

PAAET launches project to plant 100,000 seedlings



Trump jab at Clinton seen as threat of violence



Last-gasp Real break Sevilla hearts in Supercup



Armstrong bags gold; Phelps hungry for more after 21st gold



VETERAN DEEHANI WINS MEN'S DOUBLE TRAP GOLD

FIRST-EVER GOLD MEDAL WON BY A KUWAITI AT OLYMPICS



RIO DE JANEIRO: Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Al-Deehani, competing as part of the Independent Olympic Team, celebrates winning the gold medal in the men's double trap event at the Olympic Shooting Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Six-time Olympian Fehaid Al-Deehani battled wet and blustery conditions to win the gold medal in the men's double trap event yesterday. The 49-year-old Kuwaiti, competing under the Olympic flag, defeated Marco Innocenti of Italy in the duel for gold, nailing 26 orange targets out of 30 to Innocenti's 24. The bronze medal went to Steven Scott who defeated fellow Briton Tim Kneale with a perfect score of 30 in their match-up for third place. Deehani won bronze in double trap in Sydney 2000, when he became the first Kuwaiti of any sport to win a medal at the Olympic Games. He won another bronze in trap in London 2012.

The veteran needed a shoot-off with American Joshua Richmond to get into the finals. A proud officer in the Kuwait army, Deehani dropped to the ground and knelt after reaching the final, then pounded his chest as he walked away. In the gold medal match, Deehani raised his arms in triumph after hitting the final two targets, then turned and again pounded his chest at the crowd.

Deehani was forced to take part in Brazil as a neutral as Kuwait is suspended by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other leading federations such as FIFA, football's world body, over government interference in sport. Deehani is one of nine competing as an Independent Olympic Athlete (IOA). He turned down an offer from the IOC to carry the neutral's flag at last Friday's opening ceremony, telling Kuwaiti media: "I am a military man and I will only carry the Kuwait flag. I cannot carry the IOC flag." Deehani is the first independent to win gold at an Olympics. — Agencies



Min 32°
Max 48°
High Tide 04:52 & 17:46
Low Tide 11:44 & 23:23

POLICE 'VISIT' KUWAIT FA OFFICES

MOI SEIZES 1.5 MILLION CAPTAGON PILLS

KUWAIT: Police raided the Kuwait Football Association (FA) headquarters late on Tuesday, a week after the state lost a Swiss court case against the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which has banned the country from international competitions. "Police and other government authorities visited the Kuwait FA headquarters. Kuwait Olympic Committee headquarters is their next destination," said a statement on the Kuwait Football Association's website with a picture showing uni-

formed policemen at the offices.

An Interior Ministry spokesman denied the police had raided the offices, saying a photo going around on social media was of a governmental committee looking into infringements on state property which had visited a number of locations, including sports clubs. The IOC suspended Kuwait in Oct 2015, accusing the government of interference in its national Olympic Committee.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Packets of Captagon pills stashed inside charcoal bags in two containers are seen along with the suspects at the Drugs Control General Department premises yesterday. — KUNA (More photos on Page 3)

OMAN NEWSPAPER CLOSED DOWN FOR INSULTING JUDGES

DUBAI: A privately owned newspaper in Oman said on its website yesterday it had been suspended from publishing, a day after the government said it had "taken measures" against a paper for insulting the judiciary, without naming the publication. The editor of the Arabic language daily Azaman was detained almost two weeks ago over an article alleging an official had tried to influence a court ruling, the Committee to Protect Journalists cited the newspaper as saying. A staff member confirmed Ibrahim Al-Mamari was still in detention.

In a statement published by state news agency ONA late on Tuesday, the government said that the newspaper had "not only exceeded the limits of freedom of speech, but drifted into ... harming one of the pillars of the state, the judiciary". The government said it had taken unspecified measures "that would safeguard the judiciary and protect it from those who wanted to abuse," according to the statement.

The statement did not identify the newspaper and did not explain the action taken. An Azaman employee said the order to close did not "give a clear reason, nor a time frame for the publication ban". Azaman's corruption coverage in 2014 led to a number of convictions of senior officials and company executives. In 2011, a court issued a decision ordering the newspaper closed down for a month and Mamari and a

Continued on Page 13



BAGHDAD: Burned incubators for newborn babies are dumped outside a maternity ward after a fire at Yarmouk Hospital yesterday. — AP

12 NEWBORNS KILLED IN BAGHDAD HOSPITAL FIRE

BAGHDAD: A fire tore through the maternity ward of one of Baghdad's largest hospitals yesterday, killing at least 12 premature babies, medical and security officials said. Only seven babies could be saved and were taken to another ward in the Iraqi capital, said Jassem Lateef Al-Hijami of the Baghdad health directorate. Health ministry spokesman Ahmed Al-Rudeini said the blaze at the Yarmouk Hospital in west Baghdad was started by an electrical fault just after midnight. "Twenty-nine women patients who were in the same ward were evacuated to other hospitals," he told AFP. Security services sealed off the area as

forensic teams searched the gutted ward and angry relatives massed outside, waiting for information from the authorities. Charred incubators could be seen outside one of the entrances to the hospital, access to which was strictly controlled by the police. The grief of the bereaved parents and relatives was compounded by the fact that the babies' young age and the effects of the fire made it very difficult to identify the bodies.

Umm Ahmed came to Yarmouk on Tuesday when a close relative of hers gave birth.

Continued on Page 13

LIBYA GOVT FORCES SEIZE IS HEADQUARTERS IN SIRTE

US SPECIAL OPS TROOPS INVOLVED

TRIPOLI: Pro-government forces said they captured the Islamic State group's headquarters in their main Libyan stronghold of Sirte yesterday, scoring a major victory in a push to oust the jihadists from the city. IS fighters remained in several parts of the city, officials said, but seizing control of their headquarters has been the key goal of the forces loyal to Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA).

The taking of the headquarters followed rapid gains by pro-government forces through the city yesterday and after the United States last week launched air strikes on IS positions in Sirte at the GNA's request. The city's fall to IS in June last year raised deep concerns in the West, with fears the jihadists were

gaining an important foothold just across the Mediterranean from Europe. "The Ouagadougou center is in our hands," the operations centre for pro-GNA forces said, referring to the Sirte conference center where IS had set up base.

Reda Issa, a spokesman for the forces, said IS jihadists remained in three residential areas of the city and in a villa complex near the seafront. "The announcement of the liberation (of Sirte) will only be made once the entire city is liberated," he told AFP. The capture of the headquarters came after a lightning advance yesterday that saw pro-GNA forces seize the University of Sirte campus just south of the conference center and the Ibn Sina Hospital to the north.

Continued on Page 13



SIRTE, Libya: Forces loyal to Libya's unity government are seen on a pickup truck after they took complete control of the university campus yesterday. — AFP

ARTICLE PROVOKES QATAR BACKLASH

DOHA: An opinion article about life as a gay Qatar has stirred debate about the limits of tolerance in the conservative Gulf Arab country which is due to host the 2022 football World Cup. The unprecedented public insight into homosexuality in a country where gay sex is punishable by jail, was published on the website of English-language Doha News on Friday, written by a man identified only as Majid. "It is very jarring living here, it is traumatizing to see that you are the cause of your parents' anguish," he wrote. "I have become fearful of people knowing about me. We are seen as fair game."

Islamic-based legal codes govern the tiny, gas-rich peninsula which has been urged by gay rights groups to accept homosexual fans during the World Cup in 2022 when Qatar becomes the first Middle Eastern or Muslim country to host the tournament. Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter said in 2010 that gay men coming to watch the football "should refrain from any sexual activities," but he did not expect there to be any discrimination.

Doha News said the article was intended to start a discussion on homosexuality as "Qatar matured and prepared for the World Cup."

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Director General of Kuwait Fire Services Directorate Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Director General of (KFSD) Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad.

AMIR RECEIVES NEW KFSD CHIEF

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah who introduced the newly-appointed Chief of Kuwait Fire Services

Directorate (KFSD) Lieut-General Khaled Al-Mekrad. The meeting was attended by Advisor of the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Daifallah Sharar. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah later introduced the new official to 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 as well. Earlier, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh

Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister received Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Dr Abdullah Al-Mohareb. — KUNA



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



BASRA: Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Al-Jaafari speaks during a press conference after meeting Kuwait's Consul to Basra Yousef Ashour Al-Sabbagh yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAITI DIPLOMAT MEETS IRAQI FM

BASRA: Kuwaiti Consul to Basra Yousef Ashour Al-Sabbagh met with the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Al-Jaafari during a gathering for representatives of diplomatic missions in the Iraqi city. Sabbagh said that the meeting discussed how to strengthen the ties between Iraq and neighboring countries.

On the Kuwaiti-Iraqi level, there was also a discussion of how the two countries could benefit from one another, said

the Kuwaiti diplomat, adding that the meeting with the Iraqi minister also touched on the services office recently opened by the Kuwaiti consulate in Basra.

Meanwhile, Jaafari said that the meeting with the Kuwaiti diplomat stressed the positive role played by Kuwait in Iraq. Kuwait recently held a conference to discuss Iraq's future and the postponement of Iraqi debts to Kuwait till early 2017. — KUNA

INFO MINISTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF EXERTING EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN MONUMENTS

KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Sabah has underlined the significance of exerting official and popular efforts to preserve historic buildings and monuments. Sheikh Salman, who is also Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), made the statement yesterday, while meeting Chairperson of the Voluntary Action Center Sheikh Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Acting of NCCAL Mohammad Al-Asousi and some senior officials, Information Ministry said in a statement.

He said these monuments should be dealt with in accordance with a national culture perspective to help the next generations get acquainted with them. He called for raising social awareness on the importance of restoring monuments and historic buildings in accordance with relevant standards, the statement added.

The minister lauded efforts and initiative of Sheikh Amthal and the center's staff aiming to pre-



KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Sabah meets with Chairperson of the Voluntary Action Center Sheikh Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

serve monuments of Kuwait. The conferees discussed upgrading the law on preserving historic monuments issued in 1960 through enacting some regulations and mechanisms in this regard, it said. The meeting called for promoting cooperating among NCCAL, the center and Ministry of Information to form a team aiming to preserve these monuments, and establish a monument city for filming dramas pertaining to the ancient history of Kuwait. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Affairs Major General met yesterday with a delegation from Airbus Helicopters, including CEO Guillaume Faury. The two sides discussed the deal signed Tuesday and as per which Kuwait's Defense Ministry acquired 30 Caracal military helicopters.



KUWAIT: Director of the Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad met yesterday with a number of Kuwait National Guard officials, including Staff Major General Faleh Faleh, Protection and Reinforcement Commander, Major General Jamal Theyab, Director of the Deputy Commander's Diwan, and Brigadier Bader Hamad, Operations and Staff Commander. The delegation's members greeted Mekrad on his recent promotion. - By Hanan Al-Saadoun





KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah led senior ministry officials yesterday as they oversaw the process of confiscating 1.5 million pills of Captagon, which were stashed in two containers that came from Ukraine. Two people were arrested during the operation, the Interior Ministry announced. — KUNA

PAAET LAUNCHES PROJECT TO PLANT 100,000 SEEDLINGS

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) launched yesterday a national project to plant 100,000 seedlings in its nurseries in Al-Shuwaikh area. PAAET works to conserve indigenous desert plants that can thrive in the country's environ-

ment and consume less water than most plants, PAAET Deputy Director General Hajraf Al-Hajraf said in a press statement.

Moreover, he noted how proud PAAET employees are of the success of such projects, adding that the people of Kuwait are steadfast

in their support of the nation and its academic institutions.

The aim of this project is to salvage the environment, PAAET official Fnais Al-Ajmi said, adding that all volunteers are welcome to contribute to the project. — KUNA



21% OF LOANS DEDICATED TO AGRICULTURE IN '15: KFAED

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) announced that 21 percent of its total loans were used to develop 197 agricultural projects worth KD 969 million, until end of 2015. The fund focused on agricultural projects due to their high economic and social outcome, said KFAED in a study published yesterday, adding that 40 percent of these projects are executed in Arab countries.

The projects aimed to boost living standards for citizens of rural areas, provide sufficient amount of food and reduce the rate of immigration to cities. KFAED is

also working to resolving issues preventing the development of agriculture in these areas, including weak infrastructure and low budget, the study added.

Meanwhile, KFAED noted the efforts of the Goodwill Fund established by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with KD 100 million in 2008, aiming to provide food items and developing agricultural projects in poor countries. The fund includes 22 countries with seven being Arab states, said KFAED, adding that it also provides loans to support small farmers. — KUNA

PHONE SUBSCRIBERS URGED TO PAY BILLS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Communications appealed to all landline subscribers to pay their phone bills and warned that those who fail to pay overdue bills would face automated cutting system this month. The ministry will send a first warning message to subscribers next Sunday and a second one on August 21, and finally cut the service after the second message for those who didn't pay the overdue bills, the ministry said in a press statement yesterday.

The statement added that maximum limit after which the service would be cut is KD 50 for house landlines and KD 100 for commercial ones. It noted that lines with overdue bills that the ministry had already

agreed to pay them by installments would be immediately disconnected if any delay in paying the due monthly installment. The delay in paying the annual subscription would also lead to a disconnection of the service for over 6 months for both house and commercial lines, it said. The ministry urged subscribers to abide by paying the due sums as early as possible to keep service in an optimal way, expressing its gratitude to those who cooperated with the ministry over the last six months. It said that subscribers could pay their bills through the ministry website or the Kuwait e-gate portal and could also inquire about their bills through hotline: 123, the statement concluded. — KUNA

LABOR UNION REJECT FUEL PRICES INCREASE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The central council of the Labor Union held its fourth meeting chaired by Abdelaziz Bu Rashed yesterday to discuss the labor situation in Kuwait. It also discussed the problems it faces due to the government plans to impose a rationalized spending policy through reducing or canceling subsidies to public services and pri-

vatization, as well as compromising the economic and social rights of workers and those with limited income without a study of the negative repercussions to the cost of living and prices.

"The latest step of this policy was the Cabinet decision to raise gasoline prices, which calls upon labor unions and NGOs to confront such decisions through which the government will burden the working class

with the budget deficit, and this is rejected by the labor union, which considers it in favor of one group only," the council said in a statement.

The council also discussed the displeasure of many oil workers due to the cancellation of their strike, and the meetings between the government and representatives of the petroleum workers union that were "characterized by procrastination." This in addition to the decision to refer the chairman of the petroleum workers union to the public prosecution over the strike. The council discussed the situation of expat workers and the problems they face in the form of not receiving their salaries for months, with total absence by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in taking action against violating companies of the private sector labor law as well as international treaties.

School timings

Education Ministry's Undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari said it was agreed all teachers should report to work at public schools on Sept 18. Kindergarten and first grade students will return to school on Sept 21, all elementary school stage students on Sept 22, while all intermediate and secondary students report on Sept 25. The midterm break will be from Jan 21, 2017 to Feb 4. The final day of school for those in kindergarten will be June 8, 2017, elementary and intermediate on June 21 and secondary on July 3.

Woman remanded

The public prosecution decided to remand a Filipina woman arrested for IS links and sent her to the central prison, as she will be tried at the criminal court. The Filipina was arrested earlier charged with being a member of Daesh and preparing for a terrorist act.

Diesel leak

Firemen tackled a diesel leak on the Fourth Ring Road towards Fahaheel Expressway due to the explosion of a water tank compressor. Hawally and back up fire centers responded and removed the leaked fuel.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said inspection campaigns will continue, particularly over encroachment on state property, obstacles that hinder state projects and signboard violations. It said that violations removal department of the Capital branch carried out a wide ranging campaign in Sharq, resulting in collecting a total of KD 83,000 in fees as well as removal of obstacles to the First Ring Road project, issuing 45 citations and closing a restaurant. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

REPORTER/EDITOR WANTED

REQUIREMENTS:

- Previous journalism experience
- Knowledge of Filipino community in Kuwait
- Driving license and own car
- Transferrable visa 18 (applicants must be current residents of Kuwait)
- Ability to start immediately
- Fluency in English

Send CV, salary requirements, references and 3 writing samples to jobs@kuwaittimes.net

ABSOLUTELY NO PHONE CALLS. Only shortlisted candidates who meet all requirements will be contacted.

In Brief

49 C DEGREES

KUWAIT: Kuwait's temperature reached a maximum of 49 Degrees Celsius yesterday with the minimum temperature being at 29 Degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in Kuwait. "Wednesday will be extremely hot and experience light to moderate northwesterly winds at a speed of 8 to 28 kilometers per hour," the department reported in its forecast for yesterday. — KUNA



US DOLLAR DOWN AGAINST DINAR

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US Dollar yesterday went down against the Kuwaiti Dinar to 0.301, while the euro went up to KD 0.336 compared to Tuesday's rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The CBK added that the Sterling Pound went up to reach KD 0.394, while the Swiss Franc stood firm at KD 0.307. The Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002. — KUNA



AHMADI GOVERNOR MEETS CO-OP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with a delegation from the Abu Hlaifah Co-operative Society that included Secretary Eid Al-Barrak, Treasurer Hamad Al-Hunaif and Board Member Fahad Al-Khunain. The Governor acknowledged during the meeting the role that co-op societies play, especially with regards to their social responsibility duties.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A man practices thread fishing at the beach in Kuwait City. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

MINISTRY SUSPENDS COMPANY PROMOTING EXPIRED GOODS



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced yesterday it suspended the operation of a cosmetics company accused of the fraudulent act of extending the expiry date of its products. The Ministry added in a press release that this company had also sold some 5,000 pieces of prohibited hair cream not registered at the Ministry of Health. Instructions were given to arrest members of the company who referred to the commercial court. — KUNA





KUWAIT: MoH's Undersecretary of Medical Services Mohammad Al-Khashti attends the meeting. — KUNA

MOH LAUNCHES NEW DIABETES GUIDEBOOK

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) released yesterday a guidebook on diabetes, a comprehensive source designed to notify patients about the disease's risk factors. This book will be useful for doctors and patients alike to ensure a smooth treatment process, part of efforts to boost immunity of chronic diseases, said MoH Undersecretary of Medical Services Mohammad Al-Khashti.

Moreover, according to recent MoH studies, he revealed that 15.8 percent of men and 13.4 percent of women suffer from diabetes, while 15 percent of diabet-

ics are aged between 18 to 70. Meanwhile, MoH official Rehab Al-Watyan noted that the ministry has revamped the previous version of the booklet to include the latest facts on diabetes, as the new book will be distributed to all diabetics.

She also added that the booklet will give diabetics a better understanding of the severity of their condition, helping them avert any dangerous levels of the disease. According to an MoH study conducted in 2015, 540,000 people in Kuwait have diabetes as 37.1 out of every 100 people suffer from the disease. — KUNA

LEAKAGE AT AL-AHMADI OIL FIELD UNDER CONTROL: KOC

Q8 BOASTS PRESTIGIOUS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) said yesterday it controlled the oil leakage that occurred at a drilling rig in Al-Ahmadi oil field on Tuesday. The accident neither affected the production, nor inflicted any injuries, affirmed Imad Al-Sultan, the KOC official spokesman. The leak happened at rig BWD-133 during a drilling operation and KOC teams of technicians dealt with the accident according to the Company's standing procedures.

In other news, the Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) on Tuesday emphasized the importance of receiving the prestigious Corporate Social Responsibility award, offered by Britain-based Green Earth Appeal. The award followed the issuance of Q8's second Corporate Sustainability Report last May, which

came in line with the relevant international criteria, CEO Bakheet Al-Rashidi said in a press after he received the prize.

It gives an obvious evidence of Q8's commitment to concepts of sustainability and preservation of a work environment based on professional ethics, Rashidi added. He voiced pride that Q8 is ranked among the world leading firms in the field. The company is committed to carrying on with its success in line with the 2013 Strategy, he said.

The Green Earth Appeal is a Not-For-Profit Social Enterprise, changing lives of some of the planet's poorest communities through tree planting in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program and with the assistance of companies like yours. — KUNA



إحدى شركات مؤسسة البترول الكويتية
A Subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

MORE AFRICAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS TO RETURN HOME

By Sara Ahmed

KUWAIT: More than 30 women from Malawi are being repatriated after having been trafficked to Kuwait to work as domestic helpers. All of the women claim to have had their passports confiscated by employers. They say that they were tricked into believing they would be offered well paying jobs in Kuwait but were shocked to learn that they would be housemaids. So far at least four have been repatriated home, according to Malawi media. Most of the women have been reported as absconding and will be deported from Kuwait.

In May, dozens of women from Zimbabwe similarly appealed for help to return home after being tricked into domestic employment in

Kuwait. Kuwait is listed as a Tier 2 country in the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, meaning that it is on a 'watch list' of trafficking destinations. Several nationalities including mostly workers from South and Southeast Asia are exploited and often trafficked under false pretenses to the country. Many have paid exorbitant recruitment fees to arrive in Kuwait and find no jobs waiting for them.

Several embassies including the Indian and Philippines embassies have institute rigorous recruiting and hiring protocols as a way to protect nationals from unscrupulous recruiting agents both in their home countries and in Kuwait.

As a result, in recent years, recruiters are shift-

ing to African countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe for domestic helpers. They are often deceived regarding the work being offered in Kuwait, including wages, duties and types of employment and often have their passports seized upon arrival. In general, many foreign laborers in Kuwait continue to face discrimination and abuse including non-payment of wages, long working hours without rest, deprivation of food, threats, physical or sexual abuse, and restrictions on movement, such as confinement to the workplace and the withholding of passports.

In June 2015, the government passed a new domestic labor law meant to ensure basic protections and rights for domestic laborers. However it has had limited effect in the market.

EQUATE CONTINUES GLOBAL GROWTH THROUGH ITS SUBSIDIARY MEGLOBAL WITH EG PLANT THE USA PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 750,000 TONS ANNUALLY

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, continued its global growth through its wholly owned subsidiary MEGlobal with the groundbreaking of a new world-scale ethylene glycol (EG) manufacturing facility in Freeport, Texas, USA.

With this plant, EQUATE is the first Kuwaiti petrochemical company to invest in the USA. EQUATE is the world's second largest EG producer with 12 percent of the global market share. The new facility, to be completed during 2019, will increase EQUATE's monoethylene glycol (MEG) capacity by 750,000 metric tons annually (MTA) and will enhance EQUATE's global presence to meet customer needs.

Through its existing plants in Kuwait and Canada, EQUATE's current EG production capacity exceeds 2 million MTA. The plant will utilize Dow's METEOR technology as part of its production process. The groundbreaking was attended by senior officials from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), EQUATE, MEGlobal and the State of Texas. On the sidelines of the groundbreaking ceremony, attendees toured Dow's USA Gulf Coast cracker construction at the adjacent Oyster Creek site.

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "Building on our acquisition of MEGlobal during 2015, this step is part of our strategic expansion plans

as an international petrochemical enterprise. The new facility will benefit from overall integration in terms of low cost advantaged shale-gas, strategic location, feedstock availability and operational excellence. The new plant will enable us to meet rising demand for EG throughout the world, especially in the USA and Asia. We are pleased to be the first Kuwaiti petrochemical company to have an industrial investment in the USA through this EG facility."

MEG is used in a number of market applications, including polyester fibers, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and packaging, antifreeze and coolants, paints, resins, deicing fluids, heat transfer fluids and construction materials.



Offer Valid From 10.08.2016 to 20.08.2016

Delicious **المأكولات**

FOOD Fest

Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

STREET FOOD MARKET
GARDEN OF THE BAY
CO-CITY
THE ROYAL PALACE
LAKHTA
THE VILLAGE
THE VILLAGE
THE VILLAGE

BEST OFFER

Tilda
Grand Extra Long
Basmati Rice 5Kg-1Kg Free

KD. 4.570
KD. 2.990

BEST OFFER

Afia
Sunflower Oil 1.8Ltr 2's

KD. 2.760
KD. 1.770

Nutella
Chocolate Spread 750gm

KD. 2.100
KD. 1.795

Nescafe
3 IN 1 My Cup Sachet
20gm 30's

KD. 1.590
KD. 1.250

BEST OFFER

NIDO
FORTIFIED
Milk Powder Pouch
2.25kg

KD. 4.790
KD. 3.495

BEST OFFER

TANG
Instant Drink
1.5kg(Orange/Mango)

KD. 1.995
KD. 1.495

Indomie
Instant Noodles
70gm 10's Assorted

KD. 0.780
KD. 0.620

Americana
White Meat Tuna In Water
160gm 4's

KD. 0.995

BEST OFFER

Al Youm
Fresh Chicken Drumstics /
Whole Leg / Mixed Parts 1 kg /Pc

From 10 to 15.08.2016

15% Discount

Arwa
Mineral Water 500ml 12's

KD. 0.720
KD. 0.445

BEST OFFER

KDD
Tomato Paste 135gm 8's

KD. 0.700
KD. 0.595

BEST OFFER

Perdix
Chicken 1.1 kg x 2

KD. 1.690
KD. 1.290

Pomegranate
(India) per kg

KD. 1.195
KD. 0.895

Tomato
Box

From 10 to 13.08.2016

KD. 1.245
KD. 0.995

BEST OFFER

Harpic
Toilet Cleaner
500ml 2+1 free

From 10 to 14.08.2016

KD. 1.450
KD. 0.990

Tide
Washing Powder 3kg 2's

From 10 to 15.08.2016

KD. 4.390
KD. 3.590

iPhone SE
64GB

- 4G
- 4.0
- 64 GB, 2 GB RAM
- 12 MP/1.2 MP
- Non-removable Li-Po 1624 mAh battery
- Dual-core 1.84 GHz Twister

KD. 174.900
KD. 161.990

LG
SmartShare™
55" FHD Smart LED TV
55LF630T

Net Offer Price
KD. 319.950
KD. 254.950

65
Cash Back

HYPERMARKETS,
SUPERMARKETS,
DEPARTMENT STORES

Buy better.



EGAILA • SALMIYA • DAJEEJ • AL QURAIN • AL RAI • FAHAHEEL

Crime

Report

GIRL CHARGED WITH FORGERY AFTER 'SNEAKING' OUT OF KUWAIT

KUWAIT: A girl left Kuwait three months ago and flew to the US. An absconding complaint about her was filed at Jahra police station, and police were busy searching for her. Then the girl arrived all of a sudden at Kuwait airport via Dubai, and handed her papers to the passport officer, who discovered she was reported missing, and wondered why her exit was not documented. When he asked her, she said she had left through the airport after deceiving the passport officers, and went through without anyone noticing. She was charged with forgery and sent to the prosecution.

Stepfather questioned

A 20-year-old girl told police her stepfather is very inquisitive and interferes in all her affairs, and wants to know when she goes and when she will return. Lately, she started rejecting his "interference", so he locked her up and prevented her from leaving, and threatened to harm her if she violates his rules. The girl lodged a complaint, so he was summoned and questioned. He did not deny the charges, but said she is not respecting him, and he is responsible for her because she lives in his house. Investigations are underway.

Fraud

An Egyptian man took advantage of a Bangladeshi worker's ignorance after she asked him to withdraw KD 30, keeping KD 200 for himself and escaping. An employee at a service center gave the Bangladeshi her ATM and asked her to withdraw KD 30, who then asked an Egyptian to withdraw the money for her. He did so, but the citizen received a message about withdrawal of KD 230, and became angry when the worker told her about the Egyptian. The citizen and the worker went to Khaitan police station and told them what happened. Detectives are working on the case.

Drug dealer arrested

Hawally police arrested an Indian man trading in heroin and liquor, and sent him to DCGD. The Indian was stopped in Hawally, and seemed to be nervous, so he was searched. Police found 12 heroin envelopes, five locally made liquor bottles and two imported liquor bottles. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Meanwhile, Nuwaiseeb police arrested a citizen with hashish and drug paraphernalia. The source said he and the drugs were sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: Acting Director of the Manpower Public Authority Abdullah Al-Mutawtah met recently with the ambassadors of Sudan and Sri Lanka to Kuwait, and discussed with them matters concerning labor cooperation between Kuwait and each country.

Al-Anbaa

ASEEDA

By Saad Al-Motish

When you do not have something to do, then there will be room to do anything, or play with anything you have without anyone else sharing it with you. As we have got bored with some of the games that have no benefit because the results are known and decided, we must look for another game so as not to be sorry. There is nothing to play with, and no one complains against and fills the void other than television, but you must be careful about playing with it, so you do not cause yourself pain. Stay away from the channels that brings you the news of wars and catastrophes, the channels that look for strife with the claim of analyzing the situation. I found the best of these channels and programs are those of cooking and preparing food, because all what you will suffer from is repeatedly 'swallowing you saliva', but be careful because we do not

I found the best of these channels and programs are those of cooking and preparing food

know if it tastes good or is just a picture. I learned from those programs how to make the 'aseeda' dish, because its ingredients are simple and any person can make it. The ingredients are two cups of white flour and one dark, one stick of butter, one teaspoon of black pepper and water. Aseeda's ingredients differ from one country to another, as each Arab country has its own aseeda. I did not eat Arab aseedas and I do not know whether they are good or not, but what I know is that the saying "each eats his own aseeda and cares for his tragedy" is very realistic. So do not ask me to eat from your aseeda because when you were eating from my aseeda a few years ago, you did not feel what hurt me, and only my Gulf cousins were affected and cared for me. May Allah preserve the good-tasting Gulf aseeda, and May Allah keep tragedies away from us.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched its 2016 annual summer training program, which targets school and university students aged between 14 and 21 years.



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Retirees Care Department hosted retired officers in their weekly meeting this past Tuesday. Brigadier General Jamal Al-Omar, Acting Director of the Service Centers Department and Colonel Saif Al-Ajmi, Director of the Retirees Care Department.



KUWAIT: A delegation from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) visited Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad, Director General of the Kuwait Fire Service Department (KFSD), to congratulate him on his recent promotion. The two sides also discussed matters of mutual interest, including transforming the firemen training center into a certified academy for firefighters.

LEASE IT, OWN IT, CHANGE IT

AN EXCLUSIVE AUGUST OFFER

ON LS, GS & IS 2016 MODELS



IS 2016

Starting from
199 KD / MONTH



LS 460L 2016

Starting from
194 KD / MONTH



GS 2016

Starting from
212 KD / MONTH

Now in August you can lease a Lexus LS, GS or IS 2016 model through Al-Sayer in conjunction with KFH, using your current trade-in as deposit for a period of up to 59 months, having the option to return or own the car at the end of the contract period.*

Hurry now and grasp this opportunity today!

- Comprehensive insurance for the duration of the contract*
- Open Mileage*
- 50,000km Service*
- Replacement Car*
- Road Assistant*
- Trade-In Available*
- Test Drive Available*

*Terms & conditions apply

IN COOPERATION WITH
بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House




MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER & SONS EST. CO. W.L.L.
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES

Tel. 1830030

www.lexus.com.kw
LexusKW

Kuwait Times International

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016



Duterte calls US ambassador gay
Page 12

INDIAN POLICE ARREST DOCTORS OVER 'ORGAN TRADE'

Page 11



PHU YEN, Vietnam: Visitors walk at Ghenh Da Dia, or the sea cliff of stone plates - a popular tourist destination at the Tuy An commune, in the central coastal province of Phu Yen. — AFP

VIETNAM MOVES ROCKET LAUNCHERS INTO DISPUTED SEA TENSIONS HEIGHTENED AFTER INTERNATIONAL COURT RULING

HONG KONG: Vietnam has discreetly fortified several of its islands in the disputed South China Sea with new mobile rocket launchers capable of striking China's runways and military installations across the vital trade route, according to Western officials. Diplomats and military officers told Reuters that intelligence shows Hanoi has shipped the launchers from the Vietnamese mainland into position on five bases in the Spratly islands in recent months, a move likely to raise tensions with Beijing.

The launchers have been hidden from aerial surveillance and they have yet to be armed, but could be made operational with rocket artillery rounds within two or three days, according to the three sources. Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said the information was "inaccurate", without elaborating. Deputy Defense Minister, Senior Lieutenant-General Nguyen Chi Vinh, told Reuters in Singapore in June that Hanoi had no such launchers or weapons ready in the Spratlys but reserved the right to take any such measures. "It is within our legitimate right to self-defense to move any of our weapons to any area at any time within our sovereign territory," he said. The move is designed to counter China's build-up on its seven reclaimed islands in the Spratlys archipelago. Vietnam's military strategists fear the building runways, radars and other military installations on those holdings have left

Vietnam's southern and island defenses increasingly vulnerable. Military analysts say it is the most significant defensive move Vietnam has made on its holdings in the South China Sea in decades. Hanoi wanted to have the launchers in place as it expected tensions to rise in the wake of the landmark international court ruling against China in an arbitration case brought by the Philippines, foreign envoys said.

The ruling last month, stridently rejected by Beijing, found no legal basis to China's sweeping historic claims to much of the South China Sea. Vietnam, China and Taiwan claim all of the Spratlys while the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei claim some of the area. "China has indisputable sovereignty over the Spratly islands and nearby waters," China's Foreign Ministry said in a faxed statement yesterday.

"China resolutely opposes the relevant country illegally occupying parts of China's Spratly islands and reefs and on these illegally occupied Spratly islands and reefs belonging to China carrying out illegal construction and military deployments." The United States is also monitoring developments closely. "We continue to call on all South China Sea claimants to avoid actions that raise tensions, take practical steps to build confidence, and intensify efforts to find peaceful, diplomatic solutions to disputes," a State Department official said.

State-of-the-art system

Foreign officials and military analysts believe the launchers form part of Vietnam's state-of-art EXTRA rocket artillery system recently acquired from Israel. EXTRA rounds are highly accurate up to a range of 150 km, with different 150 kg warheads that can carry high explosives or bomblets to attack multiple targets simultaneously. Operated with targeting drones, they could strike both ships and land targets. That puts China's 3,000-metre runways and installations on Subi, Fiery Cross and Mischief Reef within range of many of Vietnam's tightly clustered holdings on 21 islands and reefs.

While Vietnam has larger and longer range Russian coastal defense missiles, the EXTRA is considered highly mobile and effective against amphibious landings. It uses compact radars, so does not require a large operational footprint - also suitable for deployment on islets and reefs. "When Vietnam acquired the EXTRA system, it was always thought that it would be deployed on the Spratlys...it is the perfect weapon for that," said Siemon Wezeman, a senior arms researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

There is no sign the launchers have been recently test fired or moved. China took its first Spratly possessions after a sea battle against Vietnam's then weak navy in 1988. After the bat-

tle, Vietnam said 64 soldiers with little protection were killed as they tried to protect a flag on South Johnson reef - an incident still acutely felt in Hanoi. In recent years, Vietnam has significantly improved its naval capabilities as part of a broader military modernization, including buying six advanced Kilo submarines from Russia.

Carl Thayer, an expert on Vietnam's military at the Australian Defense Force Academy, said the deployment showed the seriousness of Vietnam's determination to militarily deter China as far as possible. "China's runways and military installations in the Spratlys are a direct challenge to Vietnam, particularly in their southern

waters and skies, and they are showing they are prepared to respond to that threat," he said. "China is unlikely to see this as purely defensive, and it could mark a new stage of militarization of the Spratlys."

Trevor Hollingsbee, a former naval intelligence analyst with the British defense ministry, said he believed the deployment also had a political factor, partly undermining the fear created by the prospect of large Chinese bases deep in maritime Southeast Asia. "It introduces a potential vulnerability where they were none before - it is a sudden new complication in an arena that China was dominating," he said. — Reuters

JAPAN'S CROWN PRINCE READY FOR THE THRONE

TOKYO: When Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito proposed to a reluctant Masako Owada, he promised to protect her with all his might, a vow that may get tougher to keep if, as expected, his father Emperor Akihito abdicates, and the woman who has struggled to adjust to royal life becomes empress. The 82-year-old Akihito, who with Empress Michiko has won hearts at home by championing the disadvantaged and worked to heal the wounds of World War Two abroad, hinted in a televised address on Monday that he could give up the Chrysanthemum Throne due to advancing age.

While the earnest Naruhito, 56, is seen as ready for the succession and has taken on more official duties, Masako, 52, who turned down his first two proposals during a long courtship beginning nearly 30 years ago, has struggled as Crown Princess. Harvard-educated Masako, who reluctantly abandoned a diplomatic career to marry, has for more than a decade battled depression, as she grappled with the prescriptions and proscriptions of palace life and pressure to produce a son. Their daughter, 14-year-old Aiko, cannot take the throne under male-only inheritance laws. In 2012,

Masako, who spent large parts of her early life overseas and speaks several languages, acknowledged that she had been battling a stress-related illness for a long time. Her public appearances are still sporadic. "Imperial popularity tends to be earned through carrying out public duties over the course of the reign," said Kenneth Ruoff, a professor at Portland State University and author of "The People's Emperor."


"If Naruhito does that, there is no reason to think he would be any less respected than his father. The case of Masako is more difficult to foresee." Naruhito's interests in medieval transport and environmental causes seem safely worthy, if dull, though royal watchers say he has broken new ground, like advocating hands-on fathering, uncommon in a country where there is still a strong gender-based division of labor both at work and home. He is also unusual, for a Japanese royal, in having studied abroad, and describes his two years at Oxford University as some of the happiest days of his life.

Adjustment disorder



Naruhito has made clear he will carry on his

father's work of reminding people about the importance of peace, even as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe moves to recast wartime history with a less apologetic tone. But he is best known for his passionate defense of Masako, who disappeared from public view in 2003 with shingles and what was later described as an "adjustment disorder". In 2004 he set off an unusually public feud with the Imperial Household, an agency responsible for organizing the activities of the royal family, by saying that Masako, who had hoped to use her diplomatic experience as crown princess, had "totally exhausted herself" trying to adapt to palace life.


"It is true there were moves to negate Masako's career and her personality, which was influenced by that career," he said. Naruhito's defense continued through the years, during which tabloids occasionally criticized his wife for slacking off. In 2008 he pleaded for understanding, saying: "Masako is continuing to make utmost efforts with the help of those around her." An emperor's duties include religious ceremonies and opening parliament, but social welfare work has taken centre stage. — Reuters



State of Kuwait
Ministry of Economic & Industry
Commerce & Consumer Affairs

LEXUS CT200h (2011 - 2012)

PRODUCT	MODEL NAME	FRAME NUMBERS RANGE	
	MODEL YEAR	FROM	TO
LEXUS CT200h (2011 - 2012)		JTHKD5BHXB2001224	JTHKD5BH2C2068210
RECALL REASON	Fuel evaporative emission control unit (exister) check for crack on the edge of the resin channel.		
REMEDY	Lexus will replace Fuel Suction Plate Sub-Assembly		
CONTACT	 Hotline: 1830030 www.lexus.com.kw Please book an appointment to serve you better		

Dear Valuable Customers:
 LEXUS vehicles belonging to new owners of any model year / ages are requested to register your vehicle details and contact number with us.
 We need your co-operation to serve you better for any customer satisfaction program.

BALTIMORE POLICE SHOW BIAS AND OVERUSE FORCE

BALTIMORE: Baltimore police officers routinely discriminate against blacks, repeatedly use excessive force and are not adequately held accountable for misconduct, according to a harshly critical Justice Department report being presented yesterday. The report, the culmination of a yearlong investigation into one of the country's largest police forces, also found that officers make large numbers of stops - mostly in poor, black neighborhoods - with dubious justification and unlawfully arrest citizens for speech deemed disrespectful. Physical force is used unnecessarily, including against the mentally disabled, and black pedestrians and drivers are disproportionately searched during stops, the report says.

The Justice Department released a copy of the report in advance of its public announcement at an event Wednesday morning in Baltimore. The report represents a damning indictment of how the city's police officers carry out the most fundamental of policing practices, including traffic stops and searches and responding to First Amendment expression. Beyond that, though, it could serve as a blueprint for sweeping changes: The Justice Department is seeking a court-enforceable consent decree to force the police agency to

commit to improving its procedures in order to avoid a lawsuit.

Handcuffed and shackled

The Justice Department in recent years has undertaken similar wide-reaching investigations into the police in Chicago, Cleveland, Albuquerque and Ferguson, Missouri, among other cities. The federal investigation was launched after the April 2015 death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year old black man whose neck was broken while he was handcuffed and shackled but left unrestrained in the back of a police van. The death set off protests and the worst riots in decades. The report went far beyond the circumstances of Gray's death to examine a slew of potentially unconstitutional practices, including excessive force and discriminatory traffic stops, within the department.

Federal investigators spent more than a year interviewing Baltimore residents, police officers, prosecutors, public defenders and elected officials, as well as riding along with officers on duty and reviewing documents and complaints. Among the findings: Black residents account for roughly 84 percent of stops, though they represent just 63 percent of the city's population. Likewise, African-

Americans make up 95 percent of the 410 people stopped at least 10 times by officers from 2010 to 2015.

African-Americans

During the same time period, officers stopped 34 black residents 20 times, and seven African-Americans 30 times or more, while the report says that no individuals of any other race were stopped more than 12 times. One man who spoke to investigators said he was stopped 30 times in less than four years. At least 15 of those stops, he said, were to check for outstanding warrants. None of the stops resulted in charges.

In addition to pat-downs, Baltimore officers perform unconstitutional public strip searches, including searches of people who aren't under arrest. The report also says officers routinely use unreasonable and excessive force, including against juveniles and citizens who aren't dangerous or posing an immediate threat. Twenty percent of force incidents reviewed by investigators involved someone who was not being arrested for a crime or who suffered from a mental health disability. Force is often used as a retaliatory tactic in instances where officers "did not like what those individuals said."

"BPD teaches officers to use aggressive tactics," the report reads. "BPD's trainings fuel an 'us vs. them' mentality we saw some officers display toward community members, alienating the civilians they are meant to serve." The report partially blames the department's unconstitutional practices on a "zero tolerance" policy dating back to the early 2000s, during which residents were arrested en masse for minor misdemeanor charges such as loitering.

Zero tolerance era

Although the department has publicly denounced these practices after a 2010 settlement with the NAACP, which sued the department over the policing strategy, "the legacy of the zero tolerance era continues to influence officer activity and contribute to constitutional violations," the report said. Officers also routinely stop and question individuals without cause or a legitimate suspicion that they're involved in criminal activity, the report says: No charges were filed in 26 of every 27 pedestrian stops. The directives often come from supervisors. In one instance, a supervisor told a subordinate officer to "make something up" after the officer protested an order to stop and question a group of

young black men for no reason.

Unconstitutional frisks are also rampant, the report says. In one incident in 2010, a man fled from an officer patrolling a "high-crime area." The officer proceeded to fire his stun gun at the running man's back, striking him several times. When the officer was able to detain the man, he frisked him but found no weapon. The officer's report "provides no reason to believe the man was armed." State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, the city's top prosecutor, said she expected the report to "confirm what many in our city already know or have experienced firsthand."

"While the vast majority of Baltimore City Police officers are good officers, we also know that there are bad officers and that the department has routinely failed to oversee, train, or hold bad actors accountable," she said in a statement. She said she was confident that the federal probe would "lead to even more reforms which is an important step in ensuring best practices for a fully functioning police-prosecutor relationship." Six officers, three white and three black, were charged in the death of Gray. Three were acquitted, another officer's trial ended in a mistrial and the charges against the others were dropped. —AP



CAIRO: Egyptian workers harvest grapes at the Kouroum of the Nile Company vineyards and winery in the Karm El-Nada area some 50 kilometers north of Cairo. —AFP

EGYPT BARS POLICE FROM TALKING TO THE MEDIA

CAIRO: Egypt's parliament has approved restrictions on the police that will prevent them from providing information to the media, a move that critics saw as an attempt to further cover up high-level abuses and corruption. Amendments to the police authority law, approved by parliament, will bar police officers from providing information or publishing any documents, reports or photos related to their work without written authorization from the interior ministry.

Police officers who broke the new law could face unspecified prison terms and fines of up to 20,000 Egyptian pounds (\$2,252). In February, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi told the interior minister to crack down on police abuse and to submit proposals to parliament to achieve this goal, as anger mounted after a low-ranking police officer shot dead a driver over a fare argument. But critics saw the amendments as being designed to cover up high-level malfeasance.

"This law is yet another example of the government's ongoing effort to undermine transparency which is essential to the proper functioning of a modern state," said Timothy Kaldas, non-resident fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy. "This plan to strictly curate information from the state will exacerbate existing doubts about the integrity of government statements." The amendments also demanded that police officers have respect for human rights. Human rights groups and lawyers have long complained about what they see as a culture of impunity among officials in Egypt and say that police brutality is widespread.

'Economic war'

In another development, Egypt's parliament Speaker said in comments published yesterday he wished to see illegal foreign currency dealers executed, arguing that the nation was facing an "economic war" that must be decisively confronted. The speaker, Ali Abdel-Al, also called for the closure across the country of all foreign exchange bureaus, which are accused of pushing down the value of the Egyptian pound, describing them as a "cancer" in the nation's economy.

"Egypt is being subjected to an economic war and a conspiracy that we must decisively confront to strike a balance

between security requirements and the rights of citizens," he said, according to the flagship state newspaper Al-Ahram. Abdel-Al spoke Tuesday in parliament, a 588-seat chamber packed with supporters of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, after lawmakers voted to toughen fines and prison terms for illegal trading in foreign currency, with offenders now facing up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to five million pounds (some \$570,000).

Even though authorities are unlikely to introduce capital punishment for illegal currency dealers, the speaker's comments mirror the extent of concern felt by the administration over the falling value of the Egyptian pound against the US dollar. Abdel-Al has also been known for harsh public statements. Last week, he abruptly interrupted a lawmaker who inquired about whether retired military officers in government jobs are entitled to a pension. The lawmaker, screamed Abdel-Al, should not "talk like this about those in the armed forces who put their lives on the line."

Egypt is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund over a \$12 billion loan over three years to rescue its ailing economy. Deciding on a realistic value of the Egyptian pound is a key part of the negotiations, now in their second week. According to media reports, IMF delegates see 11.60 Egyptian pounds to the US dollar as a realistic exchange rate - that is nearly 3 pounds more than the current official rate of 8.87 pounds. A thriving black market offers up to 12.50 pounds to the dollar.

The exchange rate is crucial to Egypt, which depends on imports not just of staple food items but also 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. Authorities have in recent week shut or suspended from operating dozens of exchange offices, saying they were buying foreign currencies well above the banks' rates. The foreign currency shortage is caused primarily by a slump in the vital tourism sector. Remittances from Egyptian expatriates have also fallen, and double digit unemployment and inflation rates have compounded overall economy woes.—Agencies

UNCLASSIFIED INFO OFFERS DETAILS ABOUT GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

REPORT DETAILS SUSPECTED MILITANTS BACKGROUNDS

WASHINGTON: Following a lengthy tug-of-war with Capitol Hill, the Pentagon has given a senator the first-ever, unclassified report detailing the suspected militant backgrounds of more than 100 detainees at or recently released from the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay - a report that will likely spur more debate over shutting it down. The report, given to Sen Kelly Ayotte, R-NH, who shared it with The Associated Press, tells the story of detainees like Karim Bostan, who once ran a flower shop and later was accused of running an Al-Qaeda affiliated explosives cell believed to have targeted US-led coalition forces in eastern Afghanistan. He's been at Guantanamo for more than 13 years, but has been cleared for transfer to a country willing to accept him.

"While the Department of Defense watered down information and failed to provide key details regarding some detainees, the report still provides Americans with a consolidated, unclassified source of information regarding the dangerous terrorists at Guantanamo who the administration has recently released or plans to release soon," Ayotte said in an email response to questions. She has pushed the Obama administration for years to be more transparent about who is being transferred out. The remaining detainees "will no doubt" return to the fight once released, she said, noting that the Defense Department told her that 93 percent of the detainees still at Guantanamo as of late last year were high risk for re-engagement in terrorism.

The report, however, also tells the stories of low-level militants released after being detained for more than a dozen years without charge - cases that support those who have long argued that

indefinite detention runs counter to US values. In that category, there's Muhammad Said Salim Bin Salman, a Yemeni who traveled to Afghanistan to train at an Al-Qaeda camp. He says he became a cook and never fought because he suffers from back pain. Deemed a medium intelligence risk, he was cleared for release and transferred to Oman in January following 14 years of detention.

David Remes, a human rights lawyer who represents several detainees, says dangerous men are not being released. "Holding the men at all was a deep injustice and a lasting stain on the US. These men shouldn't have been in Guantanamo in the first place," Remes said. "It's one thing to prosecute detainees for attacks on the US ... It is quite another thing - and contrary to the values the US says it is committed to - to hold men for many years, who are accused of no crime."

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence reports that 5 percent of Guantanamo prisoners released since President Barack Obama took office have re-engaged in militant activities and another 8 percent are suspected of it. That compares to 21 percent confirmed and 14 percent suspected during the Bush administration. The US military prison in Cuba held about 240 detainees at Guantanamo in 2009. So far, Obama has transferred 162 detainees to other countries. The report given to Ayotte covers 107 detainees who were at the prison as of Nov 25, 2015, the day Obama signed the 2016 defense policy bill that required the report. The current population is 76.

Republican lawmakers accuse Obama of rushing to downgrade detainees' threat status to clear them for transfer so he can make good on his

campaign pledge to close the prison before he leaves office in January. Myles Caggins III, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House, declined to predict whether Obama will achieve his goal, but said the US continues to work with countries willing to receive the 34 detainees - nearly half the remaining prison population - who have been cleared for transfer.

The GOP-led Congress has tried to slow or stop detainees from being transferred out and has banned any from being moved to US prisons. The dispute between the White House and Republicans in Congress got especially heated this spring when Paul Lewis, the Pentagon's special envoy for closing Guantanamo, told a congressional committee that Americans have been killed by detainees released from Guantanamo. Lewis did not say how many or offer any other details. Amid the debate, Ayotte has been working for months to get the Pentagon to deliver the unclassified report required by the defense bill.

The Pentagon had until Jan 24 to send it to Congress. Defense officials missed that deadline. In response, Ayotte blocked a nomination vote on the Defense Department's pick for general counsel. She released her hold when the report was delivered to her office on June 13. The Pentagon has not shared it with the Armed Services Committee, as the law requires. While some unclassified information about Guantanamo detainees can be found in hundreds of government documents, news stories, court files and detainee threat assessments leaked by Wikileaks, the Pentagon has never compiled it in a single, unclassified report for lawmakers, or the public, to peruse. —AP

TURKISH MILITARY OFFICER SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE US

WASHINGTON: A Turkish military officer on a US-based assignment for NATO is seeking asylum in the United States after being recalled by the Turkish government in the wake of last month's failed military coup, US officials said. The asylum bid is the first known case involving a Turkish military officer in the United States as Turkey purges military ranks after mutinous soldiers commandeered fighter jets, helicopters and tanks in an unsuccessful attempt to oust President Tayyip Erdogan.

The case has the potential to further strain ties between the United States and Turkey, which is already demanding Washington hand over a US-based Turkish cleric it alleges was responsible for the failed coup. The two US officials, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the Turkish officer was working at the headquarters of NATO's Allied Command Transformation, located in Norfolk, Virginia. They did not name him or offer his rank.

However, an official at Turkey's embassy in Washington said Turkish Navy Rear Admiral Mustafa Ugurlu had failed to report to authorities after Turkey issued a detention



SAINT PETERSBURG: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan answers journalists' questions during a press conference with Russian President in Konstantinovsky Palace outside Saint Petersburg. —AFP

order for him last month. "On July 22, on that day he left his badges and his ID at the base and after that no one has heard anything from him," the official said, also speaking on condition of anonymity. The Turkish official said he was unaware of a subsequent asylum request.

An April news article on the NATO website identified Ugurlu as the Norfolk-based command's assistant chief of staff for command and control, deployability and sustain-

ability. The Turkish official said two other lower-level officers had also been called back from the United States to Turkey. "But there's no detention order for them," the official said. "One of them has gone back, and the other will go back shortly."

Military purges

The purges has NATO's second largest armed forces and aspires

to membership in the European Union, has resulted in thousands of soldiers being discharged, including around 40 percent of generals. There are concerns within the Turkish opposition that the restructuring lacks parliamentary oversight and is going too far. Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis declined comment, referring questions about Turkish military personnel to Turkey. —Reuters



FAYETTEVILLE: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is handed a pen as he signs autographs at a campaign rally at Crown Arena in Fayetteville, NC. —AP

TRUMP BLASTED FOR OFFHAND GUN RIGHTS SLAP AT CLINTON

WASHINGTON: White House hopeful Donald Trump, already deserted by some fellow Republicans, came under sharp scrutiny Tuesday over controversial comments that some people interpreted as a threat of violence against his rival Hillary Clinton. Trump's intended message was not immediately clear, but lawmakers, former national security officials and other critics expressed concern that he had advocated, possibly in jest, that Clinton or her Supreme Court nominees could be shot. "Hillary wants to essentially abolish the Second Amendment," Trump told a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina, referring to the US Constitution's clause that enshrines the right to bear arms.

"If she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks," Trump said. "Although the Second Amendment

people-maybe there is, I don't know." Trump earlier appeared more focused on delivering his typical campaign stump speech about Clinton, telling supporters she would represent four more years of President Barack Obama, "but maybe worse," and sparring with her over policy. "I gave a massive tax decrease yesterday," Trump said, referring to economic plans he unveiled Monday. "Clinton, she's going to double up your taxes."

But then Trump drew attention away from his message with his "Second Amendment" remarks. It was the latest in a long string of Trump trip-ups-including his clash with the parents of a Muslim American soldier killed in action-that have marred his campaign since he officially won the nomination last month, and prompted several Republicans to reject his candi-

dacy. Clinton's campaign decried Trump's "dangerous" language and demanded in a statement that presidential hopefuls "not suggest violence in any way."

Trump's team fired back to say the 70-year-old Manhattan billionaire simply meant that gun rights advocates were a powerful voting force. "Second Amendment people have amazing spirit and are tremendously unified, which gives them great political power," senior Trump communications advisor Jason Miller said. The National Rifle Association, America's largest pro-gun lobby, put forth that Trump was correct in saying it would be hard to protect the Second Amendment if Clinton appoints new justices. "But there IS something we will do on #ElectionDay: Show up and vote for the #2A!" the group posted on Twitter. —AFP

ABUSE RIFE IN AUSTRALIA IMMIGRATION CENTRE: LEAKED REPORTS

SYDNEY: More than 2,000 leaked reports detailing allegations of sexual assault, child abuse and self-harm in Australian immigration centers on Nauru were published yesterday, prompting rights groups to renew calls for refugees to be resettled elsewhere. Under Canberra's current policy, asylum-seekers arriving by boat are sent to the remote Pacific island nation of Nauru or to Papua New Guinea's Manus Island. They will not be allowed to resettle in Australia even if they eventually win refugee status.

While the flow of asylum boats to Australia has dried up, some 442 people remain on tiny Nauru and almost double that number on Manus. The incident reports leaked to The Guardian Australia include allegations that asylum-seekers, including children, on Nauru face assaults, sexual abuse and mental distress. The reports allege incidents such as guards threatening a boy with death and only allowing a young woman a longer shower in return for sexual favors.

Mental stress caused by prolonged detention was deemed to be the cause of alleged cases of self-harm, including a woman trying to hang herself and a girl sewing her lips together. One girl wrote



This file photo shows a man carrying a placard against Australia's immigration policy under which asylum-seekers trying to reach the country by boat are sent back or taken to Papua New Guinea and Nauru, during a candlelight vigil in Sydney. —AFP

in her school book in 2014 that "she was tired, doesn't like camp and wants to die". The report said she wrote: "I want DEATH" and "I need death". The Guardian

said the reports, published in redacted form to remove identifiers, were written by staff in the detention centre and were the largest cache of leaked documents

released from inside Australia's immigration regime.

While some of the incidents had been reported by the media before or detailed in inquiries, The Guardian said its analysis of the 2,116 reports showed that children were the subject of more than half of them. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the material would be examined "to see if there are any complaints there or issues there that were not properly addressed". But the government stressed the reports were allegations, not findings of fact, adding Canberra would continue to support Nauru to provide for the welfare of those on the island.

Australia's government has strongly defended its immigration policy despite criticism, saying it has halted the spate of boat arrivals-and drownings-of earlier years. But rights groups called for Australia to take in those asylum-seekers still on Nauru. "Australia's offshore processing of refugees must end, and all of the refugees and asylum-seekers on Nauru and Manus Island must be resettled immediately," Amnesty International's Anna Neistat said yesterday.

'Tip of iceberg'

The leak prompted former workers from Nauru including social workers, teachers and child protection specialists from Save the Children to come forward to corroborate the reports. "These incident reports were not leaked by us, or by any person known to us," former case worker Natasha Blucher said. "However, now that this information is on the public record, it enables us to speak out in an unprecedented way." The Australian government said the documents were evidence of the "rigorous reporting procedures that are in place in the regional processing centre". But Former Save the Children teacher Jane Willey, who recognized her own handwriting in some of the reports, said the published data was nowhere near the full extent of those written. "What you are seeing here is just the tip of the iceberg," said Willey, who worked on Nauru between July 2014 and March 2015. Willey said seeing children deteriorate over time was one of the worst aspects of her work. "Seeing children refer to themselves as a boat number, seeing evidence of self-harm... I dread to think of how those kids are doing," she said. — AFP

EUROPE 'SILENT CRISIS' SIMMERS BEHIND THE VEIL OF INVISIBILITY OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND?

ATHENS: A year after hundreds of thousands of refugees snaked their way across southeastern Europe and onto global television screens, the roads through the Balkans are now clear, depriving an arguably worsening tragedy of poignant visibility. Europe's migrant crisis is at the very least numerically worse than it was last year. More people are arriving and more are dying. But the twist is that, compared with last year, a lot of it is out of sight. Take the border between Greece and Macedonia. Summer crops have replaced the city of tents at the border outpost of Idomeni, even if some locals are convinced there is an unseen population hiding in the surrounding forests, waiting for smugglers to assist them on their onward journey.

The tiny Greek village was a focal point of the migrant flow north towards Germany and other wealthy countries, with thousands of refugees squatting for months waiting for sealed borders with Macedonia to open Elsewhere in the Balkans, a Reuters photographer, revisiting the people-packed locations where he and his colleagues captured last year's diaspora, found empty roads, unencumbered railway tracks and bucolic countryside. More than one million people fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan made their way to Europe last year, with the majority of them crossing the precarious sea corridor separating Greece and Turkey, the temporary home for more than 2 million refugees displaced from Syria. They came carrying their worldly belongings in plastic bags and hauling babies on weary shoulders, a visual exodus of the kind not seen in Europe since the end of World War Two. Many have since reached

their destination in northern Europe, but with the borders closed and the European Union now attempting to contain the numbers, thousands are stuck at holding centers in Greece and Italy. They are not so nearly visible there - nor are the ones still coming.

Visibility down, arrivals up

According to data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), arrivals are up 17 percent on last year, stoked mainly by a spike at the start of the year through Greece. Deaths among those trying to get to Europe, mainly due to drowning, are up more than 15 percent. "This is not a blip," said David Miliband, a former British foreign minister who now heads the International Rescue Committee, an aid group set up by Albert Einstein - himself a refugee - to rescue Europeans before the outbreak of World War Two.

"The forces that are driving more and more people from their homes - weak states, big tumults within the Islamic world, a divided international system. None of these things are likely to abate soon." Some of the mantle of accepting huge migrant flows that was carried by Greece last year and the beginning of this one has been taken up by Italy. This follows a resurgence of migrant flows from northern Africa. More than 140,000 asylum seekers are now housed in Italian shelters, a seven-fold increase on 2013, with the migrant crisis in its third year. In Greece, where arrivals plunged in the wake of an accord between Turkey and the EU to stem the flow in March, an estimated 57,000 migrants were still stuck in the country by Aug 8. Campaigners say the accord has lulled policymakers into a false sense of



A handout picture shows a rescuer carrying a migrant during a rescue operation in the international waters between Malta and Libya yesterday. — AFP

accomplishment by allowing them to believe that Europe's migration problem has been solved. "By outsourcing the responsibility to Turkey and to Greece, European governments are basically saying 'we have solved the crisis because we don't see it, and we can't smell it and we can't hear it,'" said Gauri van Gulik, deputy Europe director at Amnesty International.

"The crisis is as big as ever, and as yet unsolved by governments," she said. IOM

data says that 258,186 people arrived in Europe by the end of July, compared with 219,854 over the same period in 2015. There were 3,176 fatalities by Aug 7, outpacing the 2,754 who died in the first eight months of last year, a slightly longer period. "It's absolutely incredible because if you think about the panic this caused last year and the incentive there was to really get some policy changes in place, nothing has happened," Van Gulik said. — Reuters



Photo shows the general view of burned houses in Campo da Barca, Funchal, Madeira island yesterday. — AFP

3 DEAD IN MADEIRA ISLANDS AS WILDFIRE SPREADS INTO CAPITAL

LISBON: A wildfire swept overnight into Funchal, the capital of Portugal's Madeira Islands, killing three elderly people and injuring hundreds as it burned homes and forced people to flee in panic, authorities said yesterday. Miguel Albuquerque, head of Madeira's regional government, told reporters the three victims died in their burned homes yesterday as the wildfire hit the coastal city in the dark. He said two other people were seriously hurt, one person is missing and more than 300 people required medical treatment for smoke inhalation and minor burns.

He said 80 of the injured were still in the hospital. At least 37 houses and a five-star hotel had burned down. The blaze, fueled by hot weather and strong winds, forced the evacuation of around 1,000 residents and tourists in the islands off northwestern Africa. Residents described chaotic nighttime scenes, with people fleeing the flames by car at high speed on the wrong side of the road.

Tourism is the mainstay of Madeira's economy. The high winds in recent days have also forced the cancella-

tion of around two dozen flights. The blaze broke out on Monday and firefighters said the island's steep hills and dense woodland made it hard to reach the flames. Albuquerque said officials suspect the fire was started deliberately and police have made two arrests. The evacuated people have been taken to an army barracks, a soccer stadium and a civic center on the island.

Albuquerque said reinforcements, including firefighters and doctors, are arriving later from the Portuguese mainland. The weather forecast is for cooler temperatures and a drop in the wind speed, which authorities hope will help extinguish the Madeira fire. On the Portuguese mainland, fire services were still fighting scores of wildfires that have raged since Saturday. The National Civil Protection Service reported that 12 major blazes were still out of control in the north of the country, where fire chiefs say crews are exhausted. More than 3,300 firefighters were in action, supported by 27 water-dumping aircraft. — AP

NOTORIOUS 'PILLOWCASE RAPIST' BACK IN STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL

LOS ANGELES: A notorious rapist who muffled victim's screams with a pillowcase was back in a state mental hospital Tuesday, two years after he was released over the protests of prosecutors and women who feared he would attack again. Christopher Hubbard, 65, is not accused of a new crime, but was picked up by the Department of State Hospitals, said District Attorney Jackie Lacey, who is under a gag order and could not discuss further details. "The good news is tonight ... he's back in a state hospital," Lacey told KFI-AM. "That's probably the safest place."

The program supervising Hubbard reported he had failed to meet the terms of his release and was returned to Coalinga State Hospital, Santa Clara County Superior Court spokesman Joseph Macaluso told the Los Angeles Times. Lacey had fought Hubbard's release and angry residents of the Antelope Valley, where he was relocated about 40 miles north of Los Angeles, had demonstrated regularly outside his remote house where he lived under 24-hour guard and strict conditions. Women shouted through bullhorns that he didn't belong there and should be locked up. Some burned effigies and carried signs saying "burn in hell." A woman who spent 18 months protesting his release and traveled 350 miles to implore the Santa Clara County judge to keep him out of her community said she was ecstatic to hear he was gone. "I feel like I won the lottery," Cheryl Holbrook said. "We're praying real hard that they keep him locked up. He's exactly where he needs to be." Hubbard, dubbed the "pillowcase rapist," has acknowledged raping at least 40 women, several following stints behind bars. He has been in and out of prisons and state psychiatric hospitals since his first rape conviction in 1972.

After reoffending and serving more time, Hubbard was declared a sexually violent predator in 2000 and committed to a state-run psychiatric hospital. A Northern California judge in 2013 ordered Hubbard released after doctors said he had completed treatment and was fit to live in the community. The judge ordered that he live in Southern California near where he grew up, though his notoriety made it difficult to find housing. When he was released in 2014, he moved into a small house in the desert on the outskirts of Palmdale.

Hubbard had to comply with conditions that included wearing a monitoring device around his ankle, attending therapy and undergoing lie detector tests and random searches of his home. He was also ordered not to view movies or online material that would arouse him. Prosecutors tried to have him returned to custody last year after the batteries in his ankle monitor twice ran too low. A judge denied the request. — AP

News

in brief

Sri Lanka to replace ageing fighter jets

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka yesterday announced plans to replace its ageing jet fighters to better defend its maritime borders including rich fishing grounds, seven years after the island's separatist war ended. Cabinet approved President Maithripala Sirisena's proposal to call for expressions of interest from global manufacturers to sell Sri Lanka the jets, government spokesman Rajitha Senarathne said. "The idea is to buy eight multi-role fighter aircraft with associated weapons on a government-to-government basis," Senarathne, who is also a cabinet minister, told reporters. Sri Lanka's fleet of Chinese-made F-7, Soviet-era MiG-27 and Israeli Kfir aircraft are about 30 years old and have become obsolete, according to experts. Sri Lanka used both the MiG-27 and Kfir jets to bomb rebel targets in the north at the height of the Tamil separatist war which ended in May 2009. The country lost large numbers of aircraft during the decades-long fighting.

5 police dogs to wear bullet-resistant vests

DETROIT: Thor, Ben, Argo, Duke and Gimme have more protection to help fight crime in Detroit. Those five members of the nine-dog Detroit Police Department's Canine Unit were outfitted Tuesday with bullet-resistant vests - a donation from a Detroit-based firm. "They weren't exactly happy or thrilled about it," DPD spokesman Sgt Michael Woody said. "They are going to have to do some training." The vests cost about \$1,000 each, but were donated by Strategic Staffing Solutions, a consulting, staffing and desktop support company. Detroit's nine police dogs primarily sniff out explosives and narcotics. There are plans to get vests for the remaining four dogs, Woody said. "Every police department in this country faces budgetary constraints," Woody said. "When you talk about vests that protect our canines, it's just not in the budget." In June, Strategic Staffing Solutions made a 3-year commitment to continue sponsoring the police department's horse unit, including funding for veterinary bills, hay, grooming and feeding.

Ukraine judge busted, embroiled in scandal

KIEV: A judge who served under Ukraine's ousted Russian-backed president has been caught accepting large bribes, with the cash kept in a glass jar, the chief anti-corruption prosecutor said yesterday. The announcement comes one month after Ukraine launched an anti-corruption bureau aimed at breathing new life into its fight against graft, an endemic problem that has concerned Western allies and been a factor behind the delayed release of IMF aid. Mykola Chaus, a judge from Kiev's Dniprovskiy district court, was busted by detectives from the bureau Tuesday while accepting a \$150,000 payment from an unnamed figure, prosecutor Nazar Kholodnytskiy wrote on Facebook. But Chaus cannot be detained due to his immunity from prosecution, Kholodnytskiy added. "Physical evidence was seized at the scene of the bribe transfer," he said. "This is how some 'servants of Themis' store their corrupt revenues," he added in reference to a Greek mythical figure who represents justice, with a picture of the glass jar full of cash next to the post.

Malian soldiers found drowned after attack

BAMAKO: Five Malian soldiers have been found drowned in central Mali, army officials said yesterday, days after five soldiers went missing during clashes with militants. Four of the soldiers were found near Tenenkou on Tuesday evening and a fifth near the town of Mopti, about 75 km away yesterday morning, army spokesman Souleymane Maiga said. A group of soldiers was reported missing after an attack claimed by Islamist group Ansar Dine near the village of Tenenkou on Sunday. Officials did not confirm whether the drowned soldiers were the same soldiers who went missing over the weekend. It was not immediately clear how the soldiers drowned. Sunday's attack was the latest in a string of assaults claimed by Ansar Dine. The group said in a statement that it had ambushed the army, killing and wounding soldiers, according to SITE Intelligence Group. Fighting continued into Monday.

Five Turkish soldiers killed in PKK attack

DIYARBAKIR: Five Turkish soldiers were killed yesterday in an attack blamed on Kurdish militants in the restive southeast of the country, a local security source said. Eight other soldiers were wounded after a homemade bomb exploded while a military convoy was passing in Uludere, close to the Iraqi border, the source said. The bombing was blamed on militants from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) with whom the Turkish military has renewed fighting since the collapse of a two-year ceasefire in July last year. The Turkish army's hierarchy has been badly hit in the purge since the July 15 failed coup during which a rogue military faction tried to oust President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from power. Nearly half of all generals have been imprisoned or dismissed, raising concerns about the coordination of the fight against Kurdish rebels.

INDIAN POLICE ARREST DOCTORS OVER 'ORGAN TRADE'

ROBBERS CUT HOLE IN TRAIN ROOF IN \$750,000 HEIST

MUMBAI: Indian police said yesterday they have arrested the head of an upmarket hospital in Mumbai and four doctors on suspicion of organ trafficking. Police reportedly stopped a kidney transplant procedure at the L H Hiranandani hospital after finding that documents showing the donor was married to the intended recipient were forged. They said the woman giving up her kidney was being paid, according to the Press Trust of India news agency. Organs can only be donated by close relatives or by non-relatives approved by a special committee in India, and buying and selling them is illegal. "We have arrested the chief executive of L H Hiranandani hospital, Sujit Chatterjee, and four doctors," said Mumbai police spokesman Ashok Dudhe.

They have been remanded in custody until Saturday, he added. It is not the first such case-

June Indian police said they had uncovered an illegal organ donation racket run out of a top New Delhi hospital. That case also involved forged documents showing that the donors and the recipients were related. Staff at the Apollo hospital were arrested, although its management denied any role and said it was the "victim of a well-orchestrated operation to cheat patients and the hospital". Millions of Indians suffer from kidney disease, mostly because of high rates of diabetes. But a chronic shortage of organs available for transplant has fuelled a black market.

Robbers cut hole in train roof

In another development, a gang of robbers cut a hole in the roof of a train travelling through southern India and stole more than \$750,000 in cash, police said yesterday. The daring heist occurred somewhere

along the more than 300-kilometre long journey, but the missing loot was only discovered hours after the express train arrived in the city of Chennai. The train's mail carriage was carrying 3.4 billion rupees (\$51 million) belonging to India's central bank and was being escorted by armed police seated in the next compartment.

Police suspect about six to eight robbers made a four-foot square hole in the carriage roof using a cutting torch before escaping undetected with some of the cash. "We are inquiring with the train guard and the police personnel if they heard any unusual noises on the roof," said police superintendent P Vijayakumar. Police said the robbers may have jumped off the train roof and were combing the tracks along the route in search of any of the missing notes. "They created a manhole and then they

sneaked one after the other and lifted the bundles to the roof before taking them away," inspector general of police M Ramasubramani, who is heading the investigation said.

Another police officer was quoted in the Hindu newspaper as saying the gang might have hidden themselves in the carriage before it was locked for the journey on Monday night, before escaping through the roof. Reserve Bank of India officials discovered the theft on Tuesday morning when they came to collect the cash from the carriage for disposal. The cash, although still usable, was soiled and was transported from the city of Salem to Chennai for destruction. The audacious crime has echoes of the "Great Train Robbery" of 1963 when a gang of criminals in Britain stopped a night mail train and made off with 2.6 million pounds. — Agencies



DHAKA: Former Bangladeshi prime minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Khaleda Zia arrives at a court in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

BANGLADESH COURT GRANTS BAIL TO FORMER LEADER ZIA

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was granted bail yesterday in 10 cases involving charges of arson and sedition. Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah announced the decision after Zia appeared in the court in metropolitan Dhaka. She'll be free until trial under the bail conditions, a bond of \$128 for each case with two guarantors. Zia, the head of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, is the archrival of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Zia has faced several political challenges in her attempts to build an anti-government movement.

The sedition charge is related to Zia's questioning of the number of people killed during the country's 1971 independence war against Pakistan. Bangladesh says about 3 million people died during the nine-month war. Zia has recently doubted that figure even though the same estimate was used officially during her premierships in 1991-1996 and 2001-2006.

The defense argued that the charges against Zia were politically motivated to damage her image and block her from contesting polls that are expected to be held in 2019, defense lawyer Sanaullah Mia said. He said Zia's name was not in the initial complaint for the arson cases but she was added later to undermine her political stature. The prosecution argued that the arson attacks were instigated directly from Zia, who wants to oust Hasina's government and seeks early elections. The court scheduled the next hearing for Oct 10. Zia faces other corruption charges separately.

Suspected militants nabbed

In another development, authorities in Bangladesh's capital said yesterday that

they have arrested six suspected members of a banned Islamist group blamed for recent deadly attacks, including one last month that killed 20 people. The arrests were made in separate overnight raids in Dhaka, said Mufti Mahmud Khan, spokesman for the Rapid Action Battalion elite anti-crime force. He said the suspects belong to the outlawed group Jumatul Mujahedein Bangladesh.

The group is blamed for the July 1 attack on a restaurant in Dhaka that killed 20 people, including 17 foreigners. It also is blamed for a July 7 attack on a major Eid prayer gathering north of Dhaka that left four people dead, including two police officers. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the restaurant attack, but authorities have denied that, saying it was the act of Jumatul Mujahedein Bangladesh, and that the IS has no presence in the Muslim-majority country.

Khan said the arrested suspects told authorities during interrogation that they were preparing for another attack in Dhaka. During the raids, security officers recovered two pistols, five grenades, a dozen small bombs, 13 detonators, four meat cleavers, five knives and bomb-making materials, he said.

One of the arrested men, Mustafizur Rahman, was identified by officials at a news conference as the administrator of a website run by Jumatul Mujahedein Bangladesh that was used to promote radical ideas. Rahman also was said to be involved with Dawatul Islam Bangladesh, a group that allegedly recruits members for JMB and is accused of being involved in at least 11 recent attacks, including the restaurant attack. — Agencies

300 ISLAMIC STATE FIGHTERS KILLED IN AFGHAN OPERATION

TALEBAN CLOSING IN ON KEY CITY IN THE SOUTH

NEW DELHI: Afghan forces, backed by the United States, have killed an estimated 300 Islamic State fighters in an operation mounted two weeks ago, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan said yesterday, calling it a severe blow to the group. General John Nicholson said the offensive in the eastern province of Nangarhar was part of US operations to degrade the capabilities of Islamic State wherever it raised its head, whether in Iraq and Syria or in Afghanistan.

The group, believed to be confined to three or four of the more than 400 districts in Afghanistan, last month claimed responsibility for bombing a demonstration by the Shiite Hazara minority in the capital, Kabul, in which at least 80 people were killed. Nicholson, in New Delhi for talks with the Indian military which has provided training and some arms to Afghanistan, said Afghan forces supported by the United States had just carried out a counter-terrorism operation against Islamic State.

"They killed a number of top leaders of the organization and up to 300 of their fighters," he told reporters. "Obviously it's difficult to get an exact count, but what this amounts to is about 25 percent of the organization at least, and so this represents a severe setback for them." Islamic State first appeared in Afghanistan at the beginning of 2015, and had about 3,000 fighters at the height of the movement, many of them former members of militant groups such as the Pakistani Taliban and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

Previously considered a much smaller threat than its bitter enemies the Taliban, the group's bomb attack in Kabul underlined how dangerous it could be, even without holding large tracts of territory. On Tuesday, another US military official said American soldiers helping Afghan troops fight Islamic State in Nangarhar were forced to abandon equipment and weapons when their position came under fire.

Fighters from the group had circulated photographs of a rocket launcher, grenades, ammunition, identification cards, an encrypted radio and other equipment they said they had seized. By being more aggressive, the Afghan military were more successful this year against the



UKUMAT-E NAD 'ALI, Afghanistan: Afghan security personnel prepare for combat during an ongoing battle with Taliban militants in the Nad Ali district of Helmand yesterday. — AFP

Taliban than in 2015, when they lost 5,000 men, Nicholson said. The killing of Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour in a US drone strike in Pakistan had been a greater blow to the group than they had let on, partly because the Taliban were having trouble getting control of the finances he dealt with, Nicholson said.

Taliban closing in

Meanwhile, Afghan troops are being deployed to the capital of the key southern province of Helmand amid intense fighting with the Taliban in surrounding areas and fears the city could fall to the insurgents within days, officials said yesterday. According to Kareem Atal, the head of Helmand's provincial council, Taliban insurgents have completely surrounded Lashkar Gah after weeks of intense fighting across the province. Army and police units have now been pulled back from checkpoints farther afield and brought back to reinforce the city. Also, "new forces are arriving" in the city, he

added. The fighting has closed all the highways leading into Lashkar Gah, forcing up prices for food and other basics inside the provincial capital, Atal said. Doctors Without Borders, the international medical charity, has reduced its international staff in Lashkar Gah and is maintaining basic emergency and surgical services, said the country representative Guillem Molinie. The charity, known by its French acronym MSF, has a 300-bed hospital in the city and usually functions with 25 international staff. Molinie would not say how many staff had been evacuated.

He said that the number of people arriving for treatment after being caught up in fighting in districts around the city had been reduced in recent days by the road closures. "With fears of the town being taken, non-emergency patients prefer to delay their treatment," he said, though 400 patients arrived at the hospital's emergency room on Tuesday. "We are concerned about urban fighting - it is getting closer to the urban center," he said. — Agencies

NEPAL'S QUAKE IMPACT ON SINGLE WOMEN UNDERLINES NEED FOR EQUAL LAND RIGHTS

KATHMANDU: Last year's twin earthquakes in Nepal disproportionately affected single women, underlining the need for equal land ownership to increase their resilience in disasters, a women's rights activist has said. Of the more than 900,000 homes damaged and destroyed, about a quarter belonged to female-headed households. More than 500,000 women and girls were displaced and about 2,000 women were widowed, according to official data.

"The deep gender inequality in Nepal meant that women, and single women in particular, suffered most in the aftermath of the earthquakes," said Lily Thapa, founder of Women for Human Rights (WHR), a group campaigning for single women's rights with about 100,000 members. "They could not make themselves heard and they received the least assistance, which left many vulnerable to abuse, trafficking and harassment," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in Kathmandu.

While the 2015 constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender and established equal property rights, a deep-rooted patriarchy still denies these rights to women, and to single women in particular. Nepal's categorization of single women - estimated by the charity to number 500,000 - includes those who are widowed, those who are unmarried above the age of 35, and those who are divorced. Early marriage, with 37 percent of Nepali women married before the age of 18, increases their vulnerability, Thapa said.

The migration of millions of young Nepali men overseas to find jobs has also led to an increase in female-headed households to 26 percent in 2011 from 15 percent in

2001, according to census data. While women's ownership of land and property has improved in recent years, women are still much less likely to inherit land, to have land registered in their name, or possess documentation that supports their claim, Thapa said. Female ownership of land and/or property stood at 20 percent in 2011 compared with 12 percent in 2001. In rural areas, it is 18 percent compared with 27 percent in urban areas.

Temporary shelters

The quakes that struck last April and May killed 9,000 people and injured at least 22,000 in the Himalayan nation. Nearly a quarter of the 495 single women-headed households surveyed by WHR and Oxfam after the disaster said they had lost their property papers, and nearly half had lost their citizenship certificates. Many women have never had citizenship papers, marriage certificates or even birth certificates. Getting documentation can be daunting for single women, as large numbers are illiterate, Thapa said. After the quakes, these challenges were thrown into sharp relief as single women had to repair or rebuild their homes and care for the family. Many were unable to seek assistance.

When WHR surveyed women several months after the quakes, more female-headed households than male-headed households were still in camps, Thapa said. "Women who were widowed in the quakes, for example, had to observe the mourning rituals for a year - staying indoors, not going into crowds. How could they go get relief or get new papers?" Thapa said. "There is a lot of social pressure on widows, on single women to observe rituals, to stay home, to

remain dependent on men," said Thapa, a widow herself.

Nepal appointed its first female president last year and its first female chief justice earlier this year, in signs that the country is becoming increasingly inclusive, following the end of 10 years of civil war in 2006. WHR is lobbying the government to include single women in the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, response

and recovery programs and resettlement plans. It is also asking the government to ensure that joint land ownership registration is made mandatory for married couples, and to promote women's registration on other forms of land documentation. "Strengthening single women's asset ownership is key to reducing their vulnerability to disasters and boosting their resilience," Thapa said. — Reuters

LOW-CASTES BEATEN UP OVER DEAD COW

HYDERABAD: An angry mob in southern India attacked two low-caste cousins who they suspected of slaughtering a cow, police said yesterday, the latest such attack by self-styled protectors of the animals. Mokati Elisha and Mokati Venkateshwar Rao from India's lowest Dalit caste were tied to a tree and beaten up on Monday by a mob of around 50 men when they were skinning a dead cow in a village in Andhra Pradesh state.

"When a bunch of villagers saw Elisha and Venkateshwar skinning a cow, they assumed that they had slaughtered a live animal," local deputy superintendent of police Lanka Ankaiah said. "In the spur of the moment, villagers got carried away by emotions and they beat up Elisha and Venkateshwar," he said, adding police had detained seven people so far. Cows are considered sacred by Hindus and killing them is banned in most Indian states, but the cousins said they were hired to skin the animal after it died of electrocution.

Formerly known as "untouchables," Dalits are commonly tasked with removing the corpses of dead cows from streets, where the animals often roam freely. The latest attack comes days after Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged a halt to attacks on Dalits, who lie at the bottom of India's deeply entrenched social hierarchy. Anger has mounted among the Dalit community and violent protests have erupted over the public flogging of four villagers by cow-protection vigilantes late last month.

Footage showed the four half-naked Dalit men tied to a car as the activists took turns to thrash them with belts and batons at a crowded marketplace. After Monday's attack, police said both cousins were undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital, with Rao having lost his hearing in one ear. Elisha's son, Chanti Babu, said his father and uncle were covered in bruises by the time their families were able to rescue them. — AFP



NORTH HALMAHERA, Indonesia: Dukono volcano spews ash during an eruption as seen from North Halmahera, Maluku islands yesterday. — AFP

A LOOK AT CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES

BEIJING: China's simmering feud with South Korea over the deployment of an American missile defense system is the latest in a string of foreign policy challenges piling up on President Xi Jinping's desk as he prepares to host the annual summit of the G20 nations next month. Below is a look at some of the more significant issues, most of them related in one way or another to China's rivalry with the United States.

SOUTH KOREA

Chinese anger at South Korea over its decision to deploy and US anti-missile defense system appears to be threatening everything from appearances by the stars of K-Pop to future cooperation on North Korea at the United Nations. South Korea's entertainment sector has been on edge since Seoul's decision last month to proceed with the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system, and reports are trickling in of event cancellations and possible bans on the showing of South Korean TV series. A chill has already descended over the political relationship, with daily attacks in Chinese state media on South Korea and the US over THAAD, even

hinting that Beijing might withhold future cooperation with the US against North Korea at the United Nations Security Council.

NORTH KOREA

China's efforts to moderate the behavior of the regime of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have produced few results. North Korea's secretive ruler appears not to have been swayed in the slightest by China-backed United Nations sanctions seeking to deter him from his drive for nuclear weapons and the missiles to launch them on. Beijing has also failed to convince him to reform his economy while retaining authoritarian rule along lines pursued by China in recent decades. While China is not actively defending its communist neighbor and once-close ally, it is equally determined to prevent its collapse, an event that could see a massive flow of refugees and even U.S. troops taking up positions along the border with China.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

An international arbitration panel's ruling last month that invalidated China's expansive maritime

claims in the South China Sea prompted a furious response from Beijing, which had vowed not to participate in it or accept the ruling. Although unenforceable, the ruling seriously questions the legitimacy of China's nine-dash line maritime border enclosing almost the entire sea and its islands and reefs, and puts Beijing on the defensive when dealing with Southeast Asian nations that also exercise a claim. Its refusal to accept the judgment clouds Beijing's desire to be viewed as a responsible great nation that follows the rules of international society. China's response has been to go on the offense, digging in its heels over its claims.

TAIWAN

January's landslide election of the independence-leaning Tsai Ing-wen as president of self-governing Taiwan left Beijing with few good options. China needed to respond to show it was resolute in its opposition to formal independence for the island it claims as its own territory. But going overboard would threaten progress made in building relations and risk driving resentment among islanders. Nor could China fall back on the divide-and-conquer tactics

of the past, with Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party in firm control of the legislature and public opinion on the island solidly in favor of maintaining the status-quo of de-facto independence. Thus far, Beijing has taken a low-key approach, namely freezing channels of communication, and rolling back the number of Chinese tourists traveling to the island as a form of economic retaliation.

THE UNITED STATES

China's daddy of all foreign policy challenges is the United States, a crucial economic partner as well as Beijing's chief global rival, and the testy relationship lingers behind almost all of China's other challenges. November's US presidential election could be a testing moment for Beijing, especially if the winner is Hillary Clinton who is seen in Beijing as a key architect of Washington's "pivot" to Asia that has boosted American attention to the region and challenged China's actions in the South China Sea. A Clinton presidency would raise the possibility of a still greater US presence in the region and renewed criticism of China's human rights record and foreign policies.—AP

DUTERTE CALLS US AMBASSADOR GAY

WASHINGTON SUMMONS PHILIPPINES ENVOY

MANILA: The Philippines' firebrand President Rodrigo Duterte has sparked a fresh diplomatic row with his colorful language, calling the US ambassador "gay" in comments that prompted Washington to summon Manila's envoy to complain. In the latest of series of tirades, Duterte used a local Tagalog language homophobic slur to express his displeasure with US Ambassador Philip Goldberg in televised comments made Friday. "As you know, I'm fighting with (US Secretary of State John Kerry's) ambassador. His gay ambassador, the son of a whore. He pissed me off," Duterte said.

Duterte, 71, surged to power with a landslide in May following an incendiary campaign in which he gleefully used foul language to disrespect authority figures, from his local political rivals to the pope. He first came into conflict with US envoy Goldberg on the campaign trail, after he said he wanted to rape a "beautiful" Australian missionary who was sexually assaulted and murdered in a 1989 prison riot in Davao, the city he ran for two decades. Goldberg and the Australian Ambassador both strongly criticized these comments. "He meddled during the elections, giving statements

here and there. He was not supposed to do that," Duterte said Friday.

The US State Department said that the Filipino charge d'affaires, Patrick Chuasoto, had been summoned Monday to discuss Duterte's comments. "We had that conversation," department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said. "I think what we were seeking is perhaps a better understanding of why that statement was made," she added. Philippine foreign affairs spokesman Charles Jose confirmed the meeting but said Manila's envoy had been "invited to the State Department to discuss the entire breadth of Philippines-US relations." "Philippine-US relations remain strong," he said yesterday. A former US colony, the Philippines and the United States have long shared a military treaty.

E-gamer halts trading

In another development, a Philippine gaming firm voluntarily halted trading yesterday after President Rodrigo Duterte launched an attack on its chairman as part of a campaign against "oligarchs". PhilWeb Corp's chairman and chief executive Roberto Ongpin resigned last week, a day after newly elected President Duterte threatened to "destroy" him as part of a drive to curb the influence of wealthy residents over the government. "The Exchange approved the Company's request for a voluntary trading suspension of (PhilWeb) shares for a period of ten (10) trading days, effective at 9:00AM today, August 10, 2016, until August 23, 2016," an exchange disclosure said.

The company has already seen its share prices take a pummeling and after Duterte's attack Ongpin said that he is selling off his 54 percent stake in PhilWeb. Duterte launched his verbal assault on Ongpin during a speech at an environmental conference on August 4. "These are the people who take the wealth of our nation but don't spend anything but their saliva and connections," he said. Press reports had said gaming regulator Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) would not renew PhilWeb's contract to provide software for cafes dedicated to casino games after it expired yesterday.—Agencies



MANILA: File photo shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (right) greeting US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip S. Goldberg (left) as US Secretary of State John Kerry looks on during his visit to the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila.—AFP

AUSTRALIA CONTROVERSIAL CENSUS IN CHAOS AFTER POSSIBLE CYBER ATTACK

SYDNEY: Australia's first online national census was in chaos yesterday after the survey website crashed overnight due to a possible cyber attack, raising concerns over the country's cyber security and criticism of its slow internet services. "It was an attack and we believe from overseas," Australia's chief statistician, David Kalisch said. Kalisch said that no data from the 2.3 million forms already submitted to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) had been stolen. "We have it at the ABS. No one else has it," he said. The census provides a snapshot every five years of the living conditions of Australia's 24 million people, detailing incomes, religious and ethnic backgrounds, marital status, etc. The minister responsible for the survey, Michael McCormack, refused to call the online crash an attack, but rather a "denial of service attempt" when the website was deliberately overloaded. He said the site was equipped to handle heavy traffic, but there was a spike in visitors so steep that a router overloaded and the website was closed as a precaution. "This was not an attack, nor was it a hack, but rather it was an attempt to frustrate the collection of Bureau of Statistics census data," McCormack said.

As authorities scrambled to provide a cohesive explanation for why the census was not completed for the first time in its 105-year history, some politicians and privacy advocates said the incident vindicated their security concerns. Some independent Senators boycotted the census because for the first time it was mandatory for Australians to identify themselves in the survey. "It shows woeful disregard for Australian people's privacy and data," Anna Johnston, a privacy lawyer and director of consultancy Salinger Privacy, told Australian Associated Press.

The failure has also led to criticism of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's decision to scale back a A\$38 billion (\$29.2 billion) upgrade of Australia's internet infrastructure, stopping short of connecting homes directly to a broadband network amid cost overruns. Australia's internet services rank 48th in the world, by average speed, according to the most recent State of the internet report by Akamai Technologies, an IT company specializing in internet speed technology. Both Australia's Signals Directorate, an intelligence agency, and the government-appointed privacy commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim, are investigating the crash.—Reuters

JAPAN'S COURT ACQUITS PAIR OF MURDER AFTER DECADES IN JAIL

TOKYO: A Japanese woman and her former partner were acquitted yesterday in a retrial for the alleged murder of the woman's 11-year-old daughter after the pair had spent about two decades in jail. They were released in October last year after a new trial was ordered due to serious questions about their guilt-including the validity of their confessions-in the arson murder for which they had been convicted. And yesterday the Osaka District Court formally found Keiko Aoki and Tatsuhiro Boku not guilty, a member of their support group said.

The couple had been found guilty of setting their house on fire by spraying gasoline in the garage-a blaze that killed Aoki's daughter Megumi-in an attempt to claim insurance money. In the ruling, the court said that confessions made by Aoki and Boku when under investigation were invalid, according to the supporter, who

asked not to be named. Details of the acquittal were included on the support group's website and were widely reported by major Japanese media.

"There is a possibility that the two were forced into making false confessions after (investigators) instilled fear in them and applied excessive psychological pressure," presiding Judge Goichi Nishino said, according to Kyodo News agency. The court also ruled it was possible the fire was an accident.

The acquittal comes after Iwao Hakamada-believed to be the world's longest-serving death row inmate-walked free from jail in 2014 following decades in solitary confinement, in a rare about-face for Japan's rigid justice system. He had been accused of being responsible for the grisly 1966 murder of his boss and the man's family, but doubts arose about the reliability of his confession.—AFP



OSAKA, Japan: This combo shows a photo of Keiko Aoki (left) and a photo of her common-law husband Tatsuhiro Boku during their press conference in Osaka yesterday. Aoki and Boku were acquitted yesterday in a retrial for the alleged murder of the woman's 11-year-old daughter after the pair had spent about two decades in jail.—AFP



QUETTA: Pakistani security official visits the site of Monday's suicide bombing in Quetta, Pakistan.—AP

BOMBING LEAVES 'VACUUM' AMONG PAKISTAN LAWYERS

QUETTA: In Pakistan's most dangerous province, lawyers are a crucial force for justice. So when a bomb decimated Balochistan's legal class this week, it left a vacuum that some say will never be filled. The mineral-rich province is plagued by roiling insurgencies, hit by regular militant attacks, and run by political leaders who are widely seen as corrupt. The military, which has a growing stake in security as Chinese investment pours into the restive region, is accused of committing widespread abuses in the decades-long fight against separatist insurgents. Balochistan is the deadliest province in Pakistan for local journalists, according to Amnesty International, and foreign media are effectively barred. Lawyers are the only people shining a spotlight on the province's many problems.

Pakistan's lawyers have been in the firing line before, but Monday's massive attack-which killed 72 and injured more than 100—was unprecedented in scale. Some 200 members of Quetta's close-knit legal community had come to the provincial capital's hospital to mourn the fatal shooting hours earlier of a prominent colleague. The bomb-claimed by both the Pakistani Taleban and Islamic State-tore through the crowd. "We have lost the whole leadership," said Attaullah Langov, a former secretary of the Balochistan Bar Association. The loss is a hole "that cannot be filled," he said. Below are profiles of five victims who played a leading role in Balochistan's civic life.

Rights activist

Activist Sunghat Jamaldini was a member of the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan who had played an active role highlighting the plight of missing people in Balochistan. Rights groups have accused the military of "disappearing" thousands of non-militant separatists, a charge routinely denied by army officials. Jamaldini also fought for women's rights, an ongoing battle in deeply conservative and patriarchal Pakistan. An active member of the bar association, he hailed from a political family, and was the son of Senator Jahanzaib Jamaldini of the Balochistan National Party.

'Dedicated' cameraman

Mahmoon Hamdard, a cameraman for Dawn TV, grew up in a slum outside Quetta, starting his career as a guard for a private security company where he was posted to

the office of Dawn TV. Fascinated by journalism, he bagged staff to join the editorial team, working his way up to the position of cameraman as he tried to finish his studies. "He was very dedicated and committed," Syed Ali Shah, the Dawn TV bureau chief in Quetta said. "He vowed to become a reporter... Hamdard would have risen high in the profession, had he been given the opportunity to live." Hamdard's older brother died several years ago, and in line with Pakistani tradition he married his widowed sister-in-law in order to care for her four children. "He fathered three more children in the marriage," Shah said. "Everybody is worried who will look after the widow and orphans now. Probably God."

Young reformist

Lawyer Adnan Kasi passed his bar exam in London in the early 2000s, becoming the youngest ever head of the Principal Law College in Quetta, where he introduced several reforms, including measures to combat nepotism and cheating. He went on to found his own chambers and was practicing in the Supreme Court. Kasi was running for the position of secretary in the Baluchistan Bar Association elections, which were due to be held on August 13.

Anti-corruption vanguard

Lawyer Baz Mohammad Kakar was one of the first Baloch leaders of the lawyers movement to pledge his loyalty to former Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhary. Chaudhary had become an unlikely hero as the figurehead of a successful 2007-2009 movement to restore justice deposited by former military ruler Pervez Musharraf in his bid to cling to power. Kakar, a Supreme Court advocate, had spearheaded the movement in the province for two years.

Brother, friend, advocate

Abdul Rasheed Khokhar was a popular senior lawyer who was close friends with many in the lawyers movement against Musharraf. The impact he had was aptly demonstrated by the crowd at his funeral beneath a scorching Balochistan sun Tuesday, where people from all walks of life travelled with relatives from outside the province to watch him laid to rest. His elder brother Abdul Hameed was desolate. "What can I say about my brother?" he asked. "The whole city is gloomy over the loss of almost the entire leadership of the legal community."—AFP

GERMANY TO UNVEIL NEW SECURITY MEASURES AFTER TERROR ATTACKS

BERLIN: Germany's interior minister will propose a raft of new security measures, including speedier deportations of foreign nationals, following a spate of attacks in July that shook the nation, German media reported yesterday. In five separate attacks from July 18 to July 26, 15 people were killed and dozens wounded.

Two of the attacks were claimed by Islamic State and three of the attackers were asylum seekers. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere will announce the new measures on Thursday and plans to have them adopted in the current legislative period, the Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger newspaper cited coalition sources as saying. This would mean the proposal becoming

law before Germany's next federal election, due in autumn 2017.

The new measures include speeding up deportations of foreign potential attackers and criminals and the introduction of a new reason for deportation: "danger to public safety," the Bild daily reported, citing security sources. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry declined to comment but said de Maiziere would present his plans today. In the past year, Germany has taken in more than one million migrants and refugees, most of them Muslims fleeing conflicts or poverty in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa, stoking fears among some Germans of an increased threat from Islamist militants.—Reuters

12 NEWBORNS KILLED IN BAGHDAD HOSPITAL...

Continued from Page 1

The baby died in the inferno and the mother suffered burns, she said. "I am looking for our child, they told me go find him in the fridge," said the middle-aged woman. "I found him in a small cardboard box but I'm not even sure if it's our child or a piece of sponge. It looks like charcoal," said the woman, wearing a black abaya. "I just want our child, somebody give him to me," she cried.

An official at Iraq's interior ministry confirmed the death toll from the fire, adding that three other babies were being treated for smoke inhalation. Many of Baghdad's public hospitals are poorly maintained and offer substandard healthcare, forcing a number of Iraqis to seek private treatment or travel abroad. The lack of adequate public services, such as quality medical care, electricity and water supply,

has angered the public and led to a series of protests in the past year. "The hospital is very old and doesn't have fire equipment," Hijami said. A member of Yarmouk hospital staff who asked not to be named said a "thorough investigation" had been launched into the tragedy.

The authorities were criticized in the aftermath of an attack in the Karrada district of Baghdad last month that killed at least 323 people. The truck bomb blast claimed by the Islamic State group sparked fires in shopping arcades on either side of the street that accounted for a significant proportion of the casualties. Witnesses complained that the fire brigade was unacceptably slow in responding to the emergency. Iraq is one of the world's top oil producers but conflict and endemic graft have prevented that wealth from translating into better living conditions for Iraqis. — AFP

LIBYA GOVT FORCES SEIZE IS HEADQUARTERS...

Continued from Page 1

It was not immediately clear how many fighters on either side may have been killed in the clashes, but the operations center said earlier that at least 20 jihadists had died in fighting for the university campus. The operations center also said pro-GNA forces had lost contact with one of their military planes, without providing further details. The IS-linked Amaq news agency said the group's fighters had downed a warplane in Sirte, resulting in the pilot's death.

Pro-GNA forces entered Sirte - 450 km east of Tripoli in June, after IS seized the city amid the chaos that followed the 2011 ouster of Muammar Gaddafi. Their advance slowed as the jihadists hit back with sniper fire, suicide attacks and car bombings but on Sunday pro-government forces said the "countdown" had begun for the final assault on IS's holdout positions in the city. Washington launched its air strikes on Aug 1, with President Barack Obama saying it was "in America's national security interest" to help the GNA "finish the job" of ousting IS from Sirte.

In a statement yesterday, the US Africa Command said 29 strikes had been carried out against IS positions as part of "Operation Odyssey Lightning" as of Tuesday. The pro-GNA operations centre said further US raids were carried out yesterday but did not say how many. The raids targeted IS positions, destroyed two armored vehicles and stopped an explosives-laden car before it could reach loyalist forces, it said.

The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that US

commandos were working from a joint operations center on the outskirts of Sirte, the first time they have directly supported Libyan forces in the anti-IS fight. Quoting US officials speaking on condition of anonymity, the Post said the US forces were operating alongside British troops, helping to coordinate American air strikes and providing intelligence. The Pentagon would not comment on the specifics of the Post story, but has previously acknowledged small US teams are in Libya.

GNA chief Fayez Al-Sarraj had told Italy's Corriere della Sera in an interview published Wednesday that his government had asked only for "air strikes which must be very precise and limited in time and geographical scope." "We do not need foreign troops on Libyan soil," Sarraj said. Western powers are backing the GNA in a bid to bring stability to Libya, which has been wracked by turmoil since Gaddafi was ousted and killed in Oct 2011, with rival governments vying for power and armed groups battling to control vast energy resources.

As well as fears over IS, Western nations are also deeply concerned over the fate of Libya's vast oil reserves, the largest in Africa. Yesterday, six Western countries including Britain, the United States and France called for control of all oil facilities in Libya to "be transferred unconditionally and without preconditions or delay" to the GNA. The countries expressed particular concern about "reports of increasing tension" near Zueitina, one of Libya's largest coastal oil facilities. — AFP

POLICE 'VISIT' KUWAIT FA OFFICES

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait and the IOC have been at loggerheads since over a new law that the Olympic body says will undermine the autonomy of sport in the country. Kuwait argues it will strengthen the independence of sports bodies. As a result of the ban, Kuwaiti athletes are competing at the Rio Games as neutral athletes under the Olympic flag and are not eligible for any funding from the IOC. Kuwait was suspended in 2010 over a similar dispute but reinstated before the 2012 London Olympics. The national football federation is also banned by FIFA over government interference in the running of the Kuwaiti FA.

Separately, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday that it has confiscated 1.5 million pills of the amphetamine-like drug Captagon, which were stashed in two containers that arrived from Ukraine. Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah oversaw the seizure during a visit he made to the Interior Ministry's anti-drugs department, said a statement issued by the ministry.

Moreover, the statement noted that security forces are capable of averting all threats to the security of the nation. "We will strike with an iron fist all those who seek to do harm to the country," Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled said. Furthermore, he said that such practices serve to motivate security personnel to hone their skills to combat all threats, describing them as the eyes that never slumber.

The statement revealed that two individuals, a Syrian and a Saudi, have been apprehended in connection with the incident and will face legal action. It also added that the two have confessed to bringing in copious amounts of the drug in a clandestine mission. — Agencies

ARTICLE PROVOKES QATAR BACKLASH

Continued from Page 1

But there was a backlash, with some Qataris saying the soccer tournament must not be used as an excuse for importing Western values. "Qatar has an Islamic identity and we must prevent threats or abuse to that under any pretext," said Ahmed Al-Sowaidi, a 43-year-old secondary school teacher in Doha. "The World Cup should not result in Western concepts being forced upon us."

Social media users adopted the hashtag "Stop promoters of vice in Qatar" to say the article was obscene and called on the government to close the paper. Doha News's editor defended the piece. "It seemed the time was right to open a

discussion on the matter. It is a testament to media freedom in Qatar that we can have this debate at all," Shabina Khatri said. An official at Qatar's Ministry of Youth and Sport said the World Cup would be "inclusive of people and cultures and uphold the essence of Qatar's own traditions".

"These two things are not mutually exclusive," said the official, who did not directly address whether the tournament would welcome gay guests. Openly gay performers, including singer George Michael, have played concerts in Qatar. But in January, Qatar banned from cinemas "The Danish Girl", a movie starring Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne about an artist who undergoes a sex change. — Reuters



MANCHESTER: A man poses for pictures after purchasing a Manchester United shirt with the name and squad number of recent signing French midfielder Paul Pogba outside the Old Trafford Stadium on Tuesday. — AFP

POGBA JACKPOT FOR MAN UNITED

PARIS: The world record fee paid out by Manchester United for Paul Pogba could pay dividends for the Premier League club as long as the French star lives up to his billing, experts say. An increase in kit sales, an increase in the image rights of the player, and potentially an added value on a future transfer could see United ending up turning a profit from football's most expensive player. Experts at consultants Deloitte see the acquisition of Pogba as United's possible bid to emulate the "Galacticos" business model set by Real Madrid, the world's richest club with an annual revenue of £577 million (£495 million) in 2015. "That's what it really looks like," said economist Bastien Drut in comments to AFP.

He highlights the recruitment of "big personalities" such as new manager Jose Mourinho, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and especially Pogba, who is capable of "maximizing revenues through his marketability" along the lines of such trademark names as Cristiano Ronaldo or James Rodriguez, transferred for respective gold-mines and who have become unstoppable cash generators. "Cristiano Ronaldo's transfer broke even after two or three years just from kit sales," according to Drut. "Manchester United is a little bit like Real Madrid, it's a brand recognized throughout the world, so it is possible to imagine that profit can be made from Pogba's transfer in three or four years' time." But Pogba must deliver the goods on the field and live up to his huge potential, according to Drut.

Pogba is already a fan favourite: he is the eighth highest jersey seller in the world - his Juventus kit sold 667,000 units last year according to the Euromerica agency. That's promising for Manchester United, despite the Frenchman being behind his two future teammates Zlatan Ibrahimovic (seventh, 865,000 sales with PSG) and Wayne Rooney (sixth, 877,000 sales) and he's still very far from Lionel Messi whose shirt is the most sold worldwide (1,958,000).

In addition to kit sales, the marketing potential of the player known as "la Pioche" emerges as the other main

income source for Manchester United. With his unique hair style, his popularity with young fans and his millions of followers on social media (6.9 million on Instagram) the 23-year old is, just like David Beckham, a "marquee-player". That expression defines a player who can bring "an added economic value" to his club, sports marketing specialist Lionel Maltese told AFP.

United's board members are counting on that. According to French newspaper L'Equipe, the player will earn £13 million a year (£11 million), but will give 80 percent of his image rights to the Red Devils, at an estimated value of £45 million (£39 million) a year. "There is going to be a huge marketing push by Manchester United on Pogba," said Maltese.

In short the club seeks to use Pogba's image rights to attract new sponsors, building revenue while at the same time snatching market share from sporting financial rivals such as Real Madrid and Barcelona who exploit Ronaldo and Messi as their banners. Among marketing tools could be the partnership of United and kit provider Adidas who are also Pogba's sponsor. This partnership is already the world's most expensive (worth approximately £940 million over 10 years) and could even increase with the arrival of the Frenchman. "There are going to be projects implemented to mass sell Pogba and Manchester United spinoff products and reach even more clients," said Maltese.

Despite a record amount of money spent by the Red Devils and of the fruitful partnership to come, Pogba is not tied to the club for the rest of his career. If he fulfills his huge potential, Manchester United could even sell him on at a profit, said Drut. "If we assume that the transfer fees continue to increase in the next few years, we can eventually anticipate that Manchester United could sell Pogba on for the same price or even a higher price" says Drut. "His value can't be multiplied 10 or 20 times but it can grow by 5 percent or 10 percent. The profit margin is there but it isn't very big," said Wladimir Andreff, an expert in football club economy — AFP

OMAN NEWSPAPER CLOSED DOWN FOR INSULTING...

Continued from Page 1

reporter were given five-month suspended jail sentences for insulting the justice minister and other officials.

Meanwhile, rights campaigners called yesterday for international pressure on Oman to protect press freedom. The Gulf Center for Human Rights said Oman's information ministry had ordered Azaman, including its online edition, to be shut down indefinitely. The center said Maamari was being held along with two detained colleagues, Zaher Al-Abri and Yousef Al-Haj. They are not allowed to contact their families or lawyers, it said. The newspaper's website yesterday displayed pictures of the three journalists along with a short notice that publica-

tion had been suspended. "The arrests appear to signify a worrying escalation of the authorities' clampdown on freedom of expression. The message to journalists in Oman is clear: Criticizing the judiciary is off limits," Amnesty International said in a statement.

The Gulf Center for Human Rights urged the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, Britain and other governments "to act immediately in order to protect press freedom in the country and ensure the release of the detained journalists". Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) last week condemned the detention of Maamari and called for his immediate release. Oman is ranked 125th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2016 World Press Freedom Index. — Agencies



Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call: **+965 248 35 616 / 617**
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

WEEKEND OFFER



SAMSUNG GALAXY S6 G920
LTE
 5.1" 32GB

119 السعر Price
 210,000 السعر Price **90** السعر Price



iPhone 6
 4.7 inches
LTE

16GB
146 السعر Price
 210,000 السعر Price **90** السعر Price



iPhone 6 Plus
 5.5" inches
LTE

16GB
154 السعر Price
 210,000 السعر Price **90** السعر Price





بيت
 AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)
 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Kuwait Times
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Focus

UNPRECEDENTED
ETHIOPIA PROTESTS
FAR FROM OVER

By Karim Lebour

Regional protests that began last year in Ethiopia have spread across the country, and despite successive crackdowns analysts say dissatisfaction with the authoritarian government is driving ever greater unrest. Demonstrations began popping up in Nov 2015 in the Oromia region, which surrounds the capital, due to a government plan to expand the boundaries of Addis Ababa. The region's Oromo people feared their farmland would be seized, and though the authorities soon dropped the urban enlargement project and brutally suppressed the protests, they badly misjudged the anger it triggered.

Protests have since swept other parts of Oromia, and more recently to the northern Amhara region, causing disquiet in the corridors of power of a key US ally and crucial partner in east Africa's fight against terrorism. "Since it came to power in 1991, the regime has never witnessed such a bad stretch... Ethiopia resembles a plane going through a zone of extreme turbulence," independent Horn of Africa researcher Rene Lafort told AFP. Despite what he described as the "state of siege" imposed on the Oromia region in recent weeks, the protests have refused to die down, and demonstrators have been challenging government more and more openly.

Minority Role

One rally was even held in Addis Ababa on Saturday, a rare event for the seat of power of a nation ruled by a regime considered among the most repressive in Africa. More than 140 people were killed when security forces put down the original Oromia land protests, shot or tortured to death, according to rights groups. A fresh crackdown over the weekend led to the deaths of almost 100 more, according to an Amnesty International toll, with live fire used on the crowds.

"This crisis is systemic because it shakes the foundations of the model of government put into place 25 years ago, which is authoritarian and centralized," Lafort explained. The protesters have different grievances but are united by their disaffection with the country's leaders, who largely hail from the northern Tigray region and represent less than 10 percent of the population. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn heads the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which won all the seats in parliament in elections last year.

Although he comes from the minority Wolayta people, he is surrounded in government by Tigreans, who also dominate the security forces and positions of economic power. Getachew Metaferia, professor of political science at Morgan State University in the United States, described the state as "controlled by an ethnic minority imposing its will on the majority," a crucial factor in understanding the protests. More than 60 percent of the country's almost 100 million people are either Amhara or Oromo. "There is no fundamental discussion with the people, no dialogue... the level of frustration is increasing. I don't think there will be a return back to normal," the professor added.

The country's rulers have cultivated the skyrocketing growth and rapidly improving health outcomes that have changed the face of a nation whose famines weighed on the world's conscience in 1980s. But their grip on civil liberties has tightened: Ethiopia ranked 142 of 180 countries in Reporters Without Borders' press freedom index this year, and social media used to organize rallies is regularly blocked by the authorities. The use of anti-terror laws to jail opposition critics has also provoked ire, combined with more local issues such as the targeting of Amharan politicians campaigning for a referendum on a district absorbed into Tigrean territory.

Reclaiming Freedoms

The West has largely avoided direct criticism of the country's rights record because Ethiopia is credited with beating back Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shabaab militants in Somalia, but the protests put its allies in an awkward spot. "Ethiopia's leaders have lost the vision of Meles. They are showing signs of nervousness and don't place trust in their own people," said one European diplomat on condition of anonymity. After toppling dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991, Meles Zenawi ruled with an iron fist until he died in 2012, and Hailemariam took over.

More used to its image as an oasis of calm in a troubled region, the government is swift to blame foreign "terrorist groups" for the unrest, usually pointing the finger at neighboring Eritrea. Hailemariam last Friday announced a ban on demonstrations which "threaten national unity" and called on police to use all means at their disposal to prevent them. Merera Gudina, leader of the opposition Oromo People's Congress, said the nebulous movements were not affiliated with traditional political parties and were focused above all on claiming back freedoms the government has long denied. "We are nine months into this protest. I don't think it will stop," he told AFP. "This is an intifada," he said, using a term which means uprising. —AFP

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



MISRATA PAYS PRICE IN FIGHT AGAINST IS

By Mohamad Ali Harissi

In the fight against the Islamic State group in Libya, few communities have paid as heavy a price as Misrata. The coastal city is home to powerful militias that formed in the 2011 uprising that overthrew Muammar Gaddafi and have played a key role in the war-torn country ever since. Today, they are a crucial part of forces fighting to oust IS from its North African stronghold Sirte, 190 km southeast of Misrata, Libya's third city. In May, the jihadists came to within 100 km of Misrata when they attacked the key crossroad town of Abu Grein.

"Every family in Misrata has a martyr," says Eshetewi Khalifa, whose cousin Abdelrahman Al-Kissa, a 54-year-old former lawyer and one-time government minister, was killed in the battle in June. Fighters from Misrata are at the forefront of efforts by forces allied with Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA) to oust IS from Sirte, Kadhafi's hometown. The jihadists seized control of Sirte in June 2015, raising fears of an IS stronghold just across the Mediterranean from Europe.

The UN-backed GNA, formed last year in an effort to end the political chaos that has plagued Libya since Kadhafi's ouster, has made defeating IS a top goal, winning broad international support. It launched a major offensive in May to take Sirte from jihadist hands, with Misrata at its heart.

'It's Time to Fight'

The operation's command center is in the city, and Misrata's militias - armed with tanks, MiG fighter jets and attack helicopters - have formed the core of the pro-GNA forces. At least 300 pro-GNA fighters have been killed and more than 1,500 wounded since the start of the battle, according to medical sources. Officials say most were from Misrata. Abdelrahman Al-Kissa's son Ali, 22, remembers bidding his father farewell as the ex-lawyer set off to fight in Sirte in early June. "He told me 'I'm going to Sirte... I told him 'Take care of yourself, and God willing, all will be well,'" Ali says.

Two days later, the news came that his father was dead. "He only went to the front once. He left on Monday and died on Wednesday," says Ali, a university student, as he looks through photographs of his father at the

family home in Misrata. "People here rejoice in their martyrs, but I hope the war will end," Ali says. "It's the hope of every Libyan today that this war will end and the country will stand up and be better." Kissa had been a "minister for martyrs" with the rebel National Transitional Council (NTC) during the anti-Gaddafi uprising and later the president of Libya's bar association. But when he left to join the battle in Sirte, he told his cousin Khalifa: "My role as a lawyer is finished. It's time to fight."

'Countdown' to Final Battle

Abdullah Ehmeda, 66, has seen four of his nine sons on the battlefield in Sirte,

three as fighters. The other, 30-year-old Abdelqader, was killed while covering the battle as a journalist. Sitting on a blue sofa in his living room, Ehmeda holds a closely guarded copy of a local newspaper containing photos and an obituary of his son. He opens the newspaper, looks at the photos with tears in his eyes, puts it aside and speaks with pride of his son, who married a year-and-a-half ago. "His life story was full of events. He was wounded by a bullet in the 2011 (uprising), he was kidnapped in 2013 and he died in Sirte. His life was like that of many Libyans who defend their country and their brothers."

Pro-GNA forces have stepped up the fight against IS in recent days, and the Pentagon announced last week it had begun carrying out air strikes on IS positions in Sirte at the GNA's request. On Sunday pro-government forces said the "countdown" had begun for the final assault on IS's holdout positions in Sirte. For Ehmeda, defeating IS would help the people of Misrata deal with their losses. "Of course it is not easy for anyone to accept that their son be killed, and we had hoped that the war would not continue for this long," he says. "But victory would ease the pain of losing Abdelqader and all the other martyrs." —AFP

HONDURAN ACTIVIST AFRAID FOR KIDS, BUT VOWS TO FIGHT

By Paola Totaro

Award-winning Honduran land rights activist Ana Mirian Romero spends her days fighting for her children's future - and her nights fearing they will be killed in their sleep. "I live every day with the fear of raids on my home where my children sleep," said the mother of five, who has received multiple death threats during her long battle against a hydroelectric dam in the southwest of the country. "But for me, defending my land is about defending my children's future."

Honduras has the highest murder rate for environmental activists in the world, according to advocacy group Global Witness. But Romero, who recently won the 2016 Front Line Defenders Award for her campaign work, said her love of the land, forests and river that sustained her ancestors would not allow her to give up. "The risks (land) defenders face in Honduras are physically dangerous and psychologically exhausting," Romero, a member of the indigenous Lenca community, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation through a translator. "But I do this because if they come to take away the water and my homeland, it is like they take away the life from a person. I decided to become a defender until the last day that God may give me."

Gunned Down

Between 2010 and 2015, 109 activists were killed defending their land and local environment, according to Global Witness which campaigns against corruption and environmental abuse. Six of the eight victims whose cases were reported publicly last year were from indigenous groups, it said. In March, high profile environmental campaigner Berta Caceres, winner of last year's prestigious Goldman Environmental prize, was gunned down in her home at night.

Just days later, fellow activist, Nelson Garcia, was shot in the face by an unidentified gunman sparking demands for an urgent investigation by the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Romero, a member

of the Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH), knows only too well the terrible fate of some of her fellow defenders but says the attacks have bolstered her courage. "When Berta Caceres died, for us it was as if it gave us more power. It (didn't) make us more afraid but it gave us more strength, it was impossible for us to stop," she said.

Activists reported this week that Martin Gomez Vasquez, a MILPAH leader in Romero's village of Santa Elena, was cornered and stoned in an attack last month. Vasquez was able to escape but told police that he heard one of his attackers speak into a phone saying they would find and visit him in the night to harm his family. Police ordered special patrols for the family but activists say nobody has been prosecuted.

Arson Attack

Romero has been an activist in her area since 2010 when MILPAH filed a lawsuit for recognition of the community's ancestral land and has actively resisted the installation of the Los Encinos hydroelectric dam ever since. She said the community wanted no more than clean air and water and insists she is a "defender not fighter". Romero said that in the past year her home had been raided by armed men as she and her children slept and she had been assaulted when heavily pregnant. Her daughters have also been threatened by armed intruders and in January last year, the family home was burnt down in an arson attack.

Romero had never been outside Honduras before flying to Dublin in June to collect her award with her four-month-old baby Priscilla. Santa Elena in the La Paz region is so remote that in order to reach the car that would take her to the airport in the capital Tegucigalpa, Romero had to trek for three hours with her baby after torrential rains and mud closed local roads. Romero said she felt safer during her 10-day trip to Dublin and London than she has in a long time. She described how one evening she refused to take a taxi, despite being exhausted, to enjoy being out after dark. "At home it's become too dangerous to walk alone at night," she said. —Reuters

MONEY LAUNDERING RULE ON PREPAID CARDS STALLED

By Mica Rosenberg and Brett Wolf

In 2011, amid a crackdown on international money laundering, the US Treasury Department tried to close a loophole that authorities said allows drug cartels to move bulk cash across borders on gift and other prepaid cards. The department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) proposed that money stored on these cards count toward a US requirement to report cross-border movement of cash of \$10,000 or more. But FinCEN later withdrew its proposed rule after pushback from the prepaid card industry, according to law enforcement sources. The move has not been previously reported.

In response to questions from Reuters, FinCEN spokesman Stephen Hudak said the rule was being reworked and would be resubmitted, possibly by 2017. "It's not dead," Hudak said. The lack of a rule has stymied efforts to crack down on cross-border crime, including drug trafficking and money laundering, law enforcement officials said. The US Department of Justice estimated in 2009 that up to \$24 billion in cash is smuggled into Mexico each year, some of it on prepaid cards.

The use of the cards has grown steadily in recent years. More than \$623 billion was loaded on gift cards and other types of prepaid cards in the United States in 2015, according to data from the Massachusetts-based Mercator Advisory Group. The prepaid card industry opposed the rule, saying it would have discouraged people

from using the cards. "Implementing onerous requirements on reloadable prepaid cards could disproportionately harm vulnerable consumers, who rely on these products as their sole means of access to the financial services system," said Brad Fauss, President and CEO of the Network Branded Prepaid Card Association. In March 2013, two years after FinCEN proposed amending the Bank Secrecy Act with the new rule, industry representatives met with officials from FinCEN and the Department of Homeland Security at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which reviews regulations, according to a record of the meeting topic, date and attendees published on a White House website. Visa Inc, the world's largest payments network operator and a major brand on prepaid cards, was the most vocal opponent at the meeting, according to a person who attended. Any member of the public can request a meeting about a regulatory action under review, and the OMB views these meetings as listening sessions. In Nov 2014, FinCEN withdrew its proposal.

FinCEN's Hudak declined to comment on the meeting. He said the agency withdrew the rule "for further consideration and analysis of the benefits and costs". Meetings between OMB and parties with a stake in proposed regulations are common, and it often takes years for an agency to complete the review of proposed regulations. But it is unusual for agencies to withdraw rules once they are proposed. Over the past decade, less than 6 percent of draft regulations were withdrawn by the agency that proposed them, according to OMB statistics.

In exchanges with law enforcement officials, "FinCEN just regurgitated the same arguments that the industry put out there," said a law enforcement source who asked not to be quoted on relationships with regulators. A Visa spokeswoman declined to comment on the meeting. She said Visa's prepaid cards "are in full compliance with the law and are designed to deter illegal activities such as money laundering."

Limited Data

Prepaid cards come in a variety of forms. So-called "open loop" cards carry credit card company logos and are re-loadable. Gift cards that can be used at specific outlets are known as "closed loop" cards. Fauss, president of the prepaid card association, said that, unlike cash, open loop cards cannot be used anonymously because they require vendors to collect purchasers' identification. Law enforcement officials said they have little information about how often the cards are used for illicit transfers, and the rule would have shed light on how often the cards are crossing borders. During the routine 60-day public comment period on the rule in 2011, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement submitted one comment supporting the rule. Industry groups and card companies submitted a dozen opposing it. The industry said it would be difficult to implement because, in order to check balances, border agents would need card scanners, which are expensive and invade customer privacy. It said cross-border tracking was unnecessary because card companies already have implemented load limits and other controls. —Reuters

WALES CAPTAIN WILLIAMS SWAPS SWANSEA FOR EVERTON

WALES: Wales captain Ashley Williams, who guided his country to the Euro 2016 semi-finals, has joined Everton from Swansea City on a three-year contract, the Premier League clubs said yesterday. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but British media reported that Everton had paid 12 million pounds (\$15.6 million) for the 31-year-old central defender. Everton, who sold defender John Stones to Manchester City on Tuesday for 47.5 million pounds, moved quickly to sign the Welsh club's skipper, who manager Ronald Koeman identified as the man to help plug a defence that shipped 55 league goals last season. Williams made 36 league appearances for Swansea as they finished 12th last term before he helped Wales get to the semi-finals of a major tournament for the first time. Meanwhile, South Wales Police arrested 10 people yesterday following allegations of match-fixing in the Welsh Premier League. — Agencies

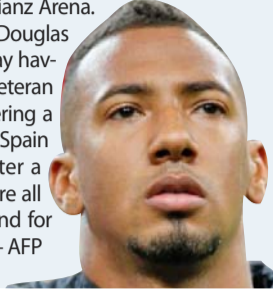


SWIMMER FU YUANHUI BECOMES CHINESE SOCIAL MEDIA STAR

LOS ANGELES: Two clunky and heartfelt interviews was all it took to transform 20-year-old Chinese swimmer Fu Yuanhui from also-swam to social media star. The backstroker had climbed out of the Rio pool after the 100-metre final and was dragged aside by China Central Television for a post-race interview. Fu began by explaining that she was pleased with her personal best time, even though she had not won a medal—only to be told by the interviewer that she had indeed tied for a bronze medal. The outpouring of surprise, honesty and geekiness that followed turned Fu into a star of social media. Within hours, her following on blog site Weibo had increased sevenfold to 3.5 million. In TV interviews after the semi-finals, and again after the final, Fu was a mess of girlish grimacing and gurning. In one clip she is seen waddling away like a penguin. "Only ghosts know what I have endured in the past three months. Sometimes I thought I was going to die. The training sessions for the Olympics are a fate worse than death," she said at one point. — Reuters

BOATENG RETURNS TO BAYERN TRAINING

BERLIN: Germany defender Jerome Boateng took part in Bayern Munich training yesterday for the first time since tearing his right thigh against France in the semi-final defeat of Euro 2016. The centre-back managed some light running at Bayern's Saebener Strasse training ground. There is no date as to when he can return to full team training having suffered the injury in Germany's 2-0 defeat to the French in Marseille on July 7. The club says that he will definitely miss the start of the Bundesliga season when Bayern host Werder Bremen on August 26 at Munich's Allianz Arena. There was more good news for Bayern as Brazil winger Douglas Costa took part in a 20-minute running session on Tuesday having missed the Copa America with a leg injury. France veteran Franck Ribery has also returned to full training after suffering a groin injury on Bayern's pre-season tour of the USA, while Spain midfielder Xabi Alonso is expected to return today after a knock. Costa, Boateng and Dutch winger Arjen Robben are all expected to sit out Sunday's match at Borussia Dortmund for the German Super Cup in the traditional season opener. — AFP



WASHINGTON: Jose Ramirez #11 of the Cleveland Indians steals third base in the seventh inning ahead of the tag by Anthony Rendon #6 of the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park on Tuesday in Washington, DC. Cleveland won the game 3-1. — AFP

INDIANS TURN IT AROUND LATE TO BEAT NATIONALS

WASHINGTON: Francisco Lindor singled to break up Max Scherzer's no-hit bid and scored in the seventh inning, and Trevor Bauer pitched the Cleveland Indians to a 3-1 win over the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night. Jose Ramirez went 2 for 4 with an RBI double in the seventh and an RBI single in the ninth. Lonnie Chisenhall drove in Ramirez in the seventh while Cleveland cracked Scherzer after Bauer kept the Nationals at bay. Bauer (8-5) allowed four hits and no runs and struck out four in 6-1/3 innings opposite Scherzer's attempt to record his third no-hitter. Scherzer (12-7) retired 19 of the first 20 batters before struggling in the seventh, and the right-hander finished with 10 strikeouts. Cody Allen improved to 21 for 23 in save opportunities for Cleveland. Terry Francona was not feeling well enough to manage Cleveland after complaining of chest pain before the game. He was replaced by bench coach Brad Mills, but the team said the decision was precautionary.

RED SOX 5, YANKEES 3

Rick Porcello continued to dominate at Fenway Park with eight solid innings, Matt Barnes cleaned up a mess created by closer Craig Kimbrel and Boston held on to beat New York. Kimbrel walked in a run with the bases loaded in the ninth before handing off to Barnes, who struck out Mark Teixeira for his first save. Porcello (15-3) allowed two runs and struck out six. He improved to 11-0 in 12 starts at home this season. Luis Severino (1-7) allowed five runs and seven hits over 4-1/3 innings. It was his first start

since being demoted to the minors in May.

CUBS 5, ANGELS 1

Kris Bryant hit his 28th home run, John Lackey outpitched friend and former teammate Jered Weaver, and Chicago beat Los Angeles for its eighth straight victory. Willson Contreras also homered and Ben Zobrist added an RBI double for the major league leading Cubs, who won their 70th game and moved a season-high 29 over .500. Kole Calhoun homered on Lackey's third pitch, but the former Angels right-hander later retired 12 straight. Lackey (9-7) allowed three hits over eight innings, and all six of his strikeouts were looking. Weaver (8-9) gave up four earned runs and another one that was unearned when he dropped a throw to first base for an error during the Angels' fifth straight loss.

RANGERS 7, ROCKIES 5

Adrian Beltre hit a two-run double, Elvis Andrus added a tiebreaking single and Texas scored four runs in the eighth inning to beat Colorado. Alex Claudio (3-1) threw 2-1/3 scoreless innings of relief and Sam Dyson earned his 25th save in 28 chances. The Rangers, who have won four straight and nine of 12, finished their road trip 5-3. The teams head to Texas to begin a two-game set Wednesday. Tyler Chatwood allowed two runs and struck out a season-high eight for the Rockies, but Scott Oberg (0-1) gave up four runs in the eighth. Charlie Blackmon homered and Nolan Arenado had two RBIs for Colorado, which has lost five of six.

RAYS 9, BLUE JAYS 2

Drew Smyly pitched six innings to win his second straight decision, Logan Forsythe hit a solo homer and Tampa Bay defeated Toronto. Evan Longoria reached base four times, scored twice and drove in three runs for the Rays. Forsythe had three hits, two RBIs and scored twice as the Rays roughed up Toronto's bullpen, scoring six runs off two relievers. Tampa Bay finished with 15 hits. Smyly (4-11) allowed two runs and six hits, improving to 3-0 with a 1.23 ERA in five career games at Rogers Centre. Erasmo Ramirez pitched three innings for his first major league save. Marco Estrada (7-5) gave up three runs, two earned, in five innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, METS 3

Zack Greinke won in his return from a six-week stay on the disabled list, Michael Bourn hit a go-ahead triple in the seventh inning and Arizona rallied past New York. Paul Goldschmidt and late substitute Brandon Drury each homered for Arizona. The Diamondbacks also stole five bases, with a double steal setting up Bourn's two-run liner that erased a 3-2 deficit. Neil Walker hit his 20th home run for the wild card-contending Mets, who missed a chance to post back-to-back wins for the first time in more than a month. Greinke (11-3) earned his eighth straight victory. The Arizona ace had been out since June 28, when he strained his left side while batting. Greinke gave up three runs in six innings. It was the first time he faced the Mets since losing the decisive Game 5 of the NL Division Series last October with the Dodgers. Jake Barrett closed for his fourth save. Steven Matz was in position for just his second win in 13 starts before Mets reliever Hansel Robles (5-4) got tagged.

MARLINS 2, GIANTS 0

Tom Koehler pitched two-hit ball for seven innings to help Miami blank San Francisco, which fell into a first-place tie with the Dodgers in the NL West. Giancarlo Stanton's RBI double and Marcell Ozuna's groundout in the first provided the scoring one night after the Giants won 8-7 in 14 innings. Fernando Rodney, filling in for injured closer A.J. Ramos, earned his 19th save in 21 opportunities. Koehler (9-8) struck out six and is 3-0 with a 0.67 ERA over his last four starts. Giants manager Bruce Bochy was back in the dugout after missing Monday's game with an irregular heartbeat following an overnight stay in the hospital. Brandon Crawford was hitless in four at-bats for San Francisco, one night after his decisive RBI single in the 14th inning made him the first major leaguer in 41 years to get seven hits in a game. Matt Moore (7-8) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings. San Francisco had been alone in first since May 15.

DODGERS 9, PHILLIES 3

Howie Kendrick, Yasmani Grandal and Justin Turner homered, and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia to pull even with the Giants atop

the NL West. The Dodgers (64-49) are a season-best 15 games over .500 and have won four in a row. They were a season-high eight games behind the Giants on June 26. Kenta Maeda (11-7) yielded three runs in five innings, and Kendrick had three RBIs. Phillies right-hander Vince Velasquez (8-4) has not won in his last five starts. He gave up nine runs and 11 hits, including all three Dodgers homers. Aaron Altherr and Freddy Galvis homered for Philadelphia.

PIRATES 6, PADRES 4

Gregory Polanco hit a tiebreaking homer and Chad Kuhl pitched six innings for the win after being called up from the minors as Pittsburgh defeated San Diego. Polanco's three-run drive off Luis Perdomo (5-6) put the Pirates ahead 5-2 and keyed a four-run sixth that included Francisco Cervelli's RBI double. Kuhl (2-0) allowed two runs and five hits. David Freese had three hits and scored three runs for the Pirates, who remained three games out of the second NL wild card. Tony Watson earned his third save. Wil Myers and Jabari Blash homered for the Padres.

BRAVES 2, BREWERS 1

Tyrell Jenkins pitched six strong innings, Nick Markakis and Adonis Garcia each drove in a run in the seventh and Atlanta beat Milwaukee. Jenkins (2-2) allowed one run and three hits in his sixth major league start. The right-hander has a 1.00 ERA over his past three. His only costly mistake came on Ryan Braun's home run in the fourth. Mauricio Cabrera pitched the ninth for his third save. The victory was the Braves' 10th in 14 games, including six in the last seven. Willy Peralta (4-8) was the hard-luck loser after returning from the minors Monday.

ASTROS 7, TWINS 5

Jose Altuve had four hits following a brief absence from the lineup, and Carlos Correa homered and drove in four runs to help Houston beat Minnesota. Altuve was given the night off Monday, ending the longest active streak in the majors at 202 consecutive games played. He didn't miss a beat one day later, going 4 for 4 with a run and an RBI. Correa hit a two-run shot and tied his career high for RBIs. Houston had gone seven games without a home run before he connected early off Hector Santiago (10-6). Mike Fiers (8-5) gave up three home runs but benefited from Houston's productive night at the plate. Ken Giles closed for his second save. Robbie Grossman and Brian Dozier hit back-to-back homers for the Twins.

WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 5, 10 INNINGS

Todd Frazier hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and Justin Morneau had four hits to lift Chicago over Kansas City. Frazier is tied for the major league lead with 31 home runs, and this one came on the first pitch from Kelvin Herrera (1-4) after a single by Jose Abreu and a double by Morneau. David Robertson (3-2) blew a save in

the ninth when Alcides Escobar's two-out single scored pinch-runner Jarrod Dyson. Dan Jennings struck out Eric Hosmer for his first career save. White Sox ace Chris Sale is 0-3 in five starts since a July 2 victory over Houston. He gave up three runs and seven hits in the first 2-1/3 innings but did not allow a hit after that. He threw 115 pitches in seven innings.

REDS 7, CARDINALS 4

Adam Duvall drove in two runs and Tyler Holt hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning that sent Cincinnati past St. Louis. Holt's double off Matt Bowman (1-4) broke a 4-4 tie. Holt then scored from second on an infield hit after second baseman Matt Carpenter bobbled a barehanded attempt to get speedy Billy Hamilton. Duvall's two-run single in the third broke a career-worst 0-for-18 skid. Michael Lorenzen (2-0) won in relief of Brandon Finnegan, and Raisel Iglesias got his first save. Hamilton stole three bases and has nine steals in his past three games. Yadier Molina and Matt Holliday homered for the Cardinals.

ATHLETICS 2, ORIOLES 1

Jake Smolinski reached base four times and scored the deciding run in the third inning, and rookie Zach Neal earned his first win as a starter when Oakland held on to beat Baltimore. Danny Valencia and Khris Davis each drove in a run as the A's won consecutive games for the first time since July 26-27 to keep Wade Miley (7-10) winless in an Orioles uniform. Smolinski finished with two hits and two walks as Oakland won its second straight one-run game against the AL East leaders. Neal (2-1) allowed one run over 5-1/3 innings and retired 16 of the 18 batters he faced to win his second career start and first since May 25. He gave up Adam Jones' homer in the fourth and a double to Jonathan Schoop leading off the sixth. Neal's only other win in the majors came in relief against San Francisco on June 28. Liam Hendriks, John Axford and Ryan Madson completed the three-hitter. Madson worked the ninth for his 24th save.

MARINERS 6, TIGERS 5, 15 INNINGS

Kyle Seager had two key hits that tied the score, Mike Zunino lofted a game winning sacrifice fly and Seattle rallied twice to beat Detroit in 15 innings for its season-high fifth straight victory. Victor Martinez gave the Tigers a 5-4 lead when he opened the 15th with his 20th home run. But the Mariners came back against closer Francisco Rodriguez (1-3) and took advantage of a pivotal error by left fielder Justin Upton. Seager hit a three-run homer off Justin Wilson in the eighth and tied the game again with an RBI single in the 15th before Adam Lind scored on Zunino's fly to center. Ariel Miranda (1-0), scheduled to start Thursday for the Mariners, entered in relief and gave up Martinez's homer but wound up with his first major league win. Miguel Cabrera and J.D. Martinez homered off Seattle starter Wade LeBlanc. — AP

MLB results/standings

Texas 7, Colorado 5; Cleveland 3, Washington 1; Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 4; Tampa Bay 9, Toronto 2; Arizona 5, NY Mets 3; Boston 5, NY Yankees 3; Miami 2, San Francisco 0; Chicago Cubs 5, LA Angels 1; Atlanta 2, Milwaukee 1; Houston 7, Minnesota 5; Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 5 (10 innings); Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 4; Oakland 2, Baltimore 1; Seattle 6, Detroit 5 (15 innings); LA Dodgers 9, Philadelphia 3.

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT GB		W	L	PCT GB	
Baltimore	63	49	.563	-	Washington	66	46	.589
Toronto	64	50	.561	-	Miami	60	53	.531
Boston	61	50	.550	1.5	NY Mets	57	55	.509
NY Yankees	56	56	.500	7	Philadelphia	52	63	.452
Tampa Bay	46	66	.411	17	Atlanta	43	70	.381
Central Division				Central Division				
Cleveland	63	47	.573	-	Chicago Cubs	70	41	.631
Detroit	61	52	.540	3.5	St. Louis	59	54	.522
Chicago WSox	54	58	.482	10	Pittsburgh	56	54	.509
Kansas City	53	59	.473	11	Milwaukee	49	62	.441
Minnesota	46	67	.407	18.5	Cincinnati	46	66	.411
Western Division				Western Division				
Texas	67	47	.588	-	LA Dodgers	64	49	.566
Seattle	59	53	.527	7	San Francisco	64	49	.566
Houston	58	55	.513	8.5	Colorado	55	58	.487
Oakland	50	63	.442	16.5	San Diego	48	64	.429
LA Angels	49	63	.438	17	Arizona	46	66	.411

GRASP SRI LANKA HISTORY CHANCE, URGES JAYASURIYA

COLOMBO: Batting legend Sanath Jayasuriya has urged Sri Lanka's cricketers to seize the chance to make history by completing a series whitewash over world number one Test team Australia. With an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-Test series, Sri Lanka might be tempted to ease up in the final encounter which begins in Colombo on Saturday. But Jayasuriya, one of the stars of Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph in 1996, said that Angelo Mathews' young side could create their own piece of history by inflicting a series whitewash on a leading Test nation for the first time. "No one thought we would be leading 2-0, everybody thought it would be the other way round but we've turned it around as a team," Jayasuriya, who is now chairman of

Sri Lanka's selectors, told AFP in an interview in Colombo. "If we can do that (win 3-0), then it's history. So I hope the boys will realise that we have got a big opportunity."

Sri Lanka had only beaten Australia once before in a Test, in 1999 when the likes of Jayasuriya and record-breaking spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan were in their prime.

The victories in the first two Tests were all the more unexpected as Sri Lanka have been sliding down the rankings and failed to win any of nine international matches against England on their recent tour. Few observers had given them a hope of beating the Australians but Steve Smith's side have admitted to being totally outplayed in the first two Tests in Palekelle and Galle.

A 3-0 clean sweep would be Sri Lanka's greatest achievement since they were granted Test status in 1981. It would also vindicate predictions from the likes of Jayasuriya that the team has a bright future despite the retirements of world-class batsmen Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene in the last couple of years. Sri Lanka's match-winner in Palekelle was 21-year-old Kusal Mendis, who scored a superb maiden century.

'FUTURE IS BRIGHT'

While the veteran offspinner Rangana Herath grabbed the headlines in Galle by taking a hat-trick, the match-winner was younger spin partner Dilruwan Perera who recorded match figures of 10 for 99. "We

are in a transition period. We are going with youngsters at the moment with little or no experience," said Jayasuriya, who was captain in Sri Lanka's only previous victory over Australia 17 years ago. "We had a lot of faith in them and we are very happy the way they played ... I think with experience they will learn, but they have to start somewhere and they started in Sri Lanka."

Sri Lanka had endured a torrid start to 2016, being knocked out of the World Twenty20 as defending champions before the tour of England. Jayasuriya said the batting in England lacked consistency but was now "just beginning to click".

"They won (the first two Australia Tests) and won convincingly and that's important. So the future for Sri Lankan cricket is

bright." Sri Lanka had been languishing at seventh in the rankings before the current series, with the prospect of having to play nations such as Ireland and Afghanistan if plans for a two Test divisions are pushed through. Jayasuriya said he was firmly against the proposal which could mean losing out on playing the likes of Australia and India.

"I don't agree with the two-tier system," Jayasuriya said. "And I am not saying because of Sri Lanka's ranking, because we will rise after this series, but (the current system) is better."

The International Cricket Council are due to discuss the proposal next month. India are opposed, which could lead to its demise. — AFP

ASHWIN SHINES AGAIN FOR INDIA IN THIRD TEST

ST LUCIA: An unbeaten century stand for the sixth wicket by Ravichandran Ashwin and Wriddhiman Saha put India in a respectable position after the first day of the third test against West Indies in St Lucia on Tuesday.

The visitors were 234 for five at the close of play with all-rounder Ashwin on 75 and wicketkeeper Saha on 46, the pair having added 108 to leave honours even at the Darren Sammy Stadium in Gros Islet.

Opener Lokesh Rahul chipped in with a brisk 50 earlier but India's batsmen were otherwise bogged down until Ashwin and Saha cut loose against the second new ball, plundering 46 runs off the final nine overs.

The late flurry took the gloss off what had been an encouraging day for West Indies after the hosts won the toss and decided to bowl.

Teenage pacer Alzarri Joseph enjoyed a dream debut, in his third over claiming the prized wicket of India captain Virat Kohli, caught at first slip for three.

Joseph (2-38) also snared Rohit Sharma, caught behind for nine, while all-rounder Roston Chase continued his excellent series by picking up two wickets with his off spin.

Fast bowler Shannon Gabriel (1-68) was expensive although he at least took the first wicket of the day when Shikhar Dhawan (one) gloved a short ball down the

leg side to wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich. Jason Holder and Miguel Cummins bowled with discipline in the four-pronged pace attack but went wicketless.

The day belonged to Ashwin, who was dropped on 21 and received another reprieve on 35 when he was caught at point off a Gabriel back foot no-ball.

THORN IN SIDE

Ashwin has been a thorn in West Indies' side the entire series, making a century and claiming seven wickets in the first test before picking up another six victims in the second match. Rahul followed up his 158 from the second test by reaching his half-century in 64 balls before falling to the very next delivery when he flicked Chase straight into the waiting hands of short fine leg.

"I wanted to attack the bowlers and put them under pressure because the wicket was a little damp the first hour," said Rahul.

"The ball was doing a bit with sideways movement ... and with this being an open ground, and with the breeze, there was swing throughout the day.

"I did my job pretty well, got the team off to a decent start and the boys carried on from there. We're pretty happy with our effort at the end of the day." India lead the four-test series 1-0. — Reuters



BULAWAYO: New Zealand cricket team celebrates with the series trophy after winning during the fifth day of the second test in a series of two matches where New Zealand beat hosts Zimbabwe 2-0 at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

GROS INLET, St: Scoreboard at stumps Tuesday on the first day of the third cricket test between West Indies and India at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium:

India, 1st Innings		Overs: 90.	
Lokesh Rahul c Brathwaite b Chase	50	Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-19, 3-77, 4-87, 5-126.	
Shikhar Dhawan c Dowrich b Gabriel	1	Still to bat: Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvaneshwar Kumar.	
Virat Kohli c Bravo b Joseph	3	Bowling: Shannon Gabriel 16-2-68-1 (5nb), Alzarri Joseph 14-3-38-2(1w), Miguel Cummins 14-5-36-0, Jason Holder 15-6-27-0, Roston Chase 23-8-38-2, Kraigg Brathwaite 8-1-20-0.	
Ajinkya Rahane b Chase	35		
Rohit Sharma c Dowrich b Joseph	9		
Ravichandran Ashwin not out	75		
Wriddhiman Saha not out	46		
Extras (5b,2lb,1w,7nb)	15		
TOTAL: (for five wickets)	234		



ST LUCIA: India's Wriddhiman Saha plays a shot from the bowling of West Indies' Shannon Gabriel during day two of their third cricket Test match at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St Lucia, yesterday. — AP

PACQUIAO CONFIRMS JESSIE VARGAS FIGHT

MANILA: Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao confirmed yesterday that he is coming out of retirement to fight World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight champion Jessie Vargas in November. The 37-year-old, who has won world titles in eight weight divisions, made the announcement after meeting with promoter Bob Arum in Manila on Tuesday. "Yes, the fight is on. I have agreed to a November 5 fight with reigning WBO welterweight champion Jessie Vargas," Pacquiao said in a statement to AFP. "Boxing is my passion. I miss what I'd been doing inside the gym and atop the ring."

After winning a unanimous decision against American Timothy Bradley in April, Pacquiao had said he would retire to focus on his political career. Pacquiao was elected to the Philippine senate in May but even before taking office, he said he was open to fighting again.

"Boxing is my main source of income. I can't rely on my salary as a public official." "I'm helping the family of my wife and my own family, as well. Many people also come to me to ask for help and I just couldn't ignore them," he said yesterday.

Vargas (27-1, 10 KOs), a 27-year-old American, said last week he was in talks with Pacquiao's camp to hold a fight in Las Vegas. Pacquiao's manager Michael Koncz confirmed Wednesday a promotional tour for

the fight would be held from September 8 to 10 in Los Angeles, and said a contract would be signed soon.

Pacquiao (58-6-2, 38 KOs) said he would return to the Philippines straight after promoting the fight to fulfil his political duties. "My entire training camp will be held here in the Philippines so I can attend to my legislative work. This is my campaign promise and I'm determined to keep it," said Pacquiao.

During his previous stint as a congressman before being elected to the upper house, Pacquiao faced criticism for being among the top absentee lawmakers.

Filipino boxing pundit Ronnie Nathanielsz told AFP the Vargas fight might not be as easy as Pacquiao's previous bouts because the Filipino boxer is 10 years older than Vargas and has been dividing his time between politics and sport.

"It is dangerous for him to fight a young man like Vargas, who is much taller than Pacquiao," said Nathanielsz, who has followed the Filipino fighter's career for many years.

"Manny has been fighting for 17 or 18 years so there's a degree of wear and tear," he added. While Pacquiao still has power and speed, he has slowed down in recent years, Nathanielsz said. "He certainly isn't the fighter he was before, which means he's past his prime." — AFP

SODHI STARS AS N ZEALAND SECURE ZIMBABWE SERIES

BULAWAYO: Ish Sodhi finished with seven wickets in the match as New Zealand wrapped up a 254-run victory over Zimbabwe in the second Test yesterday to sweep the series 2-0. Although Zimbabwe showed some fight early on day five when nightwatchman Donald Tiripano and first-innings centurion Craig Ervine stood firm for the better part of 90 minutes, once they had fallen to some contentious umpiring decisions the hosts folded quickly.

Sodhi's leg-spin claimed three of the last four wickets to go down, while part-timer Martin Guptill finished with figures of 3 for 11 as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 132 in their second innings at the Queen's Sports Club. "We knew it was going to be especially tough to take 20 wickets on this surface, so I think a lot of credit needs to go to the bowlers for managing to do that," reflected New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, a centurion in the tourists' huge first-innings 582 for four declared. Zimbabwe were all out for 362 in reply before New Zealand declared their second innings on 166 for two.

Zimbabwe started the day on 58 for three, and while their official target was 387 for victory, a face-saving draw was their real aim. That goal began to look within their grasp when Tiripano and Ervine batted out the first 22 overs of the day, seeing off everything that the New Zealand seamers could throw at them.

However, first Tiripano was given out lbw to left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner for 22 when the ball looked to be missing leg stump, then Ervine was adjudged caught behind off Guptill for 27. Replays confirmed that Ervine had not made contact with the ball as it turned past his outside edge. Australian Paul Reiffel was the umpire on

SCOREBOARD

BULAWAYO: Scoreboard at the end 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)	P. Masvaure c Taylor b Sodhi	11
	S. Williams c Williamson b Guptill	11
	P. Moor lbw b Sodhi	1
	G. Cremer lbw b Guptill	1
	J. Nyumbu not out	0
	M. Chinouya c Williamson b Sodhi	0
	Extras (1b, 2lb)	3
	Total (all out, 68.4 overs)	132
New Zealand second innings: 166/2 dec (K. Williamson 68 not out, R. Taylor 67 not out, D. Tiripano 1-14, M. Chinouya 1-45)	Fall of wickets: 1-45 (Chibhabha), 2-58 (Mawoyo), 3-58 (Sikandar Raza), 4-97 (Tiripano), 5-112 (Ervine), 6-130 (Williams), 7-131 (Moor), 8-132 (Cremer), 9-132 (Masvaure), 10-132 (Chinouya)	
	Bowling: Southee 14-7-35-1, Boulton 12-4-26-1, Wagner 12-5-23-1, Santner 12-4-15-1, Sodhi 11.4-5-19-3, Guptill 7-4-11-3.	
	Result: New Zealand won by 254 runs.	
Zimbabwe first innings: 362 all out (C. Ervine 146, P. Moor 71, I. Sodhi 4-60, N. Wagner 2-61)	T. Mawoyo lbw b Boulton	35
	C. Chibhabha c Guptill b Wagner	21
	Sikandar Raza lbw b Southee	0
	D. Tiripano lbw b Santner	22
	C. Ervine c Watling b Guptill	27

both occasions, and produced another questionable decision after the lunch interval when Graeme Cremer was given out lbw to Guptill despite a clear inside edge. Sodhi went on to clean up the tail and finish off the match, leaving New Zealand to look forward to a two-Test series against South Africa that begins in Durban on August 19. "There were some really good things that we can take from this," said Williamson. "The way the seamers bowled was fantastic, our batsmen spent a lot of time in the middle and the

way the spinners performed was also pleasing." Despite another heavy loss, Zimbabwe could reflect on an improved effort from the first Test, which they lost by an innings inside four days. The hosts went into that game after a 20-month hiatus from Test cricket. "When you don't play enough cricket you can come into a Test match and be shellshocked, and that's what happened," said captain Cremer. "I knew the guys were going to fight back in this game. It was good to see guys learn and be willing to get stuck in." — AFP

ENGLAND UNCHANGED FOR PAKISTAN FINALE

LONDON: England will field an unchanged team for the fourth Test against Pakistan at The Oval, captain Alastair Cook said yesterday.

The selectors thought about handing a home debut to leg-spinner Adil Rashid but have now stuck with the same XI that won the third Test by 141 runs at Edgbaston on Sunday.

As a result, England's five-man attack will again feature four seamers and off-break bowler Moeen Ali as the specialist spinner. England lead the four-match series 2-1 heading into Thursday's match in south London.

"I think the pitch will turn later in the game, but we feel the seamers are bowling well and Mo took a massive stride in the last game," Cook told reporters at The Oval yesterday. England will hold all nine bilateral series titles against the world's other Test-playing nations if they avoid defeat at The Oval. Should England take the series 3-1 and India do not win both of the remaining matches in their series away to the West Indies, Cook's men could go top of the world Test rankings. With plenty resting on the outcome of this match, Cook said now was not the time to bring in Rashid so the Yorkshireman could gain more experience ahead of England's upcoming tours in the more spin-friendly conditions of Bangladesh and India.

"This series is very much alive and we want to play well and win the series rather than look ahead and prepare for the winter," said Cook.

"He (Rashid) is going to keep gaining experience in the one-day internationals. "In an ideal

world you'd like to give him a go, but international cricket is not about giving people a go.

"The guys are in a good space." Cook was a member of the last England side that went to the top of the International Cricket Council's Test rankings back in 2012.

And the opening batsman said an emerging

England team had some way to go to match the experienced side of four years ago. "I genuinely would say it has come a little bit early for this side," said Cook. "If it comes (going to the top of the rankings) it would be a brilliant achievement. There are still questions to be answered. "We're not at the same level as 2012." — AFP



LONDON: England's Captain Alastair Cook, right, during a nets session at The Oval cricket ground in London, yesterday. England will face Pakistan in the fourth Test match starting today at the Oval. — AP

PREMIER LEAGUE CHIEF WARY OF SOCIAL MEDIA THREAT

LONDON: The chief executive of English football's lucrative Premier League believes the biggest danger to maintaining the sport's long-term popularity comes not from rival sports but social media and digital gaming.

The growth of eSports, or competitive video gaming, has seen Premier League clubs such as West Ham United and Manchester City 'sign' their own official eSports players.

Richard Scudamore, chief executive of the hugely globally popular Premier League, said football had to understand the world in which young supporters

especially now lived if they were to keep them on board as fans of the game.

Asked which league or other sport he saw as its main rival, Scudamore, speaking to BBC Radio Five Live from the Premier League launch in north London on Wednesday, replied: "I see it wider than that. I see gaming, all sorts of digital gaming, I see all sorts of young people spending time on their devices doing all sorts of things to entertain themselves, with social media generally.

"We don't necessarily see other sports—I think that's a little narrow, in terms of our competitors. "We see what's

entertaining young people as being a competitor to try to make sure they stay interested in this type of thing, which is why the whole community-based activities, the whole interactive-based activities, are so important."

He added: "We want people to be able to identify more readily with the game we love so much. "For anyone who's got young children, you see what they're doing in their lives and they're spending a lot of time engaging interactively—not just gaming, but social medial, interacting with their friends... I say 'friends'—people they know from across the world—

whether they would pass the old definition of friends..."

"The interesting bit about the future is whether this game will continue to engage them, and that's why we have to make sure we're doing everything we can to make sure it does."

Some pundits have argued that the astronomical sums on offer to footballers as evidenced by Paul Pogba's world record £89 million (\$116 million, 105 million euros) transfer from Juventus to Manchester United—will do little to help people relate to the 'beautiful game'. France star Pogba, 23, is now set to earn a

reported £290,000 per week. "Of course it's the market," said Scudamore when asked about the numbers surrounding Pogba's move to Old Trafford. "As I've said on a number of occasions, you can't just justify it—you can only really explain it. "The market determines what the top talent has to be paid. "You also know where that money's going to go in terms of tax—it's a big redistribution mechanism.

"It is eye-watering in terms of most people being able to appreciate it. But, across every industry in the world, the very top talent are paid very top wages in order to attract them to their industry." — AFP

PSG LOOKS STRONGER IN POST-IBRAHIMOVIC ERA

PARIS: With its star striker gone and a new coach at the helm, Paris Saint-Germain begins a new era in the French league - one likely to be marked by much more domestic success.

Even without Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who left for Manchester United after becoming PSG's all-time leading scorer, the Parisian club looks stronger last season when it won a fourth consecutive French league title as well as both domestic cups.

PSG's dominance last season removed any drama or suspense from the title race. The club finished with a record 96 points in the league, 31 more than second-place Lyon, and scored 102 goals in 38 league matches, conceding only 19, two below Marseille's previous defensive record of conceding 21 goals in the 1991-92 season. PSG picked up where it left off, claiming the Champions Trophy - the traditional curtain-raiser to the French season - for a fourth straight year with a 4-1 win over Lyon last weekend.

"I said before that we would try to reduce the gap, but it remains too big between PSG, us and the other teams," Lyon coach Bruno Genesio acknowledged after the loss.

PSG starts the defense of its league title on Friday at Bastia. "It's too early to say that we are very strong, but we are very optimistic," PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said. "I've plenty of confidence in my coach and players. I'm convinced that we are stronger this season." To compensate for the departure of Ibrahimovic and right back Gregory Van der Wiel, PSG has hired five new players this summer: midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla), forward Jese (Real Madrid), defender Thomas Meunier (Club Brugge), winger Hatem Ben Arfa (Nice) and attacking midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso, who will remain with Argentine club Rosario until the end of December.

Spanish coach Unai Emery, who guided Sevilla to its third straight Europa League title last season, also replaced Laurent Blanc as coach. The reinforcements should be enough for PSG to continue its dominance in a league lacking competition and real financial power. They are also expected to help PSG make a new step toward winning the Champions League, which has turned into an obsession for Al-Khelaifi.

Despite leading PSG to back-to-back domestic trebles, Blanc fell short in Europe as the club failed to get beyond the quarterfinals in four straight seasons. Emery has been brought to PSG to make that change.

"This is our big goal, but we want to progress with the team before that," Al-Khelaifi said. "The style of play, trust, there are many details, and Unai Emery is working very hard to correct (that). We saw that in the Champions League, it's the details that count if we want to go far and

this is what the coach is doing." In addition to Emery's Europa League successes, PSG's new players are also bringing valuable European experience into the rejuvenated team. The 23-year-old Jese won the Champions league twice with Madrid while Krychowiak, 26, lifted the Europa League with Sevilla over the past two seasons. Here are other things to know ahead of this weekend's first round of matches in the French league:

LYON READY

After an inconsistent first half of last season, Lyon put together a series of excellent results to finish runner-up to PSG.

Alexandre Lacazette's decision to stay at the club means Genesio's team again is likely to be the main threat to PSG in the race for the title. The club also convinced midfielder Corentin Tolisso to reject a big offer from Napoli, while defender Nicolas Nkoulou has been hired to make up for Samuel Umtiti's departure to Barcelona. Lacazette, who scored 21 goals in 34 league games last season after netting 27 in the previous campaign, could miss Sunday's game at Nancy after picking up a left thigh injury in the Champions Trophy.

BORDEAUX AIMING HIGH

New Bordeaux coach Jocelyn Gourvennec has been very active on the transfer market, with the six-time champions making astute purchases. The club has recruited former AC Milan forward Jeremy Menez on a three-year deal, while experienced midfielder Jeremy Toulalan joined from Monaco.

Bordeaux also secured the services of highly praised full back Youssef Sabaly on a one-year loan from PSG and bolstered its attack with forward Francois Kamano. "The project in place here convinced me," Menez said. "The ambition is to get Bordeaux back into Europe. It's a club that deserves to be playing in Europe."

FALCAO ALREADY MISSING

Back to Monaco this season after a disappointing two years on loan at Manchester United and Chelsea, Radamel Falcao is among the rare star players of the French league. But the 30-year-old Colombia forward, whose career has been blighted by knee injuries, is already out for several weeks because of a hamstring problem he suffered in the final qualifying round of the Champions League.

Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim said he believes Falcao remains one of the best strikers in the world and plans to use him in a partnership with Valere Germain up front. Monaco starts its campaign with a home game against Guingamp tomorrow. — AP



TRONDHEIM: Real Madrid's team members pose with the trophy after defeating Sevilla in the Super Cup 2016 soccer match in Trondheim, Norway, Tuesday. — AP

REAL MADRID BEAT SEVILLA 3-2 AFTER EXTRA TIME IN SUPER CUP

TRONDHEIM: A superb solo goal by Dani Carvajal just before the end of extra time gave Real Madrid a 3-2 victory over 10-man Spanish rival Sevilla in the UEFA Super Cup on Tuesday.

Madrid, the Champions League winners in May, took the lead in the 21st minute through Marco Asensio against a Sevilla side that lifted the Europa League trophy for a third straight time last season.

Sevilla hit back with an equalizer from Franco Vazquez and a second half penalty from Yevhen Konoplyanka that looked to have sealed Europe's pre-season showcase match.

But captain Sergio Ramos leveled for Madrid in the third minute of stoppage time and Sevilla defender Timothee Kolodziejczak was sent off at the start of extra time, before Carvajal went on a run from the halfway line to score the winner in the 119th minute.

"The essence of Real Madrid is that we never give up," Carvajal said. "A goal after the 90th minute and another one at the end of the added period make us champions."

While Zinedine Zidane became the fifth coach to win the trophy also as a player, his mile-

stone spoiled the competitive debut of counterpart Jorge Sampaoli at his new club.

A new-look Sevilla side that has lost Kevin Gameiro, Gregorz Krychowiak and Ever Banega during the offseason fell to the Champions League winner for the third straight season. In a cup match that has been dominated by Spanish sides in recent years, Madrid beat Sevilla 2-0 two years ago before Barcelona also needed added time to prevail 5-4 last year.

DESERVED TO WIN

"It's unbelievable that the match got away from us," Sevilla defender Nico Pareja said. "We deserved to win. We played better and in one detail it slipped away."

With star forward Cristiano Ronaldo injured, Gareth Bale not in the squad, and Karim Benzema only fit to play the last half hour, Madrid had to turn to a pair of defenders and a youngster making his first appearance in European competition for its goals.

Helping to fill in for a Madrid side that was also missing Toni Kroos from midfield, 20-year-old Asensio staked his claim to a spot with

Zidane's team with an exquisite left-foot shot from outside the area that dipped just in time to squeeze inside the woodwork.

Sevilla, however, held firm and responded through Vazquez, who slotted the ball inside the far post when it fell to him in the area four minutes before halftime.

The stalemate lasted until Victor "Vitoló" Machin was brought down by Ramos inside the box in the 72nd minute, allowing Konoplyanka to roll his spot kick into the corner while goalkeeper Kiko Casilla went the wrong way.

Sevilla appeared to have the elusive trophy in hand until Ramos came through in heroic fashion, similar to his headed goal that sent the 2014 Champions League final into extra time before Madrid beat Atletico Madrid 4-1.

The Spain centerback made up for conceding the penalty by joining the fray in front of the goalmouth, where he nodded home Lucas Vazquez's cross with seconds remaining in stoppage time. "I was lucky enough to level the match, but the team showed it can rise above any injuries, and our young players really gave it their all," Ramos said. — AP



LONDON: This file photo taken on August 07, 2016, shows Leicester City's Italian manager Claudio Ranieri during the FA Community Shield football match between Manchester United and Leicester City at Wembley Stadium in London. Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri has signed a new four-year deal that is set to keep him at the Premier League champions until June 2020, the club announced yesterday. — AFP

RANIERI EXTENDS LEICESTER STAY

LONDON: Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri has signed a new four-year deal that is set to keep him at the Premier League champions until June 2020, the club announced yesterday.

The 64-year-old Italian joined the Thai-owned Midlands side just prior to the start of last season after former manager Nigel Pearson was sacked. He led the Foxes to their first English top-flight title as they stunned the Premier League's established elite. "Leicester City Football Club is delighted to announce that its first-team manager, Claudio Ranieri, has signed a new contract with the Premier League champions," the club statement said.

Leicester were 5,000/1 to become champions of England when Ranieri took charge, yet they lost just three league games all season and won the title by 10 points.

"From the moment I talked to the owners about their vision for Leicester City, I knew it was something I wanted to be part of for a long time," Ranieri told the club's website on Wednesday.

"The energy that exists at this club—from the owners and the staff to the players and supporters—is something very special. I am

very happy and proud that I will be part of it for years to come," he added.

"Last season, that spirit and our hard work helped us to achieve something magical. "If we can continue to work hard, maintain our passion and continue to fight with all our hearts, I am sure we can continue to be successful together."

Leicester vice-chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha said: "Twelve months ago, we brought to Leicester City a man whose knowledge and experience, we felt, could lead us into the next phase of our long-term plan. "What he would go on to help us achieve, in the time we have achieved it, has been beyond anything we could have anticipated."

Leicester's Premier League success gave Ranieri a first top-flight title in a managerial career spanning three decades and including second-placed finishes in England (Chelsea), Italy (Juventus and Roma) and France (Monaco).

The Foxes, beaten 2-1 by FA Cup-holders Manchester United in the Charity Shield at Wembley last weekend, begin the defence of their Premier League title away to Hull on Saturday. — AFP

WENGER 'GUILT' OVER LEICESTER TITLE TRIUMPH

LONDON: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has expressed "regret and guilt" at his side's failure to beat shock champions Leicester City to last season's Premier League title. Wenger's side finished runners-up, 10 points adrift of Leicester, who were 5,000/1 outsiders for the title at one stage.

For many fans of Arsenal, it was yet another missed opportunity under Wenger, who last guided the north London side to the Premier League crown back in 2004. Now the veteran French manager expects the new season, which gets underway this weekend, to be one of the most competitive ever, with English football's top flight playing host to a "world championship of managers" in Jose Mourinho (Manchester United), Pep Guardiola (Manchester City), Antonio Conte (Chelsea) and Jurgen Klopp (Liverpool).

"Who expected Leicester to be champion last season? Nobody," Wenger told Sky Sports yesterday. "So you would say today to take into account seven or eight teams who can win it. "There is always a surprising team, and then you have six or seven big clubs who have the ambition to win it," added Wenger, in charge of Arsenal since 1996.

"All the big clubs experienced last season a regret and a feeling of guilt but that would take something away from Leicester, who had an exceptional season. "When you lose only three games in a season in a difficult league like that, you are a fantastic champion. " (There is) guilt because you would not have predicted Leicester win the league, so all the other teams would say 'We should have come in front of Leicester.'"

"You would understand you could lose against City, United, Liverpool or Tottenham-Tottenham! (he joked in a reference to Arsenal's arch local rivals) — the other big clubs, but you should beat Leicester. "But they had an exceptional season and you have

to congratulate them." Looking ahead, Wenger added: "It's a very exciting season, there are so many ambitions out there. It's a little bit of a world championship of managers. "Let's not be naive, the economic power of the Premier League attracts the best players and the best managers. If you want

quality people, you have to pay the amount of money. "Today the Premier League is the most powerful as well as the most attractive and maybe the most popular in the world.

"Every manager thinks today, 'If I want to be recognised as a top manager, I have to go through the Premier League.'" — AFP



LONDON: Chelsea's N'Golo Kante runs for the ball during an open training session at Stamford Bridge, London, yesterday. Chelsea, under the master tactician Conte, has added marauding midfielder N'Golo Kante for what could be the most inspired signing of the lot this offseason. — AP



WEIGHTLIFTING

CHINA WINS 2 GOLD AS DOPING CASES HIT WEIGHTLIFTING

RIO DE JANEIRO: With weightlifting once again hit by a doping scandal, China won two Olympic gold medals in the sport on Tuesday.

Deng Wei and Shi Zhiyong won their events hours after one of the top female lifters, Lin Tzu-Chi of Taiwan, was forced to withdraw from the competition because of an abnormal doping test.

Deng won the women's 63-kilogram category, setting a world record total of 262 kilograms. The previous record holder was Lin.

"Because this is my first Olympic Games, I was quite nervous," Deng said. "But I set my goal to break the world record before coming to Rio, so this is actually within my expectations."

Later in the day, Shi continued China's success by winning the men's 69kg class. In addition to Lin's withdrawal, the International Olympic Committee disqualified two lifters from past Olympics for positive retests of samples from the 2008 and 2012 Games. One is from Turkey and the other from Armenia, but neither won a medal.

That followed months of scandals in the sport which depleted the field for the women's 63kg. Defending champion Maiya Maneza of Kazakhstan missed the Olympics after failing a drug test, while two of the top four from last year's world championships were also out for doping-related reasons.

Deng took advantage, hoisting 147 kilograms in the clean and jerk and 115 in the snatch for her world-record total of 262. Deng's clean and jerk lift also broke her own world record by 1 kilo.



RIO DE JANEIRO: Deng Wei, of China, sets a weight class world record with a 147 kg lift in the clean and jerk during the women's 63kg weightlifting competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday. — AP

Choe Hyo Sim of North Korea took silver and Karina Goricheva of Kazakhstan earned bronze.

"I am going to try harder to win gold next time," Choe said. "I am not happy with the result. I could have tried much harder."

Because of the doping situation in the sport, fourth-place finisher Mercedes Isabel Perez of Colombia said she might yet win a medal.

"We have to wait for the doping tests," Perez said, chuckling. "Who knows? Being fourth is the best because if something happens, I'll just climb on that podium." Shi won the other gold for China by lifting 162 kilos in the snatch and 190 in the clean and jerk for a total of 352. Shi, who shares his name with another Olympic champion Chinese weightlifter, said the older Shi Zhiyong pushed him on to victory.

"You must deserve this name, respect this name," Shi said he was told. "That encouraged me." Daniyar Ismayilov of Turkey, who used to represent Turkmenistan, won silver and said he had been inspired by mass protests which helped to prevent a military coup in his country last month.

"I felt they were fighting more than me," he said of the protesters. "It really motivated me more."

Izzat Artykov of Kyrgyzstan won bronze. Weightlifting has been dogged by steroid use for more than 50 years, but better testing techniques have meant bans for more star athletes.

Two of the sport's superpowers, Russia and Bulgaria, were kicked out of weightlifting at the Rio de Janeiro Games after repeated doping cases. The International Weightlifting Federation had threatened to ban Kazakhstan and Belarus, too, but failed because various doping cases were not processed in time for the Olympics.

Results from the past are also in danger because of advances in testing. Besides Maneza's gold, Kazakhstan stands to lose four more Olympic victories after failing retests of samples from Beijing and London, including two by Ilya Ilyin, one of the sport's biggest stars. Nine Russians from the 2008 and 2012 Games have also failed retesting, all for oral turinabol, a relic of the East German state doping program of the Cold War era. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Cyclist Kristin Armstrong of the United States, right, shows her gold medal to her son Lucas William Savola after winning the women's individual time trial event at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Pontal beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AP

ARMSTRONG WINS THIRD STRAIGHT WOMEN'S TIME TRIAL



CYCLING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Veteran American Kristin Armstrong completed a remarkable Olympic cycling hat-trick of gold medals after coming out of retirement for the second time to win the women's 29.7km time-trial in Rio yesterday. Just a day before she turns 43, Armstrong added to her gold medals from Beijing and London to become the first cyclist to win three Games titles in the same discipline.

"I don't have words to describe it. When you've already been two times at the pinnacle of the sport, why risk coming back for the

gold medal? The best answer I can give is that I can," said Armstrong, who retired after each of her two previous Olympic success, only to come back in search of more glory. In wet and windy conditions, she posted a time of 44min 26.42sec to edge out Russian Olga Zabelinskaya, who only returned from an 18-month doping suspension last year, by 5.55sec, with Olympic road race champion Anna van der Breggen of the Netherlands third at 11.38sec.

Armstrong said she was inspired by her American team-mate Mara Abbott's near miss in the road race, when she was heading for gold only to be caught 150 metres from the line and settling for fourth.

"Today the stars aligned. I knew it was going to be a close race. My coach said to

me, 'OK, you decide what colour medal you want to have.' I dug so deep. I thought about Mara, and I gave everything for her in the final 5km. To hear the national anthem on the podium, that's my favourite part of the Olympics," added Armstrong, who was greeted at the finish with a hug from her five-year-old son Lucas. Armstrong, a two-time world champion, hit the first time check atop the 1.3km Grumari climb after 10km with a 4.9sec lead over Elisa Longo Borghini of Italy and 6.32sec to Van der Breggen.

Zabelinskaya was sixth then but by the second, at the top of the 2.1km Grota Funda climb and 10km from the finish, she was first, 2.88sec ahead of Armstrong with Longo Borghini third at 6.98sec. Armstrong, though, finished the strongest and pulled

back the time she'd lost on the second climb to streak down the final descent and claim the gold medal. Zabelinskaya was only allowed to race after the Court of Arbitration for Sport reversed an IOC ruling that banned Russian athletes from the Games that had already served a doping suspension.

Four years ago in London she won bronze medals in both the time-trial and road race.

"It's very important, because it's the Olympic Games. It's important for me, and for Russia," she said. The treacherous conditions caught out 2013 world champion Ellen van Dijk, who skidded off the road and into a ditch, although without hitting the deck. That mistake perhaps cost the Dutch rider a medal as she finished fourth, just 11sec behind her team-mate Van der Breggen. — AFP

INDIANS IMMUNE TO OLYMPIC FEVER

NEW DELHI: Around a giant screen showing the Olympics in a central New Delhi park, young Indians chat, take selfies or snooze in the late afternoon heat, glancing only occasionally at the heroic sporting feats on display.

India is the world's second most populous country and has ambitions to become a global superpower. But when it comes to the Olympics it remains a minnow-a status matched by the public's supreme indifference to the Games. In 2012 India won just six medals-one for every 200 million Indians-making it the country with the worst Olympic record in terms of medals per head of population. Government efforts to enthrone the public by organising live screenings and other events have largely fallen flat in a country that comes to a complete standstill for a major cricket match.

"People are not too interested in it. I think they're more into cricket and football and stuff, not the Olympics," student Anusha Sharma told AFP in Delhi's Central Park. Sharma said she had not known the Olympics were being shown there, but had spotted the big screen as she was passing and wandered over to see what was going on. "I really like it that they're screening the Olympics to let the people know," she said of the initiative.

The display features billboards on the history of the Games and giant cardboard cut-outs of India's Olympic athletes for supporters to take selfies with-though most of the young people there seemed more interested in taking selfies with each other.

India has sent a 118-strong contingent to Rio, its largest ever for an Olympic Games, and the sports ministry has set a target of 10 medals. But athletes complain of substandard training facilities and a lack of government investment in sport in a country that has enjoyed two decades of rapid economic development and has a booming population of 1.25 billion. "In India there is a lot of talent, but there's no source to harness this talent," said Prakhar Srivastava, another of the Central Park spectators. That is in stark contrast to the huge sums poured into cricket. The country even chose cricketing hero Sachin Tendulkar as one of its Olympic ambassadors, alongside Bollywood star Salman Khan. For communications expert Pritam Sinha, the explanation for the lack of public enthusiasm for the Games is simple-national pride. "Cricket World Cup is different. The craze for that for us in India can't be matched with Olympic sports," he said.

"We know we can beat anybody in the world on a particular day. That is why we love the cricket World Cup more." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: China's Liu Huixia and Chen Ruolin, front, warm up ahead of the women's synchronized 10-meter platform diving final in the Maria Lenk Aquatic Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday. — AP

GREEN-WATER MYSTERY AS CHEN TIES DIVING RECORD



DIVING

RIO DE JANEIRO: China's Chen Ruolin shrugged off an inexplicably green Rio diving pool to tie team-mate Wu Minxia's two-day-old record of five career diving gold medals on Tuesday. China's magnificent divers stayed unbeaten in the Olympics as Chen and Liu Huixia won the women's 10m synchronised competition, taking China to three-for-three in its bid for an unprecedented eight-event sweep. But much of the attention at the event was directed at the diving well's bizarre transformation from light-blue the day before to a murky green, the latest embarrassing hiccup for the Rio Games.

Venue spokesman Simon Langford said water tests found "no risk whatsoever to athletes' health." "We are investigating to determine what the cause of the situation was, but we are happy to report that the competition was successfully concluded," he said. It ended happily for the often under-appreciated Chen, 23, who is now firmly among the sport's greats.

On Sunday, the 30-year-old veteran Wu became the first to tie the five-gold milestone by taking the women's 3m synchronised springboard with Shi Tingmao, passing

legends like American Greg Louganis and former Chinese springboard diva Guo Jingjing. Chen paid tribute to the senior Wu as her "idol." "I know she won five gold medals and that is very, very incredible. But to be honest I haven't personally thought much about that," Chen said. "All of us have tried very hard in our training and we have won our medals because of our dedication."

'GREEN GAMES'

Chen and other divers said the green water was not a factor.

"I don't think this affected us in any way," Chen said. The Chinese fought off a spirited challenge from Malaysian silver medalists Pandelega Rinong and Cheong Jun Hoong, while Canada's Meaghan Benfeito and Roseline Filion replicated their London 2012 bronze. With the typical Chinese combination of grace and muscular precision, Chen and Liu held on to a slim early lead to finish at 354.00 points, just 9.44 points clear of the Malaysians.

It was a three-peat gold in the event for Chen, who won with different partners in Beijing and London.

She also ruled the individual 10m platform in those Games, but is not entered for Rio. The cheerful and cheeky Chen was coy on whether she would retire or compete in future Games.

"If I were to retire-if I would cheer on

those that come after me, but I haven't really thought that far ahead," she said. No team has swept all eight men's and women's golds since the number of medals doubled at Sydney 2000 with the addition of synchronised events. China fell one gold shy in 2008, and two short in London.

Malaysia's finish marked the best-ever by women from that country. Pandelega won an individual bronze in 2012, the first-ever medal by a Malaysian woman.

On Wednesday, China's Qin Kai goes for his third straight men's synchronised 3m springboard title, pairing with Cao Yuan, who won London gold in the 10m synchro.

Gold-medal holders He Zi and Shi Tingmao also will compete later in the Games for the women.

The diving ends on the Games' second-to-last day with its most anticipated contest, the men's 10m individual platform.

China's reigning world champ Qiu Bo will look to avenge the upset loss in London to David Boudia of the United States that left him with silver. Joining them will be Chen Aisen, who won gold Monday in the 10m men's synchro, and British star Tom Daley.

The 22-year-old Briton, who took bronze in Monday's event with Daniel Goodfellow, was one of those who looked askance at the green water. "Ermmm... what happened?!" he tweeted, with a photo of the green pool. — AFP



JAPAN SHOCK KIWIS AS WILLIAMS EXITS GAMES



RUGBY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Japan upset the odds with a thrilling upset over New Zealand in their opening match of the Olympic rugby sevens Tuesday as All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams sustained a tournament-ending Achilles tendon injury.

The Brave Blossoms' shock 14-12 victory echoed Japan's famous victory over South Africa in the 15-a-side World Cup last year, the biggest shock the sport has ever seen.

"It's unbelievable, you never see a minnow team come here and beat a team supposed to be a gold medal contender," said Japan's New Zealand-born playmaker Lomano Lemeki.

There was worse news to come for New Zealand as Williams was ruled out with a partial Achilles rupture and replaced in the 12-man squad by Sione Molia. Joe Weber was also ruled out with a shoulder injury. New Zealand coach Gordon Tietjens said his squad, who play unbeaten Britain in their final pool match on Wednesday, was "obviously depleted". "It's devastating for Sonny to lose him so early in the tournament, and Joe Weber, both influential players as well. "Sonny Bill's a great professional, he's very infectious, he certainly helps the younger players and has a great work ethic. It's such a shame because he's got to understand the game of sevens so well. He's absolutely shattered. "I'd be surprised if he didn't play sevens again."

Tietjens was magnanimous in defeat, showering the Japanese with praise. "It was disappointing, it's obviously the first time Japan have beaten us," he said.

"But that's sevens rugby, the gap has closed considerably and if you're not up for it on the day, you'll be beaten."

New Zealand rebounded to beat Kenya 28-5 in their second pool match to set up a crunch game against unbeaten Britain on Wednesday. The British team beat Kenya 31-7 before edging Japan 21-19 to top Pool



RIO DE JANEIRO: New Zealand's Sonny Bill Williams (2nd L) is helped from the field in the men's rugby sevens match between New Zealand and Japan during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at Deodoro Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. — AFP

FIJI, S AFRICA ALSO TOP POOLS
Two-time defending World Sevens Series champions Fiji and South Africa also finished unbeaten in an enthralling day of high-octane action at a packed, sun-kissed Deodoro Stadium. Fiji saw off Brazil (40-12) and Argentina (21-14) to top Pool A, while the Blitzboks zeroed Spain (24-0) and France (26-0) to finish the day atop Pool B. But the moment of the day belonged to Japan in their historic victory over the Kiwis.

Truya Goto squeezed past Rieko Ioane's tackle to dot down in the corner to open Japan's account. Their lead was short-lived, however, as Gillies Kaka exchanged passes with Akira Ioane before putting in skipper Scott Curry. Ioane crossed for New Zealand's second but Kameli Soejima scrambled over to draw the scores level, Katsuyuki Sakai's conversion pulling the Japanese two points clear for a famous win.

"As we played on, the boys started to get more confident," said Lemeki. "New Zealand started to struggle a bit there so we thought if we keep moving the ball

around the big guys would tire somewhere and they did." Lemeki added: "We've just shown that any team can win in sevens." Asked if he thought the Kiwis had taken the Japanese too lightly, Lemeki said: "I think they might have, but I don't think they'll be doing that again!" Seeing Williams, a two-time World Cup winner with the All Blacks, being helped off with his injury in the second-half was a "boost", the Japanese players admitted. "I think the Japanese boys started to smile a little bit because they wouldn't have to tackle him!" Lemeki joked. — AFP



BASKETBALL

ARGENTINA GO 2-0, SPAIN LOSE AGAIN

RIO DE JANEIRO: Argentina and Lithuania stayed unbeaten but two-time runner-up Spain's Olympic basketball hopes took a hit Tuesday with a surprise loss to hosts Brazil.

Luis Scola scored 13 of his 23 points in the first quarter to stake an early lead for the Argentines, who were more in-synch than Croatia and buoyed again by boisterous fans from their nearby homeland. Argentina stretched the advantage to as much as 20 in the third quarter before holding off a late Croatian push in a day of Group B play. "It's like a home game," guard Carlos Delfino said of the pulsating fan support. "I think only Brazil might have that kind of support (at the Rio Games)."

For the second straight game, Spain went down on a last-second play. Brazil's Marcus Marquinhos tipped in a missed shot with five seconds left for a thrilling 66-65 victory in front of a charged-up home crowd. Spain's Sergio Llull then missed from inside the paint at the buzzer to seal a contest that dropped the Spaniards to 0-2. Spain-Olympic runners-up to the United States in 2008 and 2012 — also lost to Croatia 72-70 when a shot by NBA star Pau Gasol was blocked at the buzzer.

The USA team of NBA players is heavily favoured to win the tournament for the third straight Olympics.

They are 2-0 and in command of Group A after defeating China and Venezuela by a combined 101 points. Next up for Argentina is a battle for Group B supremacy with Lithuania, which moved to 2-0 with a 89-80 defeat of Nigeria. Mantas Kalnietis and Jonas Maculis each scored 21 points for Lithuania, which held off a late Nigerian rally.

Argentina is the only country since 1988 to take home Olympic gold other than the USA, winning in 2004. The Brooklyn Nets' Scola, 36, 39-year-old Manu Ginobili of the San Antonio Spurs, and Delfino-veterans of the 2004 team are leading what will be their final Olympic quest.

RUDE HOSTS

Spain's Gasol, who finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds, was so mercilessly taunted by Brazilian fans that it prompted a post-game apology from game-winner Marquinhos.

"I understand the crowd. We are hosting the Olympics," Maquinhos said. "But I would like to apologise in the name of the Brazilian people. I know that it was not disrespectful. Here in Brazil we tend to go after the best player of the other team."

The raucous crowd appeared to unsettle Gasol, who was just 5-of-12 from the free-throw line.

Spain had once talked of dethroning the USA and it entered as Group B favourites but must now struggle to simply reach the quarters. They will try to resuscitate those flagging hopes in their next game against fellow 0-2 Nigeria.

"I trust my teammates. We don't have to be in a bad way," Spain's Rudy Fernandez said. "We have a chance to win the title if we win the next three games." Brazil captain Marcelinho Huertas led his team with 11 points and seven assists. — AFP



SOCCER

RIO DE JANEIRO: The USA women's football team's Olympic winning streak was ended by a horror show from controversial goalkeeper Hope Solo in a 2-2 draw with Colombia on Tuesday.

Brazil's darling Marta only appeared as a second-half substitute as the hosts were also held 0-0 against South Africa to secure top spot for the hosts in Group E.

Meanwhile, two-time world champions Germany, Australia, France, Sweden and China all booked their places in Friday's quarter-finals. Solo has been taunted by chants of "Zika" in Brazil for extravagant social media posts showing her draping a mosquito net over her head to avoid the virus at the Games and let two Catalina Usme free-kicks escape her grasp on her 201st international appearance.

A big crowd in the Amazonian city of Manaus nearly 3,000km from Rio, revelled in Solo's pain when she let Usme's first effort between her legs to hand Colombia a shock 26th minute lead.

US coach Jill Ellis had left stars Alex Morgan and Tobin Heath on the bench with progression to the last eight already assured, but captain Carli Lloyd did start and made another telling contribution for the equaliser after scoring in the first two games against France and New Zealand.

Lloyd's driven effort was brilliantly turned onto the bar by Sandra Sepulveda, but Crystal Dunn followed up to tap home the rebound. Mallory Pugh drilled the USA in

front, but their winning streak stretching back to a group stage defeat to Norway in Beijing eight years ago was ended when Solo flapped at another dipping Usme free-kick in stoppage time. The USA face old coach Pia Sundhage's Sweden in the quarter-finals. Sundhage led the States to gold in Beijing and Athens. Despite the point Colombia join South Africa, Zimbabwe and New Zealand in bowing out at the group stage. Brazil, who had put their struggling male counterparts to shame with thrilling wins over China and Sweden, failed to shine as Marta was only introduced after the break to keep her fresh for a last eight meeting with Australia.

Two-time world champions Germany sneaked into the quarter-finals despite Melissa Tancredi's double maintaining Canada's perfect record in Brazil with a 2-1 win in Brasilia. Canada topped Group E as Tancredi cancelled out Melanie Behringer's early penalty before striking the winner on the hour mark for the 2012 bronze medalists. Germany edged out Australia for second place by just one goal on goal difference after the Matildas smashed Zimbabwe 6-1.

However, the Africans' spirits weren't crushed on their first ever tournament appearance as they jubilantly celebrated Emmaculate Msipa's injury-time consolation. France lie in wait for Canada in Sao Paulo as Eugenie Le Sommer and a brace from Louisa Cadamuro handed them a 3-0 win over New Zealand to take second spot behind the USA in Group G.

China and Sweden played out a 0-0 draw to secure their place in the knockout stages. Next up for the Chinese is a clash with Germany in Salvador. — AFP



MANAUS: Colombia's Leicy Santos, front, controls the ball under pressure from United States' Allie Long during a group G match of the women's Olympic football tournament between Colombia and United States at the Arena Amazonia stadium in Manaus, Brazil, Tuesday. The game ended in a 2-2 draw. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: United States' Travis Stevens, below, tries to take down Russia's Khasan Khalmurzaev during the men's 81 kg judo gold medal match of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday. — AP

KHALMURZAEV WINS RUSSIA'S SECOND JUDO GOLD AT RIO



JUDO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Russia climbed to the top of the judo medal table on Tuesday as Khasan Khalmurzaev earned his country's second judo gold of the Rio Games in emphatic fashion, thrilling the crowd at the Carioca Arena.

Ending his campaign with a bang, the European champion won his final two matches by ippon, judo's equivalent of a knockout, over Sergiu Toma of the United Arab Emirates in the semi-final and then American Travis Stevens in the final of the men's -81kg category. Russia had also won bronze in judo on Sunday, extending its strong run in the sport after claiming five medals total at the Olympics four years ago, including a London-best three gold.

Khalmurzaev had praise for Stevens and how he pushed him to victory. "I know this opponent and I know he is strong, so I did all I could do to win this gold medal," he said.

Khalmurzaev's triumph ended Stevens' dream of becoming the first man from the United States to win gold in judo. Despite settling for silver, it was third time lucky for Stevens after he had come home without a medal from the Beijing and London Olympics.

Takanori Nagase won Japan's sixth judo bronze medal so far in Rio, though his country remains stuck on one gold - a figure that the traditional judo power surely wants to boost. Toma won the other bronze. In the women's -63kg category, Slovenia's Tina Trstenjak defeated Clarisse Abgenenou of France to become her country's second Olympic judo champion.

After breaking Brazilian fans' hearts by topping Mariana Silva in the semi-finals, top seed Trstenjak handily beat Abgenenou by ippon less than two minutes into the final.

Israel's Yarden Gerbi and Anicka van Emden of the Netherlands won bronze.

Abgenenou's silver snapped a medal drought for France, seen as a top contender in Rio but which had come up short in the first three days of judo action. — Reuters

SUMMER GAMES 2016 MEDAL TRACKER

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
U.S.	9	8	9	26
China	8	3	6	17
Hungary	4	1	1	6
Australia	4	0	5	9
Russia	3	6	3	12
Italy	3	4	2	9
South Korea	3	2	1	6
Japan	3	1	10	14
France	2	3	1	6
Thailand	2	1	1	4
Britain	1	3	2	6
Sweden	1	2	0	3
Germany	1	2	0	3
Brazil	1	1	0	2
Taiwan	1	0	2	3
Greece	1	0	1	2
Netherlands	1	0	1	2
Belgium	1	0	1	2
Vietnam	1	0	0	1
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1
Colombia	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
North Korea	0	2	0	2
South Africa	0	2	0	2
New Zealand	0	2	0	2
Indonesia	0	2	0	2
Canada	0	1	4	5
Kazakhstan	0	1	3	4
Ukraine	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Turkey	0	1	0	1
Azerbaijan	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2
Poland	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
United Arab Emirates	0	0	1	1

Sports

Sodhi stars as NZ
Zealand secure
Zimbabwe series

16

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

Ranieri extends
Leicester stay

17



JAPAN SHOCK KIWIS AS WILLIAMS EXITS GAMES

Page 19



RIO DE JANEIRO: US gymnast Simone Biles competes in the Floor event during the women's team final Artistic Gymnastics at the Olympic Arena during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. — AFP

US GYMNASTS, PHELPS, LEDECKY ALL GOLDEN AGAIN



GYMNASTICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Good old Michael Phelps, golden again. For teenagers Katie Ledecky and Simone Biles, their star turns in the Summer Olympics might be just beginning.

From the pool to the gymnastics floor, Team USA had nice day at the Rio de Janeiro Games. Not all the American stars were winners Tuesday, though. Serena Williams lost on the tennis court and the US women's soccer team gave up a late goal and ended up in a draw with Colombia.

But a new generation of US athletes is ready to take up the banner of Olympic standard-bearer from Phelps, a grizzled vet-

eran at 31. Phelps earned his 20th career gold medal after taking the 200-meter butterfly. He erased the bad memories from his loss in the same race in London to South African Chad le Clos.

Phelps got off to a rousing start at the Rio Games by leading his 4x100 freestyle team to the gold medal on Sunday.

On Tuesday, Phelps' face bared a familiar scowl as he walked out on to the deck. He held off Japan's Masato Sakai by four-hundredths of a second, with Hungary's Tamás Kenderesi taking the bronze.

His 21st gold came later Tuesday night after swimming the anchor leg on the 4x200-meter relay. Ledecky strode atop the medal podium again with a bright smile after taking gold for winning the 200-meter freestyle. Sarah Sjöström of Sweden claimed the silver and Emma McKeon of Australia took the

bronze. Ledecky, just 19, won her second gold. At this pace, she could challenge Phelps' medal haul someday. At the other end of Olympic Park, the US women's gymnastics team captured a second straight gold with a high-flying and dominating performance.

The triumph was never in doubt, their score of 184.897 at the Rio Games was more than eight points clear of the field. The day was capped by the 19-year-old Biles, a fan favorite, whose boundary-pushing floor exercise showed just how far ahead they are of everyone else.

GOLDEN GIRLS

Biles, Lauren Hernandez, Gabby Douglas, Madison Kocian and Aly Raisman also gave retiring national team coordinator Martha Karolyi a fitting send off with powerful performances on all the apparatuses.

The golden girls dubbed themselves "The Final Five" in honor of Karolyi's retirement at the end of the Olympics and the fact that the format is changing for Tokyo in 2020 so that only four team members will take part in the team competition.

The normally stern Karolyi broke down in tears when she was told of the nickname the team adopted.

"I think at this moment we can say that that the United States dominates the world of gymnastics," Karolyi said. Russia took the silver medal and China earned bronze.

SOUR SERENA

Serena Williams shanked shots all over the court in getting upset by Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. The top-ranked American won't get a chance to defend the gold she won in London. Williams looked out of sorts and irri-

tated, accumulating 37 unforced errors. She had five double-faults in one game alone in the 6-4, 6-3 loss to the 20th-ranked Svitolina. Williams wiped her forehead, picked up her rackets and headed back quickly to the locker room. Svitolina, who had never before played in an Olympics, smiled and stuck her arms out in front of her, palms up, as if waking up from a dream.

MEDAL STRIPPED

A Ukrainian javelin thrower was stripped of his silver medal from the 2012 London Olympics, becoming the latest athlete disqualified after the retesting of stored doping samples. Oleksandr Pyatnytsya tested positive for the steroid turinabol and was retroactively disqualified from the London Games and ordered to return his medal, the International Olympic Committee said. — AP

N KOREA'S KIM INTO TABLE TENNIS SEMIS



TABLE TENNIS

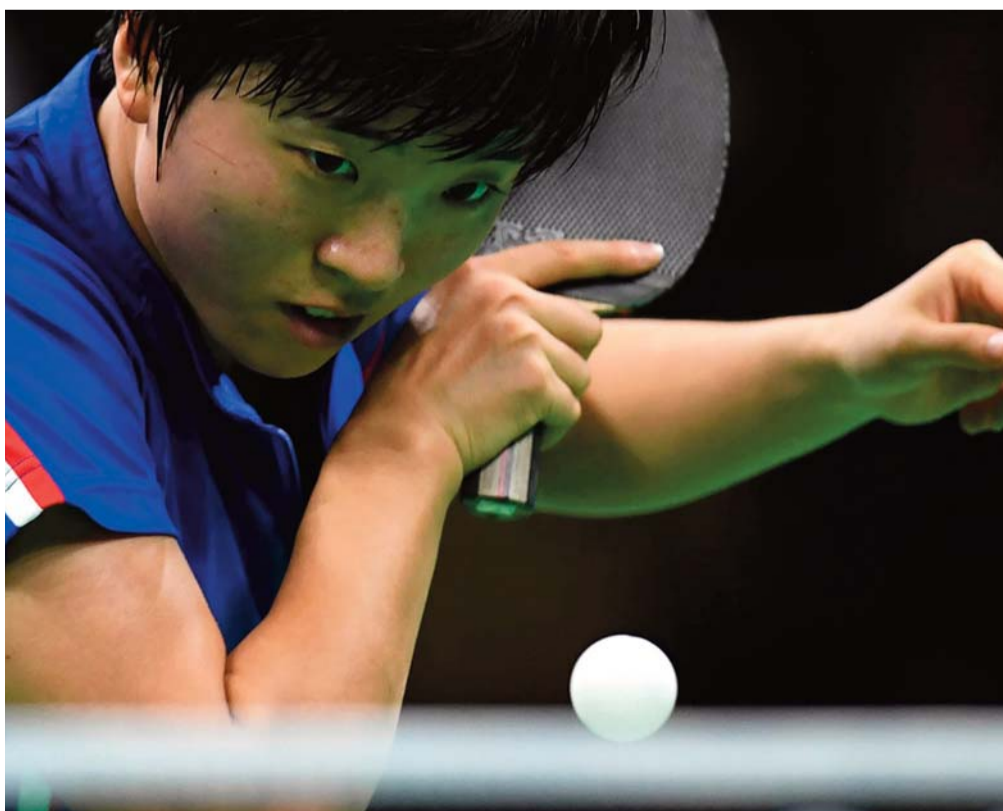
RIO DE JANEIRO: Kim Song-I flew the North Korean flag into the women's table tennis semi-finals after an upset, last-eight win at the Olympic Games on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old belied her modest 50th in the rankings to beat Singapore's world number 13 Yu Meng-Yu 4-2. Her reward is a clash on Wednesday with China's Ding Ning, the world number two.

"I am very happy. I am so proud that I could make such a good performance on the biggest stage," said Kim, one of 31 athletes representing the reclusive Communist state in Rio. She added: "I was very in control more so than my opponent which was key for me today. I will do my best in the next round to do a good performance, and hopefully I can win. It is a great honour to play here and with the world's best players."

North Korea has a proud record in the Olympics since making their Summer Games debut in Munich in 1972. They won a gold in shooting in Germany, one of five medals that year. North Korea joined the Soviet boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games and declined to take part in the 1988 edition hosted by neighbours, South Korea.

North Korea left London four years ago with a four-gold harvest, including three in weightlifting. In Rio they have two silver medals so far, both in weightlifting. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: North Korea's Kim Song I hits a shot against Singapore's Yu Mengyu in their women's singles quarter-final table tennis match at the Riocentro venue during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. — AFP

FELIX STILL AIMING FOR THREE GOLDS IN RIO



ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: The disappointment of missing out on an individual Olympic double has not left Allyson Felix, but the world 400 metres champion could still win three gold medals at the Rio Games.

America's most decorated sprinter said yesterday she was working with both US relay teams in addition to running the 400 metres at the Games. The United States are favoured in both relays, as Felix is in the 400, giving the 30-year-old a chance to win her fifth, sixth and seventh Olympic golds.

But it still hurts, the Californian said, that she will miss out on a chance to defend her 200 metres title in Rio and go for the 200-400 double that only two women have ever accomplished in the same Olympic Games.

Injured for more than a month this spring, Felix missed by one-hundredth of a second gaining the third 200 metres spot at the cut-throat US trials after winning the 400 in what was then the year's best time.

"I feel a lot better than trials, so I think I am feeling close to normal," she told a US news conference on yesterday. There are still some moments, though, when she still feels the pain of an ankle sprain that kept her away from training on the track for more than a month.

"I have some issues with recovery but those are under control," she said "so I feel confident I can be close to my best." Since missing out on the double, which the International Association of Athletics Federations had changed the schedule for to make the 200-400 bid more plausible, Felix has also had to adjust her mental preparations for Rio. "Definitely I had to refocus," Felix said. "I was disappointed with my 200 performance at trials, but I just had to put everything in perspective of what happened to me this year and just be grateful to even be on the Olympic team." The Games will be the fourth for Felix, and she is hoping for triple gold, just as she did in London, when she won the 200 and ran on both winning relay teams, helping to set a world record in the 4x100 metres. A definite for the 4x400m relay, she will not know until later in the Games whether she will be among the four sprinters for the US 4x100 team. — Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

Abu Dhabi's TAQA net loss widens to \$160m

Page 22

CBs can't just dial up growth: RBA governor

Page 23



GCC banking sector needs to quickly adopt digital practices

Page 26

2017 CHEVROLET CRUZE OFFERS STYLING WITH CONNECTIVITY

Page 25



SALT LAKE CITY: Delta passengers stand in line as the carrier slogged through day two of its recovery from a global computer outage yesterday in Salt Lake City. —AP

CHINA SET TO PICK YUAN CLEARING BANK FOR UAE CENTRE COULD BOOST TRADE, INVESTMENT BETWEEN GULF AND CHINA

DUBAI: China's central bank is expected to pick a Chinese lender to clear yuan transactions in the United Arab Emirates by the end of the year, which would strengthen the growing economic ties between China and the Middle East, a Chinese banking executive said. Qatar opened the region's first yuan clearing centre in April last year, with Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) becoming the clearing bank.

A clearing centre can handle all parts of a currency transaction from when a commitment is made until it is settled, reducing costs and time taken for trading. A clearing bank in the UAE could have a big impact on trade and investment in the Gulf because Dubai acts as the region's top business centre, handling flows of money and goods to countries in the six-

nation Gulf Cooperation Council and beyond.

"In this region everyone thinks of Dubai as the hub for the whole of the Middle East," Fang Min, senior executive officer of Agricultural Bank of China (ABC), said in an interview.

"From an economic and financial centre point of view, Dubai is the most appropriate (place) to set up an offshore renminbi market," Fang said one of the big four Chinese banks - ABC, ICBC, Bank of China and China Construction Bank would become the UAE's yuan clearing bank. He did not elaborate.

Partly because of the UAE's role as a transshipment point for goods to the rest of the Gulf, trade between China and the UAE was estimated at \$60 billion last year, up from \$47.6 billion in 2014, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) figures show.

SWIFT

The UAE is already the most active country in the Middle East in using yuan for direct payments to China and Hong Kong. In 2015, the currency was used for 74 percent of payments by value from the UAE to China and Hong Kong on the SWIFT international transactions network.

Overall, the US dollar is still used for most trade between the Gulf and China, and China's payments for its oil imports from the region are believed to be denominated in dollars, the main currency used in global oil trade. Nevertheless, Fang said he expected the UAE's ratio for SWIFT direct payments in yuan to rise to 80 or 85 percent by 2020.

The UAE centre "will provide local Chinese companies, as well as UAE companies and companies from other regions, with renminbi liquid-

ty for trade settlement, investment."

Qatar has become ICBC's third-largest overseas clearing centre globally behind Singapore and Luxembourg, handling 350 billion yuan (\$52.6 billion) in transactions since it launched, said Zhou Xiaodong, general manager of ICBC's Dubai branch.

Last December, China said the UAE would be included in its Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor scheme with a 50 billion yuan quota, allowing UAE-based institutions to channel offshore yuan holdings into Chinese securities. The UAE clearing centre could make it easier for UAE investors to do this. Low oil prices are hurting GCC governments and companies. But Zhou said far from deterring Chinese banks, this gave them a chance to expand in the region.

"We are facing an asset shortage domestically, so there's an opportunity to develop the international business for all of ICBC's clients." In May, ICBC participated in a \$10 billion international loan for the Saudi Arabian government, which is looking abroad to help finance a huge budget deficit caused by cheap oil. Zhou said ICBC aimed to be involved in an upcoming international bond issue by Riyadh and its future issues.

In the longer term, the UAE clearing centre could encourage GCC issuers to tap funding in China through panda bonds, yuan-denominated debt sold by foreigners into Chinese markets. The DIFC-based operations of China's big four banks have doubled their combined assets to \$21.5 billion in the last 18 months, accounting for 26 percent of all assets at the DIFC, data it released in February showed. —Reuters

OPEC POINTS TO 2017 OIL SURPLUS SAUDI OUTPUT HITS RECORD

LONDON: Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia boosted its oil output to a record high in July, it told OPEC, in a sign key members remain focused on market share rather than tackling a supply glut by curbing production. The monthly report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries also said output from the 14-member group hit a new high last month, indicating excess global supply may persist into next year.

Oil declined almost 15 percent in July on concern about a glut of crude and finished products that would delay a long-awaited rebalancing of the market. The drop in prices has prompted speculation OPEC may seek to revive a deal with outside producers to freeze output.

"Cheap crude has led refiners to produce more refined products worldwide, adding to the oversupplied market," OPEC said in the report. Saudi Arabia pumped 10.67 million barrels per day of crude in July, according to figures it provided to OPEC. That is up from 10.55 million bpd in June and above the previous

record of 10.56 million bpd achieved in June 2015.

Saudi-based industry sources said in April output would rise to meet summer power demand, not to flood the market. Other OPEC producers are also boosting supply, offsetting the impact of militant attacks in Nigeria and conflict in Libya. Based on figures OPEC collects from secondary sources, OPEC pumped 33.11 million bpd in July, up 46,000 bpd from June.

This is the highest since at least 2008, according to a Reuters review of past OPEC reports. Iraq, the second-largest OPEC producer, also increased output in July, while No. 3 Iran managed only a small boost as the rapid uptick seen following the lifting of Western sanctions in January tails off for now.

OPEC expects demand for its crude in 2017 to average 33.01 million bpd, suggesting a supply surplus of 100,000 bpd if OPEC keeps output steady. Last month's report pointed to a small deficit. In the report, OPEC made no significant change to its global demand outlook. —Reuters

QATAR, EGYPT CLIMB TO MULTI-MONTH HIGHS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Stock markets in Qatar and Egypt rose to fresh multi-month highs yesterday, following global bourses higher, but Saudi Arabia's index pulled back as oil gave up some of its recent gains.

Doha's main index added 0.7 percent to 10,996 points, a new nine-month high. Stocks most exposed to foreign capital flows were among the top gainers, with Islamic lender Masraf Al Rayan advancing 2.9 percent. Cairo's main index recovered from the previous session's 0.9 percent loss and gained 1.1 percent to 8,292 points, a 13-month closing high.

Talaat Mostafa Group, the largest listed real estate developer, rebounded 3.7 percent to 5.83 Egyptian pounds after it fell 1.6 percent in the previous session. On Tuesday the property developer reported a 30 percent rise in second-quarter net profit to 232.7 million Egyptian pounds (\$26.2 million) but revenues fell 3.2 percent. Palm Hills Development, which fell 3.4 percent on Tuesday after weak second-quarter earnings, edged up 0.4 percent.

But Edita Food Industries slumped 8.8 percent, taking its losses over two days to 17.1 percent. On Tuesday the company said its second-quarter net profit sank 28 percent year-on-year.

GULF

Riyadh's index pulled back 0.4 percent with the petrochemical sector ending four straight sessions of gains as Brent oil futures slipped below \$45 a barrel. Saudi Basic Industries lost 0.3 percent.

In Dubai, the index rose 0.3 percent to 3,531 points with Union Properties adding 2.0 percent after it reported a 270 percent leap in second-quarter net profit attributable to shareholders. The firm cited increased contracting, higher property valuations and gains from selling investment properties. Some large-cap shares which had outperformed on Tuesday continued advancing. Emaar Properties, climbed 1.7 percent, taking its gains over the last four days to 4.0 percent.

Abu Dhabi's NBAD Securities said in a note that trading volumes on Dubai's exchange were rising gradually with the index holding over its 14-, 21- and 50-day moving averages, which was bullish. It put short-term support at 3,500 points with resistance at 3,562 points. Some blue-chip lenders helped carry Abu Dhabi's index 0.1 percent higher. First Gulf Bank rose 1.3 percent.

But energy-related shares lagged. Abu Dhabi National Energy Co (TAQA) fell 3.6 percent, erasing some of the 12 percent gain posted over the previous week, after it reported a wider second-quarter net loss. Dana Gas, due to report earnings today, dropped 1.8 percent. —Reuters

SAUDI TO OPEN STOCK MARKET WIDER TO FOREIGNERS ON SEPT 4

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will ease restrictions on foreign investment in its securities markets next month, sooner than previously indicated, in an effort to attract more institutional money into its bourse, the regulator said yesterday.

With oil prices sagging and the economy slowing, Saudi authorities are keen to attract more foreign capital into the kingdom. The stock market opened to direct investment by foreign institutions in June last year, but all types of foreign investor still own only 1.03 percent of the \$390 billion market.

In May, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) announced it would ease ownership limits and minimum qualifications for overseas institutions by mid-2017. In a statement on Wednesday, it said the reforms would take effect on Sept 4. Among the reforms, each asset manager will only need to have a minimum of \$1 billion of assets under management globally to qualify as a foreign institutional investor in Saudi Arabia, instead of the current minimum of \$5 billion.

Each foreign institutional investor will be allowed to own directly a stake of just under 10 percent of a single listed company, up from the current ceiling of 5 percent. —Reuters



HERAT: An Afghan farmer harvests wheat with children in a field on the outskirts of Herat yesterday. —AFP

ABU DHABI'S TAQA NET LOSS WIDENS TO \$160M

ENERGY FIRM PLANS TO TAP BONDS MARKET

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi National Energy Co (TAQA), the state-owned oil explorer and power supplier, yesterday reported a wider second-quarter net loss as low oil prices continue to weigh on its earnings. TAQA, majority-owned by Abu Dhabi's government, made a net loss attributable to equity holders of 588 million dirhams (\$160 million) in the three months to June 30. This compares with a loss of 421 million dirhams in the same quarter of last year.

TAQA plans to return to the bond market later this year or early 2017 to manage maturing debt, its chief financial officer said yesterday. TAQA, the state-owned oil explorer and power supplier, has a \$750 million bond coming due in March 2017 and another \$500 million bond in October 2017.

"In terms of the bond market, it is a possibility. There are maturities in March and October next year," Grant Gillon told analysts on a conference call. In June this year, TAQA sold a \$1 billion two-tranche bond to be used for general corporate purposes and to

pay back a \$1 billion bond maturing in October this year.

Asked by analysts if TAQA's capital expenditure guidance of 1.8 billion dirhams (\$490.1 million) announced at the start of the year would remain unchanged, Gillon said it would "certainly come below" that figure.

Revenues from oil and gas fell to 1.04 billion dirhams in the second quarter from 1.59 billion dirhams a year ago. The lower earnings were primarily due to a 39 percent drop in oil and gas prices realised by the company, TAQA said, adding that earnings were also hurt by the absence of a one-off 555 million dirham British tax credit booked in early 2015.

TAQA produced 147,400 barrels of oil equivalent per day during the first half of 2016, 2 percent lower than in the first half of 2015, it said without giving a quarterly breakdown.

Capital expenditure in the six months to June 30 was slashed by 1.3 billion dirhams or 73 percent compared to the first half of last

year, mainly because of completion of major projects as well as cuts to "discretionary investment", it said.

TAQA said it had achieved more than 6.5 billion dirhams of cash cost and capital expenditure savings under a transformation program that was launched in 2015.

In June, TAQA sold a \$1 billion two-tranche bond to be used for general corporate purposes and to pay back a \$1 billion bond maturing in October this year. In the same month, TAQA sold all capacity at its Dutch Bergemeer gas storage facility for the 2016-17 storage year. The company also announced the departure of its chief operating officer Edward LaFehr and the appointment of Saeed Hamad Al-Daheri as acting COO.

TAQA has been involved in oil and gas exploration and production in overseas markets such as Canada, Iraq, the Netherlands and Britain. In the United Arab Emirates, it is a key player in power generation and water desalination. —Reuters

EGYPT CLOSES 48 FOREX BUREAUS IN BLACK MARKET CRACKDOWN

CAIRO: Egypt's central bank has closed 48 foreign exchange bureaus since the start of the year for trading at black market rates and other violations, banking sources said yesterday, as the country tries to end speculation against the Egyptian pound.

Egypt has accelerated a crackdown against black market traders it blames for growing pressure to devalue the currency. The dollar is being sold on the black market for about 12.65 to 12.75 Egyptian pounds, according to traders, far more than the official rate of 8.78. Import-dependent Egypt has struggled with a worsening shortage of foreign currency since the 2011 uprising that ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule but also scared away foreign investors and tourists-key earners of hard currency.

Egypt's parliament on Tuesday set prison sentences of three to 10 years and fines up to 5 million pounds (\$563,000) for black market currency trading. "The number of exchange companies closed since the beginning of the year are 48, of which 26 have been closed permanently and 22 have been suspended for three months to

a year," the banking official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"The total number of foreign exchange bureaus licensed to operate in Egypt was 115 at the end of last year, but now there are only 67," Egypt devalued its currency by nearly 14 percent in March in an effort to close the gap with the black market rate. The move failed to ease an acute shortage of foreign currency and the spread quickly widened again.

Net foreign reserves have more than halved since 2011, to reach \$15.56 billion in July, enough for less than three months of imports. Egypt is in negotiations with the IMF for a \$12 billion three-year lending program it hopes will plug a funding gap, restore market confidence and lure investment to ease the currency crunch.

But economists say another devaluation is all but inevitable this year and reforms should include a shift to a more flexible exchange rate. The central bank has said it will not float the pound until foreign reserves reach at least \$25 billion, a figure it aims to achieve by the end of the year. —Reuters



CAIRO: A man counts US dollars at an exchange office in Cairo, Egypt. Al-Ahram, Egypt's flagship state newspaper, quoted Ali Abdel-Al, the country's parliament speaker, in its Wednesday edition, as saying he wished new legislation toughening punishments for illegal foreign currency trading would include the death penalty. —AP

RECORD PROFITS FOR AUSTRALIA'S COMMONWEALTH BANK

SYDNEY: Australia's biggest lender Commonwealth Bank sounded a cautious note about the country's economic outlook yesterday even as it posted a record Aus\$9.23 billion (US\$7.08 billion) in annual profit.

The Commonwealth Bank's performance is closely watched for guidance on the health of the Australian economy in the current low interest-rate environment. CBA chief executive Ian Narev said the company remained positive about Australia's economic prospects but warned that the nation's nominal growth, which is not adjusted for inflation, needed to strengthen.

Reflecting softness on the income side of the economy, Australia's nominal GDP grew by 0.5 percent in January-March for an annual reading of 2.1 percent. It was far

below real GDP of 1.1 percent in the quarter for a year-on-year figure of 3.1 percent.

"Income growth inside and outside Australia remains weak, so people are not feeling better off," Narev said in a statement. "When combined with ongoing global economic and political uncertainty, this makes households and businesses cautious, and hesitant to respond to monetary stimulus."

Cash profit, the bank's preferred measure of earnings that strips out one-off costs, rose three percent to Aus\$9.45 billion for the year to June 30 compared to the previous 12 months, broadly matching analyst expectations.

Net profit was up two percent at Aus\$9.23 billion while cash earnings for the six months to June 30 slipped three percent

compared to the July-December period.

Earnings from its retail banking division—the largest in the bank—rose 11 percent to Aus\$4.44 billion, while business and private banking grew by five percent for the period.

But CBA's bad debts jumped 27 percent, weighing on profits, on higher provisions for resource, commodity and dairy exposures. The bank announced a final dividend of Aus\$2.22 per share, leaving the final payout to shareholders at Aus\$4.20, which was unchanged from the previous year. Shares in CBA closed 1.29 percent lower at Aus\$77.40.

'Strong, solid result'

"It's a strong, solid result, but there's not a lot in this result that would want to make me buy this company on open," IG Markets'

strategist Chris Weston told AFP. "The outlook that we've seen is fairly benign, there's downside risks to Australian economics and Ian Narev said there's going to be more of the same coming through."

Australia's economy is charting a rocky path away from mining-dependent growth, with the central Reserve Bank of Australia last week cutting interest rates to a record low of 1.5 percent to boost non-resources sectors. Banks' profits have been under pressure in recent months amid uncertainties in financial markets and the economy, and over fears of rising bad loans.

Financial institutions are also having to deal with tougher regulations to dampen the housing market amid concerns the sector could overheat.

CBA said its common equity Tier 1 ratio-

a measure of the capital it has available to absorb losses—rose 10.6 percent compared to 9.1 percent in the prior year.

The bank last year announced a plan to raise Aus\$5 billion to meet the capital buffer requirements, which are part of a global effort to make the financial sector more resilient to shocks. Canberra has also stepped up pressure on the nation's big four banks—CBA, ANZ, National Australia Bank and Westpac—to explain why they did not fully cut their home-loan rates when the central bank slashed the cash rate last week.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has announced that the four large lenders among the developed world's most profitable—will have to face a parliamentary committee for an annual grilling to explain their actions. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.961	
Indian Rupees	4.527	
Pakistani Rupees	2.897	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083	
Nepali Rupees	2.837	
Singapore Dollar	225.620	
Hongkong Dollar	39.054	
Bangladesh Taka	3.862	
Philippine Peso	6.465	
Thai Baht	8.698	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.816	
Qatari Riyal	83.249	
ani Riyal	787.162	
Bahraini Dinar	804.840	
UAE Dirham	82.512	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	34.498	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	29.990	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217	
Tunisian Dinar	137.370	
Jordanian Dinar	427.640	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019	
Syrian Lira	2.0160	
Morocco Dirham	31.389	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.900	
Euro	337.280	

Sterling Pound	395.280
Canadian dollar	230.690
Turkish lira	101.990
Swiss Franc	309.870
Australian Dollar	232.630
US Dollar Buying	301.700

GOLD

20 Gram	268.840
10 Gram	137.340
5 Gram	69.510

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	230.310
Sterling Pound	397.170
Euro	337.375
Swiss Frank	297.645
Bahrain Dinar	801.000
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatar Riyals	83.940
Saudi Riyals	81.520
Jordanian Dinar	426.955
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083
Indian Rupees	4.529
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.450
Cyprus pound	159.680
Japanese Yen	3.965
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.830

Malaysian Ringgit	75.755
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.845
Thai Bhat	9.610
Turkish Lira	101.170

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.388422	0.403422
Czech Korune	0.004456	0.016456
Danish Krone	0.041250	0.046250
Euro	0.0331658	0.0340658
Norwegian Krone	0.032041	0.037241
Romanian Leu	0.075480	0.075480
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.031470	0.036470
Swiss Franc	0.302116	0.313116
Turkish Lira	0.097203	0.107503
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224446	0.236446
New Zealand Dollar	0.211779	0.221279
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226052	0.235052
Georgia Lari	0.136623	0.136623
US Dollars	0.298400	0.303100
US Dollars Mint	0.298900	0.303100
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003386	0.003970
Chinese Yuan	0.044020	0.047520
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036912	0.039662

Indian Rupee	0.004325	0.004714
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002903	0.003083
Kenyan Shilling	0.002974	0.002974
Korean Won	0.000266	0.000281
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072212	0.078215
Nepalese Rupee	0.002852	0.003022
Pakistani Rupee	0.002713	0.003003
Philippine Peso	0.006334	0.006634
Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000058
Singapore Dollar	0.220173	0.230173
South African Rand	0.016564	0.025064
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001658	0.002236
Taiwan	0.009595	0.009775
Thai Baht	0.008360	0.008910

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.804318
Egyptian Pound	0.025243	0.030361
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422500	0.431500
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019602	0.043602
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082278	0.083728
Saudi Riyal	0.079580	0.080880
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.134078	0.142078
Turkish Lira	0.097203	0.107503
UAE Dirhams	0.080934	0.082634
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447



LONDON: Protesters show banners outside the Transport Department in London yesterday. Rail workers stage a protest over the Southern Rail dispute followed at 5.30pm by a march from Victoria Station by commuters and the Campaign for Better Transport. —AP

BRITISH EUROSTAR STAFF TO STAGE AUGUST STRIKES

LONDON: British workers on the Eurostar cross-Channel rail service will strike for seven days this month, including over a public holiday weekend, in a dispute over hours, a union said yesterday.

Fifty-five members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union will begin the action this Friday, which the company said would see a maximum of four train services cancelled each day of the strike.

Approved in a vote by RMT members, the walk-out will run from August 12 to August 15, and for three days over the weekend of August 27, which includes a public holiday in Britain. The union claims that Eurostar is refusing to uphold a 2008 agreement over managing shift work and unsociable hours, to provide staff with a better work-life balance.

"Our members are sick and tired of waiting for this," Assistant General Secretary Mick Lynch told BBC radio. He said the walk-out would cause "fairly severe disruption", but added: "We don't want to be on strike, we don't want our members and the public inconvenienced this way."

"We're ready to make an agreement today or tomorrow or whenever the company wants to speak to us." A Eurostar spokeswoman told AFP the strike would result in the cancellation of a "maximum of two return trains a day, so four services".

"We will of course be using more of our continental crew," she said, noting that the strike only affects British staff, and the company would bring in French and Belgian employees. Eurostar said it had been "working to find a joint resolution" with the RMT but refused to be drawn on any imminent talks. "On the days of the strike we have made some small changes to our timetable to ensure that all passengers booked to travel will be able to on those days. Passengers affected will be notified in advance," a Eurostar statement said.

Separately, the RMT yesterday called off the rest of a five-day strike that began Monday on trains in southeast England, including London commuter services, over plans to downgrade the role of train conductors. It said rail operator Southern had agreed to fresh talks. — AFP

IN RECOVERING HOUSING MARKET, STARTER HOME REMAINS ELUSIVE

NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES: Seeking a yard for her two dogs and proximity to her new government job, Alison Owen set out to buy a home this spring in the hot market of Austin, Texas. Owen's real estate agent warned the 28-year-old that she would face stiff competition in the market for entry-level homes - and he wasn't kidding.

Owen had to offer \$215,000 for a property listed at \$198,000 to fend off at least nine other bidders for the 1,200-square-foot home in the sought-after neighborhood of Wells Branch. "I definitely spent a lot more than I thought I was going to spend," Owen said. Similar scenarios are playing out across the United States. Low interest rates and an improving job market have created a wave of prospective first-time home buyers, but they're being stymied by a dearth of available starter homes. Nationwide, the inventory of homes costing \$250,000 or less fell more than 12 percent between June 2015 and June 2016, according to the National Association of Realtors.

The shortage stems from higher labor, land and building permit costs that have caused construction companies to focus on higher-end homes that bring more profit. In addition, institutional investors are snapping up affordable homes by the thousands in select markets nationwide and converting them to rentals.

The shrinking supply of affordable homes is one economic trend among many that is conspiring against younger workers and families in building wealth as their parents once did. Real average hourly wages of often debt-laden college graduates fell between 2000 and 2014, according to the Economic Policy Institute, while the Case-Shiller US National Home Price Index jumped more than 25 percent, adjusted for inflation, over the same period.

Younger workers who can afford to save for a down payment, meanwhile, are forced into bidding wars for the dwindling number of houses they can afford. Some decide instead to strain their budgets for a home that would have been traditionally considered a trade-up.

Over the past four years, the number of entry-level homes for sale - defined as those priced in the lower third of a local market - has fallen by 34 percent, according to a Reuters analysis of data compiled by listings firm Trulia. The market is even tighter in many cities. In Salt Lake City the average number of starter homes on the market has fallen by 83% since 2012, and in San Diego by 71.5%. Cambridge, Mass. and Portland Ore. have both seen drops of more than 60 percent.

THE NEW RENTING REALITY

Between 2006 and 2014, the number of single-family homes occupied by renters jumped by about 34 percent, according to the US Census Bureau, a shift that had its roots in the subprime mortgage crisis. After the housing crash, institutional investors rushed to buy undervalued and foreclosed homes and convert them to rentals. Corporations or companies now own nearly one fifth of all homes priced under \$300,000 that are not occupied by their owners, according to property data firm ATTOM Data Solutions, though investor purchases have slowed since peaking in 2013. At least five publicly trad-

ed real estate investment trusts in the US exclusively own single-family rental homes. American Homes 4 Rent - which began trading in 2012 and is currently the largest publicly-traded REIT dealing in single-family homes - owns nearly 38,000 properties in more than 20 states. Its shares have risen more than 40 percent in the last year.

The REIT was founded by self-storage billionaire B Wayne Hughes, and top shareholders include The Vanguard Group and J P Morgan Asset Management, according to public filings. Meanwhile, Blackstone Group in July announced plans for a public stock offering of Invitation Homes - now the largest US single-family home rental company. Blackstone has invested \$8.7 billion in its 45,000-home portfolio since founding it in 2012. Large-scale investors often make all-cash offers when purchasing houses, and they can more easily outbid individual buyers. Laura Medina, 25, a human resources manager who attended a recent grand opening of a starter-home community in Jurupa Valley, California, said she has lost bidding wars over six months of looking for a home for herself and her son. "There are a lot of investors out there," she said.

The promise of a stable income from increasing rents has also turned many individuals into "accidental landlords" who rent out their homes when they move rather than sell them, according to NAR economist Lawrence Yun. The growing number of renters makes investing in rental housing attractive. Young adults aged 18 to 34 earn \$2,000 less per year today than they did in 1980, after adjusting for inflation, according to the Census Bureau, and they have amassed record levels of student debt. Outstanding student loan debt totaled \$1.2 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2015 - trailing only mortgage debt among all consumer debt categories, according to the New York Fed. The average student loan monthly payment has jumped 50 percent in constant dollars, to \$351, over the last 10 years. Both factors have contributed to young people entering the housing market later. A survey released in June by the NAR found that 71 percent of non-homeowners who carry student debt said it had delayed them from buying a home.

SLOW CONSTRUCTION

As individual and institutional landlords have siphoned off rentals at the low end of the market, new construction has been slow to meet the demand from homebuyers. As of June, housing starts on single-family homes were on track to hit 778,000 this year, far below levels of more than a million starts per year during the 1990s and early 2000s. That's in part because new home construction remains depressed coming out of the recession, when builders retreated and many construction workers found other lines of work. The resulting labor shortage continues, and is one factor slowing builders, along with higher land costs and tight construction financing, said National Association of Home Builders economist Rob Dietz. Average residential land values are up about 79 percent over the last four years, to a level last seen when the housing market peaked in 2007 and 2008, according to the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy. — Reuters

CBS CAN'T JUST DIAL UP GROWTH: RBA GOVERNOR

STEVENS SLAMS RELIANCE ON MONETARY POLICY

SYDNEY, Australia: Central bankers can't just "dial up growth" to stimulate economies, outgoing Reserve Bank of Australia governor Glenn Stevens said yesterday, expressing serious reservations about the world's reliance on monetary policy. Central banks, particularly in developed nations, enacted unprecedented monetary easing policies after the global economic crisis to kickstart growth including pumping huge amounts of liquidity into markets, cutting interest rates to ultra-low levels and buying up assets. But the path towards recovery has been uneven. Amid fears that zero or negative interest rates and quantitative easing are becoming ineffective, central banks have started to consider other measures including so-called "helicopter money" where they funnel cash directly into economies.

"We can't just assume that monetary policy can simply dial up the growth we need. We need some realism here," Stevens said in Sydney in his last speech before he steps down as Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) governor next month. "I have serious reservations about the extent of reliance on monetary policy around the world."

Stevens said although low interest rates were meant to encourage households and other private entities to take on more debt and spend more, some were already struggling with indebtedness. Instead, governments should increase their borrowing and invest in "long-lived assets that yield an economic return" to generate demand. "It isn't that the central banks were wrong to do what they could, it is that what they could do was not enough, and never could be enough, fully to restore demand after a period of recession associated with a very substantial debt build-up," Stevens added.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in June cut its forecast for global growth to 3.0 percent from the previous

3.6 percent, and called on governments to boost spending or risk being caught in a low-growth trap. Stevens said a return to previous interest rate levels around the world was likely to take some time. "Through a combination of extraordinary circumstances, the central banking community globally has found itself doing unprecedented things," the 58-year-old said.

"The 'return to normal' at the global level looks like being a very, very slow process. And normal is a different place now." Stevens, who is handing over to deputy governor Philip

Lowy next month after a decade in the hot seat, has been praised for his steady hand as he guided the country through an unprecedented mining investment boom as well as the global financial crisis.

Australia for a quarter of a century has avoided falling into recession. But as the economy transitions from dependence on mining-driven growth, the RBA has had to cut interest rates to record lows to drive growth in non-resources industries. The most recent easing to 1.50 percent was in early August. —AFP



SYDNEY: Australia's Reserve Bank governor Glenn Stevens speaks at a luncheon in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

OIL EASES ON OVERSUPPLY AS CALLS FOR PRODUCER TALKS DRAW SKEPTICISM

LONDON: Oil fell yesterday, hit by record Saudi Arabian output, improved prospects for U.S. output and a glut in refined fuel. Analysts mostly expected no impact on actual supplies from talk of a potential producer meeting to discuss propping up prices.

International benchmark Brent crude futures were down 13 cents at \$44.85 per barrel at 1216 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures were trading at \$42.50 per barrel, down 27 cents from their last settlement.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia boosted its oil output to a record high in July of 10.67 million barrels-per-day (bpd), it told the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. OPEC said in its monthly oil report citing secondary sources its crude output, including Gabon, rose to 46,000 bpd in July to 33.11 million bpd compared with June.

This comes as OPEC member Venezuela tries to drum up support for a producer meeting to decide measures that would buoy oil prices. "Oil eased lower as another round of proposed production freeze talks by OPEC failed to excite investors," ANZ Bank said.

When producers last held such talks in April, OPEC members failed to agree on

any measures. "Renewed attempts at verbal intervention by OPEC will help bolster oil market sentiment, although the group will struggle to rebuild its role as a backstop to Brent," oil analysts at BMI Research said in a note to clients. Traders said excess supplies of crude and refined fuel products weighed on markets, and a proposed meeting by oil producers was unlikely to result in significant market tightening.

The US Energy Information Administration added to the market's unease when on Tuesday it forecast a smaller decline in US crude oil production in 2016 than it projected a month ago as drilling activity picks up. The agency now expects US oil output to fall by 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) this year to 8.73 million bpd, compared with the 820,000-bpd drop it previously forecast.

A global products glut that has led storage tanks from Houston to Singapore to reach near capacity is also weighing on oil prices, as analysts warn that only large-scale refinery run cuts can clear the excess. In Singapore, oil refining profits dropped to two-year lows yesterday, in the latest sign that the industry is pumping too much fuel for the market to absorb. — Reuters

UNORTHODOX INDEX MEASURES HOW WELL NZ KEEPS TRUCKING

WELLINGTON: If an unconventional economic indicator made in New Zealand is on the right track, the country with stunning scenery is currently heading down the road - literally - to slower growth. Former US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan used corrugated box shipments and China-watches keep tabs on electricity volts. New Zealand has a "truckometer" that measures trucking miles as a proxy for economic activity.

The latest index from ANZ, New Zealand's biggest lender, showed heavy traffic - meaning trucks and buses - fell 5.7 percent in July from June, suggesting the third quarter got off to a sluggish start. "Detour" was the headline on the ANZ Truckometer released on Tuesday. New Zealand, whose currency is the world's 10th most traded, may be the only place with trucking as a proxy for economic activity. Though many countries release traffic flow information, obtaining detailed raw traffic data, often from multiple state or local governments, is difficult in places such as Australia and the United States. In 2012, ANZ economist Sharon Zollner asked New Zealand's transport agency for access to years of traffic flow numbers. She sliced and diced the data to represent the roads around major ports and dairy-product factories - sources of a key Kiwi export - and separated trucks from cars.

LIGHT AND HEAVY VERSIONS

The result was the Heavy Traffic Index - there's a light one too - that's a window into economic activity published well before official gross domestic product figures released three months after a quarter. "It's real activity that's happening as opposed to a measure of sentiment," said Zollner. "Firms may or may not follow through on their intentions, whereas this is stuff that's actually happening."

The Heavy Traffic Index has a base of 1,000, from January 2004. The July reading was 1,335, down from the previous month's 1,417. One downside of the monthly index is its volatility, which makes it difficult to be certain there was a slip in July, as that runs counter to other indicators suggesting growth. Zollner acknowledged the index "does have drawbacks... it gets affected by weather, by roadworks." Some traders keep an eye on the truckometer. "It's a forward read on the economy," said Graham Parlane, a Wellington-based adviser at broker OM Financial. "I've been following it for as long as it's been around." — Reuters

SURVEY: AMERICANS REMAIN GLOOMY ABOUT ECONOMY, CHINESE SUNNY

WASHINGTON: Americans, Japanese and many Europeans are glum about their national economies. By contrast, Chinese, Indians and Australians feel positive about theirs.

Those are among the findings from a survey released Tuesday of 20,132 people in 16 countries by the Pew Research Center. Just 44 percent of Americans rated the US economy as "good," although that proportion has risen steadily from 18 percent in 2011. Since that year, the US unemployment rate has tumbled from 9 percent to 4.9 percent. Politics plays a role in how Americans assess their economy: Just 37 percent of US conservatives give the economy high marks, versus 45 percent of moderates and 55 percent of liberals.

China's economic growth has been decelerating for five years, but 87 percent of Chinese still describe their economy as good. So do 80 percent of Indians and 57 percent of Australians.

People in Japan and in many European countries regard their economies as poor. No one was more miserable than the Greeks: Just 2 percent rated Greece's economy as good, versus 97 percent who saw it as bad. No surprise: The Greek economy has shrunk 26 percent since 2007, and unemployment is 23.5 percent.

But within Europe, there were exceptions: Germans, Swedes and Dutch rank their economies highly. European men tend to rate their national economies higher than women do.

The survey was taken from April 4 to May 29, which means that the results emerged before Britain voted June 23 to leave the European Union. That vote rattled financial markets and magnified uncertainty about the outlook for the economies of Britain and continental Europe. — AP



SEOUL: Currency traders watch monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul yesterday. Asian markets meandered yesterday in a post-earnings season lull, as investors awaited US retail sales later in the week. — AP

GLOBAL STOCKS MEANDER AS INVESTORS AWAIT US DATA

LONDON: World shares meandered yesterday in a post-earnings season, mid-summer lull, as investors awaited US retail sales data later in the week. Stocks markets across Europe and Asia mostly dropped yesterday in response to surprisingly weak French economic data and a falling dollar, traders said.

European equity markets sank "as investors bank some profits after markets hit recent highs and the German index entered a bull market yesterday, rising 22 percent since February", said Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at broker Interactive Investor. Around 1000 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was down 0.2 percent. In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 shed 0.5 percent and the Paris CAC 40 lost 0.4 percent compared with Tuesday's close. The DAX

had shot higher Tuesday to close up 2.5 percent, as Germany's trade surplus beat expectations to shrink only slightly in June after exports had returned to growth. Focus yesterday switched to France, whose industrial production dropped for a second straight month in June, statistics bureau Insee said, alarming analysts who had been looking for a modest increase.

Output fell 0.8 percent in June, after dropping 0.5 percent in May, with oil refining posting the largest single decline after strikes in France's oil industry.

"The broad-based decrease in industrial output, again fuelled by unions' strikes, raises some questions on the strength of the French recovery," said Olivier Vigna, an economist at HSBC. Tokyo stocks led most Asian stock markets lower

Wednesday in lacklustre trading as the dollar weakened against the yen after US government figures showed a decline in productivity.

Traders were cautious, with markets flitting in and out of positive territory despite a positive lead from the US, where the technology-rich Nasdaq ended at a new record on Tuesday. The Japanese unit is seen as a haven investment in times of uncertainty, but a stronger yen is negative for Japanese shares because it dampens the overseas profitability of exporters.

Asia down

Tokyo stocks led most Asian stock markets lower yesterday in lacklustre trading as the dollar weakened against the yen after US government figures showed a decline in productivity.

Traders were cautious, with markets flitting in and out of positive territory despite a positive lead from Europe and in the US, where the technology-rich Nasdaq ended at a new record on Tuesday. The dollar dropped to 101.43 yen from 101.88 yen in New York and was sharply down from 102.44 yen in Tokyo Tuesday, after the US Labor Department reported second-quarter productivity had fallen 0.5 percent.

The Japanese unit is seen as a safe haven in times of uncertainty, but a stronger yen is negative for Japanese shares because it dampens the overseas profitability of exporters. The Japan's government said earlier in the day that the country's core private-sector machinery orders grew a seasonally adjusted 8.3 percent in June from May, a rebound from two straight months of decline. The data were seen as encouraging, though business investment remained weak in the April to June quarter.

Oil prices also extended losses in Asian trade after industry data showed a rise in US crude stockpiles, supporting oversupply concerns. Investors meanwhile continued to digest news of an unscheduled OPEC

meeting next month - an announcement that has fuelled speculation of possible action to stabilise the market. Tokyo closed down 0.2 percent, with Toyota, factory robot maker Fanuc and cosmetics maker Shiseido among those seeing declines.

Shares in the make-up giant plummeted 7.5 percent after it cut its full-year profit forecast the previous day, blaming the yen's rise. Shanghai also eased 0.2 percent after Tuesday's rally sparked by encouraging producer price data for July, as investors awaited the release of more economic data and corporate earnings.

Hong Kong had added just 0.1 percent by the close despite seeing stronger gains earlier in the day. Sydney ended 0.2 percent lower even as Australia's Commonwealth Bank posted a record Au\$92.3 billion (US\$7.08 billion) in annual profit. Australia's biggest bank sounded a cautious note about the country's economic outlook however, with chief executive Ian Narev warning that the nation's nominal growth, which is not adjusted for inflation, needed to strengthen. Seoul and Manila finished flat, while Jakarta dropped 0.4 percent. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Includes logo for Global and a stylized 'G' icon.

Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low. Rows include Price Index, Weighted Index, and KSX 15.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include MARIN, IKARUS, IPG, NAPESCO, ENERGYH, GPI, ABAR.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KFOUC, BPCC, ALKOUT, ALQURAIN, ALBASIC MATERIALS.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KCEM, REFRU, CABLE, SHIP, PCEM, PAPER, MRC, ACICO, GGMC, HCC, KBMMC, NICBM, EQUIPMENT, NCCI, GYPSUM, SALBOOKH, AGITY, EDU, CLEANING, KGPC, HUMANSOFT, NAFAIS, SAFFWAN, GFC, MAYADEEN, CGC, MTCC, UPAC, ALAFCO, MUBARRAD, LOGISTICS, SCEM, GCEM, QIC, FCEM, RKVWC, SPEC, Industrials.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include SOKOUK, KRE, URC, NRE, SRE, TAM, AREEC, MASSALEH, ARABREC, ERESO, MABANEE, INJAZZAT, INVESTORS, IRC, ALTIJARIA, SANAM, AAYANRE, AQAR, ALAQARIA, MAZAYA, ADNC, THEMAR, TIJARA, TAAMEER, ARKAN, ARGAN, ABYAAR, MUNSHAAT, FIRSTDUBAI, KBT, REAM, MENA, ALMUDON, MARAKEZ, REMAL, AWJ, Real Estate.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KINV, FACIL, IFA, NINV, KPROJ, COAST, SECH, SGC, ARZAN, MARKAZ, KMEFIC, ALAMAN, ALOLA, ALMAL, GIH, AAYAN, BAYANINV, OSOUL, KFIC, KAMCO, NIH, ISKAN, MADAR, ALDEERA, ALSALAM, EKTITTAB, ALMADINA, NOOR, TAMINV, EXCH, TAIBA, KSHC, ASIA, GNAHC, AMMAL, ALIMTIAZ, MANAZEL, NIND, BIHC, SENERGY, AGHC, KPCC, TAHSSILAT, JEERANH, EKHLIDING, GFH, INOVEST, Financial Services.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include Investment Instruments, ASC, OSOS, FUTURE, HAYATCOMM, Technology.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include SANAD, AFAQ, ALSHAMEL, EFFECT, AJWAN, MASAKEN, DALQAN, ALEID, MIDAN, FLEX, THURAYA, KCLINIC, AMAR, Parallel Market.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes logo for NBK and a line graph.

Global Stock Indices

Table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %. Rows include Dow Jones, NASDAQ, S&P 500, Financial Times, DAX, CAC 40, Swiss, Nikkei 225, Topix, Hang Seng, Straits Times.

MENA Stock Indices

Table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %. Rows include Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia.

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Table with columns: Currency, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, Australian Dollar.

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Table with columns: Currency, US Dollar, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, Qatari Riyal, Omani Riyal, Emirates Dirham, Egyptian Pound.

Global Interest Rates

Table with columns: Currency, 1 Week, 1 Month, 3 Month, 6 Month, 1 Year. Rows include Kuwaiti Dinar, US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar.

Global Bond Yields

Table with columns: Country, 2-Year, 5-Year, 10-Year, 30-Year. Rows include United States, Europe, United Kingdom.

Commodities

Table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %. Rows include Kuwait Oil, Brent, West Texas, Gold, Silver.



2017 CHEVROLET CRUZE OFFERS STYLING WITH CONNECTIVITY

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to present the new 2017 Chevrolet Cruze, the latest iteration of Chevrolet's best-selling passenger car with more than three million sold globally since its launch in mid-2010. Based on expressive design and proven performance, the new model features new amenities, quietness, safety features, infotainment and roominess expected of a larger sedan while offering great value as a compact car especially for young drivers.

The 2017 Chevrolet Cruze this year receives a Technology Package on the LS model. This includes Passive Entry/Passive Start (PEPS), rear park assist, cruise control, LED daylight running lamps, ah chrome grill and handles, 16" Alloy wheels, six speakers.

The Cruze exterior styling cues are inspired by the Impala and restyled 2014 Malibu, while more intuitive controls update the interior. The Cruze's prominent dual-port front fascia takes styling cues from Impala and Malibu, contributing a more cohesive look across Chevrolet's sedan range - including LED daytime running lamps on LT trims. They complement the Cruze's swept-back headlamps, for a sportier presence.

Cruze offers side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic alert, rear park assist and a rearview camera technologies as part of its safety features. Additional available features in the Cruze include a seven-inch-diagonal color touch screen and additional USB ports.

● Cruze LS includes premium cloth bucket seats, 16-inch steel wheels, silver-painted center stack and instrument panel cluster accent rings, power windows with express down on

all windows, power door locks, carpeted front and rear floor mats and Bluetooth for select phones. A Technology Package is available on the LS model.

● Cruze 1LT adds cruise control, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob, power driver express-up window and 16-inch alloy wheels. The available Sun and Sound package includes a power sunroof and premium Pioneer nine-speaker audio system. An available Technology Package includes Chevrolet MyLink and a rear vision camera.

● The Enhanced Safety Package is available on LT model and includes Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross-Traffic Alert and rear park assist. A power sunroof also is available on LT model.

Chassis and suspension

Cruze features a strong body structure and chassis system that enabled engineers to more precisely tune the chassis for comfort and driving control. StabiliTrak electronic stability control with traction control, rollover mitigation and anti-lock brakes are standard.

Additional features include a MacPherson strut front suspension and, available on 1LT and standard on 2LT, a rear suspension with a technically advanced Z-link design. It helps deliver a more balanced driving experience, as the rear suspension better follows the lead of the front suspension.

Rack-mounted electric power steering is standard on all models. It helps with Cruze's excellent fuel economy because it removes the conventional power steering pump from the engine's driven accessories. Cruze is offered with a family of 15-, 16- and 17-inch wheels.

Cruze gas powertrain details

Standard on the models is the 140-horsepower Ecotec 1.8L four-cylinder with continuously variable valve timing that optimizes performance and fuel economy across the rpm band. EPA fuel economy is 10.7 L/100Km city and 6.7 L/100Km highway, on all models.

Safety and crash-avoidance features

Cruze's safety begins with a unitized body structure that incorporates high-strength steel (HSS) in key areas to enhance strength and crash protection by helping to prevent intrusion into passenger compartment. Underbody main rails extend from the front of the structure all the way to the rear, further enhancing the body's strength and stiffness. A cross-structure beam behind the instrument panel supports the body in the event of a side-impact crash.

An available Enhanced Safety Package includes crash-avoidance technologies such as a rear park assist, side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic alert.

Other safety features include:

- Front passenger seat occupant sensing system and rollover sensing and protection system
- Three-point safety belts in all five seating positions, safety belt retractor pretensioners and lap pretensioners in the driver and front-passenger positions, and safety belt load limiters (with pretensioners) in the front safety belt retractors.
- LATCH child seat latching system in the rear seat
- Tire pressure monitoring system, daytime



running lamps and automatic headlamps. All 2016 Cruze owners will experience a new level of customer service courtesy of Chevrolet Complete Care. The comprehensive aftersales package promises additional value with competitive and transparent maintenance pricing; one-hour servicing; two days advanced booking; a regional three-year/100,000-km warranty; and four years of regional 24x7 roadside assistance.

Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase the new 2017 Chevrolet Cruze from Alghanim will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care,

which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty and 4 years of 2407 roadside assistance. Customers who want to purchase a new vehicle or upgrade their existing vehicle can visit our showrooms in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaheel, Al-Ahmadi, and Shuwaikh and obtain the car of their dreams.



2017 NISSAN ALTIMA

A FRESHER LOOK INSIDE AND OUT

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the exclusive agent of Nissan in the state of Kuwait has finally unveiled the new 2017 Nissan Altima. The new model comes with a fresh new appearance including the "Energetic Flow" exterior styling theme and "Gliding Wing" interior layout, "Class Leading Fuel Economy" and "Improved Driving Dynamics and Safety Technology".

New Energetic Flow Design

The front end of the 2017 Altima offers the most dramatic change with its energetic flow design, since all panels and pieces forward of the A-pillars are new - fascia, bumper, fenders, hood and lights. Two key elements are the redesigned V-Motion grille and boomerang-shaped headlights, similar to those found on the Maxima. The look is dramatically different from the 2016 Altima design, with a wide, deeply sculpted lower bumper, integrated fog lights.

The rear of the new Altima is marked by a new sculpted bumper with a dark lower accent, a new trunk lid and lower, wider boomerang-shaped combination lights that help provide a more expressive, higher quality appearance when approaching the vehicle from behind. The four-piece combination lights incor-

porate the tail- and stop lights, turn lamps and backup lights.

Nissan committed to adding value, incorporated customer's feedback and added comfort features such as the standard Zero Gravity front seats which have been reshaped, the woven cloth seating and door panel materials feature a more open weave pattern, providing a premium look and feel throughout the Altima interior. Twin cup holders on the center console now accommodate mug handles

in response to customer input.

The already extensive Altima color palette for 2017 includes Java Metallic, Brilliant Silver, Gun Metallic, Super Black, Cayenne Red, Dark Blue and Pearl White and a new 17-inch machine-finish aluminum-alloy wheel designs.

Improved Drive Dynamics

Along with the revised appearance, The X-Tronic D-Step CVT equipped in the new Nissan Altima is among the quietest

in its segment. Altima has also improved in its coefficient of drag - to 0.26 Cd from the previous 0.29 Cd* (currently similar to the GT-R). The changes come from the addition of an active grille shutter (three percent gain), underfloor aero cover additions (three percent) and the new front and rear fascia and windshield designs (four percent).

All of this defines into being best in class with standard fuel economy of 13.2 KM/L.

Latest Active Safety and Technology

The Altima have stepped up the safety technology by adding its First in Class Predictive Forward Collision Warning (PFCW), the Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Forward Emergency Braking (FEB), and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA). The new steering has been reshaped and tuned to provide real time road input and precision (available only on SL grades).

The 2017 Altima's refined interior design follows the new "Gliding Wing" design language. Central to the new look is the revised C-stack with available 5.0-inch and 7.0-inch displays for the Navigation with Mobile Apps. Finishing off with the Acoustic windshield that provides a new level of cabin isolation and quietness.



DOWN BUT NOT OUT: FEARS EASE OVER CHINA'S WEAKER YUAN

SHANGHAI: A year ago on Thursday Chinese authorities stunned global markets by devaluing their yuan currency, raising fears the world's second-largest economy was worse off than thought-but investors are now more sanguine about a weaker "reback".

The normally stable unit was guided down by nearly five percent over a week last August, and has declined steadily since then. It closed at 6.6430 to the US dollar yesterday, not far from its weakest level for almost six years and approaching the rate where authorities held it rock steady between 2008 and 2010, in a bid to escape the turmoil of the global financial crisis.

But unlike the deliberate government policy of the past, financial markets see economic fundamentals as driving the recent decline in the yuan, also known as the renminbi (RMB).

A rise in US interest rates, Britain's vote to exit the European Union and the failed coup in Turkey have all sparked flight to the dollar. Even so traders and China's business partners still want Beijing to pursue deeper reforms and greater transparency of its currency regime.

"A year on, investors appear slightly more relaxed about movements in the renminbi but we suspect that they remain as wary as ever about trusting Chinese policymakers to keep their word," Capital Economics said in a research report. Beijing keeps a tight grip on its currency as part of Communist authorities' control mechanisms, as well as worries that sudden inflows or outflows of capital could damage the economy.

The government only allows the yuan to rise or fall two percent on either side of a daily fix on the national foreign exchange market. Chinese officials have pledged to keep the unit stable, but at the same time gradually move towards making it freely convertible as they seek to secure a greater role in the world financial system.

After years of lobbying, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) late last year finally agreed to include the yuan in its "special drawing rights" reserve currency basket.

"Concerns over the renminbi have eased in recent months and outflows have returned to a more manageable level," Capital Economics said. Billions of dollars have flooded out of China in the last year, although the torrent has slowed dramatically, with Chinese banks selling \$49.0 billion more in foreign exchange than they received in the April-June period, sharply down on the \$124.8 billion of the previous three months. China's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$3.2 trillion in July, according to the latest figures, but remain by far the world's largest.

'Competitive devaluations'

The yuan is expected to go lower this year, given the continuing impact of Brexit.

"Global uncertainties are gradually taking a toll," Citic Bank International chief economist Liao Qun told AFP. "And how much longer yuan is going to fall depends on when the euro and pound will bounce back again." For years Washington criticized China over what officials have said is a grossly undervalued currency, but it has remained relaxed over the yuan's current weakness. "China has committed to moving in an orderly way to a more market-oriented exchange rate," a senior US Treasury official said on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in July. —AFP

GMC'S 10 TIPS FOR TROUBLE-FREE TRAILERING

Before setting off with a trailer in tow for your weekend desert or Mountain escape, cross country road trip or weekend boating adventure, GMC offers a few tips and reminders to help ensure your experience is safe, fun and easy.

1. Under pressure. Proper tire inflation is essential when trailering for optimal handling, driver control and fuel economy - and that doesn't include only the vehicle pulling the trailer. Check the trailer's tires, too and don't exceed the manufacturer's speed rating for them. It ranks with under-inflation as a major cause of trailer tire failure. While you're walking around the vehicle for inspection, it's a good time to check the lights, signals and hitch connections.
2. Spare me. Your vehicle has a spare tire, but does your trailer? A flat trailer tire and no spare in a remote area can quickly ruin your day. Make sure you've got a spare and that it's properly inflated.
3. A view un-askew. The regular position of your vehicle's outside mirrors may not be suitable when you add a trailer. Adjust them so that the rear of the trailer can be seen at a glance, for a clearer view of what's behind the trailer or beside it when changing lanes or turning

a corner. You may also want to consider adding temporary trailering mirrors for a wider view. For trucks already equipped with trailer tow mirrors, pull them out to the extended position and adjust the lower mirror to view the trailer tires, to help judge clearance to curbs or obstacles.

4. Sharing the load. When loading a trailer, don't put the majority of the weight on the rear of it. That can cause sway and instability. The weight should be distributed so that at least 10 percent is on the hitch. Check periodically on your trip to ensure the cargo hasn't shifted. Check tie-down straps, too, at the same time to make sure they're still tight.
5. Parking perfection. Plan your moves ahead and try to find parking lots, gas station pumps or outdoor spaces where you can pull straight through, without the need for backing or sharp turns.
6. Reversing course. Backing up with a trailer can be difficult. Start by placing your hand at the bottom of the steering wheel and looking over your shoulder. Move your hand to the right to make the trailer go right and left to make it go left. If the trailer starts to jackknife, simply pull forward to straighten it

out and start over.

7. Cutting corners. For sharp, 90-degree corners such as intersections, pull the vehicle a little farther up into the road before turning and try to cut a wider arc when doing so. That will help prevent the trailer from hopping over the curb or brushing up against something on the side of the road.
8. Braking good. Certain types of trailers require trailer brakes - and even with them, your loaded vehicle and trailer will require more distance for stopping, so keep that in mind as you exit the freeway. You'll need to leave extra space between you and the vehicle ahead, too.
9. Sway away: If the trailer begins to sway excessively or "whipsaw" on the highway, simply take your foot off the gas pedal to reduce momentum. Do not hit the brakes or speed up.
10. Downhill run. For greater control when driving on steeper downhill grades, take your foot off the gas and slow down just before the grade begins. If your vehicle is equipped with tow/haul mode or a diesel engine brake, be sure it is activated, which enhances engine braking without dragging or overheating the brakes.



VEHICLE CALLOUTS:
GMC Sierra 1500 Regular Cab
Max. trailering: 2721 Kgs (4.3L V-6)

GMC Sierra 1500 Denali
Max. trailering: 5307 Kgs (6.2L V-8 with Max Towing Pkg.)
GMC Sierra HD 3500

Max. trailering: 6577 Kgs. (6.0L VORTEC with conventional hitch)
6622 Kgs. (6.0L VORTEC with fifth-wheel hitch)

CHEVROLET CAMARO LEADS THE MIDSIZE SPORTY CAR CATEGORY

THIS YEAR'S JD POWER APEAL STUDY AWARDS

Demonstrating its commitment to designing quality vehicles that meet consumer needs, the Chevrolet Camaro ranked highest in the Midsize Sporty Car segment in the 2016 J.D. Power U.S. Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) study released recently.

This follows Chevrolet's leadership in the JD Power 2016 Vehicle Dependability Study and the JD Power 2016 Initial Quality Study, where it had the most models ranked highest in segment. Through customer surveys, the APEAL Study examines how gratifying a new vehicle is to own and drive. Owners evaluate their vehi-

cle across 77 attributes that make up an overall brand score measured on a 1,000-point scale. "The Camaro is the embodiment of a sporty, muscle car, delivering on design, dependability, quality and performance," said Abdullah Madhoun, Regional Sales and Marketing Manager for Chevrolet, GM Middle East. "This

award is a testament to Chevrolet's commitment to being a brand Middle East customers' want and can count on."

The sixth-generation Camaro provides a faster, more nimble driving experience, enabled by an all-new, lighter architecture and a broader powertrain range. An all-new 3.6L V-6 and the 6.2L V-8, which is SAE-certified at 455 horsepower and 617 Nm of torque - for the most powerful Camaro SS ever. Each engine is available with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

Any customer who purchases a Chevrolet Camaro will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty and 4 years of 24/7 roadside assistance. Customers who want to purchase a new vehicle or upgrade their existing vehicle can visit our showrooms in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaheel, Al-Ahmedi, and Shuwaikh and obtain the car of their dreams.



FORD EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM IN MENA

KUWAIT: The Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants program extends the deadline to receive application for funding for on-going environmental projects to September 11, 2016. The 16th edition of the initiative will provide funding to on-going environmental projects in the Middle East and North Africa awarding a total of US\$120,000 - the highest total grant amount to be awarded in its history.

Individuals or organizations with on-going projects focused on conservation engineering, environmental education or natural environment are invited to apply for funding via www.me.ford.com until September 11, 2016.

The Grants program has helped 194 grassroots-level projects dedicated to environmental causes in the GCC and Levant with total Grants amounting to US\$1.5 million. The on-going projects must be located in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE or Yemen.

Program history

In its 15 years of existence, the Ford Grants have supported projects that promote capacity building, species conservation, protection of natural resources and educating the youth in environment protection. The Grants is one of the largest corporate initiatives of its kind in the region, created to empower individuals and non-profit groups that are donating their time and efforts to preserve the environmental well-being of their communities.

Since its inception, the Ford Motor Company Conservation & Environmental Grants program has received support from various governmental and non-govern-

Ford Motor Company



Conservation and Environmental Grants

mental environmental authorities from around the Middle East, including the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Emirates Wildlife Society, the Arab Forum for Environment & Development (AFED) and UNESCO Doha.

Winners are chosen by an independent panel of judges consisting of academics and leaders from regional environmental organizations. The judges are seasoned environmentalists or academicians from the region carefully selected based on geographical coverage, age and gender equality. They look for initiatives that demonstrate a well-defined sense of purpose, a commitment to maximizing available resources, and a reputation for meeting objectives and delivering planned programs and services.

GCC BANKING SECTOR NEEDS TO QUICKLY ADOPT DIGITAL PRACTICES TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE

By Julien Faye

KUWAIT: The Gulf Council Countries (GCC) banking sector has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the past few years, thanks to the region's robust economic growth and development as well as the rising demand by its young and technology-savvy population for a better digital banking experience. Modern-day customers are informed, well educated, and better connected due to widespread Internet penetration and the easy availability of smart devices. They expect state-of-the-art digital services from their banks and financial partners.

As a quick indicator, consider that when Bain & Company's 2015 global survey asked consumers which they'd miss more for a day, their mobile phone or their physical wallet, more than half chose their phones. Mobile clearly has advanced past the tipping point as roughly 70% of respondents under age 25 chose the phone.

Traditional photography and books have almost become obsolete due to the proliferation of digital cameras and e-readers-the banking industry should learn from this example. Pushed by the customer demand for digital banking solutions, conventional banks will need to undergo drastic changes similar to those adopted by worlds of photography and books in order to remain relevant.

Bain's latest consumer research and statistical analysis shows that for the average bank, a high priority is to migrate routine activities out of the branch, where they are likely to annoy customers, into self-service digital channels, including mobile. That means improving the mobile experience to the extent that it truly delights customers, making the experience fast, intuitive, convenient, and capable of handling the most common

transactions and service requests.

Depending on the country or the region, certain regulations protect traditional banks. However, these will change as regulators or central banks address their customers' changing needs.

As they do, the institutions that emerge as winners will be those that are most suc-



cessful at transforming themselves to meet customer demands for digital banking.

As they introduce digital services, banks need to invest time and effort to mobilize their employees, making them part of the transformation from the beginning so they can help customers learn the new processes. It is also important for those who are designing the new banks to work closely with customers to learn about their requirements.

As noted, the GCC's population is among the most digitally savvy in the world, with one of the highest rates of mobile phone penetration. Despite this, the situation in the region, and particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, remains highly paradoxical as banks are not addressing customers' needs.

This situation will not continue much longer. I anticipate real transformation in the region's banking landscape, and the next three to five years will be critical. Banks that respond to changing customers and are prepared to go digital will quickly move ahead of the competition.

The new business models and services developed by financial technology companies can help banks get ready for the shift. Banks will first need to determine what they want to become for each of their target client segments, and then identify the new business model that they want to test. For instance, they must be clear on their aspirations for such services as peer-to-peer lending or mobile e-wallets, and what is required to develop those offerings. They must also decide if they want to create the new digital platforms on their own, partner with startups or financial technology companies, or even acquire smaller companies that may be better versed in this type of new technology.

It is not easy to predict a single model for success. Trial and error is the name of the game in the digital world and banks, therefore, should continue to take risks and invest. This requires adopting an agile, or alternative and flexible, approach. Although banks are not accustomed to such a process, I strongly feel that there is no other alternative if they hope to adapt to the industry's new reality.

Julien Faye is a partner and director in Bain & Company's Middle East region. He leads Bain's Financial Services practice in the Middle East.

FIRST ISOLATE, THEN NEGOTIATE: HOW INDIA'S GST DEAL WAS DONE

NEW DELHI: It took him more than two years, but Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has finally discovered the art of the deal. Realizing that a frontal assault wasn't securing the votes needed for India's biggest-ever tax reform, Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley changed tack this spring, government and ruling party sources have told Reuters.

First, they sought to build a coalition among the nation's 29 state governments to isolate the Congress party, which despite losing heavily to Modi in 2014 had blocked a new Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the upper house of parliament.

Then, Jaitley held a series of meetings with Congress leaders whose outcome was uncertain right up to the last minute, sources close to the finance minister said.

He yielded to their demands - accepting, verbatim, a clause they proposed for the constitutional amendment needed to make the GST happen, according to a member of the Congress team that included former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram.

"Negotiations take place only if both sides are willing to be flexible," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told Reuters. "Both sides were pragmatic."

An aide to Jaitley said Congress's growing isolation proved decisive in making a compromise possible. "They had got themselves into a corner," said the finance ministry official, who was privy to the talks. "They had two options: Strike a deal and come out with your reputation intact, or lose your credibility."

Last week's unanimous upper-house vote to pass the 122nd amendment to the Indian constitution brings the wheel full circle - the GST was proposed by Chidambaram a decade ago but was stalled by political rivalry.

Introducing a unified sales tax across India's market of 1.3 billion people

would mark a bold act of integration at a time of disintegration elsewhere, as Britain exits the European Union and a protectionist, Donald Trump, runs for the U.S. presidency.

The GST vote also addresses how India, as a federation, can implement a one-size-fits-all sales tax - something the United States and EU have been unable to do - by creating a GST Council that brings the centre and the states together. Tough bargaining on the rate and scope of the tax lies ahead, yet at least the atmosphere has improved, with Chidambaram praising Jaitley's "friendly and conciliatory tone".

That could revive projects that foundered early in Modi's rule, including land and labour reforms.

EARLY STANDOFF

Despite winning India's biggest mandate in 30 years, Modi has struggled to advance his agenda.

Congress, though reduced to a rump opposition, has resisted. As the largest party in the upper house that represents the states, it had blocked the GST and derailed Modi's land acquisition bill which critics branded as being "anti-farmer".

While that tactic proved effective, it wasn't winning public support. Congress took hits in state elections and in June lost the upper house votes it needed to be sure of stopping the GST.

This was the cue for Jaitley to court the states, with key swing state West Bengal soon declaring its support. In July, he targeted Bihar, while at the same time re-engaging with Congress after nine months of radio silence. Jaitley's promise to the states to compensate revenue losses for five years, made at talks in New Delhi on July 26, won them over, West Bengal's finance minister Amit Mitra told Reuters. —Reuters

DATA KEY TO FOSTERING MAJOR URBANIZATION IN SMART CITIES

By Mohammed Amin

The development of smart cities is seen as a means to support rapid urbanization. This vision has increased the pressure on the infrastructure and services of cities across the globe. The United Nations has predicted that by 2050 urban areas will be occupied by around 70 percent of the world's population. This has brought tremendous pressure on city authorities who will need to take effective measures to address population growth, public safety, pollution and traffic control, culture and economic growth.

Emerging technologies such as big data, Internet of Things, analytics, and sensors will play a pivotal role in helping urban environments allocate resources efficiently in order to foster population growth in a sustainable manner. Experts do not deem smart cities as a luxury but as a catalyst vital to ensure viability and sustenance of increased urbanization. And as the vision of smart city comes closer to reality, it will be of great importance to have the necessary technology in place to support evolving needs and services.



Typically in a smart city the streets will be embedded with sensors which are capable of measuring ambient environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, pollution levels, seismic activity etc. It has been estimated that every lamp post and bus stop will have approximately 8 sensors. So, with 250,000 connected objects in an ordinary urban surrounding equivalent to over 2 million sensors will generate real-time data that can be processed and filtered as per relevance. Measuring these environmental factors makes the city's infrastructure agile and highly responsive to contingent developments without any human intervention. For example, by leveraging the data accumulated on traffic congestion impacting pollution levels, drivers can be redirected to alternate routes to reduce the emission of air pollutants.

Increasing GCC's potential

In the light of building data-driven smart cities, GCC paints a demonstrative picture of the volume of data the cities of tomorrow will generate. A plethora of smart city initiatives have been introduced across varied industries like transport, infrastructure, financial services, communications and urban planning as a result of the ample leadership-backed efforts to transform the GCC into a smart, sustainable region. According to UN Habitat, GCC is one of the highest ranking urbanized areas of the world wherein countries like Kuwait and Qatar are nearly 100% urbanized. Moreover,

according to IDC by 2020 the world will see more than 30 billion connected devices forming the IoT ecosystem and all the devices and apps generating as much as 44 zettabytes of data (or 44 trillion gigabytes). The amount of data required and leveraged by these services will be enormous.

However, in order to be truly smart, a city must build an infrastructure that is capable of accessing, processing and extracting value from large volumes of unstructured data. This is where assembling all data under data lakes will prove to be beneficial. Data lakes accrue large volumes of data of varied types, range and formats that are readily accessible by advanced analytical tools. In order to deal with vast range of unstructured data produced by smart cities, deploying a scale-out data lake becomes a necessity to make sense of the data, irrespective of its origin and form. Leveraging the aggrandized capacity of the new and improved line of data storage systems in collaboration with optimized solutions like EMC's Elastic Cloud Storage (ECS) and Isilon will enable cities to produce data-driven offerings designed to address the obstacles imposed by rampant urbanization.

Collection of data does not lead to making a city smart. It is essential for smart cities to obtain insights from the data generated to ensure a prompt response from the infrastructure. This need is particularly pertinent when you require an emergency response to an incident. The city will have to swiftly

notify the emergency services and supply them with relevant information in order to serve the people affected and adequately manage any collateral damage. This will also call for rerouting the traffic intelligently, communication services will need to direct sufficient capacity where it's urgently needed and all the information will need to be accumulated and broadcasted to keep the citizens well-informed.

Leading-edge analytics

In this regard, it is imperative for smart cities to implement leading-edge analytics and data processing capabilities, especially in-memory latency for external storage solutions. However, besides being expensive, in-memory is known to restrict data processing to a limited amount; hence opting for solutions like EMC's DSSD D5 rack-scale flash appliance can efficiently manage huge datasets in microseconds. DSSD provides shared access to 140TB of raw data with in-memory latency, unlocking new opportunities that were earlier unattainable. This approach will not only help overcome the barrier to internal and external operations that affect other data processing activities, but will also considerably decrease the time needed to process and assess data.

The citizens of smart cities will expect easy access to information at all times and want personalized services to be readily available. An effective way to deal with these new 'digital citizens' of smart cities is

to apply predictive analytics, which has the capabilities to forecast the needs of the public and competently allocate adequate resources after thoroughly analyzing the data lakes. In case of a medical emergency for example, predictive analytics could direct people and emergency services to hospitals with sufficient capacity, likely reducing waiting times.

Predictive analytics could be also used for traffic optimization as well. City authorities could predict traffic flow and determine the impact of certain events around the city, such as a large sporting event or an election campaign. This information could then be used to hike up the cost of parking to deter people from travelling to the area in question. Keeping this in mind, cities need to collate data for over a period of several years in order to gain the necessary depth of insight and understanding - another reason why data lakes and scale-out storage will be important components of the smart city infrastructure. The scale, complexity and range of demands that will be placed on urban infrastructure and services in the near future will necessitate a robust, agile, scalable and secure ICT foundation in conjunction with next generation of data storage and processing solutions. Clearly, advancement in highly-scalable, low latency data systems with cutting-edge analytics capabilities can strengthen the foundation of smart cities. And when these capabilities embody a platform, it can boost the creation of smart, sustainable cities.



MINEOLA: In this July 27, 2016 handout image from a Vayu, Inc video, a drone carrying medical samples flies during a test flight from the remote village of Ranomafana, Madagascar, which can only be reached on foot, to a Long Island university's Centre ValBio research station for analysis. —AP

UNIVERSITY COLLECTS MEDICAL SAMPLES VIA DRONES

MINEOLA: A suburban New York university is using drone technology to improve the health care of people in remote parts of Madagascar. Stony Brook University, which has been working in the island nation off the coast of Africa for nearly three decades, has teamed with a Michigan startup company called Vayu Inc. to transport medical samples by drone for laboratory analysis. The team made its first successful run of the drone technology in late July.

Diagnosis of ailments, like tapeworm disease, which causes life-threatening seizures and contributes to malnutrition in villages on the island, can now be completed within a few hours, said Dr. Peter Small, founding director of Stony Brook's Global Health Institute. The drones are about the size of a large picnic table and have two sets of wings. They take off and land like helicopters and have a flight range of about 40 miles. Blood and other medical samples can be secured in small compartments in the body of the aircraft.

Drones are being used in other parts of the developing world to deliver medications and other supplies to remote areas, but Stony Brook officials say theirs is one of the first efforts involving a

small unmanned aircraft that actually lands in remote villages and returns quickly to a laboratory. To reach these villages, medical workers have had to travel on foot - there are no roads - a trip that takes five to nine hours each way. By drone, they can dispatch the medical samples back to Stony Brook's Centre ValBio research station and get lab results within an hour or two, said Patricia Wright, the station's executive director.

"Blood samples have a shelf life, especially in the tropics," she said. "This is such an extraordinary thing, to see these people who have been suffering have hope for the future. Some of my best friends have died senselessly. The dying will not happen in the future because these things are preventable with the help of the drones." Ultimately, the plan is to deliver the proper medications in a timely manner. Small said villagers who live as they did centuries ago were coached by Stony Brook personnel ahead of time so they would not be frightened by the drones. "That was the biggest unknown, seeing how they would react," Small said, adding that "they didn't throw rocks at it." —AP

FACEBOOK HATES AD BLOCKERS SO MUCH IT NOW BLOCKS THEM

WELL-MADE, RELEVANT ADS CAN BE 'USEFUL'

NEW YORK: Facebook is blocking ad blockers on the desktop version of its service, saying well-made, relevant ads can be "useful." At the same time, the world's biggest social media company says it is giving users easier ways to decide what types of ads they want to see - unless, of course, the answer is "none." Ad blockers filter out ads by refusing to display page images and other elements that originated with a known ad server. But Facebook has found a way around this. Beginning Tuesday, the desktop version of Facebook will show users ads even if they have ad blockers installed. The changes don't affect the mobile Facebook app, which brings in the bulk of the company's advertising revenue. As with most new Facebook features, the changes are being rolled out to users over time, so some people might see it before others.

Facebook needs ads

While couching its move in the language of customer service - primarily by reiterating its premise that ads serve a purpose if they're relevant and well-targeted - Facebook is also upfront about needing them to make money. Andrew Bosworth, a Facebook vice president, pointed out in a blog post that Facebook is a free service that's only able to operate because it makes money from advertising. In the most recent quarter, Facebook made \$6.24 billion in advertising revenue, an increase of 63 percent from a year earlier. Mobile advertising (which is not

affected by the changes) accounted for 84 percent of this.

Cat-and-mouse blocking

Several publishers, such as The New York Times have tried to work around ad blockers by asking users with ad blockers installed to turn them off in order to be allowed on a website. Other technology can "reinsert" ads that have been blocked. But there are ways to con-

figure ad blockers to stymie these efforts as well.

Facebook's ad-blocker blocker works by making it difficult for software to distinguish advertisements from other material published on Facebook, such as photos or status updates. But while users won't be able to stop ads from showing up, Facebook says it wants to make it easier for people to control the types of ads they

want to see. For example, if you don't want to see ads from a specific business, or ads that target a category like travel, cat owners or wine lovers, you can say so. "We also heard that people want to be able to stop seeing ads from businesses or organizations who have added them to their customer lists, and so we are adding tools that allow people to do this," Bosworth wrote. —AP



MENLO PARK: In this June 11, 2014, file photo, a man walks past a mural in an office on the Facebook campus. —AP

COMPLEXITY IS LEAVING AIRLINE COMPUTER SYSTEMS EXPOSED

DALLAS: Twice in less than a month, a major airline was paralyzed by a computer outage that prevented passengers from checking in and flights from taking off. Last month, it took Southwest days to recover from a breakdown it blamed on a faulty router. On Monday, it was Delta's turn, as a power outage crippled the airline's information technology systems and forced it to cancel or delay hundreds of flights. Delta employees had to write out boarding passes by hand, and at one airport they resurrected a dot-matrix printer from the graveyard of 1980s technology. Why do these kinds of meltdowns keep happening?

The answer is that airlines depend on huge, overlapping and complex IT systems to do just about everything, from operating flights to handling ticketing, boarding, websites and mobile-phone apps. And after years of rapid consolidation in the airline business, these computer systems may be a hodgepodge of parts of varying ages and from different merger partners. These systems are also being worked harder, with new fees and options for passengers, and more transactions - Delta's traffic has nearly doubled in the past decade. "These old legacy systems are operating much larger airlines that are being accessed in many, many more ways," said Daniel Baker, CEO of tracking service FlightAware.com. "It has really been taxing." The result: IT failures that can inconvenience tens of thousands of passengers and create long-lasting ill will.

It is unclear exactly what went wrong at Delta. The airline said it suffered a power outage at an Atlanta installation around 2:30 am EDT that caused many of its computer systems to fail. But

the local electric company, Georgia Power, said that it was not to blame and that the equipment failure was on Delta's end. IT experts questioned whether Delta's network was adequately prepared for the inevitable breakdown. "One piece of equipment going out shouldn't cause this," said Bill Curtis, chief scientist at software-analysis firm Cast. "It's a bit shocking."

Outdated systems

Curtis said IT systems should be designed so that when a part fails, its functions automatically switch over to a backup, preferably in a different location. "And if I had a multibillion-dollar business running on this, I would certainly want to have some kind of backup power," he added. Delta officials declined to say what kind of backup procedures they have. Most other airlines rely on one of a handful of specialty travel-technology companies to help with IT. Delta's system, called Deltamatic, started as a joint venture with Northwest and TWA in the 1990s. It was later spun off into a separate company called Travelport, but Delta bought back its portion two years ago. "Delta has been so confident that it is as good as this as anybody that it took everything back in-house," said Seth Kaplan, co-author of a book about Delta's rise from bankruptcy to prominence in the industry.

Kaplan said all airlines have some old components in their IT systems, including Delta. "But the front end is all very modern, and Delta is rather well-regarded" in the industry. IT problems are not unique to airlines. There have been high-profile breaches and breakdowns at banks and retailers,

among others. Airlines have particular challenges because their systems are constantly undergoing changes and additions, including automation to handle the large volume of transactions with customers. When was the last time you called an airline on the phone?

That degree of automation hindered Delta's ability to inform passengers, many of whom didn't know about the outage until they got to the airport. In the first several hours after the outage, when planes were grounded, Delta's website and other systems showed flights as being on time. Computer network outages have affected nearly all the major carriers in recent years. After it combined IT systems with merger partner Continental, United suffered shutdowns on several days, most recently in 2015. American also experienced breakdowns in 2015, including technology problems that briefly stopped flights at its big hub airports in Dallas, Chicago and Miami.

Recovering from an outage can take several days, as Southwest proved last month. Southwest said it canceled 2,300 flights between July 20 and 24, about 12 percent of its schedule, and FlightStats Inc said more than 8,000 flights were delayed. Until Monday, Delta had been considered among the leaders in operations and was thought to be immune to big IT problems. Mergers create many chances for things to go wrong, as airlines that may have incompatible software combine their systems. From an IT standpoint, the United-Continental merger was seen as particularly awful, while Delta's 2008 acquisition of Northwest was seen as so smooth that American copied it when it combined with US Airways in 2013. —AP

FIRE EYE 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.

CAN EXERCISE LOWER CHRONIC DISEASE RISK?

PARIS: The daily dose of activity needed to lower the risk of diabetes, stroke and heart disease by at least 20 percent is several times the minimum recommended by the World Health Organization, researchers said yesterday. The same applies to breast and bowel cancer, they reported in a study reviewing 35 years of research on the link between physical exertion—whether gardening or long-distance running—and five chronic diseases. The benefits of exercise are well known and beyond dispute.

Most health authorities issue guidelines on the bare minimum required to help ward off numerous ailments made worse by a sedentary lifestyle. But despite a mountain of research, “we still do not definitively know how much the type and quantity of physical activity reduces the risk of common conditions,” a team of scientists led by Hmwe Kyu of the Institute for Health Metrics at the University of

Washington in Seattle said in a statement. One problem has been finding a unit of measure that can be applied to actions as varied as walking one’s dog, jumping rope, or having sex.

Enter the MET, or “metabolic equivalent of tasks,” a concept developed in the 1990s and adopted more recently by the WHO. Metabolism is the conversion of food and drink into energy. When we are at rest—watching television, for example—we have a metabolic rate of “one”. Using this as a baseline, scientists assign values to different activities depending on how much energy they consume.

Walking vs running

Strolling at a leisurely pace, for example, burns up twice the energy as sitting still, which gives it a value of MET 2. Vigorous running is a MET 8 activity. This scale makes it possible to compare the two: 10

minutes of running is the equivalent of 40 minutes of walking, and both have a value of “80 MET minutes”—the amount of energy one would consume while watching a couple of episodes of Game of Thrones. Canvassing nearly 200 studies in half a dozen countries—including the United States, China, India and South Africa—the researchers found that sharp reductions in disease risk required at least 3,000 to 4,000 of these “MET minutes” per week. Compared to a couch-potato existence, that level of physical exertion cut the risk of diabetes and breast cancer by more than 20 percent, they reported. For colon cancer, heart disease and stroke, the risk fell by more than a quarter. But at the level recommended by the WHO — 600 MET minutes—there was hardly any impact at all, according to the study, published in the BMJ. “People who achieve total physical activity levels several times higher than the

current recommended minimum level have a significant reduction in the risk of the five diseases studied,” it concluded.

The additional benefits of even more exercise or exertion dropped off quickly above that threshold, they added. “This study represents an advance in the handling of disparate data on a lifestyle factor that has considerable importance for the prevention of chronic diseases,” said Philippe Autier, a professor at the International Prevention Research Institute in Lyon, commenting on the study. “The takeaway message here is that the gains linked to physical effort rise sharply between 600 and 4,000 MET minutes per week,” he told AFP. But what we still don’t know, he added, is whether short bursts of intense exercise are better for health than an equivalent expenditure of energy spread over a longer period. — AFP

IN MEXICO, INFLATING AVOCADO PRICES FUELING DEFORESTATION

FARMERS EXPAND ORCHARDS TO FEED GLOBAL DEMAND

MEXICO CITY: Americans’ love for avocados and rising prices for the highly exportable fruit are fueling the deforestation of central Mexico’s pine forests as farmers rapidly expand their orchards to feed demand. Avocado trees flourish at about the same altitude and climate as the pine and fir forests in the mountains of Michoacan, the state that produces most of Mexico’s avocados. That has led farmers to wage a cat-and-mouse campaign to avoid authorities, thinning out the forests, planting young avocado trees under the forest canopy, and then gradually cutting back the forest as the trees grow to give them more sunlight.

“Even where they aren’t visibly cutting down forest, there are avocados growing underneath (the pine boughs), and sooner or later they’ll cut down the pines completely,” said Mario Tapia Vargas, a researcher at Mexico’s National Institute for Forestry, Farming and Fisheries Research. Given that Michoacan’s forests contain

much of the wintering grounds of the monarch butterfly, the deforestation is more than just an academic issue. Authorities have already detected small avocado plots in the monarchs’ reserve where farmers have cut down pine forest.

Worse, Tapia Vargas said, a mature avocado orchard uses almost twice as much water as fairly dense forest, meaning less water reaches Michoacan’s legendary crystalline mountain streams on which the forests and animals depend. Greenpeace Mexico says people are likely to suffer, too. “Beyond the displacement of forests and the effects on water retention, the high use of agricultural chemicals and the large volumes of wood needed to pack and ship avocados are other factors that could have negative effects on the area’s environment and the well-being of its inhabitants,” Greenpeace said in a statement.

Attractive farming

The two-lane rural roads that cut through the

mountains are choked with lines of heavy trucks carrying avocados out and pickers in to the orchards. But it is hard to argue farmers out of the economic logic of growing avocados. “Avocado farming is very attractive, because of the prices being the way they are,” Tapia Vargas said. Avocado prices jumped from around 86 cents apiece in January to around \$1.10 in July, partly because of weak seasonal supply from Mexico. And the peso lost 16 percent of its value against the dollar over the past year, making exports cheaper for the US customers. Mexican farmers can make much higher profits growing avocados than from most other crops.

It is the enormous US appetite for avocados that has driven the expansion. Between 2001 and 2010, avocado production in Michoacan tripled, but exports rose 10 times, according to a report published in 2012 by Tapia Vargas’ institute. The report suggested the expansion caused loss of forest land of about 1,700 acres a year from 2000 through 2010. Ignacio Vidales, another government researcher who specializes in avocados, said he believes the deforestation rate has slowed, in part because authorities are taking it more seriously. “We think that it (deforestation) is less, because there is more enforcement now than in previous years,” said Vidales.

Authorities have begun to fight back. On July 31, federal police in Morelia, the Michoacan state capital, detained 13 people and seized two avocado plants and two vehicles that were being used to turn a recently deforested plot into an orchard. Police said 260 pine trees and 87 firs had been cut down on a 12-acre plot to make room for 1,320 avocado saplings.

While the trees take seven years to reach maturity, if each bore 100 avocados a year — a fairly low yield — those farmers could make as much as \$500,000 annually from the plot, a fortune for area farmers. “More than anything else, it is economic pressure,” Vidales said. “They have seen that planting avocados is more profitable than planting corn, or other crops, or even the forest.” — AP



MEXICO CITY: An avocado vendor talks on his cellphone at a market. — AP

BABY IN TEXAS DIES FROM ZIKA

MIAMI: A baby born with brain defects caused by the mosquito-borne Zika virus has died in Texas, marking the southern state’s first Zika-related death, officials said Tuesday. Meanwhile, the number of locally transmitted cases of Zika in the Miami area jumped to 21, prompting both Florida’s Republican governor and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to urge the nation’s lawmakers to re-convene from their summer break and agree on a funding bill for the outbreak. “This is not only an issue affecting us here in Florida, this is a national issue,” said governor Rick Scott, describing the baby’s death in Texas as “a heart-breaking tragedy in our country.”

The mother had become infected with Zika while traveling in Latin America, and gave birth to the baby in Harris County near Houston, according to the state health department. “The baby passed away shortly after birth and is the first Zika-related death reported in Texas,” said a statement. “Recent test results confirmed the baby’s condition and link to Zika. The mother and baby are classified as travel-related cases, and there is no additional associated risk in Texas,” it said.

In June, an elderly man in Utah became the first person to die of Zika in the mainland United States. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is only reporting limited information about Zika cases to protect patient privacy. A CDC spokesman told AFP by email that the agency is aware of the news from Texas but offered no further details. The CDC says 15 infants have been born in the United States with Zika-related defects, and six pregnancy losses are associated with Zika infection.

Microcephaly risk

Zika often causes no symptoms, but is particularly dangerous for pregnant women because it can lead to the birth defect microcephaly, in which infants are born with unusually small heads and deformed brains. Texas has report-

ed 97 cases of Zika, including two infants with microcephaly. All these cases “are related to travel abroad to areas with active Zika transmission,” said the statement. Florida is so far the only US state to report that mosquitoes are actively transmitting the virus. A total of 21 Zika cases in the Miami area are believed to be linked to mosquitoes carrying the virus in the Wynwood neighborhood. Another 369 cases in Florida were brought in by people who were infected while traveling outside the United States. Florida’s governor said money to respond to

Zika is running short, and the state needs 10,000 more Zika prevention kits. President Barack Obama asked lawmakers to authorize \$1.9 billion for Zika back in February. But Republicans in Washington disagreed, saying the money should be moved from funds previously set aside for Ebola. Then, lawmakers went on summer recess without approving a bill.

“The federal government must stop playing politics and Congress needs to immediately come back to session to resolve this,” Scott said. Hillary Clinton, who was cam-

paigned in Florida on Tuesday, also urged Congress to come back to work. “I’m asking the Republican leaders in the House and the Senate to call congress back in to session immediately and to pass the bipartisan funding bill that the Senate passed,” she said. “Unfortunately, a different bill was passed in the House and no agreement could be reached before they went out on recess,” she added. “So pass the bipartisan bill from the Senate or come up with a new compromise that does the same.” — AFP



SAO PAULO: In this Jan 18, 2016, file photo, a female Aedes aegypti mosquito, known to be a carrier of the Zika virus, acquires a blood meal on the arm of a researcher at the Biomedical Sciences Institute of Sao Paulo University. — AP



WASHINGTON: In this March 23, 2010 file photo, President Barack Obama signs the health care bill in the East Room of the White House. — AP

BEYOND ‘OBAMACARE’: STATE INITIATIVES REFOCUS DEBATE

WASHINGTON: Moving beyond “Obamacare,” political activists are looking to state ballot questions to refocus the nation’s long-running debate over government’s role in health care. This fall, California voters will decide whether to lower some prescription drug prices, while Coloradans will vote on a state version of a “single-payer” government-run health system, similar to what Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders proposed in his unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Sanders supports both the California and Colorado initiatives, said spokesman Michael Briggs. “We are in the process of building a new organization to keep a lot of the energy going,” he said. “Backing those kinds of ballot initiatives is one of the major things that we are focusing on.”

Pharmaceutical companies and insurers are spending millions of dollars to defeat the two ballot questions. The measures are among the more far-reaching health care questions to be decided by voters around the country on Election Day. With ballots still being finalized in some states, other questions may include raising tobacco taxes, expanding use of marijuana for medical treatment and allowing terminally ill patients to have physician assistance in dying. A proposal in Ohio to limit drug costs didn’t make it on the ballot this year, but proponents are pushing for a vote in 2017. California’s Proposition 61 would bar drug companies from charging state programs more than the discounted price paid by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. There would be exemptions, however. For example, it would not apply to medications purchased through private insurers who contract with the state to cover beneficiaries in the Medi-Cal program for low-income people. Opponents of the California initiative have reported \$69.6 million in contributions, mainly from pharmaceutical companies. That’s more than seven times the \$9.4 million that supporters have raised. Those amounts guarantee national visibility for the battle.

In Colorado, a measure known as Amendment 69 would create ColoradoCare, a government-financed system that would cover most state residents, largely replacing private insurance. Seniors would continue to rely primarily on Medicare. Opponents have raised \$3.6 million, more than five times the \$678,000 reported by supporters. The nation’s second-largest insurer, Anthem, donated \$1 million to the opposition.

ColoradoCare
As envisioned, Colorado’s new public health care system would be paid for with tax increases and with federal and state money that now goes to programs such as Medicaid, and for subsidized insurance under President Barack Obama’s health care law. Federal approval would be needed under a provision of the Obama law that takes effect next year, allowing states to redesign their health care systems. The tax increase features a new 10 percent levy on wages and other income. Employers would pay two-thirds of the new payroll tax, with workers responsible for the rest. The taxes would raise \$25 billion in 2019, the earliest the program could start.

A recent nonpartisan study projected that as currently structured, ColoradoCare would post a small deficit starting in its first year and the shortfall would keep growing. With the presidential campaign consumed by questions about the candidates’ character and temperament, the traditional debate over issues has been downplayed. Republican Donald Trump has pledged to repeal Obama’s health care law, while Democrat Hillary Clinton would build on it. The California and Colorado initiatives steer the conversation away from the highly scripted back-and-forth on “Obamacare.”

The two proposals are strikingly different, said John McDonough, a former US Senate Democratic aide who worked on the federal health overhaul. The Colorado plan seeks a total transformation of the health care system, while the California initiative reflects concerns about the rising cost of many medications. Which ballot question has a better chance? “Of the two, I probably think the prescription drug piece, because people have so much anger and antipathy toward the pharmaceutical industry,” said McDonough, now a professor at the Harvard T.H.

Chan School of Public Health. Supporters of the California drug costs proposal say it would save state taxpayers money; opponents say such savings are not a sure thing and the whole scheme could prove to be unworkable. Supporters of ColoradoCare say it would guarantee coverage for all and reduce administrative costs; opponents fear it would lead to more tax increases. Both proposals face strong business opposition, but that does not worry the Sanders’ camp. “He’s been involved in longshot campaigns for most of his career,” said spokesman Briggs. — AP

20 SCIENCE QUESTIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

MIAMI: A coalition of US groups representing more than 10 million scientists and engineers published 20 questions yesterday they want every US presidential candidate to answer ahead of November’s vote. The questions range from how to support vaccine science, to defining the scope of America’s goals in space, to the candidates’ views on climate change and what would they would do about it. Stances on nuclear power, protecting the world’s oceans, reducing the human and economic costs of mental illness, and the controversy over visa programs that allow highly skilled immigrants into the United States also feature in the list, made public by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

“Voters should have a chance to know where the presidential candidates stand,” said Rush Holt, chief executive officer of AAAS, which publishes the journal Science. “We want journalists and voters to ask these questions insistently of the candidates and their campaign staff.” The full list is available at ScienceDebate.org/20qs. The 56 groups that helped create the list by crowd sourcing

the questions has asked for the candidates to answer the questions by September 6. All are described by AAAS as non-partisan groups, including the National Academy of Sciences, the American Geophysical Union, the American Chemical Society and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The effort was organized by ScienceDebate.org, which commissioned a national poll last that found 87 percent of Americans said it was important that candidates for president and Congress have a basic understanding of the science informing public policy issues. “Taken collectively, these twenty issues have at least as profound an impact on voters’ lives as those more frequently covered by journalists, including candidates’ views on economic policy, foreign policy, and faith and values,” said ScienceDebate.org chair Shawn Otto. Otto urged the candidates—Democrat Hillary Clinton, Republican Donald Trump, Libertarian Gary Johnson, and the Green Party’s Jill Stein—to answer the questions “in writing and to discuss them on television.” — AFP



LAKEWOOD: Geoffrey Hargreaves, curator of the National Ice Core Laboratory, carries an arctic ice core inside the minus-33 degree Fahrenheit environment of the lab's archive warehouse.



BOULDER: In this June 3, 2016 photo, Bruce Vaughn, far left, who manages the INSTAAR Stable Isotope lab, looks over some equipment in his lab, where climate change research with ice and trace gas samples is completed, at the University of Colorado.

News

in brief

France denies hiding drug related birth defects study

PARIS: French health authorities are denying claims they concealed a study on a drug used to treat epilepsy that caused birth defects. Le Canard Enchaîné weekly said the health ministry suppressed a study revealing that the drug was prescribed to more than 10,000 pregnant women between 2007 and 2014 while the potential risks for unborn children were known. The ministry responded Wednesday that the study was launched a year ago and that its initial findings will be presented according to plans on Aug. 24 to parents whose children have been affected by the anti-convulsion drug Depakine, sold in France by pharmaceutical company Sanofi. A study published in February estimated that there had been around 450 cases in France of children exposed to the drug during pregnancy who had congenital defects.

Toxicologist on cancer warnings: Governor acted despite science

RALEIGH: A state toxicologist says officials in North Carolina Gov Pat McCrory's administration are the ones responsible for fear and confusion about the safety of well water near Duke Energy coal ash pits found to contain a cancer-causing chemical. Toxicologist Ken Rudo says in a statement issued by his attorneys late Tuesday that the state's environmental and health agencies last year agreed on a safety standard for hexavalent chromium in groundwater after intense scientific discussions. Officials this year decided that standard was too high and declared the water safe to drink. North Carolina's public health director and an assistant secretary at the Department of Environmental Quality on Tuesday blamed Rudo for sowing fear about dangerous chemicals near Duke Energy sites with "questionable and inconsistent scientific conclusions."

Channels at Charlotte whitewater center scheduled to reopen

CHARLOTTE: The whitewater channels at the US National Whitewater Center in North Carolina are scheduled to reopen six weeks after a visitor died from a brain-eating amoeba. Local news outlets report the center is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday. It shut down its whitewater rafting course on June 23 after 18-year-old Lauren Seitz of Westerville, Ohio, died from an infection caused by the amoeba. Channels at the center were drained after the water tested positive for the brain-eating amoeba in June. Mecklenburg County health officials have described a plan to monitor water at the center, which installed a new chlorination system to kill microbes. The county will watch the center weekly through August, but reduce visits in September and for the rest of the year. — Agencies

ANCIENT ICE IMPORTANT CLUES ABOUT EARTH'S PAST CLIMATE

WEALTH OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION FROM 'ICE CORES'

LAKEWOOD: Inside a huge walk-in freezer in suburban Denver, a college student in a thick parka shoots a jolt of electricity through a yard-long column of ice extracted from Antarctica. Just outside the freezer, in a much warmer room, a computer wired to the ice registers a sudden spike in a jagged red line crawling across the screen. "Hey, we got a volcano," says TJ Fudge, a University of Washington researcher. The electric current has detected a thin layer of volcanic residue in the ice, deposited by an eruption about 8,000 years ago.

This is the National Ice Core Laboratory in Lakewood, where ice pulled from the depths of Antarctica and Greenland is sliced up, photographed and tested. Most of it is shipped to other labs, where researchers do more experiments looking for clues about Earth's past and future. Smooth and milky white, the 4- to 5-inch-diameter pieces - called ice cores - provide scientists with a wealth of historical information, from air temperature to greenhouse gases to evidence of cosmic events. The record reaches as far back as 800,000 years. The ice is the remnant of centuries of snowfall, compressed by the weight of successive years of accumulation. "You can drill into it, and it's much like looking at tree rings," Fudge said. "It's just year after year after year of climate information that's preserved out in the ice sheet."

Specialized drilling rigs pull the cores from as deep as 9,800 feet below the surface of the ice sheets. Crews then tuck them into protective tubes, pack them in chilled containers and ship them to the US Refrigerated trucks haul them to Colorado lab, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. In a bustling, white-walled workroom

in the Lakewood freezer - kept at about minus 11 Fahrenheit - workers push the cores through a series of saws on metal frame benches, divvying up the ice according to a prearranged pattern for different experiments. Part of every ice core is archived in another, larger room at about minus 33 degrees, so future researchers can verify old results or try new tests. The archive contains nearly 56,000 feet of ice. Scientists tease data from the ice in various ways. Differences in the weight of molecules in the frozen water hold clues about the air temperature at the time the snow fell.

Cosmic events

Air trapped in bubbles can be analyzed to measure how much carbon dioxide and other gases were in the atmosphere when the ice formed. A solar flare or other cosmic events can leave distinctive radioactive atoms on the snow. Dust blown in from distant continents offers clues about atmospheric circulation. "The ice sheets are in direct contact with the atmosphere," said Mark Twickler, the lab's science director. "Everything that's in the atmosphere we capture as time goes by, and it gets buried in snow." The depth of the core and evidence of volcanoes help determine how old the ice is.

Scientists already know when major eruptions occurred, so a layer of volcanic residue indicates the year the adjacent ice formed. That becomes a reference point for annual layers above and below. The record is remarkably precise, even reflecting seasonal changes, scientists say. "It's as if we're standing on the ice sheet writing down the temperature for the last 800,000 years," said Bruce Vaughn, a

University of Colorado-Boulder lab manager who works with the ice. "It's that good." Without a record of its depth and age, the ice has little research value, said Geoffrey Hargreaves, curator of the Lakewood lab. "An ice core without any depth references - I shouldn't say this - it's good for margaritas," he said, poker-faced. No, Hargreaves said, scientists don't actually do that. "There's drill fluids in these things that you really don't want to drink," he said.

Some experiments are done only on ice from the core's interior, away from the fluids. Ice cores have led scientists to significant conclusions about climate, including that CO2 levels in the atmosphere today are higher than at any other time recorded in the ice. "The only reason we can make that statement is because we have the ice core air archived," said Murat Aydin, a researcher at the University of California-Irvine. Ice cores also help refine computer models used to make climate predictions. "If we run them backwards with the parameters that we measure in the ice core and we get it right, that gives us a lot more confidence in the climate models going forward," Vaughn said.

As technology improves, researchers find new ways to analyze the ice. A technique called continuous flow analysis allows them to slowly melt a one-yard stick of ice and analyze it drop-by-drop, instead of cutting it into small pieces, melting them one-by-one and averaging the results. The new technique gives scientists up to 2,400 measurements per yard instead of 20, Vaughn said. "There'll be science for dozens of years with researchers who are maybe only now getting their degrees or learning about this," Vaughn said. "It's exciting. How could you not be excited about it?" — AP

BRIDE WALKED DOWN AISLE BY FATHER'S HEART RECIPIENT

NEW YORK: The bride beamed as she walked down the aisle of the Pennsylvania church on the arm of a white-haired gentleman - the man who received her father's heart in a life-saving transplant operation. Ten years after her father was brutally murdered, Jeni Stepien knew she wanted his heart to be at the wedding. So she asked retired college advisor Arthur Thomas, the man who received his heart, to give her away.

"It has been the best day of my life," the 33-year-old elementary school teacher told ABC News in her strapless ivory gown after Saturday's wedding just outside Pittsburgh in the same church where her parents married. She had met Thomas, 72, for the first time only the day before. "About two months ago, I got a

letter from Jeni," Thomas told AFP. "She said, 'I am the daughter of the person whose heart is inside you, and I wondered if you and your wife Nancy could come to my wedding. "I would love it if you walk me down the aisle," he added. "I was stunned. I thought, 'oh my God, it's so perfect that she would want her dad's heart at the wedding.'" When they met at the wedding rehearsal, they embraced.

'Beautiful moment'

"We just gave each other a huge hug. I put my hand on my wrist and my pulse is pretty strong and I asked her if she'd like to feel my pulse. Then she put her hand on my heart," Thomas said. "It was a very warm and beautiful moment." After he walked her to the altar,

Thomas put her hand on his heart, gave her a kiss and then handed her over to her groom, Paul Maenner, a 34-year-old engineer. "Thank you so much for coming," the bride said to him tearfully, according to video aired by ABC.

It was the closest she came to her father since Michael Stepien, 53, was robbed and fatally shot on his way home from his job as a chef. His teenage attacker was jailed for 40 years, US media reported. Devastated, Jeni and her mom, Bernice decided to donate his organs. Thomas, at death's door suffering from congestive heart failure, was chosen as the recipient. The father of four from Lawrenceville, New Jersey told AFP that two days after the operation in the fall of 2006 he was walking, after 10 days he was home and

after six months he went skiing. "I wrote them a letter thanking them for saving my life," he said. Through the Center of Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), which allows recipients and donor families to communicate if they wish, the two families got in touch. Over the years, they were in regular telephone contact.

Call to register

He sends flowers on holidays and swaps parental advice with Stepien's mother. He now hopes to see the family again and work with them to raise awareness about organ donation. "Doing all this together this past weekend brought us closer together," Thomas said, describing the Stepiens as "wonderful." "When a family gives life to someone they

don't even know, in their darkest moment... it's unbelievable."

The bride and groom, who left for their honeymoon overseas on Sunday, could not be reached immediately for comment. CORE told AFP in a statement that they hoped the "remarkable" public response to the story would generate greater awareness about organ donation. "We hope everyone who has been touched by this story takes a few moments to make the life-affirming decision to register as an organ, tissue and cornea donor and choose the gift of life," said Susan Stuart, its president and CEO. Based in Pittsburgh, the center is one of 58 federally-designated charity organ procurement organizations in the United States. — AFP

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

د. فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال

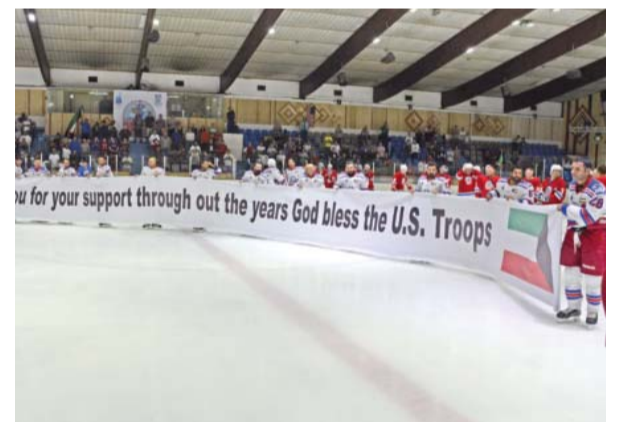
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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

KUWAIT WINTER GAMES CLUB HOLDS ICE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



The friendly Ice Hockey Tournament, organized by Kuwait Winter Games Club, concluded on Saturday the 6th of August, under the patronage of Public Authority for Sports (PAS). Kuwait Ice Hockey team along with several other teams from the American military participated. The teams were divided into three teams A, B and C. Kuwait Ice Hockey team won first place defeating the American B team who won second place. Medals and prizes were distributed to all participating teams.



Greetings



Ayesha Irfan, my princess turns 5 years old, God bless you and may you have prosperous future ahead.

— Best wishes & love from Abbu, Ammi, Aunties, Uncle & Cousin Brothers Abdullah, Osama, Ali, Omar, Hassan, Mohsin, Talha, & Sisters Fatima, Meeqat, Aamina.

JOYALUKKAS ANNOUNCES THE SUMMER WINNINGS AUDI CAR WINNER

Since its launch in June 2016, Joyalukkas Summer Winnings has proven to be one of the world's favorite jeweler's most successful promotions to date. With thousands of entries received across the GCC, Mr John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group, has nothing but gratitude for the promotion's reception by customers.

"Support for our Summer Winnings promotion has been overwhelming. We are very grateful for the thousands of loyal patrons who have participated in the draw, and like them we are very excited to discover that he won the grand prize. "I couldn't believe it at first," says Mr Taruna Babu of his experience getting the confirmation call that he had won. "With so many entries, I thought my chance was one in a million. I am so happy that I won my dream car. Thank you, Joyalukkas!"

The Joyalukkas Summer of Winnings Kuwait grand draw was held on 7th August, 2016 at Joyalukkas Showroom in Panasonic Tower. Winner of an Audi Car, Mr Taruna Babu was overjoyed to discover that he won the grand prize. "I couldn't believe it at first," says Mr Taruna Babu of his experience getting the confirmation call that he had won. "With so many entries, I thought my chance was one in a million. I am so happy that I won my dream car. Thank you, Joyalukkas!"

Customers in the 11 countries Joyalukkas operates in can expect new collections and the same quality they love from the jewelry retail giant in the days to come, as well as unbelievable in-store offers and great-value deals.





'FAKHR AL-WATAN' VOLUNTARY TEAM HONOR ORGANIZATION PARTNERS



The 'Fakhr Al-Watan' voluntary team held a ceremony in honor of the organizations and companies that participated with them during their activities. Head of the team Majida Al-Rujaib expressed her appreciation for those who helped them care for the retirees who should be always remembered and gave her immense appreciation for their contributions in their many years of service. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeya was among the companies that participated in the activities and will continue along with their principle partner Sebamed. Meanwhile, the team recognized one commissioned officer Bilal Mansour who just retired from service.



JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA BEGINS DRAW TO WIN STAY AT BURJ AL ARAB



If you haven't had a chance to go away this summer, book a two-night stay at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, and enter the weekly draw to win a two-night stay at Burj Al Arab, the world's most luxurious hotel.

Throughout this month, Kuwait's beach located hotel is offering its guests the chance to win a stay in a One-Bedroom Deluxe Suite for two people, complimentary of breakfast, at Dubai's iconic hotel. Four winners will be announced following a weekly draw via the hotel's Instagram account @JumeirahMessilahBeach starting from Sunday 7th August with one winner every week.

To enter the weekly draw, guests are welcome to choose from the hotel's exquisitely decorated 316 rooms and suites, in addition to 79 serviced apartments and 12 villas. And to make the stay complete, the hotel's dining restaurants, cafés and stylish lounge will take guests on a gastronomical journey complemented by thorough customer service, from delicious seafood at Salt, to mouth-watering steaks at Pepper, or authentic Italian fare at Olio.

"Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa is a popular destination for families and loved ones to relax and enjoy quality time together throughout the year. This summer we are making it even more rewarding with this exclusive campaign with Burj Al Arab," hotel's General Manager, Hakan Petek, said. "Partnering with this iconic property within the Jumeriah Group will provide our guests for the first time the chance to experience another one of our luxurious hotels," he concluded.

Designed to resemble a billowing sail, the Burj Al Arab is one of the most photographed structures in the world and has been consistently voted the world's most luxurious hotel. This magnificent destination offers guests the finest service and facilities throughout - right down to an optional chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce. Its 202 luxury suites, ranging from 170 to 780 square meters, offer a rain shower and a Jacuzzi in each suite, and round-the-clock private butlers.





- 03:20 Mad Dogs
04:05 Doctors
04:35 Doctors
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:05 Death In Paradise
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:40 The Musketeers
10:35 Doctors
11:05 Doctors
11:35 Death In Paradise
12:30 Call The Midwife
13:20 The Musketeers
14:15 Doctors
14:45 Doctors
15:15 Death In Paradise
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:05 The Musketeers
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 New Tricks
21:00 New Tricks
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Mad Dogs
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Eastenders
00:40 New Tricks
01:30 New Tricks
02:25 Ripper Street

- 17:40 Mythbusters
18:30 World's Top 5
19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls
20:10 Storage Hunters UK
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
21:00 Mythbusters
21:50 World's Top 5
22:40 Wheels That Fail
23:05 Wheels That Fail
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Kindig Customs
01:10 Mythbusters
02:00 World's Top 5
02:50 Wheels That Fail



- 03:00 Mega World
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
05:00 Prank Science
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Smash Lab
08:14 How The Universe Works
09:02 Mega World
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
11:02 Magic Of Science
11:26 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega World
14:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
15:02 Magic Of Science
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Mega World
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Freaks Of Nature
19:55 Freaks Of Nature
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Engineering
22:00 Freaks Of Nature
22:25 Freaks Of Nature
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Freaks Of Nature
01:45 Freaks Of Nature
02:10 How The Universe Works



- 03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie



- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopidoo
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
17:25 Sofia The First
17:50 Sofia The First
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummy Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopidoo
02:45 Art Attack

- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
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.J. NYC
14:05 E.J. NYC
15:00 Just Jillian



- 06:00 Boyster



BRAVE ON OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
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.J. NYC
14:05 E.J. NYC
15:00 Just Jillian
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Chopped
01:10 Kitchen Inferno
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Chopping Block
20:30 Midsomer Murders
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Murdoch Mysteries
00:35 Emmerdale
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Murdoch Mysteries
03:40 In Search Of Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Discoveries
07:00 World War II: Lost Films
08:00 Ancient Discoveries
09:00 The Universe
10:00 In Search Of Aliens
11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 World War II: Lost Films
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 The Universe
16:00 In Search Of Aliens
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
20:00 Ancient Discoveries
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Last Days Of The Nazis
23:00 WWI: The First Modern War
00:00 In Search Of Aliens
01:00 Dogfights
02:00 Ancient Discoveries
02:50 The Universe
03:45 World's Deadliest Animals
04:40 America's National Parks
05:35 Built For The Kill
06:30 Extreme Animal Babies
07:25 World's Deadliest Animals
08:20 America's National Parks
09:15 Wild Kalahari
10:10 Predator Falls
11:05 Man V. Monster
12:00 Animal Mega Moves
12:55 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
13:50 Extreme Animal Babies
14:45 Hidden Worlds
15:40 America's National Parks
16:35 America The Wild
17:30 Predator Falls
18:25 Man V. Monster
19:20 Hidden Worlds
20:10 America's National Parks
21:00 America The Wild
21:50 Predator Falls
22:40 Man V. Monster
23:30 Animal Mega Moves
00:20 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
01:10 Extreme Animal Babies
02:00 Anaconda: Silent Killer



- 03:50 Russia's Mystery Files
04:45 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
05:40 Life On Mars: The Amazing Flowers
06:35 Engineering Connections
07:30 Ultimate Survival Alaska
08:25 Alaska Fish Wars
09:20 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
10:15 Science Of Stupid
10:40 Science Of Stupid
11:10 Cesar To The Rescue
12:05 Mega Factories
13:00 4 Babies A Second
14:00 Laverstoke Mill
15:00 Engineering Connections
16:00 Science Of Stupid
16:30 Science Of Stupid
17:00 Megastructures
18:00 Mega Factories
19:00 Engineering Connections
20:00 Science Of Stupid
20:25 Science Of Stupid
20:50 Megastructures
21:40 Mega Factories
22:30 Engineering Connections
23:20 Life On Mars: The Amazing Flowers
00:10 Science Of Stupid
00:35 Science Of Stupid
01:00 Megastructures
02:00 Mega Factories



- 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
09:30 The Simpsons
09:30 The Grinder
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
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 The Grinder
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
16:00 Grandfathered
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Simpsons
18:30 Black-Ish
19:00 Young & Hungry
19:30 Young & Hungry
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
21:30 Grandfathered
22:00 You're The Worst
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 The Brink
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
23:30 Fresh Off The Boat
01:00 Grandfathered
01:30 You're The Worst
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 The Brink



- 04:00 First Response
06:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
08:00 6 Ways To SUNDOWN
10:00 First Response
12:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
14:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
16:00 6 Ways To SUNDOWN
18:00 Close Range
20:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
22:00 The Dead Lands
00:00 Predator
02:00 Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!



- 04:00 Sleepless In Seattle
06:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
08:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
10:00 Sleepless In Seattle
12:00 10 Things I Hate About You
14:00 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
16:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
17:45 Raising Helen
20:00 Trust Me
22:00 Scary Movie 4
00:00 Keith Lemon: The Film
02:00 Raising Helen



- 03:00 Dunston Checks In
05:00 The Book Of Life
07:00 Brave
09:00 Monsters University
11:00 Aladdin
13:00 Clockstoppers
15:00 Frankenweenie
17:00 Ice Princess
19:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
21:00 My Favorite Martian
23:00 Frankenweenie
01:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid

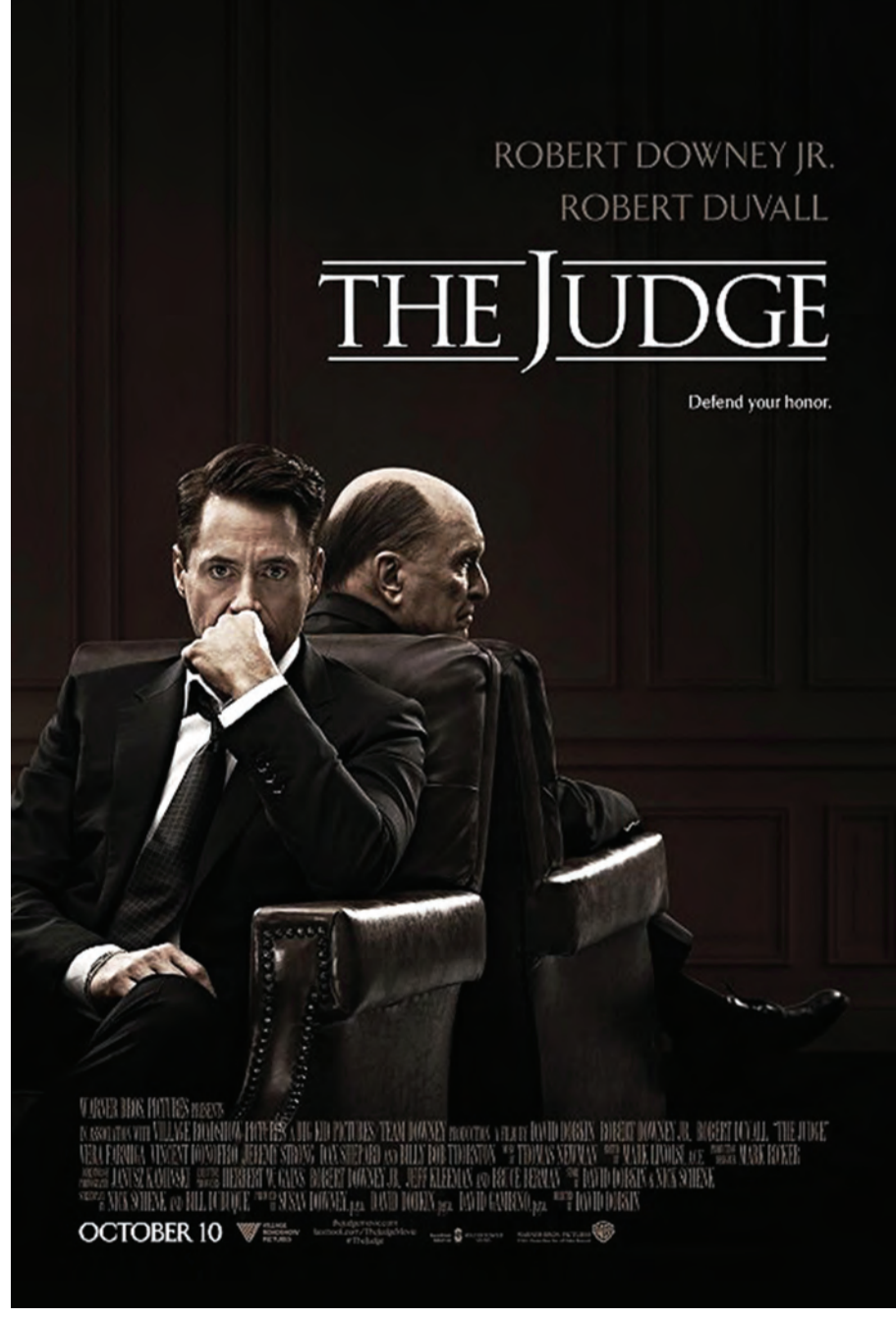


- 03:00 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
05:00 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure
06:30 The Judge
09:00 Step Up All In
11:00 Believe
13:00 The Theory Of Everything
15:15 Selma
17:30 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
19:45 Fast & Furious 7
22:00 Crimson Peak
00:00 Focus
02:00 Spooks: The Greater Good



THE DEAD LANDS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 20:13 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 Lip Sync Battle
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
22:18 Kyle Kinane: I Liked His Old Stuff Better
23:05 Underground With Dave
Atell
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Tosh.0
00:25 Lip Sync Battle
00:50 Lip Sync Battle
01:15 Underground With Dave
Atell
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
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 Forever
09:25 Hannah Montana Forever
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 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Violetta
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
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
18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Becoming
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
16:00 Just Jillian
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:05 E! News
19:30 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 E! News
23:30 E! News
00:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 Botched
02:20 E! News
02:45 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: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
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
14:30 Man Fire Food
14:40 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 Chopped
21:00 Kitchen Inferno



THE JUDGE ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/08/2016 TO 17/08/2016)

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1 THE FALL OF THE KRAYS SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	FANAR-2 SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD THE CONJURING 2	11:30 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi RUSTOM- Hindi MOHENJO DARO - Hindi BABU BANGARAM - Telugu BABU BANGARAM - Telugu BABU BANGARAM - Telugu RIOT	4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM
SHARQIA-2 THE BFG -3D THE BFG THE BFG -3D THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD THE BFG	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	FANAR-3 FINDING DORY MOHENJO DARO - Hindi RUSTOM- Hindi MOHENJO DARO - Hindi RUSTOM- Hindi	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-2 THE BFG -3D-4DX TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES THE BFG -3D-4DX THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX THE BFG -3D-4DX SUICIDE SQUAD -3D-4DX	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
SHARQIA-3 MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE LEGEND OF TARZAN MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	FANAR-4 THE BFG THE BFG THE BFG THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-3 MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM
MUHALAB-1 MIN 30 SANA ABU SHANAB BABU BANGARAM - Telugu BABU BANGARAM - Telugu BABU BANGARAM - Telugu MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA ABU SHANAB	1:00 PM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM	FANAR-5 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-4 MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE LEGEND OF TARZAN MIN 30 SANA MOHENJO DARO - Hindi Special Show "THE CONJURING 2" MIN 30 SANA	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM
MUHALAB-2 RUSTOM- Hindi BABU BANGARAM - Telugu SUICIDE SQUAD MOHENJO DARO - Hindi SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	1:15 PM 1:30 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	MARINA-1 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	360°-1 THE BFG -3D THE BFG -3D THE BFG THE BFG -3D THE BFG THE BFG	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE BFG THE BFG -3D THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE BFG -3D THE BFG THE BFG	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:15 PM 11:45 PM	MARINA-2 THE BFG FINDING DORY THE BFG THE BFG THE BFG THE BFG	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:15 PM 11:45 PM	360°-2 CELL CELL THE NEON DEMON CELL THE NEON DEMON CELL	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-1 THE CONJURING 2 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA	12:30 PM 3:15 PM 5:45 PM 8:45 PM 11:45 PM	MARINA-3 CELL MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA CELL	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	360°-3 RIOT RIOT RIOT RIOT RIOT RIOT	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM

FOR RENT

YARD / STORE AREA FOR RENT

2500 Sq meter closed Yard / Store area for rent in Al Julaiia area

Interested parties please contact:
97257838 / 60004382

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

EIG

BUSINESS IN OMAN

We Are Providing
Visas, Registration, Local Sponsor, Business Partner, Decoument Clearing.

Contact Us: 00968-98457638
Email: Info@Eiglocoman.com

SITUATION WANTED

Accountant - Indian, experienced having extensive knowledge in handling all kinds of accounts (including system establishment and management) right from JV to finalization and management reporting more than 20 years in the field now seeking full time or part time assignment with transferable iqama.

Contact: 97934610

ACCOMMODATION

Room for rent, 2 big rooms with balcony, no electricity bill, near Jabriya Indian School, central A/C, block 10, St. 9. Mobile: 55706900, 55983570. (C 5201)

10-8-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:46
Shorook	05:13
Duhr:	11:53
Asr:	15:29
Maghrib:	18:33
Isha:	19:57

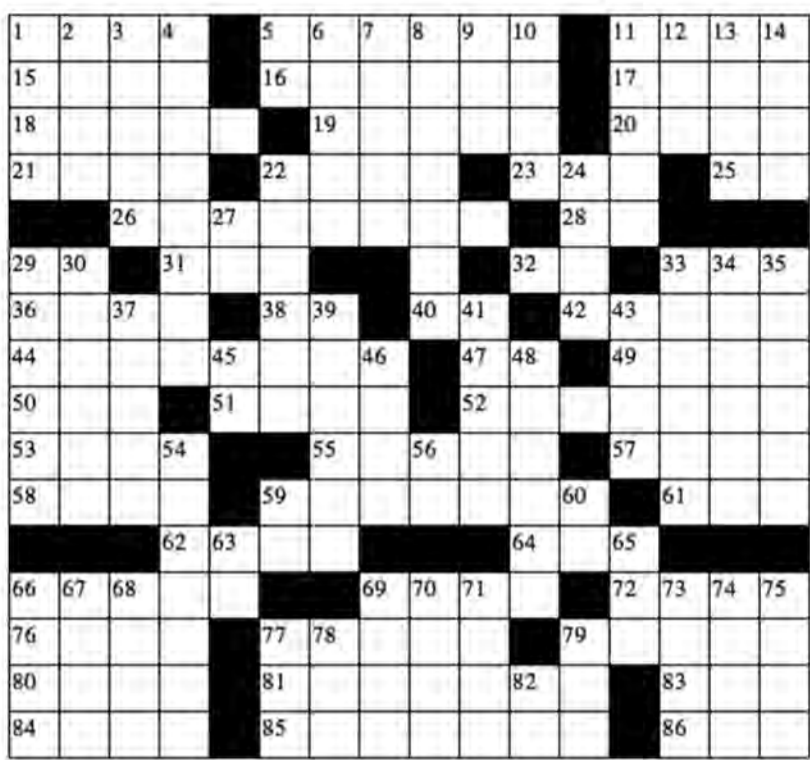


Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Thursday 11/8/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 11/8/2016			
Airlines	File	Route	Time	Airlines	File	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	FEG	786	Riyadh	13:20
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	PAL	609	Dubai/Manila	14:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	JZR	188	Jeddah	15:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
QTR	8511	Doha	05:25	FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
KAC	418	Manila	06:20	KAC	563	Amman	19:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	THY	1283	TZX	19:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	JAV	622	Amman	19:45
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
RJA	648	Amman	09:30	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SVR	341	Dubai	10:05	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:55				
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55				

CROSSWORD 1339



ACROSS

1. Continuing or remaining in a place or state.
5. Freshwater green algae.
11. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
15. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
16. Separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument.
17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
18. Feeling or showing anger.
19. Relating to or near the ulna.
20. part of the peritoneum attached to the stomach and to the colon and covering the intestines.
21. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
23. British informal term.
25. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
26. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
28. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
29. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
31. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
32. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
36. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
38. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
40. A radioactive transuranic element.
42. The beginning of anything.
44. Dependent on chance.
47. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
49. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
50. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
51. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
52. A department of Greece in the central Peloponnese.
53. A slender double-reed instrument.
55. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
57. Long and thin and often limp.
58. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
61. A usually soluble substance for staining or coloring e.g. fabrics or hair.
62. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
64. A light touch or stroke.
66. A choice or delicious dish.
72. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
76. A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
80. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion.
81. Tree of the genus Catalpa with large leaves and white flowers followed by long slender pods.
83. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
84. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
85. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
86. God of the underworld.

DOWN

1. A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.
2. The form of RNA that attaches the correct amino acid to the protein chain that is being synthesized at the ribosome of the cell (according to directions coded in the mRNA).
3. Kindly endorsement and guidance.
4. A mountain peak in the Andes in Peru (21,709 feet high).
5. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
6. Escape, either physically or mentally.
7. Big-eyed scad.
8. Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
9. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus Iva with small greenish flowers.
10. (British) Diesel oil used in cars and lorries with diesel engines (from diesel engine road vehicle).
11. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
12. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
13. European freshwater game fish with a thick spindle-shaped body.
14. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
22. French writer who generalized surrealism to literature (1897-1982).
24. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
27. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
30. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
33. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
34. Having or marked by unusual and impressive intelligence.
35. Thick plank forming a ridge along the side of a wooden ship.
37. Relieve from military service.
39. Used especially in treating braises.
41. Intentional deception resulting in injury to another person.
43. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
45. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
46. God of the Underworld.
48. A large fleet.
54. Normal relaxed breathing.
56. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
59. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
60. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
63. A public promotion of some product or service.
65. The cry made by sheep.
67. Plants with sword-shaped leaves and erect stalks bearing bright-colored flowers composed of three petals and three drooping sepals.
68. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
69. (nontechnical usage) A tiny piece of anything.
70. The phenomenon of resistance to motion through a fluid.
71. A landlocked republic in northwestern Africa.
73. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
74. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
75. Type genus of the Anatidae.
77. (informal) Of the highest quality.
78. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
79. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
82. An informal term for a father.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Frustration comes today when trying to make deadlines. You could easily be provoked, so exercise some control and be ready for a possible emotional overload. Your ideas may not find the support you need. You could be perceived as hard to reach and you may feel that no one recognizes your achievements. Fear not-this is not a long-term condition. The afternoon brings with it opportunities to take risks and dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled by daring to be the oddball-new approaches. Assimilating information and experience, learning lessons and putting them into practice is the focus for you at this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, tangible outer world. You are an action person who gains the attention of others and seems to keep things moving. The circumstances of your life suggest extroversion. If you are not in sales, you should be today! You have a love affair going with the mind and you value its entire offspring such as words, ideas, thoughts and such. In particular, you appreciate a good conversation. Stimulating mental adventures, either alone or with others, are among the most exciting experiences life offers. You have a built-in sense of discrimination when it comes to the intellect-all mental activities. This activity does not end in the work world. Neighbors are enjoyable to be with tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your inner resources and emotions are accented. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. Perhaps you feel this is really you-how you feel and are. This can be an expansive, creative and even romantic phase, a time you could look back on with pride and fondness. Others seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding-a busy time. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move and growing. This could be a time to make changes in your environment. You can really get your thoughts and ideas across to others. You may find yourself feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood this evening. Tonight is a time to spend with loved ones.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself having to rethink a few decisions of this day when it comes to presentations. Those around you, or the situation you find yourself in, may not feel right to you. This is just one of those days in which you will need to be careful with the tone of your voice. You can create peaceful results. You have a natural grasp for handling the public and you know how to smooth over ruffled feathers. Some form of exercise this afternoon, after the workday has ended, will be a great way to relieve stress and regain your positive energies. You collect recipes, join a diet club and help someone do research for a past relationship-dad, sister, etc. At home this evening, you read your mail and are encouraged to do some creative activity with the family.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are up and out of the house early today. Your goal is to finish with your work as quickly as possible, although there are some difficult problems to solve; you want the afternoon for fun! This is your day! You enjoy working hard and can sometimes carry your hard work to extremes. This is the time to make a move in securing a future position for you. This could mean a new position, job or special engagement. You have a real need to grow and progress-you enjoy knowledge. This afternoon you are the perfect personal charmer. You appreciate everything and everybody and this quality about you shows. Your sense of compassion is obvious for all to see. You appear most captivating. Enjoy your evening of celebration.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your innate seriousness and sense of obligation spur you to action. This may mean a friend or work partner needs your expertise in completing a job or gaining insight into some possibilities. Independence is treasured but not when it threatens another person's independence, so walk carefully and perform your work as your usual gracious self. This evening you may find great support from loved ones. There is a feeling of sharing and working toward the same goals. This is a blessing because you will find ways in which to encourage, support and influence others. Unafraid of the dark or negative side of life, you are interested in esoteric religion, everything mystical or occult, etc. There is much to learn and you may decide to take a class.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Understanding is the key for success today-concentration will get you there. New studies or something someone says helps you to find the answers you seek. Communication, computers, electronics and everything new wave excites you and you excel here. You discover new ways of working with traditional materials. Your career always seems to get the support you need-this is one area of life that runs smoothly. You seem to understand the buying trends of different age groups, as well as the general public-trends, ethnic groups, etc. You would make a superior buyer for a large retail organization. You will be redefining who and what you are at this time and should spend some time alone in thought. You volunteer in some community project tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but your schedule demands that you tend to business for now. You find ways to steer away from arguments where you have not had much previous information of content. You give much effort to bring the focus back to the issue at hand or to steer others back to the current project. You put forth a lot of effort in your career, however you became involved. This afternoon someone will express his or her appreciation for your abilities and the way you accomplish your goals. You will be able to expound and expand upon new possibilities while visiting with your mate or loved one this evening. As an act of fair play, you could share thoughts about personal goals for the future.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Everything points to your taking the controls today. You are feeling good and your energies are high. You are also very communicative: talking, writing, broadcasting, even by car. You often move beyond conventions into whatever is new, exciting and spicy-you are happy when caught up in the complexity of life. This afternoon your concentration turns to friends. Your friends, partners and relationships mean a lot to you. They are a primary source of strength and you may look to them for support and encouragement. You are indeed a social being and will no doubt weave this into your lifestyle. If you find yourself in a position to take control of a project or to become group leader, keep in mind that this period favors working for group objectives.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Work, health, diet and the other things that take care of us if we take care of them can provide a lot of satisfaction as a new life phase begins for you. You may decide that backwards walking or something like yoga is just for you. You have a good support system for whatever type of exercise you desire to undertake-patience will find that you may add a couple of people to come along with you as well. You have the desire to do well and will stick with this exercise for a very long time. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life-health, work, etc.-becomes a preoccupation. There may have been some incentive from co-workers to improve the physical body. There is an opportunity to help to organize a successful neighborhood garage sale.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

When you assimilate the information you receive today, you will find some avenues that have been previously blocked are now opening. In other words, the more information you get to help you understand a situation, project, whatever, the more success you have with your endeavors. It's a time for prudence and stewardship, a time to tend to the details. Psychology, in particular group work, is one area that you can always look to for support and encouragement. You may find yourself counseling or ministering to others, helping them to understand, accept and make changes in their lives. You create a supportive environment. A new classroom experience brings fascinating moments to you and a friend this evening. Wondrous surprises are on the horizon.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Perhaps the message today is in putting to good use what you have learned over the past years. It is a time for forethought and budgeting, a time to tend to details. You move forward gracefully and can enjoy many rewards because of your good attitude. There is a growing self-confidence in your abilities. In summary, from this time forward, expect a more confident, outgoing attitude, for you have brought to close a time of inward examination and learning. Keep up the good work-you will see a few rewards. There is a growing sense of direction and self-worth in which you will reach out and begin to establish yourself. An all-consuming book has your uppermost attention this evening. Someone else is willing to cook dinner tonight.

WORD SEARCH

Weather 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| BLIZZARD | FROST | SLEET |
| CLIMATE | HEAT WAVE | SQUALL |
| COLD FRONT | HUMID | THERMOMETER |
| CYCLONE | HURRICANE | TORNADO |
| FLOOD | ICE | TSUNAMI |
| FOG | METEOROLOGY | VISIBILITY |
| FORECAST | MONSOON | WIND CHILL |
| | SHOWER | |

Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Weather 1 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| BAROMETER | FREEZE | SNOW |
| CELSIUS | HAIL | STORM |
| CLOUDS | HOT | SUNNY |
| COLD | HUMIDITY | TEMPERATURE |
| DRIZZLE | LIGHTNING | THUNDER |
| DROUGHT | MIST | TYPHOON |
| FAHRENHEIT | OVERCAST | WIND |
| FLURRIES | RAIN | |

Daily SuDoku

				9				3
	4		7	8				
		1				8	6	
			6		3	7		
	7	8		1		9	2	
		9	8		7			
	8	2				4		
				7	8			9
1			5					

Yesterday's Solution

8	5	9	7	1	4	2	6	3
7	3	4	8	2	6	5	9	1
6	2	1	5	9	3	8	4	7
1	9	3	6	8	7	4	2	5
4	6	2	9	3	5	1	7	8
5	7	8	1	4	2	6	3	9
2	4	7	3	5	1	9	8	6
3	8	5	4	6	9	7	1	2
9	1	6	2	7	8	3	5	4

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

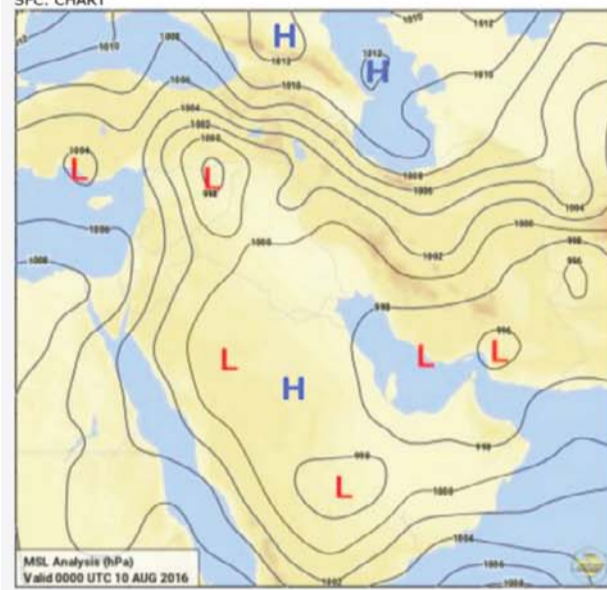
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 10/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 49 °C

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h
By Night : Relatively hot with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot + raising dust over open areas	very hot + raising dust over open areas	very hot + raising dust over open areas
Min Temp °C	31	34	35	35
Max Temp °C	49	49	50	50
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	15 - 40	15 - 40	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC °C	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	36		48
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29		49
ABDALY	30		47
BUBYAN	28		45
JAHRRA	33		49
FAILAKA ISLAND	29		46
SALMIYAH	35		44
AHMADI	36		41
JAL ALIYAH	31		49
QAROH ISLAND	34		41
UMM AL-MARADEM	33		41
NUWAISIB	30		43
WAFRA	29		47
MANAGISH	30		49
SALMY	29		50
MUTRIBA	30		50

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	48
Min Temp (°C)	32
Max Rel Hum (%)	31
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:14
Sunset	18:33

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:47
Sunrise	05:14
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:29
Sunset	18:33
Isha	19:57



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Psychiatrists
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists
Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688
info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com
Kaizen center 25716707
Noor Clinic 23845955
William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



Hearing on Depp domestic violence allegations delayed

A hearing on Amber Heard's allegations that Johnny Depp physically abused her is expected to last up to a week, prompting a judge Tuesday to delay its start. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carl H. Moor ruled Tuesday that the hearing will begin Aug. 17, two days later than planned. Moor ordered the delay after concluding the hearing may take up to five days. The domestic violence allegations are one aspect of the actors' contentious divorce. Heard filed to divorce Depp on May 23, and a few days later obtained a temporary restraining order after accusing the actor of repeatedly hitting her during a fight in their Los Angeles apartment. Depp's lawyer has denied the allegations, and she said Tuesday he wants the hearing concluded as quickly as possible. "This is weighing heavily on my client," attorney Laura Wasser said. If Heard prevails, the restraining order against Depp could be extended for

up to five years. Heard wants to call Depp as a hostile witness during the proceedings. Moor ordered Heard to sit for a deposition on Friday and Depp to give sworn testimony in advance of the hearing on Saturday. Depp will not be allowed to attend Heard's deposition, Moor ruled. Heard accused Depp of repeatedly hitting her and throwing a cellphone during a fight in their Los Angeles apartment in May. A judge ordered Depp to not contact Heard and stay 100 yards away from her. Los Angeles police responded to their apartment, but the person who made the call declined to file charges and officers determined no crime occurred. Heard has alleged in court filings that Depp abuse throughout their relationship, which started after they met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary."

Farrah Abraham argues with daughter's teacher over make-up

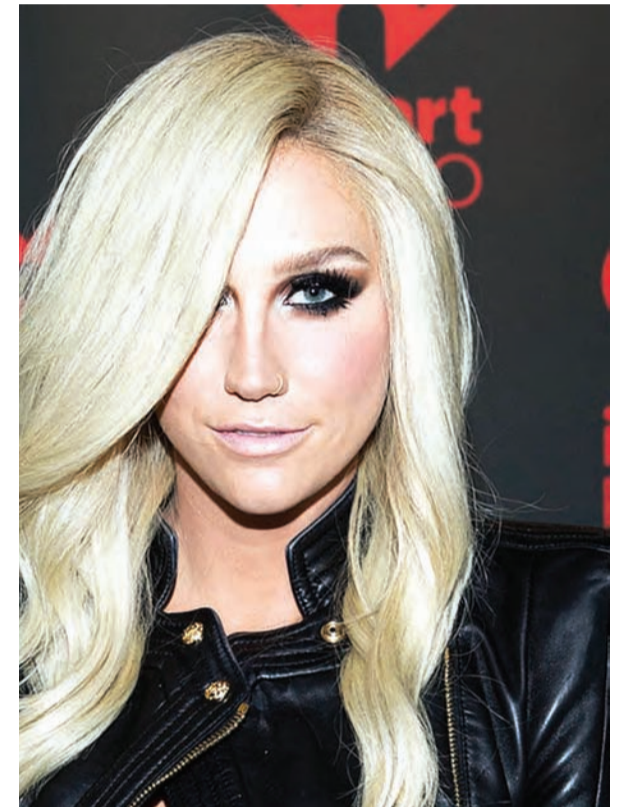
Farrah Abraham argued with her daughter's headmistress over her wearing make-up. The 25-year-old reality star has revealed she was once pulled into the school for a meeting because the strict principal didn't think it was acceptable seven-year-old Sophia was attending school with various cosmetics wiped across her face. Speaking on the 'Allegedly' podcast, she said: "You know, when your kids are five or six they already start playing with make-up. And I was the only mother in freaking elementary school getting called in to deal with make-up on her daughter." However, the brunette beauty wasn't prepared to give up without a fight and even let loose so much with her acid tongue that the principal decided to resign. She explained: "So I said to them - and I proved my point because then the principal switched schools - I go, 'Well then you should take off your make-up. If you don't want little girls coming to school with make-up then don't wear make-up.'" However, although her war of words didn't go down too well with the school staff, her point clearly hit home as Farrah doesn't think the principal has worn make-up since. She added: "Ever since I've seen that principal she hasn't had make-up on her face." Meanwhile, this isn't the first time the former 'Teen Mom' star - who gave birth to the youngster when she was just 17 years old - has come



under fire for letting Sophia wear make-up as she was also slammed with backlash two months ago when she posted photographs online of her child modeling in gingham bikini. She said: "There's bigger things to worry about than make-up."

Rob Lowe mourns death of family pet

Rob Lowe is mourning the loss of his pet dog, who he has described as his "best friend". The 'West Wing' star shared the sad news over social media paying tribute to Buster, a Jack Russell Terrier, who he describes as a loyal pet and an integral part of his family with wife Sheryl Berkoff and their kids 22-year-old Matthew Edward and 20-year-old John Owen. Rob posted a picture of the beloved pooch on his Instagram account on Tuesday and wrote the accompanying tribute: "Buster was the best #dog a family could ever ask for. An unforgettable spirit of love, loyalty and energy. And a huge part of raising our sons. We are grateful to have had him for so many years and so many memories. No one will ever forget our great #Buzzoom #love (sic)" In another post, Rob, 52, suggested that Buster had to be put down due to ill health, and expressed how much he loved the mutt that had been his companion for 16 years. He wrote: "It's hard to say goodbye to your best friend of 16 years but when they are in pain you must do what is best for them. I love you Buster and always will. 16 years and you never stopped looking like a puppy. I'll miss my lil pig, but I know you are in a better place and not gone forever. Forever in our hearts Buster. (sic)" Rob's son John joined in the social media memorial for the family pet choosing to quote American academic Marjorie Garber in the tribute. John posted a picture of himself with Buster on his Instagram account and wrote: "If you have a dog, you will most likely outlive it; to get a dog is to open yourself to profound joy and, prospectively, to equally profound sadness. Rest in peace, Buster. We'll never forget you. (sic)"



Kesha's jacket is returned

Kesha has been reunited with the jacket that was reportedly stolen from her dressing room. Following an emotional appeal over social media the custom coat - which features a black tiger and rainbow detail - has been returned to the singer. TMZ have reported that a source close to the 'Tik Tok' hitmaker confirmed she was contacted by someone who had the garment and wished to return it after "accidentally" taking it from her dressing room and did not purposefully steal it. The 29-year-old singer will be relieved having made a desperate plea for its return on Monday before she performed in Cleveland. Kesha posted on a video on her Instagram account with an accompanying comment which read: "If u guys can please help me find this suit jacket. i will be forever indebted. i need it for my show tomorrow night. someone stole it from my room. can anyone help me? (sic)" The eagle-eyed pop star had spotted a picture of the coat on a social media account and pleaded for the users help, adding: "@mrpeepsomewhere did you find this picture? IF YOU CAN HELP ME I WILL DO SOMETHING AMAZING FOR YOU I JUST NEED THIS PLEASE (sic)" The video itself went even further by promising anyone who found her jacket a kiss on the mouth. She said: "If you can get me my suit, I don't know what I'll do I'll kiss you on the mouth. But I need it for my show tomorrow. "If someone can get it, I'll do something great for you but please I need that suit by tomorrow night at 9 o'clock. Okay, I love you. Bye (sic)."



Drake's father is launching an R&B career

Dennis Graham, who is in his 60s, is to follow in his son's footsteps by releasing his first single, 'Kinda Crazy', later this month, and 29-year-old rapper is said to have given his seal of approval to the forthcoming track. According to gossip website TMZ, Dennis worked with producer and Apple executive Jamie Iovine on the song and his upcoming album, which is yet to have a release date. Drake knows Jamie well as he released the star's fourth studio album 'Views' exclusively on the Apple Music streaming service earlier this year. In a sneak preview from the music video, obtained by the publication, Dennis is seen sitting in a huge throne while dressed in a sharp white suit complete with bling and a brown beanie. As he is perching on the seat, a blonde beauty dances to the

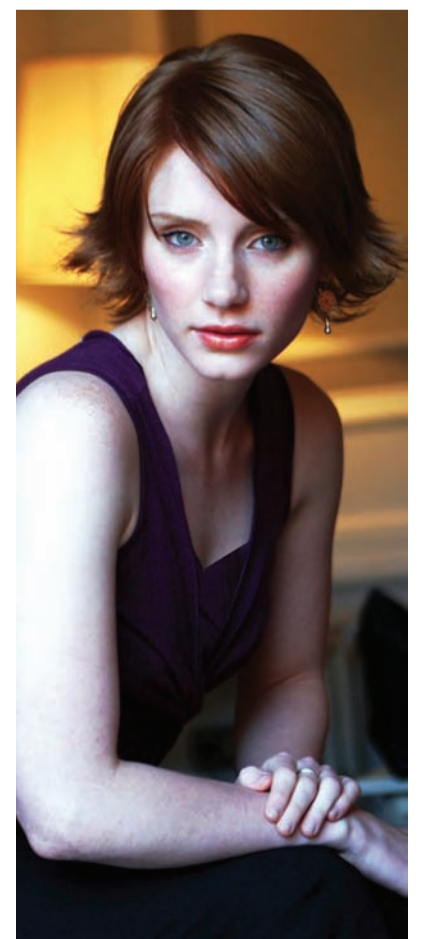
music before he launches into the lyrics, which include: "It's kinda crazy, but I feel you underneath my skin." However, this is not Dennis' first foray into the music business. He previously worked as a drummer performing alongside country musician Jerry Lee Lewis. What's more, music legend Larry Graham is Dennis' brother, making him Drake's uncle. Dennis used to take Drake to the famous Royal Studios, where the likes of Al Green recorded, when he was younger. He previously said: "Appleville, which is Shelby Drive and Nealy, that's where we always came to ... I used to hold him in my office, while I played the piano ... I told him, I said, 'Drake, you got a beautiful voice.'"



Bryce Dallas Howard is a social media newbie

Bryce Dallas Howard enjoyed not being able to use her phone while shooting 'Pete's Dragon'. The 35-year-old star only joined the world of social media less than a year ago so was easily able to embrace the "freedom" of filming the movie in New Zealand without using the device. Speaking on BBC Radio 2, she said: "There were no cell phones, but it was so nice, it was so nostalgic. We were in New Zealand and we wouldn't have a signal most of the time because we were shooting deep in the forest, and you got a sense of freedom when we were shooting the movie that we wouldn't have otherwise. "I was one of the last hold outs for social media; I only joined social media in this past November. So yeah, I fit in well with that kind of atmosphere." The 'Jurassic World' actress stars in the magical remake of the 1977 classic as Grace, a park ranger who is skeptic of her father's - played by Robert Redford - stories about a dragon in the woods. Talking about her character, Bryce said: "I play a character who spends all day in the woods, and she's like, 'Well there's no dragon in the woods, but that's OK dad.' "And then one day she discovers a boy who's this feral child in the

woods named Pete - played by the extraordinary Oakes Fegley - and she goes about trying to figure out how he survived alone in the woods for so long. "He keeps talking about Elliot, so she's like, 'Who's Elliot? Who's Elliot?' and comes to realize that Elliot is a dragon. I'm the classic grown up in a Disney film that's a non-believer and then becomes a believer. That's my journey." The actress - whose father is filmmaker Ron Howard - also said that the original 'Pete's Dragon' was one of her favorite films growing up, and insisted the magic of the original is still present in the remake. She said: "This film - while there are things that are the same - most of it is different. And the thing that is the same - and what excited me most about the original 'Pete's Dragon' - is that it is a live action film with a real boy and an animated dragon. "At the time [of the original], Disney had played around with it in 'Mary Poppins', having animated characters with people, but it was something relatively new. "And as a kid, I was like 'oh my gosh, it has to be a real dragon because he's standing next to a real boy', and so we provide that again." — Bang Showbiz



Lively slams 'celebration' of post-baby weight loss

Blake Lively has hit out at people who "celebrate" mothers dropping their pregnancy weight soon after birth. The pregnant star - who has 18-month-old daughter James with husband Ryan Reynolds - insists body shamers should lay off women who have just given birth and be grateful that another baby has come into the world rather than focus on how someone looks. She said: "It's so unfair though, because it's so celebrated. It's like, this is what someone can look like after a baby. I think a woman's body after having a baby is pretty amazing. "You don't need to be Victoria's Secret ready right away because you just did the most incredible miracle that life has to offer. I mean, you gave birth to a human being. "So I would really like to see that celebrated." Despite this, the 28-year-old stunner had to slim down fairly quickly after giving birth to James to portray bikini-clad medical student Nancy Adams in thriller movie 'The Shallows'. Speaking about getting into shape for the role, she told Australian breakfast TV show 'Sunrise': "I had to do a lot of endurance training - this was eight months after I had a baby." The blonde beauty hired a personal trainer to get back into shape and admitted the exercise did more for her than simply shed the baby weight she'd gained. She said: "I worked out with an amazing trainer Don Saladino. He kicked my butt. It was also eight months after having a baby so my body was already completely different than what it normally was. "Not just aesthetically but also your muscles are different, your body, everything is just shifted and changed."



FEATURE

Overstuffed jewelry box? Try a 'detox'



This photo provided by Kirkland's shows their jewelry armoire. — AP photos

Debbie Roes owns the largest jewelry box she could find, but it was still so full she had difficulty seeing her belongings. So she decided to de-clutter it as part of an overall purging of her possessions, and the result made her happy. "It used to be so cluttered that I didn't really know what I had, and many pieces I loved weren't being worn," said Roes, of San Diego. Many people accumulate extra jewelry over the years and could benefit from organizing it better. That might mean discarding, giving away, selling, repairing or repurposing pieces, said Cyndy Aldred of Lufkin, Texas, author of "Idiot's Guides: Organizing Your Life" (Alpha Books, 2014).

Begin by weeding out those you never wear. Roes did that, and quickly parted with 20 of her 282 pieces. She also pulled out jewelry that was broken, and either had it fixed or got rid of it. Then she grouped together like pieces, which helped her realize that she had many duplicates. "I tended to buy a lot of similar things. What we're drawn to when shopping is what we're familiar with," she said. Once the jewelry was sorted, Roes forced herself to pick her favorites. She donated, gave away or sold the rest.

She did several purges like this so as not to deplete her collection too quickly, she said. In between purges, she would move the pieces she wore into different drawers in the jewelry box. The pieces that hadn't been moved by the next purge were good candidates to get rid of. If you're unsure about discarding something, Aldred suggested, put it in a box in a harder-to-reach location. If you haven't retrieved it after a year, get rid of it, she said.

She also suggested having a jewelry exchange party at which friends gather to swap pieces. "You feel better about purging when you give it to someone you know will use it," she said. Compared to clothing, jewelry is easy to give to friends and relatives because it's usually one-size-fits-all, Roes noted. You might feel guilty, however, about giving away something you spent money on. Don't feel guilty, she said.

Kathy Zaltas, who owns Zaltas Gallery of Fine

Jewelry in Mamaroneck, New York, said customers often bring in their jewelry boxes or ones they have inherited, wondering what to do with the contents. Zaltas helps them determine which pieces are valuable, which could be repaired or made into something new, and which could be sold.

Several pieces

"People acquire jewelry that they don't wear anymore," she said. "It has a monetary value if you want to scrap it. It doesn't need to sit and sit." She also works with clients to transform out-of-date pieces into something new. Carol Manire almost never takes off the necklace that Zaltas made from some of her mother's old jewelry. She had taken several pieces into the store after her mother passed away because

keeping them in a safe at her home in Port Chester, New York, "felt like I was not honoring her memory properly."

She and Zaltas did "a lot of back and forth," she said, "turning it into something I really love and is meaningful to me." Roes, who blogs about her efforts at recoveringshopaholic.com, has heard from readers who frame heirloom pieces or find other ways to display them. Another option is to store sentimental pieces that you don't wear somewhere less accessible than your jewelry box to save space, Aldred said. "My jewelry box is stuff that I regularly wear," she said. "Purging and reorganizing how we store our jewelry and accessories is a great way to save time and frustration when we're getting ready (to go out), because we can go right to the pieces we are looking for." — AP



This photo provided by Kathy Zaltas shows a necklace made from diamonds and an opal repurposed from an older cocktail ring.



This photo provided by Kathy Zaltas shows a new necklace made from diamonds re-purposed from an older worn out chain.

Ways to save on back-to-school clothing shopping

Varsity-inspired cardigans. Preppy layers. Satin bomber jackets. There are plenty of fashion trends that experts say should help pique shoppers' interest for the back-to-school season. That could provide a sales bounce for retailers after last year's dearth of mainstream looks hurt business. The trick for shoppers: taking advantage of timing and tools to stay within a budget.

In the second most-important season for retailers behind the winter holidays, families with children from kindergarten to 12th grade plan to spend an average of \$673.57 on clothing, accessories, electronics, shoes and school supplies. That's up nearly 7 percent from last year, according to the National Retail Federation. The group surveyed nearly 7,000 consumers from June 30 through July 6 about their plans.

Even though that survey showed signs that parents are less worried about the economy, stores are still pushing fat discounts. Some analysts say the back-to-school shopping time had a slow start, with people in no hurry to buy. Last-minute purchasing is a trend retailers have been seeing for back-to-school and the winter holidays for the past several years as mobile phones give shoppers more freedom and options. Political uncertainty is also weighing on them, says Ken Perkins, president of research firm Retail Metrics LLC.

"Our sense of things is that it's relatively quiet out there. There's no buildup," he said. He believes that retailers will remain aggressive with discounts. Experts say when planning back-to-school buying, it's smart to research the new looks and take stock of what's already in the closet. "Shoppers certainly have a little more money this year, but they still fundamentally want to be efficient," said Wendy Liebmann, CEO of the consulting group WSL Strategic Retail. Here are seven ways to save money on back-to-school buying:

Mix new and old items: If a growth spurt doesn't necessitate buying everything new, focus on a few items and take advantage of help from retailers. J.C. Penney's online

site has a section called "Outfits You Love" that suggests ways to mix eight items to create two weeks of looks. "It's fashion math," says Liebmann. "It gives the feeling of lots of choices."

Do the research: It's easier than ever to check prices to make sure you're getting the best deal. One site, camelcamelcamel.com, monitors prices on millions of Amazon.com products and sends alerts when prices drop. Apps like RedLaser and PriceJump let shoppers scan an item to see if there's a better price online.

Time your buying: Back-to-school discounts have already started, but the trick is knowing the best time to grab certain items. For summer clothes like short-sleeve tops, wait until the last week of August and the first week of September to reap the biggest discounts, says Benjamin Glaser, editor of DealNews, a deal comparison website. For fall clothes, try to buy the first week of October. For jeans, he says to buy later in October for the largest savings. In years past, Glaser says he's seen brands like Lucky, Levi's and Nautica cut prices by 40 percent to 60 percent during October, with few restrictions.

Bulk buy the basics: Stock up on items like socks and hoodies. Target's new Cat & Jack line for kids has offered \$4 tank tops for girls online. Gap's Old Navy has up to 60 percent off with styles starting from \$4. Old Navy is offering deep price cuts on hooded sweatshirts, selling for around \$12, that Andres Dorransoro, general manager at Old Navy merchandising, calls "extra cozy." Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has basic T-shirts for boys for just under \$3 and leggings for girls for just under \$4.

Shop off-price: Discounters like T.J. Maxx, Ross Stores and others are increasingly offering more items in season and are working to better curate them to the local market, says Ronen Lazar, CEO of Inturn, a technology company that works with off-price retailers to help liquidate merchandise. T.J. Maxx says that now through the beginning of September is the best time to catch trends for kids and teens, such as plaid and athletic-inspired clothing.

Take advantage of sales tax days: Nearly 20 states offer sales-tax holidays, primarily in August, which target popular-back-to-school items like clothing and accessories. Dates vary, and shoppers need to check the restrictions for each state, says Cardhub, a credit card comparison site, which posted tips on its blog. In Connecticut, for example, shoppers can get the 6.35 percent tax waived for clothing and footwear that has a taxable value of \$100 or less from Aug. 21 to Aug. 27.

Leverage store rewards: Chose one store and do most of your shopping there to get the biggest benefit from its rewards program. The Kohl's programs offers \$5 in rewards for every 100 points, or dollars spent. Shoppers can also sign up for programs like Plenti, which let them earn points in one store and use them in another with a single card. Earning 1,000 points will help you get at least \$10 in savings at companies like Macy's and Rite Aid. — AP



Ladies, drop the mop! Most Finns say housework is for both sexes

Nordic gender equality proved to be no myth in a poll published yesterday, with nearly 90 percent of Finnish men willing to pick up the vacuum cleaner at home. Between 80 and 90 percent of respondents said household chores such as vacuuming, mopping the floor, dishwashing or cooking were tasks for both men and women, the Association for Finnish Work found in its poll. While both male and female respondents thought most chores were suitable for both sexes, a few dirtier or heavier tasks remained more divisive with men willing to volunteer for them.

Almost half of the men surveyed said the smelly job of cleaning drains was a male task, while only one in three women said it was a man's job. Similarly, 45 percent of male respondents thought lawn mowing was a job for them, not women, although only 25 percent of women said they were not up for the task. Dusting,

laundry and window washing were considered female chores by one in five Finns, but over 70 percent of respondents were still up for those jobs regardless of their gender.

"In particular the younger male generations are very (gender) equal," project manager Merja Mantila of the Association for Finnish Work told AFP, citing the 90-percent share of 25 to 34-year-olds who said dusting was for both sexes. The Taloustutkimus poll questioned more than 2,000 Finns between the ages of 18 and 79 in March. Still, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, women in OECD countries spend on average nearly twice as much time on housework as men do. — AFP



Ernst Neizvestny, sculptor who confronted Khrushchev, dies at 91

Ernst Neizvestny, a Russian-born sculptor who publicly debated modern art with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and went on to create his final memorial, died in the United States Tuesday. Neizvestny, known for his dynamic monumental works, died in New York, US-based journalist Oleg Sulkin announced on Facebook early Wednesday morning. Neizvestny, who was forced to leave the Soviet Union in the 1970s, famously confronted Khrushchev in 1962 at "The New Reality" contemporary art show in central Moscow.

Khrushchev came to view the exhibition and, encouraged by his entourage, launched a tirade against the artists, calling them "degenerates" and condemning their work as "shit." But Neizvestny, a burly decorated war hero, was not cowed and spoke back to the Soviet leader, insisting that he show his work while attempting to explain it. "I'm not afraid of your threats," the artist told Khrushchev, he recalled in a 1979 interview. Khrushchev accused him of wasting metal that could be used in industry and advised him to go and live abroad, sparking a purge of artists. Afterwards Neizvestny was expelled from the Union of Artists.

'There's the devil in you'

Yet the men developed an unlikely rapport. "You're an interesting person," Khrushchev told the artist. "There's the devil in you but an angel somewhere too." "Despite the atmosphere of fear, it was easy to talk to him," Neizvestny said. "Khrushchev spoke directly... which made it possible for me to

answer him directly." Khrushchev died in 1971 after being removed as Soviet leader and, at his family's request, Neizvestny created his memorial in Moscow's Novodevichy cemetery.

The striking black-and-white composition with Khrushchev's head in the middle symbolized the Thaw leader's contradictory personality traits and was designed in the style he had once condemned. Neizvestny was born in 1925 in the Urals city of Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg in western Russia. His parents, a doctor and a poet, suffered repression under Stalin although survived his reign of terror. He fought in World War II and was seriously wounded and decorated for bravery. After the war he studied art in Riga and Moscow and swiftly won recognition, taking advantage of a period of relative freedom after Stalin's 1953 death to move from realism to a more expressionist style.

He emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1976 citing "aesthetic differences with the regime", moving first to Switzerland and then to the United States, where he taught at several universities. Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky and other senior officials expressed their condolences following the artist's death. Neizvestny's works include the "Mask of Grief" sculpture unveiled in 1996 in the far eastern city of Magadan to commemorate the victims of political oppression. — AFP

MUSIC & MOVIES

Bon Iver hints at new album ahead of festival

Bon Iver, whose emotionally intense folk rock has won a strong following, is hinting it is ready with its first album in five years ahead of the band's own festival. The band led by Justin Vernon plays Friday at the second edition of the Eau Claire festival, established last year in the group's hometown of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The group said in June that it would devote its set to new music and recently posted on social media a cryptic video with abstract shapes, household items as well as crucifixes that float in the air beyond an open door.

Anticipation built Tuesday as the band posted similar imagery on Instagram and a mural appeared in Brooklyn with the same design along with the words, "22 Days - It Might Be Over Soon." Several social media users speculated that Bon Iver would debut an album entitled "22

Days" at the Eau Claire festival, while others mused that the work would come out in 22 days. Bon Iver first emerged with the 2007 album "For Emma, Forever Ago," written by Vernon when he locked himself in a cabin in Wisconsin for three months as he struggled with illness, a break-up and professional obscurity.

The album gradually won acclaim for the emotional power of songs such as "Skinny Love." The band followed up with a self-titled second album in 2011, winning two Grammy Awards including Best New Artist. Vernon had spoken of retiring Bon Iver soon afterward but the band returned last year for the inaugural Eau Claire festival and earlier this year toured Asia. Vernon designed Eau Claire with Aaron Dessner of The National, another indie band known for rich, dark textures, amid a proliferation of music festi-

vals across North America.

Setting the festival in the woods, Vernon has vowed to give a unique aesthetic bent to Eau Claire with the latest edition including literary readings, contemporary dance and selected artwork. Other headliners at the festival will include Cornelius, the DJ who was a key figure in Japan's Shibuya-kei alternative electronic scene in the 1990s, in a rare performance of his 1997 album "Fantasma." — AFP

This file photo taken shows Justin Vernon of Bon Iver posing with the Best Alternative Music Album award for 'Bon Iver' and the Best New Artist award at the 54th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California. — AP



Jimmy Page, left, and Robert Plant appear at a news conference in London in 2012. — AP

Led Zeppelin loses fight for legal fees in 'Stairway' case

Led Zeppelin may have won the copyright war over its creation of "Stairway to Heaven," but it lost its battle Monday to recoup nearly \$800,000 in defense fees. Judge R Gary Klausner ruled that the band's songwriters, record label and associated companies were not entitled to legal fees and other costs because the copyright lawsuit against them was not frivolous. A Los Angeles federal jury in June found that guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robert Plant did not lift the introduction of "Stairway" from an obscure instrumental written by the late

Randy Wolfe, founder of the band Spirit.

The trust for Wolfe, better known as Randy California, claimed Page and Plant were familiar with his work and stole a riff from the short tune "Taurus" that repeats throughout the first two minutes of their classic 1971 rock anthem. Wolfe's trust had been seeking credit for the song and millions in damages. But jurors found the tunes were not similar enough for Led Zeppelin to have violated the 1968 copyright protection of "Taurus." — AP

Sheeran faces copyright lawsuit over 'Thinking Out Loud'

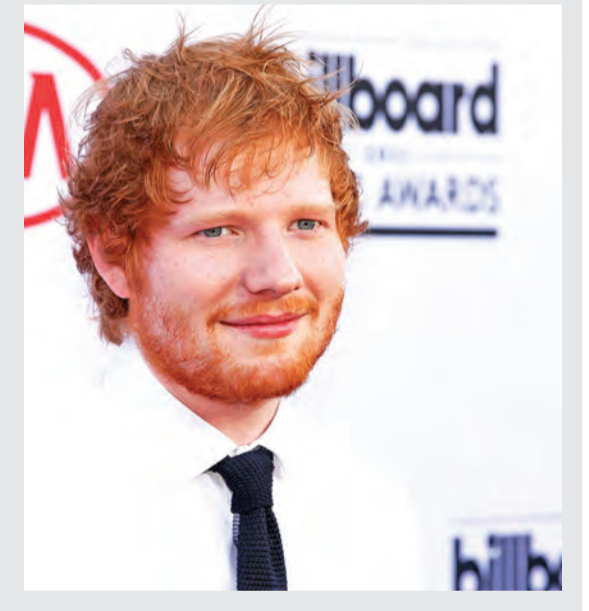
Heirs of the composer for Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" sued British musician Ed Sheeran on Tuesday, claiming his hit song "Thinking Out Loud" copies core elements of the late soul singer's 1973 track.

The copyright infringement lawsuit was filed by the heirs of Ed Townsend, who co-wrote the lyrics to "Let's Get It On" in 1973 and created its musical composition, according to the complaint filed in federal court in the Southern District of New York.

Representatives for defendants Sheeran, Sony/ATV Music Publishing, and Atlantic Records did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The lawsuit, which asks for damages to be assessed at a jury trial, argues that the harmonic progressions, melodic and rhythmic elements central to "Let's Get It On" formed the structure of Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud."

"The Defendants copied the 'heart' of 'Let's' and repeated it continuously throughout 'Thinking,'" the lawsuit said. "The melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic compositions of 'Thinking' are substantially and/or strikingly similar to the drum composition of 'Let's.'" Grammy Award-winning Sheeran has become one of Britain's top-selling artists in the past two years, and has written and co-written tracks for artists such as One Direction, Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber.

The lawsuit came two months after California-based musicians sued Sheeran for \$20 million over his hit song "Photograph" in an unrelated case. Gaye's family last year successfully sued R&B recording artists Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams for copyright infringement in another unrelated case over their hit single "Blurred Lines," winning a \$7.4 million judgment. — Reuters



Fur flies on 'Fast & Furious' as The Rock lets rip

When they butted their chests in "Fast Five," movie hardmen Vin Diesel and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson—or rather their onscreen characters—almost ended up taking out half of Rio. So it could be time for Hollywood to batten down the hatches, because the film industry's most macho musclemen appear to have beef in real life. It all started when Johnson, 44, posted an emotional rant Monday on his Facebook and Instagram accounts, referring to some of his male co-stars on the shoot of "Fast and Furious 8" as "candy asses." "There's no other franchise that gets my blood boiling more than this one. An incredible hard working crew," he said, praising the professionalism of his female co-stars in the action franchise. "My male co-stars however are a different story. Some conduct themselves as stand up men and true professionals, while others don't," the former wrestler went on. "The ones that don't are too chicken shit to do anything about it anyway. Candy asses. When you watch this movie next April and it seems like I'm not acting in some of these scenes and my blood is legit boiling—you're right!"

Johnson didn't name names or say what was riling him, while Diesel, Jason Statham, Scott Eastwood and rapper Ludacris have refrained from responding. But the gossip website TMZ-citing unnamed "production sources"—reported that Diesel was the target of the tirade, and that the pair had a secret meeting on set in Atlanta Tuesday to "hash things out." "We're told The Rock has butted heads with Vin during the production, in part because V.D. is a producer and has made decisions that didn't sit well with the former wrestling champ," TMZ said. Meanwhile an insider was quoted by E! News as saying that filming "wasn't easy for anyone" and had been especially difficult for Johnson, who is also a producer on the movie, which finishes filming in a week. — AFP

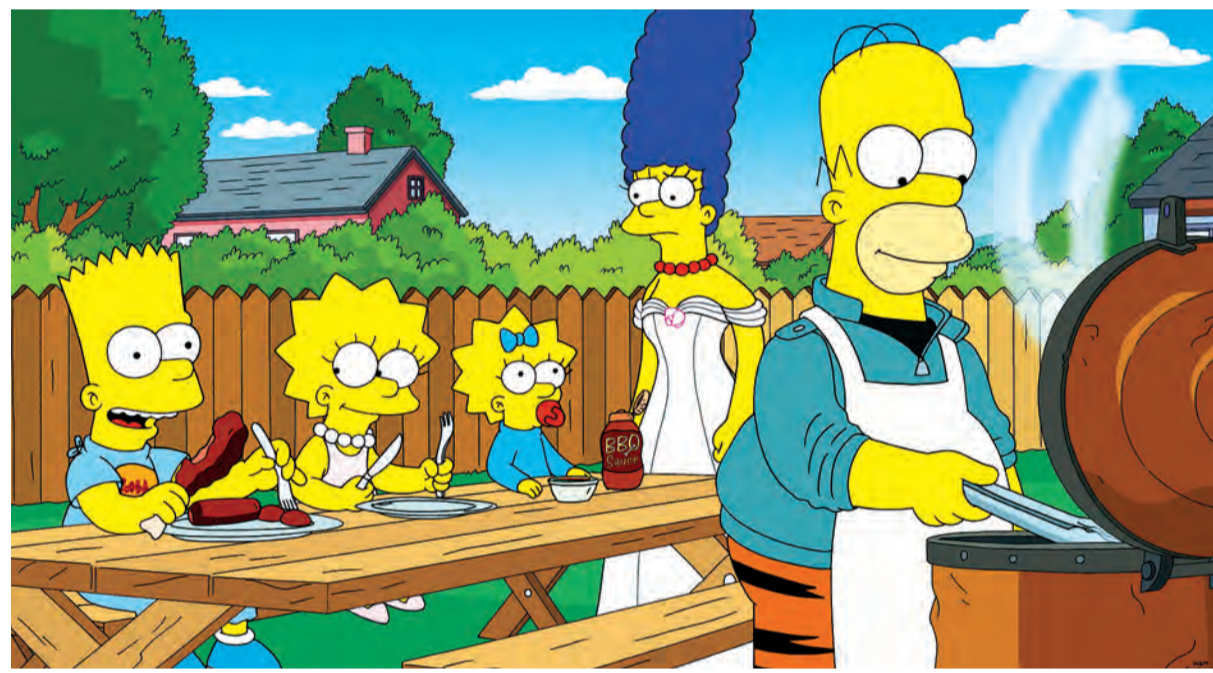


These two file photos show actor Dwayne Johnson (left) during the Warner Bros premiere of 'Central Intelligence' in Westwood, California, on June 10, 2016; and actor Vin Diesel (right) in the press room during the People's Choice Awards 2016 at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California, on January 6, 2016. — AFP

'Croods 2' release pushed back to 2018

Fox has moved DreamWorks Animation's family film "The Croods 2" from 2017 to an unknown date in 2018. The animated film had been set to hit theaters on Dec 22, 2017, but Fox has moved its own "The Story of Ferdinand" into that slot. Based on the classic 1936 children's book, "Ferdinand" was previously set to open July 21, 2017. Fox has handled DreamWorks Animation's release slate since 2013, starting with "The Croods," but it's uncertain how much longer it will do so following Comcast-owned NBCUniversal's acquisition of DreamWorks Animation in April. The \$3.8 billion deal is expected to close by the end of the year with Jeffrey Katzenberg stepping down as CEO to pursue new ventures.

Three other DreamWorks movies are set to be released through "Trolls" on Nov 4; "Boss Baby" on March 31, 2017; and "Captain Underpants" on June 2, 2017. Universal had no comment on "The Croods 2." "The Croods," produced for \$135 million, was a major success, grossing \$587.2 million at the worldwide box office. The film was set in a pre-historic era and starred Nicolas Cage, Emma Stone, Ryan Reynolds, Catherine Keener, Clark Duke, and Cloris Leachman. — Reuters



In this image released by Fox, characters, from left, Bart, voiced by Nancy Cartwright, Lisa, voiced by Yeardley Smith, Maggie, Marge, voiced by Julie Kavner and Homer, voiced by Dan Castellaneta appear in a scene from the animated series, "The Simpsons." — AP

'The Simpsons' to air first one-hour episode; poor Mr Burns

"The Simpsons" is doubling down with an hour-long episode in January. It will be the first time the half-hour animated series has expanded to a full hour, Fox said Monday. Al Jean, executive producer of the series that revels in daring humor, included a political shot in announcing the episode. "I just pray it won't be the last thing people see before a Trump inauguration," Jean said in a statement.

Taraji P Henson, who plays Cookie on Fox's "Empire," and Keegan-Michael Key will guest star. Henson voices Praline, the

former wife of a music mogul who has conned Mr Burns into bankruptcy. Key voices a rapper, Jazzy James, who joins with Praline, Homer and Bart to help Mr. Burns seek revenge. The airdate for the episode, titled "The Great Phatsby," a play on the classic "The Great Gatsby," was not announced. "The Simpsons" begins its 28th season on Sept 25, and will reach its 600-episode milestone Oct 16. — AP

Grant admits film acting makes him 'a little sad'

Interviewing Hugh Grant—the poster boy for a campaign against press intrusion and a notoriously prickly subject when the mood takes him—can be an intimidating experience. When the actor sits down at a hotel in Beverly Hills to promote his latest movie, "Florence Foster Jenkins," he looks ill at ease but determined to be on form, politely offering coffee and forcing a smile. "I'm lovely in some interviews, I'm a little ratty in others. For some reason I'm ratty with those showbiz shows—'Extra' or 'ET'—they're too in my face," he explains.

"The big celebrity ones," he says, affecting a southern California "Valley Girl" accent. "I grind my teeth in them." Grant, 55, is the most high-profile face of the Hacked Off campaign against criminality and corruption in the British tabloids for the last five years. But he is something of a paradox—one hand campaigning to protect ordinary people from the worst excesses of Fleet Street and on the other taking a torch to his own privacy whenever a microphone is shoved before him. In the week leading to his interview with AFP, Grant was all over the world's print and online media and volunteered several revealing anecdotes on America's late night chatshow circuit.

On James Corden's "Late Late Show," he gleefully told of an emotional breakdown during which he "couldn't stop crying for three weeks"—a story he rounded off with an amusing vignette about a disastrous visit to a hypnotist. "Maybe I didn't think that one through. Really I was just trying to get to the hypnotist anecdote which I thought was quite a funny one," he tells AFP.

"Full of fear"
"With all of these things, you're on these shows, you've got to think of something funny to say and you make catastrophic mistakes all the time." Grant, whose breakthrough role came in the Richard Curtis-scripted "Four Weddings a Funeral" in 1994, has gone on to become one of the most bankable stars in Hollywood. His 25 films have earned well in excess of \$2 billion, not to mention a Golden Globe, yet he doesn't exactly brim with pride when asked about his back catalogue. "I'm glad that some of them were successful and pleased people," he offers.

"I take the Richard Curtis line, because he's a great advocate of commercial films and how difficult they are to do well, as opposed to arty-farty films which tend to get more prizes. He argues it's a little easier to please a small audience in Hampstead or the Village in New York than it is to please a mass audience across the world, and there's a sort of snobbishness about that." Grant says he was "full of fear" after being cast by director Stephen Frears to star alongside Meryl Streep in "Florence Foster Jenkins," the moving and hilarious biopic of a tone-deaf wannabe soprano which hits US theaters on Friday.

More than 30 years after his film debut, Grant still suffers from sudden, crippling attacks of stage fright, which he tries to keep at bay with morning runs and doses of the stress reliever Rescue Remedy. He had a scene with Streep which had to be re-shot twice after he was hit by what he describes as a panic attack.

"You're doing an easy-peasy moment and you've rehearsed it well and suddenly they say 'Right, let's shoot it close up now, Hugh' and bang!" he says. "Sweat, tension—it's so ridiculous."

"Never quite as good"
Grant thinks he would be fine "poncing about" on the stage, as his attacks are a unique affliction of film acting, brought on by "having my head in the little box in close-up." Having started out in regional theater before touring London's club circuit with his own comedy

revue, Grant claims to have enjoyed treading the boards. "Not so much in the cinema, to be absolutely honest. I was talking to Kevin Bacon last night at a screening and we agreed you always go home a little sad," he says. "You're marvelous in rehearsal and in the wide shot, which you never really use in the edit, and when it finally gets to your close-up, you always clench up a bit. You're never quite as good."

Grant's self-deprecation often seems calculated to deflect questions that require deeper self-analysis, though he admits to being a tough person to work with at times. Jon Stewart famously banned him from "The Daily Show" in 2012 after the actor had a backstage tantrum over the cutting of a joke from a clip for his latest film. The host described his interviewee as the worst guest ever, adding: "And we've had dictators on the show." Grant also admits to riling colleagues by getting involved in parts of the filmmaking process that ought not to concern him, and says the habit of a lifetime resurfaced on the set of "Florence Foster Jenkins." "I interfere in stuff that's none of my business, like where the camera should be," he says. "But to be fair to Stephen Frears, he was very welcoming of that kind of stuff." — AFP



This file photo shows Hugh Grant as he attends the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) Annual Grants Banquet, in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

Essentials for a San Francisco trip: Classics to what's new



The Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco skyline from the Marin Headlands above Sausalito, Calif.



A woman and boy walk past the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. — AP photos



People sit by windows in The View lounge as the sun sets in San Francisco.



A couple stands by the pool at the Tonga Room in San Francisco.



A row of felucca fishing boats docked together at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

Some things in San Francisco never change. The Golden Gate Bridge is still, in fact, orange; Lombard Street still has eight hairpin turns in one block. But if it's been awhile since you were here, you'll be wowed by the Ferry Building's transformation.

Here's a rundown on attractions old, new and refurbished in one of the country's most vibrant, beautiful and exciting cities.

What's new

The Exploratorium, the city's hands-on science museum, has moved to spiffy new headquarters on the waterfront at Pier 15. Featuring indoor and outdoor exhibits, this museum is great for kids but there's plenty for adults, too. Learn about plankton populations, crawl through the pitch-black tactile dome or step into the mobile camera obscura and view the world upside down. On Thursday nights, the museum shows an edgier side with adult-only events.

SOMA - the area south of Market Street - has boomed and busted with the tech economy, but right now it's all about the boom. Tweet from the street (after all Twitter HQ is just around the corner), stop for a bite at a food truck, or take in the sunset from the View Lounge at the Marriott Marquis, where the view includes Moscone Center, which will host the interactive NFL Experience for the Super Bowl in February, and AT&T Ballpark, home of the San Francisco Giants.

Classic attractions

The Golden Gate Bridge is only 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers) long, but its appeal spans the world. You can drive, bike or walk across to the Marin Headlands. Ride the cable cars from downtown to Chinatown or the waterfront. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the end-of-the-line turnarounds or online.

The former federal prison of Alcatraz, once home to Al Capone, used to be a place people tried to escape; now it can be tough to get in. Book well in advance if you want to go; the Alcatraz Cruises ferries leave from Pier 33. Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 are must-sees for many. Get crab and shrimp cocktails from one of the many vendors lining the sidewalks, walk around the Musée Mécanique for some old-school arcade fun at Pier 45, pick up that tacky T-shirt you've been yearning for. Don't forget Boudin's Bakery, which has turned the city's famous sourdough bread into an art form.

Lombard Street is a fun place to visit, not a great place to drive. The section of eight hairpin turns, one way, downhill, starts at Hyde Street. Best place to take a picture is at the bottom of the block on Leavenworth Street. In the mood for sea air? Head out to the ruined Sutro Baths at Ocean Beach, once an indoor swimming pool complex, now an interesting place to walk around. The Cliff House nearby serves everything from a cup of clam chowder at the bar to high-end fare at Sutro's, a restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows offering amazing views of the coastline.

Tips

Tickets to most attractions can be purchased online. Wear comfortable shoes - the hills really do go halfway to the stars - and dress in layers. Days can swing from chilly to balmy in minutes.

Hanging out

Like most great cities, San Francisco is a good place to wander. A neighborhood worth exploring is North Beach, which does not have a beach but does have sidewalk cafes, shops and the landmark Church of Saints Peter and Paul.

Coit Tower at the top of Telegraph Hill is a good photo point. Inside you'll find floor-to-ceiling murals showing scenes of early San Francisco. Buy a ticket at the gift shop, \$6 for adults, to ride the elevator and get 360-degree views of the city. Another good place to find sustenance is the Ferry Building on Embarcadero, now home to cafes, stores, a thriving farmers market three days a week and, yes, even ferry rides.



The sun sets on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco.

If you want to shop until your credit rating drops, head for Union Square, home to Neiman Marcus, high-end boutiques and a huge Macy's. If you walk past the Sir Francis Drake hotel on Powell Street, look for the doorman: It might be Tom Sweeney, a familiar city sight in his beefeater suit, who's been whistling for cabs for 40 years.

More into culture than couture? The city is home to several museums, including the SFMOMA, closed right now for renovations but set for a grand reopening in May. The California Academy of Sciences, with its living roof, is a good place for all ages, and The Walt Disney Family Museum, offers a seriously entertaining look at the life of one of America's great innovators.

And there's no better place to get your tiki on than The Tonga Room at the Fairmont Hotel, a former indoor swimming pool now featuring nightly rainstorms, tropical drinks and the Island Groove Band. It's the sort of experience that has to be seen to be appreciated. Kind of like San Francisco itself. — AFP



Chief doorman Tom Sweeney whistles for a cab outside the Sir Francis Drake hotel in San Francisco.



A pair of cable cars go past each other on Powell Street atop Nob Hill in San Francisco.



Australian singer and songwriter Sia performs during Byblos International Art Festival, north of the Lebanese capital Beirut yesterday. — AFP



Finnish actor Jasper Paakkonen throws water on the hot stones inside the trendy new boutique sauna called Loyly (Finnish for 'Steam').



Head of Burger King's Finnish subsidiary Mikael Backman poses for a picture.

Feeling the heat: Public saunas cool again in Finland

Is stripping down and getting sweaty with strangers your kind of thing? In Finland, despite an astounding two million private saunas, the hottest trend sweeping the sweat-tank loving country is public saunas. They're Helsinki's coolest spots this summer, drawing Finns and tourists of all ages to unwind on wooden benches in slick waterfront locales where the mercury hits at least 80 degrees Celsius (176 degrees Fahrenheit). A trendy new boutique sauna called Loyly (Finnish for "Steam") opened its doors on the capital's shoreline in May and was such an instant hit that an online reservation is a must on sunny days.

On a recent visit, a group of men and women who went to university together celebrated Linnea Remes' 27th birthday by having a sauna—a normal thing for friends in Finland where saunas are an integral part of daily life and all major celebrations year-round. Remes has a sauna at home up to four times a week so her birthday choice was not for want of a good sweat. "We thought that this was a fun way to pass time together and enjoy ourselves," Remes told AFP on the seaside terrace where the group cooled off before another round in the hotbox.

Finnish sanctuary

The sauna can be a moment to destress or a complement to a good workout. A couple of rounds is typical, with a cool shower and maybe a drink in between, or preferably a dip into a lake or the sea. In winter, a roll in the snow is even better. But saunas have been used for bigger goals—sealing business deals and even serious diplomacy. During the Cold War, Urho Kekkonen, who served as president for 26 years, negotiated with Soviet diplomats in the sauna of his official residence.

It is precisely the social aspect of a public sauna that explains its country-wide renaiss-

sance. Over the centuries Finns used saunas for washing, relaxing and even giving birth. But the modern luxury of running water in virtually all residences spelt the demise of the popular old public sauna as people started installing their own private hot rooms. Nowadays most houses and new apartments in Finland come with a private sauna. Statistics Finland estimates there are more than two million saunas for a nation of 5.5 million people. At the same time, one in five Finns today lives on their own.

Common experience

"Many people live alone nowadays but yearn for that sense of community and common experience. A sauna is the best for that, an intimate place where you can exchange ideas with whomever happens to sit next to you," said Raoul Grunstein, head of Allas Sea Pool, another new public sauna and spa set to open this month. Grunstein has such faith in the appeal of public saunas that he and his partners invested 10 million euros (\$11 million) in the spa, which has three saunas and three pools floating in the sea right on Helsinki's main market square opposite the presidential palace.

Like Loyly, the facility boasts striking Nordic design and architecture. Loyly's owners-lawmaker Antero Vartia and actor Jasper Paakkonen, known to international audiences for his role in the Irish-Canadian TV series Vikings spent big, investing 6.3 million euros (\$6.9 million) in a cubic design that holds three traditional wood-heated saunas, one of them a chimneyless smoke sauna. "The city's tourism authorities have told us they believe this will shortly become one of Helsinki's top three attractions," Paakkonen said.

At Loyly's, Priya Selvaraj, a 42-year-old professor visiting from Chennai, India, marvelled at the experience, including a courageous post-sauna dip into the Baltic Sea, where water was a downright chilly 11 degrees Celsius (52 degrees

Fahrenheit). "I have taken sauna treatments back home in the southern part of India... and it's not new to us," she said, "but to have a country or a city where it's thriving on spas...!"



Finnish actor Jasper Paakkonen sits in the trendy new boutique sauna called Loyly (Finnish for 'Steam'), in Helsinki. — AFP photos

Burgers and saunas

The sauna's appeal is so strong in Finland that even the US-based fastfood chain Burger King wants its Finnish shops to partake: it recently opened a sauna at one of its Helsinki restaurants, available for groups upon reservation. The revival of public saunas goes back to 2011 when a few Helsinki residents built Sompassauna, an unlicensed sauna made of waste materials in the middle of an old harbor-turned-construction site. The city's first reaction was to tear it down. But the free-of-charge, mixed and nude sauna appealed to many and its fans have rebuilt the small shack every spring. This year the city honored it as Helsinki's "cultural act" of the year. — AFP



A large view of the trendy new boutique sauna called Loyly (Finnish for 'Steam'), in Helsinki.