

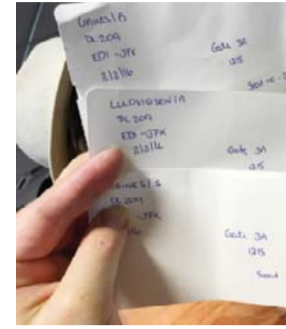
Cabinet irked at Kuwait's absence from Rio Games



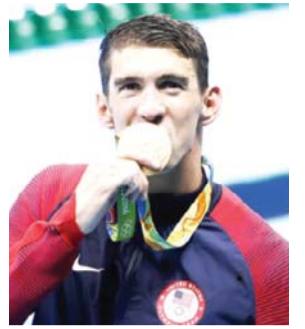
A star rises from poverty, killed defying Pakistan norms



Power outage at Delta causes cancellations, flight delays



Gold for Phelps as records tumble in Olympic pool



FUEL REFORM WILL SERVE FISCAL POLICY: MOODY'S

MOVE TO BOOST KUWAIT FINANCES HIT BY OIL PLUNGE



Min 32°
Max 48°
High Tide 03:50 & 15:48
Low Tide 10:05 & 22:10

150 FILS
NO: 16957
40 PAGES



HIJABI FENCER MAKES US OLYMPICS HISTORY

RIO DE JANEIRO: American Ibtihaj Muhammad looked like all the other fencers when she stepped on the piste, save for the nondescript black scarf covering her head. With that small gesture, Muhammad made history. Muhammad became the first American athlete yesterday to compete in the Olympics with a hijab, which she wears to adhere to the tenets of her Muslim faith. Muhammad, ranked eighth in the world in sabre, beat Ukrainian Olena Kravatska 15-13 in her first match before falling to France's Cecilia Berder 15-12 in the round of 16.

Muhammad will compete again on Saturday in the team sabre event. "I feel like it's a blessing to be able to represent so many people who don't have voices, who don't speak up," Muhammad said. "It's just been a really remarkable experience." Muhammad, a New Jersey native and three-time NCAA All-American from Duke, became an instant star when she qualified for her first Olympics earlier this year.

Muhammad embraced the spotlight, which helped make her an unlikely face of the US team given how little publicity fencing typically receives. "It represents who she's been her entire life. Ever since she was a little girl, she never let anything hold her back. She never set limits. She's always striving to be the very best," said Ibtihaj's brother Qareeb, who was overcome with emotion when he saw his sister compete. "Despite the adversity she's faced; being a Muslim, being an African-American, being a female, she's still confident in her ability to be successful. She's my hero."

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RIO DE JANEIRO: US' Ibtihaj Muhammad celebrates winning against Ukraine's Olena Kravatska in their women's individual sabre qualifying bout as part of the fencing event of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games yesterday at the Carioca Arena 3. — AFP (Full Olympics coverage on Pages 17-20)

KUWAIT: The recently-approved restructuring of fuel prices by Kuwait will be helpful for implementing the state's belt-tightening policy and lowering spending, according to the internationally-renowned Moody's Corporation. These fuel price reforms are credit positive for the sovereign state because they will lower current expenditures and bolster government finances dented by the downturn in global oil prices, while reducing wasteful overconsumption. The Cabinet approved a series of fuel-related subsidy reforms, including an 83 percent increase in higher quality ultra-premium petrol prices and a 42 percent increase in lower-quality octane-91 petrol prices, which will go into effect on Sept 1.

Kuwait, also according to Moody's report, has been slower than regional peers in developing its non-oil and private sectors and is particularly vulnerable to oil price declines because oil- and gas-related revenues have historically accounted for around 80 percent of government revenues, although this decreased to 70 percent in 2015 because of the sharp drop in oil prices.

Total revenues declined by approximately 41 percent in 2015, and it is forecast to decline another 14 percent this year. At the same time, total expenditures declined 16.5 percent in 2015, but they are budgeted to increase by 1.8 percent in 2016. Although fiscal gains this year from subsidy reform are likely to be moderate, it is forecast that gains to accelerate should oil prices increase because the government will review prices every three months to ensure that they move in tandem with global rates.

Kuwait budgeted about 7.8 billion, or 6.4 percent of GDP, to cover the cost of all subsidies in 2015, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On top of this direct cost, the IMF estimates that the opportunity cost from low energy prices in Kuwait was 7.4 percent of GDP in 2015. The inflationary effect of fuel subsidy reform will likely be moderate because energy products make up only 2.63 percent of the Kuwaiti consumer price index basket. — KUNA



TOKYO: People look at a big video screen on the street as a speech by Japanese Emperor Akihito to the nation is televised yesterday. — AFP

JAPANESE EMPEROR HINTS AT ABDICATION

TOKYO: Emperor Akihito said yesterday his advancing age and weakening health mean he may no longer be able to carry out his duties, setting the stage for Japan to prepare for an historic abdication. "There are times when I feel various constraints such as in my physical fitness," the 82-year-old said in a national address. "As we are in the midst of a rapidly ageing society, I would like to talk to you today about what would be a desirable role of the emperor in a time when the emperor, too, becomes advanced in age," he said. Speculation about Akihito's future emerged last month with reports he had told confidantes that he would like to step down in a few years, in what would be the first abdication from the Chrysanthemum Throne in two centuries. "I am worried that it may become difficult for me to carry out my duties as the symbol of the state with my whole being as I have done until now," he said, wearing a dark suit and sitting at a table in the pre-recorded video.

Akihito spoke obliquely - never mentioning the word abdication and stressing he is legally prevented from commenting on the imperial system - but analysts and media said his intention was clear. "His majesty the emperor hints at abdication," read a two-page extra edition by the top-selling Yomiuri Shimbun daily. The comments will now allow the government to begin creating the legal

mechanism for a royal departure, which currently does not exist.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in a swift response, said the government would take his remarks "seriously." "Considering the emperor's duties, as well as his age and the burden (of the job), we have to firmly look at what we can do," he said. Tomitaro Hashimoto, an assistant professor at Reitaku University, said while the emperor did not use the word abdication, "his message clearly called on the public to concretely consider the way for that in the future." "Legally, he can't request a revision of law," said Hashimoto, an expert on the imperial system. "That's why he can't ask directly."

Any eventual move by Akihito to step down, which would see him replaced by his eldest son Crown Prince Naruhito, appears to have wide support. A survey by the Asahi Shimbun daily published yesterday showed that 84 percent of people surveyed backed the idea.

Akihito has had surgery for prostate cancer and heart problems, both of which he alluded to in his address, though he stressed that he currently enjoys good health. Public reaction to the speech was sympathetic. "Since his majesty is getting so old, I was worried about his health, but he made his intention clear and the abdication issue came up," said 20-year-old Ryota Utsumi.

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70 KILLED IN PAK HOSPITAL BLAST

AMIR CONDEMNS TERROR ATTACK CLAIMED BY TALEBAN

News in brief

No hacking of Kuwait Central Bank systems

KUWAIT: None of the Central Bank of Kuwait computer or electronic systems has been hacked, the Central Bank said yesterday. Anwar Al-Ghaith, in charge of the IT department, said in a statement that the Central Bank's cyber and electronic systems are well secured and protected against any possible outage. In response to reports about infiltration of Central Bank networks, he affirmed that the Central Bank operates advanced security systems to abort any hacking attempts.

Family of clock teen sues school

CHICAGO: The family of a Muslim teen arrested for taking a homemade clock to school - only to have it mistaken for a fake bomb - filed a lawsuit yesterday claiming his civil rights were violated. "Those are violations of his civil rights," Ahmed Mohamed's attorney Susan Hutchison said at a press conference announcing the lawsuit. "The only justice we have in our American legal system is money. So, we are suing for justice." The family has received no apology. "I got a lot of support in the beginning, but it's the hate that sticks," Mohamed told the news conference.



Ahmed Mohamed

QUETTA: Pakistan's prime minister called for security forces to "decimate" terrorists after a Taliban suicide bomb tore through a Pakistani hospital yesterday, killing at least 70 people. The bomber struck a crowd of some 200 gathered at the Civil Hospital in the Balochistan provincial capital Quetta after the fatal shooting of a senior local lawyer earlier in the day. More than 100 were wounded, officials said. Video footage showed bodies strewn on the ground, some still smoking, among pools of blood and shattered glass as shocked survivors cried and comforted one another.

Many of the victims were clad in the

black suits and ties traditionally worn by Pakistani lawyers. An AFP journalist was about 20m away when the bomb went off. "There were huge black clouds and dirt," he said. "I ran back to the place and saw dead bodies scattered everywhere and many injured people crying. There were pools and pools of blood around and pieces of human bodies and flesh."

Nurses and lawyers wept as medics from inside the hospital rushed out to help dozens of injured, he said. "People were beating their heads, crying and mourning. They were in shock and grief," added the journalist.

Continued on Page 13



QUETTA: Pakistani lawyers and security officials gather around the bodies of victims of an explosion at a government hospital yesterday. — AFP

'BRING US HOME,' PLEAD STRANDED FILIPINOS

JAKARTA: Thousands of Filipino workers stranded in Saudi Arabia due to a massive layoff triggered by a slump in oil prices have pleaded to the Philippine government to expedite their repatriation. Some have not been paid for months and have been forced to scavenge in bins for food, a migrant support group said. Manila said last Friday a team would be sent to the kingdom, which has about 1 million Filipino migrant workers, to provide humanitarian and legal assistance.

The team, which will arrive tomorrow, will focus on those "without food and in dire need of medical care and other support serv-

ices", according to a foreign affairs department statement. "That is the initial relief but we are telling the government to concentrate on the repatriation," Mario Ben, the head of Filipino migrants group Migrant International in Saudi Arabia told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from Riyadh. "It is better for the workers to go home as soon as possible. They want to go back and look for jobs elsewhere again."

Ben said the repatriation should be done immediately while the Philippine and Saudi governments work out a deal to recover wages owed to the Filipino workers which are typical-

ly around \$400-500 a month. Some have not been paid for up to eight months. Saudi Arabia has seen an unprecedented influx of migrant workers during the oil boom, with the number almost doubling from 5.3 million in 2000 to 10.2 million in 2015 according to UN figures.

But the world's largest crude exporter's economy has taken a knock since late last year as a sharp drop in oil prices forced cuts in state spending. Construction companies, hit by the downturn, have laid off tens of thousands of laborers, leaving many with no money for food let alone for tickets home.

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KUWAIT: Governor of the Capital Governorate retired General Thabet Mohammad Al-Muhanna presents the 'Hawalli Governorate Excellence Award' to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as Governor of Hawalli Governorate retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah looks on. — KUNA photos



Governor of the Capital Governorate retired General Thabet Mohammad Al-Muhanna offers His Highness the Amir an explanation about achievements accomplished in his governorate.



Governor of Hawalli Governorate retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah offers His Highness the Amir an explanation about achievements accomplished in his governorate.

AMIR RECEIVES GOVERNORS, HAILS PERFORMANCE

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace the Governor of Hawalli Governorate retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Governor of the Capital Governorate retired General Thabet Mohammad Al-Muhanna, as they offered to His Highness the Amir a comprehensive explanation about their latest achievements as well as social activities and services they offer to citizens.

They briefed His Highness the Amir about 'Hawalli Governorate Excellence Award,' granted to distinguish Kuwaitis in various fields and specialties. His Highness the Amir hailed their efforts and performance for serving the citizens, wishing them further progress and success. The two governors later met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and gave them explanations about their latest achievements.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince hosted Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Audit Bureau Adel Al-Sarawi, Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khuraiej.

In other news, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem received Chairman of Kuwait Association of Accountants and Auditors (KWAAA) Ahmad Al-Fares, along with other KWAAA officials. The meeting was attended by MP Mohammad Al-Jabri, KWAAA Secretary Saqer Al-Hais, KWAAA Treasurer Rashed Al-Rashidi and board member Dhari Al-Hajeri. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Governor of Hawalli Governorate retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Governor of the Capital Governorate retired General Thabet Mohammad Al-Muhanna.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Governor of Hawalli Governorate retired General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Governor of the Capital Governorate retired General Thabet Mohammad Al-Muhanna.

KUWAITI MEDICINE STUDENTS TO ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Medical Students Team in Ireland (KMSAI) will organize a cultural and medical conference on 'science and humanity' on August 24, under the patronage of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Ibrahim Al-Dosari, a team member, said yesterday that the conference sheds light on humanitarian efforts exerted by doctors. He added that the conference will include workshops on some medical researches and a campaign for blood donation.

The team is providing community-based services to help in raising health awareness in the society and connecting between medical students from all levels



to pass on their experience and to guide medical students to develop their research skills. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday decorated Major General Khaled Rakan Al-Mikrad with the Lieutenant General rank, after he was recently promoted through an Amiri Decree issued recently. The decoration came during a ceremony held recently to celebrate Mikrad's appointment as the new Director General of the Kuwait Fire Services Directorate. — KUNA

UN ENVOY HOPES YEMEN'S PEACE TALKS WOULD SOLVE CRISIS

'KUWAIT PEACE TALKS DID NOT FAIL'

JEDDAH/PARIS: UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad said yesterday "Yemen's peace talks hosted by Kuwait did not fail," stressing that he is seeking to make the talks a way for a comprehensive solution to the crisis.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Iyad Ameen Madani, the envoy said the UN-brokered peace talks addressed some "sensitive topics" like the military withdrawal, the security arrangements, the handover of weapons and means of improving economic situations in the country.

He said "the political solution is the only way to end Yemen's crisis", indicating that there will be discussions in the upcoming period so as to reach a comprehensive solution. A series of meetings will be held with different warring parties of Yemen in this regard, he noted.

Ould Cheikh Ahmad said that the international community is committed to the three references; the Gulf initiative, the outcomes of Yemeni national dialogue and the UN Security Council Resolution 2216, so as to end the crisis. He stressed that all Yemeni parties affirmed their commitment to the agreed-upon references to put an end to the crisis. He referred to deteriorating humanitarian situations in Yemen as more than 85 percent of Yemenis has been affected by the war.

Political solution

Meanwhile, Madani expressed his hope that the envoy's efforts would solve the crisis politically. He said the decision taken by "those parties which made a coup against legitimacy" to form a presidential council and call parliament for another session will lead to further complexities. The organization has been supporting



JEDDAH: United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed (right) and the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani, give a press conference in Jeddah yesterday. — AFP

endeavors to find a political solution to the crisis and will buttress UN efforts to make a successful mission, he said, noting that opportunities of dialogue on Yemen have still available. Earlier yesterday, Madani and Ould Cheikh Ahmad held a meeting at the headquarters of OIC in Jeddah and discussed the latest developments and consultations on Yemen's peace talks.

Return to negotiations

In other news, France called on Yemen's warring parties to "return to the negotiating table", after United Nations (UN)-brokered peace talks held in Kuwait failed to yield a definitive solution to the conflict.

France was closely following the peace talks in Kuwait and "urges the Yemeni parties to resume negotiations in order to find a lasting solution to the conflict," a spokesperson for France's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Moreover, the statement also underscored the importance of strict adherence to a ceasefire, which is an "infraction of the peace process." The statement also noted that "humanitarian and economic conditions in the country have largely deteriorated due to the conflict." The UN's Special Envoy for Yemen announced on Saturday that peace talks in Kuwait have ended, only to resume at a later time in a location yet to be named. —KUNA

KUWAIT UNVEILS PLAN FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

AMMAN: Kuwait would start soon the execution of an ambitious program to offer vocational and technical training to young Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences Adnan Shehabeddin announced.

In statements following his meetings with Jordanian and UN officials to discuss the program, Shehabeddin stated that the \$10 million-cost program is a part of the Kuwaiti donations announced by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the international donors' conference in London. \$4 million would be allocated to refugees in Jordan and \$6 million for those in Lebanon, he said.

The program targets youth aged between 12-18 years and aims to qualify them to play their developmental role in the hosting countries and to contribute to their country's rebuilding operations in the future, he said. Shehabeddin noted that his current visit to discuss the details of the program with the Jordanian and relevant UN agencies and put the final touches on it before launching it next month.

Kuwait's aid

Meanwhile, Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Hanan Al-Mulki commended Kuwait's persistent support of Syrian refugees in the country, particularly, educational assistance. Mulki met a KFAS delegation that included Shehabeddin, to

finalize the educational project for Syrian refugees. Moreover, Mulki said in comments to Jordanian News Agency (PETRA) that he is appreciative of Kuwait's "historic" stance, which has always been supportive of Jordan.

Shehabeddin said in the meantime that Kuwait is committed to assisting Jordan, as promulgated in the fourth Donor's Conference in London back in February. He also added that the purpose of the visit is to lay out plans and strategies to carry out an educational initiative that Jordanian officials have "welcomed and approved." Established by an Amiri decree in 1976, KFAS is a private non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the progress and advancement of science and technology. —KUNA



AMMAN: Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Hanan Al-Mulki meets with Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science Adnan Shehabeddin. — KUNA

MINISTER ORDERS PROBE IN WORKER'S DEATH

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Electricity and Water Minister Ahmad Al-Jassar formed an investigations committee in the drowning accident of a worker of a contractor at the west Doha station three days earlier. The committee will check the contractor's compliance with security and safety procedures in the jobs he was given. The Ministry of Electricity and Water's workers union said earlier this is not the first accident of its type, as many similar accidents took place before and the fault lies in unqualified companies, along with grave mistakes and violations. It called for reconsideration in dealing with contractors of modest capacities that do not care about their workers.

Labor department's system

Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Abdullah Al-Motoutah chaired a meeting that included the director of labor departments in the presence of Deputy Director General for Planning and Approval of Skills Levels Mubarak Al-Azmi. Motoutah said several recommendations were made, most notably of working hours from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, and directors

were asked to select several employees to work during this time.

Kuwaiti fishermen

Chairman of the priorities committee Dr Yousuf Al-Zalzalah stressed the importance of the fishing profession in Kuwait, saying it is the 'heritage of our grandfathers' and it is right for some citizens to sustain it despite modernization and social changes. He said Kuwait's fishermen are keen to maintain food security by fishing for shrimps and fish for years, and the state must provide all the facilities that help them to increase their catch, so seafood prices can be reasonable.

Zalzalah said attention should be paid to the fishing profession and remove all challenges Kuwaiti fishermen face for the public interest. He rued that what actually happens is to the contrary, and the evidence is the latest unfair decision by the coastguard to force all Kuwaiti shrimping boats that operate in international waters to use the Um Al-Maradem customs center and not allow them use of the nearby Doha center that they have been using for more than 20 years, while foreign boats are allowed to do so. Zalzalah said the decision must be cancelled, "otherwise we will have a stand towards those who caused the problem."



Minister Ahmad Al-Jassar

KD 2.5 FEE IMPOSED FOR VEHICLES' ENTRY, EXIT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The customs department imposed a KD 2.5 fee for a paper stating entry and exit of vehicles through land outlets, after handing the job to a private company. A source said this work was earlier performed by customs employees free of charge. Social media was awash with a large number of complaints by travelers because of this fee that benefits a private company.

Charities closed

Social Affairs and Labor Minister Hind

Al-Subaih said 14 charity foundations were closed and their accounts were transferred for violating rules set by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL). She said the closed foundations are: Abdelaziz Al-Zahem, Sabeeka Ahmad Al-Saqer, Al-Dawaser, Al-Siddiqia Fatima Al-Zahra, Kuwait Al-Khair, Al-Rabbaniyeen, Sahoud Al-Mutairi, Kuwait Foundation for Social Advancement, Arab Foundation for Social Values, Al-Aqeela, Joud, Kuwait Foundation for Family Development, Al-Baqiyat Al-Salihah and Beitak. She said the total value of funds in these foundations is KD 364,000.



KUWAIT: A police vehicle's flasher for sale with an officer who was arrested yesterday for selling police equipment.



This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a man it said was arrested yesterday for running naked in public.

OFFICER ARRESTED FOR SELLING POLICE EQUIPMENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives arrested a policeman for attempting to sell equipment, flashers and sirens used by police patrols. The department said the suspect was trying to sell the equipment through social media in violation of the law, because the equipment is exclusively used by police and can only be used by official permission.

'Naked runner' caught

Criminal detectives arrested a man who appeared in a clip on social media running naked in the street. The man, Egyptian, is suffering from mental problems. Detectives referred to surveillance videos of some nearby facilities, and he was identified by a man who covered him. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Smuggling foiled

Kuwait customs officers arrested an Arab man for attempting to smuggle 15,000 Tramadol tablets wrapped around his legs. The arrest was supervised by airport customs supervisor Essa bin Essa. The suspect and pills were sent to concerned authorities.

Municipality inspections

Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said the violations removal

department of the Capital branch carried out inspections on shops, supermarkets, trespassing on state property, real estate in violation of construction rules and abandoned cars during the first seven months of the current year, and the total amount of fines reached KD 31,755. Head of the Department Abdullah Jaber said inspection campaigns were intensified at the instructions of Branch Director Ammar Al-Ammar. Jaber said 1,283 signboard violations were found, 273 warnings were made, 293 signs removed, 311 food violation citations issued and 102 undertakings were collected. Meanwhile, 109 public cleanliness and road occupancy violation citations were issued. He said 493 warnings were issued to violating buildings, while 41 citations were issued to buildings in violation of the construction code.

Safety requirements

The public relations and information department at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) said the prevention sector began handing penalties to facilities that commit grave violations in order to protect lives and property. It said instructions by the director general of KFSD stressed that seven facilities must be administratively closed in Ahmadi for their violations. Inspection teams had informed them earlier and given them warnings, but they did not respond.

CABINET DISPLEASED AT KUWAIT'S ABSENCE FROM RIO OLYMPICS

MINISTERS LAUD EFFORTS AIMING TO MAINTAIN SECURITY

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has deeply regretted the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s deprivation of Kuwaiti athletes from representing their country in Rio Olympic Games. The IOC's suspension of Kuwaiti sports has deprived Kuwaiti athletes from vying with their international peers and representing their country in this important international sports event, the Cabinet regretted in a statement following its weekly meeting yesterday, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. It, however, vowed that the reforms started by the government would not stop despite the offenses and obstacles facing the Kuwaiti sports.

The Cabinet urged all relevant Kuwaiti institutions and individuals to close ranks and to prioritize the state interests over any personal interests. It also called for concerted efforts and cooperation for the development of sports movement in Kuwait. It added that all necessary measures would be taken by relevant authorities to defend Kuwait's standing.

During the meeting, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet about the Kuwait's absence from Rio Olympic Games due to the IOC's suspension of Kuwaiti sports.

The minister pointed out that the IOC has rebuffed several Kuwaiti demands to lift the suspension and allow Kuwaiti athletes to play under their country's flag in Rio Olympic Games. He noted that Kuwait has exerted relentless efforts to lift the suspension but in vain.

The latest attempt was made by a number of Kuwaiti athletes and sports federations when they filed a lawsuit against the IOC's decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. But, due to the insistence of the representative of Kuwait's Olympic Committee (on the suspension), the court upheld it, he said.

The minister stated that though Kuwait's Public Authority for Sports respects the Olympic Charter which allows qualified athletes to compete as Independent Olympic Athletes (IOA) under the Olympic flag, it would only support athletes who compete under the Kuwaiti flag.

Homeland security

The Cabinet expressed its pride for strenuous efforts exerted by security men, mainly Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, aiming to maintain security of the homeland, citizens and residents.

This stresses that the Kuwaiti society is rejecting the 'abnormal acts' which run counter to Islam and the country's values, the Cabinet said during the meeting. The Cabinet affirmed its resolve to deter everyone seeking to tamper with security and stability of the dear homeland, urging all people to intensify cooperation with security apparatuses to combat any attempt

aiming to undermine the country's security.

Afterwards, the ministers listened to a detailed presentation made by Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah on the efforts that lead to the arrest of a woman belonging to the so-called Islamic State, which has been designated as a terrorist group. The woman was planning to commit a 'terrorist act' so as to undermine security and stability of Kuwait, he said. The minister noted that the security apparatuses managed to monitor an electronic account run by the accused who entered the country last June. He added that she communicated with the IS in a certain country through using some tools, affirming that security men are able to uncover terror cells and monitor any 'terrorist' plots. He stressed that security person-



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

nel will keep a watchful eye on the security and safety of the country and its citizens.

The Cabinet also denounced a machete terrorist attack in Charleroi center in the Belgian capital Brussels, which injured two police-women. The Cabinet renewed calls for the international community to ramp up efforts to exterminate terrorism in all of its forms, underscoring Kuwait's support of all anti-terrorism measures.

On Saturday, two female police officers were wounded when a machete-wielding man, who was later identified as an Algerian national, attacked them before being shot by police. Belgium has seen a spate of terrorist attacks as of late, claimed by the so-called Islamic State (IS). On March 22, twin suicide explosions rocked Brussels' airport and metro, leaving 32 people dead.

Development report

Meanwhile, the Cabinet examined a report of the Q1 annual scheme (2016-2017), listened to a presentation by the Minister of Social Affairs,

Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Dr Hind Al-Subaih, where she shed light on a number of planned ventures and policies regarding economic and administrative development.

The report includes projects in the oil, health, teaching and infrastructural sectors and recommendations regarding follow-up on implementation of the annual plan 2016-2017. The Cabinet expressed appreciation for the efforts that have been exerted at this level, namely with respect of preparing the report.

The Cabinet also reviewed a recommendation by the economic affairs commission regarding the technical report presented by the team tasked with studying prospected investment and management of Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital. It decided to task the Public Investment Authority, in coordination with the ministries of finance and health, Fatwa and Legislation department and the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, to study a relevant proposal and present proposals in this respect.

Letters to Amir

Following the session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah stated that the session got underway by examining a message addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah from Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, inviting His Highness to attend the Seventh Summit of Presidents of member States and Governments of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), due on Margarita island, under the theme, "Peace, Sovereignty, Solidarity for Development."

The ministers were briefed about another message from the United Nations Secretary General Assistant and the executive chief of the UN women affairs commission, inviting His Highness to attend a scheduled ceremony for the UN Young Women Initiative, due in New York in September. Another one from the Bulgarian president dealt with the distinctive ties bonding that the two friendly countries.

They also reviewed a message to His Highness the Prime Minister from the former US president Bill Clinton including an invitation to Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to attend the annual ceremony of the Clinton Global Initiative due in New York in September.

In the meantime, the Cabinet expressed its sincere condolences to Egyptian President Abdel-fatah Al-Sisi over the passing away of Dr Ahmad Zuwayl, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1999. The Cabinet extolled Zuwayl's valuable achievements chalked up for humanity and societies, and his strenuous efforts in raising the status of Egypt and the Arab country on international arenas. The ministers, meanwhile, discussed political affairs in light of relevant reports on the current developments on Arab and international levels. —KUNA

KUWAIT HUMAN RIGHTS SOCIETY LAUNCHES HEALTH RIGHTS COMMITTEE

IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

KUWAIT: The launch of the Health Rights Committee of the Society was announced yesterday. Khalid Al-Hamidi Al-Ajmi, Chairman of the Board of Kuwait Human Rights Society, said that the launch of the committee represents a large development and a quantum leap in the work of the Society because the right to health is closely related to the realization of the other human rights and depends on that. It is contained in the international conventions on human rights, including the right to food, housing, work, education, human dignity, life, non-discrimination, equality, prohibition of torture, privacy, and access to information. These rights and freedoms and others are indivisible and complement each other.

Ajmi also said that the committee will include elite of specialists and experts in this field, headed by Dr Manal Bu Haimed, one of the leading specialists in this field in the region. She holds a doctorate in Philosophy (PHD) on the ethics of medical professionals from the University of Glasgow in Britain as the first female Kuwaiti physician in this field. She also has a specialized postdoctoral fellowship from MacLean Center on Clinical Ethics at the University of Chicago in the United States and holds several international awards. She is currently a faculty member in the College of Medicine at the University of Kuwait and the Vice President of the International Bioethics Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IB-C-UNESCO) among a team of 36 experts at the

international level in this field.

Occupational health and safety

On the other hand, Dr Manal Bu Haimed, Chairperson of the Committee said that the committee will have a lot of tasks, perhaps one of the most prominent is to receive complaints concerning the right to occupational health and safety from all segments of the society, study them, send them to the competent authorities, follow them up and provide assistance in finding solutions. That is besides supporting the government's efforts in improving health sector through the implementation of field visits to various sites of health care and highlighting any violations may occur in that sector. Bu Haimed explained that the human right to health is a fundamental right, according to several instruments and conventions on human rights.

Paragraph "1" of Article "15" of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for one's and their family's health including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services". Also Article "12/1" of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states "the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health". And Article 12/2 of the Covenant affirms, for example, a number of "measures that states parties shall be taken to ensure the full realization of this right".

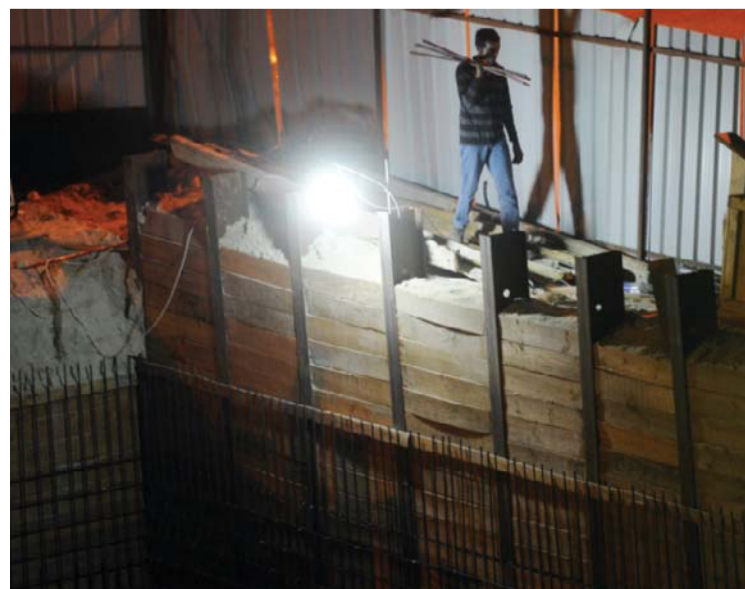
She added that the right to health is recog-

nized in Article "5" of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and in the articles "11/12" of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as Article "24" of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The right to health is recognized in a number of regional human right instruments.

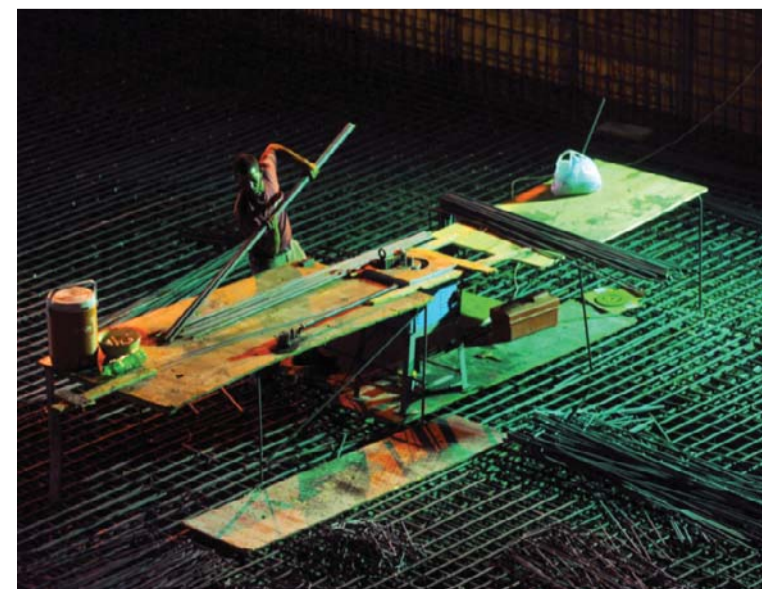
Special importance

Bu Haimed confirmed that the right to health was given special importance by the Kuwaiti legislature as stated in Article 15 (the State is concerned with public health and the prevention and treatment means of diseases and epidemics).

She indicated that the right to health includes freedoms and benefits as well. The freedoms include the right to one's control of their own health, including the right not to undergo medical treatment and medical experiments without their own permission. The benefits include the right to health protection system (i.e. health care and basic elements of health) that provides people with equal opportunities in the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Bu Haimed called specialists and those interested in this aspect to participate in the Committee as health situations that recently took place in our country require us to unite efforts, report any violations, and promote this sector and thereby contribute to building the future Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Construction workers work diligently to accomplish the governmental or private construction projects at night to avoid the scorching summer heat. Kuwaiti laws prohibit exposing workers under severe and scorching heat from the beginning of June until the end of August, especially as temperatures sometimes touch 50 degrees Celsius. —KUNA



In Brief

KUWAIT CENTRAL BANK SYSTEMS NOT HACKED

KUWAIT: None of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) computer or electronic systems has been hacked, the CBK said yesterday. CBK cyber and electronic systems are well secured and very much protected against any possible outage, said Anwar Al-Ghaith, in charge of the IT department. In response to reports about infiltration of the CBK networks, he affirmed that the central bank operates very much advanced security systems to abort any sneaking bid. — KUNA



KUWAITIS TOPS SHARJAH INVESTMENTS LIST

DUBAI: Kuwaitis topped the list of real estate investors in Sharjah Emirate during the first half of 2016. In its semi-annual report, Sharjah Real Estate Registration Directorate pointed out that Kuwaitis have carried out 561 deals in the first six months of the year vis-a-vis 297 deals in the corresponding period of last year, up 88.9 percent. The Kuwaiti transactions make up 4.5 percent of all deals registered in that period. Saudi investors came second with 151 deals followed by Qataris with 57 deals, the report noted. — KUNA



KUNA OFFICIAL MEETS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

KUWAIT: Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Abdulhamid Malak received yesterday Director General of Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh and his accompanying delegation. Malak lauded the institute's big role in rehabilitating and training Kuwaiti diplomats and supporting the country's diplomacy. He added that KUNA is harnessing its capabilities to Foreign Ministry so as to serve Kuwait's issues in all fields and on Arab, regional and international levels. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Vehicle maintenance shops in Sharq surrounded by Kuwait City's skyscrapers. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

CSC RELATIONS WITH STATE INSTITUTIONS BASED ON PARTNERSHIP, MUTUAL BENEFIT: CHAIRMAN

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Adel Al-Sarawi has underlined the importance of cooperation and partnership with all the state institutions, especially the financial and economic ones. "The CSC is more a partner than a supervisor to state institutions," Sarawi said in a symposium organized in cooperation with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) to discuss Kuwait Financial Stability report of 2015. "The CSC

partnership with state institutions are based on mutual benefits approach," he added. He went on to say that the CSC is keen on cementing interaction, cooperation with and data exchange with all institutions for the benefit of the state. The CSC is clearly interested in getting a more accurate information about the financial situation in the country to better carry out its mission and role in maintaining the state financial stability, Sarawi stressed. He

lauded the efforts of the CBK in controlling and retaining stability of the financial system in Kuwait. The symposium was attended by CSC higher management members, supervisors and staff. The Financial Stability Report is annual report issued by the CKB covering all aspects of the financial system: institutions, markets and infrastructure. The FSR of 2015 comprised five chapters:

Chapter 1 assesses the role and performance of banks, both conventional and Islamic, as financial intermediaries, by highlighting trends in both credit allocation and deposit mobilization. Chapter 2 evaluates the risks faced by the banking system, covering various dimensions of credit, market and liquidity risks. Chapter 3 examines the trends in profitability and solvency of the banking system and its resilience

against a variety of major shocks, both endogenous and exogenous under different financial and economic stress scenarios. Chapter 4 explores the key developments in money, foreign exchange, equity and real estate markets, the four key components of our domestic financial market. Finally, chapter 5 examines the performance of retail and large-scale payment and settlement systems in the country. — KUNA

KUWAIT CREDIT BANK LENDS KD 14.4 MILLION FOR HOUSING

KUWAIT: Total number of property loans given by Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) in July amounted to 505, value of which estimated at KD 14.4 million, the KCB said in a statement yesterday. Overall loans from the KCB portfolio (for maintenance and expansion projects) amounted to 10 ones, valued at approximately KD 98,000. Loans for construction of private units reached 16, valued at KD 1.04 million, while those for building government units reached 82, valued at KD 5.6 million. Those for house purchasing reached 38 (KD 2.7 million), private housing expansion projects, six (KD 110,000), for expanding government houses, 122 (KD 2.9 million), one for concrete housing and 240 (KD two



million) for citizens of special needs' houses. As to the portfolio loans in July, the bank said in the statement that the expansion and renovation loans reached seven, valued at KD 70,000. — KUNA

SMART INTERACTIVE SCREEN PROJECT TO EASE PROCEDURES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Public Authority for Industry (PAI) announced its intention to adopt a smart interactive screen project to reduce the documentary cycle of industrial transactions and procedures, PAI's Deputy Director General of Administration and Financial Affairs Abdulkareem Taqi announced yesterday. Taqi said that the smart interactive screen project is in the study phase and the implementation will be within 15 months, adding that the new project is the first experiment of its kind in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The project aims to improve the path of



Abdulkareem Taqi

industrial development in Kuwait using new technology, as well as increasing the productivity of the Authority, Taqi added. Taqi said the interactive screen project is an integrated service center and will be distributed through PAI's affiliate stations, in addition to Citizen Service Centers in the country. The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) was established on January 15th, 1997 as a public independent agency supervised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. PAI aims to develop, promote, and supervise the industrial activities in the country as well as seeking national economic goals. — KUNA



CONSUMING COUNTRIES' OIL RESERVES AFFECT PRICES: OAPEC

KUWAIT: The current developments in international oil markets show the effects of oil reserves of consuming countries on prices, said the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). International oil prices are currently unstable due to many factors, mainly the increase in US oil reserves, OAPEC said in its monthly bulletin published yesterday. Oil reserves are kept for use in cases of emer-

gencies and unexpected rise or drop in oil demand and offer, said the organization. Meanwhile, OAPEC noted that oil reserves saw prominent developments in 2015, as the total international reserves reached 8842 million barrel by year end, with a rise of 750 million barrels compared to 2014. Moreover, oil reserves on tankers were recorded at 1164 million barrels by end of 2015 with a rise of 120 million barrels compared to the previous year. The

report also noted that during the period between 2010 to 2014, oil reserves of Arab member-states in OPEC and OAPEC (UAE, Algeria, Saudi, Qatar, Kuwait, Libya and Iraq) were affected by OPEC's decision to limit production rates for member countries. Rising political and security tensions in the Arab World and the developments in using shale oil in production also had an impact on oil reserves in these countries. — KUNA

NOT ABOUT THE SALARY: FRESH GRADUATES IN KUWAIT WANT JOB THEY FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT

KUWAIT: At around 23 percent, the soaring rates of youth unemployment across the Middle East and North Africa region, are almost twice the global average of 13 percent. These figures have led to discontent among fresh graduates in Kuwait, who claim - according to the Bayt.com 'Fresh Graduates in the Middle East and North Africa Survey' - that the greatest challenge standing between them and a successful career is the fact that candidates with work experience are preferred (42 percent).

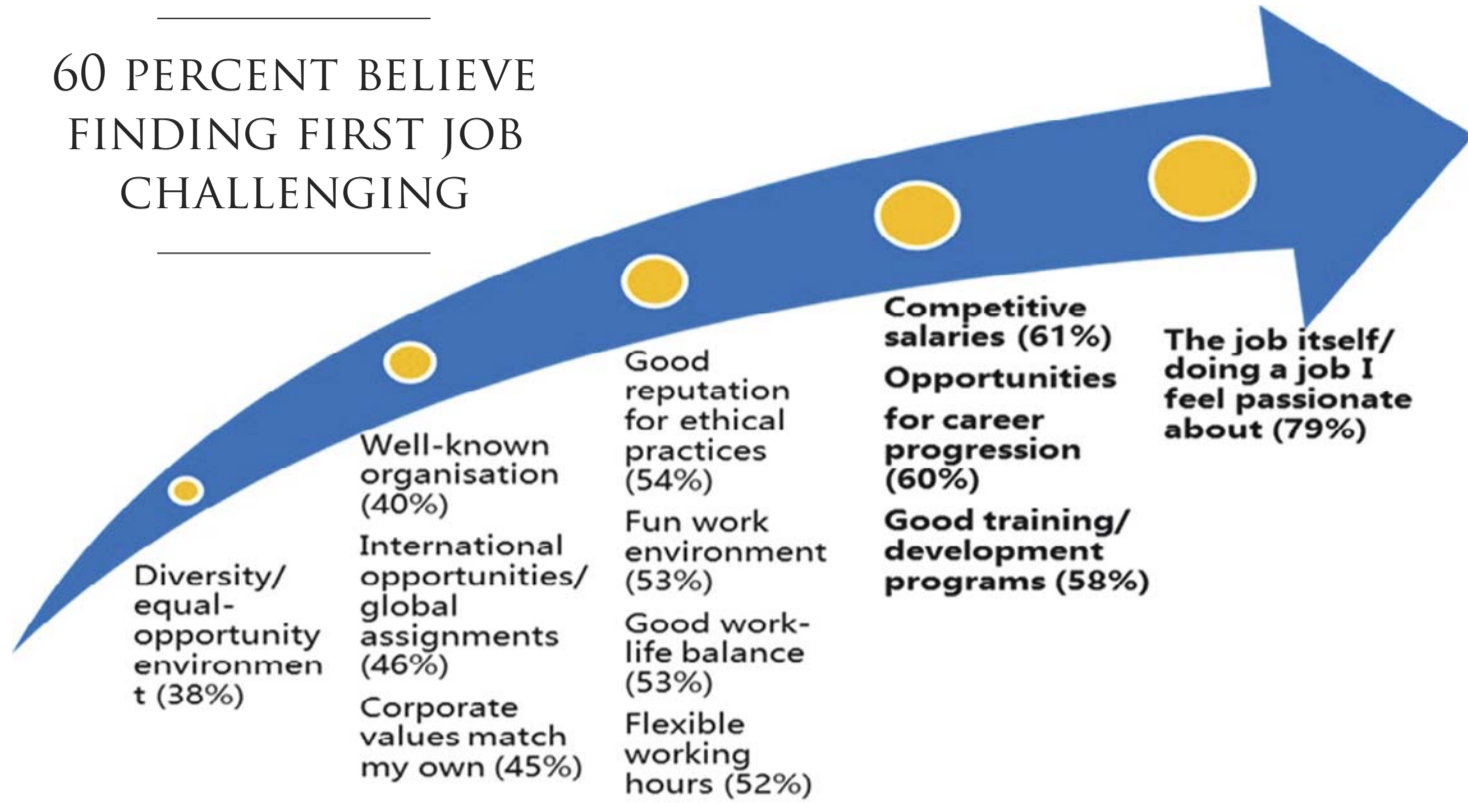
According to the recently-released survey by Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading jobsite, and YouGov, an international research organization, the majority of fresh graduates in Kuwait claimed it was challenging or will be challenging to secure their first job, with 31 percent of them rating it 'very difficult'. In addition to employers preferring candidates with work experience, respondents cited lack of understanding regarding how to effectively search for jobs (32 percent) and lack of knowledge as to where to find relevant jobs (30 percent) as the main challenges they face when trying to secure their first job.

Important attributes

When asked to rank the most important attributes for them when selecting a job, 'doing a job I feel passionate about' emerged as the most important attribute for fresh graduates (46 percent) in Kuwait. This was followed by 'competitive salaries' (12 percent), and working for a 'well-known organization' (12 percent).

While finding a job may be challenging, fresh graduates in Kuwait are not giving in. Despite what many perceive as a 'negative outlook', the largest proportion (48 percent) claim they will keep looking until they find a

60 PERCENT BELIEVE FINDING FIRST JOB CHALLENGING



Unfortunately, the majority (76 percent) of fresh graduates surveyed in Kuwait feel they would have fared better in the job market had they selected either a different major (38 percent), the same major from a different school (11 percent), or both a different major and a different school (27 percent). While one in every ten (12 percent) fresh graduates in

ing a monthly salary of \$500 or less, while 46 percent of fresh graduates in Saudi Arabia saying they would expect a first salary between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per month.

As for the perceived barriers to getting their first job, those surveyed in Kuwait believe the primary barriers for hiring fresh graduates in many industries are their 'lack of experience' and 'lack of necessary skills' (44 percent and 31 percent, respectively). However, for the industries which do hire fresh graduates, their lower salary expectations (48 percent), compliance and willingness to follow instructions (40 percent) emerged as the key motivations for hiring fresh graduates.

Finding and creating jobs

"In today's economic climate, it is important for both prospective employees and employers to be aware of the solutions to finding and creating jobs. When it comes to securing their first job, it would be pertinent for those still in university and fresh graduates to take advantage of internships to gain at least some experience before entering the workforce," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer

available within the wide variety of industries across the MENA region. Our website offers numerous entry-level jobs and internships, as well as information about the job market, with an aim to empower the youth and ensure that they are making sound decisions when it comes to their future career paths. We also recommend that fresh graduates bolster their CVs with tests, courses, and conversations that could also take place on Bayt.com, in order to illustrate a better picture to employers."

"The results suggest that while fresh graduates across the region expect it to be challenging to find a job, many are resilient and unwilling to compromise on their dreams and ambitions. Indeed, the largest proportion of fresh graduates surveyed claimed they would keep looking until they found a job in their industry of choice and a 'job they feel passionate about'. Unfortunately, aside from the necessary work experience many graduates also lack an understanding of how or where to look for jobs", commented Joao Neves, Senior Research Director at YouGov.

"Ultimately, results suggest much benefit could be gained by having employers collaborate closely with educational institutions not only to provide internships to students but also to educate them on effective job search techniques."

Research was done with 4,247 fresh graduates, who had completed their most recent qualification in the last three years, and was conducted between May 8 and May 22, 2016, from the UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. All responses were collected online.



- Youth unemployment in MENA twice global average
- Lack of work experience main challenge
- Majority prefer a job in their industry of choice
- Lower salary expectations, compliance motivates employers to hire fresh graduates

job in their industry of choice. Nevertheless, results also point to a pragmatic youth, with more than one in every four (28 percent) Kuwaiti fresh graduates surveyed claiming they will start looking for a job in another industry, and a further 5 percent claiming they will look for any job no matter the industry.

Kuwait were unaware of what salary they should expect for their first job, 38 percent received or expected to receive less than \$750 per month. As may have been expected, results reveal very different salary expectations across the region, with 53 percent of fresh graduates in Egypt, for example, expect-



KUWAIT: Ibtikar Initiative organizers are pictured with children during a summer activity.



IBTIKAR INITIATIVE PROTECTS YOUTH FROM FANATIC IDEAS

KUWAIT: Ibtikar Al-Kuwait for Innovation said yesterday that embracing youth during the summer holiday aims primarily at protecting them from fanatic thoughts and to teach them loyalty and devotion to their country beside developing their skills.

General Director of the initiative Dr Fatma Al-Hashim said yesterday after meeting with the students that the current status of the Arab nation necessitates that tremendous efforts be consolidated to come up with ideas and activities to protect the youth from such deviant thoughts.

Meanwhile, the students' training supervisor at the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP)

Tariq Al-Kandari praised all efforts made to make the initiative a success, adding it also aims to enable to abolish experiences and skills of creative Kuwaiti girls in various fields. Kandari added that different training has been received in many fields by the students, such as sport and banking sectors, communications, investments, attorney in law, coffee shops, restaurants, retail and many more.

Moreover, Ibtikar initiative contributes to making a remarkable leap in the educational system, move from the tradition methods into a more innovative and creative ones based on acquisition of skills and expertise to cope with the latest educational developments. — KUNA



EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

فرص عمل ممتازة

تعلن شركة اية بي جيه للمهندسة والمقاولات ش.م.ك (مفلسة) عن حاجتها للتخصصات التالية من جميع الجنسيات للعمل في مشروع أعمال التشغيل والصيانة مرافق انتاج النفط في شمال الكويت.

ABJ Engineering & Contracting Co. KSC (Closed) announce its needs for the following disciplines from all Nationalities to work in KOC Maintenance Services of Production Facilities in North Kuwait Areas.

SENIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT :

- Bachelor degree in Accounting
- 3-7 years experience in relevant industries, Budgeting and Cost estimation skill in Industrial and cost control.

SENIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT CONTRACT:

- Bachelor degree in Law / Business Administration or any Suitable University Degree.
- 3-7 years experience in writing / managing industrial contracts.

Requirements:

- Knowledge in basic safety rules for working in the Oil fields.
- Familiarity of using security and safety equipment and personal protection.
- Fluent in English.

سكرتير أول فني :

- مؤهل عالي جامعي "بكالوريوس" في المحاسبة
- 3-7 سنوات خبرة في مجال محاسبة المشاريع وإعداد الميزانيات الصناعية ومراقبة التكاليف.

سكرتير أول فني عقود :

- مؤهل عالي جامعي في القانون وإدارة الأعمال أو أي مؤهل عالي "بكالوريوس"
- 3-7 سنوات خبرة في كتابة وإدارة العقود الصناعية.

ملاحظة بالخصوص لكافة الوظائف :

- إلمام بقواعد السلامة الأساسية للعمل في حقول النفط.
- الإلمام باستخدام معدات الأمن والسلامة الوقائية الشخصية.
- إتقان تام للغة الانجليزية قراءة وكتابة ومحادثة كشرط اساسي.

على المرشحين الذين تتوافر فيهم المؤهلات والشروط المطلوبة التقدم بطلبياهم مع السيرة الذاتية وصورة شمسية حديثة خلال 10 أيام من تاريخ نشر الاعلان الى: العنوان البريدي: ص.ب. 4408، الصفاة 1، الكويت - ويجب التدوين على الظرف الوظيفية المطلوبة التي تم تقديم الطلب بها العنوان الالكتروني: <http://careers.kharafinational.com> رقم الفاكس: 00965-4760526

Crime

Report

DRUG ADDICT ATTACKS FAMILY

KUWAIT: A citizen on drugs attacked his family and destroyed the furniture in their Fahd Al-Ahmad house. His mother called the police to save the family from her son, who was beating them and destroying everything. Ahmadi police responded and subdued the man, who was on drugs. He was detained on charges of drug use and destroying property.

Mom reports addicted daughter

A citizen in her seventies had to call police to rescue her daughter from drugs. The mother did not hesitate in reporting her daughter to police, and handed her to a police patrol so she can be treated for addiction. The woman told police that her daughter abuses drugs, and had an overdose that made her go berserk. A patrol went to the house in Jabriya and they were allowed to enter and take the girl, who was found wanted by the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

Loud neighbor

A citizen ignored his neighbors and played loud music, which landed him at the police station. The citizen, who lives alone in a flat as his family is on vacation abroad, was listening to loud music, so his neighbors asked him to lower the volume, but he did not. Neighbors resorted to the police, who summoned him for questioning.

Friends fight

Two citizens were in a Salmiya cafe having a good time, then all of a sudden one of them insulted the other with a barrage of cusswords and threatened to hurt her. The citizen who was insulted went to Salmiya police station and told them the fracas with her friend was about something 'private'. Policemen lodged a complaint and the friend is being summoned for questioning.

Deliveryman mugged

A deliveryman was stopped by a person who claimed he did not know the area and asked for directions. The deliveryman obliged, the suspect pulling a knife on him and demanding his money. The deliveryman refused and resisted, so the suspect stabbed him in the shoulder before escaping. The deliveryman was taken to Jahra Hospital and treated for his wounds, then went to the police station to lodge a complaint. Detectives are working on the case.

Kidnap and assault

Jahra detectives began a search for four persons accused of kidnapping, beating and sexual assault. A security source said a bedoon man went to Taima police station and told them he was abducted, molested and beaten. He said that as he was leaving a cafe, a vehicle stopped with four persons inside who asked him about an address, so he got in the car with them. One of them then sprayed him in the face with something that made him drowsy. He later woke up in a sand yard with the suspects attempting to remove his underwear to rape him. When he resisted, they sprayed him again and tried to film him, but he escaped to the main street in a bad shape, then went to Jahra Hospital and got a medical report.

Maid raped

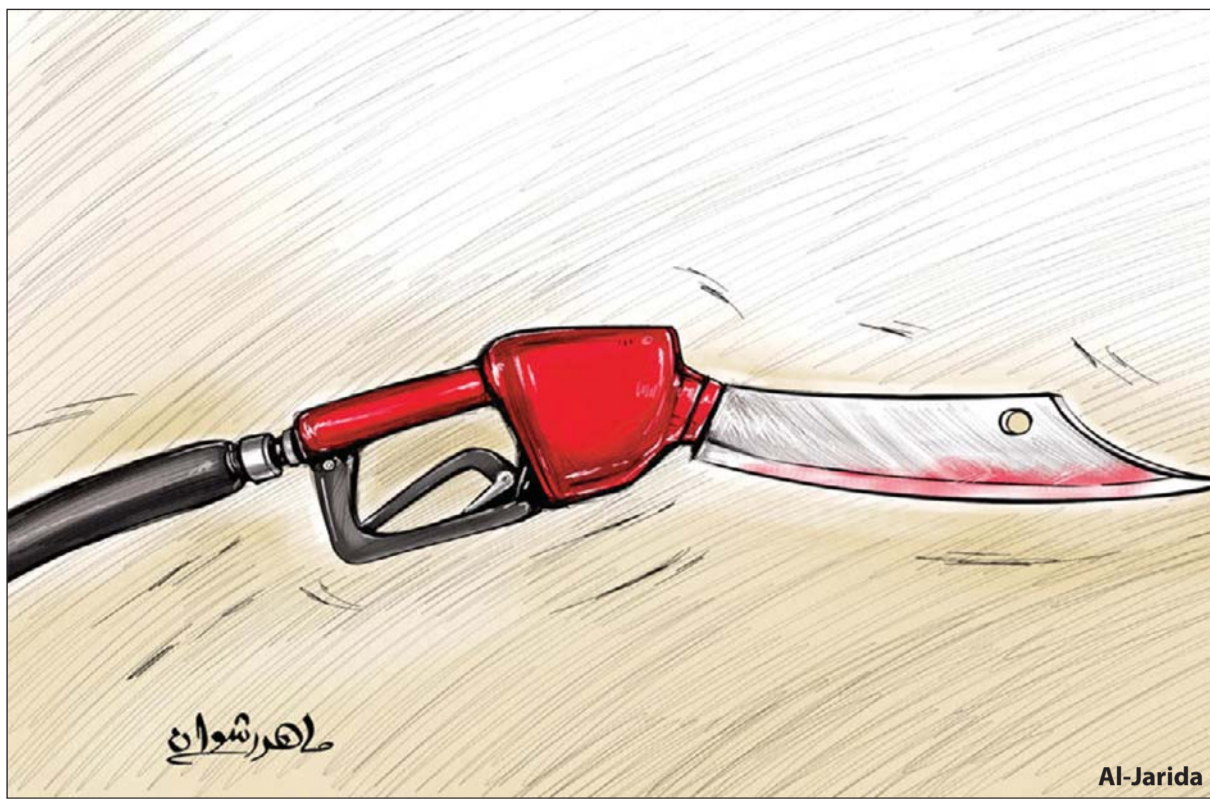
A fight in Nugra revealed the rape of an expatriate woman by two persons, who also beat her. A security source said that a patrol responded to a call about the fight, and a woman said her maid was beaten by an Indian. The victim was taken to hospital, then when examined, it was found out that she was not only beaten but also raped by two persons, and was highly exhausted.

Unconsented sex

The Hawally prosecutor ordered a case to be registered of unconsented sex after hearing the testimony of a Filipina woman who said that a citizen in his sixties took her to his flat. The Filipina, born in 1983, told Jabriya police the citizen lured her to his domestic help office, then to a flat where he assaulted her.

Drugged driver caught

Patrols on Gulf road spotted a speeding vehicle, so it was stopped to issue a citation. The driver, a citizen, did not comply with the laws, and officers noticed a bottle suspected to contain liquor, in addition to three joints suspected of being drugs. There were also two bags containing 24 pills suspected of being Captagon. The driver and the substances were sent to DCGD. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



Al-Jarida

MAN USED FAKE CITIZENSHIP TO COMMIT FRAUD, OTHER CRIMES

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah learned about a case involving a Saudi man who reportedly bought the Kuwaiti nationality from a citizen, so he



Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah

asked detectives to investigate. When the information was confirmed, the suspect was placed under surveillance, then his Mangaf house was raided, where Tramadol tablets were found. He claimed the drugs were for his personal use.

The man said that in 2000, he agreed with a Kuwaiti citizen, identified only by his initials 'M A' to buy the nationality for KD 20,000, and after the agreement was made, M A went to the nationality department and gave false information enabling him to add the Saudi to his file under a different name as his son. He was then able to get a nationality certificate and a Kuwaiti passport that enabled him to own a car rental office with more than 160 cars of various brands.

The Saudi, whose real name is identified in the report as 'H R' said he used his Saudi nationality to commit fraud and write bad cheques. He is also wanted in Saudi Arabia to serve a five-year jail sentence. H R was charged with forgery and receiving underserved advantages. He will also be sent to the Drugs Control General Department for possession of drugs. The citizen who sold the nationality to the Saudi has been outside the country for a long time. His name is placed on the wanted list to be arrested on arrival. —Al-Rai

MAID THREATENS EMPLOYERS' KIDS

An African maid became furious and threatened the daughters of her sponsor with a knife. A security source said a female citizen called Salwa police station seeking help to rescue her daughters as the African maid pulled a knife on them. A patrol went to the house, controlled the maid and took her to the police station where she was detained. —Al-Anbaa

HAWALLY CRACKDOWN

Hawally security police set up checkpoints in Nugra, particularly in Othman, Mohammad Ali Al-Dukhan, Hassan Al-Basri and Ahmad bin Toalooan streets, where 305 persons were checked and 13 were found with expired residencies, 18 were absconders, 25 were without IDs and two debtors. A person in an abnormal condition was arrested, 45 traffic citations were issued and four vehicles were impounded. —Al-Anbaa

القلمس

Al-Qabas

TOO MANY CONFERENCES

By Adel Fahad Al-Tukhaim

Kuwait has always been, with the bounties Allah has given it, a pioneer in extending help to its Arab brothers and friends. Kuwait preceded others by strides, starting with the Algerian revolution, Palestine, Yemen and others. We previously said, and confirm, that Kuwaiti people appreciate and understand the international and regional commitments of Kuwait politically and financially, as this is their fate, and were never late in fulfilling their duties, even during the darkest circumstances of the occupation, before and after, and wrote-off, out of this consideration, debts in the billions of dinars of Arab and friendly countries.

But they do not understand this and are the ones who created all these tragedies and disputes around the world, and they are the ones who brought the news of the new Middle East and conspired to damage the Arab world and its regimes, in addition to destroying its economies and infrastructures, spread chaos. They are the ones who made, financed and armed Al-Qaeda, IS and Boko Haram, and carry out their evil plans in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and others, so they must bear the repercussions of their deeds internally.

Total Kuwaiti foreign aid during the last five years, according to the statement of the finance minister, is over KD 17 billion (\$42 billion) in support to the economies of Arab countries, deposits and unreturnable grants and gifts, apart from debts some of those countries owe, which is over KD 10 billion. The

amount spent on conferences, whose numbers we no longer remember nor their purposes, exceeds the budgets of African and Asian countries, and the latest Yemeni talks with all its expenses ended the way it did, and now there are preparations to host a new conference about another crisis.

Is it not time for the state to realize that Kuwaiti people more deserving of the good deeds and charity than others, when numbers show that the percentage of Kuwait debtors is over 70 percent of the population, half of whom face court procedures, confiscation of their properties, travel bans and arrest warrants. Besides, 10,350 Kuwaiti citizens, including children, wives, grandchildren and inheritors of 690 debtors, are suffering from the law called 41/1993 and are facing its unfair procedures since nearly 30 years, and confiscation of their properties in favor of the state of Kuwait.

If Kuwait had spent half of what it spent abroad, it would have ended the suffering of 70 percent of its people, while it plucks the feathers of its children in papers and courts and takes away their private residences with all what it means in the form of security, safety and stability, in a country which hardly gets over theft of public funds and faces another, starting with the first century theft (tankers), second century theft (Dow), third century theft (social securities), and last but not least the fourth century theft (health insurance for the retirees). May Allah help us.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



OOREDOO KUWAIT HOSTS 'TOMORROW'S LEADERS' IN THEIR SIXTH SEASON

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait hosted a special training workshop for 'Tomorrow's Leaders', a summer program aimed at training and developing the skills of law graduates in cooperation with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program and the Kuwait Lawyers Society.

Speaking at the workshop, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani, Ooredoo Kuwait General Manager and CEO has congratulated the trainees on their achievements, saying: "At Ooredoo, we always seek opportunities to support youth in various areas, we believe that investment in the youth is an investment in the future. This is one of the pillars of our Social Corporate

Responsibility." Dr Yousef Al-Selili, Founder of Tomorrow's Leaders and Chief Corporate Legal and Regulatory Affairs Offices at Ooredoo Kuwait, said: "We are pleased with the success of the previous phases of the program, which enters its sixth season this year. In this season we focused on promoting personal and scientific skills in the field of law and won the support of law offices, banks, and other private sector establishments in Kuwait."

At the end of the workshop, Dr Selili led an interactive session with the trainees in which several legal issues were discussed and various stimulating competitions

were held, with the participants winning valuable prizes in appreciation of their efforts.

Tomorrow's Leaders aims at building a distinguished generation of legal practitioners by introducing youths to the applied aspect of law after their theoretical studies. This is done through various activities like internships, visits to the legal departments of public and private entities, and courses in human development and law delivered by specialists. The program also seeks to promote the culture of volunteering among the youth. The program's team consists of young men relying only on their personal efforts.



EQUATE CONTINUES INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP WITH ALTAAT

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, and Altaat Leadership Development Institute continued their strategic partnership in innovation through a joint workshop.

Commencing their partnership in 2014, EQUATE has so far dispatched two waves of its employees to be trained at Altaat in Masdar City, UAE. During 2015, EQUATE was granted Innovation Based Leadership (IBL) Award organized by IBM, Masdar City, and Altaat for developing a fully integrated solution that meets customer requirements in supply chain, marketing, procurement, research and development (R&D), as well as other areas.

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "Innovation is a critical strategic initiative in EQUATE's culture to generate overall value and ensure long-term competitiveness. To maintain EQUATE's position as a global industrial leader, the holistic culture of innovation is implemented throughout the company. The most critical element to ensure the success of innovation is the human capital, our employees, who represent our top stakeholders and main component for sustainability."

Husain added, "This ongoing partnership with Altaat is part of EQUATE's continuous journey to connect people from different organizations, locally and globally, to achieve overall

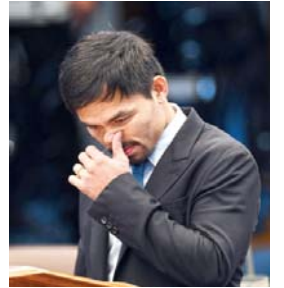
growth and development through innovation. EQUATE will continue sharing and exchanging innovation ideas with its 'Partners in Success'."

Meanwhile, Altaat Partner and Senior Leadership Trainer Hala Al-Turki said, "EQUATE has been instrumental in realizing Altaat's aspiration to form partnerships. These partnerships have the common objective of establishing a culture of innovation with individuals and organizations throughout different parts of the world. In addition, Altaat has developed several innovation-based leadership solutions and programs in many fields, including IT, marketing and education. This is all part of the continuous social and eco-

nomic development Altaat and its partners, such as EQUATE, are aiming to achieve."

In addition to Husain and Al-Turki, the workshop was attended by EQUATE VP for Technical Services Tareq Jafar Al-Kandari, Innovation Program Leader Abdulrahman Al-Munayes, members of EQUATE Innovation Steering Team, EQUATE participants in Al-Taata IBL Program, as well as a number of leaders and employees. The workshop was held at EQUATE Innovation Lounge, which is considered one of the first innovation centers established by a private company in Kuwait. EQUATE is also planning on establishing Innovation Centers at its industrial complex and its new headquarters.

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Pacquiao preaches death penalty, backs president

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THAILAND, SEEKING STABILITY, APPROVES MILITARY CONSTITUTION

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ANKARA: In this file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan inspect military honor guard by Turkish Presidential Guards during a welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Ankara. Erdogan heads to Russia today as part of efforts to rebuild ties shattered by Turkey's downing of a Russian warplane. — AP

PUTIN AND ERDOGAN: KISSED AND MADE UP?

TURKEY TRYING TO REVERSE THE DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY SANCTIONS

ISTANBUL: Sometimes even good friends can have a bad falling out. Ankara's downing of a Russian war plane over the Syrian border last November prompted rapid retaliation from Moscow and a bitter war of words between presidents Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan from which there appeared no going back. But just half a year on Russia has accepted Ankara's expressions of regret over the incident and Erdogan will meet Putin in Saint Petersburg on Tuesday for their first summit since the crisis erupted, in the hope of reviving the relationship.

Ankara was also gladdened by Moscow's response to the July 15 failed coup in Turkey. Putin was one of the first foreign leaders to phone Erdogan offering support and, unsurprisingly, sharing none of the scruples of EU leaders about the ensuing crackdown. "The Russian response stood in stark contrast to those of Turkey's Western allies," said Jeffrey Mankoff of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Relations between Turkey and Russia—two powers vying for influence in the strategic Black Sea region and Middle East—have never been straightforward and their predecessor Ottoman and Russian empires fought three centuries of war. Yet before the plane crisis, Moscow and Ankara managed to

prevent disputes on Syria and Ukraine harming strategic cooperation on issues like the TurkStream gas pipeline to Europe and a Russian-built nuclear power station in Turkey.

The alliance was built on a macho friendship between Putin and Erdogan, two combative leaders in their early 60s credited with restoring confidence to their nations in the wake of financial crises but also criticized for clamping down on human rights. With Erdogan making it bluntly clear he feels let down by the United States and the European Union after the coup, there is the prospect of a new era in Turkey-Russia ties. "While Turkish-Russian ties are subject to their own uncertainties, this deterioration of relations with Western powers could accelerate a Turkish-Russian rapprochement," said analysts from the European Council on Foreign Relations.

'Restore relations'

Turkey will want to reverse the damage sustained by sanctions imposed by Russia which took a heavy toll on agriculture and construction with trade falling 43 percent to \$6.1 billion in January-May this year. Turkey's tourism industry was worst hit, with Russian arrivals down 93 percent in June compared to the same period in 2015. Meanwhile the

TurkStream pipeline, that was to have pumped 31.5 billion cubic meters of gas a year, and the Akkuyu nuclear power station should now be back on the agenda.

Intriguingly, Turkish officials have said the pilots of the Turkish planes that shot down the Russian jet on November 24 have been detained over the failed coup, raising the prospect that Ankara could link the downing to the same conspiracy. In a sign of goodwill ahead of the visit, Turkey's communications authorities unblocked access to the websites of the Russian state-controlled news provider Sputnik which had been restricted since April. Separately, Turkish media quoted Erdogan as telling Russian state news agency TASS he hoped the trip would open a "new page" in ties.

'Pragmatic not personal'

But after such a bitter dispute—which led Putin to declare that Erdogan had left modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk "turning in his grave" it will take a lot for the two post-imperial strongmen to get back to business as usual. Some analysts contend that Moscow has the upper hand in the relationship with energy-poor Turkey, which still imports over half its natural gas needs from Russia.

Russia, which is the strongest ally of Erdogan's foe President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria, transformed the balance of the Syrian civil war last September when it intervened militarily to Turkey's consternation. When the jet crisis reached its peak, Moscow also brandished its support for a Syrian Kurdish militia which Ankara accuses of being a terror group, sparking fears Russia could even arm Kurdish militants fighting Turkey. "The only person that Erdogan fears is Vladimir Putin," argued Steven Cook of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mankoff said the tension between Turkey and the West creates for Moscow a "prime opportunity to pull Ankara closer". It may be that ties improve steadily but without the fireworks seen when the relationship was at its peak in late 2014 when Putin suddenly announced the TurkStream project as one of the first visitors to Erdogan's new presidential palace. "What we are going to see is a longer-lasting but more pragmatic type of relationship built not on a personal friendship or ideology but on common material interests," said Alexander Baunov, a senior associate at the Carnegie Moscow Center. — AFP

MACEDONIA MOURNS AFTER STORMS KILL 21

SKOPJE: Macedonia held a day of mourning yesterday after at least 21 people were killed in flooding and violent winds as a freak storm battered the capital Skopje. The city was battered overnight Saturday-Sunday with winds packing speeds of more than 70 kilometers an hour, while torrents of mud and water swept away cars. "Our teams are on the ground, searching the affected terrain," interior ministry spokeswoman Natalija Spirova Kordic said, although she said all those registered missing had been accounted for. Local media said the youngest victim was just one year old and the oldest was 83, but Kordic could not confirm their ages.

A state of emergency declared on Sunday was extended for 15 days in Skopje and the northwestern city of Tetovo, where heavy storms caused damage to property but no casualties. Villages on the northern outskirts of the capital were particularly badly affected. Meteorologists said more than 800 lightning strikes

were recorded in the first two hours of the storm, during which the average rainfall for the whole of August fell on Skopje in the space of just two hours. The subsequent floods reached as high as 1.5 meters (five feet) in some areas. Some of the victims died in their cars as they were rapidly engulfed, while others were unable to flee their homes in time to reach safety.

A statement from the European Union expressed "deepest sympathies" and offered assistance to the authorities in Macedonia, home to two million people. The landlocked nation is an EU candidate country, although accession negotiations are yet to get under way. Skopje previously suffered disastrous flooding in 1962, a year before a huge earthquake that almost destroyed the city. In the spring of 2014, the Balkans region was hit by its worst floods in more than a century, which affected 1.6 million people and left 47 people dead in Serbia and Bosnia. — AFP



SKOPJE: People leave their flood-hit homes in the village of Stajkovci, near Skopje. Fierce storms packing strong winds and torrential rains overnight killed at least 21 people in Macedonia's capital of Skopje. — AFP

IRAQ'S WIDELY REVILED PARLIAMENT MIRED IN TURMOIL

BAGHDAD: As Iraq faces jihadists, financial woes and endemic corruption, parliament supposedly the heart of its government has been mired in turmoil and failed to address the country's problems. Persistent paralysis and other issues-most recently corruption allegations against the speaker and some lawmakers-also bolster long-held feelings among many Iraqis that the legislature is both ineffective and self-serving. "All of our problems are because of them," Ali Majeed al-Saadi, 26, told AFP on a main commercial street in Baghdad.

Saifeddin Khazali, 33, was also sharply critical when asked what he thought of the legislature, saying: "They don't represent the people." "I have absolutely no confidence (in parliament)... I don't have any confidence in any MP," Khazali said. The most recent trouble in parliament began when Defense Minister Khalid Al-Obeidi accused speaker Salim al-Juburi and several lawmakers of corruption and blackmail. The minister's accusations led to a judicial investigation and resulted in Juburi and two MPs being barred from travelling, while the speaker filed suit against Obeidi, alleging defamation.

Earlier this year, parliament was deadlocked over Prime Minister Haider Al-

Abadi's efforts to replace current ministers with technocrats-a move opposed by powerful parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds. Sessions were repeatedly overshadowed by antics in parliament, including a sit-in by MPs, verbal and physical altercations, and a vote to sack the speaker that resulted in two rival claimants to the post. Protesters angered by lawmakers' inaction eventually broke into Baghdad's fortified Green Zone area, stormed parliament and temporarily occupied the building.

Zaid al-Ali, a constitutional expert and the author of "The Struggle For Iraq's Future," said the latest problems would not necessarily further reduce confidence in parliament, as it cannot get much lower. Parliament considered 'a joke' - "Ordinary Iraqis already consider the institution to be a joke," Ali said. The deadlock and chaos in parliament in recent months comes as Iraq faces some of the most dangerous and pressing problems in its recent history-issues an effective legislature could play a role in addressing.

The country is fighting to push back the Islamic State group, which overran large areas in 2014, and the United Nations has warned that political turmoil in Iraq ulti-



KIRKUK: A Kurdish Peshmerga soldier distributes bottles of water to Iraqi civilians who fled Hawijah in northern Iraq, and arrived the Kirkuk province, about 200 km north of the capital Baghdad. — AFP

mately benefits the jihadists. Iraq also faces a major financial crisis caused by slumping oil prices combined with years of mismanagement and graft, and there is widespread anger over rampant corruption and abysmal services. While there have been

frequent problems in parliament of late, ineffectiveness in the legislature is far from new, and what is meant to be one of Iraq's key government institutions is not performing its role. "Iraq's parliament is and has been one of the most ineffective insti-

tutions in the Iraqi state since 2005," said Ali. "That is very problematic because our constitution establishes Iraq as a parliamentary democracy, and places the Iraqi parliament at the centre of all state activities," he said. Lawmakers working for their own enrichment or for parties, sects or ethnicities instead of broader national goals are the cause of some of the problems in parliament, and of the widespread anger against it. There is also no official opposition, and all major parties have ministers in the cabinet-a situation that emphasises consensus and gives all sides a voice, but also makes it extremely difficult to pass and implement controversial measures.

"On vital issues like security, the parliament has been incapable of passing virtually any legislation," Ali said, and "major reform is impossible in Iraq, because the parliament is an incompetent institution". New MPs could improve the situation, but the next election is not until 2018, and even then, change is not guaranteed. In the interim, Iraqis will have to live with a parliament they neither believe in nor trust. Iraq's parliament is an "unnecessary institution", journalist Ali Hassoun said in Baghdad. "If it was cancelled, it would be better," he said. — AFP

MOSUL'S RESIDENTS FEEL RELIEF, ANXIETY AS 'LIBERATION' NEARS

MOSUL - THE LARGEST URBAN CENTER UNDER IS CONTROL

BAGHDAD: As Iraqi forces prepare to attack Islamic State in its de facto capital of Mosul, residents inside the city and others who have managed to escape expressed relief at the prospect their home could be liberated from the extremist group's harsh rule. But they also warned that if the assault is successful, the city's Sunni-majority population would refuse to return to what they called the repressive yoke imposed by the Shiite-led government in Baghdad in the past.

The Iraqi army and its elite units that will lead the offensive are gradually taking up positions around the city 400 km north of Baghdad, from whose Grand Mosque in 2014 Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a caliphate spanning regions of Iraq and Syria. The offensive is slated for late September, said Hisham Al-Hashimi, who works for the government as a consultant on IS affairs and is author of the book "The World of Daesh" (IS).

Eight Mosulite men, contacted secretly by phone on the outskirts of the city, said signs of dissent are increasing ahead of the expected assault. They all spoke on condition of not being identified for fear of retribution. Walls have been daubed with the Arabic letter M, for "muqawama", or resistance, or two parallel stripes, one red and one black, representing the Iraqi flag, said a resident who spoke from one of the rare areas that still gets mobile telephone coverage. "These are acts of real bravery," he said. "If you're caught, you're dead."

The Iraqi national flag was raised twice in public squares, once in June and again in July, infuriating the militants who tore them down the next morning, residents said, authenticating videos posted on Facebook pages. An unknown number of people were arrested after the July incident, among them former army officers, they said. With a population at one time as large as two million, Mosul is the largest urban center under the ultra-hardline militants' control. Its fall would mark their effective defeat in Iraq, according to Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi.

Many IS leaders have fled Mosul for Syria with their families ahead of the planned offensive, Iraq's defense minister Khaled al-Obeidi said on July 30. As Iraqi forces tighten the noose, the militants have grown increasingly paranoid, residents said. The militants have always kept tight control on communication to preempt hostile propaganda and prevent informants from passing on information to the Iraqi forces or the US-led anti-IS military coalition that is carrying out most of the airstrikes on their positions.

They blocked mobile networks in 2014 and banned satellite TV earlier this year, allowing home internet access only through a server they controlled. As of a month ago they restricted internet access further to a handful of official Wifi centers manned by supervisors who monitor content over users' shoulders. At checkpoints set up by the IS "amniya", or security committee, people are asked if they have Facebook and must unlock their phones to prove that they do not. "Thank God I don't even know what Facebook is, but I was jailed for a week and paid a fine because they found dancing music saved on my mobile," said a taxi driver speaking by phone.

Younis's story

Younis, a high school teacher of Arabic literature in his 40s, fled Mosul with his family in May. His biggest fear was that his son, just eight years old, was being indoctrinated into the group's extreme interpretation of Islam. "We escaped from Mosul and risked death for my son's sake; I wanted to rescue him from turning into a jihadist," he said, speaking in a flat in Baghdad, holding his boy in his arms. "How can I stay silent and I'm seeing Daesh brainwashing my son and teaching him how to become a suicide bomber?" he said. He showed a photocopy of the cover of a fifth grader's textbook featuring a boy with an AK-47 machine gun on his shoulder. "I know it's risky to keep this paper with me but I decided to hide it and show it to anybody who asks me how life was under Daesh," he added, puffing on a cigarette, which is banned by IS.

He expressed frustration that his wife has continued to wear the full veil, or niqab, after moving to Baghdad. The niqab is compulsory under the IS in Mosul, even on store mannequins, and women are forbidden to walk outside without a male guardian. "Don't cover your face please for God's sake," he pleaded with his wife. "No need to be afraid anymore, you're a human being and not a slave." Younis said he paid a taxi driver \$5,000 to help them flee Mosul via the Kurdish Peshmerga lines east of the city,



RAMADI: Iraqi army soldiers take the bodies of Islamic State fighters for burial after overnight fighting outside Ramadi, 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad. — AP

taking advantage of the confusion that ensued after advances made by the Kurdish and Iraqi forces in May.

The army progressed further in July, capturing the Qayyara airfield 60 km south of Mosul, which will serve as the main staging post for the expected offensive. Once the fighting intensifies, up to one million people could be driven from their homes in northern Iraq, "posing a massive humanitarian problem for the country", the International Committee of the Red Cross said last month. More than 3.4 million people have already been forced by conflict to leave their homes across Iraq, taking refuge in areas under control of the government or in the Kurdish region.

Iraqi army successes

The Peshmerga fighters have been deployed to the north and east of Mosul with their back to their Kurdish region that hosts a base of US-led coalition troops assisting Iraqi forces. Local Sunni fighters will also join the offensive. The possible participation of Iranian-backed Shiite militias is stirring controversy, however. Mosul residents and politicians said they dread the participation of these militias, known as Popular Mobilization, or Hashd Shaabi in Arabic. They cite abuses in Sunni cities retaken from Islamic State, like the looting in Tikrit last year and reports of torture, revenge killings and kidnappings in Falluja, a historic jihadist stronghold near Baghdad.

Although Sunnis are predominant in the northern and western provinces under militant control, Shiites are in the majority overall in Iraq.

The Sunnis in Mosul were mostly indifferent to the IS offensive of 2014 and some even supported it if it would end the oppression of the security forces under former Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki, an ally of Iran. Maliki has since been succeeded by Abadi, another Shiite, who has taken a conciliatory approach toward the Sunnis and softened the alliance with Tehran. Abadi has yet to decide whether the Shiite militias will take part in the offensive. The former governor of Mosul, Atheel Al-Nujaifi, a Sunni, told Reuters the local administration of the city should have more autonomy after the militants are dislodged.

A police force reflective of the city's complex ethnic and religious make-up should be in charge of security, not the army, added Nujaifi, who leads a Sunni militia that plans to take part in the offensive on Mosul alongside the army. "The sweeping advance of Daesh in Mosul created a new reality," he said. Younis, the teacher, and Mosulites who still live in the city said even though IS rule was much worse than government rule under Maliki, the population won't accept to return to the previous situation. "Berlin after Hitler couldn't possibly be like before and so should Mosul be after Daesh," said Younis. "We need a new system to govern Mosul, we cannot suffer more ordeals." — Reuters

TEMPERS FLARE AS TEMPERATURES SOAR AT ROME'S 'GLOOMY STREET' MIGRANT CENTRE

ROME: Tempers are flaring between increasingly frustrated residents and boat migrants mostly from Africa using a well-known transit camp in central Rome as temperatures soar this summer. Italy is taking in thousands of boat migrants every week for a third year in a row, and friction is common between them and those who live along the path many take on their journey towards northern Europe.

Set up by volunteers, the Baobab centre, by Rome's Tiburtina train station, was shut down by police in December in the wake of the Paris attacks and because the European Union wants Italy to stop migrants from moving on, not help them to do so. But Baobab volunteers quickly set up a camp on the street in front of the old shelter with tents and chemical toilets, serving three meals a day, and migrants have flocked there in their thousands. "We can't open our windows because of the stench," said Valeria, who lives with her six-year-old son and husband next to the camp in Via Cupa - Gloomy Street in English. "The chemical toilets are never cleaned and dirty water leaks onto the street. It's inhumane for them and for us."

Baobab organizers estimate 40,000 have come through in the past year. Last week, about 300 men, women, children and teenage boys slept on mattresses laid out on the road, and the numbers are expected to rise as the summer wears on. On one afternoon last week, a mother bathed her baby in a plastic tub, young men played table football, and women braided each other's hair on a wicker couch - all in under the hot sun. Residents and Baobab volunteers alike

have been calling on Rome's city government to provide a more suitable location, but after more than seven months none has been found.

The administration of Rome's new mayor Virginia Raggi, elected in June, is working with institutions and humanitarian groups to come up with a plan by Aug. 15 to get the migrants off the road and into a more adequate location, the city's social affairs office said in a statement. Italy has been on the front line of Europe's immigration crisis, taking in more than 420,000 boat migrants since the start of 2014, official figures show. The state provides shelter to some 140,000 asylum seekers - seven times more than it did in 2013 - in centres up and down the Italian peninsula.

Post-attack fears

Volunteers argue that shelters for migrants in transit are needed not only for humanitarian reasons, but also to keep them out of the hands of criminal people smugglers. During one afternoon in late July, two Baobab volunteers escorted four young Eritreans to buy bus tickets for Milan. Their final destinations were Germany, Norway and Holland. "Had we not helped them, they could have fallen prey to people smugglers," said Sergio, a retired civil servant and Baobab volunteer. Residents and businesses are also worried about security.

At the end of July, in the wake of violent attacks in Europe that killed hundreds of people, an insurance office that employs 19 people relocated to another part of Rome from Gloomy Street, saying both clients and employees no longer felt safe there. — Reuters



N'DJAMENA: Chad's president Idriss Itno (left) looks on during the inauguration of his fifth term as president in N'Djamena. — AFP

TENSIONS AS CHAD'S LEADER DEBY BEGINS HIS FIFTH TERM

N'DJAMENA: Chad's President Idriss Deby takes the oath of office yesterday for a fifth term in power, facing persistent resistance from an opposition that alleges his re-election was a "political hold-up". With the swearing-in ceremony set for 1000 GMT, local television was broadcasting the arrival at the airport of African heads of state.

The guests include Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir, Mali's Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Central Africa's Faustin-Archange Touadera along with French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian from the former colonial power. But the Chadian opposition has vowed to maintain a general strike throughout the day following a government crackdown over the weekend. Heavily-armed security forces used tear gas to disperse opposition activists who had rallied despite an official ban in the poor, landlocked nation.

One young protester was shot dead on Sunday, opposition and police sources said. Opposition leader Saleh Kebzabo, who was Deby's nearest rival in the April presidential vote, said that the young man had died of his wounds "from the shooting with real bullets by the security forces" to disperse the protesters. The opposition are to meet during Deby's inauguration day and unlike the weekend rallies the government has not banned their plans for a general strike to create what they call a "dead city".

'We're in the right'

On Saturday Kebzabo had declared: "We are in the right. It's the government that is acting illegally by preventing political parties from expressing themselves." Opposition activists have also announced

the filing of a complaint in court alleging "high treason" against Deby, claiming "illegal taking of power by violence" and "misuse of public money". Deby came to power in 1990 and was re-elected in a first-round vote in April with 61.5 percent of ballots cast against 12.8 percent for Kebzabo, according to official results. The opposition called Deby's re-election a "political hold-up", saying their own count showed no candidate won outright at the first stage.

The election campaign was marred by a clampdown on demonstrations by unions and rights groups demanding a change of leadership and democratic reforms. Arrests and disappearances of activists are common in the nation of 12 million. The situation in the oil-producing semi-desert country, a key player in the fight against west African jihadist groups, has been tense in recent months. The opposition has laid partial blame on France, Chad's former colonial ruler, claiming it has turned a blind eye to alleged human rights violations.

Chad is an active ally of Western nations and its neighbors in the battle against the Nigeria-based Islamists of Boko Haram. N'Djamena is also the headquarters for France's Barkhane anti-jihadist force. Despite the regime's strict security set-up, Chad has seen unusual social tension this year. The gang rape of a schoolgirl by the sons of senior officials triggered angry demonstrations around the country, which were severely dealt with by the authorities. The government has also been weakened by a difficult economic situation linked to the collapse in the price of oil. Strikes by officials over late salary payments have been growing. — AFP

SYRIAN REGIME, REBELS SEND REINFORCEMENTS FOR ALEPPO

BEIRUT: Syrian regime forces and rebel factions sent hundreds of reinforcements to Aleppo yesterday as opposition fighters announced an all-out offensive to take the country's second city. The battle for Syria's former economic powerhouse is intensifying after an opposition advance at the weekend broke through a three-week government siege of the city's rebel-held east, dealing a major setback to regime troops.

Rebel forces on Sunday announced a bid to capture all of Aleppo city, which if successful would mark the biggest opposition victory yet in Syria's five-year civil war. But forces loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad are putting up a fierce fight and have begun pouring reinforcements into the city. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said some 2,000 pro-regime fighters from Syria, Iraq, Iran and Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah had arrived in Aleppo since late Sunday.

"Both sides are amassing their fighters in preparation for the great battle of Aleppo," said Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Britain-based Observatory.

The Monday edition of Al-Watan, a Syrian daily close to the government, reported that the army had received "the necessary military reinforcements to launch the battle to retake the areas from which it withdrew." Citing a source on the ground, the paper said military warplanes "are carrying out a barrage of air strikes targeting the armed groups." Aleppo

has been roughly divided between government forces in the west and rebel groups in the east since fighting first broke out there in mid-2012.

After years of stalemate, fighting for the city entered a new phase last month when government forces took control of the last supply road into rebel-held areas, leaving some 250,000 people in eastern districts surrounded. In a desperate bid to break the siege, a coalition of rebels, Islamists and jihadists overran a series of buildings in a military academy on the southwestern edges of Aleppo on Saturday.

They then pushed northeast to link up with rebel groups inside the city. Emboldened by the victory, the fighters-largely grouped under the banner of the Army of Conquest-then set their sights on recapturing all of Aleppo city. In a statement on Sunday the Army of Conquest announced "the start of a new phase to liberate all of Aleppo," pledging to "double the number of fighters for this next battle." Abdel Rahman said yesterday that hundreds of opposition fighters had arrived in Aleppo from the surrounding province and neighboring Idlib.

Most were from the Fateh Al-Sham Front, the powerful jihadist group previously affiliated with Al-Qaeda that leads the Army of Conquest. The group changed its name from Al-Nusra Front last month after breaking with Al-Qaeda. "Whoever wins (in Aleppo), the war will not end. — AFP

CANADA SEIZING 'UNDECLARED MONEY' FROM CHINESE TRAVELERS

TORONTO: Canada has been seizing increasing amounts of undeclared or suspected criminal money from mainland Chinese travelers, border officials said, with the amount confiscated last year more than double that taken in 2013. Capital flight in various forms has been a growing concern for China, with factors ranging from the depreciation of the yuan to an anti-corruption campaign launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the end of 2012.

Reuters obtained limited seizure figures

from the Canada Border Services Agency under the country's access-to-information laws. The agency provided more comprehensive numbers in July. The data showed seizures from Chinese citizens dipped by about one-quarter from 2012 to 2013, when they were at C\$5.5 million (\$4.22 million). Seizures jumped to nearly C\$11.5 million last year. At least C\$6.5 million has been seized so far in 2016. By year end, that figure could eclipse 2015 levels, as the data consistently showed more seizures in the second half.

According to the agency, suspected criminal proceeds and undeclared money over C\$10,000 could be seized. The former is forfeit, while the latter can be returned on payment of a C\$250-to-C\$5,000 fine. The agency's numbers did not separate the two and did not indicate the exact origins of the seized money. Canadian border service spokeswoman Esme Bailey said it is not unusual for the amounts seized to vary from year to year, and the agency does not base enforcement on nationality.

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Canada, Yang Yundong, said his government always urges citizens to "learn in detail and comply with" Canadian law. He said China's own law enforcement does not tolerate illegally carrying money abroad. China said last year more than one-quarter of its 100 most-wanted corruption suspects had fled to Canada.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police declined to comment on the number of Chinese corruption suspects in the country. Canada's Department of Justice

said it does not track those numbers. In the United States, penalties for not declaring currency over \$10,000 can include a fine of up to \$500,000 and up to 10 years in prison. The value of US seizures from Chinese citizens arriving by air, while roughly on par with Canada, consistently accounts for under 10 percent of the total, the US border agency said. Such seizures from Canada's three largest airports alone make up more than one-quarter, according to the country's data. —Reuters



BRUSSELS: In this file photo, police and Belgian Army soldiers patrol during a court hearing for suspect Mohamed Abrini, a suspect in the Paris and Brussels attacks, that were claimed by the Islamic State organization, at the Court of Appeals in Brussels. The threat of violence by people inspired by foreign extremists invokes fear in a majority of young Americans across racial groups. —AP

YOUNG AMERICANS WORRY OVER EXTREMIST THREATS

BATON ROUGE: The threat of violence by people inspired by foreign extremists invokes fear in a majority of young Americans across racial groups. But for young people of color, particularly African-Americans, that fear is matched or surpassed by worries about violence from white extremists. A new GenForward poll of Americans age 18-30 shows widespread anxiety among young people about attacks from both inside and outside the United States. Sixty-two percent of young African-Americans and 55 percent of Hispanics surveyed said they were very concerned about the threat of violence committed by white extremists, compared to one-third of whites and 41 percent of Asian-Americans.

GenForward is a survey by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The poll is designed to pay special attention to the voices of young adults of color, highlighting how race and ethnicity shape the opinions of a new generation. Gregg Higgins, 27, was one of the whites who said he was very worried about violence by extremists in his own race. In fact, he said he was more concerned about "the homegrown white extremists" than the threat of violence from people outside the United States or people inspired by foreign extremists.

A social worker in Pittsburgh, Higgins said the growing political tension during the current election cycle has "shown a really ugly part of our past coming through and being more heard." He described it as "white males who are angry and who aren't now afraid to show that anger." "That fear of loss of control and loss of privilege is what's inspiring this vitriol and this hate," Higgins said. Worry about attacks from people currently living in the US who are motivated by foreign extremists spreads more evenly across racial groups, with at least half of whites, blacks, Asians and Hispanics describing themselves as very concerned about that threat.

Violence committed by people from outside the country also caused unease, especially among Hispanic young adults. Fifty-six percent of Hispanics polled said they were very concerned, compared to 49 percent of African-Americans, 40 percent of Asian-

Americans and 41 percent of whites. The angst comes after a spate of mass shootings. Nine black people were shot and killed last year at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, by a white man who officials say talked of starting a race war. In June, a gunman born in the US to Afghan immigrants opened fire in a crowded gay dance club in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people in the worst mass shooting in US history. An autopsy report identified him as a white male.

Last month, five police officers in Dallas were killed by a black gunman during a protest against police shootings of black men, and three law enforcement officers in Baton Rouge were shot and killed by a black man who authorities said appeared to be targeting people wearing a badge. Darsi Vazquez, a 25-year-old Hispanic college student from Huntsville, Alabama, described herself as very concerned about the threat of violence from foreign and domestic extremists alike, but she thinks the fear is exacerbated by news coverage of mass shootings around the country and the types of overt racism that appear in social media.

"A few years back technology wasn't here it's at it now, so you couldn't see things like this happening like you see it now," Vazquez said. "I don't know if it's necessarily getting worse, but we're seeing it more now. We don't just see what's happening outside our window, we also see what's going on outside other people's window." Most young adults in the poll labeled as hate crimes both the shooting deaths at the Charleston church and the Orlando night club, against African-Americans and against LGBT people, respectively.

But the poll shows people view the Orlando shooting differently, depending on their race. Among young whites, most also described the Orlando shooting as a terrorist attack. Fifty-eight percent of whites considered it that, compared to only 32 percent of African-Americans, 40 percent of Hispanics and 44 percent of Asian-Americans. Gunman Omar Mateen pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group during a call with police dispatchers during a standoff before he was shot and killed. A third or less of young people of each racial and ethnic group called the Charleston attack terrorism. —AP

ITALY POLITICAL REFERENDUM 'A LIFE OR DEATH' FOR RENZI

ROME: Italy's highest court gave the green light yesterday to a referendum that Prime Minister Matteo Renzi says will guarantee political stability and on which he has staked his future. Renzi has said he will resign if voters do not approve the constitutional changes he hopes will end Italy's notoriously shaky political system that has prevented any government completing a full term since World War Two.

It is a huge political gamble for the centre-left leader, with polls showing many of the 50 million voters undecided, with the "No" camp gaining momentum in what will be a very close campaign. Now that the Court of Cassation has validated the more than 500,000 signatures needed for the referendum to be held, the government has 60 days to set a referendum date, likely to be between October and December.

On Friday, credit ratings agency DBRS placed Italy under review because of the political uncertainty as well as pressure on banks, a fragile economic recovery and a less stable external environment. Any protracted political uncertainty could further sour investor sentiment towards the eurozone's third largest, and highly indebted, economy and towards its banks, which are themselves saddled with 360 billion euros of problematic loans. It could also complicate a recently announced private-sector bailout for Monte dei Paschi di Siena, the

country's third biggest bank, which has to raise 5 billion euros (\$5.5 billion) on the market by year-end.

The reform, which both houses of parliament approved in April, would shrink the upper house, cutting the number of senators to 100 from 315, and stripping it of powers over the budget and its ability to bring down a government. Instead, it would have oversight of local, rather than national, issues. It would increase the powers of the central government, diluting those of Italy's 20 regions on issues such as the environment, transport and energy. Twinned with a new, two-round voting system for the lower house, the changes should finally make Italy a governable country, Renzi says.

Opposition parties, such as the anti-immigrant Northern League, say that will strip away democratic checks put in place after the war to prevent the rise of another political strongman like Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. Such concerns, plus the fact that some Italians might use the referendum to make a protest vote against Renzi, mean it is far from certain that the changes to Italy's 1948 republican constitution will get the legally required popular consent. The referendum is likely to be held after parliament approves the 2017 budget, a draft of which must be presented by Oct 20. Approval by both houses would take about a month. —Reuters

THIRD SPANISH ELECTION WOULD EXTEND POLITICAL GRIDLOCK: POLL

SPANIARDS WEARY OF FRUITLESS TALKS TO FORM GOVERNMENT

MADRID: A third election in Spain would do nothing to resolve a deadlock that has left the country without a new government for over seven months, an influential survey suggested yesterday, piling pressure on leaders to find another way out of the impasse. Two elections - in December and June - delivered hung parliaments after the rise of newer political forces ended four decades of a stable two-party system. Now, state pollster Centro de Investigaciones Sociologicas said, the number of people who not even bother to vote is on the rise. "A third election would be ridiculous, what a waste of money. Politicians' job is to govern and sort this out, what have they been doing for a year?" said Beatriz Claver, a financial consultant taking a break in a square in central Madrid.

Negotiations between Spanish leaders have yet to bear fruit after the latest election, with the conservative People's Party (PP) of acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, which won the most votes both times, struggling to get backing from rivals to form a government. The PP would maintain its leading position in another election, winning 32.5 percent of the vote, the survey showed. But that would be a slight drop from the 33 percent it garnered in a June 26 election and would still leave it far from a parliamentary majority.

The political paralysis has yet to derail Spain's economic recovery, with a booming tourism season encouraging businesses to hire and households to spend. But without a government, Spain will struggle to deliver its 2017 budget plans to Brussels in time for a mid-October deadline - raising concerns over how long its economy can continue to outperform euro zone peers. And voters are growing increasingly weary. Some 13.4 percent of the 2,500 people surveyed in early July said they would abstain in another election, versus the 11 percent recorded in its last survey of voting intentions in early June.

Laughing stock

The historic rivalry between the PP and the Socialists as well as differences over policy and leadership have hampered the talks. The liberal Ciudadanos (Citizens) party, a natural ally for the PP on economic matters, has opposed giving its support to Rajoy and called for a new face at the helm of a potential PP-led minority government after the PP

though most parties concede it would be damaging.

"Holding a third election would turn us into the laughing stock of Europe," PP parliamentary spokesman Rafael Hernando told a news conference after yesterday's poll. The Socialists would come a slightly improved second if another election were held, the poll showed, on 23.1 percent of the vote versus

The PP was the only one of the four main parties to win more seats in parliament in June compared with December, racking up 137, though that was still short of the 176 needed for a majority in the 350-strong lower house. Surveys show a vast majority of Spaniards are still more concerned with underlying economic problems such as Spain's high unemployment rate



MADRID: This combination of file photos shows the shoes of Spanish Leader of center-right party Ciudadanos, Albert Rivera (top left), Leader of Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) Pedro Sanchez (bottom left) and Spanish leader of left wing party Podemos Pablo Iglesias (bottom right) during press conferences following their meetings with Spain's King at the Spanish parliament in Madrid. —AFP

was battered by a series of corruption scandals. It has only promised to abstain in a confidence vote to invest a new PP prime minister, while the Socialists have, since December, insisted they would vote against the PP. Rajoy warned last week a third election might be needed to break the deadlock,

22.7 percent in June. It did not give an estimate of parliamentary seats. An alliance of far-left parties, Unidos Podemos ("Together We Can") would come third with 19.6 percent of the vote, down from 21.1 percent in the last ballot, while Ciudadanos would come fourth with 12 percent, down from 13 percent.

than with the political vacuum. But some are alarmed that the talks appear to be going nowhere. "I am worried, I think that we can't trust in any change happening soon," said metro worker Ivan del Fresno, 37, adding he no longer cared what form of government emerged from the negotiations. —Reuters

AMERICA AND THE WORLD, WHY THE ISSUE MATTERS

WASHINGTON: How should America use its influence in a world where being a superpower doesn't get you what it once did? As instability and human tragedy in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria have shown, the US alone cannot impose solutions or force the surrender of adversaries like the Islamic State group, which cannot be deterred by the threat of nuclear attack.

Where they stand

Donald Trump says his approach is defined by the phrase "America First." He says, for example, that if allies in Europe and Asia won't pay the full cost of US contributions to their defense, then the US should let them defend themselves. He is sour on "international unions that tie us up and bring America down." Hillary Clinton takes the view that America benefits from a wide network of alliances, both for security and for economic strength. She says she would work to widen and strengthen that network. She criticizes a "go-it-alone" approach for the U.S. and asserts that international partnerships are "a unique source of America's strength."

Why it matters

The way America wields its power around the world affects people in every walk of life, in every corner of the country. Going to war in Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 profoundly changed the lives of tens of thousands of people whose loved ones were killed or grievously wounded. It also raised questions that confront Clinton and Trump: How can American influence be used most effectively to protect the homeland and prevent future wars?

In Iraq and Syria, President Barack Obama has chosen not to use the full force of the US military against IS. Instead he has sent small numbers of troops to prod and coach local forces to do the main fighting, backed by US airpower. He says this is more likely to create a durable success than fighting the Iraqis' and Syrians' wars for them. Trump says this is an abdication of a commander-in-chief's responsibility to extinguish as quickly as possible the most immediate threat to the United States. Clinton supports the thrust of Obama's approach to avoiding another US war in the Middle East.

The Iran nuclear deal, which Trump trashes and

Clinton praises, is an example of diplomacy with the potential to change the course of history, for better or worse. Critics like Trump say it opens the door for Iran to get its hands eventually on nuclear weapons, which would threaten America. Clinton says it blocks that path and provides possibilities for change in Iran that could reduce the chance of war. At its core, the discussion about US leadership gets down to this: How much can the US accomplish acting alone, compared with allying itself with like-minded nations? The question applies not just on the military front but also in economics.

Trump argues the US gets too little out of current trade arrangements as well as decades-old security partnerships like NATO, which is

anchored in Europe but traditionally led by the US. He has called NATO "obsolete" and a bad deal for America. Clinton, by contrast, sees NATO and alliances with Japan and South Korea as a pillar of US strategy for promoting peace and preventing war. Trump is right when he says NATO was created to confront a threat - the Soviet Union - that no longer exists. The question is whether the alliance is capable of adapting to 21st century threats like a resurgent Russia, instability in the Middle East and the appeal of the Islamic State group. Whereas Trump suggests the US can be better off going it alone, Clinton aligns herself with the more traditional notion that there is strength in numbers. —AP



NEW HAMPSHIRE: Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at a rally at Windham High School 16 in Windham, New Hampshire. —AFP

IRISH PRIEST WHO WAVED WHITE HANDKERCHIEF ON 'BLOODY SUNDAY' DIES

BELFAST: The priest who waved his white bloodstained handkerchief at British troops on "Bloody Sunday" in 1972 in what became one of the enduring images of the Northern Irish conflict, died yesterday aged 82, the Irish Catholic church said. Edward Daly, who went on to become a bishop and peace campaigner, was shown on television around the world leading a group of men carrying a dying youth past British troops who had opened fire at a crowd of Catholics after a protest march, killing 13.

Daly, who went on to spend 19 years as Bishop of Derry and decades as a peace campaigner, died early on Monday, the Irish Bishops' Conference said in a statement. His testimony about the events Bloody Sunday helped garner public opinion to the side of the protesters. It was rejected by the British authorities at the time, but was proved

accurate in a 2010 inquiry that concluded that the civilians had been killed without justification, prompting an apology from Prime Minister David Cameron. The 1972 killings changed the course of the "Troubles" that erupted in the late 1960s, boosting the Irish Republican Army's violent campaign for Northern Ireland to secede from the United Kingdom and become part of the Republic of Ireland.

A 1998 peace deal, brokered after more than 3,600 had died, has largely ended the conflict that pitted mostly Catholics, who wanted a united Ireland, against Unionists, mostly Protestants, who wanted it to remain part of the United Kingdom. Daly campaigned for innocent victims of the "Troubles", including the Birmingham Six, who were wrongly convicted of bombing two pubs in the city and spent 16 years in jail in one of



BELFAST: In this June 14, 2010 file photo, a mural depicts Edward Daly waving a white handkerchief as he led Jackie Duddy away from danger on Bloody Sunday, in the Bogside area of Derry, Northern Ireland. — AP

Britain's most notorious miscarriages of justice before being acquitted in 1991.

"Bishop Edward will be remembered as a fearless peace-builder," Archbishop of Ireland Eamon Martin said in a statement. "His untiring advocacy ... earned him respect from some, suspicion from others." Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, who has admitted to being an active Irish Republican Army member on Bloody Sunday, said Daly had been "a constant right through the course of the last 40 odd years," noting he had been critical of the IRA as well as all other sides in the conflict. James Brokenshire, Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "He was an iconic figure in civic life, and he will long be remembered as a cleric who worked tirelessly to promote peace for all." — Reuters



KANO: In this file photo Boko Haram's leader Abubakar Shekau speaks to the camera. A struggle in Nigeria's Islamic extremist group Boko Haram is playing out in public with a new leader named by the Islamic State group accusing longtime leader Abubakar Shekau of killing his own people and living in luxury while fighters' babies starve. — AP

BOKO HARAM'S SHADOWY LEADER VOWS TO FIGHT ON IN NEW VIDEO

KANO: Boko Haram's shadowy leader Abubakar Shekau has appeared in a new video vowing to fight on, shrugging off an apparent split in the hardline jihadist group blamed for thousands of deaths since 2009. "I... Abubakar Ash-Shakaw (Shekau), the leader of Jama'atu Ahlissunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, made it a duty for myself (to fight) Nigeria and the whole world," Shekau said in the video released on Sunday, using the group's name since it declared allegiance to the so-called Islamic State.

Last week, Shekau said in an audio message he was still head of the group despite his purported replacement by Sheikh Abu Musab Al-Barnawi, a former Boko Haram spokesman. "We have no desire to fight our Muslim brethren," Shekau, who last appeared in March, said in the 24-minute video. Shekau ridiculed suggestions that he was dead, and looked more composed and energetic than in previous appearances. "I'm alive by the permission of Allah," he said in his speech in Arabic and Hausa, adding that he would only die when his time came.

In the video he is wearing camouflage gear and holding a machine gun, standing between two Islamist fighters in balaclavas armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers. He taunted President Muhammadu Buhari's administration and condemned Western countries including the United States, France, Germany and "the tyrants of the United Nations (UN)". At the end of his speech apparently filmed in Boko Haram's stronghold in the Sambisa forest of northeastern Nigeria-he fired off rounds of ammunition into the air. His absence in recent months had sparked speculation about his fate and whether he

had been deposed as Boko Haram's chief. Barnawi's appointment was contained in a magazine issued by the Islamic State group, to which Boko Haram pledged allegiance in March last year. Shekau dismissed Barnawi as an infidel who condoned living in an un-Islamic society without waging jihad. Shekau became leader after Nigerian security forces killed the group's founding chief Mohammed Yusuf in 2009. Omar Mahmood, a security analyst with US-based Foreign Policy Research Institute who has spent the past five years researching Boko Haram, said Shekau was removed because of his highhandedness and ruthlessness.

"One thing that has remained constant, however, is the focus on attacks against regional security forces, with Muslim civilian deaths still ignored. This aspect seems to be a key concern for IS propagandists," Mahmood said. "By contrast, Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the man announced as the new leader, clearly stated in his al-Naba interview that attacks against Muslim civilians, mosques and markets will not be a staple of his leadership."

Sources close to Boko Haram said Barnawi, aged in his early twenties, is none other than Habib Yusuf, the eldest son of group founder Yusuf. They said he was put under Shekau's care following the death of his father, but the pair fell out over ideological and operational differences. Boko Haram has been blamed for some 20,000 deaths and displacing more than 2.6 million people since it launched a brutal insurgency in Nigeria in 2009. Nigerian forces, with the support of regional troops, have recaptured swathes of territory lost to the jihadists since they launched a military campaign in February 2014. — AFP

GERMANY AND NETHERLANDS TO TEST JOINT MISSILE DEFENSE OPERATIONS

TEST COULD EASE DEPLOYMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE

COLOGNE: Germany and the Netherlands will in October test joint operations of their Patriot air and missile defence systems in what could be a model for multilateral deployments to Poland or the Baltic states in coming years, a top German general said. Brigadier General Michael Gschossmann said joint operations enabled by the new approach could help NATO reassure Baltic member states and Poland, which are clamoring for more defenses after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia say they fear Russian aggression should Moscow's relations with the US-led Atlantic alliance deteriorate further. The Baltic states are linked to the rest of NATO only by a narrow strip of land running between Belarus, a staunch ally of Russia, and Kaliningrad, the heavily militarized Russian coastal enclave. The October test will validate a new joint concept of operations for air and missile defense developed by Germany and the Netherlands over the past year, the first of its kind in Europe, Gschossmann, commander of ground-based units for Germany's Air Force, told Reuters in an interview.

More than 40 interceptors will be fired during

an exercise at a NATO site in Crete in early October that will include 300 German and 100 Dutch soldiers, as well as 10 US soldiers and a US Aegis destroyer, according to German and US officials. After the test, German and Dutch military officials plan to declare their Bi-national Air & Missile Defense Task Force ready for combat, and will offer it to NATO for future deployments. Baltic state officials welcomed US deployment of a Patriot battery to eastern Europe during a series of exercises earlier this summer, but the symbolic value would be greater if the deployment involved more than one country, Gschossmann said.

'Reassurance'

"We could offer even more reassurance and send a political signal if we took a mixed task force with German, Dutch and US Patriot systems - a purely defensive asset - and set it somewhere in Poland or the Baltic states," Dutch, German and US Patriot missile systems were rolled out separately in Turkey for two years from January 2013, where they helped protect fellow alliance member Ankara's air space against the possibility of missile attacks from war-torn Syria.

The new German-Dutch concept of operations uses the Surface to Air Missile Operations Centre, which was initially developed by Airbus Group SE for the German Air Force. The SAMOC system can now manage all air defence equipment operated by NATO members, although Soviet-style surface-to-air missile systems still used by Poland and other eastern European states as a legacy of their Communist past cannot be fully automated and requires a human in the loop.

The German-Dutch air and missile defence cooperation, signed in January and known as Project APOLLO, is part of a broader series of steps that have closely bound the two countries' navies and ground forces together in recent years. Gschossmann said Germany and the Netherlands also plan to jointly develop an air defence system operated directly by their armies to replace the Stinger guided missile, which must be phased out in the next decade. Dutch Defense Ministry spokesman Jeroen de Vries said the two countries were looking into integrating the Dutch and German Patriot missile systems. "The task force can be deployed within NATO as capacity to protect alliance territory," he said. — Reuters



ADDIS ABABA: Members of the Ethiopian army patrol the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, after recent clashes with protesters. Violent weekend clashes between protesters and security forces have claimed the lives of more than a dozen people across Ethiopia. — AP

AT LEAST 30 PROTESTERS KILLED IN ETHIOPIA'S OROMIYA REGION

ADDIS ABABA: At least 33 people were shot dead by security forces in protests at the weekend across Ethiopia's central Oromiya region linked to an aborted government attempt to commandeer local land, opposition party officials said yesterday. Police fired tear gas and blocked roads to several towns in the vast region as demonstrations erupted after a call from a spontaneous social media movement. Ethiopian authorities had imposed a blanket internet blockade throughout the weekend. Unrest wracked Oromiya for several months until early this year, sparked by plans to allocate farmland in the region surrounding the capital for development.

Authorities scrapped the land scheme in January, but protests have flared again over the continued detention of opposition demonstrators. At the weekend, protesters chanted anti-government slogans and waved dissident flags. Some demanded the release of jailed opposition politicians. "So far, we have compiled a list of 33 protesters killed by armed security forces that included police and soldiers but I am very sure the list will grow," Mulatu Gemechu, Deputy Chairman of the opposition Oromo Federalist Congress, told Reuters.

The deaths took place in at least 10 towns across Oromiya, he said, including Ambo, Dembi Dolo, and Nekemt - areas that were similarly engulfed by previous rounds of protests. "Twenty-six people have also been injured, while several have been detained," Mulatu said. Three members of his party had also being held. Government officials were not immediately available for comment. The state-owned Ethiopian News Agency said "illegal protests" staged by "anti-peace forces" had been brought

under control, but it did not mention casualties.

Oromiya is the second region to be hit by unrest in the past few days. In Amhara, at least two people were killed in the ancient city of Gondar in clashes over the status of a disputed territory. Tensions have been rumbling for two decades over the status of Wolayit district - a

stretch of land that protesters from Amhara say was illegally incorporated into the neighboring Tigray region to the north. Any sign of unrest is closely watched in Ethiopia, a major Western ally against Islamist militants in neighboring Somalia and an economic power seen as a centre of relative stability in a fragile region. — Reuters

BRITISH SUGAR TRADER BAILED IN KENYA COCAINE HAUL CASE

NAIROBI: A young British sugar trader facing charges of trafficking cocaine worth \$5.8 million was bailed on Monday by a Nairobi court, with his lawyer declaring "the wrong man" had been arrested. In a high-profile case, Jack Marrian, 31, was charged last Thursday after police in the eastern port city of Mombasa seized a 100-kilo stash of cocaine in a sugar consignment ordered by British firm ED&F Man.

Magistrate Derrick Kuto said Marrian, who has lived in East Africa since early childhood, had to post a bond of 70 million shillings (\$690,600) with two Kenyan sureties. Kuto also said Marrian had to surrender his passport given the seriousness of the charge. He could face a life sentence if convicted. Dressed in a grey-blue suit and patterned tie, Marrian showed little emotion during the hearing, except to smile once at his parents across the packed courtroom.

Defence lawyer Sheetal Kapila said he believed the case was driven by the authorities' desire "to stop Kenya being a transit point" for drugs, but in this case, "it's the wrong man who's been picked up." "Unknown people have smuggled this drug into the consignment," Kapila said. Mombasa on Africa's east coast has long been used as a hub for drugs bound for Asia and Europe. The prosecution has appealed against the bail decision on the grounds that the investigation is not yet complete and they believe Marrian is a flight risk.

Life of privilege

The young businessman's case has caused a sensation in his native Britain, where the aristocratic background of his mother Lady Emma Clare Campbell of Cawdor and attendance of top private schools, including the alma mater of Prince William's wife Catherine, have caught the eye of the tabloid press.

His family's relationship with Kenya dates back decades, his lawyer said, as Marrian's grandfather had served as a minister in the colonial government just before independence in 1963.

His father David Marrian said he had spoken with his son daily since his arrest. "We are pleased that the magistrate has given bail and now we have quite a lot of work to do," he told journalists after the hearing. "I have no doubt that Jack will be exonerated," he added.

His father confirmed the firms Marrian works for-Kenya- and Uganda-based Mshale commodities and London-based ED&F Man-were backing him "100 percent". In a statement released late Monday, a Mshale spokeswoman said it would continue to provide support "to ensure that justice is done based on facts and evidence; we are confident that Jack will be fully exonerated once the facts are presented." Roy Francis Mwanthi, a Kenyan facing similar charges, was also freed on a 60-million-shilling bond with two Kenyan sureties. The trial opens on October 3. — AFP

MEXICO HURRICANE DEATH TOLL HITS 39

MEXICO CITY: Tropical Storm Javier pushed closer to the resort city of Cabo San Lucas on the tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula yesterday, while the death toll from former Hurricane Earl rose to 39 in the country's eastern mountains. Communities in two states were digging out from weekend mudslides during heavy rains brought by remnants of Earl, which slammed into Mexico's Gulf coast. Javier was expected to brush Cabo San Lucas today and continue raking the Pacific coast of the Baja peninsula.

Javier was located about 100 miles southeast of Cabo San Lucas yesterday, with winds of 50 mph, according to the US National Hurricane Center. Javier was moving northwest, on a path that could take it inland further up the peninsula on Tuesday or Wednesday. Among the casualties of Earl, at least 28 people died in multiple mudslides in the mountainous north of Puebla state,

National Civil Protection Coordinator Luis Felipe Puente said Sunday in an interview with ForTV. He said 25 were killed in different parts of the township of Huauchinango and three died in the hamlet of Tlaola. "It is a tragedy what has happened to our people in Huauchinango," Gabriel Alvarado, the township's mayor.

In neighboring Veracruz state, 11 people lost their lives when mudslides hit the towns of Coscomatepec, Tequila and Huayacocotla, Gov Javier Duarte said. The continuing heavy rain led officials to close a section of the main federal highway connecting Mexico City to the region. Federal transportation authorities said the area had received a month's worth of rain in 24 hours. A hurricane warning was in effect for the southern tip of Baja California. A hurricane watch and tropical storm warning was in effect for parts of the peninsula farther north. — AP

THAILAND, SEEKING STABILITY, APPROVES MILITARY CONSTITUTION

BANGKOK: A democratically elected government will take power in Thailand at the earliest by December 2017, a senior Thai official said yesterday, after the country endorsed a military-backed constitution paving the way for a general election. Thais handed the junta of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha a convincing win in the referendum on Sunday, with preliminary results showing over 61 percent voted in favor. Full results are due tomorrow.

A desire to see greater political stability drove the yes vote, analysts said. Thailand has been rocked by more than a decade of political turmoil that has stunted growth, two military takeovers and several rounds of often deadly street protests. "We think there will be an election at the earliest in September or October 2017 and a new government by December 2017," Chatchai Na Chiang Mai, spokesman for the Constitution Drafting Committee, told Reuters.

Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam yesterday also said an election will take place in 2017, confirming the timeline Prayuth laid out ahead of the referendum. Prior to the vote, Thailand's major political parties had criticized the draft constitution, saying it would constrict democracy, including one provision calling for an appointed Senate with seats reserved for military commanders. Few countries have

had more constitutions and drafters have historically failed to produce anything lasting. Thailand has issued 19 constitutions since a constitutional monarchy replaced an absolute one in 1932.

Members of the anti-junta opposition say they are biding their time until the 2017 election when, if a party they back takes power, they can try to scrap the military charter. "We accept the result of the referendum and will wait and see what happens in the 2017 election," said Jatuporn Prompan, chairman of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship. "We will decide our next steps soon," he said. Opposition to the junta was muted ahead of the vote in Thailand's northeast, once a hotbed of resistance.

Electing Prime Minister

A second ballot question that would allow the Senate to elect a prime minister jointly with the lower house was also winning by a wide margin. "Although many suspected that the new charter could undermine their previously held democratic rights, the perceived risk of greater political uncertainty and economic instability, if the constitution had been voted down, was far less appealing," said John Marrett, Research Analyst Asia at the Economist Intelligence Unit. Interviews with military officers showed the military's



BANGKOK: Soldiers take pictures in front of King Rama V statue and Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall the day after the controversial constitutional referendum in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP

ambition was to make future coups unnecessary by weakening political parties and obliging future governments to follow a 20-year national development plan set by the army.

The referendum result would legitimize the junta's bid to extend its hold on power through the constitution said Sunai

Phasuk, Thailand researcher at Human Rights Watch. "It will embolden junta leader Prayuth to think he has millions of Thais behind him and it will extend military control not for one or two years but 20 years," Sunai said. Thai investors welcomed the result yesterday and the Thai stock market touched a fresh 16-month high.

The 'yes' vote would be positive for the economy and investment in the second half of 2016, Bank of Thailand Governor Veerathai Santiphrahbhab said yesterday.

Still divided

Thailand has been divided for more than a decade between rival camps. One of them is led by former populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was toppled in a 2006 coup and later went into self-exile. The Puea Thai Party, which carried his sister Yingluck to power in a 2011 election, was removed from office in the 2014 coup. Pitted against Thaksin and his allies is the royalist and military establishment which accused him of nepotism and abuse of power, accusations he denied. Thaksin's supporters credit him with recognizing the inequality between urban Bangkok and the poor in the rural north and northeast. Preliminary results show the northeast, a Thaksin stronghold, the far north and the three Muslim-majority southern provinces, where an insurgency has raged since 2004, voted against the draft. The results show Thailand remains divided, said Sunai at Human Rights Watch. "In the south this is a denial of control of the Thai Buddhist state. In the northeast, it reflects how, regardless of the junta's attempt to dismantle the Puea Thai machinery, hearts are still with Thaksin." — Reuters

News

in brief

7 killed in Nepal helicopter crash

KATHMANDU: A helicopter crashed into a hillside in Nepal yesterday, killing all seven people on board including a baby, officials said. The Kathmandu-bound Fishtail Air helicopter was carrying six passengers when it lost contact with air traffic control about 30 minutes after taking off from the western district of Gorkha. Among them was a new mother seeking medical treatment in the capital. Villagers alerted authorities after they noticed thick smoke rising from a hillside 22 kilometers north of the capital. "There were five adults and one infant on board as well as the pilot," said Ramesh Shiwakoti of Fishtail Air. "There are no survivors," Shiwakoti said. "Without an investigation, we cannot tell what caused the accident." District chief Bishnu Prasad Pokhrel said rescuers from the army and police have reached the area. "They are trying to retrieve the bodies," Pokhrel told AFP by telephone from the crash site. Nepal, still reeling from last year's devastating earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people, has suffered a number of air disasters in recent years.

Teen migrant convicted of killing Centre worker

STOCKHOLM: A Swedish court yesterday sentenced a teenaged Ethiopian asylum seeker to psychiatric care for fatally stabbing a young woman working at a youth Refugee Housing Centre in January. The teen, identified in court documents as Youssaf Khalif Nuur, had been charged with murder but the district court in the southwestern town of Gothenburg found him guilty of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault. "Youssaf Nuur, through his heedless behavior, caused Alexandra Mezher's death. He is therefore guilty of involuntary manslaughter," the court wrote. A court-ordered examination found Nuur was mentally unstable, and this may have meant that he did not know that the stabs to Mezher's thigh would cause her to bleed to death, the court said. Mezher, a 22-year-old of Lebanese origin, was stabbed as she tried to break up a fight in the centre for unaccompanied minors. Nuur also attacked another person who tried to help Mezher, resulting in the conviction for aggravated assault. Nuur neither denied nor admitted the events, telling the court he had no memory of what had happened.

Congo rebels kill at least 8 civilians in ethnic violence

KINSHASA: Rebel fighters killed at least eight civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo before fleeing when Congolese troops arrived, local sources said, in a region where a spike in ethnic violence has halted some aid deliveries. Hundreds of civilians have died over the past year in inter-communal violence and a series of massacres by armed groups in Congo's North Kivu province, which borders Rwanda and Uganda. Lawless eastern Congo is plagued by dozens of armed groups that prey on the local population and exploit mineral reserves. Millions died there between 1996 and 2003 as regional conflict caused hunger and disease. The recent increase in violence has prevented aid from reaching vulnerable populations. On Sunday, an ethnic Nande militia, the Mai-Mai Mazembe, killed at least seven civilians in the town of Kibirizi before the troops arrived, local activist Innocent Gasigwa said. Gasigwa said the attack appeared to be revenge against the Rwandophone community in Kibirizi.

Australia man faces more charges over alleged plot

SYDNEY: A member of an Australian anti-immigration group accused of planning an attack may face additional charges in what the government said was the first time federal terrorism laws had been used to target such right-wing groups. Phillip Galea, 31, has been charged with acts done in preparation for a terrorist act and collecting or making documents likely to facilitate a terrorist act, after being arrested in Melbourne on Saturday. Victoria state Assistant Commissioner Ross Guenther told reporters that he or his associates may face additional charges. Galea will return to court on Tuesday for his next hearing. "That's always a possibility given that we're in an early part of the investigation," Guenther said yesterday.

Group behind terror Singapore plot has 'dozens of members'

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities said yesterday several suspected Islamist radicals arrested last week on suspicion of plotting to attack neighboring Singapore were part of a group that has "dozens of members" and has been active for two years. Counter-terrorism forces arrested six men on Friday on Batam Island, just to the south of Singapore. The arrest comes amid mounting concern about the spread of Islamist ideology in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. National police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said the group mostly recruited members online and was taking instructions from Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian who has joined Islamic State (IS) in Syria. "The GRD group has been in operation for two years and has dozens of members," Amar told a news conference in Jakarta, referring to the group named after its leader Gigih Rahmat Dewa.

GUNMEN IN MILITARY UNIFORMS ABDUCT AMERICAN, AUSTRALIAN IN AFGHANISTAN

KIDNAPPING AND OTHER CRIMES ON THE RISE

KABUL: Five gunmen wearing Afghan military uniforms have abducted an American and an Australian in Kabul, a security official said yesterday. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the abduction. The two foreigners were taken from their SUV while driving on Sunday night on a main road near the American University of Afghanistan, according to Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry. They are believed to be employees of the university and were traveling between the university and their residence in the Afghan capital, he said.

Sediqqi added that initial reports say up to five armed men stopped the foreigners' vehicle. The two abducted are both men, he said. He did not reveal any more details except to say that an investigation is underway. The US Embassy in Kabul issued a brief statement confirming the kidnapping of an American citizen but gave no further details "due to privacy concerns." "US Embassy security officials are working closely with Afghan law enforcement and security col-

leagues and AUAF to assist in the investigation into the kidnapping," it said, referring to the American University of Afghanistan.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade also issued a statement confirming "the apparent kidnapping of an Australian in Kabul." No further details were released, also for privacy concerns. "We continue to advise Australians not to travel to Afghanistan because of the extremely dangerous security situation, including the serious threat of kidnapping," it said. Senior staff at the university in Kabul could not immediately be reached for comment. Students were sent an email from the university's Office of Student Affairs telling them the "campus will be closed tomorrow and until further notice."

Kidnappings are not uncommon in Afghanistan. Three other foreigners who were kidnapped in Kabul over the past year have all been released, including an Indian woman, Judith D'Souza who was freed last month after being held for more than a month. An Australian woman, Kerry Jane

Wilson, was abducted in the eastern city of Jalalabad in April. Her whereabouts are unknown. Sediqqi said that kidnapers in all the Kabul cases, including yesterday's, had been wearing military uniforms, establishing a pattern and hinting at some form of organized gang activity.

Most of the thousands of foreigners living and working in Kabul are largely confined to their embassies or, in the case of those working for the United Nations or other non-government organizations, to their residential compounds, with limited movement permitted. The abductions heighten the risk for the few foreigners, including journalists, who move with relative freedom across the Afghan capital in order to do their work. President Ashraf Ghani took office in 2014 promising jobs and peace, but has delivered neither as the war with the Taliban grinds on for its 15th year. Residents of the capital complain that crime has risen in recent months, especially robbery and car theft. The apparent rise coincides with an economic crisis as the government has not

been able to create jobs or stimulate growth. The police, however, deny a spike in crime. Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said that kidnapping and other crimes have increased in Kabul and other cities in recent years. The deterioration in security coincided with the withdrawal of most international combat troops in 2014 that ended a flow that had pumped tens of billions of dollars into the country since the US invasion of 2001.

"Hundreds of thousands of people were employed, directly or indirectly, that's not there on the same scale as in the past and that has affected the economy" and led to an increase in urban crime, he said. President Barack Obama's decision to maintain troop levels at 8,400, and delay a drawdown to 5,500, would boost confidence among business people and investors, he said. On Sunday, a court in the western city of Herat sentenced 14 people to death for kidnapping and murder. Another three, including a woman, were handed prison sentences of between six and 20 years. — AP

2 INDIAN BORDER GUARDS, REBEL KILLED IN KASHMIR

INDIAN FORCES ARREST MORE THAN 1,000 PROTESTERS

SRINAGAR: Two border guards and a suspected rebel were killed yesterday in a gun-battle in Indian-administered Kashmir, the Indian army said. The shootout took place near the de facto border with Pakistan, although it was not immediately clear whether the dead fighter had crossed into India from there. India regularly accuses Pakistan of arming and sending rebels across the border known as the Line of Control to launch attacks on its forces-alle-



KASHMIR: A wounded Kashmiri youth who is being treated for pellet injuries lies in a hospital after being hit by pellets fired by Indian security forces during a protest in Srinagar. — AFP

gations which Islamabad denies. "Two BSF (Border Security Force) soldiers were martyred and a terrorist was killed in the gun-battle," army spokesman N.N. Joshi told AFP. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the two won independence from British rule in 1947.

Several rebel groups have for decades

been fighting an estimated 500,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the restive territory, demanding either independence for the region or its merger with Pakistan. Tens of thousands have died in the fighting since 1989 when the armed rebellion against Indian rule over the Himalayan territory began. Large parts of the restive territory including Srinagar have been under a strict curfew for the past month following widespread anti-India protests, sparked by the killing of a popular young rebel leader in a gunfight with government forces. At least 55 civilians and two police have been killed in the latest unrest, the worst since 2010, and nearly 5,000 protesters and bystanders have been injured.

Meanwhile, Indian forces have arrested more than a thousand protesters in Indian-controlled Kashmir in an attempt to stem violent demonstrations in the Himalayan region. Inspector-General Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gillani said the arrests were made over the past two weeks in a bid to end a month of protests in which more than 55 civilians and two policemen have been killed and thousands injured. Kashmir has been under a security lockdown and curfew since the killing of a popular rebel commander on July 8 sparked some of the largest protests against Indian rule in recent years. Meanwhile in New Delhi, opposition lawmakers yesterday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the situation in Kashmir and demanded that the government take political steps to defuse the crisis. — Agencies



KASHMIR: An Indian paramilitary soldier falls down as he tries to kick back an exploded tear gas shell thrown back at them by Kashmiri Muslim protesters yesterday. — AP



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani private security guard uses an explosives detector to search a vehicle at a mall entrance in Islamabad. — AFP

PAKISTAN'S BOGUS BOMB-DETECTORS IN BUSINESS DESPITE GLOBAL SCANDAL

ISLAMABAD: With radio-like antennae meant to swivel and point at vehicles carrying bombs, "magic wand" explosive detectors proliferated throughout conflict zones in the 2000s until they were exposed as a global scam. But in an astonishing security threat, more than 15,000 of a new variant of the handheld device have been made in Pakistan to guard high-value facilities such as airports and government installations, despite officials conceding they are effectively useless.

Many creators of the original devices are serving long prison sentences for fraud, including British businessman James McCormick. His ADE-651 became a mainstay of security forces in Iraq, where \$85 million was spent on them, before they were officially banned last month. "It serves a deterrence value only—it's good for police and security personnel to have something in their hands," said a senior interior ministry official, who asked to remain anonymous. Pressed on whether Taleban and Al-Qaeda insurgents who have been waging an insurgency that has claimed more than 60,000 lives in Pakistan since 2004 — may by now be wise to the deception, he conceded: "Yes, they are savvy and they probably are aware by now."

His comments were backed by two more senior members of government, though neither was prepared to go formally on the record. Official silence over the matter may be linked to the enormous sums of money involved in the business, observers say, while many bureaucrats fear for their jobs if they speak out. "Powerful people make money through these scams and you cannot offend powerful people, even if it means endangering lives," said one former official at the interior ministry. Pakistan initially imported foreign detector devices such as the ADE-651

and the German made Sniffex, according to a government source, but in 2009 Pakistan's Airport Security Force (ASF) took over making and selling the wands. More than 15,000 units have been sold within the country at a cost of 70,000 rupees (\$700), according to an official, amounting to a total revenue of more than \$10 million.

The ASF—which declined multiple requests for comment—is technically a civilian institution but is staffed by many serving senior officers deputed from the powerful military, which wields considerable influence over the country's defense and foreign policy. The wands, named "Khoji" (finder), are used by security personnel to protect airports and government installations, and have also been widely sold to the private sector and deployed at malls, hotels and fast-food chains. J Chacko, a London-based security analyst, said they were endangering lives. "A false sense of complacency based on devices that do not work does represent a public security threat," he said.

'Snake oil'

The device claims an accuracy level of 90 percent, according to a copy of its user manual obtained by AFP, but uses the principles of radiesthesia, or dowsing, which experts consider junk science. "Khoji is the first device of its kind that can detect explosives from distances of up to 100 meters, even when the explosive is hidden behind walls or metal barriers such as buildings or vehicles," the manual boasts. "It detects the interference by between the magnetic field of the earth, the explosive, the device itself and the human body, which allows the device to penetrate and locate even small amounts of explosive through concrete, soil, and metal barriers." — AFP

JAPAN URGES CHINA NOT TO ESCALATE TENSION

TOKYO: Japan said yesterday it would respond firmly after Chinese government vessels had intruded into what Tokyo considers its territorial waters near disputed islands in the East China Sea 14 times at the weekend, stoking bilateral tensions. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Tokyo would continue to urge China not to escalate the East China Sea dispute, while also responding firmly and calmly. Suga told a news conference that a total of 14 Chinese government vessels had entered

"contiguous waters", which can be policed for customs and immigration violations, in recent days and intruded into what Japan considers its territorial waters 14 times.

Twelve Chinese vessels remained in the area early yesterday, he said. Agencies including the coast guard would act together closely to deal with the situation, Suga said. A Japanese government source, who asked not to be identified, said the Japan Coast Guard had stepped up its patrols in the region at the weekend but

declined to give further details. Chinese activity near the islands, known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China, has heated up since Friday, prompting repeated Japanese protests, including three on Sunday alone. Some 230 Chinese fishing vessels were also in the area on Saturday, Japan's foreign ministry said.

The incidents come amid heightened tensions after an arbitration court in The Hague invalidated China's sweeping claims in the disputed South China Sea less than a

month ago, in a case brought by the Philippines. China has refused to recognize that ruling. Japan called on China to adhere to the verdict, which it said was binding. This prompted warnings from Beijing to Tokyo not to interfere. On Saturday, China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a statement on the ministry's website China had indisputable sovereignty over the islands and nearby waters. China accused Japan's new defense minister, Tomomi Inada, on Friday of reck-

lessly misrepresenting history after she declined to say whether Japanese troops had massacred civilians in China during World War Two. Inada echoed Suga's comments and said yesterday Japan's military would conduct air patrols to provide information to the coast guard. Ties between China and Japan, the world's second and third largest economies, have been plagued by the territorial row, the legacy of Japan's wartime occupation of parts of China and regional rivalry. — Reuters



MANILA: Philippine boxing icon-turned-senator Manny Pacquiao delivers his privilege speech on restoration of the death penalty during a session at the senate in Manila yesterday. — AFP

PHILIPPINES' BOXING ICON PREACHES DEATH PENALTY

PACQUIAO BACKS DUTERTE'S CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSAL

MANILA: Philippine boxing icon-turned-senator Manny Pacquiao used the Bible to defend restoring the death penalty for drug traffickers as "approved by God", backing a controversial proposal of President Rodrigo Duterte. The eight-division champion and devout evangelical Christian used his first senate speech to argue for capital punishment, calling it lawful and moral "especially in the eyes of God". "When the government punishes, it's not an individual act. That's approved by God. That's what the Bible says," Pacquiao said. "Having read the Bible on a regular basis, I am convinced that God is not just a God of mercy but he is also a God of justice."

Pacquiao was elected to the senate in May on the back of his popularity as a sports star among Filipinos, who consider him a national hero. He and Duterte are political allies and both hail from the southern Philippines. Duterte has declared a bloody crackdown on crime, especially illegal drugs, telling police to shoot drug suspects. Since Duterte assumed office on June 30, police have reported killing over 400 drug suspects while the country's largest broadcaster ABS-CBN put the death toll at 852 to include reported summary executions.

The Philippines abolished the death penalty in 2006 following staunch opposition from the Catholic Church, the religion of 80 percent of Filipinos. But Duterte has vowed to introduce executions by hanging for "retribution". Pacquiao said yesterday he also preferred death by hanging or firing squad to reduce drug-related crimes. Asked by a colleague if this was because hanging was cheaper than lethal injection, Pacquiao said

in jest: "You'll just kick the chair. We can also say the chair was just knocked down."

Pacquiao said he filed several bills on the death penalty including for drug crimes, rape and murder because Philippine laws "lacked teeth". But he did not answer questions on whether there were any studies showing that the death penalty led to lower crime rates. In his 20-minute speech, Pacquiao repeatedly quoted Bible passages, prompting another colleague to refer to him as a "pastor". He said he saw no contradiction between his beliefs and his support for the death penalty. Addressing critics of the proposal, Pacquiao said: "God allows the death penalty to discipline the people and to punish those wrongdoers."

Officials surrender

Meanwhile, dozens of Philippine government and police officials turned themselves in yesterday, a day after President Rodrigo Duterte linked them to the drugs trade, stepping up a war on narcotics that has killed hundreds since he took office in June. More than 400 suspected drug dealers have been killed by police across the Philippines since Duterte took over, officials say. Broadcaster ABS-CNN put the number at over 800, though this includes executions by anonymous vigilantes.

Yesterday, 27 mayors and 31 police officers, including a colonel, went to the national police office in the capital, Manila, to clear their names, fearing the president's order to hunt them down if they failed to surrender within 24 hours. Several local officials reported to regional police

offices to beat the deadline set by Duterte, who won the elections in May on a single platform of fighting crime and drugs. On Sunday, he identified about 160 officials in a name-and-shame campaign. "I want to change," a Cebu-based businessman tagged as a top-level drug trafficker told reporters after he met national police chief Ronald dela Rosa.

Nicknamed "the punisher" and "Duterte Harry" for his brutal fight on crime, Duterte has hit back at activists incensed by the surge in the killings of suspected drug traffickers.

Alarmed human rights groups have urged the United Nations to condemn the rise in extrajudicial killings. The Philippine Senate is to hold a legislative inquiry. Dela Rosa reprimanded the police officers on Duterte's list, threatening to kill them if they continued to protect drug traders and resell seized drugs. At one point, he challenged them to a fistfight.

"I am mad with what is happening," Dela Rosa said in a speech to local officials and police. "I am ashamed. We should be the ones arresting these people, but we are protecting them. I will kill you if you will not change."

All police officers linked to the drug trade were disarmed, investigated and could face criminal and administrative cases if there was strong evidence, said national police spokesman Dionardo Carlos.

"They will be accorded due process," he added. Besides local officials and police officers, Duterte's list included two retired police generals, soldiers, paramilitary members, judges and a former lawmaker. — Agencies

TOURIST BOOM THREATENING SRI LANKA'S GOLDEN BEACHES

MOUNT LAVINIA: Tourists have flocked back to Sri Lanka's palm-fringed beaches since a bloody civil war ended in 2009, but environmentalists warn unchecked development means some areas are now so polluted, swimming there is a health hazard. Sewage from thriving hotels and guesthouses pours, often untreated, out into the

water polluting the sea and shore. Even the country's own tourism minister says he has stopped swimming in the seas close to capital Colombo because of the dirty water.

More than two million visitors now head to the tiny Indian Ocean island every year, more than four times the number that came in 2009.



COLOMBO: Foreign tourists walk along Mount Lavinia beach on the outskirts of Colombo. — AFP

Yet there are fears it is becoming a victim of its own success. Guesthouses have sprung up to cater for soaring numbers of visitors-but often with little thought for how to deal with the waste they produce. Many simply discharge raw sewage straight into the sea, exposing bathers to potential health issues.

The problem is most acute just south of Colombo at Mount Lavinia, an upscale neighbourhood and resort known for its "Golden Mile" of beach. Environmental engineering expert Mahesh Jayaweera said the bays in Mount Lavinia were now so polluted that people should not bathe in them. "When you look at the water you won't notice it. But at certain times of the year, the water in Mount Lavinia is so filthy it is worse than taking a dip in a cess pool," he said.

Levels of faecal contamination at Mount Lavinia are 60 times higher than maximum safe limits, said Jayaweera, of Sri Lanka's University of Moratuwa. Many visitors are unaware of the dangers, but locals are more aware of potential issues. "We just come here to play," said local resident Harsha Swadesh, 26, enjoying a game of volleyball with friends. "The sea is rough and it is not very clean." Unawatuna, just south of the historic port city of Galle, is promoted as a pristine beach perfect for snorkelling and is famous for its coral reefs. But researchers say it is among the most polluted, with many guesthouses dumping their raw sewage into the ocean, especially at night. — AFP

BANNED FROM WORKING, ASYLUM SEEKERS BUILDING JAPAN'S ROADS

WARABI: Mazlum Balibay paves Japan's roads, digs its sewers and lays its water pipes - all for a country that doesn't want him. Balibay, 24, is a Kurdish asylum seeker who fled to Japan more than eight years ago after he said his family was persecuted by Turkish security forces who tortured his father. He has since been on provisional release from immigration detention, which means he is barred from working while the immigration authorities consider his application for asylum and could be detained again at any time.

But the ban hasn't stopped Balibay from providing the muscle on a slew of public works projects funded by a government that refers to people like him as "undesirable." "Japan bans us from working, but everyone knows that without foreigners this country's in trouble," said Balibay. "Construction jobs won't get done. There aren't enough workers and young Japanese can't do these jobs. The government knows that better than anyone." Two of Balibay's brothers have also worked without permits on government projects around Tokyo, laying asphalt and digging sewers. Reuters also spoke to more than 30 Kurds on provisional release who are working illegally on private sector projects, mainly in demolition.

Demographic problems

Japan's deep reluctance to take in migrant workers is now clashing with the reality of a shrinking population and the nation's worst labor shortage in more than two decades. In a country that jealously guards its cultural uniformity, politicians are loath to consider lowering the barriers to immigration even as the proportion of retirees grows and the working-age population declines. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters at the United Nations in September that Japan should address its demographic problems by putting women and the elderly to work before considering immigration.

Masahiko Shibayama, a lawmaker and special adviser to Abe, told Reuters that there's "an allergy towards the word 'immigration'" in Japan. "People are worried about public security. They worry that foreign workers would eat up Japanese jobs," he said. But the combination of strict immigration laws and a shrinking work pool has spawned a black market in labor, especially in the construction sector where Balibay and his brothers work. In manufacturing, it has also created a growing dependence on asylum seekers: Reuters reported last year how the maker of Subaru cars was enjoying a boom driven in part by its reliance on cheap laborers from Asia and Africa who were seeking refugee status in Japan.

Japanese business leaders want the government to rethink its immigration policy. Of 259 major Japanese companies that responded to a Reuters poll in October, 76 percent said they support opening up the country to blue-collar migrants. With work getting underway for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, demand for labor is set to jump further, according to Hitoshi Ito, an executive at Kajima Corp., Japan's second largest construction firm by sales. That's why the industry "desperately wants" foreign workers, he said.

An agonizing choice

Balibay is part of a community of some 1,200 Kurds who live in Warabi and Kawaguchi, drab blue-collar suburbs north of Tokyo where cast iron foundries dot the streets and gang-related crime is prevalent. The area has been dubbed "Warabistan" by locals because of the high number of Kurdish immigrants living there, nearly all of whom are asylum seekers. They inhabit a legal twilight zone, locked in lengthy struggles with an immigration system that recognized just 27 people as refugees last year.

As of December, Japan had 13,831 asylum applications under review. That is small by the standards of Europe, where there were more than a million asylum applications pending at the end of April, as refugees sought haven from troubled lands such as Syria and Eritrea. But it's a record number for insular Japan. According to the latest available data, at the end of 2015 there were 4,701 people on provisional release in Japan. Of those, community groups estimate about 400 are Kurds living in the Warabi area. Justice Minister Mitsuhide Iwaki, who last week stepped down as part of

a cabinet reshuffle, declined to answer questions about Reuters' findings that asylum seekers on provisional release are working on government projects. Naoaki Torisu, a Justice Ministry official overseeing work permits for foreigners, told Reuters: "Regardless of whether it's a public works project or not, it's undesirable for people on provisional release to take part in prohibited activities. We want them to stop doing that."

Most Kurds on provisional release work without contracts, are paid in cash and can be laid off without warning. They don't have national health insurance, often leaving them with an agonizing choice when they or family members fall ill - go into debt or forego medical treatment. Balibay is the main breadwinner in an extended family that includes his mother, two of his four brothers, a sister and her husband, and their infant son. He earns about \$2,500 a month - not enough to cover the family's expenses. The family says its unpaid medical bills amount to several thousand dollars. Last year, Balibay's seven-year-old brother Deniz was hospitalized with pneumonia. That cost \$5,500.

'I still dream about it'

Balibay was in his early teens when he first picked up a shovel on a building site. "I wanted to go to school, but we didn't have the money," he said, speaking in fluent Japanese. "I'd be standing in a ditch and see the kids going to school. I thought it would be great to have money, to be able to have fun like them." He traces his family's decision to leave Turkey to his father's arrest in 1999 on charges of aiding members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), including transferring funds collected in Japan to the group. (Turkey, the European Union and the United States consider the PKK to be a terrorist organization.)

Court documents reviewed by Reuters show that Mustafa Balibay and five other Kurdish men arrested along with him were acquitted in 2000. "When I was seven, soldiers tortured my father before my eyes," Mazlum told a refugee adjudicator last March, according to interview transcripts. "I still dream about it." That experience ultimately led his family to seek refuge in Japan. Over several years, Balibay's parents and five of his siblings left Turkey. A Japanese psychiatrist diagnosed Mustafa Balibay in 2008 with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression caused by torture, according to a medical opinion submitted as part of Mustafa's asylum application. For years, he took anti-depressants, sedatives and painkillers. The walls inside the family's apartment are pockmarked from where Mustafa lashed out during his frequent nightmares.

His mental state deteriorated last year as violence flared between Turkish security forces and the PKK in Turkey's southeast. On December 27, Mustafa went to a park near his home, tied a rope around his neck and hanged himself from a tree. "He'd been ill for a long time and his condition suddenly got worse," said Balibay, his voice trailing off. "I was at work and got a call. They said a man had found him." Turkey's Interior Ministry and Gendarmerie did not respond to questions from Reuters about Mustafa Balibay's case.

Election brawl

The family's asylum claims have all been rejected, and their time in Japan has been peppered with legal battles against deportation orders and detention. Balibay has submitted four asylum applications, including one in August last year. According to Japanese law, asylum seekers can't be deported while their claims are pending. Immigration activists say Japan has never granted refugee status to a Turkish Kurd. Government officials would not say if any of the 3,463 Turkish nationals who have applied for asylum since 2008 had been granted refugee status. The absence of a work permit hasn't stopped Balibay, two of his brothers and a cousin from working on taxpayer-funded projects in the past few years. Balibay flicks through photos on his mobile phone, stopping at images of a road project he worked on last year in Warabi.

Interviews with the Balibays and a review of their pay slips show they worked for a company that was contracted to carry out road building, sewage works and demolition by local governments, including Kawaguchi city and Saitama prefecture. — Reuters



TOKYO: Tourists are seen in front of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

'BRING US HOME,' PLEAD STRANDED FILIPINOS

Continued from Page 1

Migrante International estimates around 11,000 Filipino construction workers have lost jobs.

According to Ben, the affected workers - who are living at company camps for migrant laborers - have survived based on support from the local Filipino community. Although aid has arrived in recent days, food remains a key concern, he said. "Some workers have to search the

garbage bins or look for leftovers in vegetable farms, clean them and eat them. Some of their children back home have also stopped going to schools because there was no remittance to send home. Their parents could not support them anymore," Ben added.

India said last month that 10,000 Indians in Saudi were facing a "food crisis", while governments including France and Bangladesh have been pressing Saudi authorities to ensure construction firms pay their workers — Reuters

JAPANESE EMPEROR HINTS AT ABDICATION

Continued from Page 1

"It gives me a sense of relief," added Utsumi, who watched the address on a big screen in a busy Tokyo shopping area.

It was only the second time Akihito had spoken directly to the nation. The first was in the days after the March 2011 triple earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster as he sought to calm a nation undergoing its worst crisis since the war. Japan's imperial house is said to be the world's oldest hereditary monarchy, and according to legend stretches back some 2,600 years in an unbroken line. It is deeply ingrained in the nation's native Shinto religion.

The speech came in a historically sensitive month. The country commemorated the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Saturday and does so again today for Nagasaki. And next Monday, Japan pauses to recall the

anniversary of its defeat in World War II under Akihito's father Hirohito, an annual event at which the emperor delivers a speech. At last year's event Akihito expressed "deep remorse" over World War II. He has keenly embraced the role of symbol of the state imposed after the conflict ended. Previous emperors including his father had been treated as semi-divine.

Akihito is credited with seeking reconciliation both at home and abroad over the legacy of the war fought in his father's name. He has ventured to a number of locales that saw intense fighting, including Okinawa at home and Saipan, Palau and the Philippines abroad, offering prayers for the souls of all the dead and not just Japanese. His life has also been characterized by a more personal openness previously unknown among Japanese royals. His wife Empress Michiko was a commoner when they met and they chose to raise their children themselves, forgoing the traditional use of nannies. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Iranian fans cheer for Iran during a men's preliminary volleyball match against Argentina at the 2016 Summer Olympics on Sunday. — AP

BANNED IN IRAN, WOMEN ATTEND VOLLEYBALL GAME

RIO DE JANEIRO: Sajedeh Norouzi jumped to her feet, both arms reached high into the air, beaming as she waved a small Iranian flag from side to side. Again and again. She waved at every chance. She waved for every woman back home who couldn't be there alongside her at Maracanazinho arena cheering for the men's volleyball team in its Olympic debut - her first time in a sports stadium because in Iran women aren't allowed to attend all-male sports events.

The 27-year-old Norouzi, wearing a beautiful navy blue headscarf decorated with flowers of pink, yellow, orange and turquoise, insists she represented all of the other Iranian women Sunday night who are fighting to one day cheer their teams from the stands and not the TV. She had a purpose, and a passion, that she could release at long last sitting beside men who have been able to attend the games all along.

"We want to go to the stadium because the government doesn't allow us to. I want to cheer my team!" Norouzi said, sitting alongside husband Saeed Javdaniyan in a lower section of seats across the court from the team benches of Iran and Argentina. She was overwhelmed by the special moment, one she couldn't have envisioned even a year ago. Iran lost in straight sets. "Very, very much," Norouzi said. "I've never been in the stadium."

She and her husband have been in Brazil for four months to study, living in Copacabana. Norouzi called the opportunity for her to be in the arena "really, really big" and an important one to show support from afar for those Iranian women who wanted nothing more than to attend the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. "I think so," she said, "every woman wants to see the games". One of those female sports fans? A 32-year-old Iranian woman working with a group called Open Stadiums to push for access. The group's Twitter handle has become an underground voice of advocacy for women pushing to end discrimination.

"I really wish I could watch it in stadium. It's been very long time that I couldn't watch their matches live," she wrote to AP on Sunday, declining to be identified publicly out of concern for retaliation. From a world away, she watched the match over a very early breakfast with her mother and two sisters after only four hours of sleep. They had tea and ate cheese with freshly baked bread, butter and jam. The match Sunday in Rio started

shortly after 6 am in Tehran, thus the early start to the day. The trip also is a challenging one for many Iranians: A 23-hour flight costing approximately \$2,500.

In 2012, the longtime ban on women from soccer matches in Iran was extended to volleyball. Former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last year called the ban "ridiculous" and said that nations that are part of international bodies should respect women's rights. Women have been fighting for months and years to change a long-standing tradition of women being barred from attending male-only sporting events in Iran - efforts by authorities to enforce strict interpretations of Islamic norms.

It's an issue that came up yet again as the 10th-ranked Iranians prepared for their first appearance in volleyball at an Olympics. For last month's World League tournament at the Azadi Sport Complex in Tehran, some Iranian women unsuccessfully attempted to purchase tickets. A group trying to make events more open said the tickets weren't available despite multiple efforts to buy them online. From the moment tickets became available, the website for sales said the female allotment had been filled, according to several women who said they tried to purchase tickets.

The International Federation of Volleyball, Switzerland-based FIVB, made a statement at the time that the Iranian federation said the first-day matches sold out within five minutes, and that 466 of the 5,000 tickets were allotted for a section set aside for women. Women were shown in the stands via livestream, but the section appeared smaller than 466 and it was unclear if the women were members of the general public or invited guests and VIPs. A female announcer handled substitutions during Iran's match.

Human Rights Watch and other organizations have closely tracked the situation, and the chairwoman of USA Volleyball has even been outspoken in support of the women. USA Volleyball chair Lori Okimura even brought her "Let Iranian Women Enter Their Stadiums" T-shirt along to Brazil. The women in Iran stay hopeful. They remain spirited about their sports teams. And, for now, those who can't actually be in Brazil are here in spirit. "We say in Persian, 'my soul fly' for that photo of stadium!" the woman behind Open Stadiums wrote. — AP

70 KILLED IN PAK HOSPITAL BLAST

Continued from Page 1

Pervez Masi, who was injured by pieces of flying glass, said the blast was so powerful that "we didn't know what had happened". "So many friends were martyred," he said. "Whoever is doing this is not human, he is a beast and has no humanity."

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah strongly condemned the terrorist attack. The Amir, in a cable to Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain, rejected all forms of terrorism and called upon the international community to double efforts to tackle sources of terrorism financing. The Amir extended deepest condolences to the families of the victims and wished speedy recovery for the injured. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

A faction of the Pakistani Taleban, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, claimed responsibility for both the assassination of the lawyer and the blast at the hospital. A spokesman vowed it would carry out more attacks "until the imposition of an Islamic system in Pakistan". Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who flew to Quetta from the capital, Islamabad, just after the attack said "all state security institutions must respond with full might to decimate these terrorists".

Police confirmed the attack was a suicide blast. "The bomber had strapped some eight kilograms of explosives packed with ball bearings and shrapnel on his body," bomb disposal unit chief Abdul Razzaq told AFP. Officials said mobile phone jammers had been activated around hospitals in the area - a regular precaution after an attack - making it hard to contact officers on the

ground to get updated information. The head of the provincial health department, doctor Masood Nausherwani, told reporters the death toll had risen to 70, with 112 injured.

The crowd, mainly lawyers and journalists, had gone to the hospital after the president of the Balochistan Bar Association was shot dead earlier yesterday, said provincial home secretary Akbar Harifal. Bilal Anwar Kasi was targeted by two unidentified gunmen as he left his home for work. UN Secretary Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack, saying it was "particularly appalling" that it targeted mourners at a hospital. The European Union said in a statement that there was "no justification for such acts of terrorism".

Pakistan is grimly accustomed to atrocities after a nearly decade-long insurgency. A military operation targeting insurgents was stepped up last year and saw the death toll from militant attacks fall to its lowest since the formation in 2007 of the umbrella Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). But analysts have warned the group is still able to carry out major attacks. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, part of the TTP, said it was behind the deadliest attack in Pakistan so far this year, a bombing in a crowded Lahore park that killed 75 people on Easter Sunday. The group has also claimed responsibility for other suicide blasts, attacks on teams carrying out polio vaccinations and called for jihad in Myanmar.

Balochistan, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, has major oil and gas resources, but is afflicted by Islamist militancy, sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims and a separatist insurgency. Pakistani hospitals have been targeted by militants before, with a bomb killing 13 at a Karachi hospital in 2010. — Agencies

HIJABI FENCER MAKES US OLYMPICS HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

Muhammad's siblings, parents and friends came from as far away as Los Angeles and New Jersey to cheer her on, giving Muhammad a standing ovation ahead of her first match. Muhammad got off to a shaky start against Kravatska, but she rallied with a string of points that put her over the top. But Berder, ranked ninth, took control of their round of 16 match midway through and rolled to victory. Muhammad was so frustrated by her performance that she needed over an hour to compose herself before meeting reporters.

"In a sport like fencing, you're your own biggest opponent. If you can control yourself and your nerves and your emotions and execute the actions that you want to execute

in the way that you want to execute, you'll always be successful. I failed to do that," Muhammad said. Muhammad's history-making moment overshadowed the upset loss by teammates Mariel Zagunis in the round of 16. Zagunis, a two-time Olympic gold medalist ranked third in the world, was beaten by Russia's Ekaterina Dyachenko 15-12. Still, Muhammad and Zagunis are two major reasons why the Americans will be a medal favorite on Saturday.

"There is that silver lining in the sense that you do have that team event. I know that the Americans didn't perform in the way that we wanted, but I love my team, I love my teammates and I believe in them. I believe in myself. I believe in us, and I want us to win a medal more than anything. I want us to do it for our country," Muhammad said. — AP



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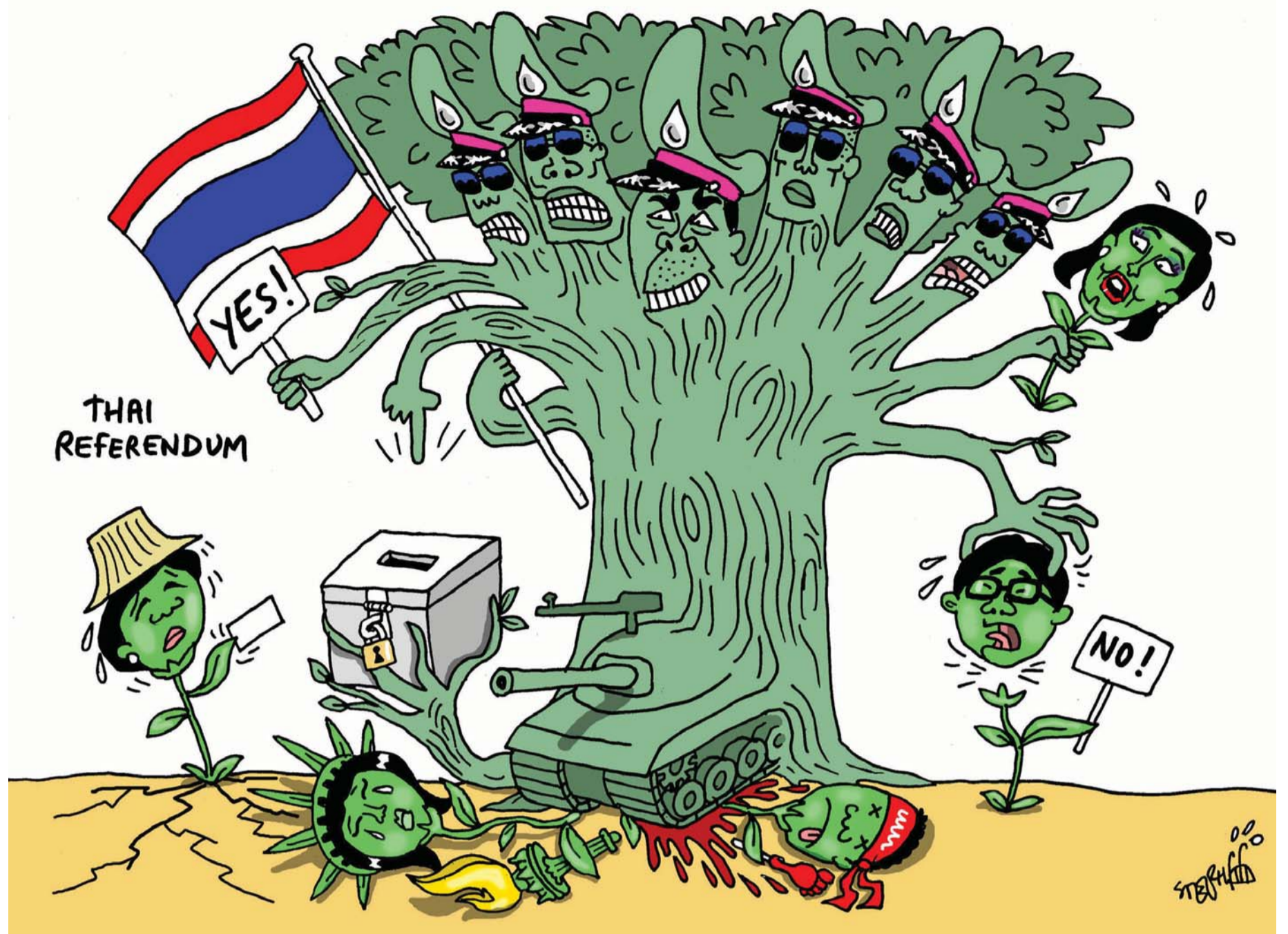
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UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR ISTANBUL MILITARY SCHOOL

By Fulya Ozerkan

With its twin pointed towers and brilliant white facade stretching along the Bosphorus, the Kuleli Military High School is one of the most striking late Ottoman sights in Istanbul - a symbol of power and continuity. Yet after over one and a half centuries of use, the future of the famed building - designed by a great Ottoman Armenian architect - is in doubt after it played an important role in the failed coup aimed at unseating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

After several officers working at the school were implicated in the July 15 coup attempt, the school will not continue in its current form, as the authorities seek to flush out all influence of the Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, who is blamed for the putsch. Turkey last month released from jail 62 students at Kuleli - believed to be teenagers unwittingly caught up in the failed putsch and used by their superiors. Turkish state media had quoted the students as saying they were told an operation was under way on July 15 without having any idea of what it was. "We learnt the true face of what happened after police came in the morning to get hold of us," one student Ali Akdogan told the Anadolu news agency. "We were deceived."

'Etched in Istanbul's Memory'

The government has issued a decree closing military high schools in the wake of the coup, so the future for Kuleli is unclear, with options mooted including a museum of democracy or even a luxury hotel - an idea which has appalled traditionalists. Tayfun Kahraman, head of the Istanbul City Planners' Chamber, described the building as "iconic and etched in the memory of Istanbul". "In the future uses of the building, the same memory must be protected," he told AFP.

He said the Kuleli school - which as well as its famous building also boasts vast parklands - should open to public with a green space concept like the Luxembourg Gardens. "There are many examples in Europe: Take for example, the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. It is a palace garden but in its current form, it is open to public," Kahraman added.

The Luxembourg Gardens, or Jardin du Luxembourg in French, is one of the oldest gardens in Paris dating back to the 17th century, and home to a palace harboring the Senate as well as a museum open to public. "The same could apply to the Kuleli military school with its forested area when Istanbul's need for green spots are so obvious," Kahraman said. Situated on the Asian side of the Bosphorus in the Istanbul suburb of Cengelkoy near the first bridge, the school's facade - spectacularly lit at night - wows tourists on cruises even if few are aware of its history.

'Cultural Heritage'

The school was designed by Ottoman Armenian architect Garabet Balyan who left an extraordinary architectural legacy in the city, including the Dolmabahce Palace of the late Ottoman sultans. The barracks were transformed into a hospital during the notorious Ottoman-Russian wars in 1877-1878. The building was used by the British when Istanbul was occupied in 1920 and later given to the Armenian community at the end of World War I to be used as a dormitory for Armenian orphans whose families were forcibly deported during the war.

After the Turkish war of independence the building was given back to Turks under the Lausanne Treaty - founding treaty of the republic - and became a military school again in 1925. There has been speculation the building - which has a splendid view over the Bosphorus - could be used as a hotel, an option dismissed by the government. "For God's sake, who came up with the idea of converting the Kuleli military school building into a hotel?" Defense Minister Fikri Isik told the Hurriyet newspaper. "This is not on our government's agenda right now."

Can Atalay, a prominent lawyer, said the building could continue in its current role. "The building had been designed as a military school and used for this purpose for over a century and a half," he told AFP. "There's no obstacle standing in the way of the building staying as a school. The coup attempt should not be abused to gain advantages," he warned. Fishing in front of the Kuleli building, Ahmet, in his 30s said: "I hope the building will become a museum, not a hotel. Wouldn't it be much better?" —AFP

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A STAR KILLED FOR DEFYING PAKISTAN NORMS

By Kathy Gannon

Like most of the men in this village of mudbrick homes and wooden carts pulled by water buffalo, Muhammed Azeem cannot read or write. Like the other fathers, he raised a family of six boys and three girls on whatever he could coax out of a soil baked by the searing Punjab sun. But in a culture where a family's worth is tallied in the number of males it can produce and girls are second-class citizens at best, Azeem was different. He valued his daughters as much as his sons.

He raised them to be independent young women. When one of the girls married, she refused to take her husband's name. Another changed hers to Qandeel Baloch and became famous, shocking this conservative Islamic country with risqué dance videos that showed her in skin-tight clothing grinding against men. Azeem didn't care. He loved Qandeel - whose new name meant "torch" in their native language. "I supported everything she did," Azeem says, tears glistening on his weather-beaten face. "I liked everything she did."

Her father's love helped make Qandeel a role model to a generation of young Pakistani women. But it also may have planted the seeds of her destruction. Her younger brother Muhammed Waseem seethed. It was bad enough that he couldn't compete with his sister for their father's affections, and lived in a home that she paid for. But even worse was the relentless sniping from villagers. Storekeepers would show him her Facebook posts on their phones, criticizing his family for allowing her to make the videos.

He decided he had to save the family's "honor." Last month, he drugged Qandeel and then, as their parents slept downstairs, strangled her. In most so-called honor killings, families close ranks around the killer. But Qandeel's father wants his son punished. "My son was wrong," Azeem said. "I will not forgive him."

Paradox

A social media star, who was abused by a husband who burned and beat her, Qandeel paid with her life for refusing to live a life dictated by repressive tribal traditions and religious edicts defined by clerics who espouse a narrow and repressive brand of Islam. Qandeel Baloch, provocative media star, who was killed by her brother was born Fauzia Azeem, to a dirt poor farming family, raised in a mud house baked by the searing sun of Pakistan's Punjab province.

This is the story of a girl from one of the poorest, most backward areas of Pakistan who emerged to transfix a nation - and then was killed for her role in its clash between tradition and modernity, between Islamic fundamentalism and secularism. It is a paradox of today's Pakistan, a deeply religious country where 4G service and social media have arrived in even the most isolated communities, that one family could produce a wildly untraditional daughter and a son so traditional he felt compelled to kill his sister for her 21st-century ways.

Qandeel's home village, Shah Saddaruddin, is a seven-hour drive from the capital, Islamabad, a journey through sugar-cane and mango fields, often on roads that are no more than dirt tracks. Murky streams and canals flow through a vast countryside owned by feudal landlords who keep their workers deep in debt. Most girls are hidden away once they reach puberty, and many are married shortly afterward to a boy chosen by their parents. Occasionally, women are exchanged to pay off a debt, or to settle a dispute.

"Women here are strictly controlled," Qandeel's sister Munawar Azeem says. "It's our tradition, but Qandeel was stubborn, she always wanted more, had different ideas." She says she'll never forgive her brother for killing her sister, who was only 26 when she died. Her father loved the girls "too much," Munawar says, as if sensing that his esteem was too great for their deeply traditional society.

The girls lived in a country that sees 1,000 honor killings a year, most of them targeting women. A woman can even be punished for something a male relative may have done. In a nearby village in 2002, a young woman named Mukhtar Mai was gang-raped by four men and then paraded naked through the village. The ordeal, it turned out, was retribution for alleged sexual advances her 12-year-old brother had made toward a girl. Mukhtar Mai stunned villagers and inspired Pakistan when she stood up to her rapists and public humiliation. She went to court, demanded their punishment and started a charity to educate young girls. Her courage became legendary.

In her own way, Qandeel was just as revolutionary, thumbing her nose at tradition with her provocative videos that amassed millions of views - and thousands upon thousands of thumbs-down. Her rebellion began long ago, when she was still

a little girl named Fauzia. One day she saw her older brother practicing karate and judo. Every day after that, the 8-year-old could be found outside working on her martial arts moves. Her mother, Anwar Bibi, smiles at the thought of her daughter. "I don't know why she was the way she was, but she never cared what anyone thought," Bibi says. "She was always brave."

Fauzia thought maybe she'd join the army. Or no, she'd be a pilot. "She would look at the sky and she would say: 'Papa, I want to fly. I want to be like a bird,'" her father says. Eventually Fauzia settled on becoming a star. She watched Indian soap operas on television and read fashion magazines. She told her mother she'd be famous one day. After becoming Qandeel, her first public performance was in 2012 on "Pakistan Idol," a local offshoot of "American Idol." It was a disaster.

Judges cringe as she sings, finally pleading with her to stop. Her appearance ends with her being escorted off the stage and sobbing backstage. The video went viral. Her notoriety grew when she posted a seductive video earlier this year offering to strip-tease for the Pakistani cricket team captain if Pakistan won its match against rival India. (The team lost.) Her tweets were sometimes titillating - "Am I Looking Hot? 3 Yes I Know M Looking Damn Hot 3 3." But self-empowerment was a recurring theme: "I am Special.I will Remain Special.I will Dare to do different things which people will never Dare to do."

Torrents of condemnation inundated Qandeel's Facebook page. One user wanted her arrested for "spreading vulgarity." One with a rudimentary grasp of English wrote, simply, "We hate you." But she inspired many others. One wrote: "You are



Qandeel Baloch

strong like men," and another said: "Fabulous style and confidence. U r such a superstar my QB."

Transformation

Qandeel's transformation from fame-hungry celebrity to fledgling feminist may have its roots in her short marriage, one she said was marked by abuse. It seemed like a love match at first. Unlike many here, it wasn't an arranged marriage. She fell for a family friend. Ashiq Hussain, her ex-husband, lives in a village called Mozza Tarryaia, where a single buffalo is tethered outside the mud house he shares with his four brothers, their wives and 15 children as well as his elderly parents.

As Hussain tells it, Fauzia would pursue him, writing him letters. "Even sometimes she would use her own blood to write," he says. "There was no Qandeel then. She was Fauzia." During their marriage of less than two years, he recalls, she was obsessed with moving to the city, buying a house and wearing pretty clothes. "Maybe in her heart she was already thinking of being a star," recalls Hussain. "But I told her before marriage: 'I am a poor man, a very simple man. You knew I could not give you more.'"

After a year they had a son, Mishal. He resembles his mother, sharing her round brown eyes and full lips. But he doesn't remember his mother, and he is quiet, almost sullen. Qandeel fled the marriage, accusing her husband of beating and tortur-

ing her - a charge he denies. She was widely condemned for abandoning her son, but she said their families forced her to leave Mishal behind. During her sensation-filled life, many critics dismissed Qandeel's claims of abuse. But when Qandeel's body was bathed before being buried, in keeping with tradition, her mother saw the scars, says her neighbor Saba Munir. Munir gestures to her own hip to show where Qandeel had been badly burned. The scar, she says, was very large.

Selfie

If any moment captures Pakistan's earthshaking clash of cultures, it is the selfie Qandeel took with her ever-present phone two months ago, in the middle of the holy month of Ramadan. In it, she is almost sitting on the lap of Muslim cleric Maulvi Abdul Qavi in a Karachi hotel room. She wears his pointed cap perched above her arched brows and flaring eyeliner. Her mouth forms an exaggerated "O" of surprise and sexuality.

As outrage exploded over the photos, the two engaged in a furious round of he-said-she-said. The cleric said Qandeel had asked for the meeting, and he agreed because they both came from south Punjab. Qandeel said it was Qavi who had sought the meeting - and had insisted it be in a hotel room. Qandeel's parents say she began to get threats on her life after the notorious selfie. "Before that everything was stable, but after that everything changed," her mother says.

On a recent day, Qavi sits cross-legged on the floor of his office in Multan, the Punjab city where Qandeel was killed in the home she had rented for her parents and her 22-year-old brother. Members of his entourage surround the chubby mufti; one of them fans the cleric, trying to protect him from the oppressive 113-degree heat. Leaning against a cushion, Qavi wears the indulgent smile of a parent with a misbehaving child as he's asked about Qandeel's accusations that he drank juice in daylight hours during Ramadan, when the devout are meant to fast from dawn to dusk. But when asked about police promising to investigate his possible involvement in inciting violence against Qandeel, he struggles for composure. "The main thing is, it is condemnable," he says, referring to her killing.

Not everyone, however, has condemned the killing. "A girl who decides to publish her naked pics for sake of publicity...what her brother is sposed to do???" one tweet said. In addition to Waseem, police have arrested a cousin in connection with Qandeel's death, and are looking into the possibility that other brothers may have encouraged him in the killing. Multan police officer Muhammed Azam Akram thinks the growth of social media is threatening Pakistani society, and the government must do something to regulate posts like Qandeel's. "She was hungry for fame," he says. "She became popular, but not in a positive means."

Qandeel belonged to the first generation of Pakistanis who are truly connected, tapping little hearts on their smartphones to "like" Instagram and Twitter posts. They want to be part of the modern world, with the freedom to challenge the older generation's restrictive interpretations of how they should live according to Islam. Social media gave Qandeel a platform to push the envelope on tradition, but it also left her vulnerable to radicals who troll the internet, inciting hate. "Saw some photos/clips of Qandeel Baloch... what a slut! Disgusting," one tweet said, going on to use a deeply misogynistic word. The day before she was killed, Qandeel tweeted: "As a women we must stand up for ourselves. As a women we must stand up for each other...As women we must stand."

'Hypocrites'

At Qandeel's grave in Shah Saddaruddin, her sister Munawar points to half a dozen young men who have gathered there to praise the dead woman. "Look at them," she says. "When she was alive, everyone said horrible things about her, and now they come and pray at her grave. See what hypocrites we are." The brother who killed Qandeel was more hotheaded than devout, police officials and family members say. Wasi, as everyone called him, even had a girlfriend, one police official said. But he couldn't bear the public ridicule, and finally said he either was going to kill his sister or himself. He chose his sister.

Qandeel's father is devastated by her death. His daughter, he says, "was more of a son" than any of his six sons, providing for the family. "We were never short of anything. We had everything," he said. Now he holds his son's fate in his hands. If he refuses to forgive the boy, Waseem may be given the death penalty, and a father who weeps for his daughter also will lose a son. "I am ruined today," he says. "I miss her face. I miss how she looked. I miss the way she would speak. I miss everything of her. You were my daughter. God gave you fame. May God bless you." —AP

PSG TIE UP DEAL FOR REAL MADRID'S JESE

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain strengthened their attacking options yesterday with the signing of Spanish forward Jese Rodriguez from Real Madrid on a five-year deal, the French champions confirmed. Jese will provide cover for Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani and becomes PSG's fifth close-season signing following the arrivals of Hatem Ben Arfa, Grzegorz Krychowiak, Thomas Meunier and Giovanni Lo Celso. "I'm extremely happy to join PSG, who have become one of the most competitive teams in Europe," said Jese, in a statement on the French club's website. "Along with the club I have very big goals for the years to come and it will be a real pleasure to work under Unai Emery. I can't wait to start this new challenge in my career." The 23-year-old found opportunities limited in Madrid behind the Spanish giants' vaunted attacking trio of Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema, but Real coach Zinedine Zidane last week suggested he would prefer to send Jese out on loan. "I'm very pleased to welcome Jese to PSG. These past few seasons he has confirmed he is one of the most promising individuals at Real Madrid and in Spanish football," said PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi, adding that the Spaniard would be the club's final signing this transfer window. —AFP

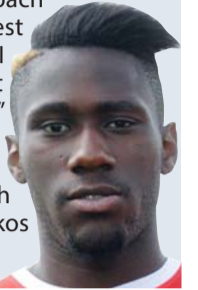


HOENESS SET TO RETURN AS BAYERN PRESIDENT

BERLIN: Ex-Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness is poised to resume his former position after announcing yesterday that he will stand in November's election, despite having served a prison sentence. Hoeness was freed from jail in February after serving 21 months in prison for tax evasion, but is set to be re-elected as the president of the German champions with current incumbent, Karl Hopfner, having already declared that he will not stand for re-election. "This has been agreed by Karl Hopfner and Uli Hoeness by consensus in pleasant talks," said the club in a statement. Hoeness is widely expected to be re-elected by Bayern's members. The moral question of whether a convicted criminal should resume as club president has not been discussed publically, but from a legal point of view, there is nothing preventing Hoeness's return to office. The 64-year-old was released from Landsberg prison, where Adolf Hitler wrote 'Mein Kampf', after being convicted in March 2014 of evading at least 28.5 million euros (\$31.5 million) in taxes. Having spent 40 years as either a player, manager or president of the Bavarian giants, Hoeness has shown humility and remorse since his release. —AFP

WEST HAM SIGN FRENCH LEFT-BACK MASUAKU

LONDON: West Ham United have signed French left-back Arthur Masuaku from Olympiakos on a four-year contract, the Premier League club announced yesterday. The 22-year-old, capped by France at Under-19 level, will help provide cover for Aaron Cresswell, who has been ruled out for up to four months with a knee injury. West Ham did not disclose the transfer fee, but Jack Sullivan, son of co-chairman David Sullivan, said on Twitter that the club had paid six million pounds (\$7.8 million, 7.1 million euros) to sign Masuaku. "It's a big honour for me to be part of this club," Masuaku told West Ham's official website. "I was speaking with my agent about some opportunities, but when he told me about West Ham and also the coach (Slaven Bilic), I didn't think twice, so in my mind, it was West Ham. "Now, to be able to play with players like Dimitri Payet, I was thinking on the way here, it's going to be crazy! I can't wait to play with him and also all the rest of the team." Masuaku could make his debut in West Ham's Premier League opener at Chelsea next Monday. But the former Valenciennes player is ineligible for their Europa League play-off tie with Romanians Astra Giurgiu, having already played for Olympiakos in the Champions League qualifying rounds. —AFP



RUSSIANS SEE POLITICS BEHIND PARALYMPICS BAN, VOWS TO APPEAL

MOSCOW: Russia blamed politics for a decision to bar its Paralympians from taking part in next month's Rio Games because of a state-sponsored doping programme, saying yesterday it would press ahead with a legal attempt to overturn the ban.

The decision to exclude Russia's entire Paralympics team, announced on Sunday by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), means that at least 250 Russian competitors are set to miss the Sept. 7-18 Paralympics. The same scandal has led to 109 out of an original 387 Russian athletes being banned from the Rio Olympics, including its entire track and field squad.

The imbroglio centres on a report for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that found the Russian government and the FSB security service had over years covered up hundreds of doping cases across the majority of Olympic sports, as well as Paralympic events.

The findings have rocked Russian sport and tarnished the legacy of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, which were President Vladimir Putin's showcase.

Yesterday, Vladimir Lukin, president of the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC), said that to bar his country's Paralympians from Rio would be a grave human rights violation. "The overwhelming majority of sportspeople who were barred from taking part in the Games were absolutely clean sportspeople," he told a Moscow news conference. "What comes first, the crime or the punishment?"

He told Russian news agencies the decision had a whiff of second-grade politics about it and questioned why the IPC, which he said had previously lavished praise on Russia's Paralympians, had changed its mind so suddenly. "A week ago, everything was fine," he told the same news conference. "Then, a week later, something happened and everything is bad. Of course, it gives rise to certain thoughts." Lukin said the RPC was ready to prove it had met all its anti-doping obligations.

He said only 20 of the 35 Russian Paralympians whose positive drug tests had been covered up between 2012 and 2015, according to WADA, had anything to do with the RPC. Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko was cited on Sunday as saying Moscow would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Switzerland, sport's highest court, and Lukin confirmed that Russia would press ahead with the legal challenge. — Reuters



DENVER: Miami Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki (51) hits a triple for the 3,000th hit of his Major League Career in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies in Denver on Sunday. — AP

SUZUKI GETS 3,000TH CAREER HIT, MARLINS BEAT ROCKIES

LOS ANGELES: Ichiro Suzuki tripled off the wall for his 3,000th hit in the major leagues, becoming the 30th player to reach the milestone as the Miami Marlins beat the Colorado Rockies 10-7 Sunday. The 42-year-old Suzuki got his big hit in the seventh inning. He became the first player born in Japan to reach 3,000, and joined Paul Molitor as the only players to hit the mark with a triple. Giancarlo Stanton hit his 24th homer and Christian Yelich and Mathis had three hits and three RBIs each for the Marlins. Nolan Arenado homered twice and drove in five runs for Colorado. Arenado leads the NL in home runs (29) and RBIs (87). Adam Conley (8-6) allowed six runs in five innings. Fernando Rodney worked the ninth for his first save since coming to Miami on June 30 and 18th overall. Jon Gray (8-5) was roughed up for eight runs on 10 hits in 3 2-3 innings. Suzuki was hitless in his first three at-bats of the game before he tagged Chris Rusin. Suzuki launched a long drive to right field that carried just beyond the reach of leaping Gerardo Parra, and breezed into third standing up. Suzuki is in his 16th season in the majors. He had 1,278 hits while playing nine years in Japan before becoming the American League Rookie of the Year and MVP with Seattle in 2001.

YANKEES 3, INDIANS 2

Masahiro Tanaka rebounded from two rocky outings, Didi Gregorius homered and New York held off Cleveland after announcing that Alex Rodriguez will play his final game in pinstripes this week. Mark Teixeira, two days since disclosing his own plans to retire at the end of the season, hit an RBI double and dove toward first base to complete a crucial play on defense. Dellin Betances got four outs for his second save as New York took two of three from the AL Central leaders. Cleveland, which remained two games ahead of Detroit, has dropped five of seven. Cleanup hitter Mike Napoli was ejected by plate umpire Lance Barrett after getting called out on strikes in the eighth inning. Hit hard by the Mets in a Subway Series loss last week, Tanaka (8-4) was lifted with a 3-0 lead following Rajai Davis' leadoff double in the seventh. Carlos Carrasco (7-6) also bounced back from a poor outing and turned in seven solid innings for the Indians, who tried to rally late. About two hours before the first pitch, the 41-year-old Rodriguez and the rebuilding Yankees announced the slumping slugger will play Friday night against Tampa Bay at Yankee Stadium and then be released. After that, he plans to become a special adviser and instructor with the team next year.

ORIOLES 10, WHITE SOX 2

Manny Machado became the second player in major league history to homer in the first, second and third innings, driving in a career-high seven runs in a victory over Chicago. Machado hit a two-run homer in the first and a three-run shot in the second off James Shields (5-14). Shields allowed four homers while getting four outs. Machado hit another two-run homer in the third off Matt Albers. According to STATS, the only other player to do that was Carl Reynolds of the White Sox on July 2, 1930, at the Yankees. Chris Davis followed Machado's second homer with his own and J.J. Hardy added a two-run shot before Shields left to boos. The Orioles have hit a major league-best 168 homers this season. Dylan Bundy (5-3) stuck out a career-high nine in six innings.

CUBS 3, ATHLETICS 1

Kyle Hendricks pitched into the eighth inning for his fifth win since June and Chicago beat Oakland to complete a three-game sweep. Kris Bryant and Jorge Soler homered off A's starter Sean Manaea (3-7). Bryant's home run was his 27th this season, one more than the two-time All-Star had in 2015 when he was the NL's rookie of the year. The Cubs' seventh straight win improved them to a major league-best 69-41 and marked their 10th series sweep this season. That topped their mark from a year ago, and increased their lead in the NL Central to 11 1/2 games over St. Louis. Hendricks (11-7) was dominant against an A's team that had dropped seven of eight going into the day. Chicago's right-hander allowed three hits over 7 1/3 innings, struck out four and retired 17 straight before Marcus Semien's one-out home run in the eighth. Pedro Strop retired two batters and Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his third save since arriving in a trade from the New York Yankees on July 25.

NATIONALS 1, GIANTS 0

Tanner Roark and the Washington bullpen outdueled Madison Bumgarner, and Wilson Ramos homered to lift the Nationals over San Francisco in a matchup of NL division leaders. Washington won twice in the three-game series. Last weekend, the Giants took two of three at home. Bumgarner (10-7) gave up just two hits, including Ramos' 18th homer in the seventh inning. Roark (12-6) gave up five hits in seven innings. His last pitch came with runners on second and third, and center fielder Ben Revere made a spectacular, over-the-shoulder catch to rob Brandon Belt. Shawn Kelly retired the Giants in order in the eighth, and Mark Melancon pitched the ninth for his

31st save. Melancon converted his first save opportunity since he was acquired in a trade with Pittsburgh on July 30.

DODGERS 8, RED SOX 5

Rob Segedin set a Dodgers record with four RBIs in his major league debut. Adrian Gonzalez hit his 300th career home run and Los Angeles beat Boston. With the bases loaded and one out in the fourth, Segedin hit a 2-0 pitch from David Price (9-8) over center fielder Mookie Betts' head for a two-run double, his first big league hit in his second at-bat. Segedin came up again with two outs in the fifth and the bases loaded, and he lined a single to right to give the Dodgers a 6-2 lead. He was lifted in a sixth-inning double switch. Jesse Chavez (1-0) got the win with 1 1/3 innings in relief. Kenley Jansen struck out the side in the ninth to earn his 34th save. Howie Kendrick and Justin Turner added solo homers for Los Angeles.

METS 3, TIGERS 1

Neil Walker hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the top of the ninth, and New York beat Detroit to avoid a series sweep. The Mets were victimized by some bad luck when the Tigers tied it with back-to-back infield singles in the seventh, but after escaping the eighth thanks to a Detroit baserunning blunder, New York retook the lead when Walker went deep off Francisco Rodriguez (1-2). Anibal Sanchez pitched eight impressive innings for the Tigers, and Jacob deGrom was strong for the Mets in the finale of this three-game series. Addison Reed (3-2) got the win in relief, and Jeury Familia pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 39th save in 41 chances. Michael Conforto homered for the Mets in the seventh.

RANGERS 5, ASTROS 3, 11 INNINGS

Ian Desmond hit a tiebreaking single in the 11th inning and Texas beat Houston for the 11th time in 13 meetings this season. Texas took two of three in the weekend series and extended its AL West lead to 7 1/2 games over the Astros. Houston went 2-5 on its and has lost eight of its last 10 games. After Shin-Soo Choo led off the 11th with a double, Desmond followed with a single against Chris Devenski (0-4). Rougned Odor later hit an RBI double. Matt Bush (5-2) pitched the 10th, then struck out George Springer with runners on the corners in the 11th.

TWINS 6, RAYS 3

Miguel Sano homered twice and drove in four runs and Minnesota beat Tampa Bay to take two of three in the series between the

teams with the AL's worst records. Sano put the Twins up 3-1 on a three-run shot off Matt Andriese (6-3) in the third and added a solo drive during the ninth against Ryan Garton. Sano also became the first player to hit a ball off the roof at Tropicana Field, which opened in 1998, in the first when his pop fly hit 210 feet above the playing surface before being caught by third baseman Evan Longoria. Kyle Gibson (4-6) gave up two runs, six hits and walked four over five innings. Brandon Kintzler, the Twins' fourth reliever, pitched the ninth for his ninth save. Nick Franklin and Longoria homered for the Rays.

PHILLIES 6, PADRES 5

Pinch-hitter Tommy Joseph's had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning, and Philadelphia turned the first triple play in Petco Park. Rookie shortstop Jose Rondon's throwing error on Cesar Hernandez's grounder leading off the seventh against Brad Hand (3-3) allowed the Phillies' hitter to reach second base safely. Hernandez scored the tiebreaking run two outs later on Joseph's single to left. The Padres were gifted two walks to open the bottom of the seventh. But then pinch-hitter Jabari Blash hit into the ballpark's first triple play. Blash smoked a grounder to third baseman Maikel Franco, who stepped on the bag and fired to second baseman Hernandez to erase Rondon, and Hernandez's relay to first beat Blash by a step. It was the Phillies' first triple play since 2009. Jerad Eickhoff (7-12) pitched six innings, surrendering five runs and five hits with five strikeouts. Jeanmar Gomez worked the ninth for his 29th save. Ryan Schimpf capped the Padres' three-run sixth with a game-tying 326-foot, two-run homer. Dickerson's seventh homer of the year in the fourth pulled the Padres to 5-2.

BRAVES 6, CARDINALS 3

Mike Foltyniewicz worked six strong innings, and Nick Markakis and Erick Aybar had two RBIs apiece to help Atlanta beat St. Louis. Matt Kemp added two hits and an RBI for the Braves. They took two of three games from St. Louis, outscoring the Cardinals 19-8 the last two games. Atlanta has the worst record in the majors at 41-70, but has won seven of its last 11 overall. Foltyniewicz (5-5) gave up a run and six hits. In his previous three outings, he allowed 14 earned runs in 16 1-3 innings. Jim Johnson earned his eighth save in 11 chances. Adam Wainwright (9-6) had a rare off-day against Atlanta, surrendering three runs in the first and second.

REDS 7, PIRATES 3

Major league steals leader Billy Hamilton swiped four bases, had three hits and scored three runs, leading Cincinnati past Pittsburgh. Hamilton helped the Reds avoid a series sweep. The center fielder with 43 stolen bases this season also made a leaping, backhanded catch that drew applause from the Pittsburgh fans. Dan Straily (7-6) gave up two earned runs and three hits in six innings, walking none and striking out four. Straily didn't allow a hit until Matt Joyce hit a 442-foot homer in the fifth. Josh Harrison later homered off Straily. Gerrit Cole (7-7) fell to 0-6 lifetime against the Reds.

MARINERS 3, ANGELS 1

James Paxton took a four-hitter into ninth inning before he was forced from the game after being hit on the left arm by a line drive, and Seattle beat Los Angeles. Mike Freeman, making his Mariners debut after being called up earlier in the day from Triple A Tacoma, had his first two major league hits, including an RBI single to cap a three-run fourth inning. Paxton (4-5) was on the verge of his first career complete game when he was hit with one out in the ninth by the line drive from Andrelton Simmons, who reached on the infield single. Tom Wilhelmson got the final two outs for his first save. Paxton struck out six with one walk in 8 1/3 innings. Matt Shoemaker (6-12) was the loser.

ROYALS 7, BLUE JAYS 1

Yordano Ventura pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Kendrys Morales hit a grand slam, and Kansas City beat Toronto. Ventura (7-9) was 0-5 in seven starts since a June 17 victory over Detroit. He limited the Blue Jays to one run and five singles in 6 2/3 innings, walking four and striking out four. Morales' third career grand slam and his first since July 30, 2012, while with the Los Angeles Angels came off left-hander Brett Cecil with two out in the eighth. Blue Jays right-hander Marcus Stroman (8-5) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, BREWERS 3

Jake Lamb and Phil Gosselin each hit two-run homers during a five-run fifth inning to help Arizona beat Milwaukee. Lamb got his 24th homer for a 5-3 lead against starter Jimmy Nelson (6-11), and Gosselin delivered a pinch-hit homer off reliever Michael Blazek to make it 8-3. The Diamondbacks matched the single-inning club record for extra-base hits with five. Daniel Hudson (2-2) won by getting the final out in the fifth in relief of starter Archie Bradley. — AP

WHERE WILL POGBA FIT IN AT MANCHESTER UNITED?

LONDON: With Paul Pogba poised to complete his record-breaking return to Manchester United, manager Jose Mourinho must figure out how best to fit the France midfielder into his star-studded starting XI. Pogba excelled at Juventus on the left-hand side of midfield in a 4-3-3 formation, but Mourinho appears set to adopt a 4-2-3-1 system in his first season at Old Trafford.

It would oblige Pogba to adopt a deeper position, which could compromise Mourinho's ability to get the very best out of him. "Used in the right way in this United team, Pogba's long-range shooting and ability to get into the box will make him a massive threat," says former Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy, now a BBC pundit. "He could be the difference between United winning the

title or not." Pogba was expected to undergo a medical at United on Monday as he closes in on a reported 89 million pounds (\$116.4 million, 105 million euros) return to the club he left in 2012.

The 23-year-old wore the coveted number 10 shirt in his final season at Juventus, but he will have to earn the right to be considered the chief creative talent at United.

Wayne Rooney is due to start the season in the number 10 role. New signing Henrikh Mkhitaryan can also play as a central playmaker and Mourinho has further options in the shape of Spanish midfielders Juan Mata and Ander Herrera.

In any case, as Oualid Tanazefi, the man who brought Pogba to his first club, Le Havre, told French sports daily

L'Equipe during Euro 2016: "Number 10 is really not his position."

Were Mourinho to make putting Pogba in his optimum position a priority, by reverting to a 4-3-3 system, it would create dilemmas elsewhere in the team. Mourinho has already vowed Rooney will not play in midfield, as he has for England, so a move to 4-3-3 would leave the United skipper vying with Zlatan Ibrahimovic for the lone striker's role.

DESCHAMPS DELIBERATIONS

Pogba's principal strengths—dribbling, passing and long-range shooting—depend on him having the freedom to get forward. He provided a league-leading 12 assists in Serie A last season, but France coach Didier Deschamps strug-

gled to find the right role for him during Euro 2016.

He initially started on the right of a midfield three, but in an effort to replicate his role at Juventus, Deschamps experimented by moving Pogba to the left and shifting Blaise Matuidi to the right. However, a switch to 4-2-3-1 at half-time of France's last 16 encounter with the Republic of Ireland in Lyon saw Pogba drop back to the right-hand side of a midfield two alongside Matuidi.

He played there for the rest of the tournament, sparking only intermittently as the hosts reached the final, and Deschamps admitted that it was not his ideal role.

"I don't think any of you would say that the best position for Paul is in front of the defence alongside Blaise," he told

reporters. Pogba's coach at Juventus, Massimiliano Allegri, believes that he will end up playing as a holding midfielder, but not for a few years yet. When Pogba left United four years ago, it was because his path to the first team was barred by players like Michael Carrick, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Park Ji-Sung. Now it is he who will be putting squad-mates in the shade. Bastian Schweinsteiger is already thought to have been frozen out by Mourinho.

With either Carrick or Morgan Schneiderlin likely to partner Pogba in midfield, Marouane Fellaini and Herrera will also be bumped down the pecking order. But while Pogba's place in the team will be secure, the nature of his role could determine whether he flops or flies. —AFP

ERVINE HITS CENTURY AS ZIMBABWE FIGHT BACK

BULAWAYO: Craig Ervine's maiden Test century allowed Zimbabwe to enjoy their best period of a difficult series, as they held New Zealand's bowlers at bay for much of the third day of the second Test yesterday.

Ervine made the most of the early life granted to him to score an unbeaten 115, taking Zimbabwe to stumps on 305 for six—just 78 runs shy of avoiding the follow-on.

Zimbabwe's batsmen showed that they had learned some lessons from the first Test, which they lost by an innings inside four days, although they were also assisted by the flat pitch at Queens Sports Club.

Having drawn a blank on the second evening when Zimbabwe reached 55 without loss, New Zealand put in a determined bowling effort on Monday but were thwarted by an increasingly dogged home side. While the tourists managed three wickets in the opening session of the day, Ervine found an able partner in debutant Peter Moor, who scored 71 in a 148-run partnership for the sixth wicket that took more than a session out of the game. Nevertheless, having declared on 582 for four in their innings, New Zealand remain confident that another result is within their grasp after dismissing Moor in the final half-hour of the day.

"It's only day three and we've got the runs on the board and have a lot of time in the game," bowling coach Shane Jurgensen

said. "We're down the bottom end of their innings. There were signs today that they carry is a bit lower and the pitch is taking a bit more turn." Zimbabwe's total might have looked very different had Ross Taylor held a regulation slip catch off the bowling of Tim Southee when Ervine was on just one. At that stage the hosts had seen opener Tino Mawoyo play on from the bowling of Southee and Sikandar Raza Butt get out with a loose shot to left-arm seamer Neil Wagner. Chamu Chibhabha reached his maiden Test fifty but then fell for 60 on the stroke of lunch, and after the interval Prince Masvaure was bowled by Mitchell Santner and Sean Williams was trapped lbw by legspinner Ish Sodhi whilst attempting a reverse-sweep.

However Ervine battled on, seeing off a threatening spell of reverse swing from Trent Boult as well as the second new ball, and reached his hundred in the final hour of the day.

"Since I was tiny a hundred in Test cricket was always a dream for me," he said afterwards. "I had to work really hard ball after ball after ball to keep the concentration going but in the end it paid off."

"There's still a long way to go with two days left in the game, so we've got to get as close to their score in this innings as possible because it's only going to get harder to bat on this pitch." —AFP



CROMWELL: Jim Furyk watches his drive on the 18th hole on his way to shooting a PGA record 58 during the final round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Sunday. — AP

FURYK SETS A PGA TOUR RECORD AT TRAVELERS

CROMWELL: Jim Furyk has a place in PGA Tour history all to himself with a new magic number. Three years after Furyk became the sixth player on tour with a 59, he took it even lower Sunday in the Travelers Championship with a 12-under 58. The 46-year-old American bounced in an eagle from 135 yards on his third hole, ran off seven straight birdies around the turn and picked up his final birdie on the 16th hole with a putt from just inside 24 feet. He rolled in a short par putt on the final hole at TPC River Highlands, thrust his arms in the air and waved his cap to salute thousands of fans who had rushed to the amphitheater around the 18th green.

Furyk tied for fifth at 11 under, three strokes behind winner Russell Knox.

Furyk reached 11 under with his seventh straight birdie at No. 12. He missed a 12-foot birdie attempt on the 14th hole and, after nearly driving the par-4 15th, his 8-foot birdie putt lipped out. Ryo Ishikawa shot a 58 in The Crowns on the Japan Golf Tour in 2010. Shigeki Maruyama shot a 58 in US Open sectional qualifying in 2000. And just last week, Stephan Jaeger posted a 58 on the Web.com Tour in the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae.

Furyk had a 59 at Conway Farms in the second round of the 2013 BMW Championship with a bogey on his card. He's the only player with two sub-60 rounds. Knox saved par with a 12-foot putt on the final hole to beat hometown favorite Jerry Kelly by a stroke. Knox closed with a 68 for a 14-under 266 total. The 31-year-old Scot won for the second time on the tour, following his breakthrough victory in China in November in the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions. Kelly, the 49-year-old former University of Hartford player, finished with a 64.

3M CHAMPIONSHIP

Joe Durant made a 10-foot eagle putt on the first hole of a playoff with Miguel Angel Jimenez to win the PGA Tour Champions' 3M Championship. The 52-year-old Durant won on the par-5 18th after closing with a birdie on the hole in regulation for a 9-under 63. After a double bogey on the par-4 14th, Jimenez birdied the last four holes for a 67 to match Durant at 19-under 197 at TPC Twins Cities.

Jimenez birdied the 18th in the playoff, too, before Durant rolled in the right-to-left winner. Durant won for the second time on the 50-and-over tour and the first by himself after teaming with Billy Andrade to win the Legends of Golf last year. Durant won the last of his four PGA Tour titles at Walt Disney World in 2006.

Two-time winner Bernhard Langer birdied six of the first seven holes in a 64 to tie for third with Kevin Sutherland (68) at 17 under. Langer has broken par in all 24 of his rounds in the event. Two-time defending champion Kenny Perry had a 68 to tie for 37th at 7 under.

US WOMEN'S AMATEUR

South Korea's Eun Jeong Seong won the U.S. Women's Amateur at Rolling Green to become the first player to win the event and U.S. Girls' Junior in the same year.

The 16-year-old Seong outlasted Italy's Virginia Elena Carta 1 up in hot conditions in the 36-hole final, the first all-international championship match in 106 years.

The 19-year-old Carta, coming off her freshman season at Duke, overcame a dizzy spell that forced a 15-minute delay after the 31st hole. She was trying to become the second player to win

the tournament and NCAA individual title in the same year. Seong won her second straight U.S. Girls' Junior title last month at Ridgewood in New Jersey. The finalists earned spots in the U.S. Women's Open next year at Trump National in New Jersey, and the winner also traditionally receives exemptions into the ANA Inspiration, Women's British Open and Evian Championship—all only if still an amateur. Seong took the lead with a birdie on the par-5 25th hole and won the par-4 29th with a birdie for a 2-up advantage. Carta took the par-4 31st with a par to Seong's double bogey, and Seong rebounded with a par on the par-3 34th. Carta won the par-5 35th with a 30-foot birdie putt, and Seong missed a chance to end it when her 10-footer burned the right edge. Seong ran in a 40-footer for birdie on the par-4 36th and conceded Carta's 25-footer to close out the match.

PAUL LAWRIE MATCH PLAY

England's Anthony Wall won his first European Tour title in more than 16 years, beating Sweden's Alex Noren 1 up in the final of the Paul Lawrie Match Play. Noren was looking to win a second title in Scotland in the space of a month, after capturing the Scottish Open on

July 10, and was 2 up after two holes over the Archerfield links in the windiest conditions of the week. He didn't win another hole. The 41-year-old Wall's only previous title was at the Alfred Dunhill Championship in 2000 - 16 years, 204 days ago. He has struggled over the past three years with hip and back injuries.

DIGITAL ALLY OPEN

Wesley Bryan won the Digital Ally Open in a playoff to earn an immediate PGA Tour promotion as a three-time winner this season on the Web.com Tour. The 26-year-old former South Carolina player became the 21st three-time winner in a season in tour history and the 11th to earn a three-victory promotion. Also the Louisiana Open and El Bosque Mexico winner, he will be fully exempt on the 2016-17 PGA Tour.

Bryan closed with a 4-under 67 to match Grayson Murray and J.T. Poston at 20-under 264 at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate. Murray and Poston each shot 66.

Bryan won with a birdie on the par-3 18th, hitting a 6-iron from 194 yards to 3 feet. The three matched birdies on the par-4 18th on the first extra hole. Bryan earned \$117,000 to push his tour-leading total to \$449,392. —AP

LEICESTER READY FOR ENCORE AFTER EPL TITLE TRIUMPH

LONDON: A day after masterminding the most unlikely title success in English football history, Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri was asked about his target for the next Premier League season. Would it be a top-four finish? Maybe even retaining the trophy?

Not even close. "We know very well," Ranieri said, "we have to fight for 10th position." Never have titleholders' ambitions appeared to be so low. These, though, are no normal champions. Leicester wrote a sporting underdog story for the ages by toppling the traditional heavyweights of England and winning the Premier League at pre-season odds of 5,000-1. A team widely tipped for relegation finished 10 points clear of second place.

Now for the encore. But it won't be with the same cast. Ranieri has lost his midfield dynamo, N'Golo Kante, to Chelsea for \$40 million. Another significant departure came off the field, with Steve Walsh, the head of recruitment with a record of unearthing unheralded players and making them stars, joining Everton. Speculation has been swirling in the offseason about the future of two more of last season's key players, Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez. Vardy eventually signed a new deal but doubts remain about whether Mahrez will be at Leicester by the end of the transfer window on Aug. 31, with the winger heavily linked with Arsenal.

For this season, Leicester's title odds with British bookmakers range between 20-1 and 33-1. Pre-season games have been against Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona rather than Lincoln and Burton, which was the case in 2015. And part of the warm-up for the new campaign was a trip to Wembley Stadium for the Community Shield against Manchester United, which Leicester lost 2-1 on Sunday.

"Everything's different now," Ranieri said. "You imagine the big teams who didn't win, who didn't make the Champions League. They are

going crazy now, they want to kill now."

Proving that Leicester is operating at a completely new level, the team will be competing in the Champions League for the first time. Ranieri could rely on a core group of players last season - with no European involvement along with early exits from the domestic cup competitions - and was able to shed his "Tinkerman" tag.

That may return, given he must juggle domestic and European competition, and Ranieri has been busy strengthening the depth of his squad in the offseason. Nampalys Mendy is tasked with filling the void left by Kante in central midfield, Nigeria forward Ahmed Musa joined from CSKA Moscow and has a similar profile to Vardy, while center back Luis Hernandez (from Sporting Gijon) and goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler (from Hannover) appear able backups. With their mostly unheralded players and reliance on the counter-attack, the Foxes brought an element of surprise to last season and opponents underestimated them until it was too late. Even when opposition teams altered tactics and sat back more, Leicester still found a way to get results and finished the season with only three losses.

Why shouldn't they challenge for the title again? Taking into account the end of the 2014-15 season, when the team mounted a stunning escape from relegation under Nigel Pearson, Leicester has won 30 of its last 47 Premier League games and lost only four. The team spirit is strong, the King Power stadium is a tough place to visit, and Leicester has the perfect tactics for winning away games. Externally, there will be no pressure on Leicester to repeat its amazing exploits from the 2015-16 season and few are expecting it to. But this is a team that just loves defying the odds. It opens with a trip to Hull on Saturday. "The close-knit brotherhood is unbelievable," Vardy says, "and, for me, there's a lot of unfinished business here." — AFP



BULAWAYO: Zimbabwe's batsman PJ Moor (L) plays a shot during the third day of the second test in a series of two matches, where New Zealand lead hosts Zimbabwe 1-0, at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

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

New Zealand first innings 582-4 dec (T. Latham 136, R. Taylor 124 not out, K. Williamson 113, S. Williams 1-62)

Zimbabwe first innings:
T. Mawoyo b Southee 26
C. Chibhabha c Williamson b Santner 60
Sikandar Raza c Williamson b Wagner 3
C. Ervine not out 115
P. Masvaure b Santner 2
S. Williams lbw b Sodhi 16
P. Moor c Guptill b Sodhi 71

G. Cremer not out 2
Extras (b8, lb2) 10
Total (for 6 wkts, 120 overs) 305
Fall of wickets: 1-65 (Mawoyo), 2-83 (Sikandar Raza), 3-107 (Chibhabha), 4-115 (Masvaure), 5-147 (Williams), 6-295 (Moor)

Still to bat: Donald Tiripano, John Nyumbu, Mike Chinouya

Bowling: Southee 24-12-64-1, Boult 21-10-37-0, Santner 31-5-102-2, Wagner 25-7-51-1, Sodhi 18-8-41-2, Guptill 11-1-0-0.

MANCINI TAKES A BOW AS INTER CONFIRM EXIT

MILAN: Coach Roberto Mancini said his farewells to the blue and black stripes of Inter Milan yesterday after the club confirmed his exit, amid media reports the Serie A giants' new Chinese owners wanted fresh blood to rejuvenate the team.

"F.C. Internazionale Milano confirms that it has parted company with head coach Roberto Mancini by mutual agreement," the club said in a statement, adding it wanted to "place on the record" its thanks to the Italian coach. Mancini is tipped in the media to be replaced by Dutch coach Frank de Boer. The club's Chinese owners, the Suning group, had been out for Mancini after Inter lost 6-1 to Tottenham Hotspur in a friendly in Oslo on Thursday, Corriere dello Sport and Gazzetta dello Sport reported.

Mancini, 51, had been coach for two years, having previously led Inter to three league titles and two Coppa Italias during his first spell in charge between 2004 and 2008. The former Manchester City manager had been under contract until 2017. He was given severance pay of 2.5 million euros (\$2.8 million) net, and will take his entire staff with him, Corriere dello Sport said. "I want to thank the Nerazzurri fans, who have always supported me with passion and loyalty," Mancini said on Twitter.

"I thank the players who in these past

20 months have been splendid and impeccable professionals," he said, wishing the club "a future full of satisfaction".

Mancini, first sacked by Inter in 2008, went on to manage Manchester City for nearly four years before coaching Galatasaray in 2013. Though he returned to Inter, he was unable to usher them back into the Champions League and finished fourth last season.

TRANSFER TROUBLE

Mancini was rumoured to have fallen out seriously with the club's chiefs in July after they failed to snap up one of his transfer targets, Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure. While Mancini hoped Toure would boost performance at the San Siro after an inconsistent season, Inter refused to stump up the funds for the 33-year old, the reports said. His likely replacement, De Boer, the most capped outfield player in the history of the Netherlands football team, left Ajax at the end of last season. De Boer, 46, could be appointed within the day, media reports said. The Dutchman had been linked with Premier League clubs Southampton and Everton before those positions were filled. At Inter he will have under two weeks to sign more players before the Serie A season starts against Chievo on August 21. —AFP



HANDBALL

MERCENARIES FIND IT 'HARD' TO WIN AGAINST STRONG QATAR

RIO DE JANEIRO: It was hard, according to Croatian back Marko Bagaric, but the Olympic dream can make people do strange things.

Bagaric's team beat his homeland Croatia 30-23 in a stunning opening to the Olympic handball tournament in Rio. His team is Qatar and he is one of 11 "mercenaries" in the oil and gas rich Gulf state's 14-man squad for the Games.

The hardest part for Bagaric came during the national anthems. After, it was a match like any other.

"I played with many of these players, and I lived with some of them in Croatia, in clubs," said the 30-year-old, who scored one goal in the victory.

"The worst feeling was during the national anthem. Ah, but what can I do? Qatar gave me the opportunity to play in the Olympic Games. It is the dream of any sportsman.

"For me it was hard, but after the game, I can relax." Croatia were amongst the favourites to win this tournament — only the old Soviet Union have a better men's Olympic handball record than the 1996 and 2004 champions.

But they were handed a hiding by last year's World Championship finalists.

Qatar have made great waves in the sport, becoming the first team outside of Europe to win a world medal.

But it has not been without controversy. The team is made up of five players from the Balkans, two Syrians, a Frenchman, a Spaniard, a Cuban and an Egyptian.

They even have a Spanish coach: Valero Rivera.

Qatar have spent millions on assembling this team, thanks in part to lax qualifying rules in handball. Unlike most sports, a player can change nationalities, such as Frenchman Bertrand Roine, a world champion with his own country just five years ago.

Players need wait only three years without representing one country before they can run out for another. Nations can also field an unlimited number of such players.

It means Qatar, ranked just 108 in the world, have arrived at the Olympics with a genuine chance of claiming the gold medal—which would be the country's first in any sport.

Some players from other teams have complained that Qatar are fielding a "world select" outfit, but Cuban back Rafael Capote doesn't see it that way.

"We're a team like any other. There's nothing special about us," he said.

Capote was amongst the nominees to be world player of the year last season.

He lost to Denmark's Mikkel Hansen—who plays for Qatari owned Paris Saint-Germain.

'BENDING THE RULES'

While Qatar's motley crew would certainly provide one of the stories of the Games if they win, for France coach Claude Onesta, they are setting a dangerous precedent and damaging the image of the sport. His side, the two-time reigning Olympic champions, only narrowly beat Qatar 25-22 in last year's world final.

"When you have temporary passports for a competition it's bending the rules," he complained following that match.

"I'm not blaming Qatar, who are playing by the rules, but it would be damaging to continue down this path." Even disgraced former FIFA head Sepp Blatter criticised Qatar over their mercenaries policy, before his head rolled amid accusations of corruption and an investigation into the awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar and 2018 tournament to Russia.

Blatter said Qatar's recruitment policy was "absurd" but Roine denies rumours of huge financial incentives. "When I see in the press that we were paid millions to come here, it's wrong," he said. "In my case I got zero. It was more a sporting opportunity than a financial one."

That may be hard to swallow for many people who will be interested to see how Roine reacts during the national anthems on Tuesday when his new country face his old one. If it's anything like Bagaric, you could be forgiven for imagining him humming a different tune to himself. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Qatar's left back Rafael Capote (C) vies with Croatia's right back Marko Kopljar (L) during the men's preliminaries Group A handball match Croatia vs Qatar for the Rio 2016 Olympics Games at the Future Arena in Rio. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Long Qingquan, of China, celebrates a successful lift in the men's 56kg weightlifting competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. (Inset) Hidilyn Diaz, of the Philippines, wipes away tears after winning the silver medal in the women's 53kg weightlifting competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AP

LONG SETS WORLD RECORD IN WINNING WEIGHTLIFTING GOLD

PHILIPPINES WINS FIRST MEDAL IN 20 YEARS



WEIGHTLIFTING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Long Qingquan of China set a world record in winning Olympic gold in the men's weightlifting 53-kilogram category Sunday at the Rio de Janeiro Games. Long's total score of 307 kilograms set the record and was aided by a final 170-kilo lift in clean and jerk.

He was leading the competition after the snatch and all the way through clean and jerk until Om Yun-Chol of North Korea lifted 169 kilograms on his final attempt to tie Long for the lead. Long then came out for his final lift, raised his bar and celebrated the gold medal by pumping his fists in

the air. Om took silver with 303 kilograms and Sinphet Kruaithong of Thailand won bronze. In the women's 53-kilogram category, Hsu Shu-Ching of Taiwan won her first Olympic gold medal when Li Yajun of China failed to complete the clean and jerk. Li set an Olympic record in the first round snatch by lifting 101 kilograms to take the lead into the clean and jerk. She was the last lifter to compete in the second round, and needed to lift 126 kilos to win gold. Her high entry total on the start list made her a favorite for the gold, but she failed to medal. When Li didn't complete her score, the gold went to Hsu, who lifted 100 kilos in snatch and 112 in clean and jerk for an overall score of 212 kilos. Hsu is the reigning world champion and won silver four years ago at the London Games. But London gold medalist Zulfiya Chinshanlo

of Kazakhstan failed a doping retest and could have that medal revoked, which would make Hsu a double gold medalist.

"I am very happy and very excited," she said. Team doctor Lin Yin-Chou said Hsu was battling a strain in her thigh, and it was the "intelligence of our coaches" that pushed her to gold.

"We have been wanting this gold medal for some time and it is especially pleasing because she has had an injury that she has been carrying," Lin said.

Hidilyn Diaz sprung a major surprise in the Philippines by winning a weightlifting silver medal in Rio — the country's first Olympic medal for 20 years, officials said yesterday. Sports analysts in the Philippines had not expected the 1.54-metre (5ft 1/2in) tall Diaz to bag a medal at the 2016 Games after coming up empty in 2008 and 2012

games. "We had high hopes with other sports. So (Cruz's medal) is a surprise. A lot of people didn't expect she would take a medal," said Ronel Abrenica, executive-director of the Philippine Sports Commission.

But Abrenica said he noticed something from the 25-year-old, who became the first woman from the Philippines ever to win an Olympic medal. A tearful Hidilyn Diaz said, she was lifted in the 58kg class in the 2008 Beijing Games as a 17-year-old and impressed many in the field, but she failed on all her clean and jerk attempts in London. Diaz dropped down to the lighter class for Rio, which had just seven competitors. "I have tried so hard. I have stumbled many times," Diaz said. "I wanted to quit, but now all of my sacrifices have paid off." — Agencies

KIWIS AVOID UPSET AGAINST US TO REACH OLYMPIC SEMIFINALS



RUGBY

RIO DE JANEIRO: In back-to-back games, the US women were within range of upset wins over Australia and New Zealand, the two leading contenders for the first rugby sevens gold medal ever awarded at the Olympics.

By the end of an eventful Sunday, though, the semifinal pairings reflected the status quo in women's sevens with the top four teams in the world series vying for medals. World series winner Australia rebounded from a surprising 12-12 draw with the United States in the last game of the pool stage to trounce Spain 24-0 and set up a semifinal match against Canada, which rallied to beat France 15-5 in the quarterfinals.

Britain advanced 26-7 over Fiji and then watched as semifinal opponent New Zealand struggled to put away the Americans 5-0, the only points coming from a try by world series try-scoring leader Portia Woodman just before halftime.

"I told them that they were true Olympians. They represented USA really, really well," U.S. women's coach Richie Walker said of his squad. "We played the No. 1 and No. 2 nations in the world today but I saw no fear. We hung with the best in the world. We drew with the No. 1 and we just lost by five points to the No. 2."

The Americans lost 12-7 to Fiji in their opening game Saturday, adding to the pressure on them in the last Pool A match to beat Australia on Sunday. Winger Jessica Jevelet scored two tries to give the Americans a 12-5 lead going into the last minute, but Emma Tonegato reached over to score her second try of the match for the Aussies and Chloe Dalton converted after the full-time siren for a draw.

Jevelet was again in the thick of it

against New Zealand. The Americans had a scoring opportunity shut down with three minutes to go when Jevelet was tackled late as she attempted to chase a kick into the in-goal that could have leveled the game. Tylia Nathan-Wong was yellow carded and sent from the field, but the New Zealanders survived unscathed.

The US and New Zealand squads played practice matches against each other in Florida leading up to the Olympics, and the Americans obviously picked up some intel.

"They didn't play us this hard in Florida. It was a nice surprise, and hard," Woodman said. "We made it hard for ourselves, not playing to our strengths, getting a bit too ahead of ourselves, and wanting to score on the first phase when we needed to play three or four."

"But we're in medal contention, so (we're) excited." The Americans will have to settle for playing in classification matches for fifth-eighth places along with the other quarterfinal losers.

"It probably hurts right now because they're out of medal contention, but still we have something to fight for," Walker said. "We want to finish No. 5."

"That's the best day rugby-wise, not results-wise, that I've ever seen from the girls. So I'm really proud." Australia coach Tim Walsh said the Americans gave his team "the kick up the pants that we needed going into the quarterfinals," where Charlotte Caslick scored twice and Tonegato added another to each increase their tournament tallies to six, equal with Woodman.

The top three teams from the sevens world series appeared more vulnerable on Sunday than Britain, a team containing 11 members of the England team which placed fourth in the world series. The British won all three group games comfortably, including a 24-0 victory over Canada, and outscored Fiji four tries to one.

The Canadians entered as the likely bronze medalists, but now face Australia in

the semifinals - which doesn't entirely bother them. Canada beat the Australians to win the last stop on the world series last season and nudge ahead of England for third place.

"The Olympics are a whole new thing for us and we're still kind of getting used to that," Canada back Bianca Farella said. "I think it's an unconscious thing but tomorrow we start fresh." — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: New Zealand's Portia Woodman, bottom, scores a try as USA's Lauren Doyle, right, watches during the women's rugby sevens quarter final match at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. — AP



ROWING

TESTING THE WATER ON RIO'S LAGOON

RIO DE JANEIRO: Fernanda Lima is on the frontline of the campaign to ensure that the water of Rio's Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, venue for the Olympic rowing regatta, is safe and clean.

Every morning at 6 a.m., she and a pilot jump into a motorboat and visit four different points on the lagoon. She uses the powers of her nose and eyes, as well as more technical gear, to test the water quality and report back for the World Rowing Federation's (FISA) daily assessment.

"It's important work," she said, sitting down with a coffee at the Lagoa Stadium after the morning run.

The water quality at the lagoon and at Guanabara Bay, site of the sailing events, has been a big worry since Rio was awarded the games.

The lagoon boasts a spectacular setting, lying north of the storied Ipanema beach area and overlooked by forested mountains, including Corcovado and the Christ the Redeemer statue.

But at certain times, sewage spills and other pollution has been bad. Heavy rains can wash all sorts of nasty things into the lagoon.

Last year, tonnes of dead fish were floating on the water and had to be removed. Residents complained of the stench.

A strain of E. coli that could cause gastrointestinal illness was also found. The water quality has thus been monitored intensely by FISA, working with local environmental authorities. Measures included removing illegal sewer connections, clearing weeds, and managing the gates to the canal which links the lagoon to the sea.

FISA declared it was satisfied there was no risk to athletes, but no one is now sitting back.

CHECKING THE PIPES

Born and bred in Rio de Janeiro, Lima has been making her daily checks since July 18 and has reported no problems. Every morning, she visits three rain-water pipes and a spot in the middle of the lagoon.

"First I look to see if there are problems, then I smell. Then we do a test sample. If it is yellow or brown, it is a problem, although if it's a little yellow it's OK," she said.

"I call in to the manager as I am doing it - 'Pipe 2 colour OK' - then go to the next pipe."

The information is fed into the daily report. Her section is officially called the Visual and Olfactory Investigation. The run takes about 30 minutes. "Then I have coffee and breakfast."

In the afternoon, Lima is back in the boat taking water samples. These will be sent to laboratories for testing for E. coli, found in fresh water, and enterococci, found in marine waters. Both sea and fresh water flow into the lagoon.

Her other duties include checking on a bird which is nesting on the shore in its own enclosure, and inspecting generators for oil spills. If there are any concerns, she might go back out again at night.

The daily reports have assessed the water quality so far as excellent and FISA executive director Matt Smith even declared on Saturday it was good enough to drink.

The main danger for rowers is if they fall in. High winds whipped up the waters in the early days of the regatta and so far two boats have capsized in competition and two in training. Rain fell yesterday morning but Fernanda said there was nothing to make her nostrils twitch. —Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: United States' David Lee, right, reaches for the ball hit by Canada's John Gordon Perrin, left, during a men's preliminary volleyball match at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. — AP

CANADA BEAT YOUNG US SQUAD IN STRAIGHT SETS



VOLLEYBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: A towel draped over his left shoulder, Erik Shoji sat on the bench alongside big brother Kawika and pondered what might be going so wrong for the young United States team in its Olympic volleyball opener against hard-hitting Canada.

For a group of largely Olympic first-timers determined to show that youth and inexperience don't necessarily mean anything on the biggest stage, the fifth-ranked Americans looked at times sloppy and out of sorts in falling 25-23, 25-17, 25-23 to No. 12 Canada on Sunday in the first pool match for both countries.

"We knew we were the underdog in this pool and this match," Canada captain Frederic Winters said. "It's the Olympic Games and our team was highly motivated and it showed on the court today."

From serves into the net early and others that sailed long, to kill attempts that fell wide and missed blocks, the Americans were off from the start. And Canada capitalized. Later Sunday, defending champion Russia won in four sets against a Cuba team that had to revamp its roster in the past month because six players are being held in Helsinki on suspicion of aggravated rape, according to Finnish police.

Argentina beat Olympic first-timer Iran in three sets in the late match. The US will now look to regroup to face Italy today. "Hopefully we all fight back for the next match," Erik said. "There's always jitters in the first match." The Canadians also beat the U.S. in a five-setter for the Champions Cup title in May 2015 before the Americans won on the way to last year's World Cup crown in Japan. "It was an unfortunate way to start the tournament," said US captain and third-time Olympian David Lee. "We didn't find a level of consistency that we could sustain throughout the match."

US coach John Speraw committed to a youth movement, and that means most of

the Americans lack Olympic experience - though they receive plenty of insight from four-time Olympic teammate Reid Priddy, third-timer Lee and Matt Anderson in his second games.

Lee expects everybody to respond, learn from this and adjust in a hurry. "I hope so, and I believe so. These guys have proven themselves on the biggest stages," he said. "That's very uncharacteristic for some of the young players to make some of the errors they did at some of the moments they did. I expect them to be extremely motivated in the matches to come."

Despite the disappointing first result, the Shojis are enjoying their time together in Rio de Janeiro as first-time Olympians - with a supporting cast of about a dozen that came along to cheer their special accomplishment.

Including their decorated coaching dad, Dave, the longtime head of the University of Hawaii program. The Shojis, who played for Stanford, and setter Micah Christenson all are from Hawaii and they are three of eight US players making their Olympic

debut. With lights flashing from all angles, Erik offered a wave to a section of US supporters as the Americans entered for pregame warmups.

The brothers cherish the chance to be there for each other on the biggest stage. "We're basically best friends and it's just a really neat thing to go through the experience with him," Kawika said. "We're really close. We might be going through different things off the court but then when we come here we're going through it together. We can basically read each other's minds."

Earlier Sunday, Brazil's Bruno Rezende, Mauricio Souza and William Arjona were among the last to leave the court as many of the players thanked the fans with photos, handshakes, smiles and thumbs-up signs. The host Brazilians beat Mexico 23-25, 25-19, 25-14, 25-18 and Lucas Saatkamp's winning kill sent the crowd into a frenzy as players threw their arms up in celebration.

Egypt's Ahmed El Kotb was carried off the court by teammates and athletic trainers worked on his right ankle on sideline during the first set of a loss to Poland. — AP

GOLDEN GIRL WU REWRITES DIVING RECORD BOOKS



DIVING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Wu Minxia ended her record-setting Olympic career the way it began: with a gold medal. Shi Tingmao and Wu totaled 345.60 points to win the women's 3-meter synchronized title Sunday in the first diving event of the Rio de Janeiro Games. They led throughout the five-round competition and won by a whopping 31.77 points on an overcast day at the Maria Lenk Aquatic Center, where light rain briefly fell.

"We have a very high standard," Wu said through a translator. Wu claimed her fourth consecutive gold in 3-meter synchro, becoming the first woman to win four golds in the same event at the Olympics. She also won in 2004, 2008 and 2012, and has had three different partners.

The 30-year-old Chinese also made history as the first diver to win five career golds, having won the 3-meter individual event four years ago in London. She won't defend that title in Rio. "When I first got into diving, I thought it was a very exciting sport," Wu said. "My personality, I always want to win." She also owns silver and bronze in individual 3-meter from the 2004 Athens Games and 2008 Beijing Games. Wu is the oldest female diver to win gold in the Olympics, a mark previously held by American Micki King, who won 3-meter springboard at 28 in the 1972 Munich Games. Shi and Wu routinely hit their dives for scores of 9.0 and higher, totaling 81.00 points on their final dive, a backward 21/2-somersault pike. They climbed out of the water and embraced, knowing the gold was secure with five other teams still to dive.

Italy's Tania Cagnotto and Francesca Dallape took silver at 313.83. Maddison Keeney and Anabelle Smith of Australia rallied from last to earn the bronze with 299.19, edging Canada by less than a point.

"We are used to diving against the Chinese," Cagnotto said. "We don't even think about the gold. Gold is for China." Cagnotto finally won her first medal in her fifth

Olympics. She just missed in London, finishing fourth in both 3-meter synchro and the individual springboard event. Her father and coach Giorgio Cagnotto owns four Olympic diving medals of his own. Cagnotto and Dallape held onto second through each round. "We were still remembering when we lost the medal by less than two points," Cagnotto said. "We just hope it would be destiny that today we get this medal." The Aussies were last after two rounds before coming up big on their last dive to hold off the Canadian duo of Jennifer Abel and Pamela Ware. Keeney and Smith scored 71.10 points in the final round, while Abel and Ware only managed 67.50. Abel and Ware anxiously waited in the water for their scores. When they saw the numbers, they were crushed. One of them sunk her head underwater.

"You know when you missed a dive," Abel said. "You know when it's pretty much going to decide the score. I kind of knew." Wu's teammate, Chen Ruolin, could match her with a fifth gold in Rio. Chen is entered in 10-meter synchro, an event she has won at the last two Olympics. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: China's Shi Tingmao and Wu Minxia celebrate after winning the women's synchronized 3-meter springboard diving final in the Maria Lenk Aquatic Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia's Casey Sablowski, center, fights for the ball with United States' Rachel Dawson, left, and Julia Reinprecht during a women's field hockey match at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AP

US KNOCKS OFF AUSTRALIA IN WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY



HOCKEY

RIO DE JANEIRO: The United States claimed its second straight win against a top-three team in women's field hockey, beating No. 3 Australia 2-1 yesterday.

Michelle Vittese and Caitlin van Sickle scored for the Americans, who defeated No. 2 Argentina 2-1 in their Olympic opener on Saturday. United States goalie Jackie Briggs had six saves and had four saves on the four penalty corners she faced. The crowd chanted, "Jackie! Jackie!" after the match.

The fifth-ranked Americans, who lead Pool B with six points, moved closer to qualifying for the quarterfinals. The top four teams in each six-team pool advance. The Americans dealt a major blow to Australia. The Hockeyroos dropped their

opener to Britain 2-1 on Saturday and now have no points with three pool play matches remaining.

The United States spent the early part of the match defending its goal as the aggressive Australian attack put the Americans on their heels. Briggs stopped four shots in the first period, and the match remained scoreless. Much like in their opener against Argentina, the Americans retained their composure. Vittese scored on a penalty corner to put the United States up 1-0 in the second period. The Americans went up 2-0 in the third period when van Sickle scored on a penalty corner. There was a video referral because the pass near the goal was high, but it was not considered and the goal was upheld.

Australia came back fewer than two minutes later with a goal by Kathryn Slattery. The Hockeyroos got another penalty corner with two minutes remaining in the fourth period, but Briggs deflected a shot high. — AP

SUMMER GAMES 2016 MEDAL TRACKER

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rio Olympics medals table yesterday (gold, silver, bronze, total):

United States	3	5	4	12
China	3	2	3	8
Australia	3	0	3	6
Italy	2	3	2	7
South Korea	2	2	1	5
Hungary	2	0	0	2
Russia	1	2	2	5
Britain	1	1	0	2
Sweden	1	1	0	2
Japan	1	0	6	7
Thailand	1	0	1	2
Taiwan	1	0	1	2
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Belgium	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Netherlands	1	0	0	1
Vietnam	1	0	0	1
Canada	0	1	1	2
Kazakhstan	0	1	1	2
Brazil	0	1	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0	1
France	0	1	0	1
Indonesia	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
North Korea	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2
Spain	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	1	1



GYMNASTICS

BILES LIVES UP TO STAR BILLING IN RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Simone Biles lived up to her star billing with a record haul of five Olympic gold medals in sight as the United States women's gymnastics team crushed their rivals in Rio Olympics qualifying on Sunday.

The dynamic Texan scored 62.366 points after the four rotations with Raisman on 60.607, and Douglas just behind on 60.131.

Biles, the reigning three-time all-around world champion, scored highest on vault (16.050), beam (15.633) and floor (15.733), where she finished ahead of London Olympics gold medallist Raisman (15.275).

The only final she will not compete in is the uneven bars where teammate Madison Kocian led the way (15.866).

"We hit 16 for 16 (routines). I finally did a routine that I do in practice, so I was super excited about that," said Biles as the US team nailed all their rotations without a major error.

"It felt incredible, and every one of us qualified for an event final." She started on floor with a routine of mesmerising high-speed acrobatics and tumbling including her signature move - the Biles - tumbling a layout full-out.

She followed on the vault with her first effort a soaring Amanar-a back handspring with a layout with two-and-half twists-to lead North Korea's Hong Un Jong, the 2008 Olympic champion.

The world champion's third rotation-uneven bars was solid and she finished off in style again on the beam. Douglas had been bidding to become the first woman since 1968 to win back-to-back all-around gold. But she will compete in the team and uneven bars finals, along with Kocian who led the way on the apparatus ahead of London Games gold medallist Aliya Mustafina of Russia.

'UNBEATABLE'

The five-woman US team, winners in 2012, led 2008 Olympic champions China by nearly ten points.

Russia lead by Seda Tutkhalian and Mustafina are also battling for a podium finish along with world bronze medallists Britain.

And to the delight of the crowd hosts Brazil shine with tiny 1.33m star Flavia Saraiva, qualifying for the all-around and the beam finals with Rebeca Andrade just behind the US trio in the all-around.

Germany, Japan and the Netherlands complete the lineup for today's eight-team final.

Mustafina, a four-time medallist at the 2012 Games, believes it will be hard to match the Americans.

"It's going to be really difficult. They (USA) are unbeatable at the moment," said the 21-year-old.

Veteran Catalina Ponor kept former gymnastics powerhouse Romania in the medals chase as she reached the beam final.

Uzbek Oksana Chusovitina, 41, qualified for the vault final in her seventh Games, 24 years after winning Olympic team gold in Barcelona 1992.

And Dipa Karmakar's bid to become the first Indian gymnast to win an Olympic medal remains on track as she landed the 'Prodnouva', dubbed the 'vault of death', to book a spot in the final on the apparatus. —AFP



Simone Biles



RIO DE JANEIRO: Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, returns to Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, in the men's tennis competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. — AP

DEL POTRO STUNS DJOKOVIC, WILLIAMS' DOUBLES DREAM ENDS



TENNIS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Juan Martin del Potro stunned a tearful Novak Djokovic in an emotional Olympics triumph on Sunday as Venus Williams pondered the end of her four-gold Games odyssey.

The giant Argentine had also defeated the 12-time major winner in the bronze medal match at the London Olympics in 2012. Both players embraced at the net and wept at the end of their centre court duel played out in front of a raucous Argentine and Serb crowd.

Del Potro, now ranked at 145 in the world after being number four in 2010, said Sunday's win was more special than his victory in 2012. He had his first surgery in 2010 but more followed in 2014 and 2015 when he played just six events.

"This victory is bigger than last time because I know how tough it was to come back from three surgeries," said the 27-year-old who unleashed more than 40 winners.

"Tonight I played one of the best matches of my career." Del Potro started the day by getting stuck in an elevator for 40 minutes at the athletes village where he had to be rescued by the Argentina handball team. But that inconvenience did not shake the Argentine out of his big-hitting stride as he set up a second-round clash with Portugal's Joao Sousa.

'DELPO BETTER PLAYER'

"Delpo was the better player and he deserved to win. That's sport," said world number one Djokovic, whose Olympic singles record is stalled at a bronze from Beijing in 2008. "It's very sad and disappointing to go out of the tournament this early but I am glad that a good friend of mine, who has struggled with injuries, has won." Meanwhile, four-time gold medallist Venus Williams was staring at the end of her 16-year, five-Olympics journey.

Williams, 36, and sister Serena suffered their first ever defeat in women's doubles, a

record which boasted 15 successive match wins and golds in Sydney in 2000, Beijing in 2008 and London four years ago. The 6-3, 6-4 loss to Czech pair Lucie Safarova and Barbora Strycova came just a day after Venus had been knocked out of the singles in what was her first opening round Olympics loss.

Venus, a seven-time Grand Slam title winner and the 2000 Olympic champion, said she and Serena will now focus on the US Open later this month. "It was not our best day," said Venus who will be 40 when the next Olympics rolls around in 2020 in Tokyo. Serena, 34, was more damning.

"We played terrible and that basically showed," she said. At least, Serena is still alive in the singles as the defending champion had the perfect start in her quest for a fifth Games gold medal overall, defeating Australia's Daria Gavrilova 6-4, 6-2.

Williams, sporting a patriotic Stars and Stripes hairband on centre court, will next face Alize Cornet, the Frenchwoman who defeated her three times in 2014, including at Wimbledon. London 2012 winner Andy Murray and 2008 Olympic champion Rafael Nadal breezed through in the men's sin-

gles. Wimbledon champion Murray, the second seed, clinched an eighth win in eight meetings against Serbia's Viktor Troicki, 6-3, 6-2. Murray, playing for the first time since securing his second career All England Club title, next faces Argentina's Juan Monaco, one of his closest friends on tour. There was one blot on the day for Murray as he and brother Jamie were knocked out of the men's doubles by Brazil's Andre Sa and Thomaz Bellucci. Nadal, playing his first match in two months, made the second round with a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 win over Federico Delbonis of Argentina. The 30-year-old Spaniard, sidelined by a left wrist injury since the French Open, set up a clash with Italian veteran Andreas Seppi who he has beaten eight times in nine meetings.

German second seed and Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber hit back from 2-5 down in the second set to defeat Mariana Duque-Marino of Colombia 6-3, 7-5.

French Open champion Garbine Muguruza romped to a 6-2, 6-2 win over Romania's Andreea Mutu who was a late replacement for Jelena Jankovic who withdrew with a shoulder injury. —AFP

SPAIN UPSET BY CROATIA AS BRAZIL FIGHTBACK FALLS SHORT



BASKETBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Spain's bid for a third consecutive trip to the Olympic men's basketball finals suffered a severe setback on Sunday, while hosts Brazil took hope from a failed rally against Lithuania.

Croatia upset second-ranked Spain 72-70 as Dario Saric blocked Pau Gasol's game-tying attempt at the final buzzer and Lithuania held off Brazil 82-76 as Group B preliminary round play began. There was no rally in the other opener as Argentina ripped Nigeria 94-66 behind Facundo Campazzo's game high of 19 points and five assists and Luis Scola's 18 points and game-high eight rebounds.

Croatia and Spain exchanged leads six times in the final minutes, the last time coming when Krunoslav Simon stole the ball from Sergio Rodriguez and made a layup to put Croatia ahead 69-67.

Simon added two free throws to stretch the margin, Nikola Mirotic answered with a 3-pointer for Spain and Saric added a free throw to create the final margin.

However, Saric's most telling impact was still to come when the Philadelphia 76ers bound power forward blocked two-time NBA champion Gasol's last-ditch effort.

"It's always nice to block a big player, a big name in Euro basketball like Pau Gasol," Saric said. "This is the cherry on the cake, my block, because this team deserved this win because this team fights all the game." Spain had been talking of a third chance against the American collection of NBA stars in the Rio final. Now they might be in a fight to be one of four advancing from the group.

"We can't even dare to make those kind of thoughts," Spain coach Sergio Scariolo said. "We have to win the next game. Period. Then we can think of the third one."

Gasol had 26 points and nine rebounds while Mirotic added 19 points for Spain. "I think we are the best in difficult situations like the one we're in now," Mirotic said. Bojan Bogdanovic, a guard for the NBA's Brooklyn Nets, led Croatia with 23 points.

Saric had five points, seven rebounds and five assists. "As much as this victory means to us, we don't want to be a two-day wonder team," Croatian captain Roko Ukic said. "We will approach every game like it's our last. Bottom line, we need to keep it going."

Next for Spain is Brazil, which is fifth but just behind the Spaniards in the early table. A loud flag-waving crowd kept Brazil going as the hosts nearly erased a 30-point deficit before falling to Lithuania. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Spain's Pau Gasol, left, shoots over Croatia's Dario Saric (9) during a basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. — AP

BRAZIL ON BRINK OF MORE HOME HUMILIATION



SOCCER

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil face another embarrassing exit from a tournament on home soil after Neymar slumbered through a second 0-0 draw of Rio 2016 against Iraq.

The Olympic hosts need to beat group leaders Denmark on Wednesday to win to avoid a stunning exit, just two years after their devastating 7-1 World Cup defeat by Germany.

Neymar was expected to ease Brazilian football's wounded pride by delivering a first ever Olympic gold for the five-time world champions. However, the Barcelona star was eclipsed. And just as in their opening stalemate against South Africa, Brazil were booed from the field in Brasilia on Sunday as they paid for their profligacy in front of goal. "We didn't manage to play our football," said Brazil coach Rogerio Micale, who apologised to the expectant Brazilian public. "Today we had a lot of support and only at the end were there boos. "We apologise to the fans, to the people of Brasilia who filled the stadium to support the team, but we didn't manage to give them a response." Portugal and Nigeria were the first sides to seal their places in the quarter-finals with victories over Honduras and Sweden respectively. There were also wins for Argentina, Denmark and Mexico. In contrast to his display against South Africa when he was labelled "greedy", Neymar was a peripheral figure against Iraq and lost his cool when he fired the ball at Sherko Kareem in the second-half as the Iraqi prevented him from taking a quick free-kick.

Portugal are assured of their place in the last eight after beating Honduras 2-1. Goals from Tobias Figueiredo and Goncalo Paciencia cancelled out Alberth Elis's first minute opener.

World champions Germany also dug themselves out of trouble as a stoppage-time equaliser from Arsenal winger Serge Gnabry salvaged a thrilling 3-3 draw against South Korea in Salvador. —AFP

CAUGHT DOZING

Manchester City's £27 million (\$36

Sports

Mancini takes a bow as Inter confirm exit

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Canada beat young US squad in straight sets

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MERCENARIES FIND IT 'HARD' TO WIN AGAINST STRONG QATAR Page 17



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Michael Phelps competes in a Men's 200m Butterfly heat during the swimming event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium. (Inset) United States' Katie Ledecky shows off her gold medal after setting a new world record in the women's 400-meter freestyle final. — AFP, AP

PHELPS AND LEDECKY SEEK EVEN MORE GOLD



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: US team mates Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky moved on from a golden Sunday, somewhat creakily in the case of the former, and returned to the Olympic pool in search of individual glory today.

Ledecky, who won the women's 400 metres freestyle gold in world-record time late on Sunday as well as a 4x100m relay silver on Saturday, was back in action in the afternoon's 200m freestyle preliminaries.

"It was tough coming off last night, but I think I got my lane for semi-finals tonight, so it should be good," said the 19-year-old who set the fastest time of one minute 55.01 seconds in the heats and is on for a golden freestyle treble in Rio.

Italy's Federica Pellegrini, who set the world record of 1:52.98 in 2009 in a now-banned synthetic bodysuit, was fifth fastest and expecting fireworks in Tuesday's final.

"I think it will be the fastest 200 final in history, we never had such high performances in heats," she told reporters.

Phelps, who celebrated the 19th Olympic gold of his career in Sunday's 4x100m relay, faces more of a battle as he chases what would be his first individual

medal of these Games.

The 31-year-old, in his fifth Games, was fifth fastest in the 200m butterfly—the first event the world record holder ever raced at an Olympics in 2000 — but feeling the pain of a late night in the pool.

His 1:55.73 was a second slower than the 1:54.73 of pace-setting Hungarian Tamas Kenderesi, whose compatriot Laszlo Cseh was second fastest and sensing an opportunity.

"I think I'm capable of doing that but we will see," said Cseh when asked whether this was his moment to beat Phelps.

South Africa's Olympic champion Chad Le Clos, who beat Phelps in London 2012, eased into the semi-finals with the third best time of 1:55.57.

"I think I probably got to sleep at about 3am and I was on an 11am bus," said Phelps. "So, quick turn-arounds. But the good thing is there is a long time between prelims and finals and we are able to rest."

"Hopefully I can get home and get a quick nap in and be back here ready for tonight." The semi-finals start at 23.10 local time with the final today.

In other heats, newly crowned 400m individual medley champion Katinka Hosszu of Hungary set an Olympic record as she dominated the 200m IM prelims with a best time of 2:07.45.

Britain's Siobhan-Marie O'Connor was second fastest. Hosszu holds the world record in the event of 2:06.12, set last year when she won world championships gold. — Reuters

KOSOVO HISTORY-MAKER FACES DOPE-TEST BATTLE



JUDO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Newly crowned Olympic judo champion Majlinda Kelmendi of Kosovo has been provisionally suspended in France by the French anti-doping agency (AFLD) for refusing to take a doping test, a source told AFP yesterday.

Kelmendi made history on Sunday by winning her country's first ever Olympic medal in their Games debut as she claimed under-52kg glory in the Rio dojo. But two months ago while training in France, Kelmendi refused to give a urine sample in an unannounced, out-of-competition test sprung by the French agency.

Kelmendi was not the only athlete to refuse the test and did so only after her coach Driton Kuka consulted with the International Judo Federation's anti-doping officer Andrea Ember, according to French judo magazine l'Esprit du Judo, which claims to have seen the original WhatsApp exchange between the two parties.

The German delegation allegedly also consulted Ember and their athlete, European under-63kg champion Martyna Trajdos, refused to submit to the test. The surprise test took place on June 16 at Saint-

Cyprien in the south west of France during an international training camp involving judoka from several countries.

French athlete Gevrise Emene, a three-time world champion, and American under-78kg Olympic champion Kayla Harrison both submitted to the tests. According to the transcript of the WhatsApp conversation between Kuka and Ember, the latter said the athletes were not obliged to take the test if the AFLD officer could not provide a document showing she was mandated to test athletes by either the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) or the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Kuka's concern was over whether or not the French agency had the right to test foreign athletes. "The international (judo) federation told him that she (Kelmendi) had no obligation (to take the test), which is contrary to the position of the French anti-doping agency," the source told AFP.

The suspension is only applicable in France and the AFLD will rule on the case in September. Should Kelmendi be found guilty of refusing to take a doping test, she would be suspended by French authorities, putting them in conflict with judo bosses.

The 25-year-old had earlier spoken of her euphoria at winning for Kosovo, which became the 100th country to land an Olympic gold medal. "We have survived a war." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Kosovo's Majlinda Kelmendi reacts after winning the gold medal of the women's 52-kg judo competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

BRITAIN'S PEATY, SWEDEN'S SJOSTROM SET WORLD RECORDS



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Another night, another world record for Adam Peaty. The British swimmer cruised to victory in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 57.13 seconds Sunday night, shattering the mark of 57.55 he set a day earlier in the preliminaries.

Peaty blew away Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa, the defending Olympic champion who took silver this time in 58.69. The bronze went to Cody Miller of the United States, whose time of 58.87 held off teammate Kevin Cordes.

Peaty pounded the water when he saw his time. Then he balanced himself atop a lane rope, spread his arms wide and looked toward the roof of the Olympic Aquatics Stadium.

"It's surreal," he said. "After my race I needed to slap something and there was just the water right there. It was crazy. It's amazing and I probably won't be able to sleep tonight." Sweden's Sarah Sjöström also turned in a world-record performance in the 100 butterfly. She led right from the start and touched in 55.48, knocking off

the mark of 55.64 she established at last year's world championships.

Sjöström sat on the edge of the deck, pumping her arms in the air, and then appeared to be overcome by tears as she climbed to her feet. This was her first Olympic medal. Sjöström finished fourth in the 100 fly at the London Games four years ago, missing out on the bronze by just 23-hundredths of a second.

"The feeling is totally crazy," Sjöström said. "I didn't realize it was a world record. I knew I was the big favorite. I was under pressure, so I tried to focus on no disasters. Before the start I said to myself, 'It's just a pool. It's nothing. I know what to do.'"

She played the board game Yahtzee with her roommates in the afternoon, and then donned headphones while getting mentally prepared for the late-night race. "I've never done that before," Sjöström said. "I listened to music for the first time before a race. Why not?"

Penny Oleksiak of Canada took the silver in 56.46, edging out defending Olympic champion Dana Vollmer. The American, who had her first child 17 months ago, settled for the bronze in 56.63.

She'll take it. "I touched the wall and thought, 'Please just let it be a medal,'" Vollmer said. — AP

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KUWAIT INFLATION MAINTAINS STEADY PACE AT 3.1% YOY

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CAIRO: An Egyptian vendor arranges his goods at a market in the neighborhood of Sayeda Zeinab in Cairo. Three Egyptian dailies said yesterday that Cairo was proposing to IMF delegates an 18-month reform program in return for a \$12 billion loan. — AP

EGYPT PROPOSES REFORM PROGRAM TO IMF

CAIRO EYES \$12 BILLION LOAN IN RETURN FOR 18-MONTH REFORM

CAIRO: Three Egyptian dailies said yesterday that Cairo was proposing to IMF delegates an 18-month reform program in return for a \$12 billion loan over three years to shore up its economy, but that differences remained between the two sides on how to proceed.

The reports by the privately-owned Al-Shorouk, Al-Masry Al-Youm and Al-Watan said the two sides were at odds over the size of a proposed devaluation of the Egyptian pound and the timetable for implementing some of the more politically sensitive reforms, like reducing or removing state subsidies on fuel, electricity and food staples. According to the papers, the International Monetary Fund has rejected Egyptian requests for a delay or a staggered implementation of some of the proposed reforms. The IMF's response, according to Al-Masry Al-Youm, was categorical and reflective of Egypt's dire economic

situation and the urgency of fixing it. "There is no time left and nothing should be put off," it said quoting, like the other two papers, government sources familiar with the Egypt-IMF talks that started last week in Cairo under tight secrecy.

Egypt is struggling to keep its economy afloat, amid a slump in tourism, foreign currency shortages and double digit inflation and unemployment. The government is also fighting an insurgency in the strategic Sinai Peninsula while continuing to show little tolerance for domestic political dissent. Yesterday, the central bank reported a drop by about \$2 billion in foreign currency reserves, down to \$15.54 billion at the end of July after honoring a number of foreign debt repayments. Egypt's economic crisis has taken on a serious political dimension, with critics now blaming President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi for exacerbating it by embarking on massive costly

infrastructure projects they say have drained the country's meager funds and done little to revive the economy.

El-Sisi, in office since June 2014, counters that the projects, like a nationwide road network and an expansion of the Suez Canal, are vital if the country was to attract investors and their benefits would filter down in time. He has repeatedly vowed in recent days to shield the poor and middle class from a virtually inevitable wave of price hikes when reforms are implemented. Yesterday, his government announced higher electricity charges for domestic use as part of a plan to lift state subsidies in the energy sector.

The IMF delegates, according to the three papers, see 11.60 pounds to the US dollar as a realistic exchange rate. Such a rate would be nearly three pounds more than the current official rate of 8.87 pounds available at banks but close to the

thriving black market rate of 12-12.50 pounds. The Egyptians, according to the media reports, want the pound's exchange rate to be only 10.60 to the dollar. "Both sides are looking at a pound floatation, and whether it should be done in one go or gradually," said Al-Masry Al-Youm.

The pound's exchange rate is crucial to a country like Egypt, whose survival is heavily dependent on imports, not just of staple food items, but industrial components and raw materials to keep the manufacturing sector going. Much of the imports needed by the private sector are financed by dollars bought on the black market. As part of the planned reforms, Egypt was considering the partial privatization of several state-owned enterprises, possibly including oil companies. These, according to Al-Shorouk, would initially earn the treasury about \$10 billion. — AP

OPEC CALLS INFORMAL SEPTEMBER MEETING

VIENNA: OPEC said yesterday it has called an informal meeting of member countries for next month in Algeria to help stabilize the oil market. The Vienna-based Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said in a statement that the meeting would take place on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum in Algeria from September 26 to 28.

"OPEC continues to monitor developments closely, and is in constant deliberations with all member states on ways and means to help restore stability and order to the oil market," it said.

OPEC President Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada reiterated the organisation's view that oil demand will pick up in the third and fourth quarters of this year. OPEC sees recent oil price declines and current market volatility as "only temporary" and due to weak refinery margins, an inventory overhang and the impact of Britain's decision to leave the EU on the crude oil futures market.

An expected return of economic growth in oil-consuming countries would rekindle demand for oil in the remainder of the year while oil supply would tighten, leading to higher prices. Al-Sada added that more investment in oil production was needed to meet growing demand and offset declining output from existing wells.

Oil production was expected to decline as a result of an "unprecedented drop in capital expenditure" in the industry since last year. Oil edged higher to near \$42 a barrel in Asia yesterday but analysts said the increase was unlikely to last as the commodity remains under pressure by a supply glut and a strong dollar.

Prices have been fluctuating since entering a bear market last week, falling more than 20 percent and closing below \$40 a barrel for the first time since April. OPEC said last month it expected the global supply glut to ease further this year and next thanks to reductions in oil output from producers outside the cartel, particularly the United States.

If accurate, this would be a vindication of its Saudi-led strategy since 2014 of squeezing non-OPEC suppliers by keeping production at high levels despite low prices. In its July monthly report, OPEC predicted a drop in non-OPEC output to 56.0 million barrels per day (bpd) this year from 57.0 million bpd in 2015.

In 2017, a further drop to 55.9 million bpd is



OPEC President Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada

expected, OPEC said, due in part to further falls in production by US shale oil producers, who need a higher oil price than the current \$45-50 to survive.

Market rebalancing

The Qatar energy minister said the oil market is on the path to rebalancing despite the recent decline in global oil prices, adding that OPEC was in continuous talks to stabilise the market.

"The recent decline observed in oil prices and the current market volatility is only temporary," Al-Sada said in a statement. "OPEC continues to monitor developments closely, and is in constant deliberations with all member states on ways and means to help restore stability and order to the oil market." Qatar holds the OPEC presidency for 2016.

The price rise came on the back of renewed calls by some OPEC members to freeze production in a bid to rein in output, a demand that non-OPEC oil producing giant Russia was quick to dismiss.

He said an expected "higher crude oil demand in third and fourth quarters of 2016, coupled with a decrease in availability, is leading the analysts to conclude that the current bear market is only temporary and that the oil price will increase in the later part of 2016." Some OPEC officials had said a revival of talks on a global oil production freeze could be discussed at an informal meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC in Algeria in September, if oil prices weaken. OPEC member Iran has been the main opponent of a freeze as it looks to raise its output to levels seen before the imposition of now-ended Western sanctions. — Agencies

QATAR, EGYPT RISE TO MULTI-MONTH HIGHS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Stock markets in Qatar and Egypt closed at multi-month highs yesterday on the back of firm global bourses, while Saudi Arabia's stock market was supported by a recovery in oil prices. Qatar's index rose 1.2 percent to 10,920 points, a nine-month high. Vodafone Qatar jumped 6.0 percent in unusually heavy trade and the largest listed stock, Qatar National Bank, added 2.3 percent.

Abu Dhabi's index reversed an early decline to add 0.1 percent as some mid-cap shares advanced. Abu Dhabi National Energy Co surged 8.0 percent. First Gulf Bank rose 0.4 percent but most other large-cap lenders lagged, with Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank dropping 0.6 percent.

Dubai's index ended the session flat in thin trade with just under half of traded shares declining and a little over a fifth gaining. Builder Arabtec, which climbed 3.4 percent on Sunday, retreated 1.3 percent. Kuwait's Agility climbed as much as 1.0 percent but ultimately closed flat after the logistics company reported an 11 percent rise in second-quarter net profit to 15 million dinars (\$50 million), ahead of SICO Bahrain's forecast of 13.7 million. Kuwait's main index advanced 0.5 percent, supported by banking shares. Boubyan Bank rose 1.3 percent and Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait added 1.6 percent.

SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT
Riyadh's main index rose 0.5 percent with the petrochemical sector gaining for a third session in a row as Brent oil traded above \$44 a barrel, recovering from a four-month low of \$41.51 hit on Aug. 2. Industry bellwether Saudi Basic Industries added 0.3 percent and an affiliate of SABIC, Saudi Kayan Petrochemical, jumped 4.5 percent. Some domestic demand-driven companies also advanced with retailer Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair climbing 5.0 percent.

In Egypt, the main index edged up 0.6 percent to a 13-month closing high of 8,273 points. Trading volumes almost doubled from Sunday to its highest level since mid-April as both local and foreign institutions accumulated shares, bourse data showed. Telecom Egypt rose 0.8 percent after Egypt's landline monopoly said on Sunday that its board gave final approval of plans to buy a fourth-generation mobile phone license, although the price was not disclosed, according to a senior source at the company. This would allow the company to be a direct player in the mobile phone market.

Orascom Telecom, the most heavily traded stock on the exchange, jumped 5.3 percent but Global Telecom Holding fell 1.5 percent. — Reuters

HEDGE FUND SHORT COVERING PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR OIL RALLY

LONDON: Benchmark crude prices have risen almost 8 percent since early last week in what has all the hallmarks of a short-covering rally. Brent futures for October have risen by more than \$3 per barrel from a low of \$41.80 on Aug. 2 to over \$45 in trading earlier yesterday.

WTI futures for October delivery have risen by \$3 per barrel over the same period from \$40.30 to \$43.30. Hedge funds and other money managers accumulated a substantial number of short positions in crude oil and gasoline over the nine weeks since the end of May.

Hedge funds had amassed short positions in Brent and WTI equivalent to 374 million barrels by Aug 2 (the latest day for which data is available), the highest number since the middle of January. The number of short positions in the three major Brent and WTI contracts has more than tripled since the end of May when it stood as low as 104 million barrels.

There has been comparatively little change in hedge fund long positions over the same period. Longs were cut from 743 million barrels to as little as 691 million but have recently been boosted back to 714 million. The past nine weeks have seen the fourth hedge fund short-selling cycle in WTI since the start of 2015 and a corresponding decline in WTI prices. But the price drop has been smaller than during previous short-selling cycles, given a similar accumulation of short positions, which is probably due to the persistence of long positions. Hedge funds with a more bullish outlook on oil prices have chosen to maintain or even add to their long positions in WTI rather than liquidate them, limiting the price slide.

SHORT COVERING

The concentration of hedge fund short positions has left prices vulnerable to a sharp reversal in the event that prices stop sliding or hedge funds try to lock in some of their profits. Hedge funds have added an extra 178 million barrels of shorts in WTI since the end of May. The total short position of 248 million barrels is only 13 million barrels below the record of 261 million set in November 2015.

In Brent, hedge fund short positions have increased by 90 million barrels to 125 million barrels, which is only 32 million barrels below the record short position of 157 million barrels set in September 2014.

Hedge funds' ultra-bearishness towards oil extends well beyond the crude market. Hedge funds have also added nearly 16 million barrels of short positions in NYMEX gasoline futures since the end of May.

Hedge funds have established an extremely rare net short position in NYMEX gasoline, amounting to 4 million barrels, for only the fifth time since 2006. Hedge fund short positions in gasoline amount to 42 million barrels, the largest number of shorts since January, and only 9 million barrels below the record of 52 million set in November 2015.

By Aug 2, hedge fund short positions across the crude and products complex were beginning to look over-extended. Anything that caused prices to rise, or just break the momentum behind the price falls, was likely to trigger a fierce short-covering rally. Data on how hedge fund positions changed in the second half of last week will not be published until this coming Friday. But it seems likely they will show a reduction in short positions and/or increase in longs coinciding with the sharp price increase.

TACTICAL LONGS

Some hedge funds seem to have anticipated a bout of short covering, which is probably why many clung to long positions and did not liquidate them despite the drop in prices. In fact, hedge funds have boosted their combined long positions in NYMEX and ICE WTI in each of the last five weeks by a total of 20 million barrels, apparently anticipating a reversal.

Long positions in Brent crude have also risen in each of the last two weeks by a total of almost 10 million barrels. The rally has no doubt been fuelled by the forthcoming informal meeting of ministers from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in September and the possibility of another attempt to coordinate output cuts. There are good reasons to treat discussions about the meeting with extreme caution. The ratio of OPEC meetings to OPEC output cuts is very high.

So far ministers have repeated bromides about monitoring market developments and given no indication a serious effort to reach an output agreement is underway.

But given how extended hedge funds had become on the short side, the prospect of a rally would have risen sharply even without chatter from OPEC. — Reuters



NEWARK: Delta Air Lines passengers, including sisters Lisette Hamann, 4, left, and Harper Hamann, 7, wait in line at a ticket counter in Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, NJ, yesterday. — AP

GLOBAL TRAVEL CHAOS AS DELTA GROUNDS FLIGHTS FOR 6 HOURS

AIRLINE CANCELS 300 FLIGHTS AS SYSTEMS CRASH

LONDON: Delta Air Lines canceled around 300 flights yesterday after its computer systems crashed, stranding thousands of passengers on a busy travel day.

The flight tracking site FlightStats Inc said that more than 1,000 flights were delayed. About six hours into the outage, the airline said that limited flights had resumed but that there were ongoing delays and cancellations.

Many passengers were frustrated that they received no notice of the problems, discovering that they were stranded only after making it through security and seeing other passengers sleeping on the floor.

It was unclear if the airline was even able to communicate due to its technical issues, and Delta said that there may be a lag issuing accurate flight status on the company website because of the outage.

A power outage at an Atlanta facility early yesterday initiated a cascading meltdown, according to the airline, which is also based in Atlanta. Flights that were already in the air when the outage occurred continued to their destinations, but flights on the ground remained there. Over the next several hours, only a handful of flights took off instead of the hundreds that is more typical for a Monday morning, according to flight-tracking services.

Airlines depend on huge, overlapping and complicated technology systems to operate flights, schedule crews and run ticketing, boarding, airport kiosks, websites and mobile phone

apps. Even brief outages can snarl traffic and cause long delays. A spokesman for Georgia Power told The Associated Press that the company believes failure of Delta equipment caused the airline's power outage. He said no other customers lost power.

A Delta spokesman said he had no information on the report. In Richmond, Virginia, Delta gate agents wrote out boarding passes by hand. In Tokyo, a dot-matrix printer was resurrected to keep track of passengers on a flight to Shanghai. Technology that appeared to be working was sometimes giving inaccurate information. Flight-status systems, including airport screens, incorrectly showed flights on time, something the company said it was trying to fix.

Apology

"Not only are their flights delayed, but in the case of Delta the website and other places are all saying that the flights are on time because the airline has been so crippled from a technical standpoint," said Daniel Baker, CEO of tracking service FlightAware.com.

Delta issued an apology to customers and said teams were attempting to fix the problem as quickly as possible. Many passengers, like Bryan Kopsick, 20, from Richmond, were shocked that computer glitches could cause such turmoil. "It does feel like the old days," Kopsick said. "Maybe they will let us smoke on the plane, and give us five-star meals in-flight too!" In Las Vegas, stranded passengers were

sleeping on the floor, covered in red blankets. When boarding finally began for a Minneapolis flight - the first to take off - a Delta worker told people find friends who had wandered away from the gate area, or who might be sleeping off the delays.

Early confirmation of the troubles first came in an official account that responds to customers via Twitter. The company had said its IT systems were down "everywhere." Several applications were affected, including the company's website. Among those affected was Tanzie Bodeen, 22, a software company intern from Beaverton, Oregon. She left home at 4 a.m. to catch a flight from Minneapolis and learned about the delays only when she reached the airport and saw news crews gathered at the door.

Bodeen said that passengers were taking the matter in stride. "It doesn't seem really hostile yet," she said. The company said travelers will be entitled to a refund if the flight is cancelled or significantly delayed. Travelers on some routes can also make a one-time change to the ticket free of charge.

Computer outages are a periodic plague for airlines. Last month, Southwest Airlines canceled more than 2,000 flights over several days after an outage that it blamed on a faulty network router. Unions called for the airline to replace the CEO, but the board gave him a vote of confidence. Investors shrugged off Delta's IT mishap. In morning trading, shares of Delta Air Lines Inc. rose 43 cents, to \$38.10. — AP

ahli united bank

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD ISLAMIC PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on August 03, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. The program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: KADHMEYAH ALI BESHARAH.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Saoud A. H. Buabbas, Wadhha Mohammad Al Sulaiman, Wael Saad Hamed, Abdullah Abdulredha Alsarraf, Khaled Saleh Al Fadhel, Bandar Fahad Al Jaedi, Hatem Yahia Mohammed, Bedros Melkon Kehyayan,

Zeinab Khalid Jomaa, Matar Sabah Matar, Hesa Mohd Hussain, Kholoud H M Al Kandari, Talal Saad Al Sehali, Ahmed Abdurrahman Mahmoud, Latifa Ebrahim Abdullah, Noora Khalil Hasan, Abbas Alawi Ali, Tariq Al Hussaini, Layla Abdulla Al Musaifer, Mohammed Salman Al Baqshi, Abbas Mohamed Al Ghais, Dhawiya S. Shubbar S. Hussain, Manoj Navin Megchiani, Ali Abdulla Ahmed, Khalil Mohammed Yousif.

The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner. In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

For further information about "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch, or call: "Hayakom" service at Tel: 181 2000.



BAKU: Russian President Vladimir Putin (C-R) talks to Iranian leader Hassan Rohani (C-L) during their meeting in Baku yesterday. The talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin, his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev and Iranian leader Hassan Rohani are focused on the North-South Transport Corridor - the ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia — and more generally on economy and trade as well as anti-terrorism cooperation. — AFP

PUTIN EAGER TO TALK TRADE WITH LEADERS OF IRAN, AZERBAIJAN

BAKU: Russian President Vladimir Putin says he's eager to discuss new energy and transportation projects in the Caspian Sea region with his counterparts from Azerbaijan and Iran.

Putin held separate talks yesterday with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani before all three leaders get together later in the day. Their talks are expected to give a new push to the construction of a new international transport corridor running between Russia and India.

The route through Azerbaijan and Iran is intended to increase trade by significantly reducing freight costs. Putin said the three presidents have much to discuss in the way of transport and energy projects and the overall diversification of trade ties.

They also are expected to discuss the situations in Afghanistan and the Middle East. — AP

CASH-STARVED BURUNDI REPORTS STRONGER INFLOW FROM TAXES

KIGALI: Tax revenues in Burundi rose by almost 13 percent last month compared with a year ago, official data showed yesterday, a boost for the economy following a year of unrest linked to the re-election of President Pierre Nkurunziza. More than 450 people have been killed in violence and more than a quarter of a million people have fled to neighboring countries since Nkurunziza was re-elected for a third term in the small east African country in what the opposition said was a violation of the constitution.

A strong inflow from domestic taxes as well as modest revenue from coffee and tea exports have become vital for the aid-dependent country, particularly since Belgium and the European Union, key donors, cut external aid over the past year. Tax

collection rose to 50.2 billion francs (\$30.32 million), up from 44.7 billion francs collected in July 2015 and well up on the target of 47.1 billion francs, the semi-autonomous revenue authority (OBR) said in a report. Political unrest held back tax collection last year. Recovery of tax arrears had helped tax collection this year and the fight against tax evasion had been more effective, officials said. Cumulative tax receipts from January to July jumped to 355.9 billion francs versus 333.03 billion francs the same period last year. "The OBR reiterates its commitment to continue its mission of maximizing tax collection to support the country's economy," it said. In the 2016 budget, the government foresaw grants falling by almost 50 percent compared to 2015. — Reuters



STEENWERCH, France: A tractor crossing a field of wheat. The European cereal markets were up yesterday at midday, taking into account the poor situation of the French wheat harvest, despite a good harvest expected from other producing countries. — AFP

GLOBAL STOCKS MOSTLY CLIMB ON US JOBS DATA

LONDON: - Global stocks rose yesterday after strong US jobs data reassured investors that the world's largest economy still is growing and boosted American stocks.

In early trading, France's CAC 40 rose 1.5 percent to 4,410.55 and Germany's DAX advanced 0.8 percent to 10,450.90. London's FTSE 100 gained 0.4 percent to 6,818.25. On Friday, the CAC 40 rose 1.5 percent and the DAX advanced 1.4 percent, while the FTSE 100 was 0.8 percent higher. Wall Street looked set for more gains, with the future for the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 0.2 percent and that for the Dow Jones industrial

average up 0.1 percent.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 surged 2.4 percent to 16,650.57 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.6 percent to 22,494.76. The Shanghai Composite Index was up 0.9 percent at 3,004.28 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.4 percent to 5,497.40. Seoul's Kospi advanced 0.9 percent to 2,017.94 and India's Sensex rose 0.2 percent to 28,143.82. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Thailand also rose, while Singapore retreated.

European equities mainly rose yesterday as bright US jobs data mostly eclipsed the impact of

poor Chinese trade numbers, dealers said. Frankfurt and Paris advanced in early afternoon deals, while London was essentially flat after losing initial gains in hesitant trade.

"Equities opened the week in positive territory, continuing the theme seen in Asia and on Wall Street with little in the way of corporate news to excite traders," said Russ Mould, investment director at brokerage AJ Bell. However, Airbus Group shares fell 0.63 percent to 50.58 euros in Paris after Britain's Serious Fraud Office revealed on Sunday it had opened a criminal probe into Airbus Group, investigating allegations of fraud,

bribery and corruption.

Airbus said it was aware of the probe and the aviation firm was working with investigators. Elsewhere, Tokyo led Asia stocks higher yesterday, tracking a strong lead from Wall Street where markets surged in the wake of strong US jobs data.

Washington reported Friday a big gain in jobs in July and upgraded employment estimates for the prior two months, boosting the odds of a Federal Reserve interest rate hike this year, dealers said. "Equity investors appeared comfortable with the idea of a tightening in the United States' monetary conditions," said analyst Ipek Ozkardeskaya at trading firm London Capital Group.

"Whether or not the Fed could hike rates this year is still dependent on the data." The US Labor Department said the world's top economy added 255,000 jobs in July, easily topping analyst forecasts for an increase of 185,000. "Very often the US nonfarm payrolls report can dictate the tone of market trading for much of the month and with the summer holiday season now fully upon us that may well be the case again over the coming weeks," said Derek Halpenny, European head of markets research at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

The broad-based S&P 500 and the tech-rich Nasdaq ended at all-time highs on Friday. Asia stocks followed suit yesterday, with Tokyo rising 2.4 percent and Hong Kong jumping 1.5 percent.

Shanghai shrugs off data

China was also up despite figures from Customs showing that imports and exports both slumped in July in dollar terms—the latest poor figures from the world's second-

largest economy. Shanghai gained 0.9 percent, even after figures showing that the economy struggled in July with a worse-than-expected trade performance.

Measured in US dollars, China's imports fell 12.5 percent year-on-year to \$132.4 billion as weaker global commodity prices and lacklustre domestic demand weighed on the value of purchases. The drop was significantly larger than the 7.0 percent median forecast in a survey of economists by Bloomberg News. Exports also fell in US dollar terms, dropping 4.4 percent to \$184.7 billion—compared to expectations of a 3.5 percent decline. As the world's biggest trader in goods, China is crucial to the global economy and its performance affects partners from Australia to Zambia, which have been battered by its slowing growth—while it faces headwinds itself in key developed markets.

China was also up despite figures from Customs showing that imports and exports both slumped in July in dollar terms—the latest poor figures from the world's second-largest economy.

Both US and European equities got a lift after Washington reported a big gain in jobs in July and upgraded employment estimates for the prior two months, boosting the odds of a Federal Reserve interest rate hike this year.

The report lifted the dollar against the yen—a positive for Japanese exporters as a weaker currency inflates the value of their overseas profits. The broad-based S&P 500 and the tech-rich Nasdaq ended at all-time highs while the London stock market rose 0.8 percent to above 6,800 for the first time in 14 months. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 08 August 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 24.54	5,516.08	5,491.54	5,516.08	5,484.35
Weighted Index	▲ 1.88	353.65	351.77	353.65	350.92
KSX 15	▲ 4.36	819.31	814.95	819.31	810.96

Volume	86,820,174
Value (KWD)	6,062,944
Number of Trades	2,243

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	750	750	4,131	3,098	1	750	▲ 20.0
ENERGYH	49.0	46.5	211,500	9,847	19	46.5	▼ -2.5
GPI	40.5	39.5	1,779,154	70,808	45	39.5	▲ 0.0
ARAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,994,705	63,754	65	793.94	▲ 5.09

KFOUC	154	164	81,850	13,423	3	164	▲ 0.0
DPCC	490	490	47,529	23,289	3	490	▼ -5.0
ALKHUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	200	192	250,619	49,714	23	200	▲ 6.0
Basic Materials			385,998	86,426	29	964.02	▲ 5.73

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▲ 0.0
REFRI	315	315	1,808	570	1	315	▲ 0.0
CABLE	380	380	213	81	1	380	▲ 0.0
SHIP	176	172	189,750	33,097	15	176	▲ 4.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0
ACICO	275	270	25	7	2	275	▲ 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	54	52	685,000	36,318	22	54	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	▲ 0.0
GYPGUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOCHKH	64	62	73,947	4,612	10	63	▲ 0.0
ADLUY	485	480	2,472,826	1,195,957	39	480	▲ 0.0
EGTY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.5	▲ 0.0
KGL	44.5	44.0	116,342	5,169	5	44.0	▲ 0.5
KCCP	172	162	15,150	2,476	4	172	▲ 2.0
HUMANISOFT	1,600	1,600	3,000	4,800	1	1,600	▲ 100.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.0	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	29.0	28.5	875,980	24,982	22	29.0	▲ 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	▲ 0.0
MTCC	57	56	80,333	4,532	8	56	▼ -1.0
UPAC	700	690	42,000	29,000	7	690	▼ -10.0
ALFAICO	210	210	128,470	26,979	3	210	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	59	58	291,602	16,917	13	58	▼ -2.0
LOGISTICS	73	72	828,807	60,370	32	72	▼ -1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	▲ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▲ 0.0
OIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0
GCEM	74	73	790,000	57,770	14	73	▲ 0.0
RKVC	91	90	30,800	2,782	3	90	▲ 0.0
SPEC	70	70	8,440	591	3	70	▼ -5.0
Industrials			6,634,153	1,498,008	205	1163.00	▲ 9.55

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
CATTL	240	238	37,155	8,875	5	240	▲ 6.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	▲ 0.0
POULT	176	176	68	12	1	176	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	80,732	198,824	8	2,480	▲ 0.0
Consumer Goods			118,015	207,711	14	1210.41	▲ 7.21

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	▲ 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248	▲ 0
Health Care			0	0	0	0.00	▲ 0.00

KCIN	060	060	500	475	1	960	▲ 10
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	▲ 0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	▲ 0
OULAFUEL	124	112	625,999	75,708	47	124	▲ 10
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	▲ 0
JAZEFERA	880	880	1,000	880	1	880	▲ 30
SOOR	124	112	197,810	23,708	30	122	▲ 6
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0
ALRAI	154	154	100,000	15,400	3	154	▲ 0
ZIMAH	41.5	41.0	244,048	10,006	11	41.5	▲ 1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0
Mezzan	1,080	1,080	5,067	5,472	3	1,080	▲ 20
Consumer Services			1,174,030	131,709	102	938.83	▲ 11.07

ZAIN	335	330	226,285	75,473	13	335	▲ 0
OOREDOO	1,100	1,100	616	678	2	1,100	▲ 0
HITSTELEC	40.5	38.5	3,861,747	153,070	93	39.5	▲ 0
VIVA	930	920	103,265	95,929	61	930	▲ 0
Telecommunications			4,191,913	326,160	169	600.42	▲ 0.00

NBK	000	590	246,942	146,465	16	600	▲ 10
GBK	230	228	33,550	7,699	5	230	▲ 0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0
ABK	320	315	95,420	30,067	4	320	▲ 5
ALMUTAHED	395	390	11,615	4,530	6	395	▲ 5
KIB	190	188	32,867	6,239	4	188	▼ -2
BURG	335	330	113,095	37,857	10	335	▲ 0
KFIN	460	455	327,059	149,358	19	460	▲ 0
BOUBYAN	395	390	64,931	25,367	17	395	▲ 5
AUB	198	194	1,223,600	239,819	19	196	▲ 0
ITHMR	36.5	34.0	10,507,806	363,081	76	36.0	▲ 1
WARBARANK	172	170	95,860	16,288	70	170	▲ 0
Banks			12,762,646	1,026,760	246	791.13	▲ 3.51

KINS	280	275	73,700	20,296	10	275	▼ -5
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	▲ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0
WINS	106	106	446	47	2	106	▲ 0.0
KUWAITIRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
FTI	46.0	46.0	21,021	907	1	46.0	▲ 2.5
WETHAQ	29.5	29.0	54,000	1,576	3	29.5	▼ -0.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			149,167	22,886	16	1008.14	▲ 0.17

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
SOKOUK	35.0	34.0	894,172	29,567	24	35.0	▼ -0.5
KRE	53	53	312,000	16,536	6	53	▲ 0.0
URC	108	102	269,015	28,370	26	108	▲ 4.0
NRE	79	78	803,138	62,645	25	78	▲ 1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0				

NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES AND INVESTMENT IMPLICATIONS

By Hayder Tawfik

The Bank of England has finally decided to join other central banks and drive down interest rates to the zero level and possibly to the negative zone. Last week it cut its official rate to 0.25 percent and talked about further cuts on the way. The market reaction was quite muted. Investors worldwide are

sued to zero or negative rates by now. However, I am not sure if most investors are aware of the implications of negative rates on different asset classes. One thing is for sure, zero or negative rates have pushed up the value of some asset classes, including some currencies such as the US\$ and the Japanese Yen. The club member of negative interest rates keeps expanding. Japan was the first member to have negative rates. Now we have Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Austria and Sweden. I am sure sooner or later some of the developed economies will join the club. The US Federal Reserve is analyzing the implications of moving the US Federal Funds rate into negative territory too.

I believe that many investors are wondering or asking themselves how negative rates could impact their investments in all different asset classes.

Basically, when interest rates that are offered by banks are negative, then these banks have to pay their central banks to park their access cash. This literally means that lenders pay borrowers for the privilege of lending as it is happening now with some Eurozone banks that park their access cash with the European Central bank. The purpose of this policy is to encourage banks to lend their surplus cash to business and consumers rather than depositing their access cash with the central banks and paying fees for such a privilege. All of this is in theory but the reality is quite different. How negative interest rates affect equities, bonds and currencies and at the same time supposed to help with economic activity is not something that investors can understand easily. From an investment point of view, negative interest rates are likely to continue impacting various asset classes for a long time.

Impact on equities

The banking sector which is usually the lifeline of any economy is the most at risk to negative rates, not only because retail banks have to pay central banks to park their reserves but because

the banking industry's business model is built on borrowing at the short end of the yield curve i.e. from depositors and lend at the long end i.e. loans. Since the long end of the interest rate curve tends to be anchored from years of quantitative easing purchases, negative interest rate policy will hurt banks' profit margins on the short end, especially since many banks are reluctant to charge depositors. As such, most banks in those countries that have negative interest rates such as Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Sweden are in dire state and they could be in big trouble very soon.

Most European banks are trading way below their book value, which is very worrying for investors. But negative interest rates should, in theory, function the same way as the lowering of rates to zero percent has since the crisis, benefiting stocks overall. By pushing rates into negative territory, central banks are trying to drag with it long term rates further down, but as far as we know this policy has not been completely successful and it had only limited success in encouraging businesses and households to borrow and spend. I think investors would feel more comfortable if it explained to them why central banks are targeting negative rates rather than just implement the negative rate policy.

Impact on bonds

In normal times negative rates are a sign of central bankers' concerns about slowing economic growth and big worry about deflation. At times of negative rates, government bond prices are likely to rise, while government debt yields fall and this is exactly what happened. Yields of long-dated government bonds have fallen across the world.

Impact on real estate

Investors should look to real estate during negative rates times. As most investors are already in bonds and equities, looking for another asset class that can generate income for them can only be good for the real estate sector. The purposeful pushing of investors out of stocks and bonds is already appearing to be creating lots of action in the residential and commercial real estate markets worldwide. Investors and landlords could certainly find big advantage with low rate financing. Investors and promoters of real estate investments are likely to be big winners in the real estate investments. Negative rates certainly will lower the promised returns. But double digits returns may be possible in real estate. Negative rates may not come to some economies yet but it is looking more likely that they will and this will make real estate investment more attractive and could well boost returns and more demand in the coming years. — @Rasameel

TRUMP TO OUTLINE ECONOMIC PLAN IN BID TO REVERSE SLIDE

ACCENT ON JOBS, CUTTING BUSINESS TAXES

MANCHESTER, NH: Donald Trump is focusing his economic message on boosting jobs and making America more competitive globally by cutting business taxes, reducing regulations and increasing domestic energy production.

With a speech yesterday at the prestigious Detroit Economic Club, the Republican presidential nominee sought to reset his campaign and delve into a subject - the economy - that is seen as one of his strengths. It also is aimed at showing that Trump is a serious candidate despite a disastrous stretch that has prompted criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike.

Trump has been immersed in controversy over his repeated criticism of a Muslim-American family whose son, an Army captain, was killed in Iraq, and his refusal for days to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan in Tuesday's Wisconsin primary. He announced his backing of Ryan on Friday.

While polls have shown that voters have deep concerns about Trump's temperament and fitness for office, he fares better on the economy. On that topic, recent polling puts him ahead of or on par with his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. She is set to deliver her own economic speech in Detroit on Thursday, one her aides say will lay out her plan for "the biggest investment in good-paying jobs since World War II."

When he speaks in the city that has symbolized the nation's manufacturing plight, Trump is expected to reiterate his plan for reducing the corporate tax rate to 15 percent from the current 35 percent - in an effort to draw new investment - as well as eliminating the estate tax and calling for a temporary moratorium on new regulations.

Among his specific proposals will be allowing parents to fully deduct the cost of childcare from their taxable income. He also is expected to call again for boosting domestic energy production - a plan his campaign estimates can add \$6 trillion in local, state and federal revenue over four decades.

An economic adviser to the

campaign, Stephen Moore, who helped work on the speech, said Trump's policies were aimed at boosting economic growth to bolster middle-class workers, whose wages have stagnated for decades.

"We need much, much faster growth if we're going to have wages rising and salaries rising and middle-class incomes rising," he said. "How do we get back to a healthy rate of economic growth

Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort said Sunday on Fox Business Network that with the speech, "we're comfortable that we can get the agenda and the narrative of the campaign back on where it belongs, which is comparing the tepid economy under Obama and Clinton, versus the kind of growth economy that Mr Trump wants to build."

Clinton has proposed raising

to cost me a fortune," the billionaire businessman told reporters as he vowed to lower taxes across the board without exploding the deficit.

But a host of independent groups crunching the numbers soon concluded otherwise. The plan, they said, dramatically favored the wealthy over the middle class and would increase the debt by as much as \$10 trillion over



WINDHAM: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Windham High School, in Windham, NH. —AP

which we haven't had in a decade?"

Trump will also discuss new investments in infrastructure, revisit his opposition to current trade deals and vow to improve intellectual property protections.

Trump is also expected to spend much of the speech contrasting his approach with that of Clinton, whom his campaign accuses of pushing the same "stale, big government policy prescriptions that have choked economic growth in America and led to over 40 years of wage stagnation."

taxes on the highest-income earners, including a surcharge on multimillionaires, but analysts have found lower-income earners would see little change beyond measures such as additional tax credits for expenses like out-of-pocket health care costs.

While Trump is delivering his speech, Clinton will be in Florida talking about jobs. This won't be the first time Trump lays out his economic vision. He first unveiled his tax plan last fall, framing it as a boon to the middle class. "It's going

the next decade.

Trump had promised at the time that he would make up for lost revenue by closing a slew of loopholes. But like so many of his plans, he declined to provide specifics. And a companion plan on reducing government spending, which he had promised would follow, never came.

Moore said that, while Trump still favors the plan he unveiled in September, his team has added new details and made changes "that will significantly reduce the cost of the plan." —AP

DISMAL CHINA IMPORTS SUGGEST COOLING DOMESTIC DEMAND

BEIJING: China's exports and imports fell more than expected in July in a rocky start to the third quarter, pointing to further weakness in global demand in the aftermath of Britain's decision to leave the European Union. Imports fell 12.5 percent from a year earlier, the biggest decline since February and suggesting China's domestic demand may be faltering despite a flurry of measures to stimulate economic growth.

"I think (the drop in imports) is mainly from the demand side," said Ma Xiaoping, an economist at HSBC in Beijing. Government efforts to cut overcapacity could produce an even bigger hit to demand in the next few quarters, Ma added.

Exports fell 4.4 percent on-year, the General Administration of Customs said on Monday, while adding that it expects pressure on shipments likely will start to ease in October.

That resulted in a trade surplus of \$52.31 billion in July, the biggest since January, versus June's \$48.11 billion. China's imports have now declined for 21 straight months, while exports have fallen for 12 of 13 months, helping to drag economic growth to its slowest in a quarter of a century.

"Signs of stronger manufacturing activity among many of China's key trading partners has so far failed to lift export growth," Capital Economics' China economist Julian Evans-Pritchard said in a note. "The country's export growth is likely to remain subdued for some time."

Economists polled by Reuters had expected trade to remain weak but show some signs of moderating as factories gear up for orders heading into the peak year-end shopping season. July exports had been expected to fall 3.0 percent, compared with a 4.8 percent decline in June, while imports were seen falling 7.0 percent, following June's drop of 8.4 percent.

China's exports underwhelmed despite still-strong shipments of steel and oil products, with the latter hitting a record. China has come under fire from trading partners accusing it of dumping its excess industrial capacity in global markets.

Exports to the United States - China's top market - fell 2.0 percent in July, while shipments to the European Union - its second biggest market -

fell 3.2 percent. While the decline in shipments to the EU actually moderated slightly from June, economists at ANZ expect Brexit will weigh further on China's exports to Europe in coming months.

Meanwhile, China's imports from the US fell 23.2 percent in July from a year ago, versus a 12.7 percent decline in June. A more than 6 percent slide in the yuan against the dollar over the past year appears to have done little to help

as a government infrastructure spree and housing boom boosted construction activity and demand for materials from cement and glass to steel.

Iron ore imports rose 8.1 percent by volume in the first seven months of the year, but factory activity surveys last week showed domestic and export orders cooled in July, while heavy flooding in some areas disrupted business.

While there have been mixed signals on



QINGDAO: Container ships are docked at a port in Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong province yesterday. China's exports fell again in July by an unexpectedly wide margin while a decline in imports accelerated in a possible sign of weakness in the world's second-largest economy. —AP

China's exporters in the face of stubbornly soft global demand and weak commodity prices.

For the January to July period, China's exports fell 7.4 percent, while imports fell 10.5 percent, roughly on pace with last year's 8 percent decline.

China's economy grew 6.7 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, beating expecta-

whether China is ready to cut interest rates or banks' reserve requirements again this year, most analysts agree the focus should be on structural reforms.

"In the short term I think a lot of changes would depend on the government's structural reform of state-owned companies," said HSBC's Ma. —Reuters

WAL-MART TO BUY US ONLINE RETAILER JET.COM

NEW YORK: Wal-Mart Stores announced yesterday that it will acquire e-commerce company Jet.com for \$3.3 billion as it beefs up its online retail operations in response to Amazon and other companies.

Wal-Mart is paying \$3 billion in cash for the online retailer. Shareholders of Jet.com, which was launched in July 2015, will also

receive \$300 million in Wal-Mart shares, Wal-Mart said.

Wal-Mart said the shares would be paid to Jet.com "over time," along with a portion of the cash.

"We're looking for ways to lower prices, broaden our assortment and offer the simplest, easiest shopping experience because that's what our customers want," said Wal-Mart chief executive Doug McMillon.

Wal-Mart praised Jet.com's leaders, including chief executive Marc Lore, whose previous company owned the e-commerce site Diapers.com., which was sold to Amazon in 2010.

Wal-Mart plans to keep Jet.com as a distinct brand. "The acquisition of Jet will infuse Walmart with fresh ideas and expertise, as well as an attractive brand with proven

appeal, especially with Millennials, the first generation of true digital natives," Wal-Mart said.

The transaction comes as Wal-Mart attempts to keep pace with fast-growing Amazon, which has surpassed Wal-Mart in market capitalization even as its sales lag those of the conventional retailer. Wal-Mart shares rose 0.6 percent to \$74.21 in pre-market trade. —AFP



BERLIN: Vice chancellor and economy minister Sigmar Gabriel speaks in Berlin. Germany's Economy Ministry yesterday has appealed a court ruling against a decision to allow the proposed takeover of a supermarket chain, a saga that has become politically awkward for the country's vice chancellor. —AP

GERMAN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT POINTS TO WEAK GROWTH

FRANKFURT: German industrial production rebounded in June, official data showed yesterday, but analysts warned that the expansion won't redeem a sluggish second quarter for Europe's biggest economy.

Industrial output posted growth of 0.8 percent in June compared with the previous month, preliminary data adjusted for price, calendar and seasonal effects from the federal statistics office Destatis showed.

It was a slightly weaker performance than expected ahead of Friday's quarterly GDP growth announcement, as analysts surveyed by Factset had predicted 0.9 percent growth. Growth in June meant a turnaround from May's unexpected 0.9 percent shrinkage, which Destatis yesterday revised down from the preliminary figure of 1.3 percent. The latest release completes a picture of a 1.0 percent decline in production over the second quarter, the economy ministry said in a statement.

June's increase "comes too late to make a disappointing quarter for German industry a good one," economist Carsten Brzeski at ING Diba bank wrote. But the figures "take away some fears of a hard landing of the German economy in the second quarter," he went on.

"GDP will post only a small gain at best" based on the production figures and other key indicators, Ralph Solveen of

Commerzbank predicted. Looking to individual sectors, manufacturing saw production growth of 1.5 percent while construction shrank by 0.5 percent.

Analysts noted that manufacturing growth in June was unsurprising, as May saw a large number of public holidays cut into output-especially in the automotive sector.

Meanwhile, another weak showing for construction confirmed that slowing production over the second quarter was "largely traceable to delays due to bad weather in the construction sector," the economy ministry said in a statement.

Looking ahead, observers saw little prospect of a resurgent German economy over the second half of the year. June figures showed little impact from Britain's vote to leave the European Union on 23 June.

But Brexit-related uncertainty "should leave some marks on German industrial activity over the coming months," ING's Brzeski said.

The economy ministry predicted that "given the restrained development of new industrial orders, a moderate upwards trend is to be expected in the coming months." Rather, "we should expect a sideways movement in industrial production," said Solveen at Commerzbank, "and therefore sluggish growth of the overall economy." —AFP

GLOBAL, GCC EQUITIES REMAIN POSITIVE IN JULY

KFIC MONTHLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) clarified in its financial report for June; that global equities were in positive territory during the month of July. As the MSCI World Index closed +4.15 percent higher. Investors reacted positively towards the prospect that global central banks will keep borrowing costs at historically low levels.

US equities rose during the month, with the S&P 500 advancing by +3.6 percent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average rising by +2.80 percent. US GDP in the second quarter grew at sluggish +1.2 percent, coming in below expectations for a rise of +2.6 percent and raising speculation that the Federal Reserve may not need to raise US interest rates anytime soon.

Positive results

Eurozone equities reported gains during the month as Germany's DAX rose +6.8 percent after the Ifo institute reported that business confidence in Germany has not been impacted by Brexit. Meanwhile, UK's FTSE 100 gained +3.4 percent after the Bank of England stated that fresh stimulus measures could be needed following the Brexit vote.

China's Shanghai Composite

increased by +2.2 percent amid speculation that the bank will take steps to boost the economy. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose +6.4 percent on the basis of a weaker Japanese Yen and expected stimulus measures from the government. Commodities endured a sluggish month as WTI Crude fell -15.1 percent to close at \$ 41.6/bbl and Brent Crude declined by -13.2 percent, closing at \$ 43.5/bbl. OPEC has ramped up output levels with excess supply coming mostly from Nigeria and Iraq, after both countries faced had previously faced disruptions, and Saudi Arabia has kept production levels close to record highs. Gold increased by +2.2 percent to close at \$ 1,351.0/oz and Silver rallied +8.7 percent to close at \$ 20.3/oz, due to the prolonged weakness of the British Pound after Brexit, with investors flocking to Gold and Silver as potential safe-havens against more currency devaluation.

Bahrain amends laws on commercial ownership

In Saudi Arabia, Real GDP grew +1.5 percent year-on-year (YoY) in the first quarter, according to new data from the Kingdom's statistics office. Real GDP slowed from Q4 2015, which witnessed a growth rate of +1.8 percent. The coun-

try's oil sector expanded +5.1 percent in the first three months of 2016, while the non-oil sector shrank -0.7 percent. In UAE, Dubai is expected to invest \$ 1bn in roads to encourage growth as the Dubai Expo looms, according to a publication from Bloomberg. The investments will go towards improving commuter trains and highways. Dubai is focusing on infrastructure projects amid an economic slowdown which has been triggered by a substantial decline in oil prices. In Kuwait, Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh has stated that he is open to coordinating with neighboring Saudi Arabia on its planned debt sale as the two OPEC nations prepare to test investor appetite for about \$ 20bn of bonds. In Qatar, foreign merchandise trade balance of the State of Qatar showed a surplus of QR 8.3 billion in June 2016, a decrease of about QR 6.6 billion or -44.4 percent compared to June 2015. In Oman, the World Bank has stated that Oman's subsidy bill is expected to fall by as much as 64.0 percent in 2016 as the government is adopting 'bold steps' to increase revenues from non-oil sources. Oman's state budget for 2016 has set a subsidy tab of RO 400 million a significant drop from RO 1.1 billion approved last year. In Bahrain, the Bahraini cabinet has amended laws on

commercial ownership to boost Bahrain's economy, according to state-run BNA. The amendment allows foreign investors 100 percent ownership in sectors including food, administration services, art, entertainment, health, social services, information, communications, mining, and real estate.

GCC equities

GCC equities endured a mixed set of results during the month of July as the MSCI GCC IMI index closed flat by 0.2 percent. Qatar's QE index was the top performing regional index, followed by Dubai's DFM index and Bahrain's BB All Share Index. Saudi Arabia's Tadawul Index fell -3.0 percent with negative contribution in most sectors, despite KSA Earnings being in-line with analyst estimates. Lagging sectors included Telecom -7.3 percent, Cements -6.9 percent, and Retail -5.8 percent.

In UAE, Positive earnings surprise of +5.4 percent was witnessed across UAE earnings announcements. Dubai's DFM index advanced +5.2 percent with positive contribution coming across most sectors. The top performing sectors included: Transport +12.5 percent, Real Estate +6.1 percent, Insurance +5.5 percent, and worst performing sector was

Services which fell by -10.9 percent. Abu Dhabi's ADSE index increased +2.4 percent with strong performances coming from Services +5.5 percent, Telecom +5.0 percent, and Real Estate +4.3 percent.

Qatar's All Share Index, which was the top performing regional index, closed 6.7 percent higher with positive earnings surprise of +5.5 percent. The best performing sectors included Real Estate +8.5 percent, Telecom +7.9 percent, and Banks & Financial Services +7.1 percent.

Kuwait's KSE weighted index closed flat at -0.2 percent with negative earnings surprise of -1.4 percent. Negative performance came from Consumer Services which fell by -12.7 percent and Oil & Gas -2.9 percent. Positive attribution came from Financial Services +4.9 percent and Real Estate +0.6 percent.

Oman's MSM 30 Index rose +1.2 percent and reported the best overall earnings surprise by +7.2 percent. Banking advanced +2.8 percent, Industrials +2.6 percent, and Services declined -1.2 percent. Bahrain's the BB All Share index rose +3.3 percent with robust performance reported in Industries +24.7 percent and Banking +3.0 percent. —Sources: KFIC Research, Reuters, S&P, Moody's, Bloomberg, The Guardian, CNBC, SAMA, Zawyia.

AGILITY REPORTS KD 15M NET PROFIT FOR Q2 2016

COMPANY CONTINUES TO SUSTAIN GROWTH MOMENTUM

KUWAIT: Agility yesterday announced its financial results for the second quarter of 2016, reporting a net profit of KD 15 million, an increase of 11 percent compared to the second quarter of 2015. Earnings-per-share stood at 13 fils, and EBITDA stood at KD 29 million, a 12 percent increase compared to Q2 of 2015. Revenues are KD 309 million for the quarter.

"We started the year on a good note and are sustaining this momentum as the year progresses. Within our Global Integrated Logistics business, we are making gains even in the face of a challenging freight forwarding market because we have found ways to be more efficient, improve productivity, demonstrate financial discipline and make operations more responsive to the marketplace and customers' needs," said Tarek Sultan, Agility's CEO. "Companies in the Agility Infrastructure group continue to grow as we tap into excellent opportunities in emerging markets and focus on improving efficiency across the board."

Agility's Global Integrated Logistics

Q2 revenue for Agility Global Integrated Logistics (GIL) stood at KD 233 million, a 10 percent decrease from Q2 of 2015, mainly due to the low shipping and fuel rates in the market. Net revenue remained flat when adjusted at constant currency rates, with margins expanding from 25 percent in Q2 2015 to 27 percent in Q2 2016.

"Subdued" trade forecasts for the year, to quote the WTO, continue to impact the freight forwarding market. However, Agility GIL was able to record volume growth in its core air and ocean markets and is focusing on products and markets that are growing despite sluggish overall volumes. Growing demand for contract logistics in emerging markets - an area that Agility has long-established market leadership in - cou-

pled with improved yields in the freight business and better commercial discipline has resulted in margin expansion within GIL," said Sultan.

Agility's Infrastructure Group

Agility's Infrastructure group of companies contributed KD 80 million to second quarter 2016 revenues, a 12 percent increase compared to the same period of last year. The companies provide a broad spectrum of logistics-related services including: bulk fuel storage and transport, industrial real estate; airport and ground handling services; and commercial real estate and facilities management.

"The Infrastructure group continued to show growth in this quarter, driven by new projects and a commitment to improving efficiency and productivity. Each entity is pursuing its individual strategy, with most companies using their strong foundation in the Middle East to actively pursue opportunities to grow in the region, Africa, and elsewhere," Sultan said.

Recap of Financial Performance for Q2 2016

- Agility's net profit stood at KD 15 million, an 11 percent increase from KD 14 million in Q2 2015. EPS stood at 13 fils, compared to 12 fils a year earlier.
- EBITDA stood at KD 29 million, a 12 percent increase from the same period a year before.
- Agility's revenues for Q2 2016 were KD 309 million, a decrease of 6 percent from KD 328 million in the same period in 2015. Agility's net revenues have increased by 4 percent over the same period.
- GIL's revenue stood at KD 233 million a 10 percent decrease from same period last year
- Infrastructure's revenue stood at KD 80 million, compared with KD 71 million in Q2 2015, a 12 percent increase.

- Agility net debt position of KD 46 million as of 30th June 2016.

Summary

"Although the external market environment continues to be a challenge, particularly to our commercial logistics business, we are continuing to improve our financial performance by growing our Infrastructure portfolio of companies and simultaneously driving transformation of our GIL business" said Sultan. We remain committed to meeting the expectations of our shareholders, customers, and employees, and as always, thank them for their support."

Agility brings efficiency to supply chains in some of the globe's most challenging environments, offering unmatched personal service, a global footprint and customized capabilities in developed and developing economies alike. Agility is one of the world's leading providers of integrated logistics. It is a publicly traded company with \$4.3 billion in revenue and more than 22,000 employees in 500 offices across 100 countries.

Agility's core commercial business, Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), provides supply chain solutions to meet traditional and complex customer needs. GIL offers air, ocean and road freight forwarding, warehousing, distribution, and specialized services in project logistics, fairs and events, and chemicals. Agility's Infrastructure group of companies manages industrial real estate and offers logistics-related services, including e-government customs optimization and consulting, waste management and recycling, aviation and ground-handling services, support to governments and ministries of defense, remote infrastructure and life support.



TURKISH AIRLINES STARTS DIRECT ERBIL, IRAQ FLIGHTS

DUBAI: Already having the world's 4th largest flight network and flying to 290 destinations in 116 countries, Turkish Airlines continues to expand its extensive network. The flag carrier, ranked as the "Best Airline in Europe" for the sixth consecutive time had now added flights to Erbil, Iraq which are directly operated from and to Gaziantep Airport. Beginning from August 5th, roundtrip flights between Gaziantep and Erbil will be operated 2 times per week in both directions.

Introductory round trip fares are available from Gaziantep to Erbil, Iraq starting at \$178. Additionally, for the operations to the destinations, there is a special offer for Miles&Smiles members, with a 25 percent reduction in the miles needed to redeem either award tickets or upgrades.

To view the flight schedules please visit www.turkishairlines.com, contact the call center at +90 212 444 0849 or visit any Turkish Airlines sales office.

Turkish Airlines reserves the right to make changes in this regard.

Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines is a 4-star airline today with a fleet of 332 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 290 destinations worldwide with 241 international and 49 domestic. According to the 2016 Skytrax survey, Turkish Airlines was chosen as "Europe's Best Airline" for the sixth and "Best Airline in Southern Europe" for the eighth consecutive time. Having won in 2010 the world's "Best Economy Catering Service", in 2013 and also in 2014 the world's "Best Business Catering Service", and "Best Business Class Lounge Dining", "Best Business Airline Lounge" awards in last year's survey, Turkish Airlines was awarded again the world's "Best Business Class Dining Lounge" and "Best Business Class On-Board Catering" prizes in this year's survey. More information about Turkish Airlines can be found on its official website www.turkishairlines.com or its social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

KFH SMES CREDIT LIMIT KD 300 MILLION

7% GROWTH OF SMES PORTFOLIO'S CLIENTS AS OF END H1 2016

KUWAIT: Executive Manager Business Banking at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Manaf Al-Menaifi said that the credit limit of the Business Banking specialized in financing the small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs is about KD 300 million, indicating that Business Banking department at KFH offers services to over 2285 customers.

He added that the SMEs portfolio achieved a 7 percent growth of customers as of end H1 2016, reiterating that KFH aspires to increase the number of customers to 2400 by the end of 2016 in line with KFH's strategy to show interest in the SMEs segment for its significant role in the development. The SMEs form the nucleus for mega projects, while they offer numerous job opportunities for the Kuwaiti youth with low cost of capital.

Also the SMEs play important role in substantially using the local resources, while contributing to the support of self-sufficiency in some goods and services that serves in the reduction of imports and improving exports. Moreover, the SMEs effectively contribute in national product support.

Al-Menaifi praised the efforts of the public and private sectors in supporting this key segment that assumes active role in the national economy. He said that KFH provides a broad range of products and financing services developed to meet SMEs needs. KFH has been mapping out and supervising the relationship with the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise since 2004 for the best interest of the customers of this segment.

KFH uniquely offers the health and cooperative marketing product through which KFH purchases goods for the sake of selling them to cooperative societies and thus giving money to the dealer without having to wait for collecting the money from the cooperative societies as KFH directly collects from them. KFH offers services of salary transfers, issuance of credit cards, purchasing through POS and transferring to SMEs owners. KFH works tirelessly to address the SMEs requirements, especially that KFH's Business Banking views the relationships with SMEs to be best categorized as a partnership.



Manaf Al-Menaifi

INFINITI AL BABBAIN SUMMER OFFER LUXURY IN A DIFFERENT STYLE

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babbain Co, the exclusive agent of Infiniti in the State of Kuwait offers its customers luxury and entertainment with its special offer this August in a different style. Upon the purchase of any Infiniti vehicle customers will receive a 5 years warranty, 5 years or 50,000 km free service, 1 year full insurance and your choice between a free Bose sound system and 1 year Netflix subscription or window tinting and body protection, all of this only this August.

On this occasion, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, would like to invite its clients to benefit from the exceptional 'August Campaign' through visiting its showrooms in all off Al-Rai, Ahmadi, and the Infiniti pavilion at the Kuwait Finance House located in Shuwaikh.

The Company aims through its new promotions' strategy to strengthen its sales of the luxury Infiniti vehicles, ensuring that Infiniti is the leading brand of luxury vehicles in Kuwait and the Middle East, which attracts the VIP clients to own it.

Infiniti belongs to the category of luxury vehicles that gained international publicity for its luxury features, elegant design, and attractive inspiration. All its models combine elegant comfort, capturing luxury, strong performance and smooth acceleration. Infiniti

depends on the latest technology in the world, which ranks it on top of the most advanced smart vehicles with super technology.

Al Babbain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area.

Today AlBabbain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years Al Babbain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible strategy focusing on expanding and verifying its activities; including automotive, information technology, investment, real estate, finance and industry.

The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al Babbain Group's business, which owns some of the bestselling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipments.

The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co and Trading and Contracting Company is proud to be the exclusive agent and distributor of many Japanese, Chinese, and European (French) vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Renault, Citroen, Infiniti.



VIVA OFFERS CUSTOMERS OPPORTUNITY TO OWN SAMSUNG NOTE 7

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, offers the opportunity to its customers to own the new long-awaited Samsung Galaxy Note 7, a device that allows its users to think as big as they do, with one of the postpaid packages. Customers can log in to VIVA's website and register their names.

Samsung Galaxy Note 7 has curved, sharper and less sloping screen 5.7 inch, USB-C charger port (Samsung's first phone to adopt the new standard), iris scanner to unlock the phone with eyes, gorilla glass 5 screen (the first phone with Corning's new screen tech), more sensitive and accurate S Pen stylus with new tricks like magnification and GIF-making, water and dust resistant phone body with MicroSD card slot with larger battery (3,500 mAh) and better low-light camera.

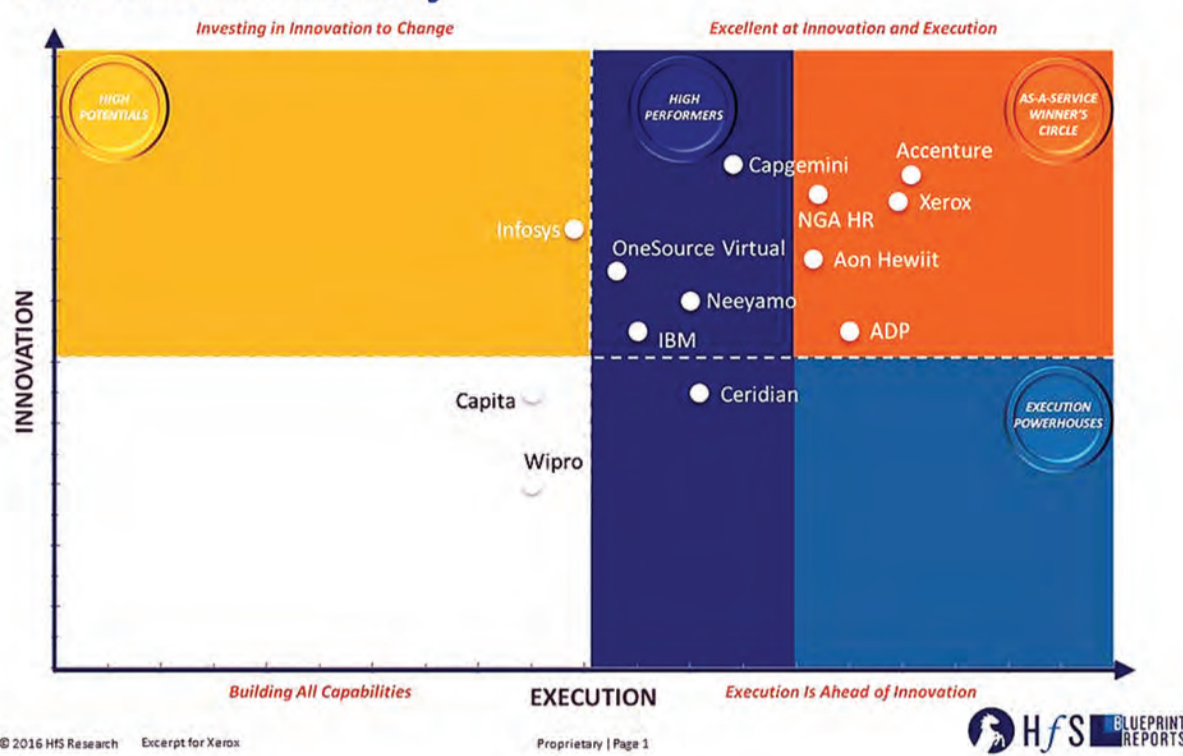
To know more about Samsung Galaxy Note 7, customers can visit one of VIVA's 70 branches, log in to VIVA's official portal at www.viva.com.kw or contact VIVA's 24-hour call center at 102.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things Possible for its customers by transforming

communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.



HfS Blueprint Grid: Multi-Process HR BPO in the Emerging As-a-Service Economy



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HfS BLUEPRINT REPORTS

XEROX RECOGNIZED BY HFS RESEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RESOURCES OPERATIONS-AS-A-SERVICE

HFS RESEARCH BLUEPRINT REPORT PUTS COMPANY IN WINNER'S CIRCLE

DUBAI: Xerox was named a top Human Resources Operations-as-a-Service provider in analyst firm HfS Research's 2016 Blueprint Report, which annually rates the multi-national, multi-functional service providers in the outsourced HR operations market.

HfS Research placed Xerox HR Services in the Winner's Circle - its highest ranking - for 2016. This recognition means Xerox can articulate vision and a new way of thinking, has recognizable investments in future capabilities, and is driving new insights and models.

"Xerox has proved itself invaluable in client operations through its ability to deliver quality, scalable HR support with flexibility, and a willingness to collaborate at both the strategic and tactical level," said Mike Cook, research director at HfS Research. "Xerox's as-a-service HR initiatives, which include its cloud human capital management consulting practice as well as HRaaS framework, stand out in the market," he said. "Clients are able to write off legacy process and technology and move into more employee-centered digital business services."

The report reviewed service areas such as support recruitment, learning services, benefits administration, payroll and workforce development services. "Xerox has provided all of our central HR Shared Services for nearly four years and we've collaborated to create an open and trusting partnership," said Paul Eaves-Seeley, head of human capital outsourcing, PwC UK - a Xerox HR Services client. "Their support for our recruitment teams is a particular strength, with candidate care at the heart of our processes. They've also helped us consolidate legacy technology with new, comprehensive tools and have always offered us practical and pragmatic advice."

The HfS Research Blueprint Report recognized Xerox for a number of strengths in multi-process human resources outsourcing (MPHRO) including:

- Operational and customer experience excellence, through its on-demand, engaging and proactive account management. Client praise for the flexibility and ability of the account management team to truly partner with them in order to understand business outcomes and how best to influence these from an HR perspective.
- Ability to enable clients to overcome legacy technology challenges by developing a framework for innovation and actively bringing concerns to the table in client discussions.
- Recruitment onboarding services that reduce costly attrition from successful candidates in clients' organizations.
- Development of intelligent automation such as workflow routing and prescriptive HR management functions. Human capital management consulting that strategically guides clients in HR transformation.
- Integrated plug and play MPHRO service delivery with a predefined HRO stack of services that can be rapidly deployed into client organizations.
- The stand-alone "Xerox Security Office" that allows agents and other MPHRO operational staff to be trained, as well as a full data security analysis for each client prior to engagement.

"Our goal is to create more value for our clients with more cohesion across our HRS practices, and more engaging interactions with their employees," said John Gentry, president of Xerox HR Services. "Bringing together the strategic focus of our consultants, with global execution and robust technology, enables us to deliver on that goal."

Xerox HR Services helps employers improve their HR programs through advisory, technology and administrative services while enabling employees to better manage their health and wealth programs as well as their career development.

ENHANCE CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE USING SELF-SERVICE

By Nidal Kamouni, CEO, PCCI Group

The essence of customer service can be traced to time immemorial. On the other hand, the method of delivery of the customer service experience needs to be continually updated to match the desires and expectations of an ever-changing customer base and that is why we believe that the customer experience landscape is ripe for disruption with companies slowly making progress toward more seamless and simpler customer experiences.

The biggest change in customer service is the sheer number of channels through which people can contact your business. Instead of just phone calls and snail mail, consumers can now reach you by email, social media, text message, video call and live chat. Mobile technology has also enabled constant connectivity, giving customers 24/7 access to public forums in which they can talk - or complain - about your company. Only organizations that are willing to adapt and respond to this shift in business-consumer dynamics will survive.

We believe that businesses will focus on making self-service easier. In fact, we are already seeing companies start to address the desires of many consumers for automated self-service to improve by evaluating their core systems, investing in knowledge management and exploring virtual assistants. Some of the initiatives that we can already see in place, include Connecting conversations with context where companies have removed the need for consumers to explain, sometimes repeatedly, why they need service which goes a long way in making self-service easier. Another initiative is when businesses make secure authentication easy with some introducing voice biometrics to meet demands for easy, secure authentication instead of consumers having to use PINs and passwords to authenticate their identity. And finally, businesses have understood the value of their websites and have taken steps to improve their website effectiveness. Customers are increasingly beginning their self-service journey on the web, only calling the contact center when they can't find an answer online. Websites today have employed virtual assistants that are powered by language understanding and conversational capabilities, streamlining and speeding up the digital service experience, minimizing a customer's time and frustration while saving the business money.

No one likes to wait. By making self-service easier, businesses will automatically help empower customers control their time if they improve if they offer consumers more control when cus-

tomers service extends to the field. In the recent Trends 2016: The Future of Customer Service by Forrester, it was found that 73% of consumers say that valuing their time was the most important thing a company could do to provide them with good service - whether on a call, in a chat, or while waiting for a service technician to troubleshoot and fix their product. Think about it, would you not prefer to wait for a delivery to arrive within a timeframe rather than listening to that annoying hold music that some businesses insist on playing as you wait. To this end, businesses continue to explore ways to offer self-service scheduling, providing an easy means of rescheduling appointments and actively seeking feedback on the service experience.



Nidal Kamouni, CEO, PCCI Group

For me personally, waiting for a service or delivery person to arrive within a set window of time, far outstrips the annoyance I feel listening to hold music. The Forrester report forecasts this year companies will explore ways to offer self-service scheduling and better inform and prepare their employees to provide effective field service. For businesses who would like to improve their customers' field service experiences while differentiating themselves on this aspect of customer service in the near future, we recommend a few suggestions. For a customer to have a good field service experience, the businesses should successfully engage with the customer before arriving and it is important to use multiple channels of communication to raise your engagement rates. Help make your customer's ability to reschedule or communicate with you is fast and easy that can be accomplished from every message they receive, on every channel, with a simple click, tap or spoken request. With all the knowledge gained through the field data, businesses must leverage it to predict needs of its customers delivering faster, easier and a more personal experience.

In the age of fierce competitiveness, companies that deliver a great end-to-end experience that makes them stand out from the clutter will attract and retain customers. This is a universal truth no matter which industry a business is in and businesses who choose to make superior customer experience its core business strategy will continue to thrive.

COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY HELP US TRACK AND FIELD GO FOR GOLD ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR GOLF

RIO DE JANEIRO: The seeds for many of the 25, maybe 30, medals the US track team hopes to win in Rio de Janeiro were planted at a training center in California with the help of technology originally designed for golf.

One of the many tools USA Track and Field makes available to its athletes is called "Track Man," a computerized tracking device that sports fans might recognize from watching golf on TV. In addition to golf balls, "Track Man" can trace the trajectory of shot puts and hammers to allow the athletes who throw them keep track of how high and far they go.

"Immediate feedback," says Phil Cheetham, senior sport technologist for the US Olympic Committee, when asked about the greatest benefit of the technology. "Immediate knowledge of results is proven to help you improve technique much more quickly than if you don't have the feedback."

Saddled with restrictive sponsorship rules and less-than-ideal earning potential, athletes have been lashing out for years against organizations such as the USATF for not plowing their profits back into the pockets of the people who put on the show.

How the federations are

Track Man and the program at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California, are examples of how the federations are, indeed, trying to invest in athletes. Some of the investment comes in the form of direct cash into the pockets of the runners and throwers; other comes in training tools like Track Man and similar technologies that help sprinters and jumpers.

"Since I got here, I've improved over four feet," said Joe Kovacs, the 2015 world champion whose first coach was his mother. "It's been a combination of great coaching, awesome facilities and the technology we have."

Most notable among those who don't think USATF does all it can for athletes is 800-meter runner Nick Symmonds, who boycotted world championships last year over a dispute about what runners can wear in a sport where both athletes and institutions depend on shoe and apparel companies for most of their money. Symmonds was injured and didn't qualify for the Olympics, but he's hardly alone.

"They're basically taking what they make and sinking it back into training,"

longtime agent Peter Carlisle said about the athletes in an interview last year. "And to get that NGB or USOC money, or at least an amount that would make a difference, you almost always have to be pretty well established. It's very hard to pay for a career that way."

The USATF tries to help in a number of ways: Some areas where the USATF spends on athletes: \$850,000 on

bonus money from USATF and the USOC.

Roughly half the federation's \$30 million annual budget goes to athlete support programs in the form of cash, sport science, national teams, athlete travel, insurance and other expenses. The amount of actual cash budgeted to go directly to elite athletes rose from \$5.13 million in 2015 to \$8.6 million in 2016.



BEIJING: In this Aug. 23, 2015 file photo, United States' Joe Kovacs competes in the final of the men's shot put at the World Athletics Championships at the Bird's Nest stadium. — AP

sports science in 2015, including technology like Track Man. That figure will be \$1.25 million in 2016 and \$2 million annually from 2017-2020.

Free medical care for athletes at major competitions, courtesy of a sponsorship deal.

The "Talent Protection Program," that involves USATF identifying around 50 graduating college athletes with medal potential and attempting to sign them to contracts that keep them on track with coaching and training after they graduate. "Some post-collegians flounder for a year or two," said Duffy Mahoney, USATF's chief of sport performance. "We've got talent. We've got to reduce the attrition of the talent and get it into the team."

A pool of money dedicated for bonuses to coaches who help athletes win at the Olympics and world championships. Finally, there is cold, hard cash. Mahoney estimates that a top-tier, medal-winning athlete such as Kovacs can take home upward of \$160,000, including prize money, and

Of course, not all athletes benefit equally. The training center in Chula Vista serves around 30 track and field athletes at any given time, all of whom have to show potential to make the podium. Hundreds more can use the medical services USATF provides at meets.

The federation has a difficult line to walk, needing to funnel resources to the athletes but with the knowledge that track and field is largely an individual sport, and the priority is making sure athletes are comfortable in their training environment.

In Kovacs' case, it often means he can train without his coach even being there. "I can have a practice, have the practice recorded, he can coach me from a distance, and when he does come, we're not making up for lost ground," Kovacs said. More than dollars, though, the number most people will be focusing on how many medals all that money helps produce. The Americans won 28 in London. But last year at world championships, they only won 18. — AP

FACEBOOK DENIES RELUCTANCE TO GIVE DATA TO GERMAN INVESTIGATORS

BERLIN: Facebook rejected yesterday claims made by Germany's state authorities that it was reluctant to co-operate with them on criminal investigations, saying many of the requests it received for user data were incorrectly formulated. Several regional interior ministers have complained that the social media group is hesitant to respond to requests for data and have called on the Federal Justice Ministry to introduce new laws. But Facebook said it had provided "round the clock assistance" to the authorities in Bavaria following a spate of violent attacks in Munich, Wuerzburg and Ansbach last month.

A spokeswoman for the Justice Ministry said it was examining whether there was a need to change the law or whether there was a problem with its implementation. A recent spate of attacks in Germany has highlighted the importance security agencies give to working with social networks to uncover possible links to militant groups.

Police said the Ansbach bomber had six Facebook accounts including one held under a false identity. Traces of an online messaging conversation found on his phone also suggest he was influenced by an unknown person up until the time of the attack, Bavaria's interior minister said.

Germany's spy chief called on Monday for a more intensive exchange of information between social networks and security agencies in the fight against terrorism. "Social networks are an important communication method for jihadists. Therefore closer co-operation between the security agencies and the operators of social networks is necessary," Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of the BfV domestic intelligence agency, told the Rheinische Post newspaper.

Facebook produced data for 42 percent of requests in Germany relating to criminal cases in the second half of 2015, compared with 54 percent in France and 82 percent in Britain. It said it rejected requests that were overly broad or vague. The company said it worked with law enforcement officials to help them use their systems, but said there were still a large number of officers that didn't know how to make a successful request. "Along with our points of contact in Law Enforcement we work tirelessly to raise awareness of the correct procedures," a Facebook spokeswoman said.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said co-operation between Facebook and the BKA federal police agency and the BfV was good. "Conversations are constructive and co-operation is also fruitful as far as we can see," he said, adding they were not in a position to judge how well Facebook worked with the state authorities. — Reuters

FIREEYE IDENTIFIES NEARLY 1,600 ICS VULNERABILITIES

Dubai: FireEye, Inc., the leader in stopping today's advanced cyberattacks, recently released a report titled Overload: Critical Lessons from 15 Years of ICS Vulnerabilities, which highlights trends in total Industrial Control Systems (ICS) vulnerability disclosures, patch availability, vulnerable device type and other vulnerabilities exploited by threat actors.

Since 2000, FireEye iSIGHT Intelligence has identified nearly 1,600 publicly disclosed ICS vulnerabilities. The report assesses the depth and breadth of these vulnerabilities in the ICS landscape and how threat actors try to exploit them. To make matters worse, many of these vulnerabilities are left unpatched and some are simply beyond restoration due to outdated technology, thus increasing the attack surface for potential adversaries. In fact, nation-state cyber threat actors have exploited five of these vulnerabilities in attacks since 2009.

Key findings by FireEye include:

- ICS vulnerability disclosures surged to 49% between 2014 and 2015.
- 90 percent of vulnerabilities were disclosed after Stuxnet emerged in media.
- 123 vendors are affected by vulnerability disclosures.
- 33 percent of vulnerabilities encountered by industrial environments had no vendor fixes.

In the past several years, a flood of vulnerabilities has hit industrial control systems (ICS) - the technological backbone of electric grids, water supplies, and production lines. Unfortunately, security personnel from manufacturing, energy, water and other industries are often unaware of their own control system assets, not to mention the vulnerabilities that affect them. As a result, organizations operating these systems are missing the warnings and leaving their industrial environments exposed to potential threats.

NEW STRAIN OF CYBER-ESPIONAGE SOFTWARE FOUND BY RESEARCHERS

FRANKFURT: A previously unknown hacking group variously dubbed "Strider" or "ProjectSauron" has carried out cyber-espionage attacks against select targets in Russia, China, Iran, Sweden, Belgium and Rwanda, security researchers said yesterday. The group, which has been active since at least 2011 and could have links to a national intelligence agency, uses Remsec, an advanced piece of hidden malware, Symantec researchers said in a blog post.

Remsec spyware lives within an organization's network rather than being installed on individual computers, giving attackers complete control over infected machines, researchers said. It

enables keystroke logging and the theft of files and other data. Its code also contains references to Sauron, the all-seeing title character in The Lord of the Rings, Symantec said. Strider is the nickname of the fantasy trilogy's widely travelled main character Aragorn. Separately, Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab has labeled the same group using the Remsec spyware as "ProjectSauron". The newly discovered group's targets include four organizations and individuals located in Russia, an airline in China, an organization in Sweden and an embassy in Belgium, Symantec said.

Kaspersky said it had found 30 organizations hit so far in Russia, Iran and Rwanda, and possibly additional victims in Italian-

speaking countries. Remsec targets included government agencies, scientific research centers, military entities, telecom providers and financial institutions, Kaspersky said.

"Based on the espionage capabilities of its malware and the nature of its known targets, it is possible that the group is a nation state-level attacker," Symantec said, but it did not speculate about which government might be behind the software.

Despite headlines that suggest an endless stream of new types of cyber-spying attacks, Orla Fox, Symantec's director of security response said the discovery of a new class of spyware like Remsec is a relatively rare event, with the industry uncovering no

more than one or two such campaigns per year. Remsec shares certain unusual coding similarities with another older piece of nation state-grade malware known as Flamer, or Flame, according to Symantec. Kaspersky agreed that the same group it calls ProjectSauron appears to have adopted the tools and techniques of other better-known spyware, including Flame, but said it does not believe that ProjectSauron and Flame are directly connected.

Flamer malware has been linked to Stuxnet, a military-grade computer virus alleged by security experts to have been used by the United States and Israel to attack Iran's nuclear programme late in the last decade. — Reuters

ASTHMA PILL HAILED IN EARLY TEST

PARIS: The first new asthma pill in nearly 20 years has led to a sharp improvement in symptoms for chronic sufferers of the disease, according to an early test of the drug.

A treatment called fevipiprant eased asthma symptoms, improved lung function, reduced inflammation and repaired the lining of airways, researchers reported on Friday. "This new drug could be a game-changer for future treatment of asthma," said Chris Brightling, a professor at the University of Leicester, central England, who led the study.

Asthma is a long-term disease in which the immune system in the airways goes into overdrive, and wheezing, coughing and restricted breathing are the result. People with chronic asthma can prevent or ease the symptoms by using an inhaler or steroids, but these can have hefty side effects.

Fevipiprant seeks to prevent immune cells called eosinophils from moving into the bronchial walls, where they restrict and inflame the airways. In the trial reported in the British journal *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, researchers enrolled 61 asthmatics and divided them into two groups.

One group was given 225mg of the drug twice a day for 12 weeks and the other participants were given a dummy look-alike pill, called a placebo. A key goal was to monitor levels of eosinophils in sputum—a long-used biomarker of asthma. People who do have not have asthma typically have an eosinophil count of less than one percent, while those with moderate-to-severe asthma have a reading of about five percent.

Those who took the drug in the experiment and had moderate-to-severe asthma saw their average count of 5.4 percent fall to 1.1 percent over 12 weeks. No adverse effects were reported. Those who took the

drug also reported extensive easing of symptoms, the team said. "We already know that using treatments to target eosinophilic airway inflammation can substantially reduce asthma attacks," Brightling said in a press release issued by the university. "This new treatment, fevipiprant, could likewise help to stop preventable asthma attacks, reduce hospital admissions and improve day-to-day symptoms."

Test hurdles

Bigger studies are needed before the prototype drug, made by Novartis, can be approved under the three-phase process to test a novel medicine for safety and effectiveness. "More research is needed and we're a long way off seeing a pill for asthma being made available over the pharmacy counter," Samantha Walker, director of research at the charity Asthma UK, said through Britain's Science Media Centre.

"But it's an exciting development and one which, in the long term, could offer a real alternative to current treatments," Novartis, on its website, says fevipiprant is now in Phase III testing, with a hoped-for date of 2019 for filing for a license.

Around 334 million people have asthma, a figure that inflicts a major burden on economies and health systems, according to a 2014 investigation, the Global Asthma Report. Fourteen percent of the world's children experience asthma symptoms, it said—a trend that seems to have risen sharply in poor- and middle-income countries in the past couple of decades.

Lifestyle and environmental influences, such as tobacco smoke, house dust mites, types of pollen and airborne particulate pollution, are known factors in asthma. But many aspects of the disease are unclear and vulnerability varies greatly according to the individual. — AFP



NEW YORK: A woman smoking an electronic vaporizer. — AFP

E-CIG MAKERS RUSH NEW PRODUCTS TO MARKET AHEAD OF US RULES

NEW REGULATIONS TOOK EFFECT YESTERDAY

NEW YORK: The e-cigarette market is suddenly getting more crowded. Makers of the "vaping" devices launched a flood of new products in the United States ahead of new federal regulations, taking effect, that require companies to submit e-cigarettes for government approval before marketing them, according to company officials and industry experts.

The US Food and Drug Administration, which announced the regulations in May, will allow e-cigarette devices introduced before the regulations came into force to be sold for up to three years while companies apply and await regulatory review.

The regulations also ban the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone under age 18. The multibillion-dollar industry had sought to delay the new rules through lawsuits and proposed legislation in the US Congress. At the same time, many of the smaller players hedged their bets by releasing new products during the three-month period between the announcement of the regulations and their effective date. "I would be surprised if there was any other period when so many products were introduced," said Bryan Haynes, an attorney with the firm Troutman Sanders who represents several e-cigarette companies. Not of all the new products may be available immediately to consumers. Many companies beat the regulatory deadline with only limited shipments and product prototypes.

"There are scores of new products getting out ahead" of the deadline, said Oliver Kershaw, founder of the website e-cigarette-forum.com that tracks the industry.

"They've been put quietly into the market. Some of them are just brand refreshers. Some are quite interesting products," Kershaw said,

referring to such innovations as "pods" - capsules that can be inserted into the devices - that are prefilled with flavored nicotine.

The FDA regulations for the first time bring regulation of e-cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco and hookah tobacco in line with existing rules for cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco. The rules require companies to submit these products for government approval, list their ingredients and place health warnings on packages and in advertisements. Cigar makers also rushed new products to the market to beat the regulations.

"We have attempted to do in 90 days what we usually do in three years," said Eric Newman, president of J.C. Newman Cigar Co, in business since 1895. "If it wasn't so serious, it would be comical to see the hoops we're going through."

Big companies may benefit

E-cigarettes are handheld electronic devices: metal tubes that heat liquids typically laced with nicotine and deliver vapor when inhaled. The liquids come in thousands of flavors, from cotton candy to pizza. Using them is called "vaping."

Reynolds American Inc, Altria Group Inc and Fontem Ventures, a subsidiary of Imperial Brands Plc, are among the leading manufacturers of the devices. Their use has grown quickly in the past decade, with US sales expected to reach \$4.1 billion in 2016, according to Wells Fargo Securities.

The healthcare community remains divided over the devices. Some experts are concerned about how little is known about their potential health risks and about growing use by teenagers, fearing that a new generation will become hooked on nicotine. Others support them as a safer alternative to tobacco for smok-

ers unable to quit. The FDA regulations are expected to shutter many "vape shops" that make their own products and cannot afford undergoing the approval process. The rules may benefit the big manufacturers, especially tobacco companies like Reynolds and Altria, which have the checkbooks and experience to navigate regulatory agencies.

Despite the new rules, France's leading manufacturer of "e-liquids" used in the devices started doing business in the United States last month. The company said it hoped the new market could help double its current sales of about \$55 million. "The vaping consumer is going to be drowned in a lot of new products," said Arnaud Dumas de Raully, president of GaOatrend USA, referring both to new devices and to types of liquids. Reynolds, which makes the top-selling VUSE, did not introduce any new products this summer. Altria launched new flavor varieties including Menthol Ice and Smooth Cream.

Altria's Nu Mark e-cigarette company "has a robust pipeline of products and takes a disciplined approach to introducing those products to understand adult smoker and vaper acceptance," Altria spokesman Steve Callahan said.

Callahan said the company was also mindful of the requirements of the new regulations and complying with the timelines the FDA established. Mystic E-Cigs had planned to introduce sometime this year a new product called the Mystic 2.0 POD-MOD personal vaporizer, which has pods prefilled with liquids, but said its staff worked 14-hour days to ensure it was ready before the regulations took effect. "We got a little lucky but we had to work a little extra hard," said Justin Wiesehan, Mystic's vice president of regulatory affairs. — Reuters

BRIDE GIVEN AWAY BY MAN WHO RECEIVED HER DAD'S DONATED HEART

SWISSVALE, PENNSYLVANIA: A Pennsylvania woman who was married this weekend had her late father's spirit with her - and his heart.

Jeni Stepien was escorted down the aisle Saturday by the man who received her father's heart 10 years ago when her father was killed by a mugger. His organs were donated after his death, and the recipient was Arthur Thomas, of New Jersey, KDKA-TV reported. "I was on death's door when he was murdered, and I needed a heart or I was going to be dying in the next few days," Thomas said.

Stepien said she wanted her dad to be a part of the ceremony at St. Anselm church in Swissvale, and she felt that

asking Thomas to walk her down the aisle was the perfect way. After writing Thomas a letter, she met him on the eve of her wedding and felt her father's heart beat for the first time in 10 years. "I was just so thankful that my dad could be here with us today in spirit and a piece of his physical being as well. That was really special for us," she said. Both Stepien and Thomas beamed as they walked down the aisle together.

The gesture also moved the groom, Paul Maenner, who said he was "overtaken with emotions" when he saw Stepien walking down the aisle. Thomas said he can't imagine a greater honor than escorting the daughter of the man who's given him his heart. — AP

ONE NEW DRUG FOR THREE DEADLY TROPICAL DISEASES

PARIS: Scientists unveiled findings yesterday that could lead to a single treatment for a trio of deadly maladies found mostly in the world's poorest countries.

Collectively, these so-called "neglected tropical diseases" affect tens of millions of people and claim more than 50,000 lives each year. Chagas, sleeping sickness and leishmaniasis are caused by infection from parasites sharing a similar genetic profile.

The scientists identified an enzyme common to these pathogens, and then developed a chemical that targets the enzyme and prevents it from functioning.

They reported their results in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature*. "It's a breakthrough in our understanding of the parasites that cause the three diseases, potentially allowing them to be cured," said Jeremy Mottram, a professor at the Centre for Immunology and Infection at the University of York in England, and co-author of the study.

Before proceeding with human trials, researchers need to test the compounds for toxicity, he said in a statement. In experiments, mice tolerated the drug well. To find the potential silver bullet, scientists tested three million compounds-part of a chemical library held by drug giant Novartis-on live parasites. Using synthetic chemistry, they then tweaked the most promising molecules to find the one most effective against all three diseases. The most deadly of the triotrypanosomiasis, commonly known as sleeping sickness-is fatal if left untreated.

Transmitted by the tsetse fly, it is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. Early symptoms include headache, anaemia and joint pains, while later infection produces severe neurological and hormonal problems.

Light-emitting parasites

As the parasite invades the central nervous system, mental deterioration sets in, leading to coma and death. Finding a drug that can target the disease in the brain is difficult, but the researchers made a breakthrough in experiments with mice.

The first step was to infect the rodents with parasites genetically modified to emit light. "We were able to detect the parasite in the brain using an imaging system," explained co-author Elmarie Myburgh, also of the University of York. "We then tested the chemical developed by Novartis using our imaging method, which showed that it can get into the brain and kill the parasite."

The compound proved effective against the other two diseases as well. There are about two million cases of leishmaniasis every year in nearly 90 countries worldwide. The most severe form-known as visceral leishmaniasis-attacks internal organs, while the more common variant causes face ulcers and disfiguring scars. More than 120 million people are at risk from Chagas disease, with 300,000 new cases every year. The disease, caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, results in high fever and swollen glands to start, especially in young children.



MOROGORO: This file photo taken on June 16, 2016 shows lab technicians working with an African giant pouched rat at APOPO's training facility. — AP

AMERICAN AND GERMAN RESEARCHERS TO SHARE \$500K MEDICAL PRIZE



F Ulrich Hartl



Arthur Horwich



Susan Lee Lindquist

ALBANY: Three researchers whose work with cell proteins has implications for Alzheimer's disease, cancer and other degenerative illnesses will share one of the largest awards in medicine and science in the US, officials at a New York hospital said Wednesday.

The \$500,000 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research will be shared by F. Ulrich Hartl of the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany; Arthur Horwich of the Yale School of Medicine; and Susan Lee Lindquist of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The researchers were chosen for their fundamental and complementary discoveries related to the mechanisms of 'protein folding,' the last step in transferring genetic information from amino acids to cell proteins, said Dr. Vincent Verdile, dean of Albany Medical College and chairman of the prize committee.

"Though this may not be a term familiar to the general public, protein folding is a concept considered revolutionary in modern biology, with important implications for the treatment or delay of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions, as well as cancer and drug resistance," Verdile said.

It had been universally believed that protein folding, which shapes chains of amino acids into specific cell structures, was a spontaneous process. But the researchers, in separate studies, discovered a complex system of specialized

'chaperone' proteins that guide the process.

Their studies have raised hopes that manipulating the chaperone process with drugs or other treatments could prevent protein 'misfolding' that drives degenerative conditions like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's dis-

ease. The award has been given annually since 2001 to those who have altered the course of medical research. It was established by the late Morris 'Marty' Silverman, a New York City businessman. It will be formally presented on Sept. 28 in Albany. — AP

OHIO WANTS POT-GROWING EXPERT TO ADHERE TO DRUG-FREE POLICY

COLUMBUS: Ohio is looking for an expert in growing marijuana who must adhere to its drug-free workplace policy as the state implements a new medical marijuana law.

Cleveland.com reports the new hire by the Ohio Department of Commerce would help write rules for medical marijuana cultivators. The chosen contractor would be held to Ohio's drug-free workplace policy, which currently doesn't allow for medical marijuana use.

A commerce department spokesman couldn't say Friday whether the contractor's employees would have to clear a pre-employment drug test. The contractor would research best practices and recommend how they would work with Ohio's patient needs in the new Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program.

The job was posted last week. The state is accepting applications through Wednesday. The department has budgeted \$50,000 for the work. Ohio's new law allows people to use the drug in vapor form for certain chronic health conditions while barring patients from smoking marijuana or growing it at home. Employers could continue to enforce drug-testing policies and maintain drug-free workplaces.

The law will take effect Sept. 8, though the program is not expected to be fully operational until two years later. The commerce department, state medical board and board of pharmacy will all play a role in regulating medical marijuana and those who cultivate, test, use and dispense it. — AP

FLORIDA GOVERNOR CRITICIZES WASHINGTON FOR LAGGING IN ZIKA FIGHT

MIAMI: Florida Republican Governor Rick Scott on Sunday accused the federal government of lagging in providing assistance to combat the spread of the Zika virus in a Miami-area neighborhood, the site of the first US transmission of the virus.

Scott was speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press" about the neighborhood of Wynwood, where crews began aerial spraying on Thursday to kill virus-carrying mosquitoes. Zika can cause microcephaly, a rare but devastating birth defect.

The governor said state health authorities

had identified 16 cases of Zika that were spread by local mosquitoes and criticized the federal government for failing to get more involved in battling the virus. Scott said he asked US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Thomas Frieden earlier this week for 10,000 additional Zika preparedness kits. "We still need the federal government to show up. The President and Congress have to work together. This is a national, international issue. It's not just a Florida issue," Scott said.

A representative for the CDC could not be

immediately reached on Sunday.

President Barack Obama, a Democrat, earlier this week called on Congress to approve more funds to fight Zika's spread in the United States, saying that money to fight the outbreak is rapidly running out. Scott's comments come a day after Republican Senator Marco Rubio of Florida stirred controversy by telling political news outlet Politico that pregnant women infected with Zika should not be able to get an abortion, even when there was evidence the baby might be born with severe microcephaly. "I understand a lot of people dis-

agree with my view - but I believe that all human life is worthy of protection of our laws," Rubio, a former candidate for his party's presidential nomination, told Politico. "But if I'm going to err, I'm going to err on the side of life."

US health regulators said on Friday that they had cleared the way for a trial of genetically modified mosquitoes in Florida that can reduce mosquito populations, potentially offering a new tool to fight the local spread of Zika and other viruses.

US health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause

microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size that can lead to severe developmental problems in babies. The World Health Organization has said there is strong scientific consensus that Zika can also cause Guillain-Barre, a rare neurological syndrome that causes temporary paralysis in adults.

The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light last fall in Brazil, which has now confirmed more than 1,600 cases of microcephaly that it considers to be related to Zika infections in the mothers. —Reuters

SMOKING 'MOTA': DRUG SLANG ENTERS MEXICO'S DICTIONARY

MEXICO CITY: Pot smokers in Mexico inhale "mota." A flamboyant drug cartel member bedecked in gold chains is dubbed a "buchon." A corpse wrapped in sheets is "encobijado."

Mexico's underworld has its own lexicon, which has been used for years by drug traffickers and addicts but also the police and the media. Now it's fully going mainstream. Narco slang has become so widespread that the prestigious College of Mexico will include dozens of these words in the second edition of the Spanish Dictionary of Mexico. "This grave increase in drug addiction in Mexico has produced a new vocabulary and it is our obligation to include it," Luis Fernando Lara, a linguist at the College and author of the dictionary, told AFP.

Mexico's "narco-cultura," a term that refers to the music, films and fashion inspired by drug cartels, has been a controversial part of life in the country. But Lara shrugs off the risk of being criticized for bringing the gangland vocabulary into Mexico's own Spanish dictionary, which first appeared in 2010 to highlight the country's linguistic variations from its former colonial ruler.

"We have to think about what will happen to readers of our dictionary in 100 years, when they open a Mexican newspaper in which this vocabulary appears," he said. "If we don't record it, who will understand it?"

Lara has researched newspapers, police reports and medical documents going back decades to find words that could make their way into the dictionary, which will be published in 2017.

The 2010 edition has 25,000 words. Some 7,000 new words will go into the next tome, including some 50 linked to the drug world, though Lara could still find more.

Smoking a 'churro'

One of the words is "mota," which is commonly used among pot smokers to refer to marijuana. He found that the word was being used by Spaniards in the 18th century to refer to the fuzz left behind when making linen. "I don't know how it

arrived in Mexico, but from the end of the 19th century, it meant 'marijuana' and it is still in use. You say, 'I smoke mota,'" Lara said.

The marijuana cigarette is a "churro," like the fried dough delicacy popular in Spain and Latin America. A mota smoker is called "moto" or "motorolo" or "pacheco." To take a drag is to give yourself a "toque," or a blast. And to be high is to be "grifo," or tapped. A compact brick of marijuana is a "tabique."

There are more modern terms, such as "bazuko," which is used for a joint that has both marijuana and cocaine. Other drugs include "special K," for a type of hallucinogenic, "chochos" for pills and "chemo" for a cheap glue that some addicts inhale. Cocaine is known as "cremita" (little cream) or "talco" (talc) and a gram of the drug is a "grapa" while a smaller dose is a "puntita." Someone who sniffs the drug is a "perico" and getting high off of cocaine is to take a "pericazo."

Then there's the drug dealer, known by the English word "pusher," who is known as "efectivo" (cash) if he is good at this job. A dealer's boss is a "cacique," or chief.

Buchon: Chest or whisky?

The drug violence that has killed tens of thousands of people in the past decade has also left its mark. An abduction is known as a "levanton," which is an augmentative for the word "levantar" (to raise). No ransom is asked after a "levanton."

When a person is found wrapped in a sheet after a killing, the body is said to be "encobijado," a word stemming from the Spanish word for blanket. The northwestern state of Sinaloa-the cradle of numerous drug lords such as the now imprisoned capo of capos Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman-is the root of some of these words.

A drug cartel honcho who wears high-fashion clothes and jewelry is a "buchon" and a similarly extravagant woman is a "buchona."

"I found two explanations for buchon. One refers to the chest, especially the chest of women, which they call 'buche,'" Lara said. "But it is also said that drug traffickers are fans of Buchanan's whisky and that 'buchon' comes from that." — AFP

CYBORG STINGRAY SWIMS TOWARD LIGHT, BREAKS NEW GROUND

REMOTE-CONTROLLED, GUIDED BY FLASHLIGHT

CAMBRIDGE: The idea of taking apart a rat's heart and transforming it into a tissue-engineered stingray first came to Kevin Kit Parker during a trip to the New England Aquarium with his daughter. Four years later, a robotic ray that swims toward light has made the cover of Science Magazine and is pushing the limits of what's possible in the design of machines powered by living cells.

A research team based at Harvard University's Disease Biophysics Group, which Parker directs, created the translucent, penny-sized ray with a gold skeleton and silicone fins layered with the heart muscle cells of a rat.

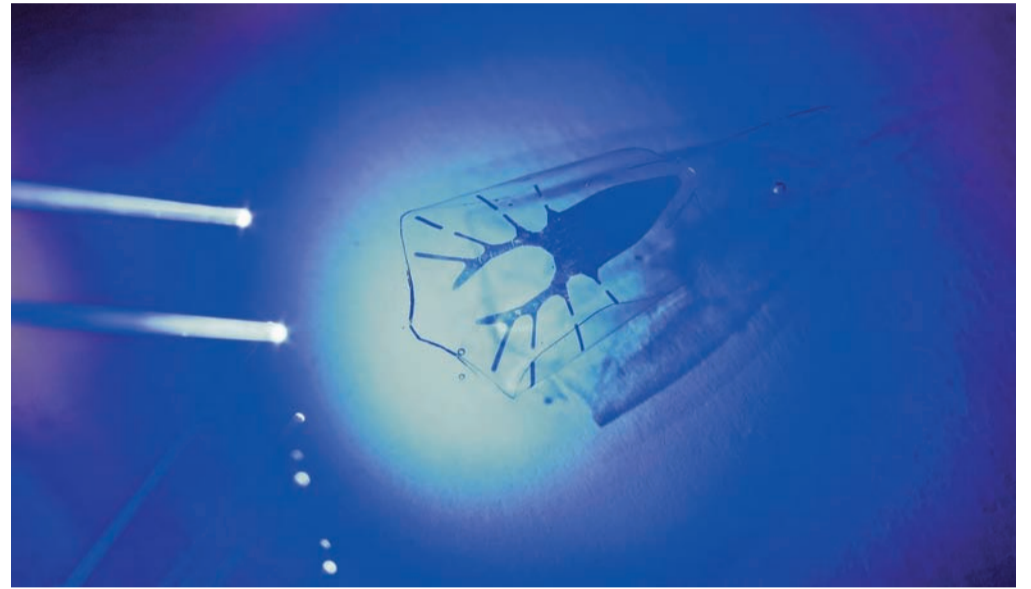
It's remote-controlled, guided by a blinking blue flashlight. Each burst of blue sets off a cascade of signals through the cells, which have been genetically-engineered to respond to light. The contraction of the tissue creates a downward motion on the ray's body. When the tissue relaxes, the gold skeleton recoils - moving the fin upward again in an undulating cycle that mimics the graceful swimming of a real ray or skate.

Parker, whose research includes cardiac cell biology, launched the project as a method for learning more about the mysteries of the human heart and a step toward the far-off goal of building an artificial one. But the interdisciplinary project is also sparking interest in other fields, from marine biology to robotics.

Parker is not a robotics. But as an Army veteran who did two tours in Afghanistan, he welcomes any part his stingrays could play in advancing the development of machines able to perform dangerous jobs. "Bio-hybrid machines - things with synthetic parts and living materials - they're going to happen," Parker said. "I've spent time getting shot at and seen people getting shot. If I could build a cyborg so my buddy doesn't have to crawl into that ditch to look for an IED, I'd do that in a heartbeat."

Originally doubtful

When he first asked postdoctoral researcher Sung-Jin Park to help him create the stingray four years ago, the bench scientist was doubtful. "I had this whole idea of a laser-guided, tissue-engineered stingray made out of rat," Parker said. "He looked at me like a hog staring at a wrist-



CAMBRIDGE: In this Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016 photo, research scientist Sung-Jin Park exposes a tissue-engineered robot to blue light as the robot swims in a tank of water in a laboratory at Harvard University. — AP

watch. He was like, 'Have I trusted my career to this yahoo? I think he thought I was unglued.'

Indeed, the project to build the ray was more difficult and expensive - close to \$1 million, according to Parker 7/8- than either of them imagined. A mechanical engineer by training, Park had to delve into molecular and cell biology. The team pulled experts from diverse fields, including an ichthyologist - someone who studies fish - to understand and help replicate a ray's muscle structure and biomechanics. Their work was published in Science last month.

Biologically-inspired robots aren't new. A precursor to the stingray was a tissue-engineered jellyfish Parker helped create in 2012, also with the aim of understanding the muscular pumping of a heart. But one of the robotic stingray's most intriguing contributions is the way it shows a glimpse of autonomy, said John Long, a professor of biology and cognitive science who directs Vassar College's Interdisciplinary Robotics Research Laboratory. "By putting in the light control they have a way of controlling the cell

without a nervous system," said Long, who was not involved in the stingray research. "We used to control puppets with strings. Now we can do it with light."

Long says the creation could spark new research into autonomous, part-living machines. He envisions a time when a packet of micro-rays could be unleashed into a busted sewage pipe with simple sensors to measure acidity.

The stingrays in Harvard's lab - Park and his colleagues built more than 200 of the tiny creatures during years of research - won't be going into any pipe or ocean. They swim in a pool of warm liquid solution filled with sugar and salt. The cells couldn't survive outside of a dish and weren't designed to, though Long said it would be possible to give a similar creature a skin that wraps up the solution and creates a kind of circulatory system. Battery power is a big challenge for robots, especially for tiny, lightweight machines, Long said, but creating a living power system of glucose-fed tissue could extend a robot's mission time. — AP

LOW COST, FLAVORS, CONVENIENCE TURN TEENS ON TO VAPING

Young people try electronic cigarettes out of curiosity about the devices and alluring flavors that range from cotton candy to pizza, but keep vaping because of their low cost, according to a study released yesterday.

The report published in the medical journal Pediatrics found that some of the reasons prompting teenagers to try the battery-operated devices, which heat liquids typically laced

with nicotine to deliver vapor, help to predict ongoing use. The most likely draws are the cost, which is much lower than for combustible cigarettes, and ability to vape in places where smoking may be banned, according to the study led by Yale School of Medicine professors. Costs can vary widely, depending on the brand and state cigarette taxes, but savings can add up to thousands of dollars a year for the average smoker, accord-

ing to various vaping industry estimates.

The ongoing Connecticut-based study was based on surveys in two middle schools and three high schools in the fall of 2013 and spring of 2014. About 340 of the 2,100 students surveyed had used e-cigarettes.

Youngsters who tried vaping to quit smoking were more likely to keep using e-cigarettes months later, the study found. Only about 6 percent of those surveyed tried e-cigarettes

for that purpose, but about 80 percent of this group stuck with the devices.

More than half the youngsters said they tried the devices because they were curious, 41.8 percent cited "good flavors" and almost a third because their friends used them. About a quarter said vaping was healthier than traditional cigarettes. "The younger the kids were when they started, the more likely they were to keep using them," said Krysten W. Bold, a

postdoctoral fellow at the Yale School of Medicine and one of the authors of the report.

The researchers said they hoped policymakers would use the findings to address the growing popularity of the devices, which have prompted warnings about their potential health risks. "If we could identify early who would still be using e-cigs six months from now, we could intervene at that early stage," Bold said. — Reuters

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PAGE

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TRAINING SEMINAR - 'PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT'

Adding on to its illustrious pathways of educating and empowering its members, American Society of Safety Engineers, (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter conducted a training seminar on "PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT" on 5th August, at Kohinor Banquet Hall, Fahaheel. The trainer for the session was Mr. Sanjay Saiswal CSP. 38 members attended the event and got benefited from this program.

ASSE- Kuwait Chapter lead by Chairman Mr. Fadhel-Al Ali, is a non- profit organization which always strives to excel in providing quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait.

Mr. C Rama Krushna Chary, President of ASSE Kuwait chapter welcomed the participants. He briefed about the significance of the training seminar and the importance of conducting such seminars for the benefit of ASSE members. Mr. Sony Thomas CSP, Head of Training Committee, in his brief address, congratulated the participants for their interest to learn and updating their knowl-

edge and introduced the trainer. Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal.

Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal, is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, USA and holds B.E. in Fire Engineering from Nagpur University India. He is a member of ASSE.

Kuwait Chapter and the present Secretary of the chapter.

Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal, is presently working in Kuwait Oil Company as Safety Specialist. He carries more than 25 years' experience in downstream and midstream Oil & Gas industry. His specific skill areas include but not limited to the development and implementation of HSE Management System, HSE Studies, Auditing & Inspections, Risk Assessment & Loss prevention, Accident investigations, Process Safety Management and Contractor HSE management. HSE Training etc.

The training seminar was meticulously carried on by the trainer and effectively communicated citing relevant industrial scenarios and case studies. He elaborated the elements of PSM, measures to improve



process integrity, measures of HSE performance in process industry, hazard identification/Risk assessment studies, implementation of safe work practice and emergency response plan with power point presentation and audio & visual demonstrations.

The program turned out to be very advantageous to all the members particu-



larly to the safety Officers and Engineers from Petrochemical industries. Mr. Sony Thomas, Head of training committee, thanked the speaker Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal for this initiative. The session concluded with the distribution of Participation Certificates to the participants.

ASSE Kuwait Chapter would continue its



strive to do their best for the progress of the society and its members in particular, by organizing such important and remarkable events in future too. Details about the future events would be available to the members and community.



EMBASSY OF INDIA

Govt of India's Scheme for providing legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian/foreigner husbands

The Government of India scheme is available to Indian women who have been deserted by their overseas Indian/foreigner husbands or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The woman is an Indian passport holder.
- (ii) The marriage of the woman has been solemnized in India or overseas with an overseas Indian or a foreigner.
- (iii) The woman is deserted in India or overseas within fifteen years of the marriage.
- (iv) Divorce proceedings are initiated within fifteen years of the marriage by her overseas Indian/foreigner husband.
- (v) An ex-parte divorce has been obtained by the overseas Indian/foreigner husband within twenty years of marriage and a case for maintenance and alimony is to be filed by her.
- (vi) The scheme would not be available to a woman having a criminal case decided against her, provided that a criminal charge of Parental Child Abduction shall not be a bar if the custody of the child has not yet been adjudicated upon.
- (vii) The domicile of the Indian woman seeking relief under the Scheme is not relevant for allowing the benefit. The woman may be domiciled in the country of her overseas Indian/foreigner husband or in India at the time of making the application.

All concerned who come under the above categories can approach the Community Welfare section of Indian Embassy during office hours or can e-mail their complains to sscwpic@indembkwt.org or welfare@indembkwt.org for redressal of their grievances.

COMMITMENT BRINGS BRAIN, HEART AND ETHICS TOGETHER: NSH VICE PRESIDENT SABU

The level the employees' happiness is the level of a company's move towards better performance.

Employee engagement leads to a dedicated workplace approach resulting in the right condition for all the members of the organization to give their best each day. NSH is not an exemption. Proactive spirit, coupled with fuller involvement and facing challenges bring the success. Our commitment brings brain, heart and ethics together in a good mix, said Vice President Sabu while addressing the employees gathered as a part of the occasion of MAB's successful completion of steel structural erection in the month of July.

It is the good sign of how this deeply etching team offers more of their capability and potential, thus landing such recognition, applauded GM Harikummar.

Project Manager Abdul Rahman, while congratulating his dynamic team said the MAB team engirised on the functions and focused on the goals that lead to the timely completion of work.

The evening was filled with the charismatic enthusiasm among the MAB team gathered to celebrate their success. The inputs given by the VP and GM with their zest was found very timely and useful to these dedicated later present with glorious faces. The moral story, "Be satisfied with what you have" by the finance manager Manoj was very encouraging. The interesting games were conducted by Masy and KR Mohan. The songs by Abdul Rahman, Maximo, Sanjeev Narayan, KR Mohan, and the naadan paattu (cultural songs of Kerala) made the hall cheerful. Alababu, VG Nair, Chatterjee were among those present.





ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER CONDUCTED TECHNICAL MEET ON ROAD MAP TO GLOBAL HSE CERTIFICATIONS (ASP/CSP AND QEP)

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter is a premier voluntary, non-profit Health, Safety and Environmental organization, which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region. As a part of continuous efforts in its professional journey, ASSE-Kuwait Chapter organized its 211th Technical Meet (1st in the term 2016-17) on "Road map to Global HSE Certifications (ASP/CSP and QEP)" in Kohinoor Banquet hall, Fahaheel Kuwait on 25th July 2016. The Technical Meet began with the opening remarks by Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Chapter Secretary, Mr. CH. Rama Krushna Chary, President ASSE Kuwait Chapter in his

welcome address emphasized the importance of attending such technical meets by ASSE Members. Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal introduced the speakers for the day Mr. Ujwal Ritwik & Mr. Ashok Garlapati. Mr. Ujwal Ritwik, QEP, Working as Senior Specialist (TPL) in Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Founding President of ASSE Kuwait Chapter, headed Professional Development Conference from 2000 to 2011 and currently he is volunteering as Advisory Committee member of ASSE Kuwait Chapter. Mr. Ashok Garlapati, CSP, Working as HSE Consultant (D&T) in Kuwait Oil Company, is Vice President - Global Region of ASSE USA. He Held key positions in ASSE Kuwait Chapter, has been ASSE Ambassador for

Middle East, India & SE Asia, Past Administrator, ASSE- IPS, USA. He is past President of ASSE Kuwait Chapter and currently Advisory Committee member of ASSE Kuwait Chapter. Both the presenters have given an extensive information on the certification route, advantage, mode of preparation and ways to apply for each credential. Attendees eagerly took part in the discussion, participated in Question, and Answer session. As an honor of appreciation, ASSE Kuwait Elected Committee honored both the speakers for their excellent presentation with memento. Technical Meeting concluded with close out speech from Mr. Muhammad Alamgir, Vice President.



Speaker of Parliament in the Republic of Djibouti Mohamed Ali Hamad and Ambassador Mohamed Ali Hamad and the delegation corresponding to them.



SPEAKER OF DJIBOUTI'S PARLIAMENT VISITS 'DIRECT AID'



BBC FIRST

- 03:30 Spooks
04:30 Eastenders
05:05 The Musketeers
06:30 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
19:30 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.

- 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 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 Gummy 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
22:25 Gummy Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack

Disney 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 XD

- 06:00 Boyster



THE PROPOSAL 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 Car Hunters
14:20 American Restoration
14:45 Shipping Wars
15:35 Grave Trade
16:00 Mountain Men
16:50 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
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
01:10 Leapu And Pitbull
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Mountain Men

itv CHOICE

- 03:25 Midsomer Murders
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 Midsomer Murders
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
11:35 Chopping Block
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Emmerdale
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Chopping Block
16:30 Don't Tell The Bride
17:25 The Syndicate
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Emmerdale

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 ACTION

- 04:00 Non-Stop
06:00 The Expendables 3
08:15 Hours
10:15 Apocalypse Pompeii
12:15 Hercules Reborn
14:15 The Expendables 3
16:30 Hours
18:30 Pearl Harbor
22:00 Brick Mansions
00:00 Kite
02:00 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:00 Se Puder... Dirija!
06:00 Father Hood
08:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
10:00 Se Puder... Dirija!
12:00 Easy A
14:00 Sister Act
16:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
18:00 The Proposal
20:00 Let's Be Cops
22:00 Are You Here
00:00 Wanderslust
02:00 The Proposal

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 03:00 A Far Off Place
05:00 Home
07:00 The Santa Clause
09:00 The Kid
11:00 Eight Below
13:00 Mulan
15:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets
17:15 Monsters Inc
19:00 Mr. Magoo
21:00 College Road Trip
23:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets
01:15 Mr. Magoo

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:15 The Age Of Adaline
05:15 The Good Lie
07:15 Some Girls
09:00 The Age Of Adaline
11:00 Jupiter Ascending
13:15 Tracers
15:00 Jackie & Ryan
16:45 Pixels
18:45 Jurassic World
21:00 Away And Back
23:00 Unfinished Business
01:00 Slow West

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 03:00 The Simpsons
03:30 Black-Ish
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon



PEARL HARBOUR 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 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 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 Teenage Witch
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Phineas And Ferb
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids S3&4
18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Pickle And Peanut
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
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 Famosly Single
00:55 Famosly Single
01:50 New Money
02:20 E! News
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa
08:30 Barefoot Contessa
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
10:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:30 Guy's Big Bite
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Man Fire Food
14:30 Man Fire Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
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



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/08/2016 TO 10/08/2016)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
12:30 PM	SHARQIA-1	7:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	11:30 PM	JASON BOURNE
3:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA	9:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		
6:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA	12:05 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		
9:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA				
12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2				
12:00 PM	SHARQIA-2	11:30 AM	FANER-3		
2:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	1:30 PM	NERVE		
5:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:45 PM	FINDING DORY		
7:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	7:00 PM	SULTAN- HINDI		
9:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D	9:15 PM	NERVE		
12:15 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA		
1:00 PM	SHARQIA-3	11:30 AM	FANER-4		
3:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	2:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
10:15 PM	ABU SHANAB	7:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	9:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
1:00 PM	MUHALAB-1	12:15 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
4:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA				
7:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA				
9:15 PM	ABU SHANAB				
12:15 AM	MIN 30 SANA				
12:30 PM	MUHALAB-2	1:00 PM	MARINA-1		
2:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		
5:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	5:45 PM	FINDING DORY		
7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		
10:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	10:15 PM	ABU SHANAB		
12:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 AM	JASON BOURNE		
11:30 AM	MUHALAB-3		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN		
2:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D				
5:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD				
8:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D				
10:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN				
12:45 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD				
1:00 PM	FANER-1	1:00 PM	MARINA-2		
4:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	2:15 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
7:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	4:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
10:00 PM	MIN 30 SANA	7:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2		
1:00 AM	ABU SHANAB	10:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
12:30 PM	FANER-2	12:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
3:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	8:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD		
5:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN				

FOR RENT
 Excellent flat in Salmiya - Block 10 - (two rooms, living room, kitchen and two bathrooms).
 Tel: 96019919

LOST
 It is notified for the information that my original certificates of secondary & senior school examinations of year 2009 and 2011, issued by CBSE has lost, Mohamed. (C 5200)
 9-8-2016

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

SITUATION WANTED
 Accountant - Indian, experienced having extensive knowledge in handling all kinds of accounts (including system establishment and management) right

PRAYER TIMINGS
 Fajr: 03:45
 Shorook: 05:12
 Duhr: 11:54
 Asr: 15:29
 Maghrib: 18:35
 Isha: 19:59

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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

EMERGENCY 112

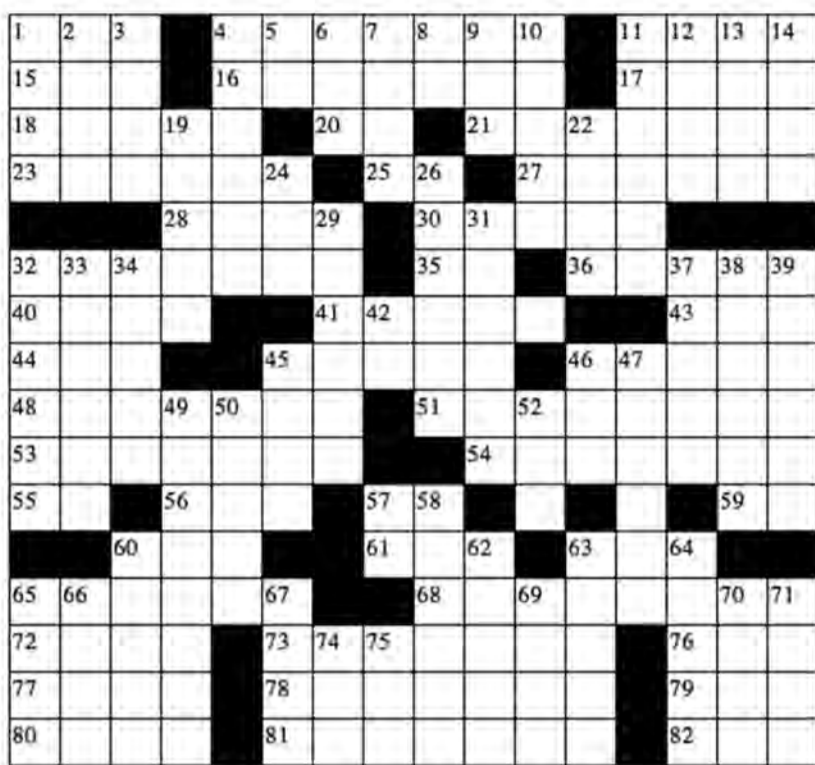
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 9/8/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 9/8/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:00
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	OMA	645	Jeddah	15:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	ETD	303	Muscat	15:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	ABY	127	Abu Dhabi	15:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	UAE	857	Sharjah	15:35
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	NIA	251	Dubai	15:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	RJA	640	Alexandria	15:50
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	FDB	051	Amman	16:00
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	QTR	1072	Dubai	16:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR	535	Doha	16:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	563	Cairo	16:20
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	680	Sohag	16:25
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	KAC	562	Muscat	16:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	562	Amman	16:55
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	772	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	618	Doha	18:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	104	London	19:00
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	104	Dubai	19:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	GFA	875	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JZR	217	Paris/Rome	19:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	166	Dubai	19:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	AIC	987	Beirut	22:25
CLX	784	Luxembourg	12:55	PIA	239	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	802	Taif	22:40
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	782	Jeddah	22:50
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FBA	831	Al Najaf	14:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	JAD	301	Amman	23:45
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				
KAC	178	Mumbai	14:15				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1337



ACROSS

1. A light touch or stroke.
4. Minute freshwater crustacean having a round body enclosed in a transparent shell.
11. Austrian physicist and philosopher who introduced the Mach number and who founded logical positivism (1838-1916).
15. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
16. Following as an effect or result.
17. A Lolish language.
18. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
20. Being nine more than forty.
21. A city in northeastern Ukraine.
23. (of eggs) No longer edible.
25. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
27. Fly a plane.
28. An informal term for a father.
30. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
32. United States composer (born in Italy) of operas (born in 1911).
35. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
36. Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
40. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
41. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
43. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
44. A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
48. The father of your father or mother.
51. A spread consisting of capers and black olives and anchovies made into a puree with olive oil.
53. Sculpture consisting of shapes carved on a surface so as to stand out from the surrounding background.
54. Small arctic whale the male having a long spiral ivory tusk.
55. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
56. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
59. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
61. Being five more than one hundred ten.
65. Having leaves or leaves as specified.
68. A mountain peak in the Andes in Peru (21,709 feet high).
72. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
73. Shaped like a ring.
76. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
77. The granite-like rocks that form the outer-most layer of the earth's crust.
78. Epithet of Siva.
79. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.
80. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
81. Covering designed to be worn on a person's body.
82. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.

DOWN

1. African tree with edible yellow fruit resembling mangos.
2. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
3. An unofficial association of people or groups.
4. An unsuccessful ending.
5. An associate degree in nursing.
6. A unit of pressure.
7. A Polynesian rain dance performed by a woman.
8. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
9. A liquid used for printing or writing or drawing.
10. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
11. A fancy dock for small yachts and cabin cruisers.
12. A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
13. The bill in a restaurant.
14. A person who possesses great material wealth.
19. An oily colorless liquid obtained by the condensation of two molecules of acetaldehyde.
22. A river in southwestern England rising in Gloucestershire and flowing through Bristol to empty into the estuary of the Severn.
24. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans.
26. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
29. A Japanese martial art employing principles similar to judo.
31. A port city in southwestern Iran.
33. The principal dish of a meal.
34. Cactus having yellow flowers and purple fruits.
37. (Old Testament) Jonah did not wish to become a prophet so God caused a great storm to throw him overboard from a ship.
38. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
39. With good sense or in a reasonable or intelligent manner.
42. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
45. The central area of a church.
46. (Irish) The sea personified.
47. Enclose or enfold completely with or as if with a covering.
49. Having nine units or components.
50. United States industrialist who manufactured plows suitable for working the prairie soil (1804-1886).
52. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
57. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
58. Ruddy duck.
60. A drug (trade names Calan and Isoptin) used as an oral or parenteral calcium blocker in cases of hypertension or congestive heart failure or angina or migraine.
62. Of or relating to the velum.
63. Of or pertaining to hearing or the ear.
64. United States anarchist (born in Italy) who with Bartolomeo Vanzetti was convicted of murder and in spite of world-wide protest was executed (1891-1927).
66. English essayist (1775-1834).
67. A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
69. An extravagantly enthusiastic review.
70. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
71. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
74. A period of time spent sleeping.
75. A small drink of liquor.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You can really communicate and convey yourself to others right now. You have a lot of energy and come across as assertive. This is a day to buckle down and strengthen your career. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a much more determined form-a firm foundation. There are opportunities to make good decisions and clear choices. You are at your most practical today and what happens now may have a lasting effect on your life direction. Your enthusiasm can burn out quickly if you do not pace yourself, however. Not even you can meet the schedule you keep today-every day. A quiet evening may be in order.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Others show regard for your talents and skills at this time. Do not weaken your position by becoming timid. The next seven years will be good to you and you have a sense of this as you go about your workday. Positive results are happening through your efforts. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more significance. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need to make a difference in your community or home life. There is a real transformation in the way you respond to others. You may find yourself gathering facts and tuning in on the real issue in order to bring direction and focus to a group project tonight. You enjoy close relationships, laughter and good friends.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is the best time to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong, for all the energies are working in your favor at this time. This is also a time when you may decide to marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. You will be in demand and recognition will be soon-go for it. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive and able to communicate well. If more education is desired or deemed necessary, sign up now. You have a real appreciation for ideas, thoughts and knowledge. You may find yourself in long conversations with friends. Friends and a social life are in order this whole week and, in general, this begins an easy and untroubled time.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Others may disagree with what you say or think or in some way oppose your ideas and thoughts. It may be very hard for you to communicate what you mean to others, so bide your time and think things through for now. The rest of this morning may become research oriented. This afternoon you are able to promote an understanding between people and you help to speed usual work along with very few problems. Your management abilities are in high focus and you encourage production. Others may even find you particularly clever; all the research is simplified and not extended beyond today. This evening you may find yourself in a stay-at-home mood-a time to spend with loved ones and family. Family, home and real estate are a big part of your life now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are motivated to work and save, work and save, work and save. Something special is going on in that mind of yours and it seems it may not be too long before you have saved enough for some special item. Your attitude is upbeat and if ever your company wanted a good worker, you are the one they prize. Any professional changes or adjustments you have been putting off of late can be taken on now. You are enthusiastic to make whatever changes are necessary. Gather your thoughts into focus-your energies are well spent. A lunchtime break will help you to relax and refocus. Enjoy a short escape-perhaps a nearby park. A few gift certificates may help you get even closer to your goals. Fun times are ahead tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The energies in your chart through the end of this month show that this is a good time to begin a new habit-perhaps a healthy nutritional program and exercise therapies. Whatever you begin now will have a higher success rate of being completed according to your plans. A possible rise in interest rates will make debts less desirable now. You will want to make a concentrated effort at keeping or balancing a budget in order to pay off any outstanding loans or debts at this time. Now is the time to retain a focus and see your dreams and visions as the goal and not a form of escape. Your afternoons could be full of opportunities to enjoy friends, perhaps a sport or an exercise program. Hard work, sports, outdoor activities and all things physical should be a snap.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

People want answers and you are just the person that can provide them. Most of the time you might rather be busy with some research but today you seem to enjoy the attention that is available for you now. You could be lecturing, tutoring or teaching in a special classroom. You could also be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project. Your positivism lets you get right to the point. You are an aggressive prime mover, a starter, able to initiate and get things moving. You can let others tend to the details-you will cover a lot of ground and make great progress with your own way of working. It is important that you delegate as much as possible so your energies are not lost on this project.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There could be better times to make important decisions that affect your living situation or life circumstances. Perhaps you could use this time to gather information and obtain the advice of others before making a final decision. This is a good day to tend to old business. Make it a point to stay in the background to work, plan and refurbish your energies. This is a time during which you could accomplish a lot through sheer discipline-control of your energy and drive. This evening your charm and abilities to enchant others will return to you in the form of much laughter. There is a chance to have a special time with someone you love this evening. Personal decisions can be reached now. Your inner confidence shines.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

There may be an opportunity to reach new goals in sales or customer service today. Law, politics, education and travel are some of the areas where a great deal of progress is made as well. This is a perfect time to move forward in your career. Your occupation may involve health, food and all attempts to restore, salvage and make the best out of things. This time often brings a sudden change of fortune for the better and is considered to be one of the few truly lucky periods. This is a time of change for you that may manifest as an inner search for meaning, or externally as a sudden change in your daily activities. If an unusual opportunity presents itself, go for it right away-these energies do not wait around for the one who stops to talk about it.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You possess a powerful, persistent drive and are a hard, steady worker. Others may find you deep, with a sense of mission and mystery. You are willing to do work that others would not try to attempt. Your drive to find new ways to use things and create useful tools is both well coordinated and intense. You are moved to secure yourself-investments. Family and job are your main focus, even at the expense of others. There is a need for security and a sense of roots. You may find much talk about owning a home or buying a house in order to rent it out to others. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life. You want to have a nice home so that you can fill it with extended family and friends from time to time.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be especially influential just now. There is a lot of energy and drive available to accomplish just about anything you set out to do now. You may have to realize that some people will not ever match your speed or schedule. Patience may be in order today. Your concern for everything makes you invaluable when anything needs doing. Given only a few facts, you are able to take in a situation and come up with the real picture of what is happening. You are never happier than when fully engaged in some project-particularly betterment of worldly concerns. You are systematic and orderly even in your personal life; however, today is the time to enjoy the simple things. Consider a swim or walk with your sweetheart before the evening meal.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have an instinctive imperative to be powerful and in control during certain circumstances this day. This may lead to a greater interest or experience in healing and investing and in the great mysteries of life and death. Careful, there could be some disturbance if you pry into the personal life of someone who is not interested in your questions or who does not care to answer your questions. If you work for a news syndicate, you might wait awhile before publishing your latest... There may be more information forthcoming. This afternoon you may be entertained by someone who appreciates your company. You are at your most elegant later today, particularly in social situations now. You are just plain witty and it is fun to hear your ideas.

WORD SEARCH

Smells Fishy 2 - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| ALGAE | JELLYFISH | SEA BASS |
| ANCHOVY | KELP | SEA URCHIN |
| BARNACLE | KIPPER | SEAHORSE |
| BARRACUDA | MACKEREL | STINGRAY |
| CAVIAR | MUSSELS | SUNFISH |
| FLOUNDER | RED SNAPPER | TUNA |
| GOLDFISH | SALMON | WALLEYE |
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Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Smells Fishy 1 - Solution

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Daily SuDoku

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Yesterday's Solution

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8	5	3	1	2	6	4	9	7
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GOSSIP

Jennifer Grey passed on ABC's 'Dirty Dancing'

Jennifer Grey turned down a role in ABC's remake of 'Dirty Dancing'. The 56-year-old actress starred in the original movie alongside Patrick Swayze and although she was approached about taking part in the TV remake, she rejected the offer because it "didn't feel appropriate". Jennifer told The Hollywood Reporter: "I was asked to do something on that show and I was flattered because I always want to be asked because it's nice to want to be included. But for me, it would be sacrosanct for me to do it because it didn't feel appropriate to me. It feels like if you're going to do your own thing, do your own thing. I wouldn't say [what role was offered] but I will tell you, it wasn't Baby!" Abigail Breslin, 20, takes over the role of Baby in the three-hour TV movie and Jennifer is excited to see how the new version turns out. She said: "I am always interested in any iteration of something where they feel there's more to be gotten and I would love to see what it is that

they come up with. "I think they've got wonderful actors in it. I'm going to be watching it and I'm excited. My only advice is to own it for yourself because we all just do our interpretation and I'm only flattered and excited for people who are excited enough to put their stamp on it and see what they make of it and how they make it their own." Jennifer also praised her late co-star Patrick, who passed away in 2009 at the age of 57. She said: "He was really strong and he was very protective and his heart was very much in it. He was a great dancer and he was fearless. His fearlessness with my fearfulness - like his lack of Jewishness and my super Jewishness - together was like a marriage where you have two opposites. He'd do anything and I'd be scared to do anything."



Rob and Blac's show in crisis

Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna's reality TV show is reportedly in crisis. The couple - who got engaged in April after a whirlwind romance and are expecting their first child together - have signed a deal with E! for six 60-minute episodes of 'Rob & Chyna' but Rob has reportedly been skipping filming. A source told TMZ that the star, who quit 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' for several years after struggling to cope with fame, is worried that 'Rob & Chyna' is "compromising their relationship". Rob reportedly skipped filming for a number of recent events, including his grandmother's birthday in San Diego and Blac was forced to attend alone. Leading to the huge fight which saw Rob deleting all traces of her from his social media. Although they have now made up, insiders claim Rob was struggling to cope with Chyna - who has a three-year-old son, King

Cairo, with ex-boyfriend Tyga - having so many other commitments in her life. A source said: "Everything with Chyna is moving so fast. ... She's a single parent and filming the show and all of her other work commitments, so Rob has been feeling neglected by her. She has also been doing things on her own a lot with her girlfriends." Rob, 29, only started dating 28-year-old Chyna in January, before getting engaged in April, and insiders also believe the fast pace of their relationship caused their huge bust-up. One source added: "Yes, it was a fight, but they will be over it and basically are. They've been spending a ton of time together and filming a show together. Add to that the stress of a new relationship and it's inevitable that there will be some tension and fighting. It was an explosive fight."

Sheryl Crow praises brave Shannen Doherty

Sheryl Crow has praised Shannen Doherty for opening up about her breast cancer diagnosis. The 54-year-old singer is celebrating 10 years since she won her own battle with the disease and Sheryl believes 45-year-old Shannen's decision to go public will encourage other women to be more proactive about getting themselves checked. Speaking at the BlogHer conference in Los Angeles, she said: "I think that [talking about cancer] takes the fear out of it. I mean, it is a scary thing, but one of the problems we have with breast cancer in general is getting women to go and get a mammography. A lot of us who are moms are too busy, or we don't really want to know. I think a lot of women really kind of don't want to know. In some instances, we're poorly insured or uninsured. And until we find a cure, early detection is our cure. The statistic of the cure rate at five years is 100 percent if it's detected early." "So I love women who are coming out and saying, 'This is what I've done. I've been proactive and I'm celebrating my life. It's just really hard to imagine that 30 years ago, no one had spoken about having breast cancer until Betty Ford. When she came out and announced [she had it], it was very taboo and shocking. And now we can talk about it and it's a part of our everyday life. Knowledge is power. "[I'm cancer free] all because of a mammography. I had a little calcification that showed up, or maybe a couple on my mammography, and they said come back in six months. That was even before the 3D. Now we have the Genius 3D machine, which can detect things 15 months earlier." Sheryl, who has sons Wyatt, nine, and Levi, six, also called her diagnosis a "game changer", saying it helped her to see what was really important. She said: "My diagnosis was a real game changer. At that point, I was 44, and I was the picture of great health. "I've had a lot of people say, 'Yeah, these things help you redefine your life', but for me, I really refined my life. I began to really hack away at the things that were not important anymore and the things that were energy sucking. I learned how to say no."



Elba has a 'whole room' dedicated to his shoes

Idris Elba has a "whole room" dedicated to his ever-growing shoe collection. The 43-year-old actor has admitted his obsession with footwear has got out of control he no longer knows how many pairs of shoes he owns, and he has had to set aside one room in his house to store the container full of trainers. Speaking to PEOPLE about his wardrobe essential, the 'Luther' star said: "I can't even say [how many sneakers I have]. I have a whole room that has a container - half that container is trainers and shoes." Idris - who has released two clothing lines for the high street retailer Superdry - has revealed his favorite pair of trainers he owns are the YEEZY, which are the footwear range designed by 'Famous' rapper Kanye West. He explained: "Believe it or not, the Yeezys are really nice stuff and I just got a nice pair that I love." And the dark-haired hunk plans to return the favor and send the father of two - who has three-year-old daughter North and eight-month-old son Saint with his wife Kim Kardashian West - some of the clothes from his capsule. He said: "I am going to send him some of my gear and see if he likes that." Meanwhile, Idris has revealed his fashion range was inspired by himself. He said: "This line is something that is cool and affordable and represents me. I spend a lot of time in clothes and I've been complimented for a few years about the way I dress and that's always been a nice feeling." The 'Star Trek Beyond' star has revealed he always wanted to be noticed in the fashion world. He said: "Long story short is yes, I kind of did have a beeline to want to be noticed in fashion a little bit. But not in a way that I am going to be the highlight of men's fashion week and make a big splash like that."

Gervais compares Trump to Brent

Ricky Gervais has compared Donald Trump to David Brent. The 55-year-old star believes the US Presidential hopeful has a number of similarities with the buffoonish, self-involved office manager he created for 'The Office' TV show and who makes a return in upcoming movie 'David Brent: Life on the Road'. Speaking to The Sun, he said: "Trump has more in common with David Brent than he does with JFK. He is not a politician. He's an entertainer. "He's a man who is at the moment taking part in the biggest reality show of all time, starring himself." Ricky also blasted reality TV, insisting that it is only set up so viewers can laugh at the failure of contestants. He said: "People do anything for fame, to stay on the telly. "They go into 'Big Brother' and say 'I want to change the public's perception of me' and I'm shouting, 'Why?' the public. They want you to fail again. That's what's funny for them. "And Brent's been sold that lie. He thinks fame will sort everything out. But he's getting it all wrong." Ricky has been accused of offending travellers and mocking the memory of Princess Diana in songs from the movie, which sees Brent attempt to become a music star, but Ricky insisted people have misunderstood him. He said: "There is a danger that everything will be misinterpreted. "But someone misunderstanding my joke and using it inappropriately isn't my responsibility."



Howie Mandel pokes fun at Harris' split with Swift

Howie Mandel poked fun at Calvin Harris' split with Taylor Swift when he introduced him at the Caesars Palace 50th anniversary gala in Las Vegas on Saturday night. Calvin was being presented with the Future Icon but Howie surprised him by saying: "That's a nice suit. Who's your tailor?" before adding: "See what I did?" As the crowd reacted with laughter, Calvin smiled and said: "You got that prepared, you had that one ready." Calvin and Taylor, 26, split up at the end of May and she quickly moved on with Tom Hiddleston. And although the split was initially amicable, things soon turned nasty when Calvin, 32, accused Taylor of trying to tear him down, shortly after the blonde star confirmed she wrote his song 'This Is What You Came For'. In a series of tweets, he wrote: "Hurtful to me at this point that her and her team would go so far out of their way to try and make ME look bad at this stage though "I figure if you're happy in your new relationship you should focus on that instead of trying to tear your ex bf down for something to do "I know you're off tour and you need someone new to try and bury like Katy ETC but I'm not that guy, sorry. I won't allow it "Please focus on the positive aspects of YOUR life because you've earned a great one "God bless everyone have a beautiful day (sic)". Taylor's representative confirmed she had penned his tune, saying: "Taylor Swift wrote 'This Is What You Came For' under the pseudonym Nils Sjoberg." Calvin brought Rihanna in to record the vocals on the song as he and Taylor, 26 - who dated for 15 months - feared their relationship would overshadow the track if they released it together. The so-called "breaking point" in their romance reportedly came after he was "disrespectful" by saying he'd never work with her while promoting the track.

Nicole Richie's tour trouble

Nicole Richie's children are having trouble sleeping on tour. Nicole, eight-year-old Harlow and six-year-old Sparrow have joined the designer's husband Joel Madden, 37, and his twin brother Benji on their 2016 Vans Warped Tour and while they are loving the family trip, Nicole admitted the tour bus isn't great for when the children are trying to sleep. She told PEOPLE: "I was very quiet around my kids when they were babies and now they're light sleepers. I wish I had been a little more rough with them." Nicole also insisted that there is "no one right way" to raise children and she hates when mothers judge each other. She said: "I had two friends that were moms before me - I had kids very young. It was really so refreshing to see two women that have such different taste and parenting styles maintain a friendship and not judge each other for the way that they bring up their kids." "That's something that's always stuck with me because there's not one way to raise children. There's no one right way to be a mother. It depends on your house and lifestyle. The biggest lesson I've learned is not to judge!" Harlow and Sparrow may be young but they already have their own styles, according to Nicole, 34. She said: "They dress themselves. Sparrow does his own thing. He likes to wear all black like his dad. "Harlow has her own style. She likes to experiment with different looks. I am totally fine with that. What she looks like is ultimately up to her."





Jamie and Jools Oliver welcome fifth child

Jamie and Jools Oliver have welcomed a baby boy. The celebrity chef - who already has daughters Poppy Honey Rosie, 14, Daisy Boo Pamela, 12, Petal Blossom Rainbow, six, and five-year-old son Buddy Bear Maurice with Jools - took to Instagram to announce the arrival of the latest addition to their family over the weekend. Jamie shared a picture of the baby and wrote: "And then this just happened guys!! IT'S A BABY BOY!! Everyone in the Oliver family is very surprised and beyond happy. He arrived safely, mum / @joolsoliver was really really amazing, unbelievably composed, natural birth and my two eldest Girls got to come in at the very end as the baby was born which was amazing to witness very very emotional. 8 lbs (that's 16 packs of butter for you bakers out there) anyway were all hitting the hay it's been a long day big love... bless a little baby boy Woop Woop!!!! And love to all

you mums out there how amazing you are it blows my mind Big love jamie o.p.s no baby names yet (sic)." Jools also took to Instagram to share a picture of herself breastfeeding the baby and wrote: "Little baby boy Oliver has arrived we are so very happy, blessed, grateful and totally in love all over again and so very proud of our two eldest daughters who cut the cord Jamie was my hero (no name yet)!!! XXXX (sic)." Jamie, 41, recently revealed that he was hoping for another son. He said: "I thought we'd have a couple of kids but that's about it. Basically, I do what I'm told, but she's an amazing family maker and I just go with it. A bit more testosterone would probably be a good thing, but do you know what, I'm just grateful for whatever I get if it's healthy."



Khloe 'worried' for Odom

Khloe Kardashian is "worried" about Lamar Odom. The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star admitted she feared for her estranged husband when she struggled to get in contact with him whilst she was on vacation in Cuba because their Wi-Fi connection wasn't very good. After finally getting in contact with Lamar, she told her close pal Malika Haqq she was "paranoid" about his behavior. She added on Sunday's episode of their E! reality show: "I don't know, like his behavior is just ... different. I mean even his drinking alone is so bothersome to me and it makes me so furious because he can't even be drinking, it hasn't even been one year." Meanwhile, the 32-year-old television personality previously slammed those who criticized her for not supporting her former spouse - who was found unconscious at a brothel after a drink and drug binge in 2015 - when he was removed from a flight for being "wasted". She blasted on Twitter: "Stay in your lane little girl. You know nothing about anything. You're a sheep herded

by society. (sic)" The incident happened when Lamar left his first class seat before the plane left the ground and then threw up in the galley and in the bathroom. After being escorted off the plane once, Lamar returned again 10 minutes later but when he used other passengers' heads to steady himself, he was removed from the plane. And Khloe previously revealed she considers herself to be a "loner". She shared: "I love living alone because I am a loner by nature. The best thing about it is that I can literally just run downstairs naked and don't have to think about it. I couldn't do that before, with Rob and his friends who would come over. I really like having 'me' space. "The worst thing about living alone ... is that I'm alone! My house is filled with people during the day. After they leave, it's quiet. I am too content being alone. I could stay at home all day. I have to MAKE myself go socialize. (sic)"

ZELDA WILLIAMS TO TAKE A BREAK FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

Zelda Williams is taking a break from social media ahead of the second anniversary of her father Robin's death. Robin took his own life on August 11, 2014 and Zelda, 27, shared a post on Instagram and Twitter over the weekend, revealing that she will be stepping away from social media in order to remember her father privately. She tweeted: "So, it's that time of year again. I will be taking another break off social media. For those who always ask why, it's so people can memorialize Dad on the anniversary of his death however they wish without me having to feel bombarded by it, or pressured by the expectation put on myself or my family to publicly acknowledge or join in doing so" "I will always be so grateful for all the love the world had and continues to have for dad, but for obvious reasons, it's sometimes harder to be the sort of surviving public vessel for receiving those senti-

ments, and one often expected to somehow flawlessly express them back. "Thus, I'll be excusing myself for a bit. Hearts just need little breaks sometimes! (sic)" And Zelda provided the names of some of the charities Robin supported for those who want to donate to them. She wrote: "Obviously the world will keep on spinning. This is hardly an important issue, my main point being you should continue to remember Dad however you want! I'll just be doing so privately. And if you'd like to celebrate his life by celebrating causes he loved, you need only google, and you'll find wonderful charities like the @ReeveFoundation, @CAFoundation and many more. Tata for now! (sic)."



Selena Gomez wants to date a 'low key actor'

The 'Hands To Myself' hitmaker - who enjoyed a very public on/off relationship with Justin Bieber - has revealed she'd like to settle down with someone whose a little less famous but admits those kind of guys are "terrified" of her. She told Australia's Vogue magazine: "I think people would think it's kind of dumb [to date me]. Nobody would want to throw themselves into that situation where it was so heightened publicly, like, why would they? "[I'd like a] low-key actor, writer or producer but those kind of guys are terrified of me!" Meanwhile, the 24-year-old singer previously admitted she is "so done" with her ex-boyfriend but insists she still cares about his "health and well-being". She said: "At first I didn't care. To me it was: I'm 18, I have a boyfriend, we look cute together, we

like that. Then I got my heart broken and I cared. Because people had no idea what was going on, but everywhere it was a million different things. I was kind of in a corner, banging my head against the wall. I didn't know where to go. "I'm so exhausted [by the constant references to him]. I honestly am so done. I care about his health and well-being. But I can't do it anymore." And Selena finds it difficult thinking that a potential date might have googled her before they went out. She added: "I hate it. It's hard and I'm weirded out by the idea that a guy has googled me before we meet, and that has happened. I feel like I look 16 sometimes, which is a bummer because I would love to date older guys."

Keating was 'always' meant to marry Storm

Ronan Keating was "always" meant to marry his wife Storm. The 39-year-old singer songwriter - who re-married last year - was destined to be with his second wife, despite being married to his former partner Yvonne Connolly - with whom he has three children Jack, 17, Missy, 15, and Ali, 10 - for 17 years. Speaking to HELLO! magazine about their flourishing romance, the 34-year-old said: "It feels like we were always meant to be together." And the blonde beauty - who will be celebrating her first wedding anniversary with the star on August 17 - has revealed she is "proud" to call the 'When You Say Nothing At All' hitmaker her husband and believes the title has given his children confidence she will be around for the long haul. She explained: "It makes me very proud when I refer to 'my husband'. And for the kids, too. I'm sure it gives them more security knowing that we're officially a family now and I'm not someone who may one day walk out of their lives. "If we lost everything tomorrow and the two of us ended up living in a shack on the beach in the middle of nowhere, then I would still be the happiest woman in the world. You can face everything in life when you know you've already got everything you need in just one person." And the father of three has admitted even his children have noticed how happy he is. He said: "They can see how happy I am. And it's about making them know they are loved." Meanwhile, the couple have teased they are planning to expand their brood. Speaking about plans to have more children, Storm said: "Please God that it works out for us. Ronan is a great dad. He is amazing."



Courtney Stodden has shaved her hair off

The 21-year-old reality TV star - who was expecting her first child with her husband Doug Hutchison but tragically suffered a miscarriage last month - has decided to chop her long blonde locks off as a symbolic tribute to her dead baby. Taking to her Twitter account on Sunday, the model uploaded a short video of her explaining her decision. She said: "Hi everyone, as you all know I recently suffered a miscarriage and it's had a huge impact on me emotionally. "I've been thinking and I have decided that I want to give back to my angel with a symbolic ges-

ture and that to me is shaving my hair off because I want to step into this new chapter into my life fresh and new." Courtney then uploaded a photograph of her new hairless look as she posed in a leopard print string bikini and matching headband as she clutched a champagne flute. Courtney's decision to shave her head is just one of many tributes she has made to her "angel" baby as she previously uploaded a heartfelt poem addressed to the unborn tot. Courtney - who was thought to be around three months pregnant - said at the time: "Never will I have the fortune to look into your precious eyes, I wonder what color they would have been. Probably blue like mine - like your daddy's too. I'll never get over the painful fact that I would be able to cradle you in my arms. I'll never be able to rest my cheek on yours and tell you how much I love you. "I'll never get over this ... losing you. I hope you know how much I miss you growing inside of my tummy. I hope that you know I wanted to give you life... a beautiful life - and desired so much to watch you grow into an incredible human being (sic)." Courtney's manager confirmed the miscarriage early last month after she set tongues wagging by posting an emotional cryptic message on her social networking sites. Courtney married Doug, 56, in 2011 but split just two years later. However, they soon reconciled as she said she knew the actor was the one she wanted to spend her life with. In May just gone, they announced they were having a baby and they also renewed their vows to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary.





(From left) Indian Bollywood actors Salman Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Arbaaz Khan pose with British actress Amy Jackson during the trailer launch of their home production Hindi film 'Freaky Ali' in Mumbai.— AFP

De Niro to get key award at Sarajevo Film Festival

Organizers say Robert De Niro will present Martin Scorsese's restored "Taxi Driver" at the opening night of the 22nd Sarajevo Film Festival and receive the festival's first lifetime achievement award. Festival organizers said yesterday that De Niro, who has won the Golden Globe, two Oscars and was nominated for another five Oscars, will receive the first honorary Heart of Sarajevo lifetime achievement award for his extraordinary contribution to the art of film.

The festival, which opens Friday, will offer viewers 223 movies from 61 countries over nine days. The Balkan region's most important film festival draws more than 100,000 people each year and has come a long way from its humble beginnings in a city roamed by snipers and blasted by mortar shells during Bosnia's 1992-95 war.— AP



In this file photo actor Robert De Niro attends a news conference in Macau.— AP

Israel's relationship with Palestinian filmmakers sees ups and downs

Thriving in spite of rising conservative pressures, Israeli cinema is back at Locarno festival with Israeli and Palestinian projects, a year after facing widespread threats of a cultural boycott, proving that it still boasts a liberal industry. At Locarno, Israel is being showcased at the Match Me forum, along with Brazilian and Chilean producers. It's not surprising that one of the three producers chosen by Locarno to represent Israel is a Palestinian one: Baher Agbariya, the producer of Maha Haj's "Personal Affairs" which opened at Cannes' Un Certain Regard. Whereas its TV landscape is vastly dominated by Israelis, its film industry owes its international profile and recognition in festivals to both Israeli and Palestinian filmmakers.

But amid the current turmoil shaking up the Arab world and tensions with Israel's right-wing government, the relationship of Palestinian producers and directors with Israel is being put to test. "(Politically-speaking), we've been in a deadlock for a long time with Palestinians, and that's reflected in our relationship with filmmakers: There are ups and down," said Katriel Schory, the executive director of the Israel Film Fund, adding that Jerusalem film fest had even collaborated with Ramallah festival back in 2010 — an initiative that is not conceivable today.

Right-wing conservative

Indeed, the Israeli film industry is currently at a crossroads, creating a volatile climate. The minister of culture and sports, Miri Regev, an outspoken right-wing conservative, has threatened to cut funding for films that are being critical of the state of Israel. Meanwhile, the national budget allocated to culture, including film, is being renegotiated next year for 2018-2022 which raises the stakes of current debates. "So far there has only been talks, no actions," said Schory at Jerusalem film festival in July. The exec, who's been heading the Israel Film Fund for 17 years, pointed the budget for culture could get cut by 10% to 15% at most.

But the biggest blow carried by Regev was her decision to impose Palestinian movies that are supported by Israel to be credited as Israeli rather than Israeli-Palestinian pics. That policy was enacted following the scandal caused by Suha Arraf, a Palestinian director who refused to list her film "Villa Touma" - which was selected at Venice-as Israeli even though it had been partly financed by Israel. Agbariya said the new rule was "unfair" to Palestinian directors, not only ethically-speaking but also because it makes it more difficult to have their movies travel in the Arab world. Apart from a few exceptions, like "Personal Affairs," which was selected at Beirut Film Festival, movies that are partly financed by Israel are blacklisted in most of the Arab markets.

Effective change

Yet, the support of the Israeli funds is a driving force behind the new generation of Palestinian filmmakers, Agbariya admitted. "For the new generation, their only choice is to be supported by Israeli funds: The Arab world gives no money to young, unknown directors; they give money to big names, and they prefer not to help directors who have the Israeli citizenship," added Agbariya. While the Israel Film Fund and the Rabinovich fund are NGOs's and are not considered government agencies, Regev seeks to exert greater control over their policies. Even without an effective change in policy, Agbariya says he fears film funds increasingly have Regev's threats in mind when selecting projects. "Negev is succeeding: When funds read the scripts they think about her and they are being more and more cautious about financing radical films," said Agbariya, who nevertheless noted that Schory was one of the last standing gatekeepers of the industry who fights for the freedom of every filmmakers.— Reuters

Dee Snider's granddaughter born on California freeway

Rocker Dee Snider's granddaughter has wasted no time coming into the world: She was born in a vehicle on a Los Angeles-area freeway. Jesse Snider posted an Instagram video from his car alongside his wife, Patty, on Sunday just after Parker Pryde Snider's birth. He says, "We waited a little too long to leave." Jesse Snider says the baby is healthy and already breast-feeding.

Dee Snider tweeted Sunday that Patty delivered Parker while Jesse drove, adding, "Way to get attention!" Snider shot to fame in the 1980s as the wild-haired lead singer of metal band Twisted Sister. The group is best known for its hits "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "I Wanna Rock." — AP



In this file photo Dee Snider of Twisted Sister performs during the Hell and Heaven music festival in Mexico City.— AP



In this file photo, Shad Moss, also known by his stage name, Bow Wow, attends the BET Experience - 106 and Park Live in Los Angeles.— AP

Bow Wow retiring from rap, says next album will be his last

The rapper formerly known as Bow Wow says his upcoming album will be his last. Shad Moss announced his retirement from rap on social media over the weekend. He says Snoop Dogg will be the executive producer on his final album, titled "NYLTH."

Snoop Dogg took Moss under his wing when Moss was a pint-size emcee in the

1990s. Snoop gave Moss the stage name "Lil' Bow Wow." The 29-year-old Moss says on Twitter that it's a "blessing to have made millions and can retire before 30." His post-retirement plans include a focus on acting and hosting. Moss also says he's producing two TV shows this year.— AP

Film premiere of 'Spaceman'



Singer Fergie attends the Los Angeles premiere of 'Spaceman' in West Hollywood, California.— AFP captions



Actor Josh Duhamel



Winter Ave Zoli



Ben Lyons

Michael Koch's 'Marija' flies Swiss Flag at Locarno

Michael Koch's feature debut "Marija," a vision of just what an immigrant is prepared to do to see her dreams come true, belongs to a prominent strain of highly-researched fiction which make little concessions to its audience. One of two Swiss international competition entries this year at Locarno, -alongside Milagros Mumenthaler's "The Idea of a Lake"- migrant drama "Marija" portrays a young Ukrainian woman who cleans hotel rooms in Dortmund Nordstadt, a former blue-collar neighborhood in the Ruhr region (Germany), but doesn't abandon her dreams to have her own hair salon. To achieve her goal, she's ready to pay any price.

Produced by Cologne-based Pandora Film and HugoFilm, and co-produced with Zurich's Little Shark, "Marija" world sales are handled by Paris-based

Luxbox. Real Fiction Filmverleih and Frenetic Films have picked rights for Germany and Switzerland respectively. "The whole film is told from Marija's perspective, often in sequence shots. With our visuals, we've tried to translate a sense of Marija's determination, her focus and inability to analyse her situation with any kind of distance," Koch told Variety.

Director-screenwriter Koch began his film career as an actor, co-starring in Swiss romantic comedy hit "Ready, Steady, Charlie!" A student at Cologne's Academy of Media Arts (KHM), he directed several shorts and documentary "We Are the Faithful," a Prix Canal Plus winner at France's Clermont-Ferrand shorts festival in 2006. Koch's graduation short, "Polar," took the German Short Film Prize in 2009. "I'm interested in a cinema that shows and does not explain, that focus-

es on people and their often contradictory needs in a formally rigorous way, telling stories of people struggling with inner, hidden conflicts," he adds.

He mentions other Swiss helmers - Nicolas Steiner, Basil da Cunha, Matthias Gunter, Andy Herzog and Tobias Nolle - as examples of directors who "formally and substantively are following new paths and do not chum up with the audience." Koch is now preparing his next project: "As in 'Marija' it's also based on detailed documentary research. My films' development work is always about 'finding' and not 'inventing,'" he said. Its subject? "Again, I am focusing on a person who meshes very different and contradictory needs. It is a movie about love and death and life, set in the Swiss mountains."— Reuters



Inmates and an artist (back) are seen painting during the celebration of the International Yoga Day at the Punta de Rieles prison in Montevideo. — AFP photos



Inmates are seen with a professor practice yoga during the celebration of the International Yoga Day.



An inmate plays an electric bass in the radio station of the Punta de Rieles prison in Montevideo.



Inmates rehearse songs at the Punta de Rieles prison.



Inmates are seen at the Punta de Rieles prison.



Inmates are seen in a hairdressing salon at the Punta de Rieles prison.



An inmate works in a confectionery.

Enterprising Uruguayan inmates make bricks, pizzas

Alvoro Brustu had never worked in his life before he wound up behind bars for armed robbery. Now after five years inside, the 34-year-old is running his own company, in an unusual scheme at a Uruguayan jail. The Punta de Rieles prison east of the capital Montevideo looks like many other penitentiaries from the outside, with high walls and barbed wire. But inside, the facility and its 700 inmates defy the Latin American stereotype of prison overcrowding and violence.

They have a bakery, pizzeria, ice cream parlor, a greenhouse for growing lettuce and a brick factory, where Brustu works. He gets up at 5:30 am, drinks his mate—an herbal drink popular in Uruguay—and goes to his cement mixer. "I just work and work," he says. Brustu turns out 400 concrete building blocks a day. They are sold to retailers as well as to other prisoners' families.

His earnings go into a prison account. He gives most of it to his family and claims the rest in the form of vouchers to buy goods made by other prisoners. Uruguayan authorities say 60 percent of inmates leaving prison end up being recidivists. Brustu wants to avoid being one of them. When he gets out, he wants to set up a brick factory of his own. "I've got two years and four months left. I am behaving myself," he says. "I've suffered a lot. Now I want to get out and do things properly." Inmates can keep taking part in the prison operations once they get out, even if that means coming back to work voluntarily within the prison walls.

Dignity

Congressional prisons commissioner Juan Miguel Petit warned recently that the situation in some of Uruguay's jails was "serious and explosive." He spoke after a series of killings in one notorious prison. At Punta de Rieles, prison director Luis Parodi, 65, is seeking to buck the trend. Unlike many of his counterparts who are former members of the security forces, Parodi is a teacher. "Prisoners are just like us. When you allow one to be your equal, he acts like it," he says. "Dignity begets dignity."

When relatives visit, inmates can take them for a pizza or ice cream served by other prisoners and paid for with credit earned by working. The name of the prison sweet shop sums up the spirit of the initiative: "New start." Elsewhere in the jail, a young long-term prisoner identifying himself as Fernando has set up a tattoo parlor. He bought the equipment with money he earned by working in jail. He talks as he inks a red and black eye on the hand of a fellow inmate. "Tattoos always go down well here," he says.

Survival

Outside on the prison grounds, Francisco Javier and Gustavo Cordero look after a greenhouse. Their lettuce and basil plants grow without soil, the roots immersed in liquid nutrients. The pair invested \$3,000 in the greenhouse. They sell the produce to traders outside the prison as well as other inmates. Javier, a 45-year-old Spaniard, faces a possible 25-year jail term but says he still has not been sentenced. He would not discuss his alleged crime. "They are supposed to take one day off your sentence for every two days worked," he says. "But that's up to the judge. It's quite a twisted system."

He has been in preventive custody for the past 10 years as the wheels of Uruguayan justice slowly turn. He likes Punta de Rieles' work and business system, but believes it has its limits. "A prisoner never gets rehabilitated. He just matures and gets wiser," Javier says. "In jail, you don't live. You survive." — AFP



An inmate tattoos a mate during the celebration of the International Yoga Day.



Musicians joke with a police officer woman during the celebration of the International Yoga Day.



Inmates play soccer at the Punta de Rieles prison.



Inmates work in carpentry workshop.



Inmates work in a bakery.



New York clown duo Acrobuffos jump in giant balloons at a photocall to promote their show "Air Play" in London.



Photo shows bowls of velvety green soup made from sea beet leaves, part of a supper made from wild plants gathered in the county of Dorset in southwest England.



Photo shows a baked pesto dish made from a plant called fat hen, with a serving of the leaves on the side, as part of a dinner made from wild plants gathered in the county of Dorset in southwest England. — AP photos

Sea beet leaves and elderflower: Learning to forage for food

"This," said our guide James Feaver, "is our main course." We were standing in front of a dung heap in a high meadow in the English countryside. Pushing up out of the ooze was a low-growing weed. He bent down, plucked a sprig and held it up. "Fat hen. Humans have eaten it for thousands of years. We're going to need a lot of it." After a glance among us, my family and I set about picking with an approximation of gusto. When you are foraging for your food you can't be too squeamish about little things like cow dung beneath your fingers.

I have long been fascinated with the idea of living off the land, finding sustenance among the wild plants that teem in hedges and fields. So a week's holiday in Dorset, in southwest England - a county bursting with picture-book countryside - gave me the chance to see how abundant nature's larder really is. Foraging is increasingly popular in the UK and there are many teachers to choose from. On a recommendation, I contacted Hedgerow Harvest and booked a half-day course for me, my partner Fon and our 7-year-old son, Jimmy.

Blade of grass

On a classic English summer's day - meaning we experienced all weather conditions in one afternoon - we met up with James Feaver, who gave up office work for professional foraging eight years ago. He now runs courses in south and southwest England, but mostly in Dorset, his adopted home. We met him in the village of Toller Porcorum, donned rubber boots and light waterproof jackets, and set off in search of wild provender.

We spent the next few hours walking through lanes hedged in with soaring banks, down tracks drenched in birdsong, beside clear streams and across uncut meadows in search of ingredients for a three-course meal. If like me you can't tell wild sorrel from a blade of grass, this quickly becomes daunting. But Feaver has gimlet eyes and an encyclopedic knowledge of the edible. High in a hedgerow, a spray of tiny white flowers stood proud of the foliage. He hooked it with his hazel stick, pulled it down to picking height, and inhaled. "The smell of summer," he said.

For centuries, country-folk have used the fragrant elderflower to add a zesty flavor to food and drink. Now it would bring its zing to our dessert. We plucked head after head. I lifted up Jimmy so he could join the harvest. In quick order we found red currants, wild mint and tiny, sweet, wild strawberries. The wicker basket James pro-

vided - a nice touch - began to fill. So far so idyllic, but this arcadia comes with thorns. Of the many rules of foraging the most important is this: Don't eat anything unless you are 100 percent certain you know what it is. Some edible plants look uncannily like ones that are deadly. For example, cow parsley goes well in salads but is easily mistaken for something you wouldn't want near your dinner plate: hemlock.

Favorite rule

Other rules include don't uproot anything (it's illegal), only take sustainably and don't pick from ground-hugging plants near footpaths "where dogs can wee on them." That was Jimmy's favorite rule. Time was getting on. From Toller Porcorum we drove down steep, narrow lanes to a nearby beach. Here you can see the stunning coastline sweep in an arc from Portland in Dorset right into neighboring east Devon. A trove of fossils has earned it the name Jurassic Coast and UNESCO World Heritage status.

But we weren't there for beauty or geology. We were there for sea beet leaves, a close relative of garden spinach that grows in low belts along the pebbly foreshore. More free food, right at our feet. But don't go thinking you can kiss goodbye to supermarkets just because your eyes have been opened. That's not the idea of the course. "Foraging isn't really about survival," Feaver had said at the start. "It's about taking the best of the wild and adding it to conventional ingredients to make great-tasting food." Great tasting? We'd be the judges of that. Back at our holiday cottage, Feaver supervised the preparation of the feast. For starters, sea beet soup. For main course, fat hen pesto bake, with more fat hen as a side dish, washed down with sparkling elderflower wine. To finish, elderflower and gooseberry fool, garnished with wild strawberries.

It was a revelation, especially the sea beet soup which was one of the most delicious soups I have ever had: rich, velvety and homey, like swallowing a big bowl of contentment. It had been a long day. We'd started at 1:30 pm and the last spoon didn't scrape its empty bowl till 9 pm. As he packed away his stick, basket and scissors, Feaver said that after doing the course, "people look at the countryside with different eyes." Yes, I thought. With eyes like dinner plates. — AP



James Feaver, a foraging guide, holding a spray of elderflowers on a field trip in search of wild edibles in the county of Dorset in southwest England.



Photo shows Fonthip Boonmak, left, James Feaver, center, and Boonmak's son Jimmy Harmer, right, gathering edible sea beet leaves near southern England's Jurassic Coast.



James Feaver, left, a foraging guide, leading Fonthip Boonmak and her son, Jimmy Harmer, through a high meadow in the county of Dorset in southwest England, in search of wild edibles.



Foraging guide James Feaver, left, shows red currants to Jimmy Harmer, center, and his mother, Fonthip Boonmak, on a hunt for wild edibles in the county of Dorset in southwest England.