



PAY unveils strategy for youth at summer camp



IS abducts nearly 2,000 civilians in north Syria



Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia sets 10,000m record in Rio



BLASTS HIT THAILAND'S TOURIST CITIES; 4 KILLED

KUWAIT EMBASSY ENSURES SAFETY OF CITIZENS



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HUA HIN, Thailand: The injured are helped after a bomb blast in the southern resort city of Hua Hin, 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of Bangkok, Thailand. Police are investigating a series of bomb blasts in Hua Hin and other cities in Thailand. — AP

TRUMP RETRACTS 'CLAIM' THAT OBAMA CREATED IS

ORLANDO, Fla: After days of alleging repeatedly that President Barack Obama literally founded the Islamic State group, Donald Trump abruptly shifted tone yesterday and insisted his widely debunked claim had been sarcastic. Trump, in an early-morning post on Twitter, blamed CNN for reporting "so seriously" that he had called Obama and Democrat Hillary Clinton the extremist group's founder and most valuable player. He added, in all capital letters: "THEY DON'T GET SARCASTIC?"

Only hours before, the billionaire businessman had restated the allegation with no mention of sarcasm, telling rallygoers in Kissimmee, Florida, that "I've been saying that Barack Obama is the founder." It's a claim that Trump repeated at least a dozen times in three cities since debuting the attack-line Wednesday during a rally outside Fort Lauderdale.

In fact, Trump had refused to clarify that he was being rhetorical or sarcastic when asked about the remark during interviews. On Tuesday, when conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt tried to steer Trump toward explaining he really meant Obama's Mideast policies created conditions that IS exploited, Trump wanted none of it. — AP

SAUDI STOPS THREE WOMEN, 7 KIDS FROM JOINING SYRIA WAR

DOHA: Saudi Arabia said yesterday it had prevented three Saudi women and seven children from traveling through Lebanon to join the conflict in neighboring Syria, the Saudi state news agency SPA reported. The three sisters and their children were detained by Lebanese authorities in Beirut and flown back to Saudi Arabia on Thursday after the husband of one of the women told police they planned to join the war, SPA quoted an interior ministry spokesman as saying.

Police said the husband, who was the father of three of the children, had tipped them off on Monday that his wife had left and was a "takfiri", a term Saudi authorities use for Islamist militants. The children were aged between one and 10 years old, the statement added. The Saudi public has grown increasingly angry at bloody images broadcast of Syria's violence and the government has sought to stop its citizens from joining what some of them see as a holy war against the Syrian government.

Riyadh has backed the rebels battling Assad while being mindful of the blowback it previously suffered after radicalized Saudi nationals returned home from foreign conflicts ready to wage war on their own government. — Reuters

HUA HIN, Thailand: A series of blasts hit three of the most popular tourist resorts as well as towns in southern Thailand on Thursday and yesterday, killing four people and wounding dozens, days after the country voted to accept a military-backed constitution. Four bombs exploded in the upscale resort of Hua Hin, about 200 km (125 miles) south of Bangkok, on Thursday evening and yesterday morning, killing two people and wounding at least 24.

Other blasts hit the tourist island of Phuket, a resort town in Phang Nga province, and Surat Thani, a city that is the gateway to popular islands such as Koh Samui in Thailand's Gulf.

Hua Hin is home to the Klai Kangwon royal palace, which translates as "Far from Worries", where King Bhumibol Adulayadej, the world's longest reigning monarch, and his wife, Queen Sirikit, have lived in recent years. Neither were there during the attacks, as both are in hospital in Bangkok.

Yesterday was a public holiday in Thailand to mark the queen's birthday, which is celebrated as Mother's Day. No group has claimed responsibility, though suspicion could fall on insurgents in Muslim-majority provinces in southern Thailand.

Police detained two men for questioning over the attacks on Hua Hin yesterday, said Police Superintendent Sarawut Tankul of the tourist police at the resort. They were detained because CCTV footage showed them in the area "before, during and after the bombings", he said, declining to give more details. Preliminary evidence showed the bombs were low-explosive devices devised to "make an announcement" rather than cause maximum harm, he said.

Ahead of the blasts, Police had intelligence an attack was imminent, but had no precise information on location or timing, national police chief Chakthip Chaijinda told reporters in Bangkok yesterday. "We just didn't know which day something would happen," he said.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Thailand Abdullah Al-Sharhan yesterday announced that the embassy formed an operation room immediately when the nation was rocked with a string of explosions, noting that the special chamber was set up with aim of ensuring safety of Kuwaiti citizens.

The ambassador, according to a statement released by the Foreign Ministry, affirmed that he and the mission were following up on situation with the relevant authorities, noting that initial results of these contacts revealed that there were no Kuwaiti casualties among the blasts' victims.

He urged Kuwaiti nationals in Thailand to be cautious, cooperate with the security personnel and contact the embassy if the need arises on the emergency number: 0066918909998 or on the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's emergency phone numbers" 98007888 or 98007999.

Since Sunday's referendum on the constitution, there have been attacks in seven provinces using improvised explosive devices and firebombs, Chakthip said. The devices were similar to those used by separatist groups in southern Thailand, but that did not conclusively show they were the perpetrators, he said. Police ruled out any links to international terrorism, as did Thailand's Foreign Ministry, which said in a statement yesterday: "The incident is not linked to terrorism but is an act of stirring up public disturbance." Bangkok-based analyst Anthony Davis, at security consulting firm IHS-Jane's, questioned the police assertion that the attacks were an act of local sabotage. — Agencies

News

In Brief

KU chief and Malaysian universities' heads meet

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait University Director Dr Hussein Ahmad Al-Ansari has discussed means of promoting academic cooperation with heads of Malaysian universities. In a statement to KUNA yesterday, Al-Ansari said he took part in the forum's sessions of universities' presidents recently held in Malaysia, adding that it discussed innovation and sustainable development of universities. The forum's sessions focused on means of enhancing cooperation and sharing expertise among universities, and on putting new visions so as to find solutions to challenges facing higher education institutions, he noted. He said that he visited Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and International Islamic University Malaysia, adding that he was briefed on their facilities, research capabilities, libraries and laboratories. He noted that he discussed with university's officials means of bolstering cooperation. Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi held a dinner banquet in honor of Al-Ansari in which a number of deans and professors at Malaysian universities attended.



Kuwait University Director Dr Hussein Ahmad Al-Ansari pictured with Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi. — KUNA

Kuwait oil down 52 cents - to \$38.94 pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was down by 52 cents Thursday to reach \$38.94 per barrel, compared with \$39.46 the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price declined on Thursday after the International Energy Agency issued its monthly report in which the growth forecast of demand for crude oil lowered to 1.2 million barrels per in the upcoming year, compared with 1.4 million barrels this year. The agency said that crude oil prices declined to \$45 million per barrels this August due to a rise in supply and an increase in demand. It showed that the global demand last July witnessed a rise of up to 800,000 barrels per day, either inside or outside the OPEC, "despite the production was lowered by 215,000 barrels per day, compared with the same period of 2015. The agency attributed the rise in oil output by about 150,000 barrels per day last July reaching 39.3 million barrels a day to the rise in Saudi Arabia and Iraq's production level.

Kuwaitis in Thailand are 'safe'; blasts hit resort

Kuwait Ambassador to Thailand Abdullah Al-Sharhan

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to Thailand Abdullah Al-Sharhan said that all Kuwaitis in the Kingdom are safe, after twin blasts hit a southern resort on Thursday. No Kuwaitis are among the victims of the explosions that hit Hua Hin resort, the ambassador said. Immediately after the incident, the embassy made sure if there were any Kuwaitis among the victims, the envoy added. In addition, a hotline was set and Al-Sharhan urged Kuwaiti vacationers in Thailand to contact the embassy in case of emergency. The hotline is 0066918909998. The two bombs that killed a woman and injuring 10 people, including foreign tourists, were hidden in plant pots and detonated by mobile phones within half an hour of each other. Initial reports said that most victims are foreigners, though nationalities have not yet been identified.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Photo shows the Amricani Cultural Center. The graceful buildings facing the sea in Kuwait City reflect the commitment to community in the country's past and future. From medical buildings to cultural facilities, the buildings that make up the Amricani Cultural Centre have served the people of Kuwait since the late 1930s.— KUNA

IRAQI SORCERESS NABBED

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives have put an end to the activities of an Iraqi sorceress who specialized in ending marriages, troubling homes and manipulating men. The woman was caught red-handed at her home. Detectives confiscated large quantities of sorcery materials. Officers also found out that she has transferred thousands of Kuwait dinars to her country.

Authorities received many complaints about the Iraqi woman called 'Um Rasan'. A citizen said the sorceress had manipulated his wife and took large amounts of money from her. He said the wife claimed that the Iraqi woman is protecting them from cheating thus keeping them happy. The Kuwaiti added that his wife's financial requests increased, so he had doubts - prompting him to follow her after giving her a total sum of KD 650 in ten days.

His wife told him she was going to a beauty shop. She was later found - queuing up at the sorceress' house with other Kuwaiti women. Um Rasan's living room is divided into two - one for the female customers, and the other for the men. Um Rasan's victims always pay KD 80 each time she attends to them. The man then reported matter to the Crimes Department which had already received lots of complaints about the Iraqi woman.

Police sent an undercover woman with marked currency notes. When the undercover woman met Um Rasan,

detectives stormed the place and caught her red-handed with the marked money and some talismans which she gave to the undercover detective. All the people on queue flee the scene immediately she was arrested. Um Rasan confessed that she took thousands of dinars from her clients.

Tom-boys arrested

Surra residents appealed to Interior Ministry Undersecretary to put an end to tom-boys activities in the area. They claimed the girls have no respect for the mosque and the worshippers who feel hurt by their indecent and immoral acts. Several citizens who live in block 6 (Surra), particularly those who live close to Al-Rubaian Mosque complained about the tom-boys' indecent acts every day. They claimed the tom-boys do use the mosque's parking lot as their meeting place - talking loudly and making indecent gestures. Police stormed the place and made the arrest.

Ex-wife beats husband

A Kuwaiti woman and her sister teamed up beat her divorced Iraqi husband and broke his nose. The Iraqi ex-husband was driving near Salmiya. He was forced to stop after another car stopped in front of him. Then, his estranged wife came out along with her sister, and started beating him - threatening passersby not to interfere. They also stole his mobile and escaped. The man

was rushed to Mubarak hospital. Medical report states that he had a broken nose.

Drug suspects nabbed

Jahra police patrol noticed two persons who were walking unsteadily along the street, so they were stopped for an ID check. Police found out that they were under the influence of drugs. The suspects were searched, and 17 wraps of heroin were found with them along with some drug paraphernalia. They were sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Sex in a parking lot

Hours after deporting an Egyptian, who ran naked near a Church, another person was caught near Al-Oyoun area in Jahra in a 'compromising act'. Police received a call from a citizen about a man and a woman who were caught having sex in a parking lot. The caller said the suspects were caught red-handed while committing the act. The naked man then got angry and chased him with a knife. The Kuwaiti gave police a description of the car the suspect was using. Investigation is underway.

Ethiopian assaulted

A citizen told Abu Halaifa police that an unknown person attempted to assault her Ethiopian maid inside an elevator. The victim said the unknown man removed her clothes by force, but when she screamed the suspect escaped.

— Al Anbaa, Al Rai

GOVERNMENT WANTS YOUTHS TO CONTRIBUTE IN THE STATE AFFAIRS

CAIRO: Kuwait's special care for the youth is aimed at enabling them to bear serious responsibilities and take part in running State affairs, said a visiting senior official. Kuwait Ministry of State for Youth Affairs acts diligently to provide integrated, qualitative and divergent services for the



Mohammad Rashed Al-Bos

young generation. "This, they do with creativity campaigns for the youngsters," Mohammad Rashed Al-Bos, representative of the Ministry said in a statement during a festival marking launch of the workshop 'We Talk About Our Countries' organized by the Arab Youth Council

for Integrated Development, under the aegis of the Arab League.

"Our doors are always open for the young citizens and the Youth Ministry is actually their house where they should play a role," Al-Bos said, affirming readiness to allow juniors take part in decision-making and administrative affairs within the department. The Ministry has recently conducted a nationwide poll surveying the youngsters' views on key issues such as housing, employment, teaching and citizenship. "We will conduct very soon studies and polls to examine share of youth under the age of 34 for the State budget; as well as their spending and investment forms," he said.

The department has so far adopted more than 400 initiatives and projects - over 30 of which have been transformed into establishments and companies where young citizens have been employed, he disclosed. Moreover, the Ministry is planning to map out a new strategy - a forecast in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, to be part of the fourth five-year development scheme (2016-2020), Al-Bos added. He expressed satisfaction at the youth care accomplishments, in line with guidelines of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for backing up the young citizens and encouraging those with creative talents. — KUNA



KUWAIT'S MUNICIPALITY TARGETS LAW-BREAKERS

KUWAIT: The Farwaniya Municipality's emergency team conducted seven inspection campaigns in July, resulting in the shutdown of 11 stores and issuing 85 violations related to stores' rules and advertising billboards. Emergency team leader Khalid Al-Radaan said in a press release yesterday that stores' regulations and advertising pamphlets' violations were on the top of the list with 85 breaches, where the public cleaning and road blocks came second with 48 violations, and the food safety rules came last with 13. Moreover, Al-Ahmadi Municipality's follow up team conducted a search operation on a number of stores in several areas in the governorate, where 84 advertising violations were dealt with, and a number of violations reports were filed on a number of stores that don't have a permit. Up to 10 stores were shut down. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Farwaniya Municipality's emergency team conducting inspection campaigns. — KUNA photos



RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Feheid Al-Deihani (center) an independent athlete from Kuwait competing on the Refugee Olympic Team celebrates winning the gold medal as silver medalist Marco Innocenti of Italy (left) and bronze medalist Steven Scott of Britain clap during the victory ceremony for the men's Double Trap event, at the Olympic Shooting Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. — AP

SPORTS AUTHORITY 'PROUD' OF SHOOTER AL-DEIHANI

KUWAIT: The head of the Kuwaiti expedition taking part in Rio de Janeiro's Olympic games, Husam Al-Roumi, has expressed pride for the unprecedented victory scored by the Kuwaiti shooter Feheid Al-Deihani in the Double-Trap competition.

Al-Roumi, in a statement released by Kuwait Shooting Club yesterday, said he was granting the record win to 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, noting the top leaders' continuing support for the national sports and champions.

This achievement came due to the material and moralistic support by the State, namely the Public Authority for Sports, Al-Roumi said, indicating that Al-Deihani, along with the other

champions taking part in the Olympic competitions, had undergone rigorous and effective training in Italy, ahead of the games. He also expressed gratitude to the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the sports authority officials and managers of the shooting club.

He expressed hope to see a speedy solution to the Kuwaiti sports crisis to enable the Kuwaiti athletes take part in international and external tournaments. Al-Deihani won the gold medal in the double trap competition of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, a victory that earned him a personal praise by His Highness the Amir and the Gulf State top leaders. It is the third Olympic medal for the veteran Kuwaiti shooter, who has won bronze in the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia, and another bronze in the 2012 Games in London, England. — KUNA

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Kuwaiti youths participate in the summer camp. — KUNA photos



PAY UNVEILS YOUTH STRATEGY

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Information and the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs have organized the second Shabab (youth) summer camp aimed at filling the past-times of local youngsters. The second camp consisted of various sports, cultural, and social activities for young boys and girls. The camp aimed at developing the talents of youth, occupying their time during the summer break.

Under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) launched its five-year strategy for youth action on the eve of the World Youth Day. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah represented His Highness the Amir at a celebration held on this occasion.

He said that youth are the true treasure of the country and the focus of interest for all state departments. Sheikh Salman congratulated the youth on the opening of a new era of action under the umbrella of the PAY which spares no effort in giving free rein to the youth in all domains. He reaffirmed commitment of his ministry to putting into play the potentials of creative youth, saying that youth are partners in development and represent more than two thirds of the country's population.

He appreciated the efforts made in drawing the plans for youth action, including the national youth document known as "Kuwait hears. He also lauded the achievement made by Kuwaiti shooter Feheid Al-Dihani who won the gold medal of the double trap competitions at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games yesterday. On his part, PAY Director General Abdul-Rahman Al-Mutairi extolled His Highness the Amir for his care for the youth. He said the strategy is a comprehensive one meant to create a conducive environment for building the capacity of the youth and strengthening the national unity. —Agencies



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Photo shows the Museum of mordant art. The Museum of Modern Art was established in 2003 under the patronage of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. The NCCAL restored the old Al Sharqiyya school, one of the oldest buildings in Kuwait (dating from the 1930s), which was the first school many of Kuwait's senior citizens attended - including the current Amir of Kuwait, HH sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

TURKEY'S DIPLOMATS, ATTACHES ON THE RUN AFTER FAILED COUP

MILITARY ATTACHE IN KUWAIT TRIED TO ESCAPE THROUGH SAUDI

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 its generals, since the July 15 coup attempt, in which rogue troops commandeered tanks and warplanes in an attempt to seize power.

Western allies worry that President Tayyip Erdogan is using the putsch and the purge that has followed to tighten his grip on power. But many Turks are angered by what they see as a lack of Western sympathy over a violent coup in which 240 people died. "Democracy rallies", largely attended by Erdogan supporters but also some parts of the opposition, have been held night after night since the putsch. Pollster Metropoll said on Thursday its monthly survey showed a surge in approval for Erdogan to 68 percent in July from 47 percent a month earlier.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told private broadcaster NTV that two military attaches in Greece - a naval and an army officer - had fled by car and ferry to Italy, but that 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 the crackdown at home, where tens of thousands of troops, police and bureaucrats have been detained, dismissed or investigated for alleged links to the coup, which authorities blame on U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen. 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. Turkey has detained a total of 35,022 people in relation to the failed coup, a senior official said. Just over half of those detained, or 17,740 people, have been formally arrested while a third have been released. Another 5,685 are still in custody, the official said.

'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 Efkani Ala was quoted on Thursday 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. A total of 160 members of the military wanted in connection with the failed coup are still at large, including nine

generals, officials have said. 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.

Five employees of Turkey's embassy in the Netherlands were recalled on suspicion of involvement with the Gulen movement, the Turkish charge d'affaires told the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper this week. "It wasn't the cook or the servants," Kurtulus Aykan, acting head of Turkey's mission to the Netherlands, was quoted as saying. "These were high-ranking staff members. Talented people, with whom I had an excellent working relationship. I suspected nothing. That's the talent of this movement. They infiltrate silently." Cavusoglu has previously said around 300 members of the foreign ministry have been suspended since the coup plot, including two ambassadors. He said on Thursday 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.

Erdogan accuses 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".

The abortive coup and subsequent purge of the military have raised concern about the stability of Turkey, a member of the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State and which is battling an insurgency at home by Kurdish militants.—Reuters

TURKEY'S LIMAK SHIFTS FOCUS

ISTANBUL: Limak Holding plans to bid in a sale of Sofia airport and is looking at more investments in Africa for its main construction, energy and cement businesses, the head of the group's investment arm said. Limak's emphasis on Africa and Eastern Europe highlights a shift in focus for Turkey from traditional export markets in Europe because of sluggish economic growth and the Middle East because of political instability. "There is a privatization process for Sofia Airport.

We are looking into it. They will collect bids in the autumn," Limak Investment Chairwoman Ebru Ozdemir said in an interview. "There may be new opportunities in Africa," she said. "We are looking into airports in Eastern Europe. I think we can do airports anywhere in the world," she said. Turkish exports to Africa have grown more than sevenfold since the ruling AK Party came to power, rising to \$12.5 billion last year from \$1.7 billion in 2002, with textiles, food, construction and infrastructure services among the key sectors. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan visited Uganda and Kenya earlier this year in a bid to increase trade. Limak in April was awarded rights to complete the construction of Senegal's Aeroport International Blaise-Diagne (AIBD) and operate it for 25 years.

Kuwait airport

Limak, which is not listed, already has interests in Mozambique and Ivory Coast. In Bulgaria, Limak aims to bid in Bulgaria's tender to operate Sofia airport for 35 years, in a deal expected to bring in some 1.2 billion levs (\$684 million). The company won a \$4.34 billion tender last year to build Kuwait's international airport terminal. In its home market, Ozdemir said Limak was interested in infrastructure projects such as a plan to build a canal linking the Black and Marmara Seas and a bridge across the Dardanelles strait.

In May, Limak and Cengiz Holding won a tender to build the Asian section of a 7 billion lira motorway connecting to a third bridge spanning Istanbul's Bosphorus Strait. "We are progressing to start financing talks with Turkish and foreign banks within this year," Ozdemir said. "After the third bridge opens on Aug. 26, there could be refinancing," she said. She also said the company might consider a bond issue for refinancing purposes following the opening of Istanbul's third airport, which Limak built as part of a consortium.— Reuters



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International

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ALEPPO: Civilians walk with containers for fuel and water on Thursday. — AP

IS ABDUCTS 2,000 CIVILIANS IN SYRIA

AIRSTRIKES KILL 18

BEIRUT: Islamic State group fighters seized around 2,000 civilians to use as "human shields" yesterday as they fled their stronghold of Manbij in northern Syria, US-backed forces and a monitor said. The abductions came as Russian and Syrian jets pounded rebel positions in second city Aleppo, an AFP correspondent and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said.

The Arab-Kurdish alliance known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) expelled most of the IS fighters from Manbij last week, but dozens continued to put up a tough resistance.

Yesterday they withdrew from a district in northern Manbij heading for the IS-held town of Jarabulus along the border with Turkey, taking the captives with them. "While withdrawing from a district of Manbij, Daesh (IS) jihadists abducted around 2,000 civilians from Al-Sirb neighbourhood," said Sherfan Darwish, spokesman for the Manbij Military Council, a key component of the SDF. "They used these civilians as human shields as they withdrew to Jarabulus, thus preventing us from targeting them," he said, adding that women and children were among those taken.

The Britain-based Observatory, which relies on sources on the ground to cover the conflict, also reported that IS had abducted around 2,000 civilians as they fled Manbij. It said IS confiscated residents' cars, forced civilians into them and then headed for Jarabulus. The jihadists, who have suffered a string of losses in Syria and Iraq, have often staged mass kidnappings in the two countries when they come under pressure to relinquish territory they hold. In January, IS abducted more than 400 civilians, including women and children, as it overran parts of Deir Ezzor province in eastern Syria. It later released around 270 of them.

'Human shields'

IS has also used civilians as human shields, booby-trapped cars and carried out suicide bombings to slow advances by their opponents and avoid coming under attack. Thousands of civilians were held captive by the group in Fallujah which Iraqi forces recaptured in June after a four-week offensive.

Yesterday, the SITE intelligence Group said IS had killed five men in Iraq for smuggling

people out of territory it controls. It was not immediately clear how many jihadists fled Manbij which the SDF captured on August 6.

But Darwish said that SDF managed to rescue 2,500 civilians who had been held captive by IS fighters there. The US-backed forces combed Al-Sirb on Friday for any remaining jihadists, he added. With air support from the US-led coalition, the SDF began its assault on Manbij on May 31, surging into the town itself three weeks later.

But their offensive was slowed by a massive jihadist fightback, before a major push last week saw the SDF seize 90 percent of the town. Tens of thousands of people lived in Manbij before the assault started in May. The United Nations has said that more than 78,000 people have been displaced since then.

Raids on Aleppo

Manbij was a key transit point along IS's supply route from the Turkish border to Raqa, the de facto capital of its self-styled Islamic "caliphate". The Britain-based Observatory says the battle for Manbij claimed the lives of

at least 437 civilians-including 105 children-and killed 299 SDF fighters and 1,019 jihadists.

The Observatory, meanwhile, reported that 15 civilians were killed Friday in Syrian and Russian air raids on rebel positions in the divided city of Aleppo. The raids hit several neighborhoods as residents filled the streets to buy fresh produce brought into rebel-held areas which had been under government siege, an AFP correspondent said.

An AFP correspondent in the rebel-held east of the city said several neighborhoods were hit, adding that people had been out on the streets to stock up on supplies. Syria's state news agency SANA, quoting a military source, said the warplanes destroyed several rebel positions and vehicles and killed "dozens of terrorists".

Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011 and has since killed more than 290,000 people and drawn in world powers on all sides of the war. Yesterday, Turkey vowed to cooperate with Syrian ally Iran to try to resolve the conflict in which Ankara backs rebels battling the government of President Bashar al-Assad. — AFP

UN: 100,000 DISPLACED AS IRAQI FORCES POISE FOR MOSUL BATTLE

IRBIL, Iraq: The UN refugee agency says more than 100,000 people have been displaced as Iraqi forces clear territory ahead of the critical battle for Islamic State-held Mosul - a dire statistic raising concerns that a million more could be displaced from in and around Iraq's second-largest city as the operation moves forward.

Iraq's leaders have repeatedly promised that Mosul - which has been in the hands of IS militants for more than two years now - will be retaken this year, though US officials have said that timeline is unrealistic. About 43,000 people have been displaced from the Mosul area since March and 66,600 people from the nearby Shirgat area since June, according to UNHCR statements this week.

Clearing operations in Shirgat, south of Mosul, are seeking to cut supply lines used by the Islamic State group to move fighters, equipment and provisions in and out of the Mosul area. Iraqi forces are also slowly clearing villages south of Mosul under close air support from the US-led coalition. "Some days we receive 500, other days we receive 1,000 (displaced) people," said Brigadier Mahdi Younis, with Iraq's Kurdish peshmerga forces. "With every small movement of the Iraqi army, there are 1,000 more displaced."

Stationed at a base in Makhmour, some 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the front lines, his men screen displaced civilians as they escape IS-held territory. From the nearby front line near the liberated Qaraya air base, smoke billowed on the horizon from fires lit

by IS fighters in an attempt to obstruct airstrikes.

Outside Younis' air-conditioned office at the base, a handful of families from villages near Mosul waited at a checkpoint to be driven to a nearby camp. Some had walked for hours to reach safety, other walked for days.

The Dibaga camp

The Dibaga camp for the displaced, within Iraq's Kurdish region south of Mosul, is already overflowing from the influx, and thousands more have been left without shelter. Families huddling in the shade near a school playground said they arrived with nothing except what they could carry. Thousands have been forced to sleep out in the open for weeks before they are allocated a tent on the camp's edges. Without enough blankets and mattresses, many said they have resorted to sleeping on flattened cardboard boxes. In the western Anbar province, where Iraqi forces cleared cities and towns of IS earlier this year, more than a million people remain displaced, most of them unable to return home. Overall in Iraq, more than 3.3 million people have been forced from their homes since IS first began growing in strength in early 2014, according to the United Nations.

"We're not just focusing on the military dimension of the Mosul campaign," Brett McGurk, the U.S. representative to the anti-Islamic State coalition, told reporters in Baghdad on Thursday.

More than a dozen nations pledged more than \$590 million in humanitarian aid money for Iraq at an

international pledging conference in Washington last month. But the UN says it still has less than half of the funds needed to prepare for the Mosul operation.

The United States alone has spent more than \$8.4 billion in the military campaign against the Islamic State group. As of June 21, the total humanitarian contribution to Iraq from the US was \$798 million since the 2014 fiscal year.

Iraq's displaced are facing some of the same troubles that those who fled the civil war in neighboring Syria, where IS also controls large patches of territory, have struggled with. Nearly 5 million Syrians have been registered with the UN as refugees

that is, displaced beyond Syria's borders - in what is the largest refugee population today. The UN refugee agency says a further 6.5 million are displaced inside the country. Also, some 600,000 Syrians are trapped under siege, needing urgent access to food and medical supplies, the UN says. A further 250,000 are trapped by government forces in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

In June, when Iraqi forces were retaking the Iraqi city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, tens of thousands were left stranded in the Anbar desert - in the summer heat, without shelter and with little water or food. "We had some real problems in Fallujah and we want to make sure some of those problems are not repeated in Mosul," McGurk said. "Mosul will be the biggest challenge." The humanitarian dimension of the operation "will be extremely difficult, it will not be perfect," he added. —AP

TURKEY, IRAN PLEDGE COOPERATION OVER SYRIA

BOOST TRADE RELATIONS

ANKARA: The foreign ministers of Turkey and Iran agreed yesterday to boost trade relations and pledged greater cooperation on resolving the Syria crisis despite their divergences on the issue.

At a joint news conference, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif expressed his country's support to Turkey over last month's failed coup attempt by renegade officers within the military that left more than 270 people dead. Turkey has complained of a lack of solidarity from Western allies who have raised concerns over Turkey's massive crackdown on alleged supporters of a movement led by US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen.

Turkey accuses Gulen of orchestrating the coup. "I congratulate the Turkish nation for the defiance they showed against the coup-plotters," Zarif told reporters, in comments translated into Turkish. "They showed the people of the region that they would not allow democracy and their rights to be taken away from them through coups and the use of force."

Turkey and Iran have held opposing positions on Syria, with Iran backing the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Turkey advocating his departure. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said however, that despite differences Turkey and Iran "would strengthen cooperation for a lasting peace in Syria."

Zarif said the two countries converged on the need "to maintain Syria's territorial integrity, the need for the Syrian people to designate their own



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, right, shake hands with the Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, during their meeting yesterday. —AP

future." "We all need to stand against the extremism of (the Islamic State group) and al-Nusra," he added. The Iranian minister also welcomed recent moves by Turkey and Russia to patch up ties that were soured by Turkey's downing of a Russian plane near the border with Syria in November.

"Iran always had good relations with

both Turkey and Russia. All of the countries in the region must cooperate to bring peace in Syria and fighting against extremism," Zarif said. The ministers said they intend to expand trade between the two neighbors, including through the possible increase of natural gas sales to Turkey and more visits by Iranian tourists. —AP

MORE THAN 200 CIVILIANS KILLED IN 4 MONTHS IN YEMEN WAR

SANAA: The United Nations' human rights office said yesterday that deaths among civilians due to Yemen's conflict have been "steadily mounting" with more than 200 people killed and more than 500 wounded in four months, including 50 in one week.

The report comes as the capital Sanaa and its surroundings have come under heavy bombardment by the Saudi-led military coalition battling Shiite rebels and their allies. The airstrikes which picked-up this week marked the total collapse of an already fragile truce declared by the United Nations in April, to pave the way for peace talks in Kuwait. The talks ended this month without a breakthrough.

Yesterday, the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Jamie McGoldrick, expressed alarm over the spike in violence "The people of Yemen continue to bear the brunt of the suffering as a result of the inability of the parties to find a political solution to a conflict that has been raging for more than a year and a half," he said. "The return to full-scale hostilities will only drive the humanitarian needs further."

Since March 2014, the coalition has battled Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and allied forces who occupy the capital. Despite its extensive air campaign, the coalition has so far failed to dislodge the Houthis from the northern region.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ravina Shamdasani, noted that July and August witnessed some of the war's worst violence against civilians, with eight children killed in a July 5 rocket attack in the eastern city of Marib. On Aug. 7, 16 civilians were killed in airstrikes east of Sanaa.

"Each side is responsible for the civilian casualties," Shamdasani said. In July, she noted that "the number of casualties attributable to airstrikes fell quite dramatically and it was the shelling, the rocket fire, the indiscriminate killings by the Houthis which rose considerably." She added that the airstrikes resumed last week and "airstrikes by their very nature tend to cause more damage and more casualties." —AP



RAMALLAH: A Palestinian protester (C) holds a poster bearing a portrait of Palestinian prisoner Bilal Kayed during a demonstration of supporters of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to support Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli jails on August 9, 2106. —AFP

ISRAEL STEPS UP DEMOLITIONS OF PALESTINIAN BUILDINGS

188 HOMES

RAMALLAH: Israel has razed more Palestinian homes and other structures so far this year than in all of 2015, the United Nations said yesterday, as the United States and France expressed concern. Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem have demolished 726 structures this year, displacing 1,020 Palestinians, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

In the whole of 2015 there were 533 demolitions and 688 people displaced, OCHA said. The structures included houses, shelters for livestock and installations such as solar panels. Many were funded by foreign donors such as the European Union and its individual member states, which say they are working to meet urgent humanitarian needs of people under military occupation.

Israel says it forbids unlicensed construction, invoking treaties with the Palestinians that give it full control over

60 percent of the West Bank designated as "Area C" and asserting sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

Between August 2 and 8, OCHA said, "in 14 separate incidents in Area C and east Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities destroyed, forced owners to destroy, or confiscated 42 structures for lack of building permits, displacing 30 people."

188 homes

Israeli NGO B'Tselem said that since the start of the year Israel razed at least 188 homes in the West Bank alone, "the highest number since B'Tselem began documenting home demolitions on grounds of 'lack of building permits' in 2006." France on Thursday condemned Israel's destruction last week of structures it funded in the West Bank village of Nabi Samuel. It was the third time this year that Israel has torn down French-financed structures, said a French foreign ministry statement, "which includes the dismantling of a school in

February." "France is deeply concerned by the accelerated pace of demolitions and confiscations of humanitarian structures that should benefit the Palestinian population living in Area C," it added. "We call on the Israeli authorities to put an end to these practices which are contrary to international law."

In Washington, the US State Department said it was worried about Israeli plans to raze the tiny Palestinian village of Susiya, in the southern West Bank. "If the Israeli government proceeds with demolitions in Susiya, it would be very troubling and would have a very damaging impact on the lives of the Palestinians living there who have already been displaced on other occasions," spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau told reporters.

The village has been torn down before and its homes are mainly tents, caves and makeshift structures, along with a children's playground. Israel says Susiya does not have a permit. —AFP

ERDOGAN FOE SEEKS INTERNATIONAL PROBE INTO TURKEY COUP

PARIS: US-based Turkish preacher Fethullah Gulen has called for an international inquiry into last month's abortive coup, vowing his "full cooperation" with any such probe of the putsch over which Ankara is seeking his extradition. Writing in Saturday's edition of French daily Le Monde, Gulen strenuously rejected accusations by Turkey that he ordered the July 15 attempt to remove President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from power.

"I'm asking that an independent international commission investigate this attempted coup," the Pennsylvania-based preacher wrote, promising his "full cooperation." "If a tenth of the accusations levelled at me are proven I will return to Turkey to face the stiffest punishment," Gulen, 75, added.

A one-time ally of Erdogan turned arch-foe, Gulen has lived in self-imposed exile in the US since 1999. He has dismissed the accusations against him and his Hizmet movement, which runs a network of private schools, businesses and media outlets, as a "witch hunt". "Claiming I could, from 10,000 kilometres (6,000 miles) away, push the army to conduct a putsch against the government is slander," he wrote.

"However, if soldiers claiming to be supporters of Hizmet were involved in this plot, I say without hesitation they are felons who have shaken the unity and integrity of the country." But Gulen said the actions of some such supporters, who may have been "influenced by the army's penchant for intervention... cannot be blamed on all followers of the movement".

Gulen stressed the warm ties he enjoyed with a host of former Turkish leaders, from liberal ex-president Turgut Ozal in the 1980s to his conservative successor Suleyman Demirel and Bulent Ecevit, the social-democratic premier from 1999 to 2002. "I lent my support to all their policies," he wrote, adding that they in turn had shown him respect because of his movement's work in promoting education and social work.

With Erdogan, who served 11 years as premier before becoming president in 2014, things were different, Gulen said. "Although I have always had reservations about political Islam I also supported Mr Erdogan and the AKP (the ruling Justice and Development Party) at the start, when big democratic reforms were launched."

But over the past three years, since a corruption scandal embroiling several of Erdogan's ministers erupted, he has been repeatedly accused of running a "parallel state". Since July 15, Turkey's crackdown on his supporters has intensified. Tens of thousands of people from the military, judiciary, civil service and education suspected of links with Gulen's movement have been dismissed from their jobs or detained. —AFP



ISTANBUL: This file photo taken on July 18, 2016 shows a Pro-Erdogan supporter walking on a poster picturing US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen during a rally at Taksim square following the military failed coup attempt of July 15. —AFP

23 EGYPTIANS KIDNAPPED IN LIBYA FREED

CAIRO: Twenty-three Egyptian workers kidnapped in Libya were freed and returned to their country yesterday, Egyptian state television reported. One of the freed Egyptians told state television they had been kidnapped by people demanding ransom, in an interview at a border crossing between the neighboring North African countries.

State television reported they were freed by "Libyan special forces in coordination with the Egyptian general intelligence service". It aired footage of the workers arriving at the

border crossing, waving Egyptian flags and prostrating themselves to God in gratitude. They were kidnapped near the oil town of Brega and held hostage for 10 days, one of them said.

Thousands of Egyptians brave the unrest in Libya for employment despite government warnings to avoid the war-torn country. In 2015, the Islamic State group's affiliate in Libya announced it had kidnapped and beheaded 21 Coptic Christians, most of them Egyptian. —AFP

UK COURT JAILS TURKISH COCAINE SMUGGLERS AFTER £500M STING

LONDON: Two Turkish drug traffickers caught with three tons of cocaine on a boat in the North Sea were yesterday jailed by a British judge for a combined total of 42 years.

The seizure, the result of an international operation, is believed to be the biggest single cocaine haul ever recovered at sea in Europe. Mumin Sahin and Emin Ozmen were found guilty at Glasgow's High Court after the cocaine worth £500 million (\$647 million, 580 million Euros) was found on board the MV Hamal in April 2015,

around 100 miles (60 kilometers) off the Scottish city of Aberdeen.

Judge Alexander Wylie sentenced boat captain Sahin, 47, to 22 years in prison and second captain Ozmen, 51, to a 20-year term. "You were involved in a most serious operation of commercial scale involving the transportation of cocaine by ship, in an operation which crossed international and indeed intercontinental boundaries," said Wylie.

He described the 3.2 tons of cocaine involved as "not only signifi-

cant but massive". Sahin's lawyer, Jonathan Crowe, maintained his client was a "glorified mule". "In regard to the drugs hierarchy, Mr Sahin is certainly not at the top of the drugs tree but somewhere further down," he argued.

The drugs were found in a secret hold after customs police drilled through a steel plate on board the Hamal, a 35-metre tugboat registered in Tanzania. "This was one of the most intricate concealments we've ever encountered but it was no match for

our expert Border Force search teams," said Tony McMullin, regional director of Border Force, an agency of the interior ministry.

French customs identified the ship after it left the Canary Islands for northern Europe in mid-April by an unusual route that skirted Britain, having started its journey in Istanbul. The boat's suspicious itinerary meant officials feared that cocaine from South America had been loaded in the Canary Islands, French customs said. —AFP



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, meets with the new Chief of the presidential administration, Anton Vayno, right, and the outgoing Kremlin Chief of Staff, Sergei Ivanov, in the Kremlin yesterday. —AP

PUTIN FIRES HIS LONGTIME ALLY CHIEF OF STAFF SERGEI IVANOV

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday fired Sergei Ivanov, his chief of staff and one of his closest allies, in the most high-profile power reshuffle at the Kremlin in years.

Ivanov is the latest long-standing Putin ally to have been sidelined in what analysts described as Putin's attempt to bring in a new, younger entourage. The Kremlin's press office yesterday issued Putin's order to "relieve Sergei Ivanov of his duties." The stern statement was followed by footage of a meeting of Putin, Ivanov and the new chief of staff, Anton Vayno. Despite the clear appearance that Ivanov had been forced out, Putin insisted he was making the move at Ivanov's request because he had been too long in the job. "I'm happy with how you handle tasks in your line of work," Putin said. "I remember well our agreement that you had asked me not to keep you as chief of the presidential administration for more than four years and that is why I understand your desire to choose another line of work."

Former KGB officer Ivanov, a former defense minister and deputy prime minister, has been seen as one of Putin's closest allies. Ivanov was considered a likely successor to Putin before Putin chose Dmitry Medvedev to run for president in 2008 when he was unable to

stand himself due to term limitations.

In a symbolic gesture, Putin on yesterday appointed Ivanov a special envoy for transportation and environment, a stunning downgrade for the man who has been considered one of the most influential people in Russia.

Subtle hint

In a subtle hint to the fact that his political career is over, the 63-year-old Ivanov in the televised remarks yesterday thanked Putin for his "high assessment of my work during the past 17 years." Ivanov was also taken off the Security Council, Russia's top security body which discusses matters of war and peace and includes Putin, chairs of the parliament and chiefs of security services. Vayno, 44, the new Kremlin chief of staff, has worked in Putin's protocol department and was recently Ivanov's deputy.

Social media users on Friday posted several photos of Vayno at Kremlin events in the previous years including the one where he, then chief of the protocol, was carrying an umbrella for the president.

Ivanov is the latest casualty in what now seems to be Putin's campaign to get rid of his closest allies who have worked with him for decades and

moved in the 1990s from St. Petersburg to Moscow. In the past year, chief of the Russian Railways Vladimir Yakunin, anti-narcotics tsar Viktor Ivanov and security service chief Yevgeny Murov have all lost their jobs. All of them are men in their 60s who studied or made their careers in St. Petersburg alongside Putin.

Among the most recent appointments made by the 63-year-old Putin are former members of his security detail. As somebody who remembers well the 1970s when the Soviet Union was ruled by Leonid Brezhnev, a party boss in his 70s who at the end of his rule struck Russians as senile and was surrounded by men in their 70s and 80s, Putin wants to avoid projecting the image of an aging leader, said Moscow-based analyst Alexei Makarkin.

"He wants to revive his team with the people he can fully trust and who are always near him, and that's why the sources for new hires are his security detail and the presidential office," Makarkin said. "They are always near. They are always there for him." Respected business daily Vedomosti on Friday described Vayno in an article on its website "as Putin's own person," who is not affiliated with any Kremlin group. —AP

FIREFIGHTERS BRINGING BLAZES UNDER CONTROL IN PORTUGAL, FRANCE

LISBON: Firefighters were making progress in quenching forest fires that have ravaged parts of Portugal and France, officials said yesterday, as Spain faced a rash of possibly deliberate blazes in the northwest region of Galicia. The situation had calmed down on the frontline of fires in northern Portugal and on the island of Madeira where three people perished this week in the flames. "Weather conditions improved overnight, the wind is a bit calmer and we have been able to make progress," Carlos Guerra, an official with the national civil protection authority, told Lusa news agency.

The mercury on Thursday topped 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit), the hottest temperature on Madeira since 1976, with winds gusting to 90 kilometers (55 miles) per hour.

Yesterday nearly 1,400 firefighters continued to battle some six major fires in northern Portugal, but they have succeeded in halving the number of blazes, officials said. Portugal has been aided by water bombers sent by Italy, Spain and Morocco, and yesterday it announced two more planes were coming from Russia.

In southern France, firefighters said yesterday that they had managed to extinguish the blazes that swept through more than 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) north of Marseille the past two days as the Mistral wind that had fanned the flames dropped sharply. Three houses, a restaurant and a car repair garage were gutted by fire and another 17 houses were damaged.

Prosecutors are investigating the cause of a fire in Vitrolles, north of Marseille, after a man was arrested near the outbreak when local residents saw him acting suspiciously. French President Francois Hollande said Thursday the authorities believe some of the fires were started deliberately. He vowed the perpetrators would be tracked down. Likewise in Galicia on the Atlantic coast, the number of fires have increased in a way that raises suspicions they were deliberately set. "We cannot confirm it until police establish the cause (of the fires), but we know that in the last few days, different incendiary devices have been discovered on site," a source in the regional government told AFP. — AFP



ILLE-SUR-TET, PYRENEES-ORIENTALES, FRANCE: A picture taken on August 12, 2016 shows scorched earth near Ille-sur-Tet, southern France, a day after a fire destroyed around 1100 hectares in this region. —AFP

INDIA'S MODI CONSULTS PARTIES ON KASHMIR

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday met leaders of national political parties to find a way of ending weeks of unrest in Kashmir, but some separatists said the talks would be futile if they did not include all the parties to the conflict.

Indian security forces killed a militant leader on July 8, sparking a wave of violent protests across the Himalayan region, which has been ruled in part, but claimed in full, by both India and Pakistan since 1947.

Police extended a curfew in parts of the Muslim-majority territory for a 35th day yesterday, a clampdown that Kashmiris said showed authorities' failure to defuse deep-seated anger against Indian rule. With 54 protesters killed so far, one of the two factions of the region's main separatist alliance, the Hurriyat Conference, said there was no sign of the anger abating. "Unless there is an acknowledgement among all political parties in India that Kashmir is a dispute and not an internal issue and has to be addressed accordingly, there is very little chance of the situation improving or real peace returning," said faction chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Modi led the closed-door meeting

in New Delhi attended by leaders of the opposition Congress party, and several regional parties, according to a picture his office posted on social media. Opposition leaders have also stepped up calls for an all-party delegation to visit Kashmir for talks with regional leaders.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party rules the state in a power-sharing arrangement with a regional party and has long advocated a tough posture toward the revolt. His government has shunned talks with Hurriyat and other groups that challenge India's claim, putting on hold peace talks with Pakistan, telling it to first rein in anti-India militants operating from its territory, a charge its arch rival rejects.

Modi this week appealed to young people in the state to abandon violence and work for its development. Protests have erupted against Indian rule for decades, and analysts said Modi's government appeared short of ideas on how to pacify the protesters. "I don't see anything in terms of a strategy," said Ajai Sahni, of the Institute for Conflict Management, based in Delhi. "The government and the separatists are speaking in completely divergent voices."

A resolution by India's lower house



SRINAGAR: Indian police arrest supporters of Jammu and Kashmir lawmaker Sheikh Engineer Rashid yesterday during a sit-in against the civilian killings in Kashmir's ongoing summer unrest. —AP

of parliament yesterday urged steps to restore peace. Operations of mobile telephone networks were sus-

pending late on Thursday amid worries about fresh violence following Friday prayers.—Reuters

AIDES OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF COULD WITHDRAW SUPPORT

WANT DEMANDS TO BE MET

KABUL: Key allies of Afghanistan's chief executive could withdraw their support for the government unless the country's president meets their camp's key demands, one of the associates said yesterday. The threat by Abdullah Abdullah's backers is the latest in a political crisis stemming from a US-brokered power-sharing deal between President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah.

The deal, negotiated by US Secretary of State John Kerry, followed the fractious 2014 elections and resulted in a unity government of the two Afghan leaders.

Amrullah Saleh, a former head of the national intelligence agency who now leads the grassroots Green Trend party, told The Associated Press that Abdullah's allies are standing firm on their demands. They are seeking sweeping reforms and want Ghani to stop "micro-managing" the government and "consolidating personal power."

He said his camp also accused Ghani of side-lining Abdullah from the decision-making process. "If President Ghani thinks that he (Abdullah) will continue to tolerate this, he will not," Saleh said. The relationship between Ghani and Abdullah has been tense since they formed the unity government, with each vetoing the other's Cabinet choices. Javid Faisal, Abdullah's deputy spokesman, said that while the two had appeared at meetings together, they had not had face-to-face meetings for three months.

Key elements of the unity deal, such as holding a nationwide assembly on

changing the constitution to formally appoint Abdullah as prime minister and holding parliamentary and local elections have been delayed.

Saleh said Ghani's "indifference" to Abdullah is no longer "acceptable." He warned that if Abdullah's camp pulls out

of the government, the "consequences would not be good for the country."

Afghanistan is battling the Taliban, with the insurgency - now in its 15th year - intensifying in the southern Helmand province in recent weeks. —AP



KABUL: Afghanistan's chief executive Abdullah Abdullah talks during an interview with the Associated Press at his office on August 8, 2016. —AP

HIT-AND-RUN VICTIM DIES IN DELHI STREET AS HUNDREDS PASS BY

NEW DELHI: A stream of cars, motorcycles and pedestrians passed by an injured man struck by a delivery truck on a New Delhi street, leaving him to die, news reports said yesterday. Closed-circuit TV footage showed the man being hit by the small truck at 5:40 a.m. Wednesday as he walked along the side of the road. The man, who reports say was working two jobs to support a family living elsewhere in India, could be seen flying through the air and landing in the gutter. The truck driver got out of his vehicle but drove away after glancing at the man he'd injured.

One man who did stop at the scene, a bicycle rickshaw driver, ignored the victim but stole his mobile phone, which was lying beside him in the gutter. He lay there for nearly 30 minutes before a friend happened to go past and alerted police. They did not arrive on the scene for more than 40 minutes. The man was dead by the time he reached the hospital. The driver, who told police the accident had happened because he'd fallen asleep as he was making early-morning milk deliveries, was arrested Thursday. India has a long history of similar stories, often because people fear that getting involved in serious accidents will lead to harassment by the corrupt and poorly trained police. —AP

PAKISTAN HOPES FOR REVIVAL OF PEACE PROCESS IN COMING WEEKS

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs is hoping that a long-stalled four-nation peace process aimed at ending the war between Kabul and the Taliban could be revived in the coming weeks.

Sartaj Aziz told reporters yesterday that the lingering violence in Afghanistan could only end through the revival of peace talks. He also said the "Taliban cannot capture Afghanistan" through violence, although Kabul believes Pakistan is still backing the Taliban.

The four-nation peace process has been on the hold since May 21 when a US drone attack killed the Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour in Pakistan, days after Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the United States met in Islamabad and vowed to continue their efforts. — AP

MANILA SEEKS FORMAL TALKS WITH CHINA AMID TENSION

TALKS TO EXPLORE PATHWAYS TO PEACE: RAMOS

HONG KONG: The Philippines wants formal negotiations with China to explore pathways to peace and cooperation, the Southeast Asian nation's special envoy, Fidel Ramos, said yesterday, after a meeting with former Chinese deputy foreign minister Fu Ying. Ramos was speaking near the end of a trip to Hong Kong undertaken in a bid to rekindle ties with China, which have been soured by a maritime dispute in the South China Sea.

An arbitration court in the Hague ruled on July 12 that China had no historic title over the busy waterway and had breached the Philippines' sovereign rights there. The decision infuriated Beijing, which dismissed the court's authority. "Informal discussions focused on the need to engage in further talks to build trust and confidence to reduce tensions to pave the way for overall cooperation," Ramos and Fu said in a joint statement yesterday.

They added that China welcomed Ramos to visit Beijing as the special envoy of Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte, who took office in June and has signalled a greater willingness to engage with China than his predecessor.

"It's not really a breakthrough in a sense that there is no ice here in Hong Kong to break but the fish we eat...are cooked in delicious recipes," Ramos, who had earlier referred to his visit as a fishing expedition, told reporters. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims in the sea, believed to be rich in energy deposits.

The statement added that both Beijing and Manila would seek to promote fishing cooperation, marine preservation, and tourism but made no specific mention of the South China Sea or the ruling, and did not set a time-frame for possible talks.

Ramos said neither side asserted its own sovereignty over disputed areas in



HONG KONG: Former Philippine president Fidel Ramos (C), 88, holds up a briefcase as he arrives for a press conference yesterday. —AFP

the South China Sea, such as the Scarborough Shoal and Mischief Reef. "There was no discussion on that particular aspect, except to mention equal fishing rights," said Ramos. The statement said the discussions were held in a private capacity, and Ramos said later other back channel talks with China were underway.

"We hope this type of exchange can assist China and the Philippines in

returning to dialogue and improving relations," China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a statement on the ministry's website. China seized the Scarborough Shoal in 2012, denying Philippine fishermen access, one of the factors that prompted Manila to seek arbitration. Ramos was president of the Philippines from 1992 to 1998, when China occupied the submerged Mischief Reef. — Reuters

US ISSUES FRESH TRAVEL WARNING FOR N KOREA

WASHINGTON: The US State Department updated its already strong travel warning for North Korea on Thursday in light of Pyongyang's recent warning that it would treat any detained US citizens according to "wartime law." Although Washington has long warned about the dangers of travelling to North Korea in any capacity, its formal advisories have strengthened in tone with the recent arrest and detention of a number of American citizens. Among the cases drawing international attention was that of Otto Warmbier, a college student sentenced in March to 15 years hard labor for trying to steal a propaganda poster from a hotel.

The latest State Department travel advisory reiterated the "serious risk" of long-term detention in North Korea and "unduly harsh sentences" for actions that would not be considered criminal elsewhere. It also drew attention to a North Korean announcement last month that all matters related to the United States, including the handling of detained US citizens, would henceforth be dealt with according to "wartime law." Experts interpreted the announcement—which followed a US decision to blacklist North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un over human rights abuses—as suggesting such detainees would not be released early on humanitarian grounds. North Korea has previously used the detention of US citizens to obtain high-profile visits from the likes of former US presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton to secure their release.

Thursday's advisory stressed that being a member of an organized tour group offered no protection against arrest, adding that anyone entering North Korea should have "no expectation of privacy." At least 14 US citizens have been arrested in North Korea over the past decade and two are currently detained there—Warmbier and Korean-American Kim Dong-Chul, who is serving a 10-year sentence for espionage and subversion. The United States has no diplomatic or consular relations with North Korea. The Swedish embassy in Pyongyang provides limited consular services to US citizens detained there. —AFP

SOUTH KOREA PARDONS CJ GROUP CHAIRMAN, 4,875 OTHERS, TO MARK HOLIDAY

SEOUL: South Korean President Park Geun-hye yesterday granted pardons to 4,876 people ahead of next week's Liberation Day holiday, including the chairman of CJ Group, the country's 15th largest conglomerate by assets.

Lee Jay-hyun, the ailing 56-year-old chairman of the CJ Group, which has interests spanning food, entertainment and logistics, was sentenced last year to two and a half years in jail for tax evasion and embezzlement.

However, Lee was released from prison due to poor health and has been in hospital after undergoing a kidney transplant. "In the case of businessmen, we selected a limited number of people ... after gathering diverse opinions to unite our people and overcome an economic crisis," the Justice Ministry said in a statement. It is a tradition for the president to announce pardons ahead of Liberation Day on Aug. 15 and there is a long history of convicted bosses of the family-run conglomerates, known as chaebol, being released or having their sentences suspended. President Park Geun-hye last year pardoned the chairman of the country's third-largest conglomerate, SK Group, despite growing discontent among South Koreans over the conduct of the conglomerates, which dominate Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Over the years, the heads of the Samsung, Hyundai Motor, SK and Hanwha chaebol have been convicted of crimes but received suspended sentences, and later, presidential pardons. Lee, the CJ chairman, is a grandson of Samsung founder Lee Byung-chull, and heads one of the two branches of the Lee family, South Korea's richest business dynasty.

"I thank the president and the people for giving me the chance for treatment and recovery ... I will work hard to contribute to the country and society with my business as my life's last goal," CJ Group cited Lee as saying. —Reuters

JAPAN SEARCHES FOR 8 CHINESE MISSING OFF DISPUTED ISLANDS

TOKYO: Japanese coast guard ships searched yesterday for eight missing Chinese crewmembers after rescuing six others from a fishing boat that collided with a cargo ship off disputed islands in the East China Sea, government officials said.

The boat apparently sank Thursday after colliding with the Greek-flagged ship off the Japan-controlled Senkaku islands, which China also claims. The collision occurred as hundreds of Chinese fishing boats have gathered around the islands since early August following the start of the mackerel season.

Up to 15 Chinese coast guard vessels - four to five times the usual number - were also in the area. Foreign Ministry officials say some have been converted from warships and are armed. The increase prompted Japan to lodge protests several times a day for a week.

Officials said some of the Chinese ships left following the accident, and the Chinese side thanked Japan for its rescue

efforts. Relations between Japan and China have long been strained over how to develop undersea gas deposits in the area, as well as by their wartime history, a sensitive topic during recent months because of end-of-World War II anniversaries. Japanese officials have raised concerns over China's increasingly assertive activity around the Senkaku islands. Over the past few years, China has built a dozen gas development platforms in the East China Sea, and Japan has recently discovered that China has installed radar facilities and surveillance cameras there, they said.

Japanese media reports say the recent escalation in Chinese activity around the disputed islands may be seen as a warning against planned visits by members of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which honors war criminals among Japan's war dead, for the Aug. 15 anniversary of the end of World War II. — AP

JERRY SANDUSKY TAKING STAND IN BID TO OVERTURN CONVICTION

BELLEVILLE PENNSYLVANIA: Jerry Sandusky plans to take the stand at an appeals hearing in a fresh chance to prove his claim he was wrongly convicted four years ago of sexually abusing 10 boys.

The former Penn State assistant football coach had no comment yesterday as he was taken into Centre County Courthouse for the start of a hearing that aims to overturn his 45-count conviction. The 72-year-old is arguing he wasn't properly represented by his legal team during his 2012 trial. Among the issues that Sandusky is expected to address is his decision not to testify on his own behalf at trial.

He's also arguing his case was tainted by the prosecutor's closing argument, a decision to have him give a TV interview after his arrest and news reports about the secret grand jury investigation before it concluded.

Although he didn't testify at trial, Sandusky did speak during his sentencing three months later, denying he committed "these alleged disgusting acts" and hoping that "something good will come out of this." "I've forgiven; I've been forgiven," he said at sentencing. "I've comforted others; I've been comforted. I've been kissed by dogs; I've been bit by dogs. I've conformed; I've also been different. I've been me. I've been loved; I've been hated."

Trying to have pension reinstated

He testified by video link during a January 2014 hearing about his ultimately successful effort to have his \$4,900-a-month pension reinstated. In a filing this week, his attorneys said Sandusky will describe conversations with his lawyers concerning the identity of the young man called Victim 2 in court records and about allegations of abuse made at the time of trial - but outside court - by his adopted son Matt Sandusky. Sandusky, his lawyers wrote, "will testify regarding each accuser and deny that he committed the crimes alleged." Eight young men testified at trial that they were abused by Sandusky, who spent decades at Penn State under head coach Joe Paterno before his retirement in 1999.

Sandusky founded a charity for at-risk children where prosecutors say he recruited victims. "Mr. Sandusky will submit that he did not start The Second Mile in order to groom victims," his lawyers wrote. "He will testify regarding how often the accusers would stay at his home and if they stayed with other children."

A spokesman for the attorney general's office said prosecutors consider Sandusky's post-conviction claims to be meritless and are ready for his testimony. Sandusky previously lost direct appeals to the state's Supreme and Superior courts. The Friday hearing falls under the state's Post-Conviction Relief Act and is confined to newly discovered evidence, constitutional violations and ineffective lawyering.

The hearing is expected to continue on Aug. 22 and Aug. 23. If Sandusky is successful, his charges could be dismissed, but that's less likely than the chance the judge could order a new trial. Sandusky is serving 30 to 60 years in Greene State Prison, where he's been largely segregated from the prison's general population. —AP



BELLEVILLE: Former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky arrives for an appeal hearing at the Centre County Courthouse yesterday. —AP

US CONDEMNS INDONESIAN ANTI-LGBT STATEMENTS

WASHINGTON: The United States criticized Indonesia on Thursday for saying there is "no room" for the gay community in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. "We encourage Indonesia, which rightly prides itself on diversity and tolerance, to respect and uphold international rights and standards by ensuring equal rights and protections for all of its citizens," State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau told reporters.

Earlier on Thursday, Indonesian presidential spokesman Johan Budi told AFP that "rights of citizens like going to school and getting an ID card are protected, but there is no room in Indonesia for the proliferation of the

LGBT movement." He was responding to criticism that officials recently unleashed a wave of angry rhetoric against Indonesia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Washington is "closely monitoring reports of possible measures in Indonesia that would restrict the freedom of expression for LGBT individuals," Trudeau said. "In principle and in practice the United States government will always strive to protect and advance the universal right of all people, including LGBT individuals, to express themselves both online and offline," she added. Indonesia's LGBT citizens have long been targeted by vigilante Islamist groups. — AFP

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CLINTON DISPARAGES TRUMP'S ECONOMIC PLAN

VOWS TO HELP WORKERS

WARREN, MICHIGAN: US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Thursday said rival Donald Trump had no real plans to help middle-class families, arguing that his agenda of tax cuts and tough trade talk would throw the economy into recession.

"He's offered no credible plans to address what working families are up against today," Clinton said in Warren, Michigan, shortly after touring Futuramic, a hangar-like, high-tech factory that makes parts for the aerospace industry.

Clinton said Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, would scrap regulations meant to hold corporations accountable, cut taxes on "millionaires and Wall Street money managers," and eliminate the estate tax, an inheritance tax that generally hits the wealthy.

Clinton offered no new proposals of her own but sought to cast doubt on the image Trump promotes of himself as the voice for working people. The New York businessman is counting on his appeal to blue-collar voters with concerns about global trade to boost his chances in key states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Clinton on Thursday ran through many of the policies she has outlined over the last year to contrast herself

with Trump, who has given far fewer details about his plans, as the presidential campaign heads toward the Nov. 8 election.

Trump's speech

Trump delivered an economic speech in Detroit on Monday. He publicly named his economic advisers last week, which Clinton mocked as "six guys named Steve." On Thursday, he released a list of nine additions to the



WARREN, MICHIGAN: Hillary Clinton delivers Speech On US Economy on Thursday. —AFP

council, eight of whom were women. New members included roofing billionaire Diane Hendricks, investor Carla Sands and hedge funder Anthony Scaramucci.

Workers' anxiety over trade deals has become a central theme in the 2016 election, and Clinton rejected the portrait Trump has painted that she only pretends not to favor the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a deal she praised when she was secretary of state from 2009-2013 but has more recently opposed.

Clinton also says she would renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, which was signed by former President Bill Clinton, her husband. Trump routinely disparages the agreement as bad for American jobs.

"It's true that too often past trade deals have been sold to the American people with rosy scenarios that didn't pan out," Clinton told the crowd of factory workers. "The answer is not to rant and rave, or cut ourselves off from the world."

"The answer is to finally make trade work for us, not against us," she said. "So my message to every worker in Michigan and across America is this: I will stop any trade deal that kills jobs or holds down wages, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership." —Reuters



NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane enters the Montgomery County courtroom on Thursday. —AP

PERJURY TRIAL CONTINUES FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL

NORRISTOWN: Prosecutors are continuing to lay out their perjury and corruption case against Pennsylvania's attorney general. Kathleen Kane's trial was set to resume yesterday morning in suburban Philadelphia, a day after a political consultant told jurors that he "conspired" with her to pin a grand jury leak on her top deputy.

On Thursday, consultant Josh Morrow testified under a grant of immunity. He said that he and Kane concocted a story in August 2014 that a top deputy had leaked the secret files to a newspaper. Morrow acknowledges telling the story to a grand jury.

Morrow says Kane was becoming "unhinged" over her feud with a rival prosecutor and leaked the material to embarrass him. Kane denies the allegations. She remains in office but has lost her law license. —AP

FAMILY OF MURDERED NY JOGGER RAISES \$200K IN 24 HOURS

NEW YORK: The parents of a New York woman brutally murdered while out jogging in broad daylight have raised nearly \$200,000 in 24 hours in the hope of bringing her killer to justice. Karina Vetrano, 30, was killed on August 2 after going for a solo run near her home in Howard Beach, an upscale neighborhood in Queens, at 5pm.

Police say she was dragged off the jogging path in an area of parkland dominated by weeds and marshes. She was sexually assaulted and strangled. The killing of a beautiful young woman during the day in an affluent part of the city has shocked New Yorkers accustomed to historically low crime rates.

Her parents Cathy and Phil Vetrano, together with members of the community, set up the online fundraising page on Wednesday with the target of raising \$200,000 on top of a \$20,000 reward already offered by police.

In just one day, they nearly reached their target with more than \$192,900 raised, according to the GoFundMe page. "We need your help in bringing this vicious animal to face the most severe punishment allowable by law," said the fundraising appeal.

"These funds are the only thing that we feel we can do to encourage anyone with information to come forward with something that will lead to an arrest." Some 2,800 people have come forward to make donations, ranging from as little as \$5 to the \$10,000 pledged by one giver.

Vetrano usually went jogging with her father but he had an injury that day. He said he advised his daughter not to run alone in that area because of its tall grassy marshland. Police believe she was killed by a random attacker. "This woman put up a ferocious fight right to the end," New York Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce has said. —AFP

MOTHER CHARGED AFTER SON BEATS NEWBORN SISTER TO DEATH

ST. PETERSBURG: A 62-year-old Florida woman is charged with aggravated manslaughter after authorities said her 6-year-old son beat his newborn sister to death while the children and their 3-year-old brother were left alone in the family's minivan.

During a news conference Thursday, Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gumatieri said the baby - 13-day-old Kathleen Bridget Steele - was pronounced dead Monday afternoon at St. Petersburg General Hospital. But investigators believe she died earlier, inside the van where her mother, Kathleen Steele, had left the children for 38 minutes while she visited a cell phone repair shop. "It was one of the worst things I've ever seen," the sheriff said.

The Tampa Bay Times reports Steele took the baby to a pediatrician Monday morning because she wasn't eating properly. The doctor found nothing wrong with the baby and later told investigators there were no signs of bruising or trauma. Investigators say Steele went into the cell phone store at 1:50 p.m. Monday.

The 6-year-old boy told investigators the baby started fussing and he tried to calm her. But deputies said

the boy later used a doll to show how he repeatedly slammed the infant's head into the minivan's ceiling, dropping her on the floor, flipping her over and pummeling her.

According to investigators, when the mother returned to the van, the boy tried to tell her something was wrong with the baby. They said she disregarded him and stopped at another business before going home. That's when she noticed the baby's injuries. "The baby was beaten and traumatized," the sheriff said. "There was gross swelling in her face. Her skull was cracked in numerous places."

Did not call 911

Even so, Gumatieri said Steele didn't call 911. Instead, she called a neighbor who is a nurse. The nurse recognized the baby was dead, but performed CPR until paramedics arrived. Investigators interviewed Steele Monday night. The sheriff said during the first hour, Steele never asked about the baby and even seemed aloof. He said Steele said, "I guess I have to plan a funeral." Gumatieri said the boy will not face criminal charges. "The mistake is with the adult Kathleen Steel, not a 6-year-old boy," Gumatieri said.

Steele was already being scrutinized by child protection investigators, Gumatieri said. Just three days after the girl was born, an accidental fire forced the family to stay in a hotel July 29, he said.

When the fire alarm went off, Steele told deputies she put the baby in the car carrier but tripped going down the stairs and the baby tumbled out, striking her head. The baby was diagnosed with a minor brain bleed and stayed for two nights in the hospital, according to Gumatieri. A report was made to the child abuse hotline.

Steele was scheduled to be evaluated by investigators Aug. 1, but she canceled and rescheduled. On Monday, Steele's sons were placed into therapeutic foster care. Steele is being held on \$100,000 bond. It's unclear if she has an attorney.

The newspaper reports Steele and her husband appeared on an episode of the reality TV show titled "I'm Pregnant and 55 Years Old." He died of cancer in 2011 at age 66. Deputies say the two youngest children were born through artificial insemination, using the dead husband's frozen sperm. Steele had been raising the children alone. —AP

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KFH-Turkey closes H1 2016 with a profit of 256m TL

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FLORENCE: Jill Blaker (left) and her daughter Danielle Blaker Nance (far right) help Vera Herbert shop at B Nance Fine Gifts, in Florence, SC. The Commerce Department reported on retail sales yesterday. — AP

US RETAIL SALES, PRODUCER PRICES DROP DATA DIM PROSPECT OF FED RATE HIKE

WASHINGTON: US retail sales were unexpectedly flat in July as Americans cut back on purchases of clothing and other goods, pointing to a moderation in consumer spending that could temper expectations of an acceleration in economic growth in the third quarter.

Other data yesterday showed producer prices recorded their biggest drop in nearly a year in July amid declining costs for services and energy goods. Cooling consumer spending and tame inflation suggest the Federal Reserve will probably not raise interest rates anytime soon despite a robust labor market. July's unchanged retail sales reading followed an upwardly revised 0.8 percent increase in June, the Commerce Department said. Retail sales in June were previously reported to have increased 0.6 percent. Sales rose 2.3 percent from a year ago.

Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales were also unchanged last month after rising 0.5 percent in June. These so-called core retail

sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product. Economists had forecast overall retail sales rising 0.4 percent and core sales climbing 0.3 percent last month.

US stock futures and the dollar fell after the data, while interest rate futures added to gains. Prices of US Treasuries rose.

WEAK PRODUCER INFLATION

In a separate report, the Labor Department said its producer price index for final demand dropped 0.4 percent last month, the first decline since March and the largest since September 2015. It increased 0.5 percent in June. In the 12 months through July, the PPI slipped 0.2 percent. That was the biggest drop since December 2015 and followed a 0.3 percent increase in the 12 months through June. Economists had forecast the PPI edging up 0.1 percent last month and gaining 0.2 percent from a year ago.

A strong dollar and cheaper oil continue to

keep price pressures muted, leaving inflation running persistently below the Fed's 2 percent target. Fed officials have repeatedly expressed concern about persistently low inflation. The US central bank raised its benchmark overnight interest rate last December for the first time in nearly a decade. Although a Reuters poll on Thursday found that most economists expect another rate increase in December, financial markets currently anticipate such a move only next year.

Interest rate futures after yesterday's data placed only a 43 percent probability of a December rate hike, compared to 47 percent before the data. Robust consumer spending has helped to cushion the blow on the economy from an inventory correction and the prolonged drag from lower oil prices that have restricted GDP growth to an average 1.0 percent annualized rate in the last three quarters.

Yesterday's data suggested consumer spending was cooling after the second quarter's brisk 4.2 percent rate of increase. Despite

the surprise weakness in retail sales in July, consumer spending remains supported by a strong labor market as well as rising home and stock market prices.

The economy created a total of 547,000 jobs in June and July. The Atlanta Fed is currently forecasting the economy to grow at a 3.7 percent annualized rate in the third quarter. Automobile, furniture and online sales were bright spots in the July report. Sales at auto dealerships increased 1.1 percent last month after rising 0.5 percent in June. Online retail sales jumped 1.3 percent, while receipts at clothing stores fell 0.5 percent. With consumers cutting back on discretionary spending, sales at sporting goods and hobby stores fell 2.2 percent, the largest drop since January 2015. Receipts at building materials and garden equipment retailers fell 0.5 percent. There were declines in sales at electronics and appliance outlets and service stations. Americans also cut back on spending at restaurants and bars. — Reuters



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan Megapolis and Western Province Development Ministry secretary Nihal Rupasinghe (2R) and China Harbour engineering company director Tang Qiaoliang (L) shake hands as Megapolis and Western Province Development Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka (C) looks on during an agreement signing ceremony in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

OIL DEMAND LIKELY RISING IN SWELTERING MIDDLE EAST

SLOW GROWTH IN REGION LIMITS FUEL CONSUMPTION

LONDON: Saudi Arabia raised its oil production to a record last month while much of the kingdom sweltered in record temperatures that have also hit neighboring countries across the Middle East. There is not enough statistical data to draw a direct connection between the two but it is likely most if not all the extra oil production was burned in the kingdom's power plants to meet electricity demand.

Saudi Arabia's power generators rely heavily on burning unrefined crude as well as residual fuel oil and diesel to meet electricity demand. Combustion of crude, heavy fuel oil and diesel accounted for 68 percent of the fuels used to generate electricity in 2014, according to the Saudi Electricity and Co-Generation Regulatory Authority.

Crude combustion accounted for 44 percent of fuel burned in power plants with heavy fuel oil accounting for another 13 percent and diesel for 11 percent ("Activities and achievements of the authority", ECRA, 2015). Electricity demand surges during the summer months each year as temperatures rise and air conditioning load on the grid increases.

To help meet the extra fuel demand from power producers, the kingdom usually ramps crude output up during the summer and then cuts production back in the autumn.

In most years, Saudi crude production follows a pronounced seasonal pattern, peaking between June and August before falling again. Crude and refined products are the marginal source of power production, so changes in fuel consumption are closely related to power

er demand and changes in temperature.

Direct crude combustion averaged 850,000 to 900,000 bpd between June and August 2015 with diesel and fuel oil burning on top of that (Joint Oil Data Initiative, 2016).

Like much of the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has been hit by a heat wave during July which has persisted into early August. Temperatures have been above normal throughout the kingdom, according to data from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The implication is that air conditioning load on the grid has been higher than usual, which should increase combustion of crude and refined products.

Saudi sources have reported crude production was 10.55 million barrels per day in June 2016, essentially unchanged from June 2015. Oil output hit 10.67 million bpd in July, which was around 300,000 bpd higher than in July 2015, an increase of about 3 percent. Saudi Arabia's combustion of crude and refined products for power production amounts to more than 1 million barrels per day during the summer months.

Given record heat across the kingdom this summer it is likely most of the reported increase in crude production has been burned in the kingdom's power plants rather than marketed for export. Back in April, Saudi sources told Reuters production "would likely stay at 10.2 million bpd and could rise by some 200,000-300,000 bpd in the hot summer months to around 10.5 million."

The recent increase in crude production appears to be in line with this plan, allowing for some extra crude burn in the record heat ("Saudi to push oil out-

put higher but won't flood the market", Reuters, April 29). Something similar may be occurring in Iraq, where record summer temperatures have also strained the grid to limit.

Like Saudi Arabia, Iraq relies almost entirely on burning gas, crude and refined fuels to generate electricity, so as temperatures rise, power and oil consumption both increase.

Iraq's direct crude burn hit 225,000 bpd in July and August 2015 with additional fuel oil and diesel combustion, according to figures provided to the JODI database.

Iraq's grid has struggled to meet soaring power demand this summer causing widespread power rationing and blackouts ("Iraqis boil as power-grid failings exacerbate heat wave", Wall Street Journal, Aug. 11). In most countries, when the grid comes under strain, companies and households that can afford it turn to back up generators, which run on diesel, increasing fuel demand even further. Hot weather is likely to have increased domestic fuel consumption for electricity generation.

In general, the Middle East has experienced slower oil consumption growth in 2015/16 as a result of the economic slowdown stemming from the oil slump ("Middle East economic slowdown will cut oil demand growth". Most economies in the region are barely growing, and some are probably in recession, which limits growth in fuel consumption ("Why is oil market rebalancing taking so long?". But the record heat this summer is likely to provide a short-term boost to oil consumption as power plants across the region crank up. — Reuters

KUWAITI OIL PRICE DROPS 52 CENTS TO HIT \$38.94 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was down by 52 cents Thursday to reach \$38.94 per barrel, compared with USD 39.46 the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday.

The price declined on Thursday after the International Energy Agency issued its monthly report in which the growth forecast of demand for crude oil lowered to 1.2 million barrels per in the upcoming year, compared with 1.4 million barrels this year.

The agency said that crude oil prices declined to \$45 million per barrels this August due to a rise in supply and an increase in demand.

It showed that the global demand last July witnessed a rise of up to 800,000 barrels per day, either inside or outside the OPEC, "despite the production was lowered by 215,000 barrels per day, compared with the same period of 2015. The agency attributed the rise in oil output by about 150,000 barrels per day last July reaching 39.3 million barrels a day to the rise in Saudi Arabia and Iraq's production level. It noted that the strong production from the Middle East increased the total supply of OPEC oil by about 680,000 barrels more than the output of last year.

OPEC basket

Meanwhile, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said on Friday price of its basket of crudes stood at \$40.62 a barrel Thursday (August 11), compared with \$40.57 pb the previous day. Average annual rate of OPEC's basket of crudes, in 2015, stood at \$49.64 pb.

Oil ministers of the OPEC member States recommended, at their latest meeting held in Vienna on June 2nd, that market conditions must be monitored, closely, in coming months without setting an output ceiling. However, various indications show that the OPEC current output has exceeded 32 million bpd. — KUNA

OIL EDGES HIGHER, HELPED BY DOLLAR

LONDON: Oil prices edged higher yesterday as a weaker denominating currency, the US dollar, kept levels near the previous day's highs. Brent crude futures were up 14 cents a barrel higher at \$46.18 per barrel by 1319 GMT, from a three-week high of \$46.66 earlier in the day.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude stood at \$43.72 a barrel, up 23 cents after touching its highest level since July 25, at \$44.17 per barrel.

The dollar weakened after US retail data showed sales were flat for July, against expectations of a modest rise. Both price benchmarks rose more than 4 percent on Thursday after Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid Al-Falih said that oil producers would discuss potential action to stabilize oil prices during a meeting next month in Algeria.

"Yesterday was a big move in reaction to the Saudi oil minister's comments. Now today there is a reassessment but the comments are probably not enough to trigger a sustained rally," Olivier Jakob of consultancy Petromatrix in Zug, Switzerland said.

An outlook published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) that said it expected the supply and demand balance to tighten towards year-end also supported prices.

Traders said a drop of 8.1 percent in China's oil output in July, to a five-year low of 16.72 million tons, also lifted prices because it would mean Asia's biggest economy has to import more crude.

Oil prices are still more than 12 percent below their last peak in June, as brimming storage tanks and production that exceeds consumption weighs on markets.

Iran slashed its September official selling price for light crude to Asia by \$1.30 a barrel, the latest sign that exporters are willing to accept discounts in return for market share. AB Bernstein said global oil production rose almost 0.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in July from the previous month, to 97.01 million bpd, while commercial inventories increased by 5.7 million barrels to 3.09 billion barrels in June. — Reuters

JC PENNEY REPORTS SMALLER LOSS IN 2Q; SALES IMPROVE

NEW YORK: J C Penney Inc reported a smaller loss in the second quarter as the department store operator's sales improved, fueled by such moves as bringing back appliances and refreshing other areas of the store.

Its shares edged up in premarket trading, The news is encouraging, but Penney still faces an uphill climb as it continues to claw its way back after a catastrophic reinvention plan under former CEO Ron Johnson sent sales and profits into a free fall in 2012 and 2013. Business has stabilized, though it has yet to fully recover. Under Marvin Ellison, who has been CEO since August 2015, Penney is looking for new ways to increase sales while playing catch up in e-commerce. One area that it's betting on is appliances.

Penney is getting back in the business after more than 30 years. Penney is also expanding its Sephora beauty shops and is updating its beauty

salons now branded Salon by InStyle Still, like other department stores, JC Penney faces big challenges. Shoppers are shifting their money away from clothing toward experiences like beauty treatments and furnishing their home. And when they do buy clothing, they are increasingly going to off-price stores like TJ Maxx or online. In fact, Amazon.com is expected to surpass Macy's as the largest online clothing seller next year, according to some analysts.

After a tough start to the year, Macy's, Kohl's and Nordstrom all reported second quarter results Thursday that showed an improvement. But they're all trying to reinvent themselves from offering more exclusive merchandise to pushing online services. They're also pruning their fleet. Macy's, the nation's largest department store chain has been the most aggressive, announcing Thursday that it plans to shutter 100 stores by early next

year. Penney, based in Plano, Texas, reported a loss of \$56 million, or 18 cents per share, in the quarter ended July 30. That compares with a loss of \$117 million, or 38 cents per share a year ago. Adjusted for certain items, the loss was five cents per share, which much smaller than the 14 cent loss estimated by FactSet. Revenue increased 1.5 percent to \$2.92 billion from \$2.87 billion. That was slightly below the \$2.93 billion estimate from FactSet.

Revenue at stores opened rose 2.2 percent, which matched the estimate from Wall Street analysts. In the first quarter, the company reported a 0.4 percent dip in in that measure, reversing five straight quarters of growth. Its shares rose 15 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$10.09 in premarket trading Friday about 30 minutes before yesterday's the market open. Penney shares have climbed 49 percent since the beginning of the year. The stock has climbed 19 percent in the last 12 months. —AP

KFH-TURKEY CLOSSES H1 2016 WITH A PROFIT OF 256 M TL

TOTAL ASSETS REACH 44.1 BILLION INCREASING BY 4.9%

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House-Turkey (KFH-Turkey) has closed the first half of 2016 with a net profit to TL 256 million with an increase by 24.4 percent compared to the same period last year. KFH-Turkey's total assets have reached 44.1 billion increasing by 4.9 percent and its shareholders equity has reached 3.7 billion TL increasing by 8 percent as compared to the figures as of the end of 2015. Its collected funds have reached 28.9 billion TL increasing by 2.6 percent and the funds made available by the Bank have reached 28.9 billion TL increasing by 6.8 percent in the same period.



CEO Ufuk Uyan

Stating that they have been pleased with the results in the first half of the year, Ufuk Uyan, the CEO of KFH-Turkey said "Enjoying a stable growth for 27 years, our bank maintained its leading position in the sector with its outperforming results. This is the most striking indicator of the confidence we have established with our clients. This year too, with the "real banking" approach, we continue our efforts to offer best suiting financial solutions to our clients and to serve them in the best way possible. Adding 30 new branch offices of our network throughout 2016 which made us the most widespread bank, we are aiming at becoming one of the top three banks opening the highest number of branch offices in the banking sector. The year 2016 will be marked as a year during which we have been developing innovative products and services in an effort to offer the best possible support in the commercial activities of our SME clients. We are also diversifying the products and services including leasing, transaction banking and foreign trade."

KFH-Turkey has ranked the first among the participation banks and 19th taxpayer in top 100 list of Turkey with a declared tax of 159 million 650 thousand TL for 2015 taxation period. Making considerable contributions to Turkish economy with its "Sound Banking" model, the bank has declared an annual tax of 159 million 650 thousand 48 liras thus ranking the first bank in participation banking and left behind the major banks in the conventional banking market by declaring the highest amount of tax.

Stressing that they served for the economy and future of Turkey for supporting its development process, Uyan said, "Building financial bridges between Turkey and the rest of

the world, KFH-Turkey is one of the strongest players of the finance sector in Turkey in terms of the capital adequacy ratio. Our bank is always giving a back to the real sector players by supporting the individual and corporate investors with its direct financing support or joint ventures in line with its participation banking principle. With its 5,363 employees and the network of 376 branch offices, KFH-Turkey is accessible from any location in Turkey".

With the opening of 20 branch offices in 2016, KFH-Turkey has been ranked as the bank opening highest number of branch offices among the banks. Continuing its investments without any hesitation during 2016, the bank continued deploying the participation banking in different places in Turkey. Uyan said "With our reliance in Turkish economy and our leading position in Turkish participation banking market, we have been ranked as the bank making the biggest investment in branch offices in both participation banking and general banking sectors".



KFH-Turkey Headquarters



HANOI: Two men ride on a motorcycle pulling a cart with a big load of recyclable items on a Hanoi street yesterday. Vietnam's economy slowed in the first half of 2016, official figures showed in June 2016, with a severe regional drought and a spate of fish deaths adding to losses caused by turmoil in global markets. — AFP

MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH SLOWS TO 4.0%

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's economic growth eased in the second quarter, the central bank said yesterday, attributing the slowdown to a decline in exports amid subdued global demand. The economy grew 4.0 percent year-on-year in the April to June period, compared with 4.2 percent in the first quarter and 4.9 percent in the second quarter of 2015.

It is Malaysia's slowest rate of expansion since a 1.1 percent contraction in the third quarter of 2009 during the global financial crisis. "Despite the stronger expansion in domestic demand, growth was weighed down by the continued decline in net exports," Bank Negara said.

Energy-exporting Malaysia has the third-largest economy in Southeast Asia, but has been grappling with falling oil prices and weak overseas demand-denting revenues and putting severe pressure on the ringgit. The country has also been rocked by a massive financial scandal amid allegations that billions of dollars were stolen from a state investment fund founded and overseen by the Prime Minister. In July, Malaysia unexpectedly cut interest rates for the first time in seven years. The decision to slash borrowing costs by 25 basis points to 3.00 percent follows similar moves by Singapore and Indonesia and comes as major central banks around the world look to ease monetary policy to kickstart growth.

Governor Muhammad Ibrahim told reporters that the ringgit would continue to face volatility given global uncertainties, but Malaysia's "sound economic fundamentals" would provide medium-term support. The central bank said growth of the economy was expected to be 4.0 to 4.5 percent for 2016 — its slowest rate in seven years. "Domestic demand will continue to be the main driver of growth," the central bank said. Kenanga Research economist Wan Suhaimi Saidi told AFP that there could be some "modest growth" in the second half of 2016 following the recent cut in the benchmark overnight policy rate. "The second quarter growth is within expectation," he said. He added however that he did not expect any strong recovery in commodity and oil prices, which are vital foreign exchange earnings for Malaysia and forecasted full year growth at 4.3 percent. — AFP

INDIA'S JULY RETAIL INFLATION STAYS ABOVE C BANK TARGET

NEW RBI GOVERNOR TO FACE STERN INFLATION TEST

NEW DELHI: Soaring food prices in July kept India's headline inflation above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) near-term target, underscoring the challenge facing the next central bank governor.

Consumer prices rose at a faster-than-expected pace to 6.07 percent last month from a year ago, up from June's 5.77 percent annual gain, government data showed yesterday. Economists surveyed by Reuters had expected retail inflation to come in at 5.90 percent. It is the fourth straight reading above the RBI's target of 5 percent by March 2017.

At his last monetary policy review on Tuesday, central bank chief Raghuram Rajan left key interest rates unchanged, flagging upside risks to the inflation target. The former International Monetary Fund chief economist is due to step down as RBI governor on Sept. 4, after a three-year term, to return to academia.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has yet to pick a successor, it has bound the next governor with Rajan's retail inflation target of 4 percent, with a band of 2 percent on either side, for the next five years. Retail food prices surged 8.35 percent year-on-year last month, much faster than a 7.79 percent annual increase in June.

Above-average monsoon rains this

summer have raised hopes of a boost to farm output and an ensuing drop in food inflation. Already, there are signs vegetable prices are edging down.

However, the outlook for core inflation remains uncertain due to a shrinking output gap and an expected pickup in demand-driven price pressures, following full implementation of a major hike in government salaries and pensions.

Pay hikes are also expected to make it tougher for Finance Minister Arun Jaitley achieve the fiscal deficit target of 3.5 percent of GDP in the current fiscal year. Jaitley told lawmakers yesterday he would need more money to cover the payout. A looser fiscal stance could boost inflationary expectations, economists warn, as the government pays higher wages and keeps capital investment high in the hope that private sector activity will then pick up.

"The central bank faces a difficult task in meeting its inflation targets," said Shilan Shah, India economist at Capital Economics.

SALES-TAX IMPACT SEEN

The roll-out of a new national sales tax planned for next April is also expected to push up inflation. A government-

appointed panel has suggested a standard Goods and Services Tax rate of 17 percent to 18 percent, but India's states want a higher level.

Morgan Stanley reckons a higher rate could push up retail inflation as much as 0.7 percentage points. Economists don't see much steam left in the RBI's current easing cycle, in which the policy repo rate has come down by 150 basis points since January 2015, to its lowest in more than five years.

Most expect another cut of 25 basis points by December, before the central bank hits the pause button. But much will depend on who replaces Rajan.

"The appointment of a more dovish candidate as the next governor would raise the chances of further monetary loosening," Shah said. Separately, industrial production expanded 2.1 percent in June from a year earlier, faster than a revised 1.1 percent rise, government data showed.

The rise was primarily led by expansion in electricity and mining production. The industrial output data is based on an old series not reflected in India's current gross domestic product figures. As a result, analysts set little store by those numbers as a guide to the economy's broader health. — Reuters



JAKARTA: Laborers work on finishing a riverbank construction project in Jakarta yesterday. Growth in the resource-rich nation has been slipping in recent years due mainly to a slowdown in demand for its key commodity exports - such as coal and precious metals - particularly from Asian powerhouse China. —AFP

GLOBAL STOCKS RETRENCH AFTER SOFT US, CHINA DATA

LONDON: European and Wall Street stocks struggled trying to hold on to recent gains yesterday as soft data from the US, China and the eurozone made current levels hard to defend. London, Frankfurt and Paris were all in mildly negative territory in the European afternoon, but surprisingly upbeat news on German economic growth put a floor under profit-taking. Stocks in New York came off to a weaker start after US consumer spending data for July were flat, suggesting a key driver of the world's largest economy had reached a plateau by midsummer.

"US stocks are lower in early action, with a softer-than-expected read on July retail sales appearing to foster some altitude sickness after all three major indexes posted record highs yesterday," analysts at Charles Schwab said in a note. "Also, the global markets are digesting some softer-than-expected Chinese economic reports," they said. While Germany, the EU's biggest economy, delighted analysts with strong growth data, overall eurozone second quarter growth slowed sharply, official data confirmed Friday, weighed down by Brexit concerns and a poor performance in struggling France and Italy.

Growth in the 19-nation eurozone came in at 0.3 percent, slowing from 0.6 percent in the three months to January but unchanged from the initial estimate given last month, the Eurostat statistics agency said. The 0.3 percent quarterly gain was in line with average forecasts compiled by data company Factset.

'Growth achievable'

"Germany, the engine room of Europe, continues to show that growth is achievable despite the anaemic recovery of the euro area," said Edward Hardy, market analyst at foreign exchange group World First. Germany's gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by 0.4 percent in calendar- and seasonally-adjusted terms between April and June, twice as much as forecast by analysts surveyed by Factset.

Earlier yesterday, a strong lead from the previous day's Wall Street performance and a rebound in oil prices gave Asian stock markets a lift, even as fresh economic data from China missed expectations. Investors shrugged off figures from the world's second largest economy showing retail sales growth slowed, instead tracking US markets where all three major indices vaulted to new records. The US highs on Thursday-last seen among the leading indices in 1999 — came amid strong gains in petroleum-linked shares and retailers.

Government figures released yesterday showed that retail sales in China rose 10.2 percent year-on-year in July, a sharp slowdown from the 10.6 percent increase in June and below the median forecast of a 10.5 percent rise in a Bloomberg News poll of economists.

Beijing is looking to retool the economy from a reliance on investment spending and exports to one driven more by consumer demand, but the transition is proving bumpy and gross domestic product growth expanded last year at its slowest rate in a quarter of a century. — Reuters

BIG DAKOTA PIPELINE TO UPEND OIL DELIVERY IN US

NEW YORK/HOUSTON: It may seem odd that the opening of one pipeline crossing through four US Midwest states could upend the movement of oil throughout the country, but the Dakota Access line may do just that. At the moment, crude oil moving out of North Dakota's prolific Bakken shale to "refinery row" in the US Gulf must travel a circuitous route through the Rocky Mountains or the Midwest and into Oklahoma, before heading south to the Gulf of Mexico.

The 450,000 barrel-per-day Dakota Access line, when it opens in the fourth quarter, will change that by providing US Gulf refiners another option for crude supply. Gulf Coast refiners and North Dakota oil producers will reap the benefits. Losers will include the struggling oil-by-rail industry which now brings crude to the coasts.

The pipeline also will create headaches for East and West Coast refiners, which serve the most heavily populated parts of the United States and consume a combined 4.1 million barrels of crude daily. They will have to rely more on foreign imports. The pipeline, currently under construction, will connect western North Dakota to the Energy Transfer Crude Oil Pipeline Project (ETCOP) in Patoka, Illinois. From there, it will connect to the Nederland and Port Arthur, Texas, area, where refiners including Valero Energy, Total and Motiva Enterprises operate some of the largest US refining facilities.

"That's a better and cheaper path than going out West and down through the Rockies," said Bernadette Johnson, managing partner at

Ponderosa Advisors LLC, an energy advisory based in Denver.

CHEAPER THAN RAIL

Moving crude by pipeline is generally cheaper than using railcars. The flagging US crude-by-rail industry already is moving only half as much oil as it did two years ago: volumes peaked at 944,000 bpd in October 2014, but were around just 400,000 bpd in May, according to the US Energy Department.

Rail transport has become less economical for East and West Coast refiners when compared with importing Brent crude, the foreign benchmark, because declining supply out of North Dakota made that grade of oil less affordable. "If you look at the Brent to Bakken arb, it's tight," said Afolabi Ogunnaike, a senior refining analyst at Wood Mackenzie in Houston. "If you look at the spot rate, it's uneconomical to move crude by rail right now."

Ponderosa Advisors estimated that the start-up of the pipeline could reroute an additional 150,000 to 200,000 bpd currently carried by rail to the US East Coast and Gulf Coast. Crude imports into the East Coast are now on the rise, averaging 788,000 bpd this year, with nearly 960,000 bpd in July, the highest level in three years, according to Thomson Reuters data.

On the West Coast, refiners like Shell, Tesoro and BP may have to commit to some railed volumes for longer because of shipping constraints, although it will largely depend on rail economics. They also face declining output from California and Alaska.

Tesoro's top executive Gregory Goff told analysts and investors last week he expects rail costs to drop as much as 40 percent from the current \$9-to-\$10 barrel cost to compete with pipelines, in order to move Bakken to its Anacortes, Washington, refinery.

CHANGING TIDES

Rail companies have been trying to adapt. CSX Corp, which runs a network of lines in the eastern part of the country, said it was evaluating potential impacts of the pipeline. BNSF Railway declined to discuss future freight movements, but said that at its peak, it transported as many as 12 trains daily filled with crude, primarily from the Bakken. Today, it is moving less than half of that. In a recent earnings call, midstream player Crestwood Equity Partners said it was working to capitalize on the pipeline and not be dependent on loading crude barrels onto trains. That includes building an interconnection to its 160,000 barrel-per-day COLT crude rail facility in North Dakota. As refiners bring in more barrels from overseas, Brent's premium over US crude will eventually widen. On Thursday, December Brent futures settled at a 97-cent premium to US crude, one of its widest premiums this year. Separately, Bakken crude, a light barrel, could rise further due to the additional competition, especially as production is still falling. Bakken differentials hit a six-month low earlier this week of \$2.65 a barrel below WTI, according to Reuters data, but rose to a \$1.80 a barrel discount by Thursday. — Reuters

CHINA'S ASSERTIVENESS LED AUSTRALIA TO BLOCK GRID SALE

SYDNEY: Australia blocked the sale of a major power grid company to Chinese interests in part over concerns that China, its biggest trading partner, is becoming a geo-political threat, a senior member of Australia's government said. Treasurer Scott Morrison, from the country's pro-business centre-right coalition, halted the A\$10 billion (\$7.7 billion) sale of Ausgrid to government-owned State Grid Corp of China and Hong Kong's Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings on Thursday, citing national security issues.

"The South China Sea disputes, the increased recognition that the Chinese regime is more authoritarian than we originally thought and the fact we are dealing with a state-owned enterprise; those three things have suspended people's free-market instincts," a senior member of Australia's ruling Coalition told Reuters. While China's growing mili-

tarisation of the South China Sea has been a source of rising diplomatic and military tension with neighbors and the United States, the Australian decision indicates that trade matters could also be caught up in developments.

Last month, an arbitration court in The Hague ruled China did not have historic rights to the South China Sea, where it has built airstrips and other structures on disputed islands and artificially reclaimed land. China has rejected the court's ruling.

The Ausgrid intervention came shortly after an eleventh-hour move by British Prime Minister Theresa May to delay a final decision on building a nuclear plant part funded by China.

Some fear blocking the Ausgrid deal will damage relations with a vital trading partner and disrupt the sale of other state-owned assets and private deals involving foreign bidders.

The China state-owned news

agency Xinhua said on Friday that the decision was a "another demonstration of (Australia's) obscure and inconstant strategy towards Chinese investors". "If Australia keeps sending mixed signals to Chinese bidders, it would eventually cast the impression as an unpredictable investment environment to Chinese buyers as well as other potential investors." Australia also recently rejected a bid for the country's largest agricultural landowner, S. Kidman & Co, led by China's Hunan Dakang Pasture Farming Co Ltd. Morrison's intervention over Ausgrid, which operates New South Wales state power networks - major foreign investment deals require his approval - also casts a cloud over several impending sales, as the country's second-largest state, Victoria, and resources-rich Western Australia also have large infrastructure assets to sell. "We've been watching Ausgrid pretty

closely and, like many people, we would love to know what national interest means," said one person involved in selling another major asset, who asked not to be named.

Morrison rejected suggestions yesterday his decision was aimed at Beijing. He said it was "not a country-specific decision". He did not detail exactly what the national security issues were.

Since the former Australian treasurer, Joe Hockey, waved through State Grid Corp of China's purchase of a 60 percent stake in energy infrastructure company Jemena in 2013, the Australian political climate has shifted. A 2015 lease of the Port of Darwin to Chinese interests said to be close to the People's Liberation Army sparked an outcry about the country's foreign purchase approvals process, including from US lawmakers concerned about security implications. — Reuters

IMF WARNS ON CHINA'S LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH

CHINA REPORTS WEAKER JULY ACTIVITY

BEIJING: China must take "urgent" action to reform its economy or risk "permanently lower growth", the International Monetary Fund said in a report yesterday, citing mounting corporate debt as a major concern.

While near-term growth prospects remain good, Beijing's failure to move on long-promised reforms is raising the chances of a medium-term hard landing in the world's second-largest economy, it said. China is seeking to restructure its economy to make the spending power of its nearly 1.4 billion people a key driver for growth, instead of massive government investment and cheap exports. But the transition has caused growth to sputter. The Asian giant's economy expanded at 6.7 percent in the April-June period, the same as the first three months of the year and slowing from 6.9 percent in 2015 — its weakest annual rate in a quarter of a century.

"China's economic transition will continue to be complex, challenging and potentially bumpy, against the backdrop of heightened downside risks and eroding buffers," the IMF report said. "Vulnerabilities are still rising on a dangerous trajectory and fiscal and foreign exchange buffers, while still adequate, are eroding," it said.

Resource misallocation, corporate debt, excess capacity and financial opacity were major problems that needed to be addressed, it specified.

"While the challenges are still manageable, urgent action is needed to ensure they remain so," it added. While Beijing has made verbal pledges to tackle such issues, it has not followed through in practice, the report noted, saying that "government policy and pronouncements seem to alternate between prioritizing reform and growth". The report cited growing corporate debt as a particular concern.

Excluding the financial sector, it



SHANGHAI: Cranes work at a construction site near skyscrapers in the Lujiazui financial district of Shanghai. A Chinese official tried yesterday to reassure companies and investors that China's economic growth is stable despite unexpectedly weak July activity but acknowledged it faces pressure from lackluster global demand. —AP

stood at around 120 percent of GDP in 2015, estimates in the IMF document said, projecting it could grow by more than 20 points by 2021. A June report by the China Academy of Social Sciences put the figure even higher, saying it could have already reached 156 percent back in 2014. The IMF said that in the mid-term, failure to move would "add to vulnerabilities, worsen resource misallocation, and lead to permanently lower growth".

Beijing has no time to lose, the Washington-based institution said, recommending that "progress should be kick-started in the next few months."

The report painted a rosier picture for China's short-term prospects, saying that stimulus measures had created a "benign" outlook. In July, the IMF upped its forecast for Chinese growth this year by 0.1 percentage points, to 6.6 percent.

Factory output

Chinese factory output and other economic activity weakened in July, data showed yesterday, but an official tried to reassure companies and investors growth is stable. Growth in retail sales, factory output and investment all decelerated from June levels, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Private sector analysts have warned economic growth, which held steady at 6.7 percent for the three months ending in June, was showing signs of weakening heading into the current quarter. The data indicate "the third quarter has started off on a weak footing," said Brian Jackson of IHS Markit in a report. However, a spokesman for the statistics bureau said the weakening was due partly to summer flooding that caused 200 billion yuan (\$35 billion) in losses and other one-time factors. —Agencies

GOLD LOWER AS DOLLAR STEADIES

LONDON: Gold edged lower yesterday, as global stocks surged and the dollar firmed on renewed expectations of a rate hike by the US Federal Reserve this year. Spot gold was down 0.1 percent at \$1,336.71 an ounce by 0929 GMT, while US gold slipped 0.6 percent to \$1,342.20 an ounce. "A fall below \$1,330 would be a bearish signal for gold but there are not many reasons to be strongly positive in the short term, with the Fed rate hike dilemma still ongoing," ActivTrades chief analyst Carlo Alberto De Casa said.

San Francisco Fed President John Williams said on Thursday a US interest rate increase this year is still a real possibility as inflation pressures grow. The Fed is likely to raise interest rates in December, after the Nov 8 presidential election, according to a Reuters poll.

Gold is highly sensitive to rising US interest rates, as the opportunity cost of holding the non-yielding asset increases while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced. Higher global stocks were also curbing gold's appeal, often seen as a safer investment that people warm to in times of financial troubles.

Investors were likely to monitor US retail sales data, due at 1230 GMT, after data on Thursday showed the US labor market was firming. Holdings of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, fell 0.03 percent to 972.32 tons on Thursday. —Reuters

CHINA JULY NEW YUAN LOANS FALL TO 463.6BN

BEIJING: Chinese banks extended 463.6 billion yuan (\$69.78 billion) in new yuan loans in July, missing analyst forecasts and falling significantly from the previous month, amid wide debate over whether the central bank should cut interest rates this year.

The central bank has pledged to keep policy slightly loose to meet growth targets, but mounting local government debt has caused concerns about the effectiveness of further stimulus. Economists polled by Reuters had expected new loans to be 800 billion yuan in July, after 1.38 trillion yuan in June. Total social financing (TSF), a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, fell to 487.9 billion yuan in July from 1.63 trillion yuan in June. TSF importantly includes off-balance sheet forms of financing that exist outside the conventional bank lending system, such as initial public offers, loans from trust companies and bond sales. China's growth outlook remained weak as global and domestic demand continued to soften. However, a moderation in producer price deflation and well-contained consumer inflation in July have led many analysts to believe the central bank has little incentive to cut interest rates again. — Reuters

GERMAN BANK BREAKS TABOO BY CHARGING RICH CLIENTS FOR DEPOSITS

FRANKFURT: A small cooperative bank in the Bavarian Alps is breaking a German taboo by charging wealthy clients to deposit their money following the European Central Bank's shift to negative rates.

Raiffeisenbank Gmund on the idyllic Tegernsee lake, home of wealthy actors and sports stars, will apply a custody charge of 0.4 percent to sight deposit accounts over 100,000 euros (\$111,500.00) from September, a board member told Reuters. Such accounts allow depositors to withdraw their money at any time. Several German banks have passed on the ECB's negative deposit rate to large commercial customers such as companies and institutional investors, but applying the charge to retail customers has been seen as a step too far. "We have written to all large depositors and recommended that they think things over. If you don't create an incentive to change things then things don't change," Josef Paul said.

Cooperative direct bank Skatbank has applied negative rates on deposits over 500,000 euros since 2014, while ecological lender GLS bank, also part of the cooperative system, is asking customers for a "solidarity contribution" to help offset negative interest rates.

The ECB has resorted to a negative deposit rate to try to encourage banks to lend to stimulate Europe's economy, which is still suffering from the after-effects of the financial crisis. Banks, meanwhile, are seeking to encourage depositors to shift their cash out deposit accounts into other financial products. Germany's cooperative banking association BVR said it did not expect other deposit takers in its network to follow Raiffeisenbank Gmund's lead. "We don't believe retail banking will see widespread application of negative rates in Germany, not least because of the intense competitive situation in the German banking market," the BVR said. Even in Gmund, the lion's share of customers are not affected. Paul's cooperative bank wrote to less than 140 clients, who together hold 40 million euros in deposits, about the new charge, which has already proved effective. "Some of the customers we informed have opted for alternative investments and others moved their money to other banks," Paul said, adding that a widening of the charge to less wealthy customers is not planned.— Reuters

SLOWING GROWTH LAYS BARE ITALY PM'S CHALLENGES

ROME: The Italian economy is slowing again, and the timing could hardly be worse for Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who is grappling with a banking crisis and divided public opinion ahead of a referendum on constitutional reform. The eurozone's third-largest economy stagnated in the second quarter, its lowest quarterly growth figure since emerging from a three-year recession at the beginning of last year.

"Growth, growth, growth," Renzi, who has staked his credibility on reviving an economy that has barely grown for 15 years, told CNBC earlier this month. "This is my priority, my dream and my nightmare." Second quarter data look most like the latter, suggesting official forecasts for growth and cutting sky-high public debt are ever harder to reach, while Renzi's bouncy slogan "Italy is starting up again", is not filtering down to the common mood.

Families had on average slightly less spending power in the first quarter of 2016 than they had in the same period of 1999, according to ISTAT data. "There never was a recovery," said Giancarlo Sacco, 61, who owns a bar in northern Rome. "Every month we make a little less than in previous years - it should be the other way round!"

Sacco said small businesses are "hammered" by taxes - something Renzi has promised to address but will have less room to change without stronger finances. The government targets 1.2 percent growth this year, but Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan has warned that Britain voting to leave the European Union could drag it down. The International Monetary Fund and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development expect growth of no more than 1 percent this year, following 2015's 0.8 percent.

Standing on shaky economic foundations, Renzi's ambitious bid to call a referendum on sweeping constitutional change has landed Italy in the markets' crosshairs. Having originally pledged to resign if he lost the vote on a plan to slash the powers of the upper house Senate and the regions, Renzi said this week personalizing it had been a mistake.—Reuters



BERLIN: People gathering at central square of LP12 Mall of Berlin, a new shopping mall opened on the Leipziger Platz in Berlin. Expanding exports and domestic consumption pushed Germany's economy — Europe's biggest — to grow slightly faster than expected between April and June, preliminary data showed yesterday.—AFP

MODEST EUROZONE GROWTH SLIPS TO MODEST PACE IN Q2

GROWTH MASKS DIVERGING PERFORMANCE AROUND BLOC

LONDON: Eurozone economic growth halved in the second quarter to a modest pace, as a mild slowdown in Germany was overshadowed by a surprise stagnation in Italy, offering scant hope of a decisive rebound for the currency bloc as a whole any time soon.

The 0.3 percent quarterly expansion, or 1.6 percent annual pace, matched expectations in a Reuters poll of economists and showed the euro zone already slowing ahead of Britain's shock June 23 vote to leave the European Union. While there have been no clear signs in survey data of an economic hit outside of Britain since the vote, the official data showed that a burst of activity at the start of the year was fleeting and more stimulus may still be required.

"The question remains if even this lower growth rate can be sustained in Q3," wrote ING Senior Economist Bert Colijn. "With Brexit uncertainty weighing on exports and industrial weakness, it seems that the consumer has to carry a lot of the weight of the euro zone expansion on its shoulders."

There is also little sign of any broad improvement around the corner, a Reuters poll showed on Thursday. The challenge for policymakers, both at the European Central Bank and in member economies which are reluctant to or restrained from opening the fiscal taps for stimulus, is that growth rates across the euro zone are now varying widely.

In the biggest economy, Germany, gross domestic product grew 0.4 per-

cent, double the 0.2 percent expected in a Reuters poll and marking a 3.1 percent pace compared with the same period last year - the strongest annual figure in five years.

While slower than the start of 2016, growth was boosted by exports as well as consumer spending, putting Germany's performance and prospects ahead of many of its peers.

So while the euro zone figures as a whole broadly support continued stimulus from the European Central Bank, which has cut its deposit rate to -0.4 percent and is buying 80 billion euros of mainly government securities a month among other measures, they don't appear to be so necessary for Germany. KfW bank economist Joerg Zeuner said Britain's vote to leave the EU would eventually hurt, however.

"The decision to leave the EU will hit the British economy, and the slowdown will spread to Germany through muted exports," he said. "The UK is an important market, especially for German car makers, but also for our chemical and pharmaceutical industries."

In Italy, the euro zone's third-largest economy, there was no growth at all in the second quarter, as industry and domestic demand flagged. The unexpectedly poor performance comes soon after Italy emerged last year from its worst recession since World War Two and will pile pressure on Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who has staked his credibility on turning the country around.

"With weakening exports...increasing uncertainty related to the political backdrop and the situation of the banks, and previous declines in share prices possibly causing negative wealth effects and hitting confidence levels, we reckon there is little room for much upside in growth momentum in H2 16," noted economists at Citi.

Preliminary data for France, the second-biggest eurozone economy, reported late in July showed no growth either. "Against this backdrop, and with few signs that governments are about to loosen the fiscal reins, the onus remains on the ECB to provide the additional support needed to boost the recovery and push inflation back up towards its target," noted Capital Economics' chief European economist Jonathan Loynes. In the Netherlands, the picture was much better, with 0.6 percent growth in the second quarter, driven by services as well as decent domestic demand, particularly in housing, and export performance. Previously reported early Q2 data for Spain showed 0.7 percent growth. Economic growth even picked up in Greece to 0.3 percent on resurgent tourism, an improvement on the first quarter, when the economy shrank by a revised 0.1 percent. Outside the euro zone, in Poland - the biggest economy in eastern Europe - growth in the second quarter picked up slightly to 3.1 percent on an annual basis, matching the German rate of expansion.— Reuters



Kuwait Times Weekender

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2016

www.kuwaittimes.net

Balloonists prepare to inflate their hot air balloons on the second day of the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta in Bristol, southwest England, yesterday. The Fiesta features over 150 hot air balloons from around the world. The event runs from August 11th to the 14th on the Ashton Court Estate in Bristol. — AFP

Dubai looks to boost cultural life with opera house

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A handout computer generated image made available by the Dubai Opera House shows the new Opera House in downtown Dubai. — AFP photos



A picture taken June 20, 2016 shows the Dubai Opera House under construction in downtown Dubai.

Dubai looks to boost cultural life with opera house

A boat-shaped hulk of steel and glass at the foot of the world's tallest tower, Dubai's new opera house is set to boost the cultural life of the Gulf's business hub. Workers are putting the final touches on the venue, a short walk from the 828-metre (2,700-foot) Burj Khalifa, as it prepares to host Spanish tenor Placido Domingo at an opening gala on August 31. While Dubai has a reputation for grand construction projects, it has not had a landmark venue for performing arts until now. "Look at everything else Dubai already has... now we're going to make it even better," said Dubai Opera's CEO Jasper Hope, former chief operating officer at London's Royal Albert Hall.

"One of the areas that has been missing for

many people is a venue in which to experience brilliant live music," he told AFP. Dubai Opera organizers hope to change that, with performances including Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" and the Broadway musical "West Side Story". The venue will also host local shows, with popular Emirati singer Hussain Al-Jassmi performing there in October. In a nod to Dubai's long history as a port city, the opera house is shaped like a dhow, a traditional wooden boat used for centuries in Gulf waters. But the ultra-modern 2,000-seat venue can transform into three modes, operating as a theatre, concert hall and a flat-floored hall suitable for banquets and weddings. Its developer, Dubai-based Emaar Properties which also built the Burj Khalifa, has not revealed the cost of the opera project.

Opera a cultural import

In the space of decades, Dubai has transformed itself into a center for trade, travel and tourism. Spending trillions of dollars earned from oil exports, it put itself on the map with luxury resorts, glitzy skyscrapers and artificial islands shaped as palm trees and a world map. But its cultural scene remained low profile in the business-oriented emirate. Now, Dubai "has a vision to be one of the top cities in the world," said the Emirati director of the privately run Centre for Musical Arts (CMA), Tala Badri.

To succeed it has to "present the same things you would get whether you went to London or New York... and that does include performing arts," she said. Opera remains very much a cultural import for Gulf Arabs—the only

other opera house in the region is in the Omani capital Muscat. But Dubai's population is predominantly foreign, including a sizable Western community.

Hope said his vision is for the opera house to inspire local artists. "There are only a handful of musical education, dance education, theatre education projects running right now. I sincerely hope, and we will actively encourage, many more to come out of what we're doing," he said. Badri said she hopes Dubai Opera will help make the emirate a cultural center. "The opera house is a great idea, but if you want to fill it, you need to educate a population to understand it," Badri said. "At the moment it's just a facility for hosting things, and it could be so much more." — AFP



A man takes a picture at the exhibition "Toujours" (Always) of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Monterrey, Mexico on August 11, 2016. The exhibit includes a selection of drawings, sculptures, videos, photographs and installations of the CAPC Musee D'art Contemporain of Bordeaux, France. — AFP



Visitors view the Illinois State Fair Butter Cow designed by Sarah Pratt after the Twilight Parade at the Illinois State Fair. — AP

Iowa State Fair butter sculpture to feature 'Star Trek'

One of the most viewed displays at the Iowa State Fair will peer into the future and celebrate the past at the same time as the popular butter sculpture exhibit features characters from the "Star Trek" television series. Each year Sarah Pratt creates a cow from 600 pounds of butter for the butter cow exhibit.

The refrigerated case also features a second scene

which has included Elvis Presley, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon. This year standing next to the cow will be Captain Kirk, Spock, Dr McCoy and Uhura in two scenes on the bridge of starship USS Enterprise to commemorate the original "Star Trek" television show's 50th anniversary. The Iowa State Fair, which attracts more than a million people a year, begins Aug 11. — AP

Five decor trends for autumn

This fall, decor continues to move in a more easygoing direction, with welcoming hues, softer profiles, and a comfortable mix of materials and styles. For those with a flair for the dramatic, there's room for that too. Some trends for the upcoming season:

Warm and welcoming

New York designer Elaine Griffin sees the influence of Millennials in a trend toward "feel good finds" with a palette of warm colors, laidback furnishings and lots of texture. "Millennials' homes echo the nurturing environments they grew up in," she says. That generation is embracing locally produced crafts as well as goods from far corners of the planet, she says: "There's retro style and global influence everywhere."

Fall also offers a range of new rugs, from fluffy wools in neutral colors to kilims in deeper tones and stronger patterns. Amy Matthews, the Minneapolis-based renovation maven who has hosted shows on HGTV, DIY Network and TheDesignNetwork.com, loves using Persian runners in unexpected places. "There's nothing like (it) in the kitchen," she says. "It brightens up a classic kitchen, and also makes changing out color schemes a breeze. And in any other room, it will take your decor to the next level by anchoring with 'art' for the floor." Look for kilims on benches and ottomans, too.

Pattern play

Geometrics, mineral prints, florals and global motifs get fresh interpretations for fall. For Griffin, "marble motifs are the 'it' pattern of the season." The veined white versions are ubiquitous across bath, kitchen and table-top goods, but look too for marbled patterns in dramatic hues on fabric and paper. Wallpapers are on Matthews' pattern radar. "Wallpaper's not just for the walls anymore," she says. It can go on ceilings and even furniture.

"It's more dramatic and eye-catching than paint, making a strong statement and setting the tone for a room," she says. Roman blinds are also back in style, with contemporary pattern collections by designers like Diane Von Furstenberg and Jeffrey Alan Marks.

Mix and match metals

Beth Kushnick, set decorator for CBS' "The Good Wife," puts metallics near the top of her trend list. "Some are highly reflective and others are more subtle, but they're in gold, silver, copper and rubbed bronze. They really upscale a look and broaden a color palette," she says. The trend appeals to Matthews, too. Her style tip: Don't overdo it. "I prefer not to pick any more than three different metallic-finished pieces, and then put them together for an eclectic and timeless look," she says.

Color story

"My go-to color is always blue," says Kushnick. "I'm seeing dark blue and teal in particular now, which work so well for a variety of styles, bridging the gap between masculine and feminine." Adds Matthews: "Cool grays are giving way to dusty, sky and indigo blues." Griffin is seeing muted versions of '60s



This undated photo provided by Crate & Barrel shows a blue, upholstered sofa from Crate & Barrel. Deep, rich blues are trending across all the decor categories this fall. — AP photos

pottery hues - turquoise, coral, citrus and ivory - debuting this fall and carrying into spring 2017. A range of whites and creams will complement all those metallics, says Kushnick.

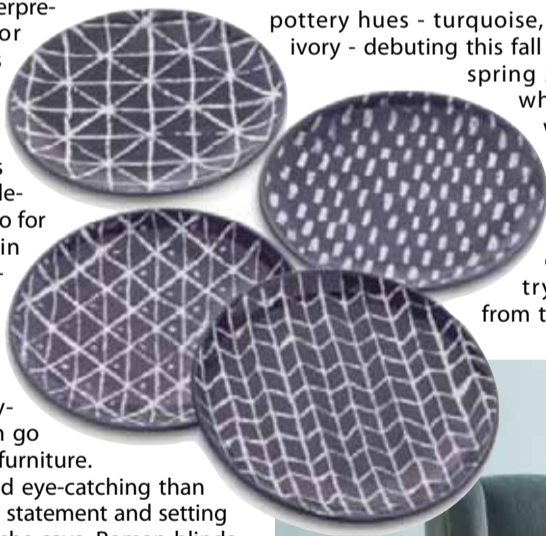
"As a set decorator, I usually try to stay away from these colors, since

they're difficult to use on camera. But on my new show (CBS' "BrainDead") I'm using them almost exclusively. I'm seeing options in every décor style. White's working year-round, and is here to stay." The paint company Benjamin Moore has named Simply White its color of the year, and Sherwin-Williams, Glidden and Behr also selected whites as their signature 2016 colors.

Dramatic touches

Matthews is excited about "the rebirth of

the chandelier." She sees the statement fixture as one of the most dramatic and playful additions to any room. "Designs look best when they're eclectic and a bit eccentric," she says, adding, "The more eye-catching, the better. If tile is 'eye candy' for the walls, then pendant lights are the earrings that make the outfit." For Griffin, the drama's all about a curvier silhouette in furnishings. "After years of harsh angles, the curve looks fresh for fall," she observes. "Streamlined new versions are evocative of '70s and '80s classics." — AP



This undated photo provided by DwellStudio show DwellStudio's Pietro chair, which combines luxe upholstered curves with a set of sexy metallic legs.



This undated photo provided by Restoration Hardware show a Moroccan wedding blanket woven of sheep's wool and cotton, embellished with lilim bands, plush fringe and metallic sequins.



This file photo shows lead vocalist Watkin Tudor Jones (AKA Ninja) (left) of the South African rap-rave group Die Antwoord performing with a dancer at the Montreux Jazz lab stage during the 49th Montreux Jazz Festival. —AFP

Die Antwoord accuse 'Suicide Squad' of stealing their style

South African musicians Die Antwoord accused "Suicide Squad" director David Ayer on Thursday of ripping off their unique visual style, dismissing the respected filmmaker as a "scared lil b**h." Yolandi Visser, the rap-rave outfit's lead singer, posted a lengthy, blistering rant on Instagram, which began by telling the director of the Warner Bros super anti-hero film: "Yes David Ayer u jockin our style." She went on to claim that she had learned through the film's stars, Cara Delevingne and Jared Leto, that Ayer had been enthusing about Die Antwoord on set, adding: "but u never asked our permission to rip us off."

The 31-year-old alleged that her bandmate, Ninja, had raised the issue with Ayer in a text message but that "u said nothin like a scared lil b**h." Visser and Ninja-real names Anri du Toit and Watkin Tudor Jones-rose to fame after popularizing the Afrikaans "Zef" counter-culture through three rap-rave albums. They also starred in Neill Blomkamp's 2015 sci-fi feature "Chappie," which made over \$100 million worldwide,

alongside Sigourney Weaver and Hugh Jackman.

Visser said Ayer had lifted from the opening sequence to "Umshini Wam," a 2011 short film starring the duo and directed by Harmony Korine, who wrote the screenplay for Larry Clark's controversial 1995 teen drama "Kids." She also posted a video she claimed proves that Ayer had plagiarized the look of Yolandi and Ninja for his interpretation of how the Joker and Harley Quinn should look.

Leto made the contradictory claim in an interview last week that David Bowie had been the inspiration for The Joker. Visser rounded off her Instagram rant by joining the legion of critics who have lambasted "Suicide Squad," which has grossed around \$270 million despite a barrage of dismal reviews. "Before we knew da extent of ur two face nature-u invited us to ur movie premiere (which i didnt wanna go to) but ninja went, tinkin ur solid guy an mayb there was jus a lil 'misunderstandin.'" "Den poor ninja had to sit thru dat hole bullshit movie." — AFP



Green Day returns with attack on US gun culture

Green Day is taking aim at the US culture around mass shootings as the punk rockers return with their first album in four years. The group, who rode a rebirth of punk in the early 1990s, announced Thursday that its 12th studio album, "Revolution Radio," would come out on October 7. Green Day released the first single, "Bang Bang," which is marked by the blistering guitar chords of the band's best-known work set to lyrics that accuse US society of turning killers into celebrities. "Bang, bang, give me fame / Shoot me up to entertain," frontman Billie Joe Armstrong sings.

"I am a semi-automatic lonely boy / You're dead, I'm well-fed," he sings. Armstrong told Rolling Stone magazine that the song was "about the culture of mass shooting that happens in America mixed with narcissistic social media." "There's this sort of rage happening, but it's also now being filmed and we all have ourselves under surveillance. To me, that is so twisted," he said. The United States has been shaken by a series of mass shootings including at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in 2012 and more recently at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

Green Day is no stranger to politics. The 2004 rock opera "American Idiot" paints a bleak picture of the country under George W Bush's administration amid its invasion of Iraq. Hailing from the San Francisco area, Green Day broke into the mainstream with its 1994 album "Dookie," which took up issues from depression to masturbation set to energetic rock inspired by classic punk. The band was inducted last year into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in its first year of eligibility. Green Day last put out recordings in 2012 with a trilogy of albums—"Uno!", "Dos!" and "Tre!"-that came out within months of one another. Armstrong since then has sought treatment for addiction to prescription medicine and has played the part of a punk rocker in the film "Geezer," his first leading role. — AFP

Tyga settles legal dispute with landlord to avoid jail

US rapper Tyga has settled a dispute over money owed at a Malibu property, the landlord's attorney said Thursday, clearing the way for the musician's arrest warrant to be revoked. He had failed to pay a \$480,000 judgment against him for back rent and damage at the mansion he rented in 2011, and a Los Angeles judge issued the warrant after he failed to show in court on Tuesday to discuss his finances. However, Danny Abir, attorney for landlord Gholamreza Rezai, said a confidential settlement had been reached "to the mutual satisfaction of the parties."



Abir said his legal partner would appear in court on Friday to ask that the warrant be quashed in light of the settlement. Rezai went to court in 2012 claiming that Tyga missed a \$16,000 monthly rent payment, skipped out on his lease and left the

home in need of major repairs. The Grammy-nominated California rapper also allegedly installed a dance pole in the middle of the master bedroom without permission. Tyga, who has been dating reality TV star Kylie Jenner, claimed poverty, refusing to pay the settlement ordered by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Nancy Newman. Abir had pointed to media reports that Tyga bought Jenner a \$200,000 car for her birthday. Tyga's biggest solo hit, "Rack City," went to number seven on the Billboard chart in 2011. — AFP

Obama on indie rock kick in latest playlist

How have Barack Obama's musical tastes changed in his last year in the White House? Judging from his playlists, he is getting into more indie rock. Obama on Thursday for the second year in a row released summer playlists on streaming service Spotify, revealing what's on his speakers as he relaxes with his family on an annual holiday to tony Martha's Vineyard. Like the previous year, Obama's two playlists-one for daytime and one for nighttime listening-have plenty of classics including songs from Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Miles Davis and The Beach Boys.

But he also showed a taste for indie rock this year. He listed "Elevator Operator" by Courtney Barnett, the Australian songwriter who has recently built a strong if niche following with her droll lyricism. Obama also picked "Home" by Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, indie rockers who incidentally were prominent campaigners for former Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders. While most of Obama's musical choices steered clear of politics, an exception was "Forever Begins" by the Chicago rapper Common, a track produced by Kanye West that delves into the civil rights struggle and touches on gun violence.

The president also chose Fiona Apple's 1997 hit "Criminal," a song often interpreted as feminist with its theme of male fragility in the face of female sexuality. Obama did not confine his selections to US artists. He chose a track by Caetano Veloso, a prominent figure in Brazil's tropicalia movement and outspoken critic of the country's former military dictatorship. Obama chose Veloso's version of "Cucurrucucu Paloma," an often-covered Mexican song of



Courtney Barnett

longing that was popularized in part by Harry Belafonte, the US singer also active in leftist politics.

Also on one of Obama's playlists was "Me Gustas Tu" by Manu Chao, the Parisian singer of Spanish descent known for his attacks on globalization. Other prominent artists whose tracks have Obama's ear include pop superstar Janet Jackson, reclusive R&B sensation D'Angelo, soul singer Janelle Monae and blues rocker Gary Clark Jr. Obama has often spoken of his love of discovering music and has invited artists to the White House including late pop icon Prince and politically conscious rapper Kendrick Lamar. — AFP



Smith's 'Bad Boys 3' pushed back to 2018

Sony's next installment in the "Bad Boys" franchise starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence has been pushed back from its June 2, 2017, release date to Jan 12, 2018. It's also received an official title: "Bad Boys for Life."

Joe Carnahan is on board to direct the buddy-cop action comedy, taking over for Michael Bay, who helmed the first two pics. After Smith attached himself to the Netflix pic "Bright," which starts production this fall, it seemed likely the release date for "Bad Boys"

would move, as production wouldn't get underway until the first quarter of 2017.

Jerry Bruckheimer is back as producer with plot details currently under wraps. Related 'Bad Boys 3' Director Joe Carnahan to Write 'Uncharted' Adaptation for Sony Twentieth

Century Fox's "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" and Paramount animated pic "Sherlock Gnomes" are currently slotted for the same date. The franchise helped launch Smith into movie stardom in 1995 and has grossed more than \$400 million worldwide. — Reuters

MTV Video Music Awards to honor Rihanna

The MTV Video Music Awards will honor pop diva Rihanna with its Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award, which recognizes an artist's cultural impact, the network said Thursday. Rihanna will receive the award and perform at the annual awards extravaganza to take place on August 28 at New York's Madison Square Garden, MTV said in a statement. Rihanna, while just 28, has

emerged as one of the most successful musicians of her era. She holds the all-time record for sales of digital singles with more than 100 million.

Rihanna has twice won the Video of the Year award at the MTV gala. In 2007, she took the night's top prize for "Umbrella," a technologically advanced video in which liquids appear to move in synch with Rihanna, who is covered by silver body paint. She won again five years later for "We Found Love," which depicted Rihanna who was notoriously beaten by then boyfriend Chris Brown in a turbulent relationship that ranges from playful frolicking to intense fighting. "We Found Love," a collaboration with DJ Calvin Harris, was shot in Northern Ireland by Melina Matsoukas who more recently directed Beyonce's politically charged "Formation."

Beyonce leads the year's VMA nominations amid acclaim for "Formation" and other work from "Lemonade," her intertwined album and film. Named for late King of Pop Michael Jackson, the Video Vanguard Award recognizes contributions to music and pop culture and is not given every year. Last year Kanye West received the award and used the occasion to declare, with an unclear level of seriousness, that he will run for US president in 2020. A similar announcement would seem unlikely from Rihanna, who was born in Barbados. — AFP



This file photo shows singer Rihanna as she attends the 2016 Billboard Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

Bollywood's Shah Rukh Khan detained by US Immigration (again)

Top Indian actor Shah Rukh Khan was Thursday stopped and detained by immigration authorities as he entered the US at Los Angeles Airport. It is at least the third time the superstar has been hauled over by US border control. Khan was released without further hindrance. But it is not clear why or how long he was questioned. He later received an apology via Twitter from the US Ambassador to India. "Sorry for the trouble at LAX @lamsrk. We are working to ensure it doesn't happen again. Your work inspires millions, including in the US."

Indeed the whole incident appears to have been lived out on social media. Khan himself used Twitter to say: "I fully respect & understand security, with the way the world is, but to be detained by US immigration every damned time really really sucks." Later he returned to the medium to joke that he had caught some Pokemons while being held. Khan was previously taken aside for questioning in 2009 at Newark airport and was released two hours later after intervention by the Indian Embassy. In 2012 he was detained for 90 minutes at White Plains, near New York after flying in on a private jet. While no explanations for the repeated detentions have been offered, suspicion appears to point to the US security services' zealous targeting of Muslims in the post 9/11 era. In 2010 Khan starred in the 20th Century Fox-backed "My Name Is Khan." It featured Khan as an



File photo shows Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan greets fans waiting outside his residence on Eid Al-Fitr in Mumbai, India. — AP

autistic Muslim man attempting to cross America in order to have a conversation with the US President. Khan is a giant in India with film roles crafted for him and release schedules cleared to avoid clashes with his theatrical outings. Recent titles include "Fan," "Happy New Year, and "Jab Tak Hai Jaan."

His 2014 effort "Dilwale" earned \$4.8 million in North America, while his 2013 title "Chennai Express" earned more than \$5 million state-side. Khan has also proved highly

adept at turning his fame and charm into a hugely valuable brand. In addition to acting, he has become one of India's top TV hosts.

His Red Chillies company is frequently a co-producer of his titles and is a leading supplier of digital effects and services. And he is a noted media and sports investor. In 2014, Singapore based Wealth-X announced that Khan was the world's second richest actor, with an estimated fortune of \$600 million, behind only Jerry Seinfeld. — Reuters

'Florence Foster Jenkins' never nails the right tone



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Hugh Grant as St Clair Bayfield, left, and Meryl Streep as Florence Foster Jenkins in, "Florence Foster Jenkins." — AP

Give Meryl Streep her due: She's mastered drama and comedy, musicals and various accents. In her latest film, the multiple Oscar-winner has even crushed an unexpected skill - singing very poorly indeed. As the title character in "Florence Foster Jenkins," Streep has been asked to warble operettas like a duck being strangled by a garrote. What comes out of her mouth is well beyond an "American Idol" "pitchy."

It's ludicrous and grotesque and very funny. (A soundtrack is available in case you need the worst ever possible holiday gift.)

Inspired by the true story of the tune-challenged American socialite, the film is almost as tone deaf as its heroine. It champions artificiality in an era of authenticity and seems sympathetic to the clueless bubble that vast amounts of money can create.

Jenkins is often celebrated as the worst opera singer ever, an unlikely musical star who emerged in the 1940s, despite her lack of talent. The film depicts her as willfully self-delusional to her own failings as her husband pays off critics and hires compliant audiences to clap politely while she screeches.

Streep, of course, fills her character with emotion, humanity and need, but director Stephen Frears and writer Nicholas Martin haven't decided whether their movie is slapstick or tragedy. And they frustratingly haven't answered the riddle of Jenkins - did she really go to her grave blissfully unaware that she was truly terrible or was she somehow in on the joke? There are clues for both interpretations in the film.

With a cipher as its heroine, the script naturally turns to explore the people who helped create her illusion, led by a marvelous Hugh Grant as Jenkins' endearing husband. Grant is unshakable and charming in his wife's defense but shows chinks in his armor when she insists on playing Carnegie Hall, perhaps a ruse too far.

The film also includes great turns by Simon Helberg of "The Big Bang Theory," who plays Jenkins' conflicted piano accompanist, and Nina Arianda, who initially recognizes that the empress has no clothes but inexplicably switches to be her biggest cheerleader. Adding to the film's lack of authenticity is the slight-of-hands in its settings, with London's Hammersmith Apollo standing in for Carnegie Hall and the city's Park Lane Hotel supposed to mimic

Manhattan's Ritz Carlton, where Jenkins lived. The filmmakers seem pretty pleased with how they made locations thousands of miles from New York into the backdrop for an American story.

Populist statement

"Florence Foster Jenkins" thrashes about for a central theme - loyalty versus ambition, passion versus skill, truth versus happiness - but never lands on one. Unlike the recent French film "Marguerite" that was drawn from Jenkins' story and satirized class privilege, this one wants to say simply that it's OK if sheer desire - and gobs of cash - make your dreams come true, even without talent or sweat.

That it uses a wealthy heiress to make such a populist statement is somehow fitting in this election year when a real estate billionaire who has never held public office is running for president of the United States.

Well, at least we don't have to hear him sing. "Florence Foster Jenkins," a Paramount Pictures, Pathe and BBC Films release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "brief suggestive material." Running time: 110 minutes. Two stars out of four. — AP



Actress Roma Downey poses with her husband Mark Burnett (right), daughter Reilly Marie Anspaugh (center), and stepsons Cameron Burnett (left) and James Burnett (second left), at her Hollywood Walk of Fame star presentation ceremony, August 11, 2016 in Hollywood, California. — AFP

'Angel' Roma Downey gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

Filmmaker Roma Downey accepted a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame Thursday, declaring it a great day for the Irish and thanking America for the opportunities it offered immigrants like her. The devoutly religious actress-turned-producer, best known for her long-running role as Monica the angel on CBS's "Touched by an Angel," was dedicated a spot on the famous thoroughfare next to husband Mark Burnett's star. "This is a great day, a great day for the Irish. Twenty-five years ago I came to America from Ireland looking for a dream. I came with a heart full of hope. The American dream meant to me freedom and opportunity," she said.

"And like many immigrants before me this great country has offered me the opportunity to make my dreams come true." The 56-year-old is preparing for the release next week of period epic "Ben-Hur," which she and Burnett are executive producing. Cast members including Jack Huston, Toby Kebbell and Rodrigo Santoro turned up to support her. "This is an important film, and I hope that you'll all go and see it. Because not only is it a great action adventure movie, it is a film that holds deep in its heart a message of peace, justice, reconciliation and forgiveness," she said.

"And if there was ever a time more in our world that we needed this message, it's now, more than ever." Born in Derry, Northern Ireland, Downey has picked up multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for "Touched by an Angel," which ran from 1994-2003 and co-starred her husband, also 56. She first became known to American audiences for her portrayal of first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in the 1991 NBC miniseries "A Woman Named Jackie." A devout Catholic with a master's degree in spiritual psychology, she received a producing Emmy in 2013 for outstanding miniseries or movie for History's "The Bible," in which she also portrayed Jesus' mother Mary. Downey's other producing credits include the miniseries "ADThe Bible Continues" and "The Dovekeepers." She is president of LightWorkers Media, the faith and family division of MGM. In a speech peppered with references to her faith, she recalled starting out as a coat check girl in a plush restaurant on the Upper West Side of New York. — AP



Actress Roma Downey poses on her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Here's what Jamie Dornan really thinks of social media



Photo shows actor Jamie Dornan poses for a portrait to promote his film, "Anthropoid" in New York. — AP

Don't look for Jamie Dornan on social media. He's had it. Specifically, he's had it with hate-mongering trolls he's encountered despite a hyper fan base for "Fifty Shades" and "The Fall." "To be honest, I was very inactive on it in the last year," he said during a recent round of interviews for two upcoming films, "Anthropoid" and "The 9th Life of Louis Drax." "To delete my Instagram ... I had to email my publicist to get the password. Twitter I used to have a bit of fun with back in the day but I think I've tweeted twice in the last year," Dornan said. The reality of living life out loud on social media looks like this from his perspective:

"The more public interest in you, the more

horrible people become," Dornan said. "People start to say disgusting things about your family, about your children. What's the point?" On the "Fifty Shades" front, which includes back-to-back filming of the steamy trilogy's last two installments, Dornan is enjoying the prospect of life post-Christian Grey. "It's satisfying to put an end to any job, I think, and to do two back to back, I think there's an element of relief that the work is done and you're happy with it," he said. And, yes, his wife, Amelia Warner, spent some time on the "Fifty Shades" sets. "Yeah, a couple of times on choice days," Dornan said. "There were some days where it probably doesn't make a lot of sense for her to be hanging around." — AP



A young man parading in leather helmet and shield at the Torch Festival in Xichang, in China's Sichuan province. — AFP photos

Torch festival shines on in Chinese hill country

Surrounded by green hillsides and fluttering flags, young women wearing silver head-dresses and colorful costumes filed onto the stage, dancing hand in hand as sounds of singing filled the valley. For centuries, the Yi people of southwestern China have celebrated their biggest holiday of the year, the torch festival, over three days during the sixth lunar month. Traditionally an occasion for matchmaking, with young men and women searching for potential spouses, the festival has become an occasion for the Yi to pay

maintain their customs in a time of rapid change in China's countryside. In an effort to boost growth and lift living standards, Beijing aims to resettle millions of rural people in cities in coming years. Modernization

has already brought transformation to the remote area of southwestern Sichuan province where roughly two million Yi people live, with a new airport and railroad networks crisscrossing the hills.

At this year's festival, an amplifier blared songs and a stream of commentary not in the local language but in Mandarin Chinese. Spectators watching the festival wore backward baseball caps and cargo shorts. Women with dyed hair snapped selfies with the girls as they adjusted their delicate and complex costumes. At night, revelers and tourists carried long torches past a tall bonfire shooting sparks into a rainy sky, and dreadlocked shamans put themselves through painful rituals with scorching hot metal implements. It increasingly



Women dressed in traditional Yi costumes waiting to perform at the Torch Festival in Xichang.

rare for young Yi people to don the traditional clothes of their ancestors. "This is my first time wearing the full traditional costume," said one girl at the festival outfitted in a towering metal hat. "I really like wearing it. At other festivals we don't wear it."

Some women carried yellow umbrellas and sported long skirts of red and gold, others wore tinkling metal ornaments, embroidered belts, and hats shaped like chandeliers. Men paraded in leather helmets and shields, bearing swords and staffs, while a troupe of young women walked together under brilliant yellow parasols. Wenze Mochen, 20, said she had had her costume since she was a child. "My mother had people make it for me," she said. "It usually takes a few months to make one." —AFP



Performers dressed in traditional Yi costumes at the Torch Festival in Xichang.



Participants taking part in the Torch Festival.

Indianapolis hosts Vonnegut festivals, premiere of his opera

Two festivals and the world premiere of an opera that Kurt Vonnegut finished shortly before his death will celebrate the writer's legacy this fall in his hometown, Indianapolis.

"Happy Birthday, Wanda June," based on Vonnegut's play by the same name, will be performed for the first time Sept 16-18. The opera will be staged right after the Vonnegut's World festival, Sept 7-14.

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library will host events Sept 26-30 coinciding with the American Library Association's Banned Books Week. Vonnegut's novel "Slaughterhouse-Five"

active-duty military.

For those who haven't read Vonnegut, museum founder Julia Whitehead recommends "Slaughterhouse-Five" as a good introduction. "It defines him and also his success as a pop culture figure in addition to being an American thinker from the 1960s, '70s and later," she said. Sales of Vonnegut's books are "as high if not higher than ever," she added, with versions on Audible.com and plans for film and TV adaptations.

Opera premiere and Vonnegut's world

Vonnegut finished the libretto for "Happy Birthday, Wanda June" in 2007, a few weeks before he died at age 85 from a fall he suffered at his New York home. "Happy Birthday, Wanda June," originally a play and later a movie, tells the story of a mercenary soldier and hunter who returns to his wife after eight years away. It was interpreted as a protest against the Vietnam War. The opera will be performed Sept 16-18 by the Indianapolis Opera at Schrott Center for the Arts, Vonnegut's World events Sept 7-14 include a staged reading of the "Wanda June" play at Butler University and a screening of the 1972 movie "Slaughterhouse-Five."

Banned books

Each year during Banned Books Week, the Vonnegut Museum and Library invites a writer to live as a "captive" behind a wall of banned books. This year's invitee, Josh Johnson, will spend the week inside the museum writing a children's book. Other events taking place Sept 26-30 include programs about censorship, including a simulation of the process schools go

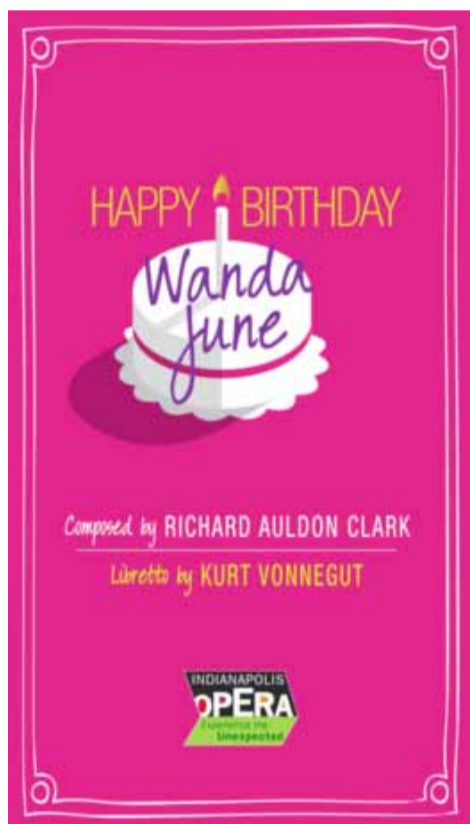


Image shows the program for "Happy Birthday, Wanda June," an opera written by Kurt Vonnegut that premieres in Indianapolis in September. — AP photos

was banned by some schools and communities for its anti-war, anti-establishment themes.

Vonnegut fans get another chance to honor his legacy during VonnegutFest 2016, Nov 10-13. Though he lived most of his life in New York and Massachusetts, Vonnegut once said: "What people like about me is Indianapolis." And for those who can't make the opera or festivals, a visit any time to the city where he was born and raised is a great way to channel his spirit. Attractions include the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, a mural depicting the writer, a beer hall in a building built by his grandfather, and Bluebeard restaurant, named for a Vonnegut novel.

Vonnegut's legacy: So it goes

Vonnegut's fiction blended counter-culture themes with satire, tragedy and even elements of science fiction. "Slaughterhouse-Five" was inspired by his experiences as a prisoner of war in Germany during the Allied bombing of Dresden, which killed thousands of civilians near the end of World War II. "So it goes," a phrase repeated throughout "Slaughterhouse-Five," has become a mantra for fans, a collective shrug and sigh at the world's inhumanity and absurdity. "So It Goes" is also the name of an annual literary journal published by the Vonnegut Museum. Many journal contributors are veterans or



Photo shows a mural in Indianapolis called "My Affair with Kurt Vonnegut," by Pamela Bliss.

through when they ban books, and a public forum led by NPR Marketplace host David Brancaccio about Vonnegut's proposal for a "Secretary of the Future" as a government post akin to secretary of state or secretary of the treasury.

Vonnegutfest 2016, NOV 10-12

VonnegutFest events include a clambake, presentation of a humor award, release of this year's "So It Goes" journal, and a Veterans Reclaim Armistice Day panel on how the arts and humanities can heal the traumas of war. The dates include Vonnegut's birthday, Nov 11, which is also Veterans Day.

"We can guarantee there will be laughs, we

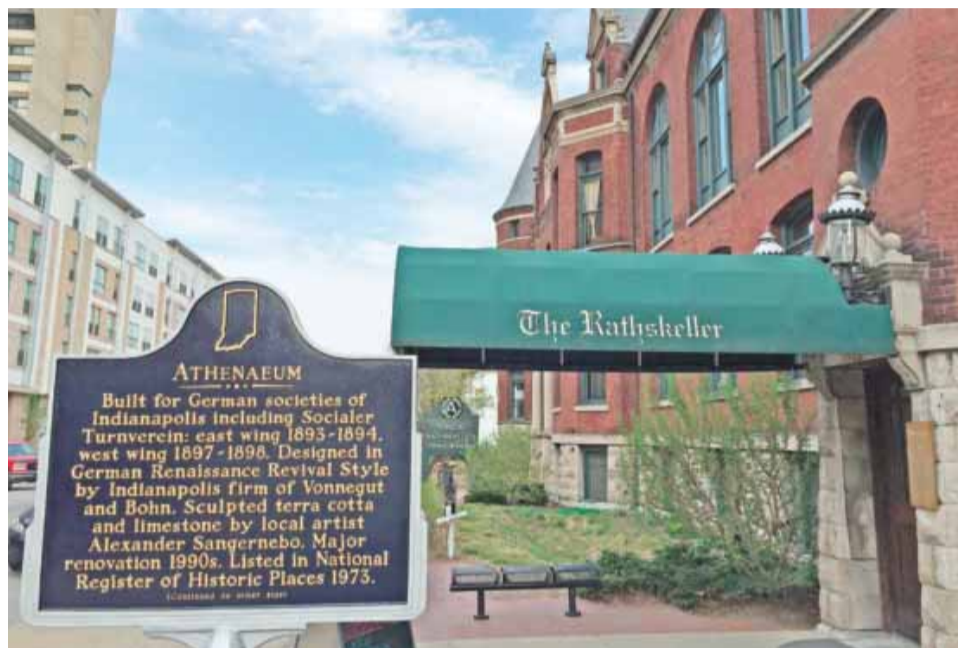


Photo shows the Athenaeum building in Indianapolis built in the 1890s by writer Kurt Vonnegut's grandfather.

can guarantee there will be tears," Whitehead said. "There will be thoughtful dialogue with an element of whimsy and silliness and absurdity because it's Vonnegut. He thought people should laugh to deal with the tragedy of life."

Vonnegut in Indy any time

Visit the 40-foot mural depicting the curly-haired writer at 345 Massachusetts Ave. Called "My Affair with Kurt Vonnegut," the artwork was created by Pamela Bliss in 2011. Raise a glass to Vonnegut at the nearby Rathskeller, 401 E Michigan St, an old-school German beer hall with a beer garden. The building, the Athenaeum, was built by Vonnegut's grandfather as a German cultural center in the 1890s.

Explore exhibits about Vonnegut's life and career at the Vonnegut Museum and Library, including rejection letters he received early on and a sealed letter his father sent to him during World War II. Vonnegut had been taken prisoner and the letter was returned to his family, marked "Missing." It has never been opened.

The museum plans to move to larger digs near the Vonnegut mural, but for now, it's located at 340 N Senate Ave, open Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday, 11 am-6 pm, and Saturday-Sunday, noon to 5 pm, free admission. Finally, have a bite at the trendy Bluebeard restaurant, 653 Virginia Ave. It's named for a Vonnegut novel about a painter, and your check might be brought to the table tucked inside a copy of the book. — AP



Photo shows an exhibit at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library in Indianapolis.



An image of writer Kurt Vonnegut on display at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library in Indianapolis, with library associate Tyler Keenan shown seated.



View of cardboard coffins in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. — AFP photos



Two young men carry a cardboard coffin.

CARDBOARD COFFINS

Venezuelans bear high cost of dying

With food and medicine short, life is hard in Venezuela—and death is hard too. The country's situation is so acute that families are burying their loved ones in cardboard coffins. The more well-off ones can hire a casket for a few hours, just for the funeral. A lack of materials and soaring inflation fueled by an economic crisis are making funerals a costly business. "It is more expensive to die here than to stay alive," says funeral director Ronald Martinez, in the northern city of Maracay.

Miriam Navarro had to borrow money from her neighbors after her brother died a month ago. "I felt so depressed. I didn't have all the money the funeral parlor was asking for," she says. "If it hadn't been for people in my community, I would have had to bury him in the yard." The 66-year old housewife spoke to AFP in the half-built home where she lives in the northeastern town of Maracay.



Men fold a cardboard coffin.

With the help from neighbors, she bought a cheap fiberboard coffin from Martinez. Sobbing, she remembers having the same difficulties six years ago, when one of her sons was shot. "I couldn't afford to bury him either," she says. "Even if the funeral home trusts you, you have to have the cash ready to pay straight away or they'll take the body out and keep the box."

Rented coffins

Venezuelans used to favor brass coffins as



Men stand near a cardboard coffin.

a cheaper alternative to wood. But the current crisis changed that. Two years ago the price of oil-Venezuela's crucial export—collapsed. Factories in the country were previously turning out hundreds of tons of brass every month. That has now fallen to as little as 60 tons, says Juan Carlos Fernandez, director of the National Chamber of Funeral Businesses. "We have had to resort to secondary markets and that drives up costs," he says. The cost of the cheapest funeral service has increased by about 60 times, to some 280,000 bolivars.

The minimum wage in Venezuela is 33,000 bolivars—about \$50 by the official exchange rate. Five years ago a coffin cost 720 bolivars. Now that is the price of a loaf of bread. For no less than 55,000 bolivars a family can buy a

fiberboard coffin. Or they can rent one for 25,000. "This kind is cheaper and no one notices that it is not made of wood or is second-hand," Martinez says. "I change the interior and sometimes I repaint it."

Cremated in cardboard

Elio Angulo reckons renting out coffins breaches hygiene regulations. He makes "bio-urns" out of corrugated cardboard in the northeastern town of Barquisimeto. These biodegradable containers can hold a body, or ashes for the many families who opt for cremation to avoid the cost of a cemetery plot. He has seen families bring bodies in bags to the crematorium because they cannot afford a casket.

That is another humiliation for citizens who are already suffering the daily grind of queuing for hours to buy food. President Nicolas Maduro's opponents blame his economic management for the crisis. He says it is a capitalist conspiracy. Angulo's cardboard coffin costs 50,000 bolivars. He says it can hold up to 125 kilos (275 pounds) and is stronger than the medium-density fiberboard used for other cheap coffins.

"It is meant for cremation but can also be used for burials. It offers a solution for a country in crisis," he says. "It is economical and accessible to Venezuelans who do not have enough money to get by" when a relative passes away, he adds. "Nowadays, dying is making a lot of people poor." — AFP



MURAL PARK: In this June 11, 2014, file photo, a man walks past a mural in an office on the Facebook campus. — AP

DIVISIVE US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN STIRS FACEBOOK

CINCINNATI: Some friends don't let friends talk politics anymore on Facebook. Others are on "unfriending" sprees. And some, such as Adolfo Olivas of Hamilton, Ohio, have decided to just shut down their accounts, as the divisive presidential campaign causes a deluge of news feeds amid photos of smiling kids' first day of school and what's on the grill for dinner. The last straw for the former Republican mayor came after GOP nominee Donald Trump's criticism of fellow Gold Star parents, the Muslim parents of Iraq war casualty Humayun Khan.

"Just reading all of those comments justifying Mr. Trump's outbursts," explained Olivas, whose son Nicholas, 20, was killed on Army patrol in Afghanistan in 2012. "I cannot stand to put up with the stupidity of those who will try to justify those words!"

The giant social network has emerged as a virtual town hall for political debate, an easy place to share opinions - and vitriolic attacks - about the two polarizing presidential candidates. Facebook says that from Jan 1 through Aug 1, 100 million people on Facebook in the United States generated 4 billion posts, comments, shares and reactions about the election. More than 1 billion of those came in July, the month of the national conventions officially nominating Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Facebook counts 205 million active monthly users in the United States. Katie Harbath, Facebook's global politics and government outreach director, said in a statement that the network "is giving more people a voice in the political process, enabling a robust two-way dialogue between candidates and voters the likes we haven't seen before."

Cutting off communication

Facebook didn't have "unfriending" numbers, but that online action of cutting off communication appears to be on the rise this summer along with the other election-related activity. "I've seen that myself increasingly," said Scott Talan, an American University communication teacher who studies social media and politics. "They range from pretty harsh, graphically laced, attacks upon people ... to statements of 'if you support this person, you can no longer be my friend.'"

Talan says the popularity and ease of use on Facebook combined with two candidates with remarkably high negative ratings among voters fuel "very visceral" debates that go to people's strong personal values and identity. Joseph Alfini, 62, of Sarasota, Florida, is among users who have declared Facebook moratoriums: no more politics! "I am done with political posts; negative, harmful words back and forth," Alfini wrote recently.

"Some people are real brave sitting behind a keyboard. Everyone should be able to vote (for) who they want to without influence and negativity." The New York native says he "would never" vote for Clinton, but isn't a fan of Trump. "They both suck," said Alfini, whose latest posts have focused on the Yankees.

Talan said on the bright side, the lively Facebook debates are healthy signs of Americans exercising their free speech rights and of voter engagement in the political process. Among his suggestions are to try to use civilized tones and decorum in your posts, "take a breath or two" and think it through before commenting on a friend's post or unfriending someone and instead of sharp opinion statements, pose questions such as "how can we trust her?" or "is he stable enough to be president?" — AP

INTERNET MOGUL ACCUSED OF ATTACKS FACING PROBATION

SCANDALS, DRAMA SURROUND MULTI-MILLIONAIRE

SAN FRANCISCO: Gurbaksh Chahal's rise from a high school dropout to a 25-year-old Internet mogul who sold his startup for \$300 million landed him on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Extra" in segments touting him as a highly eligible bachelor. That image began crumbling when prosecutors charged him with dozens of felonies in 2013, saying surveillance footage from his San Francisco penthouse showed him punching and kicking his girlfriend 117 times and trying to smother her with a pillow. Chahal avoided prison, receiving probation instead, after the woman stopped cooperating with authorities and a judge said the video could not be used as evidence.

Now he's again facing time behind bars after violating his probation by allegedly kicking another girlfriend, who also didn't help with the case, prosecutors say. Video of the first attack made it into San Francisco Superior Court, where a judge was set to sentence the 34-year-old. Chahal has defended himself against the initial charges, saying he lost his temper but did not hit his girlfriend 117 times. And his attorneys have attacked the second woman's credibility, saying she got into a sham marriage to get a US visa and had been drinking the night she said Chahal hit her.

Legal woes

Chahal's legal woes extend beyond the criminal cases. Two former employees have sued him for discrimination, painting him as a bullying boss who thought little of women - traits hard to combat in the male-dominated world of Silicon Valley, experts say. "What makes Silicon Valley more challenging than other areas is ... it has a macho culture that is deeply embedded," said Deborah Rhode, a law professor at Stanford University who teaches gender equity law. "There are very few women in leadership positions." Chahal's criminal attorney, James Lassart, and the lawyer representing him in the lawsuits, Patricia Glaser, did not



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Oct 17, 2008 photo, Gurbaksh Chahal stands in his San Francisco high-rise penthouse. — AP

return emails or phone calls seeking comment. Emails to a nonprofit foundation Chahal started and his online advertising technology company, Gravity4, were not returned. A message to his Twitter account also went unanswered.

Faced with the initial charges, Chahal got help from powerful former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and the former chief financial officer for the state of California, Steve Westly, according to one of the lawsuits and emails between Westly and Chahal that The Wall Street Journal reported. Westly, who was on the board of a company Chahal founded, suggested the businessman reach out to Brown, according to a 2015 lawsuit by Yousef Khraibut, a former Gravity4 employee. Chahal told Khraibut that he paid Brown a \$250,000 retainer to exert pressure on the district attorney to dismiss the charges, saying Brown had the "juice" to make them disappear, the law-

suit said. A woman who answered the phone at Brown's law office said he would not be back until Friday. Brown said in a radio interview last September that he was asked to put together a legal team to defend Chahal but did nothing unethical and returned most of the \$250,000. Westly, whose name has been mentioned as a possible gubernatorial candidate in 2018, said in a statement that he doesn't comment on ongoing legal cases but that domestic violence in any form is inexcusable. Khraibut's lawsuit also accuses Chahal of crass behavior, saying he sought male colleagues' opinions of a bikini photo of a prospective female employee and used a vulgar term to describe decisions to let attractive women advance in the hiring process. In court documents, Chahal shot back that Khraibut was fired for not doing his work and was seeking publicity to get money he wasn't owed. — AP

SNAPCHAT REMOVES 'RACIST' PHOTO FILTER

LOS ANGELES: Snapchat has removed a filter for photos that some say promoted racist Asian stereotypes. The social media app's filters, also called lenses, allow users to change their appearance with silly faces or morph themselves into cartoonish animals and other characters. A filter that Snapchat says was inspired by Japanese animation placed slanted eyes on a user's face. The filter was quickly derided by Snapchat users on Twitter. One Asian-American user, Grace Sparapani, tells The Associated Press in a Twitter message she was "shocked by how much it looked like the classic cartoon caricatures of Asians—squinty eyes and buckteeth." Los Angeles-based Snapchat tells USA

Today the filter has been taken down and won't be used again. The company says its filters "are meant to be playful and never to offend."

Grace Sparapani, a Korean-American art student, tweeted a caricature next to a filtered snap, writing "Snapchat, wanna tell me why u thought this yellowface was okay??" In an email to the Times, she added, "it's hard to argue with the side by side comparison of the very gross Asian caricature and the filter's effects. It shows that the filter isn't just yellowface, but yellowface taken to its derogatory extreme."

Other Snapchat users who tried the filter called it "racist." One even asked the company, "when can we expect

Blackface?" Snapchat previously came under fire for a filter that already seemingly accomplished that. A Bob Marley-inspired filter released on April 20, 2016, that darkened user's skin color and added dreadlocks was met with similar criticism. Snapchat told reporters that the filter was created in partnership with the Bob Marley Estate. "Millions of Snapchatters have enjoyed Bob Marley's music, and we respect his life and achievements," the company added. As for its latest filter, the company explained to the Verge that it was inspired by anime and meant to be playful. Snapchat has since removed the offending filter and does not plan to resurface it in the future. — Agencies

A VIRTUAL-REALITY OLYMPICS? IT'S OK, BUT TV IS STILL KING

NEW YORK: If you want to glimpse the future of sports broadcasting, you can check out the Rio Olympics in virtual reality. But if you really want to immerse yourself in the competition, just turn on the TV. NBC, BBC and other Olympic networks around the world are offering the opening and closing ceremonies and selected events in VR, giving viewers a 360-degree perspective - that is, the ability to look up, down and all around - when they wear special headsets. It's a first in Olympics broadcasting, and NBC itself admits that its more than 100 hours of VR coverage is experimental. It's good that television networks are getting a head start on figuring out what works with the new technology. Watching the Olympics in VR can occasionally transport you, giving you the sense of actually being there in Rio. But those moments are still too few and far between.

THE BASICS

Television networks are relying on the shared resources of the Olympic Broadcasting Services. In the US, viewers need a cable or satellite TV subscription, a Samsung Gear VR headset and a recent flagship Samsung Galaxy phone. The VR schedule has a haphazard feel. It offers preliminary rounds for some sports and finals for others, but focuses on just one sport on any given day. Events are shown a day after the fact, too, apart from one fencing event and two days of men's basketball expected to be live.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

Friends who hadn't tried VR before were impressed by the opening ceremony, though the spectacle was less momentous if you'd seen enough of VR for its newness to wear off. A few scenes still stood out:

At one point, performers clad in feather-like costumes sashayed and shimmed around me as they introduced the world to Brazil's music and dance. Producers had set up a 360-degree camera right next to them on stage, giving the VR audience the sense of being in the show instead of just watching it. Alas, producers then switched to more-distant cameras.

VR cameras captured the parade of athletes from at least two vantage



LAS VEGAS: In this Wednesday, Jan 6, 2016, file photo, people wear Samsung Gear VR sets during a virtual reality demonstration at CES International. — AP

points on the floor, giving me the sense of standing near them as they passed by. TV shots, by contrast, were mostly bird's eye views. I even caught one of the stadium marshals next to me - I mean the camera - snapping a photo with a smartphone. While television mostly had aerial shots looking down at fireworks, VR offered a perspective from inside as fireworks shot up from around the entire stadium. But VR doesn't do everything well, as I learned myself while recording 360-degree videos.

With no zoom, shots from the stadium's seats felt distant. Television showed close-ups of supermodel Gisele Bündchen's runway walk to "The Girl From Ipanema," but in VR all you could see was a dark, empty stadium floor. She was just too far away. VR tried to compensate by showing a TV feed within the VR environment, but the virtual monitor got distracting. And when I looked down, all I could see was a computer-generated disk intended to hide the camera rig. It felt like standing on a giant dinner plate - there as an observer, but not really there.

COMPETITION

There are currently no commercials or commentators intruding on the VR Olympics; all you get is natural sound from the venue. On the other hand, there's no way to jump directly to a specific match or athlete. Among other

drawbacks, athletes sometimes looked like video-game characters. VR video wasn't as sharp as what I'm used to on TV, and 3-D rendering might have compounded that feeling of fakeness.

In beach volleyball, one challenged play got shown repeatedly on television, but VR offered no instant replays or slow motion. With boxing, coverage switched back and forth between a floor-level camera and one about the height of a street lamp. That forced me to continually tilt my head to look up and down again as though nodding. Let the viewer choose the camera. For men's gymnastics, four cameras covered the six-event all-around finals, meaning you had to turn around to watch two of the events in the distance. Once again, you don't get to control the shot. You might be fixated on the pommel horse when you suddenly get a floor-exercise routine going on at the same time. Track-and-field coverage this weekend will probably have similar issues. For now, VR is most exciting behind the scenes. I could feel the joy as Japanese gymnast Kohei Uchimura won gold and hugged his support staff, surrounded by cameras. You don't get that sense of closeness when it's a straight-on television shot. I would love to see warmup areas and locker rooms in VR (for team strategizing, of course). VR works best when the room is small and people are close to the camera. — AP

ELECTRONIC BIKES CAN HELP MAKE PEOPLE BICYCLISTS

CEDAR RAPIDS: Imagine you're halfway up a hill on your bike, pedaling feverishly as beads of sweat trickle down your face. Exercise is great - and necessary - but wouldn't it be nice to get a little push up that hill? Cue the electric bike.

E-bikes have been popular in Europe and Asia for years, but only recently started to gain popularity in the United States, said Northtowne Cycling owner Derek Stepanek, who's seen a significant spike in e-bike sales in the last three months, despite selling them at Northtowne in Cedar Rapids for the last 15 years. People come from all over the region - Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois and Indiana primarily - to buy e-bikes at Northtowne, he added. The increase in popularity, he believes, is due to e-bike technology finally catching up with consumer's desires. Ryan Baker, owner of World of Bikes in Iowa City, agreed.

In the past, World of Bikes didn't carry e-bikes because their "batteries had issues, electronics had issues. ... The technology wasn't quite to the point where we'd want to handle it as a shop," he said. Now he's reconsidering because today's e-bikes are more reliable, lighter weight and have longer battery life. They can go farther faster, climb steeper hills and support more weight than ever before, Stepanek added. Still powered by pedals, most e-bikes have a pedal-assist system that supplies electricity from a rechargeable lithium ion battery to the motor, but only when the cyclist pedals - so no, it won't do all the work for you, but it will make a noticeable difference when biking up hills, through headwinds or when your legs are tired from a long ride.

Adjusting to change

Many models have multiple settings so that you can adjust the amount of assistance you receive, ranging from nothing at all or hardly noticeable to a reasonable lurch with each revolution of the pedal. Some are sensitive to the speed and force of your feet, calculating just the right amount of power to ease your effort but not so much that exercise is out of the equation. A few models also offer a throttle, Stepanek said, which assists those who at times cannot pedal. As long as it still has pedals, can't go more than 20 miles per hour and has a motor smaller than 750 watts, it still is considered a bicycle, not a motorized vehicle, he added.

Depending on the quality of bike and battery system and how much power you use, one charge can last anywhere from 15 to 120 miles, but for most people, 80 miles is plenty, Stepanek said. If the battery dies, however, the once easy ride becomes much more challenging, as e-bikes generally weigh between 50 to 60 pounds. Luckily, all you need to recharge is a regular outlet and a charger.

Prices range from around \$1,000 to more than \$5,000, but the "sweet spot," Stepanek said, is between \$2,000 to \$3,000. Every e-bike is different, though, so he suggests trying different models and working with an expert to find what best fits your lifestyle before buying. Some in the cycling community consider e-bikes "cheating," Stepanek said. But he disagrees. — AP

LOCK PICKING YOUR WAY TO CYBERSECURITY AT DEF CON

LAS VEGAS: Lock picking might seem ridiculously old-fashioned at a cybersecurity gathering - but learning it can actually help people protect machines from digital threats. As security improves to block remote attacks over the internet, hackers look for ways to deliver malicious software physically instead - for instance, by breaking into a company's data centers. Like cracking a digital system, picking locks involves solving puzzles, along with a certain amount of finesse and skill. And for the good guys, knowing how to pick locks is important for learning how to defend against it.

The recent Def Con security conference in Las Vegas had one section devoted to hands-on lock picking. Getting a seat was tough. At times, the tables looked like knitting circles, with partici-

pants at various skill levels looking intense as they used tiny rakes and tension bars to pop open a variety of practice door and padlocks. Tools were shared. Experts offered advice. Shouts of joy erupted when someone finally cracked a tough lock. Locks and tools also proved to be popular souvenirs, with a conference store nearby doing brisk business.

A puzzling badge

You can't host a gathering for creative people who love to tinker and just give them the same, old plastic badge hanging from a lanyard. Def Con's electronic badges are both cool to look at and full of puzzles to decipher. Last year's badge was a fully mastered, playable, 7-inch vinyl record. This year's badges were shaped like a

skull, and LED lights in their eyes and mouth seem to light up at random. The badge itself, powered by a 3-volt battery in its chin, features a mini processor and buttons that look like the controller for an old-school video gaming system. Attendees quickly discovered they can set off a light show by using the buttons to enter the "Konami Code," a video game cheat code dating back to the 1980s. The back has other secret codes and patterns for attendees to decipher.

Rise of the machines

Def Con kicked off with the finals of the Cyber Grand Challenge, which was billed as the world's first all-machine hacking tournament. Seven teams created computers to automatically hunt for software bugs and fix them in real

time before significant damage could be done. Spectators watched on the big screen as sports-caster-like commentators described the action. Mayhem, built by a startup with roots at Carnegie Mellon University, took the \$2 million prize for catching and fixing the most bugs. The competition was sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, the military's research arm that created the internet in the 1960s. Most security conferences focus on encryption, firewalls and the digital side of security. Def Con has those topics, too, but takes pride in blending in the physical side as well. Crowds packed ballrooms to see how one hacker channeled his inner MacGyver to create a bionic hand out of a deconstructed Keurig coffee maker. — AP

BBC FIRST

03:35 I Want My Wife Back
 04:10 Father Brown
 05:00 Doctors
 08:00 Eastenders
 10:10 Doctor Who
 12:50 Casualty
 14:35 Doctors
 15:05 Doctors
 15:35 Father Brown
 18:00 Doctors
 18:30 Eastenders
 19:05 New Tricks
 23:00 Thirteen
 23:55 Doctors
 00:25 Eastenders
 01:00 New Tricks

17:25 Key And Peele
 19:03 Tattoo Disasters
 19:50 Lip Sync Battle
 20:37 I Live With Models
 21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
 21:30 South Park
 21:54 Broad City
 22:18 Tosh.0
 23:05 Inside Amy Schumer
 23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition
 00:00 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
 00:50 South Park
 01:15 Broad City
 01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
 02:05 Tosh.0
 02:30 Broad City

03:00 Mega Builders
 03:48 Smash Lab
 04:36 Race To Escape
 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 Food Factory
 09:26 Smash Lab
 13:26 How Do They Do It?
 15:26 Extreme Engineering
 16:14 Mega World
 17:02 Mega Builders
 17:50 Industrial Junkie
 18:40 Mega Engineering
 19:30 How The Universe Works
 23:40 Extreme Engineering
 00:30 Mega World
 01:20 Mega Builders
 02:10 Industrial Junkie

09:50 Liv And Maddie
 10:15 Binny And The Ghost
 10:40 Go Figure
 12:10 The 7D
 12:20 Best Friends Whenever
 12:45 Best Friends Whenever
 13:10 Best Friends Whenever
 13:35 Best Friends Whenever
 14:00 Best Friends Whenever
 14:25 Jessie
 14:50 Jessie
 15:15 Girl Meets World
 15:40 Girl Meets World
 16:05 Descendants Wicked World
 16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
 17:00 Gravity Falls
 17:25 Radio Rebel
 18:55 The 7D
 19:05 Austin & Ally
 19:30 Jessie
 19:55 Liv And Maddie
 20:20 Mako Mermaids
 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
 23:10 Witch
 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
 00:00 Violetta
 00:45 The Hive
 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
 01:40 Witch
 02:05 Hank Zipper
 02:30 Violetta

02:30 Loopdidoo
 02:45 Art Attack
 006:00 Boyster
 06:10 Super Matrak
 06:35 Super Matrak
 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In
 Unova
 07:25 K.C. Undercover
 07:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 08:15 Supa Strikas
 08:40 Kirby Buckets
 09:10 Mighty Med
 09:35 Lab Rats
 10:00 Becoming
 10:25 K.C. Undercover
 10:50 K.C. Undercover
 11:20 Supa Strikas
 11:45 Supa Strikas
 12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
 12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
 13:00 Wendy Wu: Homecoming
 Warrior
 14:30 Phineas And Ferb
 14:45 Supa Strikas
 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
 15:15 Supa Strikas
 15:40 Supa Strikas
 16:05 Supa Strikas
 16:30 Supa Strikas
 16:55 Supa Strikas
 17:25 K.C. Undercover
 17:50 Annedroids
 18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
 18:40 K.C. Undercover
 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
 19:10 Gravity Falls
 19:35 Pickle And Peanut
 19:45 Pickle And Peanut
 20:00 Lab Rats
 20:25 Supa Strikas
 20:55 K.C. Undercover
 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

02:20 El News
 02:45 El News



03:40 How Do They Do It?
 06:00 Fast N' Loud
 10:10 Gold Divers
 11:00 Yukon Men
 11:50 Outback Truckers
 12:40 Auction Hunters
 13:55 Storage Hunters UK
 14:45 Dallas Car Sharks
 16:50 Alaskan Bush People
 17:40 Railroad Alaska
 18:30 Mythbusters
 19:20 World's Top 5
 20:10 Incredible Engineering Blunders:
 Fixed
 21:00 Alaskan Bush People
 21:50 Railroad Alaska
 22:40 Siberian Cut
 23:30 Worst-Case Scenario
 00:45 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
 02:25 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
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03:15 The Hive
 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
 Witch
 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
 Witch
 04:10 Hank Zipper
 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
 05:00 Violetta
 05:45 The Hive
 05:50 Mouk
 06:00 Hank Zipper
 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 Backstage
 09:00 Alex & Co.
 09:25 Girl Meets World

COMEDY CENTRAL

03:00 Key And Peele
 03:25 Tosh.0
 04:15 Ridiculousness
 05:05 Gym Rescue
 05:55 Impractical Jokers
 06:20 Key And Peele
 06:50 Tosh.0
 07:15 Tosh.0
 07:40 Ridiculousness
 08:30 Gym Rescue
 09:20 Key And Peele
 09:45 Tosh.0
 11:00 Impractical Jokers
 11:25 Hungry Investors
 13:05 Tosh.0
 14:20 Impractical Jokers
 14:45 Lip Sync Battle
 15:10 Key And Peele
 15:35 Workaholics
 16:55 Key And Peele



3:10 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
 12:30 Gummi Bears
 13:00 Sofia The First
 14:55 Goldie & Bear
 15:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 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



003:00 Man Fire Food
 03:30 Man Fire Food
 04:00 Chopped
 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
 07:00 Chopped
 08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
 09:00 The Kitchen
 10:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 14:00 Chopped
 15:00 Man Fire Food
 16:00 Guy's Big Bite
 16:30 Guy's Big Bite
 17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
 18:00 Ace Of Cakes
 18:30 Ace Of Cakes
 19:00 Chopped
 20:00 Kitchen Inferno
 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 22:00 Ace Of Cakes
 23:00 Chopped
 00:00 Kitchen Inferno
 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 02:00 Ace Of Cakes



03:15 EJ NYC
 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
 06:25 Keeping Up With The
 Kardashians
 08:20 E! News
 09:15 Keeping Up With The
 Kardashians
 13:05 E! News
 14:05 Just Jillian
 15:00 Botched
 16:00 Botched
 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 19:00 E! News
 20:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 21:00 EJ NYC
 22:00 Just Jillian
 23:00 E! News
 00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 01:50 Botched



03:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
 03:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
 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 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
 09:30 2 Broke Girls
 10:00 New Girl
 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 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
 14:30 2 Broke Girls
 15:00 New Girl
 15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
 16:00 Grandfathered
 16:30 George Lopez
 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 18:00 The Simpsons
 18:30 Uncle Buck
 19:00 Baby Daddy
 19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy
 Fallon
 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
 21:30 Grandfathered
 22:00 Saturday Night Live
 23:00 The Brink
 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
 01:00 Grandfathered
 01:30 Saturday Night Live
 02:30 The Brink



03:00 Vinyl
 04:00 Tell Me You Love Me
 05:00 Einstein And Eddington
 07:00 Wit
 09:00 Something The Lord Made
 11:00 Kareem: Minority Of One
 13:00 Grey Gardens
 15:00 Real Women Have Curves
 17:00 Kareem: Minority Of One
 19:00 Legends
 20:00 Six Feet Under



EDGE OF TOMORROW ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2016

- 21:00 The Bastard Executioner
- 22:00 Angry Boys
- 22:30 The Brink
- 23:00 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
- 23:30 Def Poetry Jam
- 00:00 Legends
- 01:00 Six Feet Under
- 02:00 The Bastard Executioner
- OSN First HD
- 03:00 Outlander
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Shark Tank
- 07:00 Castle
- 08:00 Quantico
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 Chicago Med
- 11:00 Castle
- 12:00 Quantico
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Shark Tank
- 15:00 Good Morning America
- 16:00 Shark Tank
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Quantico
- 19:00 The Night Shift
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Chicago Med
- 22:00 Graceland
- 23:00 Mad Dogs
- 00:00 Castle
- 01:00 Chicago Med
- 02:00 Graceland



- 03:00 Outlander
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Shark Tank
- 07:00 Castle
- 08:00 Quantico
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 Suits
- 11:00 Castle
- 12:00 Quantico
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Shark Tank
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Shark Tank
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Quantico
- 19:00 The Night Shift
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Suits
- 22:00 Graceland
- 23:00 Mad Dogs
- 00:00 Castle
- 01:00 Suits
- 02:00 Graceland



- 04:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 06:00 The Dependables
- 08:00 Airplane vs. Volcano
- 10:00 Justice League vs. Bizarro League
- 11:15 Last Knights
- 13:30 The Dependables
- 15:30 Dragon Blade
- 18:00 Edge Of Tomorrow
- 20:00 Faster
- 22:00 Independence Day
- 00:30 Pusher
- 02:15 Dragon Blade



- 04:00 Three Men And A Baby
- 06:00 My Father The Hero
- 08:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
- 10:00 Three Men And A Baby
- 12:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
- 14:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
- 16:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
- 18:00 A Lot Like Love
- 20:00 Wild Hogs
- 22:00 Superbad
- 00:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
- 02:00 A Lot Like Love



- 03:00 The Kings Of Summer
- 05:00 Shanghai Calling
- 07:00 Changing Hearts
- 09:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 11:00 The Love Guide
- 12:30 Grand Central
- 14:30 Foxcatcher
- 17:00 Welcome To The Punch



INDEPENDENCE DAY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 19:00 Lullaby
- 21:00 The Selfish Giant
- 23:00 Fort Bliss
- 01:00 Foxcatcher

- 17:00 Interstellar
- 20:00 True Story
- 22:00 The Runner
- 00:00 Wicked Blood
- 02:00 Love & Mercy

- 07:00 Dogfights
- 08:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 09:00 The Universe
- 10:00 Ancient Impossible
- 11:00 Decoding The Past
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens
- 13:00 Dogfights
- 14:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 15:00 The Universe
- 16:00 Ancient Impossible
- 17:00 Decoding The Past
- 18:00 Ancient Aliens
- 19:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 23:00 Lost Magic Decoded
- 01:00 How The States Got Their Shape

- 09:15 Zoo Confidential
- 10:10 Strangest Bird Alive
- 11:05 Fish Tank Kings
- 12:00 Caught In The Act
- 12:55 Dead Or Alive
- 13:50 Natural Born Monsters
- 14:45 Wild Hawaii
- 15:40 Man V. Monster
- 16:35 Monster Jellyfish
- 17:30 Expedition Wild
- 18:25 Animals Gone Wild
- 19:20 Wild Hawaii
- 20:10 Man V. Monster
- 21:00 Monster Jellyfish
- 21:50 Expedition Wild
- 22:40 Animals Gone Wild
- 23:30 Caught In The Act
- 00:20 Dead Or Alive
- 01:10 Natural Born Monsters
- 02:00 Predator Fails
- 02:50 Animal Armory

- 01:30 Science Of Stupid
- 02:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
- 02:55 Wicked Tuna



- 03:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
- 05:45 The Mighty Ducks
- 07:30 Ghost Squad
- 09:00 Big Miracle
- 11:00 The Parent Trap
- 13:00 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast
- 15:00 Alice In Wonderland
- 17:00 Cinderella
- 19:00 Enchanted
- 21:00 The Game Plan
- 23:00 Alice In Wonderland
- 01:00 Enchanted



- 04:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 06:00 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
- 07:45 Worms
- 09:45 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
- 11:15 Harriet The Spy
- 13:00 Space Warriors
- 14:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 16:15 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
- 18:15 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
- 20:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 22:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 23:45 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
- 01:30 Worms



- 03:05 Emmerdale
- 03:55 Coronation Street
- 06:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 06:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 08:30 Chopping Block
- 11:50 Grantchester
- 12:40 Midsomer Murders
- 14:20 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 15:10 It's Not Rocket Science
- 16:00 Together
- 16:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 17:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 19:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 19:55 Together
- 20:25 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 20:50 It's Not Rocket Science
- 21:45 Grantchester
- 22:40 Coronation Street
- 01:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 02:00 Coronation Street



- 00:30:50 Life On Mars: The Amazing Rovers
- 04:45 Shark Men
- 05:40 Wicked Tuna
- 06:35 The Great Human Race
- 07:30 Wild Hawaii
- 08:25 Dog Whisperer
- 09:20 Cesar To The Rescue
- 10:15 Laverstoke Mill
- 11:10 LA Street Racers
- 12:05 Megastructures
- 13:00 Terraced Fields
- 14:00 Inside: Reinventing Taipei
- 15:00 Science Of Stupid
- 15:30 Science Of Stupid
- 16:00 Engineering Connections
- 17:00 Mega Factories
- 18:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 19:00 Breakout
- 20:00 Engineering Connections
- 20:50 Mega Factories
- 21:40 Locked Up Abroad
- 22:30 Breakout
- 23:20 Engineering Connections
- 00:10 Mega Factories
- 01:00 Science Of Stupid



- 04:30 Blood Ties
- 06:45 Won't Back Down
- 09:00 Late Bloomers
- 10:30 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- 13:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces
- 15:00 Prefontaine
- 17:00 Late Bloomers
- 18:45 Go For Sisters
- 21:00 Superbad
- 00:30 The Motel Life
- 02:30 Prefontaine



- 04:00 Step Up Revolution
- 06:00 Veronica Mars
- 08:00 R.I.P.D.
- 10:00 Imogene
- 12:00 The Maze Runner
- 14:00 Left Behind
- 16:00 R.I.P.D.
- 17:45 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 20:15 The Throwaways
- 22:00 Wild Card
- 00:00 The Lazarus Effect
- 01:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron



- 03:45 Queen Of The Baboons
- 04:40 Man V. Monster
- 05:35 Monkey Thieves
- 06:00 Monkey Thieves
- 06:30 Caught In The Act
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Dr. K's Exotic Animal



- 3:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Harvey Beaks
- 14:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 14:36 Henry Danger
- 15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 16:36 The Loud House
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 Breadwinners
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants



- 3:40 Ancient Impossible
- 04:30 Decoding The Past
- 05:20 Ancient Aliens
- 06:10 Ancient Discoveries



Cooking on Deadline:

Grilled Lamb Chops, Onions, Herb Salad

By Katie Workman

This recipe sounds, looks and tastes fancy, but it takes only a few steps of preparation and some simple assembly. It's one of those recipes that demands the best ingredients you can afford; it will make a difference. You can also use rib lamb chops, which are a bit pricier. Play around with the herb and lettuce mixture. Any assortment of tender lettuces and fresh herbs will be lovely atop the rich grilled chops and tender, smoky onions.

Grilling the lemons with the lamb and onions caramelizes them, and the juice you sprinkle over the finished dish will have a nice hint of smokiness. You can let the onions and lemons sit in the marinade at room temperature for an hour or so, or in the fridge for up to 2 days, for more flavor. If you have a vegetable grilling grate, use it. Otherwise, even if you use a wide grilling spatula, you might end up sacrificing a few of the onion rings to the grilling gods.

GRILLED LAMB CHOPS AND ONIONS WITH HERB SALAD

Ingredients

Start to finish: One hour
Servings: 5

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil, divided
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, preferably white balsamic
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
3 large yellow or Vidalia onions
3 lemons, halved crosswise
10 loin lamb chops, about 1-inch thick
2 cups baby arugula
1 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves

Preparation

Combine 1/4 cup of the olive oil with the balsamic vinegar, and salt and pepper in a shallow baking dish. Peel the onions and cut them crosswise into 1/2-inch slices. Place them in the baking dish along with the lemon halves, turn to coat with the marinade (it's fine to stack the onion slices) and set aside.

Brush the lamb chops with 2 tablespoons of the remaining olive oil, generously season with salt and pepper, and let sit for 30 minutes at room temperature. Meanwhile, preheat the grill to medium/medium-high.

Grill the onions and the lamb chops for about 8 minutes, about 4 minutes on each side, so that they get nicely browned on both sides. Turn the onions with a grilling spatula (you can use a spatula or tongs for the lamb). At the same time, grill the lemons cut-side

down for about 5 minutes. The internal temperature of the lamb chops should be 130 degree F for medium rare.

Remove the chops and lemons from the grill and let sit on a cutting board for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, move the onions to a cooler area of the grill or turn the gas down, and let them continue to soften while the lamb and lemons sit, watching carefully to make sure the onions don't burn. While the chops sit and the onions finish cooking, place the arugula and parsley in a medium bowl. Drizzle with the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and toss. Place the lamb chops and onions on a serving platter. Pile the arugula and herb salad on top. Place the lemon halves on the side so people can squeeze them, or squeeze the juice yourself all over the meal and serve immediately. —AP



the athlete's foot sport with style

ATHLETE'S FOOT KICKS OFF BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON WITH A COUNTRY-WIDE PROMOTION

Kicking off back-to-school season with excitement in the air, The Athlete's Foot yesterday announced the launch of its annual back-to-school promotion. Offering customers KD5 savings on every KD25 spent in-store from August 9 to September 9, the country-wide store promotion offers big savings on school-approved apparel and footwear for children aged 3-18. The Athlete's Foot, a global retailer of lifestyle footwear, apparel and accessories for men, women and children offers a variety of footwear from lifestyle to casual-wear that are comfortable yet modern dedicated to sport with style, making it the ideal choice for any student in or outside of school.

With black and white school-

approved choices and products available to easily take you from class to recess or anywhere in between, all TAF purchases will receive KD5 off their total order for every KD25 spent in-store. Back-to-school items include backpacks, footwear, apparel and accessories from brands Adidas, Reebok, Nike, Puma, Asics, Skechers, and Eastpak available at TAF stores throughout Kuwait. The back-to school promotion is valid for all items in-store, and runs till September 9 across TAF stores located in The Avenues Mall, Discovery Mall, Al Fanar Complex, Gate Mall, Marina Mall, Promenade Mall, Sama Mall, Kout Mall, Souq Sharq, 360 Mall, Mishref Co-Op and Kuwait International Airport.

Indian Embassy

MESSAGE FROM INDIAN EMBASSY

The Government of India has a Scholarship Program for Diaspora Children (SPDC) Scheme which was previously applicable to NRIs & PIOs of 40 countries for undergraduate studies. Recently, this scheme has been revamped as highlighted below:-

(i) SPDC is now applicable to 66 countries including Kuwait.

(ii) The scheme is now applicable to four categories of applicants, ie:- Persons of Indian Origin; Non-Resident Indian; Children of Indian workers working in ECR countries; and Children of Indian workers in ECR countries & studying in India.

(iii) The number of scholarships has been increased from 100 to 150, out of which 50 seats are reserved for the Children of Indian workers in the two categories enumerated above in (ii).

(iv) The institutions that are covered

under this scheme are NITs, IITs, Schools of Planning and Architecture, "A" Grade institutions accredited by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) & recognized by UGC and other institutions covered under the DASA (Direct Admission of Students Abroad) scheme.

(v) Income-criteria is applicable to all the four categories in (ii) above.

(vi) Applicants will get scholarships after they obtain permission in the approved list of educational institutions.

2. All interested candidates for any queries, can communicate directly with P Bharadwaj, Deputy Secretary (OIA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, Telephone no. =91-11-24197952, E-mail: dsoia2@mea.gov.in

INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY - FLAG HOISTING

A Flag hoisting ceremony will be held at Indian Embassy Premises in the Diplomatic Enclave on Arabian Gulf Street on Monday, 15 August 2016. The event begins at 0800 hours to celebrate the 70th Independence Day of India. After unfurling of the tri-color National Flag, Ambassador will read out the message of the Hon'ble President of India. Thereafter, cultural pro-

gram with singing of patriotic songs will take place. There is an Open House Reception where light refreshments (Chhole, Bhatore, Gulab Jamun, tea, juice, water etc) will be served to all. All Indian nationals in Kuwait are most cordially invited to attend the Independence Day celebrations. (Please arrive by 0730 hours.)



KUWAIT: Items are displayed at the Souq Al-Hareem. Souq Al-Hareem is women's souq - an antique bazaar. — KUNA

STUDIES SHINE LIGHT ON MYSTERIOUS PLACENTA

'IT CAN ACTUALLY GROW. IT'S A DYNAMIC PIECE OF TISSUE'

WASHINGTON: Scientists carefully probe a placenta donated after birth, bluish umbilical cord still attached. This is the body's most mysterious organ, and inside lie clues about how it gives life - and how it can go awry, leading to stillbirth, preterm birth, even infections like the Zika virus, that somehow sneak past its protective barrier. In labs around the country, major research is underway to finally understand and monitor this floppy, bloody tissue that's often dismissed as the "afterbirth," the organ that lives about nine months and then gets thrown away.

The stakes are high. The placenta is the ultimate multitasker: It nourishes a fetus, acts as its lungs, kidneys and liver, provides immune defense, and even produces key hormones. "We take it for granted," said Dr. Catherine Spong of the National Institutes of Health, which has spurred a research boom with its \$50 million Human Placenta Project. "Yet there are lifelong implications for both the mother and the baby." Zika's shocking birth defects have brought into focus the desperate need to learn how a healthy placenta does its many jobs, and find treatments for when it is undermined.

Blood pressure complication

"Tomorrow there may be a new virus," warned Dr Yoel Sadovsky of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a leading placenta researcher. "If I was a virus and wanted to attack humans, probably the best time to do it was during pregnancy, where you're attacking the next generation." mDoctors have few tools today to examine a placenta during pregnancy. And precious as that donated placenta is for research, studying one that already ushered in a birth reveals only so much, like counting the rings in a downed tree to visualize the sapling. What scientists, and obstetricians, really need is a way to peek at how the placenta forms and changes in the different stages of pregnancy. That could help spot problems early - such as preeclampsia, a blood pressure complication that can be life-threatening to mother and baby. It affects up to 8 percent of pregnancies but typically isn't detected until the second trimester even though it's thought to stem from abnormal placenta formation.

How? In a Washington lab, engineer Avinash Eranki turns over the donated placenta, examining the side that attached to Mom. That outer layer is made up of cells called trophoblasts that had to invade the uterine wall and then burrow into maternal arteries, enlarging them to provide blood flow for the fetus. The theory: If those cells get off course and the blood vessels don't widen enough, the downstream effects of a placenta struggling to support the fetus eventually stress the mother's own organs. The research team at Children's National Health System is using a 3-D bioprinter to create a unique living model of how a human placenta forms, to mimic how trophoblasts create that blood supply. The printer deposits layer



WASHINGTON: Research and Development Engineer Avinash Eranki examines a donated placenta as researchers are working to create a 3D bioprinted version to study preeclampsia at Children's National Medical Center, in Washington. —AP photos



WASHINGTON: Examples of gels made from a 3D printed layer of a placenta capable of holding growing cells are used to study preeclampsia at Children's National Medical Center.

after layer of human cells and other substances they need to thrive.

Premature delivery

"It can actually grow. It's a dynamic piece of tissue," said researcher Che-Ying Kuo of the University of Maryland and Children's National, which is funding the work. Once it's complete, the model could help researchers test ways to detect brewing preeclampsia earlier, and intervene. Today, the only cure for severe cases is premature delivery of the baby. At the NIH, researchers are targeting another critical gap: It's hard to tell how much oxygen is reaching the fetus. Doctors rely on indirect measurements, such as during labor when fetal heart rate can signal problems even if the baby's fine. Biomedical engineer Afroz Anderson of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is developing a wireless device, called an oximeter, that uses near-infrared light to measure placental oxygen when held over mom's abdomen. Anderson, who is

testing the device in a model that mimics blood flowing through a placenta, sees its potential use during preeclampsia or when the fetus isn't growing properly. In a study planned for early next year, she'll team with military doctors to measure what's normal in healthy pregnant women.

German measles

"My biggest hope is if the oxygenation status would give a more accurate picture," so that "we don't have to go do a C-section because the baby's actually happy," said Dr Shad Deering, obstetrics chairman at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. "It's very exciting to see people focusing on the real-time changes that happen during a pregnancy and how those shape later outcomes," said Dr Anna Penn, a neonatologist at Children's National. She studies hormones the placenta produces that affect brain development, in search of protective therapies for premature infants. — AFP

CALIFORNIA'S RARE ISLAND FOX RETURNS FROM BRINK OF EXTINCTION

LOS ANGELES: Three groups of California's rare island fox were removed from the US endangered species list on Thursday, and a fourth was downgraded to threatened, marking the fastest recovery yet for an American mammal once deemed to be on the brink of extinction.

The population of the four subspecies in question on California's Channel Islands, which had plunged to fewer than 200 animals during the late 1990s, has bounced back to nearly 6,000 as of 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Service reported. The agency said the island fox rebound was hastened by an intense recovery program that included captive breeding of the animals, removal of feral pigs from the islands and reducing an influx of golden eagles from the mainland that had become an invasive predator.

Began vaccinating

Wildlife officials also began vaccinating the foxes against canine distemper, which remains a particular threat on Santa Catalina Island, the only island in the archipelago with a significant year-round civilian population. Hunting will not be an issue because the Catalina Island fox remains listed as threatened, and the de-listed subspecies inhabit the three largest of five other islands that comprise the Channel Islands National Park, where hunting is prohibited.

At the time they were formally listed as endangered in 2004, the fox populations on Santa Catalina, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Cruz islands had plunged by 90 percent from historic levels, and the four subspecies were given a 50 percent chance of going extinct within a decade.

As of last year, the population of all four groups had been restored to, or exceeded, historic levels, the Fish and Wildlife Service said. The island fox, one of America's rarest mammals, are diminutive cousins to the mainland gray fox. Roughly the size of a house cat, they weigh 3 to 5 pounds (1.4 to 2.3 kg) and stand about a foot (30.5 cm) tall. They exist nowhere on Earth but on the six largest of the eight Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California.

The subspecies on two of those islands, San Clemente and San Nicolas, were never listed. The two smallest islands, Santa Barbara and Anacapa, have no foxes. The de-listing of the island fox, 12 years after it was classified as endangered, now ranks as the quickest recovery for any mammal so protected. The next fastest was the Stellar sea lion, de-listed after 23 years in 2013, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. More than 99 percent of all plant and animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act have been prevented from going extinct since the law was enacted in 1973, the agency said. —Reuters

ITALIAN CARRIES ZIKA IN SPERM FOR RECORD SIX MONTHS

ROME: An Italian man carried Zika in his sperm for six months after showing the first symptoms of the virus, twice as long as in any previously reported case, according to a new study. Doctors at the Spallanzani Institute for Infectious Diseases in Rome said their monitoring of the now-recovered patient pointed to the possibility of the little-understood virus reproducing itself in the male genital tract. As a result, the potential for sexual transmission of a virus linked to babies being born with shrunken brains and skulls may be greater than previously thought.

The 30-year-old man began presenting symptoms including fever, fatigue and a skin rash during a visit to Haiti in January. On his return to Italy, tests showed the Zika Virus RNA was still present in his urine, saliva and sperm 91 days after the onset of symptoms. After 134 days it was only detectable in his sperm which remained positive after 188 days, the medics said in a report published this week in epidemiology review Eurosurveillance. That was over twice as long as the 93 days after symptoms onset registered by a 27-year-old Frenchman whose case was highlighted in British medical journal The Lancet last month. — AFP

STUDIES SHINE LIGHT ON MYSTERIOUS PLACENTA

'IT CAN ACTUALLY GROW. IT'S A DYNAMIC PIECE OF TISSUE'

WASHINGTON: Scientists carefully probe a placenta donated after birth, bluish umbilical cord still attached. This is the body's most mysterious organ, and inside lie clues about how it gives life - and how it can go awry, leading to stillbirth, preterm birth, even infections like the Zika virus, that somehow sneak past its protective barrier. In labs around the country, major research is underway to finally understand and monitor this floppy, bloody tissue that's often dismissed as the "afterbirth," the organ that lives about nine months and then gets thrown away.

The stakes are high. The placenta is the ultimate multitasker: It nourishes a fetus, acts as its lungs, kidneys and liver, provides immune defense, and even produces key hormones. "We take it for granted," said Dr. Catherine Spong of the National Institutes of Health, which has spurred a research boom with its \$50 million Human Placenta Project. "Yet there are lifelong implications for both the mother and the baby." Zika's shocking birth defects have brought into focus the desperate need to learn how a healthy placenta does its many jobs, and find treatments for when it is undermined.

Blood pressure complication

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WASHINGTON: Research and Development Engineer Avinash Eranki examines a donated placenta as researchers are working to create a 3D bioprinted version to study preeclampsia at Children's National Medical Center, in Washington. —AP photos



WASHINGTON: Examples of gels made from a 3D printed layer of a placenta capable of holding growing cells are used to study preeclampsia at Children's National Medical Center.

after layer of human cells and other substances they need to thrive.

Premature delivery

"It can actually grow. It's a dynamic piece of tissue," said researcher Che-Ying Kuo of the University of Maryland and Children's National, which is funding the work. Once it's complete, the model could help researchers test ways to detect brewing preeclampsia earlier, and intervene. Today, the only cure for severe cases is premature delivery of the baby. At the NIH, researchers are targeting another critical gap: It's hard to tell how much oxygen is reaching the fetus. Doctors rely on indirect measurements, such as during labor when fetal heart rate can signal problems even if the baby's fine. Biomedical engineer Afroz Anderson of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is developing a wireless device, called an oximeter, that uses near-infrared light to measure placental oxygen when held over mom's abdomen. Anderson, who is

testing the device in a model that mimics blood flowing through a placenta, sees its potential use during preeclampsia or when the fetus isn't growing properly. In a study planned for early next year, she'll team with military doctors to measure what's normal in healthy pregnant women.

German measles

"My biggest hope is if the oxygenation status would give a more accurate picture," so that "we don't have to go do a C-section because the baby's actually happy," said Dr Shad Deering, obstetrics chairman at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. "It's very exciting to see people focusing on the real-time changes that happen during a pregnancy and how those shape later outcomes," said Dr Anna Penn, a neonatologist at Children's National. She studies hormones the placenta produces that affect brain development, in search of protective therapies for premature infants. — AFP

CALIFORNIA'S RARE ISLAND FOX RETURNS FROM BRINK OF EXTINCTION

LOS ANGELES: Three groups of California's rare island fox were removed from the US endangered species list on Thursday, and a fourth was downgraded to threatened, marking the fastest recovery yet for an American mammal once deemed to be on the brink of extinction.

The population of the four subspecies in question on California's Channel Islands, which had plunged to fewer than 200 animals during the late 1990s, has bounced back to nearly 6,000 as of 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Service reported. The agency said the island fox rebound was hastened by an intense recovery program that included captive breeding of the animals, removal of feral pigs from the islands and reducing an influx of golden eagles from the mainland that had become an invasive predator.

Began vaccinating

Wildlife officials also began vaccinating the foxes against canine distemper, which remains a particular threat on Santa Catalina Island, the only island in the archipelago with a significant year-round civilian population. Hunting will not be an issue because the Catalina Island fox remains listed as threatened, and the de-listed subspecies inhabit the three largest of five other islands that comprise the Channel Islands National Park, where hunting is prohibited.

At the time they were formally listed as endangered in 2004, the fox populations on Santa Catalina, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Cruz islands had plunged by 90 percent from historic levels, and the four subspecies were given a 50 percent chance of going extinct within a decade.

As of last year, the population of all four groups had been restored to, or exceeded, historic levels, the Fish and Wildlife Service said. The island fox, one of America's rarest mammals, are diminutive cousins to the mainland gray fox. Roughly the size of a house cat, they weigh 3 to 5 pounds (1.4 to 2.3 kg) and stand about a foot (30.5 cm) tall. They exist nowhere on Earth but on the six largest of the eight Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California.

The subspecies on two of those islands, San Clemente and San Nicolas, were never listed. The two smallest islands, Santa Barbara and Anacapa, have no foxes. The de-listing of the island fox, 12 years after it was classified as endangered, now ranks as the quickest recovery for any mammal so protected. The next fastest was the Stellar sea lion, de-listed after 23 years in 2013, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. More than 99 percent of all plant and animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act have been prevented from going extinct since the law was enacted in 1973, the agency said. —Reuters

ITALIAN CARRIES ZIKA IN SPERM FOR RECORD SIX MONTHS

ROME: An Italian man carried Zika in his sperm for six months after showing the first symptoms of the virus, twice as long as in any previously reported case, according to a new study. Doctors at the Spallanzani Institute for Infectious Diseases in Rome said their monitoring of the now-recovered patient pointed to the possibility of the little-understood virus reproducing itself in the male genital tract. As a result, the potential for sexual transmission of a virus linked to babies being born with shrunken brains and skulls may be greater than previously thought.

The 30-year-old man began presenting symptoms including fever, fatigue and a skin rash during a visit to Haiti in January. On his return to Italy, tests showed the Zika Virus RNA was still present in his urine, saliva and sperm 91 days after the onset of symptoms. After 134 days it was only detectable in his sperm which remained positive after 188 days, the medics said in a report published this week in epidemiology review Eurosurveillance. That was over twice as long as the 93 days after symptoms onset registered by a 27-year-old Frenchman whose case was highlighted in British medical journal The Lancet last month. — AFP

TANZANIAN RATS WITH NOSE FOR TROUBLE TRAIN TO SAVE LIVES

'THEY CAN GO THROUGH 100 SAMPLES IN ABOUT 20 MINUTES'

MOROGORO, Tanzania: They have proven their worth in detecting landmines but Africa's giant pouched rats have a lesser-known but equally critical vocation - saving lives by speeding up tuberculosis detection. It's all in the nose, says the Belgian non-governmental organization APOPO. Its founders, in 1997, saw potential for these abundant rodents with a sense of smell as keen as a dog's but dismissed as pesty vermin-or a potential meal. "The biggest obstacle has been the negative perception that people have of the rat," said APOPO director Christophe Cox, whose NGO has been based in Morogoro in Tanzania's eastern highlands since 2000. Yet 83,000 landmines have been neutralized in Africa and Asia thanks to the rodents, APOPO says, saving countless lives where explosives still maim and kill up to 20,000 people-many of them children-each year. Eyebrows were also raised when the group-whose acronym stands for Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development-branched out in 2007 to use rats for TB detection, under contracts with local authorities.

'Quite efficient'

"When I first heard about this technique I was a bit shocked, but it proved to be quite efficient, in fact more efficient than the microscopy we use," said Daniel Magesa, a doctor at Pasada Upendano Clinic in the capital Dar es Salaam which now sends APOPO's Morogoro base some 200 human sputum samples every month. Africa accounts for most of the million-plus

people who die of TB each year and untreated carriers can infect dozens of others, making speedy detection essential. "The problem is the concentration of the TB in the samples we have. It is sometimes not concentrated enough for us to see it through the type of microscopy we use, even though it is very modern," Dr Magesa said.

"With the lack of resources, qualifications and time, hospitals in the region only detect about 50 percent of TB cases," said APOPO director Cox, a figure confirmed by Dr Magesa. Today, more than 29 hospitals in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro send the Morogoro lab sputum samples. Another dozen clinics in the Mozambique capital Maputo send samples to an APOPO center opened in that country in 2013. The NGO says it has detected 10,000 missed TB cases, identified by workers like Oprah and Violet, whiskers bristling as they move along a row of test tubes.

"The big advantage is how quick the rats are. They can go through 100 samples in about 20 minutes, and this is what a lab technician will take four days to do," said Cox. During TB detection, rats are presented with a mix of negative and positive samples, the latter decontaminated for safety "but the smell remains", said training director Haruni Ramadhan. When a rat identifies a "true" positive, it is rewarded with a banana-peanut butter mixture. "We can only reward the rat if we are certain it is right," Ramadhan said.

The negatives are not necessarily suspicious but become "suspect", and subjected to further testing, if the rat reacts.

"Thanks to the rats, we have increased (TB case) detection rates by 40 percent" in the participating clinics, said Cox-citing the same figure given by Dr Magesa. APOPO now employs 222 rats — 108 for demining and 42 TB detectors.

'A lot faster'

The others are breeders or still in training, like Jon Stewart and Stephen Hawking-year-old twins named for the US television star and the British scientist-who are hard at work, poking their noses in soil studded with deactivated mines. "In these boxes we have buried land mines, so the rats have to pass and sniff and whenever they find the smell of TNT ... he has to scratch strongly," said chief trainer Jared Mkumba. If they get it right, the instructor snaps a clicker, a signal that the rat can claim its reward, a bit of the banana-peanut butter concoction. After six to nine months' training, the "HeroRATS", as APOPO calls them, are sent to Mozambique, Angola and more recently Cambodia to comb former battle zones-but this is no suicide mission. At one to 1.5 kilograms (2.2 to 3.3 pounds), the rats are big enough to attach to a long, thin leash as they scan areas but light enough not to set off mines, which are cleared by human cohorts. Another plus is the African pouched rat's "long" lifespan, six to eight years, its affinity for repetitive tasks and its small size, which makes it easy to house, transport and feed. "This is a lot faster than traditional methods, because rats only detect mines while metal detectors will beep for every single piece of scrap," said Mkumba. — AFP



MOROGORO, Tanzania: This file photo shows an African giant pouched rat sniffing for traces of landmine explosives at APOPO's training facility in Morogoro. —AFP photos



MOROGORO, Tanzania: A lab technician holding an African giant pouched rat at APOPO's training facility in Morogoro.



MOROGORO, Tanzania: This file photo shows a lab technician looking at an African giant pouched rat sniffing samples at APOPO's training facility in Morogoro.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAF. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Kuwait CINEMA								
KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/08/2016 TO 17/08/2016)								
SHARQIA-1	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	11:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	4:45 PM	JASON BOURNE	3:45 PM		
	SUICIDE SQUAD	1:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	6:15 PM		
	SUICIDE SQUAD	4:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	9:30 PM	MIN 30 SANA	9:15 PM		
	MIN 30 SANA	6:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:05 AM	MIN 30 SANA	12:15 AM		
	MIN 30 SANA	9:30 PM						
	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM						
SHARQIA-2	THE BFG -3D	11:45 AM	MARINA-2	THE BFG	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.3	CELL	11:45 AM
	THE BFG	2:15 PM		FINDING DORY	2:00 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	2:00 PM
	THE BFG -3D	4:45 PM		THE BFG	4:15 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:30 PM
	THE BFG	7:15 PM		THE BFG	6:45 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	6:45 PM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	9:45 PM		THE BFG	9:15 PM		THE BFG -3D	9:00 PM
	THE BFG	12:15 AM		THE BFG	11:45 PM		THE BFG	11:30 PM
SHARQIA-3	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	12:15 PM	MARINA-3	CELL	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.4	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	11:30 AM
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:15 PM		MIN 30 SANA	1:30 PM		CELL	1:45 PM
	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	5:30 PM		MIN 30 SANA	4:30 PM		THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	4:00 PM
	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	8:30 PM		MIN 30 SANA	7:30 PM		THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	6:15 PM
	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	10:45 PM		CELL	10:30 PM		THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	8:30 PM
	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	1:00 AM		CELL	12:45 AM		CELL	10:45 PM
MUHALAB-1	MIN 30 SANA	1:00 PM	AVENUES-1	RUSTOM- Hindi	1:00 PM	BAIRAQ-1	THE BFG -3D	11:30 AM
	ABU SHANAB	1:30 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	4:00 PM		THE BFG -3D	2:00 PM
	BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	4:00 PM		RUSTOM- Hindi	7:00 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	2:00 PM
	BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	7:00 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	10:00 PM		THE BFG	4:30 PM
	BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	10:00 PM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	4:00 PM		THE BFG -3D	7:00 PM
	MIN 30 SANA	4:00 PM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	7:00 PM		THE BFG	9:30 PM
	MIN 30 SANA	7:00 PM		RIOT	10:00 PM		SUICIDE SQUAD	12:05 AM
	MIN 30 SANA	10:00 PM			1:00 AM			
	ABU SHANAB	1:00 AM	AVENUES-2	THE BFG -3D-4DX	12:15 PM	BAIRAQ-2	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:30 PM
MUHALAB-2	RUSTOM- Hindi	1:15 PM		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES	2:45 PM		FINDING DORY	3:45 PM
	BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	1:30 PM		THE BFG -3D-4DX	5:15 PM		MIN 30 SANA	6:00 PM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	4:15 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	7:45 PM		MIN 30 SANA	9:00 PM
	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:45 PM		THE BFG -3D-4DX	10:15 PM		MIN 30 SANA	12:05 AM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	9:45 PM		SUICIDE SQUAD -3D-4DX	12:45 AM	BAIRAQ-3	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	12:30 PM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM					THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:30 PM
MUHALAB-3	THE BFG	11:30 AM	AVENUES-3	MIN 30 SANA	12:00 PM		RUSTOM- Hindi	5:45 PM
	THE BFG -3D	2:00 PM		MIN 30 SANA	3:15 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	8:45 PM
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:30 PM		MIN 30 SANA	6:15 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:45 PM
	THE BFG -3D	6:45 PM		MIN 30 SANA	9:15 PM			
	THE BFG	9:15 PM		MIN 30 SANA	12:15 AM	PLAZA		
	THE BFG	11:45 PM	AVENUES-4	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	12:00 PM		RUSTOM- Hindi	3:30 PM
FANAR-1	THE CONJURING 2	12:30 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:00 PM		NO FRI	
	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:15 PM		MIN 30 SANA	5:30 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:30 PM
	MIN 30 SANA	5:45 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	8:30 PM		NO FRI+MON	
	MIN 30 SANA	8:45 PM		Special Show "THE CONJURING 2"	8:30 PM		RUSTOM- Hindi	9:30 PM
	MIN 30 SANA	11:45 PM		MIN 30 SANA	11:30 PM		NO THU+FRI+MON	
FANAR-2	SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM	360°-1	THE BFG -3D	12:00 PM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	3:30 PM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	2:15 PM		THE BFG -3D	2:30 PM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	6:30 PM
	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	4:45 PM		THE BFG	5:00 PM		FRI+MON	
	SUICIDE SQUAD	7:00 PM		THE BFG -3D	7:30 PM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	9:30 PM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	9:45 PM		THE BFG	10:00 PM		THU+FRI+MON	
	THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM		THE BFG	12:30 AM	LAILA	THE BFG	3:30 PM
FANAR-3	FINDING DORY	12:45 PM	360°-2	CELL	1:00 PM		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	6:00 PM
	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	3:00 PM		CELL	3:15 PM		NO THU	8:15 PM
	RUSTOM- Hindi	6:00 PM		THE NEON DEMON	5:30 PM		SUICIDE SQUAD	10:45 PM
	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	9:00 PM		CELL	7:45 PM	AJIAL.1	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	3:30 PM
	RUSTOM- Hindi	12:05 AM		THE NEON DEMON	10:00 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:30 PM
FANAR-4	THE BFG	12:00 PM	360°-3	RIOT	12:30 PM		MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	9:30 PM
	THE BFG	2:30 PM		RIOT	2:30 PM	AJIAL.2	RUSTOM- Hindi	4:30 PM
	THE BFG	5:00 PM		FINDING DORY	4:30 PM		RUSTOM- Hindi	7:15 PM
	THE BFG	7:30 PM		RIOT	6:45 PM		RUSTOM- Hindi	10:00 PM
	THE BFG	10:00 PM		RIOT	8:45 PM	AJIAL.3	BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	3:45 PM
	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM		RIOT	10:45 PM		THE BFG	4:15 PM
FANAR-5	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 PM		RIOT	12:45 AM		NO THU+FRI	
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:30 PM	AL-KOUT.1	THE BFG	12:00 PM		SULTAN- HINDI	6:45 PM
	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	5:45 PM		THE BFG	2:30 PM		THE BFG	10:00 PM
	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	8:00 PM		THE BFG	5:00 PM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	10:00 PM
	THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	10:15 PM		SUICIDE SQUAD	7:30 PM	AJIAL.4	THIRUNAAL- Tamil	3:30 PM
	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM		SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM		THIRUNAAL- Tamil	6:30 PM
MARINA-1	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:00 PM		SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM		BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	3:30 PM
	THE BFG	2:15 PM					BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	6:30 PM

ACCOMMODATION SITUATION WANTED

Room for rent, 2 big rooms with balcony, no electricity bill, near Jabriya Indian School, central A/C, block 10, St. 9. Mobile: 55706900, 55983570. (C 5201) 10-8-2016

Accountant - Indian, experienced having extensive knowledge in handling all kinds of accounts (including system establishment and management) right from JV to finalization and management reporting more than 20 years in the field now seeking full time or part time assignment with transferable iqama. Contact: 97934610 rasheedpni@hotmail.com (C 5199) 7-8-2016

LOST

It is notified for the information that my original certificates of secondary & senior school examinations of year 2009 and 2011, issued by CBSE has lost, Mohamed. (C 5200) 9-8-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS

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



EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 13/8/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
CLX	852	Luxembourg	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50
THY	1416	Bursa	04:05
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
RJD	132	Abu Dhabi	13:05
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
MSC	507	HRG	14:45
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
KAC	118	New York	17:00
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30

KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAV	621	Amman	19:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45
ETH	3612	Addis Ababa	23:59

Departure Flights on Saturday 13/8/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CLX	852	Sharjah	02:05
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
SYR	342	Damascus	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30

ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
RJA	649	Amman	10:15
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
MSC	508	HRG	15:45
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
IRM	1181	Mashhad	20:00
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
JAV	622	Amman	20:25
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
THY	1413	TZX	22:25
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
GFA	220	Bahrain	

Word Search Puzzles

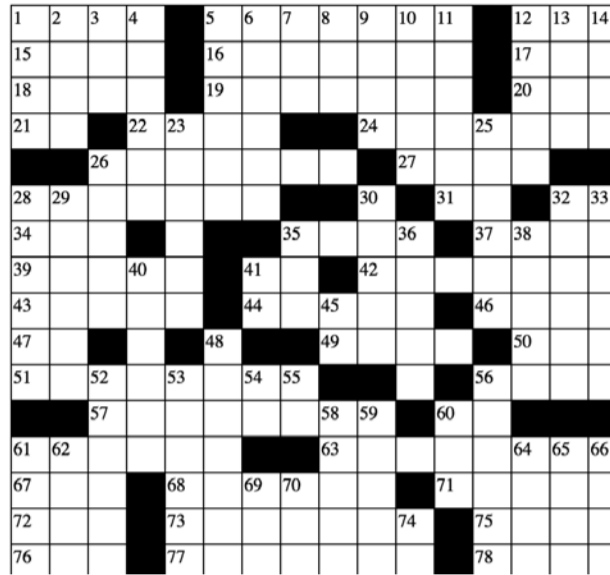
Geometry 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| APOTHEM | INTERSECT | SECANT |
| AREA | LEGS | SEGMENT |
| BISECT | OBTUSE | SIDE |
| CIRCLE | PERIMETER | SLOPE |
| COORDINATES | PERPENDICULAR | SPHERE |
| DIAMETER | PYRAMID | TANGENT |
| EQUIANGULAR | QUADRILATERAL | TRAPEZOID |
| HEIGHT | RHOMBUS | |

CROSSWORD 1341



ACROSS

- A fraudulent business scheme.
- Submersible vessel for one or two persons.
- A master's degree in business.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- Mites and ticks.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- Voluntary contributions to aid the poor.
- Enormous and diverse cosmopolitan genus of trees and shrubs and vines and herbs including many weeds.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
- Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
- A recurring sleep state during which rapid eye movements do not occur and dreaming does not occur.
- An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- A firearm that is held and fired with one hand.
- Minor or subordinate.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Social status or position conferred by a system based on class.
- French philosopher and critic.
- A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
- The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
- Two items of the same kind.
- A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- The basic unit of money in Iran.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Undergo resorption.
- (football) The person who plays tailback.
- Grayish baboon of southern and eastern Africa.
- Blood disorder in which there is excess fluid volume compared with the cell volume of the blood.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Feeling or showing extreme anger.

- Sour or bitter in taste.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- A republic in West Africa.
- Any of the forms of Chinese spoken in Fukien province.
- A chest in which coins from the mint are held to await assay.
- A member of a North American Indian people living on the California coast near Monterey.
- Lacking companions or companionship.

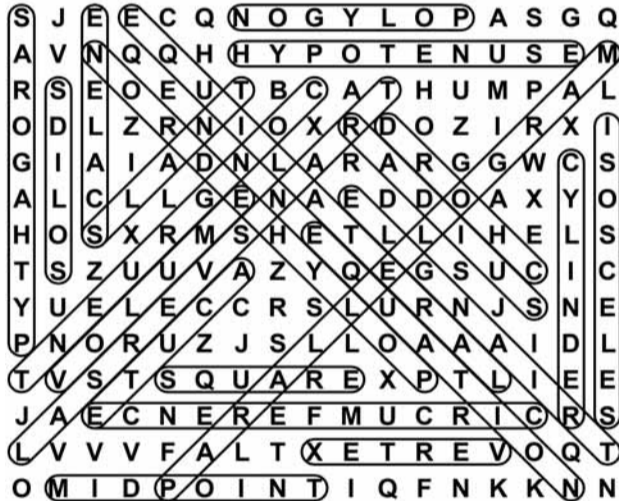
DOWN

- An unforeseen obstacle.
- City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
- A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- A seat with a cushion that is used as a throne by Indian princes.
- The capital of Lesotho.
- Someone who cuts and delivers ice.
- (British) Your grandmother.
- A strong emotion.
- Not in good physical or mental health.
- A member of the Uniat Church.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- Containing or made of or resembling or characteristic of a metal.
- Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- An elaborate song for solo voice.
- Being or dressed in clothes that are worn or torn.
- French soldier said to be fearless and chivalrous (1473-1524).
- Grind together, of teeth.
- Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
- A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
- A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
- A port city in southwestern Iran.
- A unit of length of thread or yarn.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- The basic unit of money in Saudi Arabia.
- An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
- A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
- A son who has the same first name as his father.
- The brightest star in Ursa Minor.
- A drug (trade names Atarax and Vistaril) used as a tranquilizer to treat anxiety and motion sickness.
- A figure of speech that expresses a resemblance between things of different kinds (usually formed with 'like' or 'as').
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- Of or like a cecum.
- A crude uncouth ill-bred person lacking culture or refinement.
- An Australian boomerang.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- A Loloish language.
- A written proposal or reminder.
- Extremely robust.
- Make amends for.
- The compass point that is one point south of due east.
- A fixed charge for a privilege or for professional services.
- An associate degree in nursing.

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Geometry 1 - Solution



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

Daily SuDoku

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

hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

RODRIGUEZ RALLY LIFTS YANKEES OVER RED SOX

BOSTON: Alex Rodriguez drove in a run with a bases-loaded dribbler, capping a three-run rally in the eighth inning that lifted the New York Yankees over the Red Sox 4-2 on Thursday night and sent the booed designated hitter out of Boston with one last victory. Rodriguez is set to play his final game for the Yankees on Friday night at home against Tampa Bay. The 41-year-old designated hitter will then be released and become an adviser and instructor for the club. Rodriguez was 0 for 4 and loudly jeered throughout the game that turned in the Yankees' favor on a crucial fielding mistake that allowed them to overcome a 2-1 deficit. Rodriguez lined out, popped out and struck out before his tapper in front of the plate in the eighth allowed Brett Gardner to score from third and put New York up 4-2. In 1994, Rodriguez was a teenager with Seattle when he got an infield single at Fenway Park for his first major league hit. Dellin Betances earned his third save, striking out Dustin Pedroia and Xander Bogaerts with runners at the corners to end it. Luis Cessa (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings. Brad Ziegler (0-3) got the loss.

CUBS 4, CARDINALS 3

Anthony Rizzo drew a bases-loaded walk from Zach Duke with two outs in the 11th inning as the Chicago Cubs beat St Louis for their 10th consecutive victory. Pinch-hitters Willson Contreras and Jorge Soler led off with singles against Duke (2-1) and Dexter Fowler walked to load the bases with one out. Kris Bryant struck out before Rizzo took a 3-1 pitch inside to give the Cubs their longest winning streak since 12 straight in 2001. Mike Montgomery (4-5) allowed a single and two walks to load the bases in the 11th before striking out Matt Carpenter. He won for the first time for Chicago since being acquired from Seattle last month. The Cardinals fell 13 games behind Chicago in the NL Central and lost Matt Holliday in the 10th after he was hit on the right hand by Mike Montgomery's 94 mph fastball.

ORIOLES 9, ATHLETICS 6

Mark Trumbo hit a grand slam for his major league-leading 32nd homer and drove in five runs to help Baltimore beat Oakland. The Orioles had been shut out for 17 straight innings and lost their lead in the AL East following three consecutive one-run losses in the series before Trumbo sparked them. The All-Star slugger hit an RBI single in a three-run fourth, then connected the next inning for his third career grand slam. Chris Tillman (15-4) allowed two runs over seven innings for his first victory since July 21. He's Baltimore's first 15-game winner since Bud Norris and Wei-Yin Chen in 2014. Zach Britton retired three batters for his AL-leading 35th save of the season and his 37th consecutive dating to last season. The A's loaded the bases in the ninth after a replay overturn before Britton got Danny Valencia to ground out to end it. Andrew Triggs (0-1) was the loser.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, METS 0

Last-place Arizona rattled New York's Noah Syndergaard with four more stolen bases, then broke it open in a six-run sixth inning that included Chris Owings' bases-loaded triple. Braden Shipley (2-1) pitched three-hit ball over seven innings in his fourth big league start to help the Diamondbacks sweep the three-game series. Zack Godley and Dominic Leone finished the five-hitter. After brushing aside Syndergaard (9-7), the Diamondbacks began their sixth-inning burst against Jon Niese with Tuffy Gosewisch's leadoff homer. Owings had his second straight three-hit game, finishing with a sin-

gle, double and triple. Arizona had 13 stolen bases in the series - one shy of Baltimore's season total, three more than the Diamondbacks' previous mark for any series and the most in a three-game series against the Mets. Paul Goldschmidt had two of them, and Socrates Brito and Shipley one each. Runners have swiped 36 bases in 40 tries against Syndergaard this year and are 51 for 56 against him in his career, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

ROYALS 2, WHITE SOX 1

Danny Duffy pitched his first complete game to win his eighth straight decision, and

straight road games. Chris Devenski (1-4) won the second game for his first major league victory. Tommy Milone (3-4) was the loser. In the opener, Altuve also had three RBIs and three runs, and Marwin Gonzalez tied a career high with four hits. Doug Fister (11-7) was the winner, and Jose Berrios (2-3) the loser. Kennys Vargas homered from each side of the plate for Minnesota.

ROCKIES 12, RANGERS 9

Pinch-hitter Carlos Gonzalez had a bases-clearing double in a five-run, eighth-inning rally as Colorado held on to end AL West-leading Texas' winning streak at five games.

nated hitter Carlos Santana left with a concussion on the right side of his head after being struck by a foul ball while standing in the dugout during the fifth inning. Santana hit his 25th homer to lead off the first inning. Napoli's three-run homer, his 29th, highlighted a four-run fifth. He had an RBI double in the second. Chisenhall added a three-run double when Cleveland scored five times in the first. Corey Kluber (12-8) allowed three runs in six innings. Mike Trout homered in the first for Los Angeles, which has dropped seven straight - its longest losing streak since 2010. Jhoulys Chacin (2-6) was the loser.



NEW YORK: Jay Bruce #19 of the New York Mets hits a three run home run against the New York Yankees during the fifth inning of a game at Yankee Stadium. — AFP

Cheslor Cuthbert had two hits and drove in a run in Kansas City's victory over Chicago. Duffy (9-1) limited the White Sox to seven singles, struck out six and walked none. He has not lost since June 6 and has a 1.73 ERA in his past five starts. Cuthbert tripled home Jarrod Dyson in the sixth. Dyson was initially called out trying to steal second, but the Royals appealed and the call was overturned. Cuthbert then scored the go-ahead run on Eric Hosmer's single off Carson Fulmer (0-2).

ASTROS 10, TWINS 2

Evan Gattis homered and had four RBIs and Carlos Correa went deep for the third straight game as Houston Astros beat Minnesota 10-2 to sweep a split doubleheader. Houston had 16 hits after a season-high 19 in a 15-7 afternoon victory. The doubleheader was necessitated by a rainout Wednesday night, a game Minnesota led 5-0 in the third before the storms hit. Jose Altuve had four hits in the first game and was 1 for 4 in the second. He leads the majors with a .365 batting average and has reached base in 41

After David Dahl drew a bases-loaded walk from Matt Bush with two outs to tie it at 9, Gonzalez doubled into the left-center gap. Texas tied it at 7 when Adrian Beltre and Mitch Moreland hit back-to-back homers to start the seventh. Elvis Andrus had an RBI double later in the inning after twice failing to get down a bunt, and another run came home on Ian Desmond's grounder to make it 9-7. But Colorado rallied in the eighth when lefty Jake Diekman (3-2) gave up a walk and consecutive singles to left-handers before Bush relieved him. Scott Oberg (1-1) was the winner, and Adam Ottavino pitched the ninth for his first save. Charlie Blackmon homered, doubled and singled twice for Colorado. Rougned Odor had an RBI triple and a two-run homer for the Rangers.

INDIANS 14, ANGELS 4

Mike Napoli was 4 for 4 with a homer and four RBIs and Lonnie Chisenhall drove in four to help Cleveland rout the Los Angeles Angels in a game delayed by rain in the fourth and seventh innings. Indians desig-

PIRATES 4, PADRES 0

Rookie Jameson Taillon pitched three-hit ball for eight innings and David Freese drove in two runs to help Pittsburgh beat San Diego. Taillon (3-2) struck out four and walked two. Neftali Feliz got two outs in the ninth, and also gave up a single and a walk. Tony Watson got his fourth save by striking out Jabari Blash. Josh Harrison hit a leadoff double in the first off Christian Friedrich (4-8) and scored on Freese's single. Freese had an RBI double in the third and scored on Gregory Polanco's single. Harrison singled home a run in the fourth. Starling Marte snapped an 0-for-12 streak with two hits.

BREWERS 11, BRAVES 3

Matt Garza won his third straight start, and Chris Carter, Scooter Gennett and Hernan Perez homered in Milwaukee's victory over Atlanta. Garza (4-4) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings. Roberto Hernandez (1-1) was the loser. Erick Aybar homered for the Braves. — AP

SRI LANKA LICKS LIPS ON 'SPINNERS' PARADISE'

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's captain Angelo Mathews predicted more trouble ahead yesterday for Australia's beleaguered batsmen in the final Test, saying the pitch in Colombo would be a "spinners' paradise". Mathews' side have already taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series and now have the chance to register their first whitewash against a major team since gaining Test status in 1981.

Australia's batsmen have found Sri Lanka's trio of spinners-Rangana Herath, Dilruwan Perera and Lakshan Sandakan-unplayable at times and have only scored one half-century between them in the first two Tests. The Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) is traditionally a high-scoring venue but Mathews expected it to assist his spinners from the off as he made clear Sri Lanka were in no mood to go easy on their visitors.

"It's going to be a turner. SSC traditionally has been good for batting, but since late it has helped spin bowling a lot," Mathews told reporters on the eve of the match. "It will turn from day one and it will be a spinners' paradise once again." After being soundly beaten in the first two Tests in Pallekele and Galle, the Australians are now in danger of losing their status as Test cricket's number one ranked side if they go down 3-0. "We are not satisfied with 2-0 we need to go for a 3-0 whitewash," Mathews said. "We are excited. Everyone is geared up and not taken the foot off the gas. "We have trained extremely hard in the last couple of days. Hopefully we can go out there once again and beat the Aussies again." Mathews indicated that Sri Lanka, who have been troubled by the recent injuries to their fast bowlers, could call up medium-pacer Suranga Lakmal in place of Vishwa Fernando in their starting XI.

Voges injury doubt

His opposite number Steve Smith held back from naming his line-up as he revealed that batsman Adam Voges was an injury doubt. "We will wait till the toss. We are waiting on Adam Voges who has some issues with his hamstring from the last game, so we will see how it goes," Smith said. Australia, who were handed a ceremonial mace at the start of the series to mark their ascent to the top of the Test rankings, could be overtaken by both England and India by the time they return home.

A whitewash would revive unfortunate memories of their last tour of the sub-continent in 2013, when they lost all four Tests against India in a series which was marred by a spat between senior players. Smith played down the significance of losing the number one spot to India or England, who are leading their respective series against the West Indies and Pakistan. "I haven't really thought about the ranking to be perfectly honest with you," Smith said.

"It's been a disappointing series from all aspects so far, so this is another opportunity to play in the sub-continent on what looks like another tough wicket. "I dare say it will take a bit of spin like the last two ones. So for us we haven't been good enough on these wickets so far." Despite their struggles in the first two Tests in Pallekele and Galle, Smith said Australia's batsmen would still play with a positive mindset. "You have to think proactively. If you sit there and try and defend all day, one's going to have your name on it. So you have to be willing to play with a bit of courage to take the game on," said Smith. — AFP



LONDON: Pakistan's Asad Shafiq (R) bats during play on the second day of the fourth test cricket match between England and Pakistan at the Oval. —AFP

SHAFIQ LEADS PAKISTAN RESISTANCE IN 4TH TEST

LONDON: Asad Shafiq put the disappointment of a pair last time out behind him with a stylish unbeaten half-century as Pakistan made inroads into England's first-innings lead in the fourth Test at The Oval. Pakistan were 196 for three in reply to England's 328 at tea on Friday's second day, a deficit of 132 runs, as they battled to square the four-match series at 2-2.

Shafiq was 79 not out and Younis Khan 26 not out, their unbroken stand so far worth 69 runs. Shafiq, dropped on seven, had twice been out for nought during England's 141-run win in the third Test at Edgbaston last week. Pakistan resumed on three for one following the loss of opener Sami Aslam late on Thursday after England's middle-order, led by Moeen Ali's 108, had bailed the side out from their latest top-order collapse after captain Alastair Cook had won the toss.

Azhar, promoted to open after his century at Edgbaston, and nightwatchman Yasir Shah were both nought not out. Chris Woakes was denied his customary wicket in the first over of a spell when

Shah, on 21, edged the all-rounder to gully only for Alex Hales to drop the two-handed catch. But having done his nightwatchman duty by getting through the first hour, Shah fell for 26 when he nicked fast bowler Steven Finn to second slip, where Joe Root held a juggling catch that ended a stand of 49 and left Pakistan 52 for two.

Shafiq avoided a third straight nought by getting off the mark with a cover-driven four off Finn. England had to rearrange their cordon after James Vince, usually at third slip for the quicks, was unable to field close in after suffering a finger injury trying to take a catch at Edgbaston. Vince, still playing at The Oval but stationed away from the bat, saw his place at third slip taken by James Anderson when England's all-time leading wicket-taker wasn't bowling.

Fielding issues

Poor close catching had mainly been a Pakistan problem this series but Woakes was again denied a wicket when a diving Anderson at third slip dropped Shafiq on

seven-the hardest of all the three chances England had missed come tea. Azhar, on 35, was then given a reprieve when he pushed a drive back at Finn only for the 6ft 7in bowler to drop the low chance despite getting both hands to the ball, with Pakistan then 91 for two. With blue and sunny skies, allied to a good pitch, offering some of the best batting conditions of the series, it was a miss England could ill afford. Pakistan were 97 for two at lunch, with Azhar 36 not out and Shafiq unbeaten on 24. Shafiq lofted Ali for six over long-on but Azhar fell one shy of a fifty when he gloved an attempted sweep against the off-spinner and was caught behind by wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow, although it needed a review to confirm the dismissal. Azhar faced 113 balls, including nine fours, and added 75 for the third wicket with Shafiq. But Shafiq did get to fifty, in 75 balls, when he expertly late cut Ali for the seventh four of his innings. Flags above The Oval pavilion flew at half-mast in honor of legendary Pakistan batsman Hanif Mohammad, who died aged 81 on Thursday. — AFP

CONTE PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON CHELSEA FLOPS

LONDON: As Antonio Conte gesticulated wildly on the touchline, the Chelsea manager felt his voice cracking and took a moment to register a sensation that spells bad news for his club's underachieving stars. Possessing a menacing glare that suggests he isn't to be trifled with, the no-nonsense Conte has swaggered into Stamford Bridge determined to shake up a squad that went stale during their woeful Premier League title defense-even if it means he loses his voice in the process.

After two years in charge of the Italian national team, Conte is making the most of his return to the day to day cut and thrust of club management. Drilling his new players for up to six hours on the training pitch in the blazing California heat during Chelsea's pre-

season tour, the 47-year-old's ferocious work ethic quickly became clear. Conte used a megaphone to shout instructions at his players during the early days of his managerial career and although he hasn't gone to that extreme at Chelsea yet, the Italian has made his feelings known as vocally as possible and his throat has taken the brunt of those tirades.

"I like to follow the training session with my voice. To call at them and explain my reasons and my ideas of football. During the game it can be very difficult for my throat," said former Juventus midfielder Conte, whose reputation for tenacity during his playing days has followed him into the dug-out. Hired by Juventus in 2011 after earning his managerial stripes with promotions at Bari and Siena,

Conte won three consecutive Serie A titles to go with the five he earned as a player in Turin.

Fractured

It is that ability to make an immediate impact that most appealed to Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, who is betting the new boss can heal a fractured dressing room that spiraled out of control last season. Amid widespread reports that several key players were so tired of previous boss Jose Mourinho's hardline style that they effectively downed tools, Conte has arrived to find a squad in desperate need of fresh motivation.

"When you finish 10th it means there are problems. Don't forget the past because it teaches us a lot but the important thing in

this situation is to think of the present," Conte said. "There are problems and we are here to solve them. The situation is not easy. It is important to stay together in this moment." Cesc Fabregas, Diego Costa and Oscar were among those reported to have fallen out of love with Mourinho, but Conte seems unlikely to soothe any bruised egos.

After assessing their performances in pre-season, Conte has already learnt enough to know who he can trust and he struck a stern note when asked about his transfer plans following a friendly win over AC Milan. "I think this match told me a lot - about the players who can go on loan or we can sell. It was important because I have a more clear idea than before," he said. —AFP

5 YOUNG PREMIER LEAGUE TALENTS TO WATCH OUT FOR

LONDON: AFP Sports picks five young talents that could shine in the English Premier League this season:

Marcus Rashford (Manchester United)

Everything so far has gone swimmingly well for the 18-year-old, one genuine success Louis van Gaal could point to in terms of bringing him into the side when pretty much all else didn't go right for the Dutchman. However, now the England forward—who showed more spark and invention in a cameo appearance at the end of the Iceland Euro 2016 debacle than anyone else had done that evening — faces two challenges. One is to maintain his progress, having lost that element of surprise, and another is to convince new manager Jose Mourinho that youth, not experience, can be more effective. 'The Special One' was at pains at his unveiling press conference to dismiss suggestions he didn't favor youth. How Rashford fares under him may well reflect the truth of that statement.

Ramadan Sobhi (Stoke City)

At £5 million (6m euros, \$6.5m), Sobhi could prove to be one of the signings of the close season. The 19-year-old winger has been compared to one of Egypt's greatest players, Mohamed Aboutrika. He already has six full caps to his name and made his league debut for Egyptian giants Al Ahly aged 16. Played a huge role in Al Ahly winning the title last season under former Tottenham Hotspur boss Martin Jol. Another Egyptian great, Mido, has no concerns about him stepping up a few levels in the Premier League, although he preached patience. "The most important thing for me is he has the character, he has a big personality and is not scared of big occasions," Mido told the Stoke City website.

Lewis Cook (Bournemouth)

For a 19-year-old, Cook arrives with a lot of playing experience having shone for fallen giants Leeds United over the past two seasons. The midfielder was named Football League Young Player of the Year last season—previous winners include Dele Alli and Gareth Bale—and knows what it is to win trophies having been a member of the England Under-17 side that won the European Championship in 2014. He is likely to get a fair bit of playing time and should come along nicely under the tutelage of Eddie Howe. Despite Bournemouth defying the odds and staying up last season, Cook may find a lot of responsibility falling on his young shoulders in what looks sure to be a battle for survival this term. He did that admirably at Leeds but in a higher echelon it is asking a lot of such a young talent.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg (Southampton)

Southampton may have once again lost several established stars but in the 21-year-old Danish international midfielder they could have acquired a real gem — certainly Saints think so in paying a reported £12.8 million (\$16.6m, 15m euros) to Bayern Munich. Despite getting off to a good start with Pep Guardiola at Bayern they eventually fell out and he was loaned to firstly Augsburg—where he flourished—and then Schalke. Ostensibly a defensive midfielder, has also been used out wide. Faces a big task in replacing midfield enforcer Tottenham-bound Victor Wanyama but he will be determined to prove to Guardiola, now at Manchester City, that he made an error in banishing him when he was at Bayern.

Ben Chilwell (Leicester City)

Claudio Ranieri has made superhuman efforts to persuade established stars such as Jamie Vardy to sign new contracts with mixed success. However, Chilwell's decision to sign a five-year deal could be equally as significant for the 19-year-old is a very highly regarded left-back. He has played for England up to Under-21 level and Ranieri ensured he got some regular first-team play by shrewdly loaning him out to Huddersfield Town last season before recalling him. Yet to make his Premier League debut but is an option to replace the 30-year-old Austrian Christian Fuchs in the first team. —AFP



MANCHESTER: This file photo taken on September 15, 2015 shows Juventus' midfielder from France Paul Pogba celebrating a goal during a UEFA Champions League group stage football match between Manchester City and Juventus at the Etihad stadium. — AFP

TOP 10 PREMIER LEAGUE TRANSFERS FOR 2016-17

LONDON: Ahead of the new Premier League season, AFP Sport runs down the 10 biggest incoming transfers of the close season (all fees as reported by British media):

PAUL POGBA

Juventus to Manchester United, 89 million pounds

The close season's most long-running transfer saga concluded with France midfielder Pogba returning to former club United in a world-record move. Allowed to leave Old Trafford in 2012 after failing to win over legendary United manager Alex Ferguson, the rangy 23-year-old midfielder with the dazzling haircuts and blistering shot returns as one of the biggest names in the sport.

JOHN STONES

Everton to Manchester City, 47.5 million pounds

Elegant centre-back Stones, 22, became the biggest signing of the Pep Guardiola era at City after joining from Everton in a deal that made him the second most expensive defender in history behind David Luiz of Paris Saint-Germain. The former Barnsley player had a difficult final season at Everton and did not play a single minute of England's doomed Euro 2016 campaign, but his ball-playing abilities make him very much a Guardiola player.

LEROY SANE

Schalke to Manchester City, 37 million pounds

Winger Sane, 20, arrives in England with a burgeoning reputation. After scoring eight goals in 33 Bundesliga appearances last season, he was named in Germany's Euro 2016 squad and made a

late substitute appearance in their semi-final defeat by hosts France.

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC

Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) to Manchester United, free

Ibrahimovic did not cost United a penny in terms of a transfer fee, but the charismatic 34-year-old Sweden star could prove to have the biggest impact of all the division's new recruits. After four breath-taking years in France, where he won four Ligue 1 titles and became PSG's record scorer, Ibrahimovic has rejoined forces with Mourinho, with whom he previously worked at Inter Milan.

GRANIT XHAKA

Borussia Moenchengladbach (GER) to Arsenal, 35 million pounds

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger moved to address longstanding concerns about the lack of bite in his team's midfield by sanctioning a big-money move for Switzerland international Xhaka. The 23-year-old was an ever-present for his country at Euro 2016.

SADIO MANE

Southampton to Liverpool, 34 million pounds

After two fine seasons with Southampton, during which he scored 25 goals in all competitions, 24-year-old Senegal flier Mane left St Mary's to join Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool revolution. Mane holds the record for the fastest Premier League hat-trick, having scored three times in two minutes and 56 seconds during Southampton's 6-1 win over Aston Villa in May 2015.

MICHY BATSHUAYI

Marseille to Chelsea, 33.2 million pounds

A cunning and unorthodox striker, 22-year-old Belgium international Batshuayi moved to Chelsea following a prolific season at Marseille in which he scored 23 goals. With incoming Chelsea coach Antonio Conte expected to deploy a two-man strike-force, he could start the season up front alongside Diego Costa.

N'GOLO KANTE

Leicester City to Chelsea, 30 million pounds

The indefatigable driving force behind Leicester City's fairytale title triumph, France international Kante became the first of Claudio Ranieri's stars to jump ship when he left for Chelsea. In the words of former Leicester coach Steve Walsh: "No matter who we're playing, we play three in midfield—Danny Drinkwater in the middle and Kante either side."

ERIC BAILLY

Villarreal (ESP) to Manchester United, 30 million pounds

Centre-back Bailly, 22, became Jose Mourinho's first signing as United manager when he arrived from Villarreal in June on an initial four-year contract. An Ivory Coast international, he made six appearances as his country won the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations in Equatorial Guinea.

GABRIEL JESUS

Palmeiras (BRA) to Manchester City, 31 million pounds

Dubbed 'The New Neymar', 19-year-old starlet Jesus reportedly turned down an opportunity to play alongside the Brazil megastar at Barcelona in order to link up with Guardiola in Manchester. He will be loaned back to Palmeiras until the end of the year before joining up with his new team-mates in January. — AFP

VIVA BRIEFS REAL MADRID TRAINING PLAYERS

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, held a briefing session, for 16 players who will participate in Real Madrid Soccer School's training program organized by VIVA in cooperation with Real Madrid Soccer School "RMSS" in Spain, to brief them about the academy's rules and regulations before travelling to Madrid between 31 August and 7 September 2016.

Players were selected from over 400 participants who joined the RMSS tryouts, held in last May, and will get the opportunity to travel to Madrid to join a training camp to get trained by famous soccer team coaches. A team from VIVA in addition to professionals and coaches will accompany the players to ensure their safety. Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at

VIVA said: "RMSS is one of the initiatives that VIVA aims to support the youth through it, enhance their skills and grant them the opportunity to learn and communicate with international and professional coaches to earn the needed experience that lead them to fulfill their dreams."

A judging committee from RMSS chose the top 16 players. Each of them were judged based on their foot-balling capability

and talent, physical fitness, discipline, their communication skills amongst each other as players and their general conduct on and off the field. The training program focused on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing. The programs were also designed to develop young players in other fields, such as tactical understanding, and mental, physical and social growth.

BAYERN AND DORTMUND RENEW RIVALRY IN GERMAN SUPER CUP

BERLIN: Few fans place too much importance on the German Super Cup but the participation of old rivals Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund is giving the traditional season curtain-raiser an extra edge. Tomorrow's game at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion provides an opportunity to measure their readiness for the season, which starts in full with German Cup ties the following weekend and the first round of the Bundesliga the weekend after that.

New Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti has overseen a quiet summer by the club's usual standards, but the Italian has the luxury of inheriting a side that is hard to improve after four consecutive league titles. Exciting Portugal youngster Renato Sanches and former Dortmund captain Mats Hummels are the only additions, with the club allowing Mario Goetze to return to Dortmund, accompanied by Sebastian Rode, with defenders Medhi Benatia and Serdar Tasci also leaving. Young forward Patrick Wehrauch has joined second-division Wuerzburger Kickers.

Ancelotti's tenure will not be judged on success in the Super Cup, but on finishing the job predecessor Pep Guardiola was brought in to do - winning the Champions League. The Italian tactician has managed that feat three times already, twice with Milan and once with Real Madrid. As for domestic football, continued domination of the Bundesliga is almost a prerequisite at Bayern. Dortmund counterpart Thomas Tuchel is under no such pressure in his second season, despite overseeing a commendable upturn in fortune in his first by restoring the club's status as Bayern's chief rival. Dortmund pushed Bayern nearly to the end in the Bundesliga last season, while Guardiola's side needed penalties to beat Tuchel's team in the German Cup final.

Tuchel has to rebuild the side this season following the summer departures of key players Hummels, Ilkay Gundogan and Henrikh Mkhitaryan. Midfielder Moritz Leitner became the latest to leave Friday, switching to Lazio on a four-year deal. Goetze's return and fellow German international Andre Schuerrle's switch from Wolfsburg have grabbed the headlines, though exciting attacking midfielder Ousmane Dembele has also raised expectations of another high-scoring campaign. Dortmund scored more goals (82) than any other side in the Bundesliga last season.

The additions of Rode from Bayern, Marc Bartra from Barcelona, fellow defender Raphael Guerreiro of Portugal, and midfielders Emre Mor and Mikel Merino have eased worries over the departures' impact. The Super Cup is Ancelotti's first competitive game in charge of Bayern and the first meeting between the sides since the German Cup final. There will be more important matches later in the season but neither will want to lose face in the first. — AP



CARSON: This file photo taken on July 29, 2016, shows Leicester City's Italian coach Claudio Ranieri (3rd L) with his players during a training session at StubHub Center. — AFP

CHAMPIONS LEICESTER CITY FIRE PREMIER LEAGUE STARTING GUN

LONDON: Three months and six days after their glittering coronation as Premier League champions, Claudio Ranieri's Leicester City launch the new season with a trip to promoted Hull City today. The novelty of their 5,000-1 triumph is still to wear off, but Leicester are already looking to the future. Midfield lynchpin N'Golo Kante and transfer mastermind Steve Walsh have both left, but the club have signed several new recruits and Ranieri is determined to ensure they do not fall off the map.

"We're building and slowly getting better. It's important to forget last season and build our squad," said the Italian, who has signed a new four-year contract. "I am very curious. All the world is curious (about) what will happen with Leicester. I am very curious to see where we finish. "Last season we made something unbelievable. But now the big teams will come back, I am sure." Ranieri could hand league debuts to several players today. Nampalys Mendy, Kante's replacement, and 16.6 million pounds (\$21.5 million, 19.3 million euros) record signing Ahmed Musa are among those in contention.

Ranieri's men had a mixed pre-season, losing heavily to Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona, but Manchester United needed a late Zlatan Ibrahimovic goal to beat them in last Sunday's Community

Shield. Leicester's odds of retaining the title are 33-1 and with United, Manchester City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool all strengthening, they are tipped to fall out of the Champions League places. In any case, they could scarcely have asked for better opening day opposition than crisis club Hull.

Steve Bruce resigned as manager three weeks ago, reportedly in frustration over the club's lack of transfer activity, and Hull approach the campaign with a threadbare squad that does not feature one senior signing. Tottenham, who fell away to finish third after threatening to pip Leicester to the title, open their campaign at Everton. The Spurs team that starts the new season will be very similar to the one that finished the last one, with Mauricio Pochettino at the helm and the first-choice XI largely unchanged.

'World championship of managers'

"When you spend a lot of money it's because you are worried about your squad and desperate to improve it," Pochettino said. "I'm very happy with my players and because of that I'm very quiet and relaxed. I trust my squad 100 percent." It has been all change at Everton, where Ronald Koeman has succeeded Roberto Martinez as manager and Wales captain Ashley Williams has come in to

replace the Manchester City-bound John Stones.

Stones could make his debut against Sunderland today, when Pep Guardiola leads City in a competitive fixture for the first time. The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach has sanctioned around 150 million pounds in transfer spending, but Stones and Spanish winger Nolito are likely to be the only new recruits at his disposal this weekend. There is an expectation that the season will be defined by the resumption of the rivalry between Guardiola and his former Real Madrid nemesis Jose Mourinho, who takes Manchester United to Bournemouth on Sunday.

Ibrahimovic, Eric Bailly and Henrikh Mkhitaryan could get their first taste of English league football at the Vitality Stadium. But the game is likely to come too soon for Paul Pogba, who completed his world-record 89 million pounds return to United from Juventus earlier this week. The first heavyweight clash of the season arrives on Sunday, when Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool, who crushed Barcelona 4-0 in a recent friendly, visit Arsene Wenger's Arsenal. With Klopp, Guardiola, Mourinho, Ranieri, Pochettino and Chelsea's Antonio Conte all jostling for position on the start line, Wenger has dubbed this season "the world championship of managers".—AFP



Rio 2016™



TRACK & FIELD

RUDISHA CRUISES BUT KEEPS MUM ON COACH

RIO DE JANEIRO: David Rudisha cruised into the semi-finals of the men's 800m yesterday but kept mum on the Kenyan coach sent home in disgrace after having tried to impersonate an athlete for a doping test. Sprint coach John Anzrah offered a urine sample in place of 800m medal hope Ferguson Rotich, who finished fourth in last year's world championships in Beijing.

Anzrah was immediately sent home by the Kenyan Olympic Committee, but with no action having yet been taken against Rotich, the 800m runner competed in yesterday's heats and duly qualified for Saturday's semi-finals. Rotich did not linger long under the eye of the media, sprinting past awaiting journalists after his race. A third Kenyan, Alfred Kipketer, also shook off questions. "I don't know, I don't know," a flustered Kipketer answered when asked about the Rotich situation.

Rudisha fired out a warning to rivals on the track at the Olympic Stadium, pulling away at 600m to clock the fastest qualifying time of 1min 45.09sec and will be joined in the semi-finals by a host of favourites including Djibouti's Ayanleh Souleiman, Bosnian Amel Tuka, Poland's Adam Kszczot and American Boris Berian. Botswana's Commonwealth champion and 2012 Olympic silver medalist Nijel Amos, however, failed to make the cut, fading down the home stretch to come in 5sec down on the lead time.

"It was good," said Rudisha, whose world record, gold medal-winning run at the London Games was one of the performances of those Olympics. "It was just cruising to qualify for the semis tomorrow, which is main part of the competition as you have to secure your place in the final. "I'm in good form, there's no doubt about that. I'm very confident because I'm finding my finishing power in the last 100m, so I think I'm in a position to control my races again." Rudisha admitted to feeling the pressure of defending his title over the two-lap race. "There is a lot of pressure, of course, coming here as defending champion, as a world record holder and as a world champion. There's a lot of expectation," he said.

"Last year and this year are completely different. I feel like I'm in better form, almost like my good years between 2010-12. "My training's been going well. I haven't been performing well in some of the races I've had. "I had a bad start in Shanghai, I came to Stockholm in bad weather. It only improved in Birmingham in the 600m and Budapest where I ran the world leading time." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: An overview shows Spain's power forward Felipe Reyes (L), Nigeria's power forward Ike Diogu (C) and Spain's centre Pau Gasol (R) eye a rebound during a Men's round Group B basketball match between Nigeria and Spain at the Carioca Arena 1. —AFP

SPAIN GETS FIRST WIN DESPITE SECURITY SCARE



BASKETBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Spain tipped off in an eerily empty arena due to a security scare but the 2012 silver medalists finally showed up on the court for an all-important first Olympic basketball win on Thursday. After last-second losses in their first two games, Spain claimed a 96-87 win over Nigeria in a match-up of winless teams desperate for a "W", led by 16 points from veteran centre Pau Gasol. In other Group B action, Argentina and Lithuania showed why they will both be tough to beat in the knockout phase, with Lithuania emerging 81-73 victors in one of the better-played contests so far. Forward Mindaugas Kuzminskas led Lithuania with 23 points on 9-of-13 shooting.

Spain and Nigeria tipped off with the 16,000-capacity venue in Rio's Olympic Park virtually empty after security forces initially prevented fans entering while they staged an apparent controlled explosion just outside. "We heard the explosion. We didn't know exactly what it was. We just kind of looked around and said, 'What's going on?'" said Gasol. "We thought maybe nobody came to watch the game." Spain got yet another scare from the African underdogs, who led by a point to start the final period, fueled by an eventual 13 three-pointers including seven from red-hot shooting guard Chamberlain Oguchi.

But balanced scoring down the stretch from Spain's veteran Olympians helped them dodge a potentially fatal third loss. Spain is ranked number two in the world and was bridesmaid in the past two Games to the powerful USA squad of NBA stars. "Nigeria just kept battling us, but we were able to get out of it. That was the first step in the right direction," said Gasol, who joins the San Antonio

Spurs for the coming season. Spain is now 1-2 and still must face both the tough Argentines and Lithuania in its remaining preliminary-round games. Nigeria dropped to 0-3.

A low-scoring first half saw Lithuania lead Argentina 30-27 at the mid-way point, but things kicked into high gear from there. Manu Ginobili, a former All-Star and four-time NBA champ with the Spurs, scored 12 points in the first four minutes of the second half and Argentina went on to grab a 42-40 lead. Both

sides continued to pour in the buckets and the score was repeatedly tied down the stretch. But Argentina's smaller veterans couldn't quite stop the big and quick Lithuanians, who were a force on the glass with 51 rebounds to Argentina's 29.

In the day's early game, Bojan Bogdanovic poured in 33 points as Croatia beat hosts Brazil 80-76, who were hoping to build on their thrilling upset of Spain two days earlier. Croatia is now 2-1, and Brazil 1-2. —AFP

ROSE HITS HISTORIC ACE AS AUSSIE HOLDS LEAD



GOLF

RIO DE JANEIRO: Britain's Justin Rose made the first hole-in-one in Olympic history Thursday as golf ended a 112-year Games absence with some dazzling shotmaking, an unheralded leader and some high-ranked also-rans. Australian Marcus Fraser, who only became an Olympian after four higher-ranked countrymen declined, fired an eight-under-par 63 for a three-stroke lead over British Open champion Henrik Stenson of Sweden and Canada's Graham DeLaet.

Rose, the 2013 US Open champion who is ranked 12th, blasted his tee shot at the par-three fourth hole 188 yards into the cup for the first ace in Olympic history on a windy day at the links-style layout. Fraser, ranked 90th, birdied five of the first six holes and four more on the back nine after feeling nervy at the start. "This is probably one of the best rounds of golf I've ever played," Fraser said. "I was a little jumpy off the first tee. To be able to man-

age that and go around and play the way I did was a real confidence booster."

Rose, a 36-year-old Englishman ranked 12th in the world, shared fourth with France's Gregory Bourdy, German Alex Cejka, Spain's Rafael Cabrera Bello and Belgium's Thomas Pieters. Rose won the most recent of his 19 career titles last October at Hong Kong. Several big names stumbled. Eighth-ranked Rickie Fowler was on 75 with fellow American Bubba Watson, a two-time Masters champion ranked sixth, on 73 and their 14th-ranked compatriot Petrick Reed on 72.

Fraser has won three European Tour titles, most recently last February in Malaysia, and played in 12 majors, his best showing a share of 20th at last year's British Open. "Getting that ball out of the hole was really special, to shoot 63 in the first round golf is back in the Olympics," Fraser said. "At the moment I've got the Olympic record. That's pretty cool. I hope it lasts all week," Fraser said. Fraser, 38, had no birdie putt of 10 feet or more. He made bogey at the second after a tee shot into the bunker but birdied the next four holes. "It felt like I needed to get off to a fast start," Fraser said. "It was good I did." — AFP



SOUTH KOREAN GYMNAST 'AWED' BY SELFIE FAME

SEOUL: South Korean gymnast Lee Eun-Ju, who found herself in the international spotlight after taking a selfie with a North Korean competitor in Rio, said yesterday she was surprised by the extraordinary response to such a simple act. A snapshot of Lee and North Korea's Hong Un-Jong posing for the selfie on Lee's phone swiftly went viral on Twitter, with many hailing the image as a perfect illustration of the Olympic spirit.

The photo has been tweeted and shared hundreds of thousands of times, with the likes of IOC president Thomas Bach describing it as a "great gesture." In a radio interview with South Korean broadcaster KBS yesterday, the 17-year-old said the decision to grab a selfie with Hong had been totally spontaneous.

"I saw her and asked to take a picture together as a souvenir," Lee said. "I didn't expect such a huge reaction so I'm still awed by that," she added. Lee was only nine when Hong — 10 years her senior—became the first female North Korean gymnast to win an Olympic gold medal in Beijing in 2008. The two had never met before Rio, but Lee said she had been impressed watching Hong compete on television. The photo of the two athletes resonated at a time of growing tension between North and South Korea who technically remain at war since the 1950-53 Korean War concluded without a formal peace treaty.

Civilian communication between the two countries is almost non-existent and South Koreans are forbidden from travelling to the North without prior permission. The international sporting arena offers one of the rare opportunities for some North-South bonding, although the level of interaction is usually dictated by the prevailing state of relations. In the past, the two nations have fielded joint teams for some sporting events and they marched together under one flag at the 2000 and 2004 summer Olympics. That initiative ended in Beijing due to heightened tensions on the divided Korean peninsula. "I don't really know about politics, but I don't think we have a terrible relationship with North Korea," Lee said in another interview with local media. "We mingle and say hello with athletes from other countries, so why can't we (North and South Koreans) do that?" she asked. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Vatemo Ravouvou, Viliame Mata, and Semi Kunatani, of Fiji, pose with fans after winning the gold medal match against Britain in the mens rugby sevens at the 2016 Summer Olympics. — AP

TEARS OF JOY: FIJI CELEBRATES 'BIGGEST DAY'



RUGBY

SUVA, Fiji: Fijians erupted in celebration yesterday, setting off flares and dancing in the streets while a national holiday was declared after the tiny nation won its first ever Olympic medal and gold at that. The South Pacific island country came to a standstill at the start of the rugby sevens final against Great Britain, and by half-time the fireworks had started and there was a monumental chorus of car horns as it became evident Fiji would win and create history.

"This is the biggest day in Fiji's history. Everyone is celebrating," said photographer Feroz Khalil who watched the final on the big screen at the main stadium in Suva. "It was crazy. There were people chanting, crying, tears were flowing. I'm feeling so happy." Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who was in Rio de Janeiro to watch the final, announced there would be a public holiday on August 22, the day after the team arrive home. In a message to the nation Bainimarama said "every Fijian is rejoicing" around the world. "Never before has the Fijian spirit soared so high as it does today. Never have we stood so tall as a nation."

Fiji Rugby Union chief executive John O'Connor told AFP nearly all of Fiji's 900,000 residents would have gathered around television sets in the 110 populated islands to watch the historic event. "Everyone is very excited. Wherever there was a TV in a village there were people gathered round. There were about 2,000 people packed in the main stadium watching the game on the big screen. "Some people may go to work now but I don't think they will be very productive." Many who did go to work finished early to join the festivities as the blue Fijian flag flew proudly from homes, businesses and vehicles.

Fiji scored first after just 55 seconds, led 29-0 at half-time and finished up thrashing Great Britain by an emphatic 43-7. "By the time it was

half-time people were already celebrating. It was amazing," Khalil said. Traffic was gridlocked in the capital Suva where the streets were filled with people singing and dancing. In the rugby-obsessed island nation, the gold medal victory was also seen as a chance to put behind them the memories of four coups over the past 30 years of political upheaval.

"The win was truly a historic moment for Fiji," said Shailendra Singh, a former sports journalist and now head of journalism at the University of

the South Pacific in Fiji. "The sevens game is more than a game in Fiji and it is a major unifying force. "The entire nation, young, old, men, women, children and adults and people from across the political divide will come together in celebration." University vice chancellor Rajesh Chandra said the victory also showed that a small Pacific island nation "can overcome our limitations of size, low income, and many other vulnerabilities and handicaps and take on the big boys internationally". — AFP

STARDOM AWAITS GYMNASTICS CHAMPION CINDERELLA BILES



GYMNASTICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Simone Biles joined the ranks of gymnastics legends on Thursday with stardom awaiting the Cinderella who has overcome a difficult past to claim the coveted Olympic women's all-around title for a second gold in Rio. The 19-year-old Texan, whose life story is worthy of a Hollywood movie, etched her name alongside the greats of the sport such as Nadia Comaneci. Comaneci, the 1976 Montreal gold medalist and first to earn a perfect 10.0 score, was like Biles coached by Romanian Martha Karolyi, who defected to the United States in 1981. And Karolyi, who will retire after many years coaching the US' top gymnasts after Rio, predicted great things for her young prodigy.

"I'm sure she will be a big star. She'll be a millionaire," said 73-year-old Karolyi. "There are so many things she wants to do. She's such a happy, smiley girl with a posi-

tive attitude. "She told me she would take a year off and go to college." Biles was so dominant that she could have fallen twice and still romped to the all-around title. Apart from a hop on the landing of her opening vault she gave a confident display of gravity-defying tumbles, twists and flips on her maiden Games to win by 2.100 points over US teammate Aly Raisman.

"Congratulations @Simone_Biles and @Aly_Raisman What a beautiful success..." tweeted Comaneci, who was among the spectators in the Rio Olympic Arena. Biles scored highest on three of four rotations—beam, vault and floor—to keep on track for a record haul of five gold at one Games with finals on those apparatus to come. Five golds would see her overtake Soviet gymnast Larissa Latynina (1956), Czech Vera Caslavskva (1968) and Romanian Ecaterina Szabo (1984), who have all won four at the same Games. As well as being the first to win three consecutive all-around world titles last October, she has won more world gold medals — 10 — than any other female gymnast in history.—AFP



US CLOSE IN ON 1,000TH GOLD

RIO DE JANEIRO: Triple jumper James Connolly won the United States' first gold medal at the 1896 Summer Games and it is expected that on Sunday or Monday a still unknown American will claim a milestone 1,000th gold to bookend 120 years of Olympic domination. To underscore the United States' status as the Olympics undisputed superpower, at the current rate of winning medals (going back to 2000) it will take almost a century and 21 more Summer Games for the next nation to reach the 1,000 gold plateau, with China finally hitting the mark in 2100.

The 1,000 medals would also represent almost one-quarter of the total gold awarded at the Summer Olympics with no other country even reaching half that number. The US arrived in Rio sitting on 977 gold and, according to Olympstats.com, the former Soviet Union with 473 ranks second with Germany a distant third with 288.

"I was at the Casa Italia event the other night and they were approaching their 200th gold medal, I think they have one more to go, so it just goes to show the scale of accomplishment our athletes have achieved over the many years," said United States Olympic Committee chairman Larry Probst. With the US medal machine already humming, piling up gold in the swimming pool and gymnastics, the milestone could go to one of the Rio Games biggest names like Michael Phelps or Simone Biles or it could belong to an unknown competing in men's Greco-Roman wrestling or sailing.

It would seem likely the historic moment will come in the pool or athletics stadium with those two sports accounting for more than half the US gold production. Phelps, the most decorated Olympian ever, has made the biggest individual contribution, chipping in with 22 golds and counting. The United States' Olympic domination has not been all-encompassing.

No American has ever stood atop the podium in field hockey, triathlon, badminton, handball, table tennis and modern pentathlon as well as polo and lacrosse, which are no longer on the Olympic program. The United States has hosted four Summer Games in St Louis (1904), Los Angeles (1932, 1984) and Atlanta (1996). The first Games of the Modern Olympics produced the fewest golds (11) while the Soviet-boycotted 1984 Los Angeles Olympics generated the most (83). "I think what it means is we have just a great sporting culture and a really amazing system of sport in our country," said Alan Ashley, the USOC chief of sport performance. "It is very exciting to think of it in those terms and to realize that we are on the doorstep of that amazing achievement." — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana poses next to a scoreboard showing her new world record in the women's 10,000-meter final during the Summer Olympics. — AP

ETHIOPIA'S AYANA SHATTERS WORLD RECORD



TRACK & FIELD

RIO DE JANEIRO: Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana smashed the world record to win the Olympic 10,000 meters title yesterday, blowing away the competition in one of the greatest ever long-distance races at the Games. In only her second competitive 10,000m, Ayana dominated from the start and halfway through the race she surged away from the leading pack, injecting staggering pace to finish in 29 minutes 17.45 seconds. Her time was 14 seconds inside the 29:31.78 set by China's Wang Junxia in 1993.

It was the first time in seven years that a female athlete had run 10,000m in under 30 minutes and the first four all achieved the feat. The first 13 women across the line clocked personal bests, including five national records. Kenya's world 10,000m champion Vivian Cheruiyot tried in vain to keep up with Ayana but had to settle for silver while Ethiopian Tirunesh Dibaba, the defending Olympic champion, grabbed bronze. All three women ran inside the old Olympic 10,000m record.

Cheruiyot, Kenya's most decorated female athlete, also fell short in the 2012 London Games where she took bronze, meaning east African country's wait for its first women's 10,000m gold medalist continues. The 31-year-old Dibaba, who returned in 2016 from a two-year layoff following the birth of her son, was seeking to become the first woman in Olympic history to win an individual athletics event three times in a row. Ayana will now turn her attention to her preferred 5,000m distance, in which she is favorite to win and become only the second woman after Dibaba to claim gold in both the 5,000 and 10,000 in the same Games. — Reuters

EGYPTIAN JUDOKA JEERED AFTER HANDSHAKE SNUB



JUDO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Egyptian judoka Islam El Shehaby was jeered out of the Olympic arena in Rio yesterday after refusing to shake hands with his Israeli opponent. El Shehaby was beaten by Or Sasson in their heavyweight first round encounter but at the end of the bout, he refused to either bow to the Israeli or shake his hand. In judo it is customary to both bow to opponents—a sign of respect in Japan—and shake hands after a bout is over. El Shehaby had been well beaten but stood impassively as Sasson tried to shake his hand.

As he left the mat area, El Shehaby was called back to the centre by the referee to bow. But he was then loudly jeered out of the arena by angry supporters. International Judo Federation spokesman Nicolas Messner said fighters were not obliged to shake hands after a bout. "In the past, it is not sure that a fight between those two athletes would have taken place. This is already a big improvement that Arabic countries accept to be opposed to Israel," he said. "There is no obligation for shaking hands at the end of the fight, but it is compulsory to bow, that's why the Egyptian was called back to bow and he did. "Nevertheless, his attitude will be reviewed after the Games to see if any further action should be taken."

History of rejection

The 32-year-old El Shehaby, a world championship medalist in 2010, had faced pressure

on social media and from hardline Islamist groups in his homeland to withdraw from the fight. He refused to speak to journalists after his fight. Unlike some other Muslim and Arab nations, Egypt has no history of withdrawing from judo bouts against Israelis. Sasson has faced another Egyptian, Ahmed Wahid, twice in the last year, each fighter winning once. The Egyptian Olympic Committee had insisted before the fight that El Shehaby would compete.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabian Joud Fahmy withdrew from her 52kg first round bout against Christianne Legentil of Mauritius ahead of a possible second round clash with Gili Cohen of Israel. The Saudi Olympic Committee claimed she was injured.

Most famously in the Olympic dojo, then-world champion Arash Miresmaeili pulled out of the competition after failing to make the 66kg weight limit after being drawn against Israeli Ehud Vaks in the first round.—AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Israel's Or Sasson (white) competes with Egypt's Islam Elshehaby during their men's 100kg judo contest match of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. — AFP

Sports



**Egyptian judoka
jeered after
handshake snub**

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RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Michael Phelps competes in the Men's 100m Butterfly Semifinal during the swimming event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium. —AFP

PHELPS SWEEPS TO 22ND OLYMPIC GOLD

CHINA DRAWN INTO MAJOR DOPING STORM

RIO DE JANEIRO: Michael Phelps blew away the competition in the Olympic pool for the 22nd time but doping reared its ugly head again yesterday when Chinese swimmer Chen Xinyi was revealed as the first major case of the Rio Games. Chen's failed test after narrowly missing a bronze medal in the women's 100 meter butterfly was announced as athletics headed into the Olympic spotlight needing an antidote to its own doping scandals.

Phelps was magnificent again in retaining his 200m individual medley title, leaving old rival Ryan Lochte stranded in fifth place. Even second place Kosuke Hagino was nearly two seconds back. Afterwards, the 31-year-old wagged four fingers to show his four gold medals so far in Rio. That has taken him to an incredible 22 Olympic titles and 26 medals overall. "I say this a lot, but every single day I'm living a dream come true. As a kid I wanted to do something that no one had ever done before and I'm enjoying it," said Phelps.

Simone Manuel of the United States and Penny Oleksiak of Canada shared a dead heat

victory in the women's 100m freestyle. Manuel is the first African-American woman to win an individual Olympic swimming gold. But the spotlight quickly turned to 18-year-old Chen, who won a world championship gold medal last year in the 4x100 medley team. The Chinese Swimming Association said Chen tested positive for the diuretic hydrochlorothiazide after Sunday's 100m butterfly final, China's official Xinhua news agency reported. Chen came fourth just 0.09 second behind bronze medalist Dana Vollmer of the United States.

Diuretics can be used to mask other banned substances. The CSA said Chen, who was due to take part in 50m freestyle heats yesterday, had asked for a second test on the sample to be carried out and a hearing in the case. The CSA said it has "demanded full cooperation from Chen in the investigation." "The CSA resolutely opposes use of banned substances," it added. But alongside the storm that has engulfed Russia over accusations of "state-sponsored" in two World Anti-Doping Agency investigations, China has also been accused by

some rivals. Australia's Mack Horton called Sun Yang, China's most successful swimmer, a "drugs cheat" this week, setting off a social media firestorm in China.

Hole-in-one

The United States strengthened its lead in the Olympic medals table finishing Thursday with 16 golds, five ahead of China. Simone Biles added the women's all around gymnastics title to victory in the team event. The 19-year-old is chasing five gold medals in Rio, and few would bet against the 1.45m (4ft 9in) Texan adding to her tally in the apparatus finals to come. Golf started its return performance at the Rio Games. Australian Marcus Fraser was the early pace-setter with a 63 in the first Olympics round since the 1904 Games in St Louis. England's Justin Rose marked the occasion with a hole-in-one. Rugby also made its return and Fiji's sevens team hammered Britain 43-7. The South Pacific nation's first ever gold medal sparked wild celebrations at home. The specter of doping also loomed over the athletics com-

petition, which started yesterday. The International Olympic Committee confirmed that a second Kenyan coach had been sent home from the Games for a doping offence.

Media reports named the official as sprint coach John Anzrah, saying he had attempted to impersonate an athlete during a doping test. Athletics starts at the Rio Olympics on a mission to win back fans after the Russia and Kenya doping scandals of the past year. With Usain Bolt looming as the biggest draw of the Olympics, three athletics golds will be won on the first day at the Olympic stadium. Ethiopia's 10,000 star Tirunesh Dibaba, 31, will become the first woman to win three consecutive golds in an individual athletics event if she retains the crown won in London four years ago. New Zealand's Valerie Adams could also become the first woman to three titles if she can get the shot put title before Dibaba. The women's 20km race walk will also be decided while Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce starts the heats as she bids for a hat-trick of 100m sprint victories. —AFP