

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

THULQADAL 1, 1437 AH

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Israel approves jailing 'terrorists' from age 12



Parliament passes landmark Indian tax reform bill



Rio action starts in empty stadium as drugs storm rumbles



Min

Max 48° High Tide 01:22 & 12:16

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35°



EMIRATES PLANE CATCHES FIRE AFTER DUBAI CRASH-LANDING

ALL PASSENGERS, CREW SAFE AFTER FLEEING JET • ONE FIREFIGHTER KILLED

06:47 & 19:42 DUBAI: An Emirates flight from India with 300 people on board crash landed at Dubai's main airport yesterday, sending black smoke billowing into the air and halting all flights at the Middle East's busiest airport. A firefighter died while responding to the blaze, but none of the pas-

sengers or crew on board were killed. The accident was the most serious ever for Emirates, which has grown at a breakneck pace over the last three decades and turned its hometown of Dubai into a major long-haul international air hub. It was the second major air disaster for a Dubai government-backed airline in less than five months.

Speaking to reporters in Dubai, Emirates Group CEO and Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum said 10 people were hospitalized after the incident, but stressed that

all passengers were safely evacuated before the plane was engulfed in a fireball. He said one firefighter died trying to put out the fire. Emirates said the accident happened around 12:45 pm local time as Flight EK521 was arriving from the southern Indian city of Thiruvananthapuram. It confirmed that "all passengers and crew are accounted for and safe," but gave no details of what went wrong. "We do not have ... all the information. Thankfully there (were) no fatalities among our passengers and crew," Sheikh Ahmed earlier said in a video statement . "Our thoughts are with everyone involved." The Boeing 777-300 was carrying 282 passengers and 18 crew members from 20 different countries, according to the airline.



DUBAI: A Boeing 777 of the UAE airliner Emirates is seen after it caught fire following a crash-landing at Dubai airport yesterday. (Inset) Emirates CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum gives a press conference near the airport yesterday. — AFP

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CALL TO PAY CITIZENS AFTER FUEL HIKE

CAIRO: In this Feb 4, 2002 file photo, Egyptian-American Nobel chemistry laureate Ahmed Zewail gestures to reporters. — AP

EGYPTIAN NOBEL WINNING CHEMIST ZEWAIL DIES AT 70 Amir sends condolences

CAIRO: Nobel prize-winning Egyptian-American chemist Ahmed Zewail, who served as a science and technology advisor to US President Barack Obama, died Tuesday in the United States. He was 70. Zewail, a naturalized US citizen, won the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1999 for his groundbreaking work in the study of chemical reactions in extremely short timescales. He was the third Egyptian to win a Nobel prize and the country's first scientist to do so.

His work showed that it is possible with rapid laser technique to study in slow motion how atoms in a molecule move during a chemical reaction. According to the Nobel Prize website, Zewail's work led to the birth of the research area called femtochemistry, "which enables us to understand why certain chemical reactions take place but not others". His discoveries offered scientists greater insight into chemical and

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MOI EXPLAINS BYLAWS OF 'HOUSEKEEPER' LAW

KUWAITI FENCER GOES IT ALONE, **DEFYING ODDS**

SAO PAULO: Without a national delegation, an Olympic scholarship or even an international ranking, Kuwait's first fencer at the Games in 16 years knows the odds are stacked against him. But Abdulaziz Alshatti has beat long odds before, including the stunning first place finish at a qualifying event this year that punched his ticket to Rio de Janeiro. The Kuwaiti rattled off a string of upsets in that April tournament, starting with a secondround win over Kazakhstan's Elmir Alimzhanov, who placed 11th in London four years ago.

Even after going up 10-5 in three minutes - a blistering start for the cautious epee that he fences - Alshatti kept calm, he said, shutting out the noisy throng that gathered to watch. "For me to fence well I have to be very calm. If I play too angry, I'll lose," said the 25-yearold. "My coach always says, 'You need to get angry,' but I hate to be aggressive. And I reached the Olympics because I know how to keep calm."

If he were more anxious, there would be plenty to worry him. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) banned Kuwait from the Games last year due to sports legislation creating "undue government interference" in the Kuwait Olympic Committee. The ban, upheld by a Swiss court on Tuesday, means the country's Olympic committee, and consequently its athletes, are not eligible for any funding from the IOC.

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By B Izzak and Faten Omar

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday said that a meeting is expected to take place next week between MPs and the government to study the Cabinet decision to hike petrol prices and find ways so that the raise does not harm citizens. Ghanem's statement came a day after he held an informal meeting with about 14 lawmakers, who strongly lashed out at the unilateral government decision and vowed that they will press for ways to compensate citizens.

The move appears to be focused now on persuading the government to financially compensate Kuwaiti citizens, making the hike only apply on expatriates, like the planned hike in electricity and water charges. Ghanem said that based on the meeting of the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee, it was decided that petrol prices will be liberalized and at the same time Kuwaiti citizens will be compensated. The speaker said that accordingly, the increase in petrol prices is unacceptable without applying the decision of the financial committee to compensate citizens.

Ghanem said that the informal meeting by MPs on Tuesday reiterated the decision of the financial committee and insisted on the need to compensate citizens.

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KUWAIT: Interior Ministry officials hold a press conference to explain the new domestic helper law yesterday. - Mol

SAUDI ARABIA MOVES TO **ASSIST INDIAN WORKERS**

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia took steps yesterday to help around 2,500 Indian workers stranded without money in the kingdom after a plunge in oil prices sparked construction layoffs. India's minister of state for external affairs, V K Singh, said he had a "very good meeting" with Saudi Labor Minister Mufarrej Al-Haqbani during which they discussed the plight of the workers. Singh arrived in the Red Sea city of Jeddah yesterday to negotiate the repatriation of the migrant workers who lost their jobs and were left without enough money to return home.

'He said on Twitter that the Saudi government had taken "immediate action to ensure that all camps where Indian workers were staying are provided facilities like medical, food, hygiene and sanitation". The government was also "providing free passage to all those who want to go back to India," he added.

Speaking to reporters in Jeddah, Singh added: "All the people who want to go back can go back at the expense of the government of Saudi Arabia."

'Riyadh would also honor workers' claims against companies that had defaulted on payments and had agreed to allow workers to transfer to other companies in the kingdom, he said. Under the kafala system, applied on foreign workers in Gulf countries, most employees are restricted from moving to a new job without their boss's consent before their contracts end, leaving many trapped. It has been criticized by rights groups as a form of bonded labor or even slavery.

Asian activists and officials have said that thousands of jobless Indians, Filipinos, and Pakistanis are stranded and destitute in Saudi Arabia following the lavoffs.

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ISRAEL ARMY DONKEY SALES STIR PALESTINIAN OUTRAGE

AL-MALEH: "Forty donkeys for sale," reads a notice in Palestinian newspapers. Nothing out of the ordinary about that, except for the fact that the advertiser is the Israeli army. Palestinians say the army is trying to sell back the very animals it seized from them in the occupied West Bank's Jordan Valley. Israeli authorities say they round up wandering livestock in the interests of public safety, especially to reduce road accidents. Palestinians, however, see a policy of confiscations and demolitions aimed at pushing them out of the valley running along the border with Jordan.

The valley has valuable water resources and farmland and is seen by Israel as vital to its strategic defense. The donkeys will be auctioned off if unclaimed by their owners, the Arabic-language text announced, but reclaiming their own property is costly. Arif Daraghmeh, head of a council of 26 hamlets in the valley's Al-Maleh district, said they have to pay fines of up to 2,000

shekels (\$526) for each donkey.

COGAT, Israel's defence ministry unit that coordinates Israeli activities in the West Bank and Gaza, says that animals roaming unsupervised are a public menace. Since the army has been rounding them up "road accidents have fallen by 90 percent", it said, explaining that the fines are levied to cover the costs of catching and looking after the donkeys. The public offer to sell 40 head is unusual, said Daraghmeh, only the third in the past two years, before which there were none. But confiscations, he said, are nothing new.

Sixty-year-old Sliman Besharat said his goats, housed under a shelter of sacking, have in the past been quarantined by Israel. Like Daraghmeh, he sees a strategic aim behind the seizures. "By confiscating animals and agricultural equipment and demolishing houses, animal shelters and other structures, the Israelis are putting

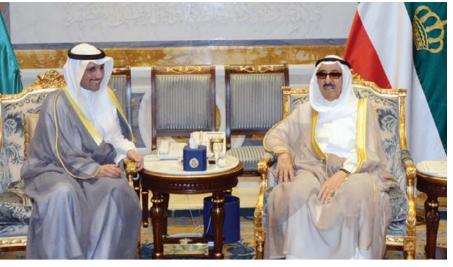
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<u>Kuwait Times</u>





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem.— Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

AMIR, UK PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday discussed promoting existing bilateral ties with UK Prime Minister Theresa May. Historic ties were bolstered and issues of common interest were tackled during a phone call His Highness the Amir received from the UK Premier. His Highness the Amir reiterated his congratulation to May for resuming her new office as the UK Prime

Minister, wishing her success in her endeavors.

Also yesterday, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a written letter from British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson. The letter touched on means to develop bilateral relations and also discussed recent developments within the regional and international spheres.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Sheikh Al-Khaled.

In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh. —KUNA

US AMBASSADOR ENDS TENURE IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: US Ambassador Kuwait Douglas Silliman ended his tenure in Kuwait yesterday. Ambassador Silliman took up the Kuwait post in August 2014. He will be moving to his new role as US Ambassador to Iraq, replacing current Ambassador Stuart Jones. In Kuwait, Ambassador Silliman will be replaced

nate



by longtime diplomat Lawrence R Silverman, Kuwait ambassador desig-

The outgoing US **Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman**

Silverman, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (DAS) in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the Department of State, a position he has held since 2014. Silverman is well known as a strategic policy thinker with a deep understanding of foreign policy issues in Europe and the Middle East. He also is known for his outstanding ability to articulate U.S. policy, his advocacy overseas for democratic and economic reforms, and excellent interpersonal and managerial skills that build strong teams and foster respect for colleagues. Silverman's background and skills make him an excellent choice for U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait.

Previously, Silverman served as Acting DAS for Near Eastern Affairs (2012-2014), Director of the Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (2012-2014), and Special Advisor to the Vice President (2011-2012). Prior to that, he served in the Bureau of European Affairs as Director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs (2009-2011), and as Deputy Director in the Office of Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (2008-2009). Silverman also served as Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Bratislava, Slovakia (2005-2008), Deputy Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs (2002-2004), and Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (2001-2002). He also served as Deputy Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy Ankara, Turkey (2000-2001). Earlier assignments include service in Syria, Jordan and South Africa, and in other positions in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

Silverman earned a B.A. from Brandeis University and an M.A. from Duke University. He has won numerous Department of State performance awards. His languages are Arabic, Turkish and Slovak.



KERRY THANKS KUWAIT FOR HOSTING YEMENI PEACE TALKS

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State John Kerry expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the State of Kuwait for continuing to host the UN-led Yemen peace negotiations. In a phone call with UN Special Envoy Ould Cheikh Ahmed yesterday, Kerry said Kuwait has demonstrated "steadfast support for the negotiations," according to a State Department readout.

Kerry emphasized to Ahmed that "these





CAIRO: Ahmed Abu El Ghait, Secretary-General of the Arab League, meets with Adnan Al-Rashid, Deputy Chairman of Federation of Arab Journalists, and Magdy Sabry, Executive Manager of NoufEXPO Company of Kuwait.

ABU EL GHAIT WELCOMES ADNAN AL-RASHID AND MAGDY SABRY AT HIS ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE

To discuss Arabic Connected Government Conference

CAIRO: Ahmed Abu El Ghait, Secretary-General of the Arab League, met yesterday Adnan Al-Rashid, Deputy Chairman of Federation of Arab Journalists, and Magdy Sabry, Executive Manager of NoufEXPO Company of Kuwait. NoufEXPO is partnering with Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) to organize the Arabic Connected Government Conference. Abu El Ghait and guests share the belief and hope that the Conference, as well as connected government programs, can play a major role in moving Arab countries and societies towards a brighter future.

Following the meeting, Rashid said, "I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the hospitality and support he displayed. His Excellency supports any Arab collective effort that may result in spreading peace and prosperity among Arab countries. Specifically, he believes that information technology and e-government programs can trigger the change required by our countries on their path to prosperity."

Rashid went on, "His Excellency the Secretary-General welcomed the convening of the Conference at Sharm El Sheikh confirming that he will attend its opening ceremony on December 12, 2016. He, furthermore, invited the organizers to hold their press conference that will witness the official announcement of the Conference at the Arab League premises in Cairo. Due to be held soon, the press conference will be attended by His Excellency Yasser ElKadi, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology; Dr Nasser Algahtani, Director General of ARA-DO; Yousef Khaled Al-Marzouq, General Manager of NoufEXPO, as well as leaders of strategic supporting partners and media channels."

Meanwhile, Magdy Sabry expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome of His Excellency Abu El Ghait. He commented by saying, "The support we felt encourages us all to do more. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to invite His Excellency to attend the Conference's opening ceremony. We also had the pleasure to share the Conference's information booklet, and benefited from his invaluable guidance with regards to His Excellency's panoramic Arab wide vision. Abu El Ghait welcomed the joint efforts of NoufEXPO and ARADO to organize the Arabic Connected Government Conference, confirming that the Arab League's departments and resources are available to make the Conference a success. Particularly, he appreciated the efforts of His Excellency the Assistant Under-Secretary for Arab Affairs and the Assistant Under-Secretary for Information Affairs, as well as the organizing role that ARADO is carrying out."



KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Director General Dr Sameera Omar (second from right) is pictured during her visit to the University of Southern California. — KUNA

KISR, USC DEVELOP WATER DETECTION DEVICE

Scientific Research (KISR) and the University of Southern California (USC) are cooperating on a project to develop an aerial underground water detection device, said an official yesterday.

During a phone conversation, KISR Director General Dr Sameera Omar said that she was currently in the US to discuss the project with USC officials and

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Institute for other American partners. The device will be of utmost importance for Kuwait due to the desert nature of the Gulf country, said the KISR Director. She added that KISR and USC will seek further cooperation within the scientific domain, stressing that the two sides will look into measures to develop other devices suitable to the climate of Kuwait. — KUNA

talks are the best opportunity to bring an end to the conflict," and "reaffirmed the need for both parties to abide by the existing ceasefire, noting that the Yemeni people have suffered for too long and deserve a lasting peace."

During the call, the two officials 'reviewed recent developments and welcomed the government delegations acceptance of the latest UN proposal. They also noted the need for the Houthi-General

US Secretary of State John Kerry

People Congress to constructively engage with the UN and the international community to reach agreement and to bring this war to an end," the readout said. Kuwait has been hosting Yemeni peace talks since mid-April. —KUNA

ARMED CONFLICTS HAVE DEEP NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON CHILDREN: KUWAITI DIPLOMAT

deeply concerned over the negative effects of armed conflicts on children, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. Speaking to a UNSC meeting on children and armed conflicts, Kuwaiti permanent delegate to the UN headquarters in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that children should not be subjugated to torture, sexual abuse, mass abduction, and acts aimed at recruiting them as tools of war. The international community should stop the maltreatment of children during wars and armed conflicts, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. Highlighting the plight of Palestinian children, Ambassador Otaibi said that young Palestinians are continuously suffering under the Israeli occupation which robbed them from the very essence what makes children innocent. He stressed that the international community has an obligation to end the suffering of Palestinian children, saying that what Israel was doing is against all international laws and norms.

On Kuwait's efforts to protect Palestinian children, the Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called for an international conference on the matter during his participation in the 27th Arab League summit held in

WASHINGTON: The State of Kuwait is Nouakchott, Mauritania last month, said the diplomat.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Al-Otaibi touched on the Yemeni conflict, saying that his country was pleased to know that the UN had lifted the name of the armed coalition supporting the Yemeni government from the list of abusers of children during the times of war.

He said that the coalition offered the UN to visit its headquarters in Riyadh to view measures aimed at protecting civilians and children during operations carried out by its troops. He affirmed that the coalition was operating within the boundaries of UNSC resolution 2216 and the Gulf initiative. On the Syrian conflict, Ambassador Otaibi said that the ongoing crisis had resulted in the death of 250,000 with some 20,000 being children. Despite the continuous international efforts to ease the pain of the Syrian people in addition to three donors conference for Syria in Kuwait and one in London, children are still victims of vicious acts perpetrated by different factions, said the diplomat.

Armed conflicts affects all sectors of society; however, children are the most susceptible to such acts, said the Ambassador who concluded his speech with a plea to protect youngsters around the globe from war and violence.— KUNA



Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi

<u> Kuwait Mimes</u>



THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016



KUWAIT: Buildings of the expatriate labor housing complex in Shadadiya. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

FINANCE MINISTRY RECEIVES SHADADIYA EXPAT LABOR COMPLEX KD 28 MILLION, 100,000 SQUARE METERS PROJECT

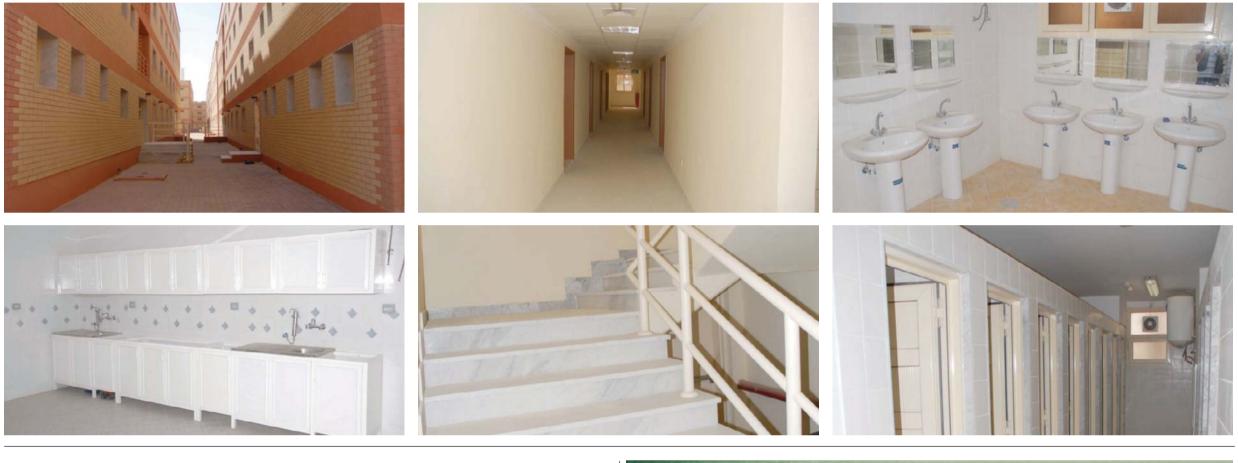
KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday handing over the expatriate labor housing complex in Shadadiya to the

Ministry of Finance. This is the second project of

the type, Assistant Undersecretary for Construction Projects Sector at the Public Works Ministry Engineer Ghalib Shalash said in a press release. The first complex was built in Sabhan.

The project, built on a total area of 100,000 square meters with total costs of KD 28 million, aims to provide suitable and healthy accommodation for expat laborers, Shalash added. It

includes huge rooms, a food court, a power station, a health center, a sewage treatment plant and a mosque, for up to 8,400 people, the ministry official said. The project took five years to be accomplished, director of the labor cities department at the Public Works Ministry Hayel Al-Mutairi said, adding that they are hoping for two similar projects in Jahraa soon. —KUNA



MEW TECHNICAL WORKS THREATEN STRIKE OVER UNPAID SALARIES



By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Technical workers at power stations and Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) facilities threatened to strike unless their companies pay their back salaries for several months. A large number of these workers staged a sit-in in front of the MEW undersecretary's office Tuesday and demanded payment of their salaries, otherwise they would strike. The workers belong to several companies that are carrying out MEW projects through contracts. The contracts include technical work at power stations, digging, wiring,

work at transformers and handling cables, which means MEW will face a big problem that may lead to interrupting power to many areas and work will stop in many areas if the strike is carried out. The workers said communications with their companies continue over salary payment, but there has been no response so far. They said they are going through difficult times and cannot meet their commitments and have not sent any monev to their families back home.

Social Affairs and Labor Ministry sources said there are plans to cancel umrah and entertainment services

presented by co-ops to shareholders. The sources said the ministry plans to issue this decision after completing the study of the social services item, which costs more than KD 11.4 million per year. Grave violations were discovered, especially in umrah and entertainment, which made up 25 percent of the total services. They said the cost of umrah trips and chalet hires during 2015 reached KD 3.6 million, from which 14,251 shareholders benefited out of nearly 503,000 - 2.8 percent of total shareholders - which is a small percentage that does not do justice among shareholders.

SHRIMP PRICES DROP

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The price of a shrimp basket varied between KD 65 to KD 80 during the second day of shrimping season, after prices reached KD 90 on the first day. There were nearly 450 baskets for sale on the second day compared to 45 on the first day, while it is expected that quantities will increase and prices will drop in the coming days. The price of one kilo of shrimp is between KD 4 to KD 6 depending on its size, especially that shrimping is still taking place outside Kuwait territorial waters. Shrimping in local waters will begin in the middle of the month, which means prices will drop further.

QAIRAWAN PHONE LINES COMPLETED

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Communications has completed infrastructure works for 348 lots in Qairawan's blocks one and two through fiber optics, Undersecretary Hameed Al-Qattan said. This step comes as part of the ministry's ongoing plan to develop its services, which goes in accordance with the state's development plan, Qattan explained. Residents of those two blocks who wish to receive phone services are advised to go to



Sulaibiya exchange starting from next Sunday, taking with them civil ID and proof of residence, Qattan added. The phone number 24673344 has been assigned for more inquiries on the subject.

PEARL DIVING TRIP CONCLUDES TODAY

KUWAIT: The 28th Pearl Diving Trip concludes today with the 'Qfal' ceremony, to be held at the Kuwait Sea Sports Club (KSSC) in Salmiya starting from 4:30 pm. The voyage, which started in July 28, 2016, was organized under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. At least 193 youth men are participating in the trip on board of 13 diving ships, presented by His Highness the Amir as well as the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is set to attend the closing ceremony on behalf of His Highness the Amir. A gallery for photographs taken from the trip will be featured during the ceremony.

GIS HELPS IN MONITORING VIOLATING FACTORIES: PAI

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) stressed yesterday the importance of the satellite-connected Geographic Information System (GIS) which aims at securing local factories and monitoring any violations that may occur. Monitoring the violations at the factories is done periodically every three months through the electronic industry survey technique and photographing factories, PAI Deputy Director General of Administration and Financial Affairs Abdulkareem Taqi said. This system is one of the applications created by the authority to build a huge informatics base and provide industrial information accurately and easily to help workers and industrial investors, Taqi said. This system has been operating since January 2015 and has contributed to PAI's supervision of industrial areas, Taqi said. Financial sanctions will be imposed on violating factories and they will be forced to remove them, he added.

The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) was established on January 15th, 1997 as a public independent agency supervised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. PAI aims to develop, promote, and supervise the industrial activities in the country as well as seeking national economic goals. ---KUNA



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SCORES ARRESTED IN ASWAQ AL-QURAIN CRACKDOWN CAMPAIGNS CONTINUE TO 'REMOVE' RESIDENCY VIOLATORS: MINISTRY









By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A security campaign was carried out in Aswaq Al-Qurain in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate led by Acting Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Affairs Major General Ali Madhi with the participation of Director General of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Security Director Major General Farraj Al-Zubi and other leaders. The campaign resulted in the arrest of 89 violators. Policemen closed the surroundings of Aswaq Al-Qurain area at 6:50 pm on Tuesday, and policemen fanned in the area's streets and lanes to chase and arrest wanted persons and lawbreakers. Some suspicious locations were searched and IDs of those inside were checked.

The Interior Ministry's Relations and

Security Information Department said campaigns will continue in order to remove all residency violators in cooperation and total coordination with all concerned state departments. Police arrested 46 visa violators, two with expired visa, 14 without IDs, 17 absconders, two wanted persons, one over liquor and two over drugs. Two cars were impounded, three were wanted for debts, and 288 traffic citations were issued. General security, traffic, rescue police, central operations, criminal security, residency affairs detectives, information technology and relations and security information departments participated in the campaign. The Interior Ministry has launched several campaigns in the past week targeting residency and labor regulations in areas such as Jahra and Shuwaikh.









FIRE DEPARTMENT CLOSES DOWN VIOLATING FACILITIES



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Department (KFSD) began the administrative closure of violating facilities during a wide ranging campaign in Hawally and Jabriya, and will cover all Kuwait governorates.

Director of Hawally prevention department Brig Khalid Fahd began administrative closure procedures at the instructions of State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak. Acting Director of KFSD Major General

Khalid Al-Mikrad said the law will be applied to all without exception. He said inspection teams issued six warnings to facilities considered most dangerous. The warning period is 72 hours, and they will be closed if the violations are not removed.

He said the campaign, which started yesterday, began with commercial buildings and basements of investment buildings in Hawally and Jabriya, and will continue during the coming days to cover all buildings in Kuwait's governorates.

FIVE PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR STEALING DUMP TRUCK BEDS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Ahmadi detectives arrested a gang of five Egyptians who stole dump truck beds. Ahmadi detectives received several complaints from dump trucks owners, so the area where they are parked was put under surveillance. It was noticed that four persons were inspecting the place, and when they made sure no one was there, they disconnected one of the beds. The suspects were caught redhanded and arrested after attempting to escape. They confessed to committing several crimes.

Newborn found

A newborn baby has been found alive on the stairs of a building in Farwaniya. The infant was taken immediately to Farwaniya hospital and is in stable condition. The parents of the infant have not been located and a case has been registered.

Traffic campaigns

The traffic department carried out several campaigns from July 24 to 30, resulting in issuing 39,374 tickets, 1,545 cars were impounded along with six motorcycles, 49 persons were jailed while six expats were sent for deportation for driving without a driving license.

No injuries in fires

Fire broke out in a Sulaibiya house, prompting Doha fire center to respond. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile, Qurain fire center responded to a fire in Adan in a storeroom on the roof of a building.

The fire was put out and there were no injuries. A vehicle caught fire on the Seventh Ring Road, and Sabah fire center responded. The fire was put out without injuries.



KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows suspects arrested for stealing dump truck beds.



A fireman extinguishes a fire in a vehicle on Seventh Ring Road.

<u> Kuwait Times</u>



EFFORTS EXERTED TO ADDRESS INVASION CONSEQUENCES: SDO

KUWAIT: The Social Development Office (SDO) has stressed the importance of efforts exerted in addressing social and psychological consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, pointing to its role in rehabilitating Kuwait to exercise naturally its role in achieving development.

This came on Tuesday in a statement issued by Acting Director General of SDO Dr Wafa AlAradi when a team of the office visited Al-Qurain Martyrs Museum to immortalize Kuwait's martyrs who sacrificed their souls for the sake of the homeland. She told reporters that the visit aims to emphasize meanings of the national unity which includes better images of loyalty and sacrifice for the dear homeland.

National unity reflected people's will, chal-

lenge and resistance against injustice and tyranny so as to liberate the homeland, she said, adding that many people were martyred in liberating the country. One of the objectives of the SDO, affiliated to His Highness Premier's Diwan, is to exert efforts to rally financial and technical capabilities in order to address the social and psychological consequences. — KUNA





KUWAIT: The Social Development Office's (SDO) team visits Al-Qurain Martyrs Museum. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A scene from the 'Brave Hearts' play, organized to mark the 26th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion to Kuwait. — KUNA

MARTYR BUREAU MARKS INVASION WITH 'BRAVE HEARTS' PLAY

KUWAIT: Marking the 26th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion to Kuwait, the Martyr Bureau on Tuesday presented a play titled 'Brave Hearts' on Dasma Theater. The 1990 invasion saw the emergence of people who stunned the world with their strength, determination and courage in defending their country and dignity, said Assistant Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan Affairs and Director General of the Bureau Fatema Al-Ameer in a statement on the occasion.

She said that the Bureau is also dealing with martyrs from 14 nationalities other than Kuwaitis, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country in embodiment of the deep-rooted relation between the Kuwaiti people and the political leadership throughout history. This year's 'We're All Kuwaitis' theme was adopted as reminder that anyone who sacrificed his/her life on Kuwait's soil, and for its safety and liberation, is considered a martyr, regardless of nationality.

Seeking to maintain the great value of martyrdom, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued the Amiri Decree Number 38 on June 19, 1991 to establish The Martyr Bureau. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah continued this patronage and sought to achieve the lofty goals crystallized in honoring martyrs, their heroism and sacrifice in defending their homeland. — KUNA



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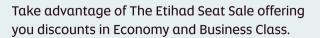
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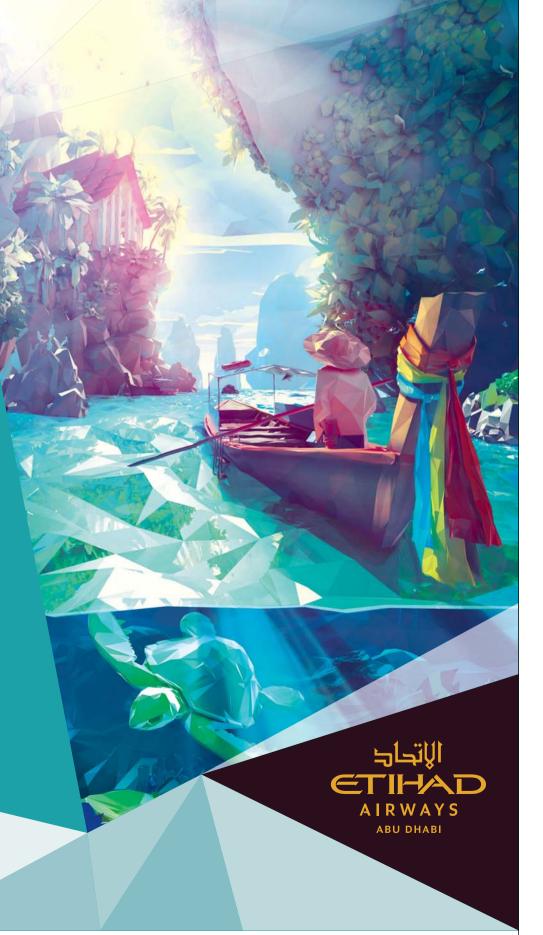
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<u> Kuwait – Times</u>

FROM THE ARABIC PRESS

Crime

Officer killed in 6th **Ring Road crash**

Report

KUWAIT: A detective was killed and another injured when their vehicle flipped over while driving on the Sixth Ring Road. The injured man was taken to Jahra Hospital, as investigations are underway to find out whether foul play was involved.

Man hurt while chasing ex-wife

A cement barrier brought a citizen who was chasing his ex-wife to a halt on Fahaheel expressway. The man confronted his ex-wife in a mall and attempted to abduct their daughter, but she sought help from passersby and he could not snatch the girl. He then waited until she got in her car and chased her. He then lost control of his car, which swerved and hit a cement barrier on the highway. Police went to the site and first aid was administered to the man, while his ex-wife lodged a complaint at Fahaheel police station.

Trespasser caught

A sheep theft in Kabd uncovered an Iranian man living in Kuwaiti although his name is on the list of those denied entry into Kuwait. A citizen had earlier complained to police about the disappearance of several sheep in addition to a power generator and tools by a person who jumped the fence of his farm in Kabd. Detectives went there along with forensic police, who lifted fingerprints. Investigations led to a guard at a nearby farm who saw a pickup truck at dawn. The license plate number led to an Iranian called Ali Shammas, who was arrested. Police were surprised to find he is disbarred from the country. He was detained to find out how he entered the country after being deported.

Prostitute in police custody

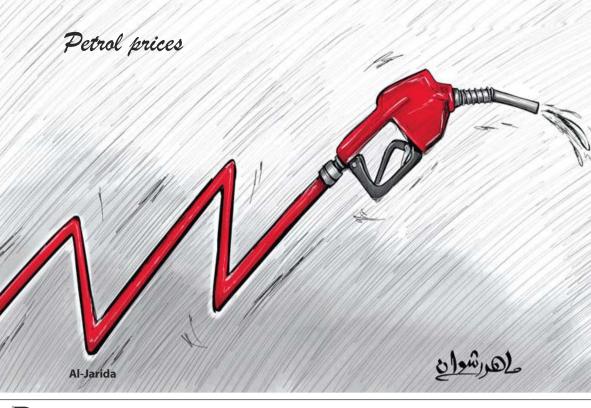
Vice detectives arrested a Romanian prostitute along with her agent, who made plans to meet several clients for KD 250 a night. Detectives learned about the Romanian woman's intentions to come to Kuwait along with her agent for prostitution. The woman arrived on July 31 and went with her agent to the hotel. Detectives then followed the woman, who went to a "hotel apartment" in Salmiya to meet a client. A warrant was obtained and she was arrested along with her agent. Legal procedures are being taken to deport them.

Attempted kidnap

A man offered a ride to a Filipina woman, but when she refused, he attempted to kidnap her. The woman went to Fintas police station and told them that when she left the beauty shop where she works, a man in an SUV attempted to convince her to let him give her a ride, and when she refused, he got out of his vehicle and attempted to bundle her in the car. When she started screaming, he escaped. The Filipina was not able to get the car's license plate number. Detectives are working on the case.

Drunk driver

A citizen was called by police in Fahaheel after his driver was arrested along with his friend for drinking while driving his sponsor's car. The incident took place in



POLICEMEN NEED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO SIX COUNTRIES

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Ál-Fahd has banned travel to six countries for policemen until after obtaining prior written permission from the assistant undersecretary of the concerned sector. The circular said members of the police force must provide their departments with all required information about their whereabouts during their leaves, be it in Kuwait or abroad, to be able to recall them

when necessary. The circular said travel to Iraq, Syria, Libya, Iran, Yemen and



Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd

Afghanistan needs prior permission. Sources said the decision was made because these countries have many security problems, and policemen may face problems when they travel there, and they may be targeted by terrorists who wish Kuwait harm. The sources said some security men have traveled to countries that face turmoil, and the ministry wants to be aware about places when policemen will be traveling in order to protect them on one hand and to move quickly in case they face a problem or danger on the other. — Al-Qabas



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with a delegation from EQUATE to

الجريدة Al-Jarida **S**ECTARIAN THREATS By Dr Bader Al-Daihani

o one disputes that our small society is suffering from acute sectarian and factional polarization, and an almost systematic social fragmentation that has increased in severity lately. All this is

the result of contradicting political factors within the constitution and democratic system, and many policies that encourage sectarianism and factionalism including political quotas that have no connection with the constitution, citizenry, social justice and equal opportunity.

There are also regional circumstances that played an effective role in reaching these regretful sectarian and factional polarizations, especially after the American occupation of Iraq, then the use of the sectarian factor by the new colonial countries in the region in order to impose their influence, apart from the cold war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The domestic and foreign factors still exist, and cast their dark shadows on the local political chaos, and are dominated by strange sectarian and factional groups that raise religious and regressive backward slogans, and use heinous hateful addresses, which indicates what is coming will be worse with regards to the issue of social integration and internal cohesiveness, unless the matter is rectified to stop the sectarian and factional polarizations.

Sectarian groups and elements have started preparing for the upcoming elections with sectarianism, and it is a battle whose results are known in advance, because it has nothing to do with citizens' problems or livelihood issues. This in addition to contradicting the civil democratic system that was laid out by the constitution, which is something that requires quick action at all levels to stop the systemic destruction of the national fabric and enhance the status of the constitutional citizenry, then project the unifying national identity. How to do this?

The responsibility is at the authority's level of changing the current status quo, confront sectarianism and stop the society's fragmentation. This is the responsibility of the political authority, represented by the government, whose is to put forth programs and policies that take the society to a better situation.

The start should be with a political democratic reform process that starts from organizing political action and declaring its political and national programs, and ban any group or individuals who raise religious, sectarian or racist slogans. Then, adopt a new election system that does not stop at the number of votes only - rather it goes past it to the way constituencies are distributed now on sectarian and factional bases. There should be relative political lists that compete in presenting national political programs that tackle urgent society issues and deal with its common problems like institutional political corruption, unemployment, housing, education, environment, inflation, high prices and others.

Of course, the government's responsibility does not mean relieving national, democratic and progressive aroups and individuals from their responsibility, as they are responsible for increasing public awareness. It should confront sectarian, factional and racist addresses without appeasement of sectarian, factional and racist groups, or siding with them in exchange of instant political gains that have no value compared with their harm to the country.

Fahaheel, and both were sent to concerned authorities for further action.

Search for thieves

Two thieves failed in their attempt to hold up a laundry shop in Jahra, after workers there confronted them. The workers were surprised by two persons who entered the place and demanded cash. The workers resisted, and one of them was beaten before the two escaped. The injured man was taken to hospital, and a complaint was lodged. Detectives are looking for the two.

False alarm

Police in Farwaniya governorate went on alert after receiving a call about a bomb near northern Firdous center. A source said that a woman called operations about a 'bomb' with wires in a bag with a red flag. Police detectives and explosive experts went to the area and found it was not a bomb, but tools of a company worker.

Scam

A citizen claimed that an employee at the traffic license department took his luxury car and hid it, after he asked him to sell it. A security source said a lawyer told Salam police that his client was conned by an employee at the traffic department, when he gave him his car to sell it for a KD 750 fee. He also claimed that the employee took the car from him four years ago, and did not return it until now despite many attempts.

Forgery

The Hawally prosecutor ordered the registration of a forgery in a bank document case. A security source said a citizen told Nugra police that after his father died, the inheritance was limited to him and his brothers, but he discovered that his sister withdrew money from his father's bank account after his death, taking advantage of having the ATM card and PIN number. — Al-Qabas, Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai

discuss cooperation in terms of the company's social contributions towards Al-Ahmadi governorate.

KIB VISITS CHILDREN AT SABAH HOSPITAL

KUWAIT: A number of KIB volunteering employees paid a visit to children at Al-Sabah Hospital, as part of its leading CSR program that embraces various social and humanitarian initiatives. The Corporate Communications Team Leader at KIB, Fahad Al-Sarhan, said that this visit stems from the bank's series of visits that are driven by its social responsibility and endeavor to interact with

various sectors in the Kuwaiti community, especially children who constitute a great margin in the society.

Sarhan mentioned that the bank's volunteering employees paid this visit in their aim to connect with kids and distribute gifts among them, which brought joy and happiness to their hearts. Sarhan concluded by affirming KIB's continuous strive to connect with

different social and humanitarian organizations in Kuwait, as part of its leading social responsibility program.

He also stressed on the bank's strong stand as a committed Islamic institution that aims at spreading religious values among community members and spreading joy at various occasions, which was achieved during their visit to children at Al Sabah Hospital.

KFH SPONSORS MAGAZINE FOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in sponsoring 'Archive' Magazine for Architecture students at Kuwait University, as part of its efforts to encourage academic and scientific innovations of Kuwaiti students, and in line with its social responsibility and commitment towards supporting the youth.

Archive magazine is a publication that showcases the designs and architecture works of the students at the College of Architecture at Kuwait University.

KFH's support to the youth and the students stems from its awareness of the importance of this segment as an essential element in boosting development in all fields. Moreover, KFH firmly believes that students are the real assets of Kuwait, and the pillars of the development process.



Meanwhile, Architecture students applauded KFH's initiative and praised its keenness to support them, which

empowers and motivates them, yet underlines the bank's significant role in assuming social responsibility.

The general situation cannot wait - the boiling point is too high in the region and the sectarian slogan is raised high. As for the domestic situation, it is not all that good, because it is easy for any sectarian group to play with people's emotions and lead them astray, then use them in their heinous sectarian battle. So, it is a must to start the political-democratic reform process, expand public freedoms and protect them, otherwise we should expect more political chaos and social fragmentation. Then any official talk about the development and social advancement means nothing!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



POLICE ARREST MAN WHO LIVED **19 YEARS ILLEGALLY IN KUWAIT**

KUWAIT: A Bangladeshi man was caught by police after living 19 years in Kuwait in violation of the residency law. A security source suspected a man walking in Nuwaiseeb desert area, so they asked him for his ID. He said he did not have any, so he was taken to the police station. The source said the suspect had an old and tattered ID, and when they inquired about him, they found he is a Bangladeshi who has been living in the country since 1997 in violation of the law. He is being deported. — Al-Rai



ABK KICKS OFF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOYAC AND MGRP

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced the commencement of its annual 'Summer Student Development Program', which has been organized in partnership with Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC) and the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP), both of which have cooperated with ABK in the selection of the program participants. The full month program started on 17th July at ABK's Learning and Development Unit in Hawally and is host-

ing 15 students.

The summer program focuses on national senior students of local universities and colleges and includes lectures, onsite assignments and team projects. While the emphasis is on providing real-life experience in a working environment and encouraging understanding of team work, the program also provides practical opportunities for students to learn more about the financial sector in general with a focus on the banking industry.

ABK is an avid long-term supporter of education and has built strong partnerships with many of Kuwait's major educational institutions. The selected programs are designed to help students successfully apply the knowledge and skills they have gained in university and college to real-life environments and situations, and prepare them for future careers. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



BANGLADESH'S MISSING MILITANT LINK



Trump taunts GOP, refuses to endorse Ryan, McCain

Page 11

Page 10



ANKARA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, right, and Turkey's Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar, enter the military headquarters. — AP

ERDOGAN ACCUSES WEST OF 'SUPPORTING COUP' Demands Washington to extradite 'suspected' preacher



at Turkey's Western allies over last month's failed putsch, accusing them of supporting "terror" and demanding Washington extradite a preacher he says orchestrated the coup. Erdogan, who blames the attempt to unseat him on US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, described the July 15 coup as a "scenario written from outside" in an allusion to foreign involvement. And he lashed out at the United States for dragging its heels over Ankara's request to extradite him, describing it as "a huge obstacle" to Turkey's fight against terror. Since the putsch, Erdogan has pursued a relentless crackdown, detaining more than 18,000 people and firing tens of thousands of others, with the latest sweep hitting Turkey's football association and medical staff at Ankara's military hospital. The purge has set alarm bells ringing in the West, which has voiced growing concern over the scope of the operation, drawing a fierce response from Erdogan. "Unfortunately, the West is supporting terror and standing by the coup plotters," Erdogan said in a typically combative speech at his presidential palace, denouncing "those who we imagined to be friends". He lashed out at Germany's judicial authorities for not allowing him to address by video link a weekend rally supporting him in Cologne, saying Berlin had previously permitted leaders from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to do so at earlier events. And he all but accused foreign powers of having a hand in drawing up the putsch, which was carried out by a rogue faction within the military. "This coup was not just an event planned from the inside. The actors inside acted out a scenario for a coup written from the outside," Erdogan said.

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has lashed out at Turkey's Western allies over last month's failed putsch, accusing them of supporting "terror" and demanding Washington extradite a preacher he says orchestrated the

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Turkish official told AFP warrants had been issued for the detention of 98 staff suspected of helping fast-track Gulen supporters into

'Gulen, a flight risk'

Ankara has also staged a sweeping overhaul of state institutions, sacking tens of thousands of civil servants, with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim saying the government was engaged in "virus and traitor cleansing" to weed out Gulenists from state institutions. Another 36 people were detained over a sex tape scandal that felled the leader of the main opposition party in 2010, with prosecutors linking the affair to Gulen. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, has denied any involvement in the attempted putsch. Turkey's Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag on Tuesday confirmed sending a new package of Gulen-related documents to Washington, saying: "He needs to be arrested urgently as we have intelligence that he might flee to a third country." Turkey has said the coup could cost its economy up to \$100 billion (\$89 billion Euros) overall. — AFP

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'A huge obstacle'

Addressing Washington over Gulen, he asked: "How can it be, when we are strategic partners... you keep on hiding and sheltering him?" And in a television interview with Mexico's Televisa, he accused Washington of dragging its feet over his extradition by asking for documents. "You have to be blind and deaf not to understand that he is behind all of this," he said. "If we request the extradition of a terrorist then you should fulfil that," he said. "If you start asking for documents and what not, then it's a huge obstacle in our way of fighting terrorism." US Secretary of State John Kerry said on July 18 that Turkey must present "genuine evidence" and "not allegations" against the Muslim cleric for his extradition.

The failed putsch has aggravated alreadystrained ties between the two NATO allies with some government ministers even alleging Washington could have had a hand in the plot, something US officials have dismissed as "ludithe military through favourable medical reports. It was the first time a medical establishment has been targeted in a clampdown under a three-month state of emergency that has also hit journalists and academics. Turkey's football federation meanwhile confirmed it had fired 94 officials including referees and assistant referees. As Western concern grows over human rights in Turkey, the head of the Council of Europe, a top European rights watchdog, was due to begin a two-day visit later Wednesday, including a meeting with Erdogan.





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<u>Kuwait Mimes</u>

LIBYAN UNITY FORCES BATTLING IS IN SIRTE

SIRTE: Libyan pro-government forces have been battling to oust jihadists from battled to seize more territory from Islamic State group jihadists in their stronghold Sirte yesterday but progress was hindered by mines and snipers. Fighters allied to Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), backed by US air strikes, are trying to retake the hometown of slain dictator Moamer Kadhafi from jihadists who have controlled the city since June 2015.

"Our forces... are trying to strengthen their advance with the support of ongoing American air strikes that have given momentum to the military operation," said Reda Issa, a spokesman for forces loyal to Libya's unity government. American warplanes carried out seven strikes against IS positions in Sirte on Monday and Tuesday at the GNA's request. Issa did not say whether further strikes took place yesterday. GNA forces

the town since May 12.

They entered the city on June 9 and have pushed the jihadists out of the city's port, international airport, an air base and a hospital. But their advance slowed as IS hit back with sniper fire, car bombs and suicide attacks. "There are targets that are hard to hit because they are among the houses," said Issa. "American air strikes, which are very accurate, will help to destroy those targets." "Every day the battle's outcome is not settled, the city becomes more full of booby traps," said Issa. "But there is no doubt that the presence of effective and accurate weapons will accelerate the end of the battle."

> **Major blow** The loss of Sirte would be a major

blow to the jihadists, who have faced a

series of setbacks in Syria and Iraq. IS took over the city in June 2015, taking advantage of chaos after the fall of Kadhafi. US President Barack Obama defended the air campaign on Tuesday, saying defeating the jihadists there was in America's national interest. Obama has said that American air strikes serve the national security interests of the US and its European allies.

Washington has been carrying out air strikes against IS in Syria and Iraq since 2014, with the aim of "destroying" the group, which has carried out atrocities throughout the areas it controls. Washington has launched several strikes against IS in Libya in recent months. In November a US bombing in the eastern city of Derna killed a jihadist who Washington said was the most senior IS commander in Libya.But the fight for Sirte has taken its toll on GNA forces.

More than 300 have been killed and 1,500 wounded, according to medical sources in Misrata, 200km east of Tripoli, where the GNA's command centre is located.

Disunity

Two rival governments are competing for authority in Libya, while dozens of militias vie for power on the ground. The GNA, based in Tripoli, is recognized by the international community, but the elected House of Representatives in the eastern city of Tobruk has refused to endorse the unity government. The authorities based in the east have condemned the US air strikes as a violation of Libyan sovereignty.

On Tuesday the Tobruk parliament summoned the Tunis-based American ambassador to protest, saying it expected a written or verbal response if he

could not attend in person. Dar Al-Ifta, the highest religious authority in the country, which does not recognize the GNA, also condemned the American air strikes against IS. It said the raids showed "contempt for the many sacrifices of the martyrs" and were a violation of Libya's sovereignty. The Tobruk administration faces its own fight with jihadists.

For two years, Libya's second city Benghazi has been the scene of daily clashes between the forces of General Khalifa Haftar, who is aligned with the Tobruk-based authorities, and a militia alliance known as the Revolutionary Shura Council. On Tuesday evening, 23 fighters allied with the House of Representatives were killed in a suicide attack in Benghazi, 1,000 kilometers east of Tripoli, a medical source in the city told AFP. — AFP



KAB ELIAS: In this Wednesday, Jan 27, 2016 file photo, Syrian refugee children sit on the ground as they listen to their teacher inside a tent, home for a refugee family that has been turned into a makeshift school, in a Syrian refugee camp. — AP

Despite pledges, 1mn Syrian REFUGEES ARE OUT OF SCHOOL

ken their promises."

BEIRUT: Schools in the Middle East are facing major budget shortfalls ahead of the new academic year, leaving some 1 million Syrian refugee children out of school, according to a report published by Theirworld, an international children's charity. The five-year-long Syrian war has placed huge strain on the region's school systems, forcing neighboring countries to depend on multi-billion dollar grants from donor nations to meet education needs.

There are 2.5 million Syrian children reg-

In Lebanon, more than half of the nearly 500,000 school-age Syrian refugee children receive no formal education, according to Human Rights Watch, despite reforms allowing overburdened public schools to run two shifts a day. Many Syrian refugee families have no choice but to put their children to work to help meet basic expenses in a country with few social protections and tight movement restrictions. Children who do go to school face difficul-

SYRIAN REGIME FORCES ROLL BACK REBEL GAINS IN ALEPPO

BEIRUT: Syrian regime forces bolstered by Russian air strikes recaptured territory overnight in the southwest suburbs of the battleground city of Aleppo, rolling back the short-lived gains of a rebel offensive. Rebels and their jihadists allies launched an assault Sunday in a bid to ease a more than two-week government siege of opposition-held districts of the city. But regime fighters have put up a fierce fightback, retaking several positions from beleaguered rebel forces, a monitor said yesterday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government forces seized two hilltops and two small villages in the southwest suburbs of Aleppo late Tuesday. "The regime is launching counter-attacks to absorb the fierce rebel offensive," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. "The opposition offensive has not achieved the results that were expected at this stage," he said. An AFP journalist in east Aleppo said clashes and shelling could be heard throughout the night, followed by barrel bomb attacks and air strikes in the early morning. The groups waging the offensive-including fighters from Al-Qaeda's former Syria affiliate and the powerful Islamist Ahrar Al-Sham-have promised to end the government encirclement of eastern parts of Aleppo. They are seeking to capture Ramussa, a district in Aleppo's southwest suburbs, in a bid to cut off government forces and open a new route into the city for rebels.

'Long and gruesome battle'

But they have struggled to hold newlyacquired territory in the face of heavy Russian air strikes, Abdel Rahman said. They have managed to keep control of at least four hilltops and one small village, he added. Longtime regime ally Moscow launched an air campaign in support of President Bashar Al-Assad's forces in September. Yesterday's edition of Al-Watan, a newspaper close to the government, said government forces, backed by Russian air strikes, "advanced again south and southwest of Aleppo causing major setbacks" for rebel factions. And pro-regime website Al-Masdar News said an initial rebel advance into the Ramussa district was pushed back "following a long and gruesome battle". The Britain-based Observatory said more than 50 rebels and allied jihadists had been killed since the assault began, as well as dozens of regime troops. Overnight, at least 10



ALEPPO: This file photo shows Syrian civil defense workers, right, helps an injured woman after warplanes attacked a street. — AP

civilians, including four children, were killed in rebel shelling of government-controlled districts on Aleppo's southwestern edges, the monitor said. More than 40 civilians have been killed by shelling on government-held neighborhoods since Sunday. The battle for Aleppo-Syria's second city-is critical for both the regime in Damascus and the forces seeking to overthrow it. It was Syria's commercial hub until 2012,

and international observers, and 35 NGOs in a statement on Tuesday called the initiative "deeply flawed".

The groups, including Save the Children and Oxfam, urged implementation of a UN call for a weekly 48-hour humanitarian pause in Aleppo. In the surrounding province, 24 people reportedly suffered breathing difficulties in Saraqeb, a town 50 kilometers south of Aleppo, after a bar-

istered as refugees with the United Nations, the world body says. Most live in neighboring Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan as they wait for an opportunity to return home. In February, the international community pledged \$1.4 billion in school funding for host nations at a London donor conference but less than \$400 million of that has been fulfilled. Theirworld estimates. That leaves a funding gap of \$1 billion. Kevin Watkins, the author of the report, which was published late Tuesday, said donors had "bro-

ties with new curriculums, and many suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or other psychosocial problems. "The schools accept Syrian refugees, but the children don't adapt. They register but then they drop out," said Najah Kherallah Jomaa, a refugee from Syria's Aleppo living in a settlement in the Lebanese town of Bar Elias. The report by Theirworld warns of a "lost generation" of Syrians if determined steps are not taken to ensure school access for all. — AP

when clashes left it roughly divided between government troops in the west and rebels in the east.

'Deeply flawed' plan

Eastern districts came under government siege on July 17, sparking concerns for the estimated 250,000 people still living there. Last week Russia announced the opening of "humanitarian corridors" to allow residents and surrendering fighters to flee for government-held territory. This was met with skepticism by residents rel bomb attack on Tuesday, the Observatory said. Residents said the attack had used chlorine gas, but the monitor could not confirm this.

The incident took place close to where Russia said on Monday one of its military helicopters was shot down, killing the five people on board. Syria's conflict has killed more than 280,000 people and drawn in world powers on both sides since it erupted in March 2011. Half the country's population has been forced to flee their homes with an estimated five million seeking refuge in neighboring countries. — AFP

TUNISIA NAMES YOUSSEF CHAHED, AGED 40, AS NEW PM-DESIGNATE

TUNIS: Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi yesterday named local affairs minister Youssef Chahed, 40, as prime minister-designate tasked with forming a unity cabinet to tackle major economic and security challenges. If he wins the backing of parliament, Chahed will be the North African country's youngest premier since it won independence from France in 1956. He takes office as Tunisia struggles with a stagnant economy and the threat posed by jihadist groups.

His appointment comes days after lawmakers passed a vote of no confidence in outgoing premier Habib Essid. "Today we are entering a new stage that requires effort, sacrifice, audacity, courage, selflessness and unorthodox solutions," Chahed told reporters outside the presidential palace in Carthage. Chahed, who is said to be a distant relative of Essebsi's, now has 30 days to come up with a ministerial team. "I met today with the president... who charged me with forming a national unity government," he said. He promised that women would be better represented in his cabinet than in previous governments and called for greater youth involvement.

Chahed-who studied agricultural engineering-entered politics after the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He joined Nidaa Tounes in 2013. Even before his nomination, Tunisians were enthusiastic about Chahed's young ageespecially compared to other leaders in the five and a half years since Tunisia's youth-led revolution. Essebsi is 89 years old, while Essid

is 67. But others criticised the appointment of a member of an outgoing government they see as having failed to address the country's challenges.

'A man of integrity'

They also slammed his links with the president-whose son's presence in Nidaa Tounes is already controversial. Discontent over nepotism under Ben Ali helped fuel the revolt that ousted him. Presidential adviser Saida Garrach however dismissed criticism of the premier-designate. "You can't punish someone or deprive them of whatever it is just because of... who they are related to," she told radio station Shems FM. "Half the Tunisian population are related by marriage."

A source close to the prime minister-designate, who asked to remain anonymous, said Chahed was "a man of integrity, who works hard, does not belong to lobbies... and knows Tunisia's real problems." Essid's government had faced growing criticism for failing to tackle repeated jihadist attacks and an economic crisis.

Two attacks claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group last year killed 59 holidaymakers at a museum in the capital and at a beach resort near Sousse, dealing a heavy blow to the country's vital tourism sector. Tunisia has been in a state of emergency since November, when a suicide bombing-also claimed by ISkilled 12 presidential guards in central Tunis. Economic growth slowed to 0.8 percent last year from 2.3 percent in 2014, and unemployment nationwide stood at 15 percent at the end of last year. — AFP



CARTHAGE: Tunisia's newly appointed Prime Minister-delegate Youssef Chahed poses for photographers after being appointed by the Tunisian president at Carthage Palace. — AFP

PAKISTANI ISLAMIC STATE SUSPECT CAPTAINED ITALY CRICKET TEAM

ROME: A Pakistani man expelled Marabini, president of the from Italy for allegedly plotting an attack in the name of the Islamic State (IS) group used to captain the Italian youth cricket team, media reports said yesterday. Aftab Farook was caught on a wire-tap talking about using a Kalashnikov or bomb to attack targets such as a wine shop in Milan or the airport of Bergamo in northern Italy, saying the important thing was to scare Europeans, Italian newspapers reported.

On Tuesday, Interior Minister Angelino Alfano said the 26-yearold supported IS and was planning to go to Syria to join militants. The news stunned locals in Vaprio d'Adda near Milan, where Farook had lived with his family since he was 13 years old. Photos published in 2009 by Sportweek, a weekly insert in Italy's Gazzetta dello Sport daily, and re-issued in the media Wednesday, show him as the captain of the under-19s national team, wearing the Italian colors in international competitions.

"It hit us like lightning out of the blue, I still don't believe it," Fabio

Kingsgrove Milano cricket club and a close paternal figure to Farook, told La Stampa daily. "I spoke to him just before they put him on the flight for Islamabad. He thanked me for everything I've done for him over the years and he told me he was scared, because he no longer has any ties in Pakistan." Farook, who worked for the sporting goods retailer Decathlon, was keen on snowboarding with his friends and volunteered in his spare time as a driver of a bus for disabled people, La Stampa said.

"He would never have hurt a fly. He was made captain of the national team precisely because he was a trustworthy person, always ready to help others," Marabini said. Citing the investigative report drawn up by anti-mafia police, however, La Stampa said Farook had changed over the past year or so, and had begun beating his wife and forcing her to wear a burqa. Farook was expelled from Italy yesterday but his family plan to challenge the extradition at the European Court of Human Rights, the reports said. — AFP

ISRAEL APPROVES JAILING 'TERRORISTS' FROM AGE 12

JERUSALEM: Israeli lawmakers approved jailing children as young as 12 convicted of "terrorist offences" in the wake of repeated attacks by young Palestinians, the parliament said yesterday. "The 'Youth Bill,' which will allow the authorities to imprison a minor convicted of serious crimes such as murder, attempted murder or manslaughter even if he or she is under the age of 14, passed its second and third readings... Tuesday night," an English-language statement said. It added that the seriousness of attacks in recent months "demands a more aggressive approach, including toward minors."

The statement guoted Anat Berko, a lawmaker from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rightwing Likud party and the bill's sponsor, as saying "to

those who are murdered with a knife in the heart it terror and seek the death of Jewish civilians will not does not matter if the child is 12 or 15." Violence in the Palestinian territories and Israel since October has killed at least 218 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese, according to an AFP count. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, according to Israeli authorities. Many of the assailants were young people, including teenagers. Other youths have been shot dead during protests and clashes with security forces. Israeli justice minister Ayelet Shaked gave the "Youth Bill" full backing when it came before a ministerial committee last year.

'Youths, such as Ahmed Manasra, who engage in

be shown mercy by the law," media quoted her as saying. Manasra, a 14-year-old Palestinian, was convicted in May of the attempted murder of two Israelis in a knife attack last October.

He was 13 when he carried out the attack and is yet to be sentenced. Along with a 15-year-old cousin he stabbed and seriously wounded a 20-year-old and a 12-year-old boy in the Jewish settlement neighborhood of Pisgat Zeev in annexed east Jerusalem. The cousin was shot dead by security forces, while Manasra was hit by a car as they fled. Manasra, an east Jerusalem resident, was the youngest Palestinian to be convicted by an Israeli civilian court in the current round of violence. — AFP

SUMMER OFFERS FROM CHEVROLET

07. INTEREST FOR 5 YEARS*



OR



THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

Kuwait Times ______ INTERNATIONAL

TRUMP TAUNTS GOP, REFUSES TO ENDORSE RYAN, MCCAIN

Obama declares Trump 'unfit' for POTUS

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump is openly taunting the leaders of his own party by refusing to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen John McCain of Arizona in their GOP primaries. Yet thus far, McCain, Ryan and other Republicans who've reluctantly declared that they plan to back Trump for president appear to be sticking with him.

Trump's stunning slap at two of the nation's most prominent Republicans dramatically escalated GOP turmoil barely a week after a convention intended to promote party unity. With the general election campaign now squarely underway, Republicans found themselves once again forced to answer questions about the latest boundary-defying pronouncement from Trump at a moment when most would rather be talking about Hillary Clinton's record.

Trump made his declarations in an interview with The Washington Post in which he also lit into New Hampshire GOP Sen Kelly Ayotte. All

three lawmakers are facing primary challenges from the right in coming weeks, though all are expected to prevail, and each had criticized Trump's attacks on the Muslim American parents of an Army captain killed in Iraq. Trump's rebuke to Ryan carried particular derision. "I'm just not there yet," Trump said, closely echoing Ryan's own demurral before eventually endorsing Trump, when he told CNN on May 6, "I'm not there right now." "I like Paul, but these are horrible times for our country. We need very strong leadership. We need very, very strong leadership. And I'm just not quite there yet," Trump told the Post, offering praise for Ryan's longshot opponent, Paul Nehlen, for running "a very good campaign."

support, something Ryan's aides denied. "Neither Speaker Ryan nor anyone on his team

ASHBURN, Virginia: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds a Purple Heart medal given to him by Lt Col Louis Dorfman during a campaign event at Briar Woods High School. — AFP

S AFRICA'S RULING PARTY AFC FACES TOUGHEST CHALLENGE

JOHANNESBURG: Africans voted yesterday in Town. municipal elections described as the most closely contested for the African National Congress since it took power in the first allrace elections in 1994. About 26 million people had registered to vote at more than 22,000 polling stations as the ANC sought to retain control of key metropolitan areas despite a vigorous challenge from opposition parties. President Jacob Zuma voted near his private home in the rural area of Nkandla, which has been the focus of a scandal over millions of dollars in state upgrades to the president's compound. Voting in Cape Town, retired archbishop and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu said it remained an "honor for a black person to vote in this country" following the end of white minority rule. An Associated Press journalist noticed a few delays as workers waited for ballot boxes at some polling stations in Khayelitsha, a poor area of Cape Town. The streets were calm as police patrolled and some people went to work even though the government declared a national holiday. More than a dozen political candidates and party activists were killed in the run-up to the election, mostly in KwaZulu-Natal province, a stronghold of the ruling party. The killings could be linked to a struggle for the resources and patronage that come with top municipal jobs, according to election experts. Campaigning elsewhere was mostly peaceful. Opposition parties hope to make big gains against the ruling party in Johannesburg; Tshwane, which is the greater metropolitan area of the capital, Pretoria; and Nelson Mandela Bay, a municipality on South Africa's east coast. The opposition Democratic Alliance

South already runs the city of Cape

Confident in victory Trump also claimed Ryan had asked for his

has ever asked for Donald Trump's endorsement," said Zack Roday, Ryan's campaign spokesman. "And we are confident in a victory next week, regardless." Of McCain, whom he'd previously criticized for being taken captive in Vietnam, Trump said: "I've never been there with John McCain because I've always felt that he should have done a much better job for the vets."

And bringing up Ayotte: "I don't know Kelly Ayotte. I know she's given me no support - zero support - and yet I'm leading her in the polls. I'm doing very well in New Hampshire. We need loyal people in this country. We need fighters in this country. We don't need weak people." Trump's comments appeared to represent the most dramatic break yet with a Republican establishment whose support for their presidential nominee has been reluctant at best. It came on the same day that President Barack Obama declared Trump unfit to serve as president and questioned why McCain, Ryan and other GOP leaders continued to support him, especially in light of Trump's attacks on a pair of bereaved Army parents who took the stage at the Democratic National Convention to oppose him.

McCain had been particularly incensed over Trump's insults against the parents of US Army Capt. Humayun Khan, chiding Trump's decision to "defame those who are the best among us."Yet it was not clear that, even as Trump found another line to cross and another political norm to defy, any Republicans would rescind their support. None did so publicly and aides to both Ryan and Ayotte made clear their plans hadn't changed. McCain met privately Tuesday night with Trump's vice presidential running mate, Indiana Gov Mike Pence. For his part, Trump sent a Twitter post from @realDonaldTrump early yesterday proclaiming, "There is greater unity in my campaign, perhaps greater than ever before."

For Republicans, renouncing Trump might not yield much benefit beyond ensuring more headlines connecting them to Trump, something most want to avoid. Instead, vulnerable Senate Republicans like Ayotte and McCain are trying to focus on running their own races and hoping voters will make a distinction between them and Trump, something some polls suggest may be happening. "I call it like I see it, and I'm always going to stand up for our military families and what's best for the people of New Hampshire," was all Ayotte would say. — AP



GERMANTOWN: Hannah Shraim, center left, poses with Ashley Riddle, center right, as their group for the Northwest High School senior prom prepares for a "fun" photograph for their parents. — AP

'FREE,' 'GREAT,' OR 'DIVIDED,' 'BROKEN': HOW TO DESCRIBE US IN ONE WORD?

NEW YORK: Free and great, or divided and confused. Diverse and powerful, or troubled and broken. In search of a single word encapsulating their country at this moment, Americans offered pollsters a lexicon reflecting both hope and dissonance. The most-uttered word from about 1,000 responses to the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey was "freedom," with "free" not far behind at No. 4. "Great" took second place - and "good," "powerful," "wonderful" and "awesome" also occupied the top tier. But crowding the list were entries mirroring national angst.

"Divided" ranked third, and "confused" and "troubled" tied for fifth, amassed alongside other words of distress: "broken," "lost," and more bluntly, "screwed." Pollsters say grouping people's answers together with synonyms and related words is a better reflection of public sentiment. Viewed that way, "struggling," "declining" and their synonyms accounted for the biggest chunk of words, from about one-fifth of answers. Some 18 percent of respondents offered words related to American greatness, prosperity and power, which collectively ranked second, followed by those linked to freedom (15 percent), and "confused," "lost" and similar choices (10 percent).

"declining" and similar terms more than Democrats (27 percent versus 15 percent). Those without college degrees were also likelier to do so.

Bobby Underwood, a 67-year-old retired carpet mill worker in Dalton, Georgia, chose "troubled" when challenged to describe his country. With killings of police officers, Islamic State group attacks, a divisive election and concerns about the economy and illegal immigration, Underwood said he was left with an unhappy word in his mind. "Troubled," he said. "That pretty much sums it up for me."

More than 350 individual words flowed into the poll released this week - from "bossy," "boring," "bountiful" and "bigoted" to "eclectic," "enthusiastic" and "equal." Also: "paradise," "perplexing," and a few cases of profanity. They pointed to high ideals -"democracy," "opportunity," "liberty" - and dire assessments - "greedy," "racist," and "doomed." Some screamed in all capital letters: "UNITED" and "TERRIFIED." Others used punctuation for added effect - "disaster!!" and "great!"

Jack Blanton of Lexington, Kentucky, thought of his 81 years in weighing his answer. He grew up in a rural town in the Appalachian foothills, working on his grandparents' tobacco farm and later in a steel mill. He moved around the country and saw the world, earned a Ph.D., and rose to become a university vice president. He wondered what other country could give a farm boy such a life, and concluded America's best days are ahead. He decided on "great." "Who wouldn't be optimistic?" he asked. "My whole life has been blessed." - AP

Dominating politics

The African National Congress, formerly the main antiapartheid movement, has dominated politics in democratic South Africa. However, it has seen some erosion of support from South Africans who say their hopes for jobs and other opportunities have not been fulfilled since the end of white minority rule. The South African economy has stagnated since the global financial crisis in 2008. A more radical opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, advocates the nationalization of industry and other measures that it says would help the poor. It is contesting the local elections for the first time.

Lawmakers of the Economic Freedom Fighters have disrupted parliamentary sessions several times to protest the scandal over Zuma's private home, which has hurt the ruling party's popularity. The case went to the Constitutional Court, which said Zuma had violated the constitution and instructed the president to reimburse the state for \$507,000, an amount that was determined by the national treasury.

Many South Africans are also concerned over allegations that Zuma is heavily influenced by the Guptas, a wealthy business family of immigrants from India. The president has denied any wrongdoing. Lihle Spani, a voter in Johannesburg, recalled that black South Africans were unable to vote during apartheid and that voting today was a kind of tribute to those who had lacked basic rights. Spani said: "It is showing gratitude for people who didn't have that before me." — AP



PRETORIA: A woman casts her vote at a polling station in Atteridgeville. — AP

LONDON POLICE PUTS MORE ARMED OFFICERS ON STREETS

LONDON: London's police force is putting more armed officers on the streets - a visible response to attacks by Islamic State-inspired groups in Europe. Metropolitan Police chief Bernard Hogan-Howe said yesterday he's increasing the number and the visibility of the officers "to protect the public from all manner of threats." "In some of our big iconic locations, we've already got armed patrols - if you look at

Parliament, Downing Street - so it's not entirely new," he said. "I think people understand that where you are going to have people as enemies who've got guns, we've got to have guns." Londoners are proud that most police do not carry guns, and the fundamental

principle remains unchanged. Even with the changes, most of London's 31,000 police officers will not be armed. But the recent attacks underscore the challenge police face in responding to situations in which may be outgunned. Their deployment came after Hogan-Howe warned recently an attack in Britain was a case of "when, not if." There are 5,639 authorized firearms officers in forces across England and Wales as of March 31. Some 600 officers are boosting the existing London force of 2,200 firearms officers in the coming months. Authorities announced plans to increase the number of officers trained to carry guns after the attacks at a nightclub and in restaurants in Paris last year. — AP

Positive and negative words were almost evenly split. "When you see words like 'freedom' and 'divided' together, you get a good little portrait of what people are thinking," said Peter Sokolowski, editor-atlarge at Merriam-Webster, the dictionary publisher. "You can't get more balanced than that." Republicans used "struggling,"

COLOMBIA ADOPTS MEASURES TO **BATTLE GROWING MIGRANT CRISIS**

BOGOTA: Colombia will undertake emergency measures against illegal migration, including deporting thousands of Cuban and other migrants and reinforcing its borders following a massive influx of people bound for the United States, the government said late on Tuesday. "The national government has given the instruction to initiate an emergency plan" to stop "this irregular migration from proceeding through our territory," migration director Christian Kruger said at the presidential residence, following an emergency government meeting that included President Juan Manuel Santos.

Colombia will reinforce its southwestern border with Ecuador and along the Gulf of Uraba near Panama, where migrants have traveled in the hope of making it to the United States. The plan will involve military and police on the border and include prosecuting those who knowingly provide transportation and housing to undocumented migrants, Kruger said. Migrants may voluntarily request deportation, he added, and be granted safe passage to their home countries or to the last country they were in before entering Colombia-Cuba or Ecuador for many of them.

Otherwise, the authorities will proceed with "mandatory deportation." Colombia has deported more than 5,800 migrants over the past two months, most of them from Haiti and Cuba, according to official figures released last week. They are set to be joined by more than 1,200 Cubans who have been stranded in the country after Panama shut its southern border in June. Among them are almost 300 minors and 11 pregnant women housed in a 2,000 square-foot warehouse in the port town of Turbo. They had asked the government to arrange an airlift to Mexico, from where they would continue to the United States, which grants asylum to most Cubans who make it to US soil.

However, the authorities rejected their request on Tuesday and are awaiting a court notice to enter the warehouse housing the Cubans in order to deport them, Kruger said. Mexico would not allow the flight, he added, saying illegal migration constitutes human trafficking and that an airlift risked prompting more migration. "In neighboring countries like Ecuador, Brazil and Guyana, there are more than 50,000 irregular migrants that might demand the same treatment," Kruger said.

Last year, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico adopted similar policies after Nicaragua closed its border to migrants, prompting a humanitarian crisis among thousands of Cubans heading to the United States. The number of Cubans attempting to reach the US border has risen over the past two years following the rapprochement between Havana and Washington, which many fear will end its preferential treatment of Cuban migrants. — AFP

VENEZUELA OPPOSITION PLOTS NEXT MOVES AGAINST MADURO

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition steeled itself Tuesday for a new battle in its campaign to remove President Nicolas Maduro in a referendum, vowing nationwide rallies to pressure the crisis-hit government. Seventeen years after his late mentor Hugo Chavez launched Venezuela on the path of socialist "revolution," Maduro is clinging to the helm of a country in deep crisis.

The once-booming country, home to the world's largest oil reserves, is gripped by severe shortages of food, medicine and basic goods that have triggered violence and looting. The opposition, which blames Maduro for the mounting chaos, wants to get rid of him with a recall referendum. It won a key battle Monday when the National Electoral Council (CNE) announced it had collected nearly double the 200,000 signatures required to start the process. But it appears the war has just begun.

Maduro's camp has vowed to fight tooth and nail. Complicating matters, the opposition says he controls both the electoral council and Supreme Court. The president's opponents face a long, complicated struggle. To trigger a recall vote, they must now gather four million signatures in just three days at a time yet to be decided. Opposition leader Henrique Capriles called two days of nationwide rallies to start mobilizing support. Other opposition leaders camped out early Tuesday at the electoral council's headquarters, awaiting the official certificate declaring they had gathered the necessary signatures to complete the first phase.

After receiving it, they flashed it before television cameras. They said they would immediately file their formal request for a recall vote. The council has 15 days to respond. "We're just one step away from the day when our people will exercise their constitutional right and enable us to resolve this crisis," said Juan Carlos Caldera of the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), the broad opposition coalition behind the referendum drive. The opposition is racing to force a referendum by January 10, four years into the president's sixyear term. Any time after that, a successful recall vote would simply transfer power to Maduro's hand-picked vicepresident rather than trigger new elections.

<u> Kuwait 🗠 Times</u>



RAIGAD DISTRICT: Members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) look at the site of a bridge collapse over the River Savitri in Raigad District, some 100 kms south of Mumbai. — AFP

Search for 20 feared dead AFTER INDIA BRIDGE COLLAPSE

POLICE: BRITISH WOMAN

ASPHYXIATED IN LAHORE

MUMBAI: Rescuers were searching yesterday for 20 people missing and feared dead after two buses plunged into a fast-flowing river in western India when a bridge collapsed in torrential monsoon rain, officials said. Emergency workers pulled two bodies from the rain-swollen river but were still searching for the others feared swept downstream following the accident south of Mumbai overnight on Tuesday.

Television footage showed large chunks of the British-colonial era bridge had fallen into the Savitri river, but there was no sign of the vehicles in the water. The bridge is about 170 kilometers from Mumbai along a major highway connecting India's financial capital with the tourism state of Goa. "Two bodies have been recovered by rescue agencies. We are trying to ascertain their identities and the (rescue) operations are on," Sanjay Patil, police superintendent of Raigad district where the accident occurred, told AFP.

More than 100 rescuers armed with diving and other specialist equipment were scouring the river, but their efforts were hampered by the fast current and incessant rain. "The flow of currents is very strong, making it difficult to launch a full-scale search operation. We are looking for vehicles and bodies over a stretch of eight kilometres," disaster management chief O.P Singh told AFP. "Our team is equipped with deep divers and life-saving equipment," he said.

The air force, navy and coastguard have deployed helicopters to survey the river, while television footage showed rescuers in inflatable dinghies trying to maneuver on the fast-flowing water. Home Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament that 112 rescuers in total along with divers and 12 boats have been deployed to the site. "The central government is with the state government in this hour of crisis," Singh said.

Devendra Fadnavis, chief minister of Maharashtra state of which Mumbai is the capital, said the bridge appeared to have collapsed after being pounded for days by the flooded river. "The primary reason seems to be the high pressure caused due to flooding of River Savitri due to heavy rains in catchment of Mahabaleshwar," he said on Twitter. The incident is the latest in a string of deadly accidents in India, where enforcement of safety rules is weak and substandard materials are often used. In April an under-construction flyover collapsed in the eastern city of Kolkata, killing 26 people. Scores of people die every year from flooding and landslides during the annual monsoon rains in India and neighboring Nepal and Bangladesh. — AFP

INTERNATIONAL

NEPAL LAWMAKERS ELECT MAOIST CHIEF AS NEW PM

PLEDGES TO UNITE PROTEST PLAGUED COUNTRY

KATHMANDU: Nepal's new Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal pledged yesterday to unite a country hit by deadly protests over constitutional changes after lawmakers elected the Maoist leader and former guerrilla to head a new government. Dahal, better known by his nom de guerre Prachanda or "the fierce one" led a decade-long Maoist insurgency before transforming the rebel movement into a political party after a 2006 peace deal.

He is now tasked with rebuilding the country after a devastating earthquake and resolving simmering unrest over the new national charter adopted last September. "I pledge that I will unite everyone in the country," he said in an address to parliament before the vote. "I have a responsibility to solve this problem. I feel that I have been put forward as a candidate to work as a bridge between (communities)," he said. Dahal, head of the Maoist party, ran unopposed and secured 363 out of 573 votes to become the Himalayan nation's premier for a second time.

He has served as prime minister once before, after the Maoists won elections in 2008, but only lasted nine months in office before resigning. Dahal, whose Maoists are the third-largest force in parliament, pulled out of a coalition led by KP Sharma Oli-the former prime minister-three weeks ago and secured the support of the biggest party, the Nepali Congress. He also won the backing of the United Democratic Madhesi Front (UDMF) — an alliance of protesting partiespaving the way for warmer ties between the new government and demonstrators from the Madhesi ethnic minority.

Oli, who heads the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), faced fierce criticism over his handling of a months-long border blockade by demonstrators who say the constitution left them marginalized. More than 50 people died in clashes between police and protesters demanding revisions to federal state borders set out in the new charter. Commentators say Dahal is likely to be more sympathetic to protesters' concerns following the Madhesi parties' decision to back his candidacy. "Prachanda is likely to address the long-pending issues raised by Madheshi parties... but he will have to bring (his former coalition partner) UML on board in order to amend the constitution," said Guna Raj Luitel, editor of Nepali daily Nagarik. Any changes to the constitution must be passed in parliament by a two-thirds majority, making Oli's UML, which holds 182 out of 595 seats, an important source of support.

'Power games'

The new charter, the first drawn up by elected representatives, was meant to bolster Nepal's transformation from a Hindu monarchy to a democratic republic after decades of political instability. But continuing discussions between the government and protesters have failed to break the deadlock. Prachanda will also have to mend ties with powerful neighbor India, which made no secret of its disapproval of the constitution. Kathmandu in turn accused New Delhi of supporting the border blockade, which sparked crippling shortages of vital supplies across landlocked

Nepal. Meanwhile, some four million Nepalis are still living in tents or huts after an earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people in 2015. Stung by criticism over delays, the government has vowed to kickstart the rebuilding of schools and hospitals and speed up distribution of a \$2,000 payout to homeless households. So far, some 42,000 families have received the first \$500 installment of the payout, fewer than eight percent of those left homeless by the disaster. Nepalis frustrated by the slow pace of reconstruction said they had few hopes for the new government. "So many who lost their homes in the earthquake are still in shelters. But (politicians) are always busy playing power games," said Nabin Shrestha, who drives a threewheeler for a living. Prachanda will be the eighth prime minister to lead Nepal since 2008, when he became premier for the first time and overthrew a 240-year-old feudal monarchy. — AFP



KATHMANDU: Nepal's newly-appointed Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, center, waves to the media. — AP

KILLING OF 2 CIVILIANS TRIGGERS PROTESTS IN INDIAN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR: Tens of thousands of people rallied in Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday to protest the overnight killings of two civilians by government forces amid a nearly month long security lockdown. Police and witnesses said the protesters defied the security restrictions to demand an end to Indian rule in the disputed region. At least six civilians were injured, mostly

city of Srinagar, between rock-throwing protesters and government forces, who fired tear gas and shotguns. Residents said government forces fired tear gas in the town of Pampore after thousands of people offered funeral prayers for a young man, one of the two civilians killed overnight.

He was killed when a police guard escorting a

Tuesday. Another young protester was critically wounded and hospitalized in Srinagar, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. The protesters burned the car and the administrator and police guard took refuge in a nearby paramilitary camp, the officer said.

The other person killed overnight was a pri-

have been the victim of an "honor killing" in Pakistan had been suffocated according to a forensic report, police said yesterday. Mukhtar Kazam, in a complaint to police, has said his wife Samia Shahid was murdered during a visit to her family in a village in Punjab province on July 20. Shahid's father has denied the charge and claimed his daughter died of natural causes.

At an emotional press conference last week Kazam presented a copy of a post-mortem report which said the 28year-old had marks on her neck, suggesting she had been strangled. Police said the latest forensic report had confirmed Shahid died an unnatural death. "The forensic report has been received by a three-member special investigation committee set up by chief minister Punjab and according to it Samia Shahid's death occurred due to asphyxia," Abubakar Khuda Bakhsh, the chief investigator, told AFP.

Kazam has described his wife's death as an "honor killing", a near daily occurrence in Pakistan in which a relative is murdered by another for bringing what is deemed dishonor to the family. Kazam and Shahid, who was a dual

LAHORE: A British woman suspected to British-Pakistani citizen, had been married for two years and were living in Dubai, police have said, adding that it was Shahid's second marriage. Kazam has said his wife converted to Shia Islam, his own sect, before their wedding, a move which had irked her parents.

Shahid's first husband Mohammad Shakeel, her parents and a cousin are being investigated, police have said. "Honor killings" came under the international spotlight last month with the killing of Qandeel Baloch, a polarizing social media star. Her brother has confessed to the murder, saying his sister's behavior had been "intolerable". The victims of "honor" killings are overwhelmingly women, with hundreds killed each year. The crimes have long polarized Pakistan, with progressives calling for tough legislation against them and conservatives resisting. But the murder of Qandeel Baloch appears to have spurred politicians to take action. The law minister has announced that bills aimed at tackling loopholes that ease "honor" killings would soon go before parliament. Rights groups and politicians have for years called for tougher laws to tackle perpetrators of violence against women in Pakistan. — AFP

by shotgun pellets, as clashes broke out in severgovernment administrator fired at anti-India protesters who stopped their official car late al places, including neighborhoods in the main



SRINAGAR: An unidentified relative of Riyaz Ahmad Shah, one among two civilians killed by government forces wails as an ambulance carrying his body arrives at his home. — AP

vate guard at a bank in Srinagar. His family blamed paramilitary soldiers for his death. An initial investigation showed he had at least 360 shotgun pellets in his body. Anti-India protests erupted shortly after the young man's body was brought to his home in Srinagar. Defying a curfew, thousands of people carried his body to "martyrs' graveyard," where hundreds of Kashmiri militants and civilians killed during the last 26 years of fighting have been buried.

Police said after the guard's burial, hundreds of young men hurled rocks at police, who retaliated by firing tear gas and shotguns. The Indianheld portion of Kashmir has witnessed its largest protests against Indian rule in recent years after Indian troops killed a rebel commander on July 8. At least 50 civilians and a policeman have been killed and thousands injured in protestrelated violence. Meanwhile, shops, businesses and schools remained closed for the 26th straight day Wednesday because of the curfew and a strike called by separatists demanding an end to Indian rule.

Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region, is divided between India and Pakistan, but both countries claim it in its entirety. Most people in the Indian-held part resent the presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops. More than 68,000 people have been killed in an armed uprising against Indian rule and a subsequent Indian military crackdown. — AP

BANGLADESH'S MISSING MILITANT LINK: THE THREAT FROM ABROAD

DHAKA/NEW DELHI: When Bangladeshi authorities last month released the names of 261 men who have gone missing from their families, in an attempt to find militants hidden in this country of 160 million people, at the very end of the list was "Jilani alias Abu Zidal". He was not in Bangladesh. The young man, an engineering school dropout, travelled to Syria last year to fight for Islamic State. In April, IS announced he was blown to bits during battle by a 23-millimeter gun, the sort used to shoot down aircraft.

Asked why Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, a domestic anti-terrorism agency, listed Jilani among the 261 names, its spokesman Mufti Mohammad Khan said neither the man's family nor the police had notified the battalion of the death. "So we included him in the list." A Google search for Jilani, whose real name was Ashequr Rahman, would have brought up an Islamic State notification of his death.

Distributing the alias of a dead jihadi in an allpoints bulletin is just one illustration of how Bangladesh authorities have failed to confront the international links of radical Islamist groups in the country. Police and government officials here continue to insist they are facing a home-grown threat-a "grave error," according to regional experts on militant groups. Banking officials admit being lost when it comes to interdicting foreign funding for attacks. Law enforcement officers have been slow to complete basic steps of intelligence-gathering, weeks after a July 1 assault in which five

young men killed 20 people they'd taken hostage at a cafe in the capital.

Domestic militants

The government says the July 1 attack-and another on July 26 in which police killed nine militants believed to be plotting a similar assault-were the work of domestic militants and it has dismissed claims of responsibility from the Islamic State. That fits with a pattern of the nation's rulers reflexively blaming their rivals in Islamist opposition political parties for fomenting unrest. Dhaka has recently doubled down on its position that IS does not exist in Bangladesh.

Authorities on Tuesday named a prime suspect in the cafÈ attack, Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury. Analysts say he is the same person IS identified in April as its commander in Bangladesh, who goes by the alias of Sheik Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif. Asked whether by naming Chowdhury officials had implicitly acknowledged Islamic State is in Bangladesh, Monirul Islam, head of a counter-terrorism cell for the Dhaka police, disagreed.

"Our stand is very clear," Islam told Reuters, "that there is no IS inside the country." Many "lone wolf" and self-styled jihadist groups have pledged support to IS around the world, in addition to a reported 22.000 foreigners who have left their countries of origin to fight on behalf of the group. However, the line between self-declared adherents and actual IS command-and-control is often unclear.

Bangladesh has for years denied that global jihadi networks like al Qaeda and Islamic State operate on its soil. But the recent spate of attacks by scattered and hard-to-detect groups gunmen claiming loyalty to both shows such distinctions are losing relevance. That has left authorities struggling to contain an escalating offensive by militants in a nation with a \$28 billion-a-year garment industry and which, crucially, sits between south and southeast Asia, regions that contain the largest Muslim populations in the world.

Wave of killings

Officials in Dhaka have ordered crackdowns on long-standing Bangladeshi domestic Islamist political and militant groups, arresting more than 11,000 people in June alone in an effort to stop a wave of killings, including by machete hacking, that have targeted liberal bloggers, academics and religious minorities. The attention to old foes is diverting attention from an emerging international problem, said Animesh Roul, executive director of a New Delhi-based think tank, the Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict.

"They are still focusing too much on the existing militant networks and have failed to realize that the IS or AQIS (Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent) monsters are fishing in the troubled waters and succeeding to a large extent by enticing the youths or grassroots extremists," Roul said. Roul, who penned a study of the militant threat in Bangladesh pub-

lished in May by the Combating Terrorism Center at the United States Military Academy, called it "a grave error." Regional terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna of the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore said his research, including interviews in Dhaka with fighters in custody, shows that militants in Bangladesh "received financing, instruction and assistance from the Islamic State".

With an unrelenting focus on domestic Islamic militants, authorities have admitted to being challenged in tracking the movements of money and people from abroad. Three of the Dhaka cafe attackers went missing for months before the attacks. Asked if authorities had combed through passenger manifests to check whether they had left the country — a possible clue to who might have helped organized the slaughter-a police official speaking three weeks after the assault said no one had done so. "We did not check yet, but that will be done," said Mohammad Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In interviews with one former senior central banking official and a current senior government official with direct knowledge of banking operations, neither could point to an instance in which Bangladeshi agencies had successfully identified and disrupted external funding for militant groups. It's a daunting task. Millions of overseas workers sent home about \$15 billion in the fiscal year that ended in June 2016, the second-largest source of foreign exchange after garment exports. — Reuters

JAPAN'S NEW DEFENSE CHIEF DOWNPLAYS WARTIME PAST

Japan's wartime actions and is known to have far-right views was named defense minister in a Cabinet reshuffle yesterday, a move that could unsettle relations with Asian neighbors with bitter memories of World War II-era atrocities. Tomomi Inada, a former reform minister who most recently was policy chief in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, replaced Gen Nakatani as defense minister. She's the second female to fill the post. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe changed more than half of the 19-member Cabinet in a bid to support his economic and security policies, as well as push for revising Japan's postwar constitution.

While keeping the economy as the top priority, Abe said he would do his "utmost to achieve a (constitutional) revision during my term," which ends in September 2018. A lawyer-turnedlawmaker with little experience in defense, Inada is one of Abe's favorites. She regularly visits the Yasukuni Shrine, which honors war dead including convicted war criminals, a gesture seen as

TOKYO: A woman who has downplayed an endorsement of Japan's militaristic past. She also has defended Japan's wartime atrocities, including forcing many Asian women into sexual servitude in military-run brothels, and has led a party committee to re-evaluate the judgment of war tribunals by the Allies.

Anti-Korea links

Her link to a notorious anti-Korea group was acknowledged by a court this year in a defamation case she lost. Inada also was seen posing with the leader of a neo-Nazi group in a 2011 photo that surfaced in the media in 2014. Inada, 57, is a supporter of Abe's long-cherished hope to revise Japan's postwar constitution. She has said parts of the war-renouncing Article 9 should be scrapped, arguing that they could be interpreted as banning the Self-Defense Forces.

Inada said she would try to protect peace and safety under the Japan-US alliance, which is a cornerstone of Japan's security and diplomacy. Yesterday, she refused to say if she planned to visit Yasukuni to mark the

Aug. 15 anniversary of the end of WWII. Finance Minister Taro Aso, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga were among key Cabinet members who retained their portfolios, while 10 ministers were replaced in the reshuffle. Many are not necessarily experts in their assigned portfolio, prompting opposition lawmakers to criticize Abe for dominating the Cabinet with like-minded supporters of his political views.

Abe, whose key policies include women's advancement, will have two other female Cabinet members, including one who will serve as Olympic minister after being shifted from environment minister. Tokyo is set to host the 2020 Summer Games. While campaigning for last month's upper house elections, Abe promised to focus on economic revitalization in the short term, and to later seek to revise Japan's pacifist constitution.

Since he took office in late 2012, Abe has sought to boost growth by pumping massive amounts of money into the



TOKYO: Japan's newly-appointed Defense Minister Tomomi Inada answers guestions from reporters at the prime minister's official residence. — AP

world's third-biggest economy. But lavish monetary easing and public works spending so far have failed to reignite the first since October. — AP

growth as much as hoped. The reshuffle was the third since Abe took office, and



TIANJIN: In this image from video released yesterday by China's CCTV and made available via AP Video, Chinese legal rights activist Hu Shigen, center, is escorted by police officers upon his arrival for his trial at the Tianjin No 2 Intermediate People's Court.—- AP

LEGAL ACTIVIST SENTENCED AS CHINA REINS IN CRITICS

BEIJING: A Chinese legal rights activist was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison on subversion charges yesterday, in the second in a series of cases underscoring the ruling Communist Party's determination to rein in government critics. State broadcaster CCTV said Hu Shigen had pleaded guilty to "subversion, damaging national security and harming social stability" at the start of his hearing before the Tianjin No. 2

prosecutors said. "After completing his criminal punishment, Hu Shigen again committed crimes against national security and, as a recidivist, should be severely punished under the law," prosecutors said.

A graduate of prestigious Peking University, Hu was a professor in the capital when he became active with a wouldbe political opposition party following the army's violent crackdown on 1989 pro-

KOREA FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILE TOWARD WATERS NEAR JAPAN

ONE OF THE LONGEST FLIGHTS BY A NORTH KOREAN MISSILE

SEOUL: A medium-range ballistic missile fired yesterday by North Korea flew about 1,000 kilometers and landed near Japan's territorial waters, Seoul and Tokyo officials said, one of the longest flights by a North Korean missile. The US Strategic Command said North Korea fired two presumed Rodong missiles simultaneously yesterday, not just one. The command's statement said initial indications reveal one of the missiles exploded immediately after launch, while the second was tracked over North Korea and into the Sea of Japan

North Korea has recently claimed a series of technical breakthroughs over its goal of acquiring a long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental US South Korean defense officials say North Korea doesn't yet have such a weapon, but some civilian experts believe the North has the technology to mount warheads on shorterrange Rodong and Scud missiles that can strike South Korea and Japan.

According to the South Korean and Japanese announcements, one suspected Rodong missile lifted off from the North's western Hwanghae province and flew across the country before falling in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it "strongly condemns" the missile launch because it explicitly shows the North's intentions of being able to launch missile attacks on South Korea and neighboring countries. Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile landed inside Japan's exclusive economic zone, the 200nautical-mile offshore area where a nation has sovereign rights for exploring and exploiting resources. Japanese media reported it was the first North Korean missile that has splashed down in Japan's EEZ. "It imposes a serious threat to Japan's security and it is unforgivable act of violence toward Japan's security," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said.

et in December 2012, and conducted another successful satellite launch in February.

In June, North Korea, after a string of failures, sent another type of mid-range missile known as Musudan more than 1,400 kilometers high. Analysts said the high-altitude flight meant North Korea had made progress in its push to be able to strike US forces throughout the region. North Korea routinely conducts weapons tests, but the latest launch came after North Korea warned of unspecified "physical counter-actions" against a US plan to deploy an advanced missile defense system in South Korea by the end of next year. On July 19, North Korea fired three ballistic missiles into the sea, according to Seoul defense officials. The North's state media later confirmed that it

Korean Peninsula. Hyon Kwang II, director of the scientific research department at the North's National Aerospace Development Administration, told The Associated Press last week that Pyongyang's military had mastered "the main and core techniques in long-range ballistic missile technology, including the starter engine technology, how to separate the different stages, guidance control techniques and re-entry and it's all ready to be operational." North Korea is known to have an arsenal of estimated 300 Rodong missiles whose maximum range is 1,300 kilometers. A Rodong fired in March flew about 800 kilometers while two other Rodongs launched in 2014 flew about 650 kilometers.

North Korea is expected to carry out more



Intermediate People's Court. It said Hu had decided not to appeal the sentence.

His brief trial came a day after the court issued a suspended three-year sentence to activist Zhai Yanmin. Both were arrested in July last year with two others as part of a nationwide crackdown on legal rights activists. About 300 lawyers and activists were initially seized and guestioned before most were released. Hu, 61, was accused of leading an "underground organization" that masqueraded as a church but was dedicated to identifying and drawing attention to accusations of government abuses. He worked with others, some of whom are also facing trial this week, to "organize activities that manipulated public opinion and disturbed public order," prosecutors were quoted as saying by state media. "Hu's ideology and his behaviors have seriously harmed the country and social stability," state media quoted prosecutors as saying.

Political activities

Hu had been sentenced in 1994 to 20 years in prison on the now-abolished charge of counterrevolution in connection with his political activities, but was released in 2008 after his sentence was reduced. His previous prison term contributed to his harsh sentencing in the most recent case,

democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Two other cases are expected to be heard by the court in the northern Chinese city this week, including those of activist Gou Hongguo and lawyer Zhou Shifeng, head of the Fengrui Law Firm that frequently took on sensitive cases and represented numerous government critics. More than a dozen other lawyers and activists remain jailed, their legal status uncertain.

The trials are part of a pattern established under the administration of President Xi Jinping to use more sophisticated legal means to attack perceived opponents as it maintains pressure on activists and non-governmental organizations. Several, including fellow Fengrui lawyer Wang Yu have made televised apologies for the crimes they are accused of and denouncing the legal activism as directed by unidentified "hostile foreign forces" to smear and attack the Chinese government. Activists such as Hu and Zhai worked alone or in affiliation with law firms to gather evidence of government abuses and lead clients and the disgruntled in street protests while spreading word online. Their actions were harshly denounced by the authorities as interference in the legal process. — AP

PHILIPPINE POLICE FORCE KILLS SIX MAYOR SUPPORTERS OVER DRUGS

MANILA: Police yesterday shot dead six supporters of a Philippine mayor days after President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to have him "shot on sight" for protecting his allegedly drug-dealing son. Hundreds of people have died since Duterte won a landslide election on a pledge to wipe out lawlessness by killing tens of thousands of criminals. A gunfight broke out between law enforcers and supporters of mayor Rolando Espinosa at dawn yesterday outside his property in the central town of Albuera on Leyte island, police said. "The incident this morning is connected to the current investigation pertaining to the involvement of the mayor and his son in the illegal drugs trade," national police spokesman Dionaldo Carlos told reporters. He said six gunmen were killed while police recovered 17 guns and several grenades.

On Monday Duterte gave Espinosa and his son 24 hours to surrender after police arrested five of the mayor's bodyguards and employees in a drug sting operation. "Otherwise, an order of 'shoot on sight' will be given if they resist and endanger the lives of arresting police officers," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said on television. The mayor surrendered to police on Tuesday. The son is at large. The mayor "surrendered to me... (following) orders of the president for

him to be shot on sight if he resists," said national police chief Ronald de la Rosa.

Over 400 killed

Police claim to have killed more than 400 suspected drug dealers in the month since Duterte took office, but rights groups fear the total could be far higher as vigilantes have joined the spree. Photos of one vigilante's victims being cradled by his weeping girlfriend at a busy Manila intersection last week have gone viral, helping raise awareness of the rising body count that has shocked the world. The victim, pedicab driver Michael Siaron, was laid to rest at a public cemetery in Manila yesterday in a low-key funeral attended by his sobbing girlfriend and several dozen relatives.

Hundreds of anti-narcotics and human rights groups from around the world called Tuesday for the United Nations to condemn Duterte's policy. Police chief de la Rosa said Mayor Espinosa had been listed in police records as a "drug protector" whose son controlled the narcotics trade in the Albuera region. "If you're listening now Kerwin, your father has already surrendered so you should follow your father," de la Rosa said in a bizarre live news conference with Espinosa. — AFP

Disguised tests

North Korea has previously fired Rodong and other missiles into the sea, but South Korean analysts say yesterday's 1,000 kilometer flight was one of the longest for a North Korean test. Several other North Korean rockets have gone farther and even over Japan. But Pyongyang called them satellite launches while Washington, Seoul and Tokyo said they were disguised tests of missile technology. After several failures, the North put its first satellite into space aboard a long-range rock-

PYONGYANG: In this May 10, 2016 file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un waves at parade participants at the Kim II Sung Square. — AP

fired ballistic rockets carrying trigger devices for nuclear warheads as part of simulated pre-emptive atomic attacks on South Korea. Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far East Studies said the latest Rodong launch appeared to be aimed at showing an ability to attack US military bases in Japan, a major source of reinforcements for US troops should a war break out on the weapons launches in coming weeks to protest annual US-South Korean military drills that begin later this month. North Korea describes the drills as an invasion rehearsal. The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea and tens of thousands of more in Japan. - AP

AUSTRALIA SAID TO BE DELIBERATELY **IGNORING ABUSE AT REFUGEE CAMPS**

SYDNEY: Human rights groups accused Australia yesterday of deliberately ignoring the alleged abuse of asylum seekers being held at a remote Pacific island detention facility in a bid to deter future refugees from trying to reach the country by boat. A scathing joint report by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said detainees on the Pacific island nation of Nauru, where Australia sends asylum seekers, are routinely denied critical medical care, frequently attempt suicide and endure physical assaults by locals on the island.

"Australia's policy of exiling asylum seekers who arrive by boat is cruel in the extreme," Anna Neistat, senior director for research at Amnesty International, said in a statement. "Few other countries go to such lengths to deliberately inflict suffering on people seeking safety and freedom." Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection criticized the rights groups for not consulting with the government while preparing the report. "We would strongly encourage Amnesty International to contact the department before airing allegations of this

kind," the department said in a statement. "The department strongly refutes many of the allegations in the report."

The department did not respond to a request seeking details on what parts of the report it was refuting. Australia refuses to accept any asylum seekers who attempt to reach its shores by boat. Instead, it pays Nauru and the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea to hold them often for years. Reports of abuse, miserably hot and crowded living conditions, and frequent suicide attempts at the detention camps have plagued Australia for years; in April, an Iranian refugee on Nauru died after setting himself on fire. Human rights groups have long called on Australia to abandon its offshore detention policy, calling the practice a violation of the country's international human rights obligations.

Saved from sea, abused on land

Australia argues that the policy has saved lives by removing the incentive for migrants to attempt the dangerous and often deadly ocean crossing from Indonesia to Australia in rickety boats. Critics say the country has simply traded one evil for another. Journalists have been almost entirely banned from Nauru in recent years. But researchers from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said they were able to enter the country last month, spending 12 days interviewing 84 refugees and asylum seekers. Those interviewed said they were suffering from severe anxiety, depression and short-term memory loss. Both adults and children told interviewers they wanted to kill themselves. Since last year, asylum seekers held in the detention center have been allowed to leave the camp and move about the island during the day - but many say they are too afraid to do so. — AP



In this Sept 19, 2001, file photo, refugees, right, gather on one side of a fence to talk with international jounalists about their journey that brought them to the Island of Nauru. — AP



SAUDI ARABIA MOVES TO ASSIST INDIAN WORKERS

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Some of them have been forced to beg or sift through garbage to survive after going unpaid for months, according to officials. The Okaz daily yesterday quoted labor ministry official Abdullah Al-Alyan as saying that the kingdom had promised "urgent" action to help around 2,500 Indian workers.'

'But Alyan did not mention thousands of Saudibased Filipino and Pakistani workers and dismissed as "rumors" that about 10,000 Indian workers had been left to starve. Alyan said the "immediate and urgent action" was to resolve the issues of "2,500 Indian workers from Saudi Oger who have faced difficulties due the delays in their salaries" and cut-offs in electricity and food supplies from their camps. Singh told reporters that "things are not as bad as they have been shown" and insisted that only one company was involved.

'Sources in March told AFP that delayed receipts from the government, whose oil revenues have dropped significantly in the past two years, left construction workers struggling while they wait for salaries. Haqbani said that Saudi Oger's actions were "not accepted". Saudi Oger, the once-mighty construction giant led by Lebanon's billionaire former prime minister Saad Hariri, is among the affected companies. It employs about 50,000 people of various nationalities.

"We will protect the rights of the workers, not from India alone, but from all countries (whose citizens are working) in this company," Hagbani said without giving details. Saudi Oger has built some of the most grandiose complexes in Riyadh, including the palatial Ritz-Carlton hotel. In May, Saudi Binladin Group - one of the world's largest construction companies - began paying delayed wages to its remaining staff. The company had also laid off tens of thousands of employees because of financial difficulties.

'A Lebanese newspaper reported yesterday that the Saudi government was in talks with Hariri on a proposal to take over Saudi Oger. Under the proposed deal, the buyer would assume all debts and financial obligations of Saudi Oger. Saudi Oger officials and Hariri could not be reached for comment. In the past, the company has declined to speak publicly about its finances. Saudi officials were also not available to speak about the reported takeover proposal. A total of about 7,700 Indian workers were stranded, according to Indian officials. Of these, 4,072 were staying in worker camps in Riyadh while 2,153 were in Jeddah.

'The state-linked Al-Watan newspaper yesterday quoted Zayed Al-Sobaie, director-general of the Labor Ministry in Jeddah, as saying that directives were issued to either allow Saudi Oger employees to transfer employment immediately, renew their work visas without charge or be granted exit permits if they want to leave the country. He also said the Labor Ministry, the Interior Ministry and other government bodies are working to resolve the issue of unpaid wages by the company. — Agencies

EMIRATES PLANE CATCHES FIRE AFTER DUBAI...

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Those onboard included 226 Indians, 24 Britons, 11 Emiratis, and six each from the United States and Saudi Arabia. Airline officials refused to answer questions from journalists, including what might have caused the accident. A problem with the plane's landing gear appeared to have at least been a contributing factor. Video shot by a passenger on another flight showed the plane tilted to its right side and careening on its belly as thick smoke poured out. The right wing appeared to have been torn off the fuselage during the crash.

Emirates predicted there would be an eight-hour delay in operations across its network, disrupting travel plans for thousands of passengers during the busy summer vacation season. The Dubai Media Office said flights resumed at the airport a little before 7 pm. "Our main priority at this time is the safety and wellbeing of all involved and full co-operation is being extended to the authorities and emergency services managing the situation," Emirates said.

Passengers escaped the burning plane using inflatable slides. At one point after coming to a stop, part of the plane exploded into a bright orange fireball. By the time firefighters managed to extinguish the blaze, the roof of the plane had been consumed and scorched from the cockpit all the way to the tail. Director General of Residency and Foreigner Affairs at Dubai airport, Mohammed Al-Marri, told AP some of the passengers had their passports with them, but that others lost their passports during the quick exit from the aircraft. Based on the passenger manifest, Marri said officials were able to facilitate the entry of the flight's passengers into the United Arab Emirates.

In Dubai International Airport's gleaming Terminal 3, the home of Emirates, the typically bustling arrivals hall was hushed. Flat-screen televisions showed all incoming Emirates flights delayed or rescheduled. Dubai resident Girisankal Gangadhakan said his wife called him after the plane landed to tell him that she and their three children onboard had been involved in an accident but were safe. "I was shocked when I heard about that," he said. Shaji Kochikutty, who was on board the plane with his wife and three daughters, recounted surviving the "near disaster". "We are grateful to be alive. What more can we ask for?" the Dubai-based businessman said, speaking to weekly newspaper XPRESS. After the plane caught fire on landing, airline staff "opened all emergency exits and guided us out," Kochikutty said. "I first sent my three daughters. My wife went next but hurt her knee while jumping out. I bruised my feet as I ran without my shoes. We were promptly given first aid and we are all fine now," he said.

we had a very hard landing. We left by going down the emergency slides and as we were leaving on the runway we could see the whole plane catch fire; it was horrifying."

The Boeing 777 departed Thiruvananthapuram at 10:19 am and was scheduled to land at 12:50 pm local time, according to Emirates. Thiruvananthapuram is the capital of the southwestern Indian state of Kerala. Many blue-collar migrant workers employed in the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf nations come from Kerala, which is a popular beachside tourist destination. T P Seetharam, India's ambassador to the UAE, said Indian diplomats had been dispatched to the airport and had met directly with many passengers. "Many of them are in shock after such an event, and there may be minor bruises," he said in a telephone interview from Abu Dhabi.

According to air traffic control recordings cited by Aviation Herald, a respected independent website monitoring air accidents, controllers at Dubai reminded the crew of the Boeing 777 to lower the landing gear as it came into approach. Shortly afterwards, the crew announced they were aborting the landing to "go around", a routine procedure for which pilots are well trained. But the aircraft came to rest near the end of the runway instead, Aviation Herald reported. It was not clear whether the landing gear was extended when the aircraft touched the ground at 0845 GMT. A family of passengers who declined to be named said the equipment did not deploy and the jet landed on its belly.

Safety experts said it was too early to pinpoint any cause for the crash. Investigators will scour the wreckage and interview pilots, controllers and witnesses for clues to any technical malfunctions, human error or weather-related problems. Judging by footage of the aircraft's intact tail section, where the 'black box' flight recorders are located, vital voice and data recordings should be available for investigators. Online weather reports before the crash reported Dubai was relatively windy, with dust blowing and "wind shear" reported on all runways. Wind shear is a potentially hazardous condition involving sudden and unpredictable changes in wind direction or speed. Dubai International is by far the Mideast's busiest airport, and is the world's busiest air hub in terms of international passenger traffic. It handled some 78 million passengers last year. Fast-growing Emirates is the region's biggest carrier. The government-backed airline has a good safety record, with no other major accidents recorded since its founding in 1985. The 777 model is one of the workhorses of Emirates' fleet. It operates more than 120 of the twin-engine planes, more than any other airline. The Emirates accident follows the crash of a FlvDubai 737-800 jetliner in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, in March that killed all 62 onboard. The two airlines operate independently of one another, though they share the same chairman and are both ultimately owned by the government of Dubai.— Agencies

ISRAEL ARMY DONKEY SALES STIR PALESTINIAN...

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pressure on the Palestinians to leave the Jordan Valley," which makes up a third of the West Bank, he said. "Whoever controls the valley controls the border (with Jordan) and access to water and farmland," resources vital for local Palestinians who live from agriculture and livestock, Besharat said. That is the case with Yusef, who was watching over his 80 cows and their calves while keeping one eye on the road used by Israeli military vehicles. Behind him stood a sign on a concrete block warning in Hebrew, Arabic and English: "Firing zone, entry forbidden." The Israeli army has turned 18 percent of the West Bank into training grounds, according to United Nations data. Nevertheless, 6,200 Palestinians still live in such areas.

In the Tubas area where Yusef lives, more than 800 people remain with their cattle on land Israel has designated as firing ranges. The army, he said, can expel them and seize their livestock at any time. "The soldiers load them on trucks and tell us that we're in a closed military zone," he said, brandishing a stick to move his emaciated animals. "Or they come through in their tanks and nothing survives, not a concealed bird's egg or a baby gazelle lying on the ground." Yusef said he has in the past lost dozens of animals, confiscated or dead of thirst through lack of access to water.

Just a short distance from the banks of the River Jordan, the vast majority of Palestinian residents are not connected to water and must buy it at great expense, the UN says. About 90 percent of the valley is in the West Bank zone known as "Area C" which is under full Israeli control. It is "virtually prohibited for use by Palestinians and reserved for the Israeli army or placed under the jurisdiction of the settlements", where 9,500 Israelis live and farm, the UN says. Water consumption in some places is a mere "20 litres a day, one fifth of WHO (World Health Organisation) recommendations," the UN says. On the rocky hillside that rises behind Yusef's cows, he said a pipeline carries to a settlement water which the animals were once free to drink. "Before we drank the water at its source," Yusef said. "Now the settlers bathe in it." — AFP



TUBAS: A Palestinian boy walks a donkey on a road in this Israeli-occupied West Bank area on July 19, 2016, near a sign on a concrete block which reads in Hebrew, Arabic and English "Firing area entrance forbidden". — AFP

EGYPTIAN NOBEL WINNING CHEMIST ZEWAIL... Continued from Page 1to the US in 1969 where he gained his doctorate from

pharmacological processes with implications across a range of disciplines including human health, electronics and high precision machinery.

"Egypt has today lost one of its faithful sons and a brilliant scholar" who devoted his life to scientific research, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said in a statement. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Sisi expressing his condolences and sympathy over the death of Zewail. The Amir paid tribute to Zewail's scientific prestige and contributions, as well as his efforts to promote the reputations of his country and the Arab world. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Sisi.

Born in the northern Egyptian town of Damanhur in 1946, Zewail studied chemistry at Alexandria University before moving to the US in 1969 where he gained his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1974. He taught physics and chemistry at the Californian Institute of Technology (Caltech), where he went on to oversee the university's Laboratory for Molecular Sciences. Caltech president Thomas Rosenbaum described Zewail as a "quintessential scholar and global citizen". "(His) fervor for discovery never abated and he serves as an inspiration to colleagues and generations of students," Rosenbaum said late Tuesday.

In 2009 Zewail was appointed to Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and later that year he was named the first US science envoy to the Middle East. Until his death Zewail worked at the California Institute of Technology. He was a member of several prestigious scientific institutions including the National Academy of Sciences and the US American Academy of Art and Sciences. He was a fellow of London's Royal Society. Zewail was married with four children. His body will be repatriated to Egypt. — AFP

KUWAITI FENCER GOES IT ALONE, DEFYING ODDS

Continued from Page 1

Alshatti and eight fellow Kuwaitis eligible for the Rio Games are still free to participate but they will compete under the Olympic flag. Organizers have told him not to wear the attire he brought with Kuwaiti flags and other insignia. "I have to respect their rules. I'm not here to make trouble," he said. "I play by the rules of my sport and let them worry about their rules." Coming out of nowhere brings some advantages, Alshatti said, given that no one has had time to scout his strategy and style. "For all the others, I can go on YouTube and see how they play. For me they won't find any videos," he said with a grin. — Reuters

"It was actually really terrifying. As we were landing there was smoke coming out in the cabin," passenger Sharon Maryam Sharji said. "People were screaming and

CALL TO PAY CITIZENS AFTER FUEL HIKE

Continued from Page 1

The speaker said he has informed the prime minister of this issue and also told him about the need to hold a joint Assemblygovernment meeting next week to reach a solution on how to counter the economic challenges without harming citizens.

Asked what measures would the Assembly take if the government insists on its decision, Ghanem said he is optimistic that the issue will be resolved through dialogue, adding that the Assembly has its tools that could be used if no solution is reached. The National Assembly cannot meet now because it is in the middle of its summer recess. However, it can hold an emergency session only if 33 MPs sign on a motion.

In a related development, lawyer Mohammad Al-Ansari yesterday filed a lawsuit at the administrative court calling for an urgent ruling to scrap the decision to raise petrol prices. The lawyer said it appears that Kuwaiti citizens have to seek the help of courts to stop decisions against their interests. Interior ministry assistant undersecretary for nationality and passport Maj Gen Sheikh Mazen Al-Sabah said yesterday that the new law regulating the affairs of domestic helpers has been enacted after its bylaws went into effect. He said that under the law, maids will be renamed as housekeepers and also announced that the ministry is ready to receive any complaints either from the workers, employers or recruitment offices. Sheikh Mazen said that the domestic labor law includes the obligation to pay salaries monthly, not insult the worker, provision of adequate housing, no more than 12 hours of work, providing healthcare and annual leave.

Director General of the Residency Department Maj Gen Talal Maarafi said there are 616,000 housekeepers in the country, with Indians, Filipinos and Sri Lankans topping the list. He also said there are another 63,000 domestic helpers who are residence violators. Under the law, the minimum wage for housekeepers is KD 60 monthly and the minimum age for employment is 30 years.





ANALYSIS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016



Washington Watch

BREAKING CODE OF HONOR, GANGS KILL FAMILIES IN MEXICO

By Yemeli Ortega

series of murders targeting families, including children, has rocked Mexico in recent weeks, signaling that drug gangs are willing to break an unspoken code of honor within the criminal underworld. In total, 34 people have been killed, including several women and 10 children, since early July in three regions. Last month, 19 people, including eight children, from three different families were gunned down in less than a week in Ciudad Victoria, the capital of the northeastern state of Tamaulipas.

Authorities suspect that those massacres were linked to disputes between rival gangs in Tamaulipas, a region that has been besieged by drug cartel violence for years. On July 18, seven shark fishermen from the same family were killed in the southern Pacific coast state of Oaxaca. Authorities suspect it may be linked to illegal activities at sea. The Pacific is a key route for drug trafficking. The most recent massacre came on Saturday, when seven people from the same family, including two children, were shot dead in a small town in southern Guerrero state. While the motive is unknown, gangs are fighting for control of opium poppy production in the region.

'Code is Finished'

The modus operandi indicates that all these killings were linked to turf wars between criminal organizations that are the remnants of cartels that have splintered, said Raul Benitez Manaut, a security expert at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Such gangs "no longer respect families, wives and children," Benitez Manaut told AFP. A police agent investigating the slaughters in Tamaulipas said there used to be "a code of honor in which family was untouchable" in the old days of large cartels led by veteran capos. "Now, in these modern times, this code is finished," said the agent, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak publicly. The Gulf and Zetas drug cartels have been fighting in Tamaulipas for years, but several of their leaders have been arrested or killed. Violence in Ciudad Victoria is blamed on offshoots of the Zetas known as the Old School and the Cartel of the Northeast. Experts warn that the vendettas between criminal cells may rise as family killings continue. Mexico's paltry record at putting criminals behind bars encourages gangs to kill without fear of consequences, analysts said. Only one percent of crimes in Mexico lead to convictions, according to a 2016 study by the University of the Americas in Puebla state. The spate of family killings "is more evidence of the impunity and lack of coordination to deal with or contain crime," said Javier Oliva, another prominent security expert at UNAM. "You can murder entire groups, including minors and women, without getting justice immediately," Oliva said.



BRAZIL IMPEACHMENT DRAMA CRESCENDOS

By Damian Wroclavsky

Brazil's long-running presidential impeachment drama starts to crescendo toward the finale this week just as the Rio Olympics sprints out of the starting blocks. On Tuesday, impeachment committee official Antonio Anastasia got things started by recommending that the body back the process to remove suspended president Dilma Rousseff from office. The committee's vote is scheduled for today, the eve of the Olympic opening ceremony. Rousseff, who is accused of breaking budgetary laws, is staying away from the ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, saying she refuses to accept a "secondary role."

Instead, she will be left to digest the result of the Senate committee vote in the capital Brasilia. The vote is non-binding, but it will send a loud message to the Senate plenary, marking yet another step to what looks increasingly like the end of Rousseff's presidency. On Aug 9 - a few days into the Olympics that were meant to showcase Brazil's growing economic power and political stability - the full Senate "undeniable". Ana Amelia, from the conservative PP party, told AFP she predicts the committee will vote 16 to five on Thursday in favor of pushing Rousseff's case along.

> A Brazilian Tragedy With Rousseff swept aside to await her fate in the Senate, it's her former vice president Michel Temer who will preside over Friday's Olympic opening ceremony. Since taking over as interim president

Workers' Party behind. She, however, accuses Temer of manipulating the impeachment process to mount a coup.

The political mess makes a sad backdrop to the Olympics that were awarded to Rio in 2009 when Rousseff's predecessor and political mentor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was hugely popular. Now not only Rousseff is facing oblivion, but Lula is set to go on trial for obstruction of justice charges. He also faces corruption allegations that could sink his hopes of returning to power in 2018 elections. The combination of Olympics and impeachment "is the picture of a Brazilian tragedy. It's the end of the myth created by Lula," said Ricardo Antunes, a sociologist at Unicamp University in Sao Paulo.

Writing on the Wall

A large majority of Brasilia watchers expect Rousseff to not survive the final judgment vote, with senators easily reaching the required two-thirds majority, or 54 out of 81 votes. "This is the end of the road and the Workers' Party knows it," Amelia said. Many, including former supporters, believe Rousseff's downfall is the inevitable result of her presiding over a declining Brazil. The Olympics do nothing to change that perception.

'Heartless People'

Alejandro Hope, a former official at Mexico's CISEN intelligence agency, said a gang "doesn't run more risks killing one person or eight or 11 people" as investigations are not rigorous and special operations are lacking. Such acts of "extreme brutality" will continue as long as they carry little risks for criminals, Hope said. While killing women and children can spark revenge attacks, Hope said there are grim advantages for the killers. Killing a rival's son eliminates a potential competitor in the future, gets rid of witnesses and intimidates the enemy, he said.

It also fuels fear among civilians and the authorities, discouraging people from reporting crimes, the expert said. The Tamaulipas police agent blamed the spate of family murders on the nefarious influence of Central American gangs that have worked with Mexican drug cartels. "When Mexican cartels saw that they didn't have enough heartless people to finish off their enemies, they began to bring the Mara Salvatrucha (gangsters) from El Salvador, who are known internationally for their savagery," the agent said. "It's not because impunity allows it," he said. "It's because these are people who are brought from outside with this type of criminal ideology." — AFP

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Then a final and decisive session in the full Senate is scheduled for August 29, a week after the Olympics close in Rio, when a two-thirds majority is required to eject Rousseff. Anastasia was clear about what should happen. "I vote for the accusation to go ahead," he said in his report Tuesday, calling the case against Rousseff



"The governments of Lula and Rousseff created huge expectations when they began in 2003 and now it's a sad situation in 2016. The Olympics today are a mixture of farce and a bit of comedy," Antunes said. Temer, meanwhile, is maintaining a relatively low profile as he prepares to take over on a formal basis. Asked by foreign journalists recently if he sees the Senate mustering enough votes to oust Rousseff, he replied calmly: "So they tell me." — AFP

SUU KYI TACKLES MILITARY LAND GRABS

By Aubrey Belford, Hnin Yadana Zaw and Antoni Slodkowski

By the standards of her village in Myanmar's swampy Ayeyarwady Delta, Than Shin was a prosperous woman. She had 20 acres of farmland on which her family grew rice. But her fortunes changed in 2000 when the military government informed her it was taking possession of her land. Over the next year, Than Shin watched as the fields that for decades had provided her family with a living were cleared to make way for fish farms.

Today, Than Shin and her family live in a thatched shack along the main road leading to Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon. Her 67-year-old husband goes door to door on his bicycle selling soybeans. "We depended on that land our whole lives. When they grabbed it, we had nothing, no income. We had to eat curry made from leaves," she told Reuters. Than Shin's story is just one example of what the ruling party of Aung San Suu Kyi says was the systematic confiscation of land from farmers by the army and the placing of that land in the hands of crony companies close to the military junta that ruled Myanmar for half a century. The fish farms that were built on her land were owned by a company linked to then regional military commander Shwe Mann, who is now one of Myanmar's most powerful political figures, according to a Reuters review of corporate filings.

When Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) stormed to power in elections last November, its victory was fuelled in part by rural anger over land seizures and the party's pledge to provide redress. Just days after the NLD formed the first government since 1962 that is not backed by the military, the new deputy agriculture minister told local media that returning land to its rightful owners was the duty of the government.

Now the NLD is moving to make good on that promise. The parliament member overseeing the effort, Sein Win, told Reuters the party aims to solve all land-grab cases within one year. That's an ambitious timeframe. In untangling land disputes, the new government will have to contend with powerful business interests, many linked to the military. That could put Suu Kyi on a collision course with the generals and threaten Myanmar's fragile transition to democracy.

'Virgin' Land

The NLD's Sein Win estimates that the number of landgrab cases is in the hundreds of thousands. Based on surveys conducted by the party's branches around the country, he says that between three to five million acres of land was forcibly taken by the military. Shwe Mann, the former army commander, held the powerful post of speaker in the previous military-dominated parliament. Today, he is a close confidante of Suu Kyi. In a rare interview, he defended the junta's actions, saying that vast swathes of land were allocated to him in his capacity as the regional commander and to local authorities by the government as part of a national project by Myanmar's military rulers in the 1990s to bolster food security and agricultural production. All the land in the area he oversaw, he said, was "vacant, fallow or virgin" and so the junta's actions were not illegal.

Still, Shwe Mann said there could be a discrepancy between "what's on the map in the land record office and the situation on the ground." In the past, he said, farmers did not want to register land as agricultural to avoid participation in a socialist economy. The military did not respond to questions from Reuters. The previous military-dominated parliament set up two bodies to investigate and mediate land-grab cases, but was criticized for dragging its feet. In total, the government reviewed 17,000 cases, but only resolved around 1,000, according to local media reports.

With Suu Kyi's party now taking the lead, the new government has formed a taskforce to deal with land-grab cases. In June alone, 6,434 acres of land that was seized in the Ayeyarwady Delta was returned to 324 villagers, according to the state-owned Myanma Alinn

Daily and local media. The vast majority of land was taken in the 1990s and early 2000s, amid a military-led transition from socialism to a market-driven economy. The state owned all land, but farmers were granted rights to cultivate it. "The land grabs were done by the (junta) government, with most of it going to the military, companies, government departments and ministries." the NLD's Sein Win said.

Military Connections Hta Ni village, a collec-

tion of hamlets about two hours from Yangon, encapsulates the challenge facing Suu Kyi. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, local authorities under then-Southwestern Regional Military Commander Shwe Mann seized roughly 1,000 acres from about 200 homes, according to local paralegals who base their estimate on statements and documents from villagers. It was during this period that 474 acres of land in Hta Ni was handed to Asia Might Co Ltd., the company with ties to Shwe Mann, for an aquaculture project. The former commander confirmed that Asia Might was linked to him and that it took part in the project at his request.

He also confirmed that the company was run at the time by Min Naing, whom he described as a "close friend." A brother of Shwe Mann served as a company director and was a minority shareholder, according to corporate filings. "When it comes to my role, I take full responsibility," said Shwe Mann. "I acted according to the existing law." Min Naing did not respond to questions from Reuters that were sent via a son of Shwe Mann. "There are a lot of villages, particularly across the delta, which have lost almost all of their agricultural land to land grabs," said Tim Millar, the Myanmar program director of Namati, a legal aid group involved in helping farmers in Myanmar retrieve their land.

With the start of Myanmar's transition away from military rule in 2011, villagers began actively demanding the return of land. After its November election victory, the NLD instructed its branches across the country to gather information on land dispute cases. Now that the review has begun, the NLD's Sein Win is hoping his party's massive parliamentary majority will forestall any resistance from the military. It won't be easy.

The country's constitution still reserves key ministerial posts for the military, including defense, border affairs and internal affairs. And Suu Kyi's relationship with the army is strained: The constitution drafted by the military in 2008, for instance, bars her from the presidency. "Whether or not these cases will be solved depends on whether the NLD has a good relationship with the military commander-in-chief," said Myint Naing, the director of Human Rights Watch Defence, a local NGO in the Ayeyarwady Delta that is helping the villagers in Hta Ni.If they're not resolved, "we'll be forced to take to the streets," he said.

Frustration has already boiled over. A police officer was killed and 40 people injured in a 2013 land protest in the village of Ma Let Toe, not far from where Than Shin lost her land 16 years ago. Villagers are still occupying a tract of land they say was stolen by the army and forms part of a fish and rice farm owned by Orchard Co Ltd. Orchard's owner, Myint Sein, says his entire concession was either "virgin land" given to him for free by the military or land that he legally purchased from farmers. He showed Reuters a 2003 aerial map of some of the concession area, which shows a section of the land as empty swamp. But the map did not include the area currently occupied by protesting farmers.

Adding to the challenge of addressing land disputes is the sheer complexity of the cases and often the absence of a clear paper trail. In many areas of the country, documents such as land tax receipts, government loan books, land use permits and witness statements from village elders have been destroyed by the damp climate. — Reuters

<u> Kuwait Mimes</u>



KAPUSTKA JOINS LEICESTER CITY

LEICESTER: Poland winger Bartosz Kapustka has joined Leicester City from Polish club Cracovia on a five-year contract, the English Premier League champions said yesterday. The 19year-old, who has 11 caps for his country, made more than 60 appearances for Cracovia and was part of Poland's Euro 2016 campaign. "Leicester City Football Club is delighted to confirm the signing of Poland winger Bartosz Kapustka, subject to FA, Premier League and international clearance," the club said. Although no financial details of the deal was released, British media reported that Leicester paid 7.5 million pounds (\$10 million). Kapustka becomes the fifth signing for Leicester in the close-season, following the arrivals of striker Ahmed Musa, midfielder Nampalys Mendy, goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler and defender Luis Hernandez. Claudio Ranieri's men start the new league campaign with a trip to promoted Hull City on Aug 13. — Reuters

DRAXLER SAYS HE WANTS TO LEAVE WOLFSBURG

BERLIN: Julian Draxler has said he wants to leave German side VfL Wolfsburg, a month after the club claimed he was "100 percent certain" to stay. The 22-year-old has been strongly linked with a move away from the Volkswagen Arena after just one season at the club, with Premier League side Arsenal keen on acquiring the Germany international's services, according to media reports. Wolfsburg's sporting director Klaus Allofs said last month that Draxler would not be leaving, but the player says he has made the club aware of his desire to quit. "For me it is so, that I have made myself clear after the European championship to (manager) Dieter Hecking that I want to leave Wolfsburg. The coach has known about this for three weeks," Draxler told German newspaper Bild. "It was clear, that VfL Wolfsburg at that time was supposed to be a good prospect for me, but also a springboard... When I joined, I was assured-verbally-that I could leave the club whenever the opportunity arose. "I'm still really surprised, that media have been talking about me for weeks. — Reuters

ROMA SIGN EGYPT WINGER SALAH

LONDON: Egypt winger Mohamed Salah has called time on his unsuccessful spell with Chelsea after joining Roma in a permanent transfer, the Premier League club announced yesterday. Salah struggled to make an impact after joining Chelsea in January 2014 and spent last season on loan at Roma after a previous temporary stint in Serie A with Fiorentina. The 24-year-old was regarded as a hot property when he played for Swiss side Basel, dazzling the Blues with his performances against them in Europe. But his move to Stamford Bridge didn't pan out as expected and he was unable to nail down a first-team place. He fared better with Roma last season and helped them finish third in Serie A, prompting the club to bring him back to the Italian capital for an undisclosed fee. "Mohamed Salah has completed a permanent transfer to Italian club Roma," said a statement on Chelsea's website. "Chelsea Football Club thank Mohamed for his service and wishes him well for the future." Salah becomes the second player to leave Chelsea this week after Baba Rahman joined Schalke on a season-long loan. —AFP



REGRETS FOR NOT PERMITTING ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE UNDER KUWAIT FLAG: AL-OTAIBI

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi expressed regrets for not allowing Kuwaiti athletes who qualified for the Brazil Olympics, including Kuwaiti shooters to participate under the Kuwait flag, and found it strange for some people to get Kuwait athletes involved in failed disputes to protect the interests of some officials at the Olympic Committee, and embarrass our country Kuwait abroad while using the policy of pressure through the International Olympic Committees as well as international federations and deprive Kuwaiti athletes from participating under the flag of their country just like athletes from other countries.

Al-Otaibi who commented on a statement by Hussein Al-Musallam to AFP: "We asked, as representatives of Kuwait Shooting at the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Switzerland, which is a technical body formed by Olympic organizations not to suspend Kuwait Olympic

Committee, and not to ban shooters and other Kuwaiti athletes from participating under the Kuwaiti flag, but regretfully, representative of KOC Hussein Al-Musallam asked that Kuwait sports activities remain suspended, and refused the participation of Kuwaiti athletes under the banner of their country, claiming that what he was doing is to preserve the independence of the sports movement, which is facing oppressive actions by the government of the State of Kuwait, as he claims which made judges and lawyers wonder, how the shooting federation is calling for not suspending KOC, while the suspended party itself KOC, confirms that it is right to be suspended through its legal representative Hussein Al-Musallam!!

Al-Otaibi said: "Instead of Hussein Al-Musallam calling for negotiations over imposing the conditions of International Olympic Committees and Federations on the Kuwait government, why does not he simply withdraw the foreign complaints against Kuwait laws, so the suspension is lifted from Kuwait sports immediately? Al-Otaibi said: "I will not accept having Kuwait's name and reputation compromised in international arenas, so when we failed to gather enough votes, as the shooting delegation, at the ISSF general assembly that was held in Moscow lately, in order to cancel the decision of the International Shooting Sports Federation to suspend KSSF membership, and deprive Kuwait shooters from participating under the flag of their country, I personally submitted my resignation, because I will not be honored to be in a board of directors that does not respect my country, though I won the membership through the latest general assembly, and no one can annul my results even if KSSF was suspended. Eng Al-Otaibi said "I ask Hussein Al-Musallam and his colleagues who have international posts to submit their resignations if they really care about Kuwaiti youth and Kuwait's interests, because our loyalty at the end is for our country and wise leadership not for Thomas Bach or others."



Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi



SYDNEY: In this March 3, 2015 photo, Jarryd Hayne announces his free agent contract with the National Football League team the San Francisco 49ers at a press conference in Sydney. Less than three months after quitting the San Francisco 49ers to make an ill-fated attempt to compete in rugby sevens at the Rio Olympics, Jarryd Hayne is back in the Australian National Rugby League. — AP

JARRYD HAYNE RETURNS TO THE NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

SYDNEY: Jarryd Hayne is back in the National Rugby League, less than three months after quitting the San Francisco 49ers so he could make an ultimately failed attempt to play rugby sevens for Fiji at the Rio Olympics.

The Gold Coast Titans announced Wednesday that Hayne had signed a two-year contract, and he's set to begin playing this weekend, subject to a fitness test, as part of the deal.

Financial details weren't disclosed, but Australian media said the contract was worth 1.2 million Australian dollars (\$914,000) a season.

The Parramatta Eels, the team Hayne began his NRL career with before leaving in 2014 for the 49ers, appeared to have not made an offer, leaving the Titans to add one of Australian sport's most recognizable and talented players to their roster. His already high profile was only enhanced by his NFL stint.

"It wasn't the easiest decision for me to make ... very emotional," Hayne said at a media conference. "I never thought I'd ever join another club, chief executive Graham Annesley said. In midbut I guess everything happens for a reason. A part of me is sad as I'm not going to be part of the club I grew up with."

So instead of playing for a team based in working-class western Sydney, Hayne will suit up for an up-and-coming side - the youngest in the 16-team competition - on the glitzy Gold Coast tourist strip south of Brisbane.

Hayne will likely make his debut on Sunday for the Titans, who are at home against the New Zealand Warriors. With five regular-season rounds left in the season, and the top eight teams make the playoffs, the Titans are currently seventh.

"Just get my body right and get in shape and the rest will look after itself," Hayne said. The 25,000-seat stadium at Robina on the Gold Coast could be filled to capacity to watch the "Hayne Plane" make his competitive return in Australia.

"We are expecting a massive turnout," Titans

May, Hayne announced his retirement from the 49ers in order to push for selection in the Fiji rugby sevens team for the Rio de Janeiro Games.

BEST SEVENS SIDE

"I simply could not pass that chance up," Hayne said at the time. "The Olympics has been something I have admired since I was a little boy." The 28-year-old Hayne surprisingly made the initial 53-man roster out of training camp as a rookie running back last year with San Francisco. Playing eight games with one start, he had 17 carries for 52 yards and six catches for 27 yards while also returning eight punts for 76 yards. His rugby sevens career turned out to be even shorter. Havne struggled to adapt to the pace and fitness demands of sevens - a modified version of the traditional rugby in which teams play several matches in tournaments which last two to three days.—AP



VOLLEYBALL COMES HOME TO BRAZIL SLUM KIDS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Seven-year-old Noahn Leitier threw a ball over the net excitedly as he tried volleyball for the first time at a new training centre in a Rio de Janeiro favela. The facility is part of international volleyball chief Ary Graca's ambitious plans to make the sport the most popular in the world by reaching out to poor and deprived communities.

At the centre, squeezed among tightly-packed slums up a steep hillside, more than 50 boys and girls ranging from seven to 15 took part in the first session on Tuesday. "There is a lot of talent here but they don't have any opportunities. It is our obligation to give opportunities all over the world," Graca, a Brazilian former player said. Rio is volleyball's spiritual home. The Rio Olympics beach volleyball will take place on the iconic Copacabana sands while the indoor version will be held at the Maracanazinho "Little Maracana" arena. The new volleyball clinic that Graca officially launched is in Formiga, a favela in the Tijuca area, 15 kilometres away from Copacabana.

It has previously held football lessons,

popular in soccer-mad Brazil, but will now hold volleyball classes up to five times a week. Brazil's national volleyball federation and FIVB, which is providing funding up until 2020, hope the project will help the deprived neighbourhood.

"People here are very, very poor but they have good feelings about sport," Marcos Aurelio Goncalves, Brazil's volleyball development manager, told AFP.

"The facility is unique here and brings so much hope. When people here about it they ask questions and they get excited about it," he added.

In between honing their volleyball skills the children, wearing bright yellow and orange T-shirts, danced to music while some played drums. At one point a local police officer joined in a volleyball game. "He's usually very shy so it's so nice to see my son enjoying himself here and getting involved," said Noahn's mother Gloria Leitier. "It's the only space like it in the area," she added.

'BEAUTIFUL' COPACABANA The FIVB's Graca believes volleyball is

going through its most illustrious chapter in its history, boosted by the beach version becoming an official Olympic discipline in 1996.

"In beach volleyball for Beijing (2008) we had 31 countries trying to qualify, in London (2012) there were 143, now for Brazil we have 176. That's almost the whole world playing beach volleyball!" he beamed.

"No other sport in the world, not even football has that number of countries participating (in qualification)," he claimed. Graca says beach volleyball is popular because "it's beautiful, it's charming, but it's also cheap" and is convinced it's only going to get more popular. He likes to joke that volleyball is already the most popular sport in Brazil because football "is a religion" and is purring at the thought of the Copacabana as an Olympic stage. "We are in a golden era. London was a success and now we're in Brazil. It's going to be one of the best (editions) at an iconic place. "It's a beautiful arena that the whole world is going to see," he added.



RIO DE JANEIRO: The beach volleyball arena on Copacabana Beach is pictured in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

Bal Tor Bos NY Tar

Cle Det Chi Kar Mir

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Wa Mia NY Phi Atla

Chi St. I Pitt Mil Cin

Graca says the FIVB wants to grow the there's no clearly limit to his ambitions.

"I'm quite sure that in no more than three game in Africa and South Asia next but or four years volleyball will be a must across the world," he enthused.—AFP



MLB results/standings

Philadelphia 13, San Francisco 8; Baltimore 5, Texas 1; Detroit 11, Chicago White Sox 5; Kansas City 3, Tampa Bay 2; Minnesota 10, Cleveland 6; NY Mets 7, NY Yankees 1; Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 3; Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 5; Chicago Cubs 3, Miami 2; Toronto 2, Houston 1; Colorado 7, LA Dodgers 3; LA Angels 5, Oakland 4; Seattle 5, Boston 4.

	American Le				
	Eastern Div				
	w	L	РСТ	GB	
timore	60	45	.571	-	
ronto	60	47	.561	1	
ston	58	47	.552	2	
Yankees	53	53	.500	7.5	
npa Bay	42	63	.400	18	
	Central Div	ision			
eveland	60	44	.577	-	
troit	58	48	.547	3	
icago White Sox	51	55	.481	10	
nsas City	51	55	.481	10	
nnesota	42	64	.396	19	
	Western Div	vision			
as	62	45	.579	-	
uston	56	50	.528	5.5	
attle	53	52	.505	8	
Angels	48	58	.453	13.5	
kland	47	59	.443	14.5	
	National Le	20110			
	Eastern Div				
shington	63	44	.589	-	
ami	57	50	.533	6	
Mets	55	51	.519	7.5	
iladelphia	49	59	.454	14.5	
anta	37	69	.349	25.5	
	Central Div	ision			
icago Cubs	65	41	.613	-	
Louis	56	50	.528	9	
tsburgh	53	51	.510	11	
lwaukee	48	57	.457	16.5	
ncinnati	43	62	.410	21.5	
	.5	01		2110	

	LA Dodgers
	J J
	Colorado
:INCINNATI: Cincinnati Reds' Billy Hamilton, right, steals second against St. Louis Cardinals second baseman Kolten Wong (16) during the first inning of a baseball game,	San Diego
uesdav, in Cincinnati, — AP	Arizona

	Western Div	ision		
ancisco	61	45	.575	-
dgers	59	47	.557	2
ado	53	53	.500	8
iego	46	61	.430	15.5
na	43	64	.402	18.5

BUNDY SETS UP 5-1 WIN FOR ORIOLES AGAINST RANGERS

BALTIMORE: Dylan Bundy took a no-hitter into the sixth inning for the second game in a row, Pedro Alvarez hit two of Baltimore's four solo homers and the Orioles beat the Texas Rangers 5-1 on Tuesday night in a duel between AL division leaders. Making his fourth career start, Bundy allowed one hit and a walk over seven sparkling innings against a potent lineup featuring newcomers Carlos Beltran and Jonathan Lucroy. Bundy (4-3) retired the first 10 batters before issuing a fourth-inning walk to Ian Desmond, who was thrown out trying to steal as Beltran struck out. Elvis Andrus ended the rookie's no-hit bid with a clean line drive up the middle with two outs in the sixth. Bundy outpitched Yu Darvish (2-3), who allowed three homers for only the second time in 90 major-league appearances.

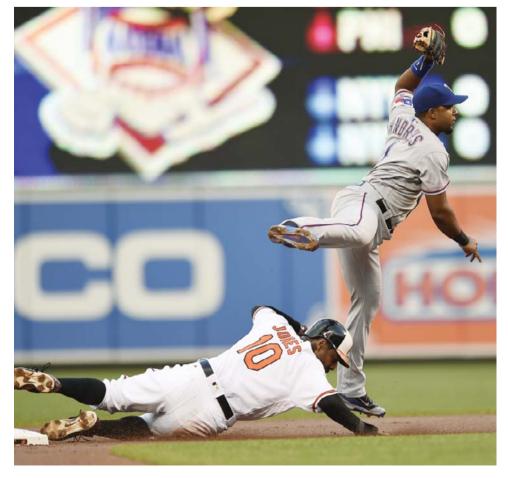
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MARINERS 5, RED SOX 4

Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run eighth inning, Edwin Diaz got his first major league save and Seattle overcame a four-run deficit. Cano capped the comeback with his 24th homer to right field off newly acquired Red Sox reliever Fernando Abad (1-5). Donn Roach (2-0) pitched two innings for the win. Top Red Sox prospect Andrew Benintendi entered as a pinch-hitter for his major league debut and went 0 for 2, striking out to end the game.

TIGERS 11, WHITE SOX 5

Miguel Cabrera hit his third home run in two games, Victor Martinez also went deep and Detroit won its seventh straight. Cabrera had three RBIs, and Anibal Sanchez (5-12)



BALTIMORE: Baltimore Orioles' Adam Jones, left, is out at second as Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus throws to first to complete a double play on a ground ball hit by Hyun Soo Kim during the first inning of a baseball in Baltimore, Tuesday. The Orioles won 5-1.—AP

won for the first time as a starter since April 28 - a span of 11 starts. He allowed one run and six hits in six innings. Avisail Garcia homered twice and Todd Frazier hit his 30th for Chicago. James Shields (3-6) held the Tigers scoreless for the first four innings, then got hit hard in the fifth. He had allowed only five runs in his previous four starts combined.

CUBS 3, MARLINS 2

Jason Hammel threw six scoreless innings, Dexter Fowler had three hits and Chicago beat Miami ace Jose Fernandez. Hammel (11-5) extended Chicago's scoreless streak to 24 innings before the bullpen overcame Pedro Strop's shaky seventh. Aroldis Chapman hit 104.4 mph in a perfect ninth as the Cubs won for the sixth time in seven games. Fernandez (12-6) allowed three runs and eight hits over six innings, losing consecutive starts for the first time since his 2013 rookie season. Hammel, who gave up four hits, threw 80 pitches before being lifted for a pinch-hitter.

PHILLIES 13, GIANTS 8

Aaron Altherr had a homer and five RBIs, Maikel Franco homered and went 4 for 4 and Philadelphia used a five-run eighth inning to beat San Francisco in a wild game. Altherr broke a tie with a two-run single in the eighth, Cameron Rupp hit a three-run homer and Cesar Hernandez added four hits for the Phillies, who blew a six-run lead before rebounding to hand the NL West-leading Giants their 12th loss in 16 games since the All-Star break. Will Smith (1-4), who was acquired from Milwaukee on Monday to bolster San Francisco's bullpen, started the eighth with a strikeout before giving up an infield single to pinch-hitter Odubel Herrera and a double off the wall in right to Hernandez. Smith was lifted for Sergio Romo, who surrendered the go-ahead single up the middle to Altherr. Hector Neris (4-3) pitched a scoreless eighth to earn the victory.

REDS 7, CARDINALS 5

Scott Schebler's three-run homer in the ninth inning rallied Cincinnati over St Louis. Brandon Moss and Tommy Pham hit solo homers in the eighth for a 5-4 lead, but the Cardinals couldn't hold on. Seung Hwan Oh (2-2) escaped a bases-loaded threat in the eighth, but gave up a pair of singles to start the ninth. Schebler connected for his second homer of the season and first game-ending shot. Jumbo Diaz (1-1) fanned Oh with the bases loaded in the top of the ninth to keep it 5-4.

METS 7, YANKEES 1

Jacob deGrom pitched seven scoreless innings, Alejandro De Aza and Travis d'Arnaud homered off Masahiro Tanaka and New York Mets' offense woke up in a Subway Series win. Jay Bruce went 0 for 4 and took a pair of called third strikes in his Mets debut, but his new team scored its most runs since July 7 and won for the second time in seven games. DeGrom (7-5) escaped a two-out jam in the first by striking out Didi Gregorius, then got out of runners-at-the-corners trouble in the second by fanning Tanaka. Tanaka (7-4) lasted 6 1/3 innings and allowed eight hits and seven earned runs.

BLUE JAYS 2, ASTROS 1

R.A. Dickey threw seven solid innings and Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion homered for Toronto. Bautista hit his 300th career homer in the third to put Toronto up 1-0. Dickey (8-12) allowed one run on six hits with five strikeouts. Lance McCullers (6-5) allowed two runs on seven hits with six strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings before leaving with discomfort in his right elbow. Jason Grilli pitched the ninth for his second save with Toronto and his fourth overall.

ROYALS 3, RAYS 2

Salvador Perez hit a two-run home run in the seventh inning that carried Kansas City. Perez's 16th homer came off Xavier Cedeno (3-3) after a single by Eric Hosmer. It lifted the Royals to their 12th win in their last 13 games against Tampa Bay. Chris Young (3-8) got the win in relief, and Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his third save.

NATIONALS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer to break a fifth-inning tie, leading Washington over Arizona. Ramos connected for his 16th home run with two outs off Diamondbacks starter Robbie Ray (5-11). Chris Heisey followed with a solo shot. Tanner Roark (11-6) struck out six, walked two and allowed three runs on seven hits over 6 1/3 innings.

ROCKIES 7, DODGERS 3

Carlos Gonzalez had four RBIs and three hits, Jon Gray labored through five shutout innings and surging Colorado beat Los Angeles. Colorado has won 10 of 12 to reach the .500 mark. The surprising Rockies moved within 3 1/2 games of the second NL wild card, with three teams between them and Miami. Gray (8-4) struck out six and allowed two hits and two walks. Brandon McCarthy (2-2) allowed three runs and five walks in three innings.

PIRATES 5, BRAVES 3

Jung Ho Kang doubled in the tiebreaking run in a four-run sixth inning to lead Gerrit Cole and Pittsburgh. Matt Kemp went 0 for 4 and ended the game with a strikeout in his Atlanta debut. Cole (7-6) struck out four and allowed seven hits, two walks and two runs one earned - in five innings. Tony Watson earned his first save since April 22, 2015. Mike Foltynewicz (4-5) allowed five runs in 5 1/3 innings.

TWINS 10, INDIANS 6

Rookie Max Kepler homered for the fourth time in two games and Minnesota beat Cleveland after nearly blowing an eight-run lead. Kepler hit his fourth two-run homer of the series in the third inning, two batters after Brian Dozier's two-run shot. The Twins also scored four times in the fourth against Carlos Carrasco (7-5). Ryan Pressly (6-5), who retired Napoli with two on to end the sixth, pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

ANGELS 5, ATHLETICS 4

Matt Shoemaker pitched seven solid innings and Jett Bandy and Jefry Marte hit home runs for Los Angeles. Oakland starter Sean Manaea (3-6) held the Angels in check until the fifth, when shortstop Andrelton Simmons singled before Bandy drilled a tworun homer to tie it. Shoemaker (6-11) allowed two runs, six hits and three walks. He has a 1.03 ERA in his last seven starts at home. Cam Bedrosian struck out the side in the ninth to earn his first career save.

BREWERS 3, PADRES 2

Ryan Braun hit a tiebreaking homer in his return to the lineup, Zach Davies won for the ninth time in 10 decisions and Milwaukee beat San Diego. Davies (9-4) limited the Padres to two runs and six hits over 5 2/3 innings. Tyler Thornburg worked the ninth for his third save. Luis Perdomo (5-5) was charged with three runs and 10 hits in 6 2/3 innings while throwing a career-high 113 pitches. — AP



INDIA BOARD OPPOSES TWO-TIER TEST PLAN: REPORT

ful cricket board has voiced opposition to controversial plans for a two-tier Test system being considered by the game's governing body, a report said yesterday.

Anurag Thakur, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told a newspaper smaller nations would lose out on revenue and the chance to compete against the top teams. "The BCCI is against the two-tier Test system because the smaller countries will lose out and the BCCI wants to take care of them. It is necessary to protect their interests," The New Indian Express, a Chennai-based daily, quoted him as saying. "In the two-tier system, they will lose out on a lot, including revenue and the opportunity to play happen. "We want to work in the best interests of world cricket and that is why our team plays against all the countries." The International Cricket Council (ICC) first discussed the proposal to split Test cricket into two divisions at a meeting in Edinburgh last month and is due to debate the plan further in September.

Under the scheme being considered, the top seven-ranked teams would join a de facto premier league designed to boost interest in Test cricket.

The other three lowest ranked sideswhich are currently the West Indies, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe-would then join a second division which would also include the likes of Afghanistan and Ireland. Although England, Australia and

NEW DELHI: The head of India's power- against top teams. We don't want that to New Zealand have all come out in favour of the proposal, India's opposition could well mean it is now dead in the water.

Former BCCI president Shashank Manohar is head of the ICC and India, which is the game's financial powerhouse, has a history of ensuring that its stance prevails on key debates within the global body.

The plan has been fiercely opposed by the likes of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, which is at risk of falling outside the top seven after sliding down the rankings in the last year.

The smaller Test teams' financial survival largely depends on their ability to sell television rights to matches against teams such as India and England.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will play

their first-ever Test match in India next February, a top cricket official said yesterday. Although India have crossed the border to Bangladesh, the Tigers have never played a five-day match on Indian soil since they gained Test status in 2000, mainly because of scheduling clashes.

Bangladesh have featured in two limited-overs tournaments in India-the Champions Trophy qualifiers in 2006 and the World Twenty20 this year.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Anurag Thakur called the upcoming match an historic occasion and a "great addition" to India's home season. "As a leading Test-playing nation it is BCCI's responsibility to give opportunity to every Test-playing nation," he said in a statement. India are

currently second in the International Cricket Council Test rankings while Bangladesh are ninth.

Bangladesh Cricket Board chief Nazmul Hassan said the match would be a memorable experience for players and fans of both countries. "The long wait for us to play a Test match on Indian soil is finally over and this is a time for celebration," he said in the same statement.

The one-off match will be played in the southern city of Hyderabad from February 8 to 12. India have won six of their eight Tests against Bangladesh, while two have ended in draws. India have a crowded 2016-17 home season with the hosts set to play as many as 13 Tests against top sides including Australia and England. —AFP

INDIA CLOSE IN ON VICTORY AS WINDIES COLLAPSE AGAIN

JAMAICA: West Indies were hurtling towards another heavy defeat when bad weather offered them a lifeline, washing out most of the fourth day of the second test against India in Jamaica on Tuesday.

Starting the second innings with a deficit of 304 runs, the home team collapsed to 48 for four at Sabina Park in Kingston, another dismal performance that retired batting great Viv Richards described as "a little bit kindergartenish at times". Only 15.5 overs were bowled before lunch after a late start caused by intermittent drizzle, and heavy rain throughout the afternoon prevented further play.

With a forecast for mainly fine weather on Wednesday, the Windies look like going 2-0 down in the four-test series unless they can somehow survive three full sessions without losing six wickets.

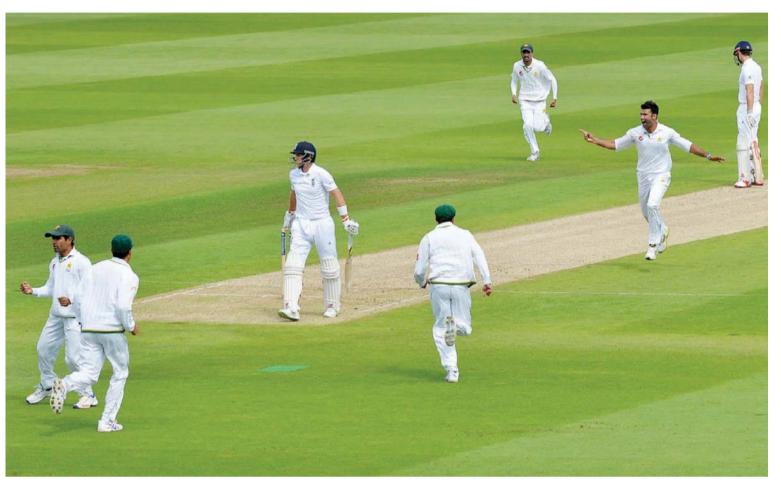
The crushing defeat in the first match in Antigua meant the hosts had lost seven out of eight tests, drawing the other game. It took less than three overs on Tuesday for the rot to set in as opener Rajendra Chandrika continued his miserable series, bowled by paceman Ishant Sharma for one, the ball striking the batsman's elbow and deflecting on to the stumps. Fellow opener Kraigg Brathwaite was next to fall for 23

when he skied a short ball from leg-spinner Amit Mishra to mid-wicket.

Marlon Samuels then went for a duck, clean bowled by paceman Mohammed Shami, the ball keeping lower than the batsman was expecting and striking his off stump. Shami then picked up another scalp with what proved to be the last ball of the day when Darren Bravo (20), who had looked shaky from the start, fended a short, rising ball to third slip. It was Bravo's fourth cheap dismissal in the series. He has made 41 runs in four knocks.

"That looks a very soft dismissal to me," said Richards while commentating on television. "For a top class batsman that's weak, very, very weak. Darren Bravo may have to rethink exactly how he'd like to play especially having not been successful against the quicks over the years."

Richards, who retired with an average of more than 50, then became more general in his observations of West Indian batting. Saying he did not want to sound unduly negative but could not sugar-coat things, he said: "You cannot be served up sardines and (have) someone saying it's caviar. "Some of the deliveries that got some of these guys out, it looked a little bit kindergartenish at times." — Reuters



EDGBASTON: Pakistan's Sohail Khan (2nd R) celebrates after taking the wicket of England's Joe Root (3rd L) for 3 runs during the first day of the third cricket test match between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham, central England, yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

KINGSTON, Jamaica: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between the West Indies and India at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday:

West Indies 1st Innings - 196 (J Bl	ackwood 62; R	J. Blackwood not out	3
Ashwin 5-52)		Extras (nb-1)	1
India 1st Innings - 500 for 9 decla		Total (for 4 wkts, 15.5 overs)	48
158, A Rahane 108 not out; R Chase	5-121)	Fall of wicket: 1-5 (Chandrika), 2-4	41 (Brath
West Indies 2nd Innings		3-41 (Samuels), 4-48 (Bravo)	
K. Brathwaite c Rahul b Mishra	23	To bat: R. Chase, S. Dowrich, J. Ho	lder, D. I
R. Chandrika b Sharma	1	M. Cummins, S. Gabriel	
D. Bravo c Rahul b Shami	20	Bowling: I. Sharma 6-0-19-1 (1nb),	M. Sham

hwaite), Bishoo, ni 7.5-2-

BALLANCE, MOEEN LEAD ENGLAND FIGHTBACK

BIRMINGHAM: Moeen Ali's late counter-attack dismiss England for less than 200. But Ballance the wicketkeeper his fourth catch, off Rahat, and lifted England to 297 all out on a fluctuating first dug in and Moeen provided watchful support to Stuart Broad made 13 before he slashed





KINGSTON: West Indies' Roston Chase misses a delivery of India's Ishant Sharma during day five of their second cricket Test match at the Sabina Park Cricket Ground in Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday. —AP

SMITH BANKING ON REVERSE SWING ON GALLE TURNER

GALLE: Galle has built a reputation as a spinners' paradise but Australia captain Steve Smith hopes there will be substantial reverse swing at the venue as his top-ranked team bid for a series-levelling win against Sri Lanka in the second test.

Sri Lanka inflicted a 106-run defeat on the touring side at Pallekele last week in the opening match of the three-test series with the spinners taking 18 out of 20 Australian wickets to fall. The hosts' three-pronged spin attack will be brimming with confidence on a dry surface at Galle for the match that starts today, and will hope to take an unassailable lead against Australia, ranked number one in tests by the International Cricket Council. South Africa pacemen Morne Morkel and Dale Steyn claimed 16 wickets between them as they bowled South Africa to a 153-run victory in Galle in 2014. Australia will hope their fast bowling duo of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood can do something similar. Debutant left-arm spinner Jon Holland will replace the injured Steve O'Keefe and will partner off-spinner Nathan Lyon. "Looks pretty dry, I daresay it's going to take some spin, which at the same time there's quite a big breeze so I think it will drift a lot for the spinners," Smith told reporters.

"Talking to Allan Donald (bowling consultant) who was here with the South African team in that game, he said the ball reversed quite significantly from both ends.

"Morkel had it going away from the right handers and Steyn had it going into the right handers, so we've got Starc who can do and Hazlewood can do and Mitchell Marsh bowls good reverse swing as well, so we've got the bases covered." Angelo Mathews' side are reeling from injuries to their fast bowlers with Dhammika Prasad and Dushmantha Chameera ruled out of the three-match series, while Suranga Lakmal was also absent from the opening test at Pallekele due to an ankle complaint. They suffered yet another injury setback with seamer Nuwan Pradeep injuring his hamstring during practice. Mathews said the team will wait till Thursday for Pradeep to get fit, failing which uncapped left-arm seamer Vishwa Fernando could be drafted in. The Sri Lanka captain was aware that the Australians will devise a way to neutralise their spinners, especially left-armer Rangana Herath. "You can't write the Australians off against Herath," he said. "They came up with a different strategy in the second innings, like using the crease a lot, and sweeping him a little bit. We have got to be cautious.— Reuters

day of the third test against Pakistan in Birmingham yesterday.

Fast bowler Sohail Khan took four wickets to put the hosts in trouble at 158 for five but Gary Ballance made a gritty 70 and Moeen 63 to leave the match delicately poised. Sohail, recalled to the side, removed Alex Hales, Joe Root, James Vince and Jonny Bairstow after Pakistan had won the toss in overcast conditions at Edgbaston. Hales was the first man out for 17, edging a fine delivery from Sohail to wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed. Root, who made 254 in the last test, was caught at first slip by Mohammad Hafeez for three and captain Alastair Cook was trapped Ibw by Rahat Ali for 45 before England took lunch on 100 for three.

Vince played nicely for his 39 but, as so often in his fledgling test career, he failed to take full advantage and edged right-armer Sohail to second slip where Younus Khan took a fine low catch. Bairstow, on 12, tried to cut a ball too close to him and gave Sarfraz another easy chance and Pakistan sensed the opportunity to

take the hosts through to tea without further loss. Ballance passed fifty for the first time since being recalled to the side and he struck seven fours in more than three hours at the crease before edging leg-spinner Yasir Shah to Sarfraz down the leg-side. Chris Woakes, on nine, gave

Mohammad Amir high to Azhar Ali at third slip

Moeen's cameo ended when he nicked Amir to Sarfraz and Sohail trapped James Anderson lbw to complete figures of 5-96 on his first test appearance for five years. The four-match series is level at 1-1. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom: Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third Test between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston yesterday

England 1st Innings	
A. Cook Ibw b Rahat Ali	45
A. Hales c Sarfraz Ahmed b Sohail Khan	17
J. Root c Mohammad Hafeez b Sohail Khan	3
J. Vince c Younis Khan b Sohail Khan	39
G. Ballance c Sarfraz Ahmed b Yasir Shah	70
J. Bairstow c Sarfraz Ahmed b Sohail Khan	12
M. Ali c Sarfraz Ahmed b Mohammad Amir	63
C. Woakes c Sarfraz Ahmed b Rahat Ali	9
S. Broad c Azhar Ali b Mohammad Amir	13
S. Finn not out	15
J. Anderson Ibw b Sohail Khan	5

Extras (lb1, w1, nb4) 6 Total (all out, 86 overs, 383 mins) 297 Fall of wickets: 1-36 (Hales), 2-48 (Root), 3-75 (Cook), 4-144 (Vince), 5-158 (Bairstow), 6-224 (Ballance), 7-244 (Woakes), 8-276 (Finn), 9-278 (Ali) 10-297 (Anderson) Bowling: Amir 16-3-53-2; Sohail 23-3-96-5 (4nb); Rahat 20-4-83-2 (1w); Shah 27-3-64-1

Pakistan: Mohammad Hafeez, Sami Aslam, Azhar Ali, Younis Khan, Misbah-ul-Haq (capt), Asad Shafiq, Sarfraz Ahmed (wkt), Sohail Khan, Mohammad Amir, Yasir Shah, Rahat Ali.

S LANKA PROVING LIFE AFTER LEGENDS: MURALI

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's first win over Australia in two decades proves the islanders have the talent to step into the boots of their recently retired greats, according to Test cricket's most successful bowler Muttiah Muralitharan.

Speaking to AFP ahead of the second Test in Galle which begins today, Muralitharan reflected in glowing terms on batsman Kusal Mendis and spin bowler Lakshan Sandakan's key roles in last weekend's thrilling victory in Pallekele even though both are newcomers to Test cricket.

Muralitharan, who is a member of the Australia squad's tour coaching staff, has been involved in a war of words with Sri Lanka's board, bitter that his old employers have not sought out his advice themselves. But the man whose 800 Test wickets remains a world record six years after retiring has been keeping a close eye on Sri Lanka's rebuilding efforts after the departure of some of the finest players in their history. Despite his current role for Australia, Muralitharan was delighted by the performances of Mendis, who hit a maiden Test ton in Pallekele, and in particular that of Sandakan who took seven wickets on his debut. It was only Sri Lanka's second Test victory over Australia and the first since 1999. But Muralitharan cautioned that Sandakan-a left-arm wrist spinner who got some dramatic turn in Pallekele-would need careful mentoring if he is to achieve his full potential and not fall by the wayside. "There's no doubt about the talent we have. Those two young guys have bright futures ahead of them," Muralitharan said. "But the thing is we need to nurture them."

Muralitharan, a former off-spinner, said he was "really impressed" with the 25-year-old Sandakan who took 4 for 58 in the first innings.

But he said the fate of Ajantha Mendis-another Sri Lankan spinner whose Test career fizzled out after an impressive start-should serve as a cautionary tale. "Look at what happened to (Ajantha) Mendis. He took a truckload of wickets at the start. But when he went through a couple of lean series, he was put under pressure and then went into a defensive mindset," he said. "Today he is nowhere."

TALENT SPOTTING

Muralitharan said he was fortunate to have had a "strong leader" like Arjuna Ranatunga who skippered Sri Lanka to victory in the 1996 World Cup. "He (Ranatunga) was great in spotting talent and then guiding them," Muralitharan said.

"He backed players even when they failed repeatedly. Then they repaid his faith big time. All the players who came into the national side when he was captain went on to have long and successful careers." The 1996 triumph ushered in a golden age as Sri Lanka churned out a succession of topclass players. When established batsmen such as Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva stepped aside, they were replaced by the likes of Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene who became Sri Lanka's two highest run scorers.

Both have retired in the past two years and other stars such as dashing opener Tillakaratne Dilshan and slingy fast bowler Lasith Malinga have also quit Test cricket. Meanwhile their best bowler, spinner Rangana Herath, is now 38 and has hinted at retirement. As a result, Sri Lanka have slid down the Test rankings to seventh, making their victory over the top-ranked Australians all the more impressive. Muralitharan said Australia's bowlers had struggled to adapt to Sri Lankan pitches.— AFP



PALLEKELE: This file photograph taken on July 23, 2016 shows Australia's bowling consultant, former Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan (R), as he speaks with Australian cricketer Stephen O'Keefe (L) during a practice session at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele. — AFP

<u> Kuwait Mimes</u>



IBRAHIMOVIC PRAISES 'PERFECT PARTNER' ROONEY

excited by the prospect of playing alongside Wayne Rooney at Manchester United and described his new team mate as the "perfect partner for a striker". The new pairing could make their Old Trafford debut together in Rooney's testimonial against his former club Everton on Wednesday, having linked up to good effect in United's 5-2 friendly victory over Galatasaray in Gothenburg on

LONDON: Zlatan Ibrahimovic says he is Saturday. "I said many years ago the per- tribute to the forward in the official profect partner for a striker is Wayne Rooney," Ibrahimovic told Manchester United TV yesterday.

"He works not only for himself but for the striker and the whole team. I'm absolutely happy to be one of the guys beside him." Ibrahimovic also praised Rooney's longevity at Old Trafford, a sentiment echoed by former United manager Alex Ferguson, who has paid his own gramme for Wednesday's match.

"(Wayne's) gone on to play for Manchester United for 12 years, which is very difficult in the present day," said Ferguson.

"I always think that great players can play in any era. Bobby Charlton would have been a great player today and Wayne Rooney would have been a great player back then." It remains to be seen what role Rooney will play under new coach Jose Mourinho this season, with the forward having been increasingly used as a midfielder under previous boss Louis van Gaal.

Henrikh Mkhitaryan, signed from Borussia Dortmund in the close season, is a natural candidate for a role behind the striker, while United's reported pursuit of Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba threatens to add further competition in the middle of the pitch.

Ibrahimovic, however, is confident that Mourinho will find a way of getting the best from United's talented options. "I think every big player can work with other big players," Ibrahimovic continued. "That's not a problem. "We are 11 players not two players on the pitch. It's up to the coach what he wants but, with him, I see no problems, only success." — Reuters

MAN CITY SIGNS YOUNG BRAZILIAN TO CONTINUE RECRUITMENT DRIVE

MANCHESTER: Manchester City signed one of Brazil's most highly rated forwards yesterday to continue the club's recruitment drive under new coach Pep Guardiola this offseason.

Gabriel Jesus, who is the top scorer in the Brazilian league with Palmeiras and a member of Brazil's Olympic team, completed his move to City for a reported 27 million pounds (\$36 million). It took City's offseason spending to more than \$130 million, following the arrival of Leroy Sane, Ilkay Gundogan, Nolito and Oleksandr Zinchenko. City announced the arrival of the 19-year-old forward on a 41/2-year deal starting January 2017. He will remain at Palmeiras until the end of the year so he can finish the Brazilian season with his titlechasing team.

"He is one of the most exciting young prospects in world football and plays the game in a spectacular way," said Txiki Begiristain, City's director of football.

Gabriel Jesus, who was named "best newcomer" in the 2015 Serie A Campeonato, is a speedy attacker who can play anywhere across the front line. He has been a constant in Brazil's youth squads.

"He is formidable," Brazil Olympic coach Rogerio Micale said. "He is still growing as a player and has some things to improve, but that's normal. Neymar went through the same process before he was able to achieve everything that he has achieved."

Gabriel Jesus said he was pleased to

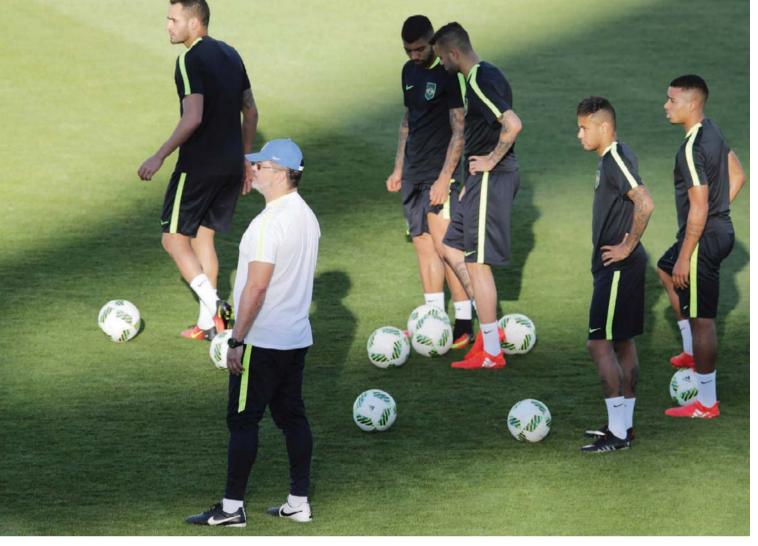
sign for "one of the best clubs in the world."

"We have many great talents in the team," he said, "and a fantastic manager in Pep Guardiola that I can learn so much from." Earlier, Premier League champion Leicester signed Poland winger Bartosz Kapustka, adding more depth to its squad ahead of a first appearance in European competition in 16 years.

The 19-year-old Kapustka, who played at this year's European Championship. became Leicester's fifth signing of the offseason. Manager Claudio Ranieri is increasing competition and numbers in his squad, with Leicester also playing in the Champions League this season following its improbable Premier League title triumph.

Leicester said Kapustka has signed from Cracovia on a five-year deal, and didn't disclose a transfer fee. Goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler, defender Luis Hernandez, midfielder Nampalys Mendy and striker Ahmed Musa have also arrived at King Power stadium.

Egypt winger Mohamed Salah completed a permanent transfer from Chelsea to Roma after spending last season on loan at the Italian club. No financial details were disclosed about Salah's transfer. Salah joined Chelsea from FC Basel in January 2014 but was never a regular. He spent the second half of the 2014-15 season on loan at Fiorentina and stayed in Italy with Roma, impressing as the capital club finished in third place in Serie A last season. —AP



BRASILIA: Brazil's coach Rogerio Micale, front left, talks with players during a Brazil Olympic soccer team training session, in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday. Brazil holds its first match against South Africa today. — AP

ZIDANE CONFIRMS REAL FORWARD JESE IN TALKS TO JOIN PSG

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane confirmed yesterday that Spanish forward Jese Rodriguez is in talks over a move away from the club to sign for Paris St Germain.

The 23-year-old has one season remaining on his contract with the Champions League winners but the desire for more playing time appears to be the motivation for a possible transfer to Lique 1.

"It's not a done deal but negotiations e going well," Zidane told the club's official website (www.realmadrid.com) ahead of the pre-season friendly against Bayern Munich in New Jersey on Wednesday. "Once we return to Madrid, we will know more about this issue." Jese scored six goals and assisted on six more in 39 appearances for Real in the 2015-16 campaign but only started 12 of those games. The return of Spanish forward Alvaro Morata after two seasons with Italian champions Juventus will further limit Jese's playing time in an already starstudded attack that includes Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema.

good team and he will score many goals there," Zidane added. "It's an important club."

A Real Madrid youth product, Jese was promoted to the first team in 2013 and scored eight goals in 31 appearances in his first season with the side. However, a knee injury limited him to just 23 appearances in the following campaign.

Spanish sports daily Marca reported this week that Jese has agreed to sign a four-year deal with the French champions and would move to Paris for a fee of 25 million euros (\$27.98 million). Zidane did give a strong indication that Real may include a buy-back clause in Jese's contract, just as the club did when Morata joined Juvetus two years ago. "I hope that everything goes well for him and that he returns to Real Madrid, which is his home," Zidane said. "Perhaps it will be a year and he then comes back." Spanish coach Unai Emery, who replaced Laurent Blanc at PSG last month, recently declared his admiration for Jese, a player he previously attempted to acquire during his three-and-a-half year stint with Sevilla. Should the deal be completed, Jese will become the first player from Real's first team to leave the club this off-season. — Reuters

NEYMAR TASKED WITH DELIVERING BRAZIL'S ELUSIVE GOLD AT RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil has barely got over its World Cup disaster and now it is counting on Barcelona star Neymar to finally deliver a treasured first football Olympic gold medal. Olympic gold is the only international title to elude Brazil in an illustrious history that has seen A Selecao win five World Cups. And Brazilian football is in desperate need of a pick-me-up after the humiliating 7-1 semifinal defeat to Germany at their own World Cup two years ago and a group stage exit at the Copa America Centenario in June. Golden boy Neymar has been untarnished by the failures. Two broken vertebrae in his back suffered near the end of a quarter-final win over Colombia left Brazil without their talisman against the Germans two years ago. And as part of an agreement between Barcelona and the Brazilian federation, Neymar skipped the Copa America-which sealed Dunga's fate as Brazil coach for the second time-to ensure he is fresh for the Olympics.

ence of the Bender twins Lars and Sven of Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund as two of their overage players.

A return to Brazil holds particularly fond memories for Dortmund full-back Matthias Ginter, who was part of the German squad

Brazil. "I'm still young and you have to take the chances offered to you. The Olympics are special. We're all motivated and want to reach the final in Rio," said the 22-year-old.

Germany start against 2012 gold medallists Mexico in Salvador before facing Fiji and

Zidane believes a move to PSG would be the best option for the player. "I think it's the ideal place for him because it's a

STARLETS IN SUPPORT

Rogerio Micale will take charge after leading Brazil to the under-20 World Cup final last year. Like the fans he also expects Neymar to deliver. He said: "I want to be dependent on Neymar. What coach in the world would not want a Neymar in their team?

"Neymar has exceeded my expectations. He is appreciated, he's a good guy with a huge heart especially around the younger players. "He has shown that he is more than just a great player-he's a great man admired by everybody."

Neymar was part of the Brazil side shocked by Mexico in the final of the 2012 Olympics, whilst even the likes of Ronaldo and Ronaldinho have come up short when charged with delivering gold. However, Brazil are strong favourites to end their wait as on top of home advantage, they also possess by far the strongest squad on paper. Each team is restricted to just three players over the age of 23 in their 18-man squads.

Wonder kids Gabriel Barbosa and Gabriel Jesus, both tipped to make big money moves to Europe from Santos and Palmeiras respectively after the Games, will support Neymar in attack.

BIGGEST THREAT

Meanwhile, Paris Saint Germain defender Marquinhos and Neymar's Barcelona teammate Rafinha are also among Micale's squad. Brazil open their campaign against South Africa in Brasilia, one of six Olympic football host cities, before facing Iraq and Denmark in Group A. Their biggest threat is likely to come from eternal rivals Argentina. Atletico Madrid's Angel Correa and Giovanni Simeoneson of Atletico boss Diego Simeone-formed a lethal partnership in scoring 13 goals to win the 2015 South American under-20 championships to qualify. They face Portugal in the match of the opening round at the Rio Olympic stadium on Thursday in a group also containing Honduras and Algeria. World champions Germany can call on the experithat won the World Cup two years ago.

Ginter has shown his commitment to the cause by flying almost 20,000km in four days as he headed back from China with Dortmund on Friday before jetting off to South Korea in Group C.

Group B appears the closest to call as Sweden, Colombia, Nigeria and Japan all start with realistic ambitions of reaching the quarter-finals. — AFP

ARSENAL TARGET DRAXLER WANTS OUT OF WOLFSBURG

BERLIN: Arsenal target Julian Draxler says he wants to leave Wolfsburg, just 12 months into his five-year contract-slamming the Bundesliga club's coach and sports director in the process. The 22-year-old Germany winger joined to much fanfare last August for 35 million euros (\$39m) from Schalke, the club which nurtured him through their academy to become a Germany international.

But with four years left on his contract, Draxler wants out and has gone on the offensive, claiming he told coach Dieter Hecking and director of sport Klaus Allofs three weeks ago of his wishes, although the pair have publically said he is staying.

"Before committing yourself publically, one should speak to me first," Draxler, who has made 24 appearances for Germany, fumed to daily newspaper Bild.

"As far as I am concerned, I expressed myself clearly after (last month's) European Championship to coach Dieter Hecking that I want to leave VfL Wolfsburg.

"The coach has known that for three weeks." Draxler trained with Wolfsburg for the first time on Wednesday after the summer break and disappeared without a word to reporters after the 90-minute session.

The Gunners and Juventus are both reportedly chasing Draxler, who is very surprised "that for weeks now things have been communicated about me in the media"-and the fact Wolfsburg have failed to qualify for Europe next season is an obvious factor.

"I expected something different, for example that someone came to me and asked: how do you see things?" he added. The highly-rated winger says there was a gentleman's agreement between him and the Wolfsburg bosses that he could leave if the possibility arose to join a bigger club.

"I was assured verbally when I joined that I can leave if the possibility arises, both from Hecking and from Allofs," said Draxler.

"It was clear that Wolfsburg was a good prospect, but also a good springboard. "It was always clear between all parties that I would like to go to a top club, if the opportunity arises."

Having scored his only goal of Euro 2016 in the 3-0 win over Slovakia in the last 16, Draxler said shortly after Germany lost to France on July 7 in the semi-finals that he wanted to leave. He said he told Hecking how he "sees the whole situation and what I wantnamely to leave the club." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Sweden's team pose for a photo before the opening match of the Women's Olympic Football Tournament between Sweden and South Africa at the Rio Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AP



VITRE: Angers' Cameroon forward Karl Toko Ekambi (L) and Angers' Congolese forward Ferebory Dore (R) vie for the ball with Guincamp's French forward Alexandre Mendy (C) during the French friendly football match between Angers (SCO) and Guingamp (EAG) at the Municipal Stadium in Vitre, northwestern France, yesterday. —AFP



<u> Kuwait 🗠 Times _</u>



INDIA STAYING FOCUSED IN RIO 'MAGIC WORLD'

MUMBAI: PR Sreejesh says his dual role as lead to him wearing the armband at the Rio India hockey captain and goalkeeper is to allow his team mates the freedom to express themselves in Rio but knows he must keep them focused on the medal hunt in the "magic world" of the Olympics.

The 30-year-old was second choice at London 2012 behind then captain Bharat Chetri but has since established himself as the clear number one.

He was named captain for the recent Champions Trophy in London where India rested some seniors, including regular captain Sardar Singh, ahead of the Rio Games. While Sreejesh led the side to the silver medal, as India lost the final to Australia in a penalty shoot-out, he said he never imagined it would

Games too.

"I never expected it," Sreejesh told Reuters in a recent interview. "I have always said being part of the team and winning a medal for my country was my first preference. "I never dreamt of captaining the team and leading the side in the Olympics. It's a great honour."

Sreejesh has been a rock for India in front of goal since making the junior national team in 2004. It took him another couple of years to make the cut for the senior side. He made crucial saves during the 2014 Asian Games final when India beat arch-rivals Pakistan, which sealed their spot for Rio. In 2015, Sreejesh received the Arjuna award for his contribution to the national team.

Sreejesh said the captaincy would not have a huge influence on his role. "I am a goalkeeper. My first duty is to save the goal," he said by telephone from the team's training camp in Bengaluru. "The second is to communicate with my defenders and organise them.

"Third is I need to give them confidence as a goalkeeper. I think as captain too I have to do these three things. There is no extra burden on me. "It's all about giving them the freedom to do what they want. "Olympics is a place where you can be easily distracted to a lot of things and it will seem like a magic world. It will all be about reminding them our goal as a team." India are the most decorated nation in the sport's Olympic history but the South Asians collected the last of their eight gold medals back at the Moscow Games in 1980. After failing to qualify for Beijing, India made it to London four years later but finished last of the 12 countries taking part.

India, who are in Pool B in Rio along with Argentina, Canada, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, have created optimism back home thanks after a strong build-up to the Games. Sreejesh feels India have the right balance between youth and experience, with a number of players from London 2012 still part of the mix for Rio. Consistency will be the key, he added. "The last couple of years has given us confidence. We have beaten all the top teams and won medals," he added. "It has given us confidence that now we are ready to beat any team and we will carry that to Rio." — Reuters

GHANA'S FIRST-EVER FEMALE JUDOKA **READY FOR RIO**

RIO DE JANEIRO: When Hungarian native Szandra Szogedi steps onto the judo mat at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, she'll be making history as the first-ever female judoka to represent Ghana.

Born in Budapest, Szogedi started judo at age 11, after a friend of her father's recommended the sport. With a background in gymnastics, Szogedi adapted quickly to the dynamic flips and groundwork characteristic of the Japanese martial art.

After just six months, Szogedi won a silver medal at Hungary's national championships. "I was hooked," she told the Associated Press in a recent interview. "I loved winning medals and started to think this might be the sport for me." Szogedi began attending a specialized sports school and qualified for the national judo squad. But after her parents divorced in 2007, money was tight and Szogedi was forced to drop judo. She moved to the U.K. shortly afterwards and began working as a waitress in a London hotel. One afternoon, as she watched the opening ceremonies for the Beijing Olympics with friends at a pub, she saw one of her former Hungarian judo teammates walk into the Bird's Nest stadium.

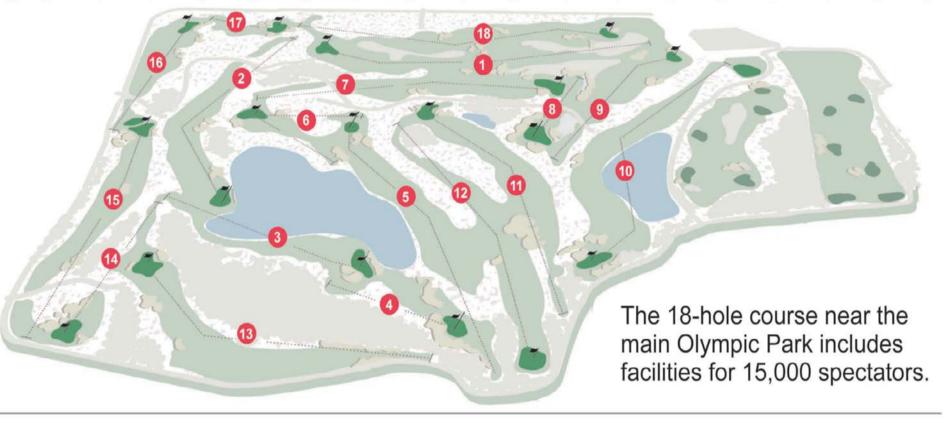
"I had the feeling that I had some unfinished business," Szogedi said. She soon started training again at a London judo club, where she met her future husband, a Ghana-born engineer.

After securing her Ghanaian passport through him, Szogedi began competing for the West African country at major judo tournaments and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the 2012 London Olympics. Szogedi has been to Ghana once to meet her husband's family and says she was overwhelmed by the welcome she received.

"The people are so lovely and so kind that it doesn't feel weird to me to be representing Ghana. I feel very proud to be able to fight for them," she said, recalling when she won a bronze medal at the African Championships last September. "I was on the bus when some random Ghanaian athletes came on, saw my medal and just started singing and dancing," she said. "That would never happen in Europe." Szogedi is now based in Camperley, 32 kilometers (20 miles) south of London, where she trains alongside several members of Britain's national team. In preparation for Rio, Szogedi is working to sharpen her fight strategy and in particular, is working on being more aggressive in controlling her matches by getting a dominant grip on her opponents' uniforms. Although she is among the shorter competitors in her 63kilogram weight division, her coach says that could work to her advantage. "She has a great ability to get underneath other players and score some big throws," said Luke Preston, Szogedi's coach at the Camberley judo club and also a national coach for the British team. Though Szogedi is ranked 40th in the world, Preston said that matters little in the combat sport. "The beauty of judo is that world champions can get knocked out in the first round," he said. "It just takes somebody to step up and seize the moment. There's no reason that can't be Szandra." — AP

The Olympic golf course in Rio de Janeiro

MEN							0											
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Yds.	604	486	351	191	547	196	493	172	309	590	488	514	479	229	412	303	133	571
Par	5	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	5
WON	IEN																	
Yds.	536	435	321	155	493	177	409	154	324	526	420	430	408	190	374	264	120	509
Par	5	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	5



SOURCES: Gil Hanse; The International Olympic Committee

AP

FIRED BY CRIMEA, UKRAINIAN TARGETS RUSSIA AT RIO GAMES

KIEV: For Ukrainian rhythmic gymnast Ganna Rizatdinova the Rio Games offers a chance of redemption and revenge after powerhouse Russia annexed her home region Crimea. Former world championship gold medallist Rizatdinova, 23, is Ukraine's biggest hope to get on the podium in a discipline traditionally dominated by Russian competitors.

The contest in Brazil plays out against the backdrop of intense tensions between Kiev and Moscow after Russia annexed Crimea following Ukraine's ouster of a pro-Kremlin leader in early 2014. "I have the biggest chances," Rizatdinova told AFP. "It is all in my hands."

Rizatdinova-the daughter of a Tatar Muslim and an ethnic Russian-comes from the city of Simferopol in Crimea but moved to train in

Ukraine's capital Kiev at the age of 16.

In 2012 she finished a disappointing 10th place at the Olympic Games in London but managed to fight her way back to win a silver medal at the all-around event and gold medal in the hoop at the world championships in Kiev in September 2013.

"As I was standing on top of the podium in Kiev and the anthem played in my honour I realised that I will also have a chance at the Olympics," she said.

CRIMEA SEIZED

But just months later the city erupted into mass protests against Russia-backed president Viktor Yanukovych that turned the centre of the capital into a war zone.

Those events set off a chain reaction that saw the Kremlin seize control of Crimea in March 2014 and sent relations between Russia and the West to their lowest since the Cold War.

"I couldn't think about competition, all my thoughts were with my parents in Crimea, I thought about the fate of Crimea," said Rizatdinova, whose parents continue to live on the Black Sea peninsula.

"Crimea was taken over, it was very painful for me." In the wake of the takeover and as the fighting spread to other areas of eastern Ukraine-competitors from those regions saw the political crisis hit their sporting futures.

Athletes, including gymnasts, have come under pressure to make a choice as the two nations squared off against each other-to stick with Ukraine or switch to Russia.

Rizatdinova's teammate Eleonora Romanova in early 2016 slipped away from the training base in Kiev and reportedly moved to Russia without letting her coaches know.

The young gymnast was from the rebelheld part of east Ukraine but her parents had sought refuge in Russia.

For Rizatdinova there was never really any choice to make. She says that even if the offer had been extended to switch from the blueand-yellow Ukrainian flag to the Russian tricolor, she would have given it a "100 percent refusal". "I have been brought up as a gymnast here and it would be a kind of betrayal to move to Russia," she said. — AFP

GRAINGER'S ROCKY BOAT TO RIO RECORD ATTEMPT

LONDON: Rower Katherine Grainger will bid sights." Certainly the sabbatical was not wastto become Britain's most decorated Olympian after a desperate struggle to get a place in the team.

The 40-year-old has a gold from London 2012 and three straight silvers with Anna Watkins in the double sculls. That puts her level with swimmer Rebecca Adlington on four medals when she defends her title in Rio with a new partner Vicky Thornley.

The manner in which they claimed places suggests Grainger, who has a doctorate in homicide, will do well to kill off her rivals' hopes this time. At one stage she and Thornley tried the women's eights but did not make the British Olympic team.

Grainger and Thornley faced a nervous wait of more than two weeks in June before being named in the doubles again. She called it a "rollercoaster" and said getting the record breaking medal would be "the biggest challenge of my career."

Her struggles could be explained by a shaking off of the cobwebs and getting used to her new and younger partner-Thornley is 28 — having taken a sabbatical after winning gold at the London Games. She made it crystal clear that she would not return just to make up the numbers in Rio.

NO T-SHIRT TRIP

"I didn't take time out, then come back, to go to a fifth Olympics and just get a T-shirt," she told the BBC. "Vicky and myself both want a medal and we haven't lowered our

ed as Grainger gained a doctorate in human rights law to add to the law degree she passed when a student at Edinburgh University. Part of her course work for her doctorate in homicide-which she worked on prior to the London Games-was a 100,000 word thesis on psychopathic killers and their mental health.

She even drew a parallel to the extremes she went in order to reach peak fitness. "It's not the lightest of reading matter of an afternoon but it is a lot about human behaviour, whether on the criminal side or society's side in their reaction to things at an absolute extreme end," she told Channel 4 in 2012.

"In some ways I probably work (row) at the extreme end of human behaviour anyway there are some parallels potentially but I consider it very different from sport."

For that thesis she was obliged to consult with senior judges, police chiefs and politicians including one Theresa May then the Home Secretary and now prime minister. May is the member of parliament for Maidenhead where Grainger lives.

Grainger, though, is not the exception to the rule in maintaining an interest in meatier issues outside the confines of her training and competing.

"It's amazing given how straightforward and uncomplicated the sport is how remarkably intelligent some of the people in it are," she told The Daily Telegraph newspaper in 2014. "And I think because everyone is so single minded, they have very strong opinions on everything. In the crew room the conversation ranges from Syria to I'm A Celebrity to

the weather. "The truth is when I do eventually retire-and I know I can't go on beyond Rio-I will leave this sport as a much wiser person." Rowing will be the poorer for her departure but her future outside the sport looks assured. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Romania's women's eight rowing team warm up during rowing team practices in Lagoa ahead of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. The opening ceremony is tomorrow. — AP



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RIO ACTION STARTS IN EMPTY STADIUM

RIO DE JANEIRO: The first sporting action of the 2016 Olympics started in a virtually empty stadium yesterday as the Russian doping scandal rumbled on. With the formal opening ceremony at the Maracana stadium just two days away, the women's football tournament started with a game between Sweden and South Africa. There were just a few hundred spectators in the 60,000 Rio Olympic Stadium for the kickoff of the first of six games taking place across the country. There should be a bigger crowd when hosts Brazil, led by Marta, make their bow against China at the same venue later in the day. But tickets are available for many top Olympic attractions, including blue riband athletics races. The women's football tournament launches what Brazilian fans hope will be a golden campaign for their men's and women's teams, who have never won an Olympic

title. "Although people say we don't have to go and win the gold, for me, as someone who has played at other Olympics, won two silvers and come close to the gold, I think we are obliged to win it," said Brazil striker Cristiane. The first matches of the men's tournament will take place on Thursday, with Brazilian superstar Neymar spearheading the host nation's quest for a first ever Olympic gold medal-the only international title every to elude the five-time World Cup winners. The advent of the first sport of the Games will come as a welcome diversion for Olympic chiefs who have been mired in the fallout from the drugs scandal involving Russia.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach on Tuesday called for wideranging reforms of the World Anti-Doping Agency while the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) rejected appeals by 17 Russian rowers against their exclusion from the Games.

With appeals involving a dozen other Russian swimmers, wrestlers and weightlifters still to be decided, the row over state-run doping blamed on the Russian government threatened to overshadow Friday's opening ceremony. The IOC chief said the Russia scandal, which he has described as "contemptuous," had exposed deficiencies in WADA. "Recent developments have shown that we need a full review of the WADA anti-doping system," he told an IOC session that continued yesterday.

SECURITY FEARS

Late on Tuesday, Brazilian police used tear gas against demonstrators trying to obstruct the tour of the Olympic flame in a Rio de Janeiro suburb. Ensuring security at the games has been an oing headache for organizers in a region which has witnessed a 17 percent spike in murders in the first half of 2016, according to official figures. Chinese athletes and officials say they have been affected by several cases of crime since arriving in Brazil for the Games. Among the latest to register a complaint was Chinese hurdler Shi Dongpeng, who was quoted by state media as saying that his personal computer was stolen on arrival. Chinese athletes are among a range of athletes from different nations who have complained about conditions in the Olympic village. Table tennis star Fan Zhendong showed pictures on the Weibo social media service of himself and teammate Zhang Jike fixing a broken shower curtain rail.

Australia's NBA basketball star Andrew Bogut

made a series of posts on Twitter under the sarcastic hashtag #IOCLuxuryLodging documenting his various gripes about accommodation in the athletes' village. Elsewhere, US Olympic officials confirmed that swimming superstar Michael Phelps would carry his country's flag into Friday's opening ceremony at the Maracana Stadium.

Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time with 22 medals including 18 golds, was chosen for the honor following a vote of Team USA members. "I'm honored to be chosen, proud to represent the US, and humbled by the significance of carrying the flag and all it stands for," said Phelps, who will be swimming in his fifth Olympics. Olympic fencing champion Lei Sheng will carry China's flag at the ceremony, becoming the first non-basketball player to get the honour since 1984. —AFP

NADAL TO PLAY SINGLES, DOUBLES AND MIXED

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rafael Nadal committed himself to playing singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the Olympics yesterday despite serious concerns over whether or not his left wrist injury will survive the gruelling challenge.

"After discussing it with my team, I have decided I will play everything that I can. We are here and practice has gone well-more or less," said the 30-year-old Spaniard after an intense, 90-minute training session with compatriot David Ferrer.

"It's not an ideal situation-there are always risks." World number five Nadal spent a lengthy period after his practice session on centre court discussing his plans with the team doctor and team captain Conchita Martinez.

He is scheduled to play doubles with Marc Lopez and mixed doubles with French Open champion Garbine Muguruza.

"Yesterday (Monday) and today (Tuesday) have been my strongest training in two months and the wrist has not gotten worse," he added. Nadal hasn't played at all since he was forced to quit the French Open before the third round after damaging tendons in his left wrist. He missed Wimbledon as a result. The protective brace he wore on his wrist since Paris was missing on Tuesday.

The 14-time Grand Slam title winner was the gold medallist at the 2008 Beijing

Olympics but missed the 2012 London Games because of a knee injury. He is due to carry his country's flag at Friday's opening ceremony in Rio. Nadal admitted that his best medal chance may be in the doubles where the burden is shared.

"It's true that in doubles, I might go better, but you never know," he said. "I will do everything possible to make my role the best and bring something positive for Spain."

Nadal's decision to play in all three events was a major boost for the organisers who on Tuesday saw world number four Stan Wawrinka pull out with a back injury.

Wawrinka was replaced in the draw by big-serving Australian Sam Groth. Last week, world number three and 17-time major winner Roger Federer also withdrew and shut down his season to recover from a knee injury. Fellow top ten players Milos Raonic, Tomas Berdych and Dominic Thiem have also opted out of the Olympics.

The women's singles have been stripped of Simona Halep, Victoria Azarenka, who is pregnant, Belinda Bencic and Karolina Pliskova. Maria Sharapova, silver medallist behind Serena Williams in 2012, is serving a two-year doping ban. The men's doubles was also tainted when defending champions Bob and Mike Bryan opted out, citing health reasons but not specifically blaming the Zika virus. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Rio de Janeiro's Eduardo Paes, center, holds the Olympic torch, while members of the Mangueira samba school dance, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. The flame arrived in the Olympic host city from Niteroi, just across a short channel leading into Guanabara Bay. The flame will make its way to Maracana Stadium for the opening ceremony tomorrow. — AP



HSBC's profits plunge as Brexit uncertainty bites

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Brexit-hit sterling hits 3-decade low

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World stocks down for 3rd day in a row



120,000 Bitcoin units stolen from Bitfinex

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WASHINGTON: Photo shows a Metrorail train at the McPherson Square station in Washington, DC. In the US capital city, an urgently needed upgrade of the metro system means service on Friday and Saturday nights now stops at midnight instead of 3 am, to allow for repair work overnight. — AFP (See Page 25)

SAUDI FIGHTS TO CURB MONEY RATE RISE

BANK DEPOSITS STRAINED BY LOW OIL PRICES

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's central bank is having only mixed success in using money market tools to fight a surge in market interest rates caused by low oil prices, and may need to resort to more radical steps, commercial bankers say. Such steps could include raising the ratio of deposits which commercial banks are permitted to lend out and reducing the amount of reserves which banks must place with the central bank, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA). By slashing government revenues, low oil prices have cut the volume of petrodollars flowing into the Saudi banking system. Total deposits at commercial banks, which grew continuously for years, were 3.3 percent lower in June than they were a year ago.

This has strained liquidity in the banking system, pushing interbank money rates higher. The one-year Saudi interbank offered rate has jumped more than 1.5 percentage points in the past 12 months. That in turn threatens banks' ability to lend to the private sector at affordable rates, a key consideration as the government tries to limit damage to the economy from cheap oil, and raises borrowing costs for the government, which is selling bonds to the banks every month to finance a big budget deficit.

"SAMA warned of a liquidity shortage almost a year ago," said a local banker, speaking about central bank policy on condition of anonymity. "Now it is facing such a situation." The central bank, which is traditionally secretive about many of its operations, did not respond to requests for comment.

In normal times, SAMA uses its repo rate to lend money to banks when they face liquidity shortages. But repo operations are very short-term and cannot address the structural, longer-term fund shortage which is emerging due to low oil prices.

So since the first quarter of this year, SAMA has been taking bigger steps. It has scaled back its sales of bills to banks; they held just 52.8 billion riyals (\$14.1 billion) of SAMA bills in June, down from 215.8 billion riyals 12 months ago and the lowest level since at least 2010. Since the second quarter, SAMA has also been making special provisions of longer-term funds to banks which need them. "In the second quarter SAMA made direct deposits at some of the banks to ease stress on liquidity, and we were among the banks that received these deposits," Abdulaziz Al-Onaizan, chief executive of Bank alBilad, told Al Arabiya television late last month. Alinma Bank also said it got money.

Some bankers say they have obtained money in the form of deposits; as part of its monetary arsenal, SAMA is permitted to place state institutions' funds with banks. Some bankers believe proceeds of a \$10 billion international loan obtained by Riyadh in May were placed with banks. Other bankers describe the fund injections as low-interest loans. This raises the possibility that SAMA has introduced a new monetary tool similar to the European Central Bank's long-term refinancing operations, which the ECB employed to address liquidity shortages during financial squeezes in recent years.

Deposits

SAMA's strategy has had some positive effect. Total deposits at commercial banks edged up in June from the previous month, and bank lending to the private sector has continued to grow robustly, climbing 8.1 percent from a year ago in June. But there are signs of continued pressure on liquidity. While interbank rates leveled off in late June, they have resumed creeping up in the last few days; at 2.498 percent, the one-year rate is at its highest since January 2009. Also, the rise in Saudi banks' holdings of government bonds slowed in June, increasing by just 3.1 billion riyals during that month. This suggests that because they lack spare funds, banks may no longer be showing much appetite to buy in the government's monthly offers of about 20 billion riyals of bonds. The bond offers are shrouded in secrecy, so bankers say it is impossible to be sure how much debt the government is succeeding in selling. But if banks stop buying the bonds, Riyadh may be forced to borrow more from abroad or draw down its financial reserves faster to finance its deficit. So bankers think SAMA may take regulatory steps to bolster liquidity, either by raising banks' maximum loan-to-deposit ratio, or by reducing the share of deposits that must be held in cash reserves at the central bank.

The loan-to-deposit ratio has already been lifted once, in February, to 90 percent from 85 percent. The 90 percent ceiling has been reached for the system as a whole, "which leads us to believe that SAMA will further ease the limit", Jadwa Investment said in a report this week. The ceiling is still lower than in other countries and Jadwa argued that Saudi banks' profits were still healthy so it could be relaxed without excessive risk. Banks are also now required to keep 7 percent of demand deposits and 4 percent of time and savings deposits in cash reserves held at the central bank. — Reuters

ANA CITES TERRORISM AS Q1 NET PROFIT TUMBLES

TOKYO: The parent company of Japan's All Nippon Airways yesterday cited "terrorist incidents" in Europe and earthquakes at home for helping drag its April-June net profit down more than a fifth. ANA Holdings posted net profit of 6.6 billion yen (\$65.8 million) for its fiscal first quarter, 20.7 percent lower than the same period last year, adding that a strong yen also took a bite out of its bottom line.

The airline's cargo business struggled in the quarter, while demand for domestic flights were affected by deadly earthquakes in southern Japan in April. "Revenues and profits for the period were affected by (the) Kumamoto earthquake and terrorist incidents in Europe, in addition to exchange rates and crude oil market conditions," ANA said. A sharp rally in the yen is threatening profits at major Japanese firms as it makes them less competitive overseas and shrinks the value of repatriated profits.

Demand for flights to Europe have taken a hit following a series of attacks including last week's murder of an 85-year-old French priest. The killing at a church in northern France came less than two weeks after a 19-tonne truck was ploughed into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, killing 84 people and wounding more than 300, while there have also been attacks in Germany. Despite worries about violence weighing on demand for Europe-bound flights, ANA said its overseas business still saw

TOKYO: The parent company of Japan's All stronger results owing to an expansion of Nippon Airways yesterday cited "terrorist inci-

The firm left its profit and sales forecasts unchanged for the fiscal year to March 2017. It expects net profit to hit 80 billion yen, operating profit at 145 billion yen and sales of 1.81 trillion yen. The results come after rival Japan Airlines (JAL) said last week its three-month net profit more than halved. Falling oil prices have helped carriers' profits-fuel is often an airline's single-biggest expense-but JAL said it wasn't enough to make up for weak travel demand at home and abroad. Like ANA, the airline cited Japan's killer quakes for denting tourist travel to the region, while revenue on international routes slumped owing to "stagnant" demand.

JAL offered little detail on the sharp profit decline but Japan's leading Nikkei business daily had reported that growing personnel costs on the back of a pilot shortage as well as the negative impact of terror attacks in Europe were key factors. Such attacks are expected to remain a "downside driver" for airlines, said Hiroshi Hasegawa, an analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities. He also cited the rise of low cost carriers as a worry for Japanese airlines in huge regional market China.ANA said it launched discount fares in the quarter to fill a "demand gap" on Chinese routes. "The prospect for aviation demand in China is another concern in the wake of severe competition with (low-cost carriers) there," he said. — AFP

INDIA'S BIGGEST TAX REFORM LOOMS; FIRMS UNPREPARED

NEW DELHI: Throughout years of political gridlock, the risk that India might pass its biggest tax reform since independence appeared reassuringly remote for many businesses. Until now. Suddenly, the prospect that a new Goods and Services Tax (GST) could enter force next year has bosses panicking at the likely impact and seeking advice on how to cope. The expected passage by parliament of a key constitutional amendment would resolve crucial issues needed to transform India's \$2 trillion economy and 1.3 billion consumers into a single market for the first time.

The amendment is likely to clear the upper house after the opposition Congress party, which originally proposed the GST while in power, wrung concessions from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Yet the vote will only fire the starting gun in a legislative marathon in which the national parliament and India's 29 federal states have to pass further laws determining the still unknown - rate and scope of the tax. At the same time, a huge IT system needs to be set up, tax collectors trained and companies brought up to speed on a levy that experts say will force them to overhaul business processes from front to back.

One boss who isn't ready is GR Ralhan, head of Roamer Woollen Mills in the northern city of Ludhiana. "Companies, particularly smaller ones, are apprehensive," Ralhan said, calling for more time to adjust and saying a high rate of GST could



CHENNAI: An Indian laborer loads grain sacks on to a truck at a railway goods yard in Chennai yesterday. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said India was on the cusp of its biggest tax reform. — AFP

put his firm out of business. Countries that have introduced GST in the past have often faced a relative economic slowdown before the benefits of a unified tax regime feed through. India is already the world's fastest growing large economy, expanding by 7.9 percent year-on-year in the March quarter. Economists at HSBC forecast a boost of 0.8 percentage points from the GST within three to five years. Tax experts say that only 20 percent of - mostly big - firms are getting ready for the GST. The rest are taking things as they come in a country where coping with a changing tax regime has been a way of life for decades. Yet even those actively preparing must contend with a series of unknowns as the national and state parliaments tackle the task of transforming a "model" GST law into the real thing. — Reuters

Kuwait & Times



HSBC'S PROFITS PLUNGE AS **BREXIT UNCERTAINTY BITES**

Shares rise 3.6% on pragmatic measures

HONG KONG: HSBC announced a \$2.5 billion share buy-back and pared ambitions to grow dividend payouts and returns as it took pragmatic steps to soothe investors amid slowing growth in its home markets of Britain and Hong Kong. The lender's London-listed shares were trading 3.6 percent higher at 0808 GMT after the buy-back took the sting out of a 29 percent drop in January-June pretax profits, which matched analysts' expectations.

As Britain's vote to leave the European Union clouds economic prospects and Hong Kong absorbs slower growth in China, HSBC, Europe's biggest bank, has opted to "remove a timetable" for reaching its targeted return on equity (RoE) in excess of 10 percent by the end of next year. Return on equity at end-June was 7.4 percent. "Abandoning the timetable for reaching a 10 percent RoE is not pessimistic as much as realistic that interest rates in the US aren't going up and 'lower-forlonger' is brutal for them," Richard Buxton, CEO of Old Mutual Global Investors, one of HSBC's 30 largest

investors, told Reuters.

Group Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said the bank had removed the word "progressive" from its guidance on dividend payout plans, as a reflection of tougher market conditions. "Progressive' was interpreted by everyone as meaning it is going to go up every quarter notwithstanding what is happening in the world, so what we are saying is we are committed to sustain the dividend at the current level," he told Reuters. While investors interpreted the new guidance as pragmatic, analysts at Shore Capital said they were "less than convinced" by the management's pledge to maintain the dividend, noting that both Gulliver and Chairman Douglas Flint are set to step down in the next couple of years. "With the earnings outlook continuing to deteriorate ... a future dividend cut could therefore still be on the cards, especially if a new leadership takes a different view."

Capital boost The share buy-back follows

HSBC's disposal of its Brazil unit last

month in a \$5.2 billion deal. Gulliver told Reuters HSBC's core equity ratio would move to 12.6 percent from 12.1 percent at the end of June, following the buy-back, in line with the bank's target range of 12-13 percent. The bank could announce further buy-backs up to the value of the entire Brazil disposal in the future, Gulliver said, depending on the global economic outlook next year and beyond.

HSBC's reserves could be boosted yet further as the bank repatriates capital 'trapped' in the United States following the sale of assets from its disastrous 2003 purchase of consumer lender Household. The core capital ratio in HSBC's North America business was in the mid-20s and Gulliver said it could remit a 'material sum' as dividends to the bank's London-based holding company, boosting the Group's capital further.

UK, Asia slowdown Europe's banking sector, rattled by deteriorating profits caused by record low interest rates, is braced for fresh economic turmoil as Britain's ponders its future relationship with the EU. Gulliver said the bank had seen reduced applications for funding from small businesses in Britain following the June 23 referendum, but that the impact of Brexit had otherwise been 'muted' so far. "The fall in profits is pretty much to be expected as indeed is lower guidance on ROE given nigh on zero interest rates," said Hugh Young, head of equities at Aberdeen Asset Management, a top HSBC shareholder, adding that he believed the management would continue to invest in its business plan as necessary.

HSBC is also grappling with slowing growth in Asia, where first-half profit fell 8 percent and plans to funnel capital from Western businesses into China's Pearl River Delta region have been pared back. "Our plans haven't changed in China... but we are saying the redeployment of capital will take longer," Gulliver told Reuters, blaming China's slowing growth and fluctuating currency since the 'Asia pivot' strategy was announced last June. —Reuters



BEIRUT: At an exclusive event in Beirut, (Lebanon) Infiniti Middle East took the covers of the hotly anticipated all-new Infiniti Q30. The Infiniti Q30 active compact is a new type of premium vehicle for a new type of consumer. Representing Infiniti's first entry into the fast-growing premium compact segment, the Q30 will play an important role in continuing to drive the growth of the brand here in the region.

Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East said: "When we first debuted the Infiniti Q30 to the region at the Dubai International Motor Show last year - it was met with widespread critical acclaim. We are extremely proud to be here today when we can officially launch the car to all markets in the Middle East. The Infiniti Q30 is a completely new segment and direction for the Infiniti brand and we are confident that this vehicle will continue to deliver Infiniti's premium experience to a new segment of customer."

The Q30 takes Infiniti's signature design cues and evolves them into new dynamic shapes. The doublearch grille with 3D mesh, for example, has grown from the Q50, with a more fluid movement into the headlamps. The dramatic curves and turbulent lines flow up the bonnet, over the fenders and across the body line nto the strong shoulder of the car.



r	Fina	al Bank o ancial Ma Daily Repo 02:00 PM Previou	rkets ort	ť	وطني NBI	
	Glo	bal Stock I	ndices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Chan	ge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance
Dow Jones	18,404.51	18,313.77	-90.74	۲	-0.49	5.10
NASDAQ	5,184.20	5,137.73	-46.47	۲	-0.90	2.60
S&P 500	2,170.84	2,157.03	-13.81	۲	-0.64	5.52
Financial Times	6,645.40	6,628.51	-16.89	•	-0.25	6.19
DAX	10,144.34	10,141.08	-3.26	۲	-0.03	-5.60
CAC 40	4,327.99	4,310.35	-17.64	Ŧ	-0.41	-7.05
Swiss	8,011.24	7,986.15	-25.09	۲	-0.31	-9.43
Nikkei 225	16,391.45	16,083.11	-308.34	۲	-1.88	-15.50
Торіх	1,300.20	1,271.98	-28.22	¥	-2.17	-17.79
Hang Seng	22,129.14	21,739.12	-390.02	¥	-1.76	-0.80
Straits Times	2,856.67	2,827.58	-29.09		-1.02	-1.91

MENA Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Chan	ge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,463.15	5,470.80	7.65		0.14	-2.78
Saudi Arabia	6,268.13	6,227.22	-40.91	۲	-0.65	-9.31
Dubai	3,469.50	3,431.90	-37.60	Ŧ	-1.08	10.11
Abu Dhabi	4,507.35	4,509.62	2.27		0.05	4.65
Bahrain	1,161.80	1,155.86	-5.94	۲	-0.51	-4.45
Qatar	10,650.86	10,545.01	-105.85	۲	-0.99	2.12
Oman	5,856.28	5,848.21	-8.07	۲	-0.14	8.32
Lebanon	1,151.87	1,151.88	0.01		0.00	-1.51
Jordan	2,128.48	2,136.86	8.38		0.39	-0.37
Egypt	7,973.45	8,086.00	112.55		1.41	13.81
Morocco	9,914.31	9,888.83	-25.48	•	-0.26	11.08
Tunisia	5,338.43	5,329.83	-8.60		-0.16	5.88

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3315	3.3020	2.9479	2.4717	3.1970	334.06	4.3521
Saudi Riyal	0.08109		0.2678	0.2391	0.2004	0.2593	27.09	0.3529
US Dollar	0.30285	3.7346		0.8928	0.7486	0.9682	101.17	1.3180
Euro	0.33922	4.1831	1.1201		0.8387	1.0847	113.33	1.4773
Sterling Pound	0.40458	4.9891	1.3359	1.1923		1.2937	135.18	1.7610
Swiss Franc	0.31280	3.8573	1.0328	0.9219	0.7730		104.53	1.3613
Japanese Yen	0.00299	0.0369	0.0099	0.0088	0.0074	0.0096		0.0130
Australian Dollar	0.22977	2.8334	0.7587	0.6769	0.5679	0.7346	76.76	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30285	3.7346	0.3742	3.6270	0.3831	3.6574	8.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3020	[12.3315	1.2356	11.9762	1.2651	12.0766	28.9582
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08109		0.1002	0.9712	0.1026	0.9793	2.3483
Bahraini Dinar	2.6723	0.80930	9.9800		9.6924	1.0238	9.7737	23.4360
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08350	1.0297	0.1032		0.1056	1.0084	2.4180
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79046	9.7476	0.9767	9.4668		9.5461	22.8904
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08280	1.0211	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		2.3979
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03453	0.4258	0.0427	0.4136	0.0437	0.4170	

Global Interest Rate

The signature C-pillar arcs forward in a dynamic crescent shape that emphasizes motion, even when stationary. The contrast of the long, low-slung roof-line, conjuring an image of a rakish shooting brake in silhouette, and elevated stance add to the visual impact. This also adds to a sleek look that gives the impression of the car being in motion even when standing still. The balance of sculptural shapes moving past one another creates a harmonious design that can be appreciated at a glance.

An important, differentiating characteristic of the Q30's design is its combination of elevated stance with an overall height that is comparable with models in the traditional compact segment. The Q30's height (1,495mm) allows for a higher hip point (531mm), which aids ingress and egress. The A-pillar design is intentionally slim, contributing to enhanced visibility for a confident driving experience.

The Q30 Sport stands a little lower (1,475mm), accentuating the already distinctive, coupe-like silhouette, which is emphasized by a shallow side glass area, while also providing for agile ride and handling. Driving performance will also be differentiated, thanks to individual suspensions settings and distinctive ride and handling characteristics - offering premium compact buyers a choice that is specific to their personal needs and preferences.

The Q30 Premium includes LED front fog lamps, body-colored and heated door mirrors, as well as chrome dual rectangular exhaust finishers. 18-inch

alloy wheels add to the Premium grade's striking appearance. On the technology front, the Q30 delivers in spades as the best equipped with the highest level of assistive technology in the segment. This includes' Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection, Intelligent Parking Assist, Forward Collision Warning with Forward Emergency Braking and Blind Sport Warning.

A first for Infiniti and this category, the Intelligent Parking Assist is designed to work in the three most common parking situations, tight parallel parking, 90 degree backing-in and heading -in parking. Using 12 sensors in the front and rear, the system automatically steers the vehicle into place with the additional help or audio and visual warnings whilst the driver controls the brake and accelerator.

Ranking among the best in the premium compact segment, front passenger seat width is 1,393mm; rear passenger seat width measures 1,349mm; head room (without sunroof) is 108mm in the front and 43mm in the rear of the car. There is 626mm of leg room in the front and 538mm in the back, and 1,324mm and 1,244mm of hip room front and rear, respectively. Cargo capacity is highly competitive, notably the boot capacity of 430 litres. Aided by a wide, square aperture, and



practical, squared-off dimensions, the boot will easily hold two large suitcases, with 60:40 split-fold rear passenger seats liberating additional space for larger cargo.

At launch, the Infiniti Q30 will be available with 1.6L or 2.0L Turbo variants in a 2WD configuration. The 2.0L Turbo will also be offered with an optional AWD drivetrain. The 2.0L Turbo engine delivers 208hp and 350Nm torque. When equipped with front-wheel drive or allwheel drive, the highest-performing engine in the range is capable of powering the Infiniti Q30 from 0-to-100kph in 7.3 seconds. Available across the Middle East the all-new Infiniti Q30 starts at AED 105,000.

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.44	0.49	0.77	1.14	1.45
Euro	-0.38	-0.36	-0.31	-0.19	-0.06
Sterling Pound	0.38	0.39	0.48	0.57	0.80
Swiss Franc	-0.81	-0.80	-0.75	-0.66	-0.50
Australian Dollar	1.58	1.66	1.63	1.58	1.53
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.90	0.90	1.03	1.13

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-	Year
United States	0.67	1.07	1.54	2.	28
Europe	-0.61	-0.48	-0.04	0.	43
United Kingdom	0.18	0.35	0.80	1.	62
		Commoditi	es		
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance

					Periormance 2	Performance
Kuwait Oil	37.33	37.23	-0.10	۲	-0.27	22.98
Brent	39.61	39.46	-0.15	۲	-0.38	5.10
West Texas	39.55	39.45	-0.10	•	-0.25	6.12
Gold	1363.20	1364.10	0.90		0.07	22.15
Silver	20.61	20.54	-0.06	•	-0.31	32.79

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZ	aini Exchange Co.		Sterling Pound Canadian dollar Turkish lira	403.590 230.780 101.490	Malaysian Ringgit Chinese Yuan Renminbi	75.055 45.960		Indian Rupee Indonesian Rupiah	0.004346 0.000019	0.
URRENCY	BUY	SELL	Swiss Franc	314.460	Thai Bhat	9.660		Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling	0.002878 0.003110	0.0 0.0
-	ASIAN COUNTRIES		Australian Dollar	230.880	Turkish Lira	100.970		Kenyan Shiiling Korean Won	0.003110	0.
panese Yen	2.982		US Dollar Buying	301.000						0.
dian Rupees	4.527		oo bollar baying	501.000	BAHRAIN	n Exchange C	COMPANY	Malaysian Ringgit	0.072187 0.002851	0.
kistani Rupees	2.887			GOLD				Nepalese Rupee		0.
rilankan Rupees	2.075		20 Gram	272.610	CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	Pakistan Rupee	0.002719	
epali Rupees	2.814		10 Gram	139.230	CORRENCY	Europe	SELL	Philippine Peso	0.006317	0.
ngapore Dollar	226.200		5 Gram	70.460	British Pound	0.393722	0.408722	Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.
ongkong Dollar	38.953				Czech Korune	0.004495	0.016495	Singapore Dollar	0.220621	0.
angladesh Taka	3.853		DOLLARC	o Exchange Co. Ltd	Danish Krone	0.041365	0.046365	South African Rand	0.015785	0. 0.
hilippine Peso	6.437		DOLLARC	J EACHANGE CO. LID	Euro	0.032150	0.0341150	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001655	
hai Baht	8.728				Norwegian Krone	0.031870	0.037070	Taiwan	0.009299	0.
	GCC COUNTRIES		Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	Romanian Leu	0.086745	0.086745	Thai Baht	0.008372	0.
Saudi Riyal	80.630		US Dollar	302.400	Slovakia	0.009007	0.019007		A I	
Qatari Riyal	83.056		Canadian Dollar	230.730	Swedish Krona	0.031320	0.036320	D-hardel Direct	Arab	
ani Riyal	785.343		Sterling Pound	403.620	Swiss Franc	0.305256	0.316256	Bahraini Dinar	0.795553	
Bahraini Dinar	802.980		Euro	340.020	Turkish Lira	0.096819	0.107119	Egyptian Pound	0.025234	0.
JAE Dirham	82.321		Swiss Frank	292.930				Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.
	02.521		Bahrain Dinar UAE Dirhams	799.415 82.560		Australasia		Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.
	ARAB COUNTRIES		Qatari Riyals	82.560 83.775	Australian Dollar	0.221624	0.233624	Jordanian Dinar	0.422358	0.4
gyptian Pound - Cash	30.750		Saudi Rivals	83.775 81.360	New Zealand Dollar	0.211948	0.221448	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.0
gyptian Pound - Transfe			Jordanian Dinar	426.110				Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.0
emen Riyal/for 1000	1.214		Egyptian Pound	33.957		America		Moroccan Dirhams	0.019264	0.0
unisian Dinar	137.680		Sri Lankan Rupees	2.075	Canadian Dollar	0.226401	0.235401	Nigerian Naira	0.001246	0.0
ordanian Dinar	426.660		Indian Rupees	4.524	Georgina Lari	0.136578	0.136578	Omani Riyal	0.779035	0.
ebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015		Pakistani Rupees	2.882	US Dollars	0.298300	0.303000	Qatar Riyal	0.082250	0.0
Syrian Lira	2.0155		Bangladesh Taka	3.847	US Dollars Mint	0.298800	0.30300	Saudi Riyal	0.079553	0.
, Iorocco Dirham	31.479		Philippines Pesso	6.423				Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.0
			Cyprus pound	159.365		Asia		Tunisian Dinar	0.134032	0.1
EUROPEA	N & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		Japanese Yen	3.985	Bangladesh Taka	0.003384	0.003968	Turkish Lira	0.096819	0.1
JS Dollar Transfer	302.200		Syrian Pound	2.400	Chinese Yuan	0.044074	0.047574	UAE Dirhams	0.080907	0.0
Euro	340.130		Nepalese Rupees	3.825	Hong Kong Dollar	0.036916	0.039666	Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.0

BUSINESS

News

<u> Kuwait Mimes</u>

in brief

Iran's Cabinet approves new oil, gas contracts

DUBAI: Iran's Cabinet approved yesterday an amended draft for the country's new oil and gas contracts, Iranian official media reported. "The draft of the general conditions, structure and patterns of the upstream petroleum and gas contracts which included more than 150 minor and major changes ... was given final approval in today's cabinet meeting," the Iranian oil ministry's news agency, SHANA, said. The launch of the Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) has been postponed several times as hardline rivals of pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani resisted any deal that could end the buy-back system, under which foreign firms were banned from owning stakes in Iranian companies. Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said last month that no new oil and gas contracts for international companies would be awarded without necessary reforms. The Islamic Republic is ramping up oil production and reclaiming market share after the lifting of Western sanctions in January.

Flooding dampens AXA profit to 3.2 bn euros

PARIS: French insurer AXA said yesterday its net profit climbed 4 percent in the first half of 2016 to 3.2 billion euros (\$4.0 billion) as rain and flooding in Germany and France held back earnings. The result, lower than the consensus forecast of analysts, was boosted by one-off items such as the sale of two buildings in New York City. However the insurer had to take charges for selling a British and Portuguese unit and write down the value of some of its financial assets. Revenues dipped by 1 percent to 54 billion euros, with a dip in the life and savings business balanced by an increase in property and casualty sales. Underlying earnings, which measures just the operating performance of the company, was stable at 3.1 billion euros. The result would have been higher had AXA not been forced to absorb 100 million euros in costs related to torrential rain that caused rivers to burst their banks and kill 11 in Germany and four in France in late May and early June.

Egypt's trade deficit narrows 25 percent

CAIRO: Egypt's trade deficit was 24.6 percent smaller in May compared with a year earlier, the statistics agency said yesterday, as the government seeks to promote exports while minimizing imports to manage a chronic shortage of hard currency. The trade deficit was 25.2 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2.8 billion), down from 33.4 billion in the same month a year earlier, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics said in a statement. Egypt has run short of foreign currency since a popular uprising in 2011 drove away tourists and foreign investors, leaving it struggling to pay for imports, from wheat to consumer goods. The central bank has been rationing dollars, giving priority to imports of essential goods and to exporters who need to import raw material for manufacturing. Exports increased by 9.1 percent in May to 18.3 billion pounds, CAPMAS said.

German Axel Springer cuts revenue forecast

FRANKFURT: German media group Axel Springer cut its full-year revenue forecast yesterday after a first half bur-

EMERGING MYANMAR DISCOVERING IT PAYS TO INSURE

YANGON: It was only when Aye Aye Nge's pharmacy burned down for the second time that she thought about taking out insurance, a novelty in impoverished Myanmar where most people either can't afford to buy premiums or don't trust those selling them. The two blazes-one in 2010 and then in January this year-gutted much of the bustling Mingalar market in downtown Yangon, taking with it two shops and valuable stock belonging to the 73-year-old.

"I thought there couldn't be a fire accident again after the first one," she told AFP from her tiny new store on the fourth floor of a nearby building where the market has moved. "I am going to buy insurance," she added. "I must do it. I have lost (everything) twice already and am afraid of losing it all again." Decades of brutal, corrupt and economically inept military rule left Myanmar's people with a deep distrust of state-run institutions.

Many people chose to hide or bury their savings rather than deposit them in a bank. For 50 years until 2013, the only insurance company in the country was a state-run monopoly after the junta closed down all rivals. But the country's dramatic transformation from military to civilianled rule, capped by last November's elections that spurred Aung San Suu Kyi's party to power, has begun to shift the fortunes of the economy. The values and aspirations of Myanmar's people are also changing.

Insurance firms are gambling that as people get richer, they eventually will do more to protect themselves-and their assets-in a country prone to natural disasters and with near non-existent health and safety standards. Investment has flooded in and the country's largest city



YANGON: A repairman (right) assess the damage while owners (left) look at their car following a traffic accident in Yangon. According to the government, just five percent of the country's 600,000 drivers have any sort of insurance. — AFP

Yangon is now filled with cranes and cars plying traffic choked streets. But according to the government, just five percent of the country's 600,000 drivers have any sort of insurance. Likewise, few of the shop owners around the bustling Shwe Mingalar market have taken out protection measures, despite losing thousands of dollars in the recent fires.

'Huge potential'

After decades of junta rule, insurance is simply not a priority to the public. "They are not interested at all," admits Htay Paing, the deputy managing director of Grand Guardian Insurance Public, one of a host of new insurance companies. Management consulting giant McKinsey believes the economy, if managed properly, could quadruple from \$45 billion in 2010 to \$200 billion by 2030. That should be a boon to insurers. "The (potential) market is very big, it's true that it's a virgin market."

Htay Paing said.

Until 2013 the only insurer allowed to operate in the country was Myanma Insurance, which offered a limited number of products-including protection against snake bites in a country where the mortality rate from such incidents is twice as high as the world average. Competitors have since been allowed in alongside a handful of foreign companies. "There's absolutely huge potential in Myanmar, it's a nearly untapped market," an employee of a large western insurance broker who regularly travels to Myanmar told AFP, asking not to be named. "But there's currently very little culture of taking out insurance and the state still dominates the industry," he added.

Under current rules, private insurers are still limited to offering just 11 products, largely life, health and car insurance. Myanma Insurance is able to offer more products, often at a cheaper premium. But companies are nonetheless jostling to get a head start in the hopes that regulations will be further relaxed. So far 22 foreign firms have been granted licenses with Japanese companies leading the way-three have been granted concessions to sell products inside a newly opened special economic zone. The rewards for those who get in early could pay off.

Asia Insurance Review, a website monitoring the regional market, believes Myanmar's sector could be worth as much as \$2.6 billion by 2030. Meanwhile, US giant MetLife, which opened up a Myanmar office in 2013, has estimated that the life cover market alone could grow from just \$1 million in 2012 to \$1 billion in 2028. Car insurance is one area already seeing growth. Thanks to sanctions and severe import restrictions under the junta, Yangon's empty roads were once enjoyed by a wealthy elite. But more than half a million new cars have been added to the roads since the reforms-along with many more accidents. — AFP

120,000 BITCOIN UNITS **STOLEN FROM BITFINEX**

STOLEN BITCOIN WORTH \$72 MILLION

HONG KONG: Nearly 120,000 units of digital currency bitcoin worth about US\$72 million was stolen from the exchange platform Bitfinex in Hong Kong, rattling the global bitcoin community in the secondbiggest security breach ever of such an exchange. Bitfinex is the world's largest dollar-based exchange for bitcoin, and is known in the digital currency community for having deep liquidity in the US dollar/bitcoin currency pair.

Zane Tackett, Director of Community &



"cryptocurrency" that can move across the globe anonymously without the need for a central authority. A bitcoin expert said the scandal highlighted the risks of companies using cryptography for their ledgers. "The more you rely on its benefits, the greater the potential for damage when keys are stolen. We still have some way to go to create highly secure but convenient systems," said Singapore-based Antony Lewis.

The volume of bitcoin stolen amounts to about 0.75 percent of all bitcoin in circu-

dened by costs from a Swiss joint venture. The board "slightly adjusted the revenue forecast and expects stable development rather than the slight growth originally predicted," the group said in a statement with its second-quarter results. Between April and June, Springer posted a net profit of 63.8 million euros (\$71.5 million), a fall of 6.2 percent compared with the same period in 2015 and short of the 81 million predicted in a Factset survey of analysts. Revenue increased by 0.7 percent to 801.9 million euros, while underlying, or operating, profit as measured by EBITDA was steady at 147 million euros. That contributed to a first half that saw revenues grow just 0.5 percent to 1.59 billion euros, burdened by currency effects and "significant deconsolidation effects" from the founding of Springer's Swiss joint venture with fellow publisher Ringier.

Bahrain's AUB Q2 profit up 11.7% on higher fees

DUBAI: Ahli United Bank (AUB), Bahrain's largest lender, posted a 11.7 percent increase in its second-quarter net attributable profit vesterday. The bank's net attributable profit for the three months to June 30 was \$146.6 million, compared with \$131.2 million in the corresponding period of 2015, it said in a statement. SICO Bahrain and Argaam Capital had forecast the bank would make a profit in the period of \$145.1 million and \$129 million respectively. One of the drivers of profit growth was a rise in net interest income to \$206.2 million, from \$200.9 million in the same period on 2015. Fees and commissions also rose to \$59.8 million, compared to \$45.7 million in the year earlier period.

Saatchi boss Roberts to resign after sexism row

PARIS: French advertising giant Publicis said Kevin Roberts, the chairman of its Saatchi & Saatchi business, would resign on Sept 1 after the veteran advertising boss said some women lacked "vertical ambition". Roberts, the British-born executive, sparked a sexism row after he was quoted in an interview as saying that he doesn't spend any time on gender issues as the gender diversity debate was over in the advertising world. "The Supervisory Board and the Chairman and CEO of Publicis Groupe took note of Kevin Robert's decision to step down with effect from September 1st 2016, prior to his retirement date due in May 2017," Publicis said in a statement. Publicis had this week asked Roberts to take an immediate leave of absence as the group did not tolerate "anyone speaking for our organization who does not value the importance of inclusion".

Panama seeks to punish nations that blacklist it

PANAMA CITY: The government of Panama yesterday announced a bill that would take a range of steps against countries that put it on their blacklists of "tax havens" in the wake of the Panama Papers revelations. The legislation would impose tax, trade and migration measures on companies or individuals from those countries that "engage in practices that discriminate or imply damage to economic interests" of Panama, a statement said. The move could be directed at France, which put Panama back on its national blacklist of tax havens in April following the Panama Papers reports, which showed how some of the world's wealthy stashed assets in offshore firms created by the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca.

Product Development for Bitfinex, told Reuters on Wednesday that 119,756 bitcoin had been stolen from users' accounts and that the exchange had not yet decided how to address customer losses. "The bitcoin was stolen from users' segregated wallets," he said. The company said it had reported the theft to law enforcement and was cooperating with top blockchain analytic companies to track the stolen coins. Last year, Bitfinex announced a tie-up with Palo Alto-based BitGo, which uses multiple-signature security to store user deposits online, allowing for faster withdrawals.

"Our investigation has found no evidence of a breach to any BitGo servers," BitGo said in a Tweet. "With users' funds secured using multi-signature technology in partnership with BitGo, a lot more is at stake for the backbone of the bitcoin industry, with its stalwarts and prided tech under fire," said Charles Hayter, chief executive and founder of digital currency website CryptoCompare. The security breach HONG KONG: A man walks out of a shop displaying a Bitcoin sign in this file photo during the opening ceremony of the first Bitcoin retail shop in Hong Kong. — AFP

comes two months after Bitfinex was ordered to pay a \$75,000 fine by the US Commodity and Futures Trading Commission in part for offering illegal offexchange financed commodity transactions in bitcoin and other digital currencies.

Bitcoin slump

Tuesday's breach triggered a slump in bitcoin prices and was reminiscent of Tokyo-based exchange Mt Gox, which said it had lost about \$500 million worth of customers' Bitcoins in a hacking attack. Bitcoin plunged just over 23 percent on Tuesday after the news broke. On Wednesday it was up 1 percent at \$545.20 on the BitStamp platform.

Tackett added that the breach did not "expose any weaknesses in the security of a blockchain", the technology that generevents that led to the 2014 collapse of ates and processes bitcoin, a web-based

lation. It is not yet clear whether the theft was an inside job or whether hackers were able to gain access to the system externally. On an online forum, Bitfinex's Tackett said he was "nearly 100 percent certain" it was no one in the company. Bitfinex suspended trading on Tuesday after it discovered the breach. It said on its website that it was investigating and cooperating with the authorities.

The security breach is the latest scandal to hit Hong Kong's bitcoin market after MvCoin became embroiled in a scam last year that media estimated could have duped investors of up to \$387 million. The bitcoin trading company closed after the scandal. The president of the Hong Kong Bitcoin Association said the only way to protect information is to disperse it in so many small pieces that the reward for hacking is too small. "For an attacker, the cost-benefit strategy is quite easy: How much is in the pot and how likely is it that I'm getting the pot?" said LeonhardWeese. — Reuters

RIO TINTO'S UNDERLYING PROFIT HITS DECADE LOW

SYDNEY: Mining giant Rio Tinto yesterday reported a slump in first-half underlying earnings to their lowest point for a decade due to weak commodity prices, even as net profit surged. Underlying profits-investors' preferred measure-at the world's second-biggest miner fell 47 percent from a year earlier to \$1.56 billion in the six months through June. The results were the lowest since 2004, according to Bloomberg News, and broadly in line with analysts' expectations.

They are the first delivered under new chief executive, Frenchman Jean-Sebastien Jacques, who took over from Sam Walsh last month. Jacques said the miner was focused on delivering value to shareholders, which includes cost-cutting, amid a backdrop of "continued volatility and lower commodity prices". "This focus is unrelenting, with further cost reductions achieved in the half and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) margins of 33 percent," he said.

With our strong operating cash flows, tight control over capital expenditure and progress on divestments, the balance sheet remains robust." The cuts helped net profit more than double to \$1.71 billion in the six months to June 30, up from \$806 million in the corresponding period last year. Capital spending for the six months dropped significantly to \$1.32 billion, while net debt fell six percent to \$12.9 billion. The company said it expects full-year expenditure to reach \$4.0 billion in 2016 and \$5.0 billion in 2017.

"Overall, we would say it's a pretty good result... given the turbulence in the market," Fat Prophets resources analyst David Lennox said. "Underlying earnings were in line with what we were forecasting... and cost was again a very good stand-out, pulling in \$410 million in savings." Underlying earnings for iron ore fell 17 percent from \$2.1 billion to \$1.7 billion, while copper and diamonds earnings slumped to a loss of \$67 million from \$393 million. Aluminum's underlying earnings more than halved to \$377 million as energy and minerals rose 11 percent to \$82 million.

Cautious times ahead

The profit result came a day after Rio said it would shell out \$338 million to complete the development of the Silvergrass mine in Western Australia's Pilbara region. Raw material prices have suffered amid a supply glut due to slowing demand from China, the world's largest commodities consumer.

Prices for oil and metals such as steel-making ingredient iron ore have tumbled, and Rio said "continued caution" was required in the second half of this year as global growth slows. "The credit-fuelled bounce in Chinese construction activity has had a positive impact on commodity markets in the first half of 2016, but its impact has

been uneven, benefiting most steel raw materials," the company added.

"This has pulled prices up from the multi-year lows seen at the start of the year, as markets continue to rebalance." Shares in Rio closed flat in Sydney at Aus\$49.42 ahead of the result. In February Rio posted an annual net loss of \$866 million and underlying profit dropped 51 percent to \$4.54 billion, as the Melbournebased firm announced further cuts to costs and capital spending. It also dumped its progressive dividend policy, in which shareholders are given gradually higher payouts. Rio declared an interim dividend of 45 US cents for the first-half, a 58 percent drop from last year. —AFP



PILBARA: Remote-controlled stackers and reclaimers move iron ore to rail cars at Rio Tinto's Port Dampier operations in Western Australia's Pilbara region. — AFP

<u>Kuwait Times</u>



World stocks down for 3rd day in a row INVESTORS NERVOUS OVER CENTRAL BANKS

LONDON: World stocks fell for a third straight the region's financials amid the recent gloom. day yesterday, depressed by growing nervousness surrounding central bank policy and the recent spike in world bond yields, although European bank shares rebounded after two major earnings reports. Japanese stocks led the way, pushed down nearly 2 percent by the recent surge in Japanese government bond yields and the strength of the yen, overshadowing the slight rebound in European shares from Tuesday's three-week lows. Shares in European banks HSBC and Societe Generale rose as much as 5 percent after reporting second quarter earnings, a glimmer of light for

But that failed to lift the broader European indexes and US futures pointed to a softer open on Wall Street. In bond markets, yields were little changed on the day, but still well up from recent lows following the shakeout in debt markets globally since the Bank of Japan's policy meeting last Friday and as eyes turn to the Bank of England yesterday. "Investors are slowly realizing that with every spin of the central bank policy chamber the magazine is getting emptier," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in London.

"The larger concern here given recent mar-

ket reaction to policy moves by central bankers is that policymakers are losing the confidence of investors," he said. In early trade the index of Europe's leading 300 shares was down 0.3 percent at 1,316 points and Germany's DAX was down 0.4 percent at 10,104 points. Banking shares rose 1.5 percent, lifted by SocGen and HSBC after their respective earnings reports. SocGen profits beat expectations and HSBC announced a \$2.5 billion share buyback plan. MSCI's global share index fell 0.5 percent for its third straight decline, a run not seen since early June. Japan's Nikkei fell 1.9 percent.



62,649,248

9,795,213 1,970

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 03 August 2016

Index	С	hange	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index		7.65	5,470.80	5,463.15	5,471.08	5,460.53	Volume
Weighted Index		1.34	352.49	351.15	353.51	350.20	Value (KWD)
KSX 15		4.81	818.67	813.86	822.79	811.55	Number of Trades

ecurity	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Ch	nange	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Ch	nang
ARIN	94	91	51	5	2	94	¥.	-1.0	SOKOUK	36.0	35.5	60010	2,130	5	36.0	-	(
ARUS G	39.0	38.0	200,396	7,698	9	38.0	*	-1.0	KRE URC	52 108	52	100,000	5,200	1	52	-	
APESCO	350	340	12,628	4,398	5	350 730	A	20.0	NRE	78	100	140,029	15,123 9,703	11 9	108 77	A V	-
NERGYH	47.5	46.5	5,500	257	5	46.5	¥	-2.5	SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	<u> </u>	
PI	40.0	40.0	265.101	10.604	8	40.0	-	0.0	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	-	
BAR II & Gas	0.0	0.0	0 483,676	0 22,962	0 29	93 768.82	-	0.0	AREEC MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138 39.5	-	-
ii a Gas			403,070	22,902	29	100.02		3.50	ARABREC	31.5	31.0	72,000	2,235	5	39.5	Ξ	-
FOUC	166	166	59,000	9,794	5	166		2.0	ERESCO	49.0	48.0	195,900	9,443	6	48.0	-	
PCC	500	495	17,376	8,607	6	495	٧	-5.0	MABANEE	770	770	4,594	3,537	3	770	-	
LKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	-	0.0	INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	-	
LQURAIN asic Materials	192	190	78,013	14,830 33,231	13 24	192 957.34	A	2.0	INVESTORS	23.0 30.5	22.5 30.0	995,200 21,760	22,808 653	18	22.5 30.5	•	1
					/				ALTIJARIA	77	76	80,800	6,143	4	77	-	
CEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375		0.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	-	
EFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315		0.0	AAYANRE	61	61	27,000	1,647	3	61	¥	-
ABLE HIP	385	380 164	1,002 32,027	386 5,293	2 4	380 166	¥ ¥	-10.0	AQAR	23.5	0.0 23.5	0 10,000	0 235	0	55 23.5	*	-
CEM	0.0	0.0	0	0,200	0	960	-	0.0	MAZAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	-	
APER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	-	0.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	-	
RC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62		0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	-	_
CICO GMC	290	275	36,266	10,006	9	280 325		5.0 0.0	TIJARA	36.5 22.5	36.5	100 498,000	4 10,790	1 7	36.5 21.5	A V	-
CC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	_	0.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	458,000	0	0	85	-	-
BMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180		0.0	ARGAN	154	154	50	8	1	154		
ICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	<u></u>	0.0	ABYAAR	22.5	22.5	136,150	3,063	3	22.5	٧	-
QUIPMENT	56	53	1,550,666	84,730	90	56		3.0	MUNSHAAT	57	55	311,010	17,330	12	57	-	_
CCI YPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0		0.0	FIRSTDUBAI	63 40.5	61 39.5	256,886 255.300	15,822	14 6	61 40.0	*	-
ALBOOKH	65	64	147,805	9,460	7	64	Ψ.	-1.0	REAM	40.5	0.0	255.300	0	0	40.0	-	
GLTY	480	475	1,969,097	935,784	11	475		0.0	MENA	22.0	21.0	286,500	6,050	7	22.0	¥	-
	0.0	0.0	0	0	U	190	-	0.0	ALMUDON	28.5	27.5	776,600	21,578	26	28.5		
LEANING GL	40.0	39.0	33,611 25.000	1,311	2	40.0	×	0.5	MARAKEZ	30.0	30.0	28,000	840	2	30.0	· A	-
GL CPC	44.5	44.0	25.000	1.105	0	44.0	-	-1.0	AWJ	0.0	0.0	66,000	5,083	0	33.0		
UMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,400	-	0.0	Real Estate			4,447,889	169,636	162	838.94	Å	(
AFAIS	170	170	5,000	850	1	170	۳	-2.0	-			0.000				_	
AFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330		0.0	KINV	85	85	250	21	1	85	¥.	_
FC AYADEEN	29.0 29.5	28.0	26,500	755 39,996	9 23	29.0 29.5	A	1.0	FACIL IFA	172 32.5	172 32.0	8.783	1.511 58,632	1	172	Y Y	-
GC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	-	0.0	NINV	108	106	523,500	55,493	19	106	*	
тсс	58	55	749,490	41,819	32	57	۳	-1.0	KPROJ	550	530	649,175	349,055	12	550	*	_
PAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690		0.0	COAST	45.0	43.5	2,289,806	101,010	47	44.0	-	_
LAFCO UBARRAD	0.0	0.0 60	0 20,000	0	0	202 60	-	0.0	SECH SGC	49.0 85	48.0 85	346.031 5,000	16,771 425	22	48.5 85	A	_
DGISTICS	71	69	986,768	68,759	43	70		1.0	ARZAN	31.5	31.0	16,089	425 504	4	31.5	-	-
CEM	81	81	4,150	336	1	81		1.0	MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	-	
CEM	76	75	57,000	4,282	4	76		1.0	KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	<u></u>	
IC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	-	0.0	ALAMAN	48.5	48.5	260.000	12.610	8	48.5		_
CEM	73	73	404,723	29,545	7	73		0.0	ALOLA	49.5	48.5	1,535,130	75,212	41	49.5	-	-
KWC PEC	91 70	91 70	250 4,000	23 280	1	91 70	A	1.0	GIH	25.5	25.0 0.0	1,854,051 0	46,352 0	37	25.0 27.0	*	
dustrials			7,411,355	1,235,919	253	1141.20		0.73	AAYAN	33.5	33.0	1,589,122	52,819	36	33.0	.w	
									BAYANINV	33.5	33.0	385,000	12,771	15	33.0	-	_ (
SH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164		0.0	OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	-	_
SH APCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 100		0.0	KFIC KAMCO	40.5	39.0 0.0	57,464 0	2,277	8	40.5 112		
ATTL	214	214	10,000	2,140	1	214	•	-4.0	NIH	57	55	349,888	19,740	24	55	*	
ANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124		0.0	ISKAN	32.0	31.5	1.688.944	53,203	43	31.5	٧	
OULT	180	176	11,000	1,940	2	180		4.0	MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	-	
OOD onsumer Goods	2,460	2,460	1,845	4,539	4	2,460 1193.23	v v	-20.0	ALDEERA	0.0	0.0 47.0	0 3,501,711	0 166,953	0 85	39.5 47.5	-	
onsumer Goods			22,040	0,019	4	1193.23		-0.93	EKTTITAB	40.0	40.0	65,000	2,628	11	47.5	-	
HC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	-	0	ALMADINA	54	52	4,297,856	227,277	87	53	-	
тс	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	-	0	NOOR	42.0	42.0	68,000	2,856	3	42.0		
ACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248		0	TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	1	-
ealth Care			0	0	0	1043.81	-	0.00	EXCH TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	-	-
CIN	970	940	2.841	2,697	5	970		10	KSHC	33.0	32.0	21,600	704	6	33.0	-	-
нот	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300		0	ASIYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	_	
ULTAN	56	56	20,000	1,120	1	56	-	0	GNAHC	36.0	35.5	420,000	14,988	11	35.5	¥.	
ABLETV	26.0	24.0	3,000	73	3	24.0		0	AMWAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	-	_
YAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385 198		0	ALIMTIAZ	68 27.5	68 27.0	200,000 6,874,365	13,600	2	68 27.5	*	
ULAFUEL	108	108	7,581	819	7	198	100	0	NIND	120	118	225,020	26,552	148	120	-	
UNTAZAHAT	87	87	20,000	1,740	1	87		1	BIIHC	28.0	27.5	1,078,562	29,662	27	27.5	-	
ZEERA	870	870	500	435	1	870		20	SENERGY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	13.0	-	
OOR	112	110	60,853	6,784	11	110	-	0	AGHC	58	57	1,000	58	2	58		
	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102 154	_	0	KPPC TAHSSILAT	47.5	46.5 35.0	1,065,579 7,500	50,083 265	54 6	47.0	-	-
MAH	41.5	41.0	971,750	39,842	28	41.0	*	-1	JEERANH	0.0	0.0	0	265	0	70	=	
FIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	-	0	EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	-	
ezzan	1.080	1,060	128.455	136,167	14	1,080		0	GFH	68	67	123.000	8.248	5	67	V	
onsumer Service	e8		1,214,980	189,677	71	928.20	*	5.01	INOVEST Financial Service	57	57	181,000 31,498,658	10,317	1 834	57 569.73	A V	
AIN	335	330	909,331	304,279	55	335		0	i mancial Service	10		01,400,000	1,000,040	0.04		2	-
OREDOO	1,140	1,100	2,103	2,333	7	1,100		0	Investment Instru	iments		0	0	0	1081.97	-	
ITSTELEC	39.0	38.5	470,250	18,280	10	39.0	×.	1									_
VA	940	930	64.408	60,209	63	940		10	ASC	260	244	1,200	294	3	244	-	_
elecommunicatio	0115		1,446,092	385,101	135	602.55	A	4.50	OSOS FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	-	
BK	610	590	4,003,530	2,402,708	66	600		0	HAYATCOMM	45.0	43.5	13,250	584	8	45.0		-
вк	236	230	378,770	87,875	17	232	٧	-2	Technology			14,450	878	11	998.18	A.	
DK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	-	0									
BK	320	310	7,842	2,441	3	320	-	0	SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	
MUTAHED B	395 188	390 188	30,083	11,857 214,808	8	390 188	*	-5 2	AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172 460	-	
JRG	335	330	2.578.706	851,178	43	335		5	EFFECT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	-	-
=IN	465	455	4,820,406	2,213,744	159	465		15	AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	ō	29.5	-	
OUBYAN	395	390	67,456	26,314	12	390		0	MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	-	
JB	194	194	1,419,000	275,286	18	194		0	DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350		;
	34.5	34.0	1,258,950	42,809	22	34.5		0	ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	-	-
ARBABANK anks	172	170	79.777 15.787.118	13.583 6,142,605	57 426	170 790.71		0	MIDAN FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220 46.0	-	-
				11.141000				0.40	THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	-	
NS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280		0	KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5	<u></u>	
INS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	-	0.0	AMAR	49.0	47.0	49,003	2,306	7	47.0	Y	
NS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465		0.0	Parallel Market			49,003	2,306	7	1261.43		
UWAITRE	106	106	793	84 0	1	106 190	-	0.0									
TI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.5		0.0									
	31.5	30.0	118,000	3,549	13	31.5		1.5									
ETHAQ			0	0	0	355		0.0									
ETHAQ (IKWT surance	0.0	0.0	118,793	3,633	14	1013.73		5.76									

Credibility test

The sharpest moves lately have been in sovereign bond markets where a sudden spike in yields stirred speculation that a multi-year bull run in prices might finally be nearing its end. While Japanese bonds steadied yesterday they have still suffered the worst sell-off in over three years as investors feared the BoJ was out of easing ammunition and might leave it to fiscal policy to stimulate the economy. Tokyo on Tuesday approved 13.5 trillion yen (\$132 billion) in fiscal measures and the IMF urged Japan to mix fiscal stimulus with labor market reforms.

Bond bulls were worried the Bank of England might also under-deliver at its policy meeting yesterday, putting the onus on debt-funded government spending to support growth. "I would vote for no change in rates or QE (quantitative easing," former BoE policymaker Charles Goodhart said, adding that the Bank has effectively run out of policy ammunition and that further stimulus would be ineffective. "There's so much assumption that the Bank will cut rates that even though the effect of that will be minimal, they will do it, because not doing it would have an adverse effect on their credibility," he said.

The 10-year UK gilt yield was unchanged at 0.80 percent and the comparable Bund yielded -0.4 percent, both up around 10 basis points so far this week. Benchmark 10-year US Treasuries were also little changed on the day at 1.54 percent, and also up around 10 basis points this week, even though domestic data has generally been soft. The recent outbreak of weaker US data has further pushed back expectations for when the Federal Reserve might hike rates - the market is not fully priced for a move until well into 2018 - and taken a heavy toll on the dollar.

The dollar touched a near six-week trough against a basket of currencies, while the euro reached its highest since mid-July around \$1.1230 before easing back to \$1.12. Against the yen, the dollar was at 101.13 yen having got as low as 100.75 and down from 105.33 in just four sessions. In commodity markets, oil prices steadied in Asia but remained vulnerable to worries about a glut in both crude and refined product. Brent crude edged up 0.4 percent to \$41.93 but remained near fourmonth lows reached yesterday. NYMEX crude rose 0.5 percent to \$39.70 a barrel, but was still under the psychological \$40 level. —Reuters



HONG KONG: Vendors use their phones as they mind their market stalls in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

GOLD STEADIES; SPOT GOLD UP 0.1 PERCENT

LONDON: Gold was little changed yesterday, hovering close to a three-week high hit in the previous session, as the impact of

Investor attention will now shift towards the monthly US non-farm payrolls report, due tomorrow. "The weaker dollar

lower European share markets was offset by a steadier dollar. Spot gold was up 0.1 percent at \$1,364.27 an ounce by 1143 GMT. It hit \$1,367.33, its highest since July 11, on Tuesday and not far off a two-year peak of \$1,374.91 touched on July 7 on concerns over the impact of Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

European shares edged down, following heftier losses in Asian markets, while the dollar recovered from Tuesday's six-week low, up 0.2 percent against a basket of currencies. A higher dollar makes gold more expensive for foreign currency holders, while a decrease in risk appetite lifts interest in the metal, seen as a safer bet. The dollar suffered after weak US economic data undermined expectations of a nearterm interest rate hike.

A report from the US Commerce Department on Tuesday showed inflation was still muted in the country, which together with the anemic economic growth pace in the second guarter, could encourage a cautious Federal Reserve to maintain interest rates at current levels for a while. An increase in US interest rates would lift the opportunity cost of holding gold, which has surged about 28 percent this year on expectations the Fed would keep them unchanged.

this has helped lift the commodity com plex with the exception of oil this year, but our expectation is that the US economy remains on track for reasonable growth," Oxford Economics commodity director Daniel Smith said.

"Notwithstanding a really poor GDP print, there is a probability that non-farm payrolls will be very good and that brings back rate hikes back on the agenda and therefore the dollar will strengthen and gold will come off." Spot gold may retrace moderately to a support at \$1,358 per ounce before retesting a resistance at \$1,368, as suggested by its wave pattern and a Fibonacci projection analysis, Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao said.

Holdings of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchangetraded fund, rose 0.6 percent to 969.97 tons on Tuesday. Among other precious metals, spot platinum fell 0.3 percent to \$1,157.74 per ounce, after touching \$1,177.40, its highest since April 2015, in the previous session. Spot palladium dipped 1.4 percent to \$704.50 an ounce, after rising to \$722.90 on Tuesday, the highest since June 2015. Spot silver was down 0.4 percent at \$20.53 per ounce, a day after touching a four-week high of \$20.78. —Reuters

OIL EDGES UP TO \$42

LONDON: Oil edged higher towards \$42 a barrel yesterday after hitting its lowest since April the previous day, supported by an industry report showing a fall in US inventories and a weaker dollar. But prices could struggle to make much headway, analysts said, as sentiment remains bearish. A supply glut that has weighed on prices could increase if oil exports restart from ports in Libya that have been closed since 2014.

Brent crude was up 11 cents a barrel at \$41.91 at 1121 GMT. It reached \$41.51 on Tuesday, the lowest since April 18. US crude added 13 cents to \$39.64. "The sentiment is still quite negative and depressed on oil prices," said Eugen Weinberg, analyst at Commerzbank. "There are factors which should be supportive, but at the moment I think there is no single (piece of) news which would convince the bears that the decline is over." The US dollar stayed close to a sixweek low against a basket of currencies, lending oil some support. Weakness in the dollar makes dollar-denominated commodities cheaper for other currency holders.

Also supportive was Tuesday's American Petroleum Institute report on US inventories, which showed a 1.34 million-barrel drop in crude stocks, although the decline was about in line with analyst expectations. Oil rallied from a 12-year low near \$27 in January to a 2016 high of almost \$53 in June, supported by an initiative from OPEC and outside producers including Russia to freeze output and by hopes that the supply glut would ease. But the output deal fell apart and since June, signs that the glut is proving more resilient as well as concern about slowing economies in Asia - the driver of oil demand growth - and Europe have weighed.

"Risks for oil remain skewed to the downside in the second half of 2016," analysts at Morgan Stanley said in a report. "Supply disruptions and risk appetite were supportive April-June, but fundamental headwinds are growing, which outnumber any recent positives." Not all share that view. Standard Chartered bank said there was "no fundamental justification for recent oil-price falls" and "the global oil market has rebalanced, and US crude supply and inventories are expected to fall." The US government's report on oil inventories is due for release at 1430 GMT. Analysts in a Reuters poll expected declines in both crude and refined product stocks.—Reuters

<u>Kuwait Times</u>

WASHINGTON STRUGGLES WITH LIMPING METRO SERVICE

WASHINGTON: Letitia stands on a metro station platform in downtown Washington, waiting for a train that she now realizes is not going to come. "I will be walking home tonight and all the nights to come," said the 28-year-old woman, who works as a cashier at a 24-hour supermarket. In the US capital city, an urgently needed upgrade of the metro system means service on Friday and Saturday nights now stops at midnight instead of 3 am, to allow for repair work overnight.

But it also means people like Letitia, who would not give her last name, are losing a crucial mode of transportation. "I have 30 minutes walking at 1 am in a neighborhood where you do not want to do that," she said. "They don't give us other options." Much of the transportation infrastructure in the United States is decades old and in such poor condition that it has become an issue in the presidential election. "Our infrastructure is that of a thirdworld country," Republican candidate Donald Trump has said repeatedly.

Metro problems

The Washington metropolitan area,

with a population of more than six million, is no exception. Its Metrorail system was a source of pride when it opened 40 years ago, but today it's better known for shoddy carriages, delays and fires. Problems in recent weeks included a derailment and a near-collision. Complaining about Metro is a favorite pastime of DC residents and there's even a popular Twitter account, Unsuck DC Metro (@unsuckdcmetro), that features criticism in real time.

The most serious incident recently was in January 2015, when an electrical problem caused a tunnel to fill with smoke, choking passengers in a disabled train. One person died. "The metro has to be safe," said Paul Wiedefeld, general manager and chief executive of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, which also provides bus services. Wiedefeld is presiding over a yearlong program called SafeTrack that started in June to repair and upgrade the subway system, causing major service interruptions.

Wiedefeld said the accelerated, intensive work was necessary because trying to fix problems with "small bandages" was no longer adequate. The system is the second-busiest subway system in the United



TOKYO: Vehicles are reflected in the mirror of the headquarters of Japan's auto maker Mitsubishi Motors in Tokyo. — AFP

States, with 750,000 riders on an average weekday. "The DC Metro historically has been a great strength of this region, but over time we under-invested in maintenance and repair," Wiedefeld said. Last

week, he proposed making the midnight weekend Metro closure permanent, and rolling back Sunday night service from midnight to 10 pm. "SafeTrack is the right approach but we are going to need more time to continue the job," he said. But businesses like restaurants, bars and clubs say a change like that would be a huge blow. "We have heard from member restaurants that sales are down as much as 20 percent due to early Metro closures and the current SafeTrack schedule," warned the head of the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, Kathy Hollinger. "The impact of the Metrorail's schedule on restaurants and small businesses cannot be ignored."

Near the U Street Metro station, in an area packed with nightlife, the manager of Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant, Mahaylu Daasyn, said he was having to let employees leave earlier.

"We don't really feel an impact on clients. The problem is the employees. At this rhythm, we won't have anyone in the kitchen anymore, then we'll have no choice but to close earlier," Daasyn said. People who can afford to are turning to ride-sharing services.

"At the end of the day, Uber is the big winner in this," said one driver, who identified herself only as Claudette. "The number of bookings have skyrocketed with SafeTrack."— AFP

US AUTO SALES GROW

CHICAGO: Automakers struggled to maintain US vehicle sales growth in July, with bigger players posting declines in a fresh sign that the industry's six-year boom may be slowing. While overall sales in July inched up, according to estimates, General Motors's sales declined two percent from a year ago and Toyota's declined 1.4 percent. Ford reported a three percent decline. "For the remainder of this year, we continue to see retail and industry sales strong," Ford's US marketing chief Mark LaNeve told analysts in a conference call. "But potentially down versus record 2015 levels, and not as strong as we previously expected."

LaNeve said July 4 holiday promotions helped prop up industry sales for the month. Overall about 1.52 million vehicles were sold last month, up 0.7 percent from a year ago, according to Autodata. The seasonally adjusted annual rate ticked up to 17.88 million units, compared with 17.59 million in July 2015, it said. Barclay's economist Jesse Hurwitz said July sales beat the median consensus estimate of 17.3 million. "The American consumer is, on balance, doing well," Hurwitz said, pointing to consumption growth and savings declines that suggest "households are feeling healthy overall."

FCA US, the American subsidiary of Italy-based Fiat Chrysler Automobiles which is facing a US federal probe of allegedly inflated sales numbers, managed to eke out a 0.3 percent increase. Honda sales were up 4.4 percent and Nissan was up 1.2 percent. GM, the biggest US automaker, remained optimistic thanks to a five percent year-over-year gain in retail sales as it shifts away from fleet sales. "Low than they did a year ago, and that consumer demand on its own may not be sufficient for another record sales year.

"If automakers expect to outperform last year's record-breaking sales, they're going to have to lean more heavily on creating and promoting attractive financing offers to lure new buyers into showrooms," Caldwell said. The boom has been driven in part by pent-up demand as consumers waited to replace aging vehicles. "The average age of the car in US roads is 10 years old. Trucks are something like 11," industry analyst Michelle Krebs of AutoTrader said in an earlier interview. "That's the oldest fleet we've ever had."

SUVs, trucks still strong

With gasoline prices low, demand remained strong for fuel-guzzling sportutility vehicles and trucks. Honda, GM, Toyota and Nissan touted the popularity of their SUVs, while also reporting gains among cheaper sedans. Many of GM's SUVs proved popular, from the Buick Enclave luxury SUV to the cheaper Chevrolet Traverse which sold twice as many units as the Enclave. Moderately priced sedans such as the Chevrolet Cruze, Impala and Malibu suffered big sales declines. But the Spark, Chevrolet's subcompact car which starts at \$13,000, saw gains of 28.7 percent yearover-year. Toyota, the world's largest automaker, sold fewer pricey Camry, Prius and Avalon models and 4.9 percent more of its cheaper Corolla cars.

Consumers looking for SUVs flocked to the RAV4, which saw a 19.3 percent sales bump. Honda's competing SUV, the CR-V,



LONDON: People walk past the Bank of England in central London yesterday. The Bank of England is expected to slash interest rates to a record-low 0.25 percent this week and could pump more stimulus into the economy as it battles the fallout from Britain's vote to leave the EU, economists say. — AFP

interest rates, full employment, stable fuel prices and increasing wages remain in place," said Mustafa Mohatarem, GM's chief economist, in a statement.

"These positive factors continue to point toward a strong second half of the year and another potential record year for the industry." Declines among some of the largest players suggested that six consecutive years of sales gains may be slowing. Jessica Caldwell, a senior analyst at industry research firm Edmunds.com, said automakers are offering fewer financial incentives set a monthly sales record, while its cheaper and redesigned Civic also proved popular. The company's luxury brand Acura posted declines. At Nissan, its compact SUV Rogue was a big seller, as was its ultracompact and low-priced Versa sedan. Sales of its Infinity luxury brand declined. Luxury carmaker BMW also posted a drop in sales, of five percent. Volkswagen continued a precipitous sales drop as it tries to recover from its diesel emissions-cheating scandal. July US sales of VW vehicles fell 8.1 percent year-over-year. — AFP



BOULDER: Volkswagen cars for sale are on display on the lot of a VW dealership in Boulder, Colo. On Tuesday, Aug 2, 2016, major automakers reported sales for the month of July. — AP

BREXIT-HIT STERLING HITS 3-DECADE LOW

LONDON: The slide of Britain's pound against the dollar since Britons voted to quit the European Union is not over, according to a Reuters poll yesterday that also predicted the currency would fall to a level not seen in over three decades. It is also only expected to nudge up slightly by this time next year. In the five weeks since Britons voted on June 23 to leave the EU the pound has sunk about 10 percent - as predicted in a poll of the same strategists ahead of the vote. They say it is now set to fall another roughly 6 percent.

Sterling is currently trading around \$1.33, but according to the median forecast from an extra question in the poll of over 50 foreign exchange strategists taken in the last few days, the pound will fall as low as \$1.25 this year. While there is no official data available yet on how the economy has fared since the vote, business surveys have suggested Britain's economy is shrinking at its fastest rate since the 2008-09 financial crisis, making a Bank of England rate cut today almost certain. With a July Reuters poll suggesting the economy faces a 60 percent chance of recession in the coming year, the Bank is almost unanimously expected to announce a cut to interest rates when it reveals its latest policy decision today. Britain should also expand fiscal policy to stimulate its economy as the Bank's tools have largely reached their limits and are likely to be less effective than in the past, two former BoE policymakers said on Tuesday.

Before the unexpected referendum result, speculation was about when the Bank would tighten. Looser policy will further damage the pound's strength and in a month's time it is forecast to be worth \$1.30, \$1.26 in three and six and \$1.27 in a year. Those predictions are weaker than in a poll taken just after the referendum and are sharply lower than those in a survey before the vote. That said the pound would be worth \$1.50 in a year, but was based on the widespread assumption the vote would be to remain in the EU. — Reuters

BOE SET TO CUT RATES

Survey flags sharpest UK downturn since 2009

LONDON: Britain's economy is shrinking at its fastest rate since the financial crisis after last month's Brexit vote, making a Bank of England rate cut today a "foregone conclusion", a closely watched survey of businesses showed. Financial data company Markit said its monthly all-sector Purchasing Managers' Index chalked up the steepest month-on-month decline on record after big falls in activity at private-sector services, manufacturing and construction firms. "The unprecedented month-on-month drop in the all-sector index has undoubtedly increased the chances of the UK sliding into at least a mild recession," Chris Williamson, Markit's chief economist, said.

Yesterday's numbers - which broadly match an early version two weeks ago - pointed to Britain's economy shrinking by 0.4 percent in the three months to September, a decline not seen since early 2009 when the BoE last cut interest rates, he added. Companies had "widely reported that the outcome of the EU referendum had weighed on new business", Markit said. Britons voted to leave the European Union in a referendum on June 23. Earlier yesterday, Britain's National Institute of Economic and Social Research said it expected the economy to shrink 0.2 percent between June and September and saw a 50 percent chance of recession by the end of next year.

It is unclear, however, if July's reading reflects a knee-jerk reaction to June's vote, or the start of a steeper decline. Several other surveys have shown big falls in business and consumer morale, but there has been no official data on output. Next, one of Britain's biggest clothing retailers, reported a pick up in sales in its second quarter yesterday and said it had not so far seen a big impact on demand from the EU vote although the fall in sterling would push up its costs. That could be passed on to consumers through higher prices.

Lower rates looming?

Almost all economists expect the BoE to reduce rates by at least a quarter percentage point to a record low 0.25 percent today, but they are more split on whether it will restart its quantitative easing program of government bond purchases. "It's a tempting policy to restart, but if you look at it objectively through the channels through which it operates ... there's not that much scope to do anything more," Investec economist Philip Shaw said. NIESR said it did not expect the coming slowdown to match that seen during the global financial crisis -Britain's worst recession since at least the 1930s and Markit said there is "substantial uncertainty about the extent of any downturn". Similar PMIs for the euro zone showed a slight pick-up in growth. Markit said it was too early to know if the PMIs would stay as weak as they are now, but added that confidence about the year ahead was at its lowest ebb since February 2009 among firms in the services sector, the engine of the British economy. "A quarter-point cut in interest rates therefore seems to be a foregone conclusion ... though the extent and nature of other non-standard stimulus measures remains a far greater source of uncertainty," Williamson said. Measures to tempt banks to lend at recordlow rates, as well as possible purchases of private-sector assets such as corporate bonds, are potentially on the table alongside buying more

government debt with freshly created central bank money. The BoE's chief economist has said he is willing to use "a sledgehammer to crack a nut" in tackling weak growth, but others may prefer to wait for more data and see if the government unveils an autumn package of extra spending or tax cuts. July's PMI for the services sector was unchanged from the 'flash' estimate of 47.4 released on July 22, down from 52.3 in June and the lowest since March 2009. The allsector PMI was slightly weaker than first estimated, at 47.3 - the lowest since April 2009 - due to a poor showing for Tuesday's construction PMI. The fall from 51.9 in June was the biggest since the survey started in 1998. — Reuters

US DOLLAR STRUGGLES NEAR SIX-WEEK LOWS

LONDON: The dollar struggled to break away from six-week lows against a basket of currencies yesterday, kept under pressure by the view that the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates later rather than sooner. The greenback had been on its best run of weekly gains in 1-1/2 years until last week, when expectations that the Fed would clearly signal a near-term rate hike were disappointed, and US growth data came in much weaker than expected.

The dollar index inched up 0.2 percent yesterday but at 95.284 remained close to Tuesday's low of 95.003 and was down 2 percent compared with a week ago, before the Fed's policy statement. US labor market data from ADP due at 1215 GMT will be watched by currency traders ahead of the all-important non-farm payrolls report tomorrow. "The ADP report today should indicate continued labour market strength, and ease concerns over the health of the US economy," said Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UJF macro strategist Derek Halpenny, in London.

UBS Wealth Management currency strategist Geoffrey Yu said the dollar had been boosted by a risk-off mood in US trading on Tuesday, when indexes suffered their worst day in a month on lower oil prices and lacklustre inflation data. But he said any gains on riskaversion would be capped. "We're caught in this kind of trap where every time we get nervous about something, the dollar rallies, but then the next thing to think about is: is the Fed going to react to that by pushing out their rate views?"Yu said. "And then you can't afford to be long dollars that aggressively any more. So that's why we have these turns, quite rapidly." The dollar was up 0.2 percent at 101.08 yen. It slid 1.5 percent the previous day when it fell to a three-week trough of 100.680, amid some disappointment that a meeting between Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda did not result in steps to weaken the yen.

Junichi Ishikawa, currency analyst at IG Securities in Tokyo, said it was a matter of time before the dollar breaks below 100 yen. The dollar briefly slipped below the watershed level in the stormy markets that followed Britain's vote to leave the European Union in June, but it has managed to stay above ever since. "The break below 100 yen after Brexit was an irregular move. But this time, the yen is gaining steadily on fundamental factors like Japan's improving current account balance and the fading impact of BOJ's multi-dimensional easing," Ishikawa said.

The Japanese central bank eased monetary policy on Friday by upping the amount of its exchange-traded fund purchases, but underwhelmed the markets by holding off from increasing the amount of government bonds its buys every month.

Bitcoin steadied at around \$545 after sliding by as much as 25 percent in early trading yesterday after a Hong Kong digital currency exchange said it had suspended trading on its exchange after almost 120,000 bitcoin worth almost \$65 million at the current rate was stolen. — Reuters

<u> Kuwait</u> Times



ERSATZ MCDONALD'S BECOMES HIT IN REBEL EAST UKRAINE

long noisy queues, children with balloons in their hands: at first glance it seems McDonald's has reopened its doors in separatist hub Lugansk in eastern Ukraine. But in fact this is only a replica after the building where the US fast food chain once had its restaurant was taken over by rebels and now local entrepreneurs have opened their own cafe-with just a few tweaks.

Its facade has been modified and now reads "Burger", the name of the new restaurant, and it is decked out with a flag of the self-proclaimed Lugansk People's Republic. Inside hungry diners cannot tuck into the world-famous "Big Mac"-but they can enjoy a very similar "Big Mag" burger. "That's how it goes here: department stores and cafes are taken over by the authorities, they only change the name

LUGANSK: The yellow M-shaped logo, slightly," said 18-year-old student Nikita, who refused to give his surname due to security fears, enjoying a meal with four friends. "They can't invent anything new." Nikita and his classmates have been visiting the "Burger" restaurant regularly since it was reopened two months ago. The students say they used to come to the McDonald's before the conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists tore through this industrial region, claiming some 9,500 live since April 2014. But they complain about the significantly increased prices in the place since it reopened under the new management.

Now we can afford only two portions of French fries. It has become too expensive here, although initially this place was designed for students," Nikita laments adding that a serving of fries costs some 90 rubles (about one euro). The US firm, Vladimir Putin. "We don't have a lot of food which in 2014 closed all its restaurants in the rebel-controlled areas, said in a statement that they "have nothing to do with business activities in the premises of McDonald's" in the rebel strongholds of Lugansk and Donetsk.

The company has complained to the Ukrainian government about the "illegal seizure of the premises" in the conflict zone. But local customers say they find the food being served now similar enough to original. Dan Bertsch, an American from Virginia in his fifties who arrived in Lugansk three years before the start of the conflict to marry a local woman, is among them. "In America I do not eat a lot in McDonald's but in Lugansk I think it is nourishing to have a hamburger," said Bertsch, who wore a tshirt with the image of Russian President

choices in Lugansk because of war."

Anti-US rhetoric

The manager of "Burger", 25-year-old Sergei, who gave only his first name, said the higher prices are down to difficulties in getting food delivered to the conflict-wracked region-but he insisted quality has gone up. "Although there are similarities in our ingredients, we are not McDonald's," he said. "There is a difference in the quality of ingredients, ours are better. We bring them frozen from Finland via Russia." In Donetsk, another rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine, two other former McDonald's opened their doors under the named "DonMak" in early July. Similar to the one in Lugansk, they are located in the former premises of the US chain and offer the same kind of products. Their opening was a sensation in the de facto capital of the pro-Russian separatists-despite the rebel leadership frequently slamming the United States as an enemy as it emphasizes cultural ties with Russia. Within a few days people were already lining up in queues for over an hour outside the fast-food restaurants in anticipation of their Coke, burger or fries.

Housewife Elena waited 40 minutes in the crowded establishment to place an order for her son. "Before they opened this place, I always wondered where to go with my child. Now we can celebrate his birthday here," the 24-year-old said. The fact the restaurant had opened even though rebels denounce any presence of Western influence in the area under their control does not seem to bother the young woman. "It might be worth opening something Russian-style," she laughed, as she waited for her burger. — AFP



AIRLINE APPOINTS OMD TO MANAGE **ITS MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS BRIEF**

DUBAI: flydubai has appointed OMD (part of the Omnicom Media Group) to manage its media communications brief across its network. The decision will see the marketing performance company work together with the Dubai-based airline on its media planning and buying activities. Commenting on the appointment, Mike Evans, Senior Vice President, Customer Experience, Brand & Communications said: "In our search for a media buying partner, OMD has clearly demonstrated the tangible value we could extract from our media communications to match our growth ambition, especially in their use of data and analytics in unlocking sharper insights for our media strategies and maximizing profitability. We are excited to start our partnership with OMD and benefit from their bespoke approach and tools."

Since launching in 2009, flydubai is committed to removing barriers to travel and enhance connectivity between different cultures across its ever expanding network. It currently flies to 90 destinations in 44 countries with a focus on underserved markets and enhancing Dubai's economic development.

"Ever since it's taken to the air, flydubai has continued to grow and make the world a little smaller and easier to reach for the millions who fly its routes. Its approach to marketing is closely aligned to ours and we are thrilled to be able to work with flydubai", added Nadim Samara, Managing Director for OMD UAE & Lower Gulf.

"We both place immense value on analytics to drive marketing performance for our clients. The team and I look forward to innovating further with flydubai and actively contributing to the airline's future success." flydubai's growing network covers a variety of destinations across Africa, Caucasus, Central Asia, Europe, the GCC, the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East and now South-East Asia. The airline has recently announced a double daily service to Bangkok which will start on 29 November 2016.



CHINA ROBOTICS RUSH SHOWS HOW **ITS DEBT CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL**

China core debt to GDP rose to 255%

WUHU: Down a side street bracketed by massage parlors and cheap hotels in this city on the banks of the Yangtze river, a humanoid food service robot trundles around the corner of a table in a cafe, red eyes flashing in tune with synthesized classical music. The Wuhu Hands On CafÈ's waiter, named "Hero," has no customers on a drizzly Friday morning. He is, though, a symbol of Wuhu city's hopes of becoming a major center for robotics, and the local government's ability to chase that dream through the debt markets, whether it makes commercial sense or not.

"Hero" was the result of six months research at a nearby robotics park that has cost 2.2 billion yuan (\$332 million) to establish. For the park's next stage, including a hotel, an exhibition center and a cultural plaza, Wuhu is raising another 1.2 billion yuan through a so-called local government finance vehicle (LGFV), and offering a raft of incentives for firms to set up there. The problem is it is not alone. Dozens of other mediumsized Chinese cities like Wuhu, which is west of Shanghai in Anhui province and has a population of around four million, have similar robotics park plans.

And the ease with which municipalities can use off balance companies like LGFVs to finance infrastructure - some needed, some not - is rapidly boosting China's already high debt burden. Meanwhile, investors gambling that Beijing will not allow the debt to default while infrastructure remains a critical support for growth, have bid up LGFV bonds to new highs. Beijing's drive to make the nation a leader in robotics through its "Made in China 2025" initiative launched last year has set off a rush as municipalities up and down the country vie to become China's robotics center. The investment boom comes as the industry is already showing warning signs of overcapacity, despite increasing demand for robots in auto manufacturing and electronics.

Growth in demand for industrial robots in

cial crisis but also became a major source of China's debt burden. Outstanding debt was \$26.56 trillion, or 255 percent of gross domestic product at the end of 2015, up from 220 percent just two years before, according to the Bank for International Settlements. A short-lived crackdown by Beijing on LGFV financing in late 2014 was quickly watered down as growth sputtered to a twenty-five year low last year.

In China as a whole, LGFV bond financing climbed 72 percent in the first five months of 2016 from the same period last year to 740 billion yuan, while the vehicles' total outstanding bond debt now stands at around five trillion yuan, according to Everbright Securities data sourced from the Chinese information provider WIND. "Loads of infrastructure-investing companies are exhausting every means they can get to get money," says Li Yujian at Bohai Trust, which offers high-interest loans to companies who cannot get all the financing they need in mainstream debt markets.

Commanded not controlled

For a command economy, China has a very decentralized fiscal system with local governments responsible for about 85 percent of fiscal spending but receiving only 50 percent of tax revenues. Officials turn to debt to fill the gap. As a result, Beijing often lacks a clear picture of what local governments are doing, and cities have little reliable data on their neighbors, leading to a dangerous tendency for duplication especially when Beijing throws its weight behind a given sector, like robotics.

The convoluted work-arounds to funnel cash to oftentimes risky local projects also tend to muddy the question of who is actually responsible should matters go awry. "We are just a financing platform. We raise money and we lend it out," says Yang Bin of the Wuhu city-owned Jiujiang Area Construction Investment Corporation, which sold the bonds for the robotic center's expansion. The money will be spent by building contractors for the robotics park. There are also local and central government subsidies to attract firms to use the facilities. The lynchpin of this elaborate edifice remains government backing, implicit and sometimes explicit. Market participants say investing in LGFV debt is essentially a bet on Beijing's interest in keeping credit flowing smoothly to local governments. "All of those companies have very weak standard credit metrics. The reason they can borrow is because of local government support, which depends on central government policy," says Jie Peng of Western Asset Management in Singapore, which invests in some LGFV debt in large Chinese cities.

year, means LGFVs can offer relatively high interest rates while allowing bondholders to feel they are not likely to be heavily exposed to the consequences if investments sour. The yield to maturity on the Jiujiang Area Construction Investment Corporation's 1.2 billion yuan bond is 3.8 percent, about 0.5 of a percentage point higher than official local government debt in the same part of China. To many investors, that looks like a good deal - LGFV debt has outperformed most other corporate debt over the past year as defaults in other sectors have risen. The local debt boom, though, has raised fears of a new round of wasted investment. Elsewhere in China, cities are building gargantuan sports stadiums, far bigger than they need; hundreds of amusement parks, many of which do not have the attractions to compete against rivals in neighboring towns; and innovation centers without enough entrepreneurs.

Aspirational start-ups

It is unclear whether the National Wuhu Robotics Park, which currently produces around 1,000 industrial robots a year but plans to boost output to 10,000, will be a success. Firms are eligible for subsidized rent, subsidized loans, debt guarantees, and monetary awards to attract top talent. But despite such support, the park contains only a handful of large established enterprises - including Anhui Effort Intelligent Equipment Co Ltd, a major manufacturer of automotive and industrial robots.

Most of the approximately 20 robot manufacturers are aspirational start-ups, or equipment firms hoping to find a new niche. The latter include firms like Anhui Goodluck Science and Technology Co Ltd - which also makes agricultural equipment, chainsaws, and lawn mowers. Robotics park officials and the Wuhu City Jiujiang Economic Development Zone Committee declined to be interviewed for this article, while a park spokesperson did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Some of the items under development border on novelties, like "Hero" made by a company called Okayrobot. Besides waiters and military grade segways, Okayrobot is also investing in items as diverse as air conditioned helmets, horizontal showering pods for hospitals and robotic exoskeletons that allow the very old and the disabled to walk. "Allowing 75-year-old mothers and fathers to live like young people, that is what Okayrobot wants to do," says general manager Wang Lipeng, gesturing to a PowerPoint showing an exoskeleton-clad man hoisting a woman in his arms, next to another emerging from a fireball. "The policies here are very good," added Wang. "And that has drawn the interest of a lot of firms to invest and produce."— Reuters

NISSAN LEAF RANKS 'WORLD'S **BEST-SELLING ELECTRIC VEHICLE'**

DUBAI: New figures show that so far in 2016, the Nissan LEAF is not only the world's bestselling electric vehicle (EV), but also the third best-selling passenger car overall in Norway. Nissan made an early commitment to zero emission technology, recognizing it as a sustainable, practical transport solution. Nissan has supported 100 percent electric mobility since 2010, long before competitors entered the market, introducing the Nissan LEAF as the world's first mass-market electric car and the e-NV200, a practical and versatile all-electric commercial vehicle.

There are already close to 25,000 Nissan LEAFs on Norwegian roads and sales in the country are growing rapidly, with 2,450 units sold so far in 2016 - an increase of 58.7 percent compared with the same period last year. These figures come after Nissan announced sales of 16,916 electric cars in Europe for the 2015-16 fiscal year - a new annual record.

Norway has one of the largest EV markets in Europe, with EVs accounting for 15 percent of new car sales so far in 2016. Nissan has supported the development of quick charging infrastructure for EVs in Norway, partnering with supermarket chain, KIWI, to install 50 quick chargers at their stores throughout the country. Gareth Dunsmore, Director of Electric Vehicles, Nissan Europe, said: "Norway is spearheading the switch to sustainable mobility and we're delighted that the Nissan LEAF continues to be ranked as one of the most popular vehicles in the country.

Nissan has been at the forefront of the electric vehicle movement since the introduction of the Nissan LEAF in 2010 and with its third generation now available, we are confident that we will retain a leading position in the everexpanding EV market." Launched in Europe earlier this year, the Nissan LEAF 30 kWh delivers up to 250 km* of driving range on a single charge - a 26 percent increase on its predecessor. Coupled with its low running costs, spaciousness, innovative technology and safety features, the Nissan LEAF offers a fun, practical, zero emission mobility solution for all.

China fell by more than two-thirds to 17 percent in 2015 - and yet more than 40 robotics parks have sprouted throughout the country in the last two years, according to industry data. In June, the National Business Daily reported Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology Xin Guobin warning that China's robotics industry is showing signs of over investment and of "a high-end sector becoming low-end." China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology had no immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

Shoring up growth

LGFVs first gained popularity in China in the 1990s as a way to fund municipal projects without running afoul of new restrictions on cities' official borrowing. They played a key role in shoring up economic growth in the global finan-

The support, including a 3.2 trillion yuan Beijing-backed local government debt swap last

200-DAY MASS MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT BOOSTING N KOREA ECONOMY

PYONGYANG: It's 7 o'clock on Sunday morning, and outside Pyongyang's train station the trams and buses are already packed with commutersurged on their way to a full-day's work by a drumbeating, flag-waving propaganda troupe. For anyone unsure of the performance's underlying message, a large placard erected in front of the troupe and replicated in work units across the country offers a blunt clarification: "Comrade, have you carried out your battle plan today?"

The martial tone is echoed in combative posters and giant red-and-white slogans adorning buildings and roadsides across the North Korean capital. Their combined focus is a 200-day mass mobilization campaign, aimed at boosting an economy struggling with a fresh round of substantially upgraded UN sanctions imposed after the country's fourth nuclear test in January

Coming hard on the heels of a similar 70-day campaign that only ended in May, the 200-day version kicked off in early June, pushing extra hours and working weekends. "We're here every morning and we perform for one hour," said the leader of the all-female propaganda team that was sweating through its routine outside the train station. "It's not so tiring. We're proud to do it. We want to encourage and cheer all the people in Pyongyang who are taking part in the campaign," she told AFP through an official translator.

Muted response

With their red flags and drums, and a high-decibel loudspeaker soundtrack, the 30-strong troupe was colorful and loud enough, but the public response was muted, with few sparing it more than a glance as they moved on their way. Outside experts say the economic benefits of such campaigns are dubious at best, with some suggesting they have a negative net impact on productivity as exhaustion fuels inefficiency. New York-based Human Rights Watch has condemned them as mass exercises in "forced labour" that use political coercion to extract economic gain.



PYONGYANG: A local propaganda troupe performs in a public square as part of a 200-day campaign aimed at kick-starting a new economic plan in Pyongyang. — AFP

Andrei Lankov, a veteran North Korea watcher and professor at Kookmin University in Seoul, said the modern-day campaigns were more show than substance-a strategy from a bygone socialist era that was long past its sell-by date.

"Back in the 60s and 70s, these military-style mobilizations were a genuine battle, with people expected to work 14 hours a day, seven days a week," Lankov said. "These days it's really more of a ritual. They organize them because, well ... because that's what they did before. I don't think many people take it particularly seriously," he added.

Output claims

State media has, predictably, already hailed the campaign as a success, with the ruling party news-

paper Rodong Sinmun trumpeting increases during the first month of between 120-130 percent in electricity and coal production. The primary focus is on industrial output, with top priority given to reducing a yawning energy deficit that acts as a constantly tripping circuit breaker on economic growth. The Rodong Sinmun offered no verifiable data to support its production claims, and power outages remain commonplace in Pyongyang which, as the country's showcase capital, receives privileged utilities supplies. Heavy batteries and power saving LED lights are popular items in markets for those who can afford them, while the balconies of Pvongvang's apartment blocks bristle with solar panels to keep basic household appliances running. — AFP

OOREDOO - FIRST TO INTRODUCE NETGEAR CATEGORY 9 ROUTER

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, member of international Ooredoo group, has recently launched a Category 9-enabled router for the first time in Kuwait. The Netgear router is a major upgrade in Ooredoo's portfolio, allowing users to experience up to 450 megabits



per second of download speed in near future. Ooredoo Kuwait stated that it is proud to be the first to introduce this device in Kuwait. This is a continuation to its ongoing efforts to enrich customers' lives by providing them with the latest developments in the field of telecommunications technology. This router is ready to let customers benefit from Category 9 speeds, the latest upgrade in the 4G+ technology, enroute to 5G internet speeds of future. The new device, manufactured by Netgear, is capable of providing speed of up to 450 megabits per second, and boasts a powerful battery that works for 11 hours. It can be used as a power bank for other devices, and is controlled by a fully-functioning touch screen.

Ooredoo has always been keen to be the pioneer in providing its customers with the latest technologies. This particular major upgrade in devices will enable customers to stream ultra HD video content and use virtual reality devices freely, in addition to the latest trends in the field of technology. Interested customers can purchase the router from Ooredoo branches and experience the enhancement available in the town. For more information, please visit any of Ooredoo outlets or authorized sellers and be the first to enjoy this new privilege.

<u>Kuwait Times</u>

TECHNOLOGY

CHINA'S ONLINE POPULATION EXCEEDS 700 MILLION: GOVT

BEIJING: The number of web users in China-already the world's largest online population-has risen over 700 million, authorities said yesterday as they seek to turn the internet into a new growth driver. The country had 710 million internet usersdefined as those who have gone online at least once in the past six months-by June, up 3.1 percent from the end of December,

BEIJING: The number of web users in China-already the world's largest online population-has risen over 700 million,

The number is more than double the number of people in the United States and means more than half of the world's largest national population is now using the internet. Beijing imposes strict controls on online content, while e-commerce is a vital part of its efforts to transform the economy into one driven more by consumer demand. The government is pushing for a so-called "internet plus" project that aims to expand the application of online technology in industry as part of attempts to modernize.

The CNNIC said that 92.5 percent of Chinese users go online through their mobile phones. "The social lifestyle formed by the mobile internet was further developed and the internet plus project facilitated the government and companies diversifying and mobilizing their services," it said. But the number of rural users remained low-accounting for less than a third of the total-as residents in the countryside either have no knowledge of computers or the internet, or are not interested, said the

CNNIC. Several Chinese tech firms, such as Jack Ma's Alibaba, have become multi-billion-dollar giants in recent years as the country's online population has boomed. At the same time Beijing blocks websites it deems politically sensitive in a system dubbed the "Great Firewall of China", and social media companies censor user-generated content. — AFP



BALTIMORE: Authorities respond to the scene Randallstown on Monday, Aug 1, 2016. Baltimore County police say officers have shot and killed a woman who barricaded herself and a child inside a suburban Baltimore apartment and pointed a gun at them. — AP

FACEBOOK ACCOUNT SHUT DOWN AS WOMAN POSTS AT STANDOFF

BALTIMORE: In the midst of a five-hour standoff that turned deadly, Facebook granted an emergency request from the Baltimore County Police Department to take offline the social media accounts belonging to a woman who wielded a shot-gun at officers. Baltimore County Police officers shot and killed Korryn Gaines, 23, after she barricaded herself inside her Randallstown apartment with her 5-year-old son and pointed a shotgun at officers attempting to serve an arrest warrant.

Police Chief Jim Johnson said Tuesday that the department made the emergency request to have Gaines' social media accounts suspended after she posted videos online showing the standoff. People who saw the postings, Johnson said, responded by encouraging her to not combly with police. Videos posted on Facebook and Instagram appeared to show Gaines, who was black, talking with police in the doorway to her apartment and to her son during the standoff. In one, she asks her son what the police are trying to do. "They trying to kill us," the boy says. "Do you want to go out there?" "No," he says. The standoff Monday began after three officers went to Gaines' apartment to serve arrest warrants on her and her boyfriend, Kareem K Courtney, 39, according to police. He left the apartment with a 1-year-old boy before the standoff and was arrested. Gaines' bench warrant stemmed from charges during a March 10 stop, including disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Authorities said she was armed with a 12gauge pistol grip shotgun that was legally purchased last year and toward the end of the negotiations pointed it directly at an officer and said, "If you don't leave, I'm going to kill you." An officer shot at her and Gaines fired two shots, but missed the officers, who returned fire and killed her, police said. Gaines also posted videos from the March traffic stop on her Instagram account. Police said she was pulled over because instead of a license plate, she had a cardboard tag that said: "Any government official who compromises this pursuit of happiness and right to travel will be held criminally responsible and fined, as this is a natural right and freedom." During the stop, she said officers were trying to "steal her car," that she wasn't complying with officers' "criminal" way. She said they would have to "murder" her to get her out of her car, according to court documents. Officers said she had to be pulled from the car and repeatedly yelled "record this" as a crowd of people gathered while police were arresting her. Facebook has restored Gaines' social media pages, but a pair of videos that violated Facebook's standards have been blocked from public view.

Tech company policies

According to the tech company's policies, requests from law enforcement to suspend accounts may be granted in cases where there is a substantial risk of harm. The police chief said county police based their de-activation request on the fact that there was a barricade involving someone with a gun, and that a child was present. According to a Facebook Government Request Report, the company received 855 requests for emergency disclo rougniy sures of information to government agencies due to the threat of harm or violence between July and December 2015. About 73 percent of those requests were granted. The boy is in good condition at a hospital. Police were not sure whether he was hit by gunfire or shrapnel. Gaines' boyfriend is charged with second-degree assault, which stems from a fight with Gaines, police said. He has been released on his own recognizance. The department did not release the names or races of the officers involved, who were placed on administrative leave. Their first initials and last names will be released 48 hours after the shooting, in accordance with the department's contract with the Fraternal Order of Police. The department is bringing body cameras online but none of the officers had one. Court documents show that Gaines filed a lawsuit against a former landlord, alleging that she was lead poisoned. The suit said Gaines was "exposed to a sea of lead" as a child, which contributed to "neurodevelopmental disabilities or injuries." A medical expert who evaluated Gaines wrote that she "had a history of problems with anger and impulsive behavior," and visited her school counselor on several occasions. The suit identifies Gaines' father as Ryan Gaines, a police dispatcher. Baltimore City Schools spokeswoman Edie House-Foster confirmed Tuesday that Gaines was a 2010 graduate of one of the city's best magnet high schools, Baltimore City College. Gaines' uncle Jerome Barnett told The Baltimore Sun that Gaines "was feisty, but she was smart and she was respectful." — AP

OLYMPIANS SUIT UP IN HIGH-TECH APPAREL TO SHAVE OFF SECONDS

INNOVATIONS IN SUITS AND SHOES HAVE SPED UP

NEW YORK: When seconds count, the right clothing matters. For the Rio Olympics, Nike used 3-D printing technology to develop small silicone protrusions for redirecting air flow around the runner. Body scanners helped Adidas design suits to keep swimmers in ideal form. Swiss cycling specialist Assos turned to wind tunnels to craft custom, form-fitting suits for the US cycling team.

Innovations in suits and shoes have sped up, thanks to advancements in how clothing is designed and tested - all as manufacturers get creative in working around rules enacted to prevent the apparel equivalent of doping. "We make sure we stay inside those rules, but we will get to the very edge of them if we can," said Adam Clement, senior creative director for team sports at Under Armour. "Our goal is to innovate in a way that ultimately makes the Olympic rules change. We'll adjust, but we'll feel proud of that accomplishment."

Why it matters

Clothing needs to be form-fitting to minimize air resistance, especially for speed events in cycling, swimming and track. "Four seconds in four kilometers is (the difference between) first and eighth place," said Jim Miller, vice president of athletics with USA Cycling. But the wrong materials or designs could mean discomfort and unnecessary weight - counteracting the gains from drag reduction. Even when speed isn't a factor, clothing promises to reduce irritations such as sweat and heat - crucial in a hot climate like Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the Summer Olympics open on Friday.

Preventing problems

Clothing alone won't make up for years of training, good coaching and the right body mechanics, but the wrong kind can hurt. "You're not going to catch magic on race day from magic shoes," U.S. marathoner Desiree Linden said in an interview. "But if I train really hard and I get a blister or don't step on my foot right, the race doesn't matter anymore." A late introduction of Under Armour's high-tech suit for speedskating got some of the blame for the US team's dismal performance two years ago in Sochi, Russia. UA said it is already testing suits for 2018 and will try to get them to competitors sooner, with more customization for individual body types. For Rio, US cyclists got their Assos suits just two weeks ago and will have the option of wearing their regular outfits if they don't like the fit.



This undated photo provided by New Balance shows US sprinter Trayvon Bromell adjusting his shoes. For the New Balance track shoes that Bromell will wear during the Olympics, the company turned to 3-D printing technology to test multiple configurations to improve traction and energy transfer. — AP

pel energy back up, according to the company. "It feels like you do get a spring," Linden said. "There's no wasted energy. It's going right back into you. It feels fast." Brooks started selling the shoes in June, though Linden and other Olympians will get extra laser perforations in their shoes for ventilation in Rio's heat.

Under Armour uniforms for the Canadian rugby and the Swiss and Dutch beach volleyball teams borrow NASA spacesuit technology to reduce body temperature. The insides have crystal-pattern sheets to absorb heat from the body. As for Nike's air-resistance protrusions, the company is embedding them in track suits for about two dozen teams, including the US, Brazil, China and Germany. Nike will also make the protrusions available as a tape for runners to stick on their arms and legs.

The boundaries

Swimming has among the toughest guidelines after Speedo's suits propelled Michael Phelps and other swimmers to medals and records at the 2008 Olympics. Their full-body suits - which are no longer permitted - were developed with NASA to boost buoyancy and reduce drag. Clothing makers can still innovate; they just have to be creative. Michelle Miller, Nike's apparel concept director, said figuring out how "is one of my favorite parts of the design process." Adidas' Adizero XVI swimsuits for Britain's Chris Walker-Hebborn and other swimmers have elastic-like bands meant to keep bodies in streamlined positions. That minimizes drag and propels swimmers in the pool. Because the rules

allow Adidas to place the bands only over seams where pieces of fabric meet, Adidas moved the seams over to where it wanted the bands to be. Now that it had bands, Adidas also took the unusual step of designing a model just for the breaststroke to account for the way a swimmer's legs move outward in the frog kick, rather than up and down in the more traditional flutter kick.

Omar Visentin, chief operating officer and former research chief at Assos, said clothing manufacturers now have more sophisticated ways to tests fabrics and the way they are cut and measure minute differences in performance. Other companies even use computer modeling to design that perfect suit with fewer prototypes, said Ajoy Sarkar, a professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology. For the Vazee Sigma track shoes that US sprinter Trayvon Bromell will wear, New Balance turned to 3-D printing technology to test multiple configurations to improve traction and energy transfer.

Nike also used 3-D printing and wind tunnels to improve its air-resistance protrusions, which worked only for sprints during the 2012 Olympics. Miller said prototypes from 3-D printing allowed Nike to find a shape that works for longer distances, too. Adidas designed its Adizero MD mid-distance shoes to account for curvatures in the track, rather than just the straightaway portions of races. It tested various combinations of stiffness and thinness to keep runners like Kenya's David Rudisha stabilized so they don't slow down at curves. Adidas' director of future, Deborah Yeomans, said engineers are already at work on designs for 10 years from now - when expectations will be even higher. — AP

The outfits

Athletes typically get clothing and shoes as part of brand-sponsorship deals. Running specialist Brooks turned to Linden to help design her Hyperion shoes. The shoe fabric eliminates seams to reduce the risk of blisters, while rubber rings on the bottom boost traction in slippery terrains and serve as barriers to contain and pro-

INSTAGRAM SHOOTER: SINGAPORE LEADER'S DAY AT WHITE HOUSE

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong posting Instagram photos? Interesting, but not unusual. He does it all the time. But Singapore's leader posting them from inside the White House, on the official presidential residence account? Now that's a different story. Lee, who is on a state visit to the United States, posted a photo of himself lounging on a floral sofa at the president's guesthouse on Tuesday, with the caption: "Stay tuned today as the White House and I do a mutual takeover of our Instagram accounts!"

Essentially, it meant Lee took over the White House account and had the freedom to post any picture he wanted. Ditto, the White House with his account. Local media reported that the swap was to last a day. Many followers of the official White House handle - exceeding 2.5 million greeted Lee with words of welcome. "Welcome Prime Minister Loong! I hope that you enjoy our country as much as I enjoyed being in yours. I hope to go back one of these days," Samantha Kelly posted. Some who posted questioned Singapore's bans on chewing gum and graffiti, often cited as examples of the city state's notoriously tough laws that include sentences such as caning for vandalism and the death penalty for drug smuggling.

Singaporeans understandably chipped in to express their pride. Perhaps they felt that Lee, an avid photographer, would be delighted to showcase his snapshots on a larger stage. Back home in the wealthy island nation of 5.5 million people, Lee has a much smaller audience - 239,000 followers on Instagram, with whom he often shares scenes from diplomatic meetings, community events and leisurely treks. These generally garner positive responses from even the country's circle of critical shutterbugs. He also has 354,000 followers on Twitter and nearly 1.1 million on Facebook.

Creative outreach

After his first picture on the sofa, Lee shared four more, one of which was captured at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. "It's a big honor for us to celebrate how far our peoples have come together," Lee wrote on another snapshot, which captured delighted onlookers at an arrival ceremony. "In the US, I have encountered our citizens all over the country," he said. "It's a good reminder that our ties are not just about government or company business, but thrive in the hearts and souls of our people."

On Lee's Instagram account, White House administrators documented preparations for the state dinner hosted by President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, which the Singaporean leader attended with his wife, Ho Ching, and other officials. One photo was of the two leaders and their wives. Despite Singapore's small size it's about half the area of Los Angeles - the nation has a disproportionately important relationship with the United States.

The two are key trading and security partners. The city state hosts more than 3,500 US companies, and its armed forces often conduct joint exercises with the US military. The two nations are also part of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. "For the US, it is a creative outreach effort to assert its soft power through social media," Eugene Tan, an associate law professor at Singapore Management University, said in an interview. "Indirectly, it's a powerful statement that the US is a friend that can be trusted," he said. "This against the backdrop of the unsettling US presidential election and the US-China rivalry, most significantly in East and Southeast Asia."

Lee got some good press on Facebook, too. One Singaporean, Francis Chew, commented on Lee's Facebook page: "Good to see sustaining friendship with the US and for the better. God bless you and have a fruitful trip!" Citizens had good reason to celebrate Lee's US trip, given that the last visit by a Singaporean prime minister to the White House was in 1985 - by Lee's father, the late Lee Kuan Yew. That was during Ronald Reagan's presidency, when the internet as we know it today didn't exist, let alone Instagram. — AP



WASHINGTON: Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong raises a toast to President Barack Obama during a state dinner, Tuesday, Aug 2, 2016, in the East Room of the White House. — AP

'POKEMON GO' PLAYERS KNOCK ON MAN'S DOOR, HE FILES SUIT

SAN FRANCISCO: A New Jersey man is going to federal court to keep "Pokemon Go" players off his lawn. Jeffrey Marder, of West Orange, says strangers began lingering outside of his home after the popular game was released last month. At least five people knocked on his door and asked to get into his backyard to catch a Pokemon placed there virtually by the game, according to a lawsuit filed Friday in federal court in California.

The suit against game makers Niantic Inc., Nintendo Co., and The Pokemon Company seeks class action status for others who have had Pokemon stops and gyms placed on their property.

The lawsuit says the defendants "have shown a flagrant disregard for the foreseeable consequences of populating the real world with virtual Pokemon without

seeking the permission of property owners." Spokespeople for the companies weren't immediately available to comment on the suit.

JC Smith, The Pokemon Company's consumer marketing director, told The Associated Press last week that the company is updating the augmented-reality game so it remains fun for players but respects the real world.

The location-aware game provides virtual rewards for players who visit real sites designated as "Pokestops" in the game. Several locations, such as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Japan and the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC, have asked to be removed from "Pokemon Go." Niantic offers an online form to request exclusions, but changes to the game are not automatic. — AP

<u>Kuwait Mimes</u>

HEALTH & SCIENCE

DWINDLING PREY BAD NEWS FOR BIG CATS, WOLVES

PARIS: The world's top land carnivores study of feeding patterns. There are only such as tigers, lions and jaguars are coming under threat as their prey dwindles in number, according to the first global

17 four-legged predators-big cats, wolves and wild dogs that weigh more than 15 kilos (33 pounds) and whose diet is at



UMRED, India: Indian tiger 'Jai' lies in a pool of water at The Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary some 80kms south-east of Nagpur in the western Indian state of Maharashtra. —AFP

least 70 percent meat. Collectively these fearsome carnivores feed on nearly 500 species, ranging in size from mice to buffaloes.

But a quarter of these are themselves listed as threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which tracks the health of the planet's fauna and flora. The knock-on effect means that 11 of the top predators face varying degrees of extinction, including lions, jaguars, clouded and snow leopards, tigers, and the critically endangered red wolf. All but two of the 17 - the grey wolf and the Eurasian Lynx-are on the decline. Up to now, experts have mainly blamed two culprits for the decline in large predators, both stemming from human activity.

Our species tracks and kills big carnivores as trophies, food or allegedly medicinal potions, as well as to eliminate threats to livestock. An expanding human footprint has also reduced the vast areas these wide-ranging hunters need to thrive-on average, it takes about 10,000 kilos of prey to support 90 kilos of carnivore biomass, whether a scrawny dingo or a strapping lion. But this new study, published in Royal Society Open Science, adds a third critical category of threat which, on current trend lines, could spell doom for many of these top predators.

Downward spiral

"Our paper is the first to assess the extent to which large carnivores face prey depletion at a global scale," said Christopher Wolf, a professor at Oregon State University and co-author, with colleague William Ripple, of the study. "For the 17 large carnivores that are dependent on meat for survival, we identified 494 prey species and found that a large portion — 25 percent-is currently threatened with extinction," he said. For example, more than half of prey species hunted by the tiger, along with two types of leopard, are threatened, the researchers found.

"These predators cannot persist without sufficiently abundant prey," Wolf added, calling for a more "holistic" approach to conservation that not only protects large carnivores but their prey

as well. Failure to do so is likely to result in a downward spiral, he said. "As prey populations decline, livestock-related conflict between carnivores and humans will likely intensify, driving further carnivore population declines." The best solution, he said, is to enlarge protected areas and stem the poaching of big cats and wolves along with the animals they eat.

But this may be easier said than done. According to one estimate, current spending on terrestrial reserves in developing countries-where the problem is most acute-is less than five percent of what is needed for effective conservation. There are practical reasons to prevent top land predators from going extinct in the wild, the researchers argue. Large carnivores keep the population of other animals in check, and help prevent a cascading chain of imbalance in ecosystems. Animal tourism is also an important source of income in the developing world, notably in 11 of the 12 countries home to 80 percent of the world's poor. —AFP

'ELEPHANTIASIS' VIRUS MAY BOOST AIDS RISK

120 MILLION PEOPLE INFECTED WORLDWIDE

PARIS: People infected with a common parasitic worm may be twice as likely to acquire the HIV virus that causes AIDS, a field study from Tanzania reported yesterday. The parasite, Wuchereria bancrofti, is found in many areas in Africa where HIV infection rates are high, and can cause elephantiasis, a disease that horribly deforms the limbs and other parts of the body. Also endemic in Asia, the western Pacific and parts of the Caribbean and South America, the parasite has infected 120 million people worldwide. The mosquitoborne worm can live in the human lymphatic system for years without symptoms emerging.

The new findings, published in The Lancet medical journal, added a compelling reason for tackling elephantiasis, known to scientists as lymphatic filariasis, the authors argued. "The long disease duration of W bancrofti infection-around 10 years-creates an ongoing immune response," which could make people more susceptible to HIV infection, said Inge Kroidl, a tropical medicine specialist at the University of Munich in Germany. For the study, conducted between 2006 and 2011, researchers analyzed 2,699 people in the Kyela district of Mbeya, southwest Tanzania.

Lymphatic filariasis affects one in four people in the country, and has long been suspected as a factor driving the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Participants were examined annually over a five year period-blood, urine, stool, and sputum samples were collected to test for HIV and W bancrofti infection.

Interviews determined if sexual activity could have heightened their risk of contracting HIV. The researchers found that people carrying the parasite were twice as likely to also have the AIDS virus. The impact was highest among adolescents and young adults.

For now, the observed link is merely a correlation, with no proven cause-and-effect, the researchers pointed out. It does, however, highlight the need for an elephantiasis cure. "Lymphatic filariasis elimination programs in the past decade have focused on the reduction of transmission but made only limited efforts to cure W bancrofti infection," Kroidl said. Prevention currently focuses on the use of bed nets and other mosquito repellents. Other infections such as chlamydia, herpes

and syphilis are known to increase susceptibility to HIV.

Jennifer Downs and Daniel Fitzgerald of the Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, writing in a commentary, said further study was urgently needed to confirm the findings. "Controlling lymphatic filariasis has the potential not only to decrease morbidity from the disease itself, but could additionally prevent incident HIV infections among the 120 million people living with this chronic infection," they said in The Lancet. Lymphatic filariasis is classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of about 20 "neglected tropical diseases" that collectively affect more than a billion people in developing countries. — AFP



NORTH CAROLINA: A drainage pipe that was the original culprit of the coal ash spill is seen at the Dan River Steam Station in Eden, NC. — AP

NC TOXICOLOGIST SAYS 'WATER NEAR DUKE'S DUMPS NOT SAFE TO DRINK

WASHINGTON: North Carolina's top public health official acted unethically and possibly illegally by telling residents living near Duke Energy coal ash pits that their well water is safe to drink when it's contaminated with a chemical known to cause cancer, a state toxicologist said in sworn testimony. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the 220-page deposition given last month by toxicologist Ken Rudo as part of a lawsuit filed against Duke by a coalition plants for a total of \$99,000 in fines. Afterward, Duke was forced by federal prosecutors to plead guilty to nine violations of the Clean Water Act at five plants, agreeing to pay \$102 million.

Hexavalent chromium levels

Rudo testified his office was pressured by administration officials to add misleading and confusing language to the warning letters to be sent to residents. State officials finally issued letters without Rudo's signature to the owners of 330 water wells near Duke coal-burning plants, some of which showed hexavalent chromium levels far higher than the state's warning level - a one-in-a-million risk for a person to develop cancer. Concerned that the letters played down the public health risk, Rudo said he had refused to sign them, and later made hundreds of phone calls to personally tell affected residents not to drink their water. Hexavalent chromium can cause lung cancer when inhaled, and the Environmental Protection Agency says it's likely carcinogenic when ingested. In his deposition, Rudo said the chemical would cause an increased lifetime risk of causing tumors in those who drink it, especially for pregnant women and children. That and other toxic chemicals such as lead and arsenic are contained in coal ash, the byproduct generated after coal is burned to generate electricity. Duke denies its massive coal ash dumps are the source of the contamination, though it agreed to voluntarily provide bottled water to the affected households ringing its power plants. Williams, an obstetrician and gynecologist who had worked in private practice, was appointed as state health director in July 2015, after the initial warning letters were issued. Rudo testified that his new boss questioned whether the one-in-a-million risk standard laid out in state law was too strict when applied to the well water near Duke's coal ash pits. In countermanding the earlier decision, Williams adopted Duke's view that the standard was too cautious. Rudo holds a doctorate in environmental toxicology, the study of the harmful effects of various chemicals on the human body. Williams signed the letters reversing the decision himself, after another public health official in Rudo's department refused on ethical grounds, according to the deposition. Duke Energy argued in court papers earlier this month that Rudo's deposition should be kept private because the company's lawyers had limited opportunities to question him during the July 11 deposition. "We have hours' worth of questions in response to the testimony provided by Dr Rudo," said Paige Sheehan, a spokeswoman for the company. "His deposition is only about half completed and lawyers are just beginning to challenge Dr Rudo's motives, his claims and his credibility." Associated Press writer Emery P Dalesio contributed to this report from Raleigh, NC. —AP



MARNE, France: A technician of the Interprofessional Committee of Champagne Wine (CIVC) shows an inflorescence of a hybrid vine plant from research conducted jointly by the CIVC and the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA), to develop grape varieties adapted to climate change and disease resistant, in Epernay, northeastern France. —AFP

HAWAII GETS \$3.7 MILLION TO FIGHT INFECTIOUS DISEASES

HONOLULU: A Hawaiian Airlines flight attendant was among the people in Hawaii infected with Hepatitis A. The state Department of Health says the attendant was on 33 flights from Honolulu to California, Nevada, Australia and Hawaii's neighbor islands in July and served food and drinks to passengers. The risk of airline passengers contracting Hepatitis A from a flight attendant is extremely low because flight attendants are well trained in terms of maintaining hygiene, said Sarah Park, state epidemiologist.

"Knowing that the risk is extremely low, we can't overlook the possibility," Park said. "From our perspective, it's about trying to control the outbreak, and what we don't want to see is more fallout from contacts with cases." More than 90 people in Hawaii have contracted Hepatitis A in Hawaii since mid-June, and Park said the numbers are continuing to mount. The state hasn't yet identified the source of the outbreak, which is difficult to pin down because the incubation

period is long and those sickened are asked to recall everything they ate and drank over several weeks, Park said

"It's incredibly frustrating," Park said. "It's very common for a Hepatitis A outbreak to go unsolved." Anyone who's concerned about contracting the virus can talk to their health care provider about getting a vaccine, which is effective if administered within two weeks of infection, Park said. The state doesn't have a database tracking vaccinations, she said. Those who don't recall whether they were vaccinated can talk with their doctors, but it doesn't hurt to get revaccinated, she added.

Hawaiian Airlines is screening all crew members who worked with the infected attendant, and no other crew members have reported infections, said Alex Da Silva, spokesman for Hawaiian Airlines. "We've been concerned for a while in terms of not just spreading to other states, but also the other way around," Park said.

The health department said Tuesday that a food service employee at a Chili's restaurant in Kapolei on Oahu also was infected. An employee at Chili's referred calls to an outside phone number, and a message left there wasn't immediately returned.

The federal government awarded \$3.7 million to the state Department of Health to fight infectious diseases like and Hepatitis A and the Zika virus. State Health Director Virginia Pressler said the money will help Hawaii investigate the Hepatitis A outbreak. Pressler said Tuesday the funds also will help the state prevent local transmissions of the Zika virus in Hawaii. The health department urged Hawaii residents traveling to the Olympics to prevent mosquito bites to reduce the risk of contracting Zika and bringing it back to Hawaii. Officials say anyone returning to Hawaii from areas affected by the Zika virus should see a doctor if they fall ill within two weeks of returning home. —AP

of environmental groups.

The nation's largest electricity company has asked a federal judge to seal the record, claiming its public disclosure would potentially prejudice jurors. Rudo's boss, state public health director Dr. Randall Williams, in March reversed earlier warnings that had told hundreds of affected residents not to drink their water. The water is contaminated with cancer-causing hexavalent chromium at levels many times higher than Rudo had determined is safe.

"The state health director's job is to protect public health," testified Rudo, who has been the state's toxicologist for nearly 30 years. "And in this specific instance, the opposite occurred. He knowingly told people that their water was safe when we knew it wasn't." Rudo also described being summoned for a highly unusual 2015 meeting at the office of Gov Pat McCrory, a Republican who worked for Duke Energy for nearly three decades prior to his election. McCrory was away and listened in on speakerphone as his communications director, Josh Ellis, asked Rudo why it was necessary to warn the residents. 'Their concern was initially telling people not to drink the water," Rudo testified. "They felt that was a strong thing to do."

Water warnings

Rudo said the water warnings were required under state law once testing had shown the wells to be contaminated at what he had determined were unsafe levels of a cancer-causing chemical. Ellis did not respond Tuesday to messages seeking comment. Kendra Gerlach, communications director for the state Department of Health and Human Services, said she was also in the meeting in Ellis' office and said McCrory did not "participate." "This is clearly a politically motivated attempt to manipulate and mislead the public," Gerlach said. Asked if she was accusing Rudo of lying under oath about McCrory being on the phone during the meeting, Gerlach responded, "Absolutely not."

McCrory and his close ties to Duke Energy have been under scrutiny since a massive 2014 spill from one of the company's coal ash dumps coated 70 miles of the Dan River in gray sludge. Environmentalists complain McCrory's administration stymied efforts to hold Duke accountable for polluting groundwater. McCrory denies any preferential treatment to his former employer. Before the spill, McCrory's administration had proposed settling environmental violations at Duke's power

<u>Kuwait & Times</u>

DOPING FOR GOLD, OLYMPIANS IGNORE HEALTH RISKS

PARIS: For as long as athletes have been battling for gold medals, they have been taking fortifying tonics-some stomachchurning, others downright dangerouswith little concern for their health. As revelations of Russian doping have shown going into the Rio Olympics, top-level competitors are willing to take almost any concoction to go faster, higher stronger, despite risks to body, mind and reputation.

Ancient Greek Olympians, researchers say, ate sheep's testicles for a testosterone boost, while gladiator physician Claudius Galen prescribed the boiled hind hooves of Abyssinian asses, flavoured with rose petals. "Besides using strychnine ... the athletes of antiquity also used hashish, cola plants, cactus-based stimulants and fungi, with varying success," San Francisco-based lawyer Yush Lee wrote in a research paper on doping and the law. Fast forward nearly 3,000 years and it is more of the same, albeit with a new arsenal of performance-enhancing elixirs.

In 1886, one cyclist is recorded to have died after taking a "speedball" mix of heroine and cocaine. Incredibly, Thomas Hicks ran the 1904 Olympic marathon on a cocktail of strychnine-a rat poison-and brandy. He won, but nearly died. In the 1930s, players for the Wolverhampton Wanderers football club in England were injected with monkey gland extract for the purported prowess it conferred. "Doping has likely gone on forever," Carsten Lundby, a sports drug expert at the University of Zurich's Institute of Physiology said.

For many professional athletes, he said, "the desire to win" trumps the risk of physical harm-or the potential shame of joining cyclist Lance Armstrong and sprinter Ben Johnson in the circle of gold medal cheats. In what is known as "Goldman's dilemma", half of elite athletes guestioned in the 1980s and 1990s said they would take an undetectable drug for success,

even if it killed them within five years. "It disappear, experts say, as long as a comseems that some athletes don't care much," said Lundby of the health dangers associated with blood doping erythropoietin (EPO) used by bikers and runners. Misuse of EPO and other substances for "blood doping"-boosting the production of oxygen-carrying red blood cells-can heighten the risk of heart disease, stroke and blood clots.

No winner

According to a report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren which found Russian state-backed doping program, its pharmacopeia included a cocktail of three steroids dissolved in whiskey or vermouth. The concoction was swilled in the mouth for the drugs to be absorbed, then spat out. Prolonged steroid use is known to cause problems ranging from hair loss to heart attacks and liver cancer, as well as delusions, depression and severe aggression. Drug cheating will not petitive spirit remains part of human nature

Yet, for now, the arms race for new drugs and detection methods appears to have stalled, or at least slowed. The most popular taboo tonics have been around for decades-EPO, blood transfusions, growth hormones and steroids. And improving the human body through "gene doping"-long mooted as the next big threat-has not yet materialized, say observers. "It's not as if athletes will have to make use of futuristic practices in order to have a physiological advantage," said Lundby. "Doing a blood transfusion is something that has been going on for decades.

We know exactly what they do. It's just very, very, very difficult to detect." Part of the problem is a lack of funding for new tests. Also, to avoid unfairly ruining an athletic career, results have to be 100 percent reliable an elusive level of certitude. The best hope of ensuring a level playing, some experts say, are athlete biological passports that track changes in blood and urine over time. Introduced a few years ago, this chemical record "creates a problem for the dopers, because if they're doing something secret they've got to keep that secrecy for eight to 10 years," said Chris Cooper, a University of Essex biochemist.

But passports only make it more difficult, not impossible, to blood dope, said the author of "Run, Swim, Throw, Cheat". Indeed, cheats using EPO and other boosters have switched to "microdosing" smaller, more regular doses to keep chemical levels inconspicuously steady. 'You could say that anti-doping lost this part of the game," said sport sociologist Fabien Ohl of the University of Lausanne. "But also, from my point of view, it's... an improvement that athletes take microdoses instead of taking large doses which is more risky for them." — AFP

FLORIDA CONDUCTS AERIAL SPRAYING OF INSECTICIDES TO CONTROL ZIKA

INDONESIA FARMERS LAUNCH

CLASS ACTION OVER OIL SPILL SYDNEY: Indonesian seaweed farmers action regime provides access to justice for

ing the blow-out devastated their livelihoods. wrongdoer." An Australian government report

CHICAGO: Florida conducted an aerial insecticide spraying campaign at dawn yesterday in an effort to kill mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus, officials in Miami-Dade County said. The campaign will cover a 10-mile area that includes the one-mile-square area just north of downtown Miami that health officials have identified as the hub of Zika transmission in the state, the officials said. On Monday, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an unprecedented travel warning, urging pregnant women to avoid travel to the Miami neighborhood at the center of the investigation.

The Zika outbreak was first detected last vear in Brazil, where it has been linked to more than 1,700 cases of microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size that can lead to severe developmental problems in babies. The virus has spread rapidly through the Americas and Caribbean and its arrival in the continental United States has been widely anticipated. Florida health officials announced another non-travel related case of Zika on Tuesday, bringing the total to 15. The aerial spraying campaign was recommended by the CDC in conjunction with the Florida Health Department to reduce adult mosquito populations that might be capable of carrying the Zika virus.

In a conference call on Tuesday, CDC Director Dr Thomas Frieden expressed concern that vector control efforts so far have not been as effective as hoped. A CDC expert is currently conducting tests in Miami to see if mosquitoes in the area have developed insecticide resistance. Florida had been using two products in the pyrethroid class of insecticides. In its aerial campaign, the state will use a chemical called Naled that has been approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency, according to Joseph Conlon, a spokesman for the American Mosquito Control Association.

Naled is from a different class of insecticides known as organophosphates. According to the CDC, the chemical has been widely used to control mosquito populations in the United States, including in Miami, Tampa and New Orleans. The CDC recommended the same chemical for aerial spraying in Puerto Rico, but the recommendation has been met with protests from residents concerned about its impact on health, bees, agriculture and the environment. Miami-Dade health officials said residents do not need to take special precautions during the aerial spraying activities, but it has recommended that people with known allergies remain indoors. —Reuters



FLORIDA: Carlos Varas, a Miami-Dade County mosquito control inspector, uses a Golden Eagle blower to spray pesticide to kill mosquitos in the Wynwood neighborhood as the county fights to control the Zika virus outbreak in Miami, Florida. —AFP

CHINA JADE RABBIT LUNAR ROVER DIES IN BLAZE OF ONLINE GLORY

Device surveyed the moon's surface for 31 months

BEIJING: China's troubled but beloved Jade face and gaining huge popularity with Internet contained a link to "Universal Traveler", a song by

north of Australia, leaked thousands of barrels of oil for close to 10 weeks before it was capped. The case filed in Sydney's Federal Court on behalf of up to 13,000 Indonesian farmers is against the firm which operated the well-head platform, PTTEP Australasia. Ben Slade, class actions principal at law firm Maurice Blackburn in Sydney, said the huge spill was still impacting farmers in the eastern Indonesian province of Nusa Tenggara Timur.

launched a Aus\$200 million class action ves-

terday over a major oil spill in Australia, claim-

The spill in the Montara field in the Timor Sea.

"If the company thought that this issue would go away because the farmers are Indonesians, or because they didn't understand their legal rights, they were sorely mistaken," he said in a statement. "This case is a perfect example of how the Australian class

found the spill was caused by shortcomings at PTTEP Australasia, a unit of Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production PCL.

people who would otherwise have no voice

and no recourse against their corporate

PTTEP said it will defend the action, worth the equivalent of US\$152 million, which it believes is misguided. "The company has always accepted responsibility for the 2009 Montara incident," it said in a statement, adding that modeling had concluded 98 percent of the oil had stayed in Australian waters. PTTEP said comprehensive studies clearly showed "no lasting impact on the highly sensitive and biodiverse ecosystems in the areas closest to Indonesian waters". The leak, more than 200 kilometers off Australia's northwest coast, was the worst the country has seen from an offshore oil platform. —AFP

Rabbit lunar rover has whirred its last, state media said yesterday, after it bid humanity farewell on social media. The device, designed for a lifespan of a mere three months, surveyed the moon's surface for 31 months, the official Xinhua new service said, overcoming numerous technical problems and design flaws to become a national icon. But the machine has stopped operations, Xinhua cited the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense as saying yesterday.

The rover was part of the Chang'e-3 lunar mission. Millions of Internet users took part in an online contest to select its name, which comes from the pet of a moon goddess in Chinese mythology. It began its adventure on December 2013, sending back photographs of the lunar sur-

users along the way. Not long after landing its legend grew after a "mechanical control abnormality" forced it offline, prompting anxiety from its many supporters. The rover later turned dormant and stopped sending signals during the lunar night, which lasts for two weeks and sees temperatures plummet.

But it made a dramatic recovery, to the delight of its admirers. It was not clear on which day the device finally "retired". An official media account carried a post written as a first-person message from the plucky rover to its fans on Sunday saying: "This time it really is goodnight. "There are still many questions I would like answers too, but I'm the rabbit that has seen the most stars!" it added. "The moon says it has prepared a long, long dream for me." The post also

French electronica band Air. It has received nearly 100,000 shares, likes and comments, with one poster promising it "countless carrot pies" according to Xinhua.

Another said: "I don't know why I am so heartbroken. It's just a machine after all." The Chang'e-3 probe's landing was the third such soft-landing in history, and the first of its kind since a Soviet mission nearly four decades ago. It has been a source of national pride. China sees the space program as a symbol of its rising global stature and technological advancement, as well as of the Communist Party's success in reversing the fortunes of the once-impoverished nation. By 2018 the country aims to land its Chang'e-4 probenamed for the moon goddess in Chinese mythology-on the dark side of the moon. —AFP



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<u>Kuwait & Times</u>

WHAT'S ON

ASSE KUWAIT CONDUCTS ORIENTATION MEETING FOR NEW COMMITTEE



merican Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter conducted an Orientation meeting on 24th July 2015 at Hotel Safir, Fintas for the newly nominated Heads of the committees for the year 2016-17. Chapter President CH Rama Krushna Chary started the meeting with the welcome address and explained the objective of the orientation meeting. He thanked all the Committee Heads,

Deputy Heads and Committee members for accepting the volunteer positions to serve the Chapter voluntarily. During this meeting, he explained about ASSE and ASSE Kuwait Chapter strategies, mission and vision. He also briefed about the upcoming major events of the chapter ASSE GCC HSE Excellence Award 2017, which is one of the challenge during the year. He emphasized on the teamwork in

achieving the objectives and goals of the Chapter.

Chapter Secretary Sanjay Jaiswal briefed about the chapter activities. He explained about the roles and responsibilities of each Committee, organization structure of the Chapter, Chapter protocols etc. He briefed on the development of the annual planner of the Chapter, the Committee Plans, programs and other important issued pertaining to the Chapter. He has requested all the Committee Heads to have a SMART plan to achieve their respective committee targets.

During this orientation meeting, all concerns of Committee Heads and their members were clarified by Chapter elected members and open discussion was held on the challenges ahead. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Chapter Vice President, Muhammad Alamgir, who wished all the committees for a successful year ahead. The participants included the Elected Members, Committee Heads, Deputy Heads and Subcommittee members of the Chapter Term 2016-2017.













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WHAT'S ON

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016



Loyac members are pictured at the Salam Square in Shaheed Park, where an event to commemorate Kuwait's martyrs kicked off Tuesday evening. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

LOYAC COMMEMORATES MARTYRS AT SHAHEED PARK

oyac organized an event at Shaheed Park Tuesday night titled 'In the Martyr's Shadow' to commemorate the memory of martyrs who fell during

the Iraqi Invasion. The initiative involves a unique way of participation, as it allows people to write letters to the martyrs, or simply their own memories on white ribbons that are then hanged in a special way to create a beautiful work of art. Participants can also leave letters on the Shaheed Park's website at www.alshaheedpark.com, or on Twitter using the hashtag #Kuwait_martyrs. The onemonth-long initiative kicked off at the Salam Square inside the park. It is sponsored by the Amiri Diwan in cooperation with the Association Engineering Partnership Company.

























THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

Jimmy Fallon

BBC FIRST

03:30 Spooks 04:30 Eastenders The Musketeers 05:05 06:00 Doctors 06:30 Eastenders 07:00 Holby City 08:00 Death In Paradise 08:55 Call The Midwife 09:45 The Musketeers 10:40 Doctors 11:10 Eastenders 11:40 Death In Paradise 12:35 Call The Midwife 13:20 The Musketeers 14:15 Doctors 14:45 Eastenders 15:15 Death In Paradise 16:10 Call The Midwife 17:05 The Musketeers 18:00 Doctors 18:30 Eastenders 19:05 Death In Paradise 20:00 Holby City 21:00 I Want My Wife Back 21:30 Rev. 22:00 The Living And The Dead 23:00 Hebburn 23:30 Hebburn 00:05 Doctors 00:40 Eastenders 01:10 Holby City 02:05 I Want My Wife Back



02:35 Rev.

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 Tattoo Disasters 06:50 Tattoo Disasters 07:15 Hungry Investors 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 Workaholics 11:25 Lip Sync Battle 11:50 Lip Sync Battle 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 Tattoo Disasters 15:10 Tattoo Disasters 15:35 Lip Sync Battle 16:00 Lip Sync Battle 16:30 Nathan For You 16:55 Nathan For You 17:20 Workaholics 17:50 Ridiculousness 18:15 Ridiculousness 18:39 Key And Peele 19:03 Workaholics 19:27 Frankenfood 19:50 Frankenfood

18:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls 20:10 Auction Hunters 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks 21:00 Dark Woods Justice 21:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 22:40 Mega Shippers 23:30 Fast N' Loud 00:20 Kindig Customs 01:10 Dark Woods Justice 02:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 02:50 Mega Shippers

05:00

Morgan Freeman

Morgan Freeman

Morgan Freeman

Morgan Freeman

15:02



DISNEP 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster

03:20 Calimero 03:35 Zou

03:45 Loopdidoo 04:00 Art Attack 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster 04:35 Calimero 04:50 Zou 05:00 Loopdidoo 05:15 Art Attack 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster 05:50 Calimero 08:05 Sofia The First 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow Minnie's Bow-Toons 11:30 Jake And The Never Land 12:00 Jake And The Never Land 14:55 Jake And The Never Land 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow 16:00 Doc McStuffins 18:15 Jake And The Never Land 18:45 Jake And The Neverland 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 22:50 Zou 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster

03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 04:10 Hank Zipzer

OM THE PRODUCERS OF TAKEN

04:35 Binny And The Ghost



TV PROGRAMS





	GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
O CLUE.	03:50 Science Of Stupid 04:15 Science Of Stupid 04:45 24 Hours In A&E 05:40 Money Meltdown 06:05 Money Meltdown 06:35 Riding Morocco: Chasing The Dakar 07:30 Primal Survivor 08:25 Beast Hunter 09:20 Incredibly Small World 10:15 Hitler's Death Army - Das Reich 11:10 Hitler's Death Army - Das Reich
	12:05 Genius By Stephen Hawking 13:00 Beast Hunter 14:00 Trekking The Great Wall 15:00 Hasselhoff vs. The Berlin Wall 16:00 Surrender 17:00 Surrender

06:35	Riding Morocco: Chasing
The Da	
07:30	Primal Survivor
08:25	Beast Hunter
09:20	Incredibly Small World
10:15	Hitler's Death Army - Das
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11:10	Hitler's Death Army - Das
Reich	,
12:05	Genius By Stephen Hawking
13:00	Beast Hunter
14:00	Trekking The Great Wall
15:00	Hasselhoff vs. The Berlin
Wall	
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Wall	Trassement vs. The Denin
20:00	Surrender
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23:20	Money Meltdown
23:45	Money Meltdown
00:10	Surrender
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02:00	
	Explorer Hasselhoff vs. The Berlin
02:55 Wall	Hasseniuli vs. The Defin
vvall	

NATIONAL

05:30 Community 06:00 George Lopez 06:30 Breaking In 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 08:00 The Goldbergs 08:30 Community 09:00 The Simpsons 09:30 Young & Hungry 10:00 Young & Hungry 10:30 Breaking In 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 12:00 George Lopez 12:30 The Goldbergs 13:00 Community 13:30 Breaking In 14:00 Black-Ish 14:30 Young & Hungry 15:00 Young & Hungry 15:30 Galavant 16:00 Last Man Standing 16:30 George Lopez 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 Two And A Half Men 18:30 Two And A Half Men 19:00 Angie Tribeca 19:30 Angie Tribeca 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 21:00 Galavant 21:30 Last Man Standing 22:00 South Park 22:30 Togetherness23:00 Web Therapy23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers 00:30 Galavant 01:00 Last Man Standing 01:30 South Park 02:00 Togetherness

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 03:48 Henry Danger 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways 05:00 Max & Shred 05:24 Henry Danger 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:48 Winx Club 08:12 Harvey Beaks 08:36 Breadwinners 09:00 Get Blake 09:24 Rabbids Invasion 09:48 Henry Danger 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways 11:00 Winx Club 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:00 Breadwinners 13:24 The Loud House 13:48 Harvey Beaks 14:12 Rabbids Invasion 14:36 Henry Danger 15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 16:36 The Loud House 17:00 Sanjay And Craig 17:24 Harvey Beaks 17:48 Breadwinners 18:12 Henry Danger 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School 19:24 Game Shakers 07:00 101 Dalmatians 09:00 Race To Witch Mountain 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 11:00 Strange Magic 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:00 102 Dalmatians 15:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 17:00 Despicable Me 2 21:24 Breadwinners 21:48 Breadwinners 22:12 Sanjay And Craig 22:36 Sanjay And Craig 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 23:48 Henry Danger 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 00:36 Max & Shred 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways 01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants OM FIRST HD COMEDY 03:00 The Simpsons 03:30 Black-Ish

02:30 Web Therapy **O/N** MOVIES ACTION 04:30 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise 06:30 Justice League: Gods And Monst 08:00 Wrath 10:00 Unstoppable 12:00 The Package 14:00 Edge Of Tomorrow 16:15 Justice League: Gods And Monsters 17:45 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem 19:30 Need For Speed 22:00 Cradle 2 The Grave 00:00 22 Bullets 02:00 Mutant World OM MOVIES HD COMEDY 04:00 Father Of The Bride Part II 06:00 Grosse Pointe Blank 08:00 Bottle Rocket 10:00 Father Of The Bride Part II 12:00 Julie And Julia 14:00 Hope Springs 16:00 Bottle Rocket 18:00 Blended 20:00 Textuality 22:00 Freaks Of Nature 00:00 For A Good Time, Call 02:00 Hope Springs OM MOVIES HD FAMILY 03:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year 05:00 A Bug's Life





#Blended

00:00 Ace Of Cakes 00:30 Ace Of Cakes 01:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts 01:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



WWI: The First Modern War

03:40 Vietnam: Lost Films 04:30 WWI: The First Modern War 05:20 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 06:10 Ancient Discoveries 07:00 World War II: Lost Films 08:00 Ancient Discoveries 09:00 The Universe 10:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army

12:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files

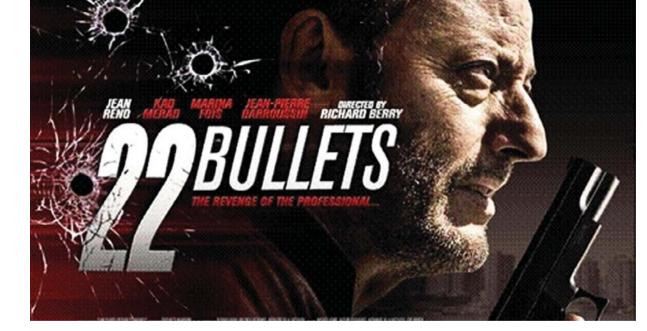
13:00 World War II: Lost Films

11:00

19:10 Coronation Street 19:35 Chopping Block 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride 21:25 The Syndicate 22:20 Coronation Street 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Emmerdale 23:40 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 00:35 Emmerdale 01:00 Emmerdale 01:30 Emmerdale 02:00 Coronation Street 02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

NAT GEO WILDHD 03:45 Wild Untamed Brazil 04:40 Unlikely Animal Friends Tiger On The Run 05:35 06:30 World's Weirdest (2015)

07:25 Wild Untamed Brazil 08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends 09:15 Animal Armory



22 BULLETS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

20:13 Frankenfood 20:37 Frankenfood 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 21:30 Chris D'elia: White Male, Black Comic 22:18 Inside Amy Schumer South Park 22:42 23:05 Underground With Dave Attell 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 00:00 Frankenfood 00:25 Frankenfood 00:50 Frankenfood 01:15 Frankenfood 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 02:05 Chris D'elia: White Male, Black Comic

06:25

09:25

10:40

11:55



03:15 Wheels That Fail 03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 04:05 Auction Hunters 04:30 Dallas Car Sharks 16:10 05:00 How Stuff's Made 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier 06:50 Kindig Customs 07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 08:55 Auction Hunters 09:20 Dallas Car Sharks 09:45 How Stuff's Made 10:10 How Do They Do It? 10:35 Mythbusters 11:25 World's Top 5 12:15 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed 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 00:45 16:00 Fast N' Loud 16:50 How Stuff's Made 17:15 How Do They Do It? 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A 17:40 What On Earth?

05:00 Violetta 06:10 Super Matrak 05:45 The Hive 06:35 Super Matrak 05:50 Mouk 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In 06:00 Hank Zipzer Unova Jessie 07:25 K.C. Undercover 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse 07:50 Supa Strikas 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 08.15 Phineas And Ferb And Cat Noir 08:40 Camp Lakebottom 07:20 Dog With A Blog 09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 07:45 Bunk'd 09:10 Gravity Falls 08:10 Austin & Ally 09:35 Lab Rats 08:35 Shake It Up Rocket Monkeys 10:00 09:00 Hannah Montana 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man Hannah Montana 10:50 Boyster 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place 11:20 Boyster 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place 11:45 Pair Of Kings Good Luck Charlie 12:10 Pair Of Kings 11:05 Good Luck Charlie 12:35 Lab Rats 11:30 Jessie 13:00 Lab Bats Jessie 13:30 Phineas And Ferb 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 13:55 Phineas And Ferb And Cat Noir 14:20 Kickin' It 12:45 Hank Zipzer 14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In 13:10 Austin & Allv Unova 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 13:35 Austin & Ally 14:00 Liv And Maddie 15:15 Supa Strikas 14:25 Liv And Maddie 15:40 Supa Strikas 14:50 Dog With A Blog 16:05 Lab Bats 15:15 Hank Zipzer 16:30 Pickle And Peanut 15:40 Bunk'd 16:55 Kirby Buckets 16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 17:25 K.C. Undercover Gravity Falls 17:50 Annedroids S3&4 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty.. And Cat Noir 18:40 K.C. Undercover 17:00 Backstage 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 17:50 Girl Meets World 19:10 Gravity Falls 18:15 Liv And Maddie 19:35 Pickle And Peanut 18:40 Binny And The Ghost 20:00 Lab Rats 19:05 Austin & Ally 20:25 Supa Strikas 19:30 Jessie 20:55 K.C. Undercover 19:55 Violetta 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty... 20:45 Good Luck Charlie 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water 22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 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 Zipze 03:15 WAGs 04:10 WAGs 23:35 Binny And The Ghost 00.00 Violetta The Hive 05:05 WAGs 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A 06:00 Fashion Bloggers 06:25 Keeping Up With The Teenage Witch

Kardashians

17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 19:00 E! News 20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 Botched 23:00 E! News 00:00 Famously Single 00:55 Famously Single 01:50 New Money 02:20 E! News



03:00 Man Fire Food 03:30 Man Fire Food 04:00 Chopped 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games 06:00 Man Fire Food 06:30 Man Fire Food 07:00 Chopped 08:00 Barefoot Contessa 08:30 Barefoot Contessa 09:00 The Kitchen 10:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen 10:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen 11:00 Chopped 12:00 Guy's Big Bite 12:30 Guy's Big Bite 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:00 Man Fire Food 14:30 Man Fire Food 15:00 Chopped 16:00 The Kitchen Trisha's Southern Kitchen 17:00 17:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen 18:00 Chopped 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games 20:00 Ace Of Cakes 20:30 Ace Of Cakes 21:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts 21:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts 22:00 Diners. Drive-Ins And Dives

22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

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Iron Chef America

23:00

14:00 Ancient Discoveries 15:00 The Universe 16:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army 17:00 WWI: The First Modern War 18:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 19:00 World War II: Lost Films 20:00 Ancient Discoveries 21:00 The Universe 22:00 Serial Killer Earth 23:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents 00:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 01:00 World War II: Lost Films 02:00 Ancient Discoveries 02:50 The Universe



03:40 Shipping Wars 04:05 Shipping Wars 04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Time Team 06:00 Alone 06:50 Swamp People 07:40 Mountain Men 08:30 American Restoration 08:55 Shipping Wars 09:20 Shipping Wars 09:45 Ice Road Truckers 10:35 Ice Road Truckers 11:25 Time Team 12:15 American Pi American Pickers Storage Wars 13:05 13:30 Storage Wars 13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters 14:20 14:45 American Restoration 15:35 Shipping Wars 16:00 Grave Trade 16:50 Mountain Men 17:40 Swamp People 18:30 Time Team 19:20 American Pickers 20:10 Pawn Stars Pawn Stars 20:35 21:00 Criss Angel: Mindfreak 21:25 Barry'd Treasure 21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar 22:40 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses 23:30 Criss Angel: Mindfreak 23:55 Barry'd Treasure 00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar 01:10 Leepu And Pitbull 02:00 Swamp People 02:50 Mountain Mer

CHOICE

03:25 Midsomer Murders 05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples The Doctor Blake Mysteries 06:10 07:05 Chopping Block 08:00 Midsomer Murders 09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples 10:40 The Chase 11:35 Chopping Block 12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 Emmerdale 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples 15:35 Chopping Block 16:30 Don't Tell The Bride 17:25 The Syndicate 18.20 Emmerdale 18:45 Emmerdale

10:10 Night Stalkers 11:05 Dangerous Encounters 12:00 Shark Men 12:55 Anaconda: Silent Killer 13:50 I, Predator 14:45 Jaguar: Catching The Cat 15:40 Built For The Kill 16:35 Animal Armory 17:30 Night Stalkers 18:25 Dangerous Encounters 19:20 Jaguar: Catching The Cat 20:10 Built For The Kill 21:00 Animal Armorv 21:50 Night Stalkers 22:40 Dangerous Encounters 23:30 Shark Men 00:20 Anaconda: Silent Killer 01:10 I, Predator 02:00 72 Dangerous Animals Australia 02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal

MURSUE

19:00 Muppets Most Wanted 21:00 Camp Nowhere 23:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua 01:00 Muppets Most Wanted

O/N MOVIES HD

03:00 Seventh Son 05:00 Transcendence 07:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything 09:00 Seventh Son 11:00 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time Taken 3 12:00 14:00 Metallica: Through The Never 16:00 Survivor 18:00 McFarland, USA 20:15 Ride 22:00 The Night Before 23:45 Son Of A Gun 01:45 The Lovers

JOSH HARTNETT IPASHA BASU

TAMSIN EGERTON

FILM BY PALME D'OR WINNER ROLAND JOFFÉ

THE LOVERS

Love is longer than life.

THE LOVERS ON OSN MOVIES HD

04:00 The Goldbergs 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

CLASSIFIEDS

THE LEGEND OF TARZAN



<u>Kuwait & Times</u>

Kuwait

CINEMA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/08/2016 TO 10/08/2016)

SHARQIA-1 MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA THE CONJURING 2	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2 SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD -3D THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD -3D SUICIDE SQUAD	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
SHARQIA-3 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE LEGEND OF TARZAN JASON BOURNE THE LEGEND OF TARZAN ABU SHANAB THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1 MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA ABU SHANAB MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 12:15 AM
MUHALAB-2 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE CONJURING 2 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 SUICIDE SQUAD -3D SUICIDE SQUAD -3D SUICIDE SQUAD -3D THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
FANAR-1 MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA ABU SHANAB	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-2 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:30 PM

THE LEGEND OF TARZAN

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

12:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
3:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
6:30 PM	
9:30 PM	FANAR-3
12:30 AM	NERVE
	FINDING DORY
	SULTAN- HINDI
12:00 PM	NERVE
2:30 PM	NERVE
5:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA
7:15 PM	
9:45 PM	FANAR-4
12:15 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD
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	SUICIDE SQUAD
1.00 DM	SUICIDE SQUAD
1:00 PM	
3:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
5:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
8:00 PM	
10:15 PM	FANAR-5
12:45 AM	THE CONJURING 2
	NERVE
	THE CONJURING 2
1:00 PM	JASON BOURNE
4:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2
7:00 PM	NERVE
9:15 PM	
12:15 AM	MARINA-1
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
	FINDING DORY
12:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
2:45 PM	ABU SHANAB
5:00 PM	JASON BOURNE
7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
10:00 PM	
12:30 AM	MARINA-2
12:50 AIVI	SUICIDE SQUAD
	SUICIDE SQUAD
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11:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2
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5:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
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12:45 AM	MARINA-3
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	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
1:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
4:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA
7:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA
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1:00 AM	
	AVENUES-1
	JASON BOURNE
12:30 PM	JASON BOURNE
3:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2
5.001111	

JASON BOURNE

Riyadh

7:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	11:30 PM
9:45 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-2 TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES	12:15 PM
11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D-4DX SUICIDE SQUAD -3D- 4DX THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX SUICIDE SQUAD -3D- 4DX	2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM
7:00 PM 9:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D-4DX	12:45 AM
11:30 PM	AVENUES-3 NERVE	11:30 AM
	NERVE	1:45 PM
11:30 AM 2:00 PM	NERVE NERVE	4:00 PM 6:15 PM
4:30 PM	NERVE	8:30 PM
7:00 PM	NERVE	10:45 PM
9:30 PM	NERVE	1:00 AM
12:15 AM	AVENUES-4	
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:00 PM
12:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	2:15 PM
3:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	5:00 PM
5:15 PM	Special Show "SUICIDE SQUAD"	5:00 PM
8:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	8:00 PM
10:30 PM 1:15 AM	Special Show"SUICIDE SQUAD" MIN 30 SANA	8:00 PM 11:00 PM
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1:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	12:15 PM
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8:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	7:45 PM
10:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:15 PM
12:45 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:45 AM
	360 ° 2	
11:45 AM 2:15 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SH 12:00 PM	ADOWS
4:45 PM 7:30 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SH 2:30 PM	ADOWS
10:00 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	5:00 PM
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	THE CONJURING 2	11:30 PM
12:45 PM	360°-3	
1:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:45 PM
3:45 PM	FINDING DORY	3:00 PM
6:00 PM 9:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS FINDING DORY	5:15 PM 7:30 PM
12:05 AM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	9:45 PM
	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:05 AM
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14:00

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THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:15 PM	1	ndia
JASON BOURNE	9:30 PM		G918
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:05 AM		
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THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	2:30 PM		
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THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 PM		D/N
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ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	7:45 PM	(Gang
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		F	Ragh
	10:00 PM		Kodu
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:15 AM		Andl
PLAZA			C 51
NERVE	3:15 PM	2	2-8-2
SUICIDE SQUAD	5:15 PM		
KASABA -Malayalam	7:45 PM		
THE CONJURING 2	10:30 PM		
LAILA			
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:15 PM		Fa
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:30 PM		
MIN 30 SANA	7:45 PM		Sh
SUICIDE SQUAD	10:45 PM		
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AJIAL.1			As
	4-00 DM		
KASABA -Malayalam	4:00 PM		Ma
KASABA -Malayalam	6:45 PM		Icl

BUSINESS IN OMAN We Are Providing Visas, Registration, Local Sponsor, **Business Partner,** ecoument Clearing. ntact Us: 00968-98457638 hail: Info@Eigllcoman.Com

EIG

CHANGE OF NAME

ukil Arasan, holder of ian Passport No. 180281, resident at No: R.O.B. main street, Hall den, Royepettai, ennai - 14, India. Have nged my name from kil Arasan in future, I will known as Abdul man. **(C 5197)**

we changed my name as balapati Subbarayudu u, instead of Uppalapati barayudu. Any objecis please contact below lress: Uppalapati baraydu Raju, S/o balapati Chengalraju, lo: 3/74, Passport No: 49557, ngarajupuram (VI), havarajupuram (P.O), Rly dur (M), Kadapa (Dst), dhra Pradesh, India. 5196) -2016

PRAYER TIMINGS

PM PM	Fajr:	03:42
PM	Shorook	05:10
PM	Duhr:	11:54
	Asr:	15:30
M	Maghrib:	18:37
PM	Isha:	20:02
	isiia:	20.02



5:15 PM

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Departure Flights on Thursday 4/8/2016

FEG 932 Alexandria 13:55

		ights on Thursday 4/8/2016		KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00			lights on Thursday 4/8/2016		FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	178	Vienna	14:15	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
FDB	069		00:55	JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25			Mumbai		KNE	382		
		Dubai		SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	JAI	573		00:25			Taif	14:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00					MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:05	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
RJA	642		01:45	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
		Amman		UAE	857	Dubai	15:45								
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50				16:00	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	177	Vienna	02:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	JZR	257	Beirut	16:25	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
				JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45								
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	118	New York	17:00	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	FDB	8053	Dubai	17:45	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40					PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	1282	TZX	17:50	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	RBG	552	Alexandria	04:45	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
	555			KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	LMU							
JZR		Alexandria	04:15	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55		511	Cairo	05:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	FEG	934	Sohag	06:00	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
QTR	8511	Doha	05:25	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	KAC	563	Amman	19:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	THY	1283	TZX	19:05
PAL	668	Mánila/Dubai	06:25	JAV	621	Amman	18:45	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	JZR	240	Amman	06:55	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC				JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15		104	London	19:00	QTR	8512	Doha	07:25	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
IRA	673		07:15	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	5062		07:55	JAV	622		
		Ahwaz		UAE	875	Dubai	19:05			Dubai				Amman	19:45
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	IRA	672	Ahwaz	08:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	BAW	156	London	08:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	173	Munich	08:35	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	619	Doha	09:30	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15					JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
				KNE	381	Taif	20:10								
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	174	Munich	20:55	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	SAW	704	Damascus	10:45	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:20	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	10:05					KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
				THY	764	Istanbul	21:30								
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	SYR	342	Damascus	11:05	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	KAC	561	Amman	11:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSR	614	Cairo	23:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
KAC	620	Doha	13:10					FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	MUC	502	AicAunana	23.30
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BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20				



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ACROSS

1. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands. 4. Generally approved or compelling recognition.

12. A numbered compartment in a post office where mail is put to be called for. 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain

lac insects.

16. A race run on foot. 17. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.

18. A master's degree in business.

19. The part of the stamen that contains pollen.

20. A wealthy man (who made his fortune in the Orient)

22. Consisting of a haphazard assortment of different kinds (even to the point of incongruity).

24. A Japanese shrub that resembles members of the genus Spiraea.

26. An island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa.

29. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC). 32. A yellow pungent volatile oil (trade

name Agene) formerly used for bleaching and aging flour. 33. English empiricist philosopher who

believed that all knowledge is derived from sensory experience (1632-1704). 37. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked

on a skewer usually with vegetables. 38. A substance produced by the hypo-

thalamus that is capable of accelerating the secretion of a given hormone by the anterior pituitary gland.

39. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.

40. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion. 44. A member of the Dravidian people liv-

ing in northern Bengal in eastern India.

STAR TRACK



You may want to become more technically informed and if you have a computer, but have not mastered it, you could decide that now is the time to learn. Dealing with contracts fills your afternoon and will complete a very full day. You are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society and may need to schedule in time for a lecture at a high school this month. There are several opportunities to be with your loved ones in an environment of harmony later this afternoon. Someone has discovered a hidden trail and you are invited for a bike ride. The lines of communication are open and any support you may need is within your reach. Take better care of your health. Resolve to eat what your body needs.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Hard work is the order of this day. You could be interrupted from time to time with questions and requests. You would do well to just stop what you are doing in order to help. Have them write down what you tell them and then they will not become confused about the order of things. Don't be hasty with a complicated project this afternoon, particularly if it is one with intricate steps. Taking shortcuts will only force you to retrace your steps and delay completion. It may come to your attention that your financial resources may be strained-a little more than usual. If this is so, a budget will help you to prioritize. You may set aside some time this evening to meet with your mate and discuss some future changes in the budget. You will make wise choices.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a wonderful time for you to take control of projects in the workplace or, in fact, whatever else would benefit from your attention. Everything is working together for your best interest. You have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to things and people quickly. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. You work hard and enjoy the sense of accomplishment that you derive from doing your best. A co-worker friend may suggest that you two meet after work for some more relaxed and enjoyable time together. At home this evening a young person may need your advice. He or she does not like to wait for you, but this waiting creates a little focus and some eventual self-evaluation. There will be time for listening soon.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A recent disagreement may have you involved in some interesting research. The answer you find may mean a raise. Issues of pride, mastery and appreciation become more and more central to your life stream as this cycle progresses. You do your best to complete your work and help others in the process. You try to teach to others that it is not what you do so much as how you do it, not who you are so much as how you make others feel about themselves. If it does not come from the heart, it will not matter much to you now. A romantic partner wants to move your connection to each other, a little closer to intimacy. You may want to review this relationship and decide just what you want to come from the relationship. Enjoy music this evening.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Others could learn from your positive attitude. You naturally gravitate toward positions of power and authority. Others see in you a great practical ability-they accept you as a leader or authority figure very easily. You communicate well and others are inspired when you speak. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to exceed in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your career may be very important to you just now, even at the expense of home life. Do not forget the people that give you support and encouragement. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time today with someone you love. Tonight is a special time with loved ones.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may use tools in your work and decide to change your style. The best scenario here would be for your changes to go well. Higher-ups and those in control may have other things to say. So, perhaps you could just show one example of your work; you will make a good presentation. Results should be quite interesting. A love relationship intensifies; the strong physical attraction you are feeling now will be obvious. Some will say you appear as if you had been born all new. Could this be the cause of your bravery in the workplace money is involved in the connection of some type of vehicle that you have been trying to sell for some time. It may be too late now to celebrate but you can put some money aside for celebrating tomorrow.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your enthusiasm is strong and others pick up on it and take it on for themselves-there seem to be no limitations today. This enthusiasm is positive and has good results-not a nervous energy. Practical issues dominate after the noon break. Tasks that were previously neglected must now have your attention. An authority figure may add some extra responsibilities this afternoon. No problem, you can handle the work. If you feel that you need help, ask for it. You have no desire to work overtime so you take advantage of the opportunity to use your creative energy and show assertiveness in a positive way. A family member wants to spend more time with you this evening and you may really enjoy remembering past events.



You seem much more attentive today. Before you get to work you may choose to stop and help someone or call to get help for someone. Many times today you will feel like you are on the outside looking in-perhaps as though you were viewing a movie. This early morning activity may give you a new perspective on just what you want to keep or change in your life. It is a good meditation to employ. Occasionally, we have these contemplative opportunities and you should use them to your benefit. Be grateful, take your vitamins and delay any particular action until another day, if possible. Take plenty of notes for any changes you see that are needed-all sorts of possibilities come to your attention. Enjoy a light evening meal with the family this evening.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There are plenty of interruptions this day. Although you enjoy many different activities during any one particular day, you tend to involve yourself in as many as three jobs at once-you like variety but you also like to see several different things come together at once. Perhaps in a past life you were a conductor of an orchestra or a trail drive boss. With many interruptions today, it still does not seem to faze you; all is natural and an organized chaos may be what you understand the best. Be aware of the need to choose quality over quantity. This afternoon runs much more smoothly. There is a lot going on in your personal life but everything is running like a quiet clock. A friend who enjoys charity work may persuade you to become involved.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your positive outlook, no matter what, seems to be the way to accomplishing your goals. Your focus is strong and others may have to call out your name to get your attention. A goal toward which you have been striving for a long time is now within your reach. There is time today for you to become better organized in the workplace. You have just enough time later this afternoon to look for a new pair of shoes or to freshen up before a work-related social event. You will be able to connect with influential people on a less demanding level, away from the workplace. Tonight a new habit is forming and family members express opinions and affirmations. When adults move forward in constructive ways, young people will learn to do the same



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Joint ventures seem to be rather fortunate throughout this month. An unusual route to success is within possibilities. A business meeting leads to a positive exchange of ideas. Everyone acknowledges the significant progress you have been making lately. You also may help to bring some insight into several difficult projects. Perhaps you have reached the right people or found the pages to some notebook. If you are on a sales call later today, you will help to increase sales. If you are elsewhere with this information, it may help to better the education of young people-or to prove a point. Family members may cost you money this evening, but this is good-they deserve the bonus as well as your support and praise for now.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There may be a demand for solving quandaries and other puzzles today. This may mean that a round-table meeting has suggestions flowing by your ears faster than you can keep up. Be sure to ask for a copy of the meeting transactions so that you can separate the wise ideas from the ones that need to go on the backburner, so to speak. Perhaps because of the context in some of the ideas, you demonstrate greater understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others. You are in a good position to help bridge the gap that caused some misunderstanding or miscommunication. You may be able to help choose a good plan, or at the least, press the need for a bit more research and reporting on the most popular ideas. You are thinking about making a short movie.

7. A colorless flammable gas used chiefly in welding and in organic synthesis. 8. (prefix) Coming before or being preliminary or preparatory. 9. Nocturnal arboreal primate of Indonesia and the Philippines having huge eyes and

6. A sheath worn to protect a finger.

digits ending in pads to facilitate climbing. 10. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.

11. The act of refusing a request. 12. Having nine hinged bands of bony plates.

13. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.

14. A small cake leavened with yeast.

21. A unit of weight used in some Spanish speaking countries.

23. Bar temporarily.

25. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element. 27. Title for a civil or military leader (espe-

cially in Turkey). 28. A bluish-white lustrous metallic ele-

ment. 30. Thrown together in a pile.

31. Inability to walk.

34. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in

Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.

35. Of or concerning Qatar.

36. Submerged freshwater perennials.

41. A state in midwestern United States.

42. Related on the mother's side.

43. A river in north central Switzerland that

runs northeast into the Rhine.

46. A gonadotropic hormone that is secret-

ed by the anterior pituitary.

48. The capital of Tajikistan.

49. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs tha

45. (Roman mythology) Goddess of abundance and fertility. 47. A quantity of no importance. 50. A number of sheets of paper fastened together along one edge.

51. English film actress (1913-1967).

- 53. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- 55. The sixth month of the civil year.
- 59. (informal) Of the highest quality.

60. Precipitation of ice pellets when there are strong rising air currents.

62. Capital and largest city of Iraq.

70. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

71. Climbing palm of Sri Lanka and southern India remarkable for the great length of the stems which are used for Malacca canes.

74. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.

- 75. Towards the side away from the wind.
- 76. Wholly absorbed as in thought.

78. A hotel providing overnight lodging

for travelers. 79. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

80. Without a basis in reason or fact.

81. A small piece of cloth.

H A M

DOWN

1. Voluntary contributions to aid the poor. 2. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.

3. The act of scanning. 4. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great

distance.

5. Common American weed or wildflower.

can solve problems creatively. 52. A system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region. 54. A board game in which players try to move their pieces into their opponent's bases. 56. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India. 57. A radioactive element of the actinide series. 58. United States comedian and film actor (1880-1946). 61. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms. 63. In bed. 64. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology. 65. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa. 66. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount. 67. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia). 68. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea. 69. The taste experience when a savoury condiment is taken into the mouth. 72. Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus. 73. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind. 77. A radioactive transuranic element pro-

duced by bombarding plutonium with

Wordsearch Puzzle

Yesterday's Solution

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

X L N O Q K W N R O N G V D G P K DEIAKNVTJAIDCNSMX BULZYCTVUFBZFUGLW FEREKCEPDOOWMCSGH XWABVNBGYXRAWTHEO HKMRIUZEXOTTOUDYA SALAOKLMGOCRGGVNA IYJNCTITPDKTEQOFR F L A M I N G O U W I H O M R Y D YUHNKZPEZRORLPFEV LORFUPFUBGEATSUYA LKIWIVZTOHSEVRJSR ERNHATEEHCKMOVATK J H J J B Y F Z B S H R E W A P P

AARDVARK JELLYF KIWI BEAR KOALA CHEETAH **FLAMINGO** MARLIN MINK FOX OCTOP GECKO HEDGEHOG PARTR HIPPOPOTAMUS ROBIN

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ANACONDA	FERRET	OCELOT
ARMADILLO	GIBBON	PHEASANT
BADGER	GULL	SHARK
CHAMELEON	HYENA	SQUIRREL
COUGAR	LEMUR	VULTURE
CROCODILE	LOON	WILDEBEEST
EGRET	MARTEN	

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G R E E N E Y E

neutrons.

Animals 7

<u>Kuwait Times</u>

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

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 Khaldiya

Rawda Adaliya

Kaifan

W Hawally

Sabah

Jahra

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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



GOVERNORATE PHARMACY Ahmadi Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa **Danat Al-Sultan** Jahra Modern Jahra Madina Munawara Capital Ahlam Khaldiya Coop New Shifa Farwaniya Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan Hawally Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis **Mishrif Coop**

Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
Ferdous Coop	24881201
Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
Mishrif Coop	25380581
Salwa Coop	25628241

ADDRESS

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Fresh wind

MIN °C

REC

36

37

34

32

36

33

37

38

34

36

35

36

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32

33

Kuwait Forecast

KUWAIT CITY

KUWAIT AIRPORT

FAILAKA ISLAND

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Station

ABDALY

BUBYAN

JAHRA

SALMIYAH

AHMADI

JAL ALIYAH

NUWAISIB

MANAGISH

WAFRA

SALMY

MUTRIBA

Max Temp (°C)

Min Temp (°C)

Max Rel Hum (%)

QAROH ISLAND

UMM AL-MARADEM

Recorded Yesterday at

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours d 03/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3h

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

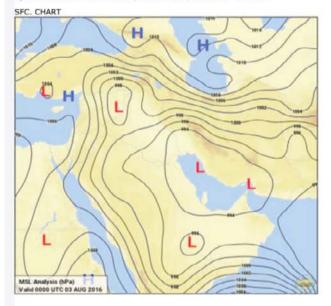
Salwa Coop

Max Temperature 49 °C

STATE OF KUWAIT

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

By Day : Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h with a chance for raising dust over open areas By Night : Relatively hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h



Four-Day Forecast



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



				11	
		Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
РНО	ONE	Albania Algeria	00355 00213	Luxembourg Macau	00352 00853
)15883 /15414	Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
	26558	Angola Anguilla	00244	Madagascar Majorca	00261 0034
	75518	Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
	66622	Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
	36184 33967	Armenia Australia	00374 0061	Maldives Mali	00960 00223
	34000	Austria	0043	Malta	00356
248	81201	Azerbaijan Bahamas	00994	Marshall Islands Martinique	00692 00596
247	26638	Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
	26265 47075	Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
	25999 64549	Barbados Belarus	001246 00375	Mayotte Mexico	00269 0052
253	40559	Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
257	26554 /21264	Belize Benin	00501	Moldova Monaco	00373 00377
	80581 528241	Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
		Bhutan Bolivia	00975 00591	Montserrat Morocco	001664 00212
		Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
		Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
0		Brazil Brunei	0055 00673	Namibia Nepal	00264 00977
1		Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
		Burkina Burundi	00226 00257	Netherlands Antilles	00599 00687
		Cambodia	00257	New Zealand	0064
	AL	Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
		Canada Cape Verde	001 00238	Nigar Nigeria	00227 00234
		Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
IN °C REC	Max °C EXP	Central African Chad	00236 00235	Norfolk Island N. Ireland (UK)	00672 0044
36 37	48 49	Chile	00235	North Korea	0044
37 34	50	China	0086	Norway	0047
32	46	Colombia Comoros	0057 00269	Oman Pakistan	00968 0092
36 33	50 46	Congo	00242	Palau	00680
37	45	Cook Islands Costa Rica	00682	Panama Papua New Guinea	00507 00675
38 34	46	Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
36	42	Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
35	43	Cyprus Cyprus (Northern)	00357 0090392	Philippines Poland	0063 0048
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33	50	Denmark Diego Garcia	0045 00246	Puerto Rico Qatar	001787 00974
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	31	Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
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		Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
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		Indian Ocean Indonesia	00873 0062	Tunisia Turkey	00216 0090
	2220	Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
	22290	Iraq Ireland	00964 00353	Uganda Ukraine	00256 00380
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261	1555-2622555	Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
		Kyrgyzstan Laos	00996 00856	Virgin Islands US Wales (UK)	001340 0044
		Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
		Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00961 00231

00218

00266

00260

00263

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

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

	-14-		-14-	-14-
	1	1	1	1
Expected Weather	very hot and humid	very hot and relatively humid	very hot	very hot and relatively humid specailly over coast
Min Temp °C	33	32	31	32
Max Temp °C	47	47	48	48
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	northerly changing to south easterly	north westerly to northerly	north westerly changing to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	10 - 30	12 - 32	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

ι.	Min Rel Hum (%)			06
	Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction			57 N
	TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR			0 mm
E	4	Sunrise		05:10
	-	Sunset		18:39
	Prayer T	imes		
-	Fajr		03:42	
	Sunrise		05:10	
	Zuhr		11:54	
	Asr		15:30	
	Sunset		18:39	
	Isha		20:04	

Endocrinologist

Physiotherapists & VD

Rheumatologists:

Internist, Chest & Heart

Liberia

Lesotho

Libya

Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330

Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888

Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924

Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291

Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060

Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah

DR.Mohammes Akkad

Dr. Mohammad Zubaid

MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC

23845955

Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital

Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees

Ophthalmologis	sts		
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444		Dr. M
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		Dr. Ab
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171	_	Dr. Ab
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		Dr Di
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223	_	
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)		Dr. Es
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 51	0	Dr Eis
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660		
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478	-	DrAdı
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996		Dr. Ve
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988	_	Dr. Fo
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166		Dr. Ma
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426		
General Practition	ners		Dr. Ah
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 12	3	Dr. Sa
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920		Dr. An
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		Dr. Mo
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528	_	
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781		Dr. Ad
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501	_	Dr. Mo
Urologists			
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534	1	Dr. La
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955		Dr. Na
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	li 22616660		Dr. Mo
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120		Dr Na
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427		
		Soor Ce	enter
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/Psychotherapists		Fax: 22	90 1688

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Dr. Verginia s.Marin

Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan

Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly

Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer

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Dr. Adnan Ebil

Dr. Mousa Khadada

Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan

Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra

Dr. Mobarak Aldoub

Dr Nasser Behbehani

Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami

DrAdrian arbe

eons		Paediatricia	ins		
	22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898		
	22617700	Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300		
	25625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444		
tor		Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099		
23	729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514		
sts		Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100		
	22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282		
	22613623/0	Dermatolog	gy		
bste	tricians	Dr. Mohammed Salam			
237	29596/23729581	Bern University	23845955		
257	72-6666 ext 8321	Dentists			
	22655539	Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581		
	25343406	Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2		
	25739272	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226		
	22618787	Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444		
eons		Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557		
	22610044	Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888		
er	25327148	Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755		
& He		Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111		
	22639939	Neurologis	ts		
	22666300	Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324		
	25728004	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875		
	25355515	Gastrologis	Gastrologists		
	24726446	Dr. Sami Aman	22636464		
	25654300/3	Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030		
	23037300/3	Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135		
ente	er.com	Kaizen center	Noor Clinic		

25716707

Dr. Farida Al-Ha	abib	2611555-2
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Consultant Cardiologis

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

<u>Kuwait Times</u>

LIFESTYLE MUSIC & MOVIES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

Prince tribute concert set for October

A rtists will come together for a tribute concert to late pop icon Prince in October in his hometown Minneapolis, his family says. The show will take place on October 13 at the newly built US Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings football team, Prince's sister Tyka Nelson wrote on Facebook. The lineup has not been announced, but Nelson said that tickets would go on sale later in August. Prince, one of the most influential artists of his generation who popularized the "Minneapolis sound" of infectious funk, died on April 21 from a painkiller overdose at his Paisley Park estate outside the city.

city. The tribute concert could be a boon to his family amid question marks over the future of his estate. Prince, who was outwardly a model of health, did not leave a will and had no recognized children. Tyka Nelson is his closest relative and he also had five half-siblings, but a number of other people have also claimed to be heirs. The family put a professional administrator in charge of Prince's affairs. A judge in June gave the green light for the service to seek business deals, saying the estate likely risked a shortfall in cash needed to pay taxes in the wake of Prince's death.

The concert would be the only publicly sanctioned memorial event for Prince, who was guarded about his personal life despite his flamboyant stage presence. His body was cremated and family and friends held a small gathering at Paisley Park shortly after his death, followed by a private service among his Jehovah's Witness religious community. David Bowie, another music legend whose death stunned fans this year, was similarly discreet with his family holding no public events to mourn him. In contrast, King of Pop Michael Jackson-sometimes described as Prince's rival in the 1980s-was mourned with a

star-studded concert in Los Angeles in 2009 with his gold-plated casket in front of the stage. Perhaps the best-known tribute concert in rock history was for Queen singer Freddie Mercury. His 1992 show was broadcast internationally from London's Wembley Stadium to raise money for AIDS research. — AFP

This file photo shows the star of music legend Prince, who died suddenly at the age of 57, is seen at the First Avenue club where he started his music career in Minneapolis, Minnesota. — AFP photos





File photo shows Neil Perry, from left, Kimberly Perry and Reid Perry, of The Band Perry, arrive at the 51st annual Academy Of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

The Band Perry takes precautions for Summer Olympics

embers of the Band Perry say they're taking precautions as they prepare to travel to Brazil for the Summer Olympics, due to the concerns about the Zika virus. The sibling group's pop-influenced song "Live Forever" was chosen as Team USA's official song, and they're heading to Rio de Janeiro to perform on television and also for the athletes. The opening ceremony will be held tomorrow. Neil Perry said he isn't worried, but said his brother Reid and sister Kimberly were nervous about the trip. Brazil has had an outbreak of the mosquito-transmitted Zika, which has been linked to brainrelated birth defects, but health officials say the risk is low. Several athletes and journalists have decided not to attend the Olympics because of the health risk. "I think it's definitely been hyped, so we are going to take some precautions and perform in Saran Wrap," Kimberly Perry joked. "So we should be good. Maybe bee keeper outfits." The Perry siblings will debut a new song, "Comeback Kid," on the "Today" show while in Rio, their first single from their new joint venture with Universal Music Group and Interscope Records after leaving Big Machine Label Group last year. The band, which has had crossover success with the multiplatinum

hit "If I Die Young," called the move an important transition.

"For us, we've always been an international band and we've always had aspirations for international success," said Reid Perry. "To be able to be with UMG and Interscope, that just opens a whole lot of opportunities for the three of us that we really wanted to do." The band had been working with producers like RedOne and Diplo on an album that was scheduled to come out last November. Most

Film academy re-elects president pushing diversity efforts

The leadership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has re-elected as its president a film marketing executive who has pushed for greater diversity within the organization. The academy announced Tuesday night that Cheryl Boone Isaacs has been re-elected to lead the organization that bestows the Academy Awards to another one-year term. Boone Isaacs has led efforts to increase diversity within the academy's membership, especially in the wake of two years of all-white acting Oscars nominees that sparked the #OscarsSoWhite backlash against the ceremony.

The academy recently invited 683 new members to join; 46 percent of the prospective members were female and 41 percent from minority groups. As president, Boone Isaacs helps announce the slate of Oscar nominees each year. She also heads a film marketing consulting business. — AP

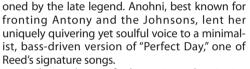


In this file photo, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Cheryl Boone Isaacs arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

Drag, distortion for Lou Reed tribute

Which opened with a public lesson by the late rocker's tai chi teacher, Master Ren Guangyi. Reed, who died in 2013, helped define the underground rock scene but was also known for his love of Lincoln Center, home of the Metropolitan Opera and New York Philharmonic.

"The Bells" merged the two artistic worlds. Inside a Lincoln Center hall, Reed's longtime technician Stewart Hurwood produced five hours of feedback by adjusting Reed's guitars against a wall of his amplifiers. Dubbed "The Drones," the wall of sound was so intense that the Lincoln Center provided earplugs to all who entered. Anderson, herself an avant-garde musician, put together an evening concert-fans huddled in the rain watched Reed covers by artists including Anohni, the soulful experimental singer champi-



Anderson, known for her unique electric violin, sang with full composure but in mellow, poetic tones on "Doin' the Things That We Want To." Jon Spencer led a driving rendition of "Venus in Furs," off the legendary debut album by Reed's band The Velvet Underground. The concert built into "Disco Mystic" as New York artist Kembra Pfahler paraded across the stage with her troupe of gender-ambiguous dancers whose mostly naked bodies were painted violet, pink, red and blue.

Sporting towering black wigs and imposing boots, the dancers stomped around the stage as

of that album was ultimately scrapped as they moved to a new record deal. They said they hope to release a new album by the end of this year, with a coinciding tour to start next year. Kimberly Perry, who has sported blond curly locks since the band's debut in 2010, revealed her new brunette hair color to match her brothers' brown locks. It's been an adjustment for her husband, baseball player JP Arencibia. "Sometimes I don't recognize myself still," Perry said. "My husband says he's still getting used to it. He likes it, but he just likes blond better."—AP



Sonic Youth's Lee Ranaldo fired away on guitar. The show culminated with a sing-along of another classic Reed song, "Sweet Jane," led by Lenny Kaye, the guitarist best known as punk godmother Patti Smith's collaborator. Reed, alongside the late David Bowie, was one of the most influential artists of his time in bringing an aesthetic sense from the art world to rock music. Lincoln Center was also the site in 2013 of Reed's only public memorial service after his death. It consisted simply of Reed's music played from the speakers with no speeches. — AFP

Stewart Hurwood, longtime guitar technician to late rock legend Lou Reed, performs on July 30, 2016 at the Lincoln Center in New York City. — AFP

Early 'Suicide Squad' reviews: What the critics are saying

Does "Suicide Squad" live up to the hype? For months, fans have anxiously awaited the arrival of the DC Comics' movie that could finally trump the Marvel Universe. Although the movie is projected to be summer hit, will David Ayer's "Suicide Squad" dethrone the Marvel Universe critically? Early reviews aren't looking to favorable in that battle. So far, on Rotten Tomatoes, "Suicide Squad" is hitting below 40%. Compared to Marvel Universe's last film, "Captain America: Civil War" which landed at 90% and the latest Avengers installment which landed at 75%, DC Comics has a lot of catching up to do. DC and Warner Bros' latest, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," didn't wow critically, coming in at 27%.

Variety's Chief Film Critic Peter Debruge emphasizes in his review that although The Joker and Harley Quinn are scenestealers, the story makes little sense and is pretty messy. "Yes, [Ayer] and Leto manage to invent a version of the Joker every bit as unsettling as the late Heath Ledger's immortal incarnation, turning the iconic Batman rival into a ruthless seducer (hunt down 'Mr Nobody' to see the origins of Leto's wicked deep-throated cackle), but the character barely has anything to do," writes Debruge.

Chopped and diced

Richard Lawson of Vanity Fair says the movie is "bad. Not fun bad. Not redeemable bad. Not the kind of bad that is the unfortunate result of artists honorably striving for something ambitious and falling short." Even a sparkling cast of Margot Robbie, Will Smith and Viola Davis can't save the film for Lawson. "Even those stars eventually succumb to 'Suicide Squad's' grim undertow, Ayer's script forcing such erratic shifts in character and tone that it would be impossible for even the most nimble and resourceful of actors to keep their footing," he wrote.

Stephanie Zackarek of Time Magazine calls the movie "dead on arrival" and "chopped and diced and tossed up on the screen" also adding that "so much happens in David Ayer's DC Comics adaptation 'Suicide Squad' that by the end, it's as if you've seen nothing." One saving grace for Zackarek is Robbie's Harley Quinn, which is echoed by most of the critics, saying that after her entrance you can leave the movie and won't have missed anything.

Chris Nashaway of Entertainment Weekly thinks "Suicide Squad" is definitely a step up from "Batman v Superman" but not a big enough step. He adds that although the characters are colorfully crafted with comic-book wit, the plot falls flat and "the stakes should feel higher" Todd McCarthy of The Hollywood Reporter sums it all up in his first sentence. "A puzzlingly confused undertaking that never becomes as cool as it thinks it is, 'Suicide Squad' assembles an all-star team of supervillains and then doesn't know what to do with them." But also makes a good point, alluding to the possible success of the film: "What dedicated comics fan wouldn't show up for his [The Joker's] bigscreen return?"

'Worst.Heroes.Ever'

Peter Travers of Rolling Stone was incredibly let down by the film, arguing that appealing to a wider audience was a huge downfall for the film. "Who stole the soul of 'Suicide Squad'? I'd say it's Ayer's willingness to go all limp-d-k and compromise his hardcore action bona fides for a PG-13 crowdpleaser that would rather ingratiate than cut deep, or even cut at all," he writes. Alonso Duralde of The Wrap calls the film "overstuffed spectacle" that attracts people with a

certain style that fails to deliver in the film. "The film's ubiquitous posters are psychedelic and outrageously designed, but none of that aesthetic makes it into the final product," writes Duralde. "And if those posters led you to believe you'd be getting a lot of Leto's Joker, think again: he's a tertiary presence here, designed to attract ticket buyers and, presumably, to act as a placeholder for future DC movies."

David Ehlrich of IndieWire plays on the film's tagline, "Worst.Heroes.Ever," saying that "Suicide Squad' promises to flip the script on superhero movies by forcing the audience to root for the bad guys. Alas, that wild and crazy idea is the only thing that separates this dank sewer of messy actions beats and misplaced machismo from any of the other films that have come to define its genre." But just like with "Batman v Superman," which made over \$330 million in the domestic box office, unfavorable reviews do not mean that Ayer's "Suicide Squad" will tank. "Suicide Squad" opens in theaters on August 5. — Reuters



Will Smith takes a selfie with the cast and crew of "Suicide Squad at the film's world premiere at the Beacon Theatre on Monday, Aug. 1, 2016, in New York.



Cara Delevingne attends the world premiere of 'Suicide Squad'.—AP photos

Joel Kinnaman, left, and Cleo Wattenstrom attend the world premiere of 'Suicide Squad'.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

LIFESTYLE FEATURES

Britain's new i360 tower a 'pier in the sky'

he world's tallest moving observation tower, the i360, opens to the public today. A futuristic landmark that has transformed the historic seafront in the English tourist resort of Brighton. A 162-metre (530-foot) high steel tower is ringed by a doughnut-shaped glass observation pod that gently glides up and down. The design is meant to be a 21st-century take on the Victorian pleasure piers that characterize British seaside towns: this time, a vertical pier in the sky, according to project chiefs. It is hoped that the attraction will further boost tourism in the southeastern resort of Brighton, a gem of 1700s and 1800s architectural grandeur.

Designed by David Marks and Julia Barfield, the tower is the sequel to their London Eye observation wheel, which opened in the British capital in 2000 and is one of its most popular visitor attractions. Several places wanted a copy of the giant wheel, but the husband-and-wife team felt the concept wasn't viable in smaller cities. Instead they took the chance to recalibrate it for Brighton, already Britain's most popular seaside destination for foreign tourists, in this project that has taken 13 years of work to come to fruition. "The key ingredient, as with the London Eye, is moving very slowly to a great height for a fantastic view," said Barfield.

'The architecture of pleasure'

The i360 sits at the entrance to the 1866-built West Pier, which burnt down in 2003. With a height to diameter ratio of 40 to one, it is the world's slenderest tall tower, according to Guinness World Records. "This is very much in the spirit of the West Pier, whose purpose was to delight, entertain and inspire people," Marks told AFP, standing at the top of the tower. "Just as it invited Victorian society to go out and walk on water, the i360 turns that concept vertically and invites people to walk on air and get a new perspective on the city. "Everybody seems to love a great view," he added. "It's a pleasure both to the eyes and the intellect not only to gaze at the horizons but to look beyond them."

The tower cost £46 million (\$61 million, 55 million euros) to build but promises to break even as long as it attracts around half its estimated annual 700,000 visitors. From the top, visitors can see for 26 miles (42 kilometers) along the coast and out over the English Channel. Until now, the Royal Pavilion has been Brighton's standout landmark: an

seaside residence for King George IV, who was known for his indulgent lifestyle. The Sussex city is also known for its Georgian and Regency terraces, as well as its later Victorian piers, and is now home to an up-and-coming arty crowd and is often considered Britain's "gay capital".

The tower's designers say the new structure, which dominates the city's skyline, is in keeping with Brighton's history of bold architecture built for pleasure, but it has not been universally welcomed by locals. The tower's nicknames range from the "iSore" to more sexually innuendoed names, and some residents decry the local authority taking on a £36 million loan to fund the project-though the city council insists it is charging the i360 a higher rate than the borrowing costs.

Alien spacecraft-style pod

The 18-metre diameter pod-technically an oblate ellipsoid shape-is pulled up by a giant cog and steel cable winch system, located underground. It also uses a counterweight within the tower. Christian Bouvier, vicepresident of French cable car experts Poma, which built the pod and the drive mechanism, said the vertical lift system was a new technical challenge for the company. "This has never been done before," he told AFP. The 200-capacity pod looked like a visiting alien spacecraft when first assembled next to a cornfield in France, Bouvier said.

Looking out from his maiden ride in the pod, he said: "It's really the wow effect. It is sensational to see, as if in a helicopter." Bouvier compared the i360 to Paris's most famous tower. "David Marks is really the Gustave Eiffel of our century," he claimed. The tower's lattice steel cladding is designed to diffuse the wind so that it does not wobble, and to protect it from expanding in the sun. "The results of this actually turned out better than the theory," said Bouvier. The pod, which will cost visitors £15 (18 euros/\$20) per ride, will travel up and down around 200 times a week, and is set for its first wedding in September. — AFP



Christian Bouvier, commercial director of Poma, the company responsible for the winch and cable which pulls The British Airways i360 Observation Tower up the mast.



which pulls the The British Airways i360 Observation during a preview in Brighton. Tower up the mast.



A picture shows the cable which is attached to a winch The British Airways i360 Observation Tower is pictured

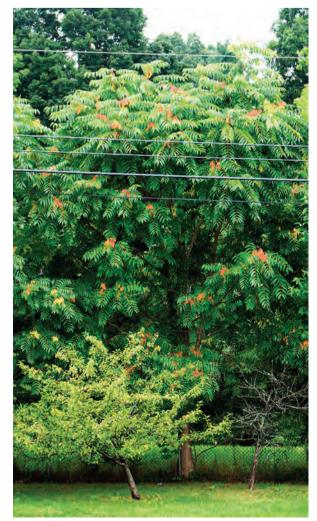


Journalists and guests look at the view from the inside of The British Airways i360 Observation Tower.





The British Airways i360 Observation Tower is pictured during a preview in Brighton, on the south coast of England. — AFP photos



These photos in Poughkeepsie, NY shows tree-of-heaven, in center background. — AP photos

A stately weed: Tree-of-heaven isn't so heavenly

s it thumbs up or thumbs down for tree-ofheaven (Ailanthus altissima), now standing out among the general greenery for the mops of yellowish or orangeish seeds capping its stout branches? With compound leaves and coarse, chubby limbs, this tree could have been mistaken for staghorn sumac or black walnut earlier in the season, before the seeds became prominent. (The peanut-y aroma of crushed tree-of-heaven leaves or stems easily distinguishes this tree from the others any time of year.) And those seedheads are one of the problems with tree-of-heaven: It is extremely fecund, each tree potentially casting over 300,000 seeds to the wind.

Each seed has wings that ensure it doesn't drop to the ground before first hitch-hiking a ride on the slightest breeze.

A weed in so many ways

Another reason tree-of-heaven is snubbed as a weed: Cut it down and it won't go away. New sprouts enthusiastically pop up from the cut stump, even after years of re-cutting. What's more, the spreading roots send up sprouts that eventually can grow into full-size trees at some distance from the mother plants. "Full-size" for tree-of-heaven means 40 to 60 feet or more. The plant's short lifespan, rarely more than 50 years, does nothing to diminish its weediness. Those roots sprouts stand ready and waiting to replace any old top growth in decline.

That's still not all: Tree-of-heaven also is among the fastest-growing trees. At 3 to 5 feet per year, it can quickly outstrip competitors,



whether they are cultivated plants or weeds. It also tolerates adversity. This is "a tree that grows in Brooklyn," thriving despite heat, cold, alkaline or acidic soil, wet or dry soil, even infertile soil and polluted air, just as Francie, in Betty Smith's 1943 novel, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," thrived under less-than-ideal conditions.

Given tree-of-heaven's ability to seed and grow, it's no wonder that it's famous for popping up in cracks in pavement and along abandoned

railroad tracks, as well as in the woods. The plant is native to China, but has been hopscotching around the eastern US since 1784, when a Philadelphia gardener introduced it by way of England. In the 18th century, tree-of-heaven was often planted as a street tree in urban areas; that legacy survives, as weeds. During the Gold Rush of the 1890s, Chinese immigrants brought the plant over and contributed to its spread on our West Coast.

It's not all bad

Despite tree-of-heaven's weedy nature, we can't write it off as just another weed; if nothing else, it has some practical uses. Those Chinese immigrants used it as a medicine and insect repellent. It also has been used to re-vegetate mine spoils, where soils are very acidic. And treeof-heaven has one more weedy trick up its bark that might prove useful. It produces a chemical that suppresses growth of nearby plants; it's an in-house herbicide factory that gives the plant a leg up in the race skyward. (Tree-of-heaven is not alone with this ploy; other plants - including black walnut, sunflower and rye - also produce natural compounds that inhibit the growth of, or kill, other plants.) Advantages of this natural herbicide, if it could be used in gardening, are rapid biodegradation, low toxicity to non-target organisms, and production without factories or petrochemicals.

I'll admit to a soft spot for tree-of-heaven because of a serene, stately, towering grove of them that I admired as I lounged in their shade a quarter-century ago in rural Virginia. Despite that experience and the tree's other qualities, however, I wouldn't suggest actually planting it. It achieves elegance only when a few trees are planted, and they are given plenty of space and time to grow. Even then, I would worry about the hundreds of thousands of seeds each would spread every year. — AP

FEATURES

Wardrobe essentials to help you through the summer



By Yalda Golsharifi

'm not going to tell you what you should be buying in this article. Rather, I'm going to show you the basics you already have lying around your wardrobe and how these essential pieces can make any outfit. Summer 2016 has snuck up on us already and it must feel like your wardrobe is not properly prepared for its arrival. Maybe it has something to do with the unpredictable mind of the Kuwaiti weather (cue sandstorm). Or maybe it's because unlike winter where we can cover ourselves in layers and layers of cozy clothes to just keep warm, pull out those boots we love, that leather jacket we can't seem to part with, we actually have to put in thought into our summer wear!

And what better way to do that than have a few essential pieces we can style a million different ways and be on our way. Just grab any of the staples listed ahead and you're ready to walk out the door.

If you're a creative shopper, these essentials are pretty must burned into your brain. But what's important is that the basics have to be from among the best quality. So, let's get started!

The LBD

Surprised? I guess not but tell me of a time where the little black dress did not work to your advantage. Get the most flattering fit for your figure, accessorize and the compliments will come pouring in, guaranteed.

A loose fit T-shirt

This 100% hit staple requires no further explanation. No matter what event, you can pair this with a floral skirts, skinny jeans, shorts or some strappy heels and look fresh! My advice? Stock up on different T- shirt styles! (Pst! The French bateau shirt and plain white tee is what are staples in my stock of Tshirts)

A blazer

Here you can go either with a pop of color or a dark, perhaps even striped well-tailored blazer. You can add extra points to a simple jeans and tee combo for that casual chic look.

Classic black pants

Leggings, jeggings, formal pants, jeans, flared, whatever have you! You need at least one pair of black pants to be able to make any outfit.

Dark denims

I love wearing these on my lazy days (Yes, we fashionistas also have our share of lazy days!) Soft shirts, t-shirts or strappy heels, a bunch of statement jewelry and voila!

A maxi dress

This piece is so versatile and for that very reason it is vital to this list of summer necessities. Go floral, Aztec or just plain with some strappy flats are you're looking elegant as ever.

The full skirt

A full skirt will put you in a party mood



instantly and what's trending at the moment are midi full skirts that I love pairing with my tees or breezy button up tops.

A kimono jacket

Casual enough to wrap up the shorts and tee combo, yet chic enough to pair with your LBD or swimsuit. This jacket is perfect for Kuwait's sometimes breezy nights.

A bright bag

If you don't wear too much color on a day to day basis, this accessory is your best friend. My favorite? The classic red Chanel flap bag (an investment you will never regret, ladies!)

Pair of sunglasses

Finally, bring it all together with the perfect sunglasses. Printed or plain, cat eyed or aviators, take your pick! You're basically the expert now!

But before we stop, let's talk shoes real quick, shall we? I love me in some classic black or brown pair of pumps, ballet flats (nude/ black/ brown/ leopard print) and a crisp pair of white sneakers (you've seen it trending for a while on Pinterest now) is where I'd put my money.

The truth is our wardrobes are a constant work in progress and we should keep it that way, ditch the old, and bring in the new. But what makes your closet is having the right foundation to begin with and from that you can draw some great outfits. So I'd say commit this list to your memory and focus on the truly important things about summer (pool parties, sand, beach and refreshing yet HEALTHY drinks!).

Tomatoes are the stars of Chilled BLT Soup



Mix and match is the modern way to furnish a dining room

hen choosing the right dining table 37, walked between tables and chairs of differand chairs, there are no rigid rules. Think about mixing and matching pieces instead of plunking down money for a perfectly matched set, experts say. "These days, we see people choosing opposite styles for the table and the chairs," said Amy Panos, a Des Moines, Iowa-based deputy editor at Better Homes and Gardens magazine. "It makes the room interesting and gives it personality. Everybody wants a very personalized, 'Oh I threw this together and it represents my style' look.' There are no 'I have tos.' There are only 'I

want tos." So when my husband and I recently picked out a new dining table and chairs at a local furniture shop, we went for a rectangular walnut table with a built-in leaf, and then chose 1960sstyle chairs with curving wooden backs and green upholstery. We wanted the table to fit in with our vintage and midcentury modern-style furniture, and the chairs to be chic and comfy. Think about your style, budget, the size of your dining area, how you like to entertain, and how you're going to use the table and chairs - are they just for eating, or also for homework, kids' projects, work?

ent shapes and sizes packed deep into the highceilinged shop. The store specializes in midcentury modern and midcentury modern-inspired pieces, as well as '70s-style Hollywood glam chrome, gold, copper and brass accented tables and chairs, which are making a comeback, Martinez said.

Tables start at \$350, and prices generally hover between \$750 and \$950, with chairs around \$250 each. The shop sometimes sells pricier items, such as a \$2,500 dining table made of acacia wood, with steel legs. "If you have a small space, a glass top dining table is really fabulous, since it creates the illusion of space," said





This Thursday, July 21, 2016 photo shows chilled BLT soup in New York. — AP

By Sara Moulton

veryone knows Joyce Kilmer's love song to trees - "I think that I shall never see/ A poem lovely as a tree." That's the way I feel about tomatoes. Accordingly, Chilled BLT Soup puts the "T" in BLT. Yes, there's bacon and lettuce, and some toast, too, in the form of croutons. But the star of this show is the tomato in its season. How do you know whether you're buying a good tomato? To start, pick it up. It should feel heavy, which lets you know it's ripe and juicy. Then take a whiff of the stem end. It should smell strongly like ... a tomato. Once you get it home, store it on the counter, out of the sun. If it's not fully red, just leave it alone. It will continue to ripen at room temperature. Don't put a whole uncut tomato in the refrigerator. Chilling it will kill the flavor and the texture.

You want to salt your tomatoes ahead of time, before you cook them, a step that helps to concentrate their flavor. First salt the large tomatoes, which form the base of the soup. Then salt the quartered tomatoes, which provide crunch. The tomatoes in this recipe don't need to be seeded or peeled. That's because you're going to puree them in a blender until smooth. (Use a blender, not a food processor, which doesn't produce a smooth texture.) Also, if you seed the tomatoes, you lose a lot of the jelly surrounding the seeds - and that jelly is where the tomato essence lives. On the chance that you've somehow underrated tomatoes before, this deeply flavorful and refreshing soup will show you what you've been missing.

Chilled BLT soup

Start to finish: 1 hour 30 minutes (30 active), plus chilling time Servings: 4 3 pounds large tomatoes Kosher salt 2 cups 1/2-inch bread cubes 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided 4 slices bacon 1 pound cherry tomatoes, quartered 1/3 cup mayonnaise 1/2 teaspoon finely minced garlic 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon sherry vinegar Black pepper 1 cup shredded romaine Preheat oven to 425 F. Core and cut the large tomatoes into

1/2-inch thick wedges. In a large bowl toss the wedges with 1 teaspoon salt and set them aside for 1 hour. Meanwhile, on a large rimmed sheet pan toss the bread cubes with 1 tablespoon olive oil until they are well coated. Sprinkle them very lightly with salt and toss again. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven until they are golden, 6 to 8 minutes. Set them aside to cool. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, cook the bacon until it is crisp, about 5 minutes. Transfer to paper towels to drain. When the bacon is cool, crumble it and set it aside. In a strainer set over a bowl toss the cherry tomatoes with 1/2 teaspoon salt and let them drain for 15 minutes. In a small bowl combine the mayonnaise with the garlic, the lemon juice and 1 tablespoon of the tomato juice from the drained cherry tomatoes and stir well.

Working in batches, transfer the tomato wedges and their liquid to a blender and blend until very smooth. Transfer to a bowl, stir in the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, the sherry vinegar, and salt and pepper to taste. Add the cherry tomatoes and chill the soup until it is cold. To serve: Spoon onefourth of the soup into each of the four soup bowls. Drizzle each portion with some of the mayonnaise and top with the bacon, the romaine and the croutons.

Nutrition information

Nutrition information per serving: 380 calories; 250 calories from fat; 28 g fat (5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 13 mg cholesterol; 573 mg sodium; 27 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 13 g sugar; 8 g protein. — AP

Move around the table

Start by measuring the space, whether it's a breakfast nook, kitchen, large dining room or small college dorm. "You have to have room to pull the chairs in and out, and be able to move around the table," said Panos, who suggested leaving 36 to 48 inches on all sides, away from walls and other furniture. "Get something you love, that really speaks to you," she said. "Are you in it for the long haul, to have that table as an heirloom, or are you someone who frequently wants to change your look?"

Tables and chairs can range from a \$200 wooden dining table and \$30 wooden chairs from IKEA, to \$250 to \$800 tables at chains Cost Plus World Market and Crate & Barrel. Higherend tables can cost thousands of dollars at boutique stores, antique stores and upscale outlets such as Restoration Hardware. Shipping furniture bought online can also bump up the cost, Panos said. Of course dining tables are often used for much more than eating.

Panos, who has three kids, offered some quick tips to avoid art-project messes on the dining room table: Cover the table top with a soft, fitted mattress pad, she said, and use round cork placemats. Parents of small kids should choose a dining table with friendlier rounded edges, she suggested. At Sunbeam Vintage, a Los Angeles store that sells new, on-site handmade, imported and vintage furniture, owner Ebee Martinez,

Martinez. "In smaller spaces, pedestal tables tables that don't have legs in the corners, but only in the middle, like a tulip table - work well, and allow a lot of knee space. You can basically put any kind of chair around that table."

Faux-marble round

Based on a late '50s design by architect and designer Eero Saarinen, tulip tables - with a smooth central column resembling a water drop - have become popular. Sunbeam Vintage carries reproduced versions with wood, white laminate, Formica, marble, and less pricy faux-marble round, oval and rectangle tops. "The white-top dining tables provide a contrast if you have a lot of wood in your house," said Martinez. "Don't be afraid of color. You can go light on the table, colorful on the chairs, and vice versa. Comfortable chairs, we've observed, usually have rounded backs. Your back kind of curves into it."

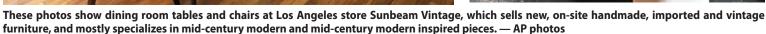
Upholstered dining chairs can also be great accent chairs in a living room, she said. Getting a table with a built-in leaf makes sense if you'll be holding both cozy family dinners and Thanksgiving for 16 people, noted Panos. The built-in aspect means you don't have to take the leaf out and store it somewhere. "In kitchen areas, we're seeing a lot more bench seats," Panos added. "You can have benches on the sides and chairs at the heads of the table. That way, you can fit more people and have that style contrast."

A veneered or laminate table is easier to clean, and cleaning products are available to help remove rings on wood, said Martinez. "We believe that furniture is expression. It's like art," Martinez said. "People have fun with it. We have customers who are artistic, and want something unique." — AP









Kuwait - Times

LIFESTYLE FEATURES







Shkurtan Hasanpapaj, 84, a Burrnesha or a 'sworn virgin', reacts as she poses in the women's ward of a hospital in the northern Albanian city.

Shkurtan Hasanpapaj (right), 84, a Burrnesha or a 'sworn virgin', poses for a Diana Rakipi or Lali, a Burrnesha or 'sworn virgin', smokes as she speaks during photograph with her twin sister Sose (left) in their room in the women's ward an interview in the city of Durres. of a hospital in the northern Albanian city of Shkodra. — AFP photos



Old photographs of 84 years old Shkurtan Hasanpapaj, a Burrnesha or a 'sworn virgin', in her room in the women's ward of a hospital in the northern Albanian city of Shkodra.



Diana Rakipi or Lali arranges fish in a fish market as she helps on different works during the day in the city of Durres.

The last bastion of **'sworn** virgins': Albania

t the age of 16, living in a remote village in northern Albania, Shkurta Hasanpapaj faced being forced into marriage. There was just one way out, and the young woman grasped it: she took the ancient, gender-bending oath to become a "sworn virgin". At a stroke, her life changed. She renounced sex, married life and parenthood. But in return, she won the right to live as a man and lead her family in a fiercely patriarchal society. Nearly seven decades later, Hasanpapaj prefers to go by the male form of her name, Shkurtan.

"I chose to be with the men," she said, as short white hair poked from beneath a cap. "Those who like me call me Shkurtan, those who want to offend me use Shkurta." Seeing out the end of her life in a hospice in the northwestern city of Shkodra, Hasanpapaj is among the last of the sworn virgins-a social status once common in Albania and its neighbors in the Balkans. Today experts estimate that fewer than 10 remain. The exceptional life of the sworn virgin is rooted in the Kanun of Leke Dukagjini, a mediaeval code of conduct that was passed down orally among the clans of the craggy peaks and verdant valleys of northern Albania.

The Kanun, which also lays out the rules for the nation's notorious blood feuds, allows two ways to become a "virgiinesha", as sworn virgins are called in Albanian. One possibility is when all males in the family are dead or gone, and a girl takes the oath in order to take over male duties and rights. The other is to invoke it to peacefully avoid an arranged marriage. Without the oath, blood can be shed. Refusing a proposal is seen as a major affront that can ignite a feud between the families of the would-be bride and suitor that can span generations.

Sworn virgins win the right to hold a job, smoke, knock back shots of fiery raki liquor at the bar, wear trousers and even make family decisions. You don't have to "serve food with your head bowed" and "disappear without looking at the guests", said 62-year-old Djana Rakipi, who also goes by Lali. She was born in the remote Tropoja region in northern Albania, but now lives on the coast in Durres. Dressed in a tie and military beret-Rakipi chainsmokes, has a crushing handshake and takes clear pleasure when the guard at the local port calls her "boss".

Rakipi said that, for her, the oath was a form of liberty. The alternative path laid out for women in the Kanun is one of subservience, hard domestic labor and total lack of control. "It was difficult for women to be part of life," said Rakipi. "Being free was taboo."

'They mixed with men'

For Hasanpapaj the pressure to change came early. She and her twin sister, born in 1932, were seen as a catastrophe by their parents who had already had three sons die. Her sister was named Sose-"That's enough" in Albanian. During the post-World War II communist regime of Enver Hoxha, Hasanpapaj was a leader of the local branch of the communist party and headed up "a brigade of about 50 farmers". "I was tough," she said. Rakipi also feels nostalgia for the com-

munist regime "that always recognized me as a man", worked as a soldier training students to assemble a Kalashnikov rifle. She later became a police officer.

Much like Hasanpapaj, Rakipi says "she doesn't give a damn" about not having kids and brushed off the matters of sex and relationships. "I am in love with nature, the sun. I paint," Rakipi said. "What better love is there than that?" Both these sworn virgins firmly reject homosexuality. With Rakipi saying it is "not moral". "Two men and two women getting married, that is the end of the world," she added. For British anthropologist Antonia Young, author of a book on sworn virgins, sexuality had nothing to do with the custom. The "virgjinesha" gained the privilege of being admitted into a male-only world, although their gender was never changed on their birth certificates.

"They were definitely within the masculine world. They mixed with men, they socialized with men, they drank with them, particularly in cafes," she said. For any women today who may be tempted to taking the oath of becoming a sworn virgin, much of the significance of the act will be lost as so much has changed in Albanian society, said Young. "It won't be the same-it won't be for the benefit of the family or the community," she said. "It would just be for individual choice." — AFP

Get ready for coffee's next wave:

Cuppings and \$200 grinders

et ready for the next wave of coffee culture. Consumers are learning more about coffee - how it's grown, roasted and prepared. They're attending tastings called cuppings and they're being asked to drink fine coffee black to experience its true flavors. They're also spending more for gourmet beans and fancy grinders. "Coffee in many ways is now being treated as a very fine ingredient that requires a tremendous amount of care and stewardship from seed to cup," said Nick Brown, editor of Roast magazine's Daily Coffee News, noting "tremendous growth in the high-end, upscale, specialty coffee segment."

While some say the trend is part of the farm-to-table movement, others compare the shift in coffee to wine and beer consumption. Wine tastings were once mocked as the province of snobbish elites, while beer brewery tours were a novelty. But now wine bars, trails and tasting rooms are ubiquitous, as are brew pubs, microbreweries and craft beer. "The more varieties consumers become aware of, the more they want," said National Coffee Association spokesman Joe DeRupo. "People are eager for anything and everything new. They are accumulating the knowledge and sophisticated tastes that come with that knowledge."

While coffee consumption overall has declined slightly in the US in recent years, 31 percent of Americans say they drink specialty coffee daily, and 45 percent drink it each week, according to the Specialty Coffee Association of America.

Cream in your coffee? Not so fast!

Semilla is an 18-seat restaurant in Brooklyn, New York, known for its adventurous, "vegetable-forward" \$85 tasting menu. As each dish is served, the staff provides information about ingredients and preparation. What they don't provide is milk and sugar for coffee, unless guests ask. "If somebody of their own volition asks, 'Could I get milk and sugar?' of course we provide it," said Gabriela Acero, Semilla's maÓtre d'. "That's their personal preference. But generally the way I phrase it is, 'If you're willing, I'd ask you to try the coffee without that and let me know what you think.' I would say 90 to 95 percent find they don't need milk and sugar.

Milk and sugar, she added, are used to "mask coffee that's bitter or over-extracted." Semilla's coffee is "sweeter, more delicate, more floral" than ordinary coffee. "It's about the purity of the product," she said.

Semilla's coffee comes from a small Brooklyn roaster called Parlor Coffee. Parlor's business is mostly wholesale, but the company also hosts cuppings for the public: twice-weekly free tastings featuring a half-dozen coffees, served black with spoons for slurping and spit cups for those worried about caffeine. At a recent cupping, tasting room manager Peter Higgins pointed out hints of "candied peaches and raspberries" in Kenyan coffee; "floral, like black tea or bergamot" flavors in an Ethiopian brew; and 'dense, chocolatey'' notes in a Guatemalan blend.

Parlor's founder, Dillon Edwards, says the "niche world of micro roasters" to which Parlor belongs is viable thanks to what came before: the Starbucks boom in the 1990s followed by artisanal retailers like Blue Bottle, now a small chain, "supporting and celebrating the coffee producers." Those waves paved the way for a marketplace where some consumers are "willing to spend \$5 on a cup of coffee or \$20 on a bag of coffee."

Grinder glitz and the coffee journey Are you proud of grinding beans fresh each morning at

home? If you're using a \$10 or \$20 electric grinder, experts say you're better off using a bag of coffee ground at the store. That's because inexpensive blade grinders don't grind beans evenly. You end up with different size particles, resulting in an uneven extraction that damages subtle flavors. Industry mavens recommend burr grinders instead. Burrs are rough metal parts that crush beans uniformly. But even gourmet coffee lovers may be taken aback by the price tag. Popular burr grinders include the Capresso Infinity Die-Cast, \$150, and the Baratza Encore, \$130, while Baratza's vaunted Virtuoso model runs \$220.

"People are upping their game," said Baratza co-founder Kyra Kennedy. "They want to taste the flavors and learn about that. Our growth really matches with what I would call the manual brew craze - the pour-overs, the AeroPresses, the press pots. People need a grinder if they're going to do that stuff at home and get the same flavor they're getting from a really good independent store." Baratza has been growing about 30 percent a year for the past five years and sold 80,000 grinders last year. But the challenge for Baratza and others riding this latest wave of coffee culture is to make sure the focus on quality - whether it's eschewing milk and sugar or recommending a \$200 machine doesn't come off as effete or snobby. "Coffee is a journey," said Kennedy. "The baristas and the specialty coffee world have been made fun of for being elitists. So we are very sensitive." - AP

> This undated photo provided by Baratza shows a Baratza Virtuoso coffee grinder, which sells for about \$220.





Peter Higgins, tasting room manager at Parlor Coffee, pouring hot water over ground coffee during a coffee tasting, known as a cupping, at the company's Brooklyn, New York, facility.



Image shows beans and ground coffee set out in cups for a tasting known as a 'cupping' at Parlor Coffee in Brooklyn, New York, with tasting room manager Peter Higgins at the other end of the counter.



Image shows Warwick Mayn, center, head roaster at Parlor Coffee, roasting beans at the company's facility in Brooklyn, New York. — AP photos



Window washers dressed as super heroes clean windows at Kingston General Hospital in Kingston, Ontario. — AP photos

Seven-year-old Riley Dunk watches a window washer dressed as Spiderman clean a window.

Superhero Window Washers





Seven-year-old Luke Carter holds up a stuffed Batman as his mother Bailly and father Curtis, from Picton, Ont, look on as window washers dressed as Batman and Ironman wash a window.

Seven-year-old Luke Carter waves to window washers dressed as Spiderman, Ironman and Batman.

'Cats': 5 ways the smash musical changed Broadway

fter conquering Broadway, "Hamilton" will now try its hand at taking over the world-with upcoming productions in Chicago (this fall), LA, San Francisco and London (in 2017). As it expands, Broadway's latest juggernaut can follow a trail blazed by "Cats." Back in New York after 15 years, Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1982 musical has returned to a Broadway landscape that in many ways it helped created. The show not only launched the era of the British mega musical ("The Phantom of the Opera," "Les Miserables"), it more importantly cemented the model of a globe-conquering smash hit-a model refined by the likes of "Phantom," "Les Miz," "The Lion King," "Wicked" and now "Hamilton." Here's how it changed the game.

1. It prowled the globe-and became a New York City landmark at the same time.

"Cats" wasn't the first show with global ambitions-Broadway hits like "A Chorus Line" and "Evita" also branched out to other cities and countries. "I remember back in 1971, when Robert Stigwood was my manager, Robert sat me down and said, 'We have to get "Jesus Christ Superstar" around the world now, and we have to do it quickly," recalled Lloyd Webber, days before the new "Cats" opened on Broadway. "He said, 'People are going to pirate it, and there's nothing we can really do, so we must get out own productions up."

2. You don't have to be fluent in English to get it.

A major reason "Cats" works so well for international audiences: There's no language barrier. For theater purists, that's part of what they hate about the show- in their view, it's a dumbed-down spectacle about kitties. But whatever you think of it, this new production and its hardworking cast will remind you that "Cats" is, first and foremost, a dance musical, with only the barest of plots holding together a feline revue. Like a ballet or any other movement-centric performance, you don't need English to get the gist. "Cats" was one of the first shows to truly exploit the global potential of that. Other

"Mamma Mia!"-followed suit.

It embraced its family appeal. 3.

"Cats" is a well-established draw for family audiences-and as the Disney's uber-successful musicals ("The Lion King," "Aladdin") illustrate, that's a powerful demographic, capable of sustaining a show for years. But the original production of "Cats" didn't get that family-friendly reputation right off the bat. "Broadway didn't have that sense of family audiences as a target demographic back then," said Nina Lannan, the executive producer of the revival and the general manager of the

Broadway musicals in particular, universal crowdpleaser original production. "Not the way we talk about family audiences now. Nobody thought that way." She estimated that the change happened following the ninth anniversary of "Cats" on Broadway. The production hosted a face-painting event in celebration, and the resulting TV ad, showing kids getting dolled up in feline makeup, turned the heads of parental ticketbuyers-and those all-ages crowds helped the show run another nine years. With that, Broadway had proof of the commercial power of appealing to young audiences.

That logo.

You know what it looks like. Yellow eyes with dancers



inside them and a hand-scrawled title treatment against a black background, the logo has an iconic simplicity that gave "Cats" a internationally resonant brand identity akin to the Coke squiggle or the Nike swoosh. That simplicity made a bare-bones ad relatively cheap to run on TV, where "Cats" advertised 52 weeks a year. "When we stopped advertising on television, there'd be a drop in business," recalled Philip J. Smith, the longtime executive (and current co-CEO) of the Shubert Organization, a major producer of both the Broadway original and the current revival. "It was amazing. The cat eyes were so fantastic, and you were dealing directly to a children's audience. 'Hey Mommy, I want to go see "Cats!"' they'd say."

Shows strive to establish that kind of instant recognition, and with good reason. After "The Phantom of the Opera" became synonymous with its broken-mirror lettering and halfmask image, Warner Bros.' largely reviled movie adaptation actually revitalized the Broadway show-in part because the studio's omnipresent ads for the film, using the same logo, doubled as advertising for the stage version.

Producers took control.

These days, it's de rigueur for a hit musical's original producers to have a strong hand in guiding the national and international rollout of a Broadway success. But in Smith's recollections, "Cats" started that trend. Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group meticulously parceled out production rights, Smith said. "They gave out the rights in sections as no one ever did before," Smith said. "People had done similar things, but nobody really took it down to a science like they did. They really and truly programmed the rights." Lannan noted, "That was probably the first time a producer said, 'I'm in control of all that." Now, of course, it's common. But "Cats" led the way. — Reuters