firm Saudi Oger staged a public protest in Jeddah at the weekend to demand seven months of unpaid wages, Saudi Arabia's Arab News reported. They were dispersed by police after disrupting traffic. Saudi Oger did not respond to a telephone call and an email seeking comment.

Nearly three million Indians live and work in Saudi Arabia, according to the foreign ministry, constituting one of the largest populations of Indian passport holders outside of India. In Nov 2014, Gulf and Asian labor ministers agreed on a series of initiatives aimed at boosting protection and improving conditions of employment for foreign workers in the Gulf. — Agencies

News

in brief

Those denied entry into US can reapply for visa

KUWAIT: The American Embassy in Kuwait said yesterday that all those "who were prohibited from entering the US can reapply for a visa whenever they so choose." "Granting entry to the United States is left to the sole discretion of customs and border protection officials," a statement by the embassy noted, adding that further information can be obtained by directly contacting customs officials. Moreover, the statement also added that the embassy is aware of recent reports of Kuwaiti nationals who were not allowed to enter the US.

Saudi Arabia sending 4 female athletes to Rio

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia will send four women to the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, doubling its female participation after two women competed for the first time at the 2012 London Games. Hosam Al-Qurashi, executive director of the Saudi Olympic Committee, told AP yesterday that two of the women will participate in track and field, one in judo and one in fencing. The track and field athletes are Sarah Attar, who competed in 2012, and Cariman Abu Al-Jadail. Judoka Wujud Fahmi and fencer Lubna Al-Omair are the other competitors.

GOVT ACCEPTS UN PLAN, HOUTHIS REJECT IT

KUWAIT: Yemen's government yesterday accepted a UN-proposed plan to end fighting that has killed thousands, but the rebels rejected it, insisting that any settlement must first tackle a unity administration. The draft agreement, which follows several months of UN-brokered negotiations in Kuwait, stipulates that the Houthi rebels must withdraw from Sanaa, which they overran in Sept 2014.

Yemen, home to what the United States sees as Al-Qaeda's deadliest franchise, descended into chaos after the 2012 ouster of longtime strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh. Security deteriorated further after the Houthis swept into the capital and pushed south, forcing President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi's government to flee into exile in March last year.

The proposed peace deal is broadly in line with the demands of Hadi's government. It

replaces a roadmap previously proposed by UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed that stipulated the creation of a unity government including the insurgents, which was rejected by Hadi's government. Under the new plan, a political dialogue between the factions would start 45 days after the rebels withdraw and hand over heavy weapons to a military committee to be formed by Hadi. Prisoners of war would also be freed. The government's acceptance came after a meeting in Riyadh chaired by Hadi.

"The meeting approved the draft agreement presented by the United Nations calling for an end to the armed conflict and the withdrawal (of rebels) from Sanaa" and other cities they have seized, said a statement. Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdulmalek Al-Mikhlafi, who is leading Hadi's negotiating team, said he had sent a letter to the UN envoy informing him the govern-

ment backed the "Kuwait Agreement". One precondition, however, is that the Houthis and allied forces loyal to Saleh sign the deal by Aug 7, Mikhlafi wrote on Twitter.

The rebels rejected the proposal. "What was presented by the (UN) envoy was no more than just ideas for a solution to the security aspect, subject to debate like other proposals," a statement from the rebel delegation said. It charged that the Yemeni government announcement of a draft settlement was "no more than media stunts" aimed at foiling talks. The rebels reiterated their long-standing demand that a peace deal must first forge an accord on a new consensual executive authority, including a new president and government. This condition is an explicit demand for the removal of the internationally recognized Hadi.

Continued on Page 13



RIYADH: This photo taken on July 20, 2016 shows a Saudi man and a boy sliding on a sledge at the indoor snow theme park "Snow City" in the Al-Othaim Mall Rabwah in the capital. — AFP (See Page 40)



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

AMIR, CROWN PRINCE MEET STATE OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness also received National

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He later received First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. He also received Minister of

Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah meets with the French Ambassador to the country Christian Nakhle.— KUNA

JARALLAH MEETS WITH FRENCH, SAUDI DIPLOMATS

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah met with the French Ambassador to the country Christian Nakhle yesterday, discussing bilateral ties in addition to

regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister of the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. Moreover,

Jarallah also met with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez, where the two officials tackled bilateral ties and current happenings.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with one of the students who participated in the Smart Brain contest.—KUNA



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors the student.

SHEIKH SALMAN: POLITICAL LEADERS SUPPORT YOUTH IN QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

KUWAIT: The country's political leaders are steadfast in their support of the youth in their quest for knowledge, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Salman made those comments after meeting a bevy of scientific experts, feted for

their victory in a recent scientific contest, a statement issued by the Ministry of Information noted. Moreover, Sheikh Salman added that this accomplishment should serve as an incentive for youth to excel in their fields of study, adding it is also further affirmation of the support the country has given to these talented individuals.

Furthermore, students Hadeel Khalaf, Aisha Al-Azmi and Ibrahim Al-Khashti were amongst those who reigned supreme in the contest, christened 'Smart Brain'. The contest, which was held in Thailand for the third consecutive year, is designed to help students hone their scientific skills while eliminating any impediments to their academic careers. — KUNA

EPA MEMORIAL STANDS AS TESTAMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) has erected a commemorative monument that stands as a testament to Kuwait's environmental accomplishments over the years. EPA Director General Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday that the memorial is placed at the entrance of EPA's premises, stretching over four square meters with an elevation of seven meters.

Moreover, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad underscored the fact that Kuwait is at the forefront of nations that have always sought to conserve the environment, adding that a number of legislations have been made through the years with the aim of protecting the environment.

Further, he pointed to the new environmental protection law number 42/2014, describing it as a major breakthrough in environmental knowledge. He also noted that any actions deemed malignant to the environment carries a slew of punishments, including incarceration and fines.

Meanwhile, Acting Chairman of Equate Petrochemical Company Mohammad Hussein highlighted the company's interactive relationship with EPA, saying that protecting the environment only bodes well for future generations. He also added that the company is ready and willing to contribute to all measures taken to protect the environment and achieve sustained development.— KUNA



KUWAIT: A commemorative monument placed at the entrance of EPA's premises. — KUNA



Officials stand in front of the monument during the inauguration ceremony.



KUWAIT: The Moroccan Embassy in Kuwait hosted a reception recently to celebrate the 17th anniversary of the enthronement of King Mohammed VI. State officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event.

— Photos by Joseph Shagra



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97 FILIPINO NATIONALS REPATRIATED TO MANILA

THROUGH ASSISTED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAM

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A total of 97 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) were repatriated to the Philippines yesterday through the Assisted Voluntary Repatriation Program (AVRP), a scheme used by the Philippine Embassy as part of a mutual cooperation agreement between the two countries for easier repatriation of distressed workers. Workers that pass through the AVRP system are no longer held for days, weeks or even months at the deportation center in Talha, but they are instead sent straight to the airport from the embassy premises.

The repatriated workers that were flown back yesterday onboard Gulf Air were temporarily housed at the embassy's shelter in Hateen and POLO/OWWA in Faiha for various reasons ranging from maltreatment to sexual and verbal abuse. Almost 500 more OFWs are still at the embassy shelter waiting for the resolution of their cases.

"Ninety-seven is a good number and I thanked the Kuwaiti government for the assistance extended through AVRP, so we are able to repatriate distressed workers easily. I particularly thanked the Ministry of Interior and the Immigration Department for their assistance," said Francis Baquiran, Assistance to Nationals Unit Officer, as he led the workers at Kuwait International Airport. Baquiran urged undocumented Filipino workers in Kuwait to immediately contact the embassy so they could be assisted accordingly.

Various jobs

Many of those repatriated were domestic helpers, but among them were some restaurant workers, electricians and carpenters. Jun Saplot, 35, is an electrician who worked in a small company, but when he intended to transfer his visa, the company did not cooperate and filed an absconding case against him. "I went to the shuoon (the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's dispute department) for assistance, but the company owner did not cooperate, leaving me without a visa for the last three years. I



KUWAIT: Filipino nationals wait at Kuwait International Airport to board their planes back to their home country, in trips facilitated through the Assisted Voluntary Repatriation Program. — Photos by Ben Garcia

thought I will be released from the company but I wasn't. Thank God, during these three years, I was able to work part-time, but I was living in fear as I don't have an iqama, and I do not want to be in jail. I applied to the AVRP in April, and now I am heading to Manila, thanks to our embassy officials who really assisted us until this day in Kuwait," he said.

There are an estimated 220,000 Filipinos in Kuwait, more than one third of whom are engaged in domestic work. Around five to seven housemaids run away from their employers daily. According to Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa, the Philippines along with two other nations in Africa are the only remaining labor-exporting countries sending housemaids to Kuwait.



MP DEMANDS BETTER MARKETING FOR KUWAITI FARMERS' PRODUCTS

COUNCILOR CALLS FOR SPECIAL DEPARTMENT FOR SMALL PROJECTS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Chairman of the priorities committee MP Yousuf Al-Zalzalah criticized what he described monopoly in purchasing vegetables at cooperative societies.

He said a letter issued by the cooperatives union on the vegetable purchasing mechanism was laughable, as well as designating marketing of local product to five companies only. "It is as if the union and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) are placing the fate of Kuwaiti farmers in the hands of five private companies only," he said.

"We do not know who will benefit from this monopoly of marketing Kuwaiti farmers' products.

Are they MSAL employees, or some owners of influential companies, or some



MP Yousuf Al-Zalzalah

members of the Co-ops Union or others?" he asked. Zalzalah asked the MSAL minister if it is realistic that influential people openly benefit, while the role of MSAL is to prevent



Ali Al-Mousa

monopoly and to open markets for the Kuwaiti farmer, who is now incurring losses after losses. Zalzalah warned officials to cancel the decision, otherwise "there will

be a political stand towards this issue."

Small projects

Municipal Council member and chairman of the structural plan committee Ali Al-Mousa demanded a special department be created for small projects at the municipality. He said he will adopt the proposal during the next municipal council term. Mousa said creating such a department will speed up transactions, processing them electronically, that encourages youth innovation and competition. He said it currently takes a long time and effort to finish commercial activity transactions, especially food-related ones. He said small businesspeople should have facilities for quick processing, because dealings with the current generation must have flexibility and be uncomplicated.



KRCS DELIVERS FOOD TO RELOCATED CIVILIANS IN IRAQ

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has distributed 4,436 food parcels to relocated Iraqi civilians in Al-Anbar province. KRCS Broad Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said in a statement yesterday that the delivered supplies were part of 10,000 packages to be given to the Iraqis in need, in coordination with the Iraqi Medical Society. The

Kuwaiti society is proceeding with relief activities in various Iraqi regions, including Kurdistan, with aim of soothing the displaced hardships.

In other news, KRCS announced handing out relief supplies to Syrian refugees in northern Lebanon, as part of ongoing humanitarian operations carried out by the

Kuwaiti philanthropic association. Mahdi Al-Hesar, chief of a field team, said yesterday that the supplies, including food and detergents, were given to 250 Syrian families in the town of Mohammara, located in the country's northernmost region of Akkar. Each parcel is sufficient for a five-member family for a month. — KUNA

Legalese

DEPORTATION

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I always try to imagine how would my life be if I did not have the privilege to find a job in my own country or if for any reason I had to move to another country, maybe for a better lifestyle, for peace of mind, or to advance my career, or maybe just for an adventure. Kuwait and other GCC countries have on multiple occasions been rated one of the worst places for expats to live, or one of the non-friendliest places for foreigners to live in, yet we have huge numbers of expats living in the GCC region. How bad is it in reality?

The headlines in the newspapers and online news platforms read that the Ministry of Interior has a plan to deport 100,000 violating expats by the end of the year. Severe crackdowns took place over the weekend against violators, but how bad is it? I have had a few concerns from my expat readers that I want to address.

Legal or not

Question: This question might seem weird, but is deportation even legally allowed? I know Kuwait has a right to do so, but I have never heard of deportation in my own country. I just find it so wrong.

Fajer: Generally speaking, deportation is internationally legally acceptable for some situations, especially for those who violate residency permits, or 'illegal aliens'. It happens all the time in many countries, but other countries might not have as many people being deported at the same time or might not have a large expat population, and therefore this might be the reason why it is not highlighted in the news.

With that said, I have been getting emails about extreme cases where people were deported for the silliest issues without prior notice or an opportunity to grab their belongings. Whether this is true or not, it's hard to tell, because once the person is deported out of the country, it's difficult for us lawyers to work with the case, because really there is nothing we can legally do to bring them back.

No exceptions

Question: I heard that people from Western countries do not get deported - it is just people from Asian countries that are. Is this true?

Fajer: No it is not true. I have had clients from both Western and Asian countries deported for being illegal aliens.

Question: What can I get deported for?

Fajer: You can get deported for two major issues:

- 1) Not having a legal stay permit, as in a visa that is valid for you to stay in the country.
- 2) You have committed a crime. A punishment for criminal offenses can be deportation by law for non-Kuwaitis.

Criminal offense

Question: I know that expats can get deported for a criminal offense, but how 'bad' of an offense does it have to be?

Fajer: It is not clear. From my experience, I can say that any criminal offense can you get deported, small or big, maybe for running a traffic light or using drugs. You can get deported for such cases.

Question: My mother is Kuwaiti but I am not. Can I get deported?

Fajer: No. Kuwaitis, their spouses and their children cannot be deported regardless of their status or nationality.

Getting fired

Question: Can I get deported after being fired?

Fajer: You have a three-month grace period after being fired, as in after your last day of work, to transfer your visa or otherwise your visa can be cancelled and your status will be of an illegal immigrant, which you can get deported for.

I hope the above helped. I know it can be a very scary thing for expats to read the news, when it seems as if it is part of the government's plan to "lessen" the number of expats in Kuwait. This does not sound friendly or right at all, but as I explained above, if you stay legal and vigilant, you will be fine! I care about Kuwait very much and about its international reputation, and I hope that Kuwait is able to provide a safe environment for all to live and coexist together. And should there be illegal immigrants in this country or expat violators, they should be treated with utmost respect. They should be able to take their belongings before leaving, and they should be able to leave with dignity.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

BUS ACCIDENT KILLS WORKER, INJURES 11

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A laborer was killed and 11 injured after a bus transporting them on Salmy road flipped over. The workers include Egyptians and Asians. The injured were taken to Jahra and Sabah hospitals, two of them by medevac.

Explosion

An explosion was heard in Hawally, and it was caused by a cooking gas cylinder blast in an expat's car. The explosion was not caused by high temperature, because it took place at dawn yesterday.

Nonpaid allowances

Several members of a Kuwait Municipality team that participated in organizing the parliamentary by-elections from the third constituency expressed their displeasure because their financial allowances have not been paid yet. They said that lack of approval of the list by the municipality director general is because it was not submitted to him, because the concerned official is on vacation. They said they are afraid the reward will not be paid because it is not included in the municipality budget, like what happened before.

PAKISTAN SUSPENDS VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Minister for Interior Affairs Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Friday suspended Pakistan's visa abolition agreement with Kuwait, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Interior. The measure came in the backdrop of difficulties faced by Pakistani government officials during their travel to Kuwait, the Pakistani media reported.

The spokesman quoted the interior minister saying: "Despite the accord with Kuwait, Pakistani government officials holding blue and diplomatic passports were still required to get visa for travelling to Kuwait which was against the spirit of the agreement."

Pakistan and Kuwait had signed the agreement for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports in November 2013. However, the agreement came into effect in August 2014, Pakistan's "The Daily Times" reported on Saturday. "Such visa regimes and agreements are meant to ease travelling of the government officials and diplomats. An agreement cannot last which is not reciprocated," remarked Nisar.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning Affairs and Development Hind Al-Subaih attends a workshop for citizens with special needs. — KUNA



NEW DECISIONS TO ADDRESS DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE SOON

KUWAIT WITNESSES COMPUTER WORKSHOP FOR DISABLED

KUWAIT: Kuwait is expecting new decisions soon that could help address the country's demographic imbalance problem, a senior government official said yesterday, adding that laws on that regard were referred to the cabinet to be approved and put into effect in the near future.

The government continues meanwhile to work towards increasing the number of national manpower in the private sector in order to relieve pressure on public sector employment, thus helping curb the state employees' salaries, said Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and

Minister of State for Planning Affairs and Development Hind Al-Subaih.

The minister did not specify the nature of the expected regulations, nor did she give a specific time for when the decisions are expected to be announced. Kuwait has been trying for years to restore balance in the country's demographic structure, where expatriates make nearly 70 percent of the total population. The plans include encouraging more Kuwaiti manpower to enroll in the private sector which continues to be dominated by expatriate laborers.

The minister was speaking to reporters yesterday on the sidelines of the inauguration of a computer workshop for aiding citizens of special needs to attain suitable work in the public and private sectors. Affirming the significance of the workshop, Subaih said that items manufactured by this segment of the society, displayed at the workshop, will be promoted locally and abroad.

Asked about issue of allotments for citizens of the special challenges, the minister said 6,000 files, out of 40,000, have already been revised, indicating that "some of the

files have been suspended for lacking terms for getting (State) aid." She also noted that the suspicious cases were being investigated.

Meanwhile, Dr Tareq Al-Shatti, General Director of the Public Authority of the Disabled, affirmed the State prior concern for empowering the handicapped to be active members in the society.

The workshop is in line with the approach to habilitate them for integration into the society, by providing certain jobs that suit their capacities, as well as needs of the labor market, Shatti said. — KUNA



HOW TO OBTAIN AN E-VISA TO ENTER KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait represented by the Ministry of Interior is presenting a visa issuing service. Visitors to Kuwait may issue a visiting visa using this site.

Rules and Regulations

1. The following nationalities are allowed to use the e-visa system:

ANDORRA	AUSTRALIA	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM
BHUTAN	BRUNEI	BULGARIA	CAMBODIA
CANADA	CYPRUS	CZECH	DENMARK
ESTONIA	FINLAND	FRANCE	GEORGIA
GERMANY	GREECE	HONG KONG	HUNGARY
ICELAND	IRELAND	ITALY	JAPAN
LAOS	LATVIA	LIECHTENSTEIN	LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG	MALAYSIA	MALTA	MONACO
NETHERLANDS	NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	POLAND
PORTUGAL	ROMANIA	SAN MARINO	SINGAPORE
SLOVAKIA	SLOVENIA	SOUTH KOREA	SPAIN
SWAZILAND	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND	TURKEY
UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES	VATICAN	VIETNAM

2. GCC residents

Visitors can apply for eVisa if they have residency in one of the GCC countries (Saudi Arabia-Bahrain-Qatar-United Arab Emirates-Oman) having their residency valid for at least (6 months) when applying for eVisa and belongs to the following professions:

Consultants	Doctors	Engineers	Lawyers
Judges&Members of Public Prosecution	University Teachers	Press&Media Staff	Pilots
System Analysts & Computer Programmers	Managers	Businessmen	Diplomatic Corps
University Graduates – Owners, Managers and Representatives of Commercial Companies and Establishments			

3. Upon your arrival, a visa fee of 3KD will be collected after obtaining the visa at the border Entry point.

4. Temporary travel documentation holders are not permitted to use this system..

5. The applications must not have security blocks that prevent them from entering the country.

6. In case of differences between information provided in the application form and the passport, the granted visa will be considered invalid and its holder will not be granted entry..

7. A tourist visa allows the applicant a temporary stay of maximum 3 months starting from the entry date, and hence the visa holder must leave the country before its expiration. The tourist visa holder is not allowed to work in the country and in case he/she is caught they will be punished according to the laws and regulations concerned.

8. A visitor who overstays the permitted period will be fined and the punishment might extend to declining his/her visa application in the future.

9. The applications will be processed during the official working hours with the exception of holidays (Fridays and Saturday) and official and national holidays.

10. You will informed via your email once your visa application has been approved or declined.

MINISTER SIGNS RETIREES' HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT

DEAL WORTH KD 82 MILLION FOR ONE YEAR

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi yesterday signed a social insurance contract for retirees worth KD 82 million for a whole year. The project covers 107,000 retirees recorded in the social insurance system, minister Obaidi told reporters after the signing ceremony. The project, named Afya (good health) crowns hard efforts and cooperation between the government and the National Assembly for the interest of retirees, he added.

Regardless of age, the project provides for KD 15,500 health insurance coverage for a male retiree, annually, and KD 17,000 for a woman, the minister said. Afya cards will be offered to retirees after three months, the minister said, adding that an awareness campaign will be launched to inform beneficiaries how to benefit from the insurance system. Obaidi stressed that the project does not cover health insurances abroad. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi (left) is pictured during the signing ceremony. — KUNA

PECUNIARY ALLOCATIONS FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO BE REMEDIED SOON: GHANEM



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

KUWAIT: Pecuniary allocations for Kuwait's "foreign diplomats will be sorted out soon," National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem said yesterday.

"First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister, Finance and Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh have assured me that monetary bonuses for foreign diplomats have been affected

by fluctuations in currency prices, not deductions in salaries," Ghanem said in a press statement.

"This issue is being addressed in a way to ensure that the diplomats' salaries will remain intact," he added. Moreover, he also underscored that diplomats' rights will always be protected, describing them as "the obscure soldiers who safeguard the benefit of the nation." — KUNA

28TH DIVING EXPEDITION CONTINUES IN KHAIRAN

KUWAIT: Participants in the 28th expedition to commemorate the anniversary of diving are continuing to dive at Al-Khairan coast. Participants are committed to using the old traditional methods of diving, following specified timing schedules in areas that have good amounts of pearls, said advisor of the expedition's technical committee Khalifa Al-Rashid in a press statement. He expressed his pride for the

patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for the event, also mentioning the large numbers of youth taking part in the expedition.

Veteran Bahraini captain Abdulrahman Al-Menaei said the expedition is attracting significant numbers of Gulf citizens, as it connects them to their maritime heritage. Meanwhile, the organizing committee will hold a ceremony on Monday where

youth participants will perform traditional maritime arts. The youth will then head to diving locations at Al-Khairan, accompanied by media delegations from different newspapers and TV channels which will closely follow the activities of divers. The annual expedition, set to conclude on August 4, includes 193 captains and divers aboard 13 ships provided by His Highness the Amir. —KUNA



Bahraini captain Abdulrahman Al-Menaei



Tourist's visas issued from land, air and maritime border outlets			
Entrance visas issued from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015			
Tourist's visas issued from outlets	252,122		
Total tourist's visas issued from all departments	407,465		
Entrance visas issued from January 1, 2016 to July 28, 2016			
Tourist's visas issued from outlets	124,592		
Total tourist's visas issued from all departments	228,351		
Total electronic visa applications until July 30, 2016			
Total applications	178		
New applications	39	Rejected applications	38
Security inspection and pending requests	0	Issued visas	101

Crime

Report

STOLEN MEDS FOUND

KUWAIT: During a raid by Farwaniya police on a place where international calls were being made illegally, they also discovered a store of subsidized medicine, which were stolen by the call center suspect from a hospital where he works as a cleaning worker. A police patrol noticed an Asian walking on foot, and when he was asked to stop to check his ID, they were surprised by him running into a house inhabited by bachelors. Police followed him and found he tried to hide in the illegal telecommunications center, and were surprised by the large quantity of medicine there. The Asian was referred to detectives for further investigations to find out how he was able to steal this amount of medicine in a systematic fashion.

Fight

A bloody fight broke out between four persons in a Jahra restaurant, when two of them asked the waiter to attend to them before anyone else. Things escalated to throwing plates at each other, until the fight was broken up by employees. Those involved resumed the fight at the emergency department of Jahra Hospital, as a young man was stabbed. The fighters included two citizens on one side and a Saudi and a bedoon on the other. Investigations are underway.

Cross-dresser arrested

A security patrol suspected a girl in a parked car in a dark area, but when she handed her ID, she was found to be a male cross-dresser. He was also found under the influence of drugs. His car was searched and six pink pills were found along with other drugs. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Crackdown

A security campaign in Hawally resulted in the arrest of 71 wanted persons of various nationalities and issuance of 25 traffic citations. The campaign was in Nugra. Those arrested were sent to concerned authorities.

Weapons found

Weapons detectives learned about a bedoon in Salwa who was suspected of trading in weapons, so they got a warrant and raided his home. He was arrested after fierce resistance and attempts to escape. Detectives did not find any weapons, but they found imported liquor, which he confessed was for trade and personal use. The young man was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

Jewelry stolen

A citizen was surprised by the disappearance of KD 800 and gold jewelry from her Sabah Al-Salem home, so she called police and accused her maid and a compatriot of hers. The citizen said when she returned home, she found the back gate broken, and when she checked her jewelry and money, she discovered the theft. Forensic police lifted fingerprints in order to arrest the suspect and her accomplice.

Drug abuse

An Ethiopian man accompanied by two women were arrested after being found under the influence of drugs, and they were sent to the Drugs Control General Department. A Hawally patrol noticed a car was being driven unsteadily, so they stopped and found the driver and the two women were in an abnormal condition, so they were arrested.

Drug dealer caught

A bedoon was arrested with six kilos of hashish, one kilogram of shabu and 50 gm of opium in Salmiya. Tips received from undercover sources indicated that a bedoon in his 40s trades in drugs. Investigations confirmed the tips and he was arrested, and the drugs were found in his car and his house. The bedoon was sent to the drugs prosecution for further legal action. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

News

In brief

Gas price increase decision delayed

KUWAIT: Oil prices' recovery has allowed the government to put all plans to raise petrol prices on hold for the time being, government sources said. Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousuf Al-Ali has recently canceled a previous decision to freeze prices of products and services. The minister had made the decision on April 10 in a step seen as being in anticipation of a potential government decision to increase the prices of gas in light of the sharp drop in oil prices. The current recovery of oil prices has rendered those plans not required, the sources said. The government has the authority to increase petrol prices in Kuwait without requiring a parliament vote. — Al-Anbaa

'Extremists' monitored

KUWAIT: A high ranking security official said preventive security officers are closely watching at least 50 persons, most of whom are Kuwaitis with close ideological links with the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group. The source said some of these are clergymen who give sermons, adding that their links are purely ideological, and their movements are under close surveillance. He added that the cells that were busted lately identified some of these people, but many were already known by domestic state security. The source said it is not secret that these people are summoned every now and then to make them understand they are being watched and that their communications as well as their movements are known, and they know this too. Answering a question on why they are not arrested, the source said the constitution and law require material evidence, which is not available, because the matter is related to ideology and sympathizing, but confirmed that they are under close surveillance, especially when it comes to their financial transfers. — Al-Anbaa

Hajj prices

KUWAIT: Hajj prices broke the KD 3,000 mark per person this year, the highest rate in the past 20 years. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has allocated six pilgrimage campaign agencies to provide low-cost trips for 600 Kuwaitis. Furthermore, the ministry has contacted the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait to speed up the process of issuing visas to Bedoon (stateless) pilgrims, source said. — Al-Qabas



JAHRA ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WELCOMES KUWAITI ENGINEERING STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing support for the development of students in the engineering field, the Jahra Road Development Project welcomed a number of Kuwaiti students studying in the United Kingdom. The two week program included site visits, lectures and demonstrations.

Engineer Ahmad Al-Hassan, the Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering Affairs at the Ministry of Public Works commented: "The ministry is committed to the local community, and we highlight the importance of providing students with valuable first-hand on-site experience, as well

as introducing them to experienced engineers from different departments, including structure, safety, planning and others. This opportunity allows students to get an understanding of the work done by MPW, and the number of projects it currently has."

"On-going works coupled with multiple openings across the project has meant that the students are exposed to the different stages of construction in a road project. It has given them the opportunity to meet and engage with specialized engineers and see the ways in which a project of this magnitude is managed.

The students leave here with a greater knowledge of one of Kuwait's largest infrastructure projects, and the work that takes place on site," added Yasser Boudastour, Project Engineer at the Jahra Road Development Project.

This mega project involves the construction of 17.7 km of viaducts (7.3 km of mainline Jahra Road, 2.4 km of bridges on linked roads and 8.0 km of ramps), including a trough at the 2nd Ring Road intersection, 10 pedestrian bridges, and service roads. The Jahra Road project also includes major service and utility relocation and works.

ELECTRONIC VISAS THROUGH HOTELS, COMPANIES SOON

KUWAIT: Director General of the Residency Affairs Department Major General Talal Maarafi said the second stage of the electronic services project will start soon with the issuance of visit visas through hotels and major companies through the Interior Ministry website without the need to refer to the residency affairs departments after the approval of the "electronic signature" and after stopping the old system when the hotel manager of the company used to sign.

Maarafi announced that there is work on a new project to reduce the inflated number of domestic helpers, which have reached 680,000, through legislations and confronting certain issues that led to this large number, including home trade, where some citizens use helpers to cook food at home for sale, or those who make

helpers do something else other than their designated jobs, or those who provide residency in exchange of money. He said the project has solutions, and will be submitted to the Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Residency Affairs Maj Gen Mazen Al-Jarrah for approval.

Maarafi said approving the executive rules of the domestic help law created a system for offices who bring in domestic help, pointing to allowing domestic help from Bangladesh provided that the sponsor should not have another Bangladeshi worker registered to him.

About the project of renewing residencies online, Maarafi said the start will be with domestic workers on a trial basis, then it will be expanded. He said the project includes paying fees and data entry. He said the problem is in



Major General Talal Maarafi

the sticker - how can an individual be called to place the sticker on his passport, because the renewal will not be complete without the sticker.

KFH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN DRAW

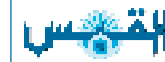
KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the third draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUV's and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas. The winners are: Salem Alayad, Bashayer Alhajeri, Dahesh Almutairi, Latifa Alkhaleel, Anfal Alrubayaan, Yaseen Faraj and Ibrahim Khatab.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefitting clients and merchants. This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving cus-

tomers satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.



Al-Jarida

KUWAITIS' LOYALTY AND SENSE OF BELONGING

By Abdellatif Al-Duaij

None of us are completely loyal to this country. Normally, this confession is preceded with introductions, analysis and results that convince the reader of the validity of such a claim. But today, I was keen to place it at the top without introductions. There isn't full loyalty towards this country. Not because we are traitors as some enjoy describing those who differ with them, and not because we belong to another country. But simply because our social awareness did not develop enough to have the "patriotic" loyalty to be dominant within us, with all our sectarian, racial and even social belongings.

So, most of us lean with the strength of social, sectarian or racial interests towards those institutions against the institution of the state. Some people also place the state or homeland interest after their interests, magnifying and strengthening what they believe in or what they are in reality. All Kuwaitis came from the north, south, east and west of the Gulf - all of them came with their social awareness and reality, and not alone. It was not by accident that migrants who belong to the Shiite sect selected the eastern coasts as their settling place. The rich Sunnis selected the western coasts, while the bedouin migrants found it more comfortable in the southern areas, or closer to the desert. Even after oil discovery, the housing situation of Kuwaitis expanded, but it did not change as much as it was supposed to. Shiite citizens continued to prefer eastern coastal areas such as Rumaihiya, Daiya and Dasma, while those of the Qibla area continued to expand west in Shamiya and Shuwaikh, and of course, the tribal people or bedouins preferred what is now known as the outer areas. So, Kuwaitis remained as they are - hadar (urbanite) or bedouin, Sunni and Shiite and even original or newcomers (bayaser).

Urbanization and dominance of advanced life was supposed to integrate the people of Kuwait to achieve a joint national identity. But unfortunately, this did not happen, especially after forced political circumstances chosen by some intervened in deciding development and public awareness, while the wishes of dominant sides in the ruling family to control the election situation resulted in deciding democratic development or the democratic system itself. This is how the "ghettos" in Kuwait with support and preference controlled the situation at that time.

It was not by accident that an entire electoral area like Um Al-Haiman is 100 percent of one tribe. It is possible to call it an exaggeration that they pitched in and bought lands there, and this would've been possible if the area was not owned by the government and its residential distribution wasn't according to priority. So, democracy worked, with the effect of the government distortion, to strengthen and instill primitive awareness among the voter, the Kuwaiti citizen. And to have credibility in this conclusion, or rather accusation, it's necessary to point out that all this was not possible if there was no readiness within the citizens to participate in and even lead this intentional social and political apostasy. So the blame is on our social reality and not on who knew how to use it. There is no national loyalty among most current Kuwaitis, or if we wanted to be keen, complete national loyalty, or a tangible regional belonging. Everyone is captive to his old sectarian or tribal mentality, or both. Years ago, the urbanite citizens, for example, thought they were free from their tribal hereditary and desert mentality, but the truth is embodied in more than one example - this mentality is still controlling the behavior and thinking of the citizens, despite his apparent release from his social heritage and origins.

Kuwaitis rushed and competed to demolish their homes and receive appraisals, and those who missed the appraisal due to wasta - because the desire is in appraisal, not engineering - felt injustice because their houses were not appraised. In civilized nations that have total belonging to their countries and an individual pride, the wish to adhere to the homeland or material heritage supersedes the financial appetite. So, we read a lot of foreign novels and saw many films about the Western farmer hanging on to his land or farm while facing the temptations of developers, mostly transportation companies, that wanted to lay railways or build stations on the land of the concerned farmer. The farmer fights and succeeds in the end in keeping his land, out of the motive of individual ownership, because, as the farmer says: "I inherited it from my father and I will pass it to my son." Here, due to the lack of awareness for belonging and adhering to the land, some citizens had to bribe some municipality officials in order to appraise homes of their fathers and grandfathers. This mentality was behind the demolition of our buildings and historic moments, from the Shuwaikh Secondary School hall to the current mosque, where some of those interested are fighting with concerned authorities to preserve it.

We understand the backwardness of most of us and the dominance of the tribal or sectarian belonging in them, as this is the Kuwaiti citizens' thinking. Yet, what cannot be understood or even accepted is the insistence of some of us, who are many and influential in the political arena, on distrusting others and accusing others of being traitors with the foreigners, while at the same time announcing his belonging and loyalty to parties and foreign countries without being worried about this foreign loyalty or dual belonging.

This happens every day, especially when it comes to sectarian loyalty, which both Sunni and Shiites are keen on showing and increase its glow at every opportunity. The latest events in Turkey are only a clear example of what we present, and they are the motive behind writing this column. —Translated by Kuwait Times

Kuwait Times International

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016



Thousands shout support for Erdogan at German rally

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TOKYO ELECTS 1ST FEMALE GOVERNOR TO LEAD CITY INTO OLYMPICS



PITTSBURGH: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, second from right, accompanied by Democratic vice presidential candidate, Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., left, Tim Kaine's wife Anne Holton, second from left, and former President Bill Clinton, right, gives a thumbs up to supporters as they arrive at a rally at David L. Lawrence Convention in Pittsburgh. — AP

CLINTON SLAMS TRUMP'S PRAISE OF RUSSIA

COMMENTS RAISE 'NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES'

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton yesterday sharply criticized Donald Trump over his "absolute allegiance" to Russian policy aims, saying it raised both "national security issues" and new doubts about his temperament.

Trump, her Republican rival in the race for the White House, responded defiantly, saying that he had "no relationship" with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and had never met nor spoken to him by phone, but that "if our country got along with Russia, that would be a great thing."

He said in an ABC interview that he was not about to disavow it if Putin praised him as a "genius" (some Russian speakers say "colorful" was a better translation of the word). But perhaps further fanning controversy, Trump added that as president he would at least consider acknowledging Russian sovereignty over Crimea, the Ukrainian territory that Russia annexed in 2014 in the face of widespread international condemnation.

"The people of Crimea, from what I've heard, would rather be with Russia," Trump said. He said, however, that

he was not involved in Republicans' softening of their platform language to remove a call to provide Ukraine with lethal weaponry.

The dispute over Russia is part of a broader disagreement over US engagement abroad, as Trump argues that a weakened America must retrench and demand greater contributions from its allies, while Clinton asserts that decades-old US commitments to foreign partners must be maintained.

Backlash over emails

Clinton, in her comments, was responding on "Fox News Sunday" to allegations of Russian involvement in leaks of Democratic Party emails that embarrassed her on the eve of the just-ended Democratic national convention.

As that convention was underway, Trump urged Russia to find and release several thousand emails that disappeared from Clinton's private server while she was secretary of state. "Russia, if you're listening," Trump said then, "I

hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing. I think you will be mightily rewarded by our press."

That call, of a sort nearly unprecedented in US presidential politics, drew sharp rebukes from Democrats and some Republicans. US cybersecurity experts said it raised questions about whether Russia had attempted to influence the American campaign in Trump's favor. Leaked emails published by WikiLeaks revealed the distrust of some key Democratic leaders of Bernie Sanders, Clinton's former rival for the Democratic nod.

Trump's seeming encouragement of Russian hacking, Clinton told Fox, "raises issues about Russian influence in our election." "And for Trump to both encourage that and to praise Putin despite what appears to be a deliberate effort to try to affect the election, I think, raises national security issues."

'Not temperamentally fit'

When an interviewer noted that Trump had claimed he

was being sarcastic, Clinton replied: "If you take the encouragement that Russians hack into email accounts, if you take his quite excessive praise for Putin, his absolute allegiance to a lot of Russian wish-list foreign policy issues," it suggests that "he is not temperamentally fit to be president and commander-in-chief."

Trump had earlier unnerved NATO member nations by questioning the long absolute US commitment to defend any member of the Atlantic alliance should it be attacked by Russia. In an interview with The New York Times just before the Republican convention, Trump said that if Russia attacked NATO member nations he would decide whether to come to their assistance only if he decided that they had "fulfilled their obligations to us."

Trump has also said he might withdraw US troops from European and Asian countries if they failed to pay more for American protection. "We are going to take care of this country first," he told The Times, "before we worry about everyone else in the world." — AFP

UN FORMALLY INVITES SYRIA GOVT TO NEW PEACE TALKS

DAMASCUS: UN deputy Syria envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy yesterday invited Damascus to new peace talks with the opposition at the end of August, drawing a positive response from the government.

On Tuesday, the world body's special envoy Staffan de Mistura told reporters in Geneva he wanted "to proceed with a third round of intra-Syrian talks towards the end of August" after two previous rounds of talks this year ended in failure. De Mistura has struggled to keep the peace process alive amid a surge in fighting between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces and rebel groups.

"I informed the minister and his deputy of the intention of the special envoy De Mistura to reconvene the inter-Syrian talks towards the end of August," Ramzy said after meeting Foreign Minister Walid Mualllem and his deputy Faisal Muqdad.

"I explained to the minister how we intend to proceed, and we discussed how to render this process of political transition which has already been endorsed by the Security Council to be a credible one, and we exchanged views on that," Ramzy said.

He said Mualllem "confirmed the inten-

tion of the Syrian government to participate in these talks once they are held". Muqdad said Syria's government was "ready to resume the talks with no pre-conditions in an inter-Syrian context with no foreign interference", the official SANA news agency reported him as saying.

De Mistura's announcement comes with the armed opposition facing difficulties, especially in the northern city of Aleppo where government forces are besieging rebel-held districts. A peace roadmap, endorsed in December by the UN, called for the creation of a transitional body, which should have occurred on August 1, a new constitution and elections by mid-2017.

The UN-brokered talks have so far been deadlocked over Assad's fate. The government has ruled out negotiations on his possible departure, while the main opposition High Negotiations Committee has said it will not agree to any deal that leaves Assad in power. Since Syria was plunged into chaos in 2011, more than 280,000 people have been killed and upwards of half the population has been displaced. — AFP



DAMASCUS: A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) yesterday, shows Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Muqdad (C-R) meeting with Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy (C-L), United Nations Deputy Special Envoy to Syria, in the Syrian capital Damascus. — AFP

SUSPECT HELD OVER BOMB ATTACK DIES IN BAHRAINI JAIL

DUBAI: A Bahraini suspect held for questioning in connection with a bomb attack that killed a woman in late June has died in prison, a local newspaper reported on Sunday, while another news website has suggested he may have died under torture.

The interior ministry said in a statement that a detainee held on unspecified charges died at a hospital on Saturday evening of "natural causes". The statement did not name the detainee, but the Arabic-language al-Wassat news-

paper identified him as 35-year-old Hassan Jassem Hassan al-Hayki and said he was being held in connection with the bombing in the village of al-Aker. "The detainee, who was held protectively, was suffering from a health problem," the statement said, without giving any details.

Another news website which often reflects the views of Shi'ite Muslim opposition groups quoted the family as saying that he had complained of severe torture to force him to confess to charges of

links to the bombing. Authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but Bahrain denies using torture and says it has installed cameras at interrogation centers to guard against abuse. The interior ministry said earlier this month that it had arrested two men suspected of planting the bomb on June 30 that killed the woman while she was travelling through the village. Her three children were wounded.

The ministry said a third suspect in the blast had fled to Iran, a Shi'ite

Muslim power across the Gulf from Sunni Muslim-ruled Bahrain. A Bahraini human rights group challenged the official version of events, citing "conflicting narratives".

Opposition activists have said on social media that witnesses reported seeing security forces fire on the woman's car after it accidentally neared a royal convoy. Home to the Gulf-based US Fifth Fleet, Bahrain has been plagued by sporadic violence and bomb attacks largely aimed at security forces since

2011, when the government put down mass pro-democracy unrest by members of the majority Shi'ite community.

The kingdom has accused Iran of fomenting protests by the Shi'ites - a charge denied by Tehran. The small Gulf kingdom is seen by its Sunni-ruled Gulf neighbors as a strategic bulwark against Iranian influence. It drew UN criticism in June when it acted to strip a top Shi'ite cleric of his citizenship and closed down the main Shi'ite political opposition group. —Reuters



JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND: US President Barack Obama boards Marine One before departing for Camp David yesterday at Joint Base Andrews. —AP

OBAMA TO CITE PROGRESS ON VETERANS' ISSUES IN SPEECH

WASHINGTON: In a valedictory address to veterans, President Barack Obama will argue that getting ex-military members the health care and benefits they've earned is a national promise that "can't be broken." And he'll tout administration progress on reducing homelessness among veterans.

Obama will also announce that the administration is halfway toward building a massive database on veterans' health when he addresses the annual convention of the Disabled American Veterans service organization Monday in Atlanta.

The president leaves office in January, and he plans to use this appearance to recap how he has tried to help former military members, moving beyond headline-grabbing scandals over lengthy wait-times for veterans seeking medical care. Outrage over those delays led to the resignation of Obama's first Veterans Affairs secretary, retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki.

Care for veterans

Care for America's veterans is a top issue in the presidential campaign, with the nearly 21 million veterans in the US making up a critical voting bloc that Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump are vying for in November's election. Both Trump and Clinton spoke at the recent Veterans of Foreign Wars convention.

Trump has repeatedly blasted the VA under Obama, although Clinton has been less harsh. Both promise to overhaul the department, including its health care delivery. Demand for VA health care continues to grow, increasing 13 percent in the past year despite lingering concerns, DAV Executive Director Garry Augustine said in an interview.

Stressing progress, Obama will announce that overall veteran homelessness has been cut nearly in half, by 47 percent. That's short of the president's long-held goal of eliminating veteran homelessness by 2015, but Obama says the challenge is being confronted.

The White House also gives credit to first lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden's wife, Jill, for using their initiative on military families to challenge mayors and county officials nationwide to end veterans' homelessness.

Research program

Obama will also announce that half a million veterans have voluntarily given blood samples and health data for a long-term government research program. The goal is to enroll 1 million veterans as part of the president's initiative to make "precision medicine," or tailored treatment, a reality.

Obama is expected to talk about how a backlog of disability claims that neared 610,000 three-and-a-half years ago has now dropped below 80,000. The VA set a record by processing 1.4 million benefits claims for veterans last year, and this year it has processed more than 1 million.

But the focus on speeding up claims processing took away from the handling of appeals. More than 450,000 appeals are pending, with veterans waiting an average of three years for a decision. The White House said the situation was "unacceptable."

The DAV's Augustine agreed. "We want to get them both down," he said. VA Secretary Bob McDonald, an Army veteran and former Procter & Gamble president and CEO who succeeded Shinseki, told The Associated Press in an interview that Obama's record on serving veterans is one he can be "quite proud of," including a more than 85 percent increase in funding for the department.

McDonald noted the increased demand for VA health care, progress toward cutting unemployment and homelessness, and efforts to streamline claims and appeals.

"The president's got a lot to be proud of," McDonald said. He also argued for keeping the VA within the federal bureaucracy, not turn it over to the private sector. "When all of us signed up, we signed up with the belief and an obligation that we were going to put our lives on the line, and in exchange for that the country was going to help support us," McDonald said. "I see that from this president. He is going to make it clear...that this commitment is a national responsibility and a promise that can't be broken."

Less than a week after addressing the Democratic convention last Wednesday night on Clinton's behalf, Obama planned to attend a party fundraiser in the Atlanta area before returning to Washington later Monday. That event is closed to news media coverage. —AP

ATTACKS ON IRAQ GAS FACILITY, OILFIELD KILL 5

KIRKUK, IRAQ: Militants assaulted a gas facility and a nearby oil field in north Iraq yesterday, killing five people in rare attacks inside Kurdish-controlled areas of Kirkuk province, officials said.

Gunmen travelling on motorbikes opened fire on the gas facility's guards, then killed four of its employees and planted multiple bombs before escaping, officials from Iraq's North Oil Company and the Kurdish peshmerga forces said.

Militants also attacked the nearby Bai Hassan oil field, the largest in oil-rich Kirkuk province, killing an engineer and sparking a major fire, officials said. A colonel in the peshmerga said that security forces killed two suicide bombers at the field while a third detonated explosives, setting oil tanks ablaze, and a fourth was still at large.

Police Brigadier General Sarhad Qader confirmed that three bombers were dead. The attack killed an engineer and wounded seven other people, according to the peshmerga colonel and a police officer of the same rank.

The jihadist-linked Amaq agency, which often carries claims of Islamic

State group attacks, said that the assault on Bai Hassan had taken place, but did not attribute it to IS. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault on the gas facility, and while it may have been carried out by IS, it is more common for the group's militants to fight to the death in such attacks.

Forces from Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region control part of Kirkuk, while IS also holds territory in the province. The jihadist group overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, sweeping Iraqi security forces aside, though they have since regained significant ground from IS.

After federal forces retreated, Kurdish troops gained or solidified control over a swathe of northern territory that is claimed by both Baghdad and Kurdistan.

Both Baghdad's forces and Kurdish troops are battling the jihadists, but they have fought largely independent wars so far. That will need to change during the battle for Mosul, Iraq's second city located northwest of Kirkuk, as the operation is expected to require both federal and Kurdish forces to take part. —AFP

RETAKING MOSUL LIKELY TO BE TRICKY, COSTLY FOR IRAQ

FIERCE FIGHTING ALREADY RAGING

BAGHDAD: It promises to be the biggest and perhaps last major battle against the Islamic State group in Iraq. Iraq's government is setting its sights on Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city that has been under IS control since June 2014, as its next major target. The assault is probably months away, but fierce fighting already has been raging as Iraqi forces try to clear the militants from villages and towns south of the city.

The goal is to protect the Qayara air base, which was recaptured from the militants July 9 and is to be a main hub for the final move on Mosul. Some 560 US military personnel, mainly engineers and logistics, security and communications experts, are due to be deployed at the base to upgrade its facilities in preparation for the Mosul attacks, according to US Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

But that can't happen yet because Qayara base has come under frequent rocket fire. About two-thirds of the surrounding towns and villages are controlled by IS fighters. Iraqi forces need to clear a 20-km radius around the base and to retake the key nearby towns of Qayara and Shirqat, several Iraqi military officials told AP. Iraqi forces already have driven the Islamic State group out of the cities of Ramadi, Fallujah, Tikrit and Beiji west and north of the Iraqi capital, rolling back the jihadists' dramatic blitz in summer 2014 that captured nearly a third of the country and linked up with their territory in neighboring Syria.

Retaking Mosul would be far more significant, robbing the IS of the jewel of its self-declared caliphate. While the Syrian city of Raqqa is considered the caliphate's de facto capital, Mosul is the largest city under its control, with an estimated population of between 500,000 and 1 million. IS fighters in Mosul, meanwhile, vary from a few thousand to "not more than 10,000," according to the coalition.

But the presence of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Mosul raises the prospect of a flood of people joining tens of thousands still displaced by previous fighting. The Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross said Friday that up to 1 million Iraqis could be forced to flee their homes in the coming weeks amid worsening fighting. Robert Mardini, the group's regional director for the Near and Middle East, said it is preparing for the worst, particularly in the Mosul area.

Humanitarian Crisis

A glimpse of the possible humanitarian crisis has emerged. Nearly 4,000 families have fled their homes to escape fighting around the towns of Qayara and Shirqat. The government plans to house them in the town of Beiji, to the south. "The government is not prepared or equipped to deal with a humanitarian emergency," said Iraqi analyst Hisham Al-Hashimi. The civilians in the city also pose a challenge to Iraqi forces when they assault, said Ahmed Shawki, a retired Iraqi army colonel who is now a military analyst based in the Kurdish city of Irbil.

"Daesh will try its best to disappear among these people, in the civilian neighborhoods of Mosul, to be safe from the airstrikes and hide from the eyes of the intelligence services," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. Iraqi officials estimate that upgrading the Qayara base



HIT, Iraq: In this April 4, 2016 file photo, smoke rises as people flee their homes during clashes between Iraqi security forces and members of the Islamic State group. — AP

could take four to six weeks, once the area around it is secured. Lt Gen Sean MacFarland, the top US commander in the fight against IS, said this month that the US personnel have already received warning orders to deploy and will flow in "relatively soon". The facility is believed to have been badly damaged by airstrikes since the IS seized it in 2014. The work will include extending the two runways to allow large military transports to land. US and Iraqi fighter jets and helicopter gunships are also likely to be deployed there. Boasting more than 30 fortified hangars, the base was used by the US military between 2003 and 2010, when it was handed back to the Iraqis.

Assault

When operational, Qayara will join bases jointly used by the Iraqis and the Americans in the fight against IS. They include Makhmour, east of Mosul, Taqaddum and Assad, west of Baghdad, and Taji, just north of the Iraqi capital. The actual assault may not take place until the late fall or winter, the military officials said. "A lot of fighting has yet to be done and a lot of places must still be liberated before we head to Mosul," said a brigadier general with the Iraqi army's special forces who, like other military officials, spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

An official in Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's office said there was no detailed plan yet for retaking Mosul. "For now, the plan is simply that Mosul is next," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. Hashimi, the analyst, estimated retaking Mosul would require 80,000 men, of whom 15,000 are expected to come from the government-sanctioned Shiite militias. However, the Shiite militiamen, repeatedly accused of abuses against Sunni civilians, will not join the assault on the city and will instead focus on liberating Shiite areas in surrounding Ninevah province. Tel Afar, a mostly Shiite town about 70 km west of Mosul, would be a likely target for the militias.

Kurdish peshmerga forces deployed east, west and north of the city are expected to assume a support role but not take part on the assault on Mosul as they had requested. The United Nations has appealed for \$284 million to prepare for the likely waves of civilians fleeing the city. When Iraqi forces retook Fallujah in June, tens of thousands of residents who fled were housed in sprawling desert camps with little food, water or shelter. That drew sharp criticism from international relief groups and called into question the extent of the Shiite-led government's commitment to effectively care for minority Sunnis. — AP



POLAND: Pope Francis passes the Door of Mercy with youth representatives at Campus Misericordiae on July 30, 2016 in Brzegi as part of the World Youth Days (WYD). —AFP

FOUR TURKISH SOLDIERS KILLED IN CLASHES WITH KURDISH MILITANTS

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey: Four Turkish soldiers were killed yesterday in two separate clashes with militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), officials said. In the first incident, the militants opened fire on soldiers in a forested area of Ordu province in northeast Turkey, killing three and injuring two others, the provincial governor, Irfan Balkanlioglu, said in a statement.

Large numbers of reinforcements were sent to the area and operations are continuing, he added. In a separate incident, PKK fighters killed one soldier and injured six others during a security operation in a remote corner of Hakkari province in southeast Turkey near the borders with Iran and Iraq, security sources said.

The latest deaths came one day after the

Turkish army killed 35 militants when they tried to storm a base in Hakkari province. Thousands of militants and hundreds of civilians and soldiers have been killed since a 2-1/2-year ceasefire and peace process between the government and the PKK broke down last July.

More than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict since the PKK - designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union - began its insurgency in 1984. Turkey's military, NATO's second largest, is currently undergoing a major shake-up following a July 15-16 coup attempt, but has played down concerns that the wide-reaching changes will undermine its struggle against the PKK. —Reuters

NEWS

Report

20 more airstrikes target IS in Syria, Iraq

WASHINGTON: The US-led coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) launched 20 airstrikes targeting the group in Syria and Iraq, the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) said in its daily report, released yesterday. In Syria, 12 air strikes hit IS facilities near Ar Raqqa and Manbij, the report showed. Meanwhile in Iraq, eight air strikes hit IS facilities near Mosul, Qayyarah, Sinjar, Sultan Abdallah, and Haditha.

CJTF-OIR maintains that one airstrike count means one or more kinetic events that occur in roughly the same geographic location to produce a single, sometimes cumulative effect for that location. However it can also mean a single aircraft launched a single missile, the report noted. —KUNA

Hospital bombed in Daraa province

BEIRUT: Syrian activists say a hospital in the southern province of Daraa has been damaged in an airstrike and put out of service.

The Local Coordination Committees activist network says an airstrike Sunday targeted the hospital in Jasem, an opposition town some 57 kilometers south of Damascus. The group says six people were killed in the airstrikes in Jasem, blaming them on government fighter jets.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group says the hospital strike killed a pharmacist and put the facility out of service.

Hospitals are regularly targeted in Syria's war, drawing condemnation from the UN and the international community. The New York-based Physicians for Human Rights says over 90 percent of attacks on medical facilities in Syria were carried out by pro-government forces. —AP

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MAY PLEDGES NEW ACTION TO TACKLE 'BARBARIC EVIL' OF MODERN SLAVERY

LONDON: Prime Minister Theresa May set out a drive to tackle modern slavery in Britain yesterday, pledging more funding and a new cross-government taskforce to help stamp out what she called a "barbaric evil".

She made the pledge as a review into the 2015 Modern Slavery Act, pioneered by May in her previous role as interior minister, showed that in 2015, 40 percent more victims had been identified and 14 percent more slavery offences had been prosecuted.

Nearly 46 million people are enslaved globally, according to the 2016 Global Slavery Index, which estimated there were 11,700 victims living in Britain. "From nail bars and car washes to sheds and rundown caravans, people are enduring experiences that are simply horrifying in their inhumanity," May wrote in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper. "This is the great human rights issue of our time, and as prime minister I am determined that we will make it a national and international

mission to rid our world of this barbaric evil," May said.

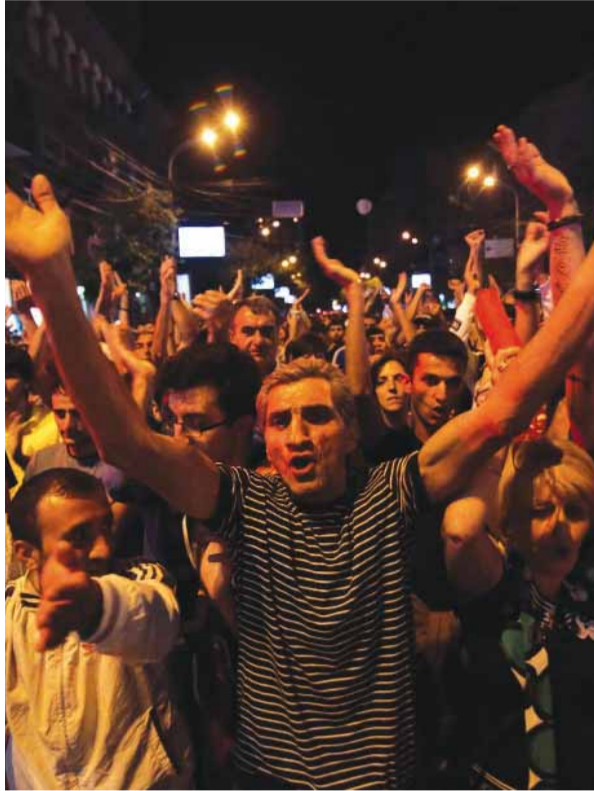
The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor generates global profits of about \$150 billion per year, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region and developed economies, including the European Union. May, who took office earlier this month, said 33.5 million pounds (\$44.32 million) of the overseas aid budget would be put into a five-year fund designed to tackle the issue in countries, like Nigeria, which

are the source of proven human trafficking routes into Britain. May also said she would set up a taskforce that would hold regular meetings "to coordinate and drive further progress in the battle against this cruel exploitation".

The Modern Slavery Act, seen as a milestone in the international fight against slavery, requires businesses to disclose what action they have taken to ensure their supply chains are free of slave labour. It also introduced tougher criminal sanctions for perpetrators and

more victim protection. A year after it was introduced, a review found a 289 slavery offences had been prosecuted in 2015, up from 253 in 2014, while the number of referrals to the national support system for victims had risen to 3,266 from 2,340.

The review's author, barrister Caroline Haughey, welcomed the impact of the new laws, but said more needed to be done to make sure they were being applied consistently across the country. —Reuters



YEREVAN, ARMENIA: Anti-government protesters, supporters of the armed group who have been held inside a police station, shout as they march through a street on Saturday. —AP

ARMENIA: 2 MORE GUNMEN SURRENDER, 1 MORE SHOT BY POLICE

YEREVAN: Two more gunmen barricaded inside a police compound in Armenia's capital surrendered Sunday and one more was shot and wounded by security forces who are trying to end the two-week standoff, police said.

Of the 31 armed members of a radical opposition group who seized the Yerevan police compound on July 17, about 20 remained inside yesterday. Most of the wounded have been taken to hospitals for treatment and placed in custody. The gunmen are demanding freedom for the leader of the group, who was arrested in June. The opposition group has sharply criticized the government of the former Soviet republic and called for people to take to the streets to force the president and the prime minister to step down.

Armenia's security service had given the gunmen until 5 p.m. on Saturday to surrender and said otherwise its forces reserved the right to open fire without warning. The sounds of gunfire and explosions were heard yesterday morning from the area around the police compound.

The standoff has dragged on in part because the government has wanted to avoid stoking further social unrest. Several thousand people have joined nightly rallies to support the gunmen, occasionally clashing with police.

On Saturday night, the demonstrators marched down Baghramyan Avenue toward the main government buildings and the presidential residence, but were stopped by riot police, who strung coils of barbed wire across the road. The demonstrators blocked traffic for about two hours, but dispersed peacefully early Sunday.

The gunmen killed one officer and wounded several others in their initial attack. Police accused the opposition gunmen of killing a second officer on Saturday as he sat in a vehicle away from the compound - but this was denied Sunday by a leading member of the armed group inside.

The gunmen had held four police officers hostage for a week before releasing them unharmed. They later seized four members of an ambulance crew, but the last two were allowed to leave on Saturday. —AP

MUSLIMS GO TO MASS ACROSS FRANCE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY

GRUESOME KILLING OF FRENCH PRIEST MOURNED

ROUEN, France: In a gesture of solidarity following the gruesome killing of a French priest, Muslims yesterday attended Catholic Mass in churches and cathedrals across France and Italy.

A few dozen Muslims gathered at the towering Gothic cathedral in Rouen, near Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray where the 85-year-old Rev. Jacques Hamel had his throat slit by two teenage Muslim fanatics on Tuesday. "We are very moved by the presence of our Muslim friends and I believe it is a courageous act that they did by coming to us," Dominique Lebrun, the archbishop of Rouen, said after the service.

Some of the Muslims sat in the front row, across from the altar. Among the parishioners was one of the nuns who was briefly taken hostage at Hamel's church when he was killed. She joined her fellow Catholics in turning to shake hands or embrace the Muslim churchgoers after the service. Outside the church, a group of Muslims were applauded when they unfurled a banner: "Love for all. Hate for none." Churchgoer Jacqueline Prevot said the attendance of Muslims was "a magnificent gesture." "Look at this whole Muslim community that attended Mass," she said. "I find this very heartwarming. I am confident. I say to myself that this assassination won't be lost, that it will maybe relaunch us better than politics can do. Maybe we will react in a better way." Many of the Muslims who attended the service in Rouen - including those with the banner - were Ahmadiyya Muslims, a minority sect that differs from mainstream Islam in that it doesn't regard Muhammad as the final prophet.

Similar interfaith gatherings were repeated elsewhere in France, as well as in neighboring Italy.

Muslims want to live in peace

At Paris' iconic Notre Dame cathedral, Dalil Boubakeur, the rector of the Mosque of Paris, said repeatedly that Muslims want to live in peace. "The situation is serious," Boubakeur told BFMTV. "Time has come to come together so as not to be divided." In Italy, the secretary general of the country's Islamic Confederation, Abdullah Cozzolino, spoke from the altar in the Treasure of St. Gennaro chapel next to Naples' Duomo cathedral. Three imams also attended Mass at the St. Maria Church in Rome's Trastevere neighborhood, donning their traditional dress as they entered the sanctuary and sat down in the front row.

Mohammed ben Mohammed, a member of the Union of Islamic Communities in Italy, said he called on the faithful in his sermon Friday "to report anyone who may be intent on damaging society. I am sure that there are those among the faithful who are ready to speak up."

Ahmed El Balzai, the imam of the Vobarno mosque in the Lombard province of Brescia, said he did not fear repercussions for speaking out. "I am not afraid. ... These people are tainting our religion and it is terrible to know that many people consider all Muslim terrorists. That is not the case," El Balzai said. "Religion is one thing. Another is the behavior of Muslims who don't represent us." Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni thanked Italian Muslims for their participation, saying they "are showing their communities the way of courage against fundamentalism."

Supervision of mosques

Like in France, Italy is increasing its supervision of mosques. Interior Minister Angelino Alfano told the Senate this week that authorities were scrutinizing mosque financing and working with the Islamic community to ensure that imams study in Italy, preach in Italian and



ITALY: Muslims attend a Mass in Milan's Santa Maria in Caravaggio church yesterday. —AP



ITALY: Muslims attend a Mass in Rome's Saint Mary in Trastevere church yesterday. —AP

are aware of Italy's legal structuring. The Paris prosecutor's office, meanwhile, said it has requested that a cousin of one of the two 19-year-olds who slit the priest's throat be charged with participating in "a terrorist association with the aim of harming others." In a statement, it said it

appeared a 30-year-old Frenchman it identified as Farid K. "knew very well, if not of the exact place or time, of his cousin's impending plans for violence." The office added that a Syrian refugee detained in the wake of the attack was released Saturday. —AP



MUNICH, GERMANY: In this July 23, 2016 file picture police stand at the crime scene, where a shooting took place in front of a fast food restaurant leaving nine people dead the day before. —AP

GERMAN PRESIDENT, MERKEL MOURN VICTIMS OF MUNICH SHOOTING

BERLIN: Munich is paying tribute to the victims of the July 22 shooting in which nine people were killed with a church service attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Joachim Gauck.

The nondenominational service at the Frauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, was the first of two memorial events on Sunday. Gauck was speaking later at an event in Bavaria's state parliament.

An 18-year-old German-Iranian man

killed nine people and wounded over 30 others at a McDonald's restaurant and shopping mall in the city. He then killed himself.

Officials have said the gunman was a withdrawn loner obsessed with playing "killer" video games who had been treated for depression and psychiatric problems.

The rampage came between two other attacks in Germany claimed by the Islamic State group. —AP

TENSIONS AS TENS OF THOUSANDS RALLY FOR ERDOGAN IN GERMANY

COLOGNE: Tens of thousands of supporters of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rallied in the German city of Cologne yesterday as tensions over Turkey's failed coup put authorities on edge. Waving the Turkish flag and chanting "Turkey," the demonstrators turned the rally site next to the River Rhine into a sea of red as they began the demonstration by singing the Turkish and German national anthems.

Police put the turnout at around 40,000 by 1500 GMT. "We are here because our compatriots in Germany are standing up for democracy and against the attempted military coup in Turkey," said Turkey's sports minister Akif Gagatay Kilic at the rally, Tagesspiegel daily reported. "The message to be sent from the event is that in Turkey, all parties and NGOs want to stand together against the coup and to defend democracy," added the minister, who was born in Germany.

Since the attempted July 15 power grab, Erdogan's government has launched a crackdown, detaining almost 19,000 people and sparking international concern. Ratcheting up its clampdown on the military, Ankara yesterday dismissed nearly 1,400 military personnel, including a top aide to Erdogan, and confirmed it would close military schools and academies.

Erdogan-who says a group within the military acted on the orders of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen-also said he will bring the country's spy agency and military chief of staff directly under his control. The drama has spilled over into Germany, home to three million ethnic Turks the biggest Turkish diaspora in the world.

The Cologne rally was staged by groups including the pro-Erdogan Union of European-Turkish Democrats (UETD). Hours before the event Germany's constitutional court banned an appli-

cation to show live speeches from Turkey by politicians including Erdogan, amid fears they could work the crowd up further. The decision sparked anger in Turkey, with presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin calling the ban unacceptable and a "violation of the freedom of expression and the right to free assembly." "We are curious about the real reason why the German authorities and the constitutional court banned President Erdogan's message and hope that the German authorities will provide a satisfactory explanation."

'Don't bring Turkey tensions here'

Meanwhile, skirmishes broke out at several smaller counter-demonstrations, with police moving in to separate around 80 right-wing nationalist Turks and 100 Kurds. Some 250 far-right extremists, including many hooligans, had also come together before being dispersed by police. In a bid to head-off any potential violence between

the different camps, 2,700 officers-including several Turkish speakers-have been deployed to keep the peace, while eight water cannon were also standing by on the streets. Cologne's police chief Juergen Mathies warned: "One thing I want to make clear is that we will intervene against any kind of violence quickly, decisively and forcefully." The tension comes at a time when relations between Germany and Turkey are already strained over the German parliament's decision to brand as genocide the World War I-era Armenian massacre by Ottoman forces.

German politicians led by Chancellor Angela Merkel have issued strongly-worded statements against Erdogan's crackdown following the failed putsch. The headline response "flouts the rule of law," Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert has said, also blasting "revolting scenes of caprice and revenge" in the wake of the failed coup. —AFP



COLOGNE, GERMANY: Supporters of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attend a rally yesterday, as tensions over Turkey's failed coup put authorities on edge. —AFP

THOUSANDS PROTEST ATTACK ON LOW-CASTE INDIANS

AHMEDABAD, INDIA: Thousands of low-caste Dalits formally known as "untouchables" protested in western India yesterday against an attack on their members by cow protection vigilantes. Police surrounded the protesters in Ahmedabad, the main city in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat, to prevent any violence, as anger among Dalits mounts over the attack.

Protest organiser Jignesh Mevani said Dalit youths were trying to kill themselves to protest attacks committed against their caste, which lies at the bottom of India's complex and entrenched social hierarchy system. "Neither the BJP nor Congress will come to our help," Mevani said of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and main opposition party. "Only our united strength will help us fight the age-old oppression," the Dalit activist told the crowd which police put at 5,000-strong.

Violent protests erupted this month after video footage emerged of an attack on four Dalit villagers who were taking a dead cow to be skinned. Cows are considered sacred by Hindus and killing them is banned in Gujarat, but the villagers said

the animal had died of natural causes. Dalits are commonly tasked with removing the corpses of dead cows from the streets of India, where the animals often roam freely. Dalit leaders told the rally a 24-year-old man who had drunk poison to protest against the attack died of his injuries in hospital yesterday.

A senior hospital official in Ahmedabad confirmed the death to AFP. Mevani said such suicides were signs of deep despair among low-caste Indians after years of discrimination and violence by those from higher castes who often went unpunished.

"This is the failure of the Gujarat development model wherein youths have to consume poison to demand their rights," Mevani said. The video of the attack showed the four half-naked men tied to a car as the activists took turns to thrash them with belts and batons at a crowded marketplace. Two more Dalits were beaten up after they tried to save the other four. Attacks by vigilante groups on cow traders and smugglers have increased since Hindu nationalist premier Modi won power in 2014. —AFP

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ALLEGE GANG-RAPE IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: A mother and her teenage daughter were allegedly gang-raped in a field after being dragged from their car outside New Delhi, police said yesterday, India's latest brutal sexual attack.

A gang of robbers allegedly stopped the family's car along a busy highway early on Saturday, said additional director general of police Daljeet Chaudhary. The mother has told officers that she and her 14-year-old daughter were pulled from the vehicle and raped by six men. The family's four male members have said they were tied up with ropes and their belongings stolen while the attack took place, Chaudhary told AFP.

Police detained 16 people yesterday and were still searching for the main suspect in the attack, which took place in Uttar Pradesh state, about 65 kilometers south of

the capital. "The main suspect has been identified. We are trying to arrest him as soon as possible and send him to jail under stringent sections of the law," Chaudhary said.

India toughened punishments for rapists following the fatal gang rape of a student in Delhi in 2012 that shone a global spotlight on frightening levels of violence against women in the country. But rape and sexual assault occur regularly, with attacks hitting the headlines on an almost daily basis.

The most recent official figures show 36,735 rapes were reported across the country in 2014. But activists say the true number is likely much higher as many women do not speak out because of the social stigma attached to sexual crimes. —AFP

FLOODS, LIGHTNING KILL AROUND 90 PEOPLE IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: Floods and lightning triggered by the ongoing monsoon rains in different states across India have killed around 90 people and displaced millions in the last two days, according to various local media outlets.

The North Eastern states of Assam reported 29 deaths while 26 others were killed in the northern state of Bihar in the last two days due to the flooding and landslides caused by incessant rains. In the Eastern state of Odisha, at least 30 people were killed and 40 others were injured in lightning which shook different parts of the state.

In the North Eastern state of Meghalaya, another three people were killed and two others are reported missing in the floods

which inundated a number of districts as water level at both the Brahmaputra and Jirjiram rivers have reportedly reached danger level.

After a visit to the flood hit areas in Assam on Saturday, Home Minister of India Rajnath Singh said around three million people are affected in 28 districts of Assam as Darrang, Goalpara and Bongaigaon districts are considered most affected in the state. In Bihar, its capital Patna, districts of Supaul, Purnia, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran and Kishanganj are considered most affected. Bhadrak district is worst hit in Odisha as it reported eight deaths due to lightning followed by Bhadrak, Balasore, Khurda and Mayurbhanj, according to local police. —KUNA



INDIA: In this photograph taken on Friday, an Indian Bodo tribal woman crosses flood waters along a bamboo bridge in the flood affected Bordiya Kacharigoan village in Morigaon district, some 70 kms from Guwahati, in the northeastern state of Assam. —AFP



BALOLE, BURKINA FASO: This photo taken on July 18, 2016 shows the local slaughterhouse in the village of Balole, where dozens of donkeys' carcasses putrefy as a result of the booming trade with Asia on donkey's meat and skin. —AFP

WHERE HAVE ALL THE DONKEYS GONE? BURKINA FASO'S EXPORT DILEMMA

FLIPSIDE OF BURKINA'S BOOMING TRADE WITH ASIA

OUAGADOUGOU: In the small Burkina Faso village of Balole, where farmers struggle to grow tomatoes, cabbages and aubergines, angry youngsters armed with batons and machetes are barring entry to the slaughterhouse.

A sickening stench from dozens of rotting donkey carcasses hangs in the air. This is the flipside of Burkina's booming trade with Asia in donkey meat and donkey hides.

Fed up with the foul smell and pollution blamed on the slaughter, dozens of villagers earlier this month ransacked the abattoir and have blocked its entrance ever since. Eating donkey meat is nothing new in parts of the west African country, where some believe the flesh has medicinal virtues and can even cure measles. But the export of donkey meat and hides, notably to China and Vietnam, has flourished beyond measure in recent years, triggering some controversy.

"More than 45,000 donkeys have been slaughtered in less than six months" out of an estimated total of 1.5 million, says government spokesman Remi Fulgance Dandjinou. "The subject has come up twice in cabinet meetings and the ministry of animal resources has been told to find ways of regulating the slaughter."

Burkina's customs service, quoted by the Sidwaya daily paper, said 19 tons of donkey

hides had been flown to Hong Kong alone between October 2015 and January 2016. Rising demand for hides has driven prices up drastically, from a mere 2,000 CFA francs (three Euros) apiece to between 30,000 and 50,000 CFA francs (40 to 76 Euros). "A donkey that cost 50,000 CFA francs a couple of years ago now sells for between 70,000 and 90,000," says Issouf Kombassere, a donkey butcher in Saaba, a rural area in the centre of the country.

Some fear the roaring trade could see donkeys disappear altogether in Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest nations where the beasts are used for transport. Females take a year to bear their young and need two years between each birth.

'No fresh water left'

In Balole, which is around 25 kilometers west of the capital Ouagadougou, villagers took matters into their own hands when their vegetables wilted in the soil due to toxic runoff from the plant. As part of their protests, they let hundreds of animals loose. "More than 400 now are in the bush. Some that were sick or very hungry are dying and infecting the village even more," said Karim Simpore, the villager who says he led the July 11 raid. The abattoir, built in 2011, was rented out to a French businessman and his Chinese

partners by the local owner. The managers of the slaughterhouse declined to comment on developments. Their company, Best Trade Center, exported exclusively to Asia, with hides mainly for China and meat going to Vietnam, the authorities and several witnesses told AFP. "Four trucks full of donkeys would arrive every day, from Burkina, Mali and even Mauritania," Simpore said. "They'd slaughter 150 to 200 donkeys a day."

During an inspection more than 85 donkey corpses were found on the premises "decomposing with worms coming out," water and forestry official Christophe Bazie told AFP. He said the firm was fined one million CFA francs (15,000 Euros) for abandoning harmful waste, but that fines could be 10 times higher or even be jail terms. Local farmer Simpore said that when the business began, there seemed to be no problems. "But once the first rains fell, water washed the blood and the offal from the abattoir to the wells and streams, so there was no fresh water left to drink."

"Now the vegetable patches are polluted... tomato plants, cabbages, aubergines... they're all dying," said Simpore, surrounded by the group of baton-wielding youngsters. "There'll never be a single donkey slaughtered here ever again," said one of the protesters, Ali Ouedraogo. —AFP

US URGES UN TO BACK AFRICAN FORCE FOR SOUTH SUDAN

UNITED NATIONS: The United States urged the UN Security Council on Friday to back a regional force for South Sudan to shore up UN peacekeepers unable to cope with the violence.

The council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the UN mission in South Sudan, known as UNMISS, until August 12 to allow time to negotiate another measure authorizing the new force. The proposed resolution is also expected to slap an arms embargo on South Sudan and targeted sanctions on those seen as responsible for the violence.

US Ambassador Samantha Power said the proposal by the African regional IGAD bloc to send an intervention brigade to Juba should be supported by the council. "We all need to support them," said Power. "The United States believes the region's proposal offers a basis to re-establish a secure environment in Juba, which is critical for the parties to make progress on implementing the peace agreement" and allowing aid deliveries, she said. Juba was rocked by several days of heavy fighting in early July between government forces and those loyal to rebel chief Riek Machar, the latest upsurge in the two and half year war. Nearly 300 people died in the violence and two Chinese peacekeepers were killed in an attack on a UN base, where thousands of civilians rushed for safety. —AFP

CHINA DONATES 31 ARMORED VEHICLES TO BOLIVIA

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA: Bolivia on Saturday took ownership of a fleet of armored vehicles from China worth \$7.7 million as part of a military cooperation deal. China's Ambassador to Bolivia Wu Yuanshan led a ceremony at which the 27 armored combat vehicles and four riot response vehicles were delivered in La Paz. The military cooperation also includes training and maintenance instruction.

Under the 2015 deal, China is donating \$30 million in military aid to the South American nation. —AFP

DEATH TOLL NOW 27 IN FLASH FLOOD BUS INCIDENT IN PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: A Pakistani official says the death toll from a bus that was swept away by flash floods has risen to 27.

Government official Iqbal Khan said yesterday that the bodies of 18 women, six children and three men have been handed over to relatives in the village of Sara Shega in the Khyber tribal region. He says three children were rescued and are

being treated for severe injuries.

Flash floods triggered by monsoon rains swept away the bus carrying a wedding party Saturday. Flash floods commonly occur during South Asia's summer monsoon season, which ends in September. The Disaster Management Authority says 82 people have been killed across Pakistan since the monsoon rains started in July. —AP



PAKISTAN: A Pakistani Frontier Constable (FC) stands next to a pickup van which was damaged by flood water whilst carrying a groom's party in Bazar Zakha Khel in a remote village in Khyber, one of Pakistan's seven tribal districts bordering Afghanistan on Saturday. At least 26 people, mostly children, were killed when a vehicle carrying wedding guests was washed off a mountainous road by floods and flung into a gorge, officials said. —AFP

'AGGRESSIVE' SWAN KILLED, NEW PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

HARTFORD: Months after environmental officials killed a swan they determined to be aggressive, Connecticut is taking steps to better inform the public about nesting sites so people can avoid coming in contact with the birds.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will use social media to make the public aware of such locations, especially during springtime when these mute swans - named because they are less vocal than regular swans - typically defend their nests. New protocols also spell out the agency's policy for killing the birds when they're ill, lame or considered a public threat, as well as "adding" their eggs - essentially causing a fertilized egg to stop developing. These new operating procedures, which establish criteria for determining when a mute swan poses a risk to the public, were partly prompted by the controversy surrounding the April 20 killing

of a male swan in Killingly. The bird and its mate were known for years by residents who live near Five Mile Pond, in a rural part of northeastern Connecticut.

After the swan's death, residents started an online petition, supported by state Rep. Christine Rosati Randall, a Killingly Democrat. The petition demanded DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee "investigate this horrible act, release employees involved, review necessity of euthanizing," reintroduce swans to the pond and require postings where swans and other waterfowl nest. "DEEP's actions upset many people who considered the swan a long-time resident of Five Mile Pond and who have had fond memories growing up with the swan," said Rosati Randall.

Response guidelines

While the agency clarified its "response guidelines" for addressing mute swans - similar to those for han-

dling bears and moose - Rick Jacobson, director of the group's wildlife division, contends the decision to euthanize the swan was sound. He said the bird was reported to the agency by a couple kayaking on the pond as acting aggressively, coming toward them, flapping its wings and hissing. The couple also reported how the swan that day approached two younger people in a canoe, which ultimately capsized, spilling the canoeists.

Some local fishermen on shore also said the bird acting aggressively, Jacobson said. There were no reported injuries. Priscilla Feral, president of Friends of Animals, a national animal rights advocacy group based in Connecticut, said that's not enough reason to kill the bird.

"I don't think the swan deserves to die because you've encroached on their nest," said Feral, who said she's fought for

decades against the state's efforts to designate the mute swan population as a public nuisance and actively manage the population. "I want every feather on their bodies protected," she said.

Jacobson acknowledged the swan in Killingly was likely trying to protect its nest. However, given the coldness of the water and the potential exposure risks to the people, he said the bird posed an imminent public safety threat.

The same guidelines also required the agency's staff to addle the eggs. Mute swans, known for their white feathers and long, graceful necks, are considered by the agency to be an invasive species. According to the guidelines, it's the agency's policy to "control the invasive mute swan population to mitigate the ecological harm to native flora and fauna and to provide for public health and safety." Jacobson said swans are very territorial, pushing out native geese, ducks

and marsh birds while causing ecological damage by pulling up eel grass and other aquatic vegetation that other species rely upon.

John Granby, a waterfowl biologist and wildlife counselor to the CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, said he applauds DEEP's decision to use social media, saying Connecticut is among the "most enlightened states" when it comes to handling mute swans. Granby, who contends mute swans are not an invasive species, said he was a little surprised to learn about the Killingly incident given the state's reputation. While the decision to kill the bird was probably made in the "heat of the moment," he said there are usually non-lethal solutions to handling a mute swan issue. "If there is a problem where something really looks like it needs to be done," he said, "they can really just move the swans." —AP

CHINA CONFIRMS PROBING JAPANESE FOR 'ENDANGERING SECURITY'

BEIJING: Beijing has confirmed it is investigating a Japanese suspected of "endangering China's national security", following Japanese reports that he had been detained, the latest irritant in relations between the two nations.

The foreign ministry gave the confirmation in a statement quoted by China's

Global Times newspaper late Saturday, but did not specifically state that he had been detained. The claim of endangering security is often used in cases of suspected espionage. The ministry said the Japanese embassy had been informed of the case. There have been multiple reports in the Japanese press since mid-

July about the man's disappearance. The Nikkei Business Daily identified him as the head of an organization working to improve ties between the two nations.

He was due to spend four days in Beijing for work but did not return home and has not been answering his mobile phone, Japan's Kyodo news agency said

Saturday, quoting Japanese government and other sources.

The Japanese government's top spokesman Yoshihide Suga denied his country was involved in spying "against any nation", Kyodo added. Chinese authorities earlier this year arrested four Japanese on suspicion of spying.

The two countries have been taking steps for more than a year to improve relations that remain plagued by tensions over the legacy of World War II as well as a maritime dispute. Ties, however, remain shaky and Chinese allegations of espionage by Japanese have become a new source of friction. —AFP

TOKYO ELECTS 1ST FEMALE GOVERNOR TO LEAD CITY INTO OLYMPICS

PROMISES CLEAN POLITICS

TOKYO: Tokyo yesterday elected its first female governor to lead the city as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympics, as voters turned to a leader promising clean politics after two predecessors resigned over money scandals.

Yuriko Koike was announced the winner by Japanese media as soon as voting ended, based on her definitive lead in exit polls. She will take charge of a sprawling capital with a population of more than 13 million and an annual budget bigger than Sweden's. "I am pushing for a Tokyo where people's lives will be better, and everyone can shine - men and women, children and adults, the elderly and the disabled," Koike said, appearing at her campaign office, bowing deeply and waving to cheering supporters.

Background

Koike, 64, had previously served as defense minister, Japan's first woman in that post. But she ran in the Tokyo election without the official backing of the ruling pro-US, pro-business Liberal Democratic Party. During her campaign, she wore green to symbolize her freshness, and asked her supporters to also wear the color and wave green fans and banners.

One of Koike's first jobs will be going to the Rio de Janeiro Olympics as the representative of the city that's hosting the next games. Yoichi Masuzoe, the former governor, resigned in June after acknowledging exorbitant, though not illegal, spending of taxpayers' money, including for hotel suites and expensive artwork. The gover-

nor before him also resigned in disgrace.

Planning the 2020 games

Planning for the 2020 Tokyo games has run into problems, including ballooning costs, the scrapping of the initial main stadium design and delays in construction. The Tokyo Olympics logo had to be redesigned after the initial choice was reportedly plagiarized.

The games are a centerpiece for Japan's revival hopes as the world's third-largest economy strives to keep growth going, largely based on monetary policies after more than a decade of stagnation.

Tokyo makes up a fifth of Japan's gross domestic product, and is home to about half of the nation's major companies. The city is hoping to showcase Japan's prized technology, including self-driving vehicles, during the games.

The other major candidates for governor were journalist Shuntaro Torigoe, the opposition candidate, and former rural governor Hiroya Masuda. Masuda, a former ministry bureaucrat, was chosen the official ruling party candidate.

Torigoe, a cancer survivor who is married, was embroiled in a sex scandal, reported in a popular tabloid magazine during the campaign period. He denies the allegations. Public broadcaster NHK reported that Koike had won over both independents and ruling party supporters. Official results are expected by Monday.

After her win was announced, Koike promised that she would investigate what had happened regarding Masuzoe's exorbitant spending, and that she would decide what needs to be done to prevent a recurrence.

She also said she would work to fix the long-time problem over the lack of child-care facilities to help women pursue equal employment opportunities. She acknowledged that her being a woman was one way voters were looking for change. "I promise a city hall that has never been seen before," Koike said. —AP



TOKYO: Former defense minister Yuriko Koike, center, bows and her supporters celebrate during her gubernatorial election victory at her election office yesterday. —AP



MALAYSIA: A Malaysian army personnel demonstrates combat skills in a war situation during the Warriors' Day Celebration in Putrajaya, outside Kuala Lumpur on July 31, 2016. —AFP

CHINA SAYS PROTECTED RIGHTS OF JAILED TIBETAN MONK WHO DIED

BEIJING: China protected the rights of a Tibetan monk who died in prison, the country's foreign ministry said, responding to claims by the monk's niece that he was tortured. Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, 65, had been serving a life sentence for "crimes of terror and incitement of separatism" when his family was told on July 12, 2015, that he had died of a heart attack in prison in China's southwestern city of Chengdu.

His 26-year-old niece fled to India, where she has questioned the official version of events and is appealing for justice for her uncle. "China is a country ruled by law, during Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's sentence his legal rights were protected

according to relevant laws," the foreign ministry said in a statement sent to Reuters late on Saturday.

The foreign ministry repeated that he died suddenly of heart related problems and that hospital rescue efforts were ineffective. Tenzin Delek was a senior supporter of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet who fled to India after a failed uprising in 1959. China views him as a dangerous separatist.

Activists say China has violently tried to suppress religious freedom in Tibet, criticism that Beijing rejects, saying its rule ended serfdom and brought economic development to a backward region. —Reuters

MORE THAN 120 MIGRANT BODIES WASHED UP IN SABRATHA IN JULY

TRIPOLI: More than 120 bodies of migrants who died trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe have washed up around Sabratha in western Libya this month, the city's mayor said yesterday.

Hussein Thwadi said bodies had washed up on a daily basis, with 53 found on a single day last week. Libya is a common departure point for migrants seeking to travel to Europe by boat, many of them fleeing violence, repression or poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

Political turmoil and armed conflict in Libya have given smugglers the space to work with impunity,

running trafficking networks that bring migrants across the Sahara desert to the coast. Of more than 3,000 migrants known to have died trying to cross the Mediterranean this year, about three out of four perished trying to reach Italy from North Africa, mainly Libya, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Nearly 90,000 migrants had crossed the central Mediterranean to Italy as of this week, the IOM said, a 14 percent increase on the previous year.

As the number of attempted crossings from Libya picked up in

the spring with the arrival of calmer weather, many of the boats have been leaving from the coastline near Sabratha.

"The whole coast of Sabratha is open," Thwadi told Reuters by phone. "There are patrols but they do not have enough capacity to tackle this crisis." "Illegal migration existed before, but with insecurity and the lack of state authorities the crisis has become worse and worse."

Thwadi said most of the migrants whose bodies washed up this month were from sub-Saharan African states, though there were

also 23 Tunisians. Red Crescent volunteers and local officials have been removing them for burial in a cemetery for unidentified bodies in Sabratha, he said.

A UN-backed government that has been trying to establish itself in Tripoli since March says tackling migration is among its priorities. But the government is struggling to manage complex security and economic challenges, and still faces political opposition on the ground.

Thwadi said he had raised the issue with the new government's leadership but had not yet received any concrete response. —Reuters



JOHOR BAHRU, JOHOR, MALAYSIA: This picture taken on April 19, 2016 shows the scale model of development at Forest-City on one of the man-made islands on the Malaysian side of the Straits of Johor. —AFP

RECLAIMED CITY OFF SINGAPORE TRIGGERS ECOLOGY FEARS

JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA: A planned multi-billion-dollar new city near Singapore is attracting interest from investors with promises of luxury living but there are questions over its future owing to China's economic woes and warnings of environmental catastrophe.

Forest City, a \$42 billion futuristic "eco-city" of high-rises and waterfront villas, will sit on four man-made islands on the Malaysian side of the Johor Strait just an hour from Singapore. Offering 700,000 residential units as well as shopping malls, international schools, hotels, convention venues and medical facilities on 3,425 acres (1,370 hectares), the city will even have its own immigration centre.

The venture is being developed by Hong Kong-listed real estate giant Country Garden and a firm partly owned by Johor's powerful Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar with an eye on cashed-up Chinese buyers. "It is by far one of the most enthusiastic private land reclamation projects I have heard of around the Southeast Asia region," said Chua Yang Liang, head of research for Southeast Asia at property services and investment group Jones Lang Lasalle.

Officials say they have shifted 500 units in pre-selling already, despite the development not due to be completed until 2035. During a visit by AFP, sales executive Alex Lee said he had sold 10 properties in one sitting with a Chinese businessman, who paid cash. Investors can pay anything from \$200,000 for a two-bedroom unit, up to \$1.6 million for a seaside villa. By comparison, a mass market condominium in Singapore costs around \$740,000 which in Forest City would buy a four-room seaside villa with a function hall, two parking lots and a large garden. But some analysts question the project's long-term sales targets as China's economy struggles to break out of a growth slowdown that has seen expansion fall to 25-year lows, while authorities clamp down on a flight of cash from the country.

'Somewhat ambitious'

At the same time Standard & Poor's said it was "cautious" about Forest City after it downgraded Country Garden's long-term corporate rating in March to "BB" from

"BB+", citing risks from its aggressive land acquisitions. It called sales targets "somewhat ambitious given this is a new large-scale project and targets primarily mainland (Chinese) overseas buyers". And even if the project is a success, campaigners say it could prove to be a disaster for the local ecology and fishermen who complain of dwindling catches. While its website describes it as a "livable eco-city", environmentalists say the dumping of sand to build the new city an estimated 162 million cubic meters (5.7 billion cubic feet) — could alter tides and destroy marine life.

"It has the potential to change the ecology of the whole area in profound ways," Greenpeace scientist Paul Johnston told AFP. "It might change the things that are living there, it might change the vegetation that can grow there."

Local activists say at most risk of destruction is Malaysia's largest intertidal seagrass meadow on Merambong shoal off Johor. The reclamation has also ruffled feathers in Singapore, with the city-state's environment ministry saying it is "carefully" studying an impact assessment report provided by Malaysia and is seeking further clarifications.

Confident

An environmental study commissioned by the Forest City joint venture firm, Country Garden Pacificview Sdn Bhd, acknowledged a "permanent loss of traditional fishing ground" and damage to seagrass meadows and mangroves due to the development. But it added that this would be balanced by the project's economic benefits, including the creation of an estimated 62,200 jobs. Country Garden Pacificview executive director Mohamad Othman Yusof said developers were strictly following guidelines laid down by the Malaysian government to minimize the environmental impact. He said at least 20 simulation studies were carried out before the reclamation was approved, while the project's original size of 5,000 acres was cut by 30 percent and "double silt curtains" installed to prevent silt and sediment from spreading and polluting the waterway. "No damage, no pollution has been exported to Singapore," Othman said. —AFP

TRUMP BACKERS CLAIM SHIFT IN IMMIGRATION RHETORIC

CLEVELAND: As he turns his attention to the general election, Donald Trump is signaling that he is ready to tone down his fiery rhetoric on illegal immigration - at least behind closed doors. At the same time, Republican officials appear eager to push him in a more moderate direction, telling Hispanics that he has abandoned his divisive primary pledge to deport the estimated 11 million people living in the country illegally - even if Trump hasn't said so publicly himself.

"Trump has already said that he will not do massive deportations," Helen Aguirre Ferrer, the Republican National Committee's director of Hispanic communications, told reporters at a Spanish-language briefing at the party's convention two weeks ago. Instead, she said, "he will focus on removing the violent undocumented who have criminal records and live in the country."

Surprise to Trump's legion

It's a statement that may come as a surprise to Trump's legion of loyal followers, many of whom

were first drawn to Trump because of his hard-line views on immigration and border security. Trump has vowed to build a wall along the length of the southern border and use a "deportation force" to track down and deport anyone in the country illegally. "You're going to have a deportation force, and you're going to do it humanely," Trump said in a TV interview last fall. He estimated in a separate interview that the process would take between 18 months to two years. But those who would like to see Trump move in a more inclusive direction say that Trump has indicated that he no longer advocates that plan. As evidence, they point to several vague sentences from an interview Trump gave earlier this summer to Bloomberg News during a whirlwind trip to Scotland to visit his golf courses.

"President Obama has mass deported vast numbers of people - the most ever, and it's never reported. I think people are going to find that I have not only the best policies, but I will have the biggest heart of anybody," Trump told the outlet. Pressed on whether he would issue "mass deportations," Trump

responded: "No, I would not call it mass deportations." "We are going to get rid of a lot of bad dudes who are here," he was quoted as saying. It remains unclear whether Trump was taking rhetorical or ideological issue with the phrase, and Trump has not made similar comments at any point since. Asked how he would manage the deportations at a press conference in Florida Wednesday, Trump said only, "We're going to have a whole policy on that over the next three weeks." This kind of ambiguity is not unusual for Trump, whose vague statements often leave room for numerous, sometimes conflicting interpretations. But for some who are supporting Trump and want to see him moderate, the meaning is clear. "Two or three weeks ago, (Trump) conceded in an interview in Bloomberg in which he said the term 'massive deportation' is not used by him, and it was planted by a journalist," said the head of Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles, Alfonso Aguilar, who recently signed a letter along with several other Latino conservatives endorsing Trump. — AFP

CHINA RAISES ALERT LEVEL AHEAD OF TYPHOON NIDA

BEIJING: China issued an "orange alert" for Typhoon Nida yesterday, predicting the storm would hit the southern province of Guangdong on Tuesday, state news agency Xinhua reported. The National Meteorological Center (NMC) raised the threat level to the second-most severe alert on a four-color scale after issuing a yellow alert earlier in the day.

It warned of strong winds and heavy rain along the coast affecting Guangdong, Fujian and Hainan provinces as well as the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The storm is currently off the coast of the Philippines, and weather reports indicate it will also hit the financial centre of Hong Kong.

Typhoon Nida will be the fourth typhoon this year to hit China, where natural disasters have killed 800 people since June — the largest number of casualties since a similar period in 2011. Nida is expected to pick up speed with winds forecasted to reach 38-45 meters per second by the time it makes landfall, according to the NMC.

Earlier this month, Typhoon Nepartak drove at least 420,000 Chinese from their homes and caused more than 7.1 billion yuan (\$1.07 billion) in losses in Fujian province alone. (\$1 = 6.6371 Chinese yuan renminbi) —Reuters



HANOI, HANO PROVINCE, VIETNAM: This picture demonstrates the damage a typhoon can create where cars and motorcyclists drive past a fallen tree on a street following the passage of typhoon Mirinae which pounded Vietnam on July 28, 2016. —AFP



A warship passes Rio de Janeiro's iconic Ipanema beach as a surfer rides a wave on Saturday, ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

GOVT ACCEPTS UN PLAN, HOUTHIS REJECT IT

Continued from Page 1

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam said on Twitter before the government announcement that the rebels insist on a comprehensive and complete peace agreement, rejecting what he called "half solutions". The rebels angered the government last week by announcing the formation of a 10-member "supreme council" to run Yemen, which Mikhlaqi branded a "new coup".

Under the proposed peace deal, that council would be abolished and all rebel decisions since they occupied Sanaa would be rescinded. A defiant Saleh defended the new council, which he said aimed at "filling the political

void left in the country after the legitimacy of Hadi expired and he fled" to Saudi Arabia. "This council will govern the country as a presidential council and in accordance with the country's constitution and laws," Saleh said.

Hadi's government has used main southern city Aden as a temporary capital since it was recaptured from the Houthis last year. But the authorities have struggled to secure the port city, which has seen a string of bombings and assassinations by the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda. The jihadist rivals have exploited the turmoil to boost their activities in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula country. — AFP

SLAIN GI'S DAD CALLS TRUMP A 'BLACK SOUL'...

Continued from Page 1

"Without saying a thing, all the world, all America, felt my pain," she wrote. "Whoever saw me felt me in their heart." Her son, US Army captain Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004 in a roadside explosion at the gates of a military compound.

Khan, speaking on CNN, accused Trump of lacking the moral compass and empathy needed to be the country's leader. "He is a black soul. And this is totally unfit for the leadership of this beautiful country," Khan said. Trump has courted controversy and sparked outrage during his drive for the US presidency with disparaging remarks against

immigrants, Muslims and women. His call to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the United States has drawn criticism even from leaders of his own party.

But despite his high negatives he has attracted a fervent following among working class white males, and he stands near even with Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in the polls. In an interview with Fox News Sunday, Clinton took aim at Trump's positive view of Russian President Vladimir Putin and accused him of "absolute allegiance" to Moscow's foreign policy objectives. Trump responded defiantly, saying in the ABC interview that he had "no relationship" with Putin, but that "if our country got along with Russia, that would be a great thing". — AFP

KUWAIT TO INVEST KD 4.75BN IN NEW...

Continued from Page 1

social cohesion and youth empowerment, in addition to 40 affiliated projects.

The diversified and sustainable economy axis envisions preparing business environment for the private sector, diversifying the productivity basis, state economic and financial reforms, employing the knowledge economy and overhauling tourism, plus 34 affiliated plans. This broad scheme also includes Al-Zour refinery, construction of which is due to finish by Dec 5, 2019, as well as the clean fuel project, scheduled to be finalized by April 12, 2018.

As to the infrastructure, it includes five major ventures, namely developing transportation, the IT and communication infrastructure and hiking electric power, as well as 32 affiliated projects, Mahdi said, also mentioning in this respect expansion of Kuwait International Airport, due to end on Jan 31, 2022, and Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad bridge by Nov 1, 2018.

As for livelihood enhancement, Mahdi mentioned rapid securing of houses for citizens, employing renewable energies, preserving the air quality, waste management, plus 16 others. One of the key projects within this framework is South Mutlaa housing project, due to finish by

Sept 1, 2019, and treatment of hard waste in Kabd, due on Aug 31, 2017.

Regarding healthcare, this section includes good medical care, minimizing chronic diseases, hiking hospitals' accommodation, plus 22 other plans. He mentioned Sabah Hospital, due on August 2, 2018, new hospitals in Farwaniya, by Dec 26, 2019, and new hospital in Adan, by June 27, 2019.

As to Kuwait's international status, this approach aims at boosting Kuwait's good image abroad, enhancing culture, arts, media and development, plus 13 relevant projects. Mahdi mentioned in this regard media support for development by March 31, 2018, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Islamic Center by March 31, 2020, and Kuwait Center for Publications and Unique Manuscripts by Dec 1, 2020.

On participation of state-owned companies, Mahdi said the new planning law 7/2016 compels these companies to participate in such schemes, adding that the General Secretariat of the Supreme Planning Council has held several meetings with officials of these companies to help them present development projects to boost Kuwait's international competitiveness status. The National Technology Enterprises Company and the Touristic Enterprises Company were the first to come forward and contribute to these ventures. — Agencies



Kyrgyz men fight on horses as they take part in 'Oodarysh' horse fights during a traditional folk festival at Son-Kul lake, 3,016 m above the sea level, some 350 km from Bishkek, on July 29, 2016. The festival marks the 220th anniversary of the national hero Tailak Baatyr. — AFP

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Focus

GUNS AND MEMORY
OF MASS SHOOTING
COLLIDE AT CAMPUS

By Jon Herskovitz

Half a century ago, a sniper perched on a University of Texas tower unleashed a killing spree that left 16 dead, and for the first time since then the school will hold an official memorial for an event that shocked the nation. But overshadowing the anniversary of the Aug 1, 1966 tower shooting is the start of a new law backed by Republican lawmakers to allow more guns in more places at public universities. The lawmakers say the "campus carry" law, which goes into effect Aug 1, could prevent another mass shooting, while many survivors of the university tower shooting half a century ago see it as a chillingly wrong-headed approach that could spark more killing.

The campus carry law allows those over 21 with a concealed handgun permit to take guns into classrooms and several parts of the campus. "Guns do not have a place on campus. A university is a battleground of words and ideas, and not of weapons," said John "Arty" Fox. In 1966, he was a 17-year-old student who crossed one of the killing fields on campus to help carry a pregnant woman shot by sniper Charles Whitman to safety. "The university could be criticized. Obviously, 50 years is too long. But back then, no one knew how to handle situations like this," he said in an interview in late July.

The Texas shooting in which Whitman, a 25-year-old former Marine who brought a cache of weapons to the tower's observation deck about 250 feet (76 m) in the air, was considered one of the seminal events of the era and the first US mass shooting of live, national TV news. Whitman was killed by police after he unleashed 90 minutes of terror by shooting more than 40 people from one of the highest spots in the Texas capital.

Unlike the mass shootings in recent months and years that are followed by vigils, remembrances and counseling, the remnants of the carnage were quickly cleaned up and students soon returned to their business. Fox went home after his act of heroism and did not meet the woman he helped pulled to safety, Claire Wilson James, until a few years ago as part of documentary that was being put together on the shooting. James, then eight months pregnant, survived the attack but lost her baby. Last year, she lobbied unsuccessfully to have Texas lawmakers halt campus carry.

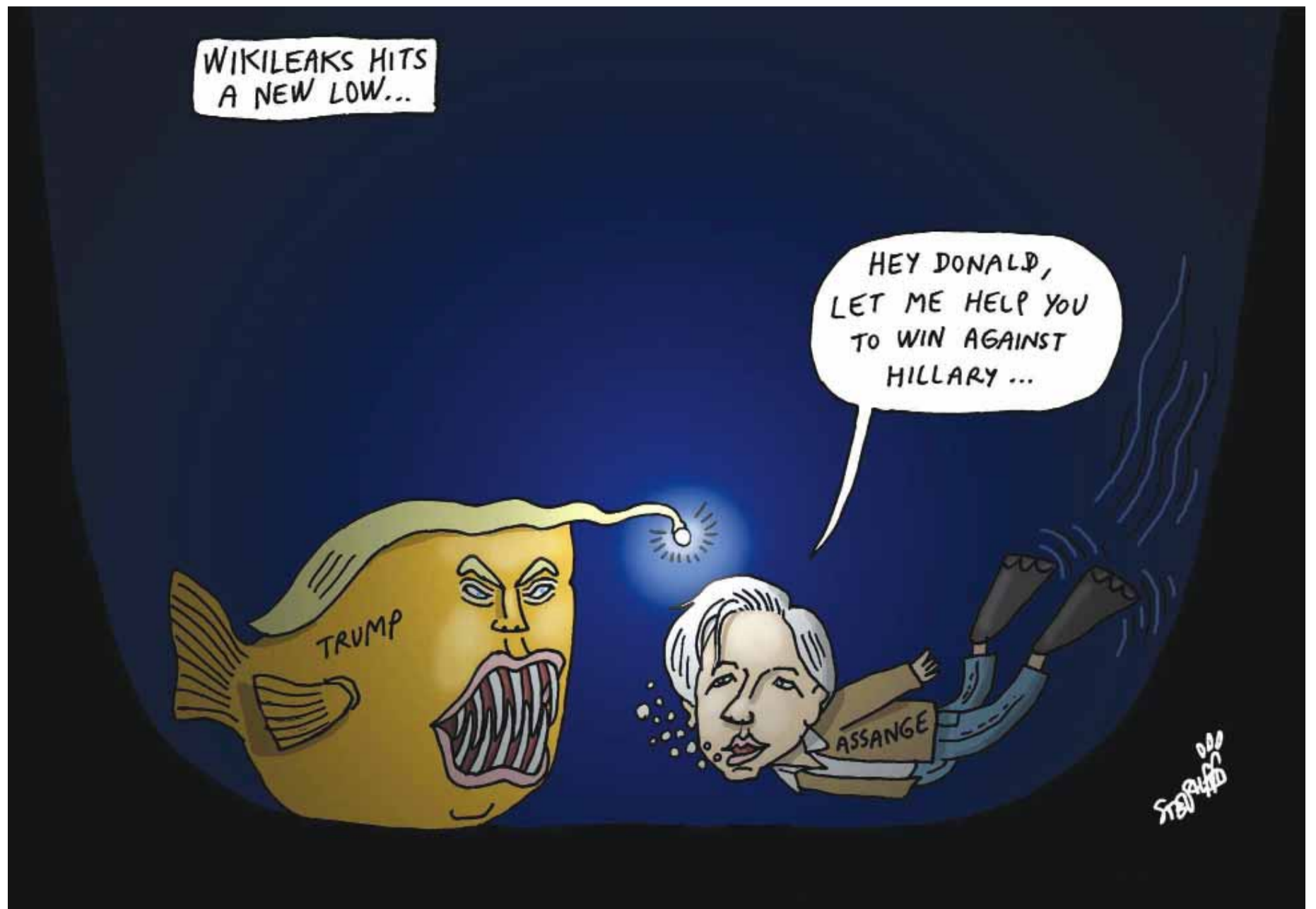
On Monday, the university will unveil a stone monument selected by a committee of the victims that bears the names of those killed when it holds its first official ceremony. It will turn off the tower clock for 24 hours, starting from 11:48 a.m., when the first shots rang out from the perch 50 years ago. The school did not know how to respond in the aftermath of the shooting, with many thinking the best response was to get over it, not talk about it and just carry on.

Survivors found each other in an informal 2014 remembrance and through the making of a documentary called "Tower" on the shooting that came out this year, with many saying in the movie they still feel emotional scars from that day. They formed a group, pressed the school to mark the event ranked by services AP and UPI as the number 2 news event in 1966 behind the Vietnam War.

Gregory Fennes, who became president last year after joining the university's administration in 2008, said the school has tried to keep the anniversary ceremony separate from the start of campus carry. He has spoken to shooting survivors about the memorial. "A lot has changed as a society and for institutions since then. We understand the healing process, and closure," he said in an interview. "One of the lessons is that we do need to deal with the trauma and we need to support the survivors and recognize those who were killed," he said.

Texas follows eight other states that allow people to carry concealed weapons on public post-secondary campuses, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Diana Mendoza, who graduated from the university in 2015 and now works at the school, visited the stone memorial on Thursday ahead of its dedication and said it was about time to have an official ceremony. She is also staunchly opposed to the new campus carry law, which she said is more likely to bring violence back to the school than prevent it. "Ah Texans and their guns. I am Texan born and raised and campus carry is ridiculous," Mendoza said. "This could easily happen again." —Reuters

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URBANIZATION TAKES TOLL ON MAASAI LAND

By Shadrack Kavilu

It's just before sunset, the time of day when Maasai herdsman Josphat Ole Tonkei would have been counting his herd of cows after hours in the grazing fields, a few years ago. Today Tonkei must wait until darkness to perform the check. The routes to grazing fields and water points have been blocked and he has to take a long, alternative route to reach his "Manyatta", or homestead, where he counts his herd. An area that for years provided grazing ground for his cows has been built over with commercial properties and gated communities, leaving him and other herdsman with no choice but to walk long distances in search of pasture and water.

He is not sure how pastoralists' communal grazing land has passed into the hands of private developers. "We don't know who sells our land to private developers. We only realise it has been sold when we see them erecting concrete fences and putting up structures," Tonkei said. Tonkei is among Maasai herdsman reeling from the impact of rapid urbanisation that is encroaching into the plains of Kitengela town, around 30 km (18 miles) south of the capital Nairobi.

Ballooning Urban Development

As in many other East African countries, the rapid growth of urban areas has taken a toll on the ancestral lands of pastoralists, where much of the new development is taking place. Kenya has undergone unprecedented urban growth, which has led to an increased demand for land, further exacerbated by a growing middle class population. At the time of independence, in 1964, about 8.5 percent of Kenyans resided in urban areas, according to United Nations data. This figure had risen to 16.7 per-

cent by 1990 and by 2015, one in four Kenyans lived in urban areas.

The UN projects that by 2030 almost a third of Kenyans will live in urban areas, rising to 43.9 percent by 2050. A push by middle class Kenyans to own property amid soaring land prices has led financial institutions, developers and speculators to target land in satellite towns around Nairobi, experts said. In Kajiado County, where Tonkei lives, land has become a contentious issue as fraudsters have duped thousands of buyers into purchasing Maasai communal land, which is then converted into private land, local people said.

The influx of outsiders and increase in buildings on land that belongs to indigenous communities have caused tension with the Maasai pastoralists, who say urbanisation has led to evictions, forced displacement and increased violence.

Tonkei said land developers conspire with unscrupulous Maasai elites and some politicians to convert communal land into private land, aided by county land registry officials. The land is divided into small portions, with some of it sold on to people to develop residential and commercial properties, and the rest held for the purpose of speculation.

"The conflict caused by urbanisation is not just because of grazing for animals ... the most painful part is taking land through fraud," said Letuati Nackson Ole Umash, chairman of Lerelo Emaa, a community-based organisation that advocates for the rights of Maasai. Current models of urbanisation pay no attention to human rights, resulting in gross inequalities, social exclusion and violence, said Umash, adding that zoning should be compulsory to ensure fields are reserved for grazing. "If land developers do not factor in human rights, our way

of life will completely change as we may be forced to turn to crop and other farming - a livelihood that will not be sustainable for livestock farmers," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Lack of National Policy

According to Joan Kagwanja, chief at the Land Policy Initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), Kenya has been operating without a national policy framework for urban development. Land governance issues remain complex despite planning and local government laws that guide urban planning and management in Kenya, she said. "These (laws) did not provide the appropriate framework and guidelines to manage Kenya's rapid urbanisation in a manner that harnessed opportunities and managed the risks and challenges of cities and towns," she said.

"What we need ... is to maximise benefits for the Maasai community while mitigating the risks such as loss of their culture, rights, and livelihoods and minimizing the negative or unintended consequences of urbanisation," she said. Potential risks for communities in semi-urban and rural areas near cities were often disregarded when weighing the pros and cons of urbanisation, resulting in poorly conceived plans, she added.

But there was some progress on land governance, she said, citing the proposed National Urban Development Policy (NUDP) as an example for a more holistic approach to planning that includes participation of local communities. The government also took action in April when Cabinet Secretary for Land Jacob Kaimenyi dissolved land control boards - which he said had been compromised by land developers - in a bid to curb irregular land allocations and fraudulent sales. — Reuters

ATTACKS TAKE TOLL ON FRENCH TOURISM

By Anne-Sophie Morel and Katia Dolmadjian

France's already-battered tourism industry took a further hit in late July during what should have been the height of the season as foreign visitors stayed away after 84 people were killed in Nice on Bastille Day. In the week following the July 14 attack on the Riviera city's Promenade des Anglais boulevard, arrivals by air slumped 8.8 percent compared to the same period in 2015, according to data from ForwardKeys which daily sifts more than 14 million air travel transactions.

The sector has been struggling for months, not least since the Nov 13 attacks in and around Paris which claimed 130 lives. Between January and July 10 arrivals to France by air were down 5.8 percent, and down 11 percent to Paris. Flight reservations to France following the Nice attack were down 20 percent. France is the world's top tourist destination and the tourism sector accounts for around nine percent of GDP. France had hoped the Euro 2016 football championships would give tourism a shot in the arm but has been disappointed.

Euro 2016 Shine Tarnished

"Nice wiped out the Euro football effect, which went off well in security terms and polished France's image," said Frederic Valletoux, chairman of the Ile de France regional tourist authority, which covers the Paris region and its environs. After Nice, President Francois Hollande extended the state of emergency "which doesn't help us-we continue to see customer numbers contract, especially Americans and Asians," said Valletoux. He says a consolation is that "French clients seem to be staying firm," even if Herve Becam, chairman of the main hoteliers' union Umih, noted that overall "the trend is not good".

The Cote d'Azur area around Nice, usually a major summer draw, saw hotel occupancy rates fall between five and 10 percent through to latest figures running to last week. And in Paris, Umih expects a fall of nearer 20 percent, hitting restaurants as well as hotels. Other regions have also been hit, including Normandy, where a priest was killed by two jihadists last Tuesday.

China Demand Falls Too

Revenue per room for five-star Parisian establishments had been up nine percent before the Nice attacks, but by July 28 was 45 percent below the norm, says Umih's Prestige offshoot-which adds that Chinese demand has been sorely affected. "What is new is the disaffection of



This file photo taken on July 19, 2016 shows people refreshing in the water of the Trocadero fountains in front of the Eiffel tower in Paris as summer temperature raises. — AFP

Chinese clients for Paris and France," noted Umih Prestige, saying that some business congresses scheduled for the second half of the year had been cancelled. Prior to Nice, July had been looking strong but "the July 14 attack brusquely pushed us down five percent," says Alain de Mendonca, chairman of travel firm Karavel-Promovances, adding that "people are afraid to go to the airport, to take a plane."

Sector specialist Protourisme believes July hotel stay data will come in four percent down on last year. "But it could have been worse," said Protourisme chairman Didier Arino, not least given that much of France suffered weeks of unseasonable weather going into July while Air France was hit by a strike at the start of Euro 2016 - and is now in

the midst of another one. Neighboring Germany has also seen a spate of recent attacks but has not to date seen suffered a wave of cancellations, a spokeswoman for the German national tourist board told AFP on Friday. Asked about potential impact, she said "we're in close contact with our representations abroad and we've been watching the reactions-immediately after the latest attacks there hasn't been any sign of a reaction. There haven't been any cancellations." May saw a three percent overall rise in hotel stays despite a two percent fall for foreign tourists, German statistical body Destatis reported. The tourist board blamed that on "different factors" including economic and political instability. "We were expecting growth to fall, independently of any attacks." — AFP

RANDOLPH SIGNS NEW DEAL AT WEST HAM

LONDON: Goalkeeper Darren Randolph has signed a new four-year contract with West Ham United, the Premier League club said yesterday. The 29-year-old Ireland international, who joined West Ham on a free transfer in 2015, made 15 starts in all competition last season but is usually second choice behind Spaniard Adrian for manager Slaven Bilic. "I spoke to the manager and I know we both have the opportunity to work towards that No. 1 position, which was part of the reason I was happy to sign a new contract," Randolph told the club's website (www.whufc.com). "It is good to know I have the manager's backing and it certainly helps my confidence to know he believes in what I can do." Full back Aaron Cresswell and midfielder Michail Antonio have also recently committed their long-term futures to the London club. The Hammers, who secured a Europa League spot for the second successive year after finishing seventh last season, open their 2016-17 campaign against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Aug. 13. — Reuters



BRAZIL LOSES GOALKEEPER PRASS IN MEN'S SOCCER

SAO PAULO: Brazil's hopes of winning its first Olympic gold medal in soccer took a hit yesterday when starting goalkeeper Fernando Prass was removed from the squad because of a right elbow injury. The Brazilian soccer confederation said Prass will not play in the tournament after tests showed a fracture in the goalkeeper's elbow. Coach Rogerio Micalle has not yet announced his replacement. Prass missed a couple of practice sessions last week after hurting his elbow on Monday. He appeared to have recovered and was expected to play in the team's friendly match against Japan on Saturday but was ruled out after re-injuring the elbow in a pre-game warmup. The 38-year-old Palmeiras goalkeeper was one of the selected players older than age 23, along with star striker Neymar and midfielder Renato Augusto. Neymar is Brazil's captain at the Rio Games after missing the decisive stages of the World Cup at home two years ago because of a back injury. Prass had never been called up for the national team before. — AP

WHITELEY IN SQUAD FOR SUPER RUGBY FINAL

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's Lions have included influential captain Warren Whiteley in their tour squad for the Super Rugby final against New Zealand's Hurricanes in Wellington on Saturday. The number eight has played just 54 minutes since injuring his shoulder against Ireland in the June internationals and missed the 42-30 semi-final victory over the Highlanders on Saturday. His return to the team would be a major boost for coach Johann Ackermann, who values his all-action style and leadership qualities highly. Utility back Sylvian Mahuza has also been added to the match 23 while scrumhalf Ross Cronje returns in place of the Dillon Smit. The team leaves for Wellington on Sunday evening. The Lions are appearing in their first Super Rugby final and are seeking to become the first South African winners of the competition since the Bulls claimed the last of their three titles in 2010. — Reuters



THE MARATHON RESUMES AT PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

SPRINGFIELD: The PGA Championship resumed yesterday with minimal odds that someone will be holding the Wanamaker Trophy by the end of the day. Severe storms halted the third round, meaning 10 players returned to Baltusrol having not even started the third round. That included Jimmy Walker and Robert Streb, tied for the lead at 9-under par.

There was a slim chance they could play 36 holes provided there were no more weather delays. The last time the PGA Championship was held at Baltusrol in 2005, it finished on Monday because of rain. The heavy rain forced officials to put the lift, clean and place rule in effect for the final round. The forecast was calling for more rain yesterday and that forced the PGA of America to use the preferred lies in an effort to complete the tournament on time. The players, when their ball lies on a closely mown area "through the green," may mark the ball, clean it and replace it within one club length no nearer the hole or in a hazard. It is extremely rare for this rule to be enacted in a major championship. Kevin Kisner finished his third round Saturday with a 65 for 5-under 205. Because the pairings stayed the same in an attempt to finish, Kisner was to tee off in the final round while the leaders were still playing the front nine of their third round.

The course was soaked. Marc Leishman returned to face a 12-foot birdie putt on No. 18 that he left short. He shot 67 and was at 3 under, but even

the two putts he hit were enough to indicate that the greens were softer and slower than usual.

"Even on the putting green, you could start to see footprints," Leishman said. "They were slow. I wasn't trying to lag that putt. I left it a foot short."

As he was finishing, Harris English began his third round by missing his tee shot so far to the right that he couldn't play it and wound up making a double bogey. Still to be determined was who had the advantage. Kisner and Padraig Harrington, who shot 65 on Saturday and was at 4-under 206, only faced 18 holes and could move up the leaderboard if the top players struggled in thick, wet rough or had mud on their golf balls in the fairway. No major championship has ever allowed players to lift, clean and place their golf balls because of mud. Then again, there is no defense for soft greens. "There's a score out there," Leishman said. "It will be interesting to see what the weather does." Either way, the Australian was happy to be finished with his third round. He was just about to pull the putter back on his 12-footer Saturday when officials sounded the horn requiring all play be stopped. Leishman stayed at Baltusrol for four hours waiting for play to resume. Asked if he would be unhappy about having to play 36 holes in sloppy conditions, Leishman smiled and said, "There's no real bad day on a golf course, is there?" — AP



HOCKENHEIM: Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo of Australia, left, and Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain smile on the podium at the end of the German Formula One Grand Prix in Hockenheim, Germany, yesterday. Hamilton won the race and Ricciardo was second. — AP

HAMILTON CRUISES TO DOMINANT WIN

HOCKENHEIM: Lewis Hamilton cruised to an unchallenged victory in yesterday's German Formula One Grand Prix to extend his lead over Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg at the top of the world championship standings. Hamilton seized the advantage at the start from pole-sitter Rosberg, who drove an underwhelming race in front of his home fans, and was never headed.

The Briton crossed the line 6.9 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo, on the podium for the second race in a row on his 100th grand prix appearance. His team mate Max Verstappen finished third, his fourth top-three result, to give Red Bull their first double rostrum in over a year. Rosberg, who had looked unbeatable after topping every practice session, was only fourth after falling back

at the start and collecting a five-second time-penalty for forcing Verstappen off the track.

It was Hamilton's sixth victory in the last seven races and fourth in succession. The 49th of the reigning champion's career left him two adrift of Frenchman Alain Prost's mark of 51. He now leads Rosberg by 19 points in the standings with nine rounds of a record 21-race season remaining. "Get in there Lewis, great work mate. Beautiful start, fantastically managed," the Briton's Mercedes team said to him over the radio on the slowing down lap.

"Fantastic job guys, awesome pitstops and just throughout the weekend as always, well deserved," Hamilton replied. Sebastian Vettel was fifth on his first appearance in Ferrari colours on home soil, crossing the line 32.5

seconds adrift of Hamilton, with team mate Kimi Raikkonen capping a disappointing weekend for the Italian team in sixth. Nico Hulkenberg finished seventh for Force India, ahead of Jensen Button who brought home points for McLaren in eighth.

Williams driver Valtteri Bottas was ninth ahead of Sergio Perez who handed Force India a double-points finish with 10th. Formula One now heads into its annual summer break before reconvening for the Belgian Grand Prix. Sunday's result gave Hamilton, who trailed Rosberg by as many as 43 points following the Spanish Grand Prix in May, the crucial psychological edge in the title battle heading into the second half of the season.

The Briton won at the iconic Spa-Francorchamps circuit last year. — Reuters

OOREDOO AMBASSADOR ABDULAZIZ AL RASHED CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE WORLDWIDE SUCCESS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, continues to sponsor Kuwaiti triathlete Abdulaziz Al Rashed, for the second consecutive year. The young triathlete won second place in the Sprint Triathlon championship in Zurich.

Ooredoo Kuwait praised the outstanding performance of the Kuwaiti champion Abdulaziz Al Rashed, which was a reason to continue to sponsor him for the second consecutive year, helping him to further develop his talents and excellent skills and represent Kuwait at various

Arabian and European prestigious forums.

The triathlon race includes three sports: swimming, cycling, and running. Abdulaziz Al Rashed obtained top position in many global and local tournaments and competitions for youth such as, winning first place in Kuwait's Triathlon which was held at the Corniche Club last May. He also won the third place in Sharm El-Sheikh ALAMEDA Triathlon last April, and earned the silver medal in a triathlon that took place in the USA mid-May.



Abdulaziz Al Rashed

DAY SINKS STUNNING PUTT TO GRAB SHARE OF PGA LEAD

SPRINGFIELD: Top-ranked defending champion Jason Day sank a stunning 72-foot birdie putt at the sixth hole yesterday to grab a share of the lead at the rain-soaked PGA Championship.

Australian star Day was still playing his third round when he holed the wonder putt to reach eight under par, level with Americans Robert Streb and Jimmy Walker atop the leaderboard at a saturated par-70 Baltusrol.

But his feat came as the fourth round began, the seldom-seen move of two simultaneous rounds being played without redrawing the pairings in a bid to finish on time yesterday.

Preferred lies—a rarely seen move in majors allowing players to lift, clean and place the ball—were adopted by the PGA of America for the final round for any "closely mown area through the green" in another bid to battle the rain and finish yesterday despite more storms in the forecast. Day, Streb and Walker were among those girding for a 36-hole fight at the year's final major tournament under rain and overcast skies as 11 others were within three shots of the lead.

"You've got to be a little bit aggressive," Day said. "It should yield a few more birdies, but also stay patient with regards to the weather, just keep yourself mentally intact."

British Open winner Henrik Stenson of Sweden and Argentina's Emiliano Grillo were on seven-under in the third round while South African Brendan Grace birdied four of his last six holes to fire a 66 and grab the 54-hole clubhouse lead at six-under 204.

"It's going to be a long day," Stenson said. "I don't know if it's a benefit or not, not having started. But it's the same for everyone in the last groups. It will be a long day. It's normally the mind that gives up before the body."

Streb, who missed the cut at the year's first three majors, has not managed a top-10 finish in a US PGA event since his share of 10th at last year's PGA Championship — 27 events of mounting frustration could end with him

hoisting the Wanamaker Trophy. "I'm guessing we're going to be here 'til at least Monday, hopefully not Tuesday," Streb said. "But we'll see how it goes. Still got to play 36 holes, see how many we get in." In all, 37 of 86 players were able to finish

the third round Saturday with American Kevin Kisner completing a 65 to stand five under. "There's going to be people that play (only) 18 holes like Kevin Kisner and he's going to have a little bit more of an advantage," Grillo said. — AFP



SPRINGFIELD: Jason Day chips to the 10th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., yesterday. — AP

HALL OF FAMER MIKE PIAZZA HAS HIS NO 31 RETIRED BY METS

NEW YORK: Mike Piazza glanced high toward his No. 31 that will forever hang over Citi Field and urged New York Mets fans, hoping to find faith in the most trying moments, to do the same. "So every time these guys are down and you need a little bit of inspiration, just give a little peek up there to ol' Mikey," he told an adoring crowd Saturday night.

The Mets retired Piazza's number in a half-hour ceremony before playing Colorado, six days after he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Speaking at a podium in center field, the 12-time All-Star catcher had to catch himself once, when the emotions started to well up inside him.

"You've given me an honor that no man deserves and no player deserves," Piazza said. The tribute included his parents, family members, former teammates, friends and a lot of chanting and cheering. He ended his 6-minute speech with a shout of "Let's go, Mets!"

The 47-year-old Piazza became the fourth Mets person to have his jersey retired by the team, joining pitcher Tom Seaver and managers Casey Stengel and Gil Hodges. Piazza's number now hangs in a big circle on the facade above the upper deck in left field.

"That means I will always be with you," he said, adding that when the Mets are struggling, "know that I'm back home watching you guys on TV, saying a lot of prayers - praying for the Mets. And listening on the radio."

Piazza became the fourth different major leaguer to have his No. 31 retired by a team. Greg Maddux (Cubs, Braves), Ferguson Jenkins (Cubs) and Dave Winfield (Padres) also received the honor.

With light rain falling, the field was covered with a tarp that sported a big Piazza logo. A giant outline of home plate was cut into the grass in center field with his number and the Mets players wore uniforms that had a Piazza patch. The Mets gathered in the dugout to watch the ceremony, as did a couple of Rockies. Piazza hit .308 overall with 427 home runs and 1,335 RBIs - not bad for someone who didn't even make the

varsity on his 10th-grade team and was only a 62nd-round draft pick.

The video board showed his most famous home run, the go-ahead drive against Atlanta in the first big league game played in New York after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The homer is mentioned on his Hall plaque.

A couple hours earlier, Piazza talked about what that moment meant to him and everyone in the ballpark, and beyond. "As much as I hit the home run," he said, "I felt it wasn't just me."

The memory made him pause, and he asked to get a drink of water after the remembrance. Piazza made his major league debut with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1992, was traded to the Marlins in 1998 and swapped to the Mets a week later. "When he came to the team, it meant the Mets were back," said U.S. Rep. Peter King of New York. King was raised in Queens, not far from Shea Stadium where Piazza played, and attended his pregame news conference.

Piazza originally wore No. 25 with the Dodgers and shifted to 31 the next year. "Anything 3 is kind of my lucky number," Piazza said. He wore 13 in high school, but it's an unlucky number to many and "doesn't have the best reputation."

When he joined the Mets, former teammate John Franco gave up his number and presented it to Piazza. Hundreds of fans came to Citi Field wearing No. 31 jerseys in shades of blue, white, black, gray and with pinstripes, and the crowd began chanting Piazza's name well before he was introduced.

Former teammates Al Leiter, Edgardo Alfonzo and Cliff Floyd sat near Piazza during the festivities. Piazza later stood on the tarp at home plate and tossed out the first ball to Leiter, who scooped the low throw before it bounced at the mound.

Waving to the crowd, Piazza was driven off the field on a golf cart. But he promised to be back when 3-year-old son Marco was older. Then, Piazza said, he could point to his No. 31 above the ballpark and assure his day that "your dad was cool once." —AP



DETROIT: James McCann #34 of the Detroit Tigers hits a single in the bottom of the ninth inning that scored the tying run during a MLB game against the Houston Astros at Comerica Park on Saturday in Detroit, Michigan. The Tigers defeated the Astros 3-2. — AFP



NEW YORK: Former New York Mets player Mike Piazza speaks before a baseball game between the Mets and the Colorado Rockies Saturday, in New York. — AP

FRAMPTON WINS SLUGGEST OVER SANTA CRUZ TO CLAIM WBA TITLE

NEW YORK: Carl Frampton defeated Mexico's Leo Santa Cruz by a majority decision Saturday to claim the WBA featherweight crown and become the first boxer from Northern Ireland to win titles in two divisions. The challenger Frampton improved to 23-0 with 14 knockouts as he had to overcome a height and weight disadvantage in one of the few times in his career he has moved up to fight at 126 pounds. "It is a dream come true," said Frampton, who was born in Belfast. "I had a dream of winning a world title and I won it."

"I won it with my heart, not with my head. I got my hand raised." The 29-year-old Frampton controlled the fight between the two undefeated boxers in the early rounds, landing a punishing left hook in the second round that sent the champ backpedaling across the ring. He then held on for the win as Santa Cruz gained steam in the middle rounds before the two closed it out by exchanging heavy blows in the middle of the ring as the final bell rang.

One judge scored it even, 114-114, while the other two gave it to Frampton 117-111 and 116-112. Frampton previously held the IBF and WBA super-bantamweight titles. Frampton punctuated his impressive early round performance by staggering the champion in the second round with a left hook. His short counter shot slammed into the right side of Santa Cruz's head, sending

the Mexican stumbling backwards into the ropes with 45 seconds left in the round. Frampton then padded his lead by winning the next three rounds before Santa Cruz turned it on in the sixth, which proved to be one of his best rounds of the fight as he landed some solid combination punches. But Santa Cruz's inability to score enough points in the early going caught up to him as Frampton did not tire in the later rounds.

"He has a difficult style, but we know his style and will get him in the rematch," Santa Cruz said. Santa Cruz had considered pulling out of the fight a few months ago because his father and trainer, Jose Santa Cruz, is battling bone cancer. But dad was at his son's side on Saturday night as the trainer continues to wage the fight of his life against the disease. Leo Santa Cruz (32-1-1, 18 knockouts) suffered the first defeat of his career, losing the belt he won also by a majority decision when he beat Abner Mares last August. He defended it five months ago when he stopped Kiko Martinez in five rounds.

Frampton won the 126 pound title despite giving away two inches in height and four inches in reach to Santa Cruz. He is now 5-0 in title fights and 8-0 in fights above 122 pounds. The crowd of 9,062 at the Barclays Center arena included four-time major championship winning golfer Rory McIlroy. —AFP



NEW YORK: Carl Frampton of Northern Ireland (blue trunks) celebrates his win after defeating Leo Santa Cruz in the 12 round WBA Super featherweight championship bout at Barclays Center on Saturday in the Brooklyn borough in New York City. — AFP

IGLESIAS' NINTH-INNING INFIELD SINGLE GIVES TIGERS 3-2 WIN

DETROIT: Jose Iglesias beat out a single to first with two outs in the ninth to score Tyler Collins from third to cap a two-run rally that gave the Detroit Tigers a 3-2 victory over the Houston Astros and extend their winning streak to five games. James McCann tied the score at 2-2 with a line single to left on a 1-2 pitch by Houston closer Will Harris, who got the first two outs of the ninth but then walked Justin Upton and gave up a single to center to Collins. Collins advanced to third after McCann's hit when left fielder Alex Bregman's throw was offline and bounced away from catcher Evan Gattis for an error.

MARLINS 11, CARDINALS 0

Colin Rea threw only 3-1/3 innings in his Miami debut and left with a sore right elbow, casting a pall over the Marlins. The Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki, who needs two hits to reach 3,000, entered the game as a defensive replacement and went 0-for-2. Rea pitched well, retiring 10 of the 11 batters he faced, including four by strikeout. He allowed no runs, just a soft single in the third.

INDIANS 6, A'S 3

Cleveland hit four home runs and Josh Tomlin pitched seven strong innings. Jason Kipnis, Jose Ramirez, Abraham Almonte and Mike Napoli all homered in support of Tomlin, who in seven innings gave up two runs and six hits with seven strikeouts and two walks. Rookie Dillon Overton started for Oakland and gave up five runs on 10 hits, including three home runs, in 3-1/3 innings.

RAYS 6, YANKEES 3

Curt Casali hit his first home run in nearly two months and Drew Smyly picked up his first win since May, an unlikely combo helping the Tampa to its third straight win. Smyly had not won in his last 11 starts and yet came up with his second win against the Yankees this season, limiting New York to two runs and four hits in six innings. The Rays had other unlikely stars. Shortstop Tim Beckham hit a two-run homer in the seventh to add insurance against the Yankees, who have scored five total runs in its three-game losing streak.

BLUE JAYS 9, ORIOLES 1

J.A. Happ struck out 11 in seven-plus innings, Kevin Pillar hit a pair of two-run doubles and Toronto moved into first place in the American League East. Devon Travis hit a solo homer and Russell Martin and Pillar each hit two-run doubles in the seven-run fifth as the Blue Jays moved a half-game ahead of the Orioles, who have lost five in a row. Happ held the Orioles to three hits, three walks and one run in winning his eighth straight decision. The left-hander has not lost since June 6.

MARINERS 4, CUBS 1

Leonys Martin hit a go-ahead, two-run double against closer Aroldis Chapman in the eighth inning to lift Seattle over Chicago. The Cubs led 1-0 in the eighth inning when Chapman entered the game with runners on second and third base and two outs. On a 1-1 count, Martin ripped the left-hander's third pitch to left-center field to score Shawn O'Malley and Nori Aoki. Martin later scored on a wild pitch by Chapman to make it 3-1. Chapman suffered his first blown save with the Cubs since coming over from the New York Yankees in a blockbuster trade Monday. It was his second blown save of the season.

GIANTS 5, NATIONALS 3

Eduardo Nunez had two hits, including a two-run double, helping San Francisco rally from an early three-run deficit. Six relievers combined to shut out the Nationals on three hits and two walks over the final five innings, allowing the Giants to win for the first time in three tries in the series and only the third time since the All-Star break. Derek Law, the fourth Giants pitcher, was credited with the win after pitching one shutout inning. Closer Santiago Casilla pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 23rd save.

WHITE SOX 6, TWINS 5, 10 INNINGS

Dioner Navarro delivered a go-ahead double to propel Chicago over Minnesota. Navarro's one-out double came off Fernando Abad. Navarro drove in Avisail Garcia, who led off the inning with a double to right. Chicago saw its 4-1 lead slip away and fell behind 5-4 in the bottom of the eighth after Eduardo Escobar hit a three-run home run to put the Twins up by one. Brewers 5, Pirates 3 Home runs from Hernan Perez and Kirk Nieuwenhuis were the difference as Milwaukee held on. Brewers starter Chase Anderson lasted only five innings, allowing an unearned run on four hits and a pair of walks while striking out a season-high seven.

The Pirates got strong six innings from Jameson Taillon, who only allowed two runs on six hits and didn't walk a batter while striking out six.

PADRES 2, REDS 1, 10 INNINGS

Adam Rosales led off the bottom of the 10th with a walk-off home run off Cincinnati right-handed reliever Jumbo Diaz to give San Diego the win. Rosales drove a 2-2 pitch into the stands in left center. It was the fourth walk-off homer by a Padre this season. Padres relievers Jose Dominguez, Ryan Buchter, Brandon Maurer and Brad Hand each worked a perfect inning as San Diego pitchers retired the final 13 Cincinnati hitters in the game.

RANGERS 2, ROYALS 1

Mitch Moreland's solo homer with two outs in the ninth inning gave Texas a walk-off win over Kansas City. The win moved the Rangers five games ahead of the Houston Astros in the

American League West, their largest lead since the All-Star break. The sliding Royals have lost seven of eight. Moreland's homer capped a night in which the Rangers got seven innings of one-run pitching from starter Martin Perez and two scoreless innings from Matt Bush.

ROCKIES 7, METS 2

Jorge De La Rosa earned his 100th career victory as he tossed six solid innings. The Rockies have won five straight and nine of 10 to reach .500 after the All-Star break for the first time since 2010. The skidding Mets have lost four straight and five of six to fall 2 1/2 games behind the Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals in the race for the National League's second wild card.

ANGELS 5, RED SOX 2

Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer to lead Los Angeles over Boston. Hector Santiago won his sixth consecutive start despite throwing a season-high 119 pitches during his five innings. He allowed two runs, four hits, six walks and a wild pitch but finished with six strikeouts. Closer Huston Street pitched a perfect ninth inning with one strikeout for his ninth save.

PHILLIES 9, BRAVES 5

If Philadelphia is really going to trade pitcher Jeremy Hellickson before Monday's deadline, he'll be leaving the Phillies on a high note. The right-hander allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings and drove in two runs in Philadelphia's win. The losing pitcher was Julio Teheran, who was making his first start since a sore back caused him to take extra days off between appearances.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, DODGERS 2

Jean Segura's leadoff home run helped the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday night before 49,540 at Dodger Stadium. The loss dropped the Dodgers two games behind the National League West-leading San Francisco Giants, who defeated the Washington Nationals earlier Saturday. The Diamondbacks won for only the fifth time in the last 23 games at Dodger Stadium. —Reuters

MLB results/standings

Toronto 9, Baltimore 1; Seattle 4, Chicago Cubs 1; San Francisco 5, Washington 3; Tampa Bay 6, NY Yankees 3; Detroit 3, Houston 2; Chicago White Sox 6, Minnesota 5 (10 innings); Colorado 7, NY Mets 2; Cleveland 6, Oakland 3; Philadelphia 9, Atlanta 5; Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 3; Miami 11, St. Louis 0; Texas 2, Kansas City 1; San Diego 2, Cincinnati 1 (10 innings); LA Angels 5, Boston 2; Arizona 4, LA Dodgers 2.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division					
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB		
Toronto	59	45	.567	-	Washington	61	43	.587	-
Baltimore	58	45	.563	0.5	Miami	56	48	.538	5
Boston	56	46	.549	2	NY Mets	53	50	.515	7.5
NY Yankees	52	51	.505	6.5	Philadelphia	48	58	.453	14
Tampa Bay	41	61	.402	17	Atlanta	36	68	.346	25
Central Division				Central Division					
Cleveland	59	42	.584	-	Chicago Cubs	62	41	.602	-
Detroit	56	48	.538	4.5	St. Louis	56	48	.538	6.5
Chicago White Sox	51	53	.490	9.5	Pittsburgh	52	50	.510	9.5
Kansas City	49	54	.476	11	Milwaukee	46	56	.451	15.5
Minnesota	39	64	.379	21	Cincinnati	41	62	.398	21
Western Division				Western Division					
Texas	61	44	.581	-	San Francisco	60	44	.577	-
Houston	55	48	.534	5	LA Dodgers	58	46	.558	2
Seattle	52	50	.510	7.5	Colorado	52	52	.500	8
LA Angels	47	57	.452	13.5	San Diego	45	59	.433	15
Oakland	47	57	.452	13.5	Arizona	43	61	.413	17

ASHWIN TORMENTS WI WITH FIVE-WICKET HAUL

KINGSTON: Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin tormented the West Indies yet again to claim a second consecutive five-wicket innings haul and dismiss the home side for 196 on the opening day of the second Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Saturday.

Lokesh Rahul then made the most of his inclusion in the final 11 in place of the injured Murali Vijay, reaching an unbeaten 75 as India closed the first day at 126 for one in reply.

Ashwin followed up his haul of seven for 83 in the final innings of the first Test a week earlier with five for 52 on a pitch offering turn and bounce from the very first session of play.

He became just the third Indian bowler to have five-wicket innings hauls in three consecutive Test matches after fellow spinners Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and current coach Anil Kumble.

Having ended the only substantial resistance from the home side when he dismissed Jermaine Blackwood for a run-a-ball 62 in the last over before the lunch interval, Ashwin added swiftly to his tally in the afternoon session, accounting for Marlon Samuels for 37 to a sharp catch at short-leg by Rahul and following up with the wickets of Shane Dowrich, Devendra Bishoo and captain Jason Holder in quick succession.

Blackwood and Samuels had put on 81 for the fourth wicket in the morning with Blackwood the dominant partner, stroking seven fours and four sixes in his counter-attacking innings. But it was not enough as the clatter of wickets resumed after he was trapped LBW by Ashwin.

INDIA IN CONTROL

Debutant Miguel Cummins heaved his way to an unbeaten 24 in an entertaining

38-run last-wicket stand with Shannon Gabriel before leg-spinner Amit Mishra ended the innings to put the seal on another efficient effort in the field by the visitors.

India were in control virtually from the start of the match after Holder's decision to bat first on winning the toss as the West Indies slid to seven for three within 25 minutes of play. Ishant Sharma removed Kraigg Brathwaite and Darren Bravo off successive deliveries in just his second over.

With a reputation of susceptibility to the short ball early in his innings clearly on the fast bowler's mind, Brathwaite failed to negotiate a lifting delivery in Sharma's second over and Cheteshwar Pujara held the simple catch at short-leg.

Bravo's weakness outside the off-stump was then immediately capitalised upon, the left-hander failing to cover a full-length delivery properly for a delighted Indian captain Virat Kohli to take the catch at second slip.

Rajendra Chandrika, the other opener, then gave catching practice to Rahul in the slips as he guided a lifting delivery from Mohammed Shami unerringly into the hands of the fielder.

In stark contrast to the West Indian experience at the start of the match, the Indian top-order batting had things pretty much their own way in the final session of the day. Rahul and Shikhar Dhawan put on 87 for the first wicket before Dhawan became Roston Chase's first Test wicket, well caught by Bravo at short extra-cover for 27. None of the other bowlers looked particularly threatening though and Rahul and Cheteshwar Pujara will resume on the second morning expecting to put India firmly in control in pursuit of a second win in a row at the start of the four-match series. —AFP



BULAWAYO: Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer (R) plays a ball as BJ Watling looks on during the fourth day of the first test match in a series of two tests between New Zealand and hosts Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club, in Bulawayo yesterday. — AFP



KINGSTON: India's Cheteshwar Pujara takes evasive action to avoid being hit by a delivery off West Indies' captain Jason Holder during day one of their second cricket Test match at the Sabina Park Cricket Ground in Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday. — AP

SCOREBOARD

KINGSTON, Jamaica: Scoreboard Saturday at stumps on the first day of the second cricket test between West Indies and India at Sabina Park:

West Indies 1st Innings		India 1st Innings	
Kraigg Brathwaite c Pujara b Sharma	1	Lokesh Rahul not out	75
Rajendra Chandrika c Rahul b Shami	5	Shikhar Dhawan c Bravo b Chase	27
Darren Bravo c Kohli b Sharma	0	Cheteshwar Pujara not out	18
Marlon Samuels c Rahul b Ashwin	37	Extras: (4b, 1lb, 1nb)	6
Jermaine Blackwood lbw b Ashwin	62	Total (for 1 wicket)	126
Roston Chase c Dhawan b Shami	10	Overs: 37.	
Shane Dowrich c Saha b Ashwin	5	Fall of wickets: 1-87.	
Jason Holder c Rahul b Ashwin	13	To bat: Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav.	
Devendra Bishoo c Dhawan b Ashwin	12	Bowling: Shannon Gabriel 6-1-18-0 (1nb), Miguel Cummins 7-0-31-0, Jason Holder 8-2-23-0, Roston Chase 11-2-28-1, Devendra Bishoo 2-0-13-0, Kraigg Brathwaite 3-0-3-0.	
Miguel Cummins not out	24		
Shannon Gabriel c Kohli b Mishra	15		
Extras (2w, 10nb):	12		
Total	196		
Overs: 52.3			
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-4, 3-7, 4-88, 5-115, 6-127, 7-131, 8-151, 9-158, 10-196			

NZ THRASH ZIMBABWE TO WIN FIRST TEST

BULAWAYO: Dominant New Zealand wrapped up an emphatic innings victory against Zimbabwe in the first Test in Bulawayo yesterday despite a maiden Test century from Sean Williams finally giving the hosts something to smile about.

New Zealand bowled Zimbabwe out for 295 to win the game by an innings and 117 runs, with left-arm seamer Neil Wagner finishing with eight wickets in the one-sided match at Queens Sports Club.

The second and final Test gets under way at the same venue on Saturday. After three days of brutal domination at the hands of the Kiwis, Williams rose from his sick bed to hit the fastest Test century by a Zimbabwean as he reached three figures in just 106 deliveries.

The left-hander spent the past two days off the field due to illness as New Zealand racked up a first-innings lead of 412, and came to the crease early on the fourth morning with Zimbabwe tottering on 124 for six, still needing 288 runs to make the Black Caps bat again. Williams added 118 for the seventh wicket with captain Graeme Cremer, who made 33, and went on to make 119 before succumbing to the left-arm spin of Mitchell Santner.

Wagner claimed the final wicket to fall, which gave him a match haul of eight for 103, but Ross Taylor scooped the man of the match award for his unbeaten 173 in New Zealand's innings. Wagner used the short ball to especially good effect in the first innings when he returned figures of 6 for 41, bowling Zimbabwe out for 164 to set the game up for the tourists.

"Neil and Trent (Boult) have shown how good they can be, and Neil was showing us he can be pretty creative with the older ball," said

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.

"It's useful on surfaces that are not offering swing. That first innings put us ahead of the game, where he showed some hostile bowling on a surface that didn't offer much."

New Zealand began the day needing just five wickets to win, and grabbed one of them in the second over when Craig Ervine was caught behind off the bowling of Boult for 50.

Having lost their top four for just 17 runs on the third evening, another Zimbabwean collapse looked likely but Williams and Cremer instead gave the home side a glimmer of hope. While Williams leapt at any opportunity to score and stroked 21 boundaries, Cremer blocked up an end and made the Black Caps work hard for his wicket. It took a debatable lbw decision to prise the Zimbabwe captain from the crease after lunch, when he was dismissed by an Ish Sodhi delivery that looked to be bouncing over the stumps.

Williams went to his hundred in Sodhi's

next over, but he became visibly strained thereafter as the toll of his effort became clear. After Regis Chakabva was bowled by Tim Southee, the centurion attempted one big stroke too many and was caught off the bowling of Santner. New Zealand went on to wrap up their second-biggest Test win away from home soon after.

PRAISE FOR WILLIAMS

Williams though earned plaudits from both his home crowd and the opposition. "He was still a bit ill, so credit to him," said Cremer. "He was a little bit loose when he came out to bat and got a bit lucky, but from there he dominated. "The player that he is, he can do that on wickets like that. He has got good hands and good eyes." "He played a fantastic knock. It's a huge effort," added Williamson. "He wasn't well, which adds to what a good knock it was. "When you are in the position that he was in, a lot of fight is required. It was an outstanding hundred." — AFP

SCOREBOARD

ZBULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Scoreboard at the end of the first Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand yesterday:

Zimbabwe 1st Innings		New Zealand 1st Innings	
R. Chakabva b Southee	11	D. Tiripano c Watling b Wagner	14
D. Tiripano c Watling b Wagner	14	M. Chinouya not out	0
M. Chinouya not out	0	Extras (6b, 9lb)	15
Extras (6b, 9lb)	15	Total (all out, 79 overs)	295
Total (all out, 79 overs)	295	Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Masakadza), 2-12 (Chari), 3-17 (Chibhabha), 4-17 (Masvaure), 5-86 (Sikandar Raza), 6-124 (Ervine), 7-242 (Cremer), 8-277 (Chakabva), 9-285 (Williams), 10-295 (Tiripano).	
Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Masakadza), 2-12 (Chari), 3-17 (Chibhabha), 4-17 (Masvaure), 5-86 (Sikandar Raza), 6-124 (Ervine), 7-242 (Cremer), 8-277 (Chakabva), 9-285 (Williams), 10-295 (Tiripano).		Bowling: Southee 15-3-68-2, Boult 17-3-52-4, Wagner 17-1-62-2, Santner 17-6-32-1, Sodhi 12-1-66-1, Williamson 1-1-0-0.	
Bowling: Southee 15-3-68-2, Boult 17-3-52-4, Wagner 17-1-62-2, Santner 17-6-32-1, Sodhi 12-1-66-1, Williamson 1-1-0-0.		Result: New Zealand won by an innings and 117 runs.	

DJOKOVIC BEATS MONFILS TO REACH TORONTO FINAL

TORONTO: Top-ranked Novak Djokovic beat 10th-seeded Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday night to reach the Rogers Cup final and improve to 12-0 against the Frenchman.

"You do have a certain mental comfort knowing that you have had plenty of success against your opponent," Djokovic said. "Nevertheless, that is not a certainty. That's not a guarantee that you can win the match. Actually, it actually makes him more eager to come out and play his best tennis." The winner in 2007, 2011 and 2012 in the hardcourt event that rotates between Toronto and Montreal, Djokovic will face third-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan on Sunday. Nishikori beat second-seeded Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland 7-6 (6), 6-1 in the first semifinal.

Djokovic is trying to win a record 30th ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title. The 29-year-old Serb has six victories this year and 65 in his career. He has 12 Grand Slam titles, winning this year in Australia and France.

Monfils was coming off a victory last week in Washington. "I guess he missed a few shots at the beginning. I got some opportunities and I took them," Monfils said. "And then suddenly he was not missing anymore. He was going for his shots and being much better in the rallies. He became super solid. When Novak is playing like that, it's very tough to beat him." Djokovic had six double-faults and one ace.

"I've been working on my serve a lot the last couple of years, and I think especially on the second serve it has given me an advantage, more depth on the second serve and so forth," Djokovic said. "In this tournament it is not working very well, but in general in past couple of years it has served me very well."

Nishikori took his fourth straight Memphis title in February for his 11th ATP Tour victory. He has lost his last eight matches with Djokovic, the last loss in the Key Biscayne final in April, and is 2-9 overall. "Haven't beat Novak for a long time on hard

court," Nishikori said. "I think it's going to be a great challenge for me to play Novak again in the final, because we played in Miami and he dominated the game. So, I hope I can get revenge this time."

In the doubles semifinals, Britain's Jamie Murray and Brazil's Bruno Soares beat Canada's Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil 6-4, 6-7 (5), 10-7, and Croatia's Ivan Dodig and Brazil's Marcelo Melo topped Romania's Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau 6-4, 6-3. —AP



TORONTO: Kei Nishikori, of Japan, celebrates winning first set against Stanislas Wawrinka, of Switzerland, during men's semifinal Rogers Cup tennis action, in Toronto on Saturday. — AP

SIMONA HALEP ADVANCES TO ROGERS CUP FINAL

MONTREAL: Simona Halep beat Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber 6-0, 3-6, 6-2 on Saturday to advance to the Rogers Cup final for the second straight year. The fifth-seeded Halep will face American Madison Keys on Sunday in a rematch of the Romanian player's three-set victory in the round of 16 at Wimbledon. The 10th-seeded Keys beat Slovakia's Kristina Kucova 6-2, 6-1 in the second semifinal. "She hits the ball very strong," Halep said about Keys. "Her serve is good. It will be not like today, with many rallies. In Wimbledon, the points were shorter. So I expect that I will not have a good rhythm because she can hit a winner and you don't see the ball. But she can miss sometimes."

Last year in the final in Toronto, Halep retired in the third set because of illness, handing the title to Belinda Bencic. Halep won two weeks ago in Bucharest for her second title of the year and 13th overall.

"She gets a lot of balls back," Keys said about Halep. "Her ability to get that extra ball and become the one that's in charge of the point is what she's so good at." Keys won the Wimbledon tuneup event in Birmingham, England, for her second career WTA Tour title.

Halep topped Kerber after losing to her in the Wimbledon quarterfinals. "It was not my day," said

Kerber, the second-seeded German playing her last event before the Rio Olympics. "I was not playing my best. I made lot of mistakes. That's actually not my game. I knew I had to go for it, take chances and be a little bit risky to win against her." Kerber won six games in a row, including a service break to start the third set, but then Halep took over again with a break to tie it 2-2 and go on a run of six consecutive game wins to end the match. "In the second set when I lost the serve at 3-2, I was a little bit disappointed," Halep said. "Also the nerves were very big. I don't know why, but I couldn't manage that moment and I can say I gave up a little bit mentally. But then in the third set, I said that I have to calm down, to just go and play like I did in first set - aggressive, to open the court, to try to finish the points with winners." After her singles victory, Halep and countrywoman Monica Niculescu teamed to beat Slovenia's Andreja Klepac and Katarina Srebotnik 6-3, 2-6, 10-6 in the doubles semifinals. They will face Russia's Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina, 6-4, 6-2 winners over Americans Christina McHale and Asia Muhammad. "Actually, when I started the tournament, I said with the prize money from doubles I will go shopping," Halep said. "Now I have enough, so I will enjoy it. Maybe that's why I kept winning." — AP

FROM HORRORS OF WAR TO OLYMPICS, REFUGEES READY FOR RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: If bravery was an Olympic sport, the 10 athletes who make up the first-ever refugee team in Rio would be odds-on for a clean sweep of the gold medals.

From Yusra Mardini, a teenage swimmer from Syria who braved a Mediterranean crossing in a leaky dinghy, to Popole Misenga, who spent eight days hiding in a forest as a terrified child to flee bloody fighting, each of the refugee athletes have overcome daunting odds to maintain their Olympic dreams. Mardini, 18, spoke of her delight on Saturday at the prospect of participating in Rio, where she will compete in the 100 meters butterfly and 100m freestyle.

"It's absolutely an honor for me to be here," Mardini told a press conference Saturday. Less than a year ago, Mardini was swimming for her life. During a perilous journey to Lesbos, the engine of their packed dinghy failed and the craft began taking on water.

Mardini and her sister jumped into the water, grabbed a rope and spent the next three-and-a-half-hours in the choppy water towing the boat to safety. Mardini, who has now settled in Germany with her family as a refugee, says she will proudly represent Syria, the Olympic movement and her recently adopted homeland when she competes in Brazil. "It's for my country, for Germany and the Olympic Committee, because

they gave me all the support to make it possible," Mardini said.

'WE HAVE IRON WILLS'

Mardini is joined in the refugee ranks by another Syrian swimmer, Rami Anis. Anis fled Syria in 2011 to avoid being enlisted into the army, relocating to Belgium from Istanbul in October last year. "I'm very proud to be here," Rami said. "But I feel a bit of sadness that I'm not participating as a Syrian. We are representing people who have lost their human rights and are facing injustices." The 25-year-old butterfly and freestyle swimmer described the refugee team as a group that "does not despair."

"We have iron wills. We feel sad of

course because of the wars in our countries," Anis said. For Congolese judoka Misenga, recalling the devastating toll that conflict has had on his family was too much. The 24-year-old broke down in tears when he was asked to comment on what message he hoped to send through his Olympic participation. Misenga was just nine years old when he fled fighting in Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Separated from his family, he hid in the jungle for eight days before being rescued and taken to a centre for displaced children in Kinshasa.

He later settled in Brazil, staying in the country after the 2013 World Championships.

"I have two brothers that I haven't seen for years. I don't remember their faces," Misenga said tearfully on Saturday. "I want to send them hugs and kisses. I'm here in Brazil participating so that one day I can bring them to live with me here in Brazil." Another refugee from war in the Congo, Yolande Mabika, followed Misenga's journey by settling in Brazil. "This is not just a struggle for sport it's a struggle for life. Each one of us had our own personal stories to tell," she says. Coach Geraldo Bernardes said the question of whether any of the refugee team can win a medal is immaterial. "People ask if they can win a medal. I say they have already won their medals just by getting to Rio," he said. — AFP

BOLT BRINGS LIGHT TO A SPORT IN PERIL

NEW YORK: Since he coasted to the 100-meter finish line in world-record time at the Bird's Nest eight years ago, Usain Bolt has been the smiling face of track and field. He has served as the anchorman of the Olympics - virtually the only reason any casual fan would pay attention to a sport that has orchestrated its own slow, sad, drug-infused downfall.

His tender hamstring improving, Bolt will be back for a final go-round at Olympic glory when track starts in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 12. If, as expected, he wins all three sprint events - the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay - he'll only add to his legacy and cement himself at the fore of any conversation about Greatest Olympian Ever. He is already the first person to win back-to-back Olympic gold at 100 and 200 meters.

Whether viewed over the six days he runs in Rio, or over the eight years he's graced the world with his once-in-a-lifetime mix of speed, smiles and showmanship, the World's Fastest Man has offered track a reprieve from the wasteland of corrupt countries, reshuffled medals and win-at-any-cost malfeasance it has become.

Russians will be absent from this year's Olympic track meet - banned by the sport's governing body, the IAAF, which contributed to the problems as much as solved them over the years. Even with those 67 athletes out of the mix, the 10-day meet is bound to be filled with suspicious glances among the 2,000-plus runners, throwers and jumpers who will be present - all wondering if they'll get a fair shot in a sport that once defined the Olympics, but is hurting because its leaders have proven themselves either unwilling or unable to stop all the cheating. "It breaks my heart," said John Carlos, the 1968 bronze medalist, whose glove-fisted Black Power salute in Mexico City created one of the Games' seminal moments. "It's a hurting thing to see your peers, their names being erased out of the record books because individuals ran faster times that might be enhanced by substances. And the powers that be might turn their heads, because they had people coming through the turnstiles with fists full of dollars."

BOLD STATEMENTS

Money is always a good place to start when seeking the seeds of the destruction of almost any enterprise.

But the Olympics have also long been a place for countries and political movements to make bold statements. During the Cold War, the motivation was obvious: winners and losers at 100 meters certainly didn't decide the arms race, but the Olympic medal count was the sort of scoreboard-driven result either side could use to claim superiority in the increasingly bleak stand-off between East and West.

"I remember going over to the Olympics thinking, as a 20-year-old, that it's the most idealistic of institutions," said Tom McMillan, a member of the 1972 American basketball team that lost the gold-medal game to the USSR after officials gave the Soviets three chances to inbound the ball with 3 seconds left. "Then, you wake up the next morning thinking, 'This is a flawed institution.'"

The Soviet Union is history, but what's currently happening in Russia has been described, time and again, as '70s and '80s,

Eastern Bloc-style cheating. Two independent investigations - one into the Russian track team, the other into the country's entire sports system - have shown a pattern of top-to-bottom corruption, involving government officials, anti-doping lab workers, Olympic Committee members, coaches and, ultimately, athletes who can profit wildly from going along with the program.

Whistleblower Vitaly Stepanov, a former worker at Russia's anti-doping agency whose wife competed in the corrupted Russian system, estimated 80 percent of coaches used doping to prepare their athletes for the London Games four years ago. "They prefer to hide everything," Stepanov said of Russia's modus operandi. "They say the problem was a lot smaller than it actually was."

Last week, the IOC rebuffed Stepanov's wife, Yulia Stepanova, the 800-meter runner who exposed Russia's doping culture after being cast out by the track program. She was seeking to compete at the Olympics, and had the blessing of the IAAF and World Anti-Doping Agency. But the IOC said no. It was par for the course. Efforts to sanction Russia have been tinged with confusion, indecisiveness and politics.

CLEAN-UP

The long-term repercussions could range from an eventual clean-up of the country's track program to a "schism" within the Olympic movement, as President Vladimir Putin suggested as part of the heated rhetoric that punctuated the doping-ban decisions. He called the case against Russia "a well-planned campaign which targeted our athletes, which included double-standards and the concept of collective punishment which has nothing to do with justice or even basic legal norms." Russia's world-record pole vaulter, Yelena Isinbayeva, is among those staying home. She says the remaining track-and-field athletes will be competing only for "pseudo-gold" medals without the Russians running in Rio.

That's not so much Bolt's concern. Over the past four years, only one man, American Justin Gatlin - the 2004 100-meter gold medalist who, himself, has served two doping bans - has been able to seriously challenge Bolt at either 100 or 200 meters. More than racing against Gatlin, though, Bolt is racing against the clock - and into history. And yet, the doping scourge doesn't elude him, either. His relay medal from 2008 is in jeopardy now, thanks to retests conducted by the IOC that indicate teammate Nesta Carter could have used a banned substance. In the past, the IOC has stripped entire relay teams of medals even when only one person dopes.

At almost every stop he makes, Bolt is asked about doping. In an interview before his tuneup race in London in July, he showed off the Band-Aid covering the mark where testers had drawn their latest tube full of blood. "Rules are rules and doping violations in track and field is getting really bad, so if you feel like you need to make a statement then thumbs up," Bolt said of the Russian ban. He has never tested positive, has mostly managed to smile through the thinly veiled questions about his own doping virtue, and, when the stakes are greatest, has rarely failed to put on a show people want to watch. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: A group of dancers perform during the Welcome Ceremony of North Korea at the Olympic Village in Rio de Janeiro yesterday for the upcoming Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

IOC PANEL TO DECIDE WHICH RUSSIANS CAN COMPETE IN RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: The International Olympic Committee has said a three-member panel will make the "final decision" on which Russian athletes can compete in the Rio Olympics, set to begin in less than a week.

The panel will examine each case individually and make the "final decision" before Friday, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said late on Saturday. A ban on individual Russian athletes followed a report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) stating that Russian doping of athletes had been organized by the sports ministry and aided by the Russian secret service at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Rejecting calls for a blanket ban on Russia, the IOC decided on July 24 that individual sports federations should investigate athletes implicated in the report and decide who should be excluded. So far, at least 117 individuals from the 387 that the Russian Olympic Committee wanted to enter have been excluded. Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko said Saturday he expected 266 athletes to compete. Boxing, golf, gymnastics and taekwondo federations have yet to report their decisions. The three-member panel is made up of Ugur Erdener, president of World Archery and head of the IOC medical and scientific commission, Claudia Bockel of the IOC athletes commission, and Spanish IOC member Juan Antonio Samaranch.

RUSSIA SWIMMERS CHALLENGE BAN

Two Russian swimmers, Vladimir Morozov and Nikita Lobintsev, on Saturday launched the first challenge against the IOC sanctions excluding them from the games.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will hold an emergency session in Rio on Sunday to hear their appeal, according to sources close to the case. Morozov, 24, and Lobintsev, 27, have called on CAS to declare "invalid and unenforceable" an IOC order for federations to exclude athletes implicated in the investigation into Russia's state-run doping system. They were among seven Russians banned by the International Swimming Federation (FINA) last week after the order was published. Morozov, a member of the 4x100m freestyle relay team that took bronze at the 2012 London Games, and Lobintsev, who took silver in the 4x200m freestyle team in Beijing in 2008 and bronze in the 4x100m freestyle in London, have taken their action against the IOC and FINA.

"Both swimmers request CAS to declare the decision of the IOC executive board of July 24 2016 invalid and unenforceable," said a CAS statement. "The swimmers also request that the decision of the FINA bureau of July 25 2016, declaring both of them ineligible for the Olympic Games in Rio, be set aside." Morozov said in a letter to FINA president Julio Maglione this week that he had never failed a drug test by Russian and international experts. "Throughout the last six years I've been drug tested by doping control agencies at my home and at the pool, at least once a month, and sometimes every other day," he said in the letter published on his Facebook page. "I am sure that in a justice-driven system I have full right to take part in the Olympic Games."

RIO 'WILL NOT BE CLEAN'

WADA president Craig Reedie, who called for a complete ban on Russian athletes in Rio, is to address the IOC meeting later. The CAS has

already rejected an appeal by 67 Russian athletes against a ban ordered by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) before the IOC sanctions. Athletics was the first sport touched by the doping controversy. Russian doping whistleblower Vitaly Stepanov told a Brazilian newspaper that the Rio Olympics "will not be clean," and blasted the IOC for not banning Russia. Stepanov, who with his 800m runner wife Yuliya Stepanova, gave details of the state-

run doping program to a German documentary in 2014, said efforts to clean up sport had failed. "It has always been the case in the Olympics. There has never been a clean Olympics and there is no reason to believe that Rio will be clean," he told O Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper. "Unfortunately, doped athletes will be competing," said the former Russian anti-doping agency (RUSADA) official, now living in hiding in the United States with his wife. — AFP

80 YEARS AFTER JESSE OWENS STOLE HITLER'S BERLIN SHOW

BERLIN: Eighty years after Jesse Owens won four medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, his daughter says Germany's Nazi leader Adolf Hitler refused to shake her father's hand. The controversial Berlin Olympics opened on August 1, 1936 to much fanfare with Reich's Chancellor Hitler hoping to showcase the best of the Aryan race with the hosts planning to dominate the podium across the 19 different sports events.

Owens ruined Hitler's plans as the black American sprinter won gold in the 100 metres, 200m, 4x100m relay and long jump gold over six magical days at Berlin's Olympic Stadium. His achievements made a mockery of the Nazi ideology of Aryan supremacy and according to sporting folklore, Hitler refused to shake Owens hand, despite the Americans historic display. Owens died of lung cancer, aged 66, in 1980, but his daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin, says as far as she is concerned, her father never shook Hitler's hand.

Owens Rankin said her father always gave one answer when asked whether he was congratulated by Hitler in Berlin, three years before the start of World War II which ended with the Nazi leader's suicide in the ruins of Berlin in May 1945.

"He always said 'I didn't go to the Berlin Olympics to shake Hitler's hand,'" the 77-year-old daughter told magazine Sport Bild. "I went there to run. And that's exactly what I did. 'I'm here today and where Hitler is, I do not know' 'Because of that, I don't think he shook his hand.'"

OWENS MOVIE

Owens' daughter first visited Berlin in 1984, when the road next to the iconic stadium was renamed Jesse Owens Allee in tribute to her father. In his autobiography, Owens said Hitler did nothing more than raise his hand in acknowledgement when the pair were in the same room during the Berlin games. "That's in my favourite book about him," said Owens Rankin. "I don't know for sure if that happened, but my father was not the kind to make stories up." "If he said that, then I think it's what happened." "Race" the biographical sports drama based on Jesse Owens' story, and directed by Stephen Hopkins, hit the screens in Germany on Thursday in time for the 80th anniversary of his achievements.

There is also an exhibition of rarely seen photographs from the 1936 games currently

on show at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

The imposing arena, which was built for the 1936 games, held 100,000 for the opening ceremony with nearly 4,000 athletes from 49 nations taking part. But there was no escaping the racist undertone of the 16-day spectacle in anti-semitic Germany, with only one Jew, Helene Mayer, allowed to compete for the German team while several countries boycotted the games. But Owens' legacy has echoed down the years in Berlin. Sprint star Usain Bolt set the current 100m and 200m world records on the famous blue track, when the 2009 world athletics championships were held in Germany's capital, and he referred directly to Owens. Both sprinters were 22 when they made history in Berlin - 73 years apart. "Jesse made history here, so I'm going to try to do the same," Bolt said in Berlin in 2009 before winning the 100m, 200m and 4x100m world gold medals. His times of 9.58secs for the 100m and 19.19m for the 200m have never been bettered. — AFP



Jesse Owens





FACTS & FIGURES

Dates: Aug. 5-21

Site: Rio de Janeiro

Slogan: "A New World"

Mascot: "Vinicius," a mix of different Brazilian animals

Tickets available: 7.5 million

Time zone for Rio: +1 hour in relation to EDT

Countries participating: More than 200

Number of athletes expected: 10,500

Number of American athletes: More than 500

Medals (gold, silver bronze) to be awarded: 2,102

Number of sports: 41

Number of events: 306

Number of competition venues: 32

Number of medals Americans won in London 2012: 104

Number of athletes who failed drug tests in London 2012: 23

Records set in London 2012: 174

Number of medals won by Michael Phelps: 22

New members of the USA Swim Team: 30

Number of refugee athletes competing: 10

Venue of opening and closing ceremony: Maracanã Stadium

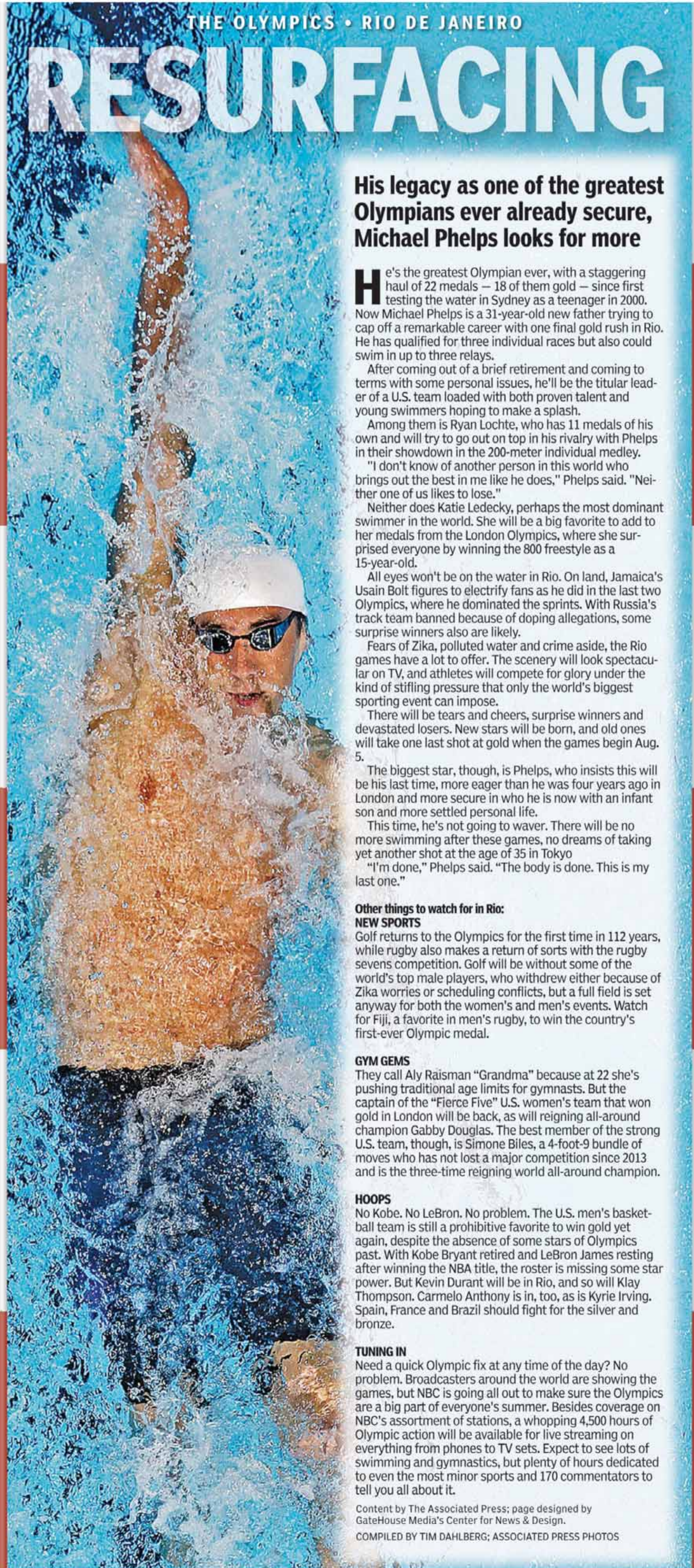
Amount of ad sales by NBC: More than \$1 billion

Historic partnership: NBC has aired every summer Olympics since 1988.

Noteworthy: The first time the Olympics have been held in South America.

Quoteworthy:
"For 17 days, it's normally a honeymoon. But you never know what will happen in the case of Rio. I'm not sure it will be a typical Brazilian Samba or Carnival atmosphere, but I'm sure it will be better than normal, or better than now."
— German gold-medal rower Wolfgang Maennig

"I'm just going to focus on my racing and what my goals are, and anybody else's expectations don't really mean much to me."
— USA swimmer Katie Ledecky



THE OLYMPICS • RIO DE JANEIRO

RESURFACING

His legacy as one of the greatest Olympians ever already secure, Michael Phelps looks for more

He's the greatest Olympian ever, with a staggering haul of 22 medals — 18 of them gold — since first testing the water in Sydney as a teenager in 2000. Now Michael Phelps is a 31-year-old new father trying to cap off a remarkable career with one final gold rush in Rio. He has qualified for three individual races but also could swim in up to three relays.

After coming out of a brief retirement and coming to terms with some personal issues, he'll be the titular leader of a U.S. team loaded with both proven talent and young swimmers hoping to make a splash.

Among them is Ryan Lochte, who has 11 medals of his own and will try to go out on top in his rivalry with Phelps in his showdown in the 200-meter individual medley.

"I don't know of another person in this world who brings out the best in me like he does," Phelps said. "Neither one of us likes to lose."

Neither does Katie Ledecky, perhaps the most dominant swimmer in the world. She will be a big favorite to add to her medals from the London Olympics, where she surprised everyone by winning the 800 freestyle as a 15-year-old.

All eyes won't be on the water in Rio. On land, Jamaica's Usain Bolt figures to electrify fans as he did in the last two Olympics, where he dominated the sprints. With Russia's track team banned because of doping allegations, some surprise winners also are likely.

Fears of Zika, polluted water and crime aside, the Rio games have a lot to offer. The scenery will look spectacular on TV, and athletes will compete for glory under the kind of stifling pressure that only the world's biggest sporting event can impose.

There will be tears and cheers, surprise winners and devastated losers. New stars will be born, and old ones will take one last shot at gold when the games begin Aug. 5.

The biggest star, though, is Phelps, who insists this will be his last time, more eager than he was four years ago in London and more secure in who he is now with an infant son and more settled personal life.

This time, he's not going to waver. There will be no more swimming after these games, no dreams of taking yet another shot at the age of 35 in Tokyo.

"I'm done," Phelps said. "The body is done. This is my last one."

Other things to watch for in Rio:

NEW SPORTS

Golf returns to the Olympics for the first time in 112 years, while rugby also makes a return of sorts with the rugby sevens competition. Golf will be without some of the world's top male players, who withdrew either because of Zika worries or scheduling conflicts, but a full field is set anyway for both the women's and men's events. Watch for Fiji, a favorite in men's rugby, to win the country's first-ever Olympic medal.

GYM GEMS

They call Aly Raisman "Grandma" because at 22 she's pushing traditional age limits for gymnasts. But the captain of the "Fierce Five" U.S. women's team that won gold in London will be back, as will reigning all-around champion Gabby Douglas. The best member of the strong U.S. team, though, is Simone Biles, a 4-foot-9 bundle of moves who has not lost a major competition since 2013 and is the three-time reigning world all-around champion.

HOOPS

No Kobe. No LeBron. No problem. The U.S. men's basketball team is still a prohibitive favorite to win gold yet again, despite the absence of some stars of Olympics past. With Kobe Bryant retired and LeBron James resting after winning the NBA title, the roster is missing some star power. But Kevin Durant will be in Rio, and so will Klay Thompson. Carmelo Anthony is in, too, as is Kyrie Irving. Spain, France and Brazil should fight for the silver and bronze.

TUNING IN

Need a quick Olympic fix at any time of the day? No problem. Broadcasters around the world are showing the games, but NBC is going all out to make sure the Olympics are a big part of everyone's summer. Besides coverage on NBC's assortment of stations, a whopping 4,500 hours of Olympic action will be available for live streaming on everything from phones to TV sets. Expect to see lots of swimming and gymnastics, but plenty of hours dedicated to even the most minor sports and 170 commentators to tell you all about it.

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COMPILED BY TIM DAHLBERG; ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

U.S. OLYMPIANS TO WATCH



SIMONE BILES
Age: 19
Hometown: Spring, Texas
Sport: Gymnastics
Best shot at gold: Biles could return from Brazil with up to five medals in her carry-on luggage. She is a heavy favorite to become the fourth American to win the Olympic all-around title and is a threat to win gold on vault, floor and beam.



KATIE LEDECKY
Age: 19
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Sport: Swimming
Best shot at gold: Ledecky is an overwhelming favorite to win at least two individual golds as the world-record holder in the both the 400 and 800 freestyle. She will likely face more of a challenge in the 200 free but is still the swimmer to beat.



ALLYSON FELIX
Age: 30
Hometown: Los Angeles
Sport: Track
Best shot at gold: She wanted to go for gold in the 200 and 400, but an ankle injury set back her training and she failed to qualify in the 200. With only one event to focus on, it'd be hard to bet against her.



ASHTON EATON
Age: 28
Hometown: Eugene, Oregon.
Sport: Track & Field
Best shot at gold: When healthy, he's pretty much untouchable in the decathlon.



IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD
Age: 30
Hometown: Maplewood, New Jersey
Sport: Fencing
Best shot at gold: Muhammad will make history in Rio as the first U.S. athlete to wear the hijab, a Muslim head scarf. Muhammad will be a long shot to compete for gold, but a medal is possible.

Sports

Hamilton cruises
to dominant win

15



Frampton wins
slugfest over
Santa
Cruz to claim
WBA title

16



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80 YEARS AFTER JESSE OWENS STOLE HITLER'S BERLIN SHOW Page 18



CARSON: Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa (L) moves the ball away from Leicester City during their International Champions Cup (ICC) football match at StubHub Center in Carson, California on Saturday. — AFP

PSG SINK LEICESTER AS CHAMPIONS CLASH

LOS ANGELES: French title winners Paris Saint-Germain brought English champions Leicester City down to earth with a comfortable 4-0 win in the exhibition International Champions Cup in Los Angeles on Saturday. A sell-out 25,667 crowd at the StubHub Center was treated to passages of sumptuous midfield interplay as PSG gave the naive Foxes a taste of what to expect at Europe's top table as they head into their first Champions League campaign.

PSG attacked relentlessly, playing neat triangles in midfield and looking to play mercurial Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani in through the channels while Javier Pastore whipped in dangerous crosses from the left. The threat was largely cancelled out early on by captain Wes Morgan and his center back partner Robert Huth, with goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel having little to do.

But PSG got the breakthrough in the 26th minute

when Daniel Amartey clumsily brought down Jonathan Ikone in the area and Cavani sent Schmeichel the wrong way from the spot.

Leicester clawed their way back into the play with several promising attacks, including a stinging free kick from Algerian star midfielder Riyad Mahrez which PSG keeper Alphonse Areola just kept out. But "les Rouge et Bleu" doubled their lead seconds before half-time when Thomas Meunier, who scored twice in the last ICC fixture against Real Madrid in Ohio, surged into Leicester's box on the counter. The 24-year-old Belgian international, who moved in the close season from FC Bruges, played a neat assist to Ikone, who slotted the ball in off the bar and beyond Schmeichel. Foxes boss Claudio Ranieri and his opposite number Unai Emery made 17 substitutions between them, largely taking the tempo and purpose out of the second half. It was over as a con-

test just after the hour when Maxwell sent in a cross from the left, which Lucas Moura was able to nod in after peeling away at the far post.

CLINICAL

Substitute striker Odsonne Edouard rounded off the rout moments before the final whistle when he found himself one on one with Schmeichel, and slotted the ball clinically into the back of the net.

Emery took over Qatar-backed PSG last month from Laurent Blanc, who won the domestic treble twice in a row but failed to make substantial progress in Europe.

He has since spent big on Poland international midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak, French flare player Hatem Ben Arfa, and Belgium's right back Thomas Meunier.

Emery indicated earlier on Saturday that a swoop for 23-year-old Real Madrid forward Jese Rodriguez was "a

possibility" before the end of the transfer window.

Asked if he was looking to bolster the squad further, the Spaniard said he was "very happy with the team with the experienced players but also the young players." "To be able to perform, to have a good season, we do have a big team capable of doing that," he added.

He didn't mention Jese by name, but said that "other players could join in attack perhaps—that is a possibility," Ranieri said that although the result didn't go Leicester's way, the team had gained valuable experience ahead of its first European campaign, although the priority was the Premier League.

"The focus is to be safe and then, if it's possible, to get experience. It's the first time in Leicester City Football Club's life that it is in the Champions League," he said. "It's amazing. With a lot of respect, we will try to do our best." — AFP



MADRID: Kuwait Professional Cycling Team participated in the International Jetsho race which was held in Spain. — KUNA

KUWAIT CYCLING TEAM PARTICIPATES IN SPAIN

MADRID: Kuwait Professional Cycling Team (Masi-Kuwait, cycling project) participated in the International Jetsho race, which was held in Spain, only six days after participating in the well known Spanish race Prueba Villafranca-Ordiziako Klasika. Eight Kuwait athletes including Kuwait champion cyclist Abdelhadi Al-Ajmi was in the race that was held yesterday in the north of Spain covering 170 kilometers.

Kuwait Ambassador to Spain Dr Suleiman Al-Harby told Kuna the participation of

Kuwait's professional team in the famed Spanish races in within projecting Kuwait's activities and its efforts in the field of sports, and strengthening Kuwaiti presence in international sports arenas.

Al-Harby said Kuwait embassy is keen on supporting all activities that shows Kuwait achievements by facilitating the missions of Kuwait delegations at the instructions of First Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid.

Meanwhile rapporteur of Kuwait Cycling Committee, founder of Kuwait Professional Cycling Team Abdallah Al-Shimmari said the team is a Kuwaiti project that aims at marketing Kuwait's name in various races and in international arenas.

He said the team, which became a true competitor in short time looks forward to be crowned in the races. He thanked Kuwait embassy in Madrid for helping the delegation ever since arriving in Spain. — KUNA

ATLETICO MADRID CRASH TO DEFEAT IN AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Spanish giants Atletico Madrid crashed to a 1-0 loss to A-League side Melbourne Victory on their Australian pre-season tour in Geelong yesterday.

The European Champions League runners-up fell behind to a goal against the run of play shortly before half-time and were kept scoreless in the second half. Defender Nick Ansell powerfully headed home off a free-kick from Tunisian Fahid Ben Khalfallah to rock Atletico in the 44th minute. While manager Diego Simeone rung the changes in the second half his side could not find a way through the determined Victory defence. Despite the defeat, he was pleased with the benefits of the trip to Australia.

"I'm very happy. These matches are very helpful for the guys who have played," said Simeone, who selected seven players from his club's academy in the Atletico starting lineup.

"I take from this many positive things. The youths are learning and this is the way to improve.

"Melbourne Victory is a well-worked team, strong and compact." It has been a heady 10 days for the twice A-League champions, who beat Italian

champions Juventus on penalties in the International Champions Cup last week before claiming another high-profile scalp in Atletico Madrid. Atletico Madrid, who lost this year's Champions League final on penalties to cross-city rivals Real Madrid, won their first match in Australia against England's Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 in Melbourne on Friday. There were several heavy challenges in Sunday's game with a solid tackle by Uruguayan defender Emiliano Velazquez forcing Victory's Mitch Austin off the field with a knee injury in the first half.

French defender Lucas Hernandez also limped away after a sliding tackle on Victory midfielder Oliver Bozanic in the second half. Simeone made a triple substitution midway through the second half in an effort to recharge his team. But Melbourne counterpart Kevin Muscat took off most of his leading players among six substitutions at one stage, leaving Victory with a largely youth side against the Spaniards in the final stages.

Atletico will return home on Tuesday and will next play Galatasaray in Turkey as part of their pre-season on August 6. — AFP



PRIUS: A NEW ERA OF AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY



In this May 7, 2012 file photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, Haiyang Shiyou oil rig, the first deep-water drilling rig developed in China by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, is pictured at 320 kilometers southeast of Hong Kong in the South China Sea. — AP

CHINA'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS IN TROUBLED WATERS

BEIJING RACING TO GET UNIT INTO COMMERCIAL OPERATION

BEIJING: China's ambitions to become a pioneer in nuclear energy are sailing into troubled waters. Two state-owned companies plan to develop floating nuclear reactors, a technology engineers have been considering since the 1970s for use by oil rigs or island communities. Beijing is racing Russia, which started developing its own in 2007, to get a unit into commercial operation.

In China's case, the achievement would be tempered by concern its reactors might be sent into harm's way to support oil exploration in the South China Sea, where Beijing faces conflicting territorial claims by neighbors including Vietnam and the Philippines. Chinese news reports say plans call for deploying 20 reactors there, though neither developer has mentioned the area.

Tensions ratcheted up after a UN arbitration panel ruled July 12 that Beijing's claim to most of the sea has no legal basis. Beijing rejected the decision in a case brought by the Philippines and announced it would hold war games in the area, where its military has built artificial islands. The floating reactor plans reflect Beijing's determination to create profitable technologies in fields from energy to mobile phones and to curb growing reliance on imported oil and gas, which communist leaders see as a security risk.

Homegrown technology

China is the most active builder of nuclear power plants, with 32 reactors in operation, 22 under construction and more planned. It relies heavily on US, French and Russian technology but is developing its own. The latest initiatives are led by China General Nuclear Power Group and China National Nuclear Corp. Both have research or consulting agreements with Westinghouse Electric Co. and France's

EDF and Areva, but say their floating plants will use homegrown technology. "They are keen to develop that because they have a lot of oil drilling everywhere in the South

China Sea and overseas as well," said Luk Bing-lam, an engineering professor at the City University of Hong Kong who has worked with a CGN subsidiary on unrelated projects. "The Chinese strategy is to ensure the energy supply for the country," said Luk. "Oil drilling needs energy, and with that supply, they could speed up operations." Russia's first floating commercial reactor, the Academician Lomonosov, is due to be delivered in 2018, but the project has suffered repeated delays. The Russians have yet to announce a commercial customer.

Russia has been "aiming to launch this idea for over two decades by pitching the reactor as a plug-and-play option for fairly remote communities," said Mark Hibbs, an expert on nuclear policy for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in an email. Russia's target market was Indonesia and its far-flung islands, Hibbs said. That prompted concern about control over nuclear materials, leading to a recommendation Russia operate the reactor and take back used fuel.

The Chinese nuclear agency signed a deal with Moscow in 2014 to build floating power stations using Russian technology. It is unclear whether that will go ahead given the plans by CNG and CNNC to develop their own vessels. Chinese developers can count on sales to the state-owned oil industry without going abroad. CGN has signed a contract with China National Offshore Oil Corp. to support oil and gas exploration at sea. The company says it will launch its first vessel by 2020, with plans for 20 more. It declined an interview request and did not respond to written ques-

tions. CNNC plans a demonstration unit by 2019.

A floating nuclear plant probably would be too costly just to supply power but could be useful in oil and gas exploration by also providing heat and fresh water, Luk said. He said CGN engineers told him their design is meant for islands or other remote sites. Tensions with Vietnam have flared over Chinese oil and gas exploration near the Vietnamese coast. In January, Vietnam complained a Chinese oil company had towed a drilling rig into disputed waters. In 2014, the same rig was parked off Vietnam's central coast for two months, leading to violent anti-Chinese demonstrations and confrontations at sea as Chinese vessels rammed Vietnamese boats to prevent them from approaching the rig.

Security concerns

Reactors have been used on warships since the 1950s. But those vessels regularly visit port for maintenance and face little security risk because they are heavily armed. "The security concerns are clear: such reactors would be tempting targets for military or terrorist attacks," Edwin Lyman, a nuclear specialist for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, said in an email. "Maintaining the full contingent of security officers necessary to effectively deter attack would not be feasible."

Other perils include stormy seas - the South China Sea is buffeted by powerful seasonal typhoons - and the need to exchange radioactive fuel at distant sites. CGN says its seaborne unit will have "passive safety," or features that function without moving parts or outside power, such as control rods that drop by gravity in an emergency. No commercial reactor operates with such features. "There are

questions about how reliable passive safety systems will be in extreme conditions," Lyman said.

CGN wants to simplify operations by requiring refueling only once every three years instead of the industry standard of 18 months, Luk said. That would require more highly enriched fuel, with the amount of the U-235 isotope raised to as much as 10 percent from the typical 4.5 percent. "If it were seized by terrorists or someone else, that would be a big problem," he said. China's aggressive pursuit of nuclear technology has run afoul of US law enforcement.

In April, a Chinese-born American engineer employed by CGN was charged with recruiting experts in the United States to help the company with reactor construction without applying for required government permission. Allen Ho, also known as Szuhsiung Ho, also was charged in federal court in Tennessee with acting illegally as an agent of a foreign government. Under a 2007 agreement, Westinghouse transferred to another government company, the State Nuclear Power Technology Corp., technology for its latest model, the AP1000. It was to become the basis for future Chinese reactors that could be sold abroad, but CGN and CNNC pressed ahead with development of their own models.

CGN says its 60-megawatt floating reactor, the ACPR50, is a version of the land-based ACP100 reactor. CNNC says its seaborne unit will be based on another reactor, the ACP100, but has released no other details. Westinghouse has no role in the ACPR50's development, according to a company spokeswoman, Courtney Boone. EDF and Areva did not respond to requests for information about their possible role. — AP

SPANIARDS CHASED AWAY BY CRISIS TRY TO RETURN HOME

MADRID: Luis Lag is one of thousands of Spaniards who went abroad during the crisis. This "very good decision" allowed him to find a better job when he eventually came back. But many others who left their country in search of work are still unable to return home due to Spain's sky-high unemployment. Before leaving in 2011, Lag says he was giving private lessons as he was unable to find work as a chemist, earning between 500 and 1,500 Euros (\$550 and \$1,700) a month.

Speaking just weeks after he finally returned, the 40-year-old said it had been difficult to live well and reimburse his mortgage with that amount of money. So he decided to leave for Germany. He first worked for a laboratory near the Austrian border in the southeast, and then moved west near Switzerland. Having now returned to Alcala de Henares near the Spanish capital with his wife and son, who was born in Germany, he manages a team of 15 people at a laboratory. This rise up the career ladder would have been impossible had he not moved abroad, he says.

"I made progress in Germany," he says, from a professional and salary standpoint. "It helped to get a good job here." Andreu Domingo, an expert in international migration at Barcelona's Centre for Demographic Studies, told

AFP that since 2008 when Spain plunged into financial crisis to 2015, "473,000 Spaniards have left." And the prospect that these may not come back, emptying the country of its young and qualified workers, is of huge concern in Spain.

But as the country emerges out of the crisis, with its economy growing at 3.2 percent last year-one of the fastest rates in the Euro zone-some have decided to return. According to Germany's Federal Statistical Office, the number of Spaniards arriving in the country-which had for years been on the rise-reversed its trend in 2014 just as Spain began its economic recovery and started dropping.

Meanwhile, the number of Spaniards leaving Germany is on the increase, it adds. "A multitude of little things"-the language, being closer to family, quality of life-prompted Lag to come back, even if he was going to be paid less. And he is not the only one. Three friends in February created a platform called "Volvemos.org" (translated as "we are returning") to help people like Lag connect with potential employers. Since then, 4,600 migrants have contacted the website-engineers, architects, professors, researchers or sociologists currently living in a total of 86 countries attracted by Spain's improved outlook, says founder Raul Gil. — AFP

DUBAI BILLIONAIRE ALABBAR BEHIND ARAMEX STAKE BUYS

DUBAI: Billionaire Dubai businessman Mohamed Alabbar led two investor groups that recently bought a combined 16.45 percent stake in Dubai-based courier Aramex, a source familiar with the matter said. The source said Alabbar was keen to harness Aramex's footprint in logistics and transport to build an e-commerce platform across the Arab world within areas such as banking and retail. Dubai-based news website Arabian Business-known to have close ties to Alabbar-yesterday reports suggested that Alabbar could be planning to build a sizable stake in Aramex, with a view to taking control. It did not say where the reports came from or cite any sources, however. The source refused to be drawn on Alabbar's intentions for further buying of Aramex.

Nobody from Aramex was immediately available to comment. Aramex said earlier yesterday in a bourse filing that its founder Fadi Ghandour had sold his 9.9 percent stake held through Levant Logistics Holdings to Cayman Islands-registered Boson Ventures Corporation. The source said Alabbar was a lead investor in Boson. The bourse filing did not give the value of the sale or elaborate further.

Alabbar was also a lead investor in Jaona Investment, which acquired a 6.55 percent stake in Aramex through a direct trade worth 437.6 million Dirhams (\$119 mn),

according to a bourse statement on Thursday. The other investors in Boson and Jaona were Gulf-based, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter. The Arab world's youthful population and improving Internet access-the UAE and Saudi Arabia, for example, have smartphone penetration rates above 70 percent-mean the region is well placed to capture the growing popularity of e-commerce.

Alabbar, chairman of Emaar Properties, the Dubai government-linked builder of the world's tallest building, in April took a 4 percent stake in online fashion retailer Yoox Net-A-Porter (YNAP). The Middle East accounts for 5 percent of global sales of luxury goods and is seeing growing online sales due to increasing public investments in e-services and telecoms infrastructure, YNAP said at the time. Alabbar is also chairman of Emaar Malls, the owner and operator of Dubai Mall, which accounts for 50 percent of the emirate's luxury goods spending. This is not Alabbar's first big play for a listed company in recent months. Adeptio, an investment group led by Alabbar, in June agreed a \$2.4 billion deal to buy a majority stake in Kuwait Food Co (Americana), which owns the Middle East franchises for fast food chains KFC and Pizza Hut and also produces branded consumer foods. — Reuters

FOMC AND BANK OF JAPAN DISAPPOINT MARKETS

NBK WEEKLY REPORT

Markets began the week relatively calm as investors awaited the highly anticipated Central Bank meetings in the US and in Japan. Ever since the "Brexit" vote, markets had effectively priced out a rate hike from the US despite a strong rebound in the labor market earlier in the month. However, markets were still disappointed when a vague Fed came out spelling out more of the same that has been said previously but without any clear direction of what is to come next.

The Fed reiterated that it was "closely monitoring inflation and global economic and financial developments," and that while "near-term risks to the economic outlook have diminished," "the actual path of the federal funds rate will depend on the economic outlook from the incoming data." As nothing new has been said, markets interpreted the statement as a dovish indication that the FOMC could very well delay the timing of its next rate hike beyond their next meeting in September.

On the currency side, the US Dollar index began the week on a continuing strength of last week as markets preferred its safe haven status. The currency plunged after both disappointing central bank releases from the FOMC and the BoJ. The first drop after the FOMC took the index down to 96.57 while the second drop dragged the index further to 95.71. Finally the USD closed the week off at 96.74.

The Bank of Japan meeting also disappointed investors who had high expectations for significant additional quantitative easing measures to combat the ever appreciating Yen and deflation environment. To markets disappointment, the Bank of Japan left its key policies unchanged and introduced underwhelming expansions to its stimulus program. The yen saw great volatility last week as the markets tried to digest the news. The USD/JPY pair started off the week at 106.30 but found its way to 102.60 after the BoJ meeting on Friday. Finally the pair ended the week at 102.06.

The Sterling Pound slightly recovered this week after July 22nd drop, following the release of disappointing manufacturing and services PMI data. The dismal data added to the concerns over the outlook of the UK growth following the country's decision to leave the European Union. The Pound tried to recover after both Central Bank meetings gave it a slight boost but could not seem to find a strong footing as the pair would retreat immediately afterwards. The GBP/USD began the week at 1.3140 reached a high of 1.3251 after the BoJ meeting and ended the week at 1.3225.

Unlike its counterparts, the Euro was relatively stable this week trading in tight ranges throughout the week. The EUR/USD pair also saw two rebounds after both FOMC and BoJ meetings and was able to keep its momentum at the end of the week with the release of positive flash estimates in CPI and GDP. The



pair opened the week at 1.09668 climbed to 1.1075 after the FOMC then jumped to 1.1172 after the BoJ and the release of the positive data. The currency ended the week at 1.1173.

In the commodities sector, crude oil continued its downward trend as OPEC's oil output is likely to reach its highest level in recent history in the month of July. According to analysts, Iraq and Nigeria have been able to ramp up production while Saudi Arabia's output is still at record highs. Brent crude opened the week at 45.70 and closed at 43.20. Gold on the other hand, saw large gains as global Central Banks disappointed markets. Gold opened the week at 1,323.33 and closed at a three week high of 1350.59.

FOMC leaves policies unchanged

As widely expected after the UK referendum, the FOMC left interest rates unchanged while remaining relatively vague over the future of the US monetary policy. While being neither hawkish nor dovish, the Fed did recognize improvements in the economy specifically consumer spending and the labor market. "Household spending has been growing strongly" while "the labor market strengthened and economic activity has been expanding at a moderate rate."

Furthermore, the Fed mentioned risks to the US economy have subsided and the labor market is getting tighter, suggesting conditions are getting more favorable for an increase in borrowing costs. However, the committee reiterated concerns over inflation as data continued to run below the Committee's 2% longer term target. The Committee will also maintain its existing policy of reinvesting principal payments from its holdings of agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities in agency mortgage-backed securities and of rolling over maturing

treasury securities at auction. This policy should help maintain accommodative financial conditions for the economy. Finally, regarding future rate hikes, the Committee expects that economic conditions will evolve in a manner that will warrant gradual increases in the federal funds rate when incoming data deems adequate.

Consumer confidence cautiously optimistic

US Consumers' assessment of the current conditions held steady in July compared to June while still beating expectations. Consumers were slightly more positive about current business and labor market conditions, suggesting the economy will continue to expand at a moderate pace. Those stating business conditions are "good" increased from 26.8% to 28.1%, while those saying business conditions are "bad" also rose, from 18.3% to 19.0%.

When it comes to consumer's short-term outlook, the numbers were slightly less favorable as the percentage of consumers expecting business conditions to improve over the next six months decreased from 16.6% to 15.9% and those expecting business conditions to worsen increased from 11.2% to 12.3% indicating consumers remain cautiously optimistic about growth in the near-term. The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index was 97.3 compared to 97.4 in June.

New home sales increase while business spending declines

New home sales jumped in June as sales data from prior months were revised upward, signaling higher demand in the housing market. June sales rose 3.5% to an annual rate of 592,000 according to the Commerce Department, the strongest since February

2008, beating the 560,000 forecast set by economists. The median price jumped to \$306,700 in June, 6% higher than a year ago.

On the other hand, orders for durable goods tumbled 4.0% last month, the biggest drop since August 2014, after declining 2.8% in May. Excluding transportation equipment, orders decreased 0.5% after a previous month 0.4% decline. Business spending has weakened since late 2015, in part as lower oil prices squeezed profits in the energy sector, forcing companies to cut on capital spending. While acknowledging the softening business investment, the Fed however, described the near-term risks to the economic outlook as having "diminished" with data ranging from retail sales to housing suggest that US economic growth is still at an adequate pace.

Europe & UK

UK Preliminary GDP increase

Change in gross domestic product was estimated to have increased by 0.6% in Quarter 2 of 2016 compared with growth of 0.4% in Quarter 1. Output increased in two of the main industrial groupings within the economy in the second quarter. Services increased by 0.5% and production increased by 2.1%. In contrast, construction decreased by 0.4% and agriculture decreased by 1.0%. GDP was 2.2% higher compared with the same quarter from a year ago. British finance minister Hammond says that the data shows that the fundamentals of the British economy are strong and that along with the BOE, the Treasury will take whatever action is needed to support the economy.

German business morale dips slightly

The German Ifo Business Climate showed that morale fell slightly in July suggesting that Germany's economy has endured the immedi-

ate effects from Britain's vote to leave the European Union. The institute said its business climate index, based on a monthly survey of some 7,000 firms, fell to only 108.3 in July from 108.7 in June while beating expectations of 107.5. Sentiment in manufacturing, trade and industry and wholesaling fell, while retailing and construction also improved.

Euro Zone inflation estimates increase

The Euro area's flash consumer price index estimate showed inflation was slightly higher than expected in July as it increased to 0.2% y/y from 0.1% y/y in June. The rise in inflation was mainly driven by food price inflation which was 1.4% y/y, up from 0.9% y/y in June. The lower oil prices in July implied there was a monthly decline in energy prices of 0.9%, but the yearly inflation rate was only down at -6.6% from -6.4% reflecting that the base from last year pulled towards an increase in energy price inflation. The core figure which excludes food and energy was also slightly higher than expected as it remained unchanged at 0.9% y/y.

Asia

Bank of Japan disappoints

The Bank of Japan kept its key monetary tools unchanged but announced a modest increase of exchange-traded funds so that their amount outstanding will increase at an annual pace of about 6 trillion yen. Moreover, the Japanese government unveiled a surprisingly large 28 trillion yen stimulus package containing potentially direct fiscal spending of only 7 trillion. Furthermore, the BoJ will increase the size of its lending program to support growth to 24 billion USD. Under this lending program, the Bank will provide its US dollar funds for a period of up to 4 years to support Japanese firms' overseas activities through financial institutions. All these measures fell short of market expectations of drastic changes in policy to fight off the appreciating yen and the deflationary environment. Furthermore, the market reaction to the BOJ's decision was intensified by a recent build up in expectations for the central bank to unveil a more significant monetary easing that would effectively fund the government's recent plans for increased fiscal spending. Finally, Governor Koruda ordered a comprehensive assessment of policy effects under the current policy framework at the next monetary policy meeting with a view to achieving its 2% inflation target as soon as possible.

Australian interest rates cut possible

Consumer prices in Australia increased by 0.4% in the second quarter of 2016 according to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The core figure, which excludes volatile components, increased by 0.45% beating expectations of a 0.4% gain. Despite the gains, the data showed annual inflation increased to just 1% making it the weakest annual rise since 1999. That result is still well below the RBA's target range of 2-3% and keeps an interest rate cut next month firmly on the cards.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES LUCKY WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced today the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Farah Dhari Rashed Al Tahous
2. Baramatiwala Zahra Mustafa
3. Naima Salem Mulaifi Abdulaziz
4. Hussein Ahmed Abdulkhaleq Al Banaa
5. Mohsen Saleh Abdullatif Saleh

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances

to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to

maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning. For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

AIR FRANCE STRIKE HAS AFFECTED 150,000

PARIS: Thousands of people faced flight cancellations in France yesterday, the fifth day of a strike by Air France flight crew at the height of the holiday travel period, the airline said. So far the strike has affected around 150,000 people, the airline said. Some 900 flights, or about one in five, have been cancelled since the action began on

Wednesday, the airline said, estimating the cost to the company at "tens of millions of Euros".

Some flights have gone ahead but with a reduced passenger load for security reasons as there were not enough flight attendants. Millions of people are returning home from their July holidays this weekend as millions

more set off for an August break, causing long tailbacks on the roads and frenetic scenes at rail stations and airports. Unions representing around half of the Air France strikers called the stoppage after marathon talks failed to reach a breakthrough on renewing a collective labor accord on rules, pay and promotions that expires in October. — AFP



AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 31st July, 2016. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Ashkanani. Al Najma awards are now

brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are-

- Mostafa Haroun AbdulFattah Al Sheikh
- Arjumand Bano Mohammed Rekan Aldin
- Qais Al Rehman Ahmed
- Amrinder Singh Ajmer Singh
- Mohammed Sarmad Khan Mohammed Akbar Khan

KD 7000/-
KD 7000/-
KD 7000/-
KD 7000/-
KD 7000/-

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.971	
Indian Rupees	4.521	
Pakistani Rupees	2.896	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.082	
Nepali Rupees	2.823	
Singapore Dollar	227.930	
Hongkong Dollar	39.078	
Bangladesh Taka	3.865	
Philippine Peso	6.450	
Thai Baht	8.730	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.883	
Qatari Riyal	83.317	
ani Riyal	787.812	
Bahraini Dinar	805.500	
UAE Dirham	82.580	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.250	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.530	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218	
Tunisian Dinar	137.800	
Jordanian Dinar	428.000	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.022	
Syrian Lira	2.0162	
Morocco Dirham	31.447	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	303.150	
Euro	342.260	

Sterling Pound	404.100
Canadian dollar	234.430
Turkish lira	101.860
Swiss Franc	316.110
Australian Dollar	233.120
US Dollar Buying	301.950
GOLD	
20 Gram	270.610
10 Gram	138.220
5 Gram	69.960

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.650
Canadian Dollar	232.415
Sterling Pound	401.085
Euro	339.245
Swiss Frank	294.580
Bahrain Dinar	800.075
UAE Dirhams	82.630
Qatari Riyals	83.840
Saudi Riyals	81.430
Jordanian Dinar	426.460
Egyptian Pound	33.985
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.077
Indian Rupees	4.516
Pakistani Rupees	2.881
Bangladesh Taka	3.851
Philippines Peso	6.424
Cyprus pound	159.500
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.815

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.391319	0.406319
Czech Korune	0.004314	0.016314
Danish Krone	0.040738	0.045738
Euro	0.0327885	0.0336885
Norwegian Krone	0.031333	0.036533
Romanian Leu	0.074498	0.074498
Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051
Slovenia Krona	0.030979	0.035979
Swiss Franc	0.299214	0.310214
Turkish Lira	0.096447	0.106747
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.218594	0.230594
New Zealand Dollar	0.207096	0.216595
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.224611	0.233611
Georgina Lari	0.137008	0.137008
US Dollars	0.299250	0.304250
US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.304250
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003397	0.003981
Chinese Yuan	0.044080	0.047580
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037016	0.039766

Indian Rupee	0.004361	0.004771
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002791	0.002971
Kenyan Shilling	0.002986	0.002986
Korean Won	0.000257	0.000272
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071286	0.077286
Nepalese Rupee	0.002681	0.003031
Pakistan Rupee	0.002728	0.003018
Philippine Peso	0.006337	0.006637
Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000058
Singapore Dollar	0.217947	0.227947
South African Rand	0.015083	0.023583
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001662	0.002242
Taiwan	0.009341	0.009521
Thai Baht	0.008331	0.008881
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.798072	0.806572
Egyptian Pound	0.027140	0.032258
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.424763	0.433763
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019363	0.043363
Nigerian Naira	0.001252	0.001887
Omani Riyal	0.781502	0.787182
Qatar Riyal	0.082511	0.083961
Saudi Riyal	0.079807	0.081107
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.132882	0.140882
Turkish Lira	0.096447	0.106747
UAE Dirhams	0.081166	0.082866
Yemeni Riyal	0.001371	0.001451



ZAIN GENERATES REVENUES OF KD 552M

RECORDS NET INCOME OF KD 82 MILLION IN H1 2016

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a pioneer of mobile telecommunications across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the six months to 30 June, 2016. The company ended the period serving 45.2 million customers.

Group key performance indicators for H1 2016

For the first six months of 2016, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 552 million (USD 1.83 billion) down 2% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in KD terms. The Group's consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 255 million (USD 846 million), up 6% Y-o-Y in KD terms. EBITDA margin increased to a healthy 46.2% at the end of the period, compared to 42.8% for the same period of 2015. Consolidated net income reached KD 82 million up 2% Y-o-Y. Earnings per share for the period stood at 21 Fils (USD 0.07). The Group incurred foreign currency variance losses amounting to USD 57 million for the first six-month period of 2016, a USD 15 million increase from a USD 42 million

opportunities and to deal with the diverse market and social challenges that we face."

Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer noted, "The effectiveness of our data monetization initiatives and cost optimization drive in such challenging conditions across several of our key markets has been reflected in our improved results for the second quarter and six-month periods of 2016, outperforming our peers across many of our country operations. We are committed to a growth strategy in which we are successfully leveraging our state-of-the-art 4G infrastructure and implementing numerous data monetization initiatives. We draw confidence from the consolidated 7% growth in data revenues for the six-month period, with data now accounting for 22% of overall service revenues."

Gegenheimer continued, "The severe impact of ongoing civil instability in Iraq is a concern for us, both from the perspective of the human suffering that it causes, but also due to the detrimental impact it has on our business. The sales tax instituted in the country also had a determined negative

effect on our overall financial results, though we remain optimistic that the strategy we have in place is the correct one for our circumstances. Similarly, for our home operation in Kuwait, we are focused on dealing with the intense price competition there and we are confident that the initiatives we are implementing will result in incremental revenue generation. All the same, we are encouraged to see growth on several fronts in key markets, with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan witnessing healthy growth with respect to numerous key financial indicators." Gegenheimer concluded, "We are actively seeking and securing sources of incremental revenue in the digital space including enterprise M2M services and smart city solutions to governments and mega real estate projects across the region. We have entered into several strategic partnerships recently, which we strongly believe will fast-track and further enhance our ambitions to unlock many lucrative opportunities in the connected society revolution."

SAUDI ARABIA

The operation served 10.7 million customers at the end of the first six months of 2016. Revenues grew 5% Y-o-Y to reach USD 956 mil-

lion while EBITDA grew 4% to reach USD 218 million and net losses amounted to USD 154 million for the period. Zain Saudi Arabia's EBITDA margin reached 22.8%. Impressively, the operator witnessed a 57% Y-o-Y rise in data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS), representing 31% of total revenues as the company invested heavily and expanded its modern 4G LTE network.

JORDAN

Zain Jordan grew its customer base by 3% Y-o-Y, serving 4.1 million customers, maintaining its market leading position. Y-o-Y, revenues increased 7% to reach USD 238 million, with EBITDA up 18% to reach USD 115 million, reflect-

ing an impressive 48% EBITDA margin. Net income increased 10% to USD 50 million. With the launch of 4G, data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represented 32% of total revenues, up by 25% Y-o-Y.

BAHRAIN

Zain Bahrain generated revenues of USD 86 million for the six-month period, down 9% Y-o-Y. EBITDA for the period reached USD 32 million, down 12%, and reflecting an EBITDA margin of 38%. Net income amounted to USD 4.9 million, reflecting a 11% decrease. Data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) increased 5% Y-o-Y, representing 37% of overall revenues.



Zain Group Chairman Asaad Al Banwan



Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer

impact for the same period in 2015, predominantly accounted for by operations in Iraq and Sudan.

Group key performance indicators for Q2 2016

For the second quarter of 2016, Zain Group recorded consolidated revenues of KD 275 million (USD 912 million), down 3% on the same period in the previous year. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 132 million (USD 439 million), up 7% Y-o-Y in KD terms, reflecting an increased EBITDA margin of 48.1%, compared to 43.7% for the same period of 2015. Net income for the quarter reached KD 45 million (USD 148 million), up 14% Y-o-Y in KD terms reflecting earnings per share of 11 Fils (USD 0.04). For the second quarter of 2016, the Group incurred foreign currency variance losses amounting to USD 22 million, a USD 13 million decrease from a USD 35 million impact for the same period in 2015.

Key operational notes for H1 2016

1. Consolidated Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) witnessed a 7% growth Y-o-Y, with data now constituting 22% of the Group's total revenues.
 2. The continued civil instability in Iraq and implementation of a 20% sales tax on mobile services, as well as wide-ranging tax increases on other sectors in the country affect spending on mobile services, impacting Zain Iraq's operational results and consequently the Group's overall key financial metrics.
 3. Zain Sudan launched high-speed 4G LTE marking the first time the mobile technology has been made available in the country and the sixth Zain operation to introduce it.
 4. Zain Sudan and Zain Saudi Arabia enjoyed impressive data revenue growth of 44% and 57% respectively.
- Commenting on the solid results, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Mr Asaad Al Banwan said: "It is pleasing to report growth in several of our key financial metrics for the second quarter and six-month 2016 periods given that Zain Group is exposed to conflict zones and currency fluctuations that continue to impact the growth potential of our business."
- Al Banwan continued, "Zain is committed to innovation, quality of service and maintaining our leadership position in our markets, and the Board continues to work closely with management to continually evaluate business-enhancing and value-creating

effect on our overall financial results, though we remain optimistic that the strategy we have in place is the correct one for our circumstances. Similarly, for our home operation in Kuwait, we are focused on dealing with the intense price competition there and we are confident that the initiatives we are implementing will result in incremental revenue generation. All the same, we are encouraged to see growth on several fronts in key markets, with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan witnessing healthy growth with respect to numerous key financial indicators." Gegenheimer concluded, "We are actively seeking and securing sources of incremental revenue in the digital space including enterprise M2M services and smart city solutions to governments and mega real estate projects across the region. We have entered into several strategic partnerships recently, which we strongly believe will fast-track and further enhance our ambitions to unlock many lucrative opportunities in the connected society revolution."

Operational review of key markets KUWAIT

Maintaining its market leadership, Zain Group's flagship operation saw its customer base serve 2.9 million in a very challenging six-month period that witnessed intense price competition impact its financial performance for the period. Revenues reached KD 165 million (USD 548 million), EBITDA amounted to KD 80 million (USD 264 million) and net income came in at KD 44 million (USD 144 million). Zain Kuwait's EBITDA margin stood at 48% at the end of the six-month period, with data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) forming 35% of total revenues.

IRAQ

The exceptional socio-economic circumstances facing the operation saw Zain Iraq's financial performance hampered, with revenues for the period reaching USD 536 million, a decrease of 11% Y-o-Y, and EBITDA reaching USD 194 million, down 12% Y-o-Y. Net income amounted to USD 24 million, a substantial reduction of 59% Y-o-Y. Currency variance loss also impacted net income. The operation's EBITDA margin stood at 36%, with data-related revenues forming 8% of overall revenues for the first half of 2016. Customers served totaled 11.2 million at the end of June, a 12% decrease.

SUDAN

In local currency (SDG) terms, the opera-



FIRST HALF 2016 RESULTS

for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 82 million (USD 272 million) in H1-2016.**

The Board would like to express its gratitude to its customers and stakeholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

Board of Directors

45.2 Million	1,831 USD Million	846 USD Million	272 USD Million	7 Cents
Customers	Revenues	EBITDA	Net Income	EPS
552 KD Million	255 KD Million	82 KD Million	21 Fils	



GULF BOURSES SLIP ON WEAK OIL

DUBAI: Stock markets in the Gulf fell yesterday, weighed down by weak oil prices and lackluster second-quarter corporate results over the last few weeks, while Egypt's main index pulled back on profit-taking after a strong run. Riyadh's stock index declined 0.5 percent to a fresh 16-week closing low of 6,302 points as the petrochemical sector dropped 0.9 percent. The September Brent oil contract settled at \$42.46 a barrel on Friday, down 0.6 percent on the day and 14.5 percent lower on the month.

Some major companies which reported weak earnings last week continued their downturn with major food group Savola sinking 5.0 percent to 34.20 riyals, its lowest

close since Jan. 24. On Thursday the company reported a 43.2 percent drop in second-quarter net profit and trimmed its dividend. But Emaar the Economic City, builder of the King Abdullah Economic City, rose 2.6 percent.

The company reported a 58 percent jump in second-quarter net profit to 79 million riyals (\$21.1 million), though it attributed the rise mainly to cancellation of a rental contract and to changes in infrastructure cost estimates for industrial land.

Middle East fund managers have become more bullish towards equities in the region over the past month because of flows of money into emerging markets

globally, but they remain wary of the direction of oil prices, a monthly Reuters poll found. In Dubai, the main index lost 1.0 percent but ended the month with a 5.2 percent gain. Telecommunications operator du dropped 3.6 percent after it reported an 11.3 percent fall in second-quarter net profit to 445.4 million Dirhams (\$121.3 million), at the low end of expectations; analysts at EFG Hermes and SICO Bahrain had forecast 433.8 million Dirhams and 487.1 million Dirhams respectively.

Du momentum

Du needs to regain momentum in the prepaid mobile market if it is to counteract

higher government taxes and halt an earnings slump, chief executive Osman Sultan said yesterday. But courier firm Aramex jumped a further 2.5 percent on the announcement that founder Fadi Ghandour had sold all his shares in Levant Logistics Holdings, which held his 9.9 percent stake in Aramex.

The sale was part of a move by Dubai entrepreneur Mohamed Alabbar, who has led two investor groups in buying a combined 16.45 percent stake in Aramex in order to build an e-commerce platform across the Arab world, according to a source familiar with the matter. In Abu Dhabi the index shed 0.4 percent as Aldar Properties,

which is due to report earnings this week, fell 1.0 percent and Abu Dhabi National Energy slumped 7.7 percent.

Egypt's main index ended five straight days of gains and shed 0.6 percent to 7,983 points as initial euphoria over Cairo's effort to secure an International Monetary Fund loan program cooled. Mohammed Al-Najjar, head of research at Cairo-based El Marwa Brokerage, said the index was likely to fall back to 7,900 points but that any positive developments in the IMF talks would be a positive catalyst for equities. Two-thirds of traded Egyptian shares declined yesterday with Palm Hills Development dropping 1.9 percent. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Sunday 31 July 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price Index	▼ -9.75	5,450.98	5,460.73	5,462.99	5,433.10					
Weighted Index	▼ -1.48	350.72	352.20	352.36	349.85					
KSX 15	▼ -7.80	810.66	818.46	819.07	810.66					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▲ 0.0	SOKOUK	37.0	36.5
IKARUS	40.0	39.5	24,000	950	3	39.5	▲ 0.0	KRE	53	52
IPG	320	320	17,552	5,617	2	320	▲ 5.0	URC	100	98
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	▲ 0.0	NRE	78	77
ENERGYH	49.5	48.0	30,800	1,472	9	49.0	▲ 0.5	SRE	0.0	0.0
GPI	40.5	40.0	1,452,201	58,179	38	40.0	▼ -1.0	TAM	0.0	0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲ 0.0	AREEC	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas		1,524,353	66,218	52	762.66	▲ 0.37		MASSALEH	0.0	0.0
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	▲ 0.0	ARABREC	31.5	31.0
BPCC	500	500	56,020	27,510	4	500	▲ 0.0	ERESCO	49.5	48.5
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0	MABANEE	780	780
ALQURAIN	192	190	64,442	12,257	19	190	▼ -4.0	INJAZZAT	74	71
Basic Materials		119,462	39,767	23	955.28	▼ -5.41		INVESTORS	23.0	22.5
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▲ 0.0	IRC	0.0	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0	ALTIJARIA	0.0	0.0
CABLE	380	370	71,000	26,970	3	380	▲ 5.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0
SHIP	162	160	20,110	3,258	2	162	▲ 2.0	AAYANRE	0.0	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	▲ 0.0	AQAR	0.0	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0	ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0	MAZAYA	116	116
ACICO	290	275	22	6	3	275	▼ -15.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0
GMSC	330	330	2,500	825	1	330	▲ 0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0	TJARA	35.5	35.0
KBMMC	190	190	5,000	950	1	190	▼ -10.0	TAAMEER	21.5	21.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	58	54	1,189,503	84,342	44	58	▲ 1.0	ARGAN	154	154
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	▲ 0.0	ABYAAH	23.5	22.5
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0	MUNSHAAT	60	58
SALBOOKH	65	63	153,720	9,808	22	65	▲ 2.0	FIRSTDUBAI	64	63
AGLTY	475	470	19,768	9,291	6	470	▲ 0.0	KBT	40.0	40.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0	REAM	0.0	0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	▲ 0.0	MENA	21.5	21.5
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	▲ 0.0	ALMUDON	28.5	28.0
KOPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172	▲ 0.0	MARAKEZ	22.5	21.0
HUMANSOFT	1,420	1,420	2,800	3,978	1	1,420	▲ 0.0	REMAL	33.0	33.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	▲ 0.0	AWJ	75	71
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0	Real Estate	4,946,699	188,719
GFC	29.5	27.5	23,000	639	4	29.5	▼ -0.5	KINV	86	83
MAYADEEN	30.0	29.0	4,982,860	146,991	75	29.5	▼ -1.0	FACIL	174	168
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	▲ 0.0	IFA	34.0	32.5
MTCC	58	57	55,500	3,164	6	58	▲ 2.0	NINV	106	104
UPAC	690	690	100	69	1	690	▲ 20.0	KPROJ	540	540
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	▲ 0.0	COAST	44.5	43.5
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0	SECH	52.5	50
LOGISTICS	89	87	595,910	40,545	23	87	▼ -3.0	SGC	0.0	0.0
SCEM	80	80	20,000	1,600	1	80	▼ -1.0	ARZAN	0.0	0.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0	MARKAZ	86	83
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0	KMEFIC	0.0	0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73	▲ 0.0	ALAMAN	50	48.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0	ALOLA	50	49.5
SPEC	70	70	490	34	2	70	▲ 0.0	ALMAL	24.5	24.0
Industrials		7,122,283	312,487	195	1138.45	▼ -0.71		GIH	0.0	0.0
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	▲ 0.0	AAYAN	33.5	33.5
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0	BAYANINV	33.0	33.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲ 0.0	OSOUL	0.0	0.0
CATTL	210	206	270,250	56,462	11	210	▲ 4.0	KFIC	39.5	38.5
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	▲ 0.0	KAMCO	108	108
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0	NIH	54	52
FOOD	2,480	2,460	19,191	47,215	5	2,460	▼ -20.0	ISKAN	33.5	32.5
Consumer Goods		289,441	103,677	16	1191.73	▼ -1.79		MADAR	0.0	0.0
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	▲ 0.0	ALDEERA	39.5	38.5
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0	ALSALAM	47.5	46.5
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248	▲ 0.0	EKTITIBAB	42.0	40.5
Health Care		0	0	0	0	1043.81	▲ 0.00	ALMADINA	52	51
KCIN	1,020	940	26,189	25,211	10	940	▼ -20	NOOR	42.5	41.5
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0	TAMINV	335	295
SULTAN	56	56	20,000	1,120	1	56	▼ -1	EXCH	0.0	0.0
CABLETV	19.5	19.5	64	1	1	19.5	▼ -3	TAIBA	0.0	0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0	KSHC	32.5	31.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	▲ 0.0	ASIVA	0.0	0.0
OLUAFUEL	110	108	44,584	4,882	12	108	▲ 0.0	GNABC	35.5	35.5
MUNTAZAHAT	87	87	130,010	11,311	4	87	▼ -1	AMWAL	21.0	21.0
JAZEERA	840	840	801	673	5	840	▼ -20	ALMIAZ	68	68
SOOR	110	110	33,703	3,707	14	110	▼ -2	MANAZEL	0.0	0.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0	NIND	120	116
ALRAI	154	154	14,000	2,156	2	154	▲ 4	BIHC	28.5	28.0
ZIMAH	41.5	41.0	370,250	15,230	12	41.5	▲ 1	SENERGY	0.0	0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0	AGHC	0.0	0.0
Mezzan	1,100	1,060	5,933	6,293	7	1,060	▼ -20	KPPC	47.5	46.0
Consumer Services		645,534	70,585	68	915.99	▼ -8.2		TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0
ZAIN	330	325	3,163,136	1,043,408	60	330	▼ -5	JEERANH	0.0	0.0
OOREDOO	1,180	1,090	6,968	8,164	3	1,180	▲ 80	EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0
HITSTELEC	39.5	39.0	594,500	23,300	15	39.0	▼ -1	GFH	69	68
VIVA	950	930	51,421	48,123	62	940	▼ -10	INOVEST	55	55
Telecommunications		3,816,025	1,122,995	140	608.41	▲ 0.17		Financial Services	16,219,389	840,078
NBK	610	600	154,643	93,886	10	600	▼ -10	Investment Instruments	0	0
GBK	236	234	311,080	72,795	5	234	▼ -2	ASC	0.0	0.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▲ 0.0	OSOS	0.0	0.0
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0	FUTURE	0.0	0.0
ALMUTAHED	390	390	3,005	1,172	2	390	▼ -5	HAYATCOMM	44.5	44.5
KIB	186	184	564,357	104,943	13	186	▲ 0	Technology	1,700	76
BURG	330	330	300,000	99,000	7	330	▲ 0	SANAD	0.0	0.0
KFIN	450	445	119,001	53,475	14	445	▼ -5	AFAQ	0.0	0.0
BOUBYAN	365	360	87,087	34,044	16	360	▲ 0	ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0
AUB	194	192	238,000	45,712	13	194	▲ 2	EFFECT	0.0	0.0
ITHMR	34.5	34.0	40,300	1,371	3	34.5	▲ 0	AJWAN	0.0	0.0
WARBANK	172	170	88,056	15,007	57	172	▲ 0	MASAKEN	0.0	0.0
Banks		1,905,529	521,404	140	787.53	▼ -1.73		DALQAN	0.0	0.0
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	▲ 0.0	ALEID	0.0	0.0
GINS										



MERCEDES-AMG GT R: DEVELOPED IN THE 'GREEN HELL'

Affalterbach. From the world's most demanding racetrack directly onto the road: Never before has Mercedes AMG packed so much motorsport technology into a production vehicle than into the new AMG GT R. The front-mid-engine concept with transaxle, the twin-turbo V-8 engine rated at 430 kW/585 hp, the extensively modified suspension, the new aerodynamics and the intelligent lightweight construction lay the foundations for an especially dynamic driving experience. Even from afar, the exclusive "AMG green hell magno" special paintwork leaves no doubt as to the sports car's origin, having spent most of its development time in the "Green Hell" of the Nürburgring racetrack.

"With the new AMG GT R, we have reached the next level of driving performance. This road-going sports car with motor-racing genes and innovative technical solutions offers an ultimate driving experience that allows people to feel our motorsport origins in every fibre. It combines the driving dynamics of our AMG GT3 racing car with the everyday practicality of the AMG GT. Those with petrol in their veins will be thrilled by the radical longitudinal and lateral acceleration, the precise turn-in, and the sensational grip. We have modified all performance-relevant components and linked them together intelligently for maximum driving dynamics," says Tobias Moers, CEO of Mercedes AMG GmbH.

Close collaboration between design and aerodynamics experts

Aerodynamics engineers and designers worked together more intensively than ever during development of the new AMG GT R. The AMG design idiom of "Dynamic Presence" forms the basis for the far more expressive overall appearance and the very distinct look. Form follows function, and function supports form: All elements have an inherent technical benefit and contribute to the enhanced driving dynamics, while the aerodynamics experts have made the designers' wishes a reality. This networking even resulted in an innovation that now has a patent pending.

The design of the AMG GT R embodies sensuous clarity - hot & cool. Apart from the powerfully sculpted body and the motorsport components, the new AMG Panamericana grille is a real eye-catcher. This unique feature

also comes from the world of motorsport and is celebrating its standard-production premiere in the AMG GT R: Its 15 chrome-plated vertical fins cite the look of the new AMG GT3 racing car.

AMG coil-over suspension

The suspension of the new AMG high-performance sports model is also systematically designed for racetrack use. Wishbones, steering knuckles and hub carriers on the front and rear axle are manufactured entirely out of forged aluminium in order to reduce the unsprung masses.

The new AMG coil-over suspension was designed specifically for the AMG GT R. Like in professional motorsport, drivers can select their personal set-up and infinitely adjust the spring pre-load manually. This makes it possible to influence the dive and roll behavior as well as the grip of the AMG GT R precisely as needed to tailor them to personal preferences or to the particular racetrack.

The active rear-wheel steering

The new AMG GT R is even more sensitive to steering inputs thanks to standard-fit active rear-wheel steering, which is being used for the first time on a Mercedes-AMG model. The system offers an ideal combination of agility and stability handling characteristics that are normally in direct conflict.

The advantage of the AMG GT R is far more agile when steering into bends, resulting in even greater driving enjoyment and less steering effort - especially on small and winding roads, narrow racetracks on which there are multiple changes in direction, or slalom courses. Further benefits include increased maneuverability and a smaller turning circle in everyday driving situations - such as when turning or parking. The active rear-wheel steering not only improves cornering, it also assists the driver in the event of sudden evasive maneuvers and thus enhances active safety. This makes the AMG GT R easier to control at the limit.

AMG Traction Control

In ESP OFF mode, another innovation allows the driver to exert even more influence on the handling characteristics of the AMG GT R. The new AMG TRACTION CONTROL system also comes directly from motorsport. It allows



drivers to pre select the slip on the driven rear axle in nine levels. Just like in the current AMG GT3, it isolates the grip on the driven wheels and does not affect the stabilisation provided by the ESP(r). Corresponding characteristic maps are programmed into the vehicle electronics to this end.

Control is via a special rotary switch located in the centre console below the ventilation outlets. Depending on the setting, the system permits more or less slip on the rear wheels very helpful in varying road conditions. Level 1 is programmed for driving in the wet with high safety reserves. Level 9 allows maximum slip on the rear axle. A luminescent band of LEDs around the rotary switch indicates the current setting - this display logic likewise has its origins in motorsport. In addition, the setting is indicated on the instrument cluster's central display.

Variable ratio: Speed-sensitive sports steering

The speed-sensitive sports steering features a variable steering ratio, which enhances vehicle handling and agility at low speeds while maintaining driving safety at high speeds. The power assistance is a particular highlight: It

responds not only depending on the given road speed, but also according to the current lateral acceleration and the selected AMG DYNAMIC SELECT drive mode. The result: The driver has a perfect feel for the vehicle thanks to the direct feedback from the road.

Ready to race: The interior design

To give the driver of the new AMG GT R ideal conditions in which to drive, the interior is also strongly inspired by motorsport. Extremely light, manually adjustable AMG sports bucket seats upholstered in nappa leather and DINAMICA microfibre come as standard. Alternatively, tried-and-tested AMG performance seats can be ordered as an option at no extra cost. The optional yellow seat belts, dials with yellow highlights, the AMG Interior Piano Lacquer package and special controls, including those for the new AMG TRACTION CONTROL, underline the unique standing of the new AMG GT R.

More power, more torque, faster response

The heart of the new high-performance athlete is pumping stronger than ever: the AMG 4.0-litre twin-turbo engine in the AMG

GT R has an output of 430 kW (585 hp), which is 55 kW (75 hp) more than the previous top-of-the-range engine in the GT S. The peak torque of 700 Nm is available between 1900 and 5500 rpm.

The increase in performance was achieved with the help of new turbochargers with modified compressor machining, smaller wastegate aneroid capsule and sharpened engine mapping. The eight-cylinder unit thrills with its spontaneous response, precisely measured power output and linear power delivery with powerful thrust in all engine speed ranges, all of which makes the car far easier to control when driving at the limit. The AMG 4.0-litre V-8 engine features the tried-and-tested twin turbochargers, which are not mounted on the outside of the cylinder banks but rather inside the V configuration - experts call it a 'hot inside V'. The benefits are: a compact engine design, spontaneous response from the turbochargers and low exhaust gas emissions thanks to optimum air flow for the close-coupled catalytic converters. This basic principle of the new AMG V-8 family has been further optimized for the AMG GT R and enables further improved performance.

Racetrack suited: The dual-clutch transmission

The seven-speed dual-clutch transmission configured in transaxle layout at the rear axle has likewise been extensively revised by the AMG developers, who modified the hardware and the software to make the transmission even more suitable for the racetrack. First gear in the AMG SPEEDSHIFT DCT 7-speed sports transmission has a longer ratio, while seventh gear and the final drive have shorter ratios to allow a more agile acceleration experience overall and very spontaneous response to fast accelerator pedal movements.

Drivers can tailor the AMG GT R to their personal preferences using the AMG DYNAMIC SELECT controller. Various modes are available: "C" (Comfort), "S" (Sport), "S+" (Sport Plus) and "I" (Individual). The "RACE" mode optimally adjusts the shift strategy of the dual clutch transmission to the needs of racetrack usage - shortest shift speeds and highly emotional engine sound are included. By pressing the separate "M" button in the centre console, the driver can activate the manual transmission mode in any drive mode.

CHEAPER OIL SENDS CHEVRON, TO WORST QUARTER IN YEARS

EXXON MOBIL ALSO REPORT HORRIFIC QUARTER

DALLAS: Cheaper oil is leading to the lowest summer gasoline prices in years, and it is causing heartburn for oil companies and their shareholders. On Friday, Exxon Mobil Corp reported its smallest quarterly profit in nearly 17 years - although it still earned \$1.7 billion. Chevron Corp. posted its biggest loss in nearly 15 years. The reports from the two biggest US oil companies followed weak second-quarter results from BP and Royal Dutch Shell.

Exxon Chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson said the results "reflect a volatile industry environment." The companies have slashed spending on exploration and cut budgets to offset lower prices, but that has yet to create a sustained rebound in oil prices. US crude rallied from below \$30 a barrel in February to above \$50 in early June. But more recently oil prices have faded again, with crude inventories remaining stubbornly high and the global economy mired in a funk. This week, US oil hit a three-month low.

Production of oil in US shale fields has fallen, and wildfires in Canada and unrest in Nigeria have also interrupted oil flows at times this year. Still, major players like Saudi Arabia continue to pump away. The outlook is good for drivers, bad for anyone working in, or investing in, the energy sector. The US Energy Information Administration forecasts that oil will average \$43.57 this year and \$52.15 next year. "Oil prices shot up to \$50 sooner than we all thought," said Brian Youngberg, an analyst with Edward Jones. "In the near term they could fall back a little farther, but I'm confident oil prices will be in the \$50s for most of 2017."

Money in the bank

For consumers, that's like money in the bank, at least compared with two years ago. The average US price for a gallon of regular gasoline stood at \$2.14 on Friday, the lowest price since April, according to auto club AAA. Gasoline prices are skidding because of high inventories. The decline in pump prices defies the usual pattern of higher prices during summer, when people drive more. Motorists are filling up on the cheapest July gasoline in 12 years, the auto club says.

Exxon said its profit fell because of lower oil and gas prices and weaker margins from its



TORRANCE: This Jan 30, 2012, file photo, shows the sign for the Exxon Mobil Torrance Refinery. — AP

refining operations, which had been one of the company's strengths. "When crude prices collapsed, (refiners) decided to make as much gasoline as they could," said Stewart Glickman, an analyst for S&P Global Market Intelligence. While those inventories have come off their highs, he said, remain near the top of the five-year average.

Exxon's net income tumbled 59 percent from a year ago, and also fell below the first-quarter earnings of \$1.8 billion. It was the Texas company's smallest profit since \$1.5 billion in the third quarter of 1999. The profit came to 41 cents per share, well below the 64 cents per share forecast from analysts surveyed by FactSet. Exxon did not exclude any one-time costs from the per-share calculation. Revenue fell 22 percent, to \$57.69 billion.

Chevron, the second-biggest US oil company, reported a loss of \$1.47 billion, its biggest since 2001 and a reversal from a year-ago profit of \$571 million. The results were dragged down by write-downs in its exploration and production

business. The California company said its adjusted profit was 35 cents per share, 3 cents better than analysts predicted.

Chairman and CEO John Watson said his company was in the midst of "our ongoing adjustment to a lower oil-price world." Revenue dropped 27 percent to \$29.28 billion. The company got \$36 a barrel for oil, down from \$50 a year earlier, and natural gas also was cheaper. Production declined 3 percent. Earlier this week, BP PLC reported a \$2.25 billion loss in the second quarter, dragged down by charges related to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Royal Dutch Shell PLC said its profit fell by 93 percent, and France's Total reported that profit fell 30 percent. Oil companies are slashing billions in capital and exploration spending. Analysts say that eventually such reductions will translate into lower production, smaller supplies and higher prices for oil. Exxon shares fell \$1.25 to close at \$88.95 after dropping at one point to \$86.12, their lowest point since April 20. Chevron shares rose 69 cents to \$102.48. —AP

STANDARD & POOR'S AFFIRMS NBK'S A+ RATING, OUTLOOK STABLE

KUWAIT: Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'A+/A-1' long- and short-term counterparty credit ratings on National Bank of Kuwait (NBK). The outlook remains stable. In its report published yesterday, Standard & Poor's expected NBK to benefit from the Kuwaiti government's infrastructure spending, leading to strong profitability, and robust capitalization. The stable outlook reflects the agency's belief that the bank's asset quality will remain stable and market share strong.

The rating agency affirmed that "as the leading bank in Kuwait, NBK is well positioned to benefit from large infrastructure projects of the Kuwaiti government". The agency therefore expected "the bank will maintain its strong franchise, supporting its earnings stability. Coupled with this, we expect its largest subsidiaries—namely Boubyan Bank in Kuwait and NBK Egypt—to be strong

contributors to earnings given that the demand for Islamic banking in Kuwait remains healthy and the economic environment in Egypt is, in our view, improving." Standard & Poor's added that the affirmation reflects its expectation that the overall macroeconomic environment in Kuwait will remain benign, despite currently low oil prices, as the government accumulated large liquid assets in the run up to the fall of oil prices in mid-2014. Standard & Poor's said: "We continue to view NBK's business position as strong, reflecting the bank's leading position in Kuwait, good and stable performance through the full economic cycle, and good management." NBK has consistently been awarded the highest credit ratings in the region by the major international rating agencies: Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings. NBK is the only Arab bank to be listed among the world's 50 safest banks for nine consecutive times.

HELICOPTER MONEY TALK TAKES FLIGHT

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan's review of its monetary stimulus program promised for September has revived expectations it could adopt some form of "helicopter money", printing money for government spending to spur inflation. The BOJ disappointed market hopes on Friday that it might increase its heavy buying of government debt or lower already negative interest rates, cementing the view that it is running out of options within its existing policy framework to lift prices and end two decades of deflationary pressure.

With little to show for three years of massive monetary easing, economists say BOJ governor Haruhiko Kuroda's "comprehensive assessment" of policy could push it into closer cooperation with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced a fiscal spending package worth more than 28 trillion yen (\$275 billion) on Wednesday in a bid to kick-start growth. "The comprehensive review might be the first step toward further collaboration with the government, hinting at helicopter money," said Daiju Aoki, economist at UBS Securities. "The government could issue 50-year bonds, and if the BOJ makes a commitment to hold them for a

very long time, that would be like helicopter money." The helicopter money metaphor for the aggressive printing of new money was first used by American economist Milton Friedman in 1969 and cited by former US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke in 2002 as a scheme that could fight deflation. Some economists, however, fear it could trigger hyperinflation and uncontrollable currency devaluation. Speculation that Japan might take that path reached fever pitch earlier in July when Bernanke met Abe and Kuroda in Tokyo, though policymakers quickly tried to damp down such talk.

Pressure response

In the narrowest sense, a government can arrange a helicopter drop of cash by selling perpetual bonds, which never need to be repaid, directly to the central bank. Economists do not expect this in Japan, but they do see a high chance of mission creep, with the BOJ perhaps committing to buy municipal bonds or debt issued by state-backed entities, giving its interventions more impact than in the treasury bond market, where it is currently buying 80 trillion yen a year of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) from financial institutions. — Reuters



EMBRACE THE CHANGE, DRIVE PRIUS

PRIUS: A NEW ERA OF AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

KUWAIT: In 1997 Toyota introduced the Prius-offering much better fuel economy than any other vehicle powered by a gasoline engine. The world has heavily praised Prius, which is more advanced than anyone could have imagined. Here in the Middle East, the introduction of the Prius has changed perceptions about environmentally friendly vehicles while adding a new look to the city streets. The Prius was the world's first mass-produced hybrid, appearing on the market in Japan in 1997 and sold globally in 2000. The Prius has constantly evolved to meet every challenge and stay at the forefront of hybrid technology. The history of the Prius since its debut in 1997 is a fascinating one and showcases the enormous strides taken in developing an iconic vehicle for our times. The fourth generation Prius is a truly exciting development in the series. Prius surprised the world. The idea of the Prius has caught on since then.

A History of innovation and progress

The first generation Prius stunned the automotive world. But that was just the start with more exciting developments on the horizon. The second generation Prius arrived in 2003. It was completely redesigned to be larger, with improved aerodynamics and even better fuel economy. The third generation in 2009 built on previous achievements in every aspect, taking advantage of continuous research and world-class technology. When the fourth generation Prius was unveiled in September of 2015, it not only offered significantly improved fuel economy in a more compact package and attractive design, but it was lighter, roomier and performed even better than previous models.

Stunning performance

The Toyota Hybrid System combines a gasoline engine and electric motor to create an unparalleled environmental performance as well as an impressive driving experience. The new Prius is



about far more than the exceptional fuel efficiency that comes with hybrid technology. The ample torque also delivers exhilarating acceleration that belies the engine's 1.8-litre displacement. Without a doubt, the Prius represents the pinnacle of hybrid technology and a showcase for new, relevant technologies from Toyota that raise levels of driving performance, convenience and comfort.

TNGA = Fun to Drive

The new Prius is the first vehicle developed using Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), which aims at modularizing in addition to integrating development and manufacturing, allowing more time for design. Using this system, the skeletal structure of the Prius was improved with an increase in torsional rigidity of more than 60 percent compared to previous models, maximizing the performance of the suspension for better control and a quieter, more stable ride. TNGA offers not only improved handling, but also enhanced overall driving performance and fuel economy-not to mention more attractive styling.

TNGA sounds pretty technical. To really understand it, you have to drive a new Prius. Get behind the wheel, step on the accelerator-and you will be surprised. You get an instant responsive and seamless acceleration with the electric motor shifting automatically to the gasoline engine at a certain speed. It's smooth, quiet and powerful.

TNGA puts the fun back into driving in a way you never imagined was possible.

Power of unique and advanced technology

Fuel consumption is not just relative to how fast your wheels turn. When you start or accelerate, for example, you use more gasoline to overcome inertia. That is why city driving with the stop-start of heavy traffic, traffic lights and stop signs can consume so much fuel. With the Prius, you are mostly using the electric motor in the city. Driving is smooth and effortless. But you get maximum torque when you need it because torque is not dependent on engine revolutions. That is why elevators and electric trains start so smoothly.

Since you can draw on both power sources at the same time, you also get excellent acceleration. At low speeds, the electric motor powers the vehicle. When the Prius accelerates, both the electric motor and the gasoline engine drive the wheels. Add to this "regenerative braking". The electric motor assists with braking, saving wear and tear on the regular brakes. It is used to absorb energy in deceleration and also to drive the generator used for charging the battery.

Ever better

The Prius has always been at the forefront of automotive evolution. Even its name, "Prius" is derived from "prior" in Latin-which means "coming before". The Prius is always the first, in every way. The



fourth generation Prius is a world beater-the culmination of almost two decades of experience and development. To paraphrase Chief Engineer Toyoshima: "It was relatively easy for Usain Bolt to run a hundred meters in 10 seconds-it was quite another thing for him to break the world record with a 9.58 second dash. Coming first requires huge effort. But if you keep on working at it, you can achieve it. That's our philosophy in developing the Prius, "Ever better."

Milestones and awards: Inception of a new culture

Helping to mitigate the environmental effects of automobiles is a priority for Toyota. Based on the stance that eco-friendly vehicles can only truly have a significant positive impact if they are widely used, Toyota has endeavored to encourage the mass-market adoption of hybrid vehicles across the globe. As of the end of April 2016, Toyota is selling 33 hybrid passenger car models and one plug-in hybrid (PHV) model in more than 90 countries and regions.

In 2008, there were a million new Priuses on the road. By 2013, it was three million, indicating that the new

eco-technology had gone mainstream and was no longer just something for a few environmentally conscious progressives-but rather the best choice for just about everyone. Hybrids are clearly becoming more and more popular. By April of 2016, cumulative figures for global sales of its hybrid vehicles reached 9.014 million units -which meant about 65 million tons less CO2 in the atmosphere. Whether it is North America, Europe and Asia, a new lifestyle is evolving globally and more people are signing on to buy the Prius hybrid. Complementing the exceptional growth in sales, the Toyota Prius 2010 has previously earned 'Top Three in the World' status for both the World Green Car and the overall World Car of the Year categories.

Prius is the future

The challenges to the Prius were many-but overcome with Toyota's famously relentless Kaizen development process. The result is a vehicle that not only provides great fuel economy, but is also fun to drive. It gets your pulse racing. Drive the new Prius and you will feel the difference. This is the cutting edge. A better way to the future.



JAZEERA AIRWAYS UNVEILS ITS NEW JAZEERA LOUNGE

KUWAIT: JAZEERA Airways, the largest airline serving the Middle East out of Kuwait, today announced the inauguration of its new Business Lounge at the Kuwait International Airport, designed to provide a comforting and smart space where business class guests can refresh themselves before taking off to their flights. The lounge reflects a commitment to delivering exceptional hospitality experiences for premium guests departing on Jazeera Airways' daily flights from Kuwait.

The Jazeera lounge, located at the ground floor of Jazeera Airways gates area at KIA, next to gate B3, is the most recent innovation in Jazeera Airways' strategic effort to delight its passengers and enhance the travel experience in Kuwait, along with the recently announced terminal building at Kuwait International Airport. The new Jazeera lounge elevates the Business Class travel on Jazeera Airways to a new uniquely enjoyable experience, being the only lounge in Kuwait International Airport with an exclusive view of the runway. Jazeera Passengers can enjoy the view of planes landing, preparing for the next flight and taking off, from the comfort of their seats. The lounge offers free broadband wireless internet connection, a business corner with iPads, a wireless printer as well as latest international market updates. The lounge additionally offers a healthy buffet service of freshly prepared delicious bites and drinks that change for every meal, every day.

Moreover, the lounge has a convenient seating plan that offers privacy and space to Jazeera

passengers to relax and refresh before their flights, which other airport crowded lounges would lack at the time-being. Thanks to its strategic location within Jazeera Airways gates, passengers can enjoy the lounge and board to their flights within minutes.

"We are always keen to exert our utmost efforts in meeting our passengers' needs as well as our strategic plans to elevate the travel experience in Kuwait and ensure our passengers are well charged before their journey," commented Dr. Mohamed Barakat, VP Marketing & Product in Jazeera Airways, on the new lounge opening.

He added, "It gives us great pleasure to be the first Kuwaiti airline providing a dedicated lounge to its business class customers at the Kuwait International Airport and we look forward to bringing more innovative services that delight our modern passengers."

The business class lounge is part of the airline's 'Next Big Thing' series of value boosting projects and initiatives tasked with creating a better travel experience on ground and in the air. Other initiatives include the construction of a dedicated passenger terminal, remote-check-in facility, and many other innovative ideas that promise to change the travel experience in Kuwait and the region. To learn more about Jazeera Airways services, offers, promotions and destinations, customers can contact the Call Center on 177 or visit the airline's website on www.jazeeraairways.com. Customers can also download the Jazeera Airways app on the iPhone or Android or Windows.

GO PROFESSIONAL WITH THE GALAXY S7 AND S7 EDGE

DUBAI: Blurry pictures in low-light environments are now a thing of the past thanks to the Galaxy S7 and S7 edge employing the Dual Pixel image sensor-a first for a smartphone. With fast shooting abilities, the devices also include the latest new camera technology such as Motion Panorama and Selfie Flash.

The Dual Pixel image sensor employed in the camera of the Galaxy S7 splits every single pixel into two photodiodes for on-chip phase detection, promising vastly improved autofocus performance. Dual Pixel technology, which is utilized in selective, high-end DSLR camera models, as well as those of the Galaxy S7, sends light from the lens to two image sensors separately to adjust the focus, much in the same way that the human eye does.

The Galaxy S7's Motion Panorama Shot feature lets one record the movements of the subject being photographed in the Panorama Shot mode. The resulting images are as vivid and vibrant as videos. By simply swiping the captured image or moving the device a bit, users can view the motions of the captured panorama shot.

- In Camera, select MODE > Panorama.
- At the top of the screen, tap the Motion On icon. Select On. Tap the Camera button and take a panoramic shot by moving the device in one direction.
- To view the video clip, locate the image in Gallery. Tap the Motion Panorama icon at the top right of the screen.
- Tilt your phone or swipe the screen to interactively view the animated image.
- You can share Motion Panorama as a video file or an image file.

Another new feature of the Galaxy S7 is Hyperlapse, a variation of time lapse photography tailor-made for smartphones. Through Hyperlapse, users can compress hours of recording into seconds to illustrate the subtle movements of the photographed subject. The device automatically selects frames with soft and stable images, while minimizing camera shake with its adaptive vDIS (Video Digital Image Stabilization) function to produce a stable time lapse video. The new feature automatically adjusts shooting speed based on the



subject's movements. It shoots slow moving subjects faster, and vice versa, making time lapse recording easier and more intuitive for beginners.

- In Camera, select MODE >Hyperlapse
- Tap Record button.
- Tap Stop icon and save.

The front-facing camera, like the rear camera, features an F1.7 lens to delivers bright, colorful selfies, even in low light. It also supports a Selfie Flash feature, which enables the user to use the AMOLED display of the phone as a camera flash when taking selfies in a low light environment

(lower than 20Lux). Taking advantage of the large, 5.1-inch display of the Galaxy S7, the camera flash has a greater but softer light-emitting surface than that of its LED flash. This results in a much softer surface lighting effect, which translates into a more colorful expression of the whole face. The Galaxy S7 has also improved on its Beauty Face Shot mode by adding a 3D lighting effect to deliver brighter and clearer selfies, while Wide Selfie Shot mode creates a panorama effect. Additionally, the real-time High Dynamic Range (HDR) feature allows for images with even richer colors.

CANON UPDATES RANGE OF PRINTERS TO DELIVER NEW PRINT POSSIBILITIES

DUBAI: Canon Middle East, world leader in imaging solutions, today announces the launch of four new four-in-one multi-function devices (MFDs) and a new color single-function printer (SFP). The new MAXIFY MB2140, MB2740, MB5140, MB5440 and iB4140 will replace the award-winning MAXIFY MB2040, MB2340, MB5040, MB5340 and iB4040 printers, bringing improved levels of efficiency, quality and choice to small business and home office customers. The refreshed range is specially designed to provide partners with an efficient and productive offering.

The four-in-one devices continue to offer fast scan, copy and fax alongside professional quality prints. The MAXIFY MB5140 and MB5440 feature Canon's

Single Pass two-sided Scan functionality, which allows both sides of the document to be scanned simultaneously, saving valuable time when large batches of documents need to be scanned in one go.

The latest range of printers benefit from high-yield XL ink tanks, producing up to 1,200 black-and-white pages (MB2140 and MB2740) or 2,500 black-and-white pages (MB5140, MB5440 and iB4140) before cartridges need to be replaced. This reduces the frequency at which cartridges need to be changed, which in turn reduces printer downtime. The upgraded printers have also been designed to enable growing businesses to gain greater visibility of their printing habits, identify usage pattern and arm themselves with the information they



need to control print costs. The new printers offer the option to keep a record of total volumes printed, scanned or faxed, to allow users to get a better picture of how the device is being used in the office.

The MAXIFY range is ideal for flexible working and for office spaces where printers are shared by a team or small businesses. With built-in Wi-Fi and Ethernet connectivity, MAXIFY devices allow printing to be shared between multiple PCs and wireless devices around the small office. Compatibility with the Canon PRINT app allows users to connect to the printer, using a smartphone or tablet device for printing and scanning. The new Canon MAXIFY printer range will be available across MEA from July 2016.



ATLANTA: In this Monday, July 11, 2016, photo provided by Huge shows Pokemon Go players stopping outside the Huge Cafe. — AP

NO 'GO': S CAROLINA GOV WANTS CAPITOL STOPS BACK

COLUMBIA: South Carolina's governor is asking the company that runs the "Pokemon Go" app to return the Pokestops and gym that are the backbone of the popular game to the state capitol.

The sites had become hugely popular in the past few weeks, drawing dozens of people to the Statehouse at all hours of the day and night to hunt Jigglypuffs and Squirtles. But nearly all of them except one

on the edge of the capitol grounds disappeared without warning Friday. In stepped Gov Nikki Haley, sending a tweet asking Niantic to return the Pokestops as soon as possible.

Law enforcement at the Statehouse confirmed they didn't ask them to be removed. Two weeks ago, the governor posted a picture of her capturing one of the Pokemon in her office. — AP

AFGHAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S TWITTER ACCOUNT HACKED

KABUL: The official Twitter account of Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah has been hacked, and a group apparently sympathetic to minority Shiite Hazara protesters has claimed responsibility. "I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery. #enlightenment #enlightenmentmovement," a group identifying itself as Ghost Squad Hackers tweeted from the account late Saturday. The hashtags refer to the newly-founded Enlightenment Movement led by Hazaras, who were targeted by suicide bombers loyal to the Islamic State group during a huge protest in Kabul on July 23.

"CEO Abdullah's verified twitter account @afgexecutive has been hacked and our press and (information technology) teams are trying to restore it," said Javid Faisal, Abdullah's spokesman. Abdullah's office said it had no informa-

tion about the whereabouts of Ghost Squad Hackers. "Afghanistan Gov Hacked by Ghost Squad Hackers #ChiefExecutiveOfficer Can you hear me now?" the group tweeted from their own account @GhostSquadHack. The group appears to be sympathetic to the plight of the Hazara community which has been persecuted for decades, with thousands killed in the late 1990s by Al-Qaeda and the mainly Pashtun Taliban.

The July 23 attack, the deadliest in the Afghan capital in 15 years, killed 80 people. It came as the protesters demanded that a major power line be routed through the central province of Bamiyan, one of the most deprived areas of Afghanistan with a large Hazara population. Following the attack Hazaras launched a massive social media campaign with the hashtag #enlightenment-against what they call discrimination. — AFP

TESLA LOOKS AT CAMERAS, RADAR IN FLORIDA CRASH

DETROIT: Tesla engineers told members of a Senate committee they are looking into the role cameras and radar played in the fatal crash of a Model S using self-driving mode, according to two people familiar with a meeting held Thursday. The engineers have two main theories, the people said. Either the car's cameras and radar failed to spot a crossing tractor-trailer. Or the cameras didn't see the rig and the car's computer thought the radar signal was false, possibly from an overpass or sign.

Tesla officials disclosed these theories to US Senate Commerce Committee staff members during an hour-long meeting, said the people, who didn't want to be identified because the meeting was private. The meeting came at the request of Committee Chairman Sen. John Thune, R-SD, whose committee oversees transportation and could hold a hearing on self-driving technology at a later date.

The driver of the Model S, Joshua Brown of Canton, Ohio, was killed when the sedan hit the side of a tractor-trailer while traveling nine mph above the speed limit on a highway near Gainesville, Florida, federal accident investigators have said. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which is investigating the May 7 crash, has said that the car's Autopilot system was engaged. Brown, 40, a tech company owner, was using the car's automatic emergency braking and lane-keeping features at the time, a report from the National Transportation Safety Board said. Those features are part of the vehicle's Autopilot system.

The Tesla struck the underside of the truck's 53-foot semitrailer at a 90-degree angle, shearing off the sedan's roof before it emerged on the other side of the trailer, according to the report. The truck was making a left turn on a highway that allows cross traffic. Tesla is still working to pinpoint what system failures caused the crash and still

believes the safety benefits of semi-autonomous driving systems like Autopilot far outweigh any risks, the people said.

Challenges remain

Representatives of the Palo Alto, California, company also told committee staffers that cross traffic remains a challenge for automated driving systems, according to the person. A Tesla spokeswoman confirmed that the meeting took place and said in a statement that the Florida crash fell "within a unique set of circumstances for which the camera and radar were not able to provide the appropriate warning or braking support."

In the briefing, Tesla officials told staffers that radar sensors connected to the automated braking system may have spotted the tractor-trailer, but the Model S computer may be designed to "tune out" overhead structures, such as bridges and highway signs, "to avoid the triggering of false braking events," the person said. Tesla has said previously that Autopilot was unable to distinguish the white side of the truck from the brightly lit sky and there was no attempt to brake by either the self-driving system or Brown.

Tesla officials wouldn't answer questions about the company's relationship with Mobileye, the company that made the camera and computer system for Tesla's automatic braking, one of the people said. Mobileye said earlier this week that it would end its relationship with Tesla. The company previously has said its system was not designed to spot cross traffic, but it didn't know if Tesla modified the system. Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Tesla will press ahead with semi-autonomous driving features, which he says will prevent injuries and accidents. The company says it tells drivers that they must continue to pay attention while Autopilot is working and be ready to retake control of the vehicle. — AP

LACK OF 'POKEMON GO' TROUBLING RIO ATHLETES

RIO DE JANEIRO: So the plumbing and electricity in the athletes' village took several days to fix. Who cares? But no "Pokemon Go"? That's an outrage! If there were ever a more "First World problem" for the Zika-plagued, water-polluted Rio Olympics, it's Brazil's lack of access to the hit mobile game, which has united players the world over. Since debuting to wild adulation in the US, Australia and New Zealand this month, the game from Google spinoff Niantic Inc. has spread like wildfire, launching in more than 30 countries or territories - but not Brazil.

For athletes and other visitors caught up in the wave, not having access is just one more knock against an Olympics that officials are racing to get ready. The opening ceremony takes place next Friday. "I wish I could run around in the (athletes') village catching Pokemon," New Zealand soccer player Anna Green said Friday. "I just can't get it on the phone. It's fine, but it would have been something fun to do." What will she do instead? "Train," she replied.

Niantic didn't reply to a request for comment on when the game might be released in Brazil. And though social media rumors point to a Sunday release for the game, similar rumors in Japan resulted in heightened expectations and the sense of delay before its debut there last week. This week, British canoeer Joe Clarke tweeted - with a broken-hearted sad face - a screenshot of his player on a deserted map near the rugby, equestrian and modern pentathlon venues in Rio's Deodoro neighborhood. The map was devoid of PokeStops - fictional supply caches linked to real-world landmarks. No Pokemon monsters to catch either: There was nary a Starmie nor a Clefairy to be found.

Crying-face emoji

"Sorry guys no #pokemon in the Olympic Village," tweeted French canoeer Matthieu Peche, followed by three crying-face emoji. Getting equal billing in his Twitter stream was a snapshot of a letter of encouragement from French President Francois Hollande. Players with the app already downloaded elsewhere appear to be able to see a digital map of their surroundings when they visit Rio. But without Pokestops or Pokemon, the game isn't much fun. It would be like getting on a football field - soccer to Americans - but not having a ball to kick or goals to defend. Many competitors in the athletes' village took it in stride, though. Canadian field



RIO DE JANEIRO: The head of the Australian delegation Kitty Chiller speaks during a press conference outside the Olympic Village. — AP

hockey player Matthew Sarmiento said it would give him more time to meet other athletes. But he would have welcomed Pokemon during downtime in competition, adding that "sometimes it's good to take your mind off the important things and let yourself chill." Athletes might not get Pokemon, but they'll have access to 450,000 condoms, or three times as many as the London Olympics. Of those, 100,000 are female condoms. Officials deny that it's a response to the Zika virus, which has been linked to miscarriages and birth defects in babies born to women who have been infected.

In Pokemon countries like the US, Pokestops are being used to attract living, breathing customers. In San Francisco, for example, dozens of bars, restaurants and coffee shops have set up lures that attract rare Pokemon, along with potential new patrons looking to catch them. That's presumably one reason why Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes - plagued by a host of bad news

from player robberies to faulty plumbing - urged Niantic investor Nintendo to release the game in Brazil. "Everybody is coming here."

You should also come! Paes wrote in Portuguese on his Facebook page, adding the hashtag #PokemonGoNoBrasil - "Pokemon Go" in Brazil. His post generated responses such as this: "The aquatic Pokemon died with superbugs." Paes didn't respond to requests for interviews.

One video circulating virally, with more than 3.5 million views, shows one fan identifying himself as Joel Vieira questioning how Brazil can host the Olympics but not Pokemon. "I can't play! I am not allowed to know how it really feels to see the little animals on my cell phone," he said on the video.

"Because we don't have it in Brazil, yet. But we are having the Olympics." The Olympics kick off next Friday. Will Pikachu be there to witness it? The world is watching with baited Pokenbreath. — AP

KASPERSKY LAB TRACKS HUNDRED PLUS SOPHISTICATED MALICIOUS CAMPAIGNS

DUBAI: There used to only be dozens of threat actors, but the Kaspersky Lab Global Research and Analysis team now tracks the activity of more than a hundred threat actors and sophisticated malicious operations targeting commercial and government organizations in 85 countries. The growing numbers show that sophisticated threat actors are actively improving and extending their arsenal, and a lot of new actors are coming to the stage, significantly raising the overall levels of danger.

Targeted attacks are not an elite activity anymore. While in previous years this kind of operation would require a lot of specialists with specific skills and a lot of funding, nowadays Kaspersky Lab researchers are observing the emergence of smaller - and not necessarily sophisticated - yet efficient cyber-espionage campaigns. These groups are hunting for sensitive information, which can be used to gain geopolitical advantages or even sold to anyone willing to pay.

Based on the analysis of the intelligence gathered on these campaigns, Kaspersky Lab researchers have been able to create a top list of organizations, which are more at risk than others of becoming a target of cyber espionage, or a sophisticated cybercriminal operation:

- Government and diplomatic organizations
- Financial institutions
- Energy companies
- Telecommunications companies
- Aerospace organizations
- Military contractors
- Educational organizations
- Healthcare organizations
- Activists
- IT companies
- Diplomatic organizations

Targeted attacks are a major problem because the tactics of almost any of the existing groups involve utilizing tools that overcome traditional endpoint and network protection solutions. Even if solutions are effective in regards to usual, and some sophisticated, malware, they cannot provide a 100% detection guarantee when it comes to targeted attacks. This is because actors behind sophisticated campaigns are professionals in social engineering, they may use zero-day vulnerabilities, and they're increasingly using legitimate tools for remote access instead of actual malware. That is why reliable



security software in a corporate IT infrastructure must be accompanied by intelligence nowadays - security teams need to be backed up with expertise, so that they know when to be alarmed, and what clues to look for if their organization becomes a threat actor target.

"We've been tracking sophisticated targeted attacks for more than six years now and we have seen this kind of activity become a widely used tool for espionage and money theft. Targeted attacks can affect many different types of organizations, it's not just governments that are affected. Multiple commercial organizations - especially from the enterprise sector - are in danger as well. They might become an organization of interest for attackers because they cooperate with government and military entities, or because they hold valuable intellectual property, or just because they have access to large financial assets. In this situation getting an early warning on an emerging malicious campaign targeting a certain type of organizations is crucial for entities that are willing to protect their sensitive data reliably. Intelligence based services that make it possible for enterprise security teams to access data about the latest sophisticated threats is a must nowadays", - said Costin Raiu, Director of Global Research and Analysis Team at Kaspersky Lab.

The intelligence collected by Kaspersky Lab's security experts is available as a special product for enterprise and government customers. It is available via subscription-based access to the special APT Reporting Portal, which contains detailed reports on threat actors, and actionable data to identify attacks on a company's infrastructure.

Intelligence as a Service

As a leading endpoint security and threat intelligence company, Kaspersky Lab provides its clients with a comprehensive database of valuable threat data - the APTIntelligence Reporting service. The company's subscriber-only APT Reporting Portal is a convenient interface for customers to access, view and obtain actionable data from our private reports.

All private reports come with context data, which makes it possible for clients to understand an actor's tactics, the type of organizations it hunts for, and the geography of its activity. This is accompanied with actionable intelligence like Indicators of Compromise, YARA rules and mitigation strategies, which enable the security team of a company to scan its infrastructure for signs of an attack that has already happened, and to protect it from possible upcoming attacks.

SUSHI RESTAURANT WORKERS TESTED FOR HEPATITIS A

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii: A sushi restaurant employee believed to have been infected in a hepatitis A outbreak on the island of Oahu is recovering while almost all other staff members are cleared for work. All workers were tested after the employee was diagnosed, West Hawaii reported. Two Shiono Sushi Waikoloa workers are waiting for test results, and two others who were negative for the virus need health department approval to return to their jobs. The infected employee has to test negative for the virus before being allowed to return to work, a restaurant manager said.

Health officials say people without a hepatitis A vaccination should contact their doctors if they dined at the restaurant July 5-8, July 11-15 or July 18-21 when the employee worked. The health department said in a statement that the risk of infection was low for customers, but that they should contact their doctors as a precaution.

There have been no reports so far of customers becoming infected, according to restaurant management. The outbreak's source is unknown. There are 93 confirmed cases so far. Symptoms can include fever, abdominal discomfort and diarrhea, among others. Health officials confirmed that a Baskin-Robbins ice cream store employee and a Taco Bell worker were also infected.—AP



TACOMA, Washington: Herbal Chef CEO and Head Chef Chris Sayegh presents a dessert to guests at an event in Tacoma, Washington.—AFP photos

OVARIAN CANCER RISK NEARLY DOUBLES IN WOMEN WHO DOUCHE

NEW YORK: Women who reported douching almost doubled their risk of developing ovarian cancer, a national US study shows. Prior studies have linked douching, or vaginal washing with a device, to yeast infections, pelvic inflammatory disease and ectopic pregnancies. Researchers have also found associations between douching and cervical cancer, reduced fertility, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. But the new National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences study is the first to tie cancer of the ovaries to the procedure routinely practiced by millions of American women.

Joelle Brown, an epidemiology professor at the University of California, San Francisco said that although she knew about other health problems associated with douching, the link between douching and ovarian cancer took her by surprise. "While most doctors and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists strongly recommend that women do not douche, many women continue to douche because they falsely perceive douching to have positive health benefits, such as increased cleanliness," she told Reuters Health by email. Brown was not involved in the current study. Interventions to encourage women not to douche are needed, she said.

'The silent killer'

Ovarian cancer is known as "the silent killer" because women often experience no symptoms until the disease has progressed to an advanced stage. An estimated 20,000 American women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 14,500 die from it annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The new analysis in the journal *Epidemiology* followed more than 41,000 women throughout the US and Puerto Rico since 2003 as part of the Sister Study. Participants were 35 to 74 years old, and each had a sister who had been diagnosed with breast cancer. The subjects were free of breast and ovarian cancer when they enrolled in the study.

By July 2014, researchers counted 154 cases of ovarian cancer among participants. Women who reported douching during the year before entering the study nearly doubled their risk of ovarian cancer, the study found. The link between douching and ovarian cancer was even stronger when the authors looked only at women who didn't have breast-cancer genes in their family. No study had ever before examined a possible relationship between douching and ovarian cancer, senior author Clarice Weinberg said in a telephone interview. She is deputy chief of the biostatistics and computational biology branch at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. "There are a number of health reasons not to douche, and I can't think of any reason to do it," she said. Vaginas naturally clean themselves, and squirting cleansers or other mixtures inside the canal only interferes with nature's balance.

Common practice

Douching can cause an overgrowth of harmful bacteria, lead to yeast infections, and push bacteria up into the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries, according to the Office on Women's Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Nevertheless, one quarter of women between the ages of 15 and 44 douche, HHS says. Brown, who led a 2016 study published in *PLoS One* that examined women's motivations for douching, said she has long been fascinated by the display of so-called feminine hygiene products lining drug-store shelves. "In most pharmacies you can find entire aisles dedicated to vaginal douches, suppositories and gels that are meant to make your vagina smell like a tropical splash or a cookie," she said.

Women douched as far back as 1500 BC, when an Egyptian papyrus recommended intravaginal washing with garlic and wine to treat menstrual disorders. American women once douched with Lysol, and some mistook the toilet bowl disinfectant for birth control. Women often learn to douche from their mothers, Brown's study found. They do so because they see douching as a necessary part of good hygiene, to prepare for sex, to clean up after sex and at the urging of their male partners.

Despite medical recommendations, douching remains a common practice because women "believe that the products they are using would not be for sale or recommended by their mothers if they were not safe," Brown said. "In general, I think women do not realize that douching products do not fall under the same kind of safety regulation as drugs," she said. "Instead, douching products are considered cosmetics, which means that the US Food and Drug Administration does not require that douche manufacturers test their products for safety."—Reuters

CANNABIS CHEF TAKES FINE DINING TO NEW HIGH

'I AM TRYING TO GIVE PEOPLE A CEREBRAL EXPERIENCE'

LOS ANGELES: Christopher Sayegh holds up two syringes filled with cannabis compound, primed to pump tiny amounts into a pomegranate sorbet, or a juicy cut of Wagyu Japanese beef as part of a bold new sensory experiment. As more US states move to legalize the use of recreational marijuana, the California chef is aiming to elevate haute cuisine to a new level. Armed with cooking skills acquired while working at Michelin-star restaurants in New York and California, Sayegh says his mission is to redefine haute cuisine with cannabis-infused meals that are becoming increasingly popular as the stigma surrounding marijuana gradually evaporates.

"I am trying to give people a cerebral experience," Sayegh, 24, told AFP during a recent interview at The Herbal Chef, his Los Angeles-based company. "But I'm also really careful in how I take them along on this journey." Sayegh's foray into edible cannabis comes as more and more entrepreneurs look to capitalize on a new gold rush in California which is set to vote in November on legalizing recreational marijuana for adults 21 and over. Five other states, including Alaska, Colorado and Washington, have already adopted similar legislation and more are expected to follow suit as cannabis moves out of the shadows and becomes more mainstream.

Medical cannabis use is allowed so far in 23 states-including California and that number is expected to grow, despite the fact that at the federal level the product remains illegal. According to the Arcview Group, a cannabis investment and research firm based in California, legal sales of marijuana in the United States reached \$1.2 billion in 2015, a 232 percent increase over the previous year. By 2020, sales are expected to surpass \$22 billion, the group said in a recent report, with California making up \$6.4 billion of that market.

'Like a symphony'

Such projections are enough to make entrepreneurs like Sayegh salivate and quickly move to stake out their place in the burgeoning market of cannabis-laced cuisine. The young chef, who was studying molecular biology at university before dropping out to pursue his culinary project, said he has seen a huge uptick since starting his business about two years ago. His

services, for now, are exclusively private affairs for people with medical marijuana cards, but he expects that hurdle to come down following the November vote on recreational marijuana. His meals, at \$300 to \$500 a head, are aimed at taking diners on a unique "immersive" journey and not just getting stoned, Sayegh says.

"I am literally changing people's brain chemistry as the dishes go on," he says enthusiastically, as he displays the tiny syringes he uses to spice up his cooking. "By the third course you feel it a little, by the fourth a bit more and by the fifth course, you're starting to hit your groove. "So it's like a symphony," he adds. "I have to make sure that as the come-up is happening, the dishes correspond with that and as it's coming down, the same happens."

'Taking people on a trip'

Sayegh, who is of Jordanian descent, is even experimenting with cannabis-laced stuffed grape leaves, falafel, chickpea beignets and other Middle Eastern dishes. His cannabis-infused dishes even include "medicated" oysters. He says his family was appalled when he entered into his new venture, but they have since come around, even sampling, and enjoying, his creations. Sayegh and others, however, warn that as the appeal of cannabis-laced food continues to increase and Americans grow comfortable with the concept, consumers need to be made aware that getting high on a cannabis meal is not to be taken lightly.

"This is an inexact science in so many ways because so many factors come into play when you cook with cannabis," said Robyn Griggs Lawrence, author of "The Cannabis Kitchen Cookbook." "It's not like ordering a Jack Daniels and coke. "There is a whole discovery going on right now as this is kind of reaching out from the Wild West." Sayegh said he realizes that his meals can pack a wallop and treads carefully when he gets behind the stove to concoct his recipes. "Cannabis is not like any other ingredient," he said. "You have to be extremely careful because not only does heat play a very important role when cooking with cannabis, but you're also taking people on a trip, literally, and you have a responsibility to make sure it's done right. "This is not about throwing butter in a pan to get everyone super high."—AFP



TACOMA, Washington: Chef Chris Sayegh (right) and assistant chef Michael Monteleone prepare a dessert at an event.



TACOMA, Washington: Chef Chris Sayegh (left) and assistant chef Michael Monteleone use liquid nitrogen to create a Froot-Loop-flavored dessert at an event in Tacoma.



TACOMA, Washington: People attend an event hosted by The Herbal Chef CEO and Head Chef Chris Sayegh in Tacoma.



TACOMA, Washington: Assistant chef Michael Monteleone finishes vegetable tarts, made with medicated ricotta cheese during a networking mixer in Tacoma.



TACOMA, Washington: Chef Chris Sayegh measures the dose of CBD cannabis extract as he prepares medicated food for an event in Tacoma.



TACOMA, Washington: Chris Sayegh (left), assistant chef Michael Monteleone (center), and chef Dustin Selvaggio (right) prepare an oyster appetizer for an event.

The magic is back: Harry Potter play hits London stage

Harry Potter fans were buzzing with excitement Saturday as "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child", a stage play that imagines the fictional boy wizard as a grown-up father of three, opened in London. After nearly eight weeks of well-received preview performances, London's Palace Theatre hosted the opening gala as the general public strapped themselves in for a new adventure in the saga that has captivated millions around the globe.

Arriving for the opening gala, creator JK Rowling told the Press Association she was "so happy" that fans had heeded her pleas to keep the plot a secret, and said she hoped the play would one day appear on Broadway. Set 19 years after the events of Rowling's seventh and final book, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", the play sees a grown-up Potter working at the Ministry of Magic. The official plot outline for the play reads: "While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted."

"As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places," it said. Like many of his fans, Potter has now grown up and has three children with his wife Ginny Weasley, the sister of his friend Ron. He still has his trademark

round-rimmed glasses and the scar on his head, a permanent reminder of his nemesis Lord Voldemort, but must now help his youngest son Albus confront the family's dark past. "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is currently sold out, but another 250,000 tickets are set to go on sale next week as the play's run has been extended until December 2017.

'Written with fans in mind'

The script was to be released in Britain at midnight on Saturday (2300 GMT), with bookshops planning to stay open into the wee small hours to satisfy the desires of Potter fans. July 31 is the birthday of both Rowling and Potter. Several hundred fans, many dressed as the wizard, snaked down famous London street Piccadilly waiting to get their hands on a copy, bringing traffic to a slowdown and attracting bemused looks from tourists. "Oh God, this is one of the biggest things I've ever done," said Jenny Reid, 36, who had come from Virginia, United States, just to see the play. "I waited for eight hours to get the tickets and I've been waiting for this moment for nine months," she added.

"When the last book was released I was 10 so I was excited for it, but not as excited as I am now," said Rebecca Westbrook, 18, who will see the play in December. "I was going to wait to see the play before I read it, but as soon as I booked the ticket I was like 'I'm not



LONDON: Queues stretch around the corner of Eagle Place off Piccadilly from outside Waterstones bookshop on Piccadilly in central London, ahead of the midnight party to celebrate the publication of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One & Two" script book.—AFP

gonna be able to wait'. "My brother's seen it and he loved it, he knows I'm going to love it." Rowling's books have sold more than 450 million copies since 1997 and been adapted into eight films. Jamie Parker plays Potter, who is joined on stage by his old school friends Ron Weasley, played by Paul Thornley, and Hermione Granger, played by Noma

Dumezweni.

Albus Dumbledore actor Sam Clemmett has been a big hit, as has Anthony Boyle as Draco Malfoy's son Scorpius. The theatre show is written by English screenwriter and playwright Jack Thorne, based on an original story co-written with Rowling and the play's director John Tiffany. "Judging by the

whooping and cheering, nobody was disappointed," Clare Fitzsimons wrote in the Daily Mirror newspaper after the first preview showing last month. "It's a great show, and it's well done—entertaining and interesting for adults and children," fan Anna, 30, told AFP after a preview show. "The play was written with the fans in mind," she added.—AFP

Harry Potter magic hits Asia as fans celebrate new book

Harry Potter magic hit Asia yesterday, as aspiring witches and wizards crowded into bookstores to get their hands on the first copies of a new play that imagines the hero as an adult. Launch parties for "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" were held hours after the play's premiere in London, setting the stage for a return of the series that has captivated readers and movie audiences worldwide. Nearly 300 fans rushed through the doors of Kinokuniya bookstore on Singapore's Orchard Road at 7:01 am (2301 GMT Saturday) to become one of the first people in the world to see the new script.

Student Samantha Chua, 24, who along with her boyfriend was first in line, said she had been waiting outside the fourth-floor bookstore since 5:00 am. "We were here so early that the mall wasn't even open yet so we had to come up through the cargo lifts," she told AFP, adding that it was "all worth it". "I grew up reading the books and I have a special place for them on my shelves but this will be my crowning glory," added Chua, who was wearing a Harry Potter-themed sweater. Widely seen as the eighth Harry Potter installment, the play is set 19 years after the end of the last book and features a grown-up Potter working at the Ministry of Magic.

Like many of his fans, Potter has now become an adult and has three children with his wife Ginny Weasley. He still has his trademark round-rimmed glasses and the scar on his head, a permanent reminder of his nemesis Lord Voldemort, but must now help his youngest son Albus confront the family's dark past. The script's global kickoff was timed to coincide with its launch at midnight in

London, after the play's world premiere at the Palace Theatre earlier in the evening. July 31 is also author J K Rowling's birthday.

Wands, wizards and wonder

In India, fans began lining up outside shops which had opened early especially for the script's release. "It's been amazing to see 10-year-old fans and 70-year-old grandmothers turn up at our shops," Shilpi Agarwal, a spokeswoman for Om book shops, said in New Delhi. "We've got an excellent response," she told AFP, adding that the store would be laying on Potter-themed activities throughout the day. In Bangkok, around 40 fans, many wielding wands and other wizarding paraphernalia, gathered outside a large downtown mall overnight. Sanpipat Huangswat, 29, was first in line and had started queuing at 6:30 pm on Saturday evening. He finally got his hand on the book some 11 hours later.

"I feel very excited and it's great to be the first owner of this book in Thailand," he told AFP. Sheryans, 16, said he was not sure he'd ever get the chance to see another Harry Potter book launch. "I've been following the Harry Potter series since I was eight years old, and it's unbelievable that after nine years they're keeping it going," he told AFP in Bangkok. Dozens gathered at a downtown bookstore in Hong Kong to get the new title and try on Harry Potter costumes provided by the store. Ten-year-old Adele Leung, who came with her mother, was anxious to crack into the latest Potter tome. "I love Harry Potter and have read all of the last ones. I think I will read it in a few days," she said.—AFP



BANGKOK: Harry Potter fan Santipat Huangswat (right) receives the first of the new Harry Potter script book to be launched in Thailand outside Asia Books in Bangkok yesterday.—AP/AFP photos



BANGKOK: A fan poses for photograph next to a poster during the launch of the new book "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child".



LONDON: A Harry Potter fan dressed as a character from the Harry Potter books poses for a photograph inside Waterstones bookshop on Piccadilly in central London.



LONDON: Harry Potter fan, Fran Plagge (right) poses for a photograph after being the first person to receive the new Harry Potter script book inside Waterstones bookshop on Piccadilly in central London yesterday, during the midnight party celebrating the publication of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One & Two" script book.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

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KIDZANIA KUWAIT JOINS HANDS WITH LEADING TOY RETAILER FANTASY WORLD

KidZania Kuwait, the exciting kid-sized metropolis, officially collaborated today with leading toy retailer, Fantasy World, the official sponsor of the painting school at KidZania. Kids visiting the Fantasy World Design Academy will enjoy flaunting their artistic skills by becoming real artists and creating artistic masterpieces inspired by Fantasy World's latest toy collections.

The Fantasy World Design Academy will also give kids visiting the establishment the exclusivity to test out the latest and trendiest toy collections available at the Fantasy World Store. This collaboration stems from KidZania's interest to join hands with leading partners in the local and regional markets, to provide children with the best learning experience, all at one stop. Fernando Medroa, Vice President of Leisure and Entertainment at M H Alshaya Co said: "We are pleased with this new partnership and would like to welcome Fantasy World on board as our latest industry partner."

"Inspired by KidZania's core objectives, we encourage kids' learning by combining fun activities with education



in a setting especially designed for them. By having the right partners on board, we are confident that this will further enhance kids' learning by making their experience even more realistic and exciting," Medroa added.

Speaking on behalf of Fantasy World, Harvey Dulku, Retail Director, said: "On

the occasion of our 20th anniversary celebration and in line with our continuously embedded principle that 'Kids Deserve the Best', we are proud to announce this unique collaboration with KidZania Kuwait, by launching the Fantasy World Design Academy. Our activity in the refurbished establishment stimulates



children's imagination and creativity, and enhances their essential painting skills. It is our way of showing the people of Kuwait our profound appreciation for them being our best friends for the last 20 years."

Fantasy World will provide the Design Academy Establishment with the trendiest

and fun toy products that kids can test out. The Design Academy will also host a monthly competition, sponsored by Fantasy World, where kids will get their paintings judged by a panel of art critics. Winners of the competition will get their paintings featured on the wall of fame in KidZania.

HUAWEI JOINS LOYAC KUWAIT IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The Huawei Consumer Business Group Kuwait joined hands with LOYAC, a non-profit organization that runs several youth programs to develop professional skills and enhance personal growth to support its summer program. The program aims to train the youth in the private sector and helps build the skills and professional experience of young trainees ahead of the start of their careers.

The Huawei Consumer Business Group Kuwait is training two Kuwaiti university students in its fully-integrated after sales service center, which the company inaugurated last month. The Center provides high quality maintenance, parts and warranty services for all Huawei smartphones and devices, in addition to a VIP service exclusive to Huawei loyal users and the smartphone experience corner which allows customers to test a smartphone before making a purchase.

Huawei's Kuwait Consumer Business Group, Country Manager, Jim Zhu, said: "We are proud to support LOYAC and its goals to empower the Kuwaiti youth and arm them with skills that help build a stronger generation to lead Kuwait. At Huawei, we strive to invest in initiatives that benefit the communities we serve. By hosting these students, we hope they will acquire the skills needed to work in a multicultural environment within the dynamic,

and fast paced sector. In doing so, we believe the experience will set the stage for their future professional growth which will ultimately lead to further development in the sectors and communities they will work and live in."

Huawei aims to empower the younger generation in Kuwait, specifically in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The company runs innovation centers in Kuwait and across the region. Additionally, Huawei has hosted exchange and training programs for Kuwait University students in various international programs.

Currently, Huawei Kuwait's operations aim to enhance communications networks in both the public and private sectors, ultimately connecting the local community to the world. Huawei provides network services and consultation, informational technology solutions to companies and institutions, as well as consumer technology devices and that have received world recognitions.

Huawei Kuwait's growth plans aim to increase its scope of operations in Kuwait by providing safe city solutions, e-government solutions, data storage and more to improve the efficiency of communication and build the foundations of a stronger, more stable infrastructure.

NSS KUWAIT OFFICE BEARERS MEET INDIAN AMBASSADOR SUNIL JAIN

Nair Service Society (NSS) Kuwait office bearers met Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain on 28 July 2016 Thursday by 4:00 pm. General Secretary Prasad Padmanabhan introduced new committee members to the Indian Ambassador and President Ullas Kumar expressed sincere gratitude and thanked Ambassador for their continued support to Indian community particularly to NSS members. Welfare Coordinator Saji Kumar explained to Ambassador about the various services and welfare activities being carried out by NSS Kuwait. Program Coordinator Hari Pillai and Vanitha Samajam Jt coordinator Smt Keerthi Sumesh invited Ambassador to NSS Onam Celebrations scheduled to be held on 14 Oct 2016 at Carmel School, Khaitan from 9:30 am. On our request, he consented to inaugurate our Onam Celebrations. Various issues facing by the Indian Community members were discussed with Ambassador and he is keen to take up the issues with appropriate authorities. Treasurer Sree Kumar, Vice President Madhu Vettiyar and Jt Secretary Aneesh P Nair were also present in the meeting.



MAX LAUNCHES ITS 'BACK TO SCHOOL' COLLECTION ACROSS ALL KUWAIT STORES

SPINE PRESSURE-FREE BACKPACK HIGHLIGHT FOR SEASON

MAX, the largest value fashion brand in the region is offering a wide range of apparel, backpacks, stationary and unique items for kids this season with a 'Back to School' Campaign that kicks off from August 2016. This year, Max has launched a unique product to reduce the burden



from children's shoulders - a spine pressure-free backpack - available exclusively at Max in a variety of cool designs for both boys and girls.

Launching this campaign in-store, kids will get to experience a last-minute gateway before school starts. They will get the chance to enjoy a series of activities during weekends between August 7 and 27. Activities



include face painting, competitions and games!

The Back to School collection offers an exciting range of backpacks, as well as pencil cases, lunch boxes and water bottles. This year at Max, princesses are everywhere, from Elsa-themed backpacks to Sofia the first, and Barbie. As for the boys, they can safely go to school now, with their superheroes right by their side. Spiderman, Batman and Superman backpacks and accessories are amongst this season's styles offer.

Girls

Stylish and functional with everything a growing schoolgirl needs, the only question is - what will they choose to inspire them for school? To begin the new school year with style, girls can

choose from the sensational collection of princesses and Disney stars: Frozen, Sophia, Dora, Hello Kitty, Finding Dory, and Barbie.

Boys

Packed with action and adventure, this collection will have children diving into their own little superhero world. The boys department at MAX provides a complete 360 selection for back to school items. Items range from Batman, Spiderman, Superman, Star Wars, Kung Fu Panda, Cars, Minions, and Angry birds. Unleash their inner hero so they can head to school full of joy and energy with their pick of the crime-fighting crop! Also, Max has taken the best of the best and rolled them up into bundles offers - themed sets holding all their favorites together!

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Porto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

Hospitals	
Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
Clinics	
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

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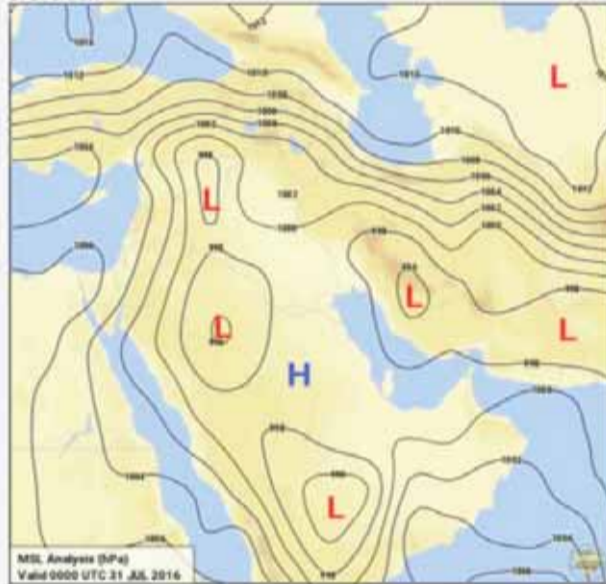
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 31/07/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 48 °C

By Day : Very hot with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	very hot + raising dust over open areas	very hot + raising dust	very hot + raising dust	very hot
Min Temp °C	30	33	32	30
Max Temp °C	49	50	49	47
Wind Direction	north westerly to northerly	north westerly	north westerly changing to south easterly later on	north westerly changing to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	25 - 45	25 - 45	15 - 38

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	35		47	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28		48	
ABDALLY	26		48	
BUBYAN	26		40	
JAHERA	31		49	
FAILAKA ISLAND	29		43	
SALMIYAH	37		38	
AHMADI	35		40	
JAL ALIYAH	29		48	
QAROH ISLAND	34		36	
UMM AL-MARADEM	34		36	
NUWASIB	30		44	
WAFRA	28		48	
MANAGISH	29		48	
SALMY	30		47	
MUTRIBA	28		50	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	48
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	66
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:39
Sunrise	05:08
Zuhr	11:54
Aar	15:30
Sunset	18:41
Isha	20:07



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammed Akkad	2455050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

BBC FIRST

- 03:10 Spooks
- 04:05 Doctors
- 04:35 Eastenders
- 05:05 The Musketeers
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Eastenders
- 07:00 Casualty
- 07:55 Death In Paradise
- 08:50 Stella
- 09:40 The Musketeers
- 10:40 Doctors
- 11:15 Eastenders
- 11:45 Death In Paradise
- 12:40 Stella
- 13:30 The Musketeers
- 14:30 Doctors
- 15:00 Eastenders
- 15:35 Death In Paradise
- 16:30 Stella
- 17:20 The Musketeers
- 18:15 Casualty
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 The Living And The Dead
- 21:00 The Living And The Dead
- 22:00 Ripper Street
- 22:55 Spooks
- 23:50 Casualty
- 00:40 The Living And The Dead
- 01:40 The Living And The Dead
- 02:40 Ripper Street

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 Nathan For You
- 03:25 Nathan For You
- 03:50 Ridiculousness
- 04:15 Ridiculousness
- 04:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 05:30 Tosh.0
- 05:55 Tosh.0
- 06:20 Frankenfood
- 06:50 Frankenfood
- 07:15 Frankenfood
- 07:40 Frankenfood
- 08:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 08:55 Nathan For You
- 09:20 Nathan For You
- 09:45 Ridiculousness
- 10:10 Ridiculousness
- 10:35 Key And Peele
- 11:00 Impractical Jokers
- 11:25 Frankenfood
- 11:50 Frankenfood
- 12:15 Nathan For You
- 12:40 Nathan For You
- 13:05 Ridiculousness
- 13:30 Ridiculousness
- 13:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 14:45 Hungry Investors
- 15:35 Frankenfood
- 16:00 Frankenfood
- 16:30 Nathan For You
- 16:55 Nathan For You
- 17:20 Lip Sync Battle
- 17:50 Ridiculousness
- 18:15 Ridiculousness
- 18:39 Key And Peele
- 19:03 Impractical Jokers
- 19:27 MLE Championship
- 20:13 Catch A Contractor
- 21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 21:30 Jo Koy: Lights Out
- 22:18 Workaholics
- 22:42 Tosh.0
- 23:05 I Live With Models
- 23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 00:00 Tosh.0
- 00:25 Underground With Dave Attell
- 00:50 Another Period
- 01:15 Tosh.0
- 01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 02:05 Jo Koy: Lights Out

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:05 Auction Hunters
- 03:30 Dallas Car Sharks
- 04:00 How Do They Do It?
- 04:30 How Stuff's Made
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 How Stuff's Made
- 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 06:50 Cuban Chrome
- 07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 08:30 GI Dough
- 08:55 Auction Hunters
- 09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Stuff's Made
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud
- 11:25 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 12:15 Street Outlaws
- 13:05 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 13:30 Auction Hunters
- 13:55 Dallas Car Sharks
- 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 15:10 Kindig Customs
- 16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 16:50 How Stuff's Made
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Gold Divers
- 18:30 Yukon Men
- 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls
- 20:10 Auction Hunters
- 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
- 21:00 Gold Divers

Discovery SCIENCE

- 21:50 Yukon Men
- 22:40 Outback Truckers
- 23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 00:20 Kindig Customs
- 01:10 Gold Divers
- 02:00 Yukon Men
- 02:50 Outback Truckers
- 03:00 Mythbusters
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Mythbusters
- 08:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 09:02 The Strangest UFO Stories Of All Time
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:38 How It's Made
- 11:26 Mythbusters
- 12:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:50 The Strangest UFO Stories Of All Time
- 14:38 How It's Made
- 15:26 Mythbusters
- 16:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 17:02 The Strangest UFO Stories Of All Time
- 17:50 Mythbusters
- 18:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 19:30 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Extreme Engineering
- 22:00 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
- 22:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 23:40 Mythbusters
- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
- 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

Disney CHANNEL

- 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 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:20 Dog With A Blog
- 07:45 Austin & Ally
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Shake It Up
- 09:00 Hannah Montana
- 09:25 Hannah Montana
- 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:30 Jessie
- 11:55 Jessie
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:45 Hank Zipzer
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Liv And Maddie
- 14:50 Dog With A Blog
- 15:15 Hank Zipzer
- 15:40 Bunk'd
- 16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 16:10 Gravity Falls
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 19:10 Backstage
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Liv And Maddie
- 18:40 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:05 Austin & Ally
- 19:30 Jessie
- 19:55 Violetta
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 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
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 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

Disney JUNIOR

- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo

- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopdidoo
- 07:40 Jungle Cubs
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:40 PJ Masks
- 09:10 Doc McStuffins
- 09:40 Doc McStuffins
- 09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Sofia The First
- 11:00 The Lion Guard
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:30 Gummi Bears
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Doc McStuffins
- 14:00 The Lion Guard
- 14:30 Aladdin
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:05 Goldie & Bear
- 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:00 Doc McStuffins
- 16:25 Doc McStuffins
- 16:55 Sofia The First
- 17:25 The Lion Guard
- 17:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:00 Doc McStuffins
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 PJ Masks
- 21:30 Aladdin
- 22:00 Jungle Cubs
- 22:25 Gummi Bears
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:00 Calimero
- 02:15 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack

Disney XD

- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Phineas And Ferb
- 08:40 Camp Lakebottom
- 09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 09:10 Gravity Falls
- 09:35 Lab Rats
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 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 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Supa Strikas
- 15:40 Supa Strikas
- 16:05 Lab Rats
- 16:30 Pickle And Peanut
- 16:55 Kirby Buckets
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Annedroids S384
- 18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Gravity Falls
- 19:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 20:00 Lab Rats
- 20:25 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

EHD

- 03:15 EJ NYC
- 04:10 Botched
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:20 I, Predator
- 08:25 Animal Army
- 08:28 Wild Untamed Brazil
- 08:29 Dead Or Alive
- 08:30 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 08:31 Phantom Wolverine
- 08:32 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 08:33 The Haunted Hathaways
- 08:34 Winx Club
- 08:35 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 08:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 08:37 The Loud House
- 08:38 Harvey Beaks
- 08:39 Rabbids Invasion
- 08:40 Henry Danger
- 08:41 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 08:42 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 08:43 The Loud House
- 08:44 Harvey Beaks
- 08:45 Rabbids Invasion
- 08:46 Henry Danger
- 08:47 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 08:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 08:49 The Loud House
- 08:50 Harvey Beaks
- 08:51 Rabbids Invasion
- 08:52 Henry Danger
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- 13:25 The Loud House
- 13:26 Harvey Beaks
- 13:27 Rabbids Invasion
- 13:28 Henry Danger
- 13:29 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 13:30 SpongeBob SquarePants
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- 13:42 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 13:43 The Loud House
- 13:44 Harvey Beaks
- 13:45 Rabbids Invasion
- 13:46 Henry Danger
- 13:47 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 13:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 13:49 The Loud House
- 13:50 Harvey Beaks
- 13:51 Rabbids Invasion
- 13:52 Henry Danger
- 13:53 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 13:54 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 13:55 The Loud House
- 13:56 Harvey Beaks
- 13:57 Rabbids Invasion
- 13:58 Henry Danger
- 13:59 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 14:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 14:01 The Loud House
- 14:02 Harvey Beaks
- 14:03 Rabbids Invasion
- 14:04 Henry Danger
- 14:05 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 14:06 SpongeBob SquarePants
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- 14:54 SpongeBob SquarePants
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- 14:56 Harvey Beaks
- 14:57 Rabbids Invasion
- 14:58 Henry Danger
- 14:59 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 15:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 15:01 The Loud House
- 15:02 Harvey Beaks
- 15:03 Rabbids Invasion
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- 15:05 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
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- 15:46 Henry Danger
- 15:47 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 15:48 SpongeBob Square

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (28/07/2016 TO 03/08/2016)

Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	FANAR-2	11:30 AM	SUBMERGED	Special Show "THE LEGEND OF TARZAN"	7:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
	2:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2		1:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		10:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
	4:45 PM	KANGAR HOBINA		3:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	AVENUES-1	11:45 AM	FINDING DORY
	7:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA		6:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		2:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA
	9:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2		8:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D		4:15 PM	DISHOOM-HINDI
	12:05 AM	THE CONJURING 2		10:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D		7:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA
				12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		9:15 PM	KANGAR HOBINA
SHARQIA-2	1:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	FANAR-3	12:15 PM	FINDING DORY	AVENUES-2	12:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D-4DX
	1:30 PM	KANGAR HOBINA		2:30 PM	SUBMERGED		3:00 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:
	3:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		4:30 PM	SUBMERGED		5:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D-4DX
	5:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		6:45 PM	FINDING DORY		8:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS-3D-4DX
	8:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		9:00 PM	SULTAN- HINDI		10:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D-4DX
	10:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D		12:15 AM	SUBMERGED		1:00 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D-4DX
	12:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN				AVENUES-3	11:45 AM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
SHARQIA-3	12:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	FANAR-4	12:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		2:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2
	2:45 PM	JASON BOURNE		2:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		4:45 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
	5:15 PM	FINDING DORY		4:45 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		7:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2
	7:30 PM	JASON BOURNE		7:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2		9:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2
	10:00 PM	ABU SHANAB		9:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2		12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2
	12:15 AM	JASON BOURNE		12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2			
MUHALAB-1	12:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	FANAR-5	11:30 AM	JASON BOURNE	AVENUES-4	11:30 AM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
	3:00 PM	JASON BOURNE		2:00 PM	JASON BOURNE		1:45 PM	JASON BOURNE
	5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE		4:30 PM	JASON BOURNE		4:30 PM	FINDING DORY
	8:00 PM	ABU SHANAB		7:00 PM	JASON BOURNE		6:45 PM	ABU SHANAB
	10:15 PM	JASON BOURNE		9:30 PM	JASON BOURNE		9:15 PM	ABU SHANAB
	12:45 AM	JASON BOURNE		12:05 AM	JASON BOURNE			
MUHALAB-2	11:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	MARINA-1	12:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	Special Show "THE CONJURING 2"	9:00 PM	MON
	2:00 PM	FINDING DORY		3:00 PM	JASON BOURNE		11:45 PM	JASON BOURNE
	4:15 PM	FINDING DORY		5:30 PM	FINDING DORY	360°-1	12:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D
	6:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2		7:45 PM	JASON BOURNE		3:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
	9:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2		10:15 PM	JASON BOURNE		5:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D
	12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2		12:45 AM	JASON BOURNE		8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
MUHALAB-3	12:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	MARINA-2	11:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2		10:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D
	2:45 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		2:15 PM	FINDING DORY		1:00 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
	5:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D		4:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2			
	7:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS		7:15 PM	ABU SHANAB			
	9:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		9:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2			
	12:05 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		12:15 AM	THE CONJURING 2			
FANAR-1	12:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2	MARINA-3	12:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN			
	3:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA		3:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS			
	5:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA		5:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS			
	7:15 PM	ABU SHANAB		7:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN			
	9:30 PM	KANGAR HOBINA			NO FRI			
	11:45 PM	ABU SHANAB						

Notice of intended marriage

Mr. Narayana Kamineni, holder of Indian Passport No: M4477818 issued at Hyderabad on 162014/12/ and Miss Bhagyamma Chevela, holder of Indian Passport No: M6254145 issued at Kuwait on 2015/04/ intend to get married in Kuwait under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to embassy of India, Kuwait with in 30 days.

SITUATION WANTED

Finance Professional: A well-qualified (MBA, CPA), Indian Finance Professional is looking for a change in job. 12 years of experience in Investment Banking, Real Estate & FMCG in the middle level position in Kuwait. Excellent communicator and adaptable. Please call 65094498. 1-8-2016

FOR SALE

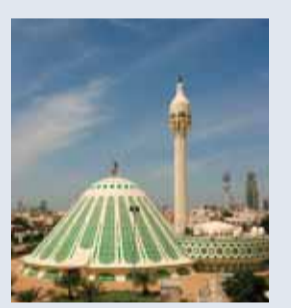
Chrysler 200 (2.4l), 29,500 km, sky blue, model 2013, excellent condition, diplomat's used car, KD 2,500. Contact: 99407427. (C 5194) 26-7-2016

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:38
Shorook 05:07
Duhr: 11:54
Asr: 15:30
Maghrib: 18:41
Isha: 20:07

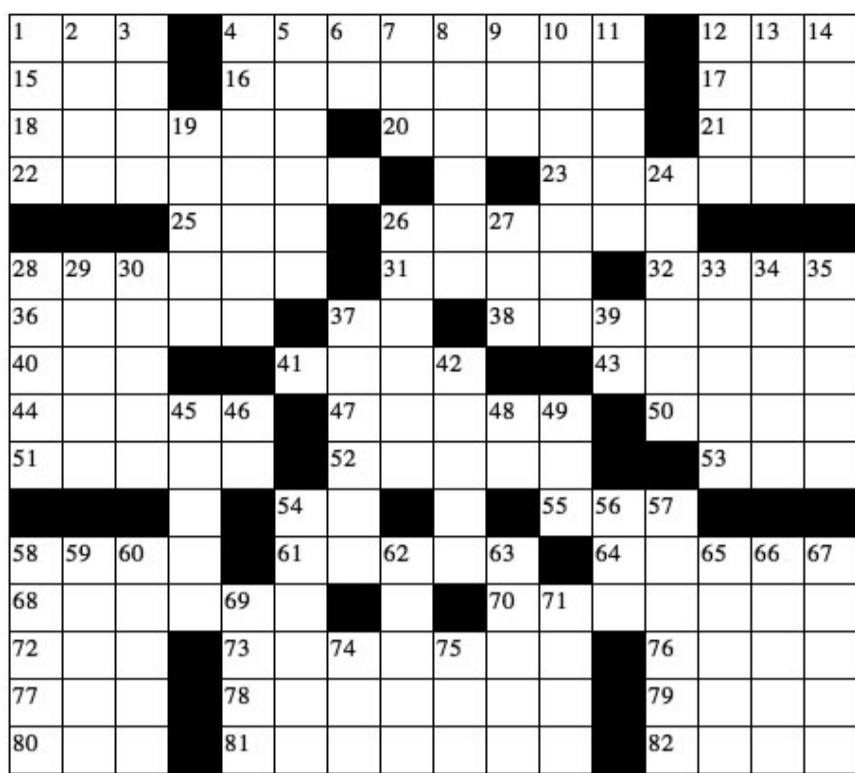


Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Monday 1/8/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 1/8/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	FDK	076	Dubai	13:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	MSC	802	Damascus	13:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	FEG	934	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	SVR	501	Jeddah	15:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	SVR	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	THY	1283	TZX	19:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	ABY	173	Sharjah	19:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	08:20	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MEV	403	Beirut	21:15
JAV	621	Amman	09:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	FDB	5054	Dubai	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	THY	1413	TZX	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

CROSSWORD 1329



ACROSS

1. An accountant certified by the state.
4. A landlocked republic in south-central Africa that became independent from British control in the 1960s.
12. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
15. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
16. A railroad depot in a theater of operations where military supplies are unloaded for distribution.
17. An accidental happening.
18. White goods in which food can be stored at low temperatures.
20. West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
21. How long something has existed.
22. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
23. Related on the mother's side.
25. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
28. The 11th letter of the Greek alphabet.
31. Using speech rather than writing.
32. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
36. Any North American shrubby perennial herb of the genus *Heliopsis* having large yellow daisylike flowers.
38. An author born in Ireland who lived in France.
40. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
41. Antibiotic-resistant mycoplasma causing a kind of pneumonia in humans.
43. A low triangular area where a river divides before entering a larger body of water.
44. An oily colorless liquid obtained by the condensation of two molecules of acetaldehyde.
47. A fertile tract in a desert (where the water table approaches the surface).
50. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
51. Carnivorous or bloodsucking aquatic or terrestrial worms typically having a sucker at each end.
52. Hanging cloth used as a blind.
53. Being ten more than one hundred eighty.
55. A resource.
58. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
61. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
64. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
68. Covered with paving material.
70. 100 pennings equal 1 Deutsche Mark.
72. Step on it.
73. Large African black-and-white carrion-eating stork.
76. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
77. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
78. (biochemistry) Purine base found in DNA and RNA.
79. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
80. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
81. Relating to the blood vessels or blood.
82. A Russian river.

DOWN

1. A small fragment of something broken off from the whole.
2. The rate of moving (especially walking or running).
3. Advanced in years.
4. Thick heavy expensive material with a raised pattern.
5. A city of southeastern Mexico.
6. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
7. Marked by skill in deception.
8. A seaman who works on a ship that hunts whales.
9. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
10. A streamlined enclosure for an aircraft engine.
11. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
12. An informal conversation.
13. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
14. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
19. Bandicoot with leathery ears like a rabbit.
24. Cause to become awake or conscious.
26. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
27. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
29. (botany) Relating to or attached to the axis.
30. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
33. Become less tense.
34. Of or relating to Attica or its inhabitants or to the dialect spoken in Athens in classical times.
35. A compartment in a stable where a single animal is confined and fed.
37. (of snakes and eels) Naturally footless.
39. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
42. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
45. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
46. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
48. The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
49. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
54. The face or front of a building.
56. A strong emotion.
57. The act of refusing a request.
59. The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
60. (Greek mythology) One of the mountain nymphs.
62. A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
63. (possibly Roman) Goddess of horses and mules and asses.
65. A positively charged electrode by which electrons leave an electrical device.
66. A person of exceptional importance and reputation.
67. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
69. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
71. A substance that can be burned to provide heat or power.
74. A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
75. Injured by bites or stings.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you are not on vacation this week, you should be. This is a great time to travel. You may have the opportunity to entertain one or two people today and even if you are not traveling, travel may be the topic of discussion much of this day. The smells, colors, light and feel of the day are just right for you. You love a social life-friends and relationships play a major role in your makeup. This is a lighthearted and enjoyable time. Depending on the weather, adding neighbors to a backyard get together just brings out the fun in everyone. Food appears and a contest of dessert concoctions is something that may never be duplicated again. Laughter and plans to gather again may show off the young people in the family-perhaps a talent show?



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There may be several times today where you could be in a position to guide young people. Perhaps several young people are volunteering to help in a senior home or hospital today. This could mean taking inventory or rearranging inventory or visiting some of the patients. You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially those younger than yourself. They just tend to follow you around like the pied piper. Gathering and exchanging information becomes a more important part of your life these days. Widening your scope of interest when it concerns others is very important at this time. There is much interest in new techniques and equipment, which is a very educational experience. This is a mentally and socially active period.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work in your favor. This is a great time to organize and get things accomplished. Quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights are ready for you to use. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move and growing. Perhaps this is a day you are getting ready for some sports or exercise competition. This evening you may find yourself involved in some intense soul-searching during which you examine your ideals and goals. You could take an interest in some sort of research-perhaps filtering sea water. Always curious, you are.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

As a hard worker, you pour yourself into whatever task you have set before you or agreed to accomplish this day-positive determination. You are very responsible and take on obligations as though you just cannot get enough. You may question authority figures today but after a little thought and patience, you will find an understanding. You are wise to take a step back and look for the amusing parts of a situation, then focus on the main subject matter. This will help to bring about better insight. A major project may come to an end; however, a new door opens to better projects. A child gives you new insight on your surroundings this afternoon. You may enjoy helping this child express a new talent. A little walk after dinner helps you relax this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You work well with those in authority who are independent and original. You could become engaged in nonconformist causes. You are always ready to promote what is independent and original. You may find that you are quite interested in breakthrough advances, such as voice recognition, or eye identification. If you are not working on perfecting a new invention, you are in sales for now. You are outgoing, overflowing and very convincing when it comes to gaining an interest in what you have to sell. It is time to engineer your schedule so you can have some time for yourself. You are proud of your accomplishments but you must also allow time for rest. Just plain happy to be here, you enjoy the company of friends.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Work, as usual, has a good pace to it all day long. You have good practical ideas as customers may come to you with difficult scenarios. The ability to communicate with others or describe what you see makes you a key player in your place of business. Creative abilities and hunches play a big part in your success, whether you are at work or at home. This afternoon others learn special techniques from your easy manner. A child or friend makes a request and you comply as best you can. There is an opportunity to build on this relationship in a most positive way. There is fun in the adventure of sharing and helping. You seem to be an expert at the many forms of love. Romance and other things that tug at the heartstrings come your way this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find yourself very appreciative of your special skills. You might enjoy solving puzzles and problems, finding solutions, etc. A renewed appreciation for your hobby might be apparent to your neighbors-in fact, to everybody. Awards are possible. It is certainly a time when you might consider competing with your hobby. This could be a model train layout or a one-man band or the refurbishment of an old car. This could be a period of great material gain; it is certainly a time when material things have a great deal of importance. You may be involved with an upcoming event that needs your creative talents. This could mean finding the right prop for a play, etc. It is always good to have a cushion for a secondary avenue to funds.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

The best way to gain respect for yourself is to act as though you have respect, not haughty or proud but a person with confidence. This is a good day to try out these ideas. Feedback will be in the form of questions regarding your attire. You are a great doer and now may be the better time to listen to the input of others, show others the respect you would like others to show you. Make sure that everybody shares when it comes time to making a contribution to the pool of information. Positive changes happen where there is respect and confidence. A neighborhood planning committee is plugging along successfully with its plans. You may want to think about volunteering for some entertainment aspect. Perhaps you enjoy singing or playing an instrument.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

A new lifestyle and ways in which to earn a living interest you. You are economy personified, always able to salvage and redeem anything. You like to tend and care for people and things. You relax by working around your property. Emotional security and a sense of belonging are issues that are instinctively felt. You want roots; you crave a sense of intimate connection that will last. You have suitable force, practical competence, tremendous discipline and a love of routine. You are able to reduce a subject to its essential elements. This afternoon it is time to turn off your mental manipulations and enjoy the company of the young people around you, which might mean you are babysitting children, but could also mean you have a new puppy.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You can sense the drift of a situation without a lot of analysis. This immediate hands-on approach might be contrasted with one that is more deliberate and cerebral. You radiate energy and information today and have to just accept the fact that people like to feel your warmth. Let them take care of you. You are quite regal. You have a sense of justice and an innate ability to understand the law, whether natural or artificial. Showing others the way through or beyond the problems in their lives comes easily, for you sense how to manipulate the opportunities of life. You are a nurturer of nature and humanity, able to cultivate and nurture almost any subject. This is a good time for using your intelligent mind to decipher a friend's trivia questions this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Making plans for today you mentally think about the closets, and the clothes you have not worn in quite a while could be cleared away and given to a thrift store. You get more and more excited about having more space in your closets and clear places. You may decide to move along to another member of the household and help them gather clothes or items for the thrift store. A new store opening calls your name and you may head off to enjoy a new sort of grocery store with oodles of yummy and pretty things to tempt you to open your pocketbook. You may decide to prepare meals for the rest of the week when you arrive back home. Tonight you can relax and enjoy a movie or play games with others. Laughter and happy times fill the air tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your timing should be perfect today; the right words, good choices and spontaneity are easy. There are lots of communication, investigation and research-perhaps through probing questions. You are not afraid of constructive confrontations and you seldom pull any punches. You may find yourself involved in some sort of research or project that requires digging, searching, investigating and getting beneath the surface of a situation. You are fascinated by social interchange where you tend not to be too emotional. When a friend invites you along to a family matter you are willing and able to join the group. You enjoy variety and visiting with many different personalities. Watching different family settings is fun and can add to your friends list.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Animals 4

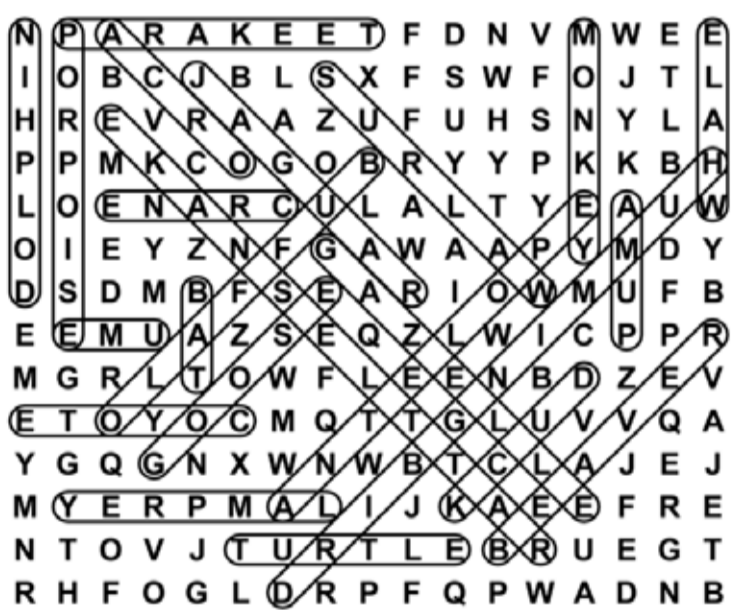
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| BOBCAT | IMPALA | PENGUIN |
| CHICKEN | KANGAROO | RABBIT |
| DEER | LEMMING | RHINOCEROS |
| ELEPHANT | LYNX | SHEEP |
| FROG | MOCKINGBIRD | WALLABY |
| GIRAFFE | MOUSE | WEASEL |
| GORILLA | ORANGUTAN | YAK |
| HORSE | PANTHER | |

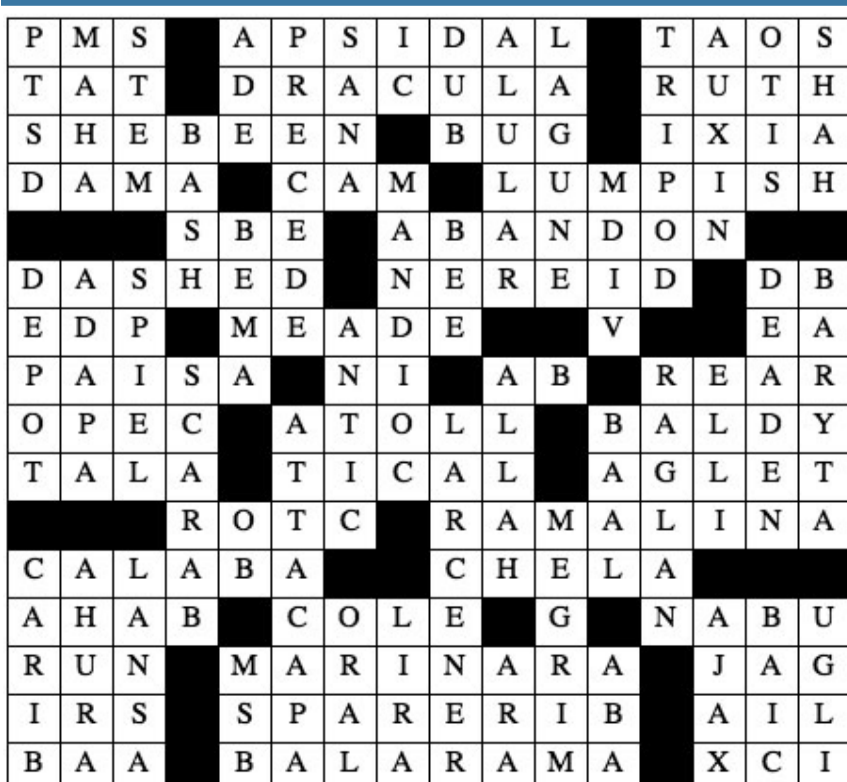
Yesterday's Solution

Animals 3 - Solution

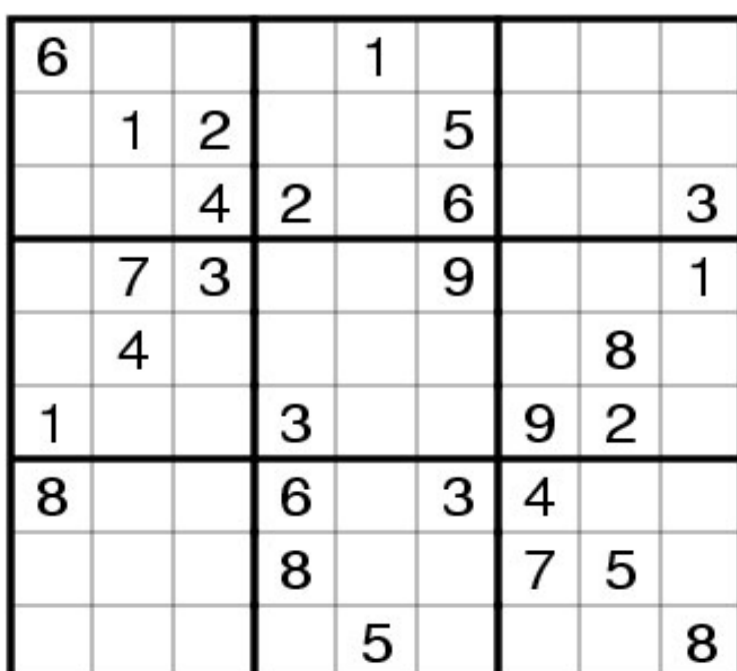


- | | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| ANTELOPE | EMU | PARAKEET |
| BAT | GAZELLE | PORPOISE |
| BEAVER | GOOSE | PUMA |
| BUFFALO | HUMMINGBIRD | RATTLESNAKE |
| COYOTE | JAGUAR | TURTLE |
| CRANE | LAMPREY | WALRUS |
| DOLPHIN | MONKEY | WHALE |
| DUCK | ORCA | |

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





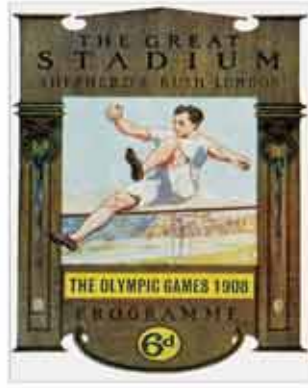
ATHENS 1896



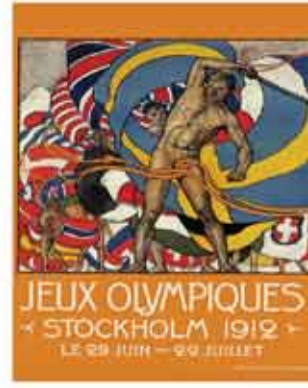
PARIS 1900



ST. LOUIS 1904



LONDON 1908



STOCKHOLM 1912



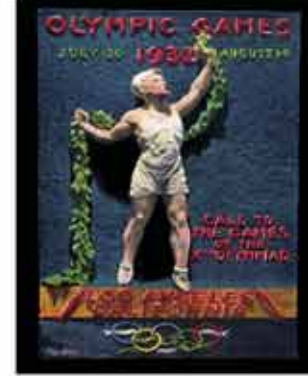
ANTWERP 1920



PARIS 1924



AMSTERDAM 1928



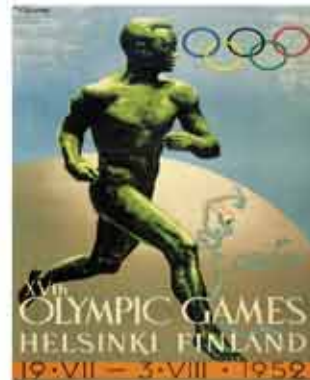
LOS ANGELES 1932



BERLIN 1936



LONDON 1948

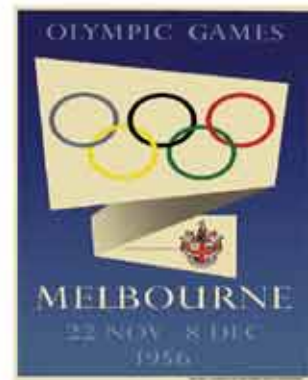


HELSINKI 1952


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Olympic art

 The collection of artist's Olympic designs over time has become part of its rich history. These official poster commemorate the past 120 years of Summer Games held around the globe.



MELBOURNE 1956



ROME 1960



TOKYO 1964



MEXICO 1968



MUNICH 1972



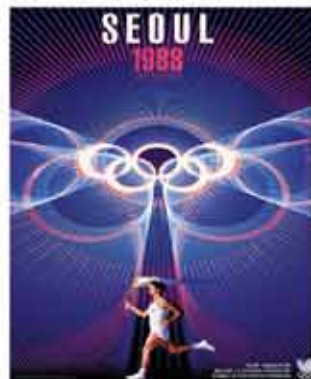
MONTREAL 1976



MOSCOW 1980



LOS ANGELES 1984



SEOUL 1988



BARCELONA 1992



ATLANTA 1996



SYDNEY 2000



ATHENS 2004



BEIJING 2008



LONDON 2012



RIO 2016



Zayn Malik and Gigi Hadid are living together

The 21-year-old supermodel has moved into her boyfriend's Los Angeles home and Zayn, 23, has given Gigi permission to redecorate. A source told the Sunday Mirror: "Zayn and Gigi have moved in together in LA and he's busy furnishing and buying paintings to change it up and make it more of a couple's pad. "They cherish every moment together and make sure they're never apart for longer than 10 days so it made sense for her to move in officially." The couple also share Gigi's New York apartment when they are on the east coast and couldn't be happier since reconciling after a brief split earlier this year. The insider said: "Zayn prefers a quiet night with Gigi than showbiz parties so it's important she feels comfortable. "He appreciates her so much

more after her support when he had to pull out of the Capital FM Summertime Ball with anxiety. "Zayn sees how much Gigi is there for him. They're mutually passionately in love." Speaking about their relationship, an insider previously said: "Things are back to normal with them. "They got through a rough patch that Zayn was facing personally and it started to put a dark cloud on their relationship. Gigi was there for him when he needed her the most and that brought them closer than ever." Meanwhile, Gigi may be one of the most beautiful women in the world but Zayn recently insisted he loves her for her mind. Zayn said: "She's super intelligent. I think that's why it works so well. And we do the same type of job so we get that with each other."

Lily Allen seeks help from Sam



Lily Allen is getting relationship advice from her estranged husband. The 'Not Fair' singer has been dating rapper Meridan Dan since splitting from Sam Cooper - the father of her kids Ethel, four, and Marnie, three - late last year but after a string of explosive rows, she's reportedly been leaning on the building firm boss for "emotional support". A source said: "Lily and Dan have lots of fun together but then they get into arguments. She feels conflicted because she wants to enjoy herself but then she knows she's still a mum, so she can't always be letting loose. "She's been turning to Sam for comfort and emotional support. Lily likes the fact that, despite everything, Sam doesn't judge her and he understands her better than anyone." The 31-year-old singer's friends are now concerned she made the wrong decision in deciding to divorce Sam. The source added to heat magazine: "Some of them are under the impression that Lily may think she's made a mistake turning her back on her marriage. "But, while Sam is there for her through thick and thin, their divorce is still going through. "Lily is trying to salvage things with Dan,

but she also seems to be having second thoughts about a future with him. "She wishes she could have the best of both worlds - a happy home life with a husband and kids but at the same time be able to escape and have fun with her celebrity friends."

Thandie Newton: 'I was groped by a male co-star'

Thandie Newton has revealed she was groped by a male co-star. The 43-year-old actress - who has three children with husband Ol Parker - did not identify the co-star but revealed the incident took place between the birth of her first child Ripley in 2000 and her second child Nico in 2004. She said: "I've literally been in situations where a co-actor has groped me and tried to engage me and I'm like, 'What the hell, I've got one kid and a husband - what are you doing?' "If I'd been an 18-year-old girl, desperate, I'm not sure. And attracted to him, let's say. That could have turned into a situation. "It's a widespread problem in every single indus-

try, in every single place." Thandie recently revealed that she was also taken advantage of by a director when she was auditioning at the beginning of her career. She told W magazine: "A director, on a callback, had a camera shooting up my skirt and asked me to touch my breasts and think about the guy making love to me in the scene. I thought, 'Ok, this is a little weird,' but there was a female casting director in the room and I'd done weird stuff before so I did it. Thandie added that many years later, at a film festival, a drunk producer approached her and said: "Oh, Thandie, I've seen you recently! And he lurched away looking really shocked that he'd said that. "It

turns out that the director was showing that audition tape to his friends after poker games at his house. And they would all get off on it. "I was so naive when I started out and I see now that we have to prepare our kids - I've got two beautiful daughters; one is 16 one is 11. So many people in our business, they don't want to be the ones to say something that's a bum out because then they become associated with a bum out and nobody wants to read about so-and-so because they're always blabbering on about a bum out. But one person will read this and it will stop them getting sexually abused by a director. That's the person I'm interested in."



Jamie Oliver thinks being able to cook is 'sexy'

The 41-year-old chef - whose wife Jools is pregnant with their fifth child, a sibling for Poppy, 14, Daisy, 13, Petal, seven, and Buddy, five - insists it is easy to "disarm" someone with even basic culinary skills. He said: "I just think to be a man or a woman and to be a cook is the most beautiful, sexy - if you want - romantic thing. It says a lot about people. "You can disarm someone by making them cheese on toast." Jamie admits raising a family is "really hard" and he is thankful to have such a supportive wife. He said: "She definitely keeps me real and I can only do the things I do that are remotely interesting because she keeps the fort and affects the things we do. "I think nurturing a family brings out the best in people. It's really

hard. "I mean, it's a graft and it's nuts - like it is for all other parents. They're always 30 seconds away from anarchy." Jamie's eldest daughter is currently "pretending" she isn't interested in her father's work, and though he knows they'll all go through periods of disinterest, he thinks they'll eventually come back to him for help when they realize he isn't "embarrassing" after all. He told Britain's HELLO! magazine: "The teenager is just pretending not to care at the moment. But it's all in there. "And I know I'll get them back in a couple of years when they've forgotten that their dad is boring or embarrassing."

Frost's heart break after marriage split



Sadie Frost wasn't happy for five or six years after her split from Jude Law. The 51-year-old actress and designer admitted that it took her a long time to cope with the breakdown of her marriage to the 43-year-old actor in 2003 and she didn't feel in control. She told The Sunday Times magazine: "I was not a confident, happy person. Eating, sleeping and just living were all tasks that I found very difficult. I didn't feel in control of my life." Sadie has been dating businessman Darren Strowger for the past three years but insists she is in no rush to tie the knot again. She explained: "It sounds awful if I say I don't want to marry him, but it's fine as it is now. He's got his children, I've got my children, we see each other when we want to, but I love having my own space and waking up in the morning on my own and going to bed on my own. But then I like spending time with him as well. It seems to work perfectly for both of us, for the moment. I don't know how long it will carry on." These days Sadie - who has children Finlay, 26 (with her first husband, Spandau Ballet's Gary Kemp) and Rafferty, 19, Iris, 15, and Rudy, 13, with Jude - is much happier than she was and says she has learned not to stress out about every little thing. She said: "I am much calmer now. If I'm running five minutes late, who cares? I've learnt not to be so obsessive and controlling. It's nice to just engage with the moment. "I don't really suffer from anxiety today. But I'm someone who wants to achieve a lot every day; I want to feel alive and there are certain things that make me feel like that. I want to take my dogs for a walk, I want to exercise, I want to be a good mum, I want to be a good business partner, a good actress, and that's a great feeling because I get things done and I enjoy what I'm doing. I feel pretty happy and content with everything."



James Corden to be offered primetime show

James Corden could be offered a primetime slot after impressing with 'The Late Late Show'. CBS bosses are reportedly so determined to prevent the 37-year-old star from being poached by a rival network, that they are considering moving him to a primetime variety show. A source told the Mail on Sunday: "James has become one of the most wanted men in Hollywood. He has been getting all sorts of offers and CBS doesn't want to risk losing him. "The plan is for a primetime variety show which showcases all his talents. The move will happen sooner rather than later. The talks started last week." While CBS have not commented on the claims, CBS Studios International president Armando Nunez recently spoke of his admiration for James. He said: "In just over a year, James has made a very big mark on US late night television with a critically acclaimed show that features the biggest names in entertainment, and unique segments that quickly become digital sensations." James previously revealed that he has been offered a recording contract after impressing music bosses with his segment Carpool Karaoke, which has seen him show off his vocal abilities alongside the likes of Adele, Justin Bieber, Stevie Wonder and One Direction. The comic revealed: "I've had a couple of record deal offers from both England and America." The British star has been living in Los Angeles since agreeing to take over the reins of the CBS series from departing host Craig Ferguson. But James - who once dreamed of being in a boyband - says he has no plans to take up the offer. He said: "No one has to worry - I'm not going to embark on such a thing!"

Moss sparks engagement rumors

Kate Moss' toyboy has sparked speculation that he has proposed. Count Nikolai von Bismarck, 29, reportedly got down on one knee during a recent romantic dinner in Italy and produced a ring before telling Kate, 42, in Italian that he loves her. Ristorante da Ivo owner Fracassi told the Sunday Mirror: "He chose his special moment after they ate soft shell crab and white truffle pasta, and everyone had gone home at 1am. "He shouted out 'ti amo', and then went down on his knee. It was very romantic. "He took out a ring and it was funny because he said it's for after she is divorced." Kate married rocker Jamie Hince in 2011 and the couple split last year but have not yet divorced. However, Mr Fracassi told the paper that she and Nikolai want to marry in Italy. While Kate is moving on with Nikolai, Jamie is keen for a fresh start and sees America as the perfect place to do that. He recently said: "My biggest dream is to buy a house in LA and live there, and now I'm going to. I'm not going to wait any longer as I already have a visa. "I've lived in England for so long that I want a change of scene. London's changed a lot over the past few years, it's lost its energy and soul." The 47-year-old rocker - who lived in Highgate, North London, with Kate and her 13-year-old daughter Lila Grace - also admitted he had made a "lot of mistakes" in the past. He said: "My wedding was the biggest party I've ever had. It was completely mad. "Obviously I've made a lot of mistakes, but I don't have a problem with that. "In a sense, I like making mistakes, because it allows you to experience things you wouldn't have experienced otherwise."



Alicia Vikander is a saver

Alicia Vikander prefers to save rather than splurge. The 'Jason Bourne' actress appreciated the value of money when she was struggling to launch her career and admits juggling her finances put her in a mindset she hopes will always stay with her. She said: "For the first years while I was living in London, I had maybe £200 to live on each month after I had paid my share of the rent. "That makes you very careful about spending money and I would rather stay that way. I don't want to live any differently." Despite her success, the Oscar-winning actress - who is dating

Michael Fassbender - can understand why her mother had reservations about her chosen career path and she admits even now she has periods of insecurity over her work. She said: "When I was starting out, my mother would constantly ask me if I was sure about my career choice. "Every time she did that, I would get annoyed but as I gain more experience, the more I understand why she kept asking me. "When it comes to acting, not only do you have to like it, you have to love it with all your heart. "Otherwise you won't have the strength to survive in this profession. "Even now

I'm still constantly questioning the work I'm doing and going through moments where I feel insecure or uncomfortable. And I'm still very nervous every time I take on a new role." And the 27-year-old star admits she's been much more successful than she ever expected. She told LOOK magazine: "I thought that if I worked hard on my English that I would be able to find work in American movies and moving to London was an important step so that I could become comfortable working in another language. "But I still have the feeling that I need to work very hard." — Bang Showbiz



'Game of Thrones' will end after season eight



In this Friday, July 1, 2016 combo picture made up of three separate images, Game of Thrones stars from left to right, Maisie Williams, Liam Cunningham and Lena Headey take questions during an interview with the Associated Press in Athens.

The fantasy drama television series - which recently received 23 Emmy nominations - is set to come to an end but a spin-off has not been ruled out. HBO programming president Casey Bloys said: "Yes, I think [the showrunners, DB Weiss and David Benioff] have a very specific plan about the number of seasons they want to do. If I could get them to do more, I would take 10 seasons but we want to take their lead with what they could do and what the best version of the show is." While a spin-off is possible, nothing has been decided yet and it will only happen if it "makes sense creatively".

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Bloys explained: "We've talked about it. It's not something I'm opposed to but it has to make sense

creatively. I'm not sure the guys can wrap their heads around it when they are about to start production. We're open to it; the guys aren't opposed to it but there's no concrete plans right now." It was recently confirmed that the series has been renewed for a shortened seventh season, with just seven episodes, rather than the usual 10. The number of episodes for season eight, has not yet been decided, however producers plan a total of 75 episodes for the entire series.

Season seven is expected in summer 2017, while the final season will air in 2018. 'Games of Thrones' is HBO's longest-running series, with the sixth season bringing in an average of 25 million total viewers to make it the most-watched show on the channel. — Bang Showbiz



In this undated image released by HBO, Lena Headey appears in a scene from "Game of Thrones." — AP photos



This image released by STX Productions shows, from left, Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis and Kathryn Hahn in a scene from "Bad Moms." — AP

Box Office: 'Jason Bourne' scores with \$60 million debut, 'Bad Moms' hits big

Audiences turned out in force to see Matt Damon in "Jason Bourne," pushing the spy sequel to a sterling \$60 million debut. The film marked the actor's return to the action franchise after a nine-year hiatus, during which he repeatedly hinted that he might be done with his most popular role. He and director Paul Greengrass argued that 2007's "The Bourne Ultimatum" had brought the character full circle by filling in him on the shadowy bureaucratic maneuvers that transformed him into a killing machine. What was left?

Be it creative spark or big paydays, the pair were somehow lured back to the series. That's good news for Universal, which ran the risk of losing a Tiffany franchise without Damon's involvement. In the interim, the studio had made an ill-conceived attempt at cinematic universe building with "The Bourne Legacy," introducing Jeremy Renner as another amnesiac ass-kicker dubbed Aaron Cross. The crowds didn't exactly flock to see this sub-Bourne, and the film grossed about \$150 million less than "The Bourne Ultimatum" globally.

Respectable debut

"Jason Bourne" marks the series' second highest opening, behind "The Bourne Ultimatum's" \$69.3 million debut. When adjusted for inflation, how-

er, it trails all but "The Bourne Legacy's" opening weekends. Universal spent \$120 million to make the latest installment and released it in 4,026 theaters. Even with Bourne's resurgence commanding most of the attention, the weekend's other major new wide releases managed to score a respectable debut. STX Entertainment's "Bad Moms" opened to a healthy \$23.4 million and a third place finish. That's a strong return on the film's \$20 million production budget. It also gives STX Entertainment a much needed win after its other summer release, the Civil War drama "Free State of Jones" collapsed at multiplexes.

"Bad Moms" originally was set up at Paramount Pictures and was intended to star Leslie Mann with the actress' husband and frequent collaborator Judd Apatow producing. But Mann dropped out and the project migrated to STX. It stars Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, and Kathryn Hahn as women who reject the pressure to be perfect parents, and instead indulge in hard partying and a more relaxed approach to child-rearing.

'Hardcore Henry'

STX is the brainchild of Robert Simonds, the producer of "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "The Pink Panther" films. Armed with backing from the likes

of TPG, Hony Capital and Huayi Brothers, the studio has ambitions to spend as much as \$1.1 billion annually on producing, marketing and self-distributing its films by 2017. So far, its early efforts have been mixed. It scored with low-budget horror films such as "The Gift" and "The Boy," but lost money on the thriller "The Secret in Their Eyes" and the point-of-view action film "Hardcore Henry."

Lionsgate also fielded "Nerve," a \$20 million thriller about a digital truth or dare-style game that takes a deadly turn. The film stars Dave Franco and Emma Roberts. It opened Wednesday in order to get a jumpstart on the competition, earning \$15 million over its first five days and \$9 million over the weekend. Among holdovers, Paramount's "Star Trek Beyond" slipped roughly 60% in its second weekend to gross just over \$24 million and nab second place. That brings the sci-fi sequel's domestic haul to approximately \$105.9 million. With a hefty \$185 million budget, the film needs to resonate overseas if it wants to make a profit. Universal's "The Secret Life of Pets" continues to be one of the biggest hits of the summer. The animated offering took fourth place with \$18.2 million. The look at what pets do when their owners are at work has earned \$296.2 million and seems destined to inspire sequels. — Reuters



Actor Matt Damon, left, chats with moderator Donna Freydkin during AOL's BUILD Speaker Series to discuss the film, "Jason Bourne," at AOL Studios.

Jason Bourne: More than a rerun, because he's never been more relevant

On screen, the "Bourne" thrillers, from "The Bourne Identity" (2002) to the new "Jason Bourne," have always been powered by a cool contradiction. A movie about a brainwashed human-robot ex-CIA assassin-or rather, a movie in which a brainwashed human-robot ex-CIA assassin is the hero-starts off, let's not kid ourselves, as more of a right-wing fantasy than a liberal one. That's why Matt Damon's Jason Bourne, to fit the paradigm of liberal Hollywood, has to be an assassin who's gone rogue. He's not on the side of the sinister CIA honchos who want to assert their will in the world; he's against them. He's on our side. He's up against those who destroyed his identity and turned him into a jujitsu sociopath to serve the US agenda.

That's why, on the movies' own terms, he's someone to root for. But, of course, in taking that life-as-target-practice homicidal mercilessness and turning it against his former bosses, Bourne, the programmed amnesiac assassin, embodies the very qualities of ruthless government control. That's the contradiction that gives the Paul Greengrass films, especially, their slight amoral edge, and it's one of the keys to their excitement. (It's not just about the rapid-fire cut/cut/cut propulsion.) It's that paradox that makes them cool. Which brings us to "Jason Bourne." The movie name-checks Edward Snowden a couple of times, and that tends to be a sign that a thriller is straining for topicality-as if pasting a reference like that onto a high-powered action movie were an automatic guarantee of relevance. But this is the rare instance where the relevance is earned.

Divulging secrets

Not because "Jason Bourne" is "about" the Snowden case. But because the very thing that the words "Edward Snowden" have come to symbolize-the issue of government surveillance, of how much it is justified (or not), of how secret it should be (or not), of whether patriotism now means protecting government secrecy or violating it-quivers through every frame of "Jason Bourne." You might assume that the movie, being a product of liberal Hollywood (and it is), would have a straightforward take on the subject. You might assume that it would be pro-Snowden: in favor of divulging secrets, and against the growth of the American surveillance state. And you would not be wrong.

Yet good movies work in mysterious and subversive ways. Just as the "Bourne" films have always invited us to get in touch with our inner assassin, there's an electrifying contradiction that snakes its way through "Jason Bourne." To wit: Is the movie against surveillance, or is it half in awe of surveillance? I'd argue that the answer is both. What's more, that answer mirrors how even some liberals may feel, deep down, about the revelations that the Snowden leaks placed on the map. For even if you think that we're heading toward a world of too much secrecy and private-information-gathering (and for the record, that's the view I overwhelmingly side with), the answer to that, in a digitally merged and invasive sci-fi super-world (i.e., our planet today), surely can't be: Eliminate all surveillance! It wouldn't be possible, it wouldn't work, and even if we could somehow do it, other countries and forces would, of course, still be surveilling us. So even if you're a card-carrying liberal on the subject of the NSA, few of us, perhaps, could simply be said to be "anti-surveillance."

Professional watchers

That's the ambivalence that makes "Jason Bourne" such a heady, exciting, and up-to-the-minute movie. More, perhaps, than any previous "Bourne" installment, it's a thriller that invites us to watch the professional watchers as they survey the rogue watchers who are now watching them. What's evolved? The even more complete way that Greengrass now portrays the surveillance system at work, with a seamless and omnipresent circuit of satellites linked to cameras linked to computers linked to eyeballs. In "Jason Bourne," that system has become the air we breathe-a fully operational octopus state with micro-tentacles of infinite reach. Bourne has got a relentless assassin (Vincent Cassel, wonderfully single-minded about killing) on his tail, and he's always on the run, but it's not like he can hide; as often as not, and more than ever before, there's a CIA camera eye right on him.

In "Jason Bourne," we're immersed, in almost every scene, in a globe that's been

wired, and that affects the audience kinesthetically. For one thing, it's thrilling to behold: The surveillance is so routinely there it collapses our sense of concrete space. That's why we rarely see people in the movie traveling; they're already everywhere at once. (If you think back to "The Bourne Identity" 14 years ago, that movie was so physical it now seems like a thriller set in the land of horse and buggy.) All of this provokes, in us, a moral criss-cross. Surveying the surveillance, our ethical compass says "No, no, no" but our childlike eyes say "Yes, yes, yes." The seduction of seeing and hearing beyond walls carries an existential enticement that pushes the film's action forward. That's what makes the new character, Alicia Vikander's Heather Lee, so intriguing.

Liberal cinema

At first, we suspect that she's your basic sympathetic ingenue cyber-desk jockey-an updated equivalent of the Julia Stiles character. Actually, though, she may be getting ready to take over. For a while, she seems open to Bourne, but what's tensely compelling about Vikander's performance is the calibrated consciousness with which Heather exists inside the new world of surveillance. It's in her (ice) blood. There's one more place where "Jason Bourne" cuts against the grain of liberal cinema (which may be why a number of liberal critics haven't liked it). The character of Aaron Kalloor (Riz Ahmed), the superstar CEO of a social-media network called Deep Dream, is presented as a new-tech guru. He gets up



In this image released by Universal Pictures, Matt Damon appears in a scene from "Jason Bourne." — AP photos

in front of a crowd with that slow-talking, non-blinking Tony Robbins-seminar-gone-brave-new-world omnipotence that turned Steve Jobs' product announcements into cult events, and he's portrayed as an engaging composite icon of hipster charisma. He's the kind of generational leader the media tends to fawn over.

Except that in this case, his company was secretly funded by the CIA, so that they could have a leg up on abolishing privacy through social media. It's a biting metaphor: The Company meets the (millennial) corporation, a match-the movie says-made in Orwellian heaven. What the character of Kalloor really signifies is the way that we have all, through the rise of social media, acquiesced in the abolition of privacy that's the essence of the Snowden critique. The movie is saying: Maybe the government couldn't be doing it, at least not this efficiently, if the gurus (and even the citizens) hadn't gotten there first.

"Jason Bourne" wears its themes lightly, and that's the essence of its appeal. It's a propulsive Hollywood thriller, not a seminar. Yet there are certain movies that channel what's going on in a way that's deeper than preaching. The liberal message on the Edward Snowden era comes down to: Less surveillance...good! That's the message of "Jason Bourne" as well. But because it's not a message movie, it can afford, through the contours of its glidingly hypnotic eye-in-the-sky style, to do more than make a statement. It can question surveillance and take the liberal view of it, but it can also touch the hidden pulse of a society that may be more ambivalent about these things than we'd care to admit, since there's a part of every one of us that, deep down, really does like to watch. — Reuters

Beiteddine International Art Festival



Lebanese singer Joseph Attieh performs during the Beiteddine International Art Festival in tribute to late Lebanese composer, singer and songwriter Zaki Nassif who has led the Lebanese music scene over five decades. — AFP photos



Lebanese singer Ranine Chaar performs during the Beiteddine International Art Festival.



Lebanese-Armenian musician, composer and pianist Guy Manoukian performs on stage.



Lebanese musician and singer Ziad Ahmadi performs on stage.



Lebanese singer Soumaya Baalbaki performs during the Beiteddine International Art Festival.

Learn about Mayan culture in Guatemala's Lake Atitlan region



Photo shows one of the volcanoes at Lake Atitlan in Guatemala's Western Highlands. — AP photos

The boat zips across the water starting early in the morning, picking up local villagers and dropping them off at various points around the lake. A few passengers wear traditional Mayan dress in a kaleidoscope of colors, heading to the town of Panajachel in hopes of selling their handmade crafts to tourists. Located in Guatemala's Western Highlands, Lake Atitlan is a tourist-friendly area rich in the Mayan culture. There are more than 20 Mayan ethnic groups in Guatemala, and the Lake Atitlan area is home to a handful of them, most notably the Tz'utujil and Kaqchikel people.

Each of the towns and villages surrounding the lake is known for something different - for example, textiles, ceramics or holistic therapies. The area is also known for Spanish language schools, with options for students to live with local families. Panajachel is the main town and where many visitors start their trip. Several other towns and villages surround the lake and are accessible by foot, tuk-tuk or lanchas (public boats) across the lake.

Yoga and meditation

Panajachel, known as Pana, is home to several restaurants featuring local and international cuisine, coffee shops, street food vendors and more. The town's main street, Calle Santander, is where visitors can shop for textiles and artisanal



Photo shows a street in San Juan La Laguna, Guatemala.

pieces handmade by indigenous people from around the lake. During the day, the street is lined with vendors who set up shop, selling bags, wallets, scarves, coffee, jewelry and other items. Across the lake, the town of San Marcos La Laguna is known for its laid-back vibe and attracts tourists interested in spiritual and holistic therapies, including massage, yoga and meditation. Visitors can sign up for classes of varying lengths at studios and retreats run by expats throughout the town. Vegetarian, vegan and locally produced dining options also abound in San Marcos.

The entire town is walkable, though there are tuk-tuk drivers offering services as well. San Juan La Laguna, meanwhile, is an up-and-coming town known for women's cooperatives and textiles created using natural dyes. One of the best-known cooperatives is called Lema. Started by Rosalinda Tay, indigenous women in the cooperative use dying and weaving techniques handed down from past generations. The natural dyes are made from various plants grown in the area.

Community project

Visitors to the cooperative can learn firsthand how to weave and create the natural dyes during classes or purchase a scarf, bag or other handmade item created by the women. Just down the road, a community project in San Juan, the Utz'il Eco-Centro, is being developed as a cultural exchange hub for the community, featuring a hostel, tea room, gardens, music stage and area for artisans. The goal of the project is to share the Mayan traditions of locals who are Tz'utujil as well as to promote environmentally sustainable practices.

Another town along the lake, San Antonio Palopo, draws visitors because of its ceramics. Cooperatives create a variety of intricate pottery pieces in different designs. Though Spanish is often the second language for many of the indigenous people in the area, visitors can study Spanish at one of the schools in the region that offer one-on-one sessions and the option of a homestay or on-site accommodation.

I spent my mornings taking two hours of Spanish classes each day at a local school in Panajachel for four weeks. My teacher was a young indigenous woman who lived with her family in the nearby village of Santa Catarina Palopo, so I was able to practice the language with her while also learning more about the Mayan culture and way of life. The lake area offers accommodations for any budget - from the luxurious Casa Palopo in the village of Santa Catarina Palopo that features breathtaking views of the lake and volcanoes, to hostels and funky bed-and-breakfasts in San Marcos catering to yoga and massage enthusiasts.

If you go...

Lake Atitlan, Guatemala: The Lake Atitlan region is located about 70 miles from Guatemala City, home to the nearest major airport. Visitors can rent cars or take a bus from Guatemala City to Lake Atitlan. Small public boats known as lanchas transport people to the different villages around the lake for anywhere from 10 to 25 quetzales, which is equivalent to about USD \$1.30 to \$3.25. Note that Guatemala is in the region affected by the mosquito-borne Zika virus. — AP



A woman uses a weaving loom in Santa Catarina Palopo, Guatemala.



Weekend getaway at Zighybay Resort, Oman



By Fatima Al-Mattar

I was searching for a getaway weekend last November, where I could enjoy good weather and outdoor activities. The hassle of getting a visa

and flying for long were out of the picture. After a small search for the newest resorts in the region, I finally decided to pay a visit to this beautiful resort in Oman.

Resort name: Six Senses Zighy Bay

Arrival airport: Although the resort is in Oman, the closest point to reach is Dubai. My ticket was a round ticket to and from Dubai International Airport.

It is recommended to either drive to the resort, or arrange with the hotel to send you a car. I personally arranged with the hotel for a pick-up, and it was very, very comfortable (they brought a pillow, water, wi-fi and a great deal of comfort). The drive is around two hours and thirty minutes depending

on traffic.

Accommodation type: I stayed at a villa with a private swimming pool for four people.

Adventurous activities: There are tons of things to do in terms of activities that I could not resist. I tried mountain biking and mountain paragliding and they were both AH-MA-ZING.

Many other activities are offered, such as:

- * Fishing
 - * Water sports
 - * Village tour
 - * Sunset cruise
 - * Rock climbing
 - * Zighy Bay hikes
- Just make sure to check their web-

site and identify your favorite activities, and book in advance.

* Spa and relaxation: I got to experience the spa facilities and services. If you are thinking of getting a massage, DON'T THINK, BOOK. Totally worth it. Make sure you read their spa menu online, and check their different experiences and offers.

They also offer yoga, detox yoga, facials and some other wellbeing rituals.

* Food and happiness: I had dinner at the restaurant On The Edge. It was a set menu kinda restaurant - great food, EXCELLENT atmosphere and a night to remember.

Thinking of an October/November or December or even February (cold) weekend getaway? Think no more. This is a great option.

First skydiver to jump and land without chute

A 42-year-old skydiver with more than 18,000 jumps made history Saturday when he became the first person to leap without a parachute and land in a net instead. After a two-minute freefall, Luke Aikins landed dead center in the 100-by-100-foot net at the Big Sky movie ranch on the outskirts of Simi Valley. As cheers erupted, Aikins quickly climbed out, walked over and hugged his wife, Monica, who had been watching from the ground with their 4-year-old son, Logan, and other family members.

"I'm almost levitating, it's incredible," the jubilant skydiver said, raising his hands over his head as his wife held their son, who dozed in her arms. "This thing just happened! I can't even get the words out of my mouth," he added as he thanked the dozens of crew members who spent two years helping him prepare for the jump, including those who assembled the fishing trawler-like net and made sure it really worked.

The stunt, broadcast live on the Fox network for the TV special "Stride Gum Presents Heaven Sent," nearly didn't come off as planned when Aikins revealed just before climbing into his plane that the Screen Actors Guild had ordered him to wear a parachute to ensure his safety. Aikins didn't say what prompted the original restriction, and representatives for the show and the Screen Actors Guild did not immediately respond to phone and email messages. Aikins said he considered pulling out at that point because having



In this image made from a video provided by Mondelez International, Luke Aikins, center, skydives without a parachute over Simi Valley, Calif. — AP photos



Luke Aikins, left, prepares to go skydiving without a parachute over Simi Valley, Calif.

the parachute canister on his back would make his landing in the net far more dangerous. If he had to wear it he said he wouldn't bother to pull the ripcord anyway. "I'm going all the way to the net, no question about it," he said from the plane. "I'll just have to deal with the consequences when I land of wearing the parachute on my back and what it's going to do to my body."

A few minutes before the jump one of the show's hosts said the requirement had been lifted. Aikins left the plane without the chute. He jumped with three other skydivers, each wearing parachutes.

One had a camera, another trailed smoke so people on the ground could follow his descent and the third took an oxygen canister he handed off after they got to an altitude where it was no longer needed.

Then the others opened their parachutes

and left him on his own. Aikins admitted before the jump he was nervous and his mother said she was one family member who wouldn't watch. When his friend Chris Talley came up with the idea two years ago, Aikins acknowledged he turned it down cold. "I kind of laugh and I say, 'Ok, that's great. I'll help you find somebody to do it,'" he told The Associated Press as he trained for the jump last week.

A couple of weeks after Talley made his proposal Aikins called back and said he would do it. He'd been the backup jumper in 2012 when Felix Baumgartner became the first skydiver to break the speed of sound during a jump from 24 miles above Earth. The 42-year-old daredevil made his first tandem jump when he was 12, following with his first solo leap four years later. He's been racking them up at several hundred a year ever since. His

father and grandfather were skydivers, and his wife has made 2,000 jumps. His family owns Skydive Kapowsin near Tacoma, Washington. Aikins is also a safety and training adviser for the United States Parachute

Association and is certified to teach both students and skydiving instructors. His business Para Tactics provides skydiving training to Navy Seals and other members of elite fighting forces.



Luke Aikins in a net after successfully skydiving without a parachute.



Luke Aikins, second from left, celebrates after skydiving without a parachute.



Inmates make design at the mixed-sex prison of Tulancingo, Hidalgo State, Mexico. — AFP photos

Mexican inmates use tattoo skills for purse designs



Sitting in a Mexican prison's library, murder convict David Guzman tattooed a skull on a leather patch for a designer handbag to be sold in a luxury shop. Guzman, 34, took drugs and stole at a young age, falling into a "nefarious" world that landed him in prison, but five years into his murder sentence, he appeared at peace as he drew the skeletal figure. His work is part of a rehabilitation project called Prison Art, which pays inmates to draw designs for purses that sell for \$400 at high-end stores in Mexico City and other towns.

Guzman lobbied to bring the project to the Tulancingo prison, in central Hidalgo state, where several other inmates use makeshift tattoo ink needles to paint birds, butterflies, tigers and, especially, skulls on leather patches. "My stubbornness was due to my need" to care for two children, the slim convict said as he sat with a dozen male and female inmates making designs in the prison library. The prisoners, young and old, usually work on their bunk beds in dormitories that hold up to 100 people, or sitting on plastic containers in communal spaces in a prison ranked fifth worst for

overcrowding and insularity by the National Human Rights Commission. They use home-made tattooing equipment made out of a pen, a needle and little motor powered by a cell-phone charger. The inmates use the same apparatus to tattoo their skin, despite the health risks.

\$400 monthly salary

"This makes the days shorter. I don't even know what time it is," said Ezequiel Perez, a 24-year-old whose muscular arms are covered in tattoos. "I have breakfast, I eat lunch and I do this the rest of the day," said Perez, who is serving time for a double murder.

Eighteen inmates were chosen at the Tulancingo penitentiary to participate in Prison Art. The only condition for taking part in the project, which was created by a private foundation, is to stay off drugs, attend detox therapy and give half the earnings to relatives. Most of the prison's 550 inmates work in the carpentry and craft shops, but they struggle to sell their creations on the outside. They need money to buy soap,



toothpaste or toilet paper. But Prison Art pays inmates up to \$400 per month for several patches of leather and puts them in a reinsertion program that can lead to a job outside making the purses once they are released. "My family often doesn't have anything to give me. This is a source of work," said Leonor Reyes, a

48-year-old embroiderer and mother of six, in jail for stealing jewelry.

Founded by former inmate

Jorge Cueto, the creator of Prison Art, served 11 months in a western Mexican prison in 2012 on fraud charges until he was found

innocent and released. Prison Art is now more than two years old, employing 240 inmates in six penitentiaries. "Mexican prisons are not crime universities. It is society that's forcing young men who come out to return to crime because they lack opportunities, which also makes them easy recruiting targets for organized crime groups inside prison," said Cueto, a Mexican of Spanish origin.

The handbags are sold in the capital's ritzy Polanco district, the colonial town of San Miguel de Allende and the Caribbean coast resort of Playa del Carmen, as well as on the internet. Now Cueto plans to go international and open shops in the United States, London and the Spanish island of Ibiza. "Society has the option of helping. The idea is to have a product of such quality and taste that people will want it," he said. Back in the Tulancingo prison library, Pedro Eulalio Vera, an accused kidnapper, put the finishing touches to a design. "If people like it, maybe they'll say, 'I want him to do something special for me.' And, for me, this would be something great, no?" Vera said. — AFP

What's in a name? Ask the folks in Two Egg, Florida

What came first, the Chicken or the Egg - or make that the Two Egg? The answer is the Alaska town of Chicken came before the Florida town of Two Egg, by about 30 or so years.

But they are neither first nor last in the country's long list of odd-named places. In Pennsylvania you'll find Intercourse, Virginville and Blue Ball. In Louisiana, if you've had too much of Moonshine, you can always visit Cut Off. The list goes on: Weed, California; Uncertain, Texas; Eek, Alaska; Butts County, Georgia and oh so many more.

For some, like Santa Claus, Indiana, the name has created a major tourist industry. Others, like Two Egg, are dots on the map that get the occasional visitor curious about the name, but offer little besides a road sign - and even the sign often went missing until it

was riveted in place.

"It used to be one of the most stolen signs in the state of Florida," said Marcus Pender, whose grandfather owned a gas station and general store where trading eggs for goods led to the town name. "I even got a couple myself in the day." Here's background on a few peculiarly named places in the United States:

Two Egg, Florida

Located about 70 miles northwest of Florida's capital, Tallahassee, Two Egg is a small farming community where people used to trade eggs for goods at the general store. "People would come in and trade two eggs for meat and cheese," said Pender. The store is no longer open, but people can still buy Two Egg cane syrup at a farm down the road.



This undated photo made available by the Spencer County Visitors Bureau, Ind., shows a Santa Claus figure in front of the Post Office in Santa Claus, Ind. — AP photos

Chicken, Alaska

Doug Devore runs a website devoted to this small mining town near the Canadian border. He says in 1902, locals planned to call the town Ptarmigan after a chicken-like bird they often ate. But they worried people would spell ptarmigan wrong, so they named it chicken instead. Most visitors stop here on tour buses headed elsewhere, but some people make a special trip. "There are some people who are just obsessed with weird town names," Devore said.

Santa Claus, Indiana

Melissa Brockman, executive director of the



A sign welcomes motorists to the town of Two Egg, Fla.

Spencer County Visitors Bureau, says Santa Claus was supposed to be named Santa Fe, but another Indiana town already had that name. The story goes that in the 1850s, families gathered to come up another name on a snowy Christmas Eve. Sleigh bells were heard outside and children shouted, "Santa Claus!" And so the town was named. Santa Claus has fewer than 2,500 people and no fully operating traffic signal, but 1 million people visit each summer and hundreds of thousands of requests arrive in December from people who want their Christmas cards postmarked "Santa Claus."

Uncertain, Texas

Stories vary about how this Louisiana border town got its name, says Randie Canup, owner of the Hoot 'n Holler guest cottage. One is that when the city applied for incorporation, it hadn't picked a name, so "uncertain" was written on the form and it stuck. But Canup thinks the true story dates to the 1800s, when a steamship delivered goods to Caddo Lake ports. Shipping labels often peeled off in the humidity, and those boxes were marked "uncertain" and left at the final stop - which became known as Uncertain. With a population of about 100, tourists far outnumber residents. Cell phone coverage and Internet

access are spotty but there's fishing, birding and scenery. "When people come here, some of what they do is nothing. They just want the quiet," Canup said.

Butts County, Georgia

The town is named for Capt. Samuel Butts, who died in 1814 during the Creek War. A radio station owner tired of people cracking jokes about the county suggested a name change at some point but local business owner Henry Kitchen started a "Save Our Butts" campaign with T-shirts and bumper stickers. With the name now safe, a popular bumper sticker reads "Keep Our Butts Clean." The water tower welcoming visitors driving in from I-75 proclaims "BEAUTIFUL BUTTS."

Weed, California

Abner Weed ran a lumber mill at the base of Mount Shasta in 1897, and thus the city's name. That doesn't make it immune to marijuana jokes - there are tons of "I Love Weed" souvenirs to be found around town. Even the local brewery, Mt. Shasta Brewing Company, plays it up - and got in trouble when the federal government objected to bottle caps that read "A Friend in Weed is a Friend Indeed. Try LEGAL Weed." — AP



A water tower is seen in Butts County, GA. Named for Capt Samuel Butts, who died in 1814 during the Creek War, residents at one point suggested a name change.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016

Mexican inmates use tattoo skills for purse designs

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This picture shows visitors amid street art in the famous graffiti lanes of Melbourne. Hosier Lane and Rutledge Lane are two of Melbourne's famous graffiti lanes that give unlimited access to local and international street artists to showcase their talents. — AFP

SNOW CITY the new hot ticket in the Saudi capital

Having to wear ski jackets in Riyadh is unheard of, but a new snow park in the Saudi capital has made them a must despite outside temperatures exceeding 45 Celsius. Saudi women wearing the compulsory traditional abaya that covers the body from head to toe are now donning thermal coats and cosy boots as they sit on sledges to scoot down the slopes of "Snow City". Unusually in the ultra-conservative kingdom that applies strict segregation rules and where even restaurants have separate sections for "families" and single men, they are also joined by males.

The complex is a rarity in Saudi Arabia where there are only small-scale amusement parks for children, and where cinemas or theatres are not allowed. Stretching over 5,000 square meters (53,800 square feet), the entertainment project does not have proper ski pistes as such, but its modest indoor slopes still manage to provide frosty fun in a country that is mostly desert and searing heat. "I've never touched snow," says Ali Al-Ajmi, 40, who has never travelled out of the Arabian Peninsula. Dozens of people throng the front counter to gain access to the play area which opened in mid-July after four years of construction work costing some 100 million riyals (\$26.7 million, 24 million euros).



File photo shows a general view of Saudis playing at the indoor snow theme park "Snow City" in the Al-Othaim Mall Rabwa in the capital Riyadh. — AFP photos

Arabia has long relied on religious tourism, attracting millions of the faithful for the annual hajj and year-round minor pilgrimages. But with more than half of its population under the age of 25, the kingdom is also now pushing to provide more entertainment options for its residents, many of whom turn to neighboring Bahrain or Dubai for leisure activities. In



Saudis play at the indoor snow theme park "Snow City".



Saudi children playing on sledges at the indoor snow theme park "Snow City".



Saudis playing at the indoor snow theme park "Snow City".



Saudis playing at the indoor snow theme park "Snow City" in the Al-Othaim Mall Rabwa in the capital Riyadh.

Where's the sun?
Surprisingly, women currently represent the bulk of visitors in a country where they are subject to strict constraints, including a globally unique ban on driving. One employee at Snow City said the centre's management initially faced the problem of not having enough boots for women as they had not expected females to represent more than 10 percent of visitors. In fact, women have so far exceeded 75 percent of the numbers flocking to frolic in Alpine temperatures. "There is privacy and we're enjoying our time here," says one woman who identifies herself as Umm Ahmed, 37. "I like the place. It provides entertainment." The temperature inside is a cool -3 degrees

Celsius (26.6 degrees Fahrenheit). "It's freezing," chatters 14-year-old Abdulrahman Hamad after spending some 90 minutes playing in the snow. A younger boy appears to feel the pinch of the freezing air even more, and suggests a novel way of countering it. "It looks cloudy and feels very cold. Why don't they also put a sun in here?" asks four-year-old Salman. The facility is not the first of its kind in the arid Gulf region. The emirate of Dubai boasts an indoor ski resort that opened in 2005, featuring ski slopes complete with towbars and a chairlift. As the birthplace of Islam and custodian of its holiest sites in Makkah and Madinah, Saudi

April, the authorities launched an ambitious economic diversification plan to wean the kingdom off oil as the main revenue earner, with development of tourism and entertainment projects among other wide-ranging goals. US company Six Flags Entertainment Corporation announced in June that it is holding talks with Saudi Arabia to build theme parks in the country. On Snow City's Facebook page, many commentators have eagerly welcomed the new attraction. "Turns out women are allowed in," one Facebook user noted. And in a comment reflecting some of the attitudes currently prevalent in Saudi Arabia, a woman asks: "Is there a day for ladies only?" — AFP