

25 runaway maids, nurse arrested in two raids



Bar fire kills 13 at birthday party in France



Trump, eyeing campaign reset, backs Ryan, McCain



American teen Thrasher wins first gold of Rio Games



YEMEN TALKS SUSPENDED AFTER REBELS NAME GOVERNING BODY

UN ENVOY SLAMS 'UNILATERAL' STEP, PRAISES KUWAIT



Min 35°
Max 49°
High Tide 02:57 & 14:18
Low Tide 08:47 & 21:42



40 PAGES



RIO DE JANEIRO: People watch fireworks exploding over the Maracana Stadium from the Manguera favela during the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games late Friday. (Inset) Former Brazilian athlete Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima lights the Olympic cauldron with the Olympic torch during the opening ceremony. — AFP (Full coverage on Pages 17-20)



KUWAIT: The UN suspended talks between Yemen's warring parties yesterday after the rebels and their allies appointed a council to run the country in a blow to the peace process. In July, the rebels and forces allied to former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh rejected a UN peace plan and announced the creation of a "supreme political council" to run Yemen. At the time, UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed denounced the council as a "grave breach" of UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and a violation of commitments to the peace process.

Yesterday, he said he was suspending peace talks that Kuwait has hosted for more than three months, but also said he would continue to consult with both sides to arrange further negotiations. "We will be leaving Kuwait today but the Yemeni peace talks are continuing," Ould Cheikh Ahmed told reporters in Kuwait City. He said he will hold bilateral consultations with the two delegations in the coming weeks to work out details of a peace plan.



Ould Cheikh Ahmed

"We have guarantees and commitments from the two sides that they are ready to return to the negotiating table," he said, adding that a new round of talks could begin in a month's time. Ould Cheikh Ahmed refused to call the talks under way since April a failure, although they made no headway. But he did say the creation of the council by the rebels and their allies was not in the interests of Yemen or the peace process. "We condemn any unilateral step," he said.

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RIO GAMES GET OFF TO TROUBLED START

GISELE, SAMBA AT GLITTERING OPENING CEREMONY

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Rio Olympics got off to a troubled start yesterday as a loud blast erupted near the cycling race's finish line and a bullet ripped through the media tent at the equestrian venue. Long queues also formed outside venues - as competition went on inside - as volunteers and security staff struggled to cope with a sudden influx of fans.

The Brazilian military carried out a controlled explosion near the Copacabana finish line of Rio Olympics men's road cycling race yesterday, witnesses said. Military bomb disposal experts were at the scene of the explosion and kept crowds away with

police. The explosion stunned crowds gathering for the end of the race. The race leaders were about 100 km away at the time.

Elsewhere at the Deodoro venue, onlookers were shocked when a bullet pierced the temporary venue housing media, leaving visible holes in the fabric roof and wall. It made for an unsettling day one of the Rio Games, which were launched in a blaze of color by Friday's flamboyant opening ceremony. But in further violence on Friday, police gunned down a mugger outside the ceremony venue, the Maracana stadium, and a woman was shot and killed by armed assailants near

the Olympic Boulevard.

The events overshadowed a busy opening day of action in which little-known American teenager Virginia Thrasher became the first gold-medalist, in the women's 10m air rifle, the first of 306 medal events. In swimming, China's Sun Yang was to defend his 400m crown later yesterday, and Britain's Tour de France Chris Froome was among the road race competitors. Serbian rowers Milos Vasic and Nenad Bedik capsized in choppy waters at the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, while Iran's Ghader Mizbani suffered a terrifying crash in the cycling race. — Agencies

MANILA, RIYADH TO NEGOTIATE OVER STRANDED WORKERS

MANILA: The Philippines said yesterday it would within days send government missions to Saudi Arabia to help thousands of jobless Filipinos left stranded across the kingdom after the plunge in oil prices. The first batch of officials would fly to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday "to provide immediate humanitarian, legal, and other consular assistance to the overseas Filipino workers stranded in work camps across Saudi Arabia," a foreign department statement said.

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REBELS BREAK ALEPPO SIEGE

BEIRUT: Syrian rebels said yesterday they have broken a three-week government siege of second city Aleppo, turning the tables on Russian-backed regime forces who are now on the defensive. To the northeast, a Western-backed alliance of Arab and Kurdish fighters scored a major victory against the Islamic State group in the town of Manbij after a fierce two-month battle. The developments have rocked the key northern province of Aleppo, a microcosm of Syria's chaotic multi-front war that has killed more than 280,000 people.

Rebel and regime forces have fought for control of the provincial capital since mid-2012, transforming the former economic powerhouse into a divided, bombed-out city. Opposition fighters,

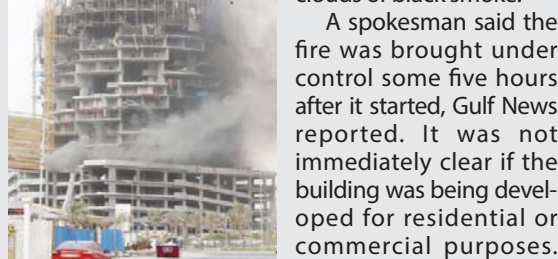
Islamists and jihadists have waged fierce assaults since July 31 to end the siege by government forces of some 250,000 people in Aleppo's eastern districts. Yesterday, rebel groups successfully broke the siege by opening a new route into the city from the southwest, opposition officials said.

"Rebels break Aleppo's siege," tweeted the Istanbul-based opposition National Coalition. Islamist faction Ahrar Al-Sham said rebels had seized control of Ramussa on the southwestern edges of the city and thereby "opened the route to Aleppo". But state television said late yesterday the army had regained control of several key points in a military complex south of Aleppo that rebels overran earlier.

Continued on Page 13

FIREMEN TACKLE DUBAI BUILDING FIRE, NO INJURIES

DUBAI: Firefighters fought for hours to control a blaze at a multi-storey building under construction in Dubai's Jumeirah Village Circle yesterday, the latest in a series of fires in the business and tourism hub of the United Arab Emirates. The English-language Gulf News said there were no injuries in the fire, which broke out at midday. The newspaper published pictures and a video of the building showing flames and clouds of black smoke.



DUBAI: Smoke billows from an under-construction building near Jumeirah Village Circle yesterday. — AFP

A spokesman said the fire was brought under control some five hours after it started, Gulf News reported. It was not immediately clear if the building was being developed for residential or commercial purposes. Last month a fire broke out at the residential 75-storey Sulafa Tower in the upscale Marina District, on New Year's Eve a blaze hit a downtown hotel

and in February last year there was a fire at a 79-storey residential tower. In Nov 2012, a 34-storey Dubai residential building was badly damaged by fire. In some of those cases, experts said the flames may have been encouraged to spread by exterior cladding, used for decoration or insulation. The UAE revised its building safety code in 2013 to require that cladding on all new buildings over 15 m tall be fire-resistant, but older buildings are exempt. — Reuters



ALEPPO: Syrian civil defense volunteers, known as the White Helmets, gather in a street in this northern city yesterday in celebration after rebels said they have broken a three-week government siege. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: A man points to a Rio 2016 Olympic badge as he displays pins and badges for swapping outside the media center of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games on Thursday. — AFP

BADGE OF HONOR FOR OLYMPICS PIN FANS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Basketball legend Yao Ming, Prince Albert II of Monaco and a former Finnish president - an eclectic range of people that Olympic badge enthusiast Sidney Marantz has traded pins with. The eccentric 71-year-old is a regular sight at Summer and Winter Games where he and his wife mingle with other serious collectors, as well as first-timers, to supplement their 5,000-strong badge collection. "At Torino ten years ago I was very excited because I thought I was trading with the Finnish Olympic committee president. But she turned out to be the president of Finland."

"I've also traded with Prince Albert. He was a very nice guy and very down to earth for a royal," Marantz, wearing a

bright Hawaiian shirt, told AFP. The sprightly septuagenarian, a veteran of 16 Olympics, has brought 1,000 duplicates to the Rio Games in a bid to swap them for 1,000 new ones for his burgeoning collection back home.

The Californian and wife Joan have been causing quite a buzz in the grounds of the main press centre this week, laying out an assortment of around 200 pins on towels for display each day. They have been joined by fellow American and Olympiad badge aficionado Bud Kling, the proud owner of a whopping 25,000 pins collected over 15 Games. "What can I say? I like trading pins," the 69-year-old told AFP.

Continued on Page 13



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE CHIEF VISITS KUWAIT, MEETS TOP ARMY OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman NI (M) Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force carried out an official visit to Kuwait from 3-6 August 2016. He met Kuwaiti dignitaries including Lieutenant General (Staff) Sheikh Khaled Al Jarrah Al-Sabah, Defense Minister of the State of Kuwait, Chief of General Staff, Kuwait Armed Forces, Lieutenant General (Staff) Mohammad Khaled Al-Khader, Commander of Kuwait Land Forces Major General (Staff) Khalid Al-Saleh Al-Sabah, Commander of Kuwait Naval Forces Major General Khalid Ahmed Abdullah

and Commander of Kuwait Air Force Major General (Staff) Abdullah Yaqoob Al-Foudari. The Air Chief met the retired Pakistan Armed Forces personnel working with Kuwaiti Air Force. He also met Pakistan community members. The visit is a manifestation of the close and fraternal ties between the two countries and has provided an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest and enhance cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries and discuss ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of Training and Aviation Industry.



KUWAIT: Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman NI (M) Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force meets with Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Defense Minister of the State of Kuwait.

ZAIN RECOGNIZES EFFORTS OF VALUE ADDED SERVICES PARTNERS

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE DURING Q2 2016 HIGHLIGHTED

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently held the quarterly recognition event to shed light on the efforts of its outstanding authorized service providers for value added services to highlight their performance during the second quarter of 2016. Zain officials, along with VAS partners' representatives, were present during the ceremony, which the company organizes on a quarterly basis to highlight the efforts of its authorized partners, allowing them to compete fairly with one another and drive more efficiency when offering the best services and products to Zain customers who form

Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers. Zain recognized the performance of its outstanding VAS partners during the second quarter of 2016 as part of 'Al Awael' program to highlight their exceptional efforts. The recognition was based on several key indicators: 'Numbase Limited' came first in Zain's VAS net revenue, 'Media Phone Plus' came first in Zain's Bulk SMS revenue and overall VAS revenue, as well as 'One Global', 'Mobile Technology Tomorrow', and 'Aiwa Gulf', who all came first in achieving the VAS target revenue. This event is held several times a year to recognize Zain's distinguished partners and

service providers for their efforts, which reflect on Zain's competitive and excellent value added services that offers the company's customers with the best quality services in the country. Zain partners are an integral part of Zain's extended family, playing a major role in the implementation of the company's business strategy. Zain considers its authorized partners an integral and crucial part of its overall success and a significant element of the company's leading position. Zain encourages VAS partners to maintain their performance and continue offering the best services and products to its customers.



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received Ali Al-Roumi, Chairman of the National Assembly Laws' Follow-up Committee, and members of the panel that is affiliated to the Kuwaiti Lawyers Society. The two sides discussed ways to improve cooperation between them. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) celebrated the graduation of the fourth batch of retail banking employees who underwent training at CBK Academy in the bank's Faiha branch.

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SEVERAL TERROR SUSPECTS ARRESTED

25 RUNAWAY MAIDS CAUGHT IN TWO RAIDS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In a preemptive move, state security men launched several raids in Jabriya and Um Al-Haiman, resulting in the arrest of several people found to be cooperating with terrorist organizations. The sources said that state security, through its foreign operations, penetrated several terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq and obtained names of some of those cooperating with the so-called Islamic State in Kuwait.

Runaway maids

Residency police busted a gang harboring absconding women and making them work as nurses and daily-wage domestic helpers. Policemen raided two houses, one in Jabriya and the other in Rumaithiya, where 25 maids (holding article 20 visas) reported absconding were found, including a nurse (holding an article 18 visas).

Vehicle malfunctioned

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department issued a

statement clarifying an issue pertaining with video footage that appeared on social media, and in which a person is heard claiming that a driver was driving recklessly. It said that the vehicle that appeared in the video was actually malfunctioned, and the driver lost control over it. The statement said that a call was received about a car being driven recklessly, so a patrol was sent there. Police asked the driver to stop, but he could not. The pickup truck finally came to a halt after hitting a lamppost and flipping. He was not injured.

Forgery

Residency detectives in Farwaniya arrested a company representative on forgery charges. The man is accused of forging a civil ID, and forging his sponsor's signature without his knowledge. The suspect had submitted a transaction to Farwaniya Residency Department, but an official there discovered that the ID he presented did not belong to him. The man reportedly escaped when he felt that he was busted, and left the transaction



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows runaway housemaids arrested during operations in Jabriya and Rumaithiya.

behind. Police were later able to apprehend the man, who confessed that he made the forgery for documents pertaining with his wife's residency, saying that he wanted to avoid having his wife face huge fines.

INCREASING RENTS RIPPING OFF EXPATS

In my view

I have been an expat in Kuwait for over 10 years. Recently, I started searching for somewhere to rent for my five-person family. I was horrified to discover the prices for renting villas, or the more chic word, duplexes. Ten years ago, villas could be found for about KD 750, and whilst yes, it is normal to expect an increase, it's not normal to see an increase of more than 50 percent. Had everything else in Kuwait increased in price, I wouldn't have a problem with it, but the fact that salaries still average for many at around KD 850 (yes, that's the starting salary for most teachers in many schools in Kuwait). It saddens me to see the increase in rent without an increase in salary.

It worries me that a four-bedroom villa here now costs the same as a four-bedroom apartment overlooking Central Park in NY or a two-bed penthouse over the Thames. It begs the question - who is profiting from these dramatic increases? Is it the real estate agents who are marking up 50 percent of the rent for a fee? Or is it that the owners have no choice but to increase the rent because their neighbors have done the same?

If Kuwait isn't careful, it will end up with zero expats, and let's be honest, who runs your coffee shops, restaurants and malls? It certainly isn't Kuwaiti apprentices or undergraduates making some pocket money. Teachers will no longer come here; why would they? At most they can save around KD 100 a month. A three-bedroom floor that you couldn't swing a cat in is now going for anywhere between KD 850-1,200 (yes, for a floor!) An entire villa costs around KD 1,500-2,000, and if you choose the smaller option of a duplex with no garden, you may be able to grab a bargain at KD 1,200, but most are starting off at KD 1,500. For the expats reading this, convert that into sterling and ask yourself - would you rent a three-bedroom council style house without a garden for almost £2,500?

Gas prices are going up in September by almost 80 percent. Is the government going to increase salaries? Are they going to reduce rent prices? We got promised several months ago that house prices would drop, and if anything, they have increased further. It's time for expats to say 'No, that's too much!' It's time for expats to refuse to be robbed of hard-earned money. It's time for Kuwait to wake up and realize nobody in their right mind is going to pay KD 2,500 (£5,000) a month for a 'luxurious villa' when their house back home is being rented out for 1/3 of that and it has an extra garage, a 30-m long garden and five parking spaces.

Angry Expat



KUWAIT: Damage left by flames inside a house in Sabahiya, where a fire left a woman dead, while her husband and son were hospitalized.



A picture from inside the Jahra apartment taken after the fire was extinguished.



Severe damage left by a fire inside a Jahra apartment.

WOMAN DEAD, FIREMEN HURT IN STRING OF FIRES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A woman was killed in a fire reported in Sabahiya yesterday. Mangaf and Fahaheel fire centers responded, and found the fire was in a ground-floor living room, and the family was trapped. Firemen broke into the house to rescue them. A man, his wife and their child were handed to paramedics in critical condition after they had inhaled large quantities of smoke. The

wife died on arrival at the hospital, while her husband and son were placed in the ICU. A fireman suffered a twisted ankle.

Firemen injured

Separately, six firemen suffered heat exhaustion during a fire in a traditional Arab-style house in Khaitan. Farwaniya fire center responded to the call and put out the blaze. The affected firemen were treated by paramedics.

Jahra fire

In another incident, a fire broke out in a Jahra building in a second-floor apartment. The building was evacuated and the fire was contained and kept from spreading to nearby flats. Two persons were rescued, while Captain Abdelwahab Al-Oraifan suffered heat exhaustion and a bruised back as he fell on the stairs.

Marine rescue

Shuaiba Sea Fire Station responded to two emergency calls reported simultaneously yesterday. The first reported smoke coming out of a yacht with five citizens on board. Firefighters went aboard the boat, and found faulty wiring in the engines. Power was cut and the yacht was tugged to Kout Sea Club. The second call was made by four citizens who sought help after their boat became stranded in shallow waters near Al-Zour. A rescue boat was sent and the boat was tugged to safety. No injuries were reported in both incidents.



Flames coming out from a traditional Arab-style house in Khaitan.



A photo taken from inside the Khaitan house showing flames before the blaze was extinguished.

TREATMENT ALLOWANCE INCREASES REJECTED

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Finance Ministry has refused to increase financial allowances of Kuwaitis being treated abroad, even as the health ministry is warning that those who deserve it are in danger of being deprived of any money within days if extra funds are not approved. The problem, according to official sources, began when the finance ministry asked the health ministry to stop payments to health offices abroad because the total previous payments reached more than KD 120 million, which is the amount mentioned in the budget for this item. They said the health ministry used to send the allowances to the health offices so they could make the weekly payments to patients as well as pay hospital bills. The sources said Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi met with his undersecretaries to prepare a memo to be sent to the finance ministry, which sounds the danger of not increasing the allowances, as patients will be deprived of all funds next week, adding available funds are only enough for the current week.

Jahra's ministries complex

The Central Tenders Committee (CTC) put an end to the parliamentary argument over the ministries complex building in Jahra, and put forth a tender for it with new adjustments. CTC asked tenderers that the company that bids must have carried out a similar project with a cost of not less than \$200 million between the period of 2011 to 2016 inside or outside Kuwait, along with a sealed letter from the customer stating whether the project was completed according to the time schedule or not, along with the rest of conditions and the qualification documents. The project costs over KD 300 million, covering an area of 300,000 sq m and has four basements, each having the capacity of 10,000 cars for employees, in addition to a ground floor and eight upper floors that will be used by 19 government bodies.

UNION DEMANDS BETTER BOATS MOVEMENT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Head of the Fishermen Union Thamer Al-Suwayan demanded that officials reconsider their decision to ban Kuwaiti boats in Shamlan marina from heading to sea through Doha port, because the decision is harmful to Kuwaiti fishermen's interests and costs them a lot in trips to international waters for shrimping.

He said the entry of Kuwaiti boats that work in shrimping in international waters from Um Al-Maradom customs center will cause losses to fishermen, in addition to more time, effort and distances, finding it strange that the decision applies to Kuwaiti boats only. He said there are contacts with coastguard officials, and demanded a meeting to explain the union's views, as there is total compliance with the security conditions the coastguard requires.

He said many consumers are asking about the reasons behind small quantities of shrimps and high prices compared to previous years, while the reason is well known, which is that some fishermen are not shrimping. He said Kuwaiti boats in Shamlan marina used to exit and return from Doha port and no problems had taken place at all, as Doha customs port is the closest. The time it takes from Shamlan marina to Doha port, and from there to the nearest fishing area in international waters east of Kubbar island, is 112 nautical miles round trip, while it will be 170 miles if the new decision is implemented.

Mutlaa farms removed

Informed sources at Kuwait Municipality said all farms in Mutlaa were cleared and will be handed to the contractor for companies to start work. The removal teams began work in mid-May and work is almost complete now. The farms are being removed to make way for a new residential project dubbed the 'South Mutlaa City' to be built in the area.

Power cuts in Kabd

It seems that the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is unable to solve the problem of power cuts in Kabd every weekend, as confirmed by many citizens, who said that power cuts continue every weekend while they spend time there along with their families. MEW said the power cut on Friday was because an above ground cable malfunctioned, and a team is working on it.

ENGINEERING OFFICES ALLOWED TO GIVE CONSTRUCTION LICENSES FOR STATE PROJECTS

AMIRI HOSPITAL PARKING EVACUATED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi emphasized the importance of administrative reform and completing the development of the municipality's organizational structure, especially since officials have a golden opportunity to change its image after the new law 33/2016. Manfouhi, who chaired the meeting of the higher committee for planning and coordination Thursday, said they will take practical steps to develop

the municipality to prepare the executive rules of the new municipality law through a study of all weakness and strength aspects in order to make the role of the municipality a supervisory one by reducing the burden on municipality sectors in processing transactions of government projects, and supporting the private sector.

Construction licenses

Manfouhi said the committee decided to ask the engineering and legal systems

departments to prepare rules of allowing engineering consulting offices to provide construction licenses and hand over the boundaries of government projects under the supervision of the municipality.

He said the committee also discussed the issue of e-transactions between the municipality and other government bodies, adding that it recommended seeking the legal opinion of the fatwa and legislation department with regards to the electronic linkage of transactions of real estate specifications between the Ministry of

Justice and the Municipality.

Parking evacuated

Meanwhile, a Municipality emergency team evacuated the car parking building of Amiri Hospital as instructed by Manfouhi, because the site is not safe and will remain closed until after thorough tests. Capital Municipality Director Ammar Al-Ammar said instructions were given by the director general to evacuate the building and it was done in coordination with Deputy Hospital Director Dr Ali Al-Alanda.



Parking spaces at Amiri Hospital cordoned after the area was evacuated for safety reasons.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi chairs a meeting of the higher committee for planning and coordination.

In Brief

AL-SUMAIT PRIZE NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announced yesterday the final list of nominees for Al-Sumait Prize for food security 2016. There are 49 nominees for Al-Sumait Prizes for food security and for health development initiatives, where they have been divided into two groups, and a judging committee has been assigned to each group. KFAS also mentioned that the prizes will be \$1 million for each competition. The prizes will be awarded on November 22, 2016. — KUNA



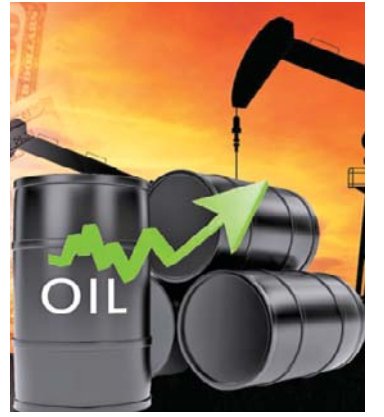
WHO LAUDS KUWAIT'S INFECTION CONTROL

KUWAIT: An expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) expert Dr Thamer Saeed lauded the epidemiological surveillance system devised by Kuwait's Infection Control Directorate (ICD), saying that it was up to international standards. He made his statements following a visit to the infection control departments at the Sabah and Mubarak Hospitals, Head of the ICD Dr Sheikha Al-Hajri said. The epidemiological surveillance system was first implemented in Kuwait in early 1980s as a measure to prevent patients from being infected during their stay at hospitals. — KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP \$0.66 TO \$38.94 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up Friday \$0.66 to reach \$38.94 per barrel after being at \$38.28 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. In the US, the price of crude went up after statistics showed a decrease in the fuel reserves. As a result, the Brent crude went up by 3 percent exceeding \$40 pb. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A view for the sunset taken from Kuwait International Airport. — KUNA

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN SOUTH LEBANON OFFERED KRCS AID

BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has carried on with its campaign to support Syrians in Lebanon after they were forced to escape war at home, offering aid to scores of refugee families south of the country. Relief aid was presented to 250 Syrian families in the southern town of Tibneen, head of the KRCS field team Anwar Al-Attya said yesterday. He added that the aid items, including food and

detergents, were enough for a five-member family for a month.

The team will offer more aid to Syrians in other parts of Lebanon over the coming days, Attya said. The Kuwaiti relief society has been very much active in Lebanon, delivering aid to Syrians in need since the eruption of the Syria crisis in 2011. — KUNA





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THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY LOST TWO GREAT WORLD RENOWNED EGYPTIAN ARAB SCIENTISTS

By Dr Adnan A Shihab-Eldin
Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences

Early morning news streamed over global media announced that Professor Ahmed Zwail, the father of femtosecond Science, for which he was awarded the Noble prize in chemistry, has passed away. This great scientist, with unwavering lifetime commitment to the advancement of science as well as the advancement, and the development through science, of his mother country, Egypt, and the Arab and Islamic countries, will be immensely missed.

I first met Ahmed Zwail briefly at the LBL national laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley in the early seventies. Since then, I followed his rapid ascent to the peak of scientific accomplishments and was fortunate enough to reconnect with him several times this millennium. One encounter was in Kuwait when he served in 2007, as co-Chair of a Blue-Ribbon Amiri Commission tasked with reviewing the state of R&D in Kuwait and making recommendations to enhance its development and contribution to society. Dr Zwail passed away this morning after a courageous struggle against an aggressive type of cancer diagnosed in 2013.



Dr Ahmed Zwail

On the same day, I heard the other sad news of the day of the departure of Professor Robert Mabro, another world renowned Egyptian Arab scientist. A giant oil and energy economics scholar and a shining star in all his endeavors in teaching, research and academic work, Dr Mabro was a unique individual. In addition to his distinguished academic expertise, he had a personality that combined friendliness, humanity, humility and sincerity, with the ability to make all those fortunate



Dr Robert Mabro

around him feel at ease and full of joy and happiness which he radiated. Dr Mabro's rigorous scientific work and insightful perspectives on oil, and energy in general, was highly recognized and widely referenced and sought after around the world, by policy and design makers from both consuming and producing oil countries. He leaves behind a legacy of iconic accomplishments in his field and a lasting emptiness in the hearts of all those who came to know him.

I have been lucky to have met Dr Robert Mabro first in 1979 at the first or second Oxford Energy Seminar which he brilliantly led annually, as well as being at the top of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, which he also established, and remained its leader until he stepped down few years ago for advanced age and related health condition.

The sad news that came in twos, on the same day, made it harder to absorb and accept. It was particularly sad and regrettable that both scientists were forced to take up another home country in order to incubate and enable their brilliance in their respective fields where they showed dedication to science and academia. Dr Zwail chose the USA and Dr Mabro the UK. Life stream goes on flowing, enriched by the inspiring legacies of great scientists and humanists like Mabro and Zwail.

The scientific community and the academic world mourn the loss of the two scientists, especially in the Arab world, and especially now, as we search desperately through the darkness that engulfs our region for inspiration to guide us in our pursuit for a path to a better and brighter future for our children. What better universal inspiration than science! We will miss both of them dearly.

KUWAIT SETS HEALTH TERMS FOR PILGRIMS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) has set health regulations and guidelines necessary to safeguard health conditions of the pilgrims from Kuwait, due to perform annual religious rituals in the holy lands. The MoH notified the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of terms that must be met to keep the pilgrims in good health.

Each expedition grouping less than 100 persons should have one doctor and a single nurse. Those exceeding that number should be served with a couple of physicians and a pair of nurses, said Mgeher Al-Shemmari, the deputy chief for medical services for the hajj expeditions.

Shemmari added in a statement yesterday the concerned authorities must set up two chambers; one for men and the other for women, at the pilgrims' residency buildings for medical checkups and tasks. He warned the expeditions that non-authorized doctors cannot be allowed to treat the pilgrims. Moreover, the assigned medical teams' work will be restricted to treating expeditions coming from Kuwait only.

The ministry has also informed the Awqaf Ministry about health conditions concerning cooking and nutrition of the faithful. Furthermore, the pilgrims are advised to abide by hygienic means to dispose medical or food waste. Workers in the expedition should have health certificates and those suffering injuries or alike conditions are banned from serving the pilgrims. — KUNA



Mgeher Al-Shemmari



KUWAIT: KFH's representative (right) is pictured with blood bank and Ministry of Information representatives.

KFH TAKES PART IN BLOOD DONATION NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in the blood donation national campaign organized by The Ministry of Health (MoH) blood bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Information as part of the bank's social responsibility and keenness to participate in the events that are of interest to the society.

The day-long blood donation campaign

themed "donating blood is a charity for you and for others" marked the anniversary of the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait, while aimed at recalling the martyrs' sacrifices and enhancing social solidarity among citizens.

It's worth noting that KFH's participation confirms its efforts to reinforce cooperation with the government bodies for the best interest of the

society. This can reflect positively on the social solidarity, while motivating the individuals for not sparing any efforts for the sake of donating blood to those who need it. Also, the participation contributes in spreading health awareness in the community and highlights the importance of blood donation as it has many health benefits and is considered as a good deed.

KUNA, UKRAINE'S UKRINFORM SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

KIEV: Chairman of the Board and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah signed during his visit to Ukraine a cooperation agreement with the Ukrainian multimedia platform for broadcasting (UKRINFORM). The deal ensures that KUNA and UKRINFORM would exchange expertise and visits aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two sides.

The correspondents and reporters of the two sides will also be able to assist each other during official news coverage according to the inked deal. The agreement was signed by the KUNA Director and Maryna Synhaivska, Deputy Director General of the UKRINFORM.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij's visit to Ukraine came by an invitation by the Ukrainian News Agency. KUNA's Director invited

officials from the Ukrainian News Agency to visit Kuwait to further pursue cooperation between the two sides.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij met yesterday with Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Ukraine Yousef Al-Qabandi, discussing with him means to boost Kuwaiti-Ukrainian media ties. The meeting also touched on the recently-signed cooperation agreement between KUNA and UKRINFORM.

During the meeting, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij stressed KUNA's interest in supporting Kuwaiti diplomatic missions through its numerous bureaus around the globe. The KUNA and UKRINFORM agreement aims at exchanging expertise and visits between the two sides in addition to allowing correspondents and reporters to assist each other during official news coverage. — KUNA



KIEV: Chairman of the Board and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah (left) signs a cooperation agreement with the Ukrainian multimedia platform for broadcasting (UKRINFORM). — KUNA



KUNA and UKRINFORM officials hold talks on the sidelines of the agreements' signing.



KUNA and UKRINFORM officials take a group photo following the signing.



KUNA Chairman Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah meets with Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Ukraine Yousef Al-Qabandi.

Crime

Report

MAN SUES EX-WIFE, BOYFRIEND FOR TORTURING HIS CHILDREN

KUWAIT: A man has filed a case against his ex-wife and her boyfriend, accusing them of torturing his five children who are kept in the woman's custody. The case was filed by the man's sister after he gave her a power of attorney. A source said the husband pressed charges against his ex-wife for beating, harming and neglecting a minor, and having an illegal relationship. He also complained against his ex-wife's bedoon boyfriend and his brother who is involved in the case. The case was first reported last week when a 6-year-old boy was admitted to the hospital with injuries. His mother claimed that the boy fell from a high place, but detectives decided after reviewing the medical report to pursue the case as possible child abuse.

The case witnessed dramatic developments on Friday when new facts emerged, as detectives discovered that the boy's three brothers and his sister were also beaten, while the mother and her boyfriend also caused them injuries. A security source said coordination between Brig Ali Al-Haimar and Colonel Nasser Al-Adwani with police revealed that three children born in 2014, 2011, 2008 arrived at Jahra hospital with their maternal aunt, so police authorities were informed, so they worked on the case and found out the children are the brothers of the tortured child, and they also were tortured, and were admitted to the pediatric ward for treatment. The source said the children's maternal aunt obtained a medical report for the three children, then gave it to their paternal aunt, because she has a power of attorney from their father, and submitted it to Sulaibkhat police. The three children are in good health despite what they went through.

Bootleggers arrested

The arrest of a bootlegger led to the arrest of a bedoon youth trading in liquor in wholesale. Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives arrested a person known as the "dealer" with four boxes of liquor, and after interrogation, he said he sells them on behalf of a bedoon, who is the most popular among small-time pushers. Detectives collected information about the bedoon, who lived in Taima and stored the liquor in a Kabd pen. The farm was raided and the youth was arrested, and 707 bottles of imported liquor were found. He was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) to join the "dealer".

Search for arsonist

An unidentified arsonist started a fire next to the Palace of Justice building. A security source said an unidentified person poured combustible material on bushes next to the courthouse and ignited it. Guards called police, who in turn informed the fire department, which responded immediately and put out the flames. They found that gasoline was used to start the blaze. Detectives are reviewing security videos as they are working to identify the culprit.

Smuggling foiled

Kuwait International Airport customs officers arrested an Indian carrying 100 gm of shabu in his suitcase. The Indian seemed extremely nervous and was sweating profusely, so it was decided to do a search, and 100 gm of shabu were found with him. The Indian and drugs were sent to the Drug Control General Department.

Impersonator caught with drug

A citizen claimed to be a deputy general director of a hospital, secretary of a sheikha, army captain, and police first lieutenant among others to carry out illegal activities, before being arrested in his Naeem house for trading in drugs a total of 9,050 Captagon pills and 500 gm of heroin were found in his house. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action. The 24-year-old citizen deceived drug fighting authorities by using the aliases mentioned above and succeeded in selling drugs, taking advantage of his clean criminal record with even not one traffic violation, until he was placed under surveillance by Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives. When they were sure about the drugs in his Naeem house, it was raided and the drugs were found. Military epaulets and forged stamps of a sheikha's secretary and a doctor who is a deputy director of a hospital were also found. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Drug user detained

A fight between two citizens in Mahboula revealed one of them was on drugs. Interior Ministry operations received a call about a fight in front of a building in Mahboula, so patrols went there and broke up the fight, and found out one of them was abnormal due to the use of drugs. Witnesses said the inebriated citizen started the fight without any apparent reason. He was detained on charges of drug use and aggression.

Husband insulted

A citizen was insulted by his wife because he refused to let her sleep over at her mother's house, who joined her in insulting him. The citizen in his 20s went to Rihab police station and told them he took his wife to his in-laws' house, then when he went to take her back at night, she asked him to stay over, but he refused, so both his wife and mother-in-law insulted him verbally. Both are being summoned for questioning.

Online theft

A thief shopped online, then paid for goods he bought with KD 350 from another man's account. The citizen received an SMS from the bank informing her that KD 350 was deducted from her account, making her furious because she had not withdrawn anything. The bank told her the money was for purchases through the Internet. The citizen went to Fahd Al-Ahmad police station and lodged a complaint. Detectives are working on identifying the thief. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Al-Jarida



Al-Qabas

TALK OF SUMMER

By Qais Al-Usta

With every summer season comes talk about traveling, talk about valid passports, talk about the period it takes to get a new passport and talk about citizens suffering because of the difficulty of getting visas to some countries where they spend the summer.

The question comes back again: Why citizens of a certain country were exempted from the Schengen visa, while we were not? And of course the talk about the role of our embassies abroad and what services they present to citizens outside our beloved Kuwait, also return. The talk about who cooked a meal in a public park, and who misused his car (reckless driving). One man lauds and the other criticizes, and our diplomats claim injustice, low salaries and paying some embassy expenses from their own pockets.

This is the talk of summer, but fairness calls upon us to talk about the positives, just like we do about negatives, because too much 'chaos' will make some of our diplomats, especially the youth, lose hope, and it will make them think that all is the same.

I witnessed a few days go an incident of theft of the luggage of a Kuwaiti citizen at Vaclav Havel Airport in the Czech capital Prague, and I testify that our young consul Abdelaziz Al-Houti, who I swear I do not know, went to the embassy during the weekend to check on the condition of the victim and personally went to the hotel where the youth was staying to hand him the temporary document that enabled him to return home to Kuwait.

Abdelaziz did not that a columnist of a major newspaper was following the case with all its details to behave the way he did, in hope of getting under the spotlight - rather he acted because he is a true Kuwaiti who wanted to serve his fellow citizens during hard times abroad. All thanks go to Abdelaziz Al-Houti, our consul in Prague, and my message to Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid and Abu Hazim is that these are the ways appointments should be, otherwise there is no need for them. May you always be in good health. Was the message delivered? I hope so.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

News

in brief

Low-cost homes for Kuwaiti women

KUWAIT: Kuwait Credit Bank is coordinating with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to provide low-cost homes for female citizens, Director Salah Al-Mudhaf said. The project would complete the implementation of the Kuwaiti women's housing welfare law that was passed five years ago and also allows a female citizen to obtain a KD 70,000 housing loan. Low-cost homes would be available for widows or divorced women with or without children, women married to non-Kuwaitis with children, women married for at least five years without children to non-Kuwaitis who live in Kuwait, and non-married women who reach 40 years of age. —Al-Jarida

Power poles

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water plans to replace wooden power poles with ones made from steel in a bid to fight theft of high-voltage copper cables; a problem that has cost the ministry over KD 200,000 in the past two years alone, sources said. The plan calls for the replacement to cover a range of 120 kilometers in outside areas, the sources added. —Al-Jarida

Elections' date

KUWAIT: A number of MPs plan to meet near the end of September to discuss a plan through which they hope to protect next year's parliamentary elections from being challenged on the basis of their constitutionality. MPs have proposed to organize the next elections on June 2017, although the current parliament's four-year term officially ends on August 2017. —Al-Anbaa

Daily rent apartments

KUWAIT: Municipal Council member Nayef Al-Sour criticized the Interior Ministry for what he described as their 'silence' over the spread of online and social media ads that promote for apartments for rent without following the proper channels. Some ads offer furnished apartments for daily or weekly rent without requiring tenants to provide marriage certificates or any other documents, something that can be used to facilitate adultery and prostitution, Sour warned. —Al-Rai

OOREDOO ANNOUNCES WINNER OF PRADO 2016

CONCLUDING PREPAID WEEKLY DRAWS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the name of the grand prize winner of its promotional prepaid campaign. The winner Mohammad Hilal

received the grand prize which is a Toyota Prado V6 2016, while the second winner, Jaber Sheikh received a cash prize of KD 1000. Seven other winners were presented with the Samsung

Galaxy mobile and 1 winner with the iPad Mini 3.

Commenting on the conclusion of the summer promotional campaign, Deputy Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait Yousef Al-Shallal said: "We are very happy to conclude our prepaid promotional campaign, having awarded more than 90 lucky winners with prizes throughout the campaign period. This comes in line with our goal to enrich our customers' experience with Ooredoo. We wanted to reward our customers for choosing us as their service provider, and we are glad to have succeeded in this."

Ooredoo's 'Every Recharge Wins' campaign was the first of its kind; it provided customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each 1 KD recharge. Through this campaign, customers were able to win smart phones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize, which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more customers recharged their lines, the more chances they got to win. In addition to the draws, customers were also entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge.

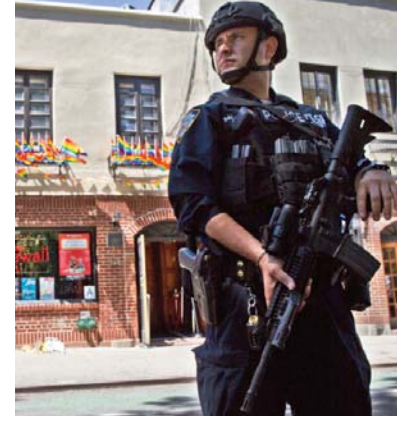


The grand prize winner.

Adel Ghanem Rashed Al Roshoud	Samsung Galaxy
Abbas Ismail Al Jadi	Samsung Galaxy
Mujeel Haque	Samsung Galaxy
Jumamah Marzouq	Samsung Galaxy
Jabar Ibrahim	Samsung Galaxy
Chauhan Lal	Samsung Galaxy
Jiant Sayarem Tilak	Samsung Galaxy
Omar Ibrahim Khalil	iPad Mini 3



Kuwait National Guard organized a raffle draw recently to select 15 applicants to be enrolled in the Ahmad bin Mohammad Military Academy in Qatar. Four hundred high school graduates had applied for the vacant spots, out of whom only 160 passed the interviews and qualified for the draw.



NYPD arms cops on the beat to combat shooters

ANC SUFFERS MAJOR POLL DEFEAT IN S AFRICAN CAPITAL



ROUEN, France: Police officers and fire investigators walk into the damaged Au Cuba Libre bar yesterday after a fire broke out overnight in the bar during a birthday party.— AFP

BAR FIRE KILLS 13 AT PARTY IN FRANCE

FIRE STARTS AFTER BIRTHDAY CAKE FALLS TO FLOOR

ROUEN, France: A fire sparked by birthday cake candles tore through a bar in northern France early yesterday, killing at least 13 people in the nation's deadliest blaze in over a decade, investigators said. Through the shattered front windows of the Au Cuba Libre bar in Rouen melted stools and scorched liquor bottles were visible, as tearful mourners hugged each other and brought flowers to the scene. The dead were between aged between 16 and 25. One one of the six injured was in a life threatening condition in hospital. Authorities said the bar had been crowded with young partygoers.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls expressed "deep sadness at the tragedy that claimed 13 young lives". Local deputy prosecutor Laurent Labadie told AFP the blaze, which began around midnight (2200 GMT Friday) in the bar's basement, was triggered accidentally. "Someone came down with a birthday cake with candles and fell down the stairs," Labadie said, citing initial investigation findings. "The candles were thrown onto the walls and ceiling, where there was soundproofing material. There was an immediate conflagration and gas was released."

'Afraid was Another Attack'

Police said earlier that the flames had ignited polystyrene on the ceiling of the basement room, releasing a toxic mix of gasses that poisoned the victims. One witness, who gave her name as Stephanie, 36, described the moment the fire took hold. "I was at the bar on the ground floor having a drink, when we saw the flames - it was like a flame-thrower, everything happened so fast," she told reporters. One of the injured was in a critical condition, the secretary general of the Seine-Maritime prefecture Yvan Cordier told AFP.

French President Francois Hollande voiced his sympathy for the victims' families and said "everything would be done" to find out what caused the fire. The investigation will focus on whether building safety rules were respected at the bar, particularly in relation to fire exits and flammable materials. Under French building regulations, polystyrene panels are banned from use on ceilings, and bars like the Au Cuba Libre must be equipped with at least one portable fire extinguisher.

But a source at the crisis cell of the French Interior Ministry said that "unfortunately there are always people who try to get round the rules between safety inspections, which are sometimes pre-planned, sometimes unannounced". The blaze in Rouen was France's deadliest since September 2005 when an apartment building fire in the Paris suburb of L'Hay-les-Roses killed 18 people. It is the highest death toll in a French night sport fire since Nov 1970, when a blaze at a disco in the east of the country claimed the lives of 146 people, most in their early 20s.

Jittery France is on edge after a series of recent attacks by Islamic State-affiliated jihadists, including the killing of an 85-year-old priest in nearby Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray. "I was afraid that it was another attack, but right away I was told that it was an accident," witness Rachid Ahmaymi, 36, told AFP. "Still I didn't sleep last night and have come back to hear the latest news."

The priest's funeral was held in Rouen's cathedral and was attended by more than 2,000 mourners shocked by the brutal killing of the elderly clergyman. The church attack came less than two weeks after another assailant ploughed a 19-tonne truck into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in the Riviera city of Nice, killing 85 people and wounding more than 300 others. — AFP

ENVOY: US NOT INVOLVED IN TURKEY COUP, 'FULL STOP'

ISTANBUL: The United States' ambassador to Turkey has again said his country played no role in last month's failed coup attempt, showing exasperation with persistent accusations to the contrary, local media reported yesterday. "I just want to say again, as I've said before and as we've said from Washington, the United States government did not plan, direct, support or have any advance knowledge of any of the illegal activities that occurred the night of July 15 and into July 16. Full stop," US ambassador John Bass said in remarks published in English daily Hurriyet Daily News. He added that he was "deeply disturbed and offended by the accusations" targeting his country.

The July 15 military action blamed by Ankara on US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen has rattled Turkey's relations with the United States, with Ankara warning Washington that ties will suffer if it fails to extradite Pennsylvania-based Gulen. Erdogan has also described the failed military action as a "scenario written from outside" in an allusion to foreign involvement. Shortly after the coup attempt, Labor Minister Suleyman Soyulu went even further to say "the United States is behind the coup."

And this week, Turkey's former army chief, Ilker Basbug, claimed that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was also behind it. "Frankly, if we would have had knowledge we

would have told the Turkish government about it immediately," Bass said.

US Wants to See 'Strong' Turkey

He said the US wants to see a "strong, prosperous, democratic, confident Turkey." "Anyone who thinks that the United States somehow profits from Turkey being divided and destabilized I think is misreading history to a profound degree." Bass on July 18 rebutted claims his country supported the putsch as "untrue" and "harmful". Meanwhile, a US citizen of Turkish origin was arrested in southern Hatay province as part of a probe into the failed coup, state-run Anadolu news agency reported Friday, quoting a local governor.

Acting on a tip-off that he was a member of Gulen movement, police detained 36-year-old Serkan Golge, who said he was visiting his family in Hatay, governor Ercan Topaca said. He was later remanded in custody by a local court. The governor added that Golge studied at a Gulen-linked school in Turkey and then moved to the United States for higher education and worked at NASA. A German national has also been caught up in the purge, Berlin said Friday, after books were found at her home suggesting she had links with the Gulen movement or was a member of it. — AFP

HCA International Hospitals

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- THE LISTER HOSPITAL Chelsea
- London Bridge Hospital
- The Portland Hospital for Women and Children
- THE PRINCESS GRACE HOSPITAL
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MIGRANTS' 'AMERICAN DREAM' TURNS TO NIGHTMARE

OMOA, Honduras: For many Latin Americans, the "American dream" refers to making the risky trip north to a new, safe and hopefully prosperous life in the United States. For Olga Lopez, a 36-year-old Honduran, the dream became an unforgettable nightmare when she saw her 10-year-old daughter Jennifer drown in the waves off Mexico. She told AFP about how they both were among a boatload of eight undocumented migrants - four adults and four children - churning away from the Pacific coast of Chiapas, a southern Mexican state, on July 20.

It was six in the morning. Shortly after getting underway, a big wave knocked the boat over before anyone had time to react. When Lopez surfaced, she saw Jennifer holding onto a buoyant backpack. "Don't let go! I yelled. "Yes, Mommy," she answered, laughing, all happy, not at all affected," Lopez recounted. "But then another wave came, and after that I didn't see her again." Jennifer was one of three children who perished from that boat.

Late last week, their remains were repatriated to their home countries. Jennifer's body was returned to the village of San Carlos in northwestern Honduras. The body of Carlos Aguilar, aged seven, was delivered to a village an hour to the south, San Manuel Cortes, for burial there. And in neighboring El Salvador, the body of five-year-old Erick

Adrian Robles was received by his family in the town of Sonsonate.

Relying on People-Smugglers

They were among the scores of Central Americans who have died this year along the often dangerous trail to the United States. In 2016 so far, 106 Hondurans have lost their lives trying to make their "American dream" happen. For all of last year, the figure was 200. "I wanted to see if I could do something" to improve her lot by migrating to the US, Lopez said, explaining that she was counting on the support of two brothers already living there. Thousands of Latin Americans - and migrants from as far away as Pakistan and Afghanistan - attempt the perilous journey through Central America, into Mexico and across the US border.

According to the government Committee for Returned Migrants in Honduras, between 60,000 and 100,000 Hondurans leave the country every year because of dire unemployment and violence. Many try for America, while others aim for nearby countries. People-smugglers - known as "coyotes" - promise to get many of them past borders and other obstacles, for a price. One coyote, a young man about 18 years old, was seen meeting a group of 12 Honduran emigrants getting off a bus on the border with Guatemala.

A soldier posted there told AFP that



SAN CARLOS, Honduras: Relatives and friends accompany on July 30, 2016 the funeral cortege of late Honduran girl Jennifer, 10, who drowned along with other two kids in the Pacific Ocean near Mexico, while trying to reach the "American dream". — AFP

there were no grounds to stop the migrants crossing over if they had valid identity papers, as there was freedom of movement between the two countries. That may not have been the case for the group led by the people-smuggler, who guided them along a dirt path through barbed wire to a field that was half in Honduras and half in Guatemala. After walking a kilometer, they came out near

a corral where a couple of Guatemalans were loading cattle onto trucks.

Some in the group immediately headed to public transport, while others got on motorbikes driven by other people-smugglers. The coyote who led them there said these crossings "bothered the police". But the police seemed resigned to the constant flow through blind spots along the border. "It's like this every day

and we can't do anything about it," one officer said.

Unaccompanied Children

Child migration is a big part of the human flow toward the United States. The minors often travel with no adult companion, and bank upon meeting up with relatives already in America. In July 2014, the US was confronted with a spike in Central American children crossing its border, calling the influx of 60,000 minors a "humanitarian crisis". Since then, numbers have dropped as Mexico has stepped up border monitoring and deportations.

A total of 8,467 children have been returned to Honduras so far this year. Most of them were intercepted by Mexican authorities. Honduras's deputy foreign minister Andrea Matamoros this week told a conference on migration that the flow of unaccompanied minors going to the US had declined seven percent this year compared with 2015. But the number "still remained very high," she said.

The United States has more than a million Hondurans living within its borders - an impressive figure given that Honduras's population is eight million. Remittances from that community to relatives in Honduras amount to some \$4 billion a year, accounting for more than 20 percent of the Central American country's gross domestic product. — AFP



NEW YORK: In this July 25, 2016 photo provided by the New York Police Department, Jamal Skinner (left) and Evan Aronowitz, patrol officers with the 84th Precinct, model ballistic body armor and helmets during a news conference at the 84th Precinct in the Brooklyn borough. — AP

NYPD ARMS COPS ON THE BEAT TO COMBAT SHOOTERS

NEW YORK: At a time when the New York Police Department is encouraging beat cops to be more approachable to law-abiding citizens, it's also equipping them to do combat with rampaging shooters. The mass shootings in Orlando, Dallas and elsewhere have prompted the nation's largest police department to accelerate a \$7.5 million program to distribute heavy-duty body armor to uniformed patrol officers who might have to respond.

Some 20,000 helmets are set to be distributed by the end of the year. And the department's 3,000 patrol cars will begin carrying pairs of heavy-duty vests that officers will put on if dispatched to a report of an active shooter. Simultaneously, the city's new police commissioner is championing a neighborhood policing program aimed at bridging the divide between police and minorities.

Here's a closer look at the arming of NYPD officers and some of its implications:

The Hardware

Currently, NYPD patrol officers wear bulletproof vests thin enough to fit under their dark blue uniforms. The vests are capable of stopping a handgun round but not automatic rifle fire. The new vests provide that extra protection, with ballistic panels on the front and back that fit over the uniform. The tougher helmets are comparable to one depicted in a photo distributed by Orlando police following the massacre at a gay nightclub in June. There was a large pockmark on it caused by the killer's gunfire - evidence, the department said, that the hel-

met probably saved a SWAT officer's life. NYPD patrol officers are armed with 9 mm semi-automatic handguns with 15-round clips. Some have Tasers stored in their cars, but there are no long guns in the mix. By comparison, the NYPD's counterterrorism officers and others with the Emergency Service Unit - the NYPD's equivalent of SWAT officers - have semi-automatic assault weapons, typically M4 rifles, to go along with their sidearms.

The Expectations

The new gear reinforces an approach adopted by the NYPD and some other departments around the country that calls on first-responding officers to confront shooters immediately, rather than establish a perimeter and wait for specially trained tactical units to arrive. In addition, the NYPD is giving officers special training on how to deal with multiple shooters.

The response comes amid concerns from civil libertarians and others that ordinary beat cops are becoming too militarized. But police officials see the measures as necessary to protect their officers and save civilian lives in deadly encounters that unfold quickly and demand a swift response. Career NYPD commander James O'Neill, who next month will replace outgoing Police Commissioner William Bratton, was blunt about the expectations. "That's just the reality of it," he said. "If something happens in Brooklyn, midtown, up in the Bronx, it's going to be the sector cops who roll up first. And we have an expectation that they're going to go to the danger. — AP

CALIF MAYOR DECLARES INNOCENCE IN SCANDAL

SAN FRANCISCO: The mayor of Stockton, California, who faces charges stemming from a strip poker game that he is accused of initiating at a summer camp he hosts for underprivileged youth, on Friday said he is innocent of criminal wrongdoing. Anthony Ray Silva, 41, at a brief news conference the day after his arrest, denied furnishing anyone with alcohol or doing anything to endanger a child, insisting that everyone present during the incident was at least 18 years old. He referred to the gathering in question last year as a "party" for camp counselors.

Silva's lawyer, Mark Reichel, told Reuters the mayor had no intention of resigning and would defend himself in court. Silva, a Republican who was elected mayor in 2012, was arrested by FBI

agents on Thursday at the summer camp, which Stockton leases from the US Forest Service in the Sierra mountains. Stockton is located about 80 miles north-east of San Francisco. Silva was released on \$20,000 bail later in the day.

He was accused of playing strip poker with several young people, including a 16-year-old boy, inside the mayor's camp cabin, and serving alcohol to at least six individuals under the legal drinking age of 21. Prosecutors said Silva used his cell-phone to make an audio recording of the game without the consent of others. The recording was seized as evidence by investigators and became the basis of a felony eavesdropping charge against Silva. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Silva said he wanted to make three points. — Reuters

TURKEY DETENTE WITH RUSSIA GATHERS PACE

ERDOGAN TO MEET PUTIN IN ST PETERSBURG

ISTANBUL/MOSCOW: As Turkey's relations with Europe and the United States are strained by the fallout from its failed coup, President Tayyip Erdogan travels to Russia on Tuesday to meet Vladimir Putin in a trip he may hope will give the West pause for thought. Turkish officials insist Erdogan's visit to St Petersburg is no sign that the NATO member and European Union membership candidate is turning its back on the West. Rather, they say, it is the next step in a rapprochement with Russia that started weeks before the July 15 attempted putsch.

But the thaw with Moscow, which imposed trade sanctions nine months ago after Turkey downed a Russian fighter jet near the Syrian border, comes as Ankara's relationship with the West could scarcely be more fractious. Erdogan and many Turks have been incensed by what they see as Western concern over a post-coup crackdown but indifference to the bloody events themselves, in which more than 230 people were killed as rogue soldiers bombed parliament and seized bridges with tanks and helicopters. The Turkish government has blamed the coup on followers of a cleric in self-imposed exile in the United States, and purged tens of thousands of his suspected followers from positions as teachers, police, judges and soldiers. Western countries say the purge has been too fast and indiscriminate. So damaged are relations that Germany's foreign minister said this week there was no basis for discussions and that "we are talking with each other like emissaries from two different planets". Austria's chancellor suggested talks on Turkish membership of the EU should be suspended.

"For Erdogan, this meeting with Putin is certainly an opportunity to signal to Turkey's partners in the West that it could have other strategic options," said Sinan Ulgen, a former Turkish diplomat and analyst at the Carnegie Europe think tank. "There is this perception game that Turkey could strategically gravitate towards Russia if the relationship with the West cannot be maintained. There is also an incentive on the side of Russia to use the crisis between Turkey and the West to undermine NATO's cohesiveness," Ulgen said.

Erdogan's meeting with Putin will be only his second with a foreign head of state since the coup, following a visit to Ankara by the Kazakh president on Friday. Turkish officials have questioned why no Western leader has come to show solidarity. "Both Russia and Turkey are outcasts

as far as the West is concerned," said Andrey Kortunov, director general of the Russian International Affairs Council, a foreign policy think tank close to the Russian Foreign Ministry. "On the face of it, the failed coup has pulled Turkey closer to Russia. But there still remain serious differences between the two countries," he told Reuters.

Disagreements persist over Syria, where Moscow backs President Bashar Al-Assad but Ankara wants him ousted, as well as the South Caucasus, where Turkey has backed Azerbaijan in a conflict with Armenia, a Russian ally, over the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region. "The meeting between Putin and Erdogan ... will show how far both sides are willing to compromise. The question is whether the current tactical de-escalation can translate into a deeper strategic partnership," Kortunov said.

Signal to the West

Washington is likely to be watching closely. Its ties with Ankara are strained over the continued presence in the United States of Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, accused by Erdogan of orchestrating the attempted coup. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, denies involvement in the coup and Washington has said it will extradite him only if Turkey provides evidence, much to the Turkish government's frustration. US Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to visit Turkey in late August, officials have said, with Gulen's case likely to be high on the agenda.

"At a time like this, Turkish public psychology expects expressions of solidarity and togetherness, but that's not what is forthcoming from the West," said Faruk Logoglu, a former Turkish ambassador to Washington and until recently a senior lawmaker in the main secularist opposition. While the timing of Erdogan's Russia trip could be interpreted as a signal to the West, Logoglu doubted it meant a full Turkish embrace of Russia or lasting damage to US ties. "The Turkish-American relationship is like a Catholic marriage: There is no divorce. Both sides need each other," he said. "It has experienced severe tests in the past and I think it will weather this one as well."

Closer ties between Ankara and Moscow could be more troublesome for Europe, which sees a plan for a gas pipeline from Russia to Turkey, a project known as TurkStream, as a complication in its efforts to cut dependence on

Russian energy. "Gas cooperation between Russia and Turkey could be scary for the European Union," said Akin Unver, assistant professor of international relations at Kadir Has university in Istanbul and an expert in regional energy. "The EU wants to diversify suppliers and link eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe in the long run ... if Russia bypasses all that with TurkStream that would not help. But the EU is in no position to bargain. Politically, it is very weak."

'Short-Lived Turbulence'

Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said Syria would be the main topic at the meeting with Erdogan. TurkStream, nuclear power projects, and the resumption of Russian charter flights to Turkey, which stopped after the downing of the fighter jet last November, would also be discussed. Tourism revenue, a mainstay of the Turkish economy, has been decimated by the drop in Russian visitors, whose numbers fell 87 percent in the first six months of the year. The sector has also been hit by a series of suicide bombings.

"The Turkish side has given a written guarantee that they will fulfil Russia's recommendations on extra security measures for Russian tourists at Turkish resorts," Ushakov told a briefing in Moscow on Friday, adding that Turkey had granted Russian experts permission to check the measures on the ground. On Syria, Kortunov said there was room for the two sides to move closer together on options for a political transition to end the five-year civil war and on the shape of a new constitution for the country.

"In cooperation with Russia, we would like to facilitate a political transition in Syria as soon as possible," Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said in an interview with Russia's TASS news agency. But he repeated Turkey's long-held conviction that such a move would only be possible with Assad's departure.

Kalin described the recent tensions with Russia as "short-lived turbulence" in a friendship that dated back centuries. Leaders in the West might be hoping the same is true of their relations with Ankara. "The political backdrop does suggest there will be areas of convergence between Turkey and Russia," said Ulgen, the former diplomat. "What is not realistic, though, is to view Russia as a strategic alternative to Turkey's Western anchoring. Turkey remains an ally of the West." — Reuters

MADURO THROTTLES REBELLIOUS CONGRESS

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition-led legislature is fighting for air as the crisis-hit country's government throttles it, threatening to cut off its cash and even its electricity. The National Assembly is the one institutional weapon the opposition has in its fight to oust President Nicolas Maduro, whom it blames for a severe recession, chronic food shortages and mounting chaos. But since opponents of the leftist leader won control of the legislature in December elections, the Supreme Court has stripped them of their powerful two-thirds majority and quashed about 20 bills they had passed.

The controversial rulings have fueled opposition accusations that the high court is loyal to Maduro. But the opposition majority refuses to surrender. "The parliament is judicially neutralized," said political analyst Luis Vicente Leon, head of the polling firm Datanalysis. "But it is still the stronghold of the political struggle" against Maduro, he added. "That is where the real battle in Venezuela will be fought." Venezuela, the country with the

world's largest oil reserves, has hurtled into chaos with the crash in global crude prices. Maduro blames the country's deep recession and hyperinflation on wealthy business magnates he says are conspiring against his government. The center-right opposition coalition, the Democratic Unity Roundtable

(MUD), blames the failure of the socialist policies of the past 17 years under Maduro and his late mentor, Hugo Chavez.

With their legislative power stymied, Maduro's opponents are seeking a referendum on removing him from power before his term ends in 2019. They are racing to

force a referendum by Jan 10, the cutoff date to trigger new elections - four years into his six-year term. But with Maduro's camp accused of stalling, it looks increasingly unlikely the opposition will be able to force a recall vote in time.

Purse Strings

That leaves them the legislature. The National Assembly last week defiantly swore in three of its lawmakers who had been suspended by the high court over alleged electoral fraud. The opposition denies fraud and calls the court ruling a bald attempt to quash its powerful super-majority. Maduro responded to the swearing-in by threatening to cut off state funding for the assembly. "Since this National Assembly is outside of the law, I as head of the public treasury cannot allocate resources" to it, he said on television.

Maduro calls the opposition assembly members "devils". "It is a bourgeois assembly, isolated, neutralized and defeated," he said. The speaker of congress, Henry Ramos Allup, was defiant. — AFP



CARACAS: Anti-government protesters ride on motorcycles during a rally calling for a referendum on removing Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Aug 4, 2016. — AFP

TRUMP'S WEEK OF CAMPAIGN WOES

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump, the embattled Republican presidential nominee, has made a successful campaign out of incendiary rhetoric and defying political correctness. But the plain-talking political outsider has stepped in it repeatedly over the past week, so much so that members of his own party are begging him to get back on message in his battle against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. Here are six of Trump's biggest gaffes since last week.

Russian Hacks

Trump alarmed American voters and his own supporters when he urged Russia to find and release emails that disappeared from Clinton's private server while she was secretary of state. "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing," Trump said during a July 27 press conference. "I think you will probably be rewarded mightily by our press." Democrats - and some furious Republicans - seized on the comments to highlight how Trump invited a foreign power to conduct espionage against the United States. Trump backtracked the next day: "Of course I'm being sarcastic."

Gold Star Gaffe

Trump's denigration of the family of a fallen Muslim American soldier was seen by many as a monumental misstep. Khizr Khan, a Pakistani immigrant whose son died in a suicide bombing in Iraq in 2004, pricked Trump by telling the Democratic National Convention last Thursday that Trump has "sacrificed nothing, and no one," for the country. The Republican shot back on ABC News that he has made "a lot of sacrifices," then raised the stakes by tweeting: "Mr Khan, who does not know me, viciously attacked me from the stage of the DNC." The remarks, and Trump's refusal to apologize for suggesting that Khan's wife stood silently at his side at the convention because she was not allowed to speak, triggered an uproar within his party, with John McCain decrying the attack on a Gold Star family. Trump stood firm, even as some Republicans openly vowed to vote for Clinton. "I don't regret anything," Trump told WJLA-TV on Tuesday.

Harassment?

Just as his campaign reeled under the Khan fallout, Trump invited fresh criticism for comments some branded as victim blaming. In an interview with USA Today published on Aug 1, Trump was asked about the sexual harassment accusations against Fox News boss Roger Ailes, who resigned last month amid the scandal. What if daughter Ivanka were similarly harassed, Trump was asked: "I would like to think she would find another career or find another company," he responded.

Paul Ryan Rebuff

Like many of his colleagues, House Speaker Paul Ryan issued a stern statement Sunday criticizing Trump's clash with the Khans. In a move that highlighted Trump's vindictive reputation, Trump said Tuesday he was "just not quite" ready to endorse Ryan, the nation's top elected Republican, in his congressional re-election. Ryan squares off next week against a primary challenger who has praised Trump. Ryan then warned Trump during a radio interview that his support was not a blank check. Trump, eager to put the week's disasters behind him, endorsed Ryan late Friday, declaring "we need unity."

Purple Heart

Trump had the opportunity to bounce back Tuesday after the Khan fiasco, when a supporter gave him a Purple Heart, the American medal awarded to soldiers wounded in combat, as a gift. "I always wanted to get the Purple Heart," said Trump. "This was much easier." Trump has never served in the military. The New York Times reported that he received five draft deferments in the 1960s during the war in Vietnam.

Cry Baby

The crying baby is an American presidential campaign staple. On Tuesday, when an infant repeatedly cried as Trump delivered a speech in Virginia, the nominee came across as unprepared. "Don't worry about that baby. I love babies," he said. "I hear that baby crying. I like it. I like it! It's young and beautiful and healthy and that's what we want." Minutes later, when the baby cried out again, Trump sang a different tune. "Actually, I was only kidding, you can get the baby out of here," he said. —AFP

TRUMP, SEEKING CAMPAIGN RESET, BACKS RYAN, MCCAIN

CLINTON 'SHORT-CIRCUITED' FBI

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin/WASHINGTON: Republican Donald Trump took steps to steer his White House campaign back into favor with his party establishment on Friday by endorsing US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and two Republican senators seeking re-election, after expressing coolness toward them earlier this week. "I need a Republican Senate and a House to accomplish all of the changes that we have to make," Trump said during a rally in Green Bay, in northern Wisconsin, Ryan's home state. He also endorsed Senators John McCain of Arizona and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, whom he called a "rising star." "We will have disagreements, but we will disagree as friends," Trump said.

Ryan, the top US elected Republican, had no plans to attend the event, in a sign of lingering frictions between the pair. His Republican primary challenger, businessman Paul Nehlen, did attend, according to a spokesman. Trump earlier this week refused to endorse Ryan when he told The Washington Post he was "not quite there yet" - using the same phrase Ryan had used about Trump before finally endorsing him. He said in the same interview that McCain had not done enough for veterans and criticized Ayotte for distancing herself from him during the campaign.

Ryan, who was earlier endorsed by Trump's vice presidential running mate, Mike Pence, is viewed by establishment Republicans as a possible presidential candidate in the future. He is expected to win a challenge for his House seat in next week's Republican primary. Trump's endorsement emerged as he took other steps to get his campaign back on track after days of controversy and falling poll numbers that have given Democrat Hillary Clinton the advantage in the race to the Nov 8 election.

In the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday, Clinton's lead over Trump narrowed to less than 3 percentage points, down from nearly 8 points on Monday. Trump on Friday announced he was setting up an advisory team to help guide him on economic policy. The group relies heavily on hedge fund managers and investment bankers, a group Trump has rallied against in the past, and includes no women.

In addition, Trump plans to release his framework for boosting the US economy in a speech in Detroit on Monday, an event that will offer him a chance to avoid theatrics and detail how he would handle economic issues if elected. Trump economic adviser Stephen Moore told Reuters that the candidate's plan would focus on four areas: tax, deregulation, energy policy and trade. "It's going to be an all-encompassing look at how we reform the economy," Moore said.

At a rally in Des Moines, Trump showed newfound discipline, mostly sticking to his central charge that Clinton is the "queen of corruption." He defended himself against her charge that he is temperamentally unfit for the White House. "All my life I've been told, 'You have the greatest temperament,'" he said. He urged voters to also consider his vice presidential run-

ning mate, who appeared with him at the event. "If you don't like me, that's okay, vote for Pence, because it's the same thing," he said. Trump also defended himself against what he called the news media's claim that he kicked a baby out of an event earlier this week in Virginia. "I love babies," he said.

'Short-Circuited'

Clinton sought to take advantage of Trump's dip in the polls at a conference of minority journalists in Washington, where she pledged an all-out fight for comprehensive immigration reform if she wins the Nov 8 election. At the event, Clinton did what she has rarely done during the presidential campaign: Take questions from reporters. She addressed two of the largest issues that continue to dog her campaign: The

nal charges be filed.

On Friday, Clinton maintained that "I never sent or received anything marked classified," while acknowledging that some material she sent may retroactively have been considered classified by other government agencies. Republicans have repeatedly charged that Clinton endangered national security with her handling of classified material. The email controversy has fueled a perception among a majority of voters that Clinton is untrustworthy. "I take it seriously," she said. "It doesn't make me feel good when people say those things. And I recognize that I have work to do."

Still, as she has often done during her career, Clinton attributed much of her low standing on this issue to attacks from Republicans. "Maybe just maybe when I'm actually running for a job there is a real ben-



GREEN BAY, Wisconsin: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally on Friday. —AFP

controversy over her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state during the Obama administration, and continuing skepticism among voters about her trustworthiness.

Clinton conceded that she had "short-circuited" earlier in the week in interviews when she had asserted that FBI director James Comey had concluded that she had been truthful in her statements about use of the private server. Clinton had repeatedly said publicly that she never sent emails containing classified material, a finding that Comey contradicted at the conclusion of the FBI's probe in July, when he rebuked her for "extremely careless" handling of classified information while recommending that no cri-

mit to those on the other side to try and stir up as much concern as possible," she said.

Finance and Industry Leaders

Trump's campaign said his economic advisory panel included former steel executive Dan DiMicco; Howard Lorber, CEO of tobacco company Vector Group Ltd; and Trump campaign finance chairman and investment manager Steven Mnuchin. Hedge fund managers John Paulson and Steve Feinberg, anti-tax advocacy group Club for Growth's Stephen Moore, and David Malpass, who has served under previous Republican administrations in the Treasury and State Departments, were also named. —Reuters

MILITARY COMMUNITY SPLIT OVER TRUMP'S FEUD WITH THE KHANS

NORFOLK, Virginia: Robin Starck is a retired submarine commander who still lives in the shadow of America's largest naval base, and he's heard all the shouting about Donald Trump and his tangle with the parents of a US Army officer killed in Iraq. Doesn't matter. He's still for Trump. "Trump goes to the extreme," said Starck, 79. "Sometimes he goes off the wall." But he added, "I don't see myself changing my mind."

The Hampton Roads area of Virginia - home not only to Naval Station Norfolk, but a vast collection of defense contractors, including the shipyards that build America's aircraft carriers - has been a Trump stronghold. The New York billionaire won most of the counties that make up the area along the James River in Virginia's March 1 primary. It's the sort of place where Trump's days of criticism of Khizr and Ghazala Khan, a Muslim-American family whose son, Capt Humayun Khan, was killed while serving in Iraq in 2004, might be expected to alienate people, many with deep and personal ties to the military.

But Starck is one of several interviewed by AP this past week who said they have other concerns that are keeping them loyal to Trump, among them picking a conservative Supreme Court justice to replace the late Antonin Scalia and getting rid of President Barack Obama's health care law, which Hillary Clinton pledges to defend. The fight with the Khans was a "big mistake," Starck said, but it was also blown out of "proportion".

The feud was set off when Khizr Khan, his wife silent at his side, denounced Trump from the stage of the Democratic National Convention for his views about Muslims. Trump responded angrily and would not back down even as many Republicans expressed revulsion that he would fight with the family of a slain soldier. Jacob Jeske, 28, a commercial diver from Portsmouth, said the episode was not a "big deal to me." "He means well," Jeske said. "He's just going by his emotions. He's not sitting there and thinking about it."

Jeske believes a Trump presidency would mean more work for him, given the candidate's promises to invest deeply in the military. As a diver, Jeske often makes his living by helping to maintain Navy ships. "Trump knows that the military comes first, before any refugees or anyone else," he said. Richard Cormier, 61, a civilian doctor on a Navy supply ship, agrees. "If he's going to build a strong military, all the other issues go away," said Cormier, who is stationed in Norfolk. "That directly bears on my job. I don't even watch the news anymore, because it's all mudslinging and people getting shot."

Draft Dodger

Not all said they could look past Trump's fight with the Khans, joining with the many senior Republicans who condemned his remarks and urged him to apologize. Republican Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL who is running for Congress in Hampton Roads, is one. "Donald Trump's back and forth

engagements with the Khans are counterproductive," Taylor said this past week in a statement. "I encourage him to sincerely apologize to them and to end this issue now."

Another is James Atticus Bowden, a retired Army officer and the president of a defense consulting company, who said Trump was "classless to fuss at a Gold Star family" and should "just keep his mouth shut". But Bowden, who supported Texas Sen Ted Cruz in Virginia's primary and is still undecided about whom to vote for in November, said his bigger concern is Trump's lack of military service. Trump received five draft deferments during the Vietnam era, one of which stemmed from temporary bone spurs in his feet. "He was a draft dodger when he could have served and should have served," said Bowden, who lives in Poquoson, Virginia.

Carolyn Hersh, 52, a psychotherapist from Portsmouth, said she can no longer vote for Trump after the Khan controversy. "He shouldn't have taken it personally," said Hersh, whose husband is a former Navy doctor. "Coming from a military community, that was just (too much)." But voting for Clinton is not an option for Hersh. She said she has too many concerns about the economy, which include government spending on entitlement programs, to cast her ballot for the Democratic nominee. "I would have voted for him a couple weeks ago - not happily, but I would have," Hersh said of Trump. "I've never not voted. But that's something that's on the table." —AP

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CHICAGO POLICE RELEASE VIDEO OF TEEN SHOOTING, WITH GAPS

CHICAGO: Chicago police released video on Friday that showed the moments before officers killed an unarmed 18-year-old black man last week but failed to capture the fatal shots because a policeman's body camera was not recording, prompting allegations of a cover-up and calls for a special prosecutor. In the footage released by Chicago's Independent Police Review Authority, two officers can be seen shooting at a stolen car driven by the man, Paul O'Neal, who crashed the Jaguar into a police car and then fled into a backyard where officers gunned him down.

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said in a statement the July 28 shooting "raised a lot of questions about whether departmental policies were followed," adding that officers will be held accountable for their actions "should wrongdoing be discovered." The clips included police cuffing O'Neal as he lay with his shirt bloodied, while one officer cursed him. "They shot at us too, right?" one officer can be heard saying, referring to the occupants of the stolen Jaguar. No firearms

were found on O'Neal, who police shot in the back.

A lawyer for O'Neal's family, Michael Oppenheimer, told a news conference that the young man had been killed in cold blood and called for a special prosecutor to be appointed in the case to pursue possible criminal charge against officers. "What I saw was pretty cold-blooded," Oppenheimer said. "There is no question in my mind that they ran this kid down and murdered him." In one of the video clips, an officer can be seen gesturing toward other officers' body cameras after the shooting and telling them to make sure they were all turned off.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Chicago-based civil rights leader, told Reuters the lack of footage of O'Neal's killing was "a cover up." "The force was excessive. It was unnecessary. It was an execution," Jackson said. In response to a Reuters query about why there was no video of the shooting of O'Neal, Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said, "This is under investigation. The cameras either were not activated or they were impacted by the collision." —Reuters

SOUTH AFRICA'S RULING PARTY SUFFERS ELECTION SETBACK

RACE REMAINS TIGHT IN THE LARGER CITIES

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's ruling party has suffered its biggest election setback since taking power at the end of apartheid a generation ago, with less than 1 percent of votes left to be counted and results for two of the country's largest cities too close to call. Final results of largely peaceful municipal elections were being announced at 6 pm (1600 GMT). Races remained tight in the largest city, Johannesburg, and Tshwane, the metropolitan area of the capital.

Since South Africa's first all-race election in 1994, the African National Congress party has had widespread support on the strength of its successful fight against white-minority rule. But this time, it has been challenged by corruption scandals and a stagnant economy that has frustrated the urban middle class, while protests in poor communities demanding basics like electricity and water have been common. "Election after election, the ANC has hung on to its past glory and kept its place in the hearts of most South Africans. ... This time round, though, it's not enough," the Mail & Guardian newspaper said in an editorial. On social media, South Africans mocked President Jacob Zuma's recent claim that the ANC would rule "until Jesus comes back."

The ANC already has lost its first major black-majority municipality in this election, Nelson Mandela Bay, named for the ANC's star and the country's first black president. The opposition Democratic Alliance, which has roots in the anti-apartheid movement and had a white party leader until last year, won Nelson Mandela Bay after fielding a white candidate for mayor. The party already runs the country's second largest city, Cape Town, the only major South African city where blacks are in the minority among white and mixed-race residents. It has been pushing hard to win supporters in other regions, saying its brand is good governance.

'Absolute impunity'

The party's leader, 36-year-old Mmusi Maimane, has predicted victory in Tshwane. "For far too long, the ANC has governed South Africa with absolute impunity," Maimane told reporters yesterday. He said the idea that his party was a white one has been "completely

shattered." The Democratic Alliance angered the ANC last month by declaring that it was the only party that could realize Mandela's dream of a "prosperous, united and non-racial South Africa." Maimane immediately looked ahead to presidential elections. "The 2019 campaign starts now," he said.

Neither party appeared to have a majority in Johannesburg or Tshwane that would allow it to govern alone, raising the likelihood of coalition governments. A more radical opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, contested the local elections for the first time and received 8 percent of the vote nationwide after promising measures it says will help the poor. The ANC so far has received 53 percent of votes across the country, its lowest percentage ever, with the Democratic Alliance getting 26 percent.

The results for the ANC could put pressure on the 74-year-old Zuma to leave office before his mandate ends in 2019, political analysts said.

Zuma's office said Saturday that he would attend the announcement of the final election results. The ANC has said "we will reflect and introspect where our support has dropped." It retained support in many rural areas in a country where blacks make up 80 percent of the population.

The South African economy has stagnated since the global financial crisis in 2008, and the World Bank says the country has one of the highest rates of inequality in the world. Scandals swirling around Zuma have also hurt the ANC. Opposition groups have seized on the revelation that the state paid more than \$20 million for upgrades to Zuma's private home. The Constitutional Court recently said Zuma violated the constitution and instructed him to reimburse the state \$507,000. 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. — AP



BELGRADE: Serbian servicemen and gendarmes patrol along the Serbian-Macedonian border to prevent illegal entry of migrants, near the south town of Presevo. — AFP

OLD FOES SERBIA AND CROATIA UNABLE TO LEAVE PAST BEHIND

BELGRADE: Twenty-one years after they were at war, relations between Balkan neighbors Serbia and Croatia are mired in bitter exchanges, as they struggle to turn the page on their past. Croatia, which joined the European Union in 2013, and Serbia, which is negotiating accession to the bloc, both claim to be attached to European values, cooperation and good neighborly relations. But in practice the former enemies—who established formal diplomatic relations in 1996—are finding their opposing views on recent decisions related to their history a constant source of quarrels.

Both countries were among the six republics making up communist Yugoslavia, which began to fall apart after two of them—Croatia and Slovenia—proclaimed independence in 1991. While Slovenia faced only a 10-day battle for sovereignty, Croats fought Belgrade-backed Serbs for more than three years in a conflict that claimed 20,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless. On Friday Croatia celebrated the 21st anniversary of its victory in Operation Storm, a four-day offensive that saw it seize back a key area held by Serb rebels and practically ended the conflict. But what to Zagreb was a "liberation" and "resounding victory" in 1995 is remembered as a "pogrom" by Serbia.

More than 200,000 Serbs were forced to flee their homes by the offensive and hundreds were killed, although the figures vary—the Croatian Helsinki Committee puts the toll at 667 and the Serbian government at 2,500. Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic even referred to a "criminal final solution" during a commemoration for Serb victims of the operation on Thursday. He lamented to a crowd of tens of thousands that in the space of just 70 years, the number of Serbs in Croatia had shrunk dramatically in what he called "the greatest ethnic cleansing in the history of Europe". Before the war Serbs in Croatia accounted for about 12 percent of the population compared with four percent today of the country's 4.3 million people.

Revisionist history?

Overshadowing the contentious military anniversary this year is a string of political and judicial decisions that have heightened tensions between the two Balkan nations. Croatia has opposed Brussels' decision to open negotiations with EU candidate Serbia on its judicial system, fundamental rights and security. The hurdles, according to Zagreb, include Belgrade's cooperation with The Hague-

based UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and political representation of minorities.

At the same time, Belgrade has protested recent court rulings in Croatia, especially the Supreme Court's quashing of a verdict against a former lawyer convicted of war crimes for killing Serbs. Another verdict overturned last month—also angering Belgrade—was the communist-era conviction of controversial Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac for collaborating with the Nazi occupiers and Croatia's pro-Nazi regime during World War II.

In overwhelmingly Catholic Croatia, many see Stepinac as a hero, saying he saved thousands of lives—including many Serbs—as well as showing attachment to an independent Croatia and unwavering faith in the face of communist persecution. But Belgrade sees the Croatian court decisions as revisionist history and a "rebirth of Nazism."

'Diverting attention'

Ivo Rimac, an analyst at Zagreb University, said Belgrade's reaction to recent events was "logical." "The complacency of (Croatia's) government towards the activities of the extreme right and the promotion in the media of pro-Nazi ideas has directly provoked the deterioration of relations," he said. Adding fuel to the fire was the opening of a monument in the Adriatic town of Draga in tribute to Miro Baresic, a Croatian nationalist who was sentenced to life in prison in Sweden in 1971. He had been convicted of participating in the murder of the Yugoslav ambassador in Stockholm.

But Rimac also recalled Serbia's rehabilitation last year to the dismay of Zagreb-loyal General Draza Mihailovic, who was sentenced to death for collaboration with the Nazis. Mihailovic had launched the Chetnik movement, notorious for war crimes against other ethnic groups in the Balkans including Croats. In June, Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic and Serbia's Vucic signed a joint declaration on "improving relations"—but the document risks remaining unfulfilled, especially with the EU facing more pressing matters than Balkan relations. With Serbia yet to form a government following an April election and Croatia holding snap polls in September after a fragile right-wing government fell over a conflict of interest affair, analysts say the ongoing external rows could be useful for political elites. "Quarrels with neighbors are helpful to divert attention," said Serbian political analyst Dusan Janjic. — AFP

LONDON KNIFE ATTACK SUSPECT BEGINS TRIAL

LONDON: A teenager accused of murdering a US tourist and injuring five others in a knife attack in central London made his first court appearance on Saturday and was remanded in custody. Zakaria Bulhan is charged with the murder of 64-year-old retired teacher Darlene Horton plus five counts of attempted murder following the incident on Wednesday evening in Russell Square. The 19-year-old, who lives in Tooting in south London, is a Norwegian national of Somali origin who came to Britain as a young child in 2002.

After being charged on Friday night, he appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court for a procedural hearing on Saturday, where he spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth. Wearing a light grey tracksuit, he held his face in his hand as the names of the victims were read out. When asked if he understood the charges,

he nodded and gave the judge a thumbs-up. Bulhan was remanded in custody and will next appear at a higher court, the Old Bailey in London, on Tuesday.

Horton, a mother of two, was the wife of a professor at Florida State University, Richard Wagner, who had been teaching summer classes in London. She died just hours before she had been due to fly home. The other victims were named as Martin Hoenisch, Lillie Selletin, David Imber, Bernard Hepplewhite and Yovel Lewronski.

Police earlier said the nationalities of the three men were British, American and Australian, and the women were an Australian and an Israeli. Russell Square is close to the heart of central London and is a popular location for tourist hotels. It is close to both the British Museum and the University of London. — AFP

SMALL SHIPS PLAY BIG ROLE IN EUROPE'S MIGRANT CRISIS

ROME: Two years ago, a small, privately-run ship set out to lend a hand to military operations in the Mediterranean rescuing migrants on boats near capsizing off Libya. Today, there are a dozen such aid ships engaged in over 20 percent of the life-saving missions. The first step was taken by Christopher and Regina Catrambone, a wealthy Italian-American couple based in Malta who were agast at the shipwreck off the island of Lampedusa in October 2013 which claimed some 365 lives.

Their MOAS (Migrant Offshore Aid Station) association in 2014 launched the Phoenix, a 40-metre (130-foot) refurbished fishing vessel which paled in comparison with the vast fleet of the Mare Nostrum operation, then conducted by Italy's navy and coastguard. But some 3,000 of the 50,000 migrants rescued in the weeks that followed were saved by this small boat. And the MOAS operation became one to emulate. "We could not leave people to die like that," said Sophie Beau, the executive director of SOS Mediterranee, a French, Italian and German organization founded in 2015. There are now a dozen such humanitarian ships patrolling off the coast of Libya, chartered by MOAS, Doctors Without Borders (MSF), SOS Mediterranee, the Catalan Proactiva Open Arms and German Sea-Watch, Sea-Eye and Jugend Rettet. "In some cases, we literally pulled people from the water," said Gerard Canals, the Proactiva Open Arms mission head. "In

others we secured the dinghies while waiting for the larger ships, or sent our doctor aboard a military ship to examine migrants." Jugend Rettet jumped straight in at the deep end last week, its luventa ship dealing on day one with six overcrowded migrant dinghies at once.

'Hard to leave'

The MOAS Phoenix and Responder sail in partnership with the Red Cross, while the MSF Aquarius is jointly chartered by SOS Mediterranee. All three, along with the MSF Bourbon Argos and Dignity, can take migrants aboard and transfer them to Italian ports. They play a key part alongside the European Union's Triton, run by border control agency Frontex, and Sophia, an operation to fight people trafficking.

Other smaller vessels are responsible for identifying boats in difficulty, distributing life jackets, keeping panicked migrants calm—an important step in stopping boats from overturning—and providing first aid in emergencies before the arrival of larger rescue boats. It's an invaluable role which helps prevent mass tragedies at sea, Italian coastguard spokesman Filippo Marini told AFP. Calls for help by satellite telephone from boats in distress come from a vast area and it's a race against time for rescuers to save people from the flimsy boats or dinghies used by smugglers. Hundreds can drown in minutes if a vessel rolls over. — AFP



This file photo taken on May 26, 2016 shows migrants waiting aboard rescue ship 'Aquarius' as they arrive in the port of Cagliari, Sardinia two days after being rescued near the Libyan coasts. — AFP

REAL AND IMAGINED TERROR HAUNTS A TERRIFIED EUROPE

PARIS: The antics of a flash mob sparked panic on a Spanish beach earlier this week, revealing the hair-trigger anxiety that has gripped Europeans following a wave of terror attacks. "We are made to suffer doubly: Not only feeling this fear... but also a sense of disarray from being caught in an infernal cycle that can't be stopped," author Edouard Louis and philosopher Geoffroy de Lagasnerie wrote in the French daily Liberation. France has seen a series of jihadist attacks over the past year and a half.

Last month, a truck massacre in Nice on Bastille Day was followed less than a fortnight later by the grisly murder of a priest near the northern city of Rouen. Then on Wednesday in London, a knife attack by a Norwegian of Somali origin that left an American woman dead and five wounded was followed by hours of uncertainty over whether the assailant was a jihadist. But police finally ruled out terrorism, concluding that he was mentally disturbed. The climate of fear was sparked by a June 2014 proclamation by the Islamic State group announcing the establishment of a "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria.

Several EU member states have joined the international military coalition fighting IS, which has pledged to use any and all means to vanquish Western unbelievers and "crusaders". In France, Prime Minister Manuel Valls repeatedly warns of new attacks, saying "new innocent victims" are likely after the bloody attacks the country has suffered over the past year and a half. Jitters are heightened by warnings of attacks or announcements of foiled plots. London recently warned of a possible attack in Britain, while Austria on Thursday said police had received emailed "terror threats".

Late last month, Belgium charged a man with attempting to commit "terrorist murder" after police uncovered an alleged plot to launch an attack in the country. Belgium suffered twin attacks on March 22 at the Brussels airport and the city's metro, which left 32 people dead. The country has kept its terror alert at the third of four levels, meaning an attack is "possible and likely". In France, where a state of emergency has been renewed several times since it was first imposed after the November 2015 attacks in Paris claimed 130 lives, authorities regularly announce searches and arrests in their counter-terrorism drive. A week after the Bastille Day truck rampage in Nice killed 85 revellers, a shooting at a shopping centre in Munich, Germany, left nine dead. The reaction was a stark illustration of the reigning anxiety. Social media lit up as people jumped to the conclusion that the perpetrators were jihadists, prompting German police to implore people not to spread rumors. — AFP

UGANDA PRIDE DELAYED AFTER MINISTER THREATS

KAMPALA: A gay pride parade in the Ugandan capital planned for the weekend was Friday postponed after a government minister was accused of saying mob attacks on participants would be their own fault. Lawyer Nicholas Opiyo told AFP that minister of ethics and integrity Simon Lokodo told him ordinary citizens would be "mobilized to defend the moral values of Uganda" and that "if participants were to be beaten by a mob" they would have "brought it upon themselves". The minister added that police would arrest

anyone attending the parade, according to Opiyo.

Organizers said they had postponed the event—which was held last year following the apparent threat, reportedly made at a meeting between the organizers' lawyer and a police representative. "As the committee, we have agreed that all the remaining events of the pride week be postponed as we await a positive outcome from the already going negotiations," the organizers said in a statement.

"We will be communicating the new

dates as soon as the negotiations are completed," the statement added. The United States ambassador to Uganda Deborah Malac tweeted her support for the gay community in Uganda after the organizers announced the parade's delay. "The Embassy stands with Uganda's LGBTI community and Ugandans of all backgrounds and beliefs to defend the dignity of all citizens," said Malac on Twitter. "No person should face abuse or discrimination because of who they are". The US slapped sanctions on Uganda after it

introduced tough anti-gay laws in 2013, which included life imprisonment for homosexuals. The law was struck down a year later on a technicality, but under a colonial-era penal code homosexual acts remain illegal.

Prominent Ugandan gay rights activist Frank Mugisha slammed the minister's comments and accused the police of complicity. "The minister is not entitled to give or withdraw permission to hold a parade," said Mugisha, who runs the local NGO Sexual Minorities Uganda. "This is an

abuse of power and the police let him do it." On Thursday evening police raided a club in Kampala that was hosting a "Mr and Miss Pride" beauty pageant ahead of the weekend parade. Twenty people were arrested for attending an "illegal gathering" but were later released. One person was seriously injured when he jumped from a window to escape from police. Homophobia is widespread in Uganda, and gay people face regular harassment and intimidation, including from government officials and police. — AFP

THAILAND WARNS AGAINST POKE-HUNTING AT POLLS

BANGKOK: Thai authorities yesterday warned Pokemon Go players against entering polling stations as they search for the cyber creatures when the nation votes on a controversial junta-crafted constitution. The Southeast Asian nation heads to the polls today for the first time since generals toppled a democratically elected government in 2014.

Voters are being asked whether to accept or reject the military's new constitution although the military have banned open debate ahead of the plebiscite. The ruling junta has touted the document as the solution to the kingdom's decade-long political crisis. But critics have derided it as a thinly veiled attempt by the military to perpetuate their hold over democracy. Pokemon Go was made available in Thailand yesterday alongside 14 other nations in Asia and the Pacific, delighting fans in a country where Japanese subcultures have a significant following.

Election officials now fear fans might stumble into polling booths as they feverishly search for Pokemons. "I suggest to people who play Pokemon Go that if rare Pokemon appear in a polling stations, I ask

for your cooperation in not playing the game." Supachai Somcharoen, chairman of the Election Commission, told reporters in his last press briefing ahead of Sunday's vote. Since its global launch, Pokemon Go has sparked a worldwide frenzy among users who have taken to the streets with their smartphones.

The viral game uses satellite locations, graphics and camera capabilities to overlay cartoon monsters on real-world settings, challenging players to capture and train the creatures for battles. While it has been praised as a fun way to get people outdoors, it has also attracted safety warnings about not walking into oncoming traffic, straying into restricted areas, or becoming victims of crimes.

Some more autocratic governments, such as Iran, have even banned the game altogether. Members of the public are forbidden from taking photos inside Thai polling stations which are only open to locally registered voters. Debate has also been severely curtailed ahead of the vote with the junta effectively banning campaigning, political rallies and open debate of the charter. — AFP

MAMMOTH EFFORT TO SAVE STRANDED INDIAN ELEPHANT

DHAKA: Huge crowds of villagers following a wild elephant stranded in Bangladesh for more than a month by floods are hampering efforts to rescue it, forest officials said yesterday. Severe floods in the northeastern Indian state of Assam separated the four-ton female elephant from its herd as strong currents in the Brahmaputra river washed it across the border to northern Bangladesh late June. This week Indian wildlife officials travelled to Bangladesh to join local forest rangers and vets to rescue the animal, which is now struggling to stand on its feet after a journey of more than 100 kilometers.

"It's now standing in a five-foot flood water in Jamalpur district. It is extremely weak. There are more than 10,000 people watching her from a close distance," Bangladeshi vet Sayed Hossain told AFP. Hossain said the crowd was hampering its efforts to reach higher ground as "thousands of villagers have been constantly following the animal," even at night. Forest official Tapan Kumar Dey told AFP a team

had brought a dart gun, crane and lorry to carry the animal once it reaches dry ground and can be tranquilized-but the operation cannot be carried out while the elephant is in water.

"Her condition is very bad. Last night it travelled 12 kilometers, but it mostly avoided dry ground because of presence of so many people," Dey said. A trained elephant was being brought to the scene in a desperate attempt to lure the wild animal away from the water. "It is so weak that it can't even lift its trunk. You can see her ribs from a distance," Ritesh Bhattacharjee, a visiting Indian forest official, told AFP. The rescue bid comes days after Indian wildlife officers appealed for help in caring for eight rhino calves pulled from the floodwaters in Assam. Scores of people die every year from flooding and landslides during the monsoon rains in India and neighboring Nepal and Bangladesh. So far this year 96 people have died in the worst-hit Indian states of Assam and Bihar while 41 people have died in downstream Bangladesh. — AFP



JAMALPUR: In this photograph taken on August 1, 2016, Bangladesh wildlife officials look on from a boat as they observe a wild elephant in a watercourse at Sarishabari. — AFP

RETRIAL SET FOR MALAYSIA RAPE-MARRIAGE CASE

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian rape suspect who married his 14-year-old victim to avoid jail will be brought back to court for a retrial, the accused's lawyer told AFP yesterday. Ahmad Syukri Yusuf, 22, allegedly raped the girl, now 15, last year in a country where rape charges can incur a sentence of up to 30 years in jail and whipping. But a court in the Malaysian state of Sarawak on Borneo island ruled last week it would not proceed with the case after it emerged the accused had married his alleged victim, sparking an outcry by activists and politicians. "It's back to square one. The trial will be heard again. It will be difficult for me. It is a retrial," Ahmad's lawyer, Azam Trudin, told AFP. Activists welcomed the fresh hearing which is expected to take place end of September, with some calling for child marriages to be made illegal. Heang Lee Tan from Women's Aid Organisation in Malaysia said the retrial would "send the message that rape is a heinous crime, which we will not tolerate in our society."

"You endorse the violent act (of rape) by allowing that marriage to take place in the first place," said Meera Samanther of the Association of Women Lawyers in Malaysia. "We should ban all child marriages." Child marriages are not uncommon in Muslim-majority Malaysia. Girls below the age of 16 must obtain the permission of Islamic courts who regulate civil matters for Muslims-but activists say such permission is too readily granted. Over the years there have been renewed calls for the government to outlaw child marriages.

In 2013, a man who raped a 12-year-old girl avoided prison after he married her, provoking an outcry among rights groups. However, the following year a high court sentenced the father-of-four to 12 years in jail. Malaysia's Women, Family and Community Development Minister Rohani Abdul Karim on Thursday said authorities will in future prevent suspects accused of rape from marrying the alleged victim. — AFP



KOKRAJHAR: Blood stains are seen on the floor of a shop after a militant attack on a market at Balajan Tinali, in the Kokrajhar district of Assam. — AFP

TOLL IN ASSAM MARKET ATTACK JUMPS TO 15

SEVERAL SECURITY CHECKS PUT UP AFTER ATTACK

KOKRAJHAR: The death toll from an attack in India's northeastern Assam state, where gunmen opened fire on a busy market, jumped to 15 yesterday as three more people succumbed to their injuries. The dead included a militant from a faction of the outlawed National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), which has waged a decades-long campaign for an independent homeland for the indigenous Bodo people. Police say that around six gunmen were behind Friday's attack, one of whom was later killed by security forces who were searching for the other attackers.

"One person died on Saturday morning and another two succumbed to their injuries overnight. The death toll from the attack is now 15 including one militant," Assam state health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told AFP yesterday. Sarma said that around 900 soldiers and

police reinforcements had reached the site of the attack in Balajan, around 220 kilometers west of Assam's main city of Guwahati and near the border with Bhutan. "They have started a massive combing operation for the attackers and are being supported by the security forces on other side of the international border," he added.

Several security check points were put up a day after the attack, and there was a massive and visible presence of the security forces. The area was tense but peaceful early yesterday. Assam's newly elected Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), condemned the killings and pledged strong action against the perpetrators. On Friday, Modi too expressed his grief at the loss of life on Twitter. "Saddened by the attack in Kokrajhar (district). We strongly

condemn it. Thoughts & prayers with the bereaved families & those injured," the prime minister said. Northeast India, which is linked to the rest of the country by a narrow land bridge, has seen decades of unrest among ethnic and separatist groups.

Assam has been relatively peaceful in recent years, but tensions between the Bodo and other communities in the area persist, particularly over land rights. Bodo guerrillas have in recent years launched ferocious attacks on both Muslim settlers and other tribal communities in the tea-growing state of Assam. In 2014 thousands of people fled their homes in Assam after a series of coordinated attacks by armed rebels left at least 69 people dead, 18 of them children. Two years earlier, ethnic clashes in the same area claimed about 100 lives and displaced more than 400,000 people. — AFP

CASABLANCA BUILDING COLLAPSE KILLS 2, WOMAN STILL MISSING

CASABLANCA: Rescuers yesterday searched for a woman believed trapped under a building that collapsed in Morocco's economic capital Casablanca, killing two people and injuring 24, officials and witnesses said. The four-storey building in the Sbata district that came down on Friday evening had a cafe on the ground floor that had been teeming with customers and a doctor's clinic which was also full, witnesses said. A taxi driver who had gone into the cafe to use the restroom was killed, witnesses said.

Yesterday, the body of a 13-year-old girl was retrieved from the rubble, they added. A statement from Casablanca municipality confirmed the death of a man and a young girl in the collapse and said another 24 people had been injured. An initial toll late on Friday was one dead. Nine of the injured have now been discharged from hospital but the remainder were still receiving care, the municipality statement said, adding that they were in a stable condition. However, the body of a woman was still trapped under the debris and rescue workers were trying to locate her, said the statement carried by the official MAP news agency.

Authorities yesterday arrested the owner of the building for questioning about the causes of the collapse, it added. The royal court said King Mohammed VI had expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and announced that he would pay for their funerals and for the hospital treatment of those injured. Footage from the scene showed the building fully collapsed with what appears to be its concrete roof slanted over the rubble and at least one crushed car.

Firemen and rescue workers worked through the night, often having to drill through layers of concrete to be able to free trapped victims. Hundreds of people thronged around the collapsed building, with some climbing on top of

the rubble to try to help in the rescue operation. Witnesses said a woman was pulled alive from under the rubble but that her leg had been severed. A local news website said the building had initially had just one floor but that the owner had managed to obtain a permit allowing him to add another three.

The new floors were completed only six months ago, reports said. Casablanca is home to five million people, many of whom live in hazardous accommodation, including in the city's

sprawling slums. After a string of building accidents, the housing minister in 2012 said that between 4,000 and 7,000 buildings in the city were at risk of collapse. Two years later 23 people were killed when three buildings collapsed, in one of the worst disasters to hit Casablanca. In February last year, a court jailed seven people over their role in the deaths to between two and five years in prison and fined them for "involuntary homicide" and "breaching urban planning codes". — AFP



CASABLANCA: Rescue teams search for people trapped under the rubble after a four-storey building collapsed. — AFP

DUTERTE VOWS TO KEEP 'SHOOT-TO-KILL' ORDER

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has vowed to maintain his "shoot-to-kill" order against drug dealers while in office and says he "does not care about human rights". About 800 people have been killed since Duterte won a landslide election in May, according to reports by the local press which has been tracking the maverick politician's campaign pledge to kill tens of thousands of criminals.

"This campaign (of) shoot-to-kill will remain until the last day of my term if I'm still alive by then," the 71-year-old said at a news conference in his southern hometown of Davao. "I don't care about

human rights, believe me," he said, according to official transcripts released by the presidential palace yesterday. He said government officials who use their positions to engage in a trade that wrecks the lives of many Filipinos were first on his list.

Duterte said he was also offering soldiers and police his "official and personal guarantee" of immunity from prosecution for killings undertaken in the performance of their duties. The president dismissed critics' suggestions some of the 402 suspects whose killings have been acknowledged by the police were "salvaged," the local police term for summary execution. Hundreds of others have been

killed by suspected vigilantes, according to unofficial tallies by local newspapers and television networks. The UN anti-drugs office on Wednesday joined international rights organizations in condemning the rash of killings. "The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime remains greatly concerned by the reports of extrajudicial killing of suspected drug dealers and users in the Philippines," its executive director Yury Fedotov said in a statement. "I join the United Nations secretary general in condemning the apparent endorsement of extrajudicial killing, which is illegal and a breach of fundamental rights and freedoms," Fedotov added. In

June, UN chief Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned Duterte's apparent support of extrajudicial killings. "These NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that are complaining to the United Nations, this is none of their business," Duterte retorted. "I'm waging a war. I am now invoking the articles of war." Duterte said he had no fear the anti-crime campaign would cause his impeachment and removal from office. "The Filipino is crying for justice" from crimes committed by drug dependents, he said. Police say more than 500,000 people have surrendered to the local authorities and pledged to stop using illegal drugs. — AFP

SINGAPORE CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AFTER 'ROCKET ATTACK' FOILED

BATAM: Singapore called for heightened vigilance yesterday; a day after Indonesian police arrested a group of men they believed were plotting a rocket attack on the wealthy city-state with the help of a Syrian-based Islamic State militant. The six suspected militants were rounded up on Friday in dawn raids on Batam Island, which is about 15 km south of Singapore, and local police chief Sam Budigusdian said they were still being held there while investigations continued. Singapore's home affairs minister, K Shanmugam, said the men had plans to hit Marina Bay, the state's glittering downtown waterfront, where night-time Formula One Grand Prix Races are held alongside a giant ferris wheel and a swanky casino resort.

"This shows how our enemies are thinking of different ways of attacking us," Shanmugam said in a Facebook posting. "Terrorists ... will seek to come in through our checkpoints; they will also try to launch attacks from just out-

side. And this is in addition to lone wolf attacks from radicalised individuals/groups. We have to be extra vigilant." Batam is linked to Singapore by frequent ferries and its beach resorts and golf courses are a popular weekend getaway destination for Singaporeans, who are preparing to celebrate their National Day holiday on Tuesday.

A target for IS

Multi-ethnic Singapore, a major commercial, banking and travel hub that is home to many Western expatriates, has never seen a successful attack by Islamist militants. However, authorities did break up a plot to bomb several embassies soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, and a Singaporean militant was accused of plotting to crash a hijacked plane into the city's airport in 2002. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said this week Singapore was a target for Islamic State because it is "a rational, open, cosmo-

politan country" even though it is not involved in the US-led campaign against the group in the Middle East. The six arrested on Batam - mostly factory workers, according to local media - were suspected of having links to Bahrin Naim, an Indonesian now fighting with Islamic State in Syria. "There's a link to Bahrin Naim because there was communication with Bahrin Naim - but whether they were affiliated with Bahrin Naim's group or not - this is what we're investigating now," police spokesman Agus Rianto said.

Indonesian investigators believe that Naim was one of the masterminds behind an attack in January in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, in which eight people were killed, including the four attackers. In a blog post after the coordinated shootings and suicide bombings across Paris last November, Naim urged his Indonesian audience to study the planning, targeting, timing and courage of the jihadis who killed

130 people in the French capital.

Turning point

Asked on Friday if physical evidence of preparations for a rocket attack had been discovered, Rianto said "not yet". Some security analysts were doubtful that a rocket attack on Singapore from Batam was feasible, but Tim Ripley of Jane's Defence Weekly said it was possible. "They would be the long-range variants of the Grad rocket originally from Russia but copied in China, Iran, Pakistan and several other countries," Ripley said. "Very simple to use but very inaccurate at the ranges for this attack. The damage would depend on where they hit but the potential for casualties would be high." If the plan for a rocket launch on Singapore is confirmed, it would suggest that militants in Southeast Asia are preparing for more sophisticated attacks than those of recent months. Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, has itself seen attacks by

Islamist militants before. The bombing of two nightclubs on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people was among a spate of attacks during the 2000s. Police were largely successful in destroying domestic militant cells after that, but they now worry the influence of Islamic State will bring a resurgence of jihadi violence. Authorities in Indonesia and neighboring Malaysia say dozens of men have gone from those countries to join Islamic State's fight in the Middle East. Security officials fear that Naim and other Islamic State leaders are now asking supporters in Southeast Asia to launch attacks at home. However, Jakarta-based security analyst Sidney Jones said it would be a departure for Naim and his supporters if they were thinking of attacking targets outside Indonesia. "One thing I think is clear is Bahrin Naim has been able to establish a lot of communication with a lot of people through his social media network," Jones said. — Reuters



HIROSHIMA: A woman lights a candle as she prays for the atomic bomb victims in front of the cenotaph at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. — AP

JAPAN MARKS HIROSHIMA BOMBING ANNIVERSARY

TOKYO: Japan yesterday marked 71 years since the city of Hiroshima was destroyed by a US atomic bomb, as its mayor urged the world to unite in abolishing nuclear weapons. The annual ceremony came just months after Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit the western Japanese city, paying moving tribute to victims of the devastating bomb. American B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped its deadly payload, dubbed "Little Boy", on Hiroshima at 8:15 am local time on August 6, 1945.

Much of the city was incinerated by a wall of heat up to 4,000 C (7,232 F) hot enough to melt steel-killing tens of thousands. About 50,000 participants, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and representatives of more than 90 countries and regions, observed a minute's silence at the exact time the atrocity occurred some seven decades ago. During the solemn ceremony, Hiroshima mayor Kazumi Matsui recalled the visit by Obama in his peace declaration, citing the president's historic speech. "(His visit) was the proof that Hiroshima's strong wish not to tolerate the 'absolute evil' was shared by President Obama," he said.

The mayor urged the world to take action towards the abolition of "the ultimate form of inhumanity, united and with passion". Obama in May embraced survivors as he made his visit to the city and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. "71 years ago, death fell from the sky and the world was changed," he said of the bomb, adding it "demonstrated that mankind possessed the means to destroy itself". Obama offered no apology for the bombings, having insisted he would not revisit decisions made by then president Harry Truman.

Moving tribute

But his moving tribute and brief conversations with elderly survivors, which included an unexpected embrace with one of them, profoundly impressed most Japanese. Abe, after laying a wreath of flowers, reiterated yesterday that Tokyo will continue working to rid the world of nuclear weapons. "I am convinced (Obama's visit) brought a great hope for people in Japan, in the world and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who believe in a world without nuclear arms," he said. The bombing claimed the lives of 140,000 people. Some died immediately while others succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses weeks, months and years later. A second bomb destroyed the city of Nagasaki three days later. Japan announced its surrender in World War II on August 15.

Many in Japan feel the attacks amount to war crimes and atrocities because they targeted civilians and due to the unprecedented destructive nature of the weapons. But many Americans believe they hastened the end of a bloody conflict, and ultimately saved lives, thus justifying the bombings. Since Obama went to Hiroshima, the park and accompanying memorial museum have witnessed an increase in visitors. But an association of atomic bomb survivors has criticized his speech, saying he failed to explicitly mention US responsibility for the bombing. Abe last year faced harsh criticism, especially from A-bomb survivors, for his policy of expanding the role of Japan's military and opening the door to possibly sending troops into combat for the first time since the war. In his latest Cabinet reshuffle, Abe appointed nationalist confidante Tomomi Inada as defense minister. — AFP

HK INDEPENDENCE CALLED A 'GIMMICK'

HONG KONG: Chinese media yesterday dismissed Hong Kong's independence movement as a political "gimmick", following the city's first pro-independence rally that was attended by more than 2,000 people. The unprecedented rally saw people fill a park near the government's headquarters Friday night, chanting "Hong Kong independence". The protest was led by five pro-independence candidates who were banned from standing for election in Hong Kong because they advocate a split from mainland China.

Critics have slammed the move as censorship as fears grow over Beijing interference in the semi-autonomous city in a range of areas, from politics to media and education. "Hong Kong independence follows the fantasies of certain people and has become one of the city's most extreme political gimmicks," China's Global Times newspaper said yesterday. "It is completely impossible to be realized," the state-run paper said. It added that Hong Kong authorities would feel the need for "institutional restrictions" in the face of the independence movement "to prevent it from being taken seriously and ultimately polluting the city's poli-

tics". Independence calls, which until recently were a taboo topic, have evolved out of the "localist" movement of mainly young campaigners disappointed after mass rallies in 2014, known as the Umbrella Movement, failed to win concessions from China on political reform.

Some "localists" do not advocate independence, but are instead pushing for self-determination for Hong Kong, an idea which has taken root among other pro-democracy campaigners. Demosisto, a new party set up by Umbrella Movement activists including well-known campaigner Joshua Wong, has made self-determination its central platform, although it does not cast itself as a "localist" organization. The party is standing in the upcoming elections, but faced a setback Friday night after election officials banned a leaflet it planned to distribute to more than 100,000 people. The Electoral Affairs Commission told candidate Nathan Law, a former Umbrella Movement leader, that the use of the words "binding referendum" for self-determination was unlawful. "Officials have not kept political neutrality and abused their authority and intervened in the election," Demosisto said in a statement. — AP

CHINA'S CRACKDOWN RAISES SPECTER OF FOREIGN FORCES

ARE FOREIGN FORCES DESTABILIZING CHINA'S GOVERNMENT?

BEIJING: In halting televised confessions and emotional courtroom testimony, Chinese lawyers and activists held in a government crackdown have voiced the same ominous message: Shadowy foreign forces are funding, directing and encouraging activities bent on destabilizing China's government and smearing its reputation.

The familiar narrative of a country besieged by foreign enemies - with the United States implied as ringleader - is a key element of China's yearlong campaign to stamp out the country's burgeoning legal activism movement. That effort drew new attention this week with the carefully scripted trials of a lawyer and three activists on subversion charges.

Though the tactic is far from new, political observers say the trials are a reminder of how the administration of President Xi Jinping has wielded the specter of foreign threats with far greater frequency and force, a reflection of the leadership's deeply seated belief that China is locked in a pitched, strategic and ideological battle against the West.

Ethical and legal lines

The four facing trial this week were associated with the Fengrui Law Firm in Beijing, one of the country's best-known advocates for human rights. Its director, Zhou Shifeng, was sentenced Thursday to seven years in prison while two received suspended sentences and one a term of seven years, three months. All were accused of organizing protests outside courthouses, hyping cases via social and foreign media, and receiving training and funding from foreign non-profit organizations.

Even if Fengrui's activist tactics crossed ethical or even legal lines, as some Chinese legal professionals believe, it was not apparent from media reports of the cases if their actions amounted to subversion, said Tong Zhiwei, a professor at East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai. Rather, the involvement of foreign actors added legal and political weight to the cases, Tong said. "If there were no foreign elements, it might not have completely changed the complexion of the cases," Tong said. Tong later said it was unclear how prosecutors and judges viewed the distinction between attacking the country's legal system and sharply criticizing it and whether they saw placing pressure on the government as one way of subverting state power. Conflating conversations the defendants had criticizing the government with actions is problematic, Tong said. Tong said lawyers could not be viewed as "subversive" simply because they receive training abroad and then return to China and do things that annoyed the government without an evaluation of precisely what they studied.

"China has had legal education exchanges for decades with the West," Tong said. "Where do you draw the line of unacceptable interaction? Is being a visiting scholar at Harvard considered subversive?" The crackdown on the legal profession, launched in July 2015 with a sweeping roundup of close to 300 activists and lawyers, is part of a far-reaching effort to stamp out suspected foreign influence since Xi took power in

2012. Most have been released although more than a dozen remain in detention.

Also in 2012, the Communist Party issued an internal communique, known as Document No. 9, aimed at limiting the penetration of Western-style "universal values," such as multi-party democracy and media freedoms, into Chinese society, especially its classrooms. The government followed that up this year by passing a law to strictly regulate the work of thousands of international nonprofits working in China and place them under direct police supervision.

In January, China detained and interrogated Peter Dahlin, a Swedish activist who had provided Fengrui lawyers training and support, for 23 days before releasing and deporting him - but only after he gave a confessional interview with the state broadcaster. The government's message was vividly reinforced in statements from those similarly accused this week. In her televised interview, Wang Yu, a Fengrui lawyer, said she intended to refuse all international recogni-

very nationalist. If they change the narrative to 'human rights lawyers are stirring up trouble because the U.S. is behind them,' they get away from the lawyers' work on the lack of justice in Chinese society."

The cases sent party organs and state media into overdrive this week. The Communist Youth League and Supreme People's Procuratorate, equivalent to the attorney general, circulated on social media an ultra-nationalist video warning of an imminent U.S.-led revolution in China, garnering hundreds of millions of views. The video's creator, a Chinese Middle Eastern studies student in Australia, told state media he was motivated to make the video after he perceived in the Fengrui cases the classic warning signs of "the early pre-penetration stages of a color revolution" underway in China, a reference to movements that have toppled authoritarian governments in Georgia, Ukraine and the Middle East.

Jerome A. Cohen, a Chinese law expert at New York University, pointed out that in Wang's



TIANJIN: In this Monday, Aug 1, 2016 photo, Fan Lili, the wife of imprisoned activist Gu Hongguo, lies on the ground in tears as members of foreign diplomats trying to help her following an incident with plainclothes police officer outside the Tianjin No 2 Intermediate People's Court. — AP

referring to an award from the American Bar Association and other Western groups she had received while in jail. "I am a Chinese," she said. "I can only accept awards from the Chinese government."

Leaning on nationalism

Four years into Xi's administration, the trials reflect how the party is leaning on nationalism as a pillar of legitimacy at a time of faltering economic growth, said Willy Lam, a history professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Xi genuinely thinks China is in an existential crisis, and unless the administration can stamp out Western influence, the party may collapse," Lam said. "But there is also the angle of political expediency. A sizeable part of the Chinese public is

supposed confession, the Fengrui lawyer said she would not "accept, recognize or acknowledge" international awards - the same language used by the Foreign Ministry in rejecting a June verdict by a Hague-based international tribunal against China's maritime claims in the South China Sea. That verdict prompted Chinese state media to denounce the arbitration process as an American-led ploy to deny China its historical territory. "Increasingly, law is at the core of both the domestic and international challenges," said Cohen, who has previously consulted for provincial officials. "Xi is ill-equipped to deal with foreign legal claims, whether they concern international human rights, the law of the sea or economics, but he can slap down domestic purveyors of the rule of law." — AP

JAPAN PROTESTS CHINA'S VESSELS AROUND DISPUTED 'SEA' ISLANDS

TOKYO: Japan summoned Chinese diplomats yesterday to protest after six Chinese coast guard vessels approached disputed East China Sea islands accompanying a fleet of hundreds of Chinese fishing boats. Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it filed the protest after the Japanese coast guard spotted the vessels yesterday along with a fleet of 230 Chinese fishing boats swarming around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands. China also claims the islands, which it calls the Diaoyu.

Japan was demanding that the ships leave the area. Three of the Chinese coast guard vessels were armed with what appeared to be gun batteries, Japan's Foreign Ministry said. The Chinese fleet has not intruded in Japanese territorial waters so far, it said. Asked about Japan's statement, China's Foreign Ministry reiterated its position that

the islands are "China's inherent territory" and that it has "indisputable sovereignty" over them and their adjacent waters. In a statement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying called on

Japan to refrain from "any action that could lead to a tense or complicated situation."

China's increasingly assertive maritime activities in the East and South China seas have raised con-



TOKYO: In this photo released by the 11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters of Japan, a Chinese coast guard vessel sails near disputed East China Sea islands yesterday. — AP

cerns and tensions in the region. Japan has joined the US, the Philippines and others in urging China to abide by international law after a UN arbitration panel ruled in favor of the Philippines in its maritime dispute with Beijing in the South China Sea. China says it doesn't recognize the July 12 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Relations between Japan and China have been strained over wartime history, a sensitive topic for the region in times of war-end anniversaries during the summer. China's coast guard vessels routinely sail around the islands, usually in pairs or up to four. Until now, only one of the vessels was armed. Yesterday's fleet size and equipment showed "an escalation of the situation that could heighten tensions in the waters," Japan's Foreign Ministry said, without elaborating on what might have caused the increase. — AP



The sun rises over Copacabana beach during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. — AFP

BADGE OF HONOR FOR OLYMPICS PIN FANS

Continued from Page 1

"I've been doing this a long time. I got a pin given to me on my first day in a job in Los Angeles. I said 'this is fun' and I've had the bug ever since," he added.

Kling regularly sees the same group of collectors at every Olympics, including Sidney and Joan Marantz. Sidney, a successful businessman, went to his first Olympics in Rome in 1960. But it wasn't until the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal that he and Joan got hooked by the collecting buzz after their tour company suggested they try it out. "An honorable goal is to try to get one from each country that makes a pin. They don't all make pins but most do," Marantz explained, as several badges attached to a lanyard around his neck jangled. Soon he is approached by a Brazilian Olympic volunteer in her 20s looking to strike a trade.

Not About the Money

He rebuffs her initial request for the Israeli team badge as it's one of his wife's favourites—a Brazilian and Israeli flag in the shape of flip-flops. But they engage in a negotiation and come to an agreement, eventually

swapping two different badges. "There's such great variety. After a while you kind of get an idea about what people like," said Marantz, who belongs to a Olympic merchandise collecting club with 600 members in 35 countries. He picked out a "classic" badge with the letters 'USA' in red above the five Olympic rings as one of his favourites.

As well as national Olympic committee pins, badges by some of the Games' sponsors, - such as Coca-Cola - also feature in his collection. Marantz is not only on the lookout for badges he doesn't already have, often gathering several of the same one if he knows it's popular and will give him leverage amongst traders. He isn't in it for the money though and never sells any of his badges.

Although once, he and his wife traded five pins for a collector's item that they really wanted. "It was a mascot dressed as Santa Claus carrying a bag. They only made 100 and nobody wanted to part with them because they were special," Marantz explained. "But have I ever had a pin that I am really excited to get? Every trade. Because it's about meeting people. When would I otherwise talk to the president of Finland or trade with Yao Ming?" he added, smiling. — AFP

REBELS BREAK ALEPPO SIEGE

Continued from Page 1

"Our armed forces took control of the part of the artillery school that had been seized by terrorists... while (rebel) groups withdrew from points in the armament school," it said, quoting a military source.

Al-Manar, the television station of the Lebanese group Hezbollah which is fighting alongside Syrian government forces, denied that Ramussa had fallen or that the siege had been broken. The battle south of Aleppo has been accompanied by media campaigns often publishing conflicting information.

Riad Hijab, head of the broad opposition body the High Negotiations Committee, tweeted: "The liberation of Ramussa and the breaking of the siege are a good omen for Syria's revolution." An AFP journalist in eastern Aleppo city said residents were on the streets and shooting celebratory gunfire into the air. "Days ago, I was only thinking about how to get a bite to eat," said Ahmad Adna, a 46-year-old resident of eastern Aleppo. "Now I'm more optimistic after the (rebel) Army of Conquest's advance. I hope today will be the last day of the siege."

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said rebels "broke the siege, but the route is not fully secure yet" between the city and its outskirts. "This is an existential battle. Whoever wins it will win Aleppo," he said. The monitor said more than 700 rebels and government fighters had been killed in since the offensive began on Sunday, including 200 yesterday alone. At least 130 civilians had been killed, among them seven who died yesterday in rebel shelling of the regime-held neighborhood of Hamdaniyeh, the Observatory said.

The former Al-Nusra Front - renamed the Fateh al-Sham Front after breaking from Al-Qaeda - said yesterday that rebels pushing out from inside Aleppo city had linked up with those on the outskirts. Drone footage posted by the group online showed a series of explosions on the edges of Aleppo, and massive columns of billowing black smoke.

Fearful residents of western districts watched the news come in on television screens in street cafes. "Of course I have faith in the army, but I can't help being scared. Food is already getting more expensive and the coming days risk being very difficult," said a 34-year-old resident of a government-held western quarter. "We are thinking about how to leave," he told AFP.

Also yesterday, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces alliance handed a major defeat to IS in Manbij. The Observatory said the SDF "took control of Manbij... and are combing the city in search of the last remaining jihadists". Manbij had been a key transit point along IS' supply route from the Turkish border to Raqa, the de facto capital of its self-styled "caliphate". With backing from the US-led air coalition, the SDF launched its offensive on May 31 and entered the town less than a month later, but the assault was slowed by jihadist suicide attackers and car bombs.

The Manbij Military Council - a key component of the SDF - said fighting was ongoing. "The battles are continuing near the centre of the town. We are in control of 90 percent of Manbij," spokesman Sherfan Darwish said. Syria's conflict first erupted in March 2011 with anti-government protests but has since evolved into a fully-fledged war largely dominated by jihadist groups. — AFP

YEMEN TALKS SUSPENDED AFTER REBELS NAME...

Continued from Page 1

The UN envoy highly appreciated Kuwait for hosting the Yemen consultations, thanking the peace-supporting international community. Hosting the negotiations, Kuwait has proved it is a pioneer in keenness on peace, and the choice was right in what has been achieved, Ould Cheikh Ahmed said, highly appreciating HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his wise leadership and personal intervention sometimes during the consultations. He also valued efforts by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

A peace plan submitted by the UN envoy had been accepted by the internationally recognized government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi but rejected by the rebels. The insurgents said the plan did not meet their key demand for a unity government - a condition that amounts to an explicit call for Hadi's removal.

Hours before Ould Cheikh Ahmed announced he was

suspending the talks, the rebels named the 10 members to sit on the governing council, a move that also strengthens their control of Sanaa. The Iran-backed Houthis overran the capital in late 2014 before moving into other parts of Yemen, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in March last year.

The list published by the Houthi-controlled Saba news agency showed that members of the governing council were equally divided between rebels and Saleh loyalists. Among them are Salah Al-Sammad, head of the Houthis' political wing Ansarullah, and Sadek Abu Ras, deputy head of Saleh's General People's Congress. The Yemeni government had been ready to accept the UN plan, but its delegation left Kuwait on Monday until the rebels agree to the proposed accord. The draft plan called on the rebels to withdraw from territory they had occupied and give up heavy weapons seized from the army. Both sides would also exchange prisoners before the launch of political negotiations. The plan was presented as the UN's final proposal to resolve the 16-month conflict.— Agencies

MANILA, RIYADH TO NEGOTIATE OVER...

Continued from Page 1

The immediate target is to bring aid to "those without food and in dire need of medical care and other support services", it added. "A high level delegation of senior Philippine government officials will also be sent soonest to negotiate immediate and long-term solutions with counterparts in the Saudi government," the statement said. "The directive of (President Rodrigo Duterte) is to bring all of them home as soon as possible," Labour Secretary Silvestre Bello told ABS-CBN television in an interview aired yesterday.

Labor rights monitors in the Philippines said last week some Filipinos have been forced to beg or sift through

garbage to survive after going unpaid for months or after having been laid off from construction jobs. The Philippine government estimates about 9,000 Filipino workers were affected, though the Manila-based labor rights group Migrant said as many as 20,000 could be in distress. They could not leave because they lacked proper permits or were still awaiting months of back pay, Migrant added.

Asian activists and officials have said thousands of Indians and Pakistanis are also stranded in Saudi Arabia following the layoffs. About 10 million Filipinos work abroad due to low wages or lack of jobs in their own country of about 100 million people. Oil-rich Middle Eastern countries have been a key destination since the 1970s. — AFP



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Washington Watch

APPAREL MAKERS TRY
ON ETHICAL SUPPLY
CHAINS FOR SIZE

By Rina Chandran

When Indian Textiles Minister Smriti Irani tweeted a picture of herself this week in an electric-blue silk sari with the hashtag #IWearHandloom, her tweet was favorited more than 10,000 times and retweeted 4,000 times. Hundreds responded to Irani's request to post pictures of themselves in handloom apparel, including politicians, actors, athletes, models and designers, ahead of National Handloom Day on Aug 7, to celebrate the humble hand-woven fabric.

A symbol of India's freedom struggle, handloom attire was once regarded as fit only for politicians and villagers. It is now seeing a revival, with demand growing for sustainable and ethical fashion, even as mass-market clothing still dominates malls and pavement stalls. "There's a greater desire among the youth and the middle class, who are frustrated with dirty politics and crooked companies, for something better," said Arvind Singhal, chief executive of retail consultancy Technopak Advisors. "Having a greater sensitivity to people and the environment is 'in', and people are even willing to pay a small premium for what they perceive to be ethical and responsible," he said.

India is among the biggest manufacturers of textiles and apparel in the world, supplying leading international brands. But the domestic market is large too, and accounts for more than 40 percent of the industry's revenue. The sector is dominated by small and medium-sized firms that are under enormous pressure to reduce costs and produce garments quickly. Many use forced labor, while abuses including withheld salaries and debt bondage are rife, activists say.

Wages in India's textile and garment industry are about \$1.06 an hour, compared with \$2.60 in China, according to the World Bank. The pressure on margins trickles down to cotton farmers. More than 90 percent of cotton in India is genetically modified, and as those seeds cannot be replanted, farmers have struggled with rising input costs and lower prices for cotton. Tens of thousands of indebted cotton farmers in the western state of Maharashtra have killed themselves in the past two decades.

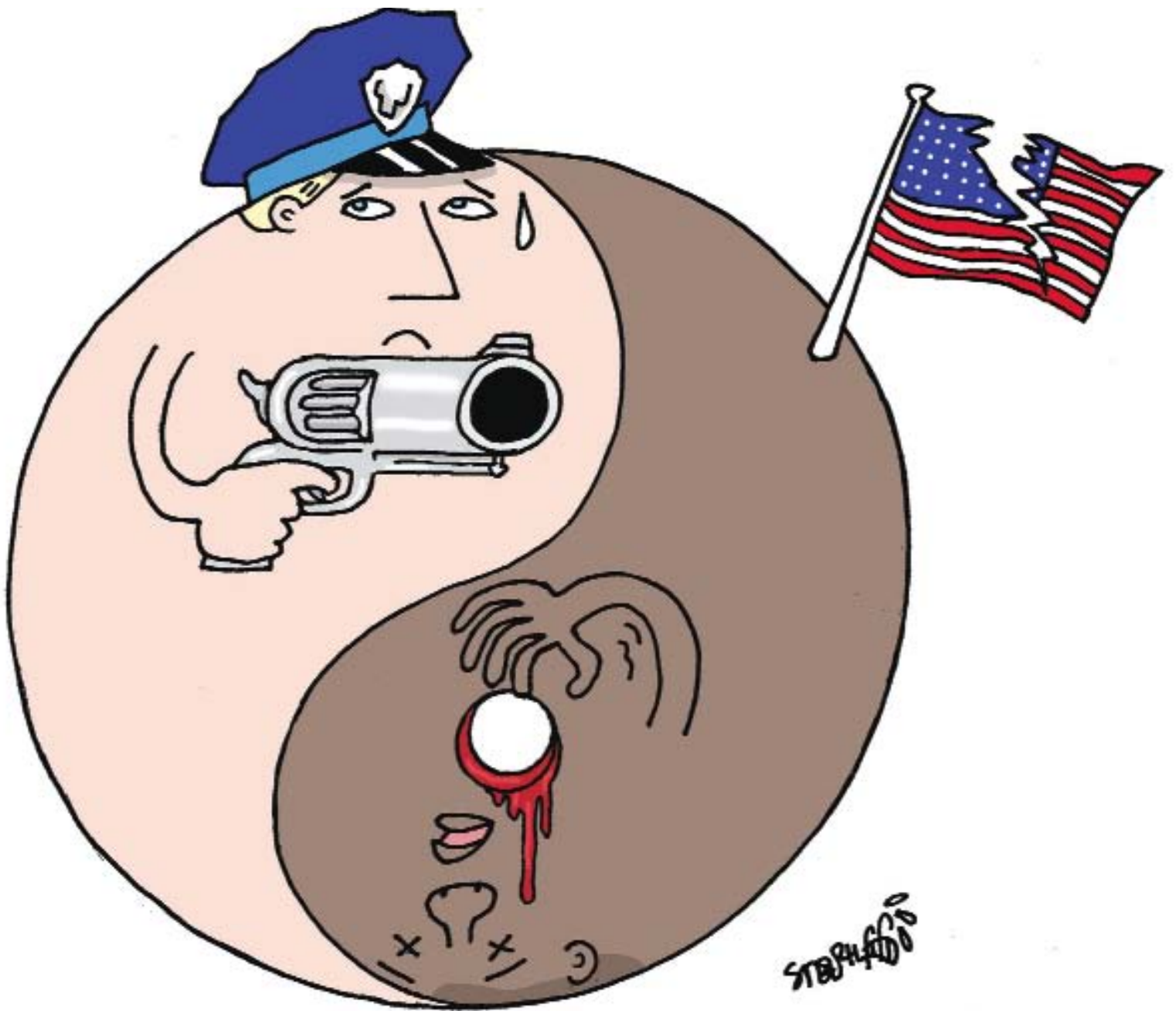
Happy Surprise

It was the plight of these farmers that drove Apurva Kothari, who was working in technology in San Francisco, to return to India and set up apparel brand No Nasties in 2011. The company sources organic cotton, and audits its supply chain to ensure there is no child labor and that workers receive fair wages, he said. "I simply Googled 'fair trade cotton', then met with cotton producers," said Kothari, speaking by telephone from Goa. "They all supplied foreign apparel makers, and it was a challenge convincing them there is a market here, too. But the great reception from consumers has been a happy surprise," he said.

No Nasties and Do U Speak Green are among a handful of Fairtrade-licensed clothing brands in India. They source from producers including Rajlakshmi Cotton Mills, which deals in organic and fair trade cotton and pays fair wages, and Chetna Organic, whose seed conservation project has organic "seedbanks" from which farmers can withdraw seeds. They are getting a boost from Fairtrade India, which set up office in 2013, and has stamped its distinct circular logo on a small range of products including tea, coffee, rice and sugar. It is also working with Amazon India to make Fairtrade-certified products available online.

"It's been a bit of a mixed bag," Abhishek Jani, chief executive of Fairtrade India, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "There is a lack of technical knowhow, a lack of capacity, and a lack of awareness about ethical supply chains, even among big businesses. But the fact that we're invited to talk is a good starting point," he said. Working conditions and wages in South Asia's garment industry have come under greater scrutiny since the April 2013 Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh, in which more than 1,100 workers died. But retailers' efforts to clean up supply chains will have little impact unless consumers in India demand more ethically produced goods, analysts say. "Most buyers are oblivious to farmer suicides or unfair wages, and don't make that connection to the clothes they wear," said Jani. "But there is clearly a segment that cares, and all things being equal, more people would probably buy an ethical product if the price point isn't too high," he said. —Reuters

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Washington Watch

PLATFORM AND POLITICS: THE CHANGE WE MADE

By Dr James J Zogby

The quadrennial process of party platform writing is more of a political exercise than a policy deliberation. When party leaders sit down to debate what will or will not go into their platform, their eyes are less focused on what will constitute sound policy. Instead they consider the politics involved in the positions they want in the document: will they cause concern with important constituencies; will they result in negative press; and will they provoke donors? Given this, I feel good about what we accomplished with this year's Democratic Party's platform. I say this not only as a proud member of the five-person team Bernie Sanders picked to serve on the Platform Drafting Committee, but also as the first Arab American to have served in that capacity.

Much has been written about the planks we lost or how the platform didn't go far enough, but what shouldn't be dismissed is that the Democratic Party is now on record embracing some of our positions and adopting some of our goals. All this is a clear recognition of the power of the progressive movement that was galvanized by the Sanders campaign and the role that Arab Americans played in that effort. The document includes: a call to abolish the death penalty; the goal of establishing a \$15 an hour minimum wage; an expansion of the Social Security program; a recognition of the need to provide for public option health insurance; a call to eliminate Super PACs and overturn Citizens United; and the need to put a price on carbon emissions to deal with climate change. Bernie Sanders has referred to the final product as "the most progressive platform in the history of the Democratic Party" and has called for a sustained effort to insure that, after November, the goals recognized in the document become law.

What didn't receive coverage, but should also be noted, are the many "little victories" we won during the platform deliberations. Sometimes they were simple, but important, word changes or additions we suggested that were ultimately endorsed by all sides.

Islamophobia

For example, we were able to add language condemning the rise of "Islamophobia." And we were able to insure the absence of any terms disparaging of Islam. We also

included the protection of civil liberties as a priority concern and expanded on the definition of "racial profiling" to include "religion, ethnicity, or national origin" thereby making the called for ban on "un-American and unproductive" profiling, the most comprehensive ever.

In the section on "Fixing our Broken Immigration System" we co-authored with the Clinton campaign language recognizing that "immigration is not a problem to be solved, it is the defining aspect of the American character and our shared history." We also called for reforming "the current quota system [that] discriminates against certain immigrants" and we rejected "attempts to impose a religious test to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the United States."

The platform also proposes a way forward to defeat ISIS and al Qaeda and end the wars in Syria and Iraq without seeing American forces mired down in prolonged conflict in the Middle East. The document recognizes that there must be "more inclusive governance in Iraq and Syria that respects the rights of all citizens." And calls for "providing more support and security assistance for Lebanon and Jordan, two countries that are hosting a disproportionate number of refugees; and recognizes the importance of "maintaining our robust security cooperation with Gulf countries." On the matter of refugees, the platform explicitly supports "President Obama's call for an international summit to address this crisis so that every country assumes its responsibility to meet this humanitarian challenge" and pledges to "look for ways to help innocent people who are fleeing persecution."

Disappointment

There was, to be sure, great disappointment in our failure to change the language on Israel/Palestine. We wanted to have the platform clearly state that the occupation and settlements must end, that the suffering of Palestinians must be acknowledged, and that excessive language on BDS and Jerusalem should be removed. We argued that it was commendable to call for two states, but the refusal to note that the major impediments to the realization of that goal are the occupation and settlements calls into question the commitment to achieving a two state solution. We also argued that our reading of their proposed language on BDS denied Palestinians the right to peacefully protest occupation and the language on Jerusalem was contradic-

tory since, on the one hand, the platform states that "Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations" and then says that "it should remain the capital of Israel, an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths."

Since our Sanders' team was outnumbered, we did not win, but from our lengthy debate on these issues (a small victory, in itself), several observations can be made. The draft prepared by the Clinton team sought to preempt our concerns. This is the first platform in history to speak of the recognition of Palestinians as having rights not merely, as Peter Beinart has noted, "as a matter of Israeli self-interest." The platform calls for providing "Palestinians with independence, sovereignty, and dignity." And, in another place, says that "Palestinians should be free to govern themselves in their own viable state, in peace and dignity." On this subject, earlier platforms were confused, at best, insulting, at worst.

Change

Finally, on the issues of BDS and Jerusalem, the Clinton campaign sought to explain their language by noting that they "were very careful not to say outright that we oppose BDS"; but rather to oppose it only if it delegitimized Israel. And one Clinton supporter offered a caveat regarding Jerusalem noting that nothing in their formulation would preclude Jerusalem from also being the capital of a future Palestinian state.

As a reflection of the state of play of American politics, we should see this platform not a defeat but an acknowledgment that there has been a change. Change we made possible. We were able to impact the debate. In some instances, we were able to win changes in the platform and, even when we were not, we were able to force debate on critical issues of concern. That is why I was proud to be a part to be a part of the Sanders campaign and why I endorse his call to continue our forward march. We must remain a part of the progressive coalition working with our allies to elect Hillary Clinton, defeat Donald Trump, continue to transform the Democratic Party, and keep progressive ideas in the mainstream, and not on the fringes of American politics. Within this coalition we can continue to fight for progress. Outside of it, we run the risk of marginalizing ourselves and our issues.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

ANC SHAKEN TO CORE AS VOTERS LOOK BEYOND RACE

By Joe Brock

On the surface, white South African ex-farmer Athol Trollip seems an unlikely candidate for mayor of a metropolitan district named after the ANC's great liberation hero, Nelson Mandela. Yet local elections this week have shown a shift in South African society and politics, which have been dominated by race since Mandela swept to power in 1994. The results may even mark the start of a new era, distinct from the 'post-apartheid' period that immediately followed the end of white-minority rule, as the African National Congress wakes up to the changed reality that it can no longer rely on the unquestioning support of poor black voters.

Angry about corruption, unemployment and shoddy basic services, many ANC supporters have turned to the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) - making a switch that was unthinkable only a few years ago when the party was still seen as the political home of wealthy whites. Voters have also become disillusioned by festering inequality; black people make up 80 percent of the 54 million population yet, two decades after apartheid, most of the economy in terms of ownership of land and companies remains in the hands of white people, who account for about 8 percent of the population.

DA candidate Trollip, a fluent speaker of the local Xhosa language, is likely to become mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality after his party won 47 percent of the vote against the ANC's 41 percent, down from 52 percent five years ago.

The DA is now expected to form a coalition with smaller opposition parties to run a region that has been an ANC stronghold for more than two decades. Besides Mandela, who grew up in the nearby village of Qunu, the Port Elizabeth area was home to anti-apartheid luminaries such as former President Thabo Mbeki and his father Govan, and Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader

killed in police custody in 1977.

The ANC has also lost its majorities in Johannesburg and the municipality that is home to the capital Pretoria, in its biggest ever election losses, which have dealt a significant blow to President Jacob Zuma. ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu said the party was chastened by the results. "We need to have a serious introspection," he told reporters at the main counting centre in Pretoria. The DA also boosted its majority in Cape Town to more than two-thirds, a resounding vote of confidence in its ability to govern.

Race Campaign

During campaigning, the ANC spent much time and money reminding voters of its liberation legacy and of the DA's white roots, even comparing the party to the former apartheid regime. On the eve of voting, Trollip's ANC opponent, Danny Jordaan, said the DA strategy of invoking Mandela's name and ideas during its campaign was akin to nailing Jesus to the cross and the next day claiming you were a Christian.

Some black voters were also told they would be "black Boers" if they chose the DA, a derogatory reference to Afrikaans-speaking white farmers. "The ANC's racially charged campaign strategy has backfired spectacularly," Trollip told Reuters as his team celebrated what he called an "historic victory". "Mandela promoted 'non-racial' politics and the ANC has just gone in reverse in a desperate attempt to keep votes. People want sound policies and delivery, not rhetoric."

The DA has also benefited from an image change, promoting a diverse range of candidates including its first black leader, 36-year-old part-time preacher Mmusi Maimane, who has headed the party since last year. With solid support in rural areas, the ANC still has majority support across the country, a reflection of its liberation struggle history and the significant improvement in basic liv-

ing standards for poor South Africans since apartheid. However, its share of the total vote, projected at 54 percent, represents a big drop from 62 percent five years ago.

The radical leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), who appeal mainly to young black voters frustrated with lingering inequality, also bit into the ANC majority, winning 8 percent in its first local election. In some almost exclusively black wards in Nelson Mandela Bay, the DA won up to 20 percent of the vote after barely registering in 2011. "The DA has a lot more appeal than before," said 30-year-old Port Elizabeth township resident Chimone Ferreira, who voted for the DA for the first time this week. "We want our lives to improve and that hasn't happened since 1994 when there was so much love for the ANC."

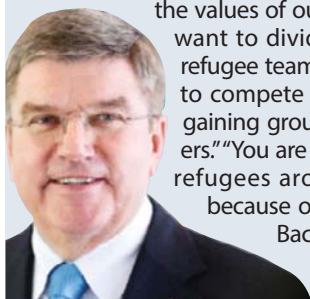
'Nightmare Come True'

The ANC's defeat in a region named after Mandela is a major embarrassment and could prompt a challenge to Zuma, whose folksy 'man of the people' appeal has been damaged by scandal and his struggle to understand the needs of a sophisticated emerging market economy. "The DA is crawling its way into African townships. It's a nightmare come true for the ANC and Jacob Zuma," said Daryl Glaser, head of political studies at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University. "It's very damaging for Zuma but not necessarily terminal. He's proven remarkably resilient in the past."

If the DA is to capitalize on gains this week and broaden its appeal ahead of a general election in 2019 it will need to prove it can redistribute wealth to benefit the black majority. "Where I come from, there is a lot of pressure to vote for the ANC," said Tando, declining to give his last name due to the stigma attached to the DA in his township, where dirt tracks wind between makeshift shacks. "We've given the DA a chance to show what they can do. I hope they don't let us down." — Reuters

IOC CHIEF URGES UNITY IN 'WORLD OF CRISES'

RIO DE JANEIRO: International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach made an appeal for unity in a troubled world Friday as the opening ceremony for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games got under way. Bach, who has faced criticism in recent weeks for his decision not to ban Russia from the Games over a doping scandal, said the August 5-21 sporting extravaganza would send a message of hope to the watching world. "We are living in a world of crises, mistrust and uncertainty," Bach said. "Here is our Olympic answer: the 10,000 best athletes in the world, competing with each other, at the same time living peacefully together in one Olympic Village, sharing their meals and their emotions. "In this Olympic world, we see that the values of our shared humanity are stronger than the forces which want to divide us." Bach said the presence of the IOC's Olympic refugee team—comprising 10 athletes who have fled war or poverty to compete in Rio—was a riposte to a world "where selfishness is gaining ground, where certain people claim to be superior to others." "You are sending a message of hope to all the many millions of refugees around the globe. You had to flee from your homes because of violence, hunger or just because you were different," Bach said. "Now, with your great talent and human spirit you are making a great contribution to society." — AFP



AUSTRALIA'S TALLENT PULLS OUT OF 20KM WALK

RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia's Jared Tallent has pulled out of the 20km walk at the Rio Games because of a hamstring problem but will defend his Olympic title in the 50km race. The 31-year-old, second across the line in London in 2012, was awarded the 50km gold in a special ceremony in Melbourne in June after Russian Sergey Kirdyapkin had his result wiped from the record books for doping. Captain of the Australian track and field team at the Rio Games, Tallent said he had felt "a niggle" in his hamstring and decided to withdraw from the shorter event, which is the first final in the athletics competition next Friday. "The 50k has always been my main focus, my priority, that's the one I'm hopefully going to win a medal in," he told Australia's Channel Seven TV. "Although I would have liked to be out there in the 20k, it's just best not to risk it at this stage and put everything into the 50k. I want to have everything right for that." Tallent won medals in both walks at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, bronze in the 20km along with a silver in the 50km, but was seventh at the shorter distance in London. The 50km walk takes place on the eighth day of athletics competition in Rio on Aug 19. — Reuters

RUGBY SEVENS MAKES OLYMPIC DEBUT

RIO DE JANEIRO: France's Marjorie Mayans made history yesterday with the tournament's first try as rugby sevens made its debut at the Olympic Games. Mayans was put through for an easy run in past a stretched Spanish defence after three minutes of play in front of a sparse crowd of barely 1,000 at the 15,000-capacity Deodoro Stadium that included World Rugby president Bill Beaumont. World Rugby says it has sold two-thirds of the tickets for the sevens tournament. It was the first time since 1924 that rugby has been played at the Olympics and the debut for sevens, the previous four incarnations featuring men's 15-a-side tournaments. Despite ambitious attempts by the stadium announcer to get the crowd to sing along to Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline', adopted on the global Sevens Series as one of the sport's anthems, there was a muted reception for the two teams in blistering condition with temperatures hitting 30 degrees celsius (84F). Top seeds Australia will play the United States, Fiji and Colombia in Pool A while New Zealand, France, Spain and Kenya contest Pool B. Canada, Britain, Brazil and Japan complete the field in Pool C. The top two teams from each pool qualify for the knockout rounds, along with the two best third-placed sides. —AFP



MLB results/standings

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2; NY Yankees 13, Cleveland 7; Washington 5, San Francisco 1; Detroit 4, NY Mets 3; Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 2; Baltimore 7, Chicago White Sox 5; Houston 5, Texas 0; St. Louis 1, Atlanta 0; Toronto 4, Kansas City 3; Miami 5, Colorado 3; Arizona 3, Milwaukee 2 (11 Innings); Chicago Cubs 7, Oakland 2; Boston 9, LA Dodgers 0; Seattle 6, LA Angels 4; Philadelphia 5, San Diego 4.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	62	46	.574	-
Toronto	63	47	.573	-
Boston	60	48	.556	2
NY Yankees	55	54	.505	7.5
Tampa Bay	44	64	.407	18

Central Division

Cleveland	61	46	.570	-
Detroit	60	49	.550	2
Chicago White Sox	52	57	.477	10
Kansas City	51	58	.468	11
Minnesota	44	65	.404	18

Western Division

Texas	63	47	.573	-
Houston	57	52	.523	5.5
Seattle	55	53	.509	7
LA Angels	49	60	.450	13.5
Oakland	48	61	.440	14.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	65	44	.596	-
Miami	58	51	.532	7
NY Mets	56	53	.514	9
Philadelphia	51	60	.459	15
Atlanta	39	70	.358	26

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	67	41	.620	-
St. Louis	58	51	.532	9.5
Pittsburgh	54	53	.505	12.5
Milwaukee	48	59	.449	18.5
Cincinnati	44	64	.407	23

Western Division

San Francisco	62	47	.569	-
LA Dodgers	60	49	.550	2
Colorado	54	55	.495	8
San Diego	47	62	.431	15
Arizona	44	65	.404	18



NEW YORK: New York Yankees' Starlin Castro, right, and Cleveland Indians third baseman Jose Ramirez look to umpire Dan Iassogna as he calls Castro out at third base during the sixth inning of a baseball game at Yankee Stadium, Friday in New York. —AP

STARLIN CASTRO'S SLAM LEADS YANKEES OVER INDIANS 13-7

NEW YORK: Starlin Castro hit a third-inning grand slam off Josh Tomlin that gave the Yankees a six-run lead and Mark Teixeira got two hits after tearfully announcing his retirement as New York beat Cleveland 13-7 on Friday night. Jacoby Ellsbury had a four-hit game, and Michael Pineda (6-10) won for the third time in four outings following a six-start winless streak, allowing four runs and six hits in six-plus innings. New York's Gary Sanchez made his first league start behind the plate and threw out Jason Kipnis and Mike Napoli trying to steal second base in the first two innings. The rookie, called up from the minors on Wednesday, doubled in the fifth for his first big league RBI and walked with the bases loaded in the sixth. The Yankees had 16 hits, including at least one by every starter, and the Indians failed to retire New York in order in any inning. Cleveland lost for the fourth time in five games, and its AL Central lead over second-place Detroit was cut to two games. Slowed by injuries, Teixeira said he will retire after this season at age 36. He doubled in the first inning and legged out a single in the third on a ball stopped by Kipnis, the second baseman, in short right field. At .202, Teixeira's average reached .200 for the first time since before play on May 20. Tomlin (11-4) allowed a season-high seven earned runs and nine hits in 4 2/3 innings and is 3-3 in 10 outings since an 8-1 start.

CUBS 7, ATHLETICS 2

Jorge Soler hit a three-run home run in his first at-bat following a two-month absence and Jon Lester pitched seven innings as Chicago beat Oakland. Dexter Fowler also homered, and Javier Baez added a two-run double to help Chicago win its fifth straight. The Cubs also improved to a major league-best 67-41. Lester pitched for the A's over the final two months of the 2014 season. He returned to the Coliseum for the first time since then and faced a distinctly different Oakland team than the one he left. Lester (12-4) had eight strikeouts, allowed two runs and nine hits while winning for the third time in his last four starts. Dillon Overton (1-3) gave up seven runs in three innings.

NATIONALS 5, GIANTS 1

Gio Gonzalez pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and Trea Turner and Wilson

Ramos homered as Washington beat San Francisco in a matchup of first-place teams. Washington jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first inning against Jeff Samardzija (9-8), and Gonzalez made it stand. Coming off a 3-1 loss in San Francisco on Sunday, Gonzalez (7-9) struck out seven, walked one and had five three-up, three-down innings. The two hits he allowed were a solo homer by Angel Pagan in the fourth and a single by Denard Span in the sixth. Sammy Solis gave up two hits in the eighth and Mark Melancon got three straight outs to complete the four-hitter. It was the fourth straight win for the NL East-leading Nationals. The Giants remained atop the NL West, though their lead is dwindling. Since the All-Star break, San Francisco is 5-14 and has allowed 32 home runs. Samardzija gave up five runs in seven innings and is 0-3 with a 6.85 ERA in his four starts since the break.

RED SOX 9, DODGERS 0

Knuckleballer Steven Wright threw a three-hitter and Mookie Betts had one of Boston's three homers as the Red Sox routed Los Angeles with David Ortiz out of the lineup in a National League park. Wright (13-5) had nine strikeouts in his third complete game this season. He retired 15 in a row and won his fifth straight decision. Sandy Leon hit a two-run homer in the fourth and had four RBIs. Travis Shaw also homered, connecting for the 14th time this season. Dodgers starter Scott Kazmir (9-5) has lost two straight since a 13-start unbeaten streak. He allowed four runs on five hits in 5 1/3 innings. Ortiz is expected back in the lineup Saturday, according to Red Sox manager John Farrell. He'll play first base.

TIGERS 4, METS 3

Martinez homered and Detroit ace Justin Verlander limited New York to four hits in six innings to help the Tigers to their ninth victory in their last 10 games. Verlander (12-6) allowed only two runs and struck out nine, but the Mets ran his pitch count up to 103 to force him out of the game. Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 31st save. James Loney drove in a ninth-inning run with a groundout, and Rodriguez retired Kelly Johnson to end the game. Johnson homered in the fourth for the Mets. They have lost four

straight. Noah Syndergaard (9-6) also ran into pitch-count trouble, needing 112 to get through his six innings.

CARDINALS 1, BRAVES 0

Jaime Garcia pitched eight scoreless innings and had an RBI single to lead St. Louis past Atlanta. Garcia (8-8) struck out 11 to top the 100-strikeout mark for the third time in his career. He pitched out of a two-on, no-out jam in the fourth, striking out Freddie Freeman and Matt Kemp before getting Adonis Garcia to ground out. Freeman and Kemp, third and fourth in the Braves' lineup, were a combined 0 for 6 against Garcia with five strikeouts. Garcia's two-out single in the second drove in Matt Holliday. The Cardinals' South Korean closer Seung Hwan Oh got the last three outs for his ninth save. Joel De La Cruz (0-4) was the loser.

ORIOLES 7, WHITE SOX 5

Pedro Alvarez hit two solo shots to extend his homer streak as Baltimore had 16 hits to overpower Chicago and keep pace with Toronto for first place in the AL East. Alvarez has five homers in his last three games. Manny Machado doubled in two runs and scored in the third in a three-hit night, and Adam Jones and J.J. Hardy also had three hits each to help the Orioles win for the fourth time in five games. Yovani Gallardo (4-3) pitched six innings of two-run ball for his first victory since June 29. Zach Britton struck out three in the ninth for his 34th save in 34 chances. Jose Abreu homered for Chicago. Miguel Gonzalez (2-6) was the loser.

BLUE JAYS 4, ROYALS 3

Devon Travis hit his second homer of the game in the ninth inning to lift Toronto past Kansas City. Travis led off the game with a home run, then ripped a 1-2 pitch from Kelvin Herrera (1-3) into the Royals' bullpen for his first career multihomer game. Brett Cecil (1-6) pitched the eighth for the victory, and Joaquin Benoit worked the ninth for his first save since September 3 while with San Diego. Francisco Liriano made his first start for Toronto after being acquired Monday from Pittsburgh. He allowed three runs, seven hits and two walks. Paulo Orlando homered for Kansas City.

TWINS 6, RAYS 2

Eddie Rosario had a pinch-hit two-run homer in the seventh inning and Miguel Sano homered and had three hits as Minnesota beat Tampa Bay. Rosario's seventh homer put the Twins up 3-2 after Erasmo Ramirez (7-9) walked Eduardo Escobar. Sano connected off Ramirez in the eighth. Joe Mauer drove in two more runs with a double in the ninth. Brad Miller's solo homer off starter Ervin Santana gave the Rays a 2-1 lead in the sixth. It was the fifth homer in seven games for Miller and his 20th of the season. Santana (5-9) struck out eight in 6 1/3 innings.

MARLINS 5, ROCKIES 3

Martin Prado hit a go-ahead, two-run single during a four-run rally in the ninth inning that sent Miami over Colorado in a matchup of NL wild-card contenders. After a throwing error by second baseman Dee Gordon helped the Rockies score three times in the eighth, the Marlins bounced back. Miami ended a three-game skid and stayed even with St. Louis for the second wild-card spot, with Colorado falling four games behind. Marlins pinch-hitter Ichiro Suzuki struck out on three pitches and remains two hits away from 3,000. He is in an 0-for-11 slump. The first three Marlins reached base in the ninth as Adeiny Hechavarria's RBI single cut the lead to 3-2 off closer Carlos Estevez (2-6). Prado singled with the bases loaded and Christian Yelich added a sacrifice fly. Brian Ellington (2-1) finished the eighth, and A.J. Ramos got his 32nd save.

MARINERS 6, ANGELS 4

Mike Zunino capped Seattle's six-run first inning with a three-run home run off Tim Lincecum as the Mariners held off Los Angeles. Seattle overcame a rough first from starter Felix Hernandez and rallied with its largest first-inning outburst since scoring seven runs on May 15, 2013, against the New York Yankees. Seattle sent up 10 batters and had seven hits against Lincecum (2-6), capped by Zunino's sixth homer of the season. Hernandez (6-4) settled down after giving up a three-run shot to Mike Trout in the first. He retired 12 of the next 13 after Trout's 20th homer and picked up his second win since coming off the disabled list. Rookie Edwin Diaz struck out the side in the ninth for his

third save in three chances.

ASTROS 5, RANGERS 0

Dallas Keuchel threw a three-hitter to help Houston beat Texas for just the second time in 11 tries this season. Keuchel (7-11) allowed a career low in hits while throwing his fourth major league shutout. He struck out seven and walked two. Jose Altuve had two hits and drove in two runs to help the Astros close within 5 1/2 games of the AL West-leading Rangers. Houston had lost three in a row overall. Houston got to Martin Perez (7-8) for four runs in the third. Altuve hit an RBI double, Carlos Correa followed with a two-run single before Tyler White had an RBI single.

PIRATES 3, REDS 2

Sean Rodriguez homered leading off the ninth inning to lift Pittsburgh past Cincinnati. Rodriguez connected off Ross Ohlendorf (5-7), a 413-foot drive to the left-field bleachers that gave the Pirates their second win in seven games in the midst of 12 straight games against teams who are at least 10 games under .500. It was Rodriguez's second career game-ending homer and his 11th home run of the season. The Reds tied it at 2 in the top of the ninth on pinch-hitter Ramon Cabrera's sacrifice fly off Tony Watson (2-3).

DIAMONDBACKS 3, BREWERS 2, 11 INNINGS

Wellington Castillo drew a one-out walk with the bases loaded to drive in Paul Goldschmidt with the winning run. Goldschmidt led off the inning with a single off Blaine Boyer (1-2) and moved to second on Jake Lamb's single. One out later, David Peralta reached on an error to load the bases and Castillo walked on a 3-1 pitch. Reliever Adam Loewen (1-0) struck out two in a scoreless inning. Yasmany Tomas hit two solo home runs.

PHILLIES 5, PADRES 4

Cameron Rupp homered and tied a career high with four RBIs to lift Philadelphia. Phillies starter Jeremy Hellickson (9-7) allowed three runs, six hits and two walks. Jeanmar Gomez pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 30 chances. Christian Friedrich (4-7) lost for the sixth time in his last seven decisions, surrendering four runs and five hits. —AP

WAGHORN SAVES RANGERS BLUSHES ON PREMIERSHIP RETURN

GLASGOW: A Martin Waghorn goal midway through the second-half salvaged a point for Scottish giants Rangers as they drew 1-1 with Hamilton on their return to the Scottish Premiership at Ibrox. Rangers, who gained promotion at the end of last season after a four-year hiatus following a financial meltdown, found themselves behind in the 30th minute when Alister Crawford sent a superb strike past Wes Foderingham.

Substitute Harry Forrester set up Waghorn to fire home the equaliser in the 62nd minute before the goalscorer was forced to limp off in the 85th minute leaving Rangers, who had used all their substitutes, to play the final minutes with 10 men.

It was not the signal of intent Mark Warburton's side would have wanted to send to Old Firm rivals Celtic, who open their title defence away to Hearts today. Rangers thought they had

announced their return with a goal within the first minute when Waghorn drove along the byline before cutting back for 36-year-old veteran Kenny Miller to tap in but the ball had gone out of play in the build-up.

A minute later former Croatian international Niko Kranjcar picked out Andy Halliday at the edge of the box with a high ball over the top and Hamilton goalkeeper Remi Matthews did well to push away his fierce strike.

Hamilton soaked up all the pressure before Crawford handed them a surprise lead. The forward collected a pass on the right of the box before turning Kranjcar and curling a shot into the top corner.

Rangers were stunned but came close to responding as Waghorn's free-kick from the edge of the box clipped the outside of the far post. It took a double substitution in the 61st minute to provide the inspiration for Rangers'

equaliser. Forrester had been on the pitch for only a matter of seconds before he floated a pass with the inside of his right foot to Waghorn who slotted the ball under Matthews to the relief of the home support. Forrester had the fans on their feet moments later when he burst into the box from the right and drilled an arrowed shot just wide of the far post. However, despite their late pressure the hosts were unable to mark their return with a win. —AFP



GALLE: Sri Lanka's captain Angelo Mathews, (C) and teammates Rangana Herath (L) and Dilruwan Perera leave the grounds with the stumps after victory in the second Test match between Sri Lanka and Australia at The Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle yesterday. — AFP

PERERA WRECKS AUSTRALIA AS SRI LANKA SEAL SERIES

GALLE: Dilruwan Perera laid bare Australia's spin frailties again yesterday to spin Sri Lanka to a series-clinching 229-run victory inside three days of the second test in Galle. The 34-year-old claimed 6-70 as the world's top-ranked test team folded for 183 in their pursuit of an improbable 413-run victory target.

The off-spinner became the first Sri Lankan player to score a fifty and claim 10 wickets in the same match as the hosts clinched their first test series victory over Australia since 1999.

Perera also became the fastest Sri Lankan to claim 50 test wickets, achieving the feat in his 11th match, and won the man-of-the-match award for his all-round brilliance. "Not too many teams do this to the number-one team," home captain Angelo Mathews said after his team prevailed in the bowler-dominated contest that saw 33 wickets tumble on the first two days.

"After winning the toss, we had to put a decent score on the board and once again it was a special effort by Kusal Mendis and what a performance Dilruwan came up with," he said. Resuming day three on 25 for three, Australia captain Steve Smith (30) and deputy David Warner (41) showed positive intent, frequently using their feet against the spinners even though they were merely delaying a defeat that looked inevitable. Perera separated them when he trapped Warner leg-before with a straight

delivery. The batsman reviewed the decision but could not get it overturned.

The spinner then returned to induce Smith into giving a bat-pad catch to Kusal Silva at forward short leg and went on to complete his five-wicket haul when Adam Voges (28) attempted a reverse sweep only to have his leg stump pegged back. Mendis displayed tremendous reflexes as he stopped a Peter Nevill shot at forward short leg and flicked it back on the stumps to run out the batsman and trigger wild celebrations at the Galle International Stadium.

Sri Lankan spinners claimed 18 of the 20 Australian wickets to fall in the contest, underlying the tourists' struggle on turning tracks.

"It's incredibly hard to play against (spin), particularly (coming) from Australia. We are not accustomed to that. It's very foreign," Smith admitted.

"Our record shows that we've won a game in about 15 or 16 in the sub-continent. We certainly have a lot of work to do. We have to find ways to score and find ways to take wickets and keep the runs dry," added the Australia captain. Among the visitors, only paceman Mitchell Starc redeemed himself with a match haul of 11 wickets on a spin-friendly track, while none of the Australian batsmen managed a fifty. The teams now move to Colombo for the third and final test from next Saturday. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day in the second Test between Sri Lanka and Australia yesterday in Galle, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka 1st innings 281 (K. Mendis 86, A. Mathews 54; M. Starc 5-44)	M. Marsh lbw b Sandakan 18
Australia 1st innings 106 (D. Perera 4-29, R. Herath 4-35)	P. Nevill run out (K. Mendis) 24
Sri Lanka 2nd innings 237 (D. Perera 64; M. Starc 6-50)	M. Starc b Herath 26
Australia 2nd innings (Overnight: 25-3; Target: 413 runs)	J. Hazlewood c&b D. Perera 7
D. Warner lbw b D. Perera 41	J. Holland not out 0
J. Burns c D. de Silva b Herath 2	Extras (lb-7) 7
N. Lyon c K. Silva b D. Perera 0	Total (all out, 50.1 overs) 183
U. Khawaja b D. Perera 0	Fall of wickets: 1-3 J. Burns, 2-10 N. Lyon, 3-10 U. Khawaja, 4-61 D. Warner, 5-80 S. Smith, 6-119 M. Marsh, 7-123 A. Voges, 8-164 M. Starc, 9-181 J. Hazlewood, 10-183 P. Nevill.
S. Smith c K. Mendis b D. Perera 30	Bowling: R. Herath 19.1-1-74-2, D. Perera 23-5-70-6, L. Sandakan 6-1-30-1, D. de Silva 2-0-2-0.
A. Voges b D. Perera 28	Result: Sri Lanka won by 229 runs.



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's Mohammad Amir (R) celebrates taking the wicket of England's James Vince (L) on the fourth day of the third test cricket match between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham, yesterday. At lunch, England were 183 for two in their second innings — a lead of 80 runs — after losing openers Alastair Cook and Alex Hales. — AFP

HURRICANES BEAT LIONS IN SUPER RUGBY FINAL

WELLINGTON: A year after a painful defeat in the final and after 21 years of unrewarded effort, the Hurricanes won the Super Rugby title for the first time yesterday, beating South Africa's Lions 20-3 in a final played in frigid conditions.

Flyhalf Beauden Barrett scored a try among 15 points for the Hurricanes to surpass his own season points-scoring record and to lead the Hurricanes to a title victory which overcame years of disappointments.

The Wellington-based Hurricanes played in the first-ever Super Rugby match in March 1996 and had played in two finals in two decades before Saturday's match, falling short in losses to the Crusaders in 2006 and the Highlanders last year. The defeat by the Highlanders hit the Hurricanes hard as they entered that match as favorites, playing on their home ground, only to go down 21-14. Bitter memories of that as motivation this season as they reached the final again as the tournament's top-ranked team, against the Lions who were also seeking their first title. The Hurricanes and Lions compiled the best attacking records in Super Rugby this season as they ended their regular season in first and second places, then swept imperiously through the quarterfinals and semifinals.

But they were forced to diverge from their usual attacking plans in a match played in rain and in wind which chilled the air temperature below freezing. The Hurricanes also denied the Lions with stifling defense, holding an opponent tryless for the fourth match in succession.

While they didn't achieve their best rugby, the Hurricanes still managed a try in each half. After having one try disallowed, winger Cory Jane scored another to contribute to the Hurricanes' 10-3 halftime lead.

The match remained in the balance at 13-3 until the 68th minute when, in a moment of brilliant opportunism, Barrett pounced on a loose ball knocked back over the Lions' goalline for the decisive try.

The contest between Barrett and his Lions opposite Elton Jantjies — likely to be renewed when the All Blacks play the Springboks in this season's Rugby Championship — seemed likely to be a key to the match and it was. While Barrett played with the poise that has distinguished his play all season, Jantjies appeared to lose his nerve in the face of the Hurricanes' rush defense.

NERVOUS

Jantjies started nervously, sending the first kickoff of the match dead in goal and when the Hurricanes continually rushed up to sever the link to his outside backs and he began to rush his kicks and passing.

Kicking became a vital part of the match because of the cold and slippery conditions and



WELLINGTON: The Hurricanes' captain, Dane Coles, center celebrates with teammates after their victory over the Lions of South Africa in the Super Rugby final in Wellington, New Zealand, yesterday. The Hurricanes won the final 20-3. — AP

neither side excelled in that area. Jantjies' kicking game was off but the Hurricanes were also less efficient that they needed to be in their kick reception.

Barrett put the Hurricanes ahead with a 10th-minute penalty, then Jane made up for his early misfortune when he snatched out of the air a failed clearing kick from Lionel Mapoe and raced over. The Lions' only points came from a penalty to Jantjies in the 25th minute. The Hurricanes edged ahead with a Barrett penalty in the 51st

minute before the flyhalf capped an outstanding season with the try that won the final.

While the Lions were beaten in their first finals appearance, they were still able to look back on their best-ever Super Rugby season and look forward to further improvement under coach Johan Ackermann. "It's been a phenomenal season and I'm really proud of every single player," said captain Warren Whiteley, who also played with an injury. "The Hurricanes thoroughly deserved it tonight." — AP

LATHAM TON HELPS BLACK CAPS DOMINATE ZIMBABWE

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Opener Tom Latham scored his second consecutive century in Zimbabwe as New Zealand's batsmen dominated the opening day of the second Test at Queens Sports Club yesterday. Latham's 105 set New Zealand up for a mammoth total and crushing victory in the first Test, and he bettered that score to give the Black Caps a commanding platform. The 24-year-old recorded his fifth Test century and went on to make 136, before succumbing to what proved to be the final ball of the day as New Zealand closed on 329 for two.

Zimbabwe's bowlers claimed just six wickets in a horribly one-sided first Test, and endured a similarly frustrating day on another docile pitch yesterday. With the seamers lacking in pace, Latham and Martin Guptill had no trouble seeing off the new ball and went on to construct an opening stand of 169. "We complement each other well," said Guptill. "Tommy is good square of the wickets and I am strong down the ground. "We were able to get our partnership off to a strong start which helped towards the middle of the day. "They couldn't put enough pressure on us - taking 20 wickets in a Test is no easy feat but this is going to be even harder."

Guptill was eventually dismissed in the hour before tea when Donald Tiripano snuck a straight delivery through his defences to trap him lbw for 87. But any joy for Zimbabwe was short-lived, as Latham went on to add 160 for the second wicket with Kane Williamson. "This is my home ground, and I was having a chuckle with the coach upstairs because Queens has never been this flat ever, in my 10 years of playing here," said offspinner John Nyumbu, who came into the Zimbabwe side as one of three changes. "The lack of assistance in the wicket was difficult. We knew it was going to be like that and we knew we had to apply ourselves. We let it slip here and there." Latham failed to see out the day when he was caught and bowled by left-arm spinner Sean Williams, but Williamson went to stumps unbeaten on 95, within touching distance of becoming the first New Zealand batsman to score a century against all nine Test nations. The day also saw Zimbabwe's fans stage a

peaceful protest against President Robert Mugabe's government when they rose as one at the end of the 36th over to sing the national anthem. The number signified the number of years that Mugabe has been in power, and the action

was initiated by the #ThisFlag citizen movement that has brought stayaways and public demonstrations across the country over the past six weeks. Their call to action drew the biggest crowd that Queens had seen during the series. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Scoreboard at the close of play on the first day of the second Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand yesterday:

New Zealand first innings:	87	Boult.
M. Guptill lbw b Tiripano	136	Bowling: Tiripano 14-3-58-1, Chinouya 15-5-43-0, Chibhabha 9-2-30-0, Cremer 25-1-108-0, Nyumbu 22-1-63-0, Williams 2.5-0-15-1, Sikandar Raza 2-0-8-0.
T. Latham c and b Williams	95	Zimbabwe: Chamu Chibhabha, Tino Mawoyo, Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, Sikandar Raza Butt, Prince Masvaure, Peter Moor, Graeme Cremer, Donald Tiripano, John Nyumbu, Mike Chinouya.
K. Williamson not out	11	
Extras (4b, 7nb)	329	
Total (for 2 wkts, 89.5 overs)		
Still to bat: Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, BJ Watling, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Trent		



BULAWAYO: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (back R) tries to catch the ball during the first day of the second test in a series of two matches between Zimbabwe and New Zealand at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, yesterday. — AFP



BASKETBALL



RIO DE JANEIRO: France's guard Marine Johannes (3rd R) battles Turkey's defence during a Women's round Group A basketball match between Turkey and France at the Youth Arena in Rio de Janeiro yesterday during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP



SWIMMING

WILL TRUCE IN SWIMSUIT WARS CARRY ON PAST RIO OLYMPICS?

RIO DE JANEIRO: There's one question swimmers won't hear this month around the Olympic Aquatics Stadium in Rio de Janeiro: What are you wearing?

Olympic coaches and swimmers would prefer it remain that way, never wanting to go back to the swimsuit wars that culminated with a ludicrous display of speed at the 2009 world championships.

Yet, the big-money swimsuit companies - so crucial to the sport's financial viability - are always pressing to show off their high-tech chops, which are severely crimped by rules that restrict the size and fabrics for competition swimsuits. Some are wondering just how long the status quo will remain in place after the Rio Games end on Aug. 21. "I do believe there will be something that's coming," American swimmer Elizabeth Beisel said. "Whether it's in the next five years, 10 years, who knows? But it'll get back to where it was, for sure."

That prospect is anathema to those who remember what happened seven years ago in Rome, when a decade of radical changes in swimsuit design led to the introduction of rubberized bodysuits. Forty-three world records were set at a meet that was more farce than competition, leading governing body FINA to hastily impose new swimsuit rules that mandated only textile fabrics, banned zippers and restricted the amount of coverage from the waist to the top of the knees for men - so-called "jammers" - and to the upper body and upper legs for women. While the swimsuit companies still tout the quality of their suits and push the limits as far as they can within the rules, it's clear they would like a little more leeway. "It definitely unleashes a little more creativity and innovation if the rules are relaxed a bit," said Todd Mitchell, who helped develop Michael Phelps' signature swimsuit line for Aqua Sphere.

Kate Wilton, the senior director of merchandising and design at Speedo, said the current rules forced the swimsuit giant to change its design approach.

COLORFUL

"A lot more energy now goes into the actual design of the suit and its print," she said. "The suits have become more colorful." But, Wilton added, "obviously, we love it when people can push innovation a little bit more." Specifically, she mentioned the idea of allowing the men's suits to cover more of their bodies. "If that happens, we'll be ready," she said.

Speedo was on the cutting edge of the swimsuit wars with its revolutionary LZR Racer, which was developed with help from NASA's wind tunnel testing facilities and became the go-to attire heading into the 2008 Beijing Olympics. With polyurethane incorporated into the fabric and strategically placed panels that compressed the body in key spots, the suit helped a swimmer stay higher in the water and minimize resistance - essentially mimicking the effect of a dolphin gliding through the ocean. Phelps was wearing the LZR when he won a record eight gold medals in China, famously capturing a \$1 million bonus from Speedo. But by the following summer, the suit was basically rendered obsolete by the fully rubberized models that led the assault on the record books in Rome.

"Pretty much anybody could swim fast in those suits," Beisel said. "Now, you definitely need to be a hard worker and have some yardage and stuff under your belt. You can't just rely on the suits to make you fast anymore."

USA Swimming wants to keep it that way, but also knows that swimsuit companies have huge influence within the sport. "It's not that we are opposed to science, but we want the performance on the athletes to be gauged on their hard work, on what they're able to accomplish without technological aids, specifically swimsuits," said Chuck Wielgus, executive director of USA Swimming. —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this Aug. 2, 2009 file photo, Germany's Britta Steffen, right, walks off with Dara Torres of the United States, after winning a women's 50-meter freestyle final, at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome. Rules to limit high-tech swimsuits have made it to another Olympics, but some wonder if the status quo will remain in place after Rio. — AP

SPAIN LEADS RECORD 34 NBA PLAYERS OUT TO TOPPLE USA

RIO DE JANEIRO: Spaniards settled for second best to US NBA stars at the past two Olympics, but Pau Gasol and his teammates hope their third upset attempt is charmed.

Outside of the American dozen of NBA standouts, a record 34 NBA players are on other Olympics rivals, five more than in 2012.

Apart from Team USA, Spain offers the most NBA experience at the Rio Olympics with seven active players and three former NBA players in the lineup. Australia, France and Brazil each boast five NBA players.

Argentina has four and only two teams in Rio, China and Venezuela, lack any active NBA talent-a testimony to the impact of the original 1992 US Olympic "Dream Team."

"Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, David Robinson-all those guys had so much fun and that's what you envision when you see the Olympics," said US Olympian Kyle Lowry.

"A lot of people say, 'The reason I started playing basketball was because of the Dream Team.' So I hope that in 20 years some teams will have seen us play in 2016 and that made them play basketball."

Former NBA player Juan Carlos Navarro makes his fifth Olympic appearance for

Spain while former NBAer Rudy Fernandez and current Laker Jose Calderon and Gasol play in their fourth Olympics.

Other Spanish NBA talent includes Oklahoma City's Alex Abrines, New York's Guillermo Hernangomez, Chicago's Nikola Mirotic, Minnesota's Ricky Rubio and Philadelphia's Sergio Rodriguez.

Spain would love nothing more than to dethrone the US squad for Olympic gold, having lost the 2008 Beijing final 118-107 and the 2012 London final 107-100.

"It would mean the world," said 36-year-old center Gasol, a two-time NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers who now plays for the San Antonio Spurs. "But it's extremely hard. That's why it would mean so much."

Spain begins Group B play today against Croatia. Other preliminary round openers in Spain's group find Argentina against Nigeria and host Brazil facing Lithuania.

"We have to do a lot of things right," Gasol said. "We have to work to beat a lot of great teams to have a chance to get there, so we've got to grow as the tournament advances and deserve to get there."

But one key missing big man for Spain is Marc Gasol, Pau's brother who has a foot injury. "He was very important. We have to

find out how we're going to play without him," said Mirotic. "Defensively we need to step up, especially because Marc is not here." Mirotic is confident Spain has what it takes to humble the Americans. "They have a superstar team. Everybody can score 20 points," he said. "But you never know. Anything is possible. It's too early to think about the final. We need to think about our group."

COACH K LIKES SPANISH BONDS

US coach Mike Krzyzewski praised Spain's chemistry and teamwork, bonds built over years while the US team only assembled on July 18.

"They are experienced together and that's something our team doesn't have," Krzyzewski said. "There's a brotherhood, a familiarity they have and a pride to play for their country."

Argentina is sparked by San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili and Brooklyn big man Luis Scioia while Brazil's NBA lineup includes Phoenix's Leandro Barbosa, Nene of Houston and Utah's Raul Neto.

The USA tops Group A favorites with China, France, Australia, Serbia and Venezuela.

The Aussie Boomers feature Dallas Mavericks big man Andrew Bogut, San

Olympic Scores/ Results

FIELD HOCKEY-Men
Netherlands 3, Argentina 3
India 3, Ireland 2

RUGBY-Women
France 24, Spain 7
New Zealand 52, Kenya 0
Britain 29, Brazil 3

TEAM HANDBALL-Women
Brazil 31, Norway 28

VOLLEYBALL-Women
South Korea 3, Japan 1 (19-25, 25-15, 25-17, 25-21)

WATER POLO-Men
Serbia 13, Hungary 13
Croatia 7, United States 5. —AP

Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills and Milwaukee's Matthew Dellavedova, who helped the Cavaliers beat Golden State in June. The French offer Charlotte's Nicolas Batum, Utah's Boris Diaw and San Antonio star guard Tony Parker, who has helped the Spurs claim four NBA crowns. —AFP



CYCLING

US RIDING WAVE OF POWER FOR WOMEN'S ROAD RACE CYCLING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Evelyn Stevens has built the kind of resume in cycling that should make her one of the favorites to land on the podium in today's Olympic road race.

She nearly didn't get the chance to compete at all. In perhaps the strongest sign of American might, the four women selected for the road race were not set until just before leaving for Rio - and after several arbitration hearings sought by riders who believed they had earned the chance to race along Copacabana Beach.

"That was the first time I ever had that experience," said Stevens, who also competed at the London Olympics four years ago. "I wouldn't call it a pleasant process to go through for anyone."

Especially riders such as Carmen Small and Amber Neben who lost their cases.

USA Cycling does not use Olympic trials for its team. It relies instead on a complex set of criteria giving riders the opportunity to earn automatic nomination through results on the world stage, such as reaching the podium at the world championships like Megan Guarnier did last fall.

If that doesn't fill out the team, the decision goes to a committee that examines riders' resumes against the selection criteria. And that opens the entire process to accusations of bias.

The committee this year chose Stevens, Mara Abbott and Kristin Armstrong to ride along Guarnier, and all three are deserving. Stevens is the current hour record holder, Abbott is among the best climbers in the world and perfect for the hilly Rio course, and Armstrong is a two-time gold medalist

in the time trial - she must also ride in the road race to compete in that event.

SO WHERE DID THE PROBLEM OCCUR?

Well, Small trumped both Stevens and Armstrong in the time trial at the national championships earlier this year. Neben has competed for years on the world stage and won several medals. It became such a conundrum that USA Cycling may implement trials for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

"You have to be careful because our No. 1 objective is to select the best team for a given Olympics," USA Cycling chief executive Derek Bouchard-Hall told The Associated Press. "And trials isn't necessarily the way to do it because you introduce an element of luck. What if someone crashes? What if someone is sick? It's different in running where people don't get flat tires."

"You introduce an element of chance where you could not have your best athletes going."

Bouchard-Hall believes one solution might be to combine the two selection systems. Riders could still earn an automatic spot through results over a period of time, and there could still be a role for the committee to select riders. But one spot would also go to the winner of trials.

That is the system that is used to select the three-man BMX squad for the Olympics. "The system we have opens you up to accusations of bias and unfairness and that's totally understandable," Bouchard-Hall said. "Having lived that personally as an athlete, I understand that."

There are other benefits of Olympic tri-

als, such as broadcast and marketing opportunities, which would help with Bouchard-Hall's goal of expanding cycling to a broader audience.

In the meantime, the four riders lining up for Sunday's road race form a formidable squad, with Guarnier one of the biggest favorites after her recent victory in the Giro Rosa. They will be challenged by a strong Dutch squad that includes reigning gold medalist Marianne Vos and Anna Van Der Breggen, British star Lizzie Armitstead and Poland's Katarzyna Niewiadoma.

They will be tackling a slightly shorter version of the men's course that caused all kinds of problems Sunday. Numerous riders lost chains or had other mechanical problems on the cobblestones, including Tour de France winner Chris Froome, who needed a bike change midway through.

The race begins and ends in the shadows of Fort Copacabana along the beach.

"It's a hard circuit, like nothing I've done before," said New Zealand's Linda Villumsen, "so it's hard to know what sort of rider it will suit." — AP



LONDON: In this March 4, 2016, file photo, the United States' Sarah Hammer, Kelly Catlin, Chloe Dygert and Jennifer Valente compete in the team pursuit first round at the World Track Cycling championships at the Lee Valley Velopark in London. The US team shredded the world record in the women's team pursuit in March. They offer the best US chance of winning a cycling medal at the Rio Olympics, but will be pushed by the top-ranked British squad and world bronze medalist Canada. — AP



BEACH VOLLEYBALL



RIO DE JANEIRO: Italy's Adrian Ignacio Carambula Raurich (L) spikes the ball during the men's beach volleyball qualifying match between Italy and Austria at the Beach Volley Arena in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

WITH RUSSIA WEAKENED, WHO WILL STOP USA?

RIO DE JANEIRO: Team USA confidently eyed top spot on the Rio Olympics medals table on Friday after Russia's contingent was slashed over a doping scandal, paving the way for a bumper American haul.

Russia's losses include their entire track and field team, an area where the United States will capitalise but which is not a strength for China, their nearest challengers on the overall table in 2012.

As US Secretary of State John Kerry visited the American track and field and volleyball teams on Friday, the mood in the camp was expectant.

"You are a huge example to the world," Kerry told about 50 hushed athletes as at least one of them, overcome by the occasion, wiped away tears. "Everybody in the United States of America is proud of you. I know you've set out to win medals, but everybody here is a winner already."

Russia finished second on the tally for athletics medals in 2012, behind the United States who led the overall 2012 Games table by eight gold medals from China.

Russia's contingent is their smallest in more than a century after recriminations over the discovery of a large-scale, state-sponsored doping conspiracy.

The USA athletes also received a surprise boost in the form of swimming great Mark Spitz, who travelled with Kerry and addressed the team at their training base.

Spitz won an astonishing seven golds at the 1972 Munich Olympics, a record that stood for 36 years until it was broken by Michael Phelps' haul of eight in 2008.

"If you have an event that's only one event and you get a medal, you are just as important as Michael, because we are Olympians forever," Spitz said. On Friday, the top story on the Team USA website was about two separate projections that the 555-strong American contingent will top the medals table.

And Ashley Spencer, the hotly tipped 400m hurdler, said the American athletes knew they were capable of coming out on top. "We have some of the world's best athletes," she told AFP. "Once we come together and at the end of it all when we look back, if everyone handles their business I think we could be at the top." Spencer added: "Everyone's ready to go." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's flagbearer Michael Phelps leads his delegation during the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. — AFP

SO BRAZIL! COPACABANA DEBUT DELIGHTS FANS DESPITE QUEUES

RIO DE JANEIRO: In what might well become the defining image of Brazil's Olympics, the beach volleyball competition kicked off on the iconic Copacabana beach yesterday to the cheers of hundreds of fired-up Brazilian fans.

The only problem was that many more spectators were left waiting outside the venue in long queues.

With the Atlantic Ocean glistening behind the 12,000-strong purpose-built arena, Brazilians revelled in having one of their favourite sports played on one of the world's most famous beaches.

"It's like a spoon to sugar. The perfect pairing," exclaimed shirtless bartender Wilson Pucci, 40, from the vertiginous bleachers as he watched local male favourites Alison Cerutti and Bruno Schmidt win their match.

Cheers, chants of "Brazil!" and blaring Latin American pop hits filled the arena. For those who had flown in from afar, the vibe was unbeatable.

"When you feel like there is nowhere else in the world that is better to be than right here, right now, that's a great feeling and that's what I've got today," said Dan Rookwood, 38, visiting from New York. "It's a massive bucket-list item ticket," he said above the roars. With past Olympic beach volleyball games played at parks, on royal parade grounds, or even next to car parks, the Rio beach venue was a godsend for players too.

"When I walked in, I actually got a little bit emotional," said Italy's Adrian Carambula, 28, who with his partner Alex Ranghieri beat Austria's Alexander Horst and Clemens Doppler in the first match.

"I was expecting it, I embraced, and I play with it." But another notorious facet of Brazilian life was on display as scores of fans were stuck in long queues that stretched along the Rio beachfront, leaving athletes initially competing in front of eerily empty stands.

"It was meant to start at 10 a.m., it's 10:30 a.m., and we still have some 200 metres to go," said Buenos Aires lawyer Guido Guillermo, 47, as vendors hawked coconuts and hats around him.

Even there, however, Brazil's natural wonders took precedence.

"Lining up in this climate, with the sun and this view isn't the same as doing it in the cold and rain," he added,

just metres from people tanning, swimming and jogging beside Copacabana's volleyball arena. — Reuters

EASY WIN FOR FIRST BOXING PRO IN GAMES HISTORY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Italy's Carmine Tommasone yesterday became the first professional in history to step in to an Olympic boxing ring and celebrated by teaching his opponent a harsh lesson in Rio. Tommasone, 32, who came into the lightweight bout with a perfect 15-0 record, simply had too much speed, power and guile for Mexico's Lindolfo Delgado and was deservedly awarded a unanimous points decision by the judges at ringside.

The Italian hurt the taller Mexican, 21, in round two with a clumping overhand right that had Delgado smiling and urging the Italian to bring it on — begrudging recognition that the

punch hurt. He continued to bamboozle Delgado in the third and final round, hitting the Mexican around with combinations that Delgado had no reply to. "I am very proud," Tommasone said of being the first boxing pro at an Olympics.

"I was asked by my federation to come to the Olympics and I was very happy to do so-for me, it's the most important competition in the world."

The decision to include professionals at the Olympics only came in June and was met with a chorus of disapproval. Only three professionals including Tommasone made it to Rio. — AFP



HOCKEY

HOCKEY GRAPPLES WITH OLYMPICS 'WAKE UP CALL' IN RIO GAMES

RIO DE JANEIRO: With its future as Olympic sport under scrutiny, there are more than just medals at stake for hockey players at the Rio Games and the pressure is on to produce a crowd-pleasing tournament, cementing their place in the top-flight of world competition.

Despite ticket sales of 630,000 making it the third biggest-selling event at the 2012 Games in London, hockey narrowly avoided being dropped from the Olympic roster in 2013 over concerns organisers were not doing enough to engage new fans.

"There was a perception that we were not a fan-focused sport," said Kelly Fairweather, chief executive of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

"To be honest, we were shocked ... It was a bit of a wake up call." The FIH has responded by introducing a number of changes to the way hockey will be played and broadcast at the Rio Games. Those include a move to 15-minute quarters and scheduling more time for television replays and analysis to showcase players' virtuoso skills with a ball moving at more than 160 kilometres an hour, Fairweather said.

For the first time in Olympic competition, the Rio hockey tournament will also feature quarter-finals, making it the last team sport to adopt the format at the Games. Fairweather said he hoped the move would give fans the thrills and excitement of an extended knock-out competition while raising the stakes for teams who now have to finish in the top four of each group, leaving little room for error in the early stages of the tournament.

"Hockey has had a lot of catching up to

do," he said. "The Games are the pinnacle of our sport ... To have been removed would have been devastating."

Underlining the heightened attention from top sporting officials, International Olympic Committee head Thomas Bach

and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joined hockey fans watching the opening stages of the Rio Games' first men's pool match between Argentina and the Netherlands on Saturday. Argentina, who are currently seventh in the FIH world

rankings, fought hard to hold their world No. 2 and London 2012 silver-medallist opponents to a 3-3 draw, delighting fans on both sides and setting the tone for what organisers hope will be a competition worthy of this and future Olympics. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: India's Raghunath Vokkaliga fights for the ball with Ireland's Chris Cargo during the men's field hockey India vs Ireland match of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Hockey Centre in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. — AFP



HANDBALL



RIO DE JANEIRO: France's Beatrice Edwige, center, is blocked by Netherlands players during the women's preliminary handball match between Netherlands and France at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AP

NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR RIO'S FOUR-LEGGED GUESTS

RIO DE JANEIRO: No expense has been spared in providing luxury accommodation for some athletes competing in Rio - one hotel would illicit rave reviews if only its guests could write. The five-star residence in question is at the Olympic equestrian centre where horses have been arriving from around the world in customised pallets on charter flights.

From the airport the special cargo, whose value runs into millions of dollars, are transported to their boutique Rio resort. Along with their luggage.

No measly 23 kilo limit applicable here, forklift trucks are required to ferry the tack and equipment weighing up to 300kg from reception to room. "Watch out," warned no-nonsense stable spokesperson Maria Hernek as the latest guest's bags trundle past.

As befits any quality hotel, residents' security is paramount. The horses have no need to fear, the stable is situated at the heart of the Deodoro military camp.

Sunglased soldiers are everywhere in the fortified town - lining the roads, taking shade under trees from the blazing winter rays, on rooftops, keeping a watchful eye from terraces, their beret-ed heads popping out of tanks. There's a soldier it seems for every mosquito.

Crime in this quarter of a city notorious for its high murder rate must be refreshingly low.

"Security is tight, just think of the value of animals, we need to know who is coming in and out," explained Hernek.

As a quarantined area there are strict procedures to adhere to on entering the complex, with all visitors made to walk over a disinfectant mat. Hands must be washed going in and out.

"As its quarantined visitors are forbidden to touch horses on pain of expulsion," Hernek said fiercely.

Up to Thursday night, 174 of the 270-odd guests had arrived safe and sound, able to enjoy their custom-made boxes that would give many a student hostel a run for their money.

The boxes are spacious, 5 metres by 3.5, some fitted with cooling systems to keep the occupants fresh.

"We keep all the countries and disciplines together," Hernek said. Tricolors half-heartedly fluttering in the afternoon breeze hung outside the French boxes. Opposite were the Brazilian team's horses, coached by New Zealand riding legend Mark Todd.

Outside Ireland's boxes a furry mascot takes pride of place. Up at the top right corner of the barns is the German quarter housing London 2012 double gold medallist Michael Jung's celebrated horse Sam. "He's a good guest, he eats and sleeps well," Hernek smiled. Jung had earlier reported: "Sam is in good form. He came in tip-top shape off the plane."

The first horse to ring the hotel's reception bell last Saturday was Ringwood Sky Boy from New Zealand.

Once through airport checks he and his fellow four-legged passengers stepped into four 18.5m-long trailers - brought in especially from Germany - attached to lorries, which whisked them under federal highway police escort to Deodoro.

Saturday's customised freight-plane arrival was the first of nine inbound flights from Stansted in England, Liege in Belgium and Miami in Florida.

TOP QUALITY NOSH

As befits any guest on a busman's break Ringwood Sky Boy, Sam, and the others expect nothing but top quality nosh during their stay. Teams can bring their own feed, but only under strict supervision, with months of controls required before the list of up to 2,500 products is approved by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture.

Horses require up to 15 kilos of grass or hay a day, totalling around 30 tonnes over the duration of the Games.

Teams have ordered 50,000kg of high performance Timothy grass hay from the United States, as well as 10,000kg of a variety of Bermudagrass hay and 3,000 kg of alfalfa hay sourced from growers within Brazil. Bedding comes in the form of pine shavings, all 175 tonnes of it. "Since a few of the equine athletes have allergies to wood shavings, a small amount of alternative bedding in the form of shredded paper, sourced from a supplier near Sao Paulo, will also be provided," said Eileen Phethean, chief operating officer at official Olympic food and bedding suppliers Kentucky Equine Research.

"Other things on the menu include locally-sourced oats, pelleted and textured feeds produced and of course, some treats." The treats she is referring to are carrots, lots of them. "We expect to serve up close to 4,000kg of carrots and another 500kg of apples (sourced via the venue caterers) to these well-loved athletes." All in all then Deodoro is not a bad place to rest one's mane then.

And unlike from the two-legged athletes down the road in the Olympic village there have been no complaints - written or otherwise - from the equine guests - not even over the lack of hot water. —AFP

BRAZIL JOLTS CHAMP NORWAY IN WOMEN'S HANDBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Host nation Brazil is off to an excellent start in women's handball, stunning reigning Olympic and world champion Norway 31-28 yesterday in the tournament's opening game.

Ana Paula Rodrigues had 12 goals for Brazil, which was the 2013 world champion but has never won an Olympic handball medal. Brazil took the lead early in the first half and held on after Norway tied it 18-18 in the second half. As Future Arena filled with passionate home fans for the morning game, five straight goals and big saves from goalkeeper Mayssa

Raquel Pessoa took Brazil's lead from 22-21 to 27-21.

"Every player from Brazil played very good - this is what I think. Played together," said Brazil's Alexandra do Nascimento, who scored twice. She said Brazil had learned to keep its composure after its loss to Norway in the 2012 Olympic quarterfinals. Brazil had led at halftime of that game. "Now Brazil knows well this situation and if you make one mistake, this is one goal for Norway. Brazil today played very slow but intelligently," she said. Even though the Future Arena was not quite

full, loud support from the fans was "very, very positive," Do Nascimento added.

The group stage runs through Aug. 14 and Norway is still likely to qualify for the knockout stages as one of the top four teams of the six-country Group A. "We have to be more tough and the defense is the thing we have to be better on," Norway's Emilie Hegh Arntzen said. "(Rodrigues) was very good today and we know that she is an important player on the Brazilian team. It was tough to stop her today. If we meet them again,

she won't be scoring so many goals."

The Netherlands, last year's world championship silver medalist, started with an 18-14 loss to France in the opening game of Group B.

Allison Pineau and Alexandra Lacrabere had five goals each for France, whose physical defensive play swung the crowd behind the Dutch players.

France led most of the game until the Dutch tied it 13-13. The French then went ahead for good behind five straight goals and strong saves by goalkeeper Laura Glauser. — AP

IRANIAN FLAGBEARER COMPETING IN OLYMPICS, PARALYMPICS IN RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Hours after making her Olympic debut, Iranian archer Zahra Nematī carried her country's flag in the opening ceremony. It's the start of a busy couple of months for Nematī in Rio de Janeiro. She'll be pulling double duty and will be back next month for the Paralympics, where she's the defending gold medalist in the individual recurve W1/W2. The 31-year-old Nematī had hoped to represent Iran at the Olympics much earlier in life - and in taekwondo rather than archery.

A car accident as a teenager set the former black belt on a new sporting path after leaving her paralyzed. She picked up archery a few years later simply because, "I wanted to do some sport." Nematī started her ambitious journey to a first Olympic medal ahead of Friday's opening ceremony during archery's qualifying round at the Sambadrome. She shot 72 arrows and accumulated a score of 609 - good for 49th position. The results from the qualifying round are used to determine the seedings for the bracketed tournament next week.

"I want to make my goal and get the best result: to make my family and the people around me happy and let them know I'm OK and I'm strong," she said. There's no questioning her talent in archery. Over the last few years, Nematī has turned in a few top-10 finishes at World Cup events. Just last year she was ninth at a tournament in Poland.

At the 2012 London Paralympics, she captured gold to become the first woman from Iran to do so, according to the Rio Olympics website.

Nematī earned her spot at both the Olympics and Paralympics with a strong performance at the 2015 Asian Championships and Asian Para Championships.

"I had a dream to be in the Olympics as I was doing taekwondo before my accident," she said. "Now, this dream came true through archery."

Nematī is hoping others in a similar situation will follow her path and has been named a United Nations ambassador for her role in empowering women through sport.

"For me, it means a lot to make the people who have big problems in their lives happy," Nematī said. Arriving in the stadium in a wheelchair, wearing a green head covering, a smiling Nematī was the flagbearer for a team made up overwhelmingly of men. She is the figurehead of a team from a country where strict interpretations of Islamic norms are enforced and female fans are traditionally barred from attending male-only sporting events. The previous female flagbearer from Iran was at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Iran's Zahra Nematī, right, aims for the target during an individual ranking round at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday. — AP



TENNIS

NISHIKORI SETS UP CLASH WITH MILLMAN

RIO DE JANEIRO: Japanese fourth seed Kei Nishikori reached the Olympic tennis tournament second round yesterday where he will face Australian John Millman who recorded the first 'double bagel' win in Olympic history.

Nishikori, a quarter-finalist at the 2012 Olympics, breezed past Spanish left-hander Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-2, 6-4 in just 79 minutes. Fittingly, a Brazilian umpire Carlos Bernardes was in the chair for the first match on centre court and Nishikori rose to the occasion, taking the opening set in just 33 minutes, breaking in the third and seventh games. Ramos-Vinolas, who made

the French Open quarter-finals this year, must have realised it was not to be his day in the second game of the second set. Nishikori allowed his racket to fly from his hand but still won the point as he scrambled to retrieve it before unleashing a winner past the bemused Ramos-Vinolas.

The crucial break of the set came in the ninth game before Nishikori served out for victory. Millman, 27, swept past Ricardas Berankis in just 50 minutes to complete a miserable summer for the Lithuanian player. At Wimbledon in June, Berankis, 26, was knocked out in the first round by Britain's world number 772 Marcus Willis, a club

professional. Later Monday, fifth seeded Venus Williams, the 2000 champion in Sydney, starts against Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens.

At 36, Williams is the oldest player in the women's draw in Rio. India's Leander Paes is playing in his seventh Olympics, comfortably a record for a tennis player at the Olympics.

The 43-year-old is in men's doubles with Rohan Bopanna and they kick-off against Lukas Kubot and Marcin Matkowski of Poland. The evergreen Paes was a singles bronze medallist at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. —AFP

Sports

Starlin Castro's
slam leads Yankees
over Indians 13-7



Brazil jolts champ
Norway in
women's handball



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RIO DE JANEIRO: Fireworks explode over the Maracana stadium during the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. — AFP

GLITTER GIVES WAY TO GOLD MEDALS CHASE

RIO DE JANEIRO: The glitter and glamour of Rio's stunning Olympics opening ceremony gave way to bitter competition for the first medals of the Games dogged by a doom-laden buildup.

The first medal of the Games will be picked up in shooting on Saturday but hopes and dreams will also be fulfilled-or shattered-for cyclists, fencers, weightlifters, judokas, swimmers, and archers as the first Olympic titles are determined.

Hours earlier, the Olympics were declared open at Rio's fabled Maracana stadium late Friday with Brazilian marathon runner Vanderlei Cordeiro lighting the cauldron following an exuberant display of Brazil's cultural heritage, capped by breathtaking pyrotechnics-and a burst of high-octane samba.

The ceremony lifts the curtain on a more than two-week sporting festival featuring superstars like Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt.

All eyes will be on American swimming star Phelps, the most decorated Olympian in history, when he returns to the pool in the first week. Track and field will see Jamaica's Bolt aim to defend his 100m, 200m and

4x100m crowns by clinching all three for the third straight Games.

Gymnastics could unearth a new heroine in America's teenage star Simone Biles, while rugby and golf return to the Olympic programme after gaps of 92 years and 112 years respectively.

But even the joys of the elite sports competition to come and the opening ceremony extravaganza failed to dispel gloom over Brazil's parlous political and economic situation, with boos and jeers breaking out as interim president Michel Temer declared South America's first Olympic Games open.

Temer took over when impeachment proceedings started against President Dilma Rousseff, whose supporters accuse him of plotting against the suspended leader. The jeering ended only when it was drowned out by a loud barrage of fireworks.

LUKEWARM APPLAUSE FOR RUSSIANS

The opening ceremony followed fresh protests, when about 3,000 people waving signs saying "No to the Olympics!" gathered outside a luxury hotel where

many athletes are staying.

Brazil has spent more than \$10 billion (9 billion euros) on new infrastructure and preparations for the Games at a time of economic crisis, angering many Brazilians.

Despite the resentful undercurrent, and the protests against the Games just hours earlier, spirits were high among the athletes, performers, fans and officials at the 78,000-capacity Maracana.

"The Olympic dream is now a wonderful reality. The best place in the world is here and now," said organising committee chief Carlos Nuzman, to rapturous applause.

Brazilian singer Paulinho da Viola sang the national anthem to set off the show of laser lights and elaborate dances highlighting Brazil's history and rise as an emerging power.

Brazil's Gisele Bundchen strutted across the arena to the iconic "Girl From Ipanema" before Greece, home of the ancient Olympics, led out the colourful athletes' parade.

More than 10,000 athletes from 207 teams took part, with the biggest cheers reserved for the specially

formed refugee team and the joyous Brazilian contingent. Iran's flag bearer was Zahra Nemat, their first ever female flag-carrier who will compete in archery despite being paralysed in both legs.

The Russian delegation, battling allegations of state-backed doping, got only lukewarm applause when they entered the stadium.

Each athlete was presented with a seed and a cartridge of soil to enable them to plant a native tree of Brazil, which will ultimately form an "Athletes Forest" made up of 207 different species-one for each delegation. Indigenous tribes and dueling dance groups were among the highlights of a show low on technology but high on invention.

The evening's overwhelming theme was environmental protection. An early opening sequence depicted the birth of life, culminating in the sprouting of a green entanglement of leaves from the stadium floor depicting the Amazon rainforest.

Indigenous Brazilians then performed dances before creating huge "Ocas" or native huts in the center of the stage. — AFP



SHOOTING

AMERICAN THRASHER HITS FIRST GOLD ON GAMES DEBUT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Virginia Thrasher went through a three-week spring whirlwind, winning three NCAA titles and a spot on the US Olympic Shooting team.

The precocious 19-year-old closed out the summer with her biggest surprise yet. Keeping her nerve on sport's biggest stage, Thrasher yesterday earned the first gold medal of the Rio Olympics, outlasting two-time gold medalist Du Li to capture the women's 10-meter air rifle title.

"This is beyond my wildest dreams," Thrasher said. "I knew it was a realistic expectation for me to get into the finals and once you get into the finals, anything can happen. For me, this year has been incredible."

Thrasher had a quick rise to the top. A figure skater growing up, she switched sports five years ago after a hunting trip with her family. Thrasher killed a deer with her first shot of her first hunting trip and has continued to hit the mark wherever she's gone.

Thrasher was not expected to be among the top five scorers - all that counts in NCAA competition - at shooting powerhouse West Virginia, yet got better as the season progressed. She became the first freshman to win both NCAA rifle titles and led the Mountaineers to the team championship.

Less than a month later, Thrasher won the U.S. Olympic Trials, earning a spot in Rio.

She didn't flinch at the sport's brightest spotlight - or an air horn. Though not expected to be a medal contender, Thrasher finished a spot behind fellow

American Sarah Scherer at sixth in qualifying to make the eight-person final. She opened the elimination finals - a new format in this year's Olympics - with a perfect 10.9 and was in the lead after Scherer became the first shooter knocked out.

Thrasher stayed in the top spot as her competitors fell off, consistently hitting 10s despite a fan blowing an air horn at random times. Thrasher entered the final with a 0.7-point lead and opened with a solid 10.5, which Li matched. Thrasher smiled after a 10.4 left a slight opening, but Li's 10.1 on her final shot sent Thrasher on a surprising trip to the podium.

"In the finals, about halfway through, it kind of became clear to me that I was in contention for a medal," Thrasher said. "But I quickly pushed that thought away and focused on breathing, just taking one shot at a time."

Thrasher pulled it off against two of the world's best rifle shooters, Li and Yi Siling. Li won gold medals in air rifle in 2004 at the Athens Games and in 3-position rifle in Beijing four years later. She also competed in the 2012 London Games and pulled off a clutch shot in the Rio final, hitting 10.9 to stay alive in the second round.

Yi took a similar path as Thrasher's, earning air rifle gold at the 2012 London Games just three years after starting her international shooting career.

Thrasher stood her ground against the two Chinese shooters in the medal eliminations, hitting nothing



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's gold medalist Virginia Thrasher (center) poses on the podium with China's silver medal winner Du Li (left) and China's bronze medalist Yi Siling during the medal ceremony for the women's 10m air rifle shooting event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Shooting Centre yesterday. — AFP

lower than 10.4. Yi went out after a 9.8 on her final shot to earn bronze and Thrasher finished with a cumulative score of 208.0 to beat Li by a point in front of a rowdy crowd. "I heard the cheers and the horns and it was very disturbing," Yi said. "But I just had to control myself. I also looked up and saw that Virginia and Du Li were doing well themselves." Thrasher ended

up on top of the podium and her whirlwind will wind down soon; a biomedical engineering major, she starts classes again at West Virginia on Aug. 17. "I'm actually looking forward to getting back to school again," Thrasher said.

She will have a new title when she returns: Olympic champion. — AP

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ROTTERDAM: People look on as the Pioneering Spirit, the largest ship in the world, by Swiss-Dutch offshore company Allseas, leaves the harbor of Rotterdam to be employed to dismantle oil rigs. — AFP

SMALLER OLYMPIC BRANDS FIND RULES TOUGH

SOCIAL MEDIA AGE BRINGING NEW RESTRICTIONS INTO THE FIELD

NEW YORK: The Olympics are full of stories of underdogs triumphing against the odds for athletic glory. But in the case of Olympic marketing, smaller brands are finding it tough to prevail amid strict rules. Sponsors such as Visa, Samsung and Coca-Cola pay hundreds of millions of dollars to be associated with the Olympics. So the International Olympic Committee cracks down on non-sponsoring brands that reference the Olympics by name or use Olympic logos in tweets or advertisement.

This extends to athletes who tweet about "non-Olympic commercial partners" — brands that sponsor the individuals but don't pay the IOC or a national Olympic committee itself to be an official

Olympic sponsor. The IOC can punish athletes for rule violations by disqualifying them from events and even stripping them of medals. But in the age of Twitter and Facebook, it's difficult to clamp down entirely on messaging. The IOC tried to relax the rules this year to make it easier for non-Olympic brands to advertise. Some brands took advantage of that, but others were left frustrated by the hoops they had to jump through to qualify.

Social media rules

Long in place, the Olympic Charter's Rule 40 limits athletes, coaches and other participants from appearing in advertising and other marketing, including social

media posts, without the IOC's permission. Participants are also forbidden from wearing clothing with logos of non-Olympic brands. Although the blackout period covers just one month — from July 27 to Aug. 24 for the Rio Olympics — it's a crucial window for many brands because for many athletes, this is the only time they have the world's attention. There's a long list of words that advertisers can't use, ranging from obvious ones like "Olympics" to seemingly benign ones like "effort" or "performance," depending on context. The IOC says the rules are in place to protect its sponsors' investment and prevent "over commercialization."

Frustrated by their inability to mention their sponsors, dozens of athletes launched a Twitter campaign during the 2012 London Olympics to urge an end to the rule. In an attempt to address the problem, the IOC modified the rules to let brands apply for an exception. This year, brands could feature Olympic athletes in ads as long as they applied for a waiver, avoided certain words or logos and started their campaigns by March. IOC spokesman Benjamin Seeley said in an emailed statement that about 1,000 brands applied and were approved. Under Armour and Gatorade, for instance, came out with ads featuring swimmer Michael Phelps and tennis champ Serena Williams, among others, even though neither is an official Olympic sponsor.

Unfeasible

But many smaller brands found the changes unfeasible. Unless an athlete is a superstar like runner Usain Bolt, it's hard to know in January whether an athlete will become an Olympian. And because the ad campaigns have to run continuously beginning in March, many smaller companies couldn't participate with their limited ad budgets. "At first

the waiver process did seem like a viable option, but when we started going down that path, we realized ... it's hard to do that in a generic, approvable way," said Jesse Williams, senior global sports marketing manager at Brooks Running, which sponsors eight Olympic athletes around the world, including US runner Desiree Linden and decathlete Jeremy Taiwo.

The relaxed Rule 40 rules "only benefit brand name athletes," said Christopher Chase, a partner in the law firm Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz. "If you're a (lesser known) Olympic rower or shot putter, it's a great time to thank sponsors, and they can't do it." To protest the rule, Brooks created a guerrilla marketing campaign — anonymously at first, until The Wall Street Journal identified the company by tracing internet-registration records. The protest site offers downloadable bright yellow signs that carry such messages as "good luck, you know who you are, on making it you know where."

Williams said that even though the campaign isn't anonymous anymore, the media attention it has gotten has been good. "It's cool to see a movement or conversation starting," he said. "We really hope to continue to help fuel that." Another athletic apparel brand, Oiselle, got in trouble after it congratulated a runner it sponsors, Kate Grace, on becoming an Olympian and going to Rio on an Instagram post after a qualifying event. The US Olympic Committee demanded that Oiselle remove the social media and blog content because it violates Olympic trademarks. The Seattle company complied, but CEO Sally Bergesen complained on the company's blog that for smaller brands, "it reduces the benefits of participation in the program to a practically nonexistent level." — AP

JUDGE RULES BITCOIN IS NOT REAL MONEY

NEW YORK: Bitcoin, a Florida judge says, is not real money. Ironically, that could provide a boost to use of the crypto-currency which has remained in the shadows of the financial system. The July 22 ruling by Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Teresa Pooler means that no specific license is needed to buy and sell bitcoins. The judge dismissed a case against Michel Espinoza, who had faced money laundering and other criminal charges for attempting to sell \$1,500 worth of bitcoins to an undercover agent who told the defendant he was going to use the virtual money to buy stolen credit card numbers.

Espinoza's lawyer Rene Palomino said the judge acknowledged that it was not illegal to sell one's property and ruled that this did not constitute running an unauthorized financial service. "He was selling his own personal bitcoins," Palomino said. "This decision clears the way for you to do that in the state of the Florida without a money transmitting license." In her ruling, Pooler said, "this court is unwilling to punish a man for selling his property to another, when his actions fall under a statute that is so vaguely written that even legal professionals have difficulty finding a singular meaning." She added that "this court is not an expert in economics," but that bitcoin "has a long way to go before it is the equivalent of money."

Bitcoin, whose origins remain a mystery, is a virtual currency that is created from computer code and is not backed by any government. Advocates say this makes it an efficient alternative to traditional currencies because it is not subject to the whims of a state that may devalue its money to cut its debt, for example. Bitcoins can be exchanged for goods and services, provided another party is willing to accept them, but until now they've been used mostly for shady transactions or to buy illegal goods and services on the "dark" web.

Bitcoin was launched in 2009 as a bit of software written under the Japanese-sounding name Satoshi Nakamoto. This year Australian programmer Craig Wright claimed to be the author but failed to convince the broader bitcoin community. In some areas of the United States bitcoin is accepted in stores, restaurants and online transactions, but it is illegal in some countries, notably France and China. It is gaining ground in countries with high inflation such as Argentina and Venezuela. But bitcoin values can be volatile. Over the past week its value slumped 20 percent in a day, then recouped most losses, after news that a Hong Kong bitcoin exchange had been hacked with some \$65 million missing.

Impact across US, world

Arthur Long, a lawyer specializing in the sector with the New York firm Gibson Dunn, said the July court ruling is a small victory for the virtual currency but that it's not clear if the interpretation will be the same in other US states or at the federal level. "It may have an effect as some states are trying to use existing money transmitting statutes to regulate certain transactions in bitcoin," Long told AFP. — AFP



This undated product image provided by Samsung shows a special Olympic Games edition of its Galaxy S7 Edge phone. Samsung, an Olympic sponsor, plans to deliver the phone to 12,500 Olympians. The phone is branded with the Olympic rings and has Olympics-themed wallpapers loaded on the device. — AP

EGYPT'S SUEZ CANAL REVENUES UP TO \$3.183 BLN IN H1 2016

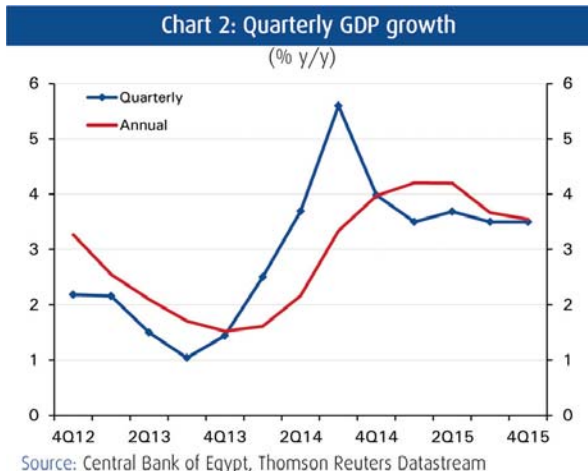
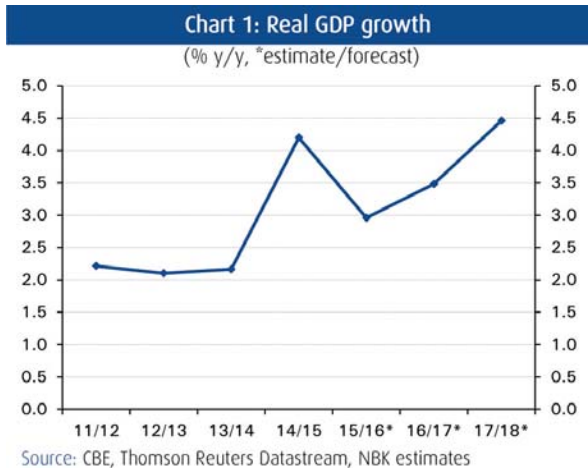
CAIRO: Revenue from Egypt's Suez Canal reached \$3.183 billion in the period between Jan. 1 and Aug. 6, 2016, up 4 percent from \$3.059 billion in the same period last year, the Suez Canal Authority Chairman said yesterday. Mohab Mameesh, who was speaking at a one-year anniversary celebration of the opening of an expansion to the canal, said the canal's revenues had increased despite slowing global trade.

The Suez Canal Authority usually

reports the canal's revenues in dollars every month towards the end of the following month. Since February it has not published dollar figures for revenues on its website, making monthly comparisons hard to assess after the central bank devalued the pound in March. Egypt's central bank devalued the pound to 8.85 per dollar from 7.73 on March 14 and announced it would pursue a more flexible exchange rate. It later strengthened the pound to 8.78 per dollar.

The canal is one of Egypt's main sources of foreign currency. Egypt has been struggling to revive its economy since a 2011 uprising scared away tourists and foreign investors, other main sources of hard currency. Reserves tumbled to \$17.546 billion in June from around \$36 billion before the uprising. Mameesh said revenues had actually risen by 13 percent when calculated in Egyptian pounds but that the rate had been slashed when calculated in dollars because of the devalua-

tion. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi inaugurated an \$8 billion expansion of the Suez Canal in August that aimed to double daily traffic and increase annual revenue to more than \$13 billion by 2023. But monthly revenues have shown either declines or slow growth levels since the inauguration. Annual revenue for 2015 showed a decline to \$5.175 billion in 2015 from \$5.465 billion in the previous year, data from the Suez Canal Authority showed. — Reuters



Bayt.com weekly report

HOW SMES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN HIRE TOP TALENT

In order to overcome the many challenges ahead, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Middle East are putting themselves on track to rethink strategies and welcome fresh initiatives when looking for top talents. At Bayt.com, we understand that attracting and retaining the right people is what you need to push your small or medium-sized business to flourish and grow. Here, the team at Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, lists all the ways that can take your SME to the next level:

1. Have a well-structured hiring plan

If you want to find accomplished and qualified candidates you should build a solid hiring plan first. Talentera, a flagship Bayt.com product, offers you a one-stop recruitment toolkit that will support and drive your efforts all along the way. This includes a powerful user experience, applicant tracking, CV Search capabilities, interview scheduling, recruiting analytics, and so on. Such a combination of features will not only help you improve the assessment procedure and configure the entire recruitment process, but you will also get to know how to measure recruitment efficiency and understand your talent database.

2. Create great job descriptions

Wondering how to attract the most motivated employees for your job opening? The answer is pretty easy: describe it, as much as you can. Be clear about what your business is all about, putting emphasis on expectations, duties and rewards related to the vacant job position. In this way, not only you are explaining what people can expect if they join you, but you are also expanding your reach to those candidates that really matter to you. Bayt.com offers you a series of free job templates to customize and address your target hires.

3. Cultivate your corporate branding

Your SME is much more than just your products or services; it's about your values, visions, goals and milestones. Regardless of your company's size and field, you need to communicate the ethos and highlight the perks that really set you apart. You can do that by sharing pictures and videos, making announcement of awards and reminding about the company history: in few words, opening the doors to your world. A Bayt.com Premium Company Profile will allow you to do so an even more, branding your company as employer of choice and attracting the attention of millions of active jobseekers in search of excellence.

4. Compare salaries

Having a solid understanding of the current scenario is imperative, and even more so if you are hiring for a SME. We are aware that this is a delicate step and we want to make your life easier providing you with a 360° view inside the salary landscape of the Middle East and North Africa. With Bayt.com Salaries you can have access to accurate salary and compensation details that will help you make confident decisions based on real-time data and stay top of game.

5. Keep abreast of the latest trends

At Bayt.com we are on a mission to empower you with relevant information on what's going on in the Middle East and North Africa. To fill the knowledge gap, we give you free access to our research platform where we consistently track behaviors, sentiments and trends that unfold in the region. For example, you can take a look at the bi-annual Bayt.com Middle East Job Index survey to learn about the hiring ecosystem in the region, or the Bayt.com Middle East Consumer Confidence Index if you want to gain insights on the personal financial and job situation of different professionals. Because that's the thing — the more we know what surrounds us, the more we are bound to succeed. And your SME is no exception. — column provided by Bayt.com

EGYPT: IMF AGREEMENT OFFERS NEW HOPE

NBK ECONOMIC UPDATE

After experiencing a robust recovery in FY14/15 driven in part by a public sector investment push, growth in economic activity stalled in FY15/16 on a shortage of foreign exchange and a collapse in tourism. Little progress on fiscal and structural reform, a persistent government deficit and precarious security conditions have hurt investment and the economy. With foreign investors largely staying away, capital controls have remained in place as monetary authorities maintained a costly policy of stabilizing the pound.

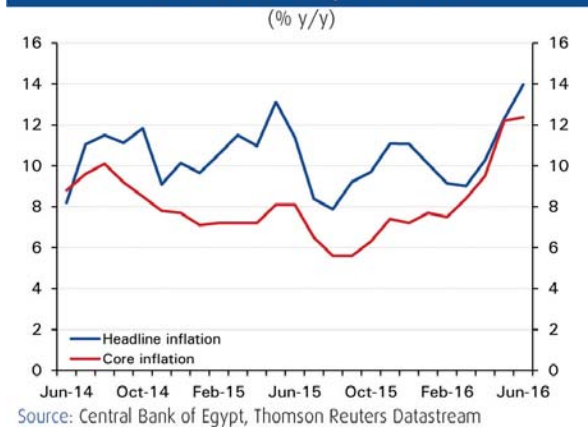
The fiscal and external positions continued to face significant pressures. While the fiscal deficit appears to have finally begun to narrow in FY15/16, this was largely due to a drop in the cost of fuel subsidies, thanks to lower oil prices. Reforms to address the deficit have not moved quickly enough, though a number of initiatives are expected in the coming months. The external position also worsened in 2015, with the current account deficit widening and foreign reserves remaining relatively tight. A devaluation in March helped reduce the pressure on the pound, but appeared to do little to ease the severe shortage of foreign currency.

Following a cabinet reshuffle in March, the government has sought to rekindle reform efforts in an attempt to turn the economy around. The government is proposing a number of fiscal reforms whose aim is to narrow the large deficit and spark renewed foreign investor interest. Recent news that the government is working on a \$12 billion three-year agreement with the IMF, has been well received by markets, with observers hopeful a deal will support renewed efforts to move ahead with much needed reform and ease pressures on the pound.

Economy slows further in 2016

Economic growth is expected to have slowed notably during the first half of 2016 following a more modest slowdown in 2015. According to official data, real GDP growth slowed to 3.5% year-on-year (y/y) in 4Q15 (Chart 2), down from average growth of 4.2% in FY14/15. All indications are that growth slowed further since, to average around 2-2.5%; we estimate FY15/16 growth at around 3.0%. It is

Chart 4: Consumer price inflation (% y/y)



also expected to improve more slowly than we had been expecting a year ago, to 3.5% in FY16/17 and 4.5% in FY17/18 (Chart 1).

Growth appears to have worsened gradually over the last 9-12 months. The Ministry of Planning's production index has been in decline for most of the last twelve months. In May, the index was down by 16% y/y (Chart 5). According to the index, the slump has come mostly from a decline in tourism and the related transportation sector. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector, which tends to be an important source of growth, has been essentially flat.

Market's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) has also pointed to a slowdown in activity which appeared to worsen in 2016. The PMI has been below 50 since October 2015 (Chart 3). Indeed, the index has averaged 47.2 during the last ten months, a level consistent with GDP growth of around 2-2.5%. July may be seeing conditions begin to improve as the index rose to 48.9, its highest level in ten months.

Private credit growth has held up better than other indicators but it too has slowed recently. Credit growth eased to 14% y/y in June after registering growth of 17.5% y/y in December 2015 (Chart 8). Growth adjusted for Egypt's high inflation showed a notable slowdown to 0.1% y/y in June after recording real growth of around 6% in March.

Collapse in tourism key source of slowdown

A key source of slowdown in the economy is tourism. The tragic terrorist attack in October 2015 that downed a Russian plane shortly after takeoff in Sharm El-Sheikh has had a devastating effect on the tourist industry. The attack came at a time when Egyptian tourism

was struggling to recover from years of political instability and security threats. Recent April data show that tourist numbers had yet to recover. In April, the number of visitors was less than half its level of a year before, declining by 54% y/y. Those tourists who did come had shorter stays, with the number of "nights stayed" down by 75% y/y (Chart 6). As a result, receipts from tourism in 1Q16 were down by 62% y/y according to data from Egypt's balance of payments.

CBE hikes rates as recent devaluation pressures inflation

Inflation has picked up over the last year, reaching a more than 7-year high in June. Headline inflation in consumer prices rose to 14% y/y, while core inflation rose to 12.4% y/y (Chart 4). A devaluation of the pound by 12% in March was largely behind spiking inflation in recent months.

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) moved to hike policy rates several times in 2016, in an effort to combat higher inflation. The CBE increased rates by 50 basis points in January, the first such move since a rate cut a year before. Another two rate hikes took place after the March devaluation; 150 bps in March and another 100 bps in June. The CBE deposit rate now stands at 11.75% and the CBE lending rate at 12.75% (Chart 11). Treasury bill rates have risen in tandem with the hike in policy rates. The 3-month treasury bill yield rose to 14%, up from 11.2% in December 2015. This increase is already being felt in the budget, where interest payments have risen notably to account for 10% of GDP in May compared to 8.4% a year before.

Fiscal deficit narrows on declining subsidies cost

The fiscal deficit has improved over the last year, thanks to lower oil prices and a decline in the cost of fuel subsidies as a result. Still, the large deficit remains a key concern for the country's outlook. A decline in official grants and rising interest payments have hurt the budget, while new revenue initiatives have stalled. The deficit narrowed to 12.7% of GDP for the twelve months ending in May 2016, compared to 14% a year before (Chart 9). We expect the outcome for the fiscal year ending in June 2016 to be lower still at 11% of GDP.

This improvement reflects the government's efforts to control spending growth which has been somewhat effective. Spending in the twelve months ending in May 2016 grew by only 0.5% compared to the same period a year before. While most of the improvement came from a decline in the cost of subsidies, which now account for 4.7% of GDP, down from 9.1% a year before, there were improvements elsewhere. Growth in wages and salaries was more than halved to 6.3% y/y even as inflation remains in the double-digits. Growth in "other expenditures" was also slashed to 3.9% y/y.

Some of these gains were offset by deterioration elsewhere in the budget. Revenue growth was weak at 0.6% y/y through May. While a decline in official grants was largely to blame for this, tax revenue growth also appeared to weaken to 1.8% y/y. As a result, revenues excluding grants during the twelve months ending in May amounted to 18.5% of GDP, down from 20.6% a year before. At the same time, the cost of servicing government debt rose from 8.4% of GDP to 10% in May.

The government is currently mulling a number of reforms that it hopes parliament will ratify in the coming months. One of those includes a value added tax (VAT) to replace the existing and less efficient sales tax. The initiative should, once in place, provide new revenues of around 0.7-0.9% of GDP. Other initiatives include further cuts in subsidies and public sector payrolls following the new civil service law passed by legislators recently. These reforms will be an integral part of the agreement Egypt hopes to sign with the IMF in the coming weeks.

Financing deficit has come largely from banks

In recent years, the government has largely resorted to domestic issuance to finance its deficit and most of this debt has been absorbed by banks. This has come at a cost of crowding out lending to the private sector. Over the last six years, claims to the government have risen from 25% of assets to 58% in April 2016. By contrast, lending to the private sector accounts for only 25% of bank assets. To counter this, the government is seeking to issue international bonds later this year. Plans are to issue \$3-5 billion in international bonds during the current fiscal year (FY16/17), probably starting in September.

Yields on Egypt's USD bonds rose towards the end of last year but began to ease even before recent news of an imminent IMF agreement. A USD bond maturing in 2040 yielded 7.6% in early August; this is slightly above the rate a year ago, but well below the 9.3% high seen in January 2016. Sovereign yield spreads to US rates, which also rose from below 370 basis points (bps) in mid-2015 to over 680 bps in early 2016, have since retreated notably to 550 bps in early August. Credit default swap (CDS) rates have risen from 300 bps to just under 500 bps.

Current account deficit widened in 1Q16

Egypt's current account weakened further in 1Q16, with the deficit widening to \$5.5 billion. The 12-month trailing deficit rose to 6.1% of GDP compared to 3.4% a year before. The deterioration was due largely to a collapse in tourism revenues, and declines in worker remittances and foreign grants. By contrast, the trade deficit narrowed thanks in large part to a drop in imports. Meanwhile, foreign direct investment (FDI) continued to show strength.

The trade balance narrowed by 1% y/y during the twelve months through 1Q16. The improvement came mostly from a contraction in nonoil imports, which fell by 5% y/y. Meanwhile, the trade balance was hurt by deterioration in nonoil exports, which fell by 9.9% y/y. Lower oil prices also hurt the balance; while they resulted in mostly offsetting declines in oil imports and oil exports, on the net lower oil prices had a more detrimental impact on the trade balance.

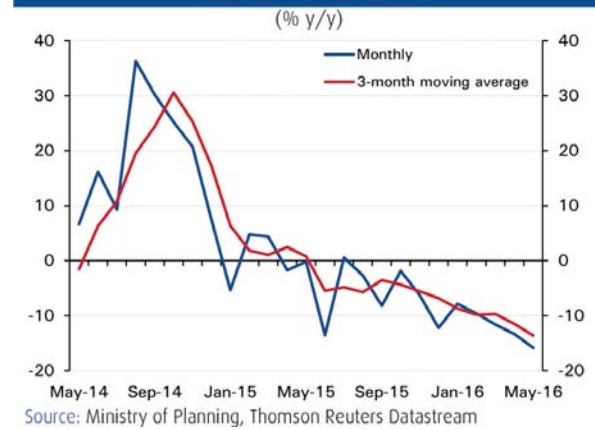
The deterioration in the current account did not come from the trade balance, but from lower services receipts and transfers. Net receipts from services were down by 34% y/y, most of it from a decline in tourism receipts. Transfers declined by 28% y/y, with worker remittances down by 12% and foreign grants falling to zero.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) continued to increase, helping to finance a growing current account deficit. FDI rose to 2.4% of GDP during the twelve months ending in 1Q16, compared to 2.0% a year before. Egypt attracted \$7.1 billion in FDI during the year through 1Q16, up from \$6.1 billion the year before. Meanwhile, portfolio investment saw a relatively small outflow during the same period.

Official reserves see gradual improvement

Official foreign currency reserves held by the CBE remained tight though they have seen some improvement in recent months. Reserves rose to \$17.5 billion at the end of June 2016 or 3.5 months of imports, up from \$16.3 billion in September (Chart

Chart 5: Production index (% y/y)



13). The position continued to benefit from generous support from GCC allies, who propped up CBE reserves with deposits of \$4.4 billion between July 2015 and March 2106.

Capital controls have remained in place as monetary authorities continued a policy of supporting the pound; as a result, the market has suffered a severe shortage of foreign currency which has at times hindered business activity. The CBE devalued the pound in March in an effort to stem the pressure and improve access to foreign currency in the market (Chart 14). The Egyptian pound (EGP) fell by 12% against the US dollar on 16 March and has been steady since at 8.88. Through July, the trade-weighted value of the EGP was down by 9.4% y/y.

The pound continues to have an active unofficial market, where the currency trades at a substantial discount to the official rate. That discount has widened to over 30% (or 13-13.1 EGP/USD) according to press sources. Recent statements by the governor and confirmation of an IMF agreement have increased the chances of a devaluation in the coming months and even the possible floating of the currency. Equities market has outperformed region thus far in 2016.

The stock market has outperformed most of the region thus far in 2016, though it has come off its recent peak. The market rallied in March on news of a devaluation; it gained again in July when it appeared the CBE would move to devalue the currency again and when the government confirmed it was hoping to reach a new IMF agreement in the coming weeks. The EGX30 index was up 13% through 1 August (Chart 15); the MSCI total return index was up 29%ytd.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.982	
Indian Rupees	4.527	
Pakistani Rupees	2.887	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.075	
Nepali Rupees	2.814	
Singapore Dollar	226.200	
Hongkong Dollar	38.953	
Bangladesh Taka	3.853	
Philippine Peso	6.437	
Thai Baht	8.728	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.630	
Qatari Riyal	83.056	
ani Riyal	785.343	
Bahraini Dinar	802.980	
UAE Dirham	82.321	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	30.750	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.422	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214	
Tunisian Dinar	137.680	
Jordanian Dinar	426.660	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015	
Syrian Lira	2.0155	
Morocco Dirham	31.479	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.200	
Euro	340.130	

Sterling Pound	403.590
Canadian dollar	230.780
Turkish lira	101.490
Swiss Franc	314.460
Australian Dollar	230.880
US Dollar Buying	301.000

GOLD

20 Gram	272.610
10 Gram	139.230
5 Gram	70.460

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.550
Canadian Dollar	229.960
Sterling Pound	396.560
Euro	336.530
Swiss Franc	297.855
Bahrain Dinar	800.075
UAE Dirhams	82.630
Qatari Riyals	83.840
Saudi Riyals	81.430
Jordanian Dinar	426.460
Egyptian Pound	33.985
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.081
Indian Rupees	4.525
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Bangladesh Taka	3.851
Philippines Peso	6.449
Cyprus pound	159.500
Japanese Yen	3.965
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.825

Malaysian Ringgit	75.670
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.795
Thai Bhat	9.600
Turkish Lira	101.054

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.389942	0.404942
Czech Korune	0.004488	0.016488
Danish Krone	0.041314	0.046314
Euro	0.0330894	0.0339894
Norwegian Krone	0.031871	0.037071
Romanian Leu	0.086803	0.086803
Slovakia	0.009016	0.019016
Swedish Krona	0.031490	0.036490
Swiss Franc	0.302849	0.313849
Turkish Lira	0.097238	0.107538
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222954	0.234954
New Zealand Dollar	0.210462	0.219962
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.224931	0.233931
Georgia Lari	0.136668	0.136668
US Dollars	0.298500	0.303200
US Dollars Mint	0.299000	0.303200
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003387	0.003971
Chinese Yuan	0.044104	0.047604
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036942	0.039692

Indian Rupee	0.004327	0.004716
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002914	0.003094
Kenyan Shilling	0.003112	0.003112
Korean Won	0.000262	0.000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072141	0.078141
Nepalese Rupee	0.002853	0.003023
Pakistan Rupee	0.002721	0.003011
Philippine Peso	0.006329	0.006629
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220433	0.230433
South African Rand	0.016173	0.024673
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001656	0.002236
Taiwan	0.009305	0.009485
Thai Baht	0.008317	0.008867
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796083	0.804583
Egyptian Pound	0.025253	0.030371
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422641	0.431641
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019613	0.043613
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779554	0.785234
Qatar Riyal	0.082305	0.083755
Saudi Riyal	0.079607	0.080907
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.133805	0.141805
Turkish Lira	0.097238	0.107538
UAE Dirhams	0.080962	0.082662
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

STIGLITZ QUILTS PANAMA PROBE, CITES LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

BUENOS AIRES: The committee set up to investigate lack of transparency in Panama's financial system itself lacks transparency, Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz told Reuters on Friday after resigning from the "Panama Papers" commission. The leak in April of more than 11.5 million documents from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, dubbed the "Panama Papers," detailed financial information from offshore accounts and potential tax evasion by the rich and powerful.

Stiglitz and Swiss anti-corruption expert Mark Pieth joined a seven-member commission tasked with probing Panama's notoriously opaque financial system, but they say they found the gov-

ernment unwilling to back an open investigation. Both quit the group on Friday after they say Panama refused to guarantee the committee's report would be made public. "I thought the government was more committed, but obviously they're not," Stiglitz said. "It's amazing how they tried to undermine us."

The Panamanian government defended the committee's "autonomous" management in a statement issued later on Friday, and while it said it regretted the resignations of Stiglitz and Pieth, it chalked them up to unspecified "internal differences." Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela said in April that the independent commission would review the country's financial and legal practices.

In its first full meeting of the investigative committee in New York on June 4-5, there was consensus that the government of Panama needed to commit to making the final report public, whatever its findings, Stiglitz and Pieth said. But they said they got a letter from the government last week backing off from its commitment to making the committee's finding public. "We can only infer that the government is facing pressure from those who are making profits from the current non-transparent financial system in Panama," Stiglitz said.

Rejected assertions

Commission member Alberto Aleman, former administrator of the

Panama Canal, rejected assertions that the committee lacked transparency, and said the five remaining members, four of which are Panamanian, would continue their work. "The report has to be delivered to the president of Panama, and then the president of Panama will decide when and how it will be made public," he said. The Panama Papers cover a period of almost 40 years, from 1977 until December 2015, and show that some companies set up in tax havens with the help of Mossack Fonseca may have been used for money laundering, arms and drug deals as well as tax evasion.

In addition to embarrassing leaders worldwide who had interests tied to secretive business concerns, the leak

heaped pressure on Panama, well-known for its lax financial laws, to clean up its act. "I have had a close look at the so-called Panama Papers, and I must admit that even as an expert on economic and organized crime, I was amazed to see so much of what we talk about in theory was confirmed in practice," Pieth said in a telephone interview.

In the papers he said he found evidence of crimes such as money laundering for child prostitution rings. "We're being asked to do this as a courtesy for them and we're paraded in front of the world media first, and then we're told to shut up when they don't like it," Pieth, a criminal law professor at Basel University, said. — Reuters

FLORIDA TOURISM OFFICIALS GO INTO DAMAGE-CONTROL MODE OVER ZIKA

TAMPA: Thank goodness it's the slow season in Florida. At least that's what officials and representatives of the state's multibillion-dollar tourism industry are thinking in the wake of the news that 16 people have been infected with Zika in a small, trendy neighborhood in Miami. The outbreak has sent another chill through the Sunshine State's all-important tourism industry just weeks after the Orlando nightclub massacre and the killing of a 2-year-old boy by an alligator at nearby Walt Disney World.

Florida officials have gone into damage-control mode, with Gov. Rick Scott insisting, "We have a safe state!" during a tour of the Zika hot zone in Miami's Wynwood district. Tourism is Florida's biggest industry. Visitors spent some \$89 billion here last year. And Disney is America's No. 1 tourist attraction. Outside of a few business owners in the affected square-mile neighborhood, however, Zika appears to have done little damage to tourism so far. "We have not had anyone cancel a trip to Florida because of Zika," said Jenny Cagle, vice president of Elm Grove Travel in Wisconsin. "It's definitely a conversation. People are talking about it."

Demetra Prattas, vice president of Turon Travel, a New York-based company that books art tours and trips, including the annual Art Basel festival that includes events in Wynwood, said: "I don't think it's a factor in deciding where to go. We've had no cancellations." The governor has been on something of a statewide Zika tour, meeting with county health officials and business owners in Miami and along the Interstate 4 corridor that runs through Orlando. He said tourists should use caution and not worry about mosquitoes, adding that Florida knows how to prepare for crises because of its hurricanes.

Business support

"We will make sure all the tourists feel comfortable coming to Florida," he said Thursday in Wynwood, site of the first mosquito-transmitted cases of Zika on record in the continental US. "We've got to continue to support these businesses because, why? They have employees and those employees

need their jobs." He said the state is doing everything it can to test people, spray against mosquitoes, get rid of the standing water in which they breed, and encourage people to use insect repellent.

The Visit Orlando tourism board issued a statement noting that no locally acquired cases of Zika have been reported in the Orlando area, which is over 200 miles from Miami. The board gave assurances that "safety is the top priority for our region." The next few months will be crucial, said Henry Hartevelt, founder of the San Francisco-based Atmosphere Research Group, a travel-industry watcher.

"If Florida is able to address this efficiently and quickly and be able to pronounce with confidence that they've been able to eradicate, there won't be long-term consequences," he said. "If Zika remains a long-term challenge, it's possible some potential tourists might think twice." Federal health officials have warned pregnant women to avoid Wynwood because the virus can cause severe birth defects, including stunted heads. England's public health agency is advising mothers-to-be to postpone non-essential trips to Florida.

US experts say expectant mothers planning a visit to the state should consult with their doctor. For the most part, theme park visitors should be fine, said North Carolina State University entomologist Michael Reiskind, because the mosquito species most likely to spread the disease is less prevalent in Orlando and the theme parks are likely to spend heavily on insect control. Kathy Torian, a spokeswoman for Visit Florida, the state's tourism arm, said anecdotally there were minimal cancellations in the wake of the Orlando shootings and the Disney alligator attack. In 2015, 106.3 million people visited Florida, a record number. Some tourists are shrugging off the dangers. "I feel very safe in Orlando. The recent tragedies and even the Zika concerns have not deterred me in any way from enjoying my vacation," said a vacationing Tam Fuller, of Atlanta. "I keep my kids close to me at all times and stay aware of my surroundings, so I never feel unsafe." — AP



PUERTO MONTT: This file photo taken on October 27, 2005 shows workers selecting and filleting salmon on October 27, 2005 at the Fjord Seafood factory. — AFP

CHILEAN SALMON INDUSTRY TO KICK ANTIBIOTIC HABIT

SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER HOPES TO CHANGE METHODS

SANTIAGO: Chile's salmon industry, the second-largest in the world, is trying to cut back its heavy use of antibiotics, which pollute the environment and could cause new super-bacteria to emerge. Facing heavy competition from top producer Norway-whose salmon industry uses a fraction of the antibiotics Chile's does-Chilean salmon farmers, pharmaceutical groups and fish food suppliers launched a program this week to kick their controversial habit.

Chile's coastal waters have recently been awash with a bacteria called *Piscirickettsia salmonis*, which causes a disease in salmon known as SRS. The illness causes bright pink sores to form on the fish's flesh. Last year it killed nearly 80 percent of the salmon that died of disease on Chile's fish farms. Vaccines and treatments have had little effect so far, giving rise to rampant antibiotics use. But that carries a stigma the industry now wants to shed. "Chilean industry is convinced we need to take concrete measures to collaborate on drastically reducing the use of antibiotics," said a joint statement announcing the new program. The initiative is called Pincoy, the name of the masculine spirit of the seas in local lore.

No easy fix

The problem with antibiotics is they leach into the surrounding environment. That creates the risk that bacteria in the surrounding area will develop resistance after prolonged exposure to the medication, mutating into super-bacteria capable of causing incurable diseases. Environmentalists have taken the Chilean salmon industry to task.

"In Chile, we use 500 times more antibiotics than Norway," the head of conservation group Oceana-Chile, Liesbeth van der Meer, told AFP. In June, the group scored a victory when a court ordered salmon farmers to publish the amount and type of antibiotics they use. The answer was troubling: 557.2 tons of medication were injected into Chilean salmon last year, according to the national fisheries and aquaculture service, Sernapesca. Total salmon production was 846,163 tons, meaning the "antibiotic rate" was 0.066 percent.

That was a sharp increase from 2010, when the rate was 0.031 percent. Project Pincoy's mission is to reduce the dependence on antibiotics with vaccines, selective breeding techniques, improved diets and better screening. "It takes a holistic approach, looking at preventive aspects as well as genetic factors and

functional foods that strengthen the health of the fish," said Sernapesca's Alicia Gallardo. But there is no easy solution to SRS, experts warn. "The threat of this disease will always be there," said Ronald Barlow, head of the Chilean subsidiary of Dutch fish feed maker Skretting.

Red tide

Salmon farming in Chile began decades ago, when the fish were artificially introduced in the country's south. Today the farms are key to the economy, with annual sales of \$3.5 billion. Their top export clients are the United States, Japan, Russia and Brazil. The industry as a whole is responsible for 70,000 jobs. It has been traumatized by past disease outbreaks that have fostered its reliance on antibiotics.

In 2007, the infectious salmon anemia (ISA) virus devastated fish farms. Last year, harmful algae killed some 100,000 tons of salmon by asphyxiation. Much of the rotting fish was then dumped into the sea. Fishermen blamed that for exacerbating a toxic "red tide," or algal bloom, that killed thousands of wild salmon, sardines, whales and shellfish. The environmental emergency forced the authorities to suspend fishing in the region, triggering angry protests by fishermen, who took heavy losses. — AFP



MIAMI: A tour bus makes a stop in front of the Wynwood Walls, Friday, Aug 5, 2016, in the Wynwood area. — AP

LEADING RUSSIAN MOBILE OPERATOR LEAVES TROUBLED UZBEK MARKET

ALMATY, Kazakhstan: Major Russian mobile operator Mobile TeleSystems (MTS) has abandoned its stake in a lucrative joint venture in corruption-prone Uzbekistan, the Central Asian country's communications ministry said late on Friday. The ministry's announcement, which the company also confirmed Friday, said the state-owned Center of Radio Communication, Broadcasting and Television had become "sole owner" of the pair's joint venture after MTS sold off its 50.01 percent stake. Neither MTS nor its erstwhile partner in Uzbekistan mentioned the size of the transaction, which comes amid an extended probe by Western investigators into corruption in the republic's telecommunications sector.

MTS Vice-President Andrei Smelikov said Friday the sale of its stake in the Universal Mobile Systems venture was due to "a variety of business reasons and other circumstances" but did not reference any probe specifically. MTS is cooperating with US authorities in an investigation into bribery allegations believed to be linked to Uzbek President Islam Karimov's oldest

daughter Gulnara Karimova.

The Russian company had only returned to the Uzbek market in 2014 after a court in the authoritarian country expropriated it of its interests in another venture in 2012. Amsterdam-headquartered VimpelCom, a major competitor for MTS in the key Russian market, in February agreed to shell out almost \$800 million in penalties to European and US regulators after admitting bribing Karimova.

Karimova, who released pop songs under her stage name Googoosha as well as branded clothing and perfume lines was once thought to be a potential successor to her 78-year-old strongman father. But her stock has since fallen amid reports she has been under house arrest for the last two years in connection with a criminal investigation and presumed power struggle in the ex-Soviet republic of over 30 million people. Swedish-Finnish operator TeliaSonera is the third company subject to investigation by the US Justice Department over its Uzbekistan operations, which are also being probed by Swedish authorities. — AFP

THAI ECONOMY FEELS STING FROM POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

BANGKOK: Thailand's stagnating economy is unlikely to get much of a boost from a referendum today on a new constitution proposed by the military government, which took power in a 2014 coup. A "yes" vote could, however, tamp down some of the uncertainty that has plagued the country over the past half-decade of instability. An update on how Thailand's economy is far-

ing under military rule:

THE OUTLOOK: Government spending and tourism are keeping growth afloat despite weak exports and plunging foreign investment. The World Bank forecasts that the economy will expand at a 2.5 percent annual rate this year, down from 2.8 percent in 2015.

LIVING STANDARDS: At \$395.3 billion,

Thailand is Southeast Asia's second biggest economy after Indonesia. The gap between rich city dwellers and the rural poor is wide, and while extreme poverty has been almost eliminated, one in 10 Thais remain below the official poverty line of \$6.20 a day. In the past year, drought and falling global prices have hurt farm incomes.

TRADE: Thailand is not part of the US-led Pacific Rim trade pact known as the TPP, or Trans-Pacific Partnership. But some in Thailand are lobbying for it to join, hoping that participation would help boost slumping exports and give the country an edge in a huge potential common market.

INVESTMENT: Foreign investment plunged by 90 percent in 2015 from the year before to 106 billion baht (\$3 billion), after businesses rushed in 2014 to beat implementation of new rules that cut back on tax incentives for foreign businesses.

TOURISM: A bombing of a Bangkok shrine in August 2015 that killed 20 people put a dent in Thailand's economically crucial tourism industry, but the country still received nearly 30 million foreign visitors for the year, as arrivals from China swelled.

VITAL SIGNS: Thailand's currency dipped to a six-year low against the dollar last year as foreign investors dumped stocks, and remains at about 35 baht to the US dollar, on a par with 2009. After slashing interest rates twice last year, the central bank held back last week on further cuts that might push the baht still lower, to preserve "policy space" in case conditions worsen. — AP



BANGKOK: A young Thai beggar waits for donations near a popular tourist area. — AP

THE THREE STOCK MARKET INDICES CLOSE IN RED ZONE

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,459.26 points, down by 0.03% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.65% after closing at 349.92 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 811.93 points down by 0.80%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 15.23%, compared to the preceding week, reaching K.D 6.13 million, whereas trading volume average was 54.95 million shares, recording a decrease of 41.72%.

The three stock market indices closed in the red zone amid a sharp and very weak fluctuated performance in light of selling for profit operations, after the gains realized by many stocks during the past couple of weeks. Also, the selling operations concentrated on the leading and operational stocks, especially in the Telecommunication sector, the most losing one among the declining sectors, were reflected on the Weighted and KSX-15 indices in particular, while the speculative trading and the profit collection operations continued in controlling the deals over the small-cap stocks that some of dropped as well, which pushed the Price Index to close in the red zone by the end of the week.

Moreover, the market initiated its first session of the week with a grouped decline for the three main indices, amid a large decrease in the trading levels, especially the liquidity that dropped by more than 40%, to record about K.D. 3.2 million only, the lowest level reached in about 14 years; while the traded stocks volume declined to its lowest level in about five years. On the second session, the market was able to realize a grouped growth for the indices affected by the support received from the positive results disclosed by some listed companies, especially the leading ones, which enhanced the purchasing operations executed on such companies' stocks and caused the trading activity to increase on both levels, the value and the volume, whereas both increased by more than 100% by the end of the session.

The market returned at the mid-week session to record grouped losses for the three indices once again, where the negative performance was the main trait of the session, amid increased selling operations that concentrated on the leading stocks, while the market was able in the next session to record a grouped increase for the three indices supported by the good performance witnessed by the leading stocks, especially the Banks and Telecommunication sectors, in addition to the collection operations on some small-cap stocks that declined noticeably in the previous period which made it tempting to purchase.

On the last trading session of the week, the market returned to record losses, whereas all its indices closed in the red zone, in light of the profit collection operations that included many stocks of different sectors, with a drop in the value.

By the end of the last week, the market capitalization reached K.D. 23 billion down by 0.41% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached K.D. 23.56 billion. However,

MARKET COMMENTARY	
Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,459.26 points, down by 0.03% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.65% after closing at 349.92 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 811.93 points down by 0.80%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 15.23%, compared to the preceding week, reaching K.D 6.13 million, whereas trading volume average was 54.95 million shares, recording a decrease of 41.72%.	

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	274,737,886	471,433,903	-41.72%
Value (K.D)	30,671,746	36,181,485	-15.23%
Deals	8,907	11,160	-20.19%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
23,499,200,267	22,938,356,709	2.45%	-6.99%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
MANAZEL	30.00	15.00	15.0	100.00%
MARAKEZ	31.00	20.00	11.0	55.00%
KAMCO	116.00	79.00	37.0	46.84%
IPG	375.00	300.00	75.0	25.00%
CABLETV	25.00	20.00	5.0	25.00%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
KCIN	930.00	1,380.00	450.0	32.61%
KBMMC	180.00	220.00	-40.0	-18.18%
EQUIPMENT	54.00	63.00	-9.0	-14.29%
FTI	43.50	50.00	-6.5	-13.00%
NAPESCO	730.00	830.00	-100.0	-12.05%

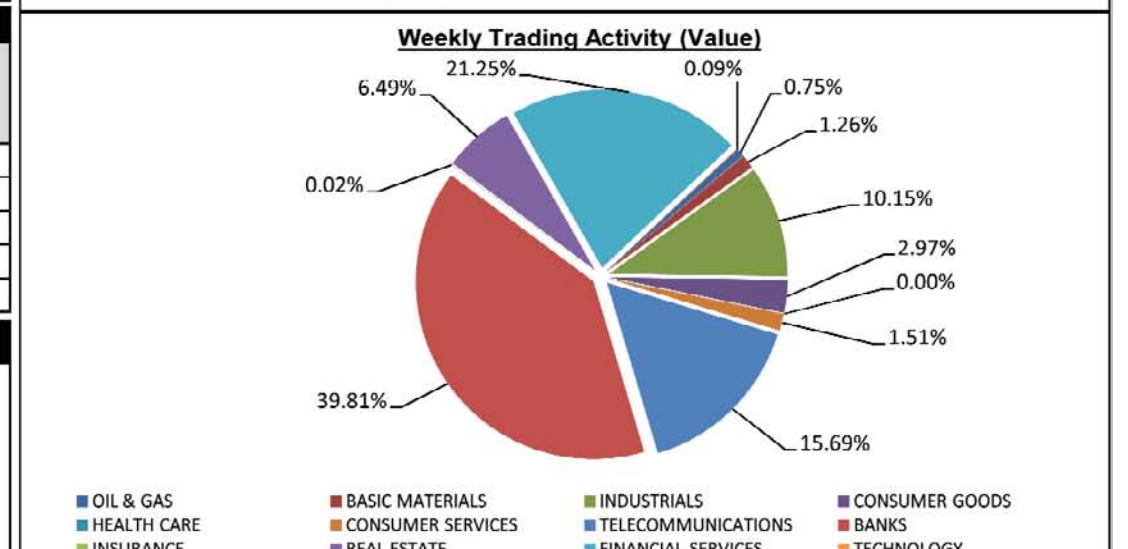
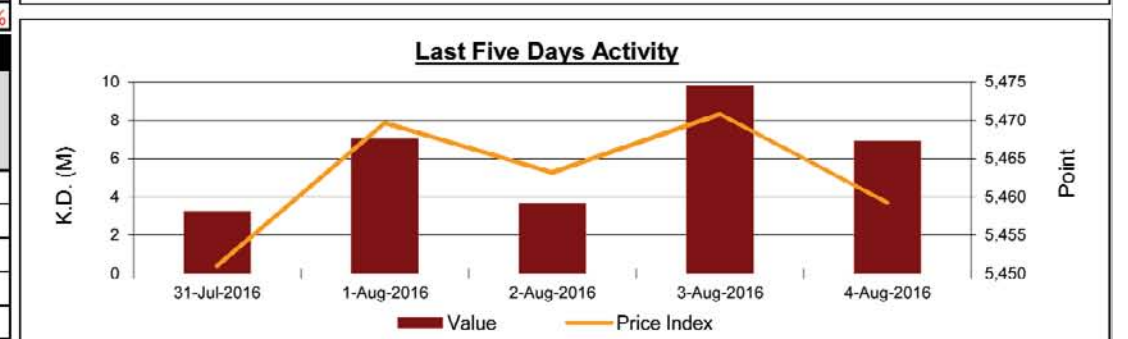
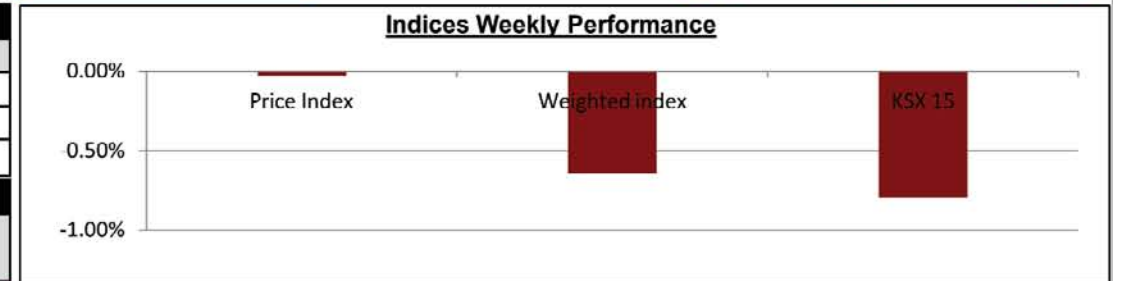
SECTORS' ACTIVITY				
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 127.87 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 46.54% of the total market trading volume. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 12.21 million or 39.81% of last week's total market trading value.				

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	4,788,994	1.74%	229,209	0.75%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,248,766	0.45%	387,989	1.26%
INDUSTRIALS	37,426,827	13.62%	3,113,128	10.15%
CONSUMER GOODS	2,754,389	1.00%	912,083	2.97%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CONSUMER SERVICES	5,519,529	2.01%	463,589	1.51%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	18,214,381	6.63%	4,811,988	15.69%
BANKS	33,155,085	12.07%	12,211,153	39.81%
INSURANCE	178,149	0.06%	5,579	0.02%
REAL ESTATE	43,348,402	15.78%	1,991,924	6.49%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	127,868,979	46.54%	6,518,302	21.25%
TECHNOLOGY	234,385	0.09%	26,801	0.09%

on an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 7.14% from its value at the end of 2015, where it reached then K.D. 25.27 billion. As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 2.78% annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 8.33%, and the KSX-15 recorded 9.83% loss.

Sectors' Indices
Five of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, six recorded declines, whereas the Health sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Oil & Gas sector, achieving 2.14% growth rate as its index closed at 778.58 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Consumer Goods sector's index closed at 1,198.52 points recording 0.42% increase.

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,459.26	349.92	811.93
	Previous week	5,460.73	352.20	818.46
	Change (Point)	-1.47	-2.28	-6.53
	Change (%)	-0.03%	-0.65%	-0.80%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-155.86	-31.78	-88.50
	Change (%)	-2.78%	-8.33%	-9.83%



SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	778.58	762.29	2.14%	-4.91%
BASIC MATERIALS	952.88	960.69	-0.81%	-3.40%
INDUSTRIALS	1,138.06	1,139.16	-0.10%	9.11%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,198.52	1,193.52	0.42%	9.47%
HEALTH CARE	1,043.81	1,043.81	0.00%	12.80%
CONSUMER SERVICES	926.68	923.81	0.31%	-8.13%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	596.22	608.24	-1.98%	-0.40%
BANKS	783.88	789.26	-0.68%	-13.58%
INSURANCE	1,013.73	1,019.58	-0.57%	-10.05%
REAL ESTATE	836.99	841.70	-0.56%	-11.03%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	567.42	565.46	0.35%	-4.70%
TECHNOLOGY	993.73	989.54	0.42%	21.16%

The Technology sector came in third as its index achieved 0.42% growth, ending the week at 993.73 points. On the other hand, the Telecommunications sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 1.98% to end the week's activity at 596.22 points. The Basic Materials sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.81%, closing at 952.88 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at

783.88 points at a loss of 0.68%. The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 127.87 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 46.54% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 15.78% of last week's total

trading volume, with a total of around 43.35 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 12.21 million or 39.81% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D 6.52 million representing 21.25% of the total market trading value.

CONAGRA SALMONELLA CASE NEARS END A DECADE AFTER OUTBREAK

SAVANNAH: Nearly a decade after hundreds of Americans got sick after eating Peter Pan peanut butter tainted with salmonella, ConAgra Foods appears close to settling a federal criminal case stemming from the outbreak. After years of investigation and legal negotiations, federal prosecutors announced last year that Chicago-based ConAgra had agreed to pay \$11.2 million - a sum that includes the highest fine ever in a US food safety case - and plead guilty to a single misdemeanor charge of shipping adulterated food. Investigators linked peanut butter produced in Sylvester, Georgia, to 626 people sickened by salmonella before a February 2007 recall removed Peter Pan from store shelves for months.

The charge and accompanying plea deal were revealed May 20, 2015. More than 14 months later, a federal judge has yet to hold a formal plea hearing or approve the settlement. That could soon change. US District Judge W Louis Sands has ordered a teleconference with ConAgra attorneys and prosecutors on Thursday to schedule a plea date. Prosecutors told the judge in a legal filing July

29 both sides are ready to proceed after a year spent reaching out to possible victims so they could file claims for financial restitution. "These criminal cases resonate across the world in food safety and I'm certainly an advocate of continuing to do this," said Bill Marler, a Seattle-based attorney who specializes in food safety and represented 2,000 clients in civil suits against ConAgra after the Peter Pan outbreak. "But I think a little more prompt justice is called for. Something that goes on for a decade doesn't necessarily make the most sense."

275\$ million on upgrades
ConAgra officials blamed moisture from a leaky roof and a malfunctioning sprinkler system at the Georgia plant for helping salmonella bacteria grow on raw peanuts. The company it spent \$275 million on upgrades and adopted new testing procedures. No deaths were reported from the outbreak in 2007. Eight years later, no executives or employees were charged when the Justice Department announced its plea agreement with ConAgra. The company agreed to pay \$8 million

in criminal fines, which the Justice Department called the highest criminal fine ever in a food investigation, plus \$3.2 million in forfeitures to the federal government.

The deal won't be final until a formal plea gets entered in court and a judge accepts the sentence agreement. It's not clear why it took so long to bring criminal charges. The Justice Department has said only that it was a complicated case involving a very large company. ConAgra's final tab could get larger if the judge orders payment of additional cash as restitution to victims. Federal prosecutors said in a July 29 legal filing they received more than 190 responses from potential victims after a year of outreach efforts. However, some of those people may have already received checks. Prosecutors told the judge last year ConAgra paid out \$36 million in civil settlements related to the outbreak. ConAgra spokesman Dan Hare declined further comment on the case. In a statement last year when the plea deal was announced, the company said it didn't know its peanut butter was contaminated with salmonella before it was shipped. —AP

JUNE CONSUMER BORROWING SLOWS TO \$12.3 BILLION GAIN

WASHINGTON: Consumers increased their borrowing in June but at the slowest pace in 17 months as auto and student loans registered the slowest growth in nearly five years. The Federal Reserve said Friday that total borrowing rose by \$12.3 billion in June, down sharply from an increase of \$17.9 billion in May. That was the smallest monthly gain since January 2015.

The slowdown in borrowing came from a big decrease in the growth of auto and student loans, which rose by just \$4.6 billion in June, the weakest monthly performance since this loan category declined in August 2011. The category that covers credit cards rose by \$7.7 billion in June, up from an increase of \$1.8 billion in May and the largest monthly gain in this category since March.

Much of the slowdown in borrowing reflects a slowing in auto sales which have hit a plateau after six straight years of growth. Last year, auto sales climbed to a record of 17.5 million new vehicles. In the first half of the year, auto sales were up 1.5 percent, compared to a gain of 4 percent for the first half of 2015. The increase in overall borrowing pushed total credit to a fresh record of \$3.63 trillion. Many economists expect total borrowing will keep rising at a solid pace



MIAMI: In this June 8, 2015, file photo, credit card customers are directed to a pay station at the green market. —AP

as consumers keep spending, bolstered by strong job growth. In a separate report Friday, the government said that employers added 255,000 jobs in July while the unemployment rate held steady at 4.9 percent.

The overall economy grew at a disappointing rate of 1.2 percent in the April-June quarter following an even weaker 0.8 percent growth rate in the first quarter. But economists expect growth will pick up in the second half of the year to a more respectable pace around 2.5 percent. The Fed's consumer borrowing report does not cover home mortgages or other loans, such as home equity loans, that are secured by real estate. —AP

TRUMP'S ECONOMIC ADVISORY GROUP CLASHES WITH IMAGE

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's team of economic policy advisers is packed with moguls from the hedge fund and investment banking industries that he has railed against in the past. And none of them are women - a demographic group he needs to court if he hopes to win in November.

Trump's campaign has been powered by a populist message that criticizes corporate America for outsourcing jobs, profiting at the expense of everyday workers and buying influence in Washington. The message resonates best with middle-class and working-class voters buffeted by the forces of globalization. But among the members of the 13-member team of advisers announced on Friday are hedge-fund billionaire John Paulson and investment bankers Steve Feinberg and Andy Beal, as well as a former top steel executive and a former high-ranking US government official. "It is a hallowed campaign tradition. Malign an industry, but court its wealthy big shots," said Erik Gordon, a professor of law and business at the University of Michigan.

Conservative-leaning

The reliance on Wall Street executives comes after Trump spent much of his primary campaign lambasting the industry for paying too little in taxes. "The hedge

fund guys are getting away with murder," Trump said in an interview last year. One of the best known of Trump's panel is Paulson, whose bet against the overheated housing market in 2007 netted him and his investors billions of dollars. His bets have since gone the other way, losing some \$15 billion in the last five years.

Don Steinbrugge, managing partner at investment consulting firm Agecroft Partners LLC, said Trump could benefit from his advisers' expertise on global capital markets if he "would listen to them." Whether Trump will heed the counsel of his conservative-leaning economic advisers or steer his own course was also raised by Lanhee Chen, who served as a top policy aide to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney in 2012. "It's hard to see a consistent strain of conservative economic thought," Chen said, citing Trump's protectionist policies on trade as an example of where Trump differs from the Republican party's free-market economic orthodoxy.

The panel also includes former steel executive Dan DiMicco; oil magnate Harold Hamm; Howard Lorber, the CEO of tobacco company Vector Group Ltd; Trump campaign finance chairman Steven Mnuchin, a former partner at Goldman Sachs who is now chairman and CEO of private investment firm Dune Capital Management LP; and David Malpass, a former official of the US

Treasury and State departments. James Pethokoukis, an economist with the conservative American Enterprise Institute, noted the absence of representatives from the tech and venture capital sectors. "If I was assembling a task force to analyze the big challenges facing the American economy and to develop solutions, I am not sure that a group like this would naturally spring to mind," he said.

But the panel fits with the themes of Trump's campaign in another way. Trump often has boasted about bringing in successful business people to tackle Washington's entrenched problems, and many of Trump's supporters see his background in business as among his biggest assets.

Guy with a binder

Some critics seized upon the lack of women on Trump's panel. After being asked this week to identify women he might appoint to his cabinet if elected, Trump could only respond with the name of his daughter Ivanka. Democratic rival Hillary Clinton hit Trump on the comment in a Twitter post, comparing him to Romney who, when asked a similar question during his campaign, said he'd reviewed "binders full of women." "We know a guy with a binder, @realDonaldTrump. (He might not take your calls, though)," Clinton's campaign wrote. The campaign declined to com-

ment on Trump's advisers.

Trump has struggled with women voters since his campaign began. Some 65 percent of women have an unfavorable view of Trump, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling, compared with 53 percent who have an unfavorable view of Clinton. Kellyanne Conway, a pollster

who works for the Trump campaign, said the emphasis on gender on the economic team is misplaced. Women voters, she said, care more about their economic well-being than the make-up of an advisory group. "What female voters wish to know is whose economic plan will be better for them," she said. —Reuters



GREEN BAY: Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump watch as he speaks during a campaign rally. —AP



MIAMI LAKES: In this Tuesday, July 19, 2016, photo, people stand in line to register for a job fair. —AP

US STOCKS RISE TO RECORD HIGHS AFTER STRONG JUNE JOBS REPORT

FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGY STOCKS SOAR

NEW YORK: US stocks jumped to record highs Friday after a strong jobs report for the month of July gave investors more confidence that the economy is still growing. Financial and technology stocks soared and investors sold the safe assets they have favored for most of this year.

The Labor Department said US employers added 255,000 jobs in July, far more than investors expected and the second straight month of strong gains after shaky reports this spring. Stocks made their biggest gain in almost a month. Banks traded higher as investors anticipated higher interest rates and bigger profits on mortgages and other loans. The Nasdaq composite closed at a record high as tech stocks continued to climb. Consumer companies also made big gains. Investors sold bonds, precious metals, and phone and utility companies, safe investments that soared earlier this year as investors worried about the health of the economy.

"It looks like the economy is improving, it looks like corporate earnings are on the upswing," said Sam Stovall, US equity strategist for S&P Capital IQ. That marks a change from earlier this year, he said, when investors worried the US would fall into a recession and tech companies would suffer as businesses cut spending. But tech stocks have come back to lead the market higher over the last few months. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 191.48 points, or 1 percent, to 18,543.53. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 18.62 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,182.87. The Nasdaq advanced 54.87 points, or 1.1 percent, to 5,221.12.

Hiring plans

The strong jobs report suggests that Britain's vote to leave the European Union in late June didn't have much effect on hiring plans for US companies. The unemployment rate remained at 4.9 percent and hourly pay continued to rise. The hiring spree follows an even larger surge in June and represents a turnaround from weak job growth in the first half of this year, including disappointing job gains in April and May. Banks rose the most, as higher interest rates boost their profits on lending. Bank of America rose 57 cents,

or 3.9 percent, to \$15.05 and Citigroup added \$1.88, or 4.3 percent, to \$45.72.

Kate Warne, an investment strategist for Edward Jones, said the report reassured investors but won't vanquish their fears entirely. "With an election where both candidates are likely to talk about how badly the economy is doing and how disappointing growth has been, investors as a whole are more anxious than the job picture would suggest," she said. The Federal Reserve has been saying for months that it intends to raise interest rates if the economy's strength warrants it. July's report provides more evi-

Velveeta cheese, also traded higher after it reported a larger profit than analysts expected. Its stock picked up \$3.25, or 3.8 percent, to \$88.79. After Bristol-Myers Squibb said one of its cancer drugs failed in a clinical trial, its stock suffered its biggest slump since 2000.

Drug makers

Meanwhile rival drugmaker Merck soared by the most in seven years. Bristol-Myers sank \$12.04, or 16 percent, to \$63.28 after saying its drug Opdivo did not halt progression of non-small cell lung cancer in the study. Merck makes a drug called Keytruda that also stimulates

profit and better sales than expected in its fiscal first quarter, and its full-year profit forecast was stronger than expected. Its stock climbed 86 cents, or 4.1 percent, to \$21.89. Benchmark US crude slid 13 cents to \$41.80 per barrel in New York while Brent crude, used to price international oil, dipped 2 cents to \$44.27 a barrel in London. The price of gold fell \$23, or 1.7 percent, to \$1,344.40 an ounce, its biggest loss since May.

Silver fell 63 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$19.82 an ounce. Copper lost 2 cents to \$2.15 a pound. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline held steady at \$1.38 a gallon. Heating oil lost 1 cent to \$1.32

STEADY HIRING IS NOW BENEFITING A BROADER GROUP OF AMERICANS

WASHINGTON: Years of steady job gains have finally begun to benefit a wider range of Americans, including those with less education and in lower-paying jobs. A second straight month of robust hiring - 255,000 jobs added in July - pointed to employer confidence that suggested that the economy is powering through a slump that struck early this year. The unemployment rate remained a low 4.9 percent, the Labor Department said Friday.

Hiring has been solid for six years, but for most of that time there were caveats: Average hourly pay was stagnant. And millions were no longer either working or looking for work, leaving a smaller proportion of adults in the labor force. Evidence is emerging that those long-running weak spots are finally improving. Many businesses are offering higher pay to attract workers as competition to fill jobs heats up. Average pay is up 2.6 percent from a year ago - matching the best 12-month gain since the Great Recession ended in 2009 and comfortably above inflation of just 1 percent.

Looking for a job

The resilient job market is encouraging more Americans to begin looking for a job - a key trend that helps offset a drag from the growing retirements of aging baby boomers. Taken together, the two trends suggest that the economic recovery, now seven years old, is finally benefiting a broad spectrum of the population. Economists at Goldman Sachs have found that pay for workers earning less than \$12.50 an hour has risen 4 percent in the past year, more than for any other income group. Those earning from \$12.50 to \$20 an hour have received the next-biggest increase, at just above 3 percent. Higher minimum wages may be bumping up pay for workers further above the federal minimum of \$7.25.

"Wage growth figures indicate that the tide is turning," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office and president of the conservative American Action Forum. Stock investors seemed pleased by Friday's job figures, which raised hopes for the economy without seeming to compel the Federal Reserve to resume raising interest rates soon. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 1 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Nasdaq composite both set record highs. Many Fed watchers think the central bank will raise rates later this year but probably not before December.

The jobs report also suggested that employers were unfazed by either Britain's late-June vote to quit the European Union or the US economy's tepid growth in the first half of the year: Just 1 percent at an annual rate. Most analysts expect the solid hiring to help fuel an economic rebound in the second

half of this year. Consumers, who have driven the economy's post-recession expansion, ramped up spending in the April-June quarter at the second-fastest pace since the recession. Their spending, though, has been offset by a slowdown in business spending on machinery and equipment.

The economy's average annual growth rate since the recession ended in June 2009 is just over 2 percent, the slowest since the 1930s. But job growth - the backbone of the economy - has fared much better: 2014 and 2015 notched the fastest two-year hiring gains since the late 1990s. Part of the disparity is explained by slow growth in worker efficiency since the recession ended. Stronger hiring amid a weak expansion suggests that the economy has grown less productive, with workers delivering less output per hour.

Many disparities

Many of the disparities that have fueled voter anger this election season remain. Just 54 percent of Americans with only high school degrees have jobs, compared with 72 percent of those with college or postgraduate degrees. Still, minimum wage increases and competition for workers are elevating pay in many industries, including those with heavy concentrations of low- and middle-income jobs. Average wages in the leisure and hospitality industry, made up mostly of hotels and restaurants, rose in July from a year ago by 4.1 percent. That matches June's showing, the best in eight years. Construction firms, which are scrambling for workers to meet demand for new homes, are paying 3.5 percent higher than a year ago. That's the biggest gain in nearly six years.

Jesse Singh, CEO of Chicago-based CPG Building Products, said his firm has had to raise pay 10 percent to 20 percent and ramp up recruiting to find the workers needed to staff its two factories in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Consumer confidence is boosting sales of his company's decking, trim and other products, Singh said. "They feel comfortable enough to move forward with projects," he said of American homeowners. Women have been receiving a solid majority of the new jobs this year, boosted by robust hiring in health care and education. Through July, 78 percent of the 1.3 million jobs added have gone to women.

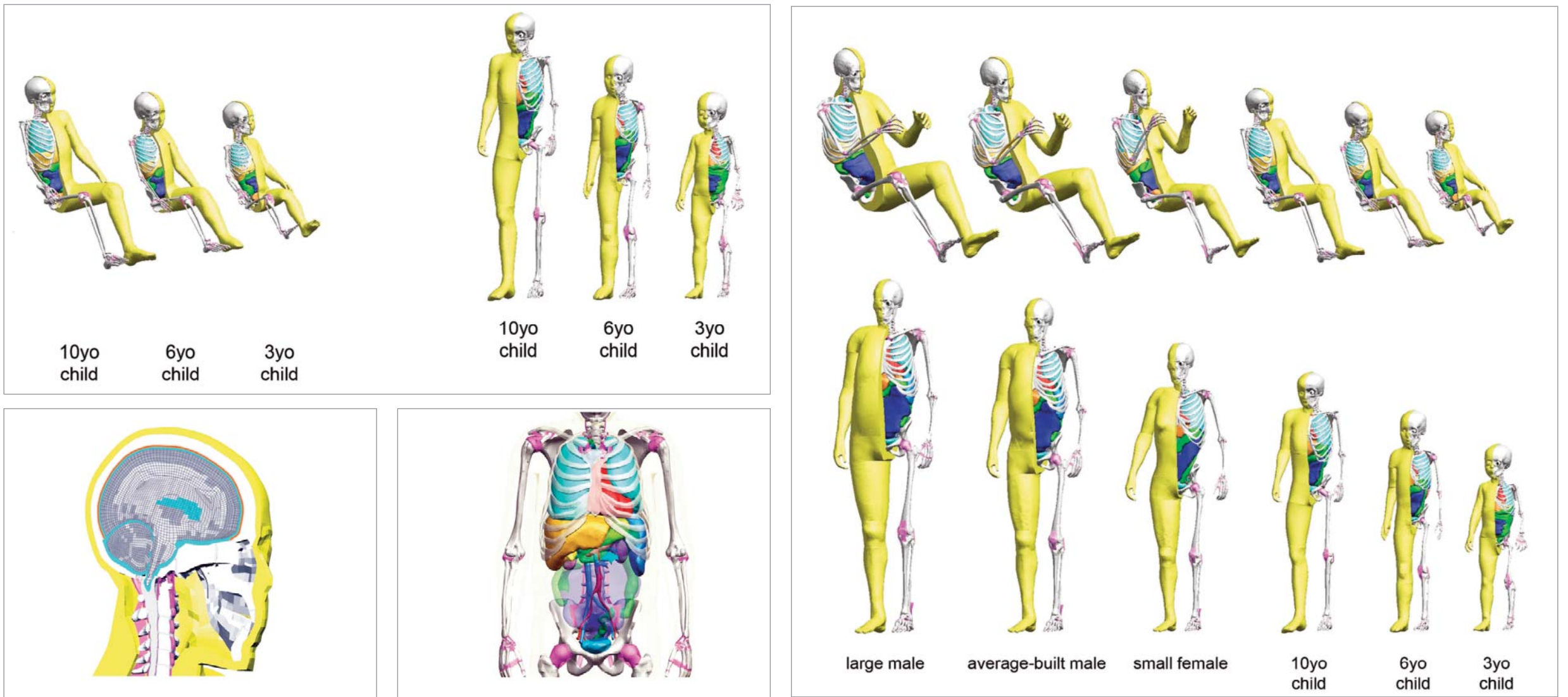
Americans with less than a high school degree are also coming back into the job market, likely in response to rising wages in lower-skilled sectors. Forty-four percent of people without high school degrees have jobs - the highest proportion since July 2007, before the recession began. "It certainly is encouraging," said Diane Swonk, founder of DSEconomics. "But is it enough to derail the anger we're seeing this election season? No." —AP



NEW YORK: In this Oct 2, 2014 file photo, people pass a Wall Street subway stop, in New York's Financial District. —AP



PAPUA: Papuan villagers travel by a boat to cross the Sentani lake in Sentani in Indonesia's Papua province. Papua has huge reserves of natural resources of oil, gas and minerals and continues to retain some 80 percent forest cover, including large reserves of commercially valuable lowland rainforest. —AFP



TOYOTA ENHANCES CRASH DUMMY SOFTWARE WITH CHILD MODELS

DUBAI: In a move aimed at developing safer vehicles, Toyota will utilize new additions to its Total Human Model for Safety (THUMS) virtual crash dummy software to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries while making an even more diverse range of testing possible. Toyota has added three new models to represent children aged ten, six, and three to Version 4 of the software. THUMS allows injuries sustained by human bodies during vehicle crashes to be simulated on the computer.

THUMS forecasts the extent of injuries sustained throughout the human body, and thus, is utilized in the technological development of passenger protection devices such as airbags, and to contribute to improved vehicle safety performance. THUMS is also increasingly being used in the field of motorsports. For example, it has been used by NASCAR (the U.S.-based National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing) to analyze high-speed impacts, leading to bet-

ter seat structure design thereby reducing the likelihood of rib fractures sustained by drivers as a result of racing accidents.

The ten-year old (138cm tall), six-year old (118cm tall) and three-year old (94cm tall) additions to THUMS Version 4 represent the average physique of children at each respective age. As with the large male (189cm tall), average-built adult male (179cm tall), and small female (153cm tall) models that are already being sold, the new models will come in two versions—a passenger version and a pedestrian version—for a total of six new additions to the THUMS line-up. This expanded line-up takes into consideration the influence of age and physique, and allows for a more thorough injury analysis.

"Toyota since its founding has been committed to producing vehicles that are safe and provide peace of mind,"

said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "The addition of the new child models provides a valuable tool in the development of safer vehicles. Toyota has consistently conducted safety-related activities based on three pillars: development of safe motor vehicles, educational activities concerning traffic safety, and participation in traffic-environment development."

Mr Yoshitsugu added, "Toyota will continue to use THUMS for analyzing internal injuries resulting from automobile collisions, and apply the results to develop various improved safety features. We sincerely appreciate the trust and support from our customers for our safety-related efforts." This latest THUMS Version 4 of the software adds detailed models of internal organs enabling analysis of injuries to a wider range of internal organs. Internal organs

are particularly vulnerable during collisions, accounting for approximately half of all injuries sustained during automobile collisions.

THUMS is used for a wide variety of purposes by automobile manufacturers, parts manufacturers, and universities both in Japan and overseas. It contributes to research on safety technologies not just at Toyota, but also by organizations all over the world. The ultimate desire of a mobile society is to advance towards the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and injuries. Toyota began developing THUMS in 1997 in cooperation with Toyota Central R&D Labs, Inc. THUMS Version 1 was completed and commercially launched in 2000, followed by Version 2 in 2003, which added a face and bones to the model. Version 3, launched in 2008, added a precise brain model. Version 4, with detailed modeling of internal organs, was completed and released in 2010.



ETIHAD AIRWAYS GLOBAL SEAT SALE IN FULL SWING

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is offering travelers from Kuwait the opportunity to embark on an unforgettable journey with family and friends during The Etihad Seat Sale, available until 6 August. The Etihad Seat Sale offers travelers amazing discounts, whether on Economy or Business Class for travel through till next summer. Etihad Guest members can earn miles for travel to all

destinations across all cabins. The sale lasts only up to 6 August 2016. However, travel validity for bookings made under this promotion will be from 14 September 2016 up to 10 May 2017. Travelers can fly for as low as KWD 124 on Economy Class to Geneva and only KWD 939 on Business Class to New York, with many other destinations on sale including Bangkok, Casablanca, London, Los Angeles, Manila, and Paris.

THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO OWN A NEW CADILLAC HAS ARRIVED

KUWAIT: Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to introduce a game-changing offer that Cadillac and luxury fans have long been waiting for. In collaboration with Al Amana Investment, customers who purchase the new ATS, ATS-V, ATS-Coupe, CTS and Escalade, from now until the end of September 2016, will immediately receive 6 months of free installments. It is an opportunity that should not be missed, considering the vehicle lineup features Cadillac's most beloved masterpieces such as the exuberantly dynamic, Cadillac ATS-Coupe, the powerfully sporty, ATS-V, the commandingly powerful, Cadillac ATS, the unbelievably elegant, Cadillac CTS, and the ultimately luxurious, Cadillac Escalade.

If you are looking for a luxury drive that performs excellently on all terrains, look no further than the 2016 Cadillac ATS. Now priced at just KD 10,999 only, the Cadillac ATS compact luxury sports sedan challenges the world's best premium cars with an acclaimed balance of performance and refinement, effectively wrapped in a progressive expression of Cadillac's Art & Science design philosophy. With one of the lowest curb weights in the segment—less than 1,542 kg—the ATS's driving dynamics are rooted in mass efficiency, which helps make it Cadillac's lightest and most agile sedan. Cadillac proprietary computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis techniques were used to develop an all-new combustion system with a higher compression ratio, which also helps boost efficiency. The award-winning 3.6L V-6 collection is rated at 321 horsepower and 373 Nm of torque, and comes equipped with Magnetic Ride Control, Brembo(r)

Brakes and Cadillac's advanced crash-avoidance systems that can pre-fill and automatically apply braking in response to potential hazards.

Latest features

The Cadillac 2.0L Turbo returns in the CTS for 2016, adding the fuel-saving Stop/Start feature. It also is matched with the new 8L45 eight-speed automatic transmission and an unbelievable starting attractive price of KD 13,699 only. Also new for 2016 is an 18-inch polished wheel design and three premium exterior colors: Cocoa Bronze Metallic, Moonstone Metallic and Stellar Black Metallic. Inside, a Surround Vision 360 degree camera provides a "bird's eye" view of the entire vehicle, Cadillac CUE is enhanced and includes phone integration capability - including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility (Android Auto to be offered later in the 2016 model year) - and several interior color/trim options enhance the ambience of the design.

Linear elements, including an uninterrupted feature line that runs from the headlamps to the tail lamps, emphasize the CTS's long, lean proportion and contribute three-dimensional qualities to its surface. The sense of flow over the CTS sedan is furthered, too, with a "trapped" hood design - surrounded completely by sheet metal - that eliminates the forward cut lines between the grille and headlamps. Cadillac's signature bold vertical lighting elements - including LED front signature lighting details - evolve with headlamps that flow up and with the hood line. The headlamp housings incorporate crystalline LED light guides in the upper and lower forward corners, bringing uniform white illu-

mination without hot spots and serving as the daytime running lamps.

Last but not least is the 2016 Cadillac Escalade, the benchmark of luxurious craftsmanship, now starting at KD 24,999. Designed to provide passengers with unsurpassed comfort and convenience, the new Escalade is equipped with Heated and cooled 18-way power front seats and include a massaging function on the driver's seat and a pair of seven-inch LCD screens embedded in the front head rests. In addition, the new Escalade comes with a powerful 6.2L V8 with Active Fuel Management, Spark Ignition Direct Injection (SIDI) and Variable Valve Timing (VVT), which also includes aluminum block construction.

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive further Cadillac's superiority by showcasing the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.

Customers are invited to visit the Cadillac showroom at Safat Alghanim in Al Rai throughout the months of August and September, and enjoy an engaging test-drive for any Cadillac vehicle of their choice, including the ones included in this month's promotion—the new ATS, ATS-V, ATS-Coupe, CTS and Escalade—as well as to hurry and take advantage of this limited offer before it ends on September 30th.

UNITED REAL ESTATE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 11% REVENUE GROWTH

KUWAIT: United Real Estate Company (URC) (KSE: URC), Kuwait's leading real estate development and property services company, announced its results for the first half of 2016, recording a revenues growth of 11% compared to the same period last year, exceeding KD 32 million for the six-month period. Operating profit also rose by 3.6%. URC announced that the company's net profit for the six-month period was KD 3 million with earnings per share of 2.8 fils, compared to a net profit of KD 3.65 million in the same period last year. The change was attributed to a slight drop in non-operational profits. In the same period total assets rose 2.8% to KD 570 million.

Despite challenging market conditions, URC's performance for the period was in line with its targets. URC Centered 2016 strongly and have remained committed to implementing long-term strategic objectives, posting solid returns and establishing the catalyst for future growth. The company will continue to deliver creative projects that drive value for customers and

yield steady returns for our valued investors. Ahmad Kasem, Acting Chief Executive Officer, URC, said: "In the first half of 2016 we have completed the master plans for a number of new projects in Egypt and Morocco. These projects will spur the company's overall growth and profitability for the future, and help to achieve our long-term business and strategic goals."

Kasem stated that there were a number of opportunities emerging across the GCC from the current market conditions and the company has been positioning itself to take advantage of them. We have focused on implementing greater efficiency in our operations and aligned our project budgets to strategic long term sustainability across different market conditions. "URC's diverse portfolio across retail, commercial, leisure, integrated mixed use resorts and residential developments and services has positioned the company to achieve balanced growth in the GCC and MENA region, in addition to strengthening its assets in Kuwait."



KFH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN'S DRAW

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the fourth draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUV's and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas. The winners are: Abdulrahman Alhajer, Bandar Alshemari, Hessa Alroumi, Fajij Alfajij, Fahad Alajmi, Ebtisam Alessa and Fatema Aldhafiri.

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

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

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish

them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefitting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates

the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.



FBI CHIEF CALLS FOR NATIONAL TALK OVER ENCRYPTION VS SAFETY

SAN FRANCISCO: The FBI's director said Friday the agency is collecting data to present next year in hopes of sparking a national conversation about law enforcement's increasing inability to access encrypted electronic devices.

Speaking Friday at the American Bar Association annual conference in San Francisco, James Comey said the agency was unable to access 650 of 5,000 electronic devices investigators attempted to search over the last 10 months. He said the problem is only going to get worse without a discussion about the technology.

Comey says encryption technology makes it impossible in a growing number of criminal cases

to search electronic devices. But he said it's up to US citizens, rather than the FBI or government officials, to decide whether to modify the technology to help law enforcement access the devices. Comey's concern with encryption emerged earlier this year when the FBI engaged in a high-profile legal fight with Apple over accessing data from a locked iPhone used by one of the two shooters in the San Bernardino, California, terrorist attack. The legal fight remained unresolved because the FBI dropped its court challenge after it said it found a way to access the shooter's iPhone.

Silicon Valley companies say encryption safeguards customers' privacy rights and offers protec-

tions from hackers, corporate spies and other breaches.

"The San Bernardino litigation was necessary, but in my view, it was also counterproductive," Comey said during his 20-minute speech. "It was necessary because we had to get into that phone. It was counterproductive because it made it very hard to have a complex conversation."

Comey said he hopes a calmer conversation about encryption and its effects on public safety can be started in 2017 after the presidential elections pitting Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. Comey chided Clinton on July 5 for being "extremely careless" in using

private email servers for government communications while serving as secretary of state, but he recommended no criminal charges. On Friday, in response to a question about the decision, Comey said, "I don't want to talk about the case itself anymore, after four hours and 40 minutes without a bathroom break" testifying before Congress about the FBI's investigation of Clinton's email practices while secretary of state.

But he said that it was "unprecedented for the FBI to show the kind of transparency" it did in discussing its investigation of Clinton and recommendation to prosecutors to forgo criminal charges. — AP



COLORADO SPRINGS: Competitor Tyler Brennan, a 22-year-old Air Force lieutenant from Colorado Springs, Colo., works on a quad copter before flying his racing drone through the obstacle course on Governors Island, a former military installation in New York Harbor, Friday. Drone pilots are gathering in New York City to compete in the National Drone Racing Championship. — AP

DRONE PILOTS GATHER ON NYC ISLAND FOR RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW YORK: Tyler Brennan is training to be a pilot in the Air Force, yet this weekend he'll be vying to be top gun at the National Drone Racing Championship.

The 22-year-old Air Force lieutenant traveled from Colorado Springs, Colorado, to compete in the tournament, which is being held in New York City this weekend. Brennan is one of more than 100 pilots vying for a \$50,000 prize.

"I found it on YouTube and I was hooked immediately," Brennan said of the sport, which is still finding a following. "My first time, I was like, 'I got it. I am hooked here' and I crashed almost immediately. But that split second that you get has you hooked for life." Dozens of pilots gathered for a practice event Friday on Governors Island, a former military installation in New York Harbor. With spectators watching from a viewing stand, the pilots donned headsets that gave them a cockpit view as they remotely directed their drones - most no larger than a paperback book - through an obstacle course of gates and flags at speeds up to 60 mph. The competitors fly using first-person view headsets, which allow them to see as if they were inside the tiny drones, said Scot Refsland, the founder and chairman of Drone Sports Association, which is helping to put on the tournament.

A small mesh net is the only thing separating the spectators from the action. Spectators stood on the side lines, their smartphones in hand, capturing video of the small crafts whizzing by. Participants needed to pass through qualifying competitions in order to race.

The tournament, which is being broadcast on ESPN3, draws competitors of all ages. The youngest racer, 12-year-old Sorell Miller, of Boise, Idaho, will face off against dozens of other racers, including his father, Conrad. Brennan says he hopes the competition persuades people that they shouldn't be afraid of the craft, which tend to make news headlines only when someone is using one improperly.

"Nobody here will see flying in airspace they aren't supposed to be, flying near a wildfire or doing anything they aren't supposed to do," he said. "I hope this introduces drone racing and can show people that drones aren't something that sits outside your window and spies on you - not at all in any way, shape or form. This is a sport." After this, he said he's going to focus on preparing to fly much bigger machines. "This is my real hurrah," Brennan said. "After this, I'm concentrating on flying for the Air Force and this will remain a side sport." — AP

GOOGLE EXECUTIVE QUILTS SELF-DRIVING CAR PROJECT

LOS ANGELES: Chris Urmson, who was instrumental in building Google's self-driving car project, said on Friday he is leaving the team after seven and a half years. Alphabet Inc.'s Google had named Urmson chief technical officer of the project after it hired former Hyundai executive John Krafcik to be chief executive of the project.

Urmson, who joined the project when it was launched and has been a public face of Google's autonomous vehicle efforts, testified before a US Senate panel on autonomous cars in March.

Krafcik confirmed Urmson's departure in a tweet on Friday afternoon. Urmson, in a blog post late Friday, said he was "ready for a fresh challenge." He said he was not sure what he would do next. "Going to take some time and get some perspective from outside of Google," he wrote in a text mes-

sage to Reuters. Urmson told Reuters earlier this year that self-driving cars are coming. "I've gone from hoping this would happen to thinking it might happen to knowing it will happen," Urmson said. Google self-driving car project spokesman Johnny Luu confirmed Urmson's departure and praised him. "Seven years ago, the idea that a car could drive itself wasn't much more than an idea. Chris has been a vital force for the project, helping the team move from a research phase to a point where this life-saving technology will soon become a reality," Luu said. Google's project has had other significant departures, even as it has hired dozens of new employees. Earlier this year, Anthony Levandowski, who was product manager for Google's self-driving car program, left the project to co-found a startup with two other former Google employees. — Reuters



ARLINGTON: Kaushik Raghu, Senior Staff Engineer at Audi, takes his hands off the steering wheel while demonstrating an Audi self driving vehicle on I-395 expressway in Arlington, Va., July 15, 2016. Experts say the development of self-driving cars over the coming decade depends on an unreliable assumption by most automakers. — AP

LAPTOP USED TO REPROGRAM, STEAL MORE THAN 100 CARS

HOUSTON: Two men jailed in Houston and accused of using pirated computer software to steal more than 100 vehicles may have exploited an electronic vulnerability to advance auto theft into high-tech crime.

Michael Arce, 24, and Jesse Zelaya, 22, focused on new Jeep and Dodge vehicles, which attract big money on the black market in Mexico, authorities said. The men allegedly used a laptop computer to reprogram the targeted vehicles' electronic security so their own key worked. The stolen vehicles had a common software that's used by auto technicians and dealers, Houston police officer Jim Woods said.

"As you get more and more computers installed in vehicles - if somebody has that knowledge and that ability, they can turn around and figure out a way to manipulate the system," he said.

Fiat Chrysler, which makes Jeeps and Dodges, and police are investigating how the thieves got access to a computerized database of codes used by dealers, locksmiths and independent auto repair shops to replace lost key fobs, said Berj Alexanian, a spokesman at the company's U.S. headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan. He said the code database is national and includes vehicles in areas outside of Houston, although he wasn't aware of similar thefts elsewhere. "We're looking at every and all solutions to make sure our customers can safely and without thinking park their vehicles," Alexanian said Friday. With more automotive tasks becoming computerized and more cars being linked to the internet, such thefts are likely to increase across the globe, said Yoni Heilbronn, a computer security expert.

MULTIPLE MOTIVATIONS

The auto industry has worked hard in the past year to develop protections, but hackers with multiple motivations will always be looking for ways to get in, said Heilbronn, vice president of marketing for Argus Cyber Security, an Israeli company that works with automakers.

While increased computerization brings safety benefits, Heilbronn foresees more thefts, malicious software being installed that shuts down cars until a ransom is paid, and even attacks that disable many cars at a time. The industry, he said, has to install multiple layers of defense.

Automakers have been working together to develop best practices and to share information on cybersecurity threats. Companies, including Fiat Chrysler, have their own hacking teams and have offered bounties to outside hackers if they find vulnerabilities.

The Houston investigation began in late May with the theft of a Jeep Wrangler near downtown. Leads in that case had been exhausted when investigators received information from federal Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers about vehicles being stolen using a laptop. Arce and Zelaya then were identified as suspects.

The two men, who each have criminal records, were arrested last weekend driving a stolen Jeep Grand Cherokee after police had been concentrating on an area of Houston that had been hit previously by auto thieves. They also recovered electronic devices, keys and other tools believed used in the thefts, along with drugs, firearms and body armor. In the Jeep Wrangler case

caught on a surveillance video, the suspect got under the hood, cut wires to the horn to disable an alarm and then got inside the SUV. Once inside, he used the database and the vehicle identification number to program a new key fob for the Jeep.

Arce remained in jail without bond on charges of unauthorized

use of a vehicle, felony possession of a weapon, and possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance. He was set for a court appearance Aug. 26.

Zelaya is being held on \$500,000 bond on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle and was due in court Wednesday. — AP



MEXICO: This undated photo provided by the Houston Police Department shows Jesse Irvin Zelaya. Houston police say they've arrested Zelaya and Michael Arce, accused of using pirated computer software to steal more than 100 vehicles that likely ended up in Mexico. — AP

LOOK BACK AT GALAXY NOTE DEVICES OVER THE YEARS

A VERY NOTE-WORTHY EVOLUTION

KUWAIT: As Samsung plans to introduce the latest addition to the Galaxy Note family with the launch of its all-new Galaxy Note7; we take a stroll down memory lane to revisit its extraordinary predecessors while touching upon some of their rather unique features and capabilities. From the original Galaxy Note that started it all in 2011 to last year's Galaxy Note5, Samsung has continued to revolutionize the smartphone sector with state-of-the-art innovations, with every new model.

before, cementing the phone's status as the ultimate smartphone for on-the-go creativity.

cially available on the Note3, with other market-deployed devices following suit.



Note2

Galaxy Note

The first of the Note family was announced in November 2011. At the time it was the world's first and largest smartphone screen with its 5.3-inch HD Super AMOLED display, bringing in the performance of a tablet while maintaining the convenience and portability of a smartphone. With the inclusion of the advanced S-Pen for the Galaxy Note's touch screen, users were guaranteed a smartphone like never before, even coining the term 'phablet'.

Galaxy Note II

With the introduction of the Galaxy Note II in October 2012, the boundaries of mobile productivity were pushed ever further. The Galaxy Note II featured the application-rich 'Premium Suite' not only providing a more enhanced user interface but also unleashing a new era in self-expression and enabling content design like never



Note3

Galaxy Note3

The Galaxy Note3, which was unveiled in September 2013 along with the Galaxy Gear came with an even wider 5.7-inch Full HD Super AMOLED display as well as significant S-Pen upgrades for users to accomplish everyday tasks with a click of a button, taking productivity to a whole new level. Samsung's defense-grade security platform KNOX first became commer-

Galaxy Note4

With its introduction in September 2014, the Galaxy Note4 brought on an even more refined Note experience. The Galaxy Note4 also kick started the age of the curved screen which would later be a motif in the Samsung smartphone franchise. With a 16 megapixel rear-facing camera including Smart Optical Image Stabilizer and a function that prolongs exposure time in dark settings, users could capture their crucial memories anywhere and anytime.

Galaxy Note5

The Galaxy Note5 was unveiled in August, last year. Featuring a Quad HD Super AMOLED screen and connectivity features such as 'SideSync', the phones also introduced embedded wireless charging technology along with significant updates to the S-Pen. Introducing a state-of-the-art fingerprint reader for added security, the Galaxy Note5 backed by KNOX Active Protection software made it the business device of choice.



Note4



Note5

HAWAII GETS \$3.7M 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 per-

spective, 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 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 con-

tracting 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 re-vaccinated, she added.

Screening

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.

Hawaiian Airlines released a list on its website of the flights on which the sickened attendant worked. "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 yesterday 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

CHINA TRIES TO END BRAIN DRAIN, LURE FOREIGN-EDUCATED TALENT

DIFFICULTY REGAINING TOP STUDENTS

BEIJING: As a young biologist at the University of Michigan, Chen Xiaowei had plenty to like about life in the US. He was paid well as a researcher and enjoyed raising his family in Ann Arbor, a town he remembers as beautiful, friendly and highly educated.

But an offer from a Chinese university for him to return home to Beijing was too generous not to consider. In addition to a comparable salary, he was promised enough startup research money that he wouldn't have to worry about pursuing grants, and as he saw it, there was a chance to make a bigger difference in China. So in 2014 he moved back with his wife and two children.

"I feel freer to pursue my best ideas," Chen said. He said he has received such generous support that he's able to study a disease through symptoms in both the liver

Difficulty regaining top students

Most of those students return to China, but the country has had difficulty regaining the most coveted graduates - those with advanced degrees and experience in science and engineering. A 2014 report by Oak Ridge Institute shows 85 percent of the 4,121 Chinese students who received doctorates in science and engineering from American universities in 2006 were still in the US five years later. Still, that marked an improvement: The stay rate had been 98 percent a decade earlier.

The 1,000 Talents program offers recruits salaries several times more than what a Chinese-educated local hire would receive, as well as heavily subsidized education for children and millions in start-up research funds. The sign-up bonus alone can be as much as \$150,000. Chen, now an assistant professor at Peking University, was given a \$1.5 million

Associated Press. Zweig has studied China's efforts to compete for global talents for 25 years.

He said his research shows that full-time overseas recruits are generally better than homegrown talents, although the very best have yet to return to China. He blames that on the bureaucracy on Chinese campuses and in scientific labs, where administrators wield too much power and complicated interpersonal relations hinder research.

In China, leaders are deliberating about reforming higher education and easing immigration policies, but for now, the money-dropping 1,000 Talents program serves as a quick solution. Still, it has had problems of its own. Some scholars kept overseas positions while taking full-time paychecks from Chinese schools, or had forged credentials, leading to measures to disqualify those who have been dishonest academically.

In China, concerns center on whether it's fair to give foreign-educated Chinese special treatment. "The local faculty is not opposed to attracting talent but we want equal opportunity, not increasing disparity," Li said.

Such sentiments were on display last year when Tu Youyou won a Nobel Prize in medicine for the discovery of an effective malaria treatment. She was the first Chinese to win a science Nobel for work conducted in China, and she never studied abroad. Many comments took the moment to mock Beijing's worship of foreign experience.

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, which helps implement the talent program, did not respond to faxed questions from the AP.

Some returnees see an opportunity - even an obligation - to help change China's education system. They hope to introduce new practices and help set rules, often modeled after the U.S. ones.

Li Chenjian, a neurologist who studied at Purdue University and is now a vice provost at Peking University, is pushing for reforms. Li now considers himself more of a reformist educator and offers a course on critical thinking. He is pushing for more holistic evaluation of high school students in the admissions process, rather than relying solely on test scores from the annual college entrance exam, and he is building connections between Peking University and foreign universities.

"I think the great thing for US universities is to have their people to go to other places to be leaders," Li said. "The impact will be 100 times more here," he said. "We're changing a humongous system." Rao Yi, a prominent neurobiologist, has become a lightning rod in China's academic world. His criticism of China's education and research systems has been published in international journals since he left Northwestern University to take a position at Peking University.

Shi Yigong, an accomplished professor of molecular biology at Princeton University, gave up his US citizenship after returning to China and is now a vice president of Tsinghua University. He says efforts such as 1,000 Talents make it easier for Tsinghua to hire top-notch researchers. Shi said that during his 18 years in America, "I felt like I had been a bystander, not a contributor. I wanted to be part of the progress." Chen, the Michigan-educated biologist, said he and his wife still consider themselves "true Wolverines," and that he's putting that American experience to good use. This summer, he is helping create a professional organization for biologists in China.

"There are opportunities to grow with a developing system. There are lots of raw talents in China, and lots of students are willing to work with you," Chen said. "There's a great need to polish minds, and I see opportunities to contribute." —AP



BERGHOLZ, OHIO: In this April 9, 2013 photo, an Amish girl chases a cow from the outfield during a baseball game. —AP

WHY KIDS ON TRADITIONAL AMISH FARMS DON'T GET ASTHMA

MIAMI: Children who grow up on traditional Amish farms in the United States are largely protected from asthma because their immune systems are bolstered by close contact with farm animals' microbes, researchers said Wednesday.

The study in the August 4 edition of the New England Journal of Medicine compared two similar communities—the Amish of Indiana and the Hutterites of South Dakota—which have different methods of farming.

The Amish, known for their simple living and dislike of modern technology, live on single-family dairy farms and use horses for fieldwork and transport.

The Hutterites use modern, industrialized farm machinery to work their larger, communal farms, which distances them somewhat from the daily exposure to animals. Otherwise, many aspects of the two groups are similar. They have similar genetic ancestry, having come from Central European immigrants, and follow a traditional Germanic farming diet.

They also drink raw milk, get their children vaccinated, breastfeed their babies and do not allow indoor pets. But their asthma rates are vastly different. About five percent of Amish schoolchildren have asthma—about half the US average.

Meanwhile, Hutterite children have an unusually high prevalence of asthma 21.3 percent—said the study. "Over a decade ago, our colleague Erika von Mutius discovered that growing up on a farm can protect against asthma," said study co-author Carole Ober, professor and chairman of human genetics at the University of Chicago. "Our new study, building on her work, now shows that it's not simply farming, and has narrowed in on what the specific protection might be."

'Richer' home dust

Researchers found that the difference came down to the kind of dust inside their homes. Dust in Amish homes was "much

richer in microbial products," said the study. "Neither the Amish nor the Hutterites have dirty homes," explained Ober. "Both are tidy. The Amish barns, however, are much closer to their homes."

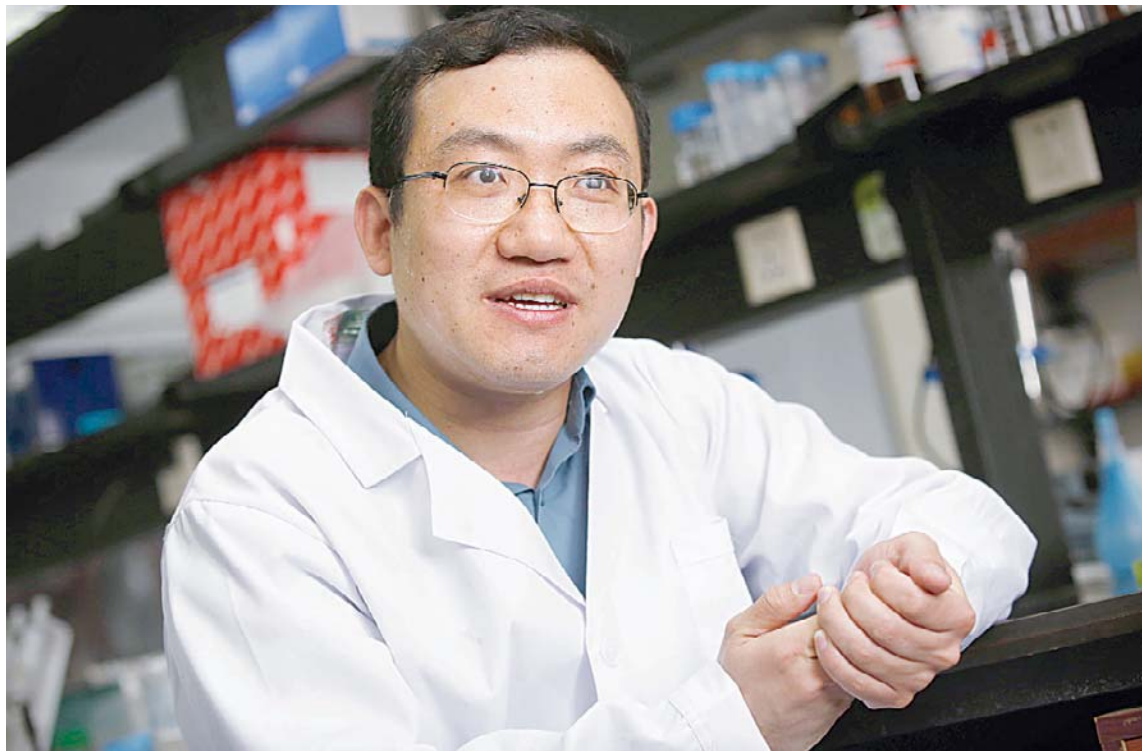
Their children run in and out of them, often barefoot, all day long. There's no obvious dirt in the Amish homes, no lapse of cleanliness. It's just in the air, and in the dust." This dust engages the children's innate immune system to fight off asthma, the study found.

Blood tests done on 30 Amish children aged seven to 14 — and 30 Hutterite children of the same age range showed the Amish had more blood cells crucial to fighting infections, known as neutrophils. The Amish also had fewer blood cells that promote allergic inflammation, known as eosinophils.

When researchers exposed lab mice to the Amish house dust, they found the rodents were protected against asthma-like responses to allergens. Similar experiments with the Hutterite house dust conveyed no protection.

According to Sherry Farzan, a doctor in the department of medicine and pediatrics, allergy and immunology at Northwell Health in New York, the paper offers more evidence to back up what has been called the "hygiene hypothesis," which suggests that a lack of early microbial exposure increases the risk of allergy. "Exposure to a rich microbiome early in life is protective of allergy and asthma, and seems to be due to the anti-inflammatory modulatory activity of this exposure," said Farzan, who was not involved in the study.

For co-author Erika von Mutius, professor at the Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital in Munich, Germany, the next step is to find a way to apply this knowledge to help future generations of children. "We hope that our findings will allow the identification of relevant substances that will lead to completely novel strategies to prevent asthma and allergy," she said. —AFP



BEIJING: In this April 13, 2016 photo, Chen Xiaowei, an assistant professor at Peking University, speaks during an interview at the school's campus. —AP

and muscles simultaneously - something he said he would not be able to do in the United States because of limitations on grants, which are often tied to projects instead of researchers.

Chen, who earned a doctorate in physiology at Michigan in 2008, has joined thousands of high-achieving overseas Chinese recruited to come home through the 1,000 Talents program, one of many state efforts launched in recent years to reverse a decades-long brain drain.

China, the world's second-largest economy and one of the fastest-growing, sees a need to bring home more of its brightest as it works to transform its largely labor-intensive, low-tech economy into one fueled by innovation in science and technology. Forbidden to study abroad until the 1980s, Chinese students have been attending foreign schools in growing numbers. More than 300,000 studied in the US alone in the 2014-2015 school year.

research fund. "In the states," he said, "it's very hard for young people to get money when they need it the most."

Beijing says the leading 1,000 Talents program since 2008 has brought back 6,000 people who have become vital forces in areas such as science and technology, education and high-tech industry. Similar programs have mushroomed at provincial and municipal levels.

Researchers say 1,000 Talents and similar efforts have worked but with limited success. China is handicapped by a bureaucratic academic system, less-than-friendly political environment, inflexibility in immigration practices and other concerns including pollution. "I think that the programs to bring back people full time have had some success, but those are not the best people," wrote David Zweig, director of the Center on China's Transnational Relations at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, in an email to The

Younger graduates

Younger graduates such as Chen have been a focus of the program only in recent years. Previously, it only targeted senior academics in their 40s. "That is considered past the prime of a researcher, especially in the field of science and engineering," said Li Xia, a professor of philosophy at Shanghai-based Fudan University. "Why should we pay a good price for someone's declining years?"

Other concerns persist, abroad and at home. In the US, private corporate security officials have raised concerns that recruits are being enticed and compensated for access to sensitive material at American firms and universities. They point to cases like a 2015 federal indictment in which several Chinese researchers - recruited by a Chinese university - were accused of stealing trade secrets from a California company and economic espionage.

ROMANIAN MOTHERS GATHER AT MUSEUM TO PROMOTE BREASTFEEDING

BUCHAREST: Dozens of Romanian mothers have gathered at a museum in Bucharest to breastfeed their babies to promote the freedom of mothers to breastfeed in public.

Mothers dressed in embroidered traditional peasant blouses sat, chatted and fed their children Saturday at the event at the picturesque Village Museum.

Alexandra Hulea, a 31-year-old marketing specialist, still feeds her 13-month-old twins Eva and Dominic. She says "people look strangely at you, but I don't care because my children are my priority."

Pediatrician Iulia Balint-Boia told The Associated Press that only 12.6 percent of Romanian mothers still breastfeed their babies at six months. She says "it benefits both mothers and children, but not everyone is used to seeing it in our society." —AP



BUCHAREST: A young woman holding her four-month-old daughter Maya walks after taking part in an event promoting the freedom of mothers to breastfeed in public, during World Breastfeeding Week, at the Village Museum yesterday. —AP

SPECIAL DRUG RUSHED TO HELP BRAIN-EATING AMOEBIA PATIENT

COLUMBIA: A pharmaceutical company has rushed a special drug that once saved the life of a girl who contracted a usually deadly brain-eating amoeba to a South Carolina hospital with its own patient fighting the disease.

A courier drove the drug, called miltefosine, six hours from the company's Orlando, Florida, headquarters to Charleston as soon as the hospital called around 10 p.m. Tuesday, Profounda CEO Todd MacLaughlan told The Associated Press. "Time is of the essence," MacLaughlan said.

The patient in South Carolina was confirmed on Tuesday to have been exposed to Naegleria fowleri (nuh-GLEER'-ee-uh FOW'-lur-ee), a one-celled organism that can cause primary amoebic meningoencephalitis, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. Between 2006 and 2015 there have been 37 infections in the United States. Only three people have been recorded to have survived exposure. Miltefosine was used to treat one of the survivors - a 12-year-old girl in Arkansas, the CDC said.

Miltefosine was originally developed to fight cancer in the 1980s. It also helps fight leishmaniasis, a disease caused by a parasite transmitted through sand flea bites in tropical climates, MacLaughlan said. This is just

the second time his company has sent the specialized drug that costs about \$48,000 for a round of treatment to a hospital. It was delivered as capsules, MacLaughlan said.

Officials aren't releasing the name, age, sex or condition of the patient, currently being treated at the Medical University of South Carolina hospital in Charleston. The patient appears to have been exposed to the amoeba while swimming July 24 near Martin's Landing on the Edisto River in Charleston County, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control epidemiologist Linda Bell said in a news release.

The amoeba lives in many lakes, rivers and streams in warm water locations. There has to be a lot of force to send the water and amoeba into the brain, either by jumping into the water, or in a recent fatal case where an 18-year-old Ohio woman fell out of her raft in the churning waters at the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Health officials recommend swimmers hold their noses or wear nose clips when jumping feet first into freshwater lakes and rivers, warning the lower the water level and the warmer the water, the greater the risk of contracting the amoeba. —AP



LAHAL, MYANMAR: In this photograph taken early morning on December 25, 2014, Naga tribes people gather in Lahal township in the remote Sagaing region nearly two years before the town and nearby areas were hit by disease that left many children dead. —AFP

MEASLES BEHIND MYANMAR OUTBREAK THAT HAS KILLED 30

YANGON: Myanmar health officials have confirmed that a measles outbreak is behind the deaths of more than 30 people, mostly children, in a remote part of the country as authorities rush to treat victims. The outbreak has struck the far corner of Myanmar's

northern Sagaing region, a remote and mountainous area which borders eastern India and is populated by people from the Naga tribes. The deaths began in June and highlight how vulnerable Myanmar's more isolated populations are in a country where

healthcare was never prioritized under decades of brutal and inept junta rule. It is one of the many crippling legacies that the newly installed civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi is trying to tackle. Than Tun Aung, deputy director

general of the disease control department at Myanmar's health ministry, said labwork from the worst hit town of Lahal had come back positive for measles. "It's measles," he told AFP late Friday. "So we are sending more team members and cooperating with medical doctors from the military as well."

Local Naga representatives had previously accused the central government of being slow to act. The region is impoverished and very remote, a mountainous border area where roads and electricity are scant. "It took our first medical team about six days to reach the villages. Communication there is also difficult," Than Tun Aung said.

He said they had confirmed a total of 31 deaths in Lahal region, half of whom were under 15. The Council of Naga Affairs gave a higher toll of 39 dead in nine villages with all the deceased children.

Although health budgets slightly increased in the last few years of outright army rule—which ended with last November's elections—Myanmar is still one of the lowest spenders in the world on healthcare as a share of GDP. Last year, with the help of the World Health Organization and the UN, Myanmar embarked on a mass vaccination program with the aim of eradicating measles and rubella by 2020. —AFP



LAHAL, MYANMAR: In this photograph taken on December 25, 2014, Naga tribes women and children gather in the grounds of Lahal township in the remote Sagaing region nearly two years before the town and nearby areas were hit by disease that left many children dead. —AFP

PUERTO RICO REPORTS ELDERLY VICTIM INFECTED WITH ZIKA DIES

SAN JUAN: Health officials announced Friday that an elderly person infected with Zika has died in Puerto Rico as the US territory battles what federal authorities call a silent epidemic.

The victim was a 75-year-old man who was hospitalized and died from health ailments unrelated to Zika, according to Health Secretary Ana Rius. She said no more details would be provided, and health officials did not respond to requests for further comment.

Officials with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention referred all questions to Puerto Rico's Health Department. The first Zika-related death was reported in late April and involved a 70-year-old man from the San Juan metro area. He suffered internal bleeding after developing a condition in which antibodies that formed in response to a Zika infec-

tion began attacking blood platelet cells. At the time, Rius said there were three other cases of the condition known as severe thrombocytopenia and that those patients recovered.

Puerto Rico has a total of 8,776 Zika cases, with 1,480 new cases reported this past week. There are now 901 pregnant women with Zika, which has been linked to severe birth defects. The director of the CDC has said he is concerned many of those women could give birth to babies with microcephaly. However, Rius said all 95 of pregnant women with Zika who have given birth have healthy babies.

A total of 88 people in Puerto Rico have been hospitalized because of Zika, and 27 have been diagnosed with a temporary paralysis condition called Guillain-Barre that has been linked to the mosquito-borne virus. —AP

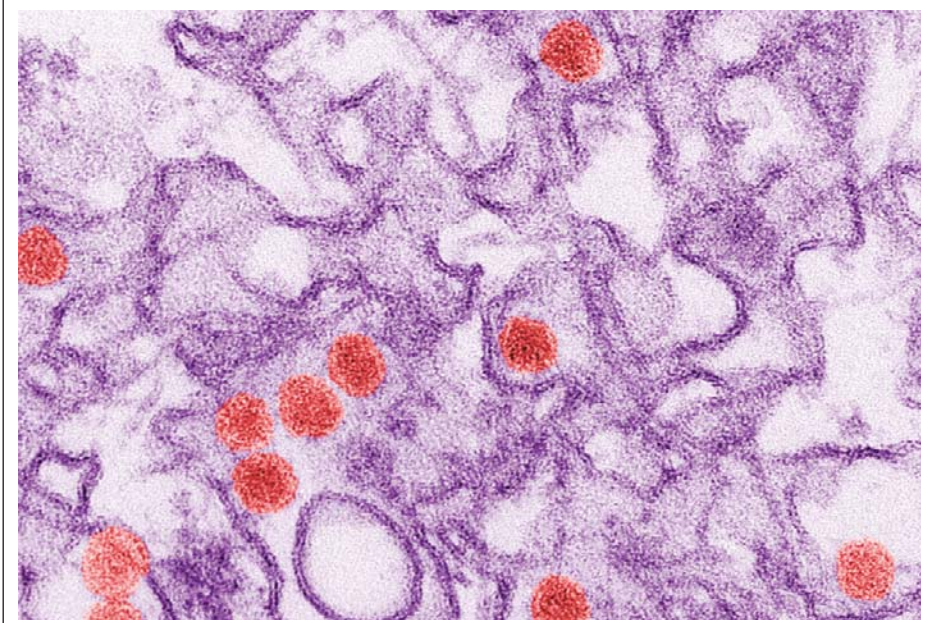
GERMANY: 4 DEAD AFTER TREATMENT AT CANCER CLINIC

BERLIN: Authorities in Germany say four people have died after being treated at a hospital on the Dutch border that offers alternative cancer treatment.

Police in Moenchengladbach announced the first death, of a Dutch woman who had received treatment for breast cancer at the Biologisches Krebszentrum in Brueggen-Bracht, on Monday. On Thursday, they said

another three patients who were treated last week have died in recent days - one from Belgium and two from the Netherlands.

Police said in a statement that the cause of the deaths isn't clear but they are calling on anyone who received treatment at the center to contact authorities. The hospital said Wednesday it is giving full cooperation to the police investigation. —AP



NEW YORK: This 2016 digitally-colored electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows the Zika virus, in red, about 40 nanometers in diameter. —AP

CUBA REPORTS TWO CASES OF ZIKA CONTRACTED LOCALLY

HAVANA: Cuba reported on Wednesday two new cases of residents contracting the mosquito-borne Zika virus locally, in a setback for the Caribbean country that has taken a series of measures in an attempt to stave off the epidemic. Since the current outbreak of Zika in Brazil last year, where it has been linked to hundreds of cases of a rare birth defect, it has spread rapidly through the Americas.

But Cuba, renowned for its preventative health campaigns, took a series of measures to eliminate the Aedes strain of mosquito that carries Zika, drastically reducing infestations. It had only reported one locally-contracted case until now. "Last Aug. 1, two new locally contracted cases of the Zika virus were diagnosed, corresponding

to residents in the city of Holguin who had not traveled abroad, which brings the total up to three," the Health Ministry said in a statement published by state media.

The ministry said the patients remained hospitalized, in a good state of general health, and with a "favorable evolution". It added it was investigating the affected area to identify the possible existence of new cases and was continuing the fight against the Aedes strain of mosquito.

Cuba has called out the military to help fumigate, activated neighborhood watch groups to check there is no standing water, where the insects breed, instituted health checks at airports and other entry points to the Caribbean island, among other measures. —Reuters

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Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah recently welcomed retired officer Mohammad Belal from the Traffic General Department, and honored him for his performance throughout his years of service. Sheikh Mohammad also welcomed retired Lieutenant General Abdulfattah Al-Ali, who weighed in with his experience in the security field during discussions on the same topic.



The Interior Ministry's retirees' diwaniya welcomed retired officers for their weekly meeting last Tuesday, in attendance of Brigadier General Jamal Al-Omar, Acting Director of the Service Centers General Department, and Colonel Saif Al-Mutairi, Director of the Retirees Care Department.



ACK CORPORATE TRAINING DELIVERED ENGLISH COURSE TO AAW STAFF

The Australian College of Kuwait's Corporate Training Department (ACK CT) successfully delivered a general English course to Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa Commercial (AAW) company's staff members. Over the 3 week period participants learnt new set of standards using the natural language that people really speak. Its rock-solid learner centered approach allows participants to confirm their progress at the end of every unit. The course presents numerous short practical language models that represent the language adult trainees want and need to learn - for professional, social, and travel situations. It increases the level of English whilst simultaneously preparing them for work in a business context.

Lina Ahmed, Training and Development Manager- Human Capital Department at AAW highlighted: "We chose ACK to provide and deliver our training needs analysis as we believed ACK is meeting our expectations and having a high standard of performance."

ACK CT was formed in 2009 to cater for training, mentoring/coaching and consultancy needs of the public and private sector. In collaboration with International bodies the ACK CT department instill a passion for learning that enables quality personnel and professional development providing consultancy that delivers timely solutions unlike any typical Corporate Training Institute.

ACK CT's vibrant team of highly motivated professionals have extensive corporate and industry consulting experience. The team works closely with clients to understand their specific needs and to make appropriate recommendations that deliver timely and effective solutions. The recommendations made by ACK CT are based on extensive and current research into global best-practice that guarantees the provision of the latest and best solutions tailored and delivered to ensure client expectations are exceeded.



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently met with Major General Ibrahim Al-Omairi, Head of the National Military Service Authority to discuss preparations to implement the conscription law that was promulgated in 2015.



KUWAIT'S ARCHITECTURE TO BE FOCUS POINT OF LATEST PROMENADE EXHIBITION

The Promenade mall, the neighborhood destination in the heart of Kuwait, is set to launch its latest exhibition at the Promenade, 'Emergent Pavilion', which is the result of the Emergent Construction workshop. The workshop, which focuses on Kuwait's architectural qualities is the work of participants of the Architectural Association Visiting School and the pavilion will be unveiled to the public at the Promenade mall on 12th August with a schedule of leading talks on the industry to take place in the week prior.

Kuwait residents and visitors are invited to celebrate the pavilion's debut during an evening of exploration and discovery at

Kuwait's cultural and art venue. The evening's festivities, to kick off from 7pm, will include featured talks by guest speakers and a forum of interaction for anyone interested in the field of architectural design.

The partnership with the Architectural Association Visiting School has organized a 10 day course that is currently taking place with 40 participants, comprising of students, academics, and professionals. During the program, the participants are investigating the material, cultural and social ecologies that are unique to Kuwait, which is being translated into a large scale architectural wooden structure that will be unveiled during the opening ceremony.

"The Promenade Culture Center prides itself as a key driver in encouraging and hosting a variety of artistic and cultural activities in Kuwait. This latest exhibition is the extension of this work and we are proud of our association with the Architectural Association Visiting School in creating what will be an iconic pavilion and exhibition," Noor Al-Sadoun, Promenade Culture Centre Manager said.

"Visitors will be able to experience the work created by the workshop's participants by means of innovative methodologies for design and construction, and their capacity to incorporate dynamic social and environmental performance qualities," added Mohammed Makki, coordinator and tutor of Architectural

Association Visiting School.

Prior to the Emergent Pavilion opening to the public, the Architectural Association Visiting School will be running a series of events as part of its Emergent Construction Guest Lecture Series, encompassing local and international architects during one hour public talks. The series will run from 4th August until 10th August and include leading figures such as Ian Purser, Jeroen Van Ameijde and Hessa Al Bader. Topics to be included range from urban systems to new age digital methods and design.

Operating as a charity mall, the Promenade is giving back to Kuwait by encouraging Kuwait's talents to showcase their art at the

mall's cultural arm, the Promenade Culture Center. Situated within the mall, the center is a multi-purpose event space designed to encourage local and international artistic talent and act as a showcase for a variety of artistic and cultural activities, including film screenings, theatrical performances, art exhibitions, lectures and workshops.

To find out more about the Emergent Pavilion and other projects and exhibitions taking place at the Promenade Culture Center, please telephone 95595123 or follow @promenadeculturecentre and @avskkuwait, or visit AAVS's official website <http://kuwait.aaschool.ac.uk>.



JOYALUKKAS INAUGURATES BIGGEST JEWELRY SHOWROOM IN PUNJAGUTTA, HYDERABAD

The Home Minister of Telangana Nayani Narasimha Reddy today inaugurated the new world-class Joyalukkas Showroom in Punjagutta, Hyderabad. The showroom is the largest jewelry in Telangana and features over a million choices in precious jewelry. The globally renowned jeweler is also offer two back-to-back promotions to celebrate this momentous occasion which includes a chance to win 2 Mercedes-Benz vehicles. The mega promotions was also launched during the star-studded inauguration. Multi-award winning jewelry retailer Joyalukkas continues its massive expansion with the opening of its new Punjagutta showroom, the largest jewelry showroom in fast-rising Hyderabad. "Punjagutta, is the shopping nerve center for jewelry in Hyderabad so think jewelry shoppers here should get to experience one of the biggest and most unique Joyalukkas showrooms. We are blessed with a strong customer base here and their support and patronage has exceeded all our expectations. In appreciation of all our loyal patrons in Punjagutta, this is also one of the reasons we decided to re-launch in a bigger and better experience of jewelry shopping for jewelry lovers here" said Joy Alukkas, Chairman and MD, Joyalukkas Group. "As the largest jewelry showroom in Hyderabad, Joyalukkas Punjagutta will offer more in every way i.e. more choices,

more value, more designs, more convenience and the best jewelry shopping experience in Hyderabad."

The Joyalukkas Punjagutta showroom is not just large and spacious in terms of area covered, it is also home to the retail giant's largest collection of diamond and polki jewelry, as well as an extensive selection of traditional gold and diamond wedding jewelry. Customers can expect spacious interiors, a world-class ambience and the widest variety of high-quality jewelry found nowhere else. All complemented by the very high standards of customer service and value Joyalukkas has become known for.

As part of the inauguration celebration, the world's favourite jeweler is giving customers a chance to win 2 Mercedes-Benz vehicles in a raffle, as well as assured gifts, from home appliances to other exciting prizes through a Scratch and Win promotion. Joyalukkas Punjagutta is set to be the new landmark of this popular shopping destination. The world's favourite jeweler is one of largest jeweler chains in the world with a over 120 jewelry showrooms across 11 countries around the world. "My aspiration is to ornament the world so we will continue to grow and make brand 'Joyalukkas' accessible to every jewelry lover across the globe", concluded says Joy Alukkas.

ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER HELD FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ASSE Kuwait Chapter is a leading non-profit organization which always strives to enhance the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) culture in private and public sectors, Kuwait by providing quality HSE trainings, Conferences, Technical seminars, providing consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment, etc. The Chapter has elected a new Executive Committee (EC) in June 2016 to steer the organization for the term 2016-2017, and organized the first Executive Committee meeting graced by the Chapter Advisory Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, elected members, Head of Committees and Chapter Executives.

Chary, Chapter President welcomed all members to this first EC meeting and thanked everyone for accepting their roles to support ASSE Kuwait Chapter. During this meeting, June and July 2016 updates presented by Sanjay Jaiswal, Secretary.

Rama Krushna Chary-President, Muhammad Alamgir- Vice President, Sanjay Jaiswal - Secretary, Sunil Sadanand- Treasurer, Ujwal Ritwik - Advisory Committee member, Ashok Garlapti - Advisory Committee member, Vasudevan - Strategic Planning Advisory Committee member, Sony Thomas- Head of Training Committee, Aamir Rasheed - Head of Career and Professional Development Committee, Dr Shaikhah Al Fajjam- Head of WISE Committee, Adnan Yousaf - Head of Technical Events Committee, Saif Qaisar - Sub-committee member of Environment and Health Committee, Ahmad Al-Ansari - Head of Outreach and Govt. Affairs Committee, Abul Efhame - Head of Membership Committee, Mohammad Jamilur Rahman Khan - Sub-committee member of Student Committee represented their concerned committees including their Deputies and sub-committee members, Rishi D Jayan Sr Executive and Venkata Ramana Pondla, Jr Executive (Chapter Operations), attended the meeting. The meeting concluded by Muhammad Alamgir, Vice President with his closing remarks.



Birthday



Sai Yadav Duvvuru celebrated his first birthday on 23/07/2016. Greetings from loving parents Anitha and Narashimulu and Grandparents Lakshmi Devi, Narasimhulu, friends and family members.

BBC FIRST

- 03:30 Spooks
04:30 Eastenders
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Eastenders
07:00 Holly 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 Holly 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 Holly City
02:05 I Want My Wife Back
02:35 Rev.

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 Nathan For You
03:25 Nathan For You
03:50 Ridiculousness
04:15 Ridiculousness
04:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:30 Tosh.0
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 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
14:15 Tattoo Disasters
14:40 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

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Discovery ID
09:00 Discovery ID
15:00 Discovery ID
21:00 Discovery ID
Discovery Science HD
03:00 Mega Engineering
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 Freaks Of Nature
05:00 Freaks Of Nature
05:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Mythbusters
08:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
09:02 Mega Engineering
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Freaks Of Nature
11:02 Freaks Of Nature
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega Engineering
14:38 Freaks Of Nature
15:02 Freaks Of Nature
15:26 Mythbusters
16:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
17:02 Mega Engineering
17:50 Mythbusters
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Crisis Control
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Industrial Junkie
21:35 Industrial Junkie
22:00 Crisis Control
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Mythbusters
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Crisis Control
02:10 How The Universe Works

Disney Channel HD

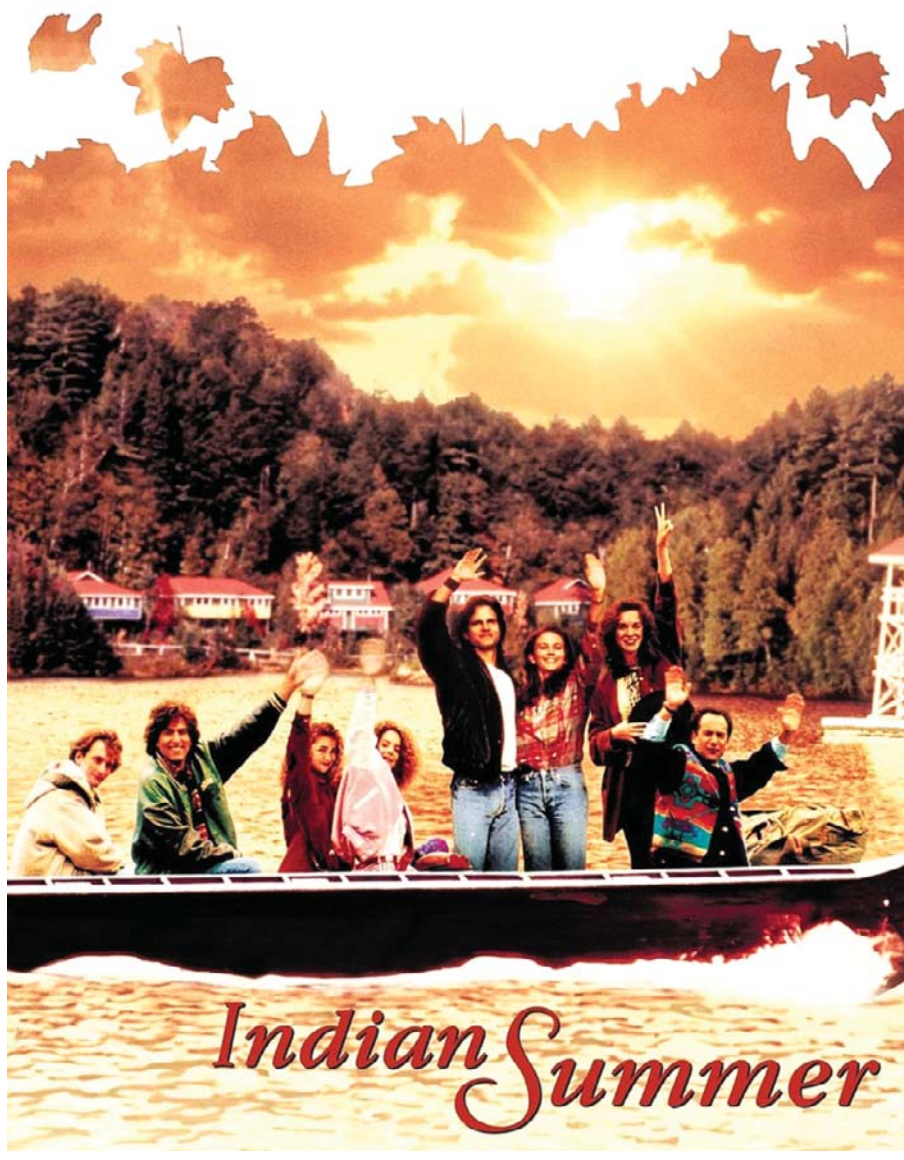
- 03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney Junior

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

Disney XD

- 06:00 Boyster



INDIAN SUMMER ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News
14:05 Botched
15:00 WAGs
16:00 WAGs

- 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

H2 HD

- 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 WWI: Europe's Secret Army
11:00 WWI: The First Modern War
12:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
13:00 World War II: Lost Films
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 The Universe
16:00 WWI: 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

HISTORY HD

- 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 Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of
14:20 Car Hunters
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
20:35 Pawn Stars
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 Leupu And Pitbull
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Mountain Men

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 03:45 Wild Untamed Brazil
04:40 Unlikely Animal Friends
05:35 Tiger On The Run
06:30 World's Weirdest (2015)
07:25 Wild Untamed Brazil
08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends
09:15 Animal Armory
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 Armory
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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 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
18:00 Explorer
19:00 Hasselhoff vs. The Berlin Wall
20:00 Surrender
20:50 Surrender
21:40 Explorer
22:30 Hasselhoff vs. The Berlin Wall
23:20 Money Meltdown
23:45 Money Meltdown
00:10 Surrender
01:00 Stalking Hitler's Generals
02:00 Explorer
02:55 Hasselhoff vs. The Berlin Wall

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
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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

- Jimmy Fallon
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 Togetherness
23:00 Web Therapy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Galavant
01:00 Last Man Standing
01:30 South Park
02:00 Togetherness
02:30 Web Therapy

OSN MOVIES

- 04:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
06:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
08:00 Flightplan
10:00 Jack The Giant Killer
11:45 Godzilla
14:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
16:00 Flightplan
17:45 Freezer
19:30 Fast & Furious 6
21:00 Savages
02:00 The 13th Warrior
02:00 Age Of Ice

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey
06:00 Bringing Down The House
08:00 Mr. Destiny
10:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
12:15 Indian Summer
14:00 Green Card
16:00 Mr. Destiny
18:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
20:00 The World's End
22:00 Good Luck Chuck
00:00 All The Wrong Reasons
02:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:00 The Country Bears
05:00 The Incredibles
07:00 The Princess And The Frog
09:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
11:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame
13:00 G-Force
15:00 Bolt
17:00 Blank Check
19:00 Big Fat Liar
21:00 Mighty Joe Young
23:00 Bolt
01:00 Big Fat Liar

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:00 The Cobbler
05:00 The Two Faces Of January
07:00 Sir Billi
09:00 The Cobbler
11:00 Love, Rosie
13:00 The Song
15:00 The End Of The Tour
16:45 The Imitation Game
18:45 Everest
21:00 Days And Nights
23:00 The Skeleton Twins
01:00 Snowpiercer

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 03:00 The Simpsons
03:30 Black-ish
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon



GODZILLA 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
22:42 South Park
23:05 Underground With Dave Atell
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

- 05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Moux
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Shake It Up
09:00 Hannah Montana
09:25 Hannah Montana
09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:40 Good Luck Charlie
11:05 Good Luck Charlie
11:30 Jessie
11:55 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Hank Zipzer
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 Gravity Falls
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Backstage
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Liv And Maddie
18:40 Binny And The Ghost
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Violetta
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A

- 06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Phineas And Ferb
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
12:55 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids S3&4
18:15 Gartner's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Pickle And Peanut
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Gartner's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

- 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

food network

- 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
17:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
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
23:00 Iron Chef America

EHD

- 03:15 WAGs
04:10 WAGs
05:05 WAGs
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



THE SONG ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/08/2016 TO 10/08/2016)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
12:30 PM	SHARQIA-1	7:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
3:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA	9:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
6:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA	12:05 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD
9:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA				
12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2				
12:00 PM	SHARQIA-2	11:30 AM	FANAR-3	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2
2:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	1:30 PM	NERVE	3:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA
5:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:45 PM	FINDING DORY	6:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA
7:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	7:00 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	9:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA
9:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	9:15 PM	NERVE	12:15 AM	MIN 30 SANA
12:15 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA		
1:00 PM	SHARQIA-3	11:30 AM	FANAR-4	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.3
3:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	2:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	2:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	4:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
10:15 PM	ABU SHANAB	7:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	9:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	9:30 PM	JASON BOURNE
		12:15 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:05 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
1:00 PM	MUHALAB-1	12:15 PM	FANAR-5	12:00 PM	ABAIQAQ-1
4:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	12:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2	12:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D
7:00 PM	ABU SHANAB	3:00 PM	NERVE	2:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D
9:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	5:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2	4:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D
12:15 AM	MIN 30 SANA	8:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D
		10:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
		1:15 AM	NERVE	12:05 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD
12:30 PM	MUHALAB-2	1:00 PM	MARINA-1	12:15 PM	BAIQAQ-2
2:45 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA
5:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:45 PM	FINDING DORY	5:30 PM	FINDING DORY
7:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2	8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:45 PM	MIN 30 SANA
10:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:15 PM	ABU SHANAB	11:45 PM	MIN 30 SANA
12:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		
11:30 AM	MUHALAB-3	11:45 AM	MARINA-2	1:00 PM	BAIQAQ-3
2:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	2:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	3:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
5:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	4:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	3:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2	5:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
10:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
12:45 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN
1:00 PM	FANAR-1	11:45 AM	MARINA-3	3:15 PM	PLAZA
4:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	12:45 PM	MIN 30 SANA	5:15 PM	NERVE
7:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	1:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD
10:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	3:45 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	10:30 PM	KASABA -Malayalam
1:00 AM	ABU SHANAB	6:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA		THE CONJURING 2
		9:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA		
		12:05 AM	MIN 30 SANA		
12:30 PM	FANAR-2	12:30 PM	AVENUES-1	12:00 PM	AJIAL.1
5:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	12:00 PM	KASABA -Malayalam
		6:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	4:00 PM	KASABA -Malayalam
		8:45 PM	JASON BOURNE	6:45 PM	KASABA -Malayalam

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**House for Sale
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 A well-built house with 9.2 cents of land located in the heart of Trivandrum PTP Nagar is for sale. Genuine parties interested may contact on mob -0091 7025154936 E-mail. schoolofmusicvm@gmail.com Expected value: 2 crores (negotiable) NRI'S preferred.

FOR RENT
 Commercial flats in Salmiya - Hamad Al-Mubarak st. - excellent location, on a main st. (2 rooms on master, living room - 2 bathrooms and kitchen).
 Tel: **96019919**

FOR RENT
 Excellent flat in Salmiya - Block 10 - (two rooms, living room, kitchen and two bathrooms).
 Tel: **96019919**

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Challa Nagarjuna, holder of Indian Passport No: H4746507 resident of D.No. 3/153-A, Vallur, Kadapa Dist, A.P, India, has been converted to Islam, in future I will be known as Shaik Abdulla. (C 5198) 7-8-2016

Garden, Royepettai, Chennai - 14, India. Have changed my name from Mukil Arasan in future, I will be known as Abdul Rahman. (C 5197)

I, Linguntla Babu S/o Late Venkataiah, holder of Indian Passport No: K9653001, have changed my name to M.N. Reddaiah Naidu S/o Late Venkataiah. Address: Mudrapalle (VI & Po), Penagalur (Mandal), Kadapa (Dist), AP. 5-8-2016

SITUATION WANTED
Accountant - Indian, experienced having extensive knowledge in handling all kinds of accounts (including system establishment and management) right from JV to finalization and management reporting more than 20 years in the field now seeking full time or part time assignment with transferable iqama. Contact: 97934610 rashedpni@hotmail.com (C 5199) 7-8-2016

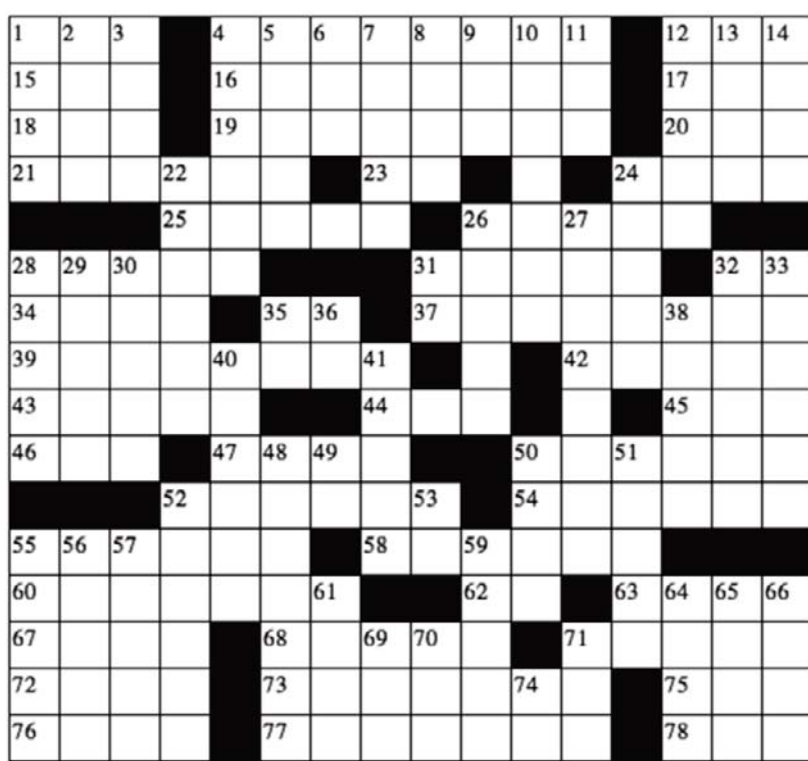
Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 7/8/2016				Departure Flights on Sunday 7/8/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	513	Tehran	15:40
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	204	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	NIA	352	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LZB	7779	Burgas	03:30	KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	801	Regional, Taif	17:45
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	SYR	342	Damascus	18:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
MSC	411	Asyut	08:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	RBG	552	Alexandria	23:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
FEG	961	Sohag	12:55	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

CROSSWORD 1335



ACROSS

1. A very small circular shape.
4. Of or pertaining to tactics.
12. Tag the base runner to get him out.
15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
16. City in central Iran.
17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
18. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
19. A drop where mail can be deposited.
20. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
21. A priest who served a particular deity in ancient Rome.
23. A metric unit of length equal to 1000 meters (or 0.621371 miles).
25. (biology) Having or resembling wings.
28. Liquor and water with sugar and spices and served hot.
34. The content of cognition.
37. An almond-shaped neural structure in the anterior part of the temporal lobe of the cerebrum.
39. A group of islands in the Atlantic off the Carolina coast.
42. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
43. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
44. Rare (usually fatal) brain disease (usually in middle age) caused by an unidentified slow virus.
45. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
46. A column of light (as from a beacon).
47. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
54. A person who yawns.
55. Malevolent aspect of Devi.
58. (linguistics) Relating to the dative case.
60. A ribbon used as a decoration.
62. A colorless explosive liquid that is volatile and poisonous and foul-smelling.
63. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
67. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
68. The state of being covered with unclean things.
72. British politician (1788-1850).
73. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
75. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
76. At a previous time.
77. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
78. Being one more than nine.

DOWN

1. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
2. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
3. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
4. In a tame manner.
5. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
6. An index of the cost of all goods and services to a typical consumer.
7. Full of trivial conversation.
8. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
9. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
10. Deviation from the normal or common order or form or rule.
11. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
12. Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
13. A city in northern India.
14. Having or denoting a low vocal or instrumental range.
22. Title used for a married Frenchwoman.
24. English monk and scholar (672-735).
26. Given or having a specified name.
27. A native or inhabitant of Yugoslavia.
29. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
30. A hat that is round and black and hard with a narrow brim.
31. A state in the eastern United States.
32. Give pleasure to.
33. Small scales from animal skins or hair or bird feathers that can cause allergic reactions in some people.
35. A public promotion of some product or service.
36. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
38. A city in northeastern Ohio.
40. A landlocked republic in eastern Africa.
41. Rise or heave upward under the influence of a natural force, as on a wave.
48. A Kachinic language.
49. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
50. The 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
51. A person of unquestioning obedience.
52. Undo the belt of.
53. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
56. A person responsible for hiring workers.
57. True firs.
59. A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or moss capsule.
61. A small amount of residue.
64. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
65. United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
66. (statistics) Approximating the statistical norm or average or expected value.
69. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
70. A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.
71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
74. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This morning is a good time to do a little exercise in order to become focused and grounded for the busy day ahead. You may find that others want you to respond to their needs in rapid order. Easy does it!! Let us get priorities straight. You will probably be coordinating events and supervising as well-this could involve children, professional responsibilities or entertaining guests. Make guidelines known and all will be successful. Take pictures and encourage picture taking. This is a time of making beautiful memories. Take time to play and enjoy your loved ones this afternoon. A friend, who has been out of touch, mysteriously reappears today. You will find the highlights of his or her story quite interesting. Laughter and shared stories are fun.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are able to solve problems and guide others through some weird happenings. The unexpected pops up from time to time and today just may be one of those unorganized times. You have the intuitive insight that will be best put to use in interesting situations. Using your rational thinking for guidance, you will gain a clear vision of whatever action is needed. There are breakthroughs regarding inner growth as well as compassion and communion. Attention settles on home, security and family values. You find new opportunities for adventure. This evening you may find your own life influenced when you encourage a young person to continue her or his education and start working toward his or her goals.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is something gentle, regular, steadfast and determined about you today. You are accepting and nurturing-providing a nest or place for family members to gather and be close with each other. You care and always enjoy being helpful with your loved ones. Remember that sometimes a listening ear is all that is necessary. Allow someone else to have the neat ideas or the last word-for today. While there are good parts to being in control there are also negative points to ponder when one person is the decision maker. Allowing someone else to be in control may bring you just as interesting experiences and a relief of duty. This is a good day and close relationships can become even closer. A new type of cooking perks your interest this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. This is a time of exploring your feelings and a kind of restlessness for new emotional experiences. If you are looking for thrills, consider the rides at a park, but if you are looking for emotional swells, consider volunteering for a city community group where you could lend comfort to others. At this time you may find you strongly feel this emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. There is much mental and physical activity. Tutoring and lecturing could be included here. You love to express yourself and enjoy being surrounded by an audience. You are very magnetic and dynamic.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Chances are-your social skills mean that you are popular with almost everyone. However, you are sometimes pulled between a desire to progress and be all that you can be versus a tendency to dwell in the past, resting on your laurels, so to speak. Your inner, more domestic side struggles against authority from time to time. You could feel caught in the middle. Today there are plenty of opportunities to be with family and friends in an atmosphere of love and family affection. Allow others to cater to your needs and relax! Today is for good energies and renewal of your inner most passion for life, love and the pursuit of happiness. A gift or a game could create some fun mental challenges this afternoon. Evening is time for more fun.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have the energy and opportunity to accomplish whatever you want to accomplish today. There is much energy and drive. If you can, play some music that will keep you going at a steady beat. By the time you finish your projects, you will feel as though you only started-time flies. A little roof repair here, a little yard work there, a few chores and your ready to hop into a pool or hammock for the rest of the afternoon. You have great insight into matters of personal freedom. You can usually come up with brilliant ways to express, or act out ideas. New methods of lovemaking, raising kids, caring for animals are yours. You are outspoken, very dramatic, impressive and even regal. You may relax with a mate tonight, a little wine, a little cheese.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have information that you had not known about before-a missing piece of the puzzle, so to speak. You clear up some questions between you and a loved one or friend this morning and the rest of the day just moves along quickly. Attention to family relationships, domestic chores and romance is favored today. This is a time of exploring your feelings and learning about sharing. Events may line up in your favor and fair play can be realized. You are willing to listen to others, take cues and then reflect and build upon that information. Others find you gentle, steady and kind. Remember, you have to take time to involve yourself in family or neighborhood activities later today-this will build those firm foundations.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be especially dynamic and assertive today. There are lots of energy and drive available to accomplish anything you want. You may be representing your company in public surroundings today in some form of advertisement, display or presentation. Ambition and achievement are qualities you hold in special regard. This is a time for getting ahead, a time for combining business and pleasure and a time for enjoying your career with its rewards. The social graces pave your path to success this afternoon. Although this is a Saturday, you put your skills to work in some way to represent your company in the best light. Use opportunities now to network. You find yourself through other people. You may meet someone new and fun tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There will be an opportunity to overcome a language barrier. Today's aspects bring you charisma, originality and favorable notice. A good conversation with those you love is possible during the day. You could be preparing for out-of-town company much of the afternoon. You are at your most elegant, particularly in social situations. This is a good time to have friends or family in your home to visit or for entertaining. Your enthusiasm is high and your energies move in positive directions. Pay special attention to your diet and make plans to improve your exercise habits. After your company leaves, or they settle in for the evening, enjoy a long walk with your mate to relax. You may become tempted to take part in a marketing test; read the fine print.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A communications breakdown may have you jumping to make life a little more pleasant in a situation today. Sensitivity about the needs and wants of others and an appreciation for their frailties, as well as your own, makes you more cautious and conservative. A natural sense of what is right brings you a great deal of popularity. People ask your advice often. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life now. You want to belong and be included in decisions-by asking questions you will be able to decipher situations and express your own feelings. You are lucky today. Like a fish in water when in the limelight or in a group, you have an innate social charm. You find opportunities to show off your fun side this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your mind is quick and you are full of sharp insights. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. You will locate the right people to help you with some project today. You have optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at deep emotional levels. You are on top form when it comes to mental activities and this could be a time for real breakthroughs in the idea department. Your dreams, visions and ideals propel you in your activities. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way. Relationships in general get a boost. Harmony is deeply satisfying and a get-together with friends and loved ones this evening puts a fun ending to a very full day. Perhaps you are learning to truly relax.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Fun times with friends, family or both can be enjoyed today. You could feel great support from those around you, or circumstances may dictate your taking action. You feel healthy, natural and highly energetic. You love a social life-friends and relationships play a major role in your makeup. You could decide to take a short trip to a nearby city for an auction, entertainment, special sale, etc. Close bonds, such as with family or friends, are very important to you. You like beautiful surroundings, everything that is calm, tasteful and harmonious. You are very giving and flattering in relationships, able to adjust to any situation. Reflective and tactful, you are able to please others. This is one of those days that are fun and satisfying for all.

WORD SEARCH

Golf - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- BALL
- BIRDIE
- BOGEY
- CADDIE
- CHIP
- CLUB
- COURSE
- DIVOT

- DRIVER
- EAGLE
- FAIRWAY
- FORE
- GREEN
- HANDICAP
- IRON
- PUTTER

- ROUGH
- SHOT
- SLICE
- STROKE
- SWING
- WEDGE
- WOOD

Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Hockey - Solution

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

- ASSIST
- CHECK
- FACE OFF
- FIGHTING
- GLOVES
- GOALIE
- HAT TRICK
- HELMET

- ICING
- NET
- OFFSIDE
- OVERTIME
- PASS
- PENALTY
- PERIODS
- PLAYER

- PUCK
- REFEREE
- RINK
- SCORE
- SKATES
- SLAP SHOT
- STICK

Daily SuDoku

8			7					3	5
	3			8					6
		2			9				
				3		4			1
5		8		4					
			2			6			
3				1				5	
1	9			8					4

Yesterday's Solution

5	4	6	1	8	3	9	7	2
9	2	3	7	4	6	5	8	1
7	1	8	2	5	9	4	3	6
4	8	9	5	1	2	3	6	7
6	3	1	4	9	7	2	5	8
2	5	7	3	6	8	1	4	9
1	6	2	8	3	5	7	9	4
3	9	4	6	7	1	8	2	5
8	7	5	9	2	4	6	1	3

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

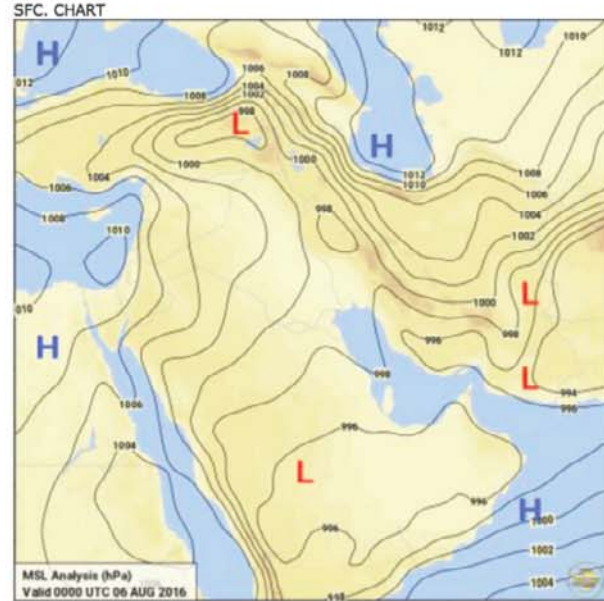


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 06/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 50 °C

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot	very hot	very hot
Min Temp °C	30	31	29	30
Max Temp °C	49	49	48	49
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	15 - 35	12 - 35	08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	35		49	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29		50	
ABDALY	31		48	
BUBYAN	30		42	
JAHRA	34		50	
FAILAKA ISLAND	29		45	
SALMIYAH	34		43	
AHMADI	34		39	
JAL ALIYAH	32		49	
QAROH ISLAND	32		37	
UMM AL-MARADEM	32		37	
NUWAISIB	28		44	
WAFRA	26		48	
MANAGISH	31		49	
SALMY	30		48	
MUTRIBA	30		50	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	28
Max Rel Hum (%)	42
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:43
Sunrise	05:11
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:37
Isha	20:01



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Family Doctor
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Psychiatrists
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam	22666288
Bern University	23845955
Dentists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
DR.Mohammed Akkad	2455050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	MD, PH.D, FACC
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Inaya German Medical Center	
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CARA DELEVINGNE PERKED UP AFTER SHE STOPPED TAKING ANTI-DEPRESSANTS

The 23-year-old actress - who is dating singer/songwriter St Vincent - was prescribed pills at the age of 16 when she was feeling depressed and suicidal but hated them and says it was only when she quit taking the medication that she could "feel things again". 'Suicide Squad' star Cara explained: "That week, I got into fights, I cried, I laughed. It was the best thing in the world to feel things again." "And I get depressed still, but I would rather learn to figure it out myself than be dependent on meds, ever. "I hate meds. I don't agree with them. It's so easy to abuse them." Cara admitted her teen years were extremely tough and says "all I wanted to do was die". Speaking in the September issue of Esquire, she said: "When it got to being a teenager, and all the hor-

mones and the pressure and wanting to do well at school, I had a mental breakdown. "I was suicidal. I couldn't deal with it any more. I realized how lucky I was and privileged I was, but all I wanted to do was die. "I felt so guilty because of that and hated myself because of that, and then it's a cycle. "I didn't want to exist anymore. I wanted for each molecule of my body to disintegrate. I wanted to die." Cara also opened up about her relationship with St Vincent, 33, in the interview and says it has put her past romances in the shade. The star said: "It's like, when you find a real love, you look back on the other loves you've had and you're like, 'Ooh, that was a bit destructive.'"

Brendan Fraser is set to star in 'The Affair'

The 47-year-old actor has confirmed he will star in the third season of the popular series, although he has yet to reveal the character he will play in the show, which made its debut on Showtime network in 2014. According to Deadline, 'The Mummy' star was signed up for the role by Gersh, which comes swiftly after he signed with a new talent agency. The dark-haired hunk - who is still represented by Brillstein Entertainment Partners and Felker Toczec - has been busy filming scenes for the indie film 'The Field', which has now been completed. Meanwhile, it is rumored Annabelle Wallis is in talks to star in 'The Mummy' reboot alongside Tom Cruise in Universal's new era of monster films, however, it is unknown if Fraser will make a cameo. 'Prometheus' screenwriter Jon Spaihts is working on the script and although plot details are being kept under wraps, the film will reportedly be set in the present day, unlike the original films starring Brendan. 'Star Trek Into Darkness' producer Alex Kurtzman is to direct and produce the remake alongside Sean Daniel, who produced the original three films. While Cruise will reportedly play a major role in the film's development, he isn't expected to produce. Kurtzman and Chris Morgan last summer teamed up with Universal to create a universe with its monster movie library at the forefront. Characters from the films are expected to appear in each other's instalments before teaming up for an 'Avengers'-style extravaganza. Annabelle is currently starring opposite Sasha Baron Cohen in The Brothers Grimsby and will next be seen in Guy Ritchie's 'Knights of the Roundtable: King Arthur'.



Mariah Carey doesn't know if Nick Cannon will be in her docuseries

The 'Without You' hitmaker - who has five-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe with the 'America's Got Talent' host - has admitted she has no idea what will be on the show when it airs on December 4. The 46-year-old singer attended the Television Critics Association press tour on Wednesday (03.08.16) in Los Angeles and when a reporter assumed he would be making an appearance she corrected them Mariah - who is currently planning her wedding to Australian billionaire James Packer - said: "I didn't say that, darling. I said he came around - I don't know what makes final cut." Meanwhile, Mariah has confirmed that her fiancé James will be included and he's been "very good in allowing some moments" for the cam-

era. She said: "Yes, he's part of the series." The buxom blonde said that her twin kids are hilarious when they are on screen and she could even see them having their own spin-off in the future. She laughed: "They could have their own show because that's how funny they are." And she hopes the eight-episode series will show people the "real" Mariah. The 'Fantasy' singer said: "I don't know that anybody really knows the real me because if somebody sees me on TV ... it's not enough time to get to know somebody. My goal is for it to be a lasting piece of work for my fans."

Tyga's son has started swearing at school

The 26-year-old rapper has revealed three-year-old King Cairo, whom he has with his ex-fiancee Blac Chyna, keeps getting a telling off from his teachers because he's been walking around dropping curse words in front of the other children after picking up the foul language from his father. Speaking on 'Hollywood Today Live' on Wednesday (03.08.16), Tyga said: "He [King Cairo] actually, he had an incident at school, they [the teachers] called me and they were like, 'Your son's walking around saying the B-word.' "And I was like, 'Where did he hear that?' He told them, 'My dad says it in the studio.'" The 'Rack City' hitmaker - who drops explicit words into his music - is now trying to make a conscious effort to keep his son away from the studio and prevent him from listening to his songs in a bid to stop him picking up nasty foul-mouth habits. He explained: "I try to keep him out of the studio and try not to play songs when he's around because he does stuff like that." Meanwhile, Tyga has admitted he does all he can to give his toddler the most stable upbringing, despite the fact his mother Blac is expecting a baby with the rapper's on/off girlfriend Kylie Jenner's half-brother Rob Kardashian. He said: "I try not to judge people ... my main focus and goal is just to make sure that my son has the best upbringing. I feel like once you're an adult, people make their own decisions and sometimes you can't put your faith in people because you'll always be let down, so I just stay focused and really stay concerned about him."





RIO DE JANEIRO: People watch a television screen at a restaurant showing the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games on Friday.



RIO DE JANEIRO: A man (R) watches a television screen showing the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games on Friday. — AFP photos

Top chef gives Brazil's poor a taste of the high life

Restaurant-goers usually pay hundreds of Euros to eat the creations of Massimo Bottura, but he will be serving poor Brazilians for free at the Olympics. The 53-year-old Italian modernist chef owns Osteria Francescana in Modena, rated best in the world by Restaurant magazine this year.

He is known for dishes such as "An eel swimming up the Po River" -eel with polenta, Campanie apple jelly, burnt saba onion and charcoal salt. It will set you back 220 euros at his restaurant, which has three Michelin stars. In Rio de Janeiro, Bottura will be serving up scraps, and his customers won't pay a cent.

The idea is to tackle the twin social ills of waste and poverty with one creative, delicious project-set against the backdrop of Rio de Janeiro's lush landscapes amid the excitement of the Olympics. Bottura's ingredients will be garbage-bound surplus food donated by the catering companies at the Olympic park and athletes' village.

He and a team of celebrity chefs plan to use that to make some 5,000 meals for some of the most "vulnerable" people in Brazil, a country plagued by poverty and inequality. Their restaurant, called Refettorio Gastromotiva, will open Monday in the trendy Lapa neighborhood. The 108-seat restaurant is funded by corporate sponsors. Customers will be chosen by charities working in Rio's poorest neighborhoods.

Doing mom proud

The restaurant was decorated by renowned Brazilian artist Vik Muniz, with furniture designed by the Campana brothers, icons of Brazilian design. It is the brainchild of Bottura, Brazilian chef and activist David Hertz and journalist Alexandra Forbes. "I promised my mother I would use my fame to make invisible people visible. The time has come to

give back to the world what it has given to me," said Bottura.

"We have an opportunity with this project, which is cultural, and not a charitable project, to fight wastefulness. If we change the way people think, we can help give birth to a new tradition," he told a press conference.

His kitchen team will include French chefs Alain Ducasse and Claude Troisgros, Spain's Andoni Aduriz and Brazilians Alex Atala, Felipe Bronze, Roberta Sudbrack and Rafa Costa e Silva. They will take turns cooking, setting the menu based on the ingredients available-which will be surplus food, not leftovers.

Rio city hall has granted them the site free of charge for 10 years. After the Olympics and Paralympics, Refettorio Gastromotiva will operate as a culinary institute as well as a regular restaurant. Patrons paying to eat there will also donate a meal to someone in need, under the motto "buy lunch, give dinner," a spokeswoman said.

Co-founder David Hertz, who runs a "social gastronomy" charity in Brazil called Gastromotiva, said the project is more about changing the way people think than feeding them. "We had never worked with the issue of food waste before. That's a legacy we'll leave," he said.

The project builds on a similar one, Refettorio Ambrosiano, that Bottura launched last year for the World's Fair in Milan. He is working on others in Los Angeles, New York and Montreal, to open next year. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: People watch a television screen showing the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games on Friday.



LOS ANGELES: This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn in a scene from "Suicide Squad." — AP

Harley Quinn becomes divisive breakout of 'Suicide Squad'

Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn was the breakout star of "Suicide Squad" before the movie was even finished. Audiences were captivated by this insane villain with the high-wattage smile, baseball bat, fishnets, pigtails and a T-shirt that read "Daddy's Lil Monster."

But now that the film is out in theaters and being savaged by critics, that tide may be turning. Harley Quinn has become a divisive figure. To some, she's still the breakout. To others, she's the unwitting victim of a misogynistic story and an abusive relationship.

In the film, she's the kind of character who cackles gleefully after surviving a harrowing helicopter crash, and coyly asks "What?!" after changing into some skintight hot pants in front of dozens of men. She's also obsessively devoted to her boyfriend, the Joker (Jared Leto), who is also the one responsible for her transformation from accomplished psychotherapist to all out psychopath. "It is a very difficult role," said director David Ayer. "You want to talk about a really, difficult, complex performance?" Margot delivers.

Early on he got a tip from Warner Bros. that he should look at the rising Australian actress for the part. Ayer liked Robbie's ability to disappear into her roles and cast her in the film. And they went to work crafting one of the more dysfunctional on-screen relationships this side of Sid and Nancy.

The character of Harley Quinn was introduced in the 1990s television show "Batman: The Animated Series," but soon the character seeped into the main DC comic books. While nowhere near as popular as, say Wonder Woman, she gained a sort of cult status. Filmmaker Kevin Smith even named his daughter after her.

In bringing the relationship to the screen, everyone was keenly aware of the potentially problematic nature of this unhinged couple. They had to strike a delicate balance. Even Robbie has acknowledged her initial confusion about Harley's

complete devotion to a man who treats her poorly. "We wanted to make sure that she wasn't victimized and didn't come off being victimized," said producer Charles Roven.

Thus, they sought to make her the driver of her own actions. Producers also said they tried to make sure the Joker is as obsessed with her as she is with him. In the movie, the Joker tortures her with electro shock therapy and gifts her to another man, while she fantasizes about suburban domesticity. In some versions of the comics, he regularly physically and emotionally abuses her.

Leto said that they pushed boundaries even more while shooting, but held back in the final edit. "There's a lot that's not going to be on the screen ... (We) pushed the envelope quite a bit during filming. There are scenes that may never see the light of day between Harley and the Joker where we explored those other dysfunctional sides," Leto said.

Ayer's film needed to be PG-13, though. "It's a very interesting time that we live in - a time where people are often crucified for mistakes. I can understand why people are very cautious about the decisions that they make," Leto said. "At the end of the day, the filmmakers and the studio have a film and they need to do what's best for the film."

Still, many critics, like BuzzFeed's Alison Willmore, MTV's Amy Nicholson and The Daily Beast's Jen Yamato, are dismayed that the relationship and the complex figure of Harley Quinn is not investigated further. "What we see on screen is this ditzy blond who seems to be willing to do anything for this guy," said Alyssa Rosenberg, opinion writer for The Washington Post. "If that relationship's meant to be powerful and complex and ugly, it also needs to be complete. It deserves to breathe." — AP

Olympics media: Delayed start for NBC, ad overload

NBC is proud of showing every Olympics competition live online, and many on TV. So, it makes the decision to air Friday's opening ceremony via tape delay a seemingly unnecessary provocation to followers accustomed to a see-it-immediately world. The ceremony, narrated by Matt Lauer, Hoda Kotb and Meredith Vieira, was delayed by one hour on the US East Coast, four hours out West. It was not offered live online. Much like four years ago when there was a longer delay from London, the move drew complaints on social media.

"There's a huge world party going on right now without us because, you know, we're American," was one message on Twitter before the US telecast started. For some viewers, the experience was worsened by the pace of commercials, perhaps a shock to time-shifters accustomed to fast-forwarding through ads. NBC took eight commercial breaks in the first 65 minutes of the ceremony. Since the announcers were rightly hanging back and taking in the show, it seemed like Lauer was announcing an upcoming break half the time he opened his mouth. "New drinking game: take a shot every time they go to a commercial," one viewer tweeted. NBC argued that the time delay allowed the network to edit for a smoother broadcast of what is essentially an entertainment spectacle. The ceremony is a celebration of Brazilian culture, said Mark Lazarus, chairman of the NBC Sports Group, and "we think it's important that we're able to put that in context for the viewer so it's not just a flash of color."

More importantly, the delay allowed NBC to show the ceremony entirely in prime-time across the country, for which advertisers pay a premium. The network has some 40.7 million reasons to justify its stance. That was the viewership for the London opening ceremony, the kind of number that leads NBC to conclude that the vast majority of fans like things just as they are.

PARADE OF ATHLETES: Was the US team making a political statement by having fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, dressed in a hijab, the traditional Muslim head covering, march in the first row of its athletes entering the stadium? Credit NBC's Vieira for pointing out Muhammad, but she made no mention of any political context.

TWEET OF THE NIGHT: "It's like an adjective rainstorm when Bob Costas comes on."

EYES RIGHT: Yes, social media can be a cruel place. Costas probably didn't appreciate being reminded of the goopy eye infection that forced him off the air for a few nights during the Winter Olympics in Sochi. For the record, his eyes were clear and bright Friday.

RISE UP: It seemed jarring, at the end of Thursday's Olympics preview, for NBC to debut a music video of Katy Perry's new song, "Rise." The network has declared the song its Olympics "anthem" and promised viewers they'll be hearing it frequently over the next two weeks. That's pretty sweet publicity for Perry, the sort most artists would die for. An NBC representative described it as a "value exchange" between the network and record company and if the song catches on, NBC can bask in the glow. The Olympics audience tends to skew old, and association with a pop star could be a way to bring in more young people.

COMING UP: American beach volleyball star Kerri Walsh Jennings has a recurring series on NBC, once every four years. She's back Saturday, this time with a new co-star: her new partner April Ross. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Michael Phelps carries the flag of the United States during the opening ceremony for the 2016 Summer Olympics on Friday. — AP



TEHRAN: Iranians play on the Pokemon Go app in northern Tehran's Mellat Park on August 3, 2016. — AFP photos

Iranians hunt **Pokemon** despite ban

Iran was quick to ban global gaming craze Pokemon Go, but as with many of the Islamic republic's internet controls, tech-savvy youths have carried on regardless.

In the ornate grounds of Mellat Park in Tehran, a teenage boy, buried in his phone, suddenly stops in front of a man sitting on a bench with his wife and young daughter—both covered from head to toe in the conservative black chador robes. The family stop their conversation and stare at the boy, who appears to be pointing his phone at them. Then, the boy moves on, completely oblivious—his mind is in the virtual world of Pokemon.

Iran blocks many global news and social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter. It banned Pokemon Go just a few days after it was released in early July, citing national security concerns because the wildly popular game leads users to real-life locations via GPS maps on their mobile phones. "Because this game is a mixture of virtual and physical games, it can pose lots of problems for the country and people in terms of security," deputy attorney general Abdulsamad Khoram Abadi told the Tasnim news agency on Friday.

He confirmed Pokemon Go had been unanimously banned by the High Council for Cyberspace. "These games can become a means for directing guided missiles and even cause disrup-

tions to ambulances and fire trucks," Alireza al-Davoud, a hardliner-linked analyst told Tasnim, adding he feared the US developers of the game were using it to spy on Iran.

Bypassing the censors

But the ban has done little to stop determined gamers hunting down Pokemon creatures. Iran's youthful and highly connected population is used to bypassing internet censorship on a daily basis, using "VPNs" that mask the location of their phones and computers.

Most phone shops sell pay-as-you-go VPN cards featuring the logos of banned sites such as Facebook and YouTube. The authorities rarely crack down on this behaviour, preferring to discourage access to foreign sites, rather than rigidly enforce censorship.

The bigger problem for Pokemon Go fans in Iran is the lack of "Pokestops" and "Gyms" to discover. Mellat Park is a relative hotspot, with one Pokestop and two Gyms. On a recent evening, it had attracted around 30 gamers, mostly in their teens and 20s. "It just shows how little data there is about Iran on the internet," says 15-year-old Shayan, complaining about the lack of features in Tehran.

Pokemon Go automatically assigns creatures and play areas based on existing map data, which

is fairly limited in the Iranian capital. Some people have travelled from the town of Karaj, 30 kilometers (18 miles) west of Tehran, to play here, adds Shayan.

The city's notorious traffic is another annoyance. "Last night, there were seven of us stuck in traffic for an hour trying to go and capture three Gyms," says Hossein, 26, laughing. Although gatherings of young men and women are frowned upon by Iran's conservative authorities, the meet-up in Mellat Park draws little attention since everyone is glued to their phones.

One family does figure out what is happening and stops to ask the youths how it works. "Look how cool it is," says Shireen, who is with her husband and four-year-old son. "I really like it because you have to move. I will let my son play it, but only after he's 15," she laughs.

As everywhere, the game is popular because it drags gamers off their sofas and into the real world. "After a day of work, I would have never come outside if it wasn't for this game," says Siavash, who says he lost four kilos (nine pounds) in the first two weeks after it came out. — AFP



Locarno Film Review

'This Time Tomorrow'

Family disputes can be ephemeral things, with hot headed fury often dissolving into apologetic embraces before the terms of the argument even become clear. Between these turnarounds, life doesn't always give you quite enough time to say what needs to be said, whether in love or in anger. That fragile changeability of family life is beautifully and painfully captured in "This Time Tomorrow," a deceptively slight-looking, quietly resonant sophomore feature from Colombian-Canadian writer-director Lina Rodriguez. Charting the daily ups and downs of a middle-class household in Bogota, the film alludes in its very title to the unpredictability of domestic mood swings—before the family in question is less reversibly riven by tragedy. Piquantly observed by filmmakers and cast alike, "Tomorrow" has a bright future on the festival circuit, with specialist distribution potential enhanced by its universal relatability.

In a film otherwise short on surplus stylistic flourishes, Rodriguez bookends her largely interior story with patient, unbroken shots of nature at rest: a venerable thick-trunked tree beside a felled sapling in a forest, and afternoon clouds drifting languidly above the treetops. The audience is free to determine (or possibly over-determine) the symbolic properties of these images, but at their simplest level, the constancy they represent stands in stark contrast to the shifting, fractious feelings within the household at the film's center; the implied adage that "life goes on" comes to seem crueler as this thoroughly everyday story unfolds.

Unsurprisingly, the most dramatic emotional surges and

switches in the narrative are conducted by a teenager: 17-year-old only child Adelaida (Laura Osma, making a riveting big-screen debut), a bright, forthright young beauty getting to grips with her sexuality, with all the enmeshed petulance, outward confidence and inner insecurity that goes with the age. Her loving but beleaguered parents, art teacher Francisco (Francisco Zaldua) and party planner Lena (Maruia Shelton), get the full brunt of her capricious hormones, as she alternately rails against them for impinging on her freedom and needily wheedles favors out of them using casual emotional blackmail. ("Do it because you love me," is a recurring negotiation strategy, said with the cheeky smirk of a child knowingly testing their limits.)

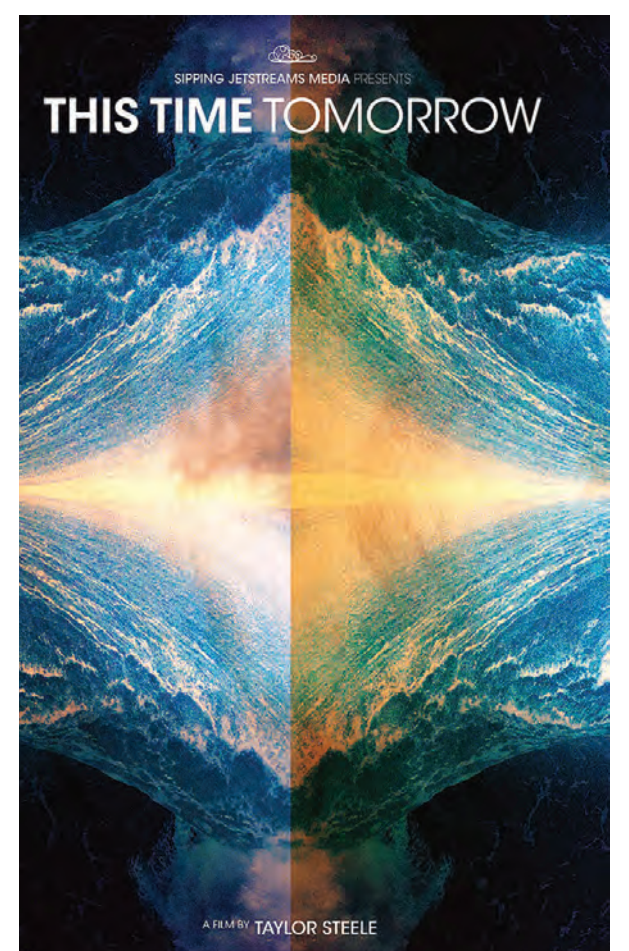
Rodriguez has a marvelously perceptive eye (or, more crucially, ear) for the ways in which the pettiest disagreements and disobediences can escalate into full-blown domestic battlefields: A breezy reminder to take the trash out can become about something else entirely, particularly in a family where other, gradually uncovered tensions are coursing beneath the surface. Adelaida may be the locus of the film's drama, but the conflicts she starts occasionally expose hairline cracks in her parents' marriage, a loving but unequal arrangement in which Lena appears over-burdened with domestic responsibility.

As a result, Adelaida perhaps inadvertently reserves her bitterest ire for her mother; when she snarkily mutters at Lena, "I'm sorry your life doesn't work," her words might cut deeper than she intends. One cut later, however, the two are amiably cleaning the bathroom together. It's unclear

how much time has passed, but the film's clean, incisive editing—courtesy of Rodriguez and her co-producer Brad Deane—repeatedly evokes the day-to-day flips in mood familiar to adolescent-ruled houses.

It's with a more protracted editorial gambit—a long, deliberate fade to and from black midway through the film—that the tenor of proceedings alters more drastically, as a devastating event forces the reeling family to restructure its roles and lines of communication. The film's visual palette takes a hit too, with several characters quite literally turning away from the light; cinematographer Alejandro Coronado's HD camera scrutinizes characters' faces for expressive cues in dusky underlit rooms.

At no point, however, does Rodriguez's down-to-the-bone script succumb to overt melodrama or miserablism: There's tangy wit even to its unhappiest exchanges, while momentous misfortune is often leavened with comforting banalities. Gradually, "This Time Tomorrow" casts its gaze beyond the tight domestic unit at its center. Adelaida's active, near-adult social life regains its balance and asserts its independence; other friends, relatives and children step in to fill, if only temporarily, vacated domestic space. It's hard not to laugh when an incensed parent, lecturing their privacy-seeking teen, yells, "You won't close this door again," before involuntarily slamming it themselves; at its best moments, this modest but wise film can play like an entirely straight-faced sitcom. — Reuters





HONG KONG: Participants take a selfie with their smartphone during a "PokeWalk" as they play the gaming app Pokemon Go yesterday.

HUNDREDS HIT STREETS IN HONG KONG'S FIRST 'POKEWALK'

Hundreds gathered in Hong Kong to live out their childhood dream of catching Pokemon in the wild in what was billed as the city's first Pokemon Go walk yesterday.

The gaming app landed in late July in Hong Kong and saw residents more glued to their phones than ever, searching for the cyber creatures in locations ranging from public parks to the government headquarters.

The app, which uses satellite locations, graphics and camera capabilities to overlay cartoon monsters on real-world settings, has prompted warnings from governmental departments and even from the Chinese People's Liberation Army garrisoned in the city.

But this did not stop hundreds of Pokemon faithful from gathering in the financial district of Central Saturday to catch the cyber creatures en masse. "We grew up with Pokemon and this has been something in our lives since we were very young," Vince Siu co-founder of Press Start, which organized what is billed as the city's first "PokeWalk," told AFP.

Another player also agreed it was nice to see people of different ages out in the streets reconnecting with others and

their childhoods. "I think the community aspect of it is nice, we all grew up with Pokemon," Sarah Masters, 19, said. "It's nice how people can come together and do something like this," the university student added. Around 200 players attended the event, according to AFP reporters at the scene.

Players filled up the sidewalks and screamed with excitement when rare Pokemon creatures appeared on their phones, as they were watched over by a handful of police officers and organizers who led the crowds and reminded participants to be careful when crossing roads.

In Indonesia last month a French player was stopped and questioned for several hours after the app led him into a military base. On the other side of the world, two youngsters were so preoccupied with catching the cartoon monsters that they wandered across the US-Canada border.

Some Pokemon Go players were even robbed after being lured to isolated locations in hopes of catching the virtual creatures, according to US reports. Other distracted players have been blamed for causing traffic accidents.—AFP



HONG KONG: Participants use their smartphones as they play the gaming app Pokemon Go during a "PokeWalk" yesterday.



HONG KONG: Participants use their smartphones as they play the gaming app Pokemon Go during a "PokeWalk" yesterday.



HONG KONG: Participants stop at a designated area next to Victoria Harbour and use their smartphones as they play the gaming app Pokemon Go during a "PokeWalk" yesterday.—AFP photos

5 Things Young Producers Abroad Have in Common

Over Aug. 6-8, 16 production companies from Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Israel and Turkey will meet at the Locarno Fest, in the Swiss Alps, to enjoy its glorious weather - if Saturday was anything to go by - multiple industry workshops and presentations and each other companies in an informal networking event, Match Me! Most companies were set up this century, many this decade. Between them, they represent many of the ambitions and concerns of young production houses in Europe and Latin America working the international fest circuit today. Here are brief profiles and five things they have in common:

1. Empowerment:

"Turkey is one of the few European countries where local films have a bigger share than Hollywood films," said Muge Ozen, who's moving "Wedlock" and "In Five Years" at Locarno. "There's been an incredible increase at the Israeli box office over the last couple of years, Israeli audience who preferred overseas movies, especially American cinema, are finally coming to see Israeli films," concurred Keren Michael, at Israel's Dori Media group, noting this build began with Taliya Lavie's debut, "Zero Motivation," and was followed up by hit family films such as "Galits," and "Abulele" and high quality comedies, such as "The Farewell Party." In all, 12 out of the 16 Match Me! producers say their national cinema is becoming more popular.

2. Comedies Yes, Arthouse, Most Probably No

But there's a ceiling to local industry build, at least in Latin America. Local comedies are more popular in Brazil and Mexico than Hollywood comedic fare. "The problem is that besides comedy and - maybe - horror films, Mexican cinema is stigmatised as boring, violent," said Anomia's Valeria Arinez. As when Alfonso Cuarón's generation broke through in the 1990s in Mexico, the natural audiences for the films the Locarno Match Me! producers - self-confessed arthouse filmmakers - want to make are in international.

3. Straight is the Gate

The first port-of-call financing for films in all five countries, insistently cited by producers, is national film funds, as emerging markets have copied, to the best of their resources, a Western European model. Again, there is sting in the tale. Public film funds are exposed to political pressure, austerity measures in economic slowdown. And the huge rise in production levels is often outstripping available public resources meaning films even by illustrious big fest prized directors can be left empty-handed. Few national cinemas have been so successful at festival as Chile's which has just placed not one but two films in competition at Venice. One of Chile's challenges,

is "sustainability, not only in an economic but also in artistic means," said Araucaria's Isabel Orellana. But "we lack greater flexibility and strength from Chilean funds. There's simply not enough [resources]."

4. Global Is Local

As Participant Media CEO and Raimundo Rezzinico Award winner David Linde said at Locarno, in a conversation with Variety's Jay Weissberg. In other words, the most common feature of movies from different countries is their differences. There is a huge disparity between the industry tenor of Chilean projects, sophisticated upscale middle-class set dramas pointing the complexities of humankind, and movies from Israel which court audiences with - hopefully - quality mainstream fare, while - their challenge - seeking international audiences for the self same fare.

5. The Rub: Digital, Theatrical Overseas

"The greatest challenges in filmmaking are related to distribution," said producer Denis Feijao, at Brazil's Elixir Ent. In Brazil, that includes domestic outlets. Beyond that, only one production house at Match Me! - and one of the biggest, Chile's Jirafa Films - appears to have a relationship with a digital platform, via its deal with top Spanish-world sales agent Film Factory. Creating such relationships, or scoring theatrical distribution abroad, remains international arthouse's largest challenge.

A brief drill-down on the projects:

ANIMAL TROPICAL CINE (Mexico)

Flagship project at Match Me! "Estanislao," a humanist monster movie, about a man born with amphibian parts to his body, including a fish face, from Alejandro Guzman ("Short Distances"). Producing is Mariana Monroy, head of production at Mantarraya, the Mexico City outfit behind movies by Carlos Reygadas and Amat Escalante, Cannes best director winners in 2012 and 2013.

ANOMIA (Mexico)

A new kid on the block: Set up in 2014 by producers Valeria Arinez and Araceli Velazquez, focused on Latin American indie arthouse. In Locarno with Emilio Santoya's incest drama "Ana's Desire."

ARAUCARIA CINE (Chile)

Developing an adaptation of Roberto Bolano's "The Third Reich" by Alicia Scherson, Isabel Orellana's Araucaria, which has a strong line in documentaries, is taking a large step towards international recognition.

BESOIRO FILMES (Brazil)

A company focused on "strong auteur-driven pieces

with a unique viewpoint of Brazil," says producer Jessica Luz. Shopping at Locarno "The Flooded House" a story of love, loss and memory with a woman obsession her house is flooding after the mysterious disappearance of her husband. Directing: actress-turned-director Marta Bivaschi ("Verdes anos"). Argentina's Lagarto Cine co-produces.

CINEMAGGIO PRODUCCIONES (Mexico)

A producer on Fernando Leon's war-set "The Zebra," a first hit, Cinemaggio's Socorro Mendez is pushing a slate at Locarno led by Enrique Rivero's fantasy, "The Night of the Fish." An especial interest in romantic comedies, Mendez said.

DELICEFILM (Turkey)

Produced by Muge Ozen, Can Kilcioglu's "Wedlock" is a black comedy about a young Turkish girl falling in love with a Kurdish boy.

DORI MEDIA PARAN (Israel)

Keren Michael, producer of 2010 Cannes Directors' Fortnight entry "The Wanderer," is presenting at Locarno "Let It Be Morning," a bittersweet comedy about state of sieges - both internal and external - whether a man who builds a wall around his heart, or a village, surrounded by another wall.

ELIXIR ENTRETENIMENTO (Brazil)

At Locarno with dramatic thriller "The Bear's Path," in which 18-year-old Fernando, undertakes a journey of self-discovery in South America, only to discover the corpse of a brutally murdered tourist by a lake. Directing is debutant Rafael Aida, a best short winner with "O Pacote" at the Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Festival.

FIRMA FILMS (Israel)

Dramedy "Ger-mania," directed by Roi Werner tells the story of Yossi, a Holocaust survivor who impregnates a woman, not knowing she's German. Tel Aviv-based, Firma Films and Firma Creative Production are dedicated to cinema and advertising respectively.

ISTANBUL FILM PRODUCTION (Turkey)

Short filmmaker and university professor Andac Haznedaroglu directs a children's drama, "The Guest," about a seven-year-old, whose family died in Syria, but makes it to Turkey with her baby sister.

JIRAFIA PRODUCCIONES (Chile)

By far the highest-profile Latin American company at Match Me!, Augusto Matte's Jirafa has come good on

large promise in 2016: Alejandro Fernandez Almendras' "Much Ado About Nothing" was selected for Sundance and Berlin, snagged a Netflix global distribution deal; Christopher Murray's "The Blind Christ" made Venice competition. In the pipeline: Marcela Said's "Los Perros," with Alfredo Castro ("From Afar") and Antonia Zegers ("The Club"), a tale of unsettling sexual and political realities in modern-day Chile.

MAJDAL FILMS (Israel)

Baher Agbariya, producer of Maha Haj's "Personal Affairs," which screened at Cannes' Un Certain Regard, will talk up in the Swiss Alps Tawfik Abu Wael's "Wise Hassam," about a man uncharged with killing a collaborator who lives in Tel Aviv. The assignment begins with the surprise discovery that the victim is a transgender female who makes a living as a prostitute. It ends with friendship and love," Agbariya explained.

MANUFACTURA DE PELICULAS

Producer Macarena Lopez broke through with Pepa San Martin's "Rara," which was snapped up by sales agent Latido Fims at San Sebastian's 2015 Films in Progress and went on to become a Berlinale GenerationK Plus 2016 Grand Prix winner. At Locarno with Ignacio Auger's essay documentary, "Un Dia."

NIEBLA PRODUCCIONES (Chile)

Bent on making risk-taking art films which are visually stunning, said Yennifer Fasciani, its flagship Match Me! project, "Green Grass," features a Japanese man, aged 30, who wakes up in the Chilean countryside after an earthquake in Japan, to discover he's dead.

SOLIS FILM (Turkey)

A company dedicated to producing arthouse films with international potential, favouring female writers and directors," says Muge Ozen. At Match Me with "In Five Years," Nathalie Sejan first feature, about four friends who meet every five to see if their dreams and expectations have become true. Turning 32 in 2016, Frederique is months away from the next "in-five-years" meeting and her life is everything but what she had dreamt of.

TACACA FILMES (Brazil)

An associate production company of Oblivious Memory, the production of vet director Ruy Guerra, a Berlin Silver Bear winner in 1978 for "The Fall," Vinicius Reis' "Roller Coaster" charts wrenching change in late-'90s Brazil as a family's father is forced into early retirement. — Reuters



LOS ANGELES: This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows, from left, Jai Courtney as Boomerang, Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, Will Smith as Deadshot, Karen Fukuhara as Katana, Joel Kinnaman as Rick Flag, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje as Killer Croc and Jay Hernandez as Diablo, in a scene from "Suicide Squad." — AP

Film Review

'Suicide Squad' is a mess of epic proportions

By Aakash Bakaya

It's been 8 years since 'Iron Man' and 'The Dark Knight' graced our cinema screens and brought the Summer Movie Season into a new era of Superhero/Comic-book blockbuster films. After almost a decade of being bombarded by Superhero flicks, it's relatively easy to have a certain amount of expectations when going to watch one. If you are a casual movie-goer, you'll be expecting some great action sequences, larger-than-life characters and a bit of social commentary thrown in to make it feel less like mindless entertainment. Hardcore fans on the other hand simply want to see these characters and stories stay true to themselves in some way or the other. So how does the latest 'Suicide Squad' hold up by twisting the narrative to focus on the villains for a change? The only thing that comes to mind is garbage. It was simply atrocious, confusing, cringe-inducing and at times painful garbage.

What happened here?

The concept, the setting and the characters were ripe for something truly unique. A film about a crooked intelligence officer duping the government to let her control and use some of the country's most dangerous villains is a 'Dirty Dozen' style of plot hard to not get interested in. Throw in the fact that it's also a direct continuation of 'Batman Vs Superman' where (SPOILER ALERT) the world is reeling from the death of Superman along with minor appearances from Batman and a brand new Joker. It's a really interesting setting

but what ends up on screen is a confused, mishandled mess that reeks of studio interference.

The film begins quite well. We are first introduced to Amanda Waller, a stone-cold intelligence operative who is eager to get the Army to approve her hand-picked team of criminals that would be tasked in 'protecting the country in future wars'. We never find out what those 'wars' refer to and much like the rest of the film's dialogue, it feels thrown at the audience and quickly forgotten. She narrates the introductions to our 'Suicide Squad'. Deadshot, the world's greatest hitman; El Diablo, a Mexican gang-runner who can control fire; Captain Boomerang, an Australian super-thief; Killer Croc, a monster that kind of looks like a half-man half-crocodile and the deranged lunatic Harley Quinn. There's also an archaeologist who gets possessed by an Ancient God and high-ranking Army Commander Rick Flag who has the power of being an All American Army man.

These intros are done in the stylized, neon-blazed colors that makes up the crux of this movie's marketing. But just like the film's dialogue, it feels thrown at the audience and quickly forgotten. We see how the squad got sent to the highest-security prison in the country and the life they are facing in jail. But when a super-human entity starts attacking the fictional 'Midday City' (yes that's the name), the army immediately approves the use of these criminals and tasks Waller to lead them into dealing with the threat. And here's where the movie starts quickly collapsing upon itself and leaves the audience with one confusing question - why send these particular individuals at all? They don't have to kill a single target

(Deadshot's speciality), infiltrate a highly secure location (Captain Boomerang) or burn everything in a targeted area (El Diablo). They most definitely don't need Killer Croc or Harley Quinn to do whatever it is they do.

None of these problems are addressed or even brought up. When your film's entire premise is clearly flawed, forced and down-right idiotic - you start asking yourself what the entire point of this movie is. Unfortunately for everyone involved the answer to that question is a big, fat nothing. There is no point. No symbolic look at the inherent goodness in even the worst of criminals or a jab at the self-righteousness of our government powers. There are minuscule lines of actual character development but they feel so absolutely inconsequential that there is no point in bringing them up.

What about the action you say. You might just want to watch the film to see how the action hold-ups or to see Jared Leto's performance as the iconic Joker. To put it bluntly, both were terrible. When it comes to the action it's hard to expect much in truth. These characters aren't Spider-Man or Wonder Woman. The most they can do is shoot guns really well or swing a baseball bat in Harley's case. Captain Boomerang is really good at throwing Boomerangs and if you're eager to see some bursts of CGI boomerang action then you'll love the action scenes. Deadshot does have one really cool scene of him shooting stuff and at one point El Diablo becomes a massive Fire-demon. But other than that, the action is boring and flat. It would have been exciting if we actually got a chance to care about any of these characters, just like in every good action movie!

Jared Leto as the Joker is simply a Hollywood con-job. Everything from the trailers, the posters and the pre-release interviews teased at a unique, new take on the character. What we end up getting is a poor imitation of Heath Ledger from 'The Dark Knight'. His character appears in both flashbacks and the main-story but apart from setting up Harley Quinn's character, his role is as useless as nipples on the Bat-Suit. You know it's there, you can't take your eyes off it and now the film has the live with this embarrassment until someone edits it out. Behind all the shiny apparel and ludicrous make-up, you cannot for one second envision this Joker as Batman's arch-nemesis. He might appeal to some movie-goers but I cannot imagine fans of the character approving this version.

Ultimately I feel the film will be polarising much like Batman Vs Superman was. But at least that film had a semblance of actual story and was confident in the direction of its characters. In most films, one can argue its merits and like all art it will find its niche crowd and fans. I can't seem to do that for 'Suicide Squad'. Some might find the film entertaining in between all its flaws and horrendous dialogue. Some might like the choice of music which feels ripped from a teenager's iPod from the year 2004 and some might actually like the card-board representations of these characters that might act and look like their comic-book counterparts. For me, the film has a whole felt like the dialogue - thrown at the audience and then quickly forgotten.

'From trails to cocktails,' active wear hot at outdoor show

Once an afterthought in the historically male-dominated outdoor retail industry, women have become a sought-after force with companies vying to tap into a market that has grown to \$4.6 billion in annual sales. A wide array of clothing, gear and equipment specifically designed for women adventurers is on display this weekend at the summer version of the world's largest outdoor gear show for retailers that attracts 30,000 people a year to Salt Lake City.

Large images of women rock climbing, paddle boarding and doing yoga in exotic locations adorn the elaborate setups at company booths inside the convention center for the Outdoor Retailer show. The sales of women-specific goods has grown from about \$400 million some 15 years ago to \$4.6 billion this year, said Julia Clark Day, executive director of business development for the sports division of the research firm NPD Group.

She says the gap has decreased considerably between that figure and the annual \$7.9 billion in annual sales of men-specific gear. Companies make women's apparel in a wide pallet of colors and with feminine prints, stitching and features,

but most outdoor brands have moved away from the "pink it and shrink it" philosophy that frustrated female outdoor enthusiasts for so long. "Every single company knows that we are expecting more from them," said Laurie Tewksbury, chief operating officer of the Outdoor Women's Alliance. "We're not just looking for things that are cute, it better work well too."

Evolution of production

The way skis and bikes are made, for example, has evolved in recent years to not just be smaller than men's gear but made to fit women's bodies and features. Within women's sales, active wear or "athleisure" is the current hot trend, Clark Day said. That includes yoga pants, versatile shorts, dresses and pants. Most come with high-performance features such as moisture wicking materials and fabrics that stretch for hiking or ride a bike.

"We call it trails to cocktails," said Clark Day, who is also on the board of directors at Camber Outdoors, previously known as the Outdoor Industries Women's Coalition. "It's that ability to go out hiking and then look great when you meet

your friends at the bar afterward for a drink."

Adidas Outdoor decided to focus on the burgeoning women's market when it launched six years ago, a decision that has paid dividends, said Greg Thomsen, managing director of the division. Their booth features colorful shoes designed especially for women's feet and a host of shirts, jackets and pants. Large images of a professional female rock climber - a brand ambassador - cover the walls. At California-based PrAna, yoga pants, lightweight dresses and stylish blouses that can be layered on top of sports bras were on display.

Women "want performance. They want something they can wear comfortably through whatever activity they are doing over the course of the day," said Sasha Dietschi-Cooper, vice president of sales for the company. "Equally important, they want something that looks great." — AP

SALT LAKE CITY: A woman reaches to touch the fabric on a mannequin at the La Sportiva booth during the Outdoor Retailer show on Friday. — AP

