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Kuwait Times **Friday Times**



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**Amir congratulates
Kuwaiti Olympic
Gold medalist**

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**Clinton, Obama
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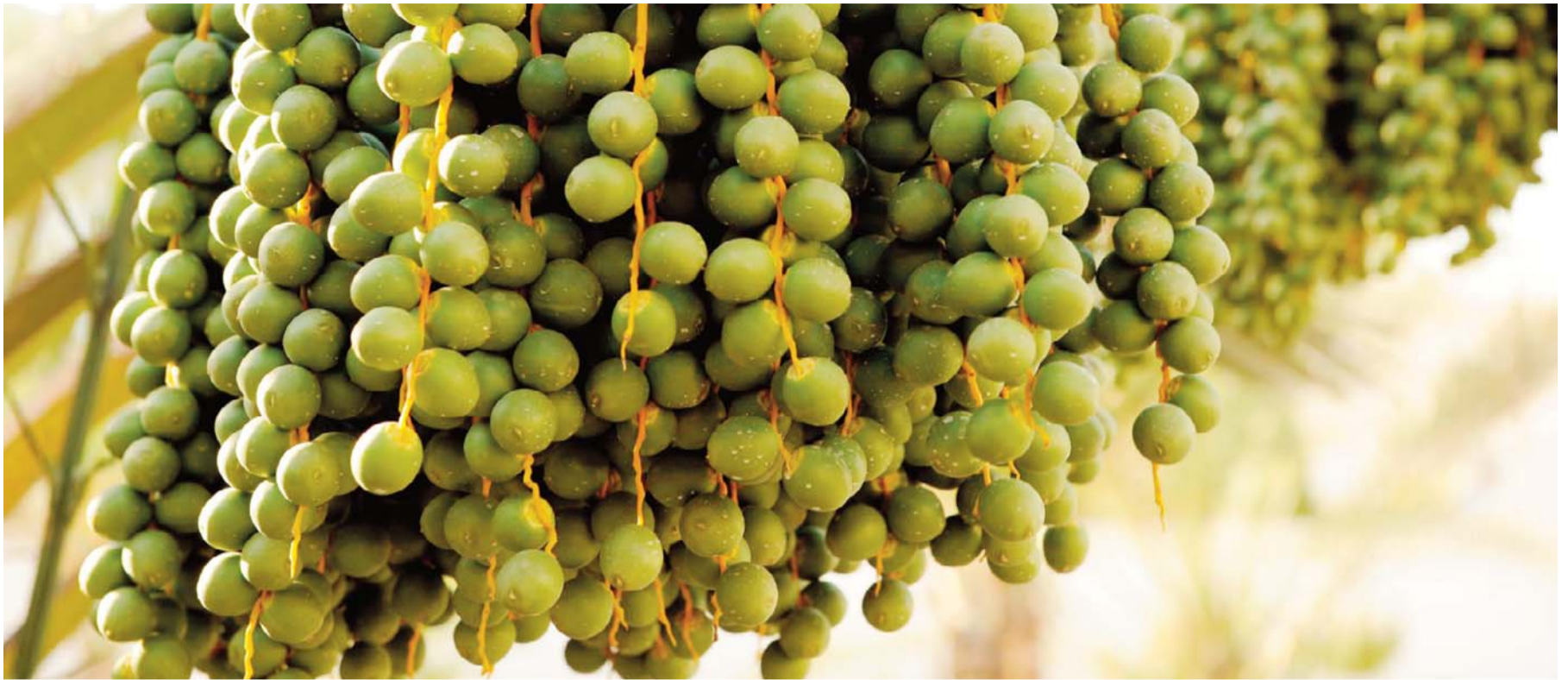
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with storming win**

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Amir grants citizenship to 300

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Kuwaiti dates are now coming into season though these are not yet ready for harvest. — Photo by Ahmed Srour/Kuna

In my view

BE AN AMBASSADOR WHILE ON HOLIDAY



By Nawara Fattahova

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When police in a European country stopped Kuwaiti student Mohammed during a routine inspection, they allegedly tried hard to find any violation to make him pay a fine, as he is from an oil-rich country. When Emily goes on vacation back home to the US, she regularly faces comments that she must be rich because she is working in Kuwait, although she is not even Kuwaiti. People from her town have based these prejudices on the experience of just three people who worked in Kuwait for really high salaries.

Ghada, an Arab expat living in Kuwait, experiences similar situations every time she visits her home country. "People think I'm rich just because I work in Kuwait. They think money is raining here, and don't know that I'm just a normal employee," she told Kuwait Times.

Such preconceived notions can be annoying or embarrassing, but the matter does not stop here. Some people get a wrong opinion about an entire nation based on the actions of a few. Kuwaitis are known for travelling to almost every corner of the globe. As some of these places are not very popular with tourists, residents there have only met a few Kuwaitis, and they have built a view about the nation based on the behavior of these tourists. So if these tourists do not behave properly, people will think all Kuwaitis are the same.

Many Europeans have negative views about Arabs and Muslims in general, especially after the spate of terrorist attacks in the past few years. And indeed, the behavior of many Arab tourists is unacceptable when they visit Europe. With the advent of social media, many boorish acts in public have been amplified, with people whipping out their smartphones and recording

them. For instance, last year the most popular video was of young guys who hunted a duck in a lake in Austria, which is banned there. Another video was of children riding a hoverboard in the lobby of a luxury hotel in London, with a security guard in pursuit. The most disgusting video this year was of a group of Saudi tourists who hunted a giraffe in a park in an African country, then ate it after skinning it.

Many people act uncivilized when they go on vacation. There's something about being a tourist that causes you to forget common sense and basic manners. We are no exception to the rule. Throwing waste in public places is common for some Arab tourists, who think that cleaners will always pick it up, and don't consider it a serious issue. Also, they think the same when leaving a hotel or apartment they've rented in an untidy condition. But the people of these countries view these as very negative actions by uncivilized people, tarring everyone with the same brush.

On the other hand, a Kuwaiti young woman was involved in a very positive act in the Czech Republic, volunteering to clean up a public park in Teplice, a popular destination for Kuwaiti patients and tourists. She described this as an initiative by her and some other volunteers to change the opinion of the local people about Kuwaitis and Arabs in general, as they are known for leaving a mess after them.

Every tourist should always behave as the ambassador of his or her country.

Local Spotlight

FORGERY OF KD 20!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Two years ago, there was a video on the social media showing the difference between the real 20 Kuwaiti dinar and the fake note. The woman in the video placed the two notes under a UV light and it was clear for all to see the difference. The effect of this was to raise concerns about the safety of the Kuwaiti dinar and some people were even arrested for being involved in counterfeiting schemes. Kuwait's Central Bank, around the same period, addressed the issue of counterfeit currency by launching a new currency design with improved safety features.

Two years on and people have mostly forgotten this issue. A few weeks ago, a taxi driver made another video - which quickly circulated over the social media about being cheated by someone who paid him with a fake KD 20. The man was incensed and eventually he tore up the counterfeit note.

Counterfeiting is a major issue. Many countries, especially those with strong currencies, face this problem and it can have impacts on the stability and confidence in the currency. The problem is even worse for small business owners and those who deal mostly in cash. They rarely have the equipment accessible to check notes for authenticity and typically have no records of their customers. At the end of the day, taxi drivers, baqalas, small restaurants and other cash-only businesses often become key targets for counterfeiters seeking to break fakes into the market because they are more likely to go unchecked.

The most important question is how to distinguish between the real and fake currency? The current currency is not easy to be faked. Here are a few tips to check the authenticity: When you 'scrub' the paper with your finger, counterfeit colors may bleed, but in a real dinar the colors will not bleed. Also, be familiar with security features on the real currency and check for these features on the fake one. The more security features you know, the more likely you are to spot a counterfeit. Pay careful attention to the higher denominations, especially KD 20 as counterfeiters will often try to pass these off in order to get real money back as change. Visit the Central Bank website to learn more about the notes security features' and how to report counterfeits.

<http://www.cbk.gov.kw/en/banknotes-and-coins/banknotes/sixth-issue.jsp>



AMIR, CROWN PRINCE CONGRATULATE OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST AL-DEIHANI

DEIHANI TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY SALARY OF KD 5,000

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable, congratulating the 49-year-old Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Al-Deihani who won a Gold Medal in the men's Double Trap competition at the Rio Olympics. Al-Deihani was a member of the Independent Olympic Athletes (IOA) team, winning them the first ever gold medal since the establishment of the team in 1992. His Highness the Amir stated that this was a huge accomplishment for Al-Deihani, proving the abilities of Kuwaiti athletes to compete and to win medals in the Olympics.

High Highness the Amir wished Al-Deihani all the best in future competitions where he will proudly represent the Kuwaiti flag. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and High Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent cables congratulating Al-Deihani for his outstanding achievement.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said that the gold medal demonstrates competent capabilities of the Kuwaiti youth to challenge hardships facing Kuwaiti sports. Al-Deihani won the gold medal in the men's Double Trap competition in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday - defeating Italy's Marco Innocenti in the final match. "This is an unprecedented historical achievement" for Kuwait, as the first gold medal for Arabs in Rio '16, Minister Sheikh Salman said.

This prompts exerting all efforts to support, and promote Kuwaiti sports on all levels, looking ahead to the future, while standing on a solid national ground with full confidence to conquer the impossibility, the minister added. In spite of the challenges imposed on the Kuwaiti sports, including suspension from international competitions, Kuwait's youth would not surrender and insisted to take part (in Rio'16) under the Olympic flag to prove to the entire world that they are able to represent their

country and promote its status, Sheikh Salman said.

The minister stressed pride by Kuwait's leadership, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, 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, of the Kuwaiti youth and their capabilities of holding the "flag of national responsibility" for the country's progress in all fields. Sheikh Salman congratulated His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, and the Kuwaiti people on the victory, highly appreciating Al-Deihani's efforts and triumph.

Al-Deihani praised

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Dr Hamoud Al-Shemmari said in a statement published in a local newspaper that Kuwait Olympic champion Fahid Deihani will get a monthly salary of KD 5,000 for a period of 4 years. Also the Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah has lauded the Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Al-Deihani for winning the gold medal in Rio de Janeiro.

PAS Director General, in a statement yesterday congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the political leadership and the people of Kuwait on the unprecedented victory. He expressed hope Al-Deihani's accomplishment would pave the way for further sports achievements, in addition to reforming and revamping the sector. Sheikh Ahmad Mansour wished identical success for the other Kuwaiti champions taking part in the international tournament, however, he expressed distress that the Kuwait flag is not being raised during the games. — Agencies



Fehaid Al-Deihani, an independent athlete from Kuwait competing on the Refugee Olympic Team, celebrates his victory at the end of the men's Double Trap gold medal match at Olympic Shooting Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Wednesday, Aug 10, 2016. — AP Photos

in my view

THE GOLD STANDARD

By Ahmad Jabr

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Fehaid Al-Deihani's historic achievement goes beyond being the greatest accomplishment in the history of Kuwait's sports; both in individual and team competitions.

Despite Kuwait being suspended from participating in the 2016 Olympics, a number of Kuwaiti athletes still participated as independent athletes. Some of them received sponsorship from private companies in Kuwait, but not Deehani, who opted to pay for his own trip to Rio and pursue his goal of winning the gold medal. He is the first Kuwaiti athlete to ever bring home a gold. Previously, the veteran Olympian won bronze medals in the 2000 Sydney Olympics and 2012 London Olympics respectively.

That was just one of many adversities that Deehani and other Kuwaiti athletes went through in their journey. Yet, he was able to overcome all obstacles, compete at the highest level of competition and climb his way to the top of the mountain at the grandest stage.

This achievement comes at a very crucial time for Kuwait, in which much hope is pinned on its people and their potential as the country's most valuable asset. Not only does Deehani's feat provide a motivation for young athletes and young people in Kuwait in general, but it also serves as proof that with enough determination and hard work, success can be achieved - whether you have government support or not. Furthermore, it shows that when the opportunity presents itself, Kuwaitis are also willing to take all challenges head-on and not only succeed in what they do, but also excel at it.

Deehani's gold medal is a source of pride and inspiration not only for people in Kuwait and the Gulf region, but also the entire Arab World. Defeatism, hopelessness, frustration and despair overwhelm a large segment of young men and women in the Arab World today. Many of them have lost hope and believe that no matter how hard they try, the 'system' is just not designed to give them any chance to succeed. But with this gold medal, Deehani has shown that once you set your eyes on a certain goal and be willing to make the extra effort, nothing can stand in your way to success - not even failure or backstage politics.

Deehani had all the reasons not to be successful. No one could probably blame him had he not participated in the Olympics to begin with. Yet, here he is today, not only competing against the best athletes the world has to offer, but also emerging victorious and bringing home the gold.

Kuwait can be very proud though it is more than unfortunate that the first ever Olympic gold medal a Kuwaiti has won will never be listed under Kuwait's name in the official records. However, there is no time for Kuwait to feel sad. Instead, Kuwait is filled with pride knowing that the whole world now knows the true potential of its people, and what they are really capable of. And that cannot change, regardless of what flag is raised at the end of the day.



Kuwait pets abandoned in summer travel season

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

It's the time of the year when everybody is off to their perfect summer escapes, or travel back home to visit their loved ones. It's also the time when you see thousands of pictures on social media of cute pets laying down in suitcases or hiding in backpacks. It's the most stressful time for pets when their owners travel and leave them home alone. Although many have the money to spend on a summer holiday outside the country, not everyone is willing to spend to secure a safe place for their pets while they're away.

Unfortunately, there are no accurate statistics on the number of pets abandoned by their travelling owners, but in Kuwait, such cases abound during the summer. "I will open the door to them so they can survive on the street," said a woman who refused to put her cats in a boarding service.

Boarding Services

"In Kuwait, abandonment cases increase and adoption rates go down during the summer. I've seen some owners who tie their dogs in front of my house and flee because they know that I run an animal shelter," said Ali Al-Saadi, a 29-year-old who himself suffered when he was young because he wasn't able to keep his beloved dog after his father gave it away to someone else. He took an oath then to run a shelter for pets whose owners are no longer capable of looking after them.

Saadi offers boarding services for those who don't want to give up their pets completely. "They can come anytime to visit their pets and play with them. I keep them with me for a minimum amount of money and care for them myself with three helpers. I promote my shelter '5la_3ndy' through Instagram, and right now, I am caring for more than 70 pets," he told Kuwait Times. Saadi believes that his shelter has helped give a second chance to both pets and their owners to remain together.

Not all boarding services in Kuwait are licensed. Some will

exploit pets left by their owners by using them for mating. To emphasize this point, I randomly contacted a "cat hotel" in Kuwait run by a young woman. The moment she came to know that my cat is a purebred, she offered to mate my cat and share the profits of selling her kittens.

Friends and Families

Some people leave their pets with friends and family members, if they're lucky enough to find someone who's willing to help. Hussain Al-Qatari, a PR officer, usually travels between two weeks to a month. "I always let my friends or family take care of the cats when I am gone. They get a key to my house and visit whenever they can. I also leave extra supplies of water and food to be on the safe side," said Qatari.

"Boarding services are overpriced in Kuwait. The facilities are in fact inconvenient. Facility owners do not take into consideration the fact that the pets will be brought away from their comfort zone and familiar territory, and that there is a risk of contracting diseases and infections from other animals. I would much rather that my pets stay at home in their territory," said Qatari, searching for prices of boarding services affiliated with pet hospitals and clinics. "I wouldn't trust the ones run by individuals who are not dedicated fulltime to this task," he said.

"The pets in our house are an important part of our daily life.

My family and I cannot imagine living without them. We have three cats. Keeping animals in the house is not a luxury. I feel it is important because they're our companions. They add so much - in my case with cats, aside from killing and catching pests occasionally, they also create a very loving atmosphere that takes away from your everyday stressful routine" concluded Qatari.

Trust

Like Hussain, Norah Al-Mansour, a teacher, prefers someone she can trust to care for her darlings. "I've been a pet sitter myself. Sometimes, I pet sit cats and dogs by going to their home to change their water and feed them. It's a huge obligation to care for others' pets, as they might get injured under your care. You must also be careful as you might put your own pets at risk when you pet sit someone else's. I wouldn't do pet sitting for strangers though. Pet sitting is important for those who travel a lot and don't have family to help while they're away," she added.

Norah is very passionate about animals and their quality of life. She's been taking in orphaned and injured animals and bringing them home and offering them for adoption through her Instagram account @animalshields. This has only been possible due to the support of her loving mother. "Kuwait needs more shelters and it's my dream to run one someday, as I can only do very little from home," she said.



Hussain Al-Qatari, animal lover and cat rescuer.



Norah Al-Mansour, runs @Animalshields shelter.
— Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Stress

"Most pets are comfortable with routine. Vacations and boarding usually mean that the animals' routine is changed. This can be due to changes in location, hours of activities, people, food, etc. All this can cause stress to animals," said Jameela Al-Nakkas, a senior veterinary technology student in Australia. She said the best thing about being a vet tech is client education. "We are responsible for teaching clients how to care for their pets, such as what food to feed, housing, parasite prevention and general care. In addition, it is part of our jobs to be supportive and caring, especially during euthanasia, for clients and for the staff," she explained.

Jameela added that some animals are okay with change and most adapt pretty quickly, but this can be considered somewhat of a stressor. Friends and family are usually better for pets to stay with if they are familiar with their carers. "With boarding facilities (pet hotels) and hospitals, it is essential to make sure the animal is up-to-date on their vaccines and are not immuno-compromised (too young, too old, have immune system disease, pregnant, etc) to avoid catching any diseases. Some places even require special vaccinations to ensure that this doesn't occur, such as kennel cough vaccine," said Nakkas.

"In general, boarding is a stressor, and stress (a mental health issue) has effects on physical health as well, especially for young,



Ali Al-Saadi, owner of the @5la_3ndy animal shelter in Kuwait.

old, pregnant and immune-compromised pets. Also, with animals that have separation anxiety issues, being away from their primary carer can be very difficult for them. I personally prefer boarding services that are qualified (that meet international and personal standards). Pet sitters are also a great option that is usually greatly less stressful for the animals," she said. "Moving the animal can be made easier by slowly getting the animal used to the new place or carer, using calming tools such as food, supplements, sprays, etc. A vet can also prescribe antianxiety medicine if possible. Bringing toys, blankets and food may help as well," added Nakkas.

Planning your next holiday, tour or safari? Think in advance about the destiny of your pet. Don't leave it all to the last minute. Having pets should be taken seriously and not as some people do, who buy them to entertain their kids, and with the first problem, the pets get abandoned.

Guidelines for choosing a boarding service, these are ASPCA recommended:

1. Cleanliness. Which includes a daily cleaning routine, clean staff uniform, clean housing, etc.
2. Appropriate fencing/housing to prevent animal injury or escape.
3. The number of staff should be appropriate to the number of animals on board. The ASPCA recommends that the maximum should be 15 animals per person.
4. The staff must have experience with handling the animals, knowing their needs, knowing CPR and first aid and have a vet on premises or on call.
5. If their animals are mixed together they should have a behaviour assessment and sorting process and the proper knowledge to break fights. They must also know how to introduce animals together.
6. They must ask about the special needs of your pet and what they can offer. Especially sending pictures and all.

Written by Jameela Al-Nakkas - Veterinary Technology Senior Student - The University of Queensland, Australia.



Jameela Al-Nakkas, Veterinary Technology Senior Student - The University of Queensland

And the winner is...

Lucky winner
of our
car raffle draw
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KUWAIT AL THURAYA CITY

In her VOICE

AN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI POET NEJOUND AL-YAGOUT

By Jamie Etheridge

Kuwait Times: Tell me about Ounces of Oneness. What is the inspiration for this work? What does the title refer to? What are the main themes/ideas?

Nejoud Al-Yagout: Spiritual awakening is a terrifying journey. We associate it with light; and sugarcoat the darkness. This journey of light, of darkness in itself was my inspiration. The title indicates stepping into the forum of non-duality, in ounces; as the narrator has only grasped oneness conceptually as yet. The main themes are the dark night of the soul, universality in an era of heightened awareness and the energy of universality that kisses our being constantly, asking us to awaken from the illusion of separation and divisiveness.

KT: This is your third book of poetry. How do you see Ounces of Oneness differing from This Is An Imprint and Awake in the Game of Pretending?

Nejoud: I don't believe in favorites, as I change with the flow or flow with the changes, for that matter; but I must add it's different because it was incredibly easy to write, though it wore me out completely. In fact, merely the idea of publishing another book right now makes me weary!

KT: Can you tell me a bit about the evolution of your writing? How has it changed/developed/evolved over the course of the three books? Do you see significant changes in your approach/subject matter/point of view?

Nejoud: I cannot say whether it has evolved, but I am now reaching parts of me that were previously untouched. And I keep tapping more and more into the collective - somehow - as I navigate both my darkness and unknown spiritual terrain. There is more compassion for what we perceive as evil after becoming acquainted with my own demons. This is particularly evident in Ode to a Terrorist. I could have never written a poem like that in the past, because I was trapped in polarized thinking. I still am, but I am aware of being trapped, and the voice inside of me is nudging me toward liberation from polarities via the channel of poetry.

KT: Much of your work is about self-awareness, about the journey of self-discovery and spiritual awakening. How does that resonate with the readership in Kuwait? Do you find that readers understand or get what you are trying to say? Do you think these ideas reflect a frustration within the society as a whole?



Nejoud Al-Yagout. Photographed by Djinane Alsuwayeh

Nejoud: It resonates because it is something within us all, albeit beneath layers of dogma and conditioning.

Sometimes, when I am addressing the divine, readers think I am referring to a lover; but I never interfere with a person's interpretation unless asked to do so. Especially since I do touch on human love often. As for spiritual awakening, people are frustrated with our incessant need to belittle the "other." Awareness is certainly a remedy in that it liberates us from allegiance to harmful institutions that were considered glorious in days of yore.

KT: Some of your work hints at social or political commentary. Such as: Scattered bullets, scraped knees on

side-streets of devotion, a heart bleeding in overdrive, tears for an ounce of oneness Nobody can quite explain it, but we choose to go to hell for one another to find our paradise on the way to: this

Some readers may interpret this as referring to a particular conflict. Do you mean to imply or hint at this or is this a way of using the metaphor of war to describe personal conflict? Do you think that you incorporate violence as a metaphor as a result of the regional turbulence and instability? How does this impact your work overall?

Nejoud: The bullets are representative of war, yes. We must transcend violence and madness in order to reach a point where we no longer feel separate from one another. The tears are all prerequisites for love, for feeling we are one.

This poem addresses the notion that we would willingly enter hell to experience paradise with someone. This is not an enviable position at all; for hell is what arises when we glamorize or grow accustomed to torment. Love is way too grand and has no place in either hell or heaven. The concept of agony and bliss in a relationship is something we will eventually unlearn in order to experience what is beyond both. Otherwise, we will bounce from one extreme to another, as if oft the case with many ships sailing the seas of connection: relationships, friendships, partnerships.

KT: What to you are the most important concerns that poets in Kuwait and region today are discussing?

Nejoud: Censorship. Many writers still write in metaphors or avoiding writing altogether. I have a friend whose poetry would blow you away, and she wants to share her verse with the world; but she cannot publish her work because her family would disown her as she speaks of love and intimacy. How could she know love as a married woman stuck in a marriage of convenience?

In terms of my writing, sometimes I have to provoke others in order to honor what presents itself to me in my inner world. Evidently, if I am defending those who are ostracized, some people may get offended, but the oh yes inside of me is more potent than the oh no! And, in turn, love is more potent than political correctness. Love certainly propels me and is quite insistent.

On a personal level, I am not interested in poking fun at others' beliefs. Even when I employ satirical verse, or criticize our arrogant ways, it is because I am frustrated that we have not yet learned how to love, myself included. Writing is there to assist my own self-evolution and shed my own darkness, first and foremost.

KT: How do you see the literary scene in Kuwait (Arabic or English)? Do you think its thriving or otherwise?

Nejoud: It is thriving. I have been introduced to so many talented writers here, published and unpublished. In terms of language, we should always write in the language of the voice in our heads, regardless of nationality.

WHERE TO FIND 'OUNCES OF ONENESS'

KT: When and where will Ounces of Oneness be available for readers in Kuwait? Will you be doing public readings/book signings or other events that readers should look out for?

Nejoud: It's available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, FriesenPress, iBooks and other online retailers. My book launch will probably be at the end of September. I never know where my book will end up locally, but Dar Nur and Q8 Bookstore (in the Yarmouk Cultural Center) have been my greatest supporters and always stock my babies. CAP Gallery has also stocked my books before. As for readings, I usual-

ly announce them on social media. The very idea makes me tremble! I always say that publicly reciting is as appealing to me as dancing with lions or waltzing with crocodiles. I don't think I can ever get used to it. But the life-force within me finds ways to get me out there somehow. And, for now, bless diversions and disguises!

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BOOK REVIEW



OUNCES OF ONENESS

by Nejoud Al Yagout

A review by Jamie Etheridge

Letting go of our stereotypes, transcending the labels that bind and define us is never easy. But in her third collection of poetry, Kuwaiti poet Nejoud Al-Yagout takes the reader on a spiritual journey, asking him/her to peel away the layers of preconceived notions, to 'shift the paradigms' of our thinking, to let the masks of our outer selves fall away and to seek a deeper understanding with ourselves and the universe.

I've been a fan of Ms Al-Yagout's writing since her seminal work, *This Is An Imprint*, hit the shelves in Kuwait in 2015. Soft spoken in person and in her poetry, Ms Al-Yagout is a well known literary figure in Kuwait and easily bridges the local vs expat divide, writing in English and often reading / performing at local literary events. Her poetry is smooth and subtle in its approach and yet brave and daring in how it challenges the reader to let drop the veils of self delusion and "rise above superficiality," an all too familiar problem in the world these days.

Al-Yagout sets out to awaken the reader's spirituality, evoking the harmony of love and the universality of inner awareness. She dares the reader through subtle verse and clever wordplay to connect with his inner guru and to seek out self inquiry as a means to enlightenment. Her poems gently poke and prod at our egos and shallow exteriors, taking us for an evening stroll along the waterfront edge of self awareness, where she then invites us to trade haughty conventions for the purity of love and the possibility of renewal.

At times playful and irreverent, *Ounces of Oneness* circles the loci of the soul, gently inviting the reader to closer inspection of the inner. Al-Yagout rejects the muddy, war-torn realities of the external for the swaying, dancing lightness of introspection. She also teaches us through quiet persuasion to relinquish the

labels and social divides we hold dear as in 'Universality':

Allow me the honor to love those you hate,
to include those you exclude
Allow me the honor to make peace with those
upon whom you declare war and allow me to
befriend your enemies
Let me kiss those from other sects, faiths
and make love to the wayward, the wizards,
the astray, the clowns and so-called fools
I didn't come all the way to earth
to love only you
I didn't come all the way to earth
to love only me

In what is definitely my favorite, Al-Yagout pays tribute to the symbolism of her arid homeland in the moving, *Dunes*:

I wash my face in a mirage,
becoming water
I do not care or perhaps I care
too much
about sandstorms,
cacti, falcons
and all that jazz,
but I know so well:
We are dunes.
And I can finally breathe.

Not all her poems, however, seek the sanctity of inner spirituality. As a poet living in one of the most troubled regions in the world, Yagout does not shy away from commenting on the headlines. In 'Ode to a Terrorist', written after a Saudi suicide bomber killed 27 worshippers and wounded dozens more in June 2015 at the Imam al Sadiq mosque in Kuwait City, she takes on the question of ideology, hate and the damage it does.

In simple yet elegant language, *Ounces of Oneness* invites the reader to see past the chaos and, looking inward, recognize the essence of the divine in us all.

Ounces
of
Oneness
by Nejoud Al-Yagout

MUNICIPALITY CONDUCTS INSPECTION CAMPAIGN IN AL-RAI AND SHUWAIKH

KUWAIT: The Municipality's emergency team yesterday conducted a broad inspection campaign in the areas of Al-Rai and Al-Shuwaikh, which focused on sheep pens and food storages. The operation was carried out as a preparatory measure before Eid Al-Adha, where a ton of rancid food was found, a statement by the Municipality noted. Moreover, the search operation also targeted restaurants, shops and storages in efforts to ensure that food served to patrons meets hygiene standards, said Municipal official Ammar Al-Ammar.

Meanwhile, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) has recorded four infractions for several food stores and slaughterhouses that have been operating sans commercial permits, in an impromptu search operation conducted in conjunction with the Municipality. In a press statement, EPA official Dr. Mishal Al-Ibrahim said that the violations have been noted in Al-Rai area, as these places have been found to not meet health and environmental standards.

Furthermore, speaking on lax regulations in such areas, Al-Ibrahim under-

scored the need of further stringent inspection, adding that the operation comes in compliance with the country's new environmental protection law. Head of EPA's public relations department Dr Khaled Al-Enezi noted that some sheep enclosures in Al-Rai area

were found to be unfit to shelter the animals, adding that EPA is hard at work to remedy this issue. He also added that search operations will encompass all of the country's areas and islands to ensure maximal environmental conservation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Emergency team seen during the inspection campaign in Al-Rai, Shuwaikh areas. — KUNA photos

News

in brief

Kuwait oil price down

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went down 32 cents to \$39.46 per barrel Wednesday after it was at \$39.78 pb last Monday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. The price of crude oil went down at the world market by two percent after an unexpected increase in the US crude reserves. The price of West Texas crude went down by \$1.06 to settle at \$41.71 per barrel while the price of the Brent mix was down by 93 cents to \$44.05 pb. American energy reports stated that the crude oil reserves in the US had increased by 1.1 million barrels in the week ending on August fifth, the third increase in three weeks.

Curricula for 'special needs'

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education is working on evaluating the educational curricula for students with special needs, developing a new strategy to progress their learning process, said Education Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curriculum, Dr Saud Al-Harbi. The strategy will be ready at the beginning of the next academic year, Al-Harbi said. The strategy is developed in cooperation with the World Bank and it will overcome the difficulties that might face special needs students at schools and learning facilities, he added. The Ministry of Education is developing all branches of learning in Kuwait to help in the overall progress of the country, affirmed the official.



Dr Saud Al-Harbi

International Youth Day

KUWAIT: The world is set to celebrate the International Youth Day today, established by the UN since 1999 to bring awareness to key issues facing youth and protect their rights. This year's youth day is under the theme "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production", and will mainly focus on the leadership role of youth. Kuwait pays great attention to this category which forms 72 percent of society, as the country established the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs in 2013 by a decree issued by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The ministry has adopted more than 400 youth projects, 30 of these have turned into national youth organizations where other youth are employed. The ministry also encourages voluntary work for youth in all fields, as well as supporting their talents in the cinematic and artistic productions' area. Other activities of the ministry include Kuwait's award for youth excellence and creativity, organizing the first ever conference for the Gulf youth and running specialized programs to boost skills of employees in governmental bodies.

Crime

Report

Two Saudis 'bought' Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT: After going through the nationality files, officials discovered that two Saudis bought Kuwaiti nationalities from a citizen for a total sum of KD 45,000. The Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Nationality and Passport Affairs Major Gen Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah issued an order to open the archive files during an investigation on the case of two 'citizens' who owned a car rental company and used it to bring in laborers. Investigations showed that the suspects are Saudis who bought Kuwait nationality. The suspects were arrested. One confessed to being a Saudi named HR. He said he made agreement with a citizen named AM in 1975 to add him to his file as his son for KD20,000. The other suspect named (AA) said his friend also bought the nationality from the same citizen (AM) through his brother's file. Detectives went to their residence in Ali Sabah Salem and arrested them after they tried to resist arrest. Both the Saudi suspects are wanted in Saudi Arabia on felony and financial crimes.

Awkward talent

A Kuwaiti man who is good at imitating women voices, took advantage of his talent to lure people into immoral acts. The suspect used to call people at random - pretending to be a woman, after which he apologizes for calling the wrong number. He then lured his victims with sexual advances and insults them with a text message "Welcome you sheep... the person who you want to spend the night with is a man like you." He went as far as creating a website, which he used to exploit his victims. Detectives tracked him after receiving information about him and later arrested him.

KD 450 stolen

A citizen told police in Salwa that KD 450 was stolen from his car. Forensic experts went to the site and took the fingerprints. Investigation is ongoing. —Al Rai

NEW BIDAA ROUNDABOUT DETOUR

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Relations and Security Information Department said that a detour on Bidaa roundabout will be opened in the direction of Taawon street towards Messila near Rumaithiya.

Also, the entrance to Al-Qasar area in Jahra will be closed and the alternative loop will be opened for those coming from UN roundabout at dawn on Saturday 13/8.

Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Maj Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary honored none-commissioned officer Abdelhadi Al-Khayat from the specialized training center for taking third place in the Tampa professional body building tournament, in Florida, USA.





KUWAIT: Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visits the headquarters of the General Directorate for Citizenship (GDC). — KUNA photos

AMIR GRANTS CITIZENSHIP TO 300 PERSONS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has gracefully granted citizenship to 300 persons, in the latest Amiri gesture that depicts His Highness' humanitarian approach, announced the Minister of Interior yesterday. The Amiri decision covers 180 children of Kuwaiti widows and divorcees and 120 children and grandchildren of the naturalized "of the legal age," said Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah, who doubles as the Deputy Prime Minister, in a statement, during a visit to headquarters of the General Directorate for Citizenship (GDC).

The graceful Amiri gesture will be officially announced next week after Cabinet's endorsement, the minister said, while he was looking, first-hand, into the question of passports' issue delay at the GDC. Falsifying the citizenship "is not allowed at all," he said, alluding to some

such cases where culprits must be uncovered. Minister Sheikh Mohammad indicated that he would follow up on replacement of old passports with electronic ones, simultaneously with applying the DNA print.

He urged the department personnel to maintain secrecy of the personal data, serve the citizens in the best fashion possible and deal humanely with special needs' cases. Separately, the minister examined Saad Al-

Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, namely the revamping schemes. The academy, in the coming two years, will be subject to comprehensive review of its curricula, teachers' competence and training methods, Sheikh Mohammad declared. He underscored necessity of cadets' dispatch to foreign states for specialized studies, particularly in sectors where such education is needed, namely the Coast Guards and the Police Air Force. — KUNA

AUSTRALIA BLOCKS ELECTRICITY NETWORK SALE TO ASIAN BIDDERS AMID SECURITY CONCERNS

40% INVESTOR GROUP CONTROLLED BY KUWAITI, ABU DHABI INTERESTS

SYDNEY: Australia blocked the A\$10 billion (\$7.7 billion) sale of its biggest energy grid to State Grid Corp of China and Hong Kong's Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings citing security concerns, a blow to the country's privatization plan. Nine months after clearing the sale of TransGrid to an investor group 40 percent controlled by Kuwaiti and Abu Dhabi interests, Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison said yesterday he was rejecting the sale of Ausgrid to the rival Asian bidders because of risks to the national interest.

"During the review process national security issues were identified in critical power and communications services that Ausgrid provides to businesses and governments," Morrison said in a statement. State Grid, China's dominant power distributor, did not immediately respond to requests seeking comment. Cheung Kong Infrastructure (CKI), controlled by Hong Kong billionaire tycoon Li Ka-Shing, said the decision was not related to CKI. Australia's decision to reject the bids deprives the New South Wales state government of what would have been a record haul for a single privatization sale, and also underscores the country's changed political climate since a handful of protectionist senators took power in general elections last month. The Australian Senate cannot block offshore sales, but Morrison's conservative government needs to maintain favorable relations with the crossbench which now holds the balance of power in the upper house.

China ties

The decision also sets new parameters to the relationship between Australia and its biggest export partner just eight months after a A\$100 billion free trade agreement took effect. "If you put your biggest trading partner in the category of 'security risk', it might start to impact on the overall atmosphere, and on Chinese involvement in other areas," said Hans Hendrischke, a professor of Chinese business at University of Sydney's business school.

"That is not necessarily something you want with bidding for other big infrastructure projects," he added, noting Chinese interests have routinely bid in Australian infrastructure sales. Apart from Ausgrid and TransGrid - which State Grid also attempted to buy last year - the government of NSW, Australia's most populous state, has put up a third grid for sale, rural-focused Endeavour Energy, expected to fetch about A\$5 billion based on the valuation models used for the first two. The national sell-off program has been under political pressure since the 2015 sale of Port of Darwin to Chinese government-affiliated interests that sparked a backlash over the security implications and even a rebuke from US government officials. Soon after that, Morrison blocked proposed sales of the country's biggest agricultural land holding, S Kidman Co, to Chinese bidders. Britain has also delayed signing off on the \$24 billion Hinkley Point nuclear power project, which has deeply frustrated the Chinese government. — Reuters



Photo shows the Umm Al-Maradim Island - the second Kuwaiti Island to be liberated from the Iraqi forces in 1991. — KUNA photos

UMM AL-MARADIM ISLAND - 2ND KUWAIT ISLAND TO BE LIBERATED

KUWAIT: Umm Al-Maradim was the second Kuwaiti Island to be liberated from the Iraqi forces, where the invaders carved their surrender letter on its rocks in 1991. Locals named the island after its largest boulder which was called 'Mardam', as well as the birds that immigrate to the island in large numbers during spring time, referred to as 'Mardam' by Kuwaitis. Located at the extreme south of the Kuwaiti marine borders with Saudi Arabia, the island stretches over one and a half kilometers in length and 540 meters in width.

Umm Al-Maradim's nature saw some changes during the Iraqi invasion, when the soldiers set underground tunnels and barbed wire around the island. The island enjoys a diversity of life forms including different types of birds such as flamingos and seagulls, wild plants, lizards, fish and large numbers of oysters, making it a tourist attraction. Umm Al-Maradim also saw the opening of a marine entrance in 2008 and has a governmental building for customs, passport affairs and coast guard. — KUNA

KUWAIT TEMPERATURE SOARS ABOVE 50 DEGREES CELSIUS

KUWAIT: Kuwait will reach a high temperature of over 50 degrees Celsius by the end of the week, according to the official at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi. The maximum temperature will be between 48 to 51 degrees Celsius with light to moderate northwesterly winds of a speed of 12 to 32 kilometers per hour, while the minimum temperature

will be between 33 to 36 degrees Celsius. In marine weather, the waves will be light to moderate all day and between 1 to 4 feet high.

Friday will be very hot with light to moderate northwesterly winds at a speed of 10 to 30 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature will be 33 to 36 Degrees Celsius. Marine weather today will experience light to moderate

waves, also between 1 to 4 feet high. Tomorrow will also be very hot with light to moderate north westerly winds - with a speed of 20 to 38 kilometers per hour. The maximum temperature will be 49 to 53 Degrees Celsius with light to moderate northwesterly winds between 15 to 35 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature will be 33 to 36 Degrees Celsius. — KUNA



Some of the coral reefs that surround Umm Al-Maradim Island

International

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ONTARIO: Police stand watch outside of a house in Strathroy on Wednesday. — AP

CANADA POLICE THWART POTENTIAL ATTACK, SUSPECT 'SHOT DEAD'

LONE WOLF ATTACKS

OTTAWA: Canadian police shot dead an alleged Islamic State sympathizer armed with an explosive device on Wednesday, media reports said, as police confirmed they thwarted a "potential terror threat".

There was no immediate confirmation from Canadian police that anyone had been shot, with a statement saying only that a suspect had been identified and that they had taken "action" after receiving information about a potential attack.

"Earlier today, the RCMP received credible information of a potential terrorist threat. A suspect was identified and the proper course of action has been taken to ensure that there is no danger to the public's safety," the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said in a statement.

They did not say where the incident took place. Media reports said the suspect was a 24-year-old man who had been arrested in 2015 for expressing support for the Islamic State group in postings on social media. He had been released in February but

was being monitored. Canadian broadcaster CBC identified him as Aaron Driver, saying he was shot dead during a police raid in Strathroy, a residential area in southern Ontario about 220 kilometers (140 miles) southwest of Toronto. According to a relative who spoke to CBC, police informed the family that he was shot dead after detonating an explosive device, injuring himself and one other person, whose condition was unclear.

They told the family they had to shoot him because he had a second device which he was planning to detonate, CBC said. Broadcaster CTV, citing internal government documents, also said the suspect was allegedly linked to IS and had been planning to set off an explosive device in a packed public space in a major city.

Suspect on the radar

CBC said the suspect had first come to the attention of anti-terror officials in October 2014 after he

tweeted support for IS. According to The Canadian Press news agency, Driver had been under a court order not to associate with any terrorist organization, including IS. According to the order, a peace bond which was signed in February, there were "reasonable grounds to fear that he may participate, contribute directly or indirectly in the activity of a terrorist group," the agency said.

The RCMP said an investigation was under way as the matter "continues to unfold," and no other details from officials were immediately available.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said he had discussed the incident with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and that the security forces had acted effectively. "Canadians can be confident that whenever credible information is obtained about a potential terrorist threat, the RCMP, CSIS (security intelligence service) and other police and security agencies take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of this country and its citizens," Goodale said

in a statement. "These agencies conducted themselves effectively in the circumstances that developed today."

Lone wolf attacks

Goodale said Canada's terrorism threat level remains at "medium", a ranking which it has maintained since October 2014 when two soldiers were killed in separate lone wolf attacks by suspected jihadists in in Quebec and Ottawa.

On October 20, a 25-year-old Muslim convert ran down two soldiers in a parking lot in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Montreal, before being shot dead by police. One of the soldiers later died. Two days later, another Muslim convert, aged 32, killed a ceremonial guard then tried to storm Canada's parliament before being shot dead by security guards only meters (yards) from a room where the prime minister and his caucus were meeting. — AFP

A PLANE CRASH SURVIVOR HITS \$1 MILLION JACKPOT

DUBAI: It's been an eventful few days for Mohammad Basheer Abdul Khadar, an Indian living in Dubai. In the space of a week, he survived a crash landing at Dubai airport then won \$1 million in a lottery organized by the airport's duty free operator, Gulf News reported. The 62-year-old was flying home from holidays with family in India when the Boeing 777 in which he was travelling caught fire on landing with 300 people on board.

The accident on Wednesday shut down the Middle East's busiest airport for several hours, forcing authorities to cancel hundreds of flights. All the passengers and crew escaped unharmed, but a firefighter died tackling the blaze. Just six days later, Khadar discovered that the lottery ticket he'd bought on the way to India was now worth \$1 million. A fleet administrator with a Dubai car dealership, Khadar told Gulf News he habitually bought a lottery ticket on

his way to visit family in the southern Indian state of Kerala. Ticket number 845 in the "Millenium Millionaire" draw at the airport's Dubai Duty Free proved to be his winning shot. "I live a simple life, and now that it's my time to retire, I feel like God gave me a second life when I survived the plane crash, and blessed me with this money to follow all this up by doing good things," he told Gulf News. Khadar has lived in Dubai for 37 years and is married with

two children, one of whom is paralysed after a fall early on in his childhood, reported Gulf News. Khadar told Gulf News he was planning to return to Kerala to retire and would use the money to help children in Kerala who need financial support. He said he earns around \$2,200 (2,000 euros) a month, and would continue to work as long as he could. "Nothing else can give you the satisfaction of your hard-earned money," he said.— AFP



TRIPOLI: A handout picture uploaded on August 10, 2016 on the official Facebook page of the media center of the forces of Libya's Government of National Accord's (GNA) military operation against the Islamic State group in Sirte shows the forces loyal to Libya's unity government in front of the Ouagadougou conference centre in Sirte. —AFP

BATTLE FOR IS BASTION IN LIBYA IN 'FINAL PHASE'

MAJOR BLOW TO THE JIHADISTS

TRIPOLI: Pro-government forces battled yesterday to clear the Islamic State group from its main Libyan stronghold of Sirte, after dealing a major blow to the jihadists by seizing their headquarters. IS fighters still control several areas of the Mediterranean city, whose capture in June last year sparked fears that the extremist group would use it as a springboard for attacks on Europe. The fall of Sirte would be a huge setback to the jihadists' efforts to expand their self-proclaimed "caliphate" beyond Syria and Iraq where they have also suffered a string of losses.

Forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed unity government made a significant breakthrough Wednesday in their nearly three-month-old offensive to retake the city, seizing a conference centre where IS had set up a base.

"The battle for Sirte has reached its final phase, after the successful offensive by our heroes," a spokesman for the forces, General Mohamad Ghassri, said Thursday in remarks carried by the LANA news agency. The rapid advance comes after the United States launched air strikes on IS positions in the city for the first time on August 1. IS took

advantage of the chaos that followed the ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011 to gain a foothold in the oil-rich North African country. The forces loyal to the Government of National Accord on Wednesday also seized the University of Sirte campus just south of the Ouagadougou conference centre as well as the Ibn Sina Hospital to the north.

Libyan television broadcast images of flag-waving soldiers in recaptured areas including the Ouagadougou centre, flashing victory signs as they posed for photographs.

The pro-GNA forces said 16 of their fighters were killed and dozens wounded Wednesday in the fighting in Sirte, Kadhafi's hometown which lies just across the Mediterranean from Italy.

It was unclear how many IS fighters were killed, but the centre said that at least 20 jihadists had died in fighting for the university campus.

Fierce resistance

In total more than 300 pro-government fighters have been killed and 1,800 wounded in the operation for Sirte, according to medical sources in

the city of Misrata, where the operation's command centre is based. They have faced determined resistance from the jihadists who have struck back with sniper fire, suicide attacks and car bombings.

The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that US commandos were working from a joint operations centre 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. GNA chief Fayeze al-Sarraj told Italy's *Corriere della Sera* in an interview published on 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.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi faced criticism at home yesterday for reportedly sending special forces to Libya to help the anti-IS fight without approval from parliament. — AFP

DETENTE WITH RUSSIA WORRYING WESTERN ALLIES

ANKARA: Two Turkish military attaches in Greece fled to Italy, others were caught overseas and some diplomats were on the run after being recalled as part of an inquiry into last month's failed military coup, Turkey's foreign minister said yesterday. Turkey, which has NATO's second-biggest armed forces, has dismissed or detained thousands of soldiers, including nearly half of its generals, since the July 15 coup bid, in which rogue troops commandeered tanks and warplanes in an attempt to seize power.

Western allies worry President Tayyip Erdogan is using the failed putsch and purge to tighten his grip on power, but many Turkish officials are frustrated over what they see as a lack of Western sympathy over a violent coup in which 240 people died. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told private broadcaster NTV that two military attaches in Greece—a naval officer and an army officer—had fled by car and ferry to Italy, but Turkish officials would seek their return.

Cavusoglu said a military attache based in Kuwait had also tried to escape through Saudi Arabia, but had been sent back, as well as two generals based in Afghanistan who had been caught in Dubai by UAE authorities and returned to Turkey. The hunt for fugitive Turkish officers and officials overseas expands from the crackdown at home, where tens of thousands of troops, police, teachers and bureaucrats have been detained, dismissed or put under investigation for alleged links to the coup, which authorities blame on a US-based cleric.

'Time has run out'

"There are those who have escaped. There have been escapees among our diplomats as well," Cavusoglu told NTV in an interview. "As of yesterday, time has run out for those initially called back. We will carry out the legal operations for those who have not returned." Interior Minister Ekan Ala was quoted yesterday as saying almost 76,100 civil servants have now been suspended. The Greek foreign ministry said the two attaches fled before Ankara asked them to return to Turkey, and before officials cancelled their diplomatic passports. US officials said this week that a Turkish military officer on a US-based assignment for NATO is also seeking asylum in the United States after being recalled by the government.

One official said the foreign ministry sent instructions to Turkish diplomatic missions around the world where those suspected of links to the plotters were thought to be working, ordering them back to Ankara as part of the investigations. Cavusoglu has previously said around 300 members of the foreign ministry have been suspended since the coup plot, including two ambassadors. He said yesterday two officials in Bangladesh fled to New York, and another official had fled to Japan through Moscow. "We will return these traitors to Turkey," Cavusoglu said.

'Parallel state'

Erdogan accuses US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen of staging the attempted putsch, harnessing his extensive network of schools, charities and businesses built up in Turkey and abroad over decades to create a "parallel structure". Gulen denies any involvement and has condemned the coup bid. But he says Erdogan is using the purges to shore up his own power in Turkey.

The abortive July 15 coup and the subsequent purge of the military has raised concern about the stability of Turkey, a key member of the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State and battling an insurgency at home by Kurdish militants. Turkey has been angered by the Western response to the attempted coup, viewing Europe as more concerned about the rights of the plotters than the events themselves and the United States as reluctant to extradite Gulen. — Reuters

PUTIN LOOKS TO BOOST SECURITY OVER ALLEGED UKRAINE RAIDS

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday moved to ramp up security on the annexed Crimea peninsula after accusing Ukraine of attempting armed incursions into the disputed region, allegations denied fiercely by Kiev.

Russia's FSB security service on Wednesday said it had earlier this week thwarted "terrorist attacks" in Crimea by Ukrainian military intelligence and beaten back armed assaults. The allegations have ratcheted up tensions in a feud sparked by Moscow's 2014 seizure of the Black Sea peninsula from Ukraine and prompted fears of possible wider conflict.

Putin held a meeting with his security chiefs to discuss "additional measures for ensuring security for citizens and essential infrastructure in Crimea," the Kremlin said in a statement. "Scenarios were carefully considered for anti-terrorist security measures at the land border, in the waters and in the airspace of Crimea," it said.

The FSB security service said Wednesday that one of its officers was killed in armed clashes while arresting "terrorists" on the night of August 6-7, while a Russian soldier died in a firefight with "sabotage-terrorist" groups sent by the Ukrainian military on August 8.

'Demand new concessions?'

An irate Putin then accused the authorities in Kiev of "practising terror" and warned the deaths of the two Russian officers would have consequences. "We obviously will not let such things slide by," Putin said. "This is a very dangerous game." Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko hit back that Moscow's claims were "senseless and cynical". "These fantasies are only another pretext for the next military threats toward Ukraine," his office quoted him as saying.

Two residents living close to the Ukraine-Crimea frontier told AFP that there has been an unexplained build-up of Russian military hardware in the area over the past few weeks. —AFP

GERMANY MULLS STRIPPING CITIZENSHIP FROM JIHADISTS

ACCELERATED DEPORTATION

BERLIN: German citizens with dual nationality who fight for a terror group should be stripped of their German citizenship, the interior minister said yesterday, unveiling tough new measures after two attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. "Germans who participate in fighting abroad for a terror militia and who have another citizenship should lose their German nationality," Thomas de Maiziere said. Some 820 people have left Germany to fight alongside jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq, according to estimates by Germany's secret services. With around one in three fighters having since returned to Germany, fears are running high of the threat they may pose on European soil. But the issue of stripping German citizenship is controversial, with Green lawmaker Volker Beck swiftly condemning it as "desperate activism".

De Maiziere himself also acknowledged that junior coalition partner, the Social Democrats are likely to raise objections. The measure, as well as other plans he unveiled for fighting terror threats, must still be approved by the right-left coalition as well as in the German parliament.

But making his case, he pointed to German legislation which already allows for citizens with dual nationalities and who fight for a foreign army to be stripped of their German citizenship. "So if someone fights for terror militia that is similar to an armed force, and which calls itself an

army, I don't see why this should not be considered," he argued.

In the wake of the November 13 Paris attacks, French President Francois Hollande had proposed stripping convicted terrorists of their French nationality. But the suggestion had to be dropped after a fierce debate, as critics warned it would create stateless persons.



BERLIN: Germany's Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere delivers a statement to announce new anti-terror measures yesterday.—AFP

'Accelerated deportation' Looking beyond the problem of home-

grown jihadists, de Maiziere also introduced plans to tackle threats posed by foreigners to Germany, including speeding up the deportation process for those convicted. Germany's toughened stance comes after two attacks in July by migrants in the southern state of Bavaria: an axe rampage on a train in Wuerzburg and a suicide bombing in Ansbach. In Wuerzburg, the 17-year-old attacker was shot dead by police after injuring five people. In Ansbach, 15 people were injured after a failed Syrian asylum seeker detonated an explosive device outside a music festival, killing himself. The link to migrants has put intense pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel over her liberal asylum policies that had brought 1.1 million refugees to Germany last year. With two state elections in September at Merkel's stronghold Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and in Berlin—concern is growing among the political mainstream that populist party, the AfD, could make record gains, ahead of general elections next year. De Maiziere said the latest anti-terror measures should be adopted before the autumn 2017 elections. On the policing front, staffing will be boosted with 4,600 new posts to be created over the next year. In addition, spending on security would be raised by 2.0 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) by 2020. A special division will be set up within federal police forces that would coordinate security efforts in terror situations, said de Maiziere.—AFP

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BOY WAS DECAPITATED ON WATERSLIDE AT KANSAS PARK

KANSAS CITY, Kansas: The 10-year-old boy killed during a ride on the world's tallest waterslide was decapitated in the accident, a person familiar with the investigation said. Authorities have yet to explain how it happened. The person was not authorized to speak publicly about Caleb Schwab's death and spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity. Caleb died Sunday on the Verruckt raft ride at the Schlitterbahn WaterPark in Kansas City, Kansas. Two women who are not family members were also in the raft at the time and were treated for facial injuries. Caleb's parents - Republican state Rep. Scott Schwab and his wife, Michele - have not spoken publicly since the death. His funeral is scheduled for Friday.

Verruckt - which in German means "insane" - features multi-person rafts that make a 168-foot drop at speeds of up to 70 mph, followed by a surge up a hump and a 50-foot descent to a finishing pool. Since the accident, investigators have removed netting that was held in place by supports above the 50-foot section from the hump to the finishing pool. Riders, who must be at least 54 inches tall, are harnessed with two nylon seatbelt-like straps - one that crosses the rider's lap, the other stretching diagonally like a car shoulder seatbelt. Each strap is held in place by long Velcro-style straps, not buckles. Riders hold ropes inside the raft.

No lines for other rides

The park reopened Wednesday, except for a large section that includes the waterslide. Although its towering profile greets visitors as they drive through the entrance, access to Verruckt is blocked by a 7-foot-high wooden fence. On a hot, midweek day, the park was doing a steady business although there were no lines for other rides. Schlitterbahn spokeswoman Winter Prosapio told The Associated Press outside the park's entrance Wednesday that the company was not discussing Sunday's tragedy out of respect for the family. She said she could not offer immediate perspective about how Wednesday's turnout compared with typical attendance.

"We didn't know if we'd get five people, 15 people. But this is affirming," she said. Pulling a cooler behind her, 42-year-old Sara Craig said she was a bit uneasy bringing her 14-year-old son, Cale, and one of his 13-year-old friends to the park Wednesday. "I feel guilty having fun when a family is hurting so badly," she said. She said the family rode Verruckt twice in one day a couple of weeks ago. She remembered a short video they were required to watch, though she didn't recall that it included any caveats about peril. Craig said that during her first trip down the ride with her son and one of his friends, her shoulder restraint came off, something she opted not to report to park workers. "I didn't think much about it," she said. "You don't think you're gonna die."—AP



KANSAS CITY : File photo shows Schlitterbahn's new Verruckt speed slide/water coaster in Kansas City.—AP



FORT LAUDERDALE: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds up a chart as he makes a point as he speaks during his campaign event at the BB&T Center on Wednesday.—AFP

TRUMP: CLINTON, OBAMA ARE IS GROUP'S 'FOUNDERS'

'HONORING PRESIDENT OBAMA'

WASHINGTON: Republican candidate Donald Trump roiled the US presidential campaign once again, with the jaw-dropping assertion Wednesday that Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama "founded" the IS group. Addressing supporters at a rally in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the real estate tycoon said the jihadist group is "honoring President Obama."

"He is the founder of ISIS," Trump said, using a term for IS. "He's the founder of ISIS, okay?" he added. "He's the founder! He founded ISIS." "And I would say, the co-founder would be 'Crooked Hillary Clinton,'" Trump shouted, over cheers and applause from the crowd. Growing list of disquieting statements It was the latest disquieting utterance from the bombastic billionaire, who just one day earlier made comments interpreted by many as inviting gun violence against Clinton, the Democrats' presidential nominee.

Trump appeared to suggest on Tuesday, possibly in jest, that Clinton or her Supreme Court nominees could be shot, as a way of preventing her from making judicial appointments if she wins the November presidential election. The former secretary of State on Wednesday sternly rebuked Republican presidential rival's "casual inciting" of violence, saying he had "crossed the line." "Yesterday we witnessed the latest in a long line of casual comments by Donald Trump that crossed the line," Clinton told a rally in Des Moines, Iowa. "Words matter, my friends. And if you

are running to be president, or you are president of the United States, words can have tremendous consequences."

Trump and his campaign had quickly sought to douse these flames, insisting the Republican flag bearer was merely urging gun rights supporters to reject her candidacy at the ballot box. Clinton also warned of the dangers of reckless language during a presidential race. She slammed Trump's "casual cruelty to a Gold Star family," referring to the billionaire's clash with the parents of a Muslim American soldier who was killed in action. "His casual suggestion that more countries should have nuclear weapons, and now his casual inciting of violence," she added.

"Every single one of these incidents shows us that Donald Trump simply does not have the temperament to be president and commander in chief of the United States." With Team Trump seeking to dig the candidate out of a deepening hole, former New York mayor and Trump backer Rudy Giuliani insisted the uproar was triggered by "the Clinton spin machine."

'Under siege'

In an unnerving example of campaign security tensions, an animal rights activist appeared to rush the stage as Clinton spoke Wednesday, but was tackled and removed by security. Another attention-seeker dominated cable news Wednesday afternoon when he used suction cups to scale Manhattan's Trump Tower, the Republican nominee's

home and campaign headquarters, before police captured him through an open window. The 20-year-old Virginia resident and apparent Trump supporter wanted to meet the real estate tycoon, police said.

Clinton meanwhile launched an open appeal Wednesday to independents and Republicans repulsed by Trump over his string of controversial statements. The campaign unveiled a new website, togetherforamerica.com, that lists dozens of Republicans and independents who back Clinton, including former director of national intelligence John Negroponte and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"Regardless of party, voters are increasingly concerned that Trump's tendency to bully, demean and degrade others sends the wrong message to our children," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said.

Trump has suffered what critics insist is a long string of missteps that have marred his campaign since he officially won the nomination last month. He has clearly roiled the party with his unorthodox remarks, with some Republicans frustrated at his apparent inability to stay on message.

A Reuters/IPSOS poll Wednesday found that 19 percent of Republican voters want Trump to drop out of the race, while 70 percent think he should stay and 10 percent say they don't know. The RealClearPolitics national poll average shows Clinton leading Trump by 48 percent to 40 percent.—AFP

HAS UNSINKABLE TRUMP CAMPAIGN SHIP RUN AGROUND?

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump prospers where other candidates perish. His abrasive rhetoric, repudiated by some, is embraced by many more. But after comments on Tuesday that could be interpreted as a call for violence against his rival Hillary Clinton or her judicial nominees, observers, including stalwarts within his own Republican Party, were wondering aloud whether the Republican's campaign is beyond repair.

"The Republican Party needs to start examining quickly their options for removing the Republican nominee," former GOP congressman Joe Scarborough, now a television host, wrote in a Washington Post opinion column. Trump was the unsinkable candidate throughout the primaries, besting 16 other Republican rivals, infuriating and entrancing voters with rhetoric while fuelling a year-long media frenzy over The Donald. He clashed harshly with a female Fox News anchor, inflaming debate about his treatment of women. He called Mexican immigrants "rapists," alienating the powerful Hispanic voting bloc. He called for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country, drawing widespread concern about bigotry. And yet no controversy has proved serious enough to torpedo Trump's candidacy. But the general election is widely seen as a different animal than the primaries, and recent polls show his campaign listing badly after a series of stumbles in which critics accused him of disrespecting military families. He trails Clinton by nearly eight points nationally, according to a RealClearPolitics average.

Rare precedent

Seldom has a candidate bounced back from such poor poll numbers less than three months before an election in the modern era, but it has happened. In May 1988, Democrat Michael Dukakis stormed into the lead against vice president George HW Bush and held it for more than three months, taking a 17-point advantage in August, according to Gallup. But Bush regained the lead shortly after the Republican convention and coasted to victory. John McCain surged ahead of Barack Obama in 2008 to a five-point advantage after the Republican convention in September, only to fade to defeat.

Trump has no such convention luxury ahead of him. He already enjoyed his post-convention bump late last month, prior to the Democratic confab. "Whoever is leading two weeks after the second convention has won every time," Christopher Wlezien, a government professor at University of Texas at Austin said. "Preferences are substantially baked by that point." Recent polls show Trump trailing in crucial battleground states Ohio and Pennsylvania, and virtually tied with Clinton in Florida.

Traditionally Republican strongholds Georgia and Arizona are now described as "in play," with one recent Georgia poll putting Clinton ahead by four points. With pressure building on the provocative billionaire to stay on message, he has proven to be a bridge too far for many Republicans. Fifty senior national security experts wrote an open letter this week saying Trump "lacks the character, values, and experience" to be president. In a scathing editorial, The New York Times appeared to agree. "The time has come for Republicans-including Mr. McCain-to repudiate Mr. Trump once and for all," it said.

'No power' to dump Trump

Although a movement is afoot among some Republicans to dump Trump, scrapping a fairly elected presidential nominee from the ticket would be unprecedented in the modern era. Longtime Republican National Committee member Morton Blackwell, president of the Leadership Institute which trains conservative activists, said the committee has "no power" to remove a nominee. "They simply can not override the decision of the national convention," said Blackwell, who was a Ted Cruz supporter but now backs Trump. Doing so would effectively require a political coup, an effort that would likely end up in court, sully the party at a critical juncture. Even if it worked, no Republican heavy-weight has stepped forward to serve as savior.—AFP

FIDEL CASTRO: 90 YEARS

HAVANA: After surviving more than 600 assassination attempts, defying 10 US presidents and shaping half a century of history, Fidel Castro turns 90 on Saturday. Here are snapshots of this magnetic, polarizing giant of the 20th century, who has beaten the odds to hang on well into the 21st.

The survivor

The years have left their mark on the father of the Cuban Revolution, who transferred power to his younger brother Raul 10 years ago. His long black beard has turned a wispy gray. He has given up his iconic Cohiba cigars. He rarely appears in public.

But Fidel lives on. No one could have predicted his place in history when he launched his revolutionary career with a botched attack on Cuba's Moncada military barracks in 1953. The 26-year-old lawyer was captured and jailed for the failed raid, which ended with dozens of rebels killed or executed by dictator Fulgencio Batista's forces.

Fast forward six years, and Castro was triumphantly rolling into Havana, having returned from exile to lead a guerrilla army that once numbered just 12 men to defeat Batista and his military of 80,000. The unlikely victory brought the "red menace" of Communism to the United States' doorstep at the height of the Cold War.

Alarmed, the US Central Intelligence Agency and Cuban exiles tried to assassinate Castro 634 times, his ex-intelligence chief, Fabian Escalante, has estimated. Castro once told Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet he nearly always carried his Browning pistol just in case. But he denied reports he wore a bullet-proof vest. "I have a moral vest. It's strong. It has always protected me," he told journalists in 1979, baring his chest to prove the point.

The seducer

"I was so impressed! I could only look at his face and say, 'I love him,'" says Mercedes Gonzalez, 59, who has only seen Castro twice up close. But she says she felt an overpowering attraction. With his rugged rebel look and imposing persona, Castro has long fascinated people, and women in particular.

"He projects a very attractive public image," says Salomon Susi, the author of a "Dictionary of Fidel Castro's Thoughts." "It's part of his legend." Officially, Castro has been married twice and fathered seven children by three women.

Rumors of secret affairs and more children abound. But he keeps his private life to himself. "Private life, in my opinion, should not be an instrument for publicity or politics," he said in 1992.

The enemy

Castro defined himself in opposition to the American "empire," and the resentment lingers to this day. After Barack Obama sealed the two nations' historic rapprochement by visiting Cuba in March, Castro told Cubans not to be fooled by the US president's "syrupy words." He recalled the island's long enmity with the US, including Washington's backing for the failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. His bitterness over that botched CIA plot played a part in pushing the



HAVANA, CUBA: This file photo taken on June 01, 1957 shows Fidel Castro (top, 2-R), his brother Raul Castro (at bottom) and Argentinean born Ernesto Che Guevara (top, 2-L) and newspaper, Granma. After surviving more than 600 assassination attempts, defying 10 US presidents and shaping half a century of history.—AFP

world to the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis the following year, when the Soviet Union agreed to his request to send ballistic missiles to Cuba. You don't want to be on Castro's bad side. He opened his half-century of iron-fisted rule in 1959 by jailing one of his own guerrilla commanders, Huber Matos, for 20 years when he criticized the new regime's turn toward Communism.

Castro meted out even harsher treatment to Cuban dissidents. "He is the man of 'E's: egomaniacal, egotistical, egocentric," said Martha Beatriz Roque, 71, an anti-Castro dissident who was one of 75 opponents jailed in the "black spring" of 2003. "I will remember him as a dictator."

The underdog

Castro had a penchant for trying to pull off the seemingly impossible. In 1961, he all but eradicated illiteracy with an ambitious rural education campaign. When the exodus of Cuban exiles left the country with just 3,000 doctors, he vowed to make the island a "medical superpower." Today it has 88,000 doctors and one of the most respected health systems in the world.

Other projects were less successful. In 1970, with Cuba's economy strangled by the US embargo, he ordered a nationwide campaign to harvest a record-shattering 10 million tons of sugar. Despite mobilizing Cubans en masse to work the fields, the campaign failed. Cubans are all too used to "Fidel Plans" that never quite pan out, like the ones to raise buffalo or turn Cuba into a world-class cheese producer despite a shortage of cows.

The icon

Castro was a hero to revolutionary movements and independence struggles worldwide. He sent 386,000 troops to fight in spots where the Cold War turned hot: Angola, Ethiopia, the Congo, Algeria and Syria. And he backed leftist guerrillas across Latin America.

The military results were mixed. But the symbolism was powerful. "He's the most important personality of the 20th century in the Western hemisphere," said Ivan Marquez, second-in-command of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Castro's revolution "ignited... the desire to struggle, to take to the mountains, to grab a rifle and try to change things," Marquez told AFP.—AFP

PAY-AS-YOU-GO IRRIGATION AIMS TO CUT WATER USE IN BANGLADESH

FENI, Bangladesh: Elias Ali has been picking weeds and waste for hours from his paddy field in southeastern Bangladesh, preparing it for irrigation. Every week, he walks half a kilometer to collect the water he needs from private pumps.

Ali and fellow farmers currently pay 4,000 taka (\$51) each per year to middlemen in exchange for irrigation on their one-acre plots in Feni district. But water frequently seeps out of the earthen canals that supply the pumps, wasting significant amounts, Ali said.

"The waste increases our costs, as pump owners also charge us for water that's leaked," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "When we experience a loss in crop production due to floods or droughts, we can no longer afford the high price of irrigation, which fuels tension between pump owners and farmers," he said.

Water is a precious commodity in Bangladesh - abundant during the monsoon from June to October, but scarce in the dry season from November to March. Abul Hye Bhuiyan, a farmer and president of the Pathannagar Water Management Group, said many farmers simply cannot cultivate crops in the dry season due to the high cost of irrigation.

Sometimes they have no choice but to sell stored crops to pay for water, Ali said. But Bhuiyan and Ali are hopeful. The Bangladesh government plans to install water meters across the Muhuri Project, a 60,258-hectare irrigation area supplied by the Feni, Muhuri and Milenia rivers, to reflect farmers' water costs more accurately.

The scheme is part of the Irrigation Management Improvement Project, a government-led initiative to modernize irrigation systems, including the Muhuri Project, from 2015 to 2019. The scheme has financial support from the Asian Development Bank and the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

About 800 water meters will be installed, as well as new water pumps, with water supplied through underground pipelines. Farmers will receive rechargeable smart cards they can use to pay for their water use, instead of paying a fixed cost to middlemen.

Humayyoun Kabir, extension overseer at the Water Development Board, said around 2,000 hectares (4,942 acres) of land would be brought under the irrigation scheme initially, with some 80 pumps due to be installed by 2017. He expects middlemen to gradually remove their own pumps. The board estimates the renovation will be finished by 2019, when all 60,238 hectares will be equipped with meters and pumps.

Better value for money

Before launching the initiative, the board surveyed about 800 local farmers who own land in the project area. They expressed enthusiasm at the meter idea, said Md Kohinoor Alam, executive engineer at the board.

Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said imposing a price on water would encourage farmers to become more economical in using it. Bhuiyan said paying for the exact amount of water they use "will encourage farmers to think about how they could produce crops using less water".

That is particularly important in a country where water scarcity increases every dry season, explained Abu Taher Khondoker, former director general of the country's Water Resources Planning Organization.

The Water Development Board's Kabir estimated that once the meter system is operational, farmers will pay only 2,000-2,500 taka per acre of land for irrigation, instead of 4,000 now. "They will no longer be at the mercy of middlemen unfairly increasing costs," he added. The board expects the new scheme to benefit about 80,000 families. All farmers owning land in the Muhuri Project will be enrolled automatically, though they can opt out. Minister Mahmud said that if the water meter scheme proved viable, it would be replicated elsewhere, such as in the Ganges-Kobadak Irrigation and Teesta Barrage projects. —Reuters



KANDAHAR: Afghan refugee families board a truck as they return to Afghanistan through the Pakistan border crossing at Spin Boldak. —AFP

CLASHES AS TALEBAN EDGES CLOSER TO HELMAND CAPITAL FEARS THE CITY COULD FALL

KANDAHAR: Fighting raged yesterday in Helmand after Afghanistan rushed military reinforcements to beat back Taliban insurgents advancing on the besieged capital of the southern poppy-growing province, as officials downplayed fears the city could fall. Afghan forces fought back insurgents after they stormed Nawa district, just south of Lashkar Gah city, late Wednesday, raising alarm that the provincial capital was at risk.

But US and Afghan officials insist that they will not allow another urban centre to be captured, after the Taliban briefly overran northern Kunduz city last September in their biggest victory in 15 years of war. "The security situation in Lashkar Gah is under our control," said defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri. "We have retaken control of Nawa. Fighting is still going on in the outskirts but we are making progress with clearance operations," he said, adding that dozens of Taliban were killed in the fight. Fierce battles in recent days across Helmand, seen as the focal point of the insurgency, has sent thousands of people fleeing to Lashkar Gah, sparking a humanitarian crisis as officials report food and water short-

ages. The United States has stepped up air strikes supporting Afghan forces on the ground, highlighting the intensity of the battle in Helmand. The turmoil convulsing the long-contested province, blighted by a huge opium harvest that helps fund the insurgency, underscores a rapidly unravelling security situation in Afghanistan.

'We will die of hunger'

Around 30,000 people have been displaced in Helmand in recent weeks, local officials said, with many of those fleeing to Lashkar Gah forced to abandon their lentil, maize and cotton crops during the lucrative harvest season. "We left everything behind in Nawa-our house, our grape and maize harvests. We fled with 15 members of my family to Lashkar Gah, fearing for our lives," Mohammad Ali, 40, told AFP in a camp in the provincial capital. "For the last three days we have been surviving on bread and water. We will die of hunger." The residents of Lashkar Gah said the city was practically besieged, with roads from neighboring districts heavily mined by the insurgents.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it had downscaled its team in Lashkar

Gah, with some non-medical staff relocated from the city. "In Helmand, #Afghanistan, we're still running Boost hospital... as fighting nears," the international medical charity tweeted on Wednesday. "We've shared coordinates of our 300 bed hospital to approaching warring parties in Helmand." The Taliban effectively control or contest 10 of the 14 districts in Helmand, the deadliest province for British and US forces in Afghanistan over the past decade.

NATO officially ended its combat mission in December 2014, but US forces were granted greater powers in June to strike at the insurgents as President Barack Obama vowed a more aggressive campaign. Washington has deployed several hundred troops in Helmand in recent months.

Northern Kunduz was the first city to fall to the insurgents last September, in a stinging blow to Afghan forces who have struggled to rein in the Taliban since the NATO combat mission ended. The fighting in Helmand comes as Afghan troops are stretched on multiple fronts across Afghanistan-including eastern Nangarhar province where the Islamic State group is making inroads. — AFP

DOCTORS AT TOP INDIAN HOSPITAL CHARGED IN KIDNEY HARVESTING RACKET

NEW DELHI: The chief executive, medical director and three other doctors at a prestigious Indian hospital have been charged with offences related to illegal organ transplants after a kidney trafficking racket was uncovered, a police spokesman said.

Operating out of the private L.H. Hiranandani Hospital in Mumbai, the organ harvesting ring was busted by police in July following a tip-off that poor villagers were being paid to sell their kidneys to recipients via a network of agents.

Mumbai Deputy Police Commissioner Ashok Dudhe said the five doctors were arrested late on Tuesday after police had examined the findings of a government inquiry into the case. "Two days ago, we got the report from the director for health services for Mumbai. In this report, there were charges made against these doctors such as negligence under the 1994 Transplantation of Human Organs Act," Dudhe told a news conference on Wednesday.

"They did not follow the procedures laid out, so after receiving the report, we arrested them and brought them before the court." Fourteen people have been arrested so far, he said, including a donor, a recipient and middlemen. Officials at L.H. Hiranandani Hospital did not respond to email requests for comment.

This is the second kidney trafficking racket found operating out of a top Indian hospital in recent months. In June, police discovered a similar racket operating out of the reputable Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in the capital New Delhi.

A shortage of organs for transplants fuels a black-market trade in body parts in India. Commercial trade in organs is illegal in India and only relatives can act as donors. Transplant donations must be approved by a special transplant committee at each hospital.

Police uncovered the racket at L.H. Hiranandani Hospital after a worker informed them of suspicious documentation for a scheduled operation for which a woman was donating a kidney to her husband. They raided the hospital during the operation on July 14, and found the couple were not married and the donor was in fact an impoverished rural woman from the neighboring Gujarat state.

Traffickers allegedly lured poor people from Gujarat into selling their kidneys for about 200,000 rupees (\$3,000) and then re-sold their organs on the black market at a huge profit. Dudhe said the five doctors are charged under a section of the law that holds hospital management responsible for offences committed under their watch. They are also charged for failure to meet the recipient and donor to explain the risks of surgery. "The CEO's job was to meet both the donor and recipient and make the necessary inquiries about them, but he did not do that," said Dudhe.—Reuters

PAKISTAN APPROVES CYBERCRIME LAW

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan yesterday approved a controversial cybercrime bill the government says will safeguard citizens against harassment and criminalize online child pornography, but which activists say curbs free speech.

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill 2016 has been the focus of heated debate over provisions that critics say give the government the power to conduct mass surveillance and criminalize satire.

Fariha Aziz, director of the Bolo Bhi digital rights group, said a section intended to tackle cyber-stalking was drafted in sweeping language that would allow public officials criticized on social media to claim they were being harassed.

It was of particular concern, she said, that the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority would be allowed to ban speech considered "against the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan".

"This should not be the task of an executive body, this is a matter for the courts," she added.

Gul Bukhari, an activist with the campaign group Bytes for All, said: "It authorizes the state to exchange the private information of citizens with foreign governments or agencies without recourse to any judicial framework."

Defending the bill, IT Minister Anusha Rahman told AFP: "We have built in safeguards against misuse. "It is not as sweeping as it has been made out to be—for most offences, the government will still need to go to court to get a warrant against offenders," adding the only exceptions were child pornography and cyber-terrorism.—AFP



YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA: This picture taken on May 8, 2016 shows graffiti calling for tolerance.—AFP

INDONESIA SAYS 'NO ROOM' FOR LGBT RIGHTS MOVEMENT

UNDER UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK

JAKARTA: Indonesia said yesterday there was "no room" for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement in the country, after Human Rights Watch criticized the government for failing to protect the group that has come under unprecedented attack.

The LGBT community is largely tolerated in Indonesia, especially in urban areas. But LGBT people suffered a sudden public backlash when a central government minister said in January that LGBT people should be barred from university campuses.

The comment "grew into a cascade of threats and vitriol" against LGBT Indonesians, fuelling increased hostility from family and neighbors and fostered stigmatization, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report released on Thursday.

But the government hit back at the criticism. "As a citizen, whoever the person is will have his rights protected, without looking at his sexual preference," presidential spokesman Johan Budi told Reuters in a text message. "But if LGBT means a mass movement to influence other parties to become like them, then there's no room here."

Dede Oetomo, one of Indonesia's most prominent LGBT activists and founder of LGBT rights group GAYa

NUSANTARA said Budi's remark did not come as a surprise but it showed "the president doesn't understand human rights".

At the height of the anti-LGBT backlash, the authorities banned TV and radio programs from broadcasting LGBT-related information and a minister said the LGBT movement was being used by outsiders to brainwash Indonesians.

An Islamic boarding school for transgender women was also forced to shut down. Kyle Knight, HRW's researcher on LGBT issues, said the authorities' failure to act had created a "social sanction from the highest level" for attacks and hate speech.

Shattering taboos

Homosexuality is not illegal in Indonesia, and the barrage of criticism against LGBT has been seen as a test of the country's largely tolerant attitude towards the group. "I don't feel safe with seeing all the 'end LGBT' statements on social media. I feel like a dog," an unidentified 25-year-old gay man interviewed by HRW was quoted as saying in the report.

Some of Indonesia's LGBT activists, however, saw a silver lining to the con-

trovery. Activist Ryan Korbarri, 28, said the backlash which was played out on television and in local newspapers prompted his parents' curiosity about his job with a LGBT rights group. "They did not know what I was doing before, they are more aware now although they tried to persuade me to leave my job. I told them this is the way I live and I will stick with it," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "It used to be a taboo but we openly talk about it now. Many parents did not realize there are so many LGBT people here until then," Korbarri added.

Oetomo of GAYa NUSANTARA said LGBT groups suffered setbacks after the backlash, including difficulties in securing funding for advocacy campaigns but he remained optimistic. "It put things on the table, whether you like it or not, this is a real issue and it gets talked about," he said.

Oetomo however sounded a note of caution, pointing to a petition lodged with Indonesia's top court by anti-LGBT groups to criminalize consensual sex between adults of the same gender. He said if successful, the petition would lead to long term consequences with "another few decades of battle" ahead for LGBT activists wishing to fight any such criminalization.—Reuters

KILLINGS OF DRUG SUSPECTS RISE TO 525 IN THE PHILIPPINES

MANILA: The number of suspected drug dealers killed in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown has risen to more than 500 in just over a month, police said yesterday, in an alarming campaign that sparked protests and plans for a Senate investigation. Since July 1, 525 drug suspects have been killed in clashes with police while more than 7,600 suspects have been arrested in more than 5,400 anti-narcotics assaults, the national police's Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management said in a report. More than half a million have surrendered to authorities, according to police.

Some local news agencies have reported considerably higher death tolls, some as high as nearly 1,000, in counts that included drug suspects killed by unidentified attackers since Duterte emerged as the president-elect following the May 9 elections.

Police officials say those killed had put up a fight, although critics argue that circumstances indicate many of the suspects were illegally killed or died because police did not follow established procedures in dealing with crime suspects. Left-wing activists protested at several schools against the killings and Duterte's threat to place the country

under martial law if the Supreme Court attempted to block his fight against crime, specifically illegal drugs which he said has worsened into a pandemic.

"Human rights have been sacrificed in the conduct of the anti-drug drive, with those holding the gun assuming the roles of both accusers and executioners," left-wing protest leader Vencer Crisostomo said. "It is impossible to ascertain innocence or guilt if the accused are simply shot on the spot." "The Duterte regime's war on drugs is bound to fail if it continues to rely on extrajudicial killings led by a corrupt and abusive police and military hierarchy, Crisostomo said, adding that the illegal drug trade is a symptom of deeper social problems, like rising poverty, joblessness and hunger, "which cannot be wiped out by bullets alone." The crackdown involves testing policemen nationwide if they have used illegal drugs and the report said 116 of 75,848 policemen have tested positive and were being investigated and would face possible charges and dismissal from the force.

Sen. Leila de Lima said the Senate's committee on justice and human rights, which she heads, would start an investigation into the killings on Aug. 22. Duterte's political allies in Congress have



MANILA: Filipino student activists shout slogans as they call for justice for victims of extrajudicial killings during a rally at the University of the Philippines yesterday. —AP

tried to block the planned investigation. Duterte built a name as a crimebusting mayor of southern Davao city. During the presidential campaign and after taking office, he has openly threatened drug dealers and other criminals with death and has called for restoring the death penalty - by hanging because he

says he didn't want to waste electricity on outlaws.

Duterte has encouraged law enforcers to go hard on criminals and has assured them he would back them up and pardon them if they are convicted of committing human rights violations while battling criminals. —AP



YANGON: This long-exposure photograph taken before dawn on August 9, 2016 shows lighting from heavy rain clouds. —AFP

MYANMAR SOLDIERS ADMIT AT COURT TO KILLING VILLAGERS

YANGON: Seven Myanmar soldiers on trial for murder have admitted their involvement in the killing of five villagers in northern Shan State, according to witnesses at an unprecedented court martial. In a highly unusual move, the army invited 15 residents from the remote village of Mong Yaw, where the killings took place, to witness the court martial at a nearby military base on Tuesday. Four of them have described the proceedings to Reuters.

"The judge read the murder case reports and asked for confessions from the soldiers, who admitted they were responsible," said Sai Kaung Kham, a Mong Yaw villager who has been helping the families attending the military trial.

Military officials did not respond to requests for comment, and it was not possible to independently verify the testimony at the closed proceedings in the northern city of Lashio.

In July, in a rare public admission of wrongdoing by the still-powerful military, intelligence chief Mya Tun Oo told reporters the army was responsible for killing five men from Mong Yaw and said the culprits would be prosecuted.

Witnesses had previously told Reuters that soldiers rounded up dozens of men from the village, in an area riven by a long-running ethnic insurgency, on June 25 and led five away. Their bodies were found in a shallow grave a few days later.

Both the news conference by one of the country's most senior generals and the invitation to villagers to attend the military trial were unprecedented. — Reuters

BROKEN GLASS AND PROMISES A YEAR AFTER TIANJIN BLASTS

TIANJIN: Surrounded by countless broken windows, gutted offices and mountains of cigarette butts, Qin Tao is trying to rebuild his life and business a year after giant explosions rocked the Chinese city of Tianjin. At least 165 people were killed in the blast, which devastated a swathe of the northern port, and 12 months on much of his office building-around a kilometer away from the epicentre-looks almost the same as it did a day afterwards. "First the neighborhood officials came and took notes and pictures, then the district government officials came and did the same, then the police and then city officials," said Qin, 36. "But still I haven't heard anything, nothing has been done."

In the late hours of last August 12, a fire broke out at a chemical warehouse owned by Rui Hai International Logistics. When it exploded it sent a monumental fireball soaring towards the heavens, mangling structures kilometers away-captured by social media users in what rapidly became the country's highest-profile industrial accident in years. Fears of toxic pollution were rife, with cyanide levels in the disaster zone far above national limits, and it took several days before a visit by Premier Li Keqiang-normally among the second wave of responders in China's official choreography for disasters.

In the aftermath, officials pledged to convert the blast site to a park and renovate the area, part of Tianjin's free trade zone that Chinese officials were promoting in Europe last month. But a year later the blast site is still inaccessible, with a temporary blue metal wall ringing the perimeter. Patrolling police prevented journalists getting a closer look, with a SWAT car parked on a highway over-

looking the area to discourage anyone from stopping. A brand new school next to the site sat empty and businesses were dark and locked, occasional groups of migrant workers the only signs of civilian life on the streets.

Plunged into debt

Before the explosions, Qin was preparing to open a logistics company, finally achieving the Chinese dream of becoming his own boss. Unlike most businesses, he and his fellow tenants at the Fortune World Trade Center bought their offices, which are now rendered worthless. They mounted a protest in May, hanging giant five-storey-high banners on a tower declaring: "Injustice! We are still waiting for a resolution, what a tragedy". Police took them down within hours, but there was no official

response. "I've plunged into debt since the government won't help us," Qin said. "I'm still paying off the loan from when I bought the office, but we never even started business, there's nothing I can do but hope to be saved." Those whose homes were close to the blast site have fared marginally better. Authorities offered homeowners of one compound roughly 800 metres from the epicentre a government buy-back of their flats or funding for repairs. But the sums on offer were not enough for either, according to Wei, a resident who would only give her surname. "The price the government offered to buy the homes was too low, it wasn't enough to buy another apartment in the city," she told AFP. Many chose the repair option, she said, but the compensation only covered about 10 percent of her costs. — AFP



TIANJIN: This file photo taken on August 13, 2015 shows smoke billowing behind rows of burnt out cars at the site of a series of explosions. —AFP



A 13-foot (3.96m) Captain America statue is revealed during a dedication ceremony at Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York yesterday. Marvel unveiled the 1 ton (1000kg) bronze statue of the superhero in Wednesday in honor of Captain America's 75th anniversary. — AFP

Kravitz Joins 'Harry Potter' spinoff 'Fantastic Beasts'



Review

This image released by Sony Pictures shows, from left, Brenda, voiced by Kristen Wiig, Frank, voiced by Seth Rogen, Sammy, voiced by Ed Norton and Lavash, voiced by David Krumholtz in a scene from, 'Sausage Party.' — AP photos

Audacious 'Sausage Party' is a delicious feast

It's happened. Someone has outdone the "Team America" puppet scene and even made it look somewhat quaint in comparison. Anyone even vaguely interested in the very R-rated animated film "Sausage Party" has likely heard whispers about the food scene. Words can't even begin to do this sequence justice, but I guarantee you've never seen anything like it in a mainstream studio movie. It's jaw-dropping. Of course it's compliments of the minds that blew up a foreign leader in "The Interview" and revealed in the comedy of rape by demon in "This is the End." Yes, co-writers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg have used their singular and delightfully twisted imaginations once more to concoct what is easily the year's most audacious film. And it's packaged in animation cutesy enough for Pixar.

In the grand tradition of "Toy Story," "Sausage Party" imagines the lives of the foodstuffs in the local supermarket aisle. But it doesn't merely anthropomorphize the food. It gives them sexuality, lust, ethnicities and even religion. "Sausage Party" is just as much a sweet story about belief and faith as it is a vehicle for the filthiest jokes you've never dared imagine. Frank (Seth Rogen), a non-descript hot dog, waits somewhat impatiently with his fellow mates to be selected by the humans to be taken to a paradise in The Great Beyond (purchased).

Soul mate

Everyone in the store knows something good is out there waiting. The foods and condiments and sweets begin every day with a rousing song about The Great Beyond, each putting their own spin on it (i.e. the German mustard has added a line about exterminating Juice). For Frank, it's all about paradise and the chance to match with his soul mate Brenda (Kristen Wiig), a sexy hotdog bun with Barbie legs and a desire equal to Frank's. They're waiting for the humans to choose them before they act on anything.

Things go awry when they are chosen. A jar of Honey Mustard (Danny McBride) that was returned to the store by a customer is so

traumatized by what he's seen "out there" that he jumps out of the cart to his death. A few follow him out of their packages to try to save him and get tossed from the cart, including Brenda, Frank, Sammy Bagel Jr (Edward Norton, affecting his best Woody Allen), Lavash (David Krumholtz) and a Douche (Nick Kroll), who becomes dead set on killing Frank for preventing him from reaching The Great Beyond. And that group goes off exploring - some trying to get back to their spot in the store, some searching for the truth, and some (the Jewish bagel and Middle Eastern flatbread) waxing philosophical on the nature of belief. Those that made it to The Great Beyond, including Frank's hot dog buddy Barry (Michael Cera), experience the horrors of dinner time.

Big heart

As in all Rogen and Goldberg films, no matter how raunchy, there is a big heart at the center. It's what distinguishes them from the anything goes satire of Matt Stone and Trey Parker. Anything goes here too, but it's rooted in something deeper and infinitely more earnest. "Sausage Party," directed by Greg Tiernan and Conrad Vernon with co-screenwriting credits for Kyle Hunter and Ariel Shaffir, might not be for everyone (especially kids drawn to the posters and perplexed that cute animation might not actually always be for them), but it's a wild good time that will offend, shock and even delight.

There is no one out there making comedies quite like Rogen and Goldberg. They are putting their definitive stamp on the modern American comedy one decency-smashing double entendre at a time. "Sausage Party," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong crude sexual content, pervasive language, and drug use." Running time: 89 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. MPAA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. — AP

Stewart, Dogg to host dinner party show on VH1

Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg are teaming up to throw celebrity dinner parties as part of a new VH1 reality show. The cable channel says the show with a working title of "Martha & Snoop's Dinner Party" is set to premiere in the fall. VH1 says each week will feature a "half-baked evening of cocktails, cooking, conversation, and fun where nothing is off limits."

Stewart and Snoop Dogg would seem to be an unlikely pairing, but the two have made numerous appearances together over the years. Snoop has been a guest on Stewart's syndicated program. They also sat side by side at Comedy Central's "Roast of Justin Bieber" last year and competed on ABC's "\$100,000 Pyramid" last month. — AP



In this March 14, 2015, file photo, Martha Stewart, left, and Snoop Dogg appear on stage at the Comedy Central Roast of Justin Bieber at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, Calif. — AP

'Star Trek: Discovery' CBS series to have female lead

CBS' "Star Trek: Discovery" will feature a female lead, Variety has confirmed. Executive producer Bryan Fuller is expected to discuss the role Wednesday at the Television Critics Association summer press tour. CBS Television Studios, which is producing the series, is in the process of casting the role, which could potentially go to a woman of color. During a Q&A last month at Comic-Con, Fuller spoke about Mae Jamison, the first African-American female astronaut and Nichelle Nichols, the lone African American and lone female cast member on the original "Star Trek" series, as inspirations for the characters on his show. "I think that 'Star Trek' is a show of firsts," he said at the time.

Avery Brooks as Capt. Benjamin Sisko on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" was the first African American to lead a "Star Trek" series. Kate Mulgrew as Capt Kathryn Janeway on "Star Trek: Voyager" was the franchise's first female lead. The female lead on "Discovery" will not necessarily be a captain. Shooting on "Star Trek: Discovery" is set to begin in two months, with David Semel set to direct the premiere. The series is scheduled to premiere in January with the first episode debuting on the core CBS broadcast network and subsequent episodes available exclusively on subscription streaming service CBS All Access. Fuller announced the title of the series last month at Comic Con, showing off a teaser that revealed a first look at the starship featured on the show. — Reuters



Pitt courting Fincher for 'World War Z' sequel

After losing director J.A. Bayona to the "Jurassic World" universe, Brad Pitt is zeroing in on an old friend for the "World War Z" sequel. Sources have told Variety that Pitt, along with Paramount and Skydance, is in talks with David Fincher to direct the follow-up to the 2013 smash hit. Pitt, who's returning to star in and produce the next "World War Z" installment, recently met with a handful of other directors, but is said to be zeroing in on Fincher for the pic, which is expected to start filming in early 2017.

Skydance and Paramount had no comment on the development. According to sources, Fincher and Pitt met two weeks ago to discuss the possibility of Fincher boarding the zombie tentpole. The talks were initially lukewarm, but sources now tell Variety that negotiations are much further down the road and that other director currently has an offer.

A Fincher-Pitt reunion on "World War Z" would mark their fourth film together, having previously collaborated on "Se7en," "Fight Club" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." Fincher hasn't directed a feature film since 2014's "Gone Girl." The filmmaker has been turning his attention to television as of late. He recently shot the Netflix pilot "Mind Hunters." Sources say Fincher, who is weary of sequels, having aired his displeasure during his time on "Alien 3," has always been open to listening to Pitt when the actor reaches out. The duo nearly worked together on a reboot of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" for Disney a few years ago but that collaboration never materialized.

Paramount's "World War Z" sequel was previously dated to open June 9, 2017. After losing Bayona, however, the studio is expected to delay the film's release. The original "Z" was a massive hit, having grossed \$540 million worldwide despite a rocky production, which included extensive re-shoots. Plot details are unknown for the sequel, other than it still being set during a zombie apocalypse. "World War Z" is based on the best-selling novel by Max Brooks. — Reuters



Kravitz Joins 'Harry Potter' spinoff 'Fantastic Beasts'

Zoe Kravitz has joined the cast of Warner Bros "Harry Potter" spinoff "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." The pic stars Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Ezra Miller and Alison Sudol, is set in New York, 70 years before the events in the "Harry Potter" books and film series. It follows Newt Scamander (Redmayne), a Magizoologist who ventures into a secret community of witches and wizards as he attempts to document magical creatures. His book is eventually used at Hogwarts where Harry Potter attends school.

Kravitz' role is unknown at this time but is expected to be bigger in the sequel, which WB recently announced. David Yates is

directing the film, which is set to bow on Nov 18, 2016. JK Rowling wrote the screenplay for the project. David Heyman, Rowling, Steve Kloves and Lionel Wigram are producing. Neil Blair, Rick Senat and Danny Cohen are executive producing. Kravitz recently appeared as one of the muses in George Miller's "Mad Max: Fury Road." She'll appear next in the HBO series "Big Little Lies" with Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Shailene Woodley and also has the Sony film "Rock That Body." She's reped by Paradigm and Untitled Entertainment. — Reuters



Review

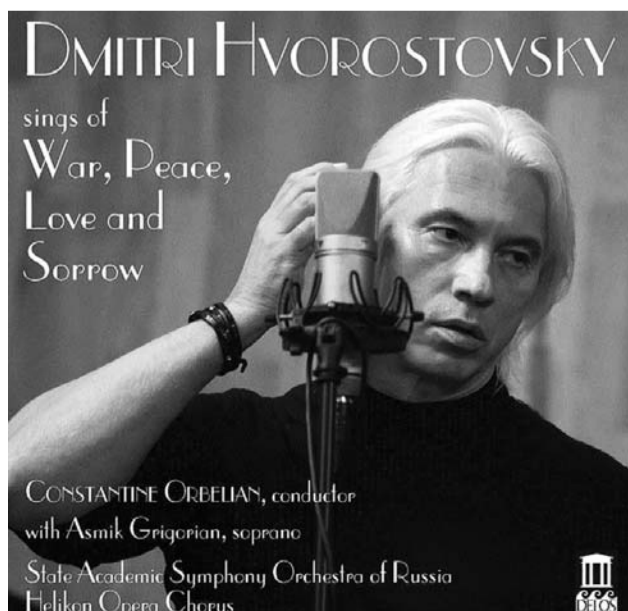
Wild Beasts live up to name on potent 'Boy King'

Wild Beasts live up to their name on the potent "Boy King," 10 electric exposures of the English art rockers' raw carnal desires. Led by Haden Thorpe's sometimes ghostly vocals and a barrage of synths and guitar riffs both glimmering and rusty, the band's fifth album displays a lineup of a certain kind of very male narratives about what must be modern love. Most of the characters on "Boy King" seem burdened by stunted emotional growth, the intensity of feelings expressed in lines like, "You can stuff your chastity, your wait and see" ("He the Colossus"); "Once the fuse gets lit, nothing good will come of it" ("Ponytail"); and "You know that I'm the worst when I come calling" ("2BU").

Explaining that "I will not hold you back ... I'll be right behind you," even the apparently supportive partner behind the "Alpha Female" may be a scary stalker. It's only rock 'n' roll but don't come near my daughter. After all the saber rattling, "Boy King" ends in a reflexive mood, supplanting testosterone with tenderizer. The man-as-boy-again in "Dreamliner" drops the hedonistic bluster and cries out "so be kind to me now." Like everyone else, he just wants to be loved and would give his kingdom for a hug. — AP

Hvorostovsky sings of 'War, Peace, Love and Sorrow'

The opera world was shocked by news last year that Dmitri Hvorostovsky had brain cancer. But the beloved Russian baritone with the velvety voice and phenomenal breath control carried on, canceling some appearances but performing when he could. "War, Peace, Love and Sorrow," his new release recorded last October during a break in his chemotherapy, reaffirms that he sounds as good as ever. Unfortunately, apart from reassuring his fans, there isn't much about this album that makes artistic sense. As the title suggests, it's a hodgepodge of scenes and arias, some of which the baritone had recorded before. Still, there's much to enjoy. The magical opening from Prokofiev's "War and Peace" finds him in terrific form, moving from dejection to hope as he overhears Natasha sing of her joy in life. This is followed by excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Mazeppa" and "Iolanta." —AP



Hit maker Timbaland producing music for fitness brand Zumba

Hit-making producer Timbaland is used to people dancing to his beats at nightclubs, and now fans will get a chance to move to music he specifically designed for working out through a new partnership with Zumba. The man behind hits for Justin Timberlake and Jay Z is crafting songs for STRONG by Zumba, a non-dance-inspired workout that focuses on high-intensity interval training, bodyweight exercises and strength training paired with music to match every move.

"I've always been into fitness, and music is a big part of exercising for me, and I feel like STRONG by Zumba was a great way - with my edge, my music style - to put it together," the 44-year-old Grammy winner said in an interview Tuesday. The Timbaland-produced song "Nobody," performed by his new girl group, Obs3sseed, will be used by STRONG by Zumba instructors during training sessions; the track won't be available for sale or streaming. Timbaland is also working on another song with fellow producer Scott Storch for the program.

STRONG by Zumba isn't like typical Zumba classes where Latin dances are at the forefront. Timbaland says his music is designed to help people get through workouts with more ease and inspire people to push their limits at the gym. Zumba largely cornered the sparse dance cardio market when it emerged more than a decade ago, but it's facing increasing competition with the rise of celebrity dance trainers like Tracy Anderson, boutique studios with live DJs and black lights, fitness raves and a slew of studios dedicated to barre and ballet classes.

"(STRONG is) a step out for them. I think what they were really doing by working with someone like Timbaland, it's almost like you've been typecast into a certain role ... when you step out and do something different than what you've done before, then you look to make a splash and bring a different type of energy to it," said Ntiedo Etuk, CEO of YG Studios, an online platform that pairs trainers with clients. Zumba has worked with other musicians, including Daddy Yankee and Don Omar. Timbaland said he's never taken a Zumba class, but "thought it was interesting." He performed at the Zumba Instructor Convention in Orlando, Florida, last month. Timbaland is executive music producer for the hit TV series "Empire." He has produced hits for Missy Elliott, Aaliyah, Nelly Furtado and others. "That's what I am - I am music. I try to find all different types of avenues to express my talent when it comes to music," he said. — AP



In this June 25, 2015 file photo, Timbaland arrives at the 2015 ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP



Workers melt aluminum waste in an aluminum recycling factory.

Bangladeshis travel far from home for \$10-a-day jobs

Mohammad Jamal last saw his now-4-month-old daughter when she was 2 days old. He doesn't know when he will see her next. For most of his adult life, the 33-year-old has worked menial and risky jobs far from his home and family. He is among millions of impoverished Bangladeshis forced to eke out livelihoods as migrant workers.

"I have no land to cultivate and I'm the only working hand in my family. It's hard to stay far from home, but I'm working hard for a better future for my child," he says, showing pictures of the cherubic little girl on his cellphone. Jamal works at a small aluminum recycling factory in Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka. A large swath of land not far from the

Buriganga River is dotted with makeshift tents that are home to men and women who work 12 hours a day recycling cans, industrial ash and medicine blister packets into raw aluminum. Those aluminum blocks are then sold to companies that make machine parts.

The work is difficult and dangerous. The workers have no safety equipment or masks to protect themselves from the fumes and aluminum dust. The toil earns the men and women an average of \$10 a day. Why do so many people leave their hometowns for such a small sum? Because more than 40 million of Bangladesh's 166 million people survive on less than \$2 a day. — AP



Mohammad Jamal washes his face during a break at an aluminum recycling factory on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh. — AP photos



Mohammad Jamal poses for a portrait.



Laborers work at an aluminum recycling factory.



Ruhul Amin, pauses as he sorts aluminum cans .



Bangladeshi women sort aluminum pieces from industrial waste.



Personal items are seen stuck in the makeshift wall of a shelter for migrant workers employed at an aluminum recycling factory.



Mohammad Jamal melts used aluminum waste.



Mohammad Motaleb, an aluminum recycling factory worker, talks to his daughter during a break.



Workers rest under a tent they share near an aluminum recycling factory.



A worker melts aluminum waste in an aluminum recycling factory.



Worker pours liquid aluminum into casts at a recycling factory.



Mohammad Mosharrof sorts aluminum pieces from industrial waste.



Recycled blocks of aluminum are loaded for transportation to a market from an aluminum recycling factory.

How decadent doughnuts can be made healthier - try baking them

Melissa D'arabian

Doughnuts are my kryptonite. Fried sweet dough dipped in glaze, and then dunked into a cup of steaming-hot coffee? Yes, please. And I will give this to you straight: once or twice a year, I'm all in. I load up the car and take the kids to our favorite doughnut spot and we throw caution to the wind. But for the average Sunday-brunch-type of indulgence, a girl needs a plan. I wanted to create a doughnut that would scratch the itch on a more semi-regular basis. And the baked version is just the ticket. I make a doughnut in perhaps my favorite flavor of all time - peanut butter chocolate - that

truly feels like a major indulgence, while it's actually just a minor one, thanks to a few tricks.

First, get yourself a full-sized baked doughnut tin, stat. Not to sound bossy, but this will change your life. Or at least your weekend. Incidentally, stick with the full-sized version - the baked mini-doughnuts puff up and the middle fills in, and frankly, you end up with something closer to a muffin half the time. Second little trick: Use a lot less sugar than you would use for a cake recipe. The little bit of sugary glaze will make the doughnut taste sweeter than it is, because it's on the outside. Third trick: I use three kinds of chocolate - melted chocolate and cocoa powder (both unsweetened) and then just a couple

of tablespoons of mini-chocolate chips, which even in small quantities add a gooey-melted chocolate vibe that says "today is special."

Lastly, I use defatted peanut flour (also called "dried peanut butter"). It has all the flavor and a fraction of the calories of peanut butter, perfect for smoothies and baked goods. And as a bonus, these doughnuts can be made gluten-free. I've successfully substituted several gluten-free flour mixes (look for "1-to-1" or "baking flour" on the label for best results) in this recipe, which my gluten-free daughter loves.



CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER BAKED DOUGHNUTS

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 6 doughnuts

Ingredients

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1 square unsweetened chocolate, melted
1/3 cup brown sugar (or 1/2 cup if you want sweeter)
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon white or cider vinegar
1/2 cup low fat milk
3/4 cup flour
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
2 tablespoons powdered peanut butter (or peanut flour)
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons mini chocolate chips
Glaze:
1 tablespoon powdered peanut butter ("peanut flour")
1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
2/3 cup powdered sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large glass bowl, whisk together the butter, chocolate and brown sugar until smooth. Add the egg, vanilla, vinegar and milk and whisk together. In a small bowl, sift the flour, cocoa, dried peanut butter, baking powder and soda and salt together. Add the chocolate chips and toss to coat. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir with a wooden spoon until mixed. Spray a doughnut baking tin with nonstick spray. Scrape the batter into a 1-quart re-sealable plastic bag and snip the corner to make a 1/2-inch opening. Pipe the batter into the doughnut molds.

Bake until doughnuts are dry and cooked through, about 15 minutes. Meanwhile, whisk together the glaze ingredients in a small bowl until smooth. Once the doughnuts are cooked, allow to cool a few minutes before removing from the mold. Allow to cool to the touch and then dip the prettier side (the side that was in the mold) into the glaze and set on baking rack for the glaze to cool and harden. —AP

For healthy, forgiving cooking, try a foil pack in the oven

By Melissa D'arabian

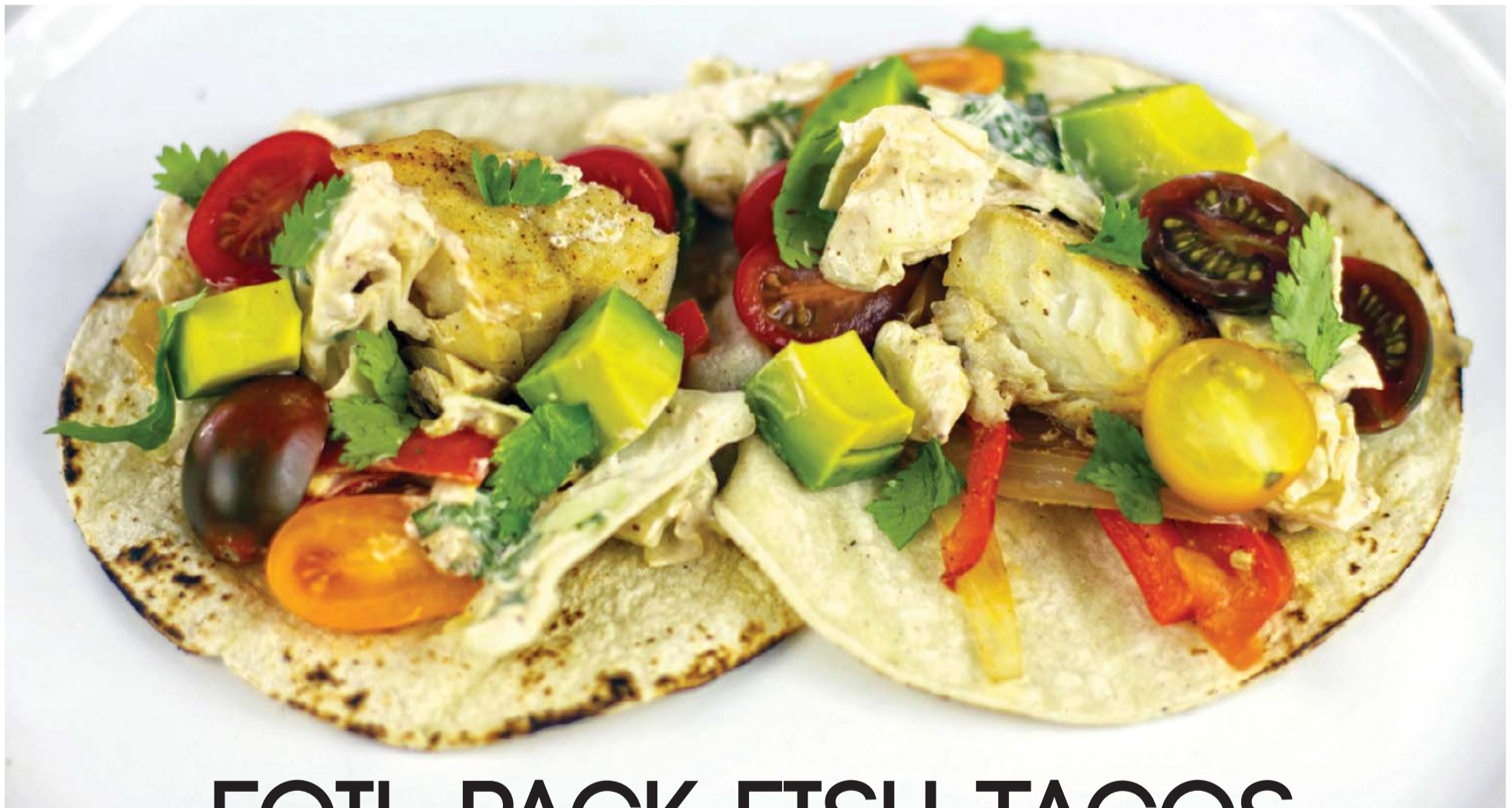
Social media tells me that in part of the country, kids are already back-to-school. And so we are teetering between the lazy days of summer and the impending promise of crisp cool air, long sleeves and the desire to fire down the grill and turn on the oven instead.

This is the perfect time to talk about one of my favorite shoulder-season cooking strategies: the foil pack! Place thinly sliced veggies with a little marinade or vinaigrette (even store-bought will work) in a large sheet of heavy-duty aluminum foil and fold shut into a packet, pinching the edges, and this handy little guy will be equally delicious whether cooked on the grill if you have a hot fall day, or in the oven, if you're already in pumpkin latte weather.

Add some fish or chicken, and you'll have a full meal, all packaged and pretty in individual servings, a presentation which thrills dinner party guests and

kiddos alike. Foil packet cooking is healthy - little fat is needed to accomplish tender, flavorful results. And, packet-cookery is incredibly forgiving - you (almost) can't overcook a foil packet. A few minutes extra in the oven won't ruin packet-fish like it would dry out a fillet cooked on the stovetop, grill or even just roasted directly in the oven. As a mom of four, I appreciate that kind of weeknight-meal flexibility. Try my foil-pack fish tacos to master some of the basics, like layering the ingredients in order of how quickly they cook - the bottom will cook more quickly since it will be touching a direct heat source.

Fish tacos are an excellent summertime favorite to take with us into colder weather. I love using Alaska cod because not only is it full of healthy fats (which feed my brain, heart and make me feel full), but it's available frozen year-round. And these packets do great with frozen fish - no need to thaw before making. Happy fall indeed.



FOIL-PACK FISH TACOS

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients

Juice of 1 lime, about 2 tablespoons
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon chili powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon granulated garlic
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 fillets of Alaskan cod, frozen, about 4-5 ounces each
1 yellow onion, sliced thinly (about 2 cups)
2 sweet peppers (red, yellow, or orange), sliced thinly (about 2 cups total)

Spicy slaw topping:

2 cups chopped or sliced cabbage
1/4 cup plain Greek lowfat yogurt
1 tablespoon mayonnaise
1/2 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
1 tablespoon lime juice
1 chopped green onion
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
Chopped tomatoes, for garnish (optional)
Salt and pepper
8 corn tortillas, for serving
Cubed avocado, for garnish

Preparation

Preheat oven to 400 F. In a large bowl, mix together the lime juice, olive oil, chili powder, cumin and granulated garlic. Cut four 12-inch-by-12-inch pieces of heavy duty foil. Dip the fish into the marinade and set aside. Toss the onion and peppers in the marinade to coat, and divide among the foil squares. Place the fish on top of the onions and peppers. Then toss the tomatoes into the marinade and then place on top of the fish, along with any remaining marinade. Close the foil up into packets, crimping the edges together. Place on a baking sheet and bake until fish is cooked through and vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes. (Subtract 10 minutes if using fresh fish). Meanwhile, mix together all the ingredients for the spicy slaw topping. Serve one foil packet per person, along with corn tortillas, slaw for topping and avocado if desired. — AP



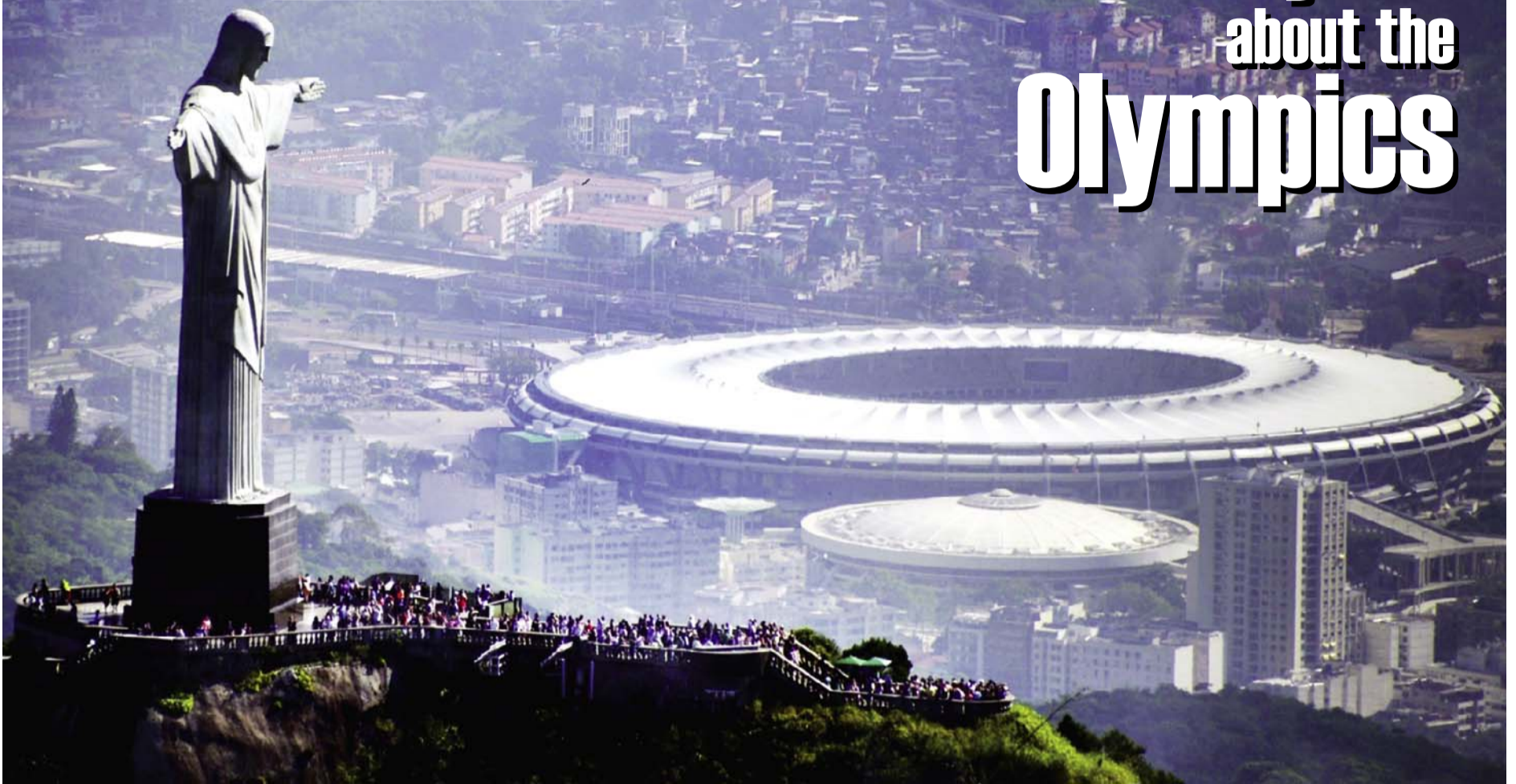
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Friday Times

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2016

Kids

8 amazing facts about the Olympics



- 1) The Summer Olympic Games or the 'Games of the Olympiad' were first held in the modern era in 1896 in Athens, Greece.
- 2) Great Britain is the only country to have one at least 1 gold medal at every Summer Olympics.
- 3) The 5 rings of the Olympic flag represent Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas, they are linked together in friendship. Every national flag of the world has at least one of the rings colors, blue, black, green, yellow, and red.
- 4) For the 1900 Olympics, held in Paris, winners were given paintings instead of medals, which the French

- believed were far more valuable.
- 5) Brazil is the first country in the Southern Hemisphere to host the Summer Olympic Games.
- 6) The last few Olympics have seen a record number of nearly 11,000 people, from a record number of 204 countries, competing in a record number of 28 sports and 41 disciplines over a record 302 events.
- 7) The United States has won more medals (2,189) at the Summer Games, more than any other country.
- 8) The Olympic motto is - "Citius, Altius, Fortius." This is Latin for "Swifter, Higher, Stronger".

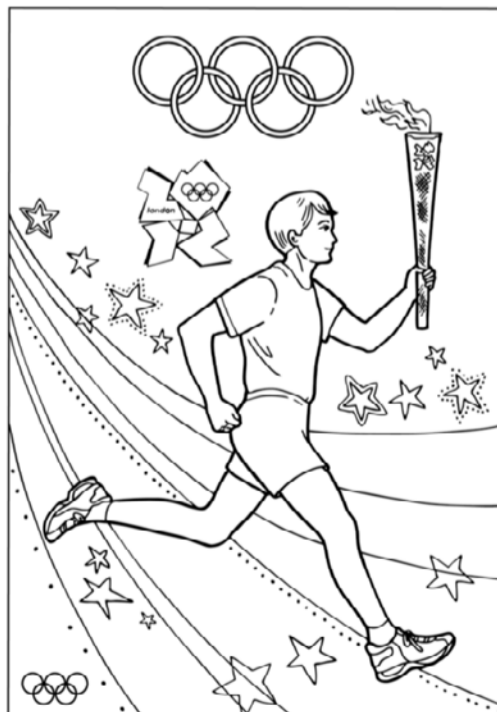


Olympic Games Pencil Control

Follow between the lines with your pencil to see who has won which medal.



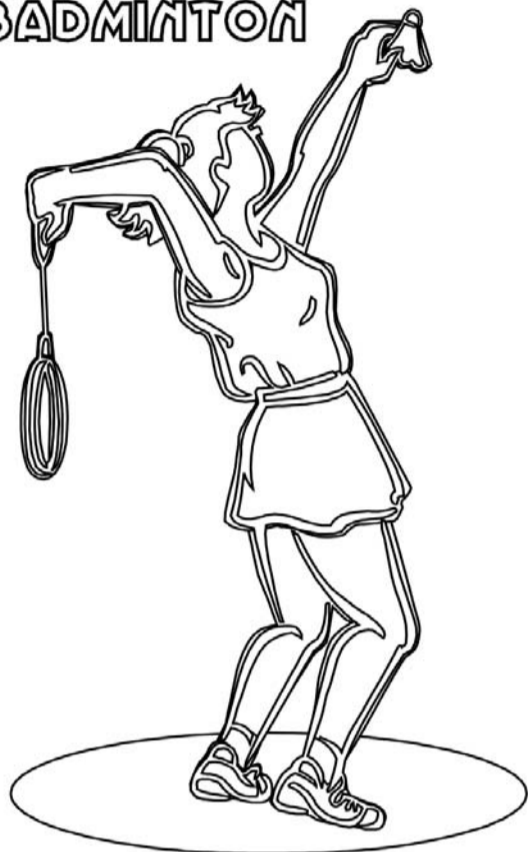
Spot the differences



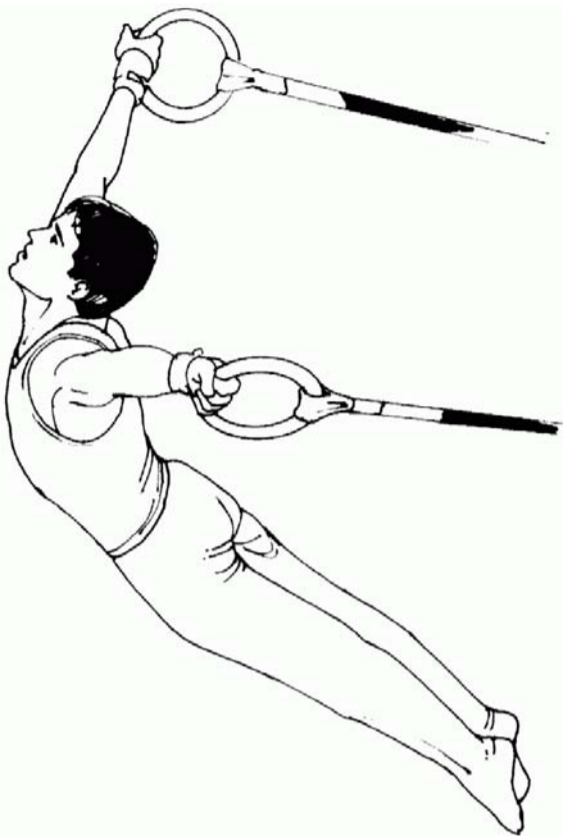


Color me!

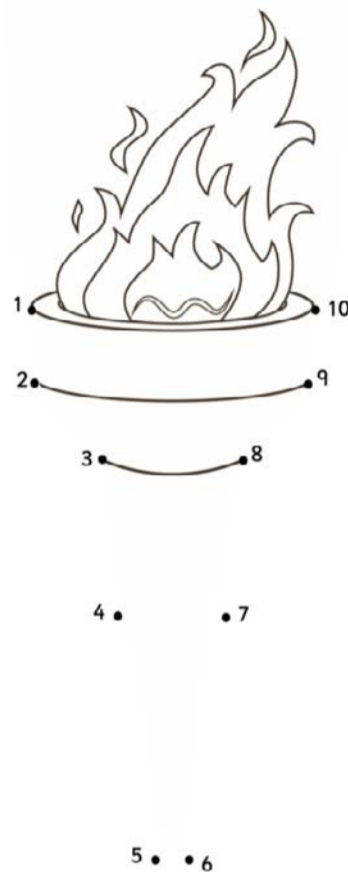
BADMINTON



Gymnastics



Olympic Medal Dot to Dot

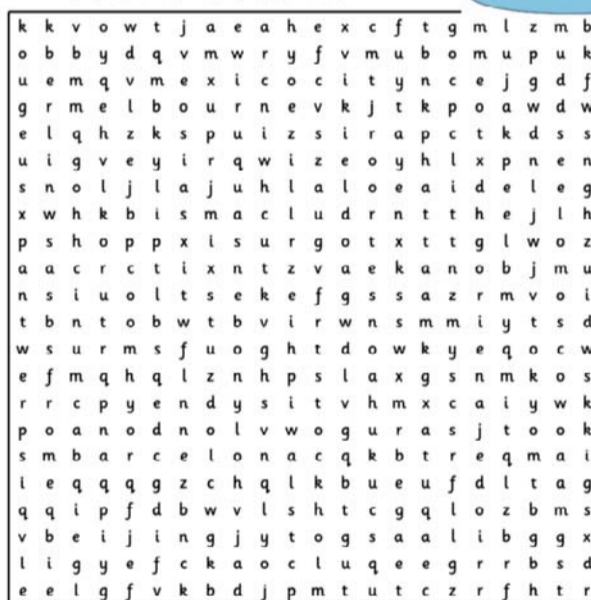
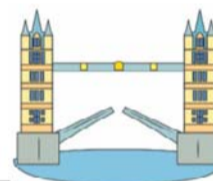


Olympic Sports Word Scramble



- djuo -----
- aeabllsbtck -----
- nnaegcoi -----
- alchtstie -----
- ayncsisgmt -----
- nlsaigi -----
- nwriog -----
- gothnsio -----
- oflg -----
- lnalbhad -----
- ngtielwhtgifi -----
- ugbry vsnese -----
- oenawkdto -----
- miminsgw -----

Olympic Host Cities Word Search

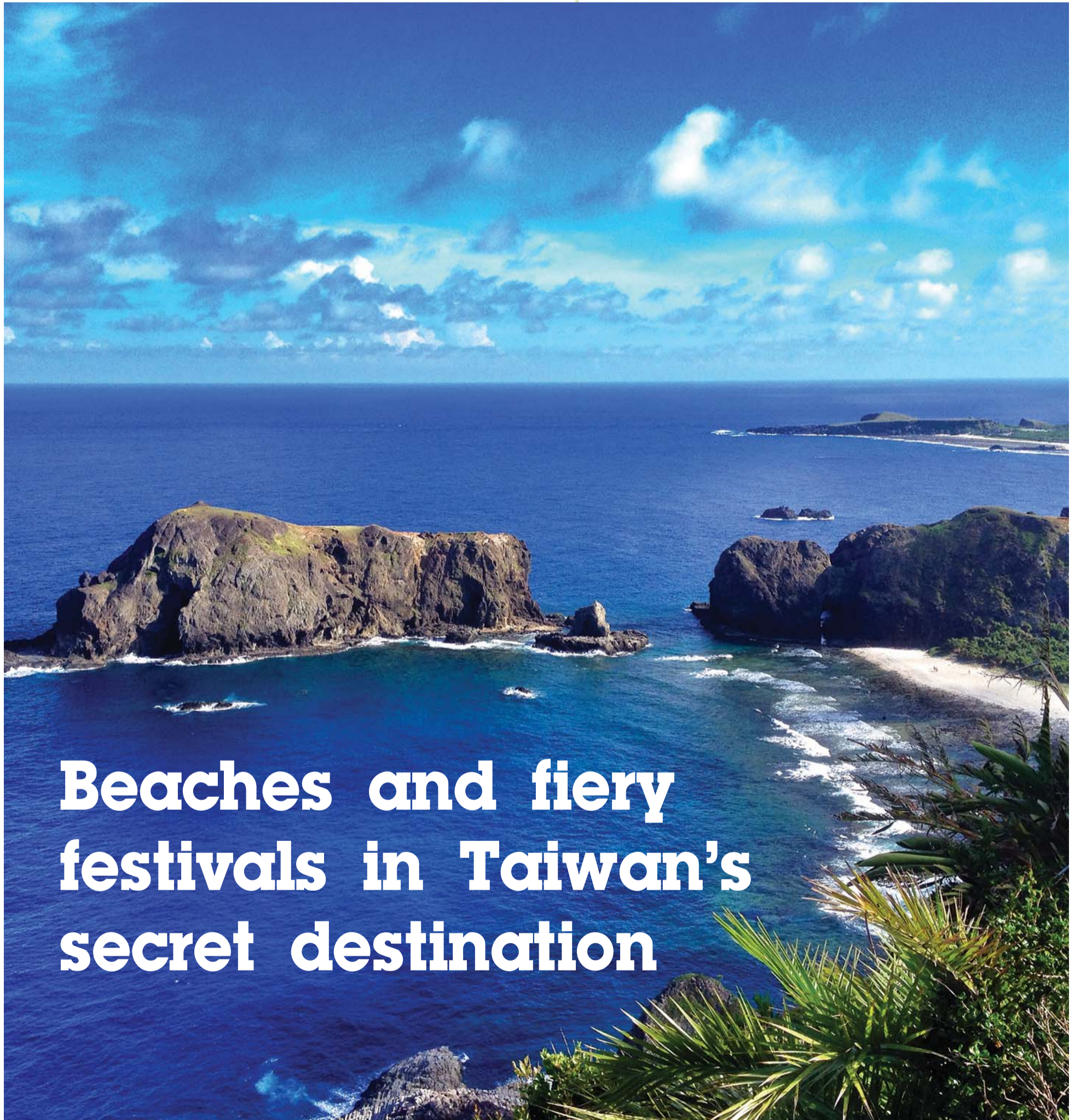


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|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Amsterdam | Antwerp | Athens | Atlanta |
| Barcelona | Beijing | Berlin | Helsinki |
| London | Los Angeles | Melbourne | Mexico City |
| Montreal | Moscow | Munich | Paris |
| Rio De Janeiro | Rome | Seoul | St Louis |
| Stockholm | Sydney | Tokyo | |





Friday Times Travel



**Beaches and fiery
festivals in Taiwan's
secret destination**

On Taiwan's southeastern coast, the alluring, snail-shaped county of Taitung is Taiwan's wonderful secret. Taitung escapes mass tourism, despite having some of the island's most stunning geography and being a hub for its deeply rooted cultural traditions. A powerful typhoon struck Taitung on 8 July 2016, causing two deaths, many injuries and significant damage to the region's infrastructure. At the time of writing, the clean-up operation was underway and looked likely to take several weeks. Travelers should consult their national government for more advice.

Balloons galore

Come summer, Taitung also has the most enchanting skies in Taiwan as hot air ballooners congregate for the Taiwan International Balloon Fiesta. Every July and August, colorful and outrageous balloons float above the grassy and placid Luye Plateau, a half-hour drive from Taitung town. Fabulously, the festival is totally free, although if you want a bob about in a basket you'll have to buy a ticket (NT\$500 for a tethered ride or NT\$9,000 for a 45-minute trip). Make sure to catch one of the night-time 'glow shows' when tethered balloons, lit from within, dance to music like fireworks in giant bubbles.



Fiery festival

Taitung town is a sleepy grid of tree-lined lanes directly next to the ocean. With most of the younger generation wooed away by the faster economies of Taiwan's west coast cities, grandmas and grandpas rule the roost here. This lends Taitung a traditional sense of living history not found anywhere else on the island. The year's ultimate drama comes during Bombing Master Handan, a raucous festival held at Chinese New Year. The streets are filled with smoke and sparks as onlookers pelt a half-naked man in a sedan chair with pink bricks of firecrackers. The man is a stand-in for Lord Handan, the God of Wealth, and the firecrackers are to keep him warm and happy.

Even if you can't make it for Handan's rowdy to-do, history is apparent all over Taitung. Streets are dotted with lovely, old Japanese-era buildings recognizable by their dark-tiled roofs and black beams. On a sunny afternoon, every other road seems to yield another Taoist temple with scarlet pillars and fearsome ceramic dragons. Tianhou Temple is the boldest and biggest with its ostentatious swirling dragon eaves and swaying red lanterns within.





Pacific coast

The East Coast of Taiwan offers some of the most spectacular coastline in Asia, as the crystal blue Pacific Ocean spreads east in endless rolling waves. The nearly arrow-straight Highway 11 offers perfect views and is flat enough for cycling, or just a pleasant drive, passing over the Tropic of Cancer about halfway between Taroko National Park and Taitung.

This rugged coastline offers sublime conditions for sky watching of a celestial sort. On a clear evening, far from any urban glare, the moon and the stars are brilliantly visible from any number of scenic rest spots. Jialulan (about 7km from Taitung town) is perfect for tracking the heavens and it also hosts folk music concerts and twisted driftwood traditional craft

markets on summer evenings. Coconut Beach B&B (coconut-beach.com.tw) is located north of town on an isolated crescent beach and caters to stargazers with terraces in each room and telescopes for guest use.

Cycling the ocean route north from Taitung is unforgettable - to the west, the foothills of the Central Mountains rise up, while the eastern view plunges dramatically to a jagged coastline cupped by the turquoise Pacific. Snap yourself a seafood dinner at one of the dining halls around Fugang Harbour, or splash around on almost-deserted yellow-sand beaches at spots along the coast (San Yuan is the closest to Taitung town). The village of Dulan, 20 km north, is home to a nest of expats running bars, backpacker hostels and bakeries. In November, the annual Taiwan Open of Surfing is held in Dulan.



Fruits, fish and flowers

You can't go anywhere in Taiwan without bumping into a night market, and Taitung is no exception with two (on Zhengqi and Siwei Rds). Proximity to the ocean ensures there is always plenty of fresh seafood - browned, grilled squid straight from the cart is especially delectable. If you have a sweet tooth and are here in summer, the local custard apples are famed all over the island. Looking like plump dinosaur eggs, they crumble into soft candied chunks as you open them.

Taitung is also known for its stinky tofu (although, you'll soon find out that every place in Taiwan claims this), pig's blood soup, and chewy rice noodles in a pork and fish flake broth. Indigenous fare tends to be gamey (read: Not very veg-

etarian friendly); the most ubiquitous snack is away, a leaf-wrapped ball of sticky rice with pork or fish. In September, head south to tour the orange lily fields (also called day lilies) at Taimali. Early in the morning, as the mountain mists lift, carpets of these beautiful blooms emerge like magic. Roadside restaurants fry up the petals for a delicious crispy snack or swirl them into a meat broth.

Unique culture

About 35% of Taitung county's population are indigenous people from many different ethnic groups. The excellent National Museum of Prehistory tells their stories and is a good place to get a firm understanding of the indigenous peoples' rights movement in Taiwan. One highlight is the display on

the witchcraft rituals of the Bunun people. Taitung also serves as the jumping-off point for Taiwan's two indigenous islands - Green Island and Lanyu (Orchid Island). Ferries depart for Green Island from Fugang Harbor, but farther away Orchid Island is only reachable by plane. In late summer, villages around the county hold harvest festivals, during which everyone dons traditional clothing and heads to a big field to eat, drink and dance. Often, well-known indigenous bands will be invited to play a concert and then the party really begins. Tiehua Music Village in Taitung town is a good place to catch indigenous bands throughout the year.

—www.lonelyplanet.com





Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good time for clear deliberation and solving problems. You are in a serious frame of mind and may find yourself dealing with matters of much concern. This may also be a good time to reorganize. You may be given an opportunity to have your say today. This conversation opener will allow you to submit your opinion verbally as well as in writing so that reference can be made later. Don't be afraid; you have good ideas and a style of making presentations that could sell ice to the eskimo, so to speak. Some of your ideas may need fine-tuning and this way you will have some input. This evening, neighbors or brothers and sisters will likely bring all kinds of good experiences your way. A sense of support is a good thing to have.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A call from a friend today may have your thoughts on other places or people than work. You may try to put an extra effort into concentrating on your work, so that you can visit with this friend during the noon break. You can stay unruffled-you like things calm-polite, not too close or personal. You may become embarrassed if too much affection is thrown your way. It is as if all vulnerable issues never existed. However, the stuff of gossip fascinates you. You hate it, but you love it. Words are like feathers from a pillow, strewn across the land... It is impossible to take them all back once they have escaped the pillow. If a scandal is stirring, you might have ideas of helpful people that would provide a path to the answers.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today is a bit different from the first part of this week. You may find someone hard to get along with, perhaps a customer. Your wisdom and not your emotions will prove the winner here. Although this may not be the best time to push your ideas or demand things from others, your management and directional abilities are in high focus. Remove the emotions and you will find answers you never realized existed. Contracts and agreements are all possible today. These can be productive days, but do not take any particular one for granted-someone may undermine your progress. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move and growing. You are able to relax and enjoy an easy evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Everything points to your taking the initiative in the workplace. You could feel great support from those around you. You feel healthy and natural. Challenges will encourage you to use that fine intuition of yours. Try to keep outside interference to a minimum. This afternoon you will find you can look back on this day with no regrets. You may even want to brag a little at how much you were able to accomplish. You appreciate, care and are concerned about life, equality, gentleness and acceptance. You are a born charmer with an innate love and appreciation for other people as well as the earth and its stability. You may decide to get on some political committee for people against underground nuclear testing. Young people need your listening ear tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are good at overcoming most any challenge that may seem to affect your business. You see a problem and you run to stop it before it multiplies. Today, you might teach a new member of the working team how to be alert to the unexpected-this is certainly the perfect way to build trust. This is a productive month for you. You clear away any negatives and help others to do the same. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. This afternoon, you may decide to purchase an item you have been wanting for a long time. Your taste in art is heightened and you may be interested in investing or in taking a class on some art techniques. Later today, people you know and love want to help you celebrate.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You possess a powerful drive to succeed and are a hard, steady worker. Your willingness to make things work and set a high standard in your life is positive-you set examples for others to follow. Your life path involves cutting through appearances and superficialities. This could mean that the business world is an open book for you-easy to read. Any career where you can solve problems and get to uncover some basic results quickly is most successful. A meeting that is pulled together today may have to be repeated. Something doesn't make sense and you may want to take notes on the usual what, when, where and why type of questions to find the answer. You can help, but not today. This evening is a good time to enjoy dining out with the family.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today is a rewarding day. Decisions and actions are positive and constructive. You work well with those in authority who are independent and original. You could find yourself engaged in nonconformist causes, always ready to promote what is resourceful and imaginative. You find yourself in support of whatever new wave product or breakthrough advance is next in line. You are in the mood to express yourself and entertain others this afternoon. This can be a wonderful time to visit with friends and to enjoy drop-in guests. A spontaneous get-together can be enjoyed by friends and loved ones alike. You enjoy being surrounded by an audience. You are very magnetic and dynamic. Others love to be with you. What a day!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This particular day may bring about the urge to investigate and learn more about a difficult subject matter-it may be time to express your opinion. Your thinking is headed in the right direction and you could be most persuasive with others. You enjoy being around positive people but you don't depend on others for your happiness. This afternoon you may decide it is your hobby that you have been neglecting and you turn up the music and boogie on out to the hobby room or garage, or find some table space, and enjoy some fun time with an old hobby. You may become encouraged to research and find a group that has the same interest as you. Later this evening you may find yourself having pleasant conversations with the people you love.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may not place much value on ideas and thoughts at this time. Something that someone says or communicates to you may be unappreciated. This may not interfere with your decision making but it could surely slow down the productivity of the day. You may find that both your personal growth and your career depend upon how you can handle some sensitive matters today. You will do well, if you just take your time. Make an extra effort to stay on the path to your professional goals-focus. You might seriously consider joining group activity projects this month. The people you meet through these groups will introduce you to new adventures in various ways. This may include the possibilities of group travel in the future.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Heavy-duty thinking is the action for this morning. You may even find yourself taking a late lunch-there are problems to be solved. Your sense of humor will see you through many tense moments later this afternoon. There will soon be opportunities to reflect and assess just where you are and how you are progressing toward your goals. This could be the best time to make any changes that are necessary to speed your progress. You have a heightened interest in health and diet, as well as an urge to get things organized into a rational system. There is much mental busywork present in many areas of your life. You take great pride in the results of your hard work and enjoy finding wise ways of investing in the future. Relax... Fun happens this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your positivism lets you get right to the point and you like the positive feedback from others that have the same frame of mind as you. You have plenty of enthusiasm. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. It would be a wise decision on your part to have good answers for people that would like you to spend more of your time helping others. If you are going to perform or work to your best ability you will want to say no occasionally. Keep your eye out for investment possibilities-many unusual opportunities will be available soon. You have a good friend and will find a few opportunities to celebrate some time with this friend doing a few out-of-the ordinary things this fall. Put your heads together and plan an adventure.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Teamwork may be on the agenda for today and as you work with your team you realize how fortunate you are to have such good people on your team. Working in unison to accomplish a project is the goal and you will be pleased with the outcome. Obtaining and exchanging information can be an important part of this day. Applied force, practical competence, tremendous discipline and a love of routine work will all come into play now. You can simplify code and reduce a subject to its essential elements. You show off your inner drive to be thorough and responsible. You enjoy working hard and being organized and you exercise skill and discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. Rest is required this afternoon.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina Faso	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976

BBC FIRST

03:05 Stag
04:00 Doctors
04:35 Eastenders
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Holby City
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:30 Death In Paradise
09:25 Dickensian
10:10 Dickensian
11:00 Dickensian
11:50 Casualty
13:40 Holby City
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:40 Doctor Who
18:15 Doctors
18:45 Doctors
19:15 Father Brown
20:05 Orphan Black
21:00 Thirteen
21:55 Happy Valley
22:50 I Want My Wife Back
23:20 Ideal
23:50 Doctors
00:55 Father Brown

COMEDY CENTRAL

03:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
03:50 Key And Peele
05:55 Impractical Jokers
06:20 Key And Peele
06:50 Tosh.0
07:40 Gym Rescue
08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Tosh.0
11:00 Impractical Jokers
11:25 Gym Rescue
12:15 Key And Peele
12:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:30 Tosh.0
14:20 Impractical Jokers
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Tosh.0
16:00 Tosh.0
16:30 Hungry Investors
18:15 Tosh.0
19:03 MLE St Patrick's Day Chowdown
19:50 Tosh.0
20:13 I Live With Models
20:37 Brotherhood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer
21:54 Broad City
22:18 South Park

Discovery CHANNEL HD

03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
04:05 Storage Hunters UK
04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
05:00 How Stuff's Made
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Mythbusters
06:50 World's Top 5
07:40 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed
08:30 Boy To Man
09:20 Venom Hunters
10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
11:00 Dark Woods Justice
11:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
12:40 Mega Shippers
13:30 Fast N' Loud
14:20 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
15:10 Street Outlaws
16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
22:40 Street Outlaws
23:30 Blood Lions - Bred For The Bullet
00:20 Island Of The Mega Shark
01:10 Fast N' Loud

EHD

03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
08:45 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News
13:35 E! News
14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
19:30 E! News
20:00 WAGs
21:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 E! News
23:30 E! News
00:00 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 Botched
02:20 E! News
02:45 E! News

H2 HD

03:40 America: The Story Of The U.S.
04:30 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Discoveries

07:00 Dogfights
08:00 Ancient Discoveries
09:00 The Universe
10:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
11:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Dogfights
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 The Universe
16:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
17:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
20:00 Ancient Discoveries
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Ancient Impossible
23:00 Decoding The Past
00:00 In Search Of Aliens

NAT GEO WILD HD

03:45 Amazon Underworld
04:40 Outback Wrangler
05:05 Outback Wrangler
05:35 Tiger Queen
06:30 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
07:25 Amazon Underworld
08:20 Outback Wrangler
08:45 Outback Wrangler
09:15 Murder, Mayhem & Meerkats
10:10 Queen Of The Baboons
11:05 Dead Or Alive
12:00 Shocking Sharks
12:55 Brutal Killers
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
14:45 Brilliant Beasts
15:40 Mind Of A Giant
16:35 Gardeners Of Eden

17:30 Wild Hawaii
18:25 Dead Or Alive
19:20 Brilliant Beasts
20:10 Mind Of A Giant
21:00 Gardeners Of Eden
21:50 Wild Hawaii
22:40 Dead Or Alive
23:30 Shocking Sharks
00:20 Brutal Killers
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
02:00 Extreme Animal Babies
02:50 Natural Born Monsters

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

03:50 Inside: Reinventing Taipei
04:45 Science Of Stupid
05:10 Science Of Stupid
05:40 Crowd Control
06:05 Crowd Control
06:35 Locked Up Abroad
07:30 Breakout
08:25 Wicked Tuna
09:20 Science Of Stupid
09:45 Science Of Stupid
10:15 4 Babies A Second
11:10 The Great Human Race
12:05 Russia's Mystery Files
13:00 Wicked Tuna
14:00 Breakout
15:00 Locked Up Abroad
16:00 4 Babies A Second
17:00 The Great Human Race
18:00 Russia's Mystery Files
19:00 Street Heat: High Speed Justice
20:00 4 Babies A Second
20:50 The Great Human Race
21:40 Russia's Mystery Files
22:30 Street Heat: High Speed Justice
23:20 Crowd Control

Family

03:00 What Happened Next?
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
11:35 Bondi Vet
12:00 My Cat From Hell
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Doki
16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
17:00 Troy
17:50 Race To Escape
18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Troy
22:00 Race To Escape
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Troy

SC DISCOVERY science

03:00 Industrial Junkie
03:24 Industrial Junkie
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Crisis Control
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 Industrial Junkie
09:26 Industrial Junkie
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Crisis Control
11:26 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Industrial Junkie
14:14 Industrial Junkie
14:38 Crisis Control
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Industrial Junkie
17:26 Industrial Junkie
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Race To Escape
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Builders
22:00 Race To Escape
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
00:30 How Do They Do It?

Disney JUNIOR

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:40 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First

10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:30 Gummi Bears
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
14:00 The Lion Guard
14:30 Aladdin
14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:05 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:25 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack

Disney Channel

03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 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
10:40 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
14:50 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
17:25 Camp Rock
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Violetta
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

food network

03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped



X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2016

- 08:00 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
- 14:00 Man Fire Food
- 14:30 Man Fire Food
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 17:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 21:00 Kitchen Casino
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Iron Chef America
- 00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 01:00 Kitchen Casino
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



- 03:40 Shipping Wars
- 04:05 Shipping Wars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 06:50 Hunting Hitler
- 07:40 Grave Trade
- 08:30 American Restoration
- 08:55 Mountain Men
- 09:45 Ax Men
- 10:35 Ice Road Truckers
- 11:25 American Restoration
- 12:15 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 12:40 Car Hunters
- 13:05 American Pickers
- 13:55 Hoard Hunters
- 14:45 Hunting Hitler
- 15:35 Grave Trade
- 16:25 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 16:50 Time Team
- 17:40 Aussie Pickers
- 18:30 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 18:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 19:20 Ice Road Truckers
- 20:10 Ax Men
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Storage Wars
- 21:50 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 22:15 Barry'd Treasure
- 22:40 Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
- 23:30 Hoard Hunters
- 00:20 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 01:10 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 01:35 Car Hunters
- 02:00 American Pickers
- 02:50 Aussie Pickers



- 03:25 Don't Tell The Bride
- 04:20 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 06:10 Murdoch Mysteries
- 07:05 Chopping Block
- 08:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 08:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 09:50 The Chase
- 10:40 The Chase
- 11:35 Chopping Block
- 12:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Emmerdale
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Chopping Block
- 15:35 Chopping Block
- 16:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 17:25 Together
- 17:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Chopping Block
- 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 21:25 Together
- 21:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Emmerdale
- 23:40 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:30 Eggheads
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:25 Emmerdale
- 01:50 Emmerdale



FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES HD



- 03:00 Two And A Half Men
- 03:30 Two And A Half Men
- 04:00 Life In Pieces
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Community
- 06:00 George Lopez
- 06:30 Breaking In
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Life In Pieces
- 08:30 Community
- 09:00 Two And A Half Men
- 09:30 Angie Tribeca
- 10:00 Angie Tribeca
- 10:30 Breaking In
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 George Lopez
- 12:30 Life In Pieces
- 13:00 Community
- 13:30 Breaking In
- 14:00 Two And A Half Men
- 14:30 Angie Tribeca
- 15:00 Angie Tribeca
- 15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 16:00 Grandfathered
- 16:30 George Lopez
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 18:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 19:00 2 Broke Girls
- 19:30 New Girl
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 21:30 Grandfathered
- 22:00 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
- 22:30 Togetherness
- 23:00 The Brink
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 01:00 Grandfathered
- 01:30 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
- 02:00 Togetherness
- 02:30 The Brink



- 03:00 Empire
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Art Of More
- 07:00 Castle
- 08:00 Quantico
- 09:00 The Flash
- 10:00 Mr. Robot
- 11:00 Castle
- 12:00 Quantico
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America

- 16:00 The Art Of More
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Quantico
- 19:00 The Night Shift
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Chicago Med
- 22:00 The Night Shift
- 23:00 Outlander
- 00:00 Castle
- 01:00 Chicago Med
- 02:00 The Night Shift



- 04:00 6 Ways To Sundown
- 06:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
- 08:00 Crimson Tide
- 10:00 Close Range
- 12:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 13:45 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
- 15:45 Crimson Tide
- 17:45 Last Knights
- 19:45 Sabotage
- 21:45 Duplicity
- 00:00 Grace: The Possession
- 02:00 The Borderlands



- 04:00 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
- 06:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
- 08:00 My Father The Hero
- 10:00 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
- 11:45 Raising Helen
- 14:00 Three Men And A Baby
- 16:00 My Father The Hero
- 18:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
- 20:00 What We Do In The Shadows
- 22:00 Role Models
- 00:00 Save Your Legs!
- 02:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie



- 03:30 Dark Places
- 05:30 Short Term 12
- 07:15 Reach Me
- 09:00 Shanghai Calling
- 11:00 Miss Julie
- 13:15 Changing Hearts
- 15:00 The Love Guide
- 17:00 Shanghai Calling
- 19:00 The Kings Of Summer
- 21:00 Frank
- 23:00 The Riot Club
- 01:00 The Love Guide



- 03:00 My Favorite Martian
- 05:00 Aladdin
- 07:00 Clockstoppers
- 09:00 Ice Princess
- 11:00 The Mighty Ducks
- 13:00 Ghost Squad
- 15:00 Penguins Of Madagascar
- 17:00 Big Miracle
- 19:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 21:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
- 23:30 Penguins Of Madagascar
- 01:30 Wreck-It Ralph



- 04:30 Inside Llewyn Davis
- 06:30 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
- 08:30 Belle
- 10:30 A Beautiful Mind
- 12:45 Won't Back Down
- 15:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- 17:15 Belle
- 19:00 Blood Ties
- 21:30 The Sixth Sense
- 23:30 Jayne Mansfield's Car
- 02:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps



- 04:00 The Theory Of Everything
- 06:30 Selma
- 09:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
- 11:00 Fast & Furious 7
- 13:15 Barely Lethal
- 15:00 The Duff
- 16:45 Insurgent
- 18:45 The Longest Ride
- 21:00 Paper Towns
- 23:00 Spy
- 01:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken



- 04:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 06:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
- 08:00 Goat Story 2
- 09:45 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
- 11:15 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
- 12:45 The Dragon Pearl
- 14:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion

- 16:00 Harriet The Spy
- 18:00 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
- 20:00 Space Warriors
- 22:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 23:30 Harriet The Spy
- 01:15 Goat Story 2
- 02:45 Space Warriors



- 04:00 Don't Look Back
- 06:00 So Undercover
- 08:00 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
- 10:00 The Package
- 12:00 Step Up Revolution
- 14:00 Veronica Mars
- 16:00 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
- 18:00 The Maze Runner
- 20:00 The Prince
- 22:00 The Gambler



- 03:00 The Leftovers
- 04:00 Generation Kill
- 05:00 Confirmation
- 07:00 Maria Full Of Grace
- 09:00 The Gathering Storm
- 11:00 Einstein And Eddington
- 12:30 Wit
- 14:30 Something The Lord Made
- 16:30 Einstein And Eddington
- 18:00 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
- 18:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 19:00 Legends
- 20:00 Six Feet Under
- 21:00 Game Of Thrones
- 22:00 Vinyl
- 23:00 Tell Me You Love Me
- 00:00 Legends
- 01:00 Six Feet Under
- 02:00 Game Of Thrones



- 03:00 Switched At Birth
- 04:00 Making Mr.Right
- 05:00 Fit For Fashion
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Bones
- 08:00 American Idol
- 09:00 American Idol
- 10:00 Private Practice

- 11:00 Switched At Birth
- 12:00 Making Mr.Right
- 13:00 Fit For Fashion
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Bones
- 16:00 American Idol
- 17:00 Cougar Town
- 17:30 Cougar Town
- 18:00 Desperate Housewives
- 19:00 Desperate Housewives
- 20:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 21:00 American Idol
- 22:00 American Idol
- 23:00 American Idol



- 03:15 Ultimate Shopper
- 04:00 Oprah's Master Class
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Little People, Big World
- 05:35 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 Cake Boss
- 06:50 Cake Boss
- 07:15 Cake Boss
- 07:40 Cake Boss
- 08:05 The Face Australia
- 08:55 The Face Australia
- 09:45 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 10:35 Nida'a
- 11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:15 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:40 Say Yes To The Dress
- 13:05 Say Yes To The Dress
- 13:30 Oprah's Master Class
- 14:20 Oprah's Master Class
- 15:10 Little People, Big World
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 17:15 The Undateables
- 18:05 Designer Darlings
- 18:55 Cake Boss
- 19:20 Say Yes To The Dress ,Ai Bridesmaids
- 19:45 Say Yes To The Dress ,Ai Bridesmaids
- 20:10 Kate Plus 8
- 21:00 Jill & Jessa: Counting On
- 21:50 Kate Plus 8
- 22:40 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 23:30 Breaking Amish
- 00:20 My Giant Life
- 01:10 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
- 02:00 Outrageous 911
- 02:50 Monsters Inside Me



- 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
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 12:12 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
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants

WORD SEARCH

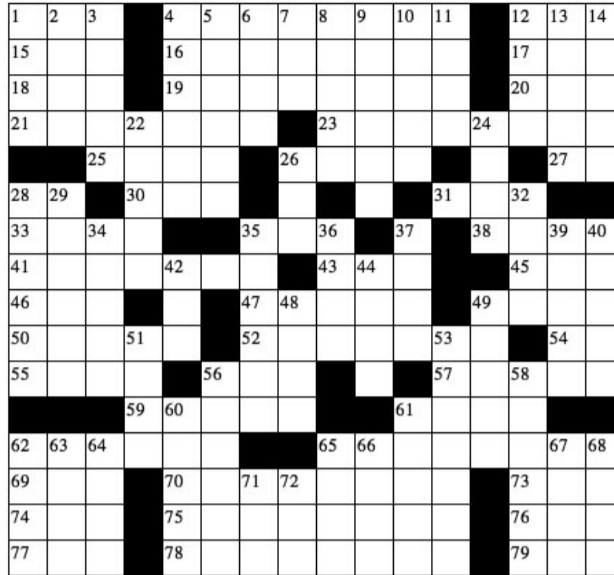
Geometry 1

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

S J E E C Q N O G Y L O P A S G Q
 A V N Q Q H H Y P O T E N U S E M
 R S E O E U T B C A T H U M P A L
 O D L Z R N I O X R D O Z I R X I
 G I A I A D N L A R A R G G W C S
 A L C L L G E N A E D D O A X Y O
 H O S X R M S H E T L L I H E L S
 T S Z U U V A Z Y Q E G S U C I C
 Y U E L E C C R S L U R N J S N E
 P N O R U Z J S L L O A A A I D L
 T V S T S Q U A R E X P T L I E E
 J A E C N E R E F M U C R I C R S
 L V V V F A L T X E T R E V O Q T
 O M I D P O I N T I Q F N K K N N

- ACUTE
- ISOSCELES
- SLANT
- CHORD
- MIDPOINT
- SOLIDS
- CIRCUMFERENCE
- PARALLELOGRAM
- SQUARE
- CONGRUENT
- POLYGON
- TRANSVERSAL
- CYLINDER
- POLYHEDRON
- TRIANGLE
- EQUATION
- PYTHAGORAS
- VERTEX
- EQUILATERAL
- RADIUS
- VOLUME
- HYPOTENUSE
- SCALENE

CROSSWORD 1340



ACROSS

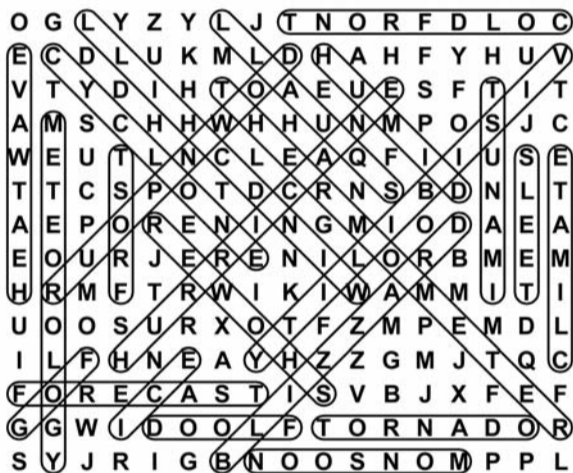
1. An emergency procedure consisting of external cardiac massage and artificial respiration.
4. Give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors, or duties and obligations.
12. Informal terms for the mouth.
15. The quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength.
16. Small Eurasian teal.
17. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
18. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
19. Guiding star.
20. A resource.
21. Any of various small or medium-sized kangaroos often brightly colored.
23. A farm machine for separating seeds or grain from the husks and straw.
25. Type genus of the Majidae.
27. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
28. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
30. A light touch or stroke.
31. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
33. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
38. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
41. A benign epithelial tumor of glandular origin.
43. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
45. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus Iva with small greenish flowers.
46. 10 grams.
47. Dressed or clothed especially in fine attire.
50. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
52. A member of a North American Plains people (now living in Oklahoma and Wyoming).
54. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
55. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
57. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
59. Occurring or encountered or experienced or observed frequently or in accordance with regular practice or procedure.
62. Aristocratic Italian family of powerful merchants and bankers who ruled Florence in the 15th century.
69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
70. Oldest known reptiles.
73. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
74. A vest pocket to hold a pocket watch.
75. A worker whose job is to repair things.
76. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
77. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
78. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
79. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.

DOWN

1. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
2. The basic unit of money in Botswana.
3. A domain in which something is dominant.
4. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
5. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
6. A low heavy horsecart without sides.
7. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
8. Social status or position conferred by a system based on class.
9. The part of the stamen that contains pollen.
10. The process of shedding tears (usually accompanied by sobs or other inarticulate sounds).
11. Long-bodied long-tailed tropical American wildcat.
12. Not only so, but.
13. A small zodiacal constellation in the northern hemisphere.
14. 'Father' is a term of address for priests in some churches (especially Roman or Orthodox Catholic).
22. Filled with a great quantity.
24. Drive away by crying "shoo!".
26. A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
29. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
32. The capital of Western Samoa.
34. Remove gas from.
35. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
36. A small cake leavened with yeast.
37. An ancient kingdom of southern Palestine with Jerusalem as its center.
39. Avoid or try to avoid, as of duties, questions and issues.
40. A drug (trade names Calan and Isoptin) used as an oral or parenteral calcium blocker in cases of hypertension or congestive heart failure or angina or migraine.
42. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
44. A cap with a flat circular top and a visor.
48. Using speech rather than writing.
49. (Irish) Goddess.
51. The second largest of the Hawaiian Islands.
53. National capital of Solomon Islands.
56. A former British gold coin worth 21 chillings.
58. A fine usually white clay formed by the weathering of aluminous minerals (as feldspar).
60. A long steep slope or cliff at the edge of a plateau or ridge.
61. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
63. Very dark black.
64. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
65. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
66. Little known Kamarupan languages.
67. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
68. Having an eye or eyes or eyelike feature especially as specified.
71. The month following March and preceding May.
72. Cooking utensil consisting of a wide metal vessel.

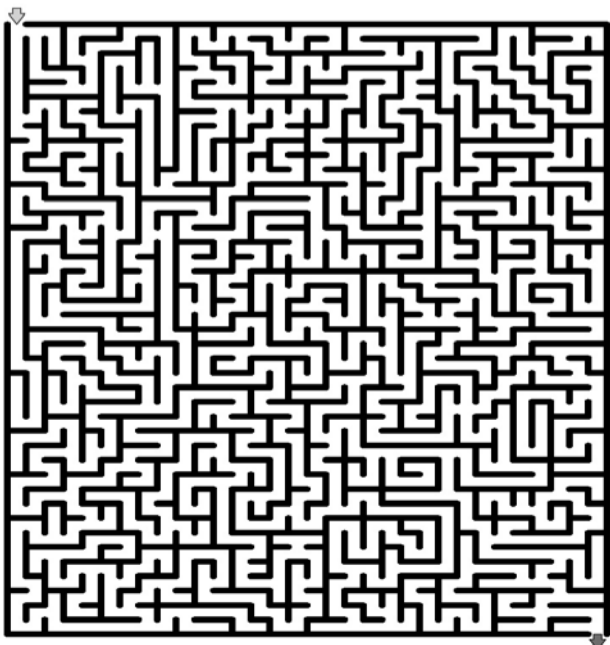
Yesterday's Solution

Weather 2 - Solution

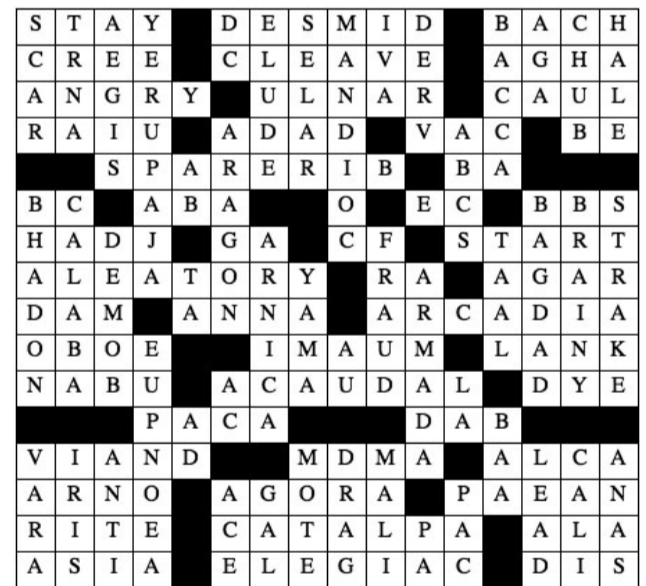


- BLIZZARD
- FROST
- SLEET
- CLIMATE
- HEAT WAVE
- SQUALL
- COLD FRONT
- HUMID
- THERMOMETER
- CYCLONE
- HURRICANE
- TORNADO
- DOWNPOUR
- ICE
- TSUNAMI
- FLOOD
- METEOROLOGY
- VISIBILITY
- FOG
- MONSOON
- WIND CHILL
- FORECAST
- SHOWER

CHALLENGING MAZE



Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

						7		
1			8	5	3	6	2	
3			4	7				
	1		8		2		4	
		8				5		
	6		1		9		2	
				9	7			6
6	7	5	3	4				8
	3							

Yesterday's Solution

8	5	7	2	6	9	1	4	3
6	4	3	7	8	1	2	5	9
9	2	1	3	5	4	8	6	7
2	1	5	6	9	3	7	8	4
3	7	8	4	1	5	9	2	6
4	6	9	8	2	7	5	3	1
7	8	2	9	3	6	4	1	5
5	3	4	1	7	8	6	9	2
1	9	6	5	4	2	3	7	8

ANTHRAX THREAT AS RUSSIAN PERMAFROST MELTS

CLIMATE CHANGE MAY UNLEASH OTHER 'ICE AGE' DISEASES

MOSCOW: A recent anthrax outbreak in the far north of Russia left a child dead, 23 people infected and the government scrambling to deploy hundreds of rescue workers and soldiers to stop any further spread. The source, scientists say, seems likely to have been the long-buried corpses of reindeers on Yamal peninsula uncovered as Russia's permafrost melts — and then been passed on to grazing herds. The fear now is that this is not a freak incident and that other diseases some dating back to the Ice Age—could be unleashed as global warming thaws Russia's icy northern expanses.

"Most likely the source of the epidemic were the thawing animal burial sites for animals that died of anthrax 70 years ago," said Boris Kershengoltz, chief of research at the Russian Institute for Biological Problems of Permafrost Zone. "Can these processes repeat themselves? Of course they can," he told a press conference last week. Russia is warming about 2.5 times more rapidly than the world's average, and the Arctic region is warming quicker than the rest of the country. Yamal, the peninsula straddling the northern Kara Sea and the Gulf of Ob, is sparsely populated by mostly indigenous nomadic reindeer herders. Temperatures there in July were up to eight degrees higher than normal, reaching 34 degrees Celsius. "Imagine Yamal, we are talking about a place above the Arctic Circle," said Sergei Semenov, director of Russia's Institute of Global Climate. "This is a colossal, unprecedented anomaly." Anthrax is an infection spread by spores of the *Beacillus anthracis* bacteria which occurs naturally and can be ingested by livestock and passed to humans, usually through skin contact, causing black lesions. If left untreated it can be fatal.



YAR-SALE: This undated picture released from Russian Emergency Ministry on August 8, 2016 shows a veterinarian as she takes a health checkup of deers outside Yar-Sale town at Yamal Peninsula. — AFP photos

'We should be ready'

Besides anthrax, there are plenty of other dangers lurking in shallow Arctic graves which might be unlocked from the ice after centuries, said Viktor Maleyev, deputy chief of Russia's Central Research Institute of Epidemiology. "We had smallpox graves" in the Far North at the end of the 19th century, and scientists are discovering new "giant viruses" in mammoths, he said. "Their pathology has not been proven, we must continue to study them." "I think climate change will bring us many surprises," he said. "I don't want to scare anyone, but we

should be ready." Maleyev added that the anthrax crisis could have been avoided or lessened if reindeer, which were presumably infected by grazing over the anthrax graves, had been vaccinated en masse. "Animals have to be vaccinated regularly," he said. Governor Dmitry Kobylkin of the Yamalo-Nenetsky region, where over 2,000 reindeer died, said vaccinations stopped about a decade ago, possibly after an erroneous decision that the region was safe from anthrax. He called the decision a "very serious mistake." He said Tuesday that the total affected area in the

region, together with an established buffer zone, is some 12,650 square kilometers.

"The process of disinfection will go on until soil analyses say that there is no anthrax in the area," he said. "It is unlikely that anything will grow there ever again." Over 1,500 people have been vaccinated, while 706 are receiving antibiotic treatment, the regional government said Wednesday. All residents are going through sanitation procedures and being moved to new areas. Some 270 Russian troops are still working across the territory, burning the infected animal corpses at high temperatures, Kobylkin said, hoping to finish in one week. "There has never been anything like this in Russia," he said of the disinfection operation. "Neither in terms of scope, nor in terms of complexity." "We never considered such a bacterial threat," he said, voicing hope that the outbreak leads to legislative changes.

Science overlooked

Scientists lamented that instead of spending more money on studying the effects of climate change, science budgets are shrinking, and the government only allocates funds after emergencies and tragedies. "There is less and less attention in our country to science, fewer grants for meteorology," said Valery Malinin, an oceanologist from Russia's Hydrometeorological Institute. He said the government had come up with a climate program in 2010 after deadly smog from peat fires gripped the Russian capital, only to forget about it. The program is now "effectively buried," he said. "When there are destructive phenomena we think it would be nice to have prevented them, but as soon as the passions die down, everything is forgotten," he said. "Yamal is just a small alarm bell," he said. "Nature will continue to challenge us." — AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/08/2016 TO 17/08/2016)

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	SUICIDE SQUAD THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	JASON BOURNE MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA	3:45 PM 6:15 PM 9:15 PM 12:15 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	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	AL-KOUT.3 CELL THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE BFG -3D THE BFG	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM
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	MARINA-3 CELL MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA CELL CELL	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.4 THE FALL OF THE KRAYS CELL CELL THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE FALL OF THE KRAYS THE FALL OF THE KRAYS CELL CELL	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
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	AVENUES-1 RUSTOM- Hindi MOHENJO DARO - Hindi RUSTOM- Hindi MOHENJO DARO - Hindi BABU BANGARAM - Telugu BABU BANGARAM - Telugu BABU BANGARAM - Telugu RIOT	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM	BAIRAQ-1 THE BFG -3D THE BFG -3D THE BFG THE BFG -3D THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
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	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	BAIRAQ-2 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN FINDING DORY MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA MIN 30 SANA	1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM
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PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:49
Shorook 05:15
Duhr: 11:53
Asr: 15:28
Maghrib: 18:31
Isha: 19:54



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Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
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Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

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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
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Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2016

RUSSIA FINES GOOGLE OVER ANTI-TRUST CHARGE



Tiny Polish car catches a wave in auto-crazy Cuba

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CAIRO: The International Monetary Fund head of delegation for Egypt, Chris Jarvis (L), Egypt's Minister of Finance Amr al-Garhy (2-L) and Central Bank of Egypt chief Tarek Amer (C) attend a joint press conference. — AFP

IMF AGREES \$12 BN LOAN TO EGYPT

LOAN TO HELP BOLSTER AILING ECONOMY

CAIRO: The International Monetary Fund said yesterday that it had reached an initial agreement to lend \$12 billion to Egypt to bolster an economy battered by years of unrest. The Egyptian government hopes the three-year deal will provide a lifeline for the North African nation as it grapples with a dollar shortage and dwindling foreign reserves.

The agreement, which will have to be ratified by the IMF and Egyptian authorities, will require Cairo to undertake economic reforms. "Egypt is a strong country with great potential but it has some problems that need to be fixed urgently," the head of the IMF delegation to Egypt, Chris Jarvis, said in a statement. Jarvis told reporters that the IMF was looking to Egypt's parliament to pass a law introducing a value-added tax.

The IMF's Extended Fund Facility is

aimed at countries with payment imbalances and tepid growth to aid structural reforms, according to the fund's website. Analysts have said the IMF also pushed for a more flexible exchange rate for the Egyptian pound, which the government has been propping up amid capital controls. The dollar shortage has affected imports and created a flourishing black market trade that the government fought unsuccessfully. Dollars sell for up to four pounds more than the official rate of 8.88 pounds to the dollar. Jarvis said the goal was to have no foreign currency shortage and to create a "balance between supply and demand".

"The central bank is progressing on exchange rate policy, the government has its program, the budget was approved in June, the VAT is in parliament...the government's fuel subsidy

reform program continues to unfold," Jarvis said.

'Change now'

Central Bank of Egypt chief Tarek Amer told reporters that the IMF deal would boost confidence in Egypt's reform program. The deal "is a certificate that says the program is serious," he said at the press conference. "We ask citizens to have trust and stand behind us," he added. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been preparing public opinion for the economic reform measures, including further subsidy cuts. Although the funding is spread out over three years, the IMF will be looking for a quick implementation of the reform measures.

"The IMF would like to see change right now, not delayed," said Angus Blair, president of the economic think tank

Signet. Egypt has been in tentative negotiations for an IMF loan since longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak was ousted in the 2011 revolution. The uprising set off years of political turmoil culminating in the military overthrow of his Islamist successor Mohamed Morsi two years later. Morsi's removal unleashed a bloody police crackdown on Islamists and jihadist attacks that have decimated tourism, a key dollar earner for Egypt. With tourist revenues and foreign remittances down, the country's foreign reserves have fallen to \$15.5 billion (13.9 billion euros). Egypt has already received more than \$20 billion in aid from Gulf countries that supported Morsi's overthrow, but that has not stemmed the decline. Critics say the reform program should have been staggered over the past years, to dampen any shock. — AFP

GULF STOCKS SOFT, SAUDI EDGES DOWN

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets were soft early yesterday after oil prices and global bourses pulled back, while Saudi Arabia edged down despite the Saudi regulator's announcement that it would ease restrictions on foreign investment sooner than expected. The Saudi index fell 0.3 percent in the first 75 minutes of trade with most banks and many second-tier stocks weak, though Arabian Pipes, a supplier to oil giant Saudi Aramco, jumped 4.9 percent in unusually heavy trade. The Capital Market Authority said late on Wednesday that it would relax curbs on foreign institutional investors on Sept. 4, sooner than the mid-2017 deadline previously indicated.

Among the reforms are a much lower minimum assets-under-management requirement for foreign institutions, and an easing of restrictions on foreign ownership of individual shares. But while fund managers say the changes are good news, they believe there may not be any sudden increase of foreign fund inflows into Saudi Arabia, given the economic slowdown there. Over the long term, the reforms are expected to help persuade international index compiler MSCI to add Saudi Arabia to its emerging markets index, would attract billions of dollars of fresh foreign money to the kingdom.

But EFG Hermes said in a note yesterday that

it still thought May 2019 was the earliest inclusion date for Saudi Arabia in the MSCI index and that it was too early for investors to position themselves for foreign fund inflows. EFG remains underweight on Saudi equities "given the continued domestic liquidity crunch, weak economic and earnings growth outlook, and continuing uncertainty about the sustainability of earnings until the subsidy removal timeline becomes clearer," the investment bank said.

No Saudi stocks are currently close to hitting their old, pre-reform ceilings for foreign institutional ownership, although petrochemical company Alujain has an unusually high percentage of 4.1 percent. Its shares jumped 4.8 percent

yesterday morning. Elsewhere, Abu Dhabi's index dropped 0.9 percent as Waha Capital sank 2.5 percent after it reported a 22 percent year-on-year drop in second-quarter net profit because of lower income from financial investments and higher costs. Dubai's index edged down 0.1 percent as construction firm Arabtec, which is expected to announce second-quarter earnings on Sunday, dropped 1.3 percent and was the most heavily traded stock. Qatar fell 0.4 percent as Dlala Brokerage, the most heavily traded stock, lost 1.0 percent. It reported an 808,000 riyal (\$222,000) profit for the second quarter, swinging from a 23.4 million riyal loss a year ago. — Reuters

WORLD STOCKS DIVERGE ON OIL MARKET FOCUS

LONDON: European and Asian stock markets traded mixed yesterday as investors tracked falling oil prices. Tokyo was shut owing to a public holiday in Japan, while Shanghai closed lower and Hong Kong rose. In Europe, London fell as eurozone indices headed higher. Around 0945 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was down 0.3 percent. Frankfurt's DAX 30 gained 0.6 percent and the Paris CAC 40 climbed 0.7 percent, compared with the close on Wednesday. "The FTSE 100 underperformed equity benchmarks in Germany and France as post-Brexit concerns highlighted risks for the domestic economy," said Jasper Lawler, analyst at traders CMC Markets.

Citing a weaker outlook for the world economy following Britain's vote to leave the European Union, the International Energy Agency yesterday cut its oil demand growth forecast for 2017. That weighed on oil prices with benchmark contracts falling in London and New York. But the IEA added that oil oversupply, which has been weighing on the crude price in recent months, will disappear in the latter part of 2016. In foreign exchange meanwhile, dollar gains were capped as traders await clearer signals on the timing of a possible US interest rate hike, with expectations that the Fed will move cautiously.

Investors were awaiting also the release of more Chinese economic data-including industrial output and retail sales-due this week. Figures released Tuesday showed China's producer prices fell in July at their slowest rate in nearly two years, fuelling hopes the end of a painful slowdown could be in sight for the world's second largest economy. Shanghai's main stocks index fell 0.5 percent yesterday, dragged down by falls to share prices in small companies. Elsewhere, South Korea opted to keep its key interest rate unchanged at 1.25 percent-but the central bank governor held out the prospect of another reduction.—AFP



MONTREAL: Thousands participate in a festive march through downtown Montreal for the opening of the World Social Forum (WSF) on August 9, 2016. Far from southern Brazil where the first WSF was founded in 2001, the 12th edition of the anti-globalization conference is held for the first time in a G7 nation to try to bridge a north-south divide. — AFP

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM REBOOTS IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL: Fifteen years after the World Social Forum (WSF) began with a huge gathering in Porto Alegre, Brazil, organizers are hoping to breathe new life into the anti-globalization movement. But critics say the latest edition being held in Montreal is a pale copy of the original, with attendance hitting an all-time low. A mere 15,000 committed anti-globalization activists have registered for this year's event, which runs until Sunday, compared to 100,000 at its height.

"When I talk with Montrealers, no one is aware of this forum and so few people know about the WSF in general, whereas everyone knows Davos," said Henry Mintzberg, a professor at McGill University in Montreal, contrasting the WSF with its nemesis, the World Economic Forum held each year in the posh Swiss Alps resort. "It's less in tune with the times, we hear less about it than before," sociologist Andre Drainville told AFP.

This first edition of the WSF in a Group of Seven nation (Canada) is also now competing with several upstart social move-

ments that have been more agile and focused. "In 2011, (Spain's) Indignados movement or Occupy Wall Street in the US did not look to the social forum. Instead they took to the streets," said WSF organizer Raphael Canet.

Division in the ranks

The WSF's struggle for relevance is also linked to a lack of cohesion among its supporters, according to experts. "At the World Economic Forum in Davos, business leaders approach problems together" despite their competitive tendencies, said Mintzberg. Conversely, a spirit of cooperation at the WSF all too often has given way to sectarianism. "People who are left of me are extremists and people on my right are just opportunistic," said Mintzberg.

There are "constant tensions between those who have a political agenda and those who see the WSF as a social movement," said Drainville, a professor at Laval University in Quebec City. WSF co-founder Chico Whitaker of Brazil acknowledges that

the organization has much less visibility, largely because it is no longer juxtaposed with the World Economic Forum (early WSFs took place the same week as the WEF). "We would have to return to the same dates as Davos in order to be seen as a serious alternative" to globalization, he said. Organizers of the Montreal event reject any suggestion that the movement is waning, noting they welcomed several new social movements at its last two meetings in Tunis in 2013 and 2015. "We went to Tunisia because there was something afoot there, and we came to Montreal to build on that momentum," said Canet. "The path to renewal is through Montreal with its dynamic youth who are greatly involved in the forum," said WSF organizer Carminda Mac Lorin. According to Drainville, the Forum still has a future as the standard bearer of a movement against globalization. "The Forum punctuates the story, it is one event that is part of a larger movement and it is the movement that gives importance to the WSF," Drainville said. — AFP



NEW YORK: In this Tuesday, Sept 8, 2015, file photo, a Wall Street sign is framed by an American flag hanging on the facade of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

HUFFINGTON POST FOUNDER LEAVES



Arianna Huffington

WASHINGTON: Arianna Huffington, founder of the online Huffington Post news site that has become a global phenomenon, announced yesterday she was stepping down to launch a non-profit group focused on health and wellness. Greek-born Huffington, who launched her original American website in 2005 and sold it to Internet giant AOL in 2011, said the new venture called Thrive Global aims "to change the way

we work and live by ending the collective delusion that burnout is a necessary price for success."

She said she would be stepping down as editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post, which now operates in 10 languages and has a user base of over 200 million. She noted that she decided to leave the online news organization because "I simply couldn't do justice to both companies." "I'm filled

with excitement at the prospect of devoting the rest of my life to accelerating the culture shift away from merely surviving and succeeding to thriving," she said, Thrive, which has received funding led by Lerer Hippeau Ventures as well as other groups and individuals including NBA star Andre Iguodala and entrepreneur and philanthropist Sean Parker, is to launch after the US election in November. — AFP

Q&A: WHAT RECORD LOW INTEREST RATES MEAN FOR SAVERS, ECONOMY

FRANKFURT: Record low interest rates were meant to be a temporary response to the global financial crisis. But eight years later, rates are still near zero or even below in much of the developed world, and some experts are warning of long-term side effects: a hit to pension savings, pressure on banks, and possible booms and busts in stock markets and real estate. In any case, low rates are increasingly just part of the economic landscape. Some economists argue that people may have to get used to living in a zero-interest world for a lot longer than they expected, or at least one with rates far lower than those in recent decades. Here's a look at how we got here and what ultra-low interest rates means for people.

Q: How did interest rates get so low?

A: Rates on things like mortgages or company or government bonds are guided by market demand and by official interest rates set by central banks. They have cut their benchmarks aggressively, starting eight years ago. The Federal Reserve lowered its short-term benchmark - which determines the cost of overnight lending between banks - to between zero and 0.25 percent in December 2008. The European Central Bank reached zero in March on its benchmark rate, and minus 0.4 percent on bank deposits. Last week, the Bank of England cut its benchmark rate to 0.25 percent and indicated it could bring it closer to zero. The Bank of Japan applies a minus 0.1 percent rate on new bank reserves.

To further drive down market interest rates, central banks have also bought hundreds of billions in bonds, which lowers the bonds' interest rate yield. Things have gone so far that German 10-year bonds yield slightly less than zero, meaning the government would make a small profit by borrowing money for an entire decade.

Q: Why did central banks cut rates so much?

A: The idea is to stimulate economic growth and job creation by cutting borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, making it easier to buy things and invest in new production. They lower returns on ultra-safe investment and push people toward riskier but potentially more profitable ones, such as stocks bonds and real estate. The idea is "to get people to take risks that they weren't taking before," said Stephen G Cecchetti, professor of international economics at the Brandeis International Business School. "And when you get them to do that, what happens is that it drives up growth, employment, and prices, and that's a good thing."

Q: What is the downside to low rates?

A: Some experts warn they can encourage investors looking for higher returns to bid up too much the price of riskier investments. That can lead to a "bubble" in that market that is at some point followed by a crash. Economists at Germany's Commerzbank warned house prices in Germany "look increasingly like a bubble." Sweden's central bank has warned that house prices have risen too fast and consumers have too much debt. — AP



HANOVER: In this July 10, 2015, file photo, shoppers walk into a Macy's department store at the Hanover Mall. — AP

MACY'S TO CLOSE 100 STORES, BOOST ONLINE INVESTMENT

NEW YORK: Macy's said yesterday it plans to close about 100 stores next year and boost its online investments as the nation's largest department store chain tries to become more nimble in an increasingly fierce market. The closures represent close to 14 percent of its stores under the Macy's brand. The company, which operates the upscale Bloomingdale's stores as well, said it would increase its exclusive products and would prioritize its investments in the stores that offer the highest growth potential.

Macy's also reported yesterday that second-quarter profits and sales fell. The results, however, beat Wall Street estimates, and its shares rose more than 14 percent, or \$4.95 to \$38.95 in early trading. "The announcements we are making today represent an advancement in our thinking on the role of the stores, the quality of the shopping experience we will deliver, and how and where we reinvest in our business for growth," said Macy's President Jeff Gennette, who will succeed Terry J. Lundgren as CEO in the first quarter of 2017.

Macy's had been a stellar performer since the Great Recession, but in the past year and a half, the company has seen slowing sales as it battles competition on all fronts and changing shop-

ping patterns. People are spending more of their money on home improvement as well as experiences like travel or spas. And when they do buy clothing, they're going to TJ Maxx or fast-fashion chains like H&M. They're also increasingly researching and buying online, and gravitating toward Amazon.com, which is bolstering its store private label fashion brands. Amazon.com is by some forecasts expected to surpass Macy's as the largest online seller of clothing next year.

Looking for opportunities

Under Lundgren, Macy's hasn't been sitting still and has been looking for opportunities to boost sales, from buying upscale beauty brand Bluemercury to launching its own off-price stores called Macy's Backstage. But since this past May, it announced it has to accelerate its efforts to get shoppers excited. It planned to look for new ways to cut expenses and use that money for more sales help at the stores and online. And it's expanding its offerings on exclusive launches including one backed by Sir Elton John and Lady Gaga. With the store closures, Macy's will have 666 stores including 38 Bloomingdale's locations. That's down about 23 percent from a peak in January 2007 of 868 stores including Bloomingdale's.

Annual net sales at the stores Macy's plans to shutter were estimated at about \$1 billion. Many of the stores will close in early 2017, with the balance closing as leases or other agreements expire or are amended. Macy's said it earned \$11 million, or 3 cents per share, in the quarter ended July 30. That compares with \$217 million, or 64 cents per share, in the year-ago period. Excluding charges that are related to store closings, the company earned 51 cents, which is above the 48 cent estimate from FactSet.

While Macy's earnings beat Wall Street expectations, it still has a long way to go to see business perk up. Revenue fell 3.9 percent to \$5.87 billion. That topped the \$5.77 billion estimate from FactSet. Revenue at stores open at least a year, including licensed businesses like beauty, were down 2 percent in the second quarter. Excluding licensed departments, sales were down 2.6 percent. That's the sixth straight decline for that measure. The company said it was sticking to its outlook. Macy's had said in May that it expects revenue at stores, including business from licensed departments, open at least a year to be down 3 percent to 4 percent. Macy's also said it still expects earnings to be in the range of \$3.15 to \$3.40 for the year. — AP

US LABOR MARKET FIRING; INFLATION REMAINS BENIGN

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell last week, pointing to sustained labor market strength in early August that could help spur faster economic growth. Other data yesterday showed an unexpected rise in import prices in July as a drop in petroleum prices was offset by gains in the cost of other goods. However, renewed dollar strength will likely dampen underlying inflation in the coming months.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits slipped 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 266,000 for the week ended Aug. 6, the Labor Department said. Claims for the prior week were revised to show 2,000 fewer applications received than previously reported. Claims have now been below 300,000, a threshold associated with a strong labor market, for 75 consecutive weeks, the longest streak since 1973. The four week average of claims, considered to be a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 3,000 to 262,750.

With the labor market perceived to be either at or approaching full employment, there is probably little room for further declines in claims. A report on Wednesday showed layoffs fell to a near two-year low in June. Prices of US Treasuries were largely unchanged by the data. US stock futures were trading slightly higher. The US dollar rose against a basket of currencies. In a separate report, the Labor Department said import prices edged up 0.1 percent last month after increasing 0.6 percent in June. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast import prices falling 0.3 percent in July.

In the 12 months through July, import prices fell 3.7 percent, the smallest decrease since November 2014, after declining 4.7 percent in June. Last month's gain came despite a rise in the dollar against the currencies of the United States' main trading partners in July. The dollar lost some steam early in the year. Oil prices which had started to rise toward \$50 per barrel, fell in July. Oil prices are now below \$45 per barrel. The combination of dollar strength and cheap oil will likely continue to dampen imported inflation pressures and keep overall inflation below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target.

Persistently low inflation suggests the US central bank is unlikely to raise interest rates in the near term, even as the labor market approaches full employment. The robust labor market is boosting consumer spending and putting a floor under the economy after an inventory correction and lower oil prices restricted GDP growth to an average 1.0 percent annualized rate in the last three quarters. The economy added a total of 547,000 jobs in June and July. The low number of claims suggests job growth momentum was retained in early August. — Reuters

GOLD EASES AS FIRM DOLLAR PROMPTS INVESTOR CASH IN

LONDON: Gold edged lower yesterday as a recovery in the dollar prompted some buyers to cash in recent gains, though uncertainty over the outlook for US monetary policy continued to underpin the metal. Palladium also edged lower, after surging more than 4 percent in the previous session in a rally triggered by a wave of short-covering after recent hefty gains. The metal has run into some resistance around last month's high of \$722 an ounce.

Spot gold was down 0.1 percent at \$1,345.06 an ounce at 1230 GMT, after rising around 0.8 percent over the last two days. US gold futures for December delivery were down 60 cents at \$1,351.30 an ounce. "There's potentially profit taking at play in gold and from even stronger gains elsewhere such as palladium, particularly after it ran so hard yesterday," ETF Securities' commodity strategist Martin Arnold said. "There was no fundamental reason for platinum and palladium to be up that much, as there was a little liquidity. A little bit of a pullback is in order after some over exuberance." Palladium hit a more than 17-month high on Wednesday at \$746.10 an ounce, and was down 0.7 percent yesterday at \$719.15 an ounce.

The dollar index rebounded against a basket of major currencies after touching a near one-week low Wednesday. Currency markets remain focused on whether the Federal Reserve will press ahead with interest rate hikes this year, after raising rates for the first time in nearly a decade in December. Investors expect the Fed, supported by positive economic data, to lift rates again in December, but other countries are increasingly looking to raise stimulus. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand cut rates yesterday. —Reuters



HAVANA: Fiat Polski 126p, owners Raul Seoane, left, Ramses Fernandez, second left, Evilio Aguilar, center, Rigoberto Mesa, second right, and Pedro Fernandez, proudly pose with their cars. — AP

TINY POLISH CAR CATCHES A WAVE IN AUTO-CRAZY CUBA

HAVANA: Ramses Fernandez's most cherished possession is barely larger than a refrigerator, with the legroom of an economy airplane seat and a little more horsepower than a riding lawnmower. "That's my second baby," said Fernandez, smiling proudly at the 39-year-old automobile purchased about the time his 10-month-old son was born. "My wife says that car is my child." A humble two-cylinder Polish-made hatchback, the Fiat 126p was forgotten by most people after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Decades later, the car lovingly known as the Polski is basking in a Cuban revival. Buses and taxis are in short supply as Cuba struggles with cutbacks in subsidized oil from Venezuela. The average salary is about \$25 a month, but government-controlled car and gasoline prices are among the highest in the world. With around just 24 horsepower, depending on exactly how each one has been altered, the half-ton Polski offers families a shot at independent mobility for a few thousand dollars, a sum within reach of those able to save from private jobs or family sending money from overseas.

So the self-taught mechanics who've kept Cuba's famed American sedans running for decades are turning their talents to this automotive artifact from the Cold War, equipping Polskis with stronger suspensions, more powerful motors, even high-end sound systems and upholstery. "2016 has been the year of the Fiat Polski 126p," said Hendy Coba, president of Friends of the Car, an officially sanctioned Havana car owners club.

'People love my car'

An estimated 10,000 Polskis are registered in Cuba, according to aficionados. Although many are out of service, thousands of others buzz along Cuban roads, literally overshadowed by the 1950s

American behemoths known as almen-drones, and even by the rattling Ladas and Moskovitches imported from the Soviet Union. Fernandez, an auto mechanic, said he sold his motorcycle around the time of his son's birth and bought his Polski with the proceeds, about \$5,000.

He's equipped it with disc brakes, new tires, an upgraded gearbox and a water-cooled engine nearly twice as powerful as the one it came with. The normally air-cooled Polski is so prone to overheating in Cuba that many owners drive around with the rear hatch open in an attempt to suck hot air away from the engine. Fernandez's closed hatch, and his car's relative nimbleness, makes him the object of constant

admiring comments from other drivers at red lights. "People love my car," he said. "Everybody says, 'What a beautiful vehicle!'" Raul Seoane's family saved years of remittances from relatives working in Spain and spent \$2,000 for a well-worn red Polski manufactured in 1986.

Seoane, a 32-year-old computer technician, said the family mainly uses the car to run errands, get to work and take older relatives to doctors' appointments. He's been surprised by the number of tourists who ask to pose with the family vehicle. "Foreigners take photos as if they've never seen something like this," he said. "For being an economical car, the Polski has really caught on." — AP

GREECE ANNOUNCES SHORTLIST IN CONTROVERSIAL TV SHAKEUP

ATHENS: Greece yesterday announced a shortlist of nine private TV channels in a controversial state licensing tender that has seen the leftist government accused of political bias. The list does not include the country's formerly top station Mega, which has a long-running feud with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Private Greek TV stations have been operating under provisional licenses, in some cases for over two decades.

Pointing to dwindling advertising revenue in crisis-hit Greece, the government has decided to grant just four 10-year licenses, with opening bids starting at three million euros (\$3.3 million). The bidding process is expected to take place later this month. Authorities say they want to clean up an industry known for workforce exploitation and rumored under-the-table deals between

media moguls, bankers and influential politicians, while bringing an end to 25 years of chaotic licensing.

The government insists only "financially sustainable" channels should be allowed to broadcast, with several struggling stations reportedly owing large sums to both banks and state coffers. But critics say the overhaul is merely a ploy by Tsipras to replace powerful TV barons—who have opposed his leftist Syriza party in the past—with others more to his liking. In its coverage, Mega has strongly criticized Tsipras' anti-austerity rhetoric which nearly saw Greece pushed out of the euro last year.

The station has also been in financial difficulty for months and has fallen behind with wage payments. Staff have responded with recurring strikes and legal action. —AFP

RUSSIA FINES GOOGLE OVER ANTI-TRUST CHARGE

MOSCOW: Russia's anti-trust authority yesterday fined Google 438 million rubles (\$6.75 million) after finding it guilty of abusing its dominant market position by forcing smartphone makers to install its search engine on Androids. The Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) in September last year deemed Google in breach of a law on "protecting competition" after an investigation following a complaint by Russia's largest search engine, Yandex. Yandex asked the anti-trust authorities to prevent Android phones from being automatically bundled with Google's search engine. The FAS said that Google has

two months to pay the fine. Yelena Zayeva, the head of its department for regulating communications and IT was quoted in the statement as saying the ruling "will allow the development of competition on the mobile software market in Russia, which will have a positive effect for consumers."

All companies whose production is on sale in Russia have to observe the law on competition, "including transnational corporations," Zayeva added. Google said in a statement sent to AFP: "We have received notice of the fine from FAS and will analyze closely before deciding our next steps." "In the mean-

time, we continue to talk to all invested parties to help consumers, device manufacturers and developers thrive on Android in Russia," Google said.

The tech giant's Android operating system dominates the smartphone market with a share of around 80 percent, which enables Google to offer search and other services to handset users. Russia's anti-trust authority had been holding consultations with Google aimed at reaching an amicable agreement, but this required Google to admit guilt. Google has insisted that consumers are free to choose whether to use its services.

Google has been hit by similar anti-trust charges in other countries, particularly in the European Union, which has launched three cases against Google, one of which is specifically about using the dominance of the Android mobile phone operating system to restrict competition. Russia's anti-trust authority this week also launched legal proceedings against US tech giant Apple over the alleged fixing of resellers' prices for iPhones in the country. Apple said in a statement sent to AFP: "Resellers set their own prices for the Apple products they sell in Russia and around the world." — AFP

S KOREA SAYS FURTHER RATE CUT IS POSSIBLE

SEOUL: South Korea's central bank governor yesterday held out the prospect of yet another reduction in interest rates which are already at a record low following a cut in June. At its monthly meeting, the monetary board of the Bank of Korea (BOK) opted to keep its key rate unchanged at 1.25 percent for August. The decision was widely expected, but Governor Lee Ju-Yeol made it clear the bank was not ruling out an even lower rate in the future if the economy required an additional boost.

"It is true that we will be nearing the lower limit if we continue to reduce the key rate," Lee told a press briefing. "But we do not believe we have exhausted all our monetary policy options," he was quoted as saying by the Yonhap news agency. Most analysts believe the rate will remain unchanged for several months at least, as the BOK board assesses the impact of its last cut and a 20-trillion-won (\$17-billion) stimulus package unveiled in late June. Asia's fourth-largest economy posted marginally improved growth in the second quarter as exports and domestic consumption picked up.

According to the BOK, the economy grew 0.7 percent in the April-June period from the previous quarter and 3.2 percent compared to a year earlier. "The board forecasts that the domestic economy will sustain its trend of modest growth going forward," the board said in a statement yesterday. But there is growing concern over the level of household debt which stood at nearly \$1.12 trillion at the end of March. "I do believe there may be a need to come up with additional measures if necessary, because I believe such a steady and prolonged rise in household debt is not desirable," Lee said.

Singapore cuts 2016 forecast

In other news, Singapore yesterday narrowed its economic growth forecast for this year, citing concerns over the weaker global outlook and the impact of Britain's vote to leave the EU. Gross domestic product (GDP) for the city-state, regarded as a bellwether for Asia's other trade-reliant economies, is forecast to expand 1-2 percent instead of 1-3 percent as projected earlier, the trade ministry said.

Both trade and services in Singapore, including the crucial financial sector, are vulnerable to global shocks. "The global economic outlook has weakened slightly since three months ago in May," the ministry said in a statement. "The UK's vote in June to leave the European Union has dampened and also added uncertainties to the global growth outlook," it added. Analysts have said that Britain's exit from the EU, known as Brexit, could have dire economic repercussions well beyond the country and Europe.

Singapore's trade ministry said that except for the United States, most key world economies, constituting Singapore's main export markets, are expected to see slower growth in the second half of the year compared with the first six months. In Asia, China's growth is expected to slow in the second half relative to the first, with full-year expansion projected to be lower than in 2015, the ministry said. Domestically, the growth of externally oriented services sectors, such as finance and insurance and wholesale trade, has slowed, the ministry said. A rebound in the key manufacturing sector may not be sustained because of the sluggish global economy, while the outlook for construction is weak, it added. "In line with weaker global growth outlook, and barring the full materialization of downside risks, the 2016 growth forecast for the Singapore economy is narrowed to 1.0 to 2.0 per cent, from 1.0 to 3.0 per cent," the ministry said. —Agencies



HONG KONG: Pedestrians walk past signage for the Cheung Kong Center. —AFP

HONG KONG TYCOON LI BEATS FORECASTS, PROFITS INCREASE

HONG KONG: Billionaire Hong Kong businessman Li Ka-shing yesterday saw profits up in the first half of 2016, beating analysts' expectations, with a major boost coming from his European and Asian telecoms operations. But the 88-year-old tycoon warned of "considerable challenges" after Britain voted to leave the European Union. Li had advocated the UK to stay in Europe. His flagship company CK Hutchison Holdings counts Britain as its biggest earnings contributor, with telecoms outfit 3 Group Europe now a major force—it had 26.8 million active customers by the end of June, the firm said in a statement yesterday.

Despite post-Brexit uncertainty, Li reassured his operations in both the UK and Europe were resilient, and expected to yield "stable and reasonable" returns. "The key fundamentals of the

group as a whole remain solid," said Li in a statement. CK Hutchison Holdings controls assets in telecoms, utilities, ports and other industries in over 50 countries. Net profit for the company, excluding earnings from discontinued operations, rose 1.94 percent to HK\$15.23 billion (\$2 billion) in the first six months of 2016, compared with HK\$14.94 billion a year earlier.

That beat the HK\$14.8 billion median estimate in a survey of six analysts by Bloomberg. Revenue stood at HK\$180.51 billion down eight percent from HK\$197.02 billion, as gains were weighed by a number of factors including low oil and gas prices and general market volatility. Li's Hong Kong-based retail businesses also came under pressure from a drop in tourism from visitors from mainland China, Li said in a statement.

In separate results, Cheung Kong Property saw net profit up 25 percent to HK\$8.61 billion thanks to rents from commercial properties, while revenues surged by 45 percent. Yesterday's positive results were tempered by a decision earlier in the day by Australia to block Li's joint bid to buy the electricity network in its most populous state. It came after the government introduced tougher rules for the sale of major Australian state-owned infrastructure to private foreign investors. Li also had his bid to buy British telecoms giant O2 blocked by European regulators in May on anti-competition concerns. A sweeping revamp of Li's empire last year saw Cheung Kong change its name to CK Hutchison Holdings. Property-related business came under the control of CK Property, a newly listed company. Hutchison Whampoa, trading on the city's bourse since 1978, was delisted. —AFP



CHICAGO: Addison Russell #27 of the Chicago Cubs hits a home run against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim during the eighth inning at Wrigley Field on Wednesday in Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Cubs won 3-1. — AFP

HAMMEL DOMINATES AS CUBS WIN 9TH STRAIGHT

Jason Hammel extended his winning streak to five and the Chicago Cubs completed a four-game season sweep of the Los Angeles Angels with a 3-1 victory on Wednesday. Hammel (12-5) allowed four hits, struck out six and walked two through a seven-inning outing. He also had a fifth-inning hit and scored a run. The victory was the eighth straight for Chicago (71-41) and second in a row over Los Angeles (49-64) in the abbreviated Wrigley Field series.

PHILLIES 6, DODGERS 2

Freddy Galvis hit a three-run homer and Ryan Howard added a three-run double to lift Philadelphia over Los Angeles. Elvis Araujo, who was recalled from Triple-A Lehigh Valley on Tuesday, got the win in relief. Araujo (2-1) allowed one hit and hit one batter in his lone inning, the sixth. Araujo replaced starter Jeremy Hellickson, who left the game after five innings with back tightness.

NATIONALS 7, INDIANS 4

Jayson Werth had a three-run homer and a double and scored three times, and Anthony Rendon added two doubles to help the Nationals earn a split of the series between division leaders. The Nationals pounded out 11 hits despite playing their third straight game without right fielder Bryce Harper, who remains sidelined with a stiff neck. Washington broke a 4-4 tie with a three-run fifth. Daniel Murphy had an RBI double in the inning, and Rendon added a two-run double.

A'S 1, ORIOLES 0

Ross Detwiler pitched eight shutout innings in his return to the major leagues and Oakland defeated Baltimore. Detwiler (1-0) was called up from Triple-A Nashville earlier on Wednesday and made his A's debut and first major-league start since May 14, 2015, with Texas. He gave up six hits, struck out two and walked none.

ROYALS 3, WHITE SOX 2 (14 INNINGS)

Lorenzo Cain delivered a two-out, RBI single in the 14th inning for his fifth career walk-off hit as Kansas City edged Chicago. Cain's shot to center scored Christian Colon, who started the inning with a single. Paulo Orlando's sacrifice bunt moved Colon to second.

RANGERS 5, ROCKIES 4

Adrian Beltre singled with the tying run on third base and winning run on second in the eighth inning to lead Texas past Colorado for its fifth straight win. The RBIs were numbers 1,536 and 1,537 for the 37-year-old Beltre, who tied Joe DiMaggio for 47th all time.

BLUE JAYS 7, RAYS 0

Troy Tulowitzki homered and had five RBIs, J.A. Happ struck out seven in six scoreless innings for his 10th straight win and Toronto beat Tampa Bay. Justin Smoak also homered and Melvin Upton Jr stole three bases for the Blue Jays (65-50) in the rubber match of the three-game series.

CARDINALS 3, REDS 2

Jaime Garcia delivered another long, efficient outing when St. Louis needed it. After going eight shutout innings on Friday, he pitched eight more against Cincinnati. Garcia (9-8) allowed six hits and two runs, walking one and fanning four before leaving after Joey Votto doubled and Adam Duvall singled to start the ninth.

PADRES 4, PIRATES 0

Edwin Jackson limited Pittsburgh to two singles in seven dominating innings and an alert Travis Jankowski pulled off a rare steal of home for San Diego. Jackson and relievers Ryan Buchter and Brandon Maurer did not allow a Pirates runner past second base during the combined two-hitter.

YANKEES 9, RED SOX 4

Starlin Castro's two-run double capped a five-run seventh inning for New York against Boston at Fenway Park. Didi Gregorius and Gary Sanchez each slugged solo home runs, and Austin Romine, Jacoby Ellsbury and Chase Headley each added RBIs for the Yankees (57-56), who avoided falling below .500 for the first time since July 17.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, METS 2 (12 INNINGS)

Oscar Hernandez hit his first Major League home run leading off the 12th inning and Arizona edged New York at Citi Field for its third straight win. The Mets (57-56) have lost four of five and are 10-18 since July 8 but remain just 2 1/2 games behind the Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals in the race for the second National League wild card.

BREWERS 4, BRAVES 3

Chris Carter hit a three-run homer as Milwaukee snapped Atlanta's four-game winning streak. Atlanta's Freddie Freeman went 3-for-3 with two homers and a walk. He hit solo shots in the fourth and eighth innings, each time drawing the Braves within a run of Milwaukee, which scored all of its runs in the fourth behind Carter's team-leading 26th home run of the season.

GIANTS 1, MARLINS 0

Giants starter Jeff Samardzija beat David Phelps in a pitching duel between former Notre Dame team mates, helping San Francisco win two games in the three-game series. Brandon Crawford provided the big blow by going deep in the fourth inning for his 11th homer of the season. Astros v Twins (postponed, rain) Houston received a reprieve from the weather. The Astros trailed the Twins 5-0 in the third inning before the game was delayed by rain. After a lengthy delay, the unofficial game was rained out and will be made up in its entirety as part of a day-night doubleheader on Thursday. — Reuters

MLB results/standings

San Francisco 1, Miami 0; Philadelphia 6, LA Dodgers 2; Washington 7, Cleveland 4; San Diego 4, Pittsburgh 0; Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 0; Arizona 3, NY Mets 2 (12 innings); NY Yankees 9, Boston 4; St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 2; Texas 5, Colorado 4; Chicago Cubs 3, LA Angels 1; Milwaukee 4, Atlanta 3; Oakland 1, Baltimore 0.

American League Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	65	50	.565	-
Baltimore	63	50	.558	1
Boston	61	51	.545	2.5
NY Yankees	57	56	.504	7
Tampa Bay	46	67	.407	18

Central Division

Cleveland	63	48	.568	-
Detroit	61	53	.535	3.5
Chicago White Sox	54	59	.478	10
Kansas City	54	59	.478	10
Minnesota	46	67	.407	18

Western Division

Texas	68	47	.591	-
Seattle	60	53	.531	7
Houston	58	55	.513	9
Oakland	51	63	.447	16.5
LA Angels	49	64	.434	18

National League Eastern Division

Washington	67	46	.593	-
Miami	60	54	.526	7.5
NY Mets	57	56	.504	10
Philadelphia	53	63	.457	15.5
Atlanta	43	71	.377	24.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	71	41	.634	-
St. Louis	60	54	.526	12
Pittsburgh	56	55	.505	14.5
Milwaukee	50	62	.446	21
Cincinnati	46	67	.407	25.5

Western Division

San Francisco	65	49	.570	-
LA Dodgers	64	50	.561	1
Colorado	55	59	.482	10
San Diego	49	64	.434	15.5
Arizona	47	66	.416	17.5

CAHILL SIGNS THREE-YEAR CONTRACT AT MELBOURNE CITY

SYDNEY: Australia's record goal scorer Tim Cahill has signed for Melbourne City FC, a move that will see him play in the country's domestic A-League competition for the first time.

Cahill, who has won 91 caps for Australia and is the country's record goal scorer with 47, has signed a three-year contract with Melbourne City.

The midfielder will play for two years then join the club's coaching staff in 2018, the team said yesterday. "It's the biggest player signing in the League's history, it's a red letter day for the code," Football Federation Australia's CEO David Gallop told reporters in Sydney.

"I think for many Australians when you think football, you think Tim Cahill.

"Scoring goals, celebrating by punching the corner flag, hopefully we are going to see plenty of that over the next couple of seasons, not only in the A-League but of course for the Socceroos on the road to Russia 2018."

Cahill, 36, has represented his country in three consecutive World Cups and the Asian Cup, becoming the first Australian to score in each competition.

"I am incredibly excited to have signed with Melbourne City and ultimately the City Football Group. There is real ambition and purpose here, qualities that are immensely important to me," Cahill said in a statement.

Cahill previously played for Chinese Super League side Shanghai Shenhua, the MLS' New York Red Bulls, Everton in the English Premier League and Millwall, also in England.

He joins Melbourne City after leaving CSL side Hangzhou Greentown in July. Neither Melbourne City nor Gallop has revealed the exact price paid for the midfielder. "Without putting a precise figure on it, I think it's a significant investment by the game, the biggest investment that the league has ever made in a player and that is, I think, appropriate for Tim Cahill," Gallop added.

"As I say, he's number one on our wish list and we've got him." —Reuters



SYDNEY: This file photo taken on January 31, 2015 shows Australia's Tim Cahill celebrating during the victory run after beating South Korea in the AFC Asian Cup football final at Stadium Australia in Sydney. — AFP



BARCELONA: FC Barcelona's Luis Suarez, in air, duels for the ball against Sampdoria's Matias Silvestre during the Joan Gamper trophy friendly soccer match between FC Barcelona and Sampdoria at the Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday. —AP

WENGER, KLOPP, POCHETTINO OUT TO UPSET MANCHESTER CLUB SCENE

LONDON: Arsene Wenger, Jurgen Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino head into the new Premier League season with the burden of expectation weighing heavily on their shoulders. In contrast to the two Manchester clubs and Chelsea, the trio are familiar with their surroundings, no one more so than Wenger at Arsenal, whilst Pochettino starts his third campaign with Spurs and Klopp his first full season with Liverpool.

Wenger and Klopp have struck already in terms of arousing the ire of Manchester United's fiery coach Jose Mourinho in criticising the huge fee paid for Paul Pogba.

Many Arsenal fans may have expressed the unease they feel over their cash rich board failing to act once more in the transfer market. Despite signing Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka for around £35 million, there have been few other forays into the high end except a failed bid for French striker Alexandre

Lacazette. — AFP — AFP This also adds to the sense that the phrase 'familiarity breeds contempt' is coming true at Arsenal, where unless Wenger produces a genuine title challenge in his 21st campaign the small bands of supporters who dared to flash banners asking him to go last season could evolve into mass protests. Wenger's hesitancy to launch into the transfer market has already had an impact as he scrambled around this week for a centreback with both Per Mertesacker and Gabriel out injured.

"Everybody is ambitious-never has the Premier League been gifted with so many ambitious people or clubs at the start of the season," said the 66-year-old Frenchman to ArsenalWay.

"But sometimes the media give too much importance to the managers and I believe that what is important is the quality of the players on the pitch. "All teams compete highly to have a top squad." Arsenal fans might take those remarks

with a pinch of salt as their regular complaint has been that their squad is not strong enough and with the Frenchman's contract up at the end of the upcoming campaign he will hope the longest-running love affair in football's elite doesn't end in a messy divorce.

Klopp for his part will be seeking to build on the progress he made at Liverpool when he came in after Brendan Rodgers was given the heave ho last season. The charismatic German has brought in some interesting recruits such as the Dutch attacking midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum, who was one of the rare players to produce top-class performances for relegated Newcastle United last season. Klopp may find his side's weakness is in central defence, and says his intention was never for wholesale personnel changes. Instead he prefers to draw on the unlikely successes of the Euro 2016 championships as an example to follow.— AFP

OOREDOO ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION FOR THE FANTASY PREMIER LEAGUE

KUWAIT: In line with the start of the English Premier League season 2016/2017, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, announced the start of registration for the 'Fantasy Premier League' through its social media channels, offering all interested participants the opportunity to win great prizes throughout the duration of the league.

To participate in the Fantasy Premier League, Ooredoo created the following code for interested participants and football fans 1105539-285050. The code enables participants to collect the most points possible to

compete for a monthly smart phone, and win the grand prize which is a trip for two with accommodation and tickets to attend one of the games of the English Premier League Season 2017/2018.

Commenting on this announcement, Yousef Al Shalal Senior Manager of CSR, Sponsorship and Social media said: "Football season is one of the most common interests among our customers, and by providing them with the opportunity to register in the Fantasy Premier League we aim to add to their excitement and pleasure while viewing these games all season long.

We do hope participants get the opportunity to win these great prizes Ooredoo is offering".

Fantasy Football is a game in which participants assemble an imaginary team of the real life players and score points based on those players' actual statistical performance. The participant with the highest scoring team is announced the winner of the Fantasy Football League.

For more information and updates on the Fantasy Premier League, please follow Ooredoo Kuwait's social media channels, through which winners names will be announced.

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Rio 2016™



BLOOD AND GUTS: BOXERS DEALING WITH FACIAL CUTS



BOXING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Olympic boxing is bloody again. Men are fighting without headgear for the first time in 36 years, making the sport debatably safer and undoubtedly more attractive to fans. But the most tangible consequence is gore: At least 10 boxers at the Rio Games have already incurred significant facial cuts in the first five days of the tournament.

Algerian middleweight Ilyas Abbadi was unsure how he got the 1 1/2-inch gash outside his left eye during his victory over Congo's Mpi Ngamissengue on Tuesday, but blood trickled down his face during the bout. The cleaned-up wound still gaped to reveal bloody tissue afterward, and he could only hope his training staff could close it satisfactorily before his next fight Friday.

"Now I know the value of the headgear," Abbadi said through a translator. "I think for the amateurs, that would be better. I would prefer to fight with headgear, but this is how it is." In pro boxing, the sight of blood on a fighter's face and chest is common - and an undeniable part of the sport's primal lure. But that visceral reminder of the sport's inherent violence had been rare in the modern amateur game until the International Boxing Association (AIBA) removed headgear from its fighters in 2013, citing scientific studies claiming protective padding actually increases brain injury.

Although AIBA has worked to improve its boxers' fighting styles to minimize head clashes, cuts have become a steady occurrence at major tournaments ever since, often when two skulls collide in an up-close exchange of punches.

WITHOUT HEADGEAR

The Olympics are the amateur game's biggest showcase by far, and the sport is desperately hoping a major cut won't ruin a fighter's medal hopes through medical disqualification. No fighters' dreams had been ruined by Wednesday afternoon, but the change has already led to some grisly, compelling scenes in preliminary bouts. Russia's Adlan Abdurashidov and Algeria's Reda Benbaziz both were cut Tuesday during their lightweight bout, which was stopped twice in the second round for Abdurashidov to receive medical attention. Blood dripped steadily from Benbaziz's face in the third.

"The guy was using his head a lot, and he received a warning from the judge," Benbaziz said after winning the decision despite a 2-inch cut through his right eyebrow, which was already swelling moments after the bout. "Yeah, it will affect my next fight, but we will have to fight with an injury. I wish I could be using the headguard." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Cuba's Erislandy Savon, right, fights Argentina's Yamil Alberto Peralta during a men's heavy weight 91-kg quarterfinals boxing match at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday. — AP

CLASSY CUBAN BOXERS LIGHT UP RIO



BOXING

RIO DE JANEIRO: A trio of Cuban boxers put on a masterclass at the Rio Olympics on Wednesday in a throwback to some of the finest traditions of the country's amateur fighters. Light flyweight Joahnys Argilagos underlined his rich potential as he became the first boxer at the Games into the semifinals to guarantee at least a bronze medal, as the boxing approaches the business end of the competition.

The 19-year-old prospect and world champion had Kenya's Peter Warui—who is nearly twice his age—running around in circles on his way to a unanimous points decision, as Cuba extended their ominous perfect start.

Cuba, with its rich boxing heritage that has culminated in 34 gold medals and counting, is among the most successful countries in Olympic boxing history and strongly fancied to do well again in Rio.

Julio Cesar La Cruz, a three-time world amateur light heavyweight champion with

spectacularly graceful movement across the ring, was equally emphatic in a unanimous points victory over the hopelessly outclassed Mehmet Unal of Turkey.

And in the final contest of the day, heavy-weight Erislandy Savon, nephew of Cuban all-time great Felix Savon, showed glimpses of the killer instinct that made his uncle an Olympic legend.

Argilagos displayed the full array of his electric footwork, at one point ducking a haymaker from Warui, whose momentum took him tumbling into the ropes.

The young Cuban merely grinned back at his opponent and later delivered a sucker-punch while appearing to look in the opposite direction.

FAMOUS NAME

Argilagos faces Yurberjen Martinez—who he has trained with in the past in the semis on Friday, after the Colombian defeated Samuel Carmona Heredia of Spain on a split points decision.

"I felt more confident than in my first fight," said Argilagos, after delivering one of the most impressive displays in Rio to date.

"I knew I was going to bring joy to Cuba and I stuck to my tactical master plan." "The

Colombian is going to be a very tough rival," added Argilagos, also a former youth world champion and one of the hottest prospects around. "We have never fought but we have trained together and I know that he has some good weapons."

La Cruz, who turns 27 on Thursday and called his win an early birthday present to himself, picked Unal off at will and appeared to barely break sweat in a one-sided demolition to surge into the quarter-finals.

A quarter-finalist at the last Games in London, he will face home Brazilian hope Michel Borges in the last eight.

Savon, whose features are far older than his 26 years, made it a Cuban hat-trick and another guaranteed bronze when he silenced vocal Argentinians in the arena supporting the limited Alberto Peralta, who hardly landed a single telling blow and was nearly out on his feet by the end.

Savon is aware of the expectation that comes with his famous name and says he has seen all the videos of his uncle's fights.

But he said: "We have different styles. He was a puncher and I'm more a stylist." "This is my moment to win the gold medal and to rekindle the name of my uncle in the Olympics," he added. — AFP

HOMER WINS SILVER IN MEN'S SABRE



FENCING

RIO DE JANEIRO: The United States saw a pair of fencers put themselves in position to win unprecedented gold medals at the Rio Games. Neither came through. But simply getting to the finals helped show how far the Americans have come in a sport where they've long struggled. Third-ranked Aron Szilagyi of Hungary beat upstart US fencer Daryl Homer to win gold in men's sabre

Wednesday. Despite the loss, Homer earned the second silver medal for the American men's fencing team in Rio, joining Stanford's Alexander Massialas.

"We're trying to raise the visibility of the sport," Homer said. "We are very competitive with each other, and it's great. I love that."

Homer's impressive final touch gave him a thrilling 15-14 victory over Iran's Mojtaba Abedini in the semifinals and put him within a win of the first gold for the US men in the modern era. Szilagyi proved to be too much for the 10th-ranked American, who fell 15-8. Still, the Bronx-born Homer finished as well as any US fencer in his weapon ever had. Homer found out about fencing when he

was five by reading his dictionary. He begged his mother, Juliette Smith, to let him try out the sport, and Homer wound up under the tutelage of former American fencer Peter Westbrook

Westbrook's foundation is designed to mentor inner-city youth through fencing. It has also been crucial in the career of Ibtihaj Muhammad - who made history on Monday as the first US athlete to compete wearing a hijab. Homer emerged as one of Westbrook's prized pupils, earning spots on four All-America teams while at St. John's. He also became the first American man to win a medal at a world championship event, taking silver in 2015. — AP



Rio 2016™



MANY COUNTRIES COME TO RIO WITH ONE SHOT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Majlinda Kelmendi stood on the podium with a wide smile on her face. A gold medal hung around her neck, and not just any gold medal - the first one ever for Kosovo. Kelmendi went to Rio with Kosovo's first Olympic team, and she knew she had to deliver in the women's 52-kg judo competition to make sure her nation didn't go home empty-handed.

"I was really ready for this competition," Kelmendi said. "It was the first time that Kosovo was in the Olympics. I wanted so badly to win." While so much attention is paid to the top of the medals table at the Olympics, where the athletic powerhouses like the United States and China practically need to charter another plane to bring home all the gold, silver and bronze they accumulate, there is an equally spirited competition at the bottom, where dozens of smaller countries hold out hopes of just getting their hands on one.

Newspapers back home praised Kelmendi's "historic achievement" Sunday. Hidilyn Diaz, whose weightlifting silver ended a 20-year medal drought for the Philippines, received a personal message of congratulations from President Rodrigo Duterte, who told her she brought honor to the country.

They are not global stars on par with Michael Phelps or Usain Bolt. But to the success-starved countries they represent, they may be even more important.

Coming into the Rio Games, more than 70 nations with National Olympic Committees had never won a medal of any kind. Others, like India, very rarely reach the podium. So they come to these Olympics with very few chances for glory, their collective focus pinned on one team, or one athlete, to break through. Fiji plays in the rugby semifinals yesterday in a sport that has returned to the Olympics after a 92-year absence. "We need pressure. Island life is a nice, chilled and laid-back one so if we take things too easy the boys just drop off," said Fiji rugby coach Ben Ryan, who represents a country that has never won a medal of any color. "We are embracing that pressure at the moment. The more the better. This is the strongest 12 I've ever had. There are absolutely no excuses not to perform." India has won just two medals since 1964, including one for men's field hockey in Moscow in 1980. This year's team is looking to restore the country's standing as one of the world's elite. "That's my life. It's a dream," captain Sreejesh Parattu said. "If you look at the Indian history, it is a very prestigious thing for our country." And when they finally do make it happen, the emotions can be overwhelming. Diaz openly wept after winning the silver medal in the 58kg class of weightlifting. It was the country's first medal in any sport since the Atlanta Games in 1996 and helped her overcome failures in Beijing and London.

"I have tried so hard. I have stumbled many times," Diaz said. "I wanted to quit, but now all of my sacrifices have paid off."—AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia's Andrew Bogut, center, United States' DeAndre Jordan (6) and United States' Klay Thompson (11) scramble for a rebound during a men's basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday. —AP

CARMELO POWERS USA OVER SPIRITED AUSSIES



BASKETBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: With the United States in danger of losing for the first time since 2006, NBA stars Carmelo Anthony and Kyrie Irving took command Wednesday to subdue stubborn Australia at the Rio Olympics. The Americans outlasted the upset-minded Aussies 98-88 as Anthony scored a game-high 31 points, 14 of them in the fourth quarter, and Irving sank 12 of his 19 in the last period.

"At the end of the day I was in my zone," Anthony said. "My teammates found me when I was open."

The Knicks star is seeking to become the first three-time gold winner in men's Olympic basketball. His 31 points leave him as the all-time USA scorer at the Games with 293 points, surpassing LeBron James. San Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills helped keep Australia in the preliminary-round game with 30 points.

The Americans improved to 3-0 in Rio and 83-1 under coach Mike Krzyzewski, who took over not long after the last US loss at the Olympics, a 2004 semi-finals

defeat to Argentina that still stings.

Australian teams are 0-19 against the US, but the full-game test they posed may fuel belief among other teams that the US squad can be threatened and perhaps denied a third consecutive gold medal.

"We're a bit disappointed. We lost," star Aussie center Andrew Bogut said. "We had every opportunity to win the game. That's an attitude change. We have a different feeling now and we want to keep that going." The Aussies have four NBA champion players and established themselves as perhaps the Americans' biggest rivals for gold.

'IT GOT REAL'

Asked if the game was a USA wake-up call, US guard Paul George said: "It definitely got real." "We're probably going to see them again and we've got to do a better job of matching them," he said.

The Americans did not shoot well in the first half and trailed for significant stretches in the game.

But they scored the first nine points of the third quarter for a 58-54 lead and stayed in front until Joe Ingles' lay-up put Australia ahead 72-70 with nine minutes to play. A 10-2 US run, including eight points from Anthony, made it 80-74 and

the persistent Aussies never got closer than four after that. Bogut had 15 points for Australia and Matthew Dellavedova 11 points and 11 assists.

"A few mental lapses in the last quarter but we understand what we need to do to beat a great team like the USA," Mills said. In other Group A play, four-time NBA champion Tony Parker hit a game-winning jumper with 31 seconds remaining to give France a 76-75 victory over stubborn Serbia. Parker, 34, Mills' Spurs teammate, capped a game-ending 10-2 run by the French. "It's awesome," Parker said. "It's not everyday you hit a game-winning shot. It was great." The victory leaves France, which lost its opener to Australia, at 2-1 in Group A, with Serbia falling to 1-2. "We had a rough start," Parker said. "Now I feel we're back to our identity and we're playing a lot better." The victory means France, which has yet to face China or the Americans, is likely to finish third in the table and face a possible semi-final against the USA. In a battle of winless teams, Venezuela outlasted China for a 72-68 win, dealing a potentially fatal blow to China's hopes of advancing. Nestor Colmenares lead the Venezuelans, now 1-3, with 16 points, while China's Yi Jianlian had 18 points and 10 rebounds in defeat.—AFP



DRUG OFFENDER CLAIMS WEIGHTLIFTING GOLD



WEIGHTLIFTING

RIO DE JANEIRO: A Kazakh weightlifter who has served a two-year doping ban smashed a world record to stun China's Lyu Xiaojun and grab Olympic gold at the men's 77kg weightlifting in Rio Wednesday. The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) banned Nijat Rahimov from the sport from June 2013 to June 2015 after testing positive for illegal substances while representing Azerbaijan.

Rahimov dramatically broke the clean and jerk world record by four kilogrammes to pip Chinese superstar Lyu, who was wearing gold boots, into first place. The 22-year-old, who switched to Kazakhstan after returning from his ban, refused to answer repeated questions about doubts surrounding his country's involvement in weightlifting in the run-up to the

Games. The IWF, which issued blanket bans to Russia and Bulgaria, also had wanted to ban the Kazakhs from lifting at Rio due to a number of high-profile doping cases.

However the International Olympic Committee was unable to complete re-testing of samples from the Beijing and London Games in time, freeing Kazakhstan to compete. "I'm not aware of the problem so that's exactly what I would tell them," Rahimov said, when asked what he would say to Olympic fans who may have concerns about Kazakhstan's participation.

China's Lyu had looked odds-on to win the event after he broke the snatch world record with 177kg and was well ahead of Rahimov going into the second stage.

However the London 2012 gold medallist failed to lift 202kg on his second attempt. When he succeeded with his third he clearly thought he'd done enough to win, removing the straps of his leotard to reveal his torso as he clenched his fists and roared in celebration. Rahimov had other ideas though, lifting 214 kg to beat a 15-year-

old record and register a combined total of 379. That was the same total as Lyu but Rahimov won by virtue of being lighter. His sensational lift came with an attempt to spare and after Lyu had finished all of his, meaning there was no way back for the 2012 champion.

EGYPT'S DOUBLE DELIGHT

Kazakhstan's first weightlifting gold of the Games sparked wild celebrations amongst their coaching staff at the Riocentro 2 Pavilion. "I won't comment on whether Kazakhstan should have been allowed to compete," said Lyu. "I did well. I just lost to a stronger competitor," he added. Third-place Mohamed Mahmoud, who claimed Egypt's second weightlifting medal of the day after a barren spell of almost 70 years, said he hoped the competition had been "100 percent clean". Egypt hadn't won a weightlifting medal since 1948 until Sara Ahmed won bronze in the women's 69kg earlier on Wednesday, although another was due to be awarded retrospectively. — AFP

DING TAKES SWEET RIO REVENGE ON LI



TABLE TENNIS

RIO DE JANEIRO: China's Ding Ning won the women's Olympic table tennis title on Wednesday, beating her team boss Li Xiaoxia to avenge the bitter defeat she suffered to her compatriot in London 2012.

Four years after losing the title in acrimonious circumstances when she became embroiled in a row with the referee, Ding, nicknamed 'big baby', finally won the gold she had hankered after so dearly. The top seed prevailed in seven sets 11-9, 5-11, 14-12, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7 to complete the grand slam of World Championship, World Cup and now Olympic titles.

China have won every women's singles title since table tennis was introduced in Seoul in 1988, and are on course to complete a third successive cleansweep of golds after dominating in Beijing and London.

"I'm a little dazed by this," said the hugely popular and charismatic Ding.

PALS AND RIVALS

"I was able to forget the sad memory of that defeat in London. In the four years since I'm more experienced and seasoned.

"I feel like I am a lot more mature than four years ago and told myself before the final to 'fight for my dreams'." On her relationship with Li she added: "With Xiaoxia we are teammates, she's the team leader, I've learned a lot from her, but today of course we were rivals."

In a mark of a magnanimous loser Li praised Ding for prising the title from her, adding: "As long as the ball doesn't hit the floor, I continued to do my best."

Ding claimed the opening set in eight minutes against her friend-colleague-training partner and, for this encounter as she noted, arch rival, who took only seven minutes to bring the match back level.

Left-hand attacker Ding, in bright pink, then scraped the third 14-12. Li though, two years her elder, was not in the mood to relinquish her title without a battle, pocketing the fourth game.

The balance of power swung Li's way then as the third seed came out on top in a pulsating 25-stroke rally on her way to the fifth set.

"Make some noise, there are one billion people watching this back in China," encouraged the stadium announcer at the Riocentro complex.

With her second tilt at the Olympic title slipping from her grasp Ding dug deep to take the sixth game 11-7 to send the final into a nerve-jangling decider.

With concentration at its maximum, the 26-year-old hunched over the ball before her serve like a scientist over a microscope.

At 10-7, she called a strategic time out, then, summoning on all her skill and guile, she returned to finally net the one that had got away. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's Neymar controls the ball past Denmark's Pascal Gregor during a group A match of the men's Olympic football tournament between Brazil and Denmark in Salvador, Brazil, Wednesday. Brazil won the match 4-0. — AP

HOSTS BRAZIL ADVANCE, ARGENTINA, MEXICO OUT



SOCCER

RIO DE JANEIRO: Hosts Brazil finally found their form to progress to the quarter-finals of the Olympic soccer tournament with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Denmark on Wednesday, after holders Mexico and twice winners Argentina were sent packing.

After drab goalless draws in their first two matches, Brazil needed a win to calm the nerves of a soccer-mad nation and guarantee a place in the last eight, and first-half goals by Gabriel Barbosa and Gabriel Jesus provided a perfect platform. Luan and Barbosa added two more goals in the second period to carry Brazil to the top of Group A and a Saturday showdown against fellow South Americans Colombia.

Despite the heavy defeat, Denmark advanced to face Nigeria after finishing in

second place on four points, while Iraq and South Africa drew 1-1 in the other group game to both be eliminated.

Argentina, who were Olympic champions in 2004 and 2008, crashed out after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Honduras in Group D action, as Portugal topped the standings on seven points after a 1-1 draw with Algeria in the other match. Honduras claimed the second qualifying spot by virtue of a superior goal difference over Argentina, who missed a penalty in their match, with both sides finishing on four points. Algeria were last after claiming a solitary point. Germany were the big winners of the day, hammering 10 goals past Fiji, with Nils Petersen scoring five and Maximilian Meyer adding three as the European side ran riot against a team who conceded 23 goals in their first appearance at the Olympics.

The 10-0 win lifted Germany up to second spot in Group C above Mexico, who crashed out after Kwon Chang-hoon's 77th minute goal gave South Korea a 1-0 win. — Reuters



SUMMER GAMES 2016

MEDAL TRACKER

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	11	11	10	32
China	10	5	8	23
Japan	6	1	11	18
Australia	5	2	5	12
Hungary	5	1	1	7
Russia	4	7	4	15
South Korea	4	2	3	9
Italy	3	6	2	11
Britain	3	3	6	12
France	2	3	1	6
Kazakhstan	2	2	3	7
Thailand	2	1	1	4
Germany	1	2	1	4
Sweden	1	2	0	3
Netherlands	1	1	2	4
Belgium	1	1	1	3
Brazil	1	1	0	2
Colombia	1	1	0	2
Slovenia	1	1	0	2
Vietnam	1	1	0	2
Chinese Taipei	1	0	2	3
Greece	1	0	1	2
Spain	1	0	1	2
Switzerland	1	0	1	2
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Neutral Olympic	1	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
North Korea	0	2	2	4
Ukraine	0	2	1	3
Indonesia	0	2	0	2
New Zealand	0	2	0	2
South Africa	0	2	0	2
Canada	0	1	5	6
Georgia	0	1	1	2
Azerbaijan	0	1	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	0	1	0	1
Turkey	0	1	0	1
Egypt	0	0	2	2
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2
Czech Republic	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Tunisia	0	0	1	1
United Arab Emirates	0	0	1	1



KING STICKS TO GUNS OVER DOPING REMARKS

RIO DE JANEIRO: American Lilly King on Wednesday refused to back down over slamming the decision to allow drug-tainted swimmers to compete at the Rio Olympics.

Earlier this week, King refused to shake hands with Russian Yulia Efimova after being presented with her gold for winning the 100m breaststroke. She savaged the two-time doping offender after the race. Efimova, the reigning world champion, was cleared to compete in Rio after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled athletes cannot be banned on the basis that they have been previously sanctioned. King admitted she had faced criticism of her stance after Efimova's case was decided in a tribunal but insisted most of the feedback she received has been positive. "I obviously have gotten some negative backlash, which I expected," she told reporters after the 200m breaststroke heats. "But for the most part all the support has been very positive and I'm really thankful for that. "My parents raised me to say what I wanted to say, even if it wasn't what people wanted to hear necessarily and I'm going to stick with my guns." The 100m clash was laced with hostility, Efimova wagging her finger to signal she was "number one" after her semi-final, to which King mockingly copied the gesture before beating her rival's time and calling her a "drug cheat."

Booed before the race, Efimova broke down in tears after winning silver and King tore her to shreds in the post-race press conference. "I have so many followers on social media now, it's really weird," said King, who has over 23,000 followers on Twitter. "Reggie Miller, Indiana Pacers, followed me yesterday—that was a pretty big deal for me," added the Indiana-born swimmer, referring to the former NBA basketball great.

"For the most part all the support has been very positive and I'm really thankful for that." It didn't help her in the pool however, as she failed to qualify for the final of the 200m breaststroke.

Efimova, who again heard jeers as she took the blocks for the semi-finals, shook it off to secure her finals berth with the sixth-fastest time, 83-hundredths of a second behind top qualifier Taylor McKeown of Australia. Efimova, who was banned for 16 months three years ago after testing positive for the steroid DHEA, has looked like a frightened rabbit walking through the bear pit of the media mixed zone after races, refusing to answer questions. But after the 100m race, the teary-eyed Russian said: "It's very upsetting when politics interfere with sport. I once made a mistake and served my ban. I thought the cold war was over long ago." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia's gold medal winner Kyle Chalmers is flanked by Belgium's silver medal winner Pieter Timmers, left, and United States' bronze medal winner Nathan Adrian during the men's 100-meter freestyle medals ceremony during the swimming competitions at the 2016 Summer Olympics, yesterday. —AP

AUSSIE TEEN STARS AS LEDECKY MOTORS ON



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia's new teenage swimming sensation Kyle Chalmers won the blue riband Olympic 100m freestyle gold, as golf headed for a controversial return to the Games after 112 years. Chalmers, only 18, became the first Australian in 48 years to win the prestigious race. The teenager hit the wall in 47.58 seconds, just 22 hundredths ahead of Belgium's Pieter Timmers and American Nathan Adrian, the 2012 champion, who took bronze.

Chalmers is the first Australian to win the 100m free since Mike Wenden in Mexico City in 1968. But he did not realize it had been so long. "I actually had no idea about that to be honest with you," he said. "I'm someone that probably doesn't follow swimming too much."

"I kind of stay away and follow basketball and soccer and football. I know that we've been beaten a few times." His victory came as American Katie Ledecky sealed her third gold medal of the Games, anchoring the United States team home in the 4x200m relay.

She already has the 200m and 400m freestyle titles in Rio. Elsewhere in the pool, Michael Phelps returned from his heroics in winning his record 20th and 21st gold medals, to safely reach the final of the 200m individual medley yesterday. There was also a rare gold medal for Kazakhstan in the 200m breaststroke, where Dmitriy Balandin won his country's first Olympic swimming title since the break-up of the Soviet Union. It was one of two golds for Kazakhstan on the fifth full day of Olympic action. Kazakh weightlifter Nijat Rahimov won the other in the men's 77kg category.

While swimming remains one of the powerhouse Olympic sports, golf returned yesterday for the first time since the 1904 Games in St Louis, Missouri when George Lyon of Canada won the men's title.

It is coming back now already facing doubts

about the future because top players—including the world's leading four, Jason Day, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy—have stayed away. They have cited the Zika virus and scheduling concerns. But some on the International Olympic Committee suspect indifference and IOC president Thomas Bach has said the absence of star names will be one criteria looked at when it comes to deciding which sports keep their Olympic places.

Gymnastics is assured of its place for Tokyo 2020 and Japanese star Kohei Uchimura underscored his gymnastics dominance as he clinched a second straight all-around gold medal on Wednesday.

Uchimura snatched victory by just 0.099 points with a daredevil routine on the horizontal bar. "I remained calm and controlled. This calmness I think was the key to my success," Kohei said. The men's rugby sevens saw a day of upsets, with New Zealand losing to Japan in the groups before being eliminated in the quarter-finals by Fiji, who are chasing their country's first

Olympic medal. Japan scored a shock win over France to reach the last four.

In fencing, Tunisia's Ines Boubakri became the first African woman to win a medal in the sport with a bronze in the individual foil, dedicating her achievement to "the Arab woman... who has her place in society." Her French husband Erwann Le Pechoux could get a medal in the individual foil event.

In football, Gabriel Barbosa struck twice as hosts Brazil finally sparked into life with a 4-0 win over Denmark to secure a place in the quarter-finals against Colombia.

Veteran cyclists Fabian Cancellara and Kristin Armstrong hammered home their Olympic superiority with wins in the men's and women's time trial. It was Armstrong's third consecutive win in the race, a day before her 43rd birthday. "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 wins. — AFP

GOLF TEES OFF AT OLYMPICS AFTER 112 YEARS

RIO DE JANEIRO: After 112 years golf made a quiet and subdued return to the Olympics yesterday with Brazil's Adilson Da Silva hitting the first shot in front of a handful of spectators.

Under overcast skies and in calm conditions ideal for scoring, Da Silva was welcomed to the first tee by a smattering of applause and the whirl from hundreds of cameras as media and officials greatly outnumbered fans sprinkled through a small nearly empty stand.

Da Silva was followed by Canada's Graham DeLaet, whose countryman George Lyon won the last Olympic golf

tournament in 1904, with South Korean An Byeong-hun completing the threesome. The tournament lost much of its prestige after the world's four top-ranked players, Australian Jason Day, Americans Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth and Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, opted not to take part, citing concerns over the Zika virus. Four rounds over four days on the newly-constructed course on the Marapendi Nature Reserve will decide the medals with 60 players in the men's competition and the same number in the women's event which will follow next week. — Reuters

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RIO DE JANEIRO: US Kelley Hurley (L) competes against Romania's Simona Pop during the women's team epee quarter-final bout between US and Romania as part of the fencing event of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, yesterday, at the Carioca Arena 3, in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP