



ESTABLISHED 1961

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016

THULQADA 11, 1437 AH

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Mol seizes 20m
narcotic tablets,
420 kg hashish
in eight months



Hull stun
Premier League
champions
Leicester



CROWD FAVORITE RASHIDI WINS MEN'S SKEET BRONZE

SECOND KUWAITI SHOOTER TO MAKE PODIUM AFTER DEEHANI



Min 32°
Max 48°
High Tide
07:23 & 22:07
Low Tide
01:22 & 15:35

150 FILLS
NO: 16962
40 PAGES



CALIF MAN GETS LIFE IN JAIL FOR KILLING SAUDI

LOS ANGELES: A Southern California man was sentenced on Friday to life in prison for fatally stabbing an engineering student from Saudi Arabia who the killer met after the victim posted an online ad to sell his car two years ago, prosecutors said. The remains of the victim, Abdullah Abdullatif Alkadi, 23, were found alongside a freeway in the desert town of Indio, about 200 km east of Los Angeles, in Oct 2014, about a month after he went missing.

Alkadi, an international student at California State University, Northridge, had been last seen at his residence in the Los Angeles suburb of Reseda on Sept 17. Authorities said the killer, Agustin Rosendo Fernandez, 30, stabbed Alkadi to death that day, when he showed up at the victim's home to pick up an Audi A5 convertible that Alkadi had agreed to sell him for \$35,000 in an earlier meeting between the two men.

Fernandez, who had found Alkadi's car-for-sale ad on Craigslist, kept the cash and then made off with the vehicle, disposing of Alkadi's body along the way.

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RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medalist Gabriele Rossetti (center) of Italy, flanked by silver medalist Marcus Svensson (left) of Sweden and bronze medalist Abdullah Al-Rashidi of Kuwait competing on the Independent Olympic Team, kiss their medals during the victory ceremony for the men's skeet gold medal match at the Olympic Shooting Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Crowd favorite Abdullah Al-Rashidi of Kuwait won the bronze in the men's skeet event yesterday, his first medal in six Olympic Games. After he beat Mikola Milchev of Ukraine, the 52-year-old Rashidi waved to the crowd as they chanted "Mustache!" in Portuguese and then kissed the ground. Rashidi hit all 16 discs to beat Milchev, who missed two. Rashidi topped the qualifying round by smashing 123 discs out of 125. He is the second Kuwaiti competing under the Olympic flag to medal in shooting this week as the country is banned by the International Olympic Committee.

Young Italian Gabriele Rossetti gave his country its third gold medal in Olympic shooting with a perfect score. The compact 21-year-old, a first-time Olympian and police officer, had perfect 16s in the semifinal and final, defeating 26-year-old Marcus Svensson of Sweden by just one shot. American two-time and defending Olympic champion Vincent Hancock did not qualify for the semi-finals. He was vying to become the first shooter to win a specific men's event at three Olympic Games in a row.

Veteran Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Al-Deehani battled wet and blustery conditions to win the men's double trap event on Wednesday, becoming the first athlete competing under the Olympic flag to ever win a gold medal. The IOC suspended Kuwait in Oct 2015, accusing the government of interference in its national Olympic Committee. Earlier this month, Kuwait lost a court case against the IOC ban, meaning Kuwaiti athletes would only be allowed to compete under the Olympic flag. — Agencies



RIO DE JANEIRO: Swimmer Faye Husain of Kuwait celebrates after competing in the women's 50m freestyle heats during the swimming event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium on Friday. — AFP

GULF WOMEN AIMING TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Nada Albedwawi dreams of one day swimming on a relay team but she knows that can only happen if enough other Emirati women take the plunge. In a socially conservative region, where women's competitive sport faces significant cultural obstacles, the only female swimmer competing for the United Arab Emirates at the Rio Olympics remained undaunted on Friday.

"My main goal is to break down these barriers, these gender barriers, and pave the way for other female swimmers," said Albedwawi after her 50m freestyle heat. "Especially in our country, people are reluctant to start something new. So when they see there is already a female swimmer who has been to the Olympics they will be much more encouraged to do so." Albedwawi is one of several women blazing a trail, and braving some criticism, as they try to raise the profile of their sport in the Middle East.

Faye Husain is a Kuwaiti swimmer competing as an independent athlete under the Olympic flag, due to the country's suspension, while Bahrain and Qatar are also represented in the pool. "We have great facilities, it's just a matter of accessing them," Husain, who has been training at college in the United States for the past four years, told Reuters. "There's always going to be some grumblings of opposition but I don't pay attention to it."

Saudi Arabia, where women are barred from driving and subject to gender segregation and a restrictive male guardian-

ship system, is unlikely to join them anytime soon. In a sport of body-hugging swimsuits and exposed flesh, that remains a step too far. However the country has quietly entered four women in Rio in running, fencing and judo after two made an historic debut in London four years ago.

Albedwawi said her parents and the UAE authorities had been supportive of her efforts but there was work to be done. "We are going to slowly start to change the mentality," the first-year student of NYU Abu Dhabi said after finishing 78th of 88 starters. "I know some of my friends who really wanted to pursue sports but because of cultural barriers and stuff, weren't able to." Albedwawi said the reaction on social media had been overwhelmingly positive.

"I would see 100 positive comments and maybe just one negative comment," she said. "And that's way better than in Saudi Arabia where some of the people reacted negatively to the four women representing them at this Olympics. So I am really proud of my country and its people. I was really delighted when I saw the four (Saudi) women at this Olympics. Hopefully they are going to pave the way for girls in these sports. Maybe swimming is a little bit harder to convince but we'll get there one day." And the relay? "I was just talking with my coach about it yesterday," she smiled. "Hopefully we will get back with a relay team and get the gold." — Reuters

IS FREES HUNDREDS OF 'HUMAN SHIELDS'

BILLIONAIRE POSTS \$5K REWARD FOR NY ICE CREAM THIEVES

NEW YORK: Ice cream thieves are on the rampage in New York and one billionaire has reached melting point. The supermarket tycoon Friday offered a \$5,000 reward leading to their arrests and prosecution. John Catsimatidis, who owns the Gristedes chain of grocery stores, told AFP he was fed up with a ruthless gang cleaning out his freezer cases and selling luxurious cartons to corner stores for a fraction of the price. "It's a nice summer reward," he said. "Our managers have been going through the refrigerator cases and they're wiped out. This gang of three to four people comes in and puts them in large shopping bags, they distract the manager and sell them," he added.

The biggest single theft was around 100 to 125 tubs worth \$700-800, with stores in Manhattan the hardest hit, he said. The scam had been going on six months, Catsimatidis complained. The reward comes with New York in the grip of a heatwave, expected to last through today. With the humidity, it could feel as hot as 43 degrees Celsius although real temperatures will be lower.

Asked whether he thought his \$5,000 reward would have an impact, the self-made tycoon replied that maybe the corner store owner buying the ice cream would turn in the thieves.

Continued on Page 13

BEIRUT: Islamic State group militants have released hundreds of civilians they used as human shields while fleeing a crumbling stronghold in northern Syria, but the fate of others remained unknown yesterday. The last remaining IS fighters abandoned Manbij near the Turkish border on Friday after a rout that the Pentagon said showed the extremists were "on the ropes". The retreat from the city which IS captured in 2014 marked the jihadists' worst defeat yet at the hands of the Syrian Democratic Forces

(SDF), an Arab-Kurdish alliance supported by US air power.

Fleeing fighters took around 2,000 civilians, including women and children, on Friday to ward off air strikes as they headed to the IS-held frontier town of Jarabulus, according to the SDF. At least some of the civilians were later released or escaped, the alliance said yesterday, but the whereabouts of the rest was unknown. "There are no more IS fighters" left in Manbij, an SDF member said.

Continued on Page 13



QAMISHLI, Syria: Women in this Kurdish-controlled city mourn over a coffin during the funeral of several fighters from an Arab-Kurdish alliance who were killed during battles with the Islamic State group in the northern Syrian city of Manbij. — AFP

ON NATIONAL STAGE, TRUMP TRAIN STALLS



ALTOONA, Pennsylvania: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gives a thumbs up as he leaves a campaign rally yesterday. — AP

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump hasn't quite asked the dead to vote for him, but he's nearly there. "I joke a lot as I say if you're sick, if you just got the worse prognosis that a doctor can give you, if you're lying in bed and you just know you're not going to make it - you have to get up on November 8th and you have to vote," he said Thursday. At least nine times in the speech to evangelical leaders in key swing state Florida, the brash 70-year-old billionaire - sometimes speaking in an uncharacteristically low voice - called on them to ensure their parishioners cast their ballots for him.

The Republican presidential candidate is a bit worried about his chances in November against Hillary Clinton, and he's not exactly hiding it. And his team is struggling to transform his winning primary campaign model into an unbeatable national election machine. During the Republican primaries, the Manhattan real estate mogul and former reality television star ignored the experts and the pundits who told him to be more "presidential," to stop insulting his rival and to prepare his speeches.

To everyone's surprise, Trump's iconoclastic strategy worked. He was the last man standing, and won the Republican Party's nomination. But since officially becoming the party's standard-bearer, at the urging of his aides, he has given more policy-driven speeches using a teleprompter. But part of him visibly chafes at the constraints, and he's quick to go off-script - and off-message, as evidenced by some of his near-daily missteps in recent weeks: over Russia, the parents of a Muslim soldier killed in action, on guns and Hillary Clinton, and on the Islamic State group and President Barack Obama.

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In Brief

AMIR'S INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA PRAISED

CAIRO: The African Union's Ambassador in Cairo Abdulhamid Bouzاهر has lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's initiative of allocating \$2 billion for funding development and enterprise in Africa-announced nearly three years ago. During the third Arab-African summit Kuwait hosted in November 2013, task groups were formed to follow up on cooperation projects for sustainable development. Moreover, an annual award, worth \$1 million, was declared for scientific research; in the name of the late Kuwaiti philanthropist, Abdulrahman Al-Sumait. —KUNA



KUWAIT CONDEMNS THAILAND BOMBINGS

KUWAIT: Kuwait condemned Friday the wave of bombings that targeted tourist areas in the friendly Kingdom of Thailand Thursday and Friday and left several people dead and injured. A senior Foreign Ministry official expressed Kuwait's full solidarity with the Thai government and the measures it takes to retain the Kingdom's security and stability. The source reiterated Kuwait's firm stance against terrorism and all its forms and manifestations. The source extended Kuwait's sincere condolences to the Thai government and relatives of the victims, and wished quick recovery for the injured people. —KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP \$3.80 TO \$41.14 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up \$3.80 to \$41.14 per barrel Friday as oppose to \$38.94 pb on Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. At the global level, the crude oil price is expected to reach a record high since April due a statement by Saudi Arabia regarding its readiness to discuss ways to balance production at the oil market. An unofficial meeting for members of OPEC is expected to be held next month on the sidelines of an energy forum in Algeria. —KUNA



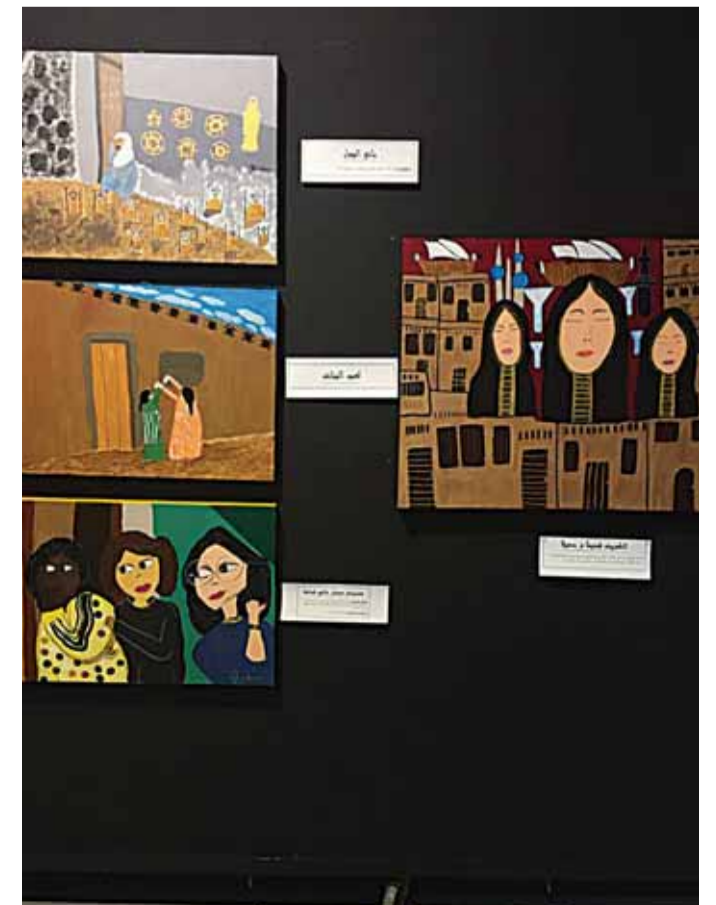
Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Pictures of Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Al-Deehani holding his gold medal that he won at the 2016 Rio Olympics grace the Kuwait Towers. —KUNA

KUWAITI YOUNG ARTIST DISPLAYS WORKS AT CAIRO'S EL-SAWY WHEEL



CAIRO: Cairo's El-Sawy Culture Wheel hosted on Friday the second gallery of Kuwaiti young artist Rahil Al-Yasseen Al-Haddad. Her 50 paintings feature various scenes of the Kuwait's social life, past and present, as well as the Kuwaiti, Gulf and Arab woman in general.

The event, opened by former head of the Kuwait Cultural Office in Cairo Dr. Furaih Al-Enezi, and the new one Dr. Ahmad Al-Mutairi, attracted several artists and painters, together with many Kuwaitis in Egypt.

The child artist Al-Haddad, only five years old, enjoys great capabilities, and has grown up amongst an artistic family that discovered her skills

and abilities and has working on promoting them, Dr. Enezi said. The gallery offers a host of "fantastic" paintings that show Al-Haddad's mental age, exceeding how old she really is, he added. The event will run as far as August 19.

Haddad has taken part in two major galleries held in Cairo and a third organized on the sideline of the last Arab Youth Conference, in Sharm El-Sheikh, where they impressed participant ministers, as well as the public, Enezi said. He stressed that the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Cairo is a major supporter of Al-Haddad and her art. Dr. Al-Enezi thanked El-Sawy Culture Wheel for the support it offers to arts and culture. —KUNA

JAHRA WEDDING ARSONIST, OTHERS TO BE EXECUTED PLAN TO BAN 'E-SHISHA'

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Thirty-six convicts sentenced to death will be executed at Nayef Palace soon. They include a Kuwaiti woman who was found guilty of burning a tent during a wedding in Jahra in 2009, which left 50 people dead. Other death row inmates have been convicted of charges that include first degree murder, drug trafficking, kidnap and rape.

Women-only shelter

The Public Authority for Manpower plans to build a separate shelter for female expatriate workers while keeping the current one located in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh for men. The shelter's director Falah Al-Mutairi asked the authority to provide the new shelter as soon as possible because the current one's capacity might not be enough to absorb more workers in the future.

E-shisha banned?

The customs department plans to announce a ban on importing electronic cigarettes and shisha after discovering drugs in many of vapor devices imported to Kuwait. The ban will be through an official decision issued by customs director following meetings with the Interior Ministry that dealt with discovering flavors containing marijuana, chemical and other drugs, sources said. They did not mention when the ban was expected to be announced.

Patients abroad

The financial crisis of patients abroad who are yet to receive unpaid allocations is

over as KD 20 million was sent to health offices and will be deposited in the accounts of those eligible today. The finance ministry officially informed health ministry its approval of covering the shortage of funds at health offices, which prevented it from paying allocations and hospital bills. The finance ministry's approval came after the health ministry agreed to submit weekly reports on the money spent with the number of patients and their health conditions, besides bringing back 3,700 patients whose treatment abroad is complete. The health ministry said those on physiotherapy will be brought back too.

Man gored

A man was severely injured when a bull gored him in Salmiya yesterday morning near Salmiya fire center on Fourth Ring Road. Police and paramedics rushed to the scene and found the man critically injured, and he was rushed to Mubarak Hospital. It was unknown where the animal came from.

Students' complaints

Kuwait's cultural attache in Cairo Dr Shaye Al-Shaye called upon any student who feels that the results of his exams are not correct to file a contestation as soon as possible or lodge a complaint to recheck the exams. He said these are the only legal procedures available to deal with this issue. He said any student in Tanta University facing a problem over results or transfers should contact deputy rector Dr Ibrahim Salem.

PAS RECEIVES OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST TODAY

OOREDOO AWARDS DEEHANI LIFETIME CALLS, INTERNET

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) yesterday announced that it would receive Rio 2016 Olympic gold medalist Fehaid Al-Deehani at 7:30 pm today. In a press statement, PAS extolled the virtues of the Kuwaiti shooter and his historic accomplishment, "having persevered in the face of mounting hurdles." Moreover, PAS congratulated the Kuwaiti leadership and people on this unprecedented sporting accolade, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Free calls for postpaid clients

Meanwhile, Ooredoo Kuwait announced that in celebration of the gold medal of Deehani it will be giving the Olympic champion a special free line with lifetime of free calls and internet. Additionally, Ooredoo's gift to the people of Kuwait on this happy occasion is free local and international calls for all postpaid clients all day today. In a statement made to the press, the company stressed that the Kuwaiti champion embodied great values of challenge and aspiration in achieving the gold medal despite the obstacles.

Deehani won the golden medal in the men's double trap shooting competition on Wednesday, beating Italian shooter Marco Innocenti with 28-27. He holds Kuwait's only Olympic medals: he previously won Kuwait's first Olympic medal in Sydney 2000 where he won a bronze medal, and won another bronze medal in London 2012. Ooredoo's award for the winner comes amidst nation-wide celebrations of the athlete's victory.



RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medalist Fehaid Al-Deehani of Kuwait poses for photographers during the award ceremony for the men's double trap event at Olympic Shooting Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Wednesday, August 10, 2016. —AP

20 MILLION PILLS, 420 KG HASHISH SEIZED IN 8 MONTHS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry was able to confiscate nearly 20 million illicit pills, in addition to 420 kg of hashish and large amounts of mind-altering drugs during the past eight months. A total of 1,031 cases were registered, 1,374 suspects were sent to concerned authorities, while 235 suspects were deported during the same period, Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Major General Abdelhameed Al-Awadhi said.

The latest success by the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) happened due to the direct support and follow up by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahd and their support of the department with the most modern equipment and highly qualified personnel, he added.

The current situation the region is going

through contributes greatly to increasing attempts of drug trafficking towards Kuwait and the Gulf states, he noted. "Our region is still targeted, and witnesses several breaches and trafficking operations carried out by some international gangs," he said.

Security men are facing these gangs, he said, stressing the ministry's keenness on supporting all efforts exerted so as to combat drug. He affirmed that the State of Kuwait is combating this scourge decisively, referring to the importance international cooperation in combating the drug trade.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Adel Hashash, head of the ministry's general department for relations and security, said in a similar statement that the ministry is paying much attention to the issues of drug to maintain society through combating the scourge that requires permanent awareness on its societal, security and economic risks. He referred to the family's key role in protecting its children from the risks of the scourge and others.



HUNDREDS ARRESTED IN POLICE CRACKDOWNS AROUND KUWAIT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's Relations and Security Information Department said the Interior Ministry continues its strategy that aims at enforcing the law and pursuing violators everywhere without exception, adding that it will not spare any effort to urge various sectors to carry out their duties in full in order to ensure stability and security in the society.

In that context, the general security department carried out several campaigns during the period from Aug 3-10 covering various areas of the country, resulting in the arrest of 49 wanted persons for felony

charges, 205 for civil cases and 458 for absconding, in addition to 418 residency violators. The campaigns also resulted in arresting 1,018 persons without IDs, 66 for drug possession and 24 over liquor, in addition to issuing 2,260 traffic citations and impounding 131 vehicles and 37 vehicles wanted by authorities.

Meanwhile, rescue police dealt with 3,120 calls during the period from Aug 1-11, resulting in the arrest of 12 people wanted for felony offenses, 127 for civil cases, 25 for drugs related issues, eight cars were impounded, one was arrested for theft, 160 for absconding, 14 were wanted by security departments, 43

persons without IDs and 29 with expired residency permits. Rescue police also issued 2,748 traffic violations and dealt with 213 car accidents. In other news, a security campaign by the coastguard resulted in impounding 18 violating jet-skis in Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City.

Separately, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department categorically denied published reports which claim that Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahd intends to limit the use of criminal detectives' vehicles to working hours only is totally untrue. The department said work of detectives is not linked to certain hours; rather it is round-the-clock.

EPA KEEPS UP-TO-DATE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) said yesterday that it continues to keep abreast of all environmental conditions in the country, through continuous inspection campaigns of land and marine environments.

EPA had paid a visit to Kubbar island as part of a comprehensive environmental initiative that aims to safeguard the environment from any detrimental elements, EPA Director General Sheikh Abdullah

Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said.

Moreover, the EPA Director General noted that the visit sought to detect any existing environmental problems on the island and ways to remedy them, adding that visitors to the island were urged to eschew any practices that are malignant to the ecosystem. He also underscored that EPA is committed to ensure that all environmental protection laws remain stringent to ensure environmental conservation. —KUNA



HEALTH MINISTRY STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SPREADING AWARENESS AMONG PILGRIMS

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of Kuwait Ministry of Health (MoH) Dr Khalid Al-Sahlawi underlined the significance of disseminating awareness among Kuwait's pilgrims, indicating that the medical team of the Kuwaiti Hajj Mission is working to achieve this goal. The ministry will send awareness messages for pilgrims through its media office in this regard before, during and after the pilgrimage, Sahlawi said in a press statement yesterday on the sidelines of a meeting of the medical team. He affirmed the ministry's keenness on caring for pilgrims, mainly the elderly and children.

Meanwhile, Dr Mubarak Al-Ajmi, head of the medical team, said in a similar statement that the ministry provided up to 65,000 vaccinations for (the seasonal flu, meningitis and others) to all preventive centers to be distributed to pilgrims. He urged all pilgrims to take vaccinations two weeks before the pilgrimage season, calling all medical team members to provide the best services that are in line with the ministry's policy. There is coordination between the Kuwaiti and Saudi Health Ministries pertaining to the latest developments on infectious diseases during the season, he said. He noted that there will be some well-equipped medical clinics for both men and women, in addition to operation rooms. Also Mughheer Al-Shemmari, deputy of medical team chief, said there would be a medical record for facilitating mission of doctors to know history of pilgrims' diseases and their medications. The first batch of the team will travel to Saudi Arabia on August 26, while the second one will fly on September 1, he added. —KUNA

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Kuwait University students visit Oman to uncover sultanate's infinite mysteries

The enchanting mountains of Oman

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The first thing you notice is the air - fresh, clean and pure. The air, earth and rain all combine to create a sense of serenity and calm. The land entirely, as a matter of fact, is captivating with the charm of divine miracles and diverse colors that are mixed between mountains, green rainforests and dry deserts. The powerful sound of high Indian Ocean waves never rest - the more they hit in the rocks, the more they resound greatness.

Oman is where the order of mountain layers tells the globe what happened more than four billion years ago when Earth was formed. For 17 years, undergraduate students from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the Faculty of Science at Kuwait University have been visiting the sultanate to uncover the infinite mysteries of Oman. "There are significant symbols of the Stone and Ice ages, and sporadic places with ophiolite, which is oceanic crust emplaced onto the continental crust, visible to the naked eye," explained Dr Arafat Al-Shuaibi, Instructor of Field Geology and the Ambassador of the Asian Council of Science Editors (ACSE).

"The oceanic crust is hard to reach because it is heavier than the continental crust. When such a collision occurs normally, it goes downward because of the component of metals, such as iron and magnesium. Ophiolite is rare and is found in three locations around the world. Oman is one of them. Therefore, it is an excellent opportunity for scholars and scientists to study the oceanic crust that is located habitually seven kilometers below the sea level. It is the paradise of geology," enthused Shuaibi.

More reasons

Geological diversity can be found in many parts of the world. So perhaps there are other reasons besides the close distance between Oman and Kuwait that has encouraged the continuity of these field trips. "Every year during the summer, senior students, after passing all academic requirements, become qualified for field work. They come here to identify rock types, minerals and structures," explained Soad Qabazard, a Teaching Assistant. "There are some political reasons that prevent us from visiting other places in Arab lands. Thanks to Dr Abdullah Al-Zamil, who was the first to suggest Oman for field studies. Uniquely, the Omani people are generously friendly and peaceful, and they have warmly been welcoming us for 17 years," she added.

It is important to mention that field trips in Kuwait are often organized for undergraduate geology students as the final step before entering the job market, to face tougher challenges and gather experiences along with educational attainment. "It's the first time I am traveling solo with other classmates and professors. I came here to study the mountain rocks of Muscat and Salalah, applying all what I've learned over the years. But what I found was beyond that," said Eisa Al-Musaileekh, a student.

Daily routine

Another student, Saleem Al-Hajri, explained their daily routine, from the time they get up at 6:00 am until they return back from the field by sunset. "We have breakfast at 7:00 am and must leave the hotel at 8:00 am sharp. The exploratory rounds are predefined by the course instructor. We call them 'stops'. Every stop has a number and a particular description. Some of them are nearby and others take about an hour to reach. We use hammers for sampling and compasses. We also collect information by drawing maps, taking photos and recording GPS readings," he said.

"Every evening at 8:00 pm, we sit together with our instructors to present our findings, discuss them and complete the work we started in the morning. Students get used to self-discipline, respect for time, teamwork and leadership.

FACTS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES - KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

- The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (Geology Department previously) was established in November 1966.
- There are 16 faculty members and 9 teaching assistants.
- There is no fixed head of the department yet. The Acting chairman currently is Prof. Jasem Al-Awadhi.
- There are about 300 bachelor students; 10 master students.

strongly committed to our science and to the generations in the future. The department is internationally recognized at the highest levels and is engaged in national and international collaborative and interdisciplinary activities, across disciplines. We also engage in range of cross disciplinary environmental research.

Our graduates are qualified to be employed in a variety of pursuits that include desert rehabilitation, petroleum industry, water management, environmental NGOs, teachers at secondary schools, natural resource companies, environmental consulting companies, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities.

Research

Research in the DEE includes a wide range of investigations into the processes that shape our evolving planet. It includes the study of microbial interactions with the geosphere, the hydrosphere and the atmosphere, with special emphasis on the unique environments of the Arabian Gulf.

Geology is the study of the Earth, the materials of which it is made, the structure of those materials, and the processes acting upon them. It includes the study of organisms that have inhabited our planet. An important part of geology is the study of how Earth's materials, structures, processes and organisms have changed over time.

Research in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DEES) include geophysics, groundwater, isotope geochemistry, biogeochemistry, microbial sedimentology, sedimentology, petroleum geoscience, Geographical information systems, desertification, landfill impacts and igneous and metamorphic processes.

Our professors are leaders, collaborators, and mentors

Facilities

The department has well-equipped laboratories for instruction in geophysics, geochemistry, petroleum studies, mineralogy, sedimentology, GIS, statistics and hydrology.

Instrumentation includes: barograph, resistivity meter, seismograph, shallow refraction seismograph, portable earthquake drum recorder, gravimeter, magnetometer, VLF electromagnetometer, Siemens D-5000 X-Ray Diffractometer, Siemens X-Ray Fluorescence instrument and lab, Relion Cathodoluminescence and Reflected Light Microscopy lab with lapping and polishing facilities, centrifuge, sedigraph, DTA facilities, ICP- wet chem lab, ion chromatograph, elemental analyzer, ROCK-EVAL, automatic soil-compactor, autographic compressor, and fully equipped Geology Workshop.

In addition to the above, the Science Analytical Facility (SAF) for the Faculty of Science allows researchers to access a wide variety of cross-discipline analytical instrumentation.



Teaching Assistant Soad Qabazard



Student Saleem Al-Hajri



Dr Arafat Al-Shuaibi, Course Instructor



Student Fahad Al-Ajmi



Student Eisa Al-Musaileekh (left) with other students.

The trip teaches us how to be patient and polish our personalities. Many students have changed after these trips," added Qabazard.

"The nature of field work is harsh. There is a positive impact on students when you incorporate fun with learning. I want to turn their field of study into a hobby by incorporating thrill and suspense," Dr Shuaibi said. "The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences tries to attract outstanding scholars from the beginning and encourages them to get master's degrees and PhDs. Not all students end up as professors. Most students want to find a good job. We function as a human resource provider for the oil sector in Kuwait. In fact,

we provide nearly 40 to 50 graduates per year, ready to work in the petroleum sector," he added. "Since I was in high school, I have been dreaming of working in the Kuwait Oil Company," said Fahd Al-Ajmi. Fahd was among the pupils who believed that the trip to Oman added a lot to their personal experiences. "Although the trip was fun, it felt like a military drill. It truly taught me discipline and commitment. The field geology course made me see things differently. Whenever I observe rocks and mountains, I sense that they are talking to me, telling me the long story of Earth, which is reflected deeply in the way of my understanding other aspects of life," he said philosophically.



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Ford Alghanim New Vehicle Showroom

Alghanim Auto is proud to announce the opening of the New Vehicle Showroom dedicated to Ford vehicles as well as the new Service and Spare Parts Center. The milestone marks the launch of a new home for Ford in Kuwait offering customers sales and aftersales services, the latter provided by a team of Ford-trained technicians who are ready to perform all types of maintenance using genuine spare parts.

Ford enthusiasts can now visit the New Vehicle Showroom and explore the latest models on display, where professional sales consultants are empowered to match customers' needs to the wide range of models available to complement their unique lifestyles, through flexible financial solutions and promotional offers designed to bring the best value to the customer, all in all to provide customers the best shopping experience possible. With 14 nameplates on offer, there is a Ford for everyone; from the family-friendly Taurus, the legendary Mustang, to the iconic and all-new Edge, the sport utility Expedition and Explorer, and the internationally praised F150 - also America's best-selling truck for the past 37 years. Every new Ford customer will pick up their latest addition from a dedicated delivery area where they are given a thorough explanation on the vehicle and its features before they embark on a memorable driving experience, guaranteed to take them further.



The new showroom overlooks the delivery area and the Service Center



Vehicle entrance at the new Service Center



A workshop equipped for all your needs

The new Service and Spare Parts Center is fitted with advanced equipment to ensure the completion of all maintenance services in an efficient manner from the first time, expertly performed by Ford-trained technicians for guaranteed quality and peace of mind. While cars are attended to and serviced, customers can sit back and enjoy a cup of coffee from the Costa Coffee on-site, or lounge comfortably and use the available amenities such as massage chairs, free Wi-Fi service and racing simulator. For added peace of mind, customers also have 24/7 access to roadside assistance in case of emergencies.

At Ford Alghanim, all services are performed using genuine Ford and Motorcraft spare parts to ensure the best operation of vehicles. Meanwhile, the Parts counter provides over-the-counter sales to Ford owners and maintenance providers.

For added convenience, customers looking to perform routine maintenance are encouraged to do so at the Quick Service bays, which offer oil and filter change, tire rotation, brake and battery replacement. Accessible via 6 special bays at the Service and Parts Center, those services are available to customers within extended working hours; 7 am to 10 pm from Saturday to Thursday, and, from 2 pm to 7 pm on Fridays.



A team of Ford-trained technicians ready to serve you



The Genuine Spare Parts Area



One of the qualified service advisors at the reception area

All current Ford owners and customers-to-be can visit the Ford Alghanim New Vehicle Showroom, Service and Spare Parts Center in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, opposite from the Classical Car Museum and Sirbb Circuit. The showroom is open from 9 am to 8 pm everyday except Fridays while the Service Center is open from 7 am to 7 pm every day except Fridays. To get in touch with Ford Alghanim, customers can simply call the customer care center at 1898900; visit www.fordalghanim.com or directly on social media channels at the handle @FordAlghanim.



Crime

Report

WITNESS SUFFERS HEART ATTACK AFTER TESTIMONY

KUWAIT: An Iranian man died while being transferred in an ambulance from criminal detectives building to Mubarak hospital. According to a security source, investigations were ongoing in a passport forgery case of an Iraqi man wanted for Interpol. The passport reportedly had data transferred to it by an employee at the residency affairs department. This was discovered by Kuwaiti Interpol which was tracing the passport in question, and cautioned about the transaction saying that there is an employee who enters data on a passport wanted to Interpol. It asked immigration detectives to find who the employee was, and investigations led detectives to a female employee discovered to be doing the illegal activity. The case was sent to the prosecution, and then the court. The court was not satisfied with the immigration's investigations, as a new witness who works as a mandoob (representative) for a company run by a police major appeared. So the court sent the case to the forgery and alternations division at the detectives department. The Iranian mandoob was summoned along with several employees, and gave testimonies that implicate the police major. During the questioning and face-off between witnesses, including the Iranian man, and the major, the Iranian felt tired and exhausted, as he had a heart condition. He was given first aid until an ambulance arrived and took him, but he died while en-route to hospital. A case of natural death due to a heart attack was filed at Salmiya police station.

Stolen drugs

Farwaniya police raided two places where stolen medicine was stored in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Rabiya. In Rabiya, drugs used for abortions were found, which makes it likely that the place was used to carry out abortions. The raid is among a series of similar arrests during the past few weeks, as on July 5, Farwaniya detectives raided a den in Jleeb run by two Bangladeshis, where a large quantity of stolen medicine was found. Also, on July 30, Farwaniya police raided another den where drugs were stored. The new raids took place when patrolmen suspected an expat and asked him for his ID, but he ran to a house and was followed by police. He entered a room where the stolen medicine was kept. The estimated value of the drugs is over KD 3,000. Meanwhile, in Rabiya, an expat fled when he saw police and entered a building full of "bachelors". Policemen ran after him to a room full of medicine used for abortions, with an estimated value of nearly KD 8,000.

Child abandoned

Vice detectives are looking for a woman who left her child inside a cafe and fled when detectives launched a raid on the cafe. A security source said while detectives were carrying out their duties, they heard a child crying, who was thought to have been with his mother in the cafe. But she fled and left him behind when vice detectives raided the cafe. The child was taken to Mubarak Hospital to be kept there until his mother is identified.

Involuntary manslaughter

Fintas police station investigator summoned an American doctor accused of causing the death of a Kuwaiti woman under involuntary manslaughter charges, after a citizen lodged a complaint. The citizen, who lives in Shuhada, said his mother fell ill, so he took her to a private hospital, and doctors decided to operate on her. He said his mother suffered severe bleeding for four hours, and was transferred to Adan Hospital, but died due to the bleeding that occurred at the private hospital.

Insult

A bedoon (stateless) named S K was jailed at Nuwaiseeb police station for insulting a public employee. A security source said a sergeant major named A A and a sergeant named M B in Ahmadi said they were carrying out their duties chasing ATVs, and stopped one ridden by the bedoon. When they told him the ATV will be confiscated, he insulted them with foul words.

Thief caught

Hawally detectives arrested an Egyptian thief who targeted Asians. Hawally detectives received several complaints from expats of various Asian nationalities about an Egyptian taxi driver who took them to remote places, pulled a knife and robbed them of their money, before escaping. Detectives identified the suspect and arrested him and found many IDs and other stuff he stole. He was sent to concerned authorities.

—Al-Anbaa, Al-Qabas



EQUATE, FACULTY OF DENTISTRY AT KU DISCUSS COOPERATION

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, hosted the Faculty of Dentistry (FoD) at Kuwait University (KU) for discussions focused on joint-cooperation linked to innovation and research.

FoD Dean Dr Jawad Behbehani said, "Holding such discussions with EQUATE are a valuable opportunity to highlight areas of collaboration in research and development (RandD) regarding scientific, academic and industrial affairs to ensure overall sustainability."

This meeting with FoD is part of EQUATE's continuous efforts to share best practices with various stakeholders to encourage innovation-based steps for constant growth and development. During the talks, EQUATE showcased its achievements, products and contribution to the economic and industrial sectors as "Partners in Success" with stakeholders globally.

Throughout the years, EQUATE has signed a number of memorandums of cooperation with educational organizations, such as Kuwait University and



the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, for partnerships in academic, industrial and scientific matters for students and faculty members.

In addition to Dr Behbehani, the meeting was attended by FoD Vice Dean for Research and Student Affairs Dr Adel Al-Asfour and Head of Dental

Materials Science Dr Michael Swain, as well as EQUATE RandD Senior Technical Services Resource Saleh Al-Enezi, Senior Product Development Resource Dr Poondi Srinivasan, Technical Service Specialist Marzouq Al-Azmi, Product Development Specialist Faisal Al-Shammari and Lab Technology Specialist Omar Al-Qabandi.



PRECAUTIONS AT JUSTICE PALACE AGAINST THREAT

KUWAIT: The judicial authority took tightened security measures to protect workers at the Palace of Justice in response to threats made by the Islamic State (IS) to carry out terrorist operations there, Al-Jarida reported yesterday quoting high ranking judicial sources.

A coordination on that regard was made during a recent meeting between judicial and Interior

Ministry officials to discuss IS threats targeting judges, including those who issued verdicts against suspects in the Imam Al-Sadeq mosque's bombing, the sources said.

"The Supreme Judicial Council has authorized its Chairman Yousuf Al-Mutawah to contact the Interior Ministry in order to take all necessary measures to protect the Palace of Justice," the sources

said. Some of these procedures include allocating the judicial authority's members' entrance gate to judges, consultants and public prosecution members only. Meanwhile lawyers of the Fatwa and Legislation Department and Kuwait Municipality can access the building through the lawyers' gate only, the source said. "The judicial authority deals with any threats seriously," they added. —Al-Jarida

Al-Anbaa

DO NOT WASH ICE WITH WATER!

By Thaar Al-Rashidi

On the first day of work at an ice factory, the owner told him "never wash ice with water". The boy received the advice with great wonderment, because ice is not washed with water or anything else because it will melt. Just silly advice given to him by the owner, the boy thought. Years went by and the boy did not see anyone washing the ice with water, although he was thinking daily about this silly advice which he did not understand, and because he was not in need of it, and there was no influence on his life whether he used it or not, or on his work, so he did not pay attention to it. His work ended at the factory and he moved to another job, not knowing the benefit of that advice.

Not all advices that you hear or given to us by the elderly are worthy or true, or have an effect on our lives or we can benefit from them. I say not all of them, because some are the result of a personal experience, or deduced by an incident they went through and may not happen to others, but they give it anyway, and sometimes they give it without explaining the reason or meaning.

The advice of the old man, owner of the ice factory, is exactly like advices of some politicians, especially those who lean towards the opposition, because they oppose and they ask you to wash the ice of your chest with the opposition's water, even if you do not understand why do we oppose this political stand or that? Only, as they see it, oppose today and understand tomorrow.

I do not belittle the work of anyone or any political ideology of any faction, but someone asks you to oppose with him, and despite the un-clarity of the decision, they ask you to join them in its opposition. Of course, you put their advice aside, and you find yourself in a predicament: First the opponents will not accept it and some may go so far as to doubt your political patriotism, and second, the proponents and supporters of the government will not relieve you from doubting you in being against the national path from which that decision was made.

You stand in the middle to find yourself in a position where you did not satisfy those on the side of the opposition, or those on the side of the government, and you will discover that you are standing between two camps, each claiming he is right, and only the followers who repeat what a leader is saying without knowing why they should not wash ice with water, will be heard.

Explaining the explained: The latest Cabinet decision to hike gasoline prices - I do not know for sure that it is not a studied one, and it is not time for it economically, because oil prices for more than two years have dropped by more than 60 percent. So it is not realistic to increase the price of a commodity by 65-80 percent, after its price dropped by 60 percent at the international level.

Explaining what is very clear: Oil prices dropped, and the wrinkles of budget deficit began to appear, yet this does not justify your cosmetic operations at the expense of the people! —Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: Al-Rahma International Charity announced delivering 500 food packages to some 500 families affected by deluges in the eastern Sudanese state of Kassala.



Thai authorities pursue tourist town bombers

VICTORIES AGAINST IS LEAVE SUNNI HEARTLAND BROKEN



CAIRO: Egyptians hold signs during a protest against the latest surge of assaults on Christians. — AP

EGYPT CHRISTIANS STAGE CAIRO PROTEST
 DEMANDS GOVERNMENT UPHOLD THEIR RIGHTS

CAIRO: Egyptian Christians staged a rare protest in downtown Cairo yesterday to demand the government uphold their rights, saying they are being treated as second-class citizens in the Muslim-majority country. Standing on the steps of a courthouse in the capital, some three dozen demonstrators braved Egypt's draconian protest ban to hold signs aloft, calling for their legal rights to be upheld in disputes between Muslims and Christians.

"I am an Egyptian citizen above all," said Michael Armanious, a Christian demonstrator. "We pay taxes, we serve in the army, we are dealing with all the same economic problems in Egypt with the rest of our countrymen, why should we have fewer rights?" he said, flanked by roadblocks and equal numbers of police, who forced the crowd to disperse after an hour. Christians make up some ten percent of Egypt's 91 million people. They sided overwhelmingly with Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi when he overthrew an Islamist president in 2013, paving his way to the presidency. But some have recently voiced concerns that their lot has not improved under the former general, despite his promises.

Interfaith disputes

Interfaith disputes are common in the countryside. Most often they arise over mixed-faith love affairs or the building

of churches. Many confrontations result in violence perpetrated against Christians or their property, and are resolved by extra-judicial councils of local elders that favor the Muslim side. The Christians demonstrating yesterday oppose such councils and are insisting such cases be brought to court. Last month, the leader of Egypt's Coptic Christian church warned of increased attacks on Christians, saying national unity is being "defaced." Pope Tawadros II told Egyptian lawmakers that since 2013 there have been 37 sectarian attacks on Christians - nearly an incident a month.

The comments came after a string of attacks hit the southern province of Minya, home to a large Christian community but also a substantial concentration of extremist Islamic groups. In July, a Muslim mob stabbed a Christian to death over a personal feud, while days earlier, in two separate incidents, mobs attacked and torched houses of Christians over a rumor that they intended to convert buildings into churches. In May, a Muslim mob stripped an elderly Christian woman and paraded her on the street following a rumor that her son had an affair with a Muslim woman. Lawmakers say that parliament is currently drafting a new law to criminalize actions that undermine national unity, as well as a law that eases regulations over the construction of churches, which are severely restricted. — AP

PUNDITS BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN ANCHORS AND CAMPAIGN COACHES

LOS ANGELES: When radio host Hugh Hewitt asked Donald Trump this week if he really meant that President Barack Obama had founded the Islamic State group, it was the equivalent of offering him a do-over. Trump declined, refusing to back down. While the GOP presidential candidate said yesterday he was being sarcastic, the exchange stands as an example of a school of interviewing that some say turns political coverage on its head and others argue that, done right, can be valuable. "It's journalistic malpractice to lead your witness to give the desired response," said Mark Feldstein, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland. "The standard in journalism is straight, objective questions, and that's what I teach my students."

While Hewitt and his fellow conservative pundits on TV are "partisans, not journalists," he said, "does that allow them to lead presidential candidates?" On his show Thursday, Hewitt gave Trump a chance to clarify his remarks about Obama and ISIS, an acronym for the terrorist group. "I know what you meant. You meant that he (Obama) created the vacuum, he lost the peace," Hewitt said. "No, I meant he's the founder of ISIS. I do," Trump replied. "But he's not sympathetic to them. He hates them. He's trying to kill them," Hewitt said, but found himself unable to budge Trump, at the time, from his position. A call to Hewitt seeking comment was not returned Friday.

Frank Sesno, a former CNN Washington bureau chief who is now a professor at George Washington University, sees the exchange differently in light of Trump's unusual candidacy. "So many of his answers appear to be stream-of-consciousness responses, so slamming on the brakes as an interviewer and saying, 'Well, you don't really mean that literally' gives him a chance to either retract or 'double down' as he did with the Islamic State claim, Sesno said. "Did Hewitt give Trump an opportunity to walk it (his allegation) back, did he put words in his mouth? Yeah, he did. But Trump didn't walk it back, which is why I think it's so remarkably newsworthy," he said. Because of Hewitt's conservatism, his comments would not be seen as an attempt to bait Trump, Sesno said.

Troubling pattern

Hewitt last month endorsed Trump after initially criticizing his candidacy. But the liberal watchdog group Media Matters contends the interview is part of a troubling pattern in which conservative hosts are serving as self-appointed "coaches" for Trump and his campaign. "This is different from them espousing perspectives and opinions," said Angelo Carusone, the group's executive vice president. "In a way, this veers into much more direct advocacy, not about policies but about individuals." After Trump made a speech in which he suggested Second Amendment supporters could block Hillary Clinton from appointing a justice favoring gun control, he and Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity - also a Trump supporter - addressed criticism that he was suggesting violence against the Democratic candidate. "So, obviously you are saying that there's a strong political movement within the Second

Amendment and if people mobilize and vote they can stop Hillary from having this impact on the court," Hannity said. "But that's not how the media is spinning it." "Nobody in that room thought anything other than what you just said," Trump replied. Such exchanges make hosts "participants in messaging," Carusone said. "I think in any other context, these people would be paid consultants." Sesno said Hannity's approach falls into the unacceptable "friendly question" category that "tries to plant ideas in Trump's head and words in his mouth. The viewer or reader must see it for what it is."

Fox News Channel declined to make Hannity, who doesn't hide his unabashedly conservative views, available for an interview. Media Matters hasn't seen the same kind of questioning with Clinton, Carusone said. The conservative watchdog Media Research Center said its president, L Brent Bozell, was not immediately available to comment on the topic. The world of interviewers has expanded beyond traditional journalists like NBC's Chuck Todd and Fox's Chris Wallace to include partisan pundits and even actor-comedian Zach Galifianakis with his "Between Two Ferns," said Sesno. — AP

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IRAQ GOVERNOR'S NEPHEW GUNNED DOWN IN NORTH

ARBIL: The nephew of the governor of a key province where Iraqi forces are battling the Islamic State group has been gunned down in the country's north, officials said yesterday. The shooting in Iraqi Kurdish regional capital Arbil came just hours after Nowfal Al-Aqoub, the governor of Nineveh, made controversial remarks about children being fathered by IS fighters in the province. The killing of Aqoub's

nephew, who was also his personal driver, comes as Iraqi forces prepare for the battle to retake Mosul, the capital of Nineveh and the last city in the country still held by the jihadists.

Sifuk Watban Al-Sultan died of a single gunshot to the head on Friday night near the governor's house in Arbil, the governor's secretary told AFP, asking that he not be identified by name. A Nineveh provincial councillor, who also

spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed Sultan's death, saying that Kurdish security forces had subsequently removed surveillance cameras from the house as part of the investigation.

The motive for the killing was not immediately clear, but it came after Aqoub made remarks at a conference in Baghdad earlier on Friday that were criticized by a political rival. The governor said that IS fighters had fathered

children under temporary marriages as part of so-called "sexual jihad", a practice used by the jihadist group to motivate its militants. Some of the women involved including some of those who travelled to the Middle East to support IS have apparently participated voluntarily, but others may have been coerced.

While Aqoub was apparently criticizing IS, the office of former parliament

speaker Osama al-Nujaifi issued a statement accusing him of insulting the women of Mosul.

Iraqi forces have been conducting operations to set the stage for the battle to retake Mosul from IS, which has held it since June 2014, but they still have significant ground to cover as well as logistical preparations to make before a final assault can be launched. — AFP

VICTORIES AGAINST IS LEAVE SUNNI HEARTLAND BROKEN

SHATTERED CITIES, TOWNS LEFT IN THE WAKE OF COMBAT

AMIRIYAH AL-FALLUJAH: As Iraqi political and military attention shifts north in the fight against the Islamic State group, the military victories that have put Iraqi forces on Mosul's doorstep have left behind shattered cities, towns and communities in Iraq's Sunni heartland. Anbar has witnessed the most successful military phase of the ground fight against IS to date. But rather than restore government order, services and security, liberation at the hands of Iraqi forces closely backed by the US-led coalition has merely moved many Anbaris from one waiting room into another.

For Ali Athab, his most painful memory of IS rule in Fallujah was watching his daughter's health deteriorate. Born with a rare neurological disorder, his daughter Zeina had been receiving

been forced from their homes since 2014.

Zeina, age 8, sits politely in a corner of the family's tent, occasionally fidgeting and making sounds that don't form words. In the small, hurriedly constructed camp on the outskirts of Amiriyah Al-Fallujah, a single mobile clinic only had antibiotics and mild painkillers on hand. In Baghdad - just over 40 kilometers away, Zeina could have access to the care she needs, but her family - as Anbar residents - lack the legal paperwork required to cross over into Baghdad Province.

"There's an assumption that after Daesh is defeated you can put the nation back together and in essence create a new nation, but that's not what we're seeing in Anbar," said a western diplomat based in Baghdad, referring to the

know where they were or who was holding them. Detainees say that tribes and powerful families are accusing rivals of being IS sympathizers to settle blood feuds, unpaid debts and grievances that go back generations.

"Anyone who has a problem with someone can just accuse him of being with Daesh," said Hussein, a middle-aged man just released from a detention center, speaking on condition that only his first name is used for fear of his own security. Anbar's residents describe feeling increasingly alienated from the central government, adrift in camps for the displaced or sharing close quarters with extended family. The vast majority of assistance that they are growing increasingly dependent on comes not from the central government, but from local political, tribal and religious leaders.

For Ahmed Fahel, 30, the fight against IS in Hit plunged his family into poverty. Living in a desolate camp further west in Anbar in the desert that lies between Hit and Ramadi, Fahel is now his extended family's only breadwinner. His brother was executed by IS fighters just days before the town was retaken by Iraqi forces and his body was dumped in the street. Fahel only had time to quickly bury his brother in the garden before they fled. "I have nothing and I also need to provide for my sister-in-law and her children," he said, explaining he has since heard his house back in Hit was completely destroyed.

Torn apart

Nearly 1.3 million Anbaris are estimated to have been forced from their homes since early 2014 when IS first began to grow in power in the province, ferrying fighters and munitions through the lawless deserts along the border with neighboring Syria. A decade ago, when the predecessor to IS had torn Anbar apart, a US-led effort to stabilize the province built support against Al-Qaeda by pouring enormous amounts of resources into existing local tribal leadership networks. Today, Iraq's central government - due in part to budget shortfalls sparked by the plunge in the price of oil - doesn't have the resources and the US-led coalition doesn't have the appetite for such an ambitious undertaking.

Without similarly large amounts of money, putting Anbar back together again will be impossible, said Ahmed Al-Dara, a religious sheikh from Fallujah. And beyond the issue of resources, he said, the fight against IS in his home province is fundamentally different from the fight against Al-Qaeda after the overthrow of Saddam in 2003. "This idea of reconciliation is not possible with Iraqis who joined Daesh," said Al-Dara, explaining that recovering from this insurgency would not only drive a greater wedge between Iraq's Sunni and Shiites, but has also begun to fracture Iraq's Sunni community.

"I know the people of Fallujah and Ramadi, they will never let a single Daesh supporter return to their cities," he said. "This conflict has taken Iraq's Sunnis back 50 years." Athab, the Fallujah resident stuck in the tented camp on Anbar's edge, describes the past 13 years of cyclical violence as exhausting.

"This is the third time this has happened to Fallujah," he said referencing the two US-led offensives against Al-Qaeda insurgents in his home town in the mid-2000s. The battle against IS this year was the first to force him to flee his home and Athab vows it will be the last. "I don't want to live in Anbar anymore," he said sucking at his front teeth. "Fallujah is finished, you can take it." — AP



In this photo taken on Saturday, June 25, 2016, internally displaced civilians, who fled their homes during fighting between Iraqi security forces and Islamic State group, to a camp at Amariyah Fallujah, Iraq. — AP

treatment at a Fallujah hospital that helped control her seizures, but once IS solidified its grip on the city less than an hour's drive from Baghdad, almost all the doctors fled. "She was starting to get better, but now she's stopped speaking," he said, explaining that the few doctors who stayed behind were only allowed to treat IS fighters.

Costs skyrocket

First the cost of medicine skyrocketed, then specialized medicine wasn't available in Fallujah at all. Athab, 34 said he prayed for liberation, hoping once his city was retaken by Iraqi government forces his daughter would again be able to see a doctor. But more than a month after IS was pushed out of Fallujah, the city remains a ghost town and Athab and his family are stuck in a camp on the edge of Anbar province. This year, Athab's family joined the more than 1 million other Anbaris who have

Islamic State group by its Arabic acronym. Instead, industry and agriculture have ground to a halt, schools are closed, electrical grids are down and many roads remain unusable. In that vacuum, tribal politics are becoming more powerful and families are adopting more conservative habits, said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity due to a lack of authorization to release information to the media.

Blood feuds

While Iraqi government security forces administer databases of information to identify possible IS fighters among civilians, much of the screening process is handed over to local Anbari officials and communities. At one of the larger displacement camps in Amiriyah Al-Fallujah, a crowd of women gathered around a humanitarian convoy calling for help, they all had sons who were detained while fleeing Fallujah. Two weeks after they were taken, the women didn't



BELGRADE: Andjela Babovic, a high school graduate from Serbia, displays pages from her history text book showing pages concerning the collapse of Yugoslavia. — AFP

HISTORY TEXTBOOKS MISSING ONE SIDE OF YUGOSLAV STORY

BELGRADE: A quarter-century has elapsed since Yugoslavia began its bloody collapse but students and teachers say that when it comes to recounting the conflict, history books are brief and biased. During the war-torn 1990s, the Yugoslav Federation broke apart and the nationalism and ethnic tensions that drove the violence remain imprinted in textbooks today, they say. "The war is glossed over in a couple of pages and you cannot really know exactly what happened and how," complained Andjela Babovic, an 18-year-old who has just finished school in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

Babovic has discussed the issue with peers in Zagreb and Sarajevo, the capitals of Croatia and Bosnia respectively. None of them got the "full story" of events, for each country presented its own condensed and often honeyed version of the past, she said. "We all get half-stories," Babovic told AFP. Forged by Tito in the wake of World War II, communist Yugoslavia began to crumble after two of its six republics, Slovenia and Croatia, proclaimed independence in 1991. The move triggered a series of inter-ethnic wars that claimed 130,000 lives and left millions of people homeless.

Depending on where students live today in the ex-federation, the narrative they learn can be strikingly different. One example is Operation Storm, the last major offensive in Croatia's independence war. It saw Croatian forces seize back a key area held by Serb rebels and practically ended the conflict. But many Serb civilians, including many elderly, were killed in the aftermath — 667, according to the Croatian Helsinki Committee but 2,500 according to the Serbian government. In Croatia, teenagers are taught about Operation Storm as a "liberation of (Serb) occupied territory," but Serbian textbooks describe it as the "planned ethnic cleansing" of Serbs, said Babovic. Hrvoje Klasic, a history professor at Zagreb University, said he could not imagine a Croatian school discussion on the operation that would mention that more than 200,000 Serbs were forced to flee. "Textbooks do not encourage such discussion," he said, explaining that the educational focus was on fact-learning rather than debate.

'War-time ideologies'

Dubravka Stojanovic, a Belgrade University history professor, said the consequence of this was worrying. One-sided curricula are shaping younger generations'

views of the wars "with positions remaining unchanged and irreconcilable," she said. "Most textbooks and history lessons in all these countries today retain all of the arguments used by war-time ideologies for triggering conflict." The situation in Bosnia is even more complicated.

The republic has remained deeply divided along the ethnic lines of the three communities that were at war: Muslims, Croats and Serbs. The splits are mirrored in their textbooks, according to teachers and academics in the country. "Regardless of attempts to have a shared gist (of what happened), we still have different interpretations," said Sarajevo history teacher Elmira Memic. Each community's textbooks "gloss over some important events and emphasize those that serve to embellish their own national histories," wrote Vera Katz, a senior researcher at Sarajevo University, in a Transitional Justice paper last year.

As debates continue over who caused the state's collapse, each curriculum is quick to apportion blame elsewhere. One Serbian textbook says the federation fell apart because Serbia's "right to be equal with other Yugoslav republics was disputed" by Croatia and Slovenia. But a Bosnian book blames Serbia, saying its "aspiration to dominate Yugoslavia" led to the final split, and in Slovenia students learn that the disputes were "mostly provoked by Serbs".

'Emptiness in knowledge'

In Kosovo, the textbook for 15-year-olds "very simply and without any analysis of causes explains that the former Yugoslavia fell apart and that several states emerged out of it," said Merita Osmani, a primary school history teacher in Pristina. "Emptiness in the textbook causes emptiness in students' knowledge about this period," Osmani said, adding that her pupils "learn more about Asia" than this crucial episode of their own history.

Asked who caused the collapse of the federation and why, Babovic in Belgrade drew her own conclusion that European countries, NATO and the United States were to blame. That analysis is rejected by the West, which in its view strived mightily to maintain a balance between upholding human rights and self-determination. "They saw that Yugoslavia could become a great power and a threat in this part of the world," said Babovic. "Therefore they started the war." — AFP

YEMEN REBELS CONVENE PARLIAMENT IN DEFIANCE

ADEN: Iran-backed rebels convened Yemen's parliament yesterday in defiance of the internationally recognized government, prompting condemnation from President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. The session in rebel-held Sanaa was the first time parliament has convened in almost two years, and comes after the Houthis rejected a UN peace plan and appointed a council to run the country. Parliamentary sources said that 91 lawmakers in the 301-member national assembly attended the session. All voted in favor of the council which was created last week.

The Houthi rebels overran Sanaa in September 2014 and then fought their way into other parts of Yemen, forcing Hadi and his government to seek exile in Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition has been fighting the Houthis and their allies-supporters of ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh since March last year to shore up the Hadi government.

Since Sanaa's capture, many parliamentarians have also fled the capital, seeking refuge in other towns or overseas. Yesterday political and security sources in Sanaa told AFP that some lawmakers were forced to attend following threats from the rebels, without elaborating. Hadi denounced the parliamentary session as a "violation" of the constitution and a "crime punishable by law", in remarks carried by the official sabanew.net website. "Whatever takes place at this meeting has no legal effects and cannot be implemented," he said.

According to the constitution, more than 150 lawmakers must be present for voting to take

place. Armed rebels were inside parliament for yesterday's session, which was held as Saudi-led coalition warplanes pounded military targets around the capital, parliamentary sources said. UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed has described the rebel governing council as a viola-

tion of commitments to the peace process. Last week, he suspended UN-brokered talks between rebels and the government. The UN says that more than 6,400 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Yemen since the coalition air campaign began in March last year. — AP



SANAA: Members of Yemen's parliament attend a parliament session in the rebel-held capital. — AFP

TURKEY SAYS BIDEN VISIT ON AUGUST 24

ANKARA: US Vice President Joe Biden is expected to visit Turkey later this month, the Turkish prime minister said yesterday, as relations between the two countries are strained over Ankara's demand to extradite an exiled cleric blamed for the July 15 coup attempt. "The American vice president is expected... to come to Turkey, on August 24 with the American delegation," Binali Yildirim told a group of journalists, according to the website of TV channel CNN Turk.

If confirmed, the Biden visit would mark the first time a top Western leader has visited Turkey since the attempted putsch by a rogue faction within the military to oust President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Yildirim's comments came after Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Friday that Turkey had received "positive signals" from Washington

regarding its extradition demand. Ankara wants the return of Pennsylvania-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, whom it accuses of being responsible for orchestrating the coup alongside his movement.

Gulen denies the accusations, and the US has asked Turkey to provide evidence which Ankara claims it has done sending several documents. But the prime minister appeared yesterday to rule out any compromise on the demand for Gulen to face trial in Turkey. "Improving our relations with the United States depends on the extradition of Gulen, and on that issue there is no room for negotiation," Yildirim said, according to CNN Turk. Earlier reports had said US Secretary of State John Kerry planned to visit Turkey on August 24. But now the prime minister said Kerry would come in October. Washington however has not confirmed these visits. — AFP



DES MONIES: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a rally at Abraham Lincoln High School. —AP

CLINTON RELEASES TAX RETURNS, NOW PUSHING TRUMP FOR HIS

WASHINGTON: Hillary and Bill Clinton earned \$10.6 million last year, according to a tax filing released by her campaign that sought to pressure presidential rival Donald Trump to disclose his tax returns. The filing shows that the Clintons paid a federal tax rate of 34.2 percent in 2015. The bulk of their income - more than \$6 million - came from speaking fees for appearances made largely before Hillary Clinton launched her campaign in April 2015. They gave more than \$1,042,000 to charity, with \$1 million going to the Clinton family foundation. That is the financial vehicle the family uses to give money to museums, schools, churches and other charitable causes. It is not the same organization as the better-known Clinton Foundation.

The Clintons' income puts them well within the ranks of the top 0.1 percent of Americans, though they pay a higher tax rate than many of their elite peers, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, based on 2013 data. The release on Friday is part of an effort to undercut Trump's character by questioning the celebrity businessman's record. Trump has refused to make his filings public, saying they're under audit by the Internal Revenue Service and he'll release them only once that review is complete.

All major US presidential candidates in modern history have released their returns. Trump steered clear of mentioning his personal taxes Friday. A spokesman pointed to Clinton's move to delete tens of thousands of personal emails from her private account as secretary of state and questions about whether she used her government post to benefit the Clinton Foundation. "Hillary Clinton has turned over the only records nobody wants to see from her - the American public wants to see the 33,000 emails she deleted to obstruct an FBI investigation," said Trump spokesman Jason Miller.

Seeking common ground

The Clintons have disclosed tax returns for every year since 1977, in part due to laws requiring public officials release returns. She put out her most recent eight years of tax filings last summer and several years during her first presidential bid. Seeking common ground with blue-collar workers who have been attracted to Trump, Clinton frequently mentions his returns as a way of underscoring how his economic plans would benefit his personal interests and questioning whether he's as wealthy as he claims. Democrats believe Trump's returns could be a trove of politically damaging information.

They want to see his tax rate, charitable giving, and business dealings with foreign governments. "Here's a pretty incredible fact: There is a non-zero chance that Donald Trump isn't paying (asterisk)any(asterisk) taxes," Clinton tweeted, after releasing her own returns. Protesters at Trump afternoon rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, held up signs reading "Tax Forms" before being escorted out by security.

Clinton's strategy borrows from President Barack Obama's winning playbook against Mitt Romney in 2012. Obama repeatedly used Romney's business dealings against him and seized upon his reluctance to release certain tax records. Clinton's campaign also released 10 years of returns from running mate Tim Kaine and his wife, Anne Holton. Over the last decade, the couple has donated 7.5 percent of their income to charity, the campaign said, and paid an effective tax rate of 25.6 percent last year. Kaine, the Virginia senator who's spent much of his life in public service, reported a far lower income than the Clintons. Over the past decade, he and his wife earned the most in 2014, more than \$314,000 in adjusted gross income. The Clintons made about 90 times more, reporting nearly \$28 million for the same year. —AP

FRUSTRATION GROWS, GOP COULD BE NEAR BREAKING POINT OVER TRUMP

ALTOONA: The Republican Party could be nearing a breaking point with Donald Trump. As he skips from one gaffe to the next, GOP leaders in Washington and in the most competitive states have begun openly contemplating turning their backs on their party's presidential nominee to prevent what they fear will be wide-scale Republican losses on Election Day. Back in 1996, the party also largely gave up on nominee Bob Dole once it became clear he had little chance of winning, so it's not without precedent. Nevertheless, it's jolting prospect now, with roughly three months still left before the Nov. 8 vote and weeks before the three presidential debates.

Republicans who have devoted their professional lives to electing GOP candidates say they believe the White House already may be lost. They're exasperated by Trump's divisive politics and his insistence on running a general election campaign that mirrors his approach to the primaries. "Based on his campaign record, there's no chance he's going to win," said Sara Fagen, the political director for former President George W. Bush. "He's losing groups of people he can't get back."

Right direction?

Trump's campaign says things are moving in the right direction, a position that itself feeds the discontent among his GOP detractors. The billionaire businessman's loyalists say enough time remains to change the dynamic against Democrat Hillary Clinton who, like Trump, is deeply unpopular with voters. And his backers are blaming the media for the perception that all is not well. "Frankly, a lot of stuff over the last week ... it's him being distorted," said Trump's campaign chairman, Paul Manafort. "For the last week or so, he's been very focused and very much on his game."

Trump did show some modest improvement as a candidate in the past week. He has stopped criticizing a Muslim family of a fallen US soldier. Gone are the fights with some of his party's most respected members of Congress. But also in the past seven days, Trump has questioned the advice of senior

aides, threatened to stop raising money for the party, dismissed the usefulness of get-out-the-vote efforts and defended his decision not to run any television ads even as his opponents fill the airwaves with spots backing Clinton in several contested states. It all largely overshadowed the content of 44 previously-unreleased email exchanges Clinton had while at the State Department. They became public on Tuesday and showed her

helping Trump's campaign. "They're going to do it sooner or later. They might as well do it sooner to have more impact," said former Minnesota Rep Vin Weber, among those who signed.

Senior Republicans in Washington and in some of the most contested states have discussed a scenario in which the party scales back its presidential focus in states that don't feature top races for Senate. They could aban-

el, but Priebus has informally discussed the possibility with party leaders in battleground states in recent days, three of the officials said. Should that occur, it's not likely to happen until after Labor Day, as the party is still relying on Trump to help raise money to fund its expansive political operation. But the amount of money needed decreases as each day passes, giving the RNC greater financial freedom to potentially change course



ERIE: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally. —AP

interacting with lobbyists, political and Clinton Foundation donors and business interests while serving as secretary of state.

Stop helping

To some Republicans, it's enough for the party to give up on their nominee. More than 100 GOP officials, including at least six former members of Congress and more than 20 former staffers at the Republican National Committee, have signed a letter asking the party chairman, Reince Priebus, to stop

donating to a state such as Virginia, for example, and focus more on a state such as Indiana, where Democrat Evan Bayh is trying to make a Senate comeback. That's according to several Republican officials in Washington and states that would be affected, including Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. They spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to outline private discussions.

There is no evidence that a formal plan to break with Trump exists at either the state party or RNC level

as the election nears. The dissension in the Republican ranks hasn't affected Trump's ability to draw supporters to his rallies. Lisa Thompson, a firefighter from St. Cloud, Florida, is among the many who continue to stand in long lines for hours to see Trump at his events. She said those balking at his missteps were being "too sensitive" - a luxury the nation can't afford with growing security threats. She urged Trump to stick with his playbook. "Why be fake?" she asked. —AP

MORE RAIN EXPECTED FOR LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI

NEW ORLEANS: More rain expected to swamp already soggy ground across Louisiana and other parts of the Gulf Coast where at least two people died and dozens had to be rescued from waist-high water surrounding their homes. Louisiana Gov John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency as rescue workers in the southeastern part of the state braced for more precipitation.

Edwards spokesman Richard Carbo said the governor returned to Louisiana on Friday because of the

"Beau" Clark, the parish coroner, ruled the death "an accidental drowning." A second victim was found in St. Helena Parish, where crews pulled a body from a submerged pickup on Louisiana Highway 10. State Fire Marshal H "Butch" Browning confirmed they found a man in his 50s inside a marooned Chevrolet pickup truck about 7 p.m. Friday. The body was turned over to the parish coroner's office. His name has not been released, but Browning said he's

Meteorologist Mike Shields, with the service's Slidell, Louisiana office, said a flash-flood watch remained in effect through Sunday. "Potentially, additional heavy rain from 4 to 8 inches can be expected west of Interstate 55 and lesser amounts east of there as the system continues moving further west," he said. In a 24-hour period, Baton Rouge reported as much as 11.34 inches of rain fell compared with 2.34 inches at New Orleans' international airport in Kenner. Shields said one of their weather observers reported 17.09 inches fell in Livingston. The Comite River near Baton Rouge and Amite River near Denham Springs, both in Louisiana, were predicted to set record crests over the weekend. Forecaster Alek Krautmann said both rivers could flood many houses in suburban areas near Baton Rouge. The Tickfaw River, just south of the Mississippi state line in Liverpool, Louisiana, was already at the highest level ever recorded at 9 a.m. Friday.

Mike Steele, a spokesman for the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said requests were coming in for high-water vehicles, boats and sandbags. Tangipahoa Parish alone requested tens of thousands of sandbags. In southwest Mississippi, rescues occurred in Amite and Wilkinson counties. Leroy Hansford, his wife and stepson were among those rescued near Gloster. Hansford, 62, said waters from Beaver Creek, which is normally more than 400 feet away from his house, rose quickly overnight. He said another stepson who lives nearby alerted him. "We woke up and the water kept on coming," Hansford said. "It came up to my waist." His wife told Hansford that it's the highest she's seen the creek in the 48 years she's lived there.

In Crosby, Mississippi, more than 50 people flooded out of a neighborhood will be housed at a shelter in Natchez. Wilkinson County Chancery Clerk Thomas Tolliver said an apartment complex and surrounding houses in the town were flooded after 10 inches of rain fell. Authorities said they expect to shelter displaced Crosby residents at least until Monday. —AP



BATON ROUGE: Residents waded through floodwaters from heavy rains in the Chateau Wein Apartments. —AP

flooding. Edwards had been in Colorado for a policy meeting of the Democratic Governors Association but left early because of the storm. Edwards has scheduled a news conference for 10 a.m. yesterday to discuss the flooding situation, which also affected the Louisiana Governor's Mansion, which has a flooded basement. WAFB-TV reports the governor's family has been relocated until the situation is resolved.

A spokeswoman for the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office said one man died Friday after slipping into a flooded ditch near the city of Zachary. Casey Rayborn Hicks identified the victim as 68-year-old William Mayfield. His body was found about noon Friday. Dr. William

believed to be from the area.

Widespread flooding

Meanwhile, crews are continuing to search for possibly another washed away vehicle after residents reported a missing person. Browning said the area is sparsely populated and authorities only came across the truck after earlier successfully rescuing the driver of an 18-wheeler whose rig was pushed off the roadway. Numerous rivers in southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi were overflowing their banks and threatening widespread flooding after extreme rainfall that began late Thursday, the National Weather Service reported.

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ANOTHER FRENCH RIVIERA RESORT BANS 'BURKINIS'

NICE: A second resort on France's Riviera coast, Villeneuve-Loubet, announced yesterday a ban against burkinis after Cannes banished the full-body swimsuit from its beaches. The town's mayor told AFP that he made the decision to bar the burkini worn by some Muslim women because of sanitary reasons. "I was informed that there was a couple on one of our beaches where the wife was swimming fully dressed," Lionel Luca said. "I considered that unacceptable for hygienic reasons

and that in general it was unwelcome."

The mayor of Cannes, famous for its annual film festival, said he had signed off on the burkini ban out of "respect for good customs and secularism", a founding principle of the French republic. But prohibiting the burkini has caused an uproar with anti-racism organizations and human rights groups vowing to go to court to seek to overturn the "deeply worrying" ban. In the city of Marseille this week, a waterpark cancelled plans to host a

private event for women wearing burkinis after the idea sparked an uproar. The issue comes at a highly sensitive time for relations with Muslims in France after two attacks last month linked to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group.

Mayor Luca referred to the attacks in disputing charges that the burkini ban was discriminatory, saying it was intended "to avoid any disturbance to public order in the region which was hit by attacks". On July 14 the nearby Riviera city of Nice

was the target of an attack claimed by IS which killed 85 people, when an Algerian ploughed a truck into crowds celebrating Bastille Day. And on July 26, a priest was killed in his church in north-western France by two attackers who had proclaimed their allegiance to IS.

Islamic dress is a hot-button issue in France, where the full-face veil is banned in public places. But there is no ban on wearing religious symbols or clothing. — AFP

HISTORIC LEADER FIDEL CASTRO TURNS 90 IN NEW-LOOK CUBA

BOTH LOVED AS A HERO AND HATED AS A DICTATOR



HAVANA: A woman reads in Havana the August 13, 2016 issue of Resumen Latinoamericano newspaper with a front page that displays a picture of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. — AFP

HAVANA: Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro turned 90 yesterday in an island transformed from the one he led for half a century. Both loved as a hero and hated as a dictator, Castro is one of the giant figures of modern history. He defied 10 US presidents during his 48 years in power, but in the decade since he stepped aside Cuba has become a different world. His sworn foe, the United States, is no longer officially Cuba's enemy.

'Warrior'

Now white-bearded and frail, Castro was a strapping 32-year old in green fatigues when he led a rebel force that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959. His image as a revolutionary warrior storming down from the mountains, rifle in hand, stirred his admirers' imagination. His communist policies and iron-fisted treatment of rivals drew the hostility of the United States and other Western powers.

His voice used to boom out over Havana in speeches that lasted hours. Nowadays he is rarely heard from, though his face still smiles out from countless billboards across the Caribbean island. No official public events were scheduled to mark his birthday and there was so far no word from the former president himself, who spends his days out of sight at home. But his friends and enemies on the streets of Havana and beyond are fully aware of the significance of the date.

A birthday visit by Cuba's top regional ally, socialist President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, has not been ruled out. "We will be celebrating the 90th birthday of that immortal man," Maduro said. State newspapers on the communist island have for days been printing pictures and articles about him to mark his 90th year. Concerts have been played in his honor.

'Dictator'

Fidel Castro retired from public life in 2006 due to ill health. He formally transferred the presidency to his brother Raul in 2008. But Fidel continues to exert "an indirect influence through certain figures in the regime who are not comfortable with the reforms that Raul has made," said Kevin Casas-Zamora, a political scientist at Oxford University. Raul, 85, has gradually opened up Cuba's economy and foreign relations. He has restored diplomatic relations with Fidel's old foe, the United States.

Such reforms were unthinkable when Cuba was a pro-Soviet state on the United States' doorstep during the Cold War. Fidel gave free healthcare, housing and schooling to citizens on a poor island. "Fidel is everything. He is sport, he is culture. He is rebellion. If Cubans are rebels, it is thanks to Fidel," said Manuel Bravo, a 48-year-old glazier. But the former president's regime is also accused by rights groups of brutally repressing dissent by torturing and jailing opponents. "I will remember him as a dictator," said Martha Beatriz Roque, 71, an anti-Castro dissident who was one of 75 opponents jailed in the "black spring" of 2003. "He is the man of 'Es': egomaniacal, egotistical, egocentric," Roque said. "I don't know whether I will be able to wish him a happy birthday."

'Hero'

Castro has reportedly suffered from intestinal illness in recent years. But official secrecy shrouds his condition. He last appeared in public on April 19 at the close of the Cuban Communist Party Congress. Dressed in a blue tracksuit and speaking in a trembling voice, he seemed to say goodbye. "Soon I'll be like all the rest," he said. "Everyone's turn comes." After US President Barack Obama visited Cuba in March, Fidel Castro recalled the island's long enmity with the US, including Washington's backing for the failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

His bitterness over that botched CIA plot played a part in pushing the world to the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis the following year. The Soviet Union agreed to his request to send ballistic missiles to Cuba. "For most Latin Americans, Fidel Castro represents heroic resistance to the hegemony and control of the United States," said Peter Hakim, an international affairs expert at Inter-American Dialogue, a think tank. "But I do not think he will be seen as a hero for much longer... The modern world has left him and Cuba behind." — AFP



STOCKHOLM: Swedish minister Aida Hadzialic arrives for a press conference. — AFP

SWEDEN'S YOUNGEST MINISTER RESIGNS OVER DRINK DRIVING

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's youngest ever cabinet minister, who came to the country as a refugee from Bosnia, announced her resignation yesterday after being caught driving under the influence of alcohol. Aida Hadzialic, 29, minister for secondary and adult education, revealed that she had been stopped by police in the southern city of Malmö and tests showed she had an alcohol level of 0.2 grams per liter of blood—just the level considered an offence in Sweden.

"That was the biggest mistake of my life... I will take responsibility. I announce my intention to resign from my ministerial post," an emotional Hadzialic told a press conference at government headquarters in Stockholm. "I understand that a lot of people are disappointed in me. And I am angry with myself, and certainly I deeply regret it," added the young politician seen as the future of the Social Democrat party.

Hadzialic was born in Bosnia and immigrated to Sweden at the age of five, in

1992, with her parents fleeing the war in the Balkans. She became involved in the Social Democrats youth movement in high school and went on to be elected a municipal councillor at age 23. Then in 2014 at 27 she became the youngest ever government minister in Sweden's history. She is not the only politician to have to drop out since Sweden's political left returned to power two years ago.

Deputy premier and environment minister Asa Romson from the Green party resigned in May after a series of gaffes, the last being to describe the 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States as "the accidents of September 11". Housing minister Mehmet Kaplan, of Turkish origin, had to step down in April after comparing Israelis to the Nazis, and Mona Sahlin, the national coordinator for protecting democracy against violent extremism, was forced to resign in May after media revealed that she had made false income declarations for her bodyguard to help him obtain bank loans. — AFP

PILED UP PRISONS: SWAMPED JUSTICE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

SAN SALVADOR: Central America's relentless struggle with gangs and street crime has created a worrying consequence: Prisons so overcrowded they serve more as schools for felons than institutions for rehabilitation, according to experts. Together, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama have 103,993 convicts in around a hundred penitentiaries—whose combined capacity is meant to be 48,218. Prison overpopulation in each facility ranges from 22 percent to 246 percent. "The overcrowding highlights the failure of the structure of the justice system in its entirety," said Laura Andrade, a Salvadoran expert on prison issues.

Several studies show that the governments in the region have opted for a populist policy that simply scoops up massive amounts of criminals and locks them away as an answer to public fears in some of the world's most dangerous countries. Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador constitute what is known as the "Northern Triangle" of Central America: gang-ridden nations whose murder rates are among the highest on the planet outside of actual war zones. But experts question the strategy, which they say merely creates fertile centers for criminal learning. "The citizen perception of imprisonment as a solution to security problems has impeded progress in reforms to reduce the inmate population, adopt alternative measures, and promote social reinsertion," the UN Development Program said in a 2013 report.

Hotbeds of violence

In recent years, Central American governments have thrown themselves behind renovating prisons or building new ones. The allocated budgets are focused much more on improving penitentiary employees' salaries and inmates' food than on

rehabilitation schemes. For the UNDP, the prisons have become hotbeds of violence where human rights violations, criminal networks and recidivism abound.

In a heightened crackdown on gangs this year, El Salvador in March imposed strict measures to prevent many of the 16,197 gang members locked up — 46 percent of the country's prison population—communicating with the outside world in a bid to curb their criminal activities. Yet there are some signs the region is realizing the need for a change in direction. "In the current conditions of overcrowding, the inhuman living conditions and the human rights violations experienced by most of the inmate population, prison is doing the opposite of what it's supposed to, which is to resocialize," said a recent study of El Salvador's prison system carried out by the University of Central America. With 34,938 inmates in 19 penitentiaries, El Salvador has the worst rate of prison overcrowding in the region, at 246 percent. It is followed by Guatemala at 204 percent. The Central American country with the lowest level of overcrowding is Panama, at 22 percent.

"It's urgent that the state develop a new crime-fighting policy that involves the three powers (executive, legislative and judicial), and which require us to take decisions that avoid prison as the sole applicable measure, with a series of alternatives," Costa Rica's justice minister, Cecilia Sanchez, told AFP. For her, the "poor penitentiary structure" and the lack of qualified personnel are the main obstacles to working out a real reinsertion program for released prisoners. In Guatemala, Andrea Barrios, coordinator for an association called Colectivo Artesanas, urged alternatives to prison for lesser crimes, such as home detention or community service. — AFP



EL SALVADOR: With 34,938 inmates in 19 penitentiaries, El Salvador has the worst rate of prison overcrowding in the region, at 246%. — AFP

VENEZUELAN COURT UPHOLDING OPPOSITION LEADER SENTENCE

CARACAS: A Venezuelan appeals court upheld on Friday the nearly 14-year prison sentence imposed on opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez for inciting violence during anti-government protests in 2014, his lawyer said. Lawyer Juan Carlos Gutierrez told The Associated Press that the "sentence was upheld on equal terms" as the original conviction. Court officials did not immediately confirm the ruling, which came after three weeks of deliberation.

Lopez, a Harvard-educated former mayor, has denied that he incited violence. International human rights groups consider him South America's highest-profile political prisoner. His conviction has been widely condemned as a sham trial by foreign governments, including the US. But government officials say he was behind a wave of violence that left three people dead and dozens injured during protests against the government of President Nicolas Maduro in February 2014. In the past, they have accused Lopez of collaborating with the US

government to stage a coup.

Gutierrez, the lawyer, said he will take the case to the Supreme Justice Tribunal and the United Nations. Jesus Torrealba, secretary of the opposition Alliance, called the decision "illegal and unjust," adding on her Twitter account that Lopez "will be freed by the vote of the people." The 45-year-old Lopez has been held for almost 30 months in the Ramo Verde prison outside Caracas. The ruling comes as the opposition tries to remove the unpopular Maduro from office through a recall vote amid soaring inflation, food shortages and a sharp economic downturn.

In June, Lopez said he would not negotiate for his own freedom if it meant abandoning the effort to recall Maduro this year. His supporters said international leaders engaged in a diplomatic effort to diffuse Venezuela's political crisis had put his release on the table as a possible bargaining chip. But Lopez said the country's freedom would always come before his own. — AP

CALLS FOR CALM AS ZAMBIA ELECTION RESULTS TRICKLE IN

LUSAKA: Early results from Zambia's presidential election were released yesterday, with poll observers calling for calm as delays in the counting process followed a tense campaigning period. President Edgar Lungu of the Patriotic Front (PF) and leading challenger Hakainde Hichilema were predicted to be in a close race for power as Zambia struggles with a weakening economy. Hichilema, of the United Party for National Development (UPND), alleged on Friday that the count was being undermined by fraud. The Electoral Commission rejected Hichilema's allegations that it was colluding with Lungu's party over the result, describing the charges as "regrettable".

Yesterday afternoon, partial results from 22 of the 156 constituencies put Lungu ahead on 207,547 votes with Hichilema on 153,630, according to the commission, with the other seven presidential candidates far behind. Lungu took power only last year when he beat Hichilema by less than 28,000 votes in a snap election. Zambia is known for its relative stability, but the run-up to Thursday's vote was marked by weeks of clashes between PF and UPND supporters, with at least three people killed.

The Christian Churches Monitoring Group, which had 1,670 observers at polling stations

across the country, described the election as a "step backward for the country", expressing deep concern about the environment before the vote.

"We appeal to all Zambians, regardless of their affiliation to remain peaceful, to reject violence," the group said in a statement. "Zambia is not a new democracy and should be a model to the region and beyond." The CCMG report pointed to opposition candidates being unable to campaign freely, an impartial police force and unbalanced pro-Lungu media coverage.

Higher turnout

An EU monitoring team, which had 120 observers on duty, was due to give its first assessment of the poll later yesterday. The estimated turnout was about 57 percent—higher than last year, with long queues and no major violence on voting day. Zambia, in contrast to neighbors like Angola and Zimbabwe, has escaped war and serious upheaval in recent decades.

It last held a peaceful transfer of power to an opposition party in 2011 when Michael Sata took office. Sata died in 2014, and the 2015 election gave Lungu the right to finish Sata's term. Lungu's short term in office has been marked by the falling price of copper,

the country's key export, with inflation rising to over 20 percent and unemployment soaring. Constitutional changes mean that the winner must now secure more than 50 percent of the vote, leading to a possible second round run-off that would likely be held next month.

Hichilema, 54, a wealthy businessman who is making his fifth attempt to win the presidency, said when he voted that he would accept the election result if it was "free, fair and transparent". On the campaign trail, the British-educated economist emphasized his business credentials as an asset to turning around the economy. Known as "HH", he has major investments in ranching, property and healthcare in Zambia.

The former British colony, ruled by Kenneth Kaunda from 1964 until 1991, recorded GDP growth of 3.6 percent last year—its slowest since 1998. Growth was more than 10 percent in 2010. Last year Lungu, 59, held a mass prayer gathering in the national stadium to ask for divine help to improve the economy. About 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the World Bank. The presidential, parliamentary and local election also included a constitutional referendum on amending the bill of rights. — AFP

BRITON ARRESTED OVER BANGLADESH CAFE CARNAGE

DHAKA: Bangladeshi police have formally arrested a British national allegedly involved in the deadly Islamist attack on a Dhaka cafe that killed 22 people last month, officials said yesterday. Hasnat Karim, a 47-year-old Briton, had initially been detained along with Tahmid Khan, 22, a University of Toronto student, as a suspect in the attack, which was claimed by the Islamic State group. A court yesterday ordered Karim to be remanded in custody for eight more days after police said he was the "first person" to be formally arrested over the attack.

Karim and Khan were both inside the Holey Artisan Bakery when gunmen raided the cafe on the night of July 1, taking a group of mainly Western diners hostage and then killing 20 of them, along with two policemen. Police had sought to hold Karim for 10 more days, saying the father of two should be questioned further as he was now the "first person to have been arrested in the case." "We have found some information regarding his involvement in that incident," Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Masudur Rahman told AFP.

Karim and Khan were last week arrested under a law which allows the police to detain someone on suspicion of any crime but they were not directly linked to the attack. Karim's lawyer maintained he was innocent. "We've said that he was a victim of circumstances. He was used as a body shield and forced to walk with the attackers at gunpoint," Golam Mostafa told AFP. Khan was remanded into

police custody for six days, police said.

Neither Karim and Khan have been seen in public since the end of the siege when commandos stormed the cafe in the capital's upmarket Gulshan neighbourhood on the morning of July 2. The men's families have said they were being held by security forces even though there was no evidence to link them to the attackers. Karim's father Rezaul Karim last week told AFP that his son had helped save lives during the siege. "My son was a hero. He saved the life of at least eight people during the siege. I know him. He is innocent." Relatives say Karim, his wife and two children were at the cafe to celebrate the 13th birthday of their daughter.

Reports in local media said both men were being investigated for suspicious activity during the siege. They said Khan was seen holding a firearm and Hasnat Karim strolling with the attackers on the roof. Karim was a lecturer at the North-South University in Dhaka, where two of the five attackers who were gunned down at the end of the siege had studied. Khan, who is a Bangladeshi citizen, was back in his homeland while on leave from the university. Police earlier this week named a Canadian citizen, Tamim Chowdhury, as the attack's mastermind, offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to his arrest. The siege was by far the deadliest in a string of attacks claimed by Islamist groups which have blighted Bangladesh over the last three years. —AFP



DHAKA: British national Hasnat Karim (C) leaves after his court appearance in the Bangladesh capital. —AFP

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

My Dear Countrymen!

This year, the day of 14th August, besides the traditional pleasure, also carries deep feelings of grief. The pain of Quetta's martyrs is still fresh. Today, we are also remembering those martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to protect this independence. This day is dawning with the determination of Pakistani nation that Pakistan, with the grace of Allah Almighty, will remain forever. The spirit of 1965 is still alive with full vigor, when Pakistani armed forces and the people together confronted the enemy. This Independence is also memorable due to the fact that nowadays the spirit of independence in Occupied Kashmir is on its peak. The new generation of Kashmiris has raised the flag of freedom with a new vigor. I dedicate this year's 14th August to the freedom of Kashmir. I dedicate it to those people of Kashmir, who bravely faced the state oppression but kept the spirit of freedom alive.

The protection of independence is even harder than its achievement. Without the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, the creation of Pakistan was impossible. If our armed forces, security institutions,

police and people did not have shed their blood, its (Pakistan's) survival and security was impossible. In the month of August, when we remember the Quaid, leaders and workers of Pakistan movement, our hearts are also enlightened with the memory of those martyrs, who have become immortal by sacrificing their lives for the country.

Today, we are remembering our all those martyrs. They belong to every segment of the state. They are in every political party. They are in every field of life. They are in every sect. They are in every religion. They are all Pakistanis. They are individuals of one nation. We are paying tributes to all these martyrs. We are presenting salute to their souls. All of them are pronouncing that the nation is united against terrorists.

Today we have to solemnly affirm that, till we are alive, we will sacrifice our interests for the stability, security and survival of Pakistan. We will take forward this tradition of martyrs that after us, the world gives the same evidence in our favor, which we are giving today for our martyrs. May Allah bless you.

Pakistan Paindabad!

KASHMIR'S ANTI-INDIA PROTESTS PERSIST DESPITE STRICT CURFEW

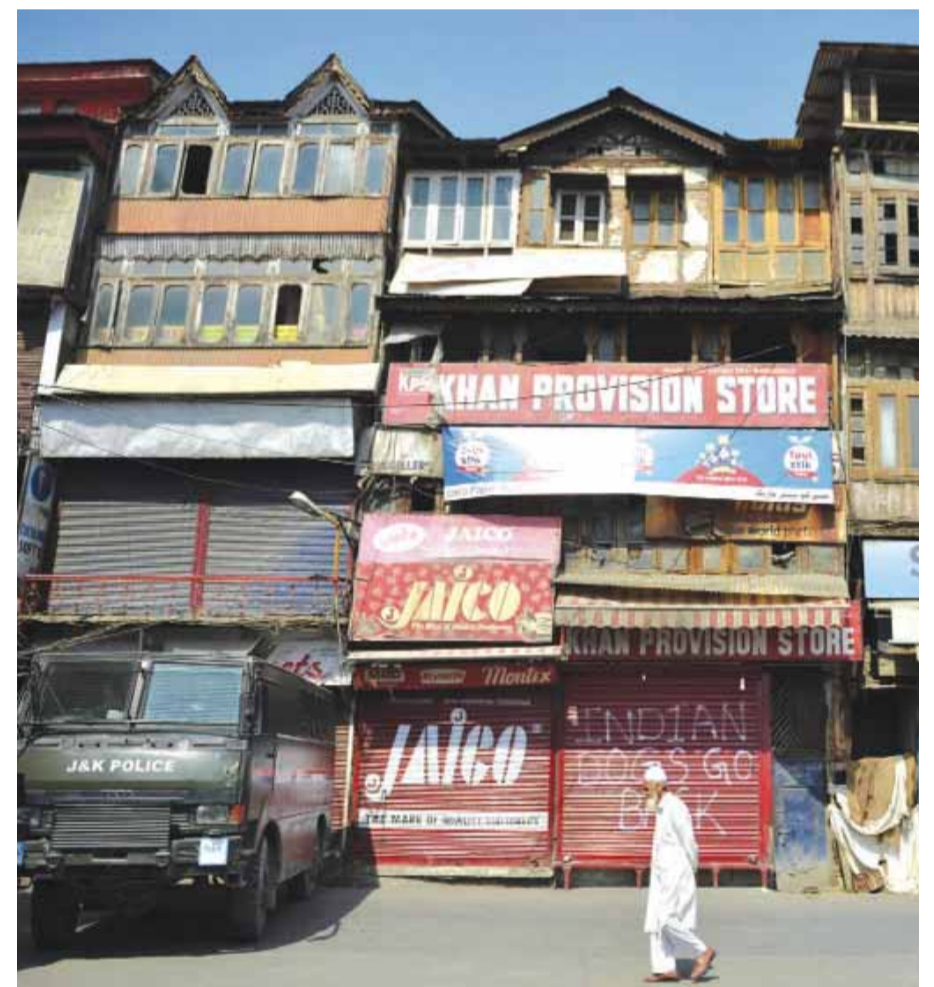
SEPARATIST LEADERS CALL FOR WEEKEND PROTESTS

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday extended a strict curfew to most parts of the restive region as separatist leaders called for weekend protests against Indian rule. Government troops in armored vehicles patrolled the streets to thwart any attempt by protesters in Srinagar to march to the city's commercial center.

Despite the stringent curfew, protests erupted at about eight places in the city yesterday. At two places, police and paramilitary soldiers fired tear gas and shotgun pellets to stop rock-throwing protesters. At least 10 people, including six policemen, were injured in clashes across the region, said a police officer speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to the media. Separatist leaders, who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir, urged Kashmiris to march to a historic square over the weekend to demand a referendum to decide the future of the region.

Shops, businesses and schools were shut for the 36th straight day and authorities blocked most cellphone services and internet in an attempt to prevent demonstrators from mobilizing. Kashmir has been under a security lockdown and curfew since the killing of a popular rebel commander on July 8 sparked some of the largest protests against Indian rule in recent years. At least 56 civilians and two policemen have been killed and more than 1,400 protesters have been arrested.

Kashmir is divided between archrivals India and Pakistan, but claimed by both in its entirety. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri rebels who have been fighting for independence or for a merger with Pakistan since 1989. Pakistan denies the charge, saying it only provides moral and political support. More than 68,000 people have been killed since rebel groups began fighting Indian forces in 1989 and in a subsequent Indian military crackdown. — AP



SRINAGAR: An elderly Kashmiri man walks as an Indian police armored vehicle blocks a road towards Lal Chowk in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

PAKISTAN CHOPPER CREW HOME AFTER AFGHAN HOSTAGE DRAMA

ISLAMABAD: Six crew members of a Pakistani government helicopter which crash-landed in Afghanistan's volatile east have been released, an official said yesterday, after they were taken hostage by the Afghan Taliban. The crew "was released in an inter-tribe exchange on the Pakistan-Afghan border (and) arrived in Islamabad today," foreign ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria said in a statement. He neither specified who had been holding the crew hostage nor what kind of exchange had secured their release.

All six — five Pakistanis and a Russian navigator — are "safe and in good health," he said, adding that the helicopter belonged to the Punjab provincial government. A senior Pakistani official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the crew's safe return. After the August 4 crash, local authorities in Afghanistan said the six-person crew had been taken hostage by the Afghan Taliban. Militants set the MI-17 transport helicopter on fire and took the crew to a Taliban-controlled area after it made an emergency landing in Logar province. The crew included retired Pakistani military officers and a Russian navigator, Pakistan's Dawn newspaper reported at the time.

Tight lipped

Pakistan had sought permission to fly a helicopter being sent to Russia for overhauling over Afghan air space. Russia's foreign ministry said the navigator would be handed over to Moscow's embassy in Islamabad, which would organize his return home. Pakistani army chief General Raheel Sharif said he had spoken to the Afghan president after the crash in a bid to secure the crew's release. "President Ashraf Ghani assured all possible assistance in this regard," he posted on Twitter. Kabul has long accused Pakistan of supporting the Taliban and continuing to nurture sanctuaries on its soil in the hope of maintaining influence in Afghanistan.

Analysts said it was not clear how the Pakistan government had secured the crew's safe release. "Our government is tight lipped while the army also did not say anything about the role of the Afghan government," security analyst Hasan Askari told AFP. The Afghan Taliban have not commented on the conditions of the release. "One thing is however, very clear — that the Afghan Taliban certainly do not want to deteriorate their ties with Pakistan," Askari said, referring to Islamabad's backing of the Taliban regime during its time in power in Afghanistan. He questioned why the helicopter was being sent to Russia for repairs through Afghan airspace, describing it as a "mysterious exercise".

Pakistan's army uses Russian-made MI-17 helicopters, several of which have crashed in recent years. In February, an army officer was killed when a military helicopter crashed in northern Pakistan on a routine night training mission. Last August, 12 people were killed when a helicopter belonging to the army crashed in northwest Pakistan. And seven people — including two foreign ambassadors — died in May last year when an MI-17 army helicopter crashed at a holiday resort in the hills of Gilgit. — AFP



KARACHI: Pakistani artists give final touches to a painting with the image of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah ahead of Independence Day celebrations. — AFP

MESSAGE FROM HE MAMNOON HUSSAIN PRESIDENT ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

My dear Countrymen!

Today we are celebrating our Independence Day with a new zeal and vigor. I am confident that our determination will pave the way for political, economic and social stability in the coming days. Our country has been confronted with many challenges since the last few years but the nation has boldly faced them through its unshakable resolve.

The Government of Pakistan resolutely decided to take action in order to cleanse various regions and cities of terrorism, extremism and lawlessness under which the Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies are playing effective role as a result of which peace is being restored in the country.

The government has also adopted sound policies to improve the economy which has created better business environment leading to increased opportunities for domestic

and international investment. It is satisfying to note that foreign investors are increasingly turning to Pakistan for investment. These developments augur well for our economic future which testifies that new possibilities and opportunities are unfolding for Pakistan.

I am happy to note that the consensus on democracy is producing positive results. We need to initiate the process of correction individually, then from homes and communities to derive more benefits and ensure that the democratic values take roots at the state, governmental and administrative levels to pave the way for real and meaningful change. Let us unite to secure a better and brighter future for our coming generations by following in the footsteps of our illustrious founding fathers.

Happy Independence Day
Pakistan Paindabad

PAKISTAN ARRESTS EX-HUSBAND, FATHER OF SLAIN BRITISH WOMAN

ISLAMABAD: The ex-husband and father of a British woman suspected to be the victim of an "honor" killing appeared in a Pakistani court yesterday after being arrested by police. Samia Shahid died last month during a visit to her family village in Punjab province with her second husband, Mukhtar Kazam, claiming she was murdered for bringing "dishonor" on her family. "Shahid's ex-husband, Muhammad Shakeel, who was on pre-arrest bail, was arrested along with Shahid's father, Muhammad Shahid, after a local court did not extend Shakeel's bail," Aqeel Abbas, a local police official, told AFP.

Abbas said both men would remain in custody for four days in Jhelum, 126 kilometers east of the capital Islamabad. Police have not charged the men. Kazam and Shahid, a dual British-

Pakistani citizen, had been married for two years and were living in Dubai, police told AFP. Kazam, who is Pakistani, said his wife had angered her parents by converting to Shia Islam, his sect, before their wedding. Earlier this month at an emotional news conference he had presented a copy of the post-mortem report into his wife's death that said the 28-year-old had marks on her neck, suggesting she had been strangled.

Shahid's father has denied the charges and said he did not want an investigation, claiming his daughter died of natural causes. The victims of "honor" killings are overwhelmingly women, with hundreds killed each year. They have long polarized Pakistan, with progressives calling for tough legislation against them and conservatives resisting. — AFP

CAMBODIA'S 'JUNGLE WOMAN' RETURNS TO VIETNAMESE DAD

PHNOM PENH: A "jungle woman" who was discovered scavenging naked by a farmer in Cambodia nine years ago, was reunited with her father in Vietnam yesterday, her adoptive family said. In 2007 the farmer found the woman caked in dirt, hunched over like a monkey and looking on the ground for pieces of dried rice. She was taken in by a Cambodian family who identified her as Rochom P'ngieng, a girl who went missing in 1989 while herding water buffalo in a northeastern province that borders Vietnam and is home to some of Cambodia's wildest jungle.

It was believed she had spent some 18 years living in the jungle. But nearly a decade later, a 70-year-old Vietnamese man named Peo claimed to be her real father, saying his daughter went missing in 2006 — just a year before she was found — and has a history

of mental health issues. In a letter given to her Cambodian adopted family last month, Peo said he recognised his daughter, named Tak, after seeing recent photos on Facebook. Rochom Khamphy, a member of her adoptive Cambodian family, told AFP she was returned to the Vietnamese man yesterday morning after authorities approved his paternity claim.

"We gave her back to his Vietnamese father. Both my family and Vietnamese relatives cried while watching their reunion," he said, adding that the family believed Peo to be her biological father. "We are going to miss her," Rochom Khamphy told AFP, adding that the woman left his family with no belongings, only "the clothes she was wearing".

The Vietnamese father has agreed to pay the adoptive family \$1,500 for taking care of his daughter. — AFP

PHILIPPINE CONGRESS REQUIRES SAY ON MARCOS BURIAL: RAMOS

MANILA: The Philippine Congress must decide whether late dictator Ferdinand Marcos is buried in a heroes' cemetery, the ex-president said yesterday. Fidel Ramos' remarks appeared to contradict the controversial decision of firebrand leader Rodrigo Duterte to allow Marcos, who has been accused of massive corruption and human rights abuses, to be buried in the Heroes Cemetery despite a widespread outcry. "I said officially, let the people decide. Who are the people? Our representatives and senators now sitting in Congress," said Ramos, who served in the military under Marcos until turning on him in 1986.

He suggested that elected lawmakers issue a resolution about Marcos' burial, saying it would reflect

the will of the people. Duterte, who openly boasts of his alliance with the Marcos family, has said Marcos deserves burial in the special cemetery because he was a soldier and a president, regardless of any misdeeds. Marcos ruled the country for 21 years, mostly under martial law, and he and his family looted state coffers and ruthlessly suppressed dissent. But a popular revolt, helped by Ramos, toppled Marcos from power and sent him and his family fleeing into exile in Hawaii where he died in 1989.

For his role in ousting Marcos, Ramos was appointed defense chief and later elected president, serving from 1992 to 1998. He is influential with Duterte, having helped him get elected presi-

dent in May. But the country's National Historical Institute has questioned Marcos' war claims and activist groups say burying him in the cemetery would whitewash his crimes. The Marcos family, which has made a remarkable political comeback in recent years, has kept the preserved body of their patriarch on display in their hometown in the northern Philippines but have insisted that it deserves burial with honors in the Heroes' Cemetery in a Manila suburb.

However, a former Ramos official, then-interior secretary Rafael Alunan, recalled that during the Ramos administration, Imelda Marcos agreed to have her husband's body buried in their hometown, not in the Heroes' Cemetery. "We said that because

the burial will have to be done... there, will be no burial in the Heroes' Cemetery," Alunan said. Alunan told reporters he did not know if the accord could be considered legally binding but remarked: "I would think that because the agreement is still in force, then both sides should honor it." Representatives for the Marcos family could not be contacted for comment. A group representing former detainees under the late dictator said yesterday they would file a petition with the Supreme Court to stop the burial. "Marcos is no hero. He was a mass murderer, torturer and a plunderer. To confer national honors to Marcos is a defilement of the people's historic struggle against the tyranny of martial law," the group said. — AFP

THAI AUTHORITIES PURSUE TOURIST TOWN BOMBERS

HUA HIN: Thai authorities yesterday hunted for culprits behind a wave of bombings targeting popular holiday destinations, as businesses braced for the economic fallout from the attacks on the crucial tourism industry. The kingdom was on edge after 11 small bombs and a series of suspected arson attacks exploded across five southern provinces Thursday night and Friday morning, killing four locals and wounding more than 30 people-including foreign tourists. The bombs, most of them detonated in twin blasts, struck key tourism hubs during a long weekend, including the seaside resort town of Hua Hin and the island of Phuket.

the southern Muslim rebels are to blame, it would mark a major expansion of a secessionist campaign that rarely targets foreigners.

It would also be a huge embarrassment to Thailand's coup-installed military government, which has made boosting national security a flagship policy of its regime. Senior junta member and defence minister Prawit Wongsuwan told AFP an arrest warrant would be issued later yesterday but offered no details.

'Confidence will return'

In hardest-hit Hua Hin, a popular beach resort far from the conflict zone that was rocked

was hoping for a record 32 million visitors this year. The sector accounts for at least 10 percent of Thailand's economy, which the military government has struggled to invigorate since its 2014 power grab. "The confidence in tourism will return," Tourism Minister Kobkarn Wattanavangkul said yesterday, adding that the industry is still aiming to reach a target revenue of 2.4 trillion baht (\$69 billion) for 2016. "Thailand solves problems very quickly and always bounces back," she said.

Thailand's reputation as a holiday-maker's paradise has weathered fatal bus and boat accidents, bouts of political unrest and high-profile crimes against foreigners in recent years. But the tourists keep coming. An August 2015 bombing at a Bangkok shrine that killed 20 people-mostly tourists-was followed by a sudden drop in visitors but did not stop the kingdom from welcoming a record high of nearly 30 million travellers that year.

'Rebels capable'

The recent bombings were aimed at striking the vital tourism sector without causing extensive carnage, said Anthony Davis, a security analyst at IHS Jane's. "This will have a significant impact on the tourist season in the south this year and into early 2017, using tactics that were clearly intended not to cause mass casualties," he told AFP. He said southern insurgents were the only group capable of carrying out the coordinated assault, dismissing theories that the junta's other political foes — who have been under close surveillance since the 2014 coup-were responsible.

"They have the operational infrastructure and the manpower-arguably, extending the campaign in a striking manner was only a matter of time," he told AFP, adding that the junta's attempts at peace talks with the rebels have faltered. The bombings came less than a week after the military regime's draft of a new charter was approved in a referendum. The poll was held in a repressive climate, with criticism of the draft banned under a draconian anti-campaigning law.

Provinces in the rural north and northeast-strongholds of the ousted government-rejected the junta's charter. So did the three southern insurgency-wracked provinces, which saw an uptick in bombings in the run-up to the vote. The southern rebellion, waged by Muslim militants seeking greater autonomy from the Buddhist-majority state, has killed more than 6,500 people since it erupted in 2004. — AFP



BANGKOK: A Thai policeman searches a visitor's bag at the Erawan Shrine, the site of a bombing in August 2015 that left 20 dead and scores injured, in the centre of Bangkok on August 13, 2016 as authorities increase security following a new string of bomb attacks in Thailand. — AFP

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police have ruled out international terrorism and said the campaign was an act of "local sabotage". They said the motive was still unclear, but stressed the assault was not connected to a simmering insurgency in Thailand's southern tip, as some analysts have suggested. "I can assure you that this is not a terrorist attack or the expansion of militants from the three southernmost provinces," deputy police commissioner Ponsapat Pongcharoen told reporters. If

by four bombs, locals said they were fearful the town's mainstay tourist industry would suffer just ahead of peak season. "Hua Hin has never had a problem like this," Nai Amporn, the owner of a beachside restaurant, told AFP. "I am afraid business will become slow-even this morning, you can see there are fewer people here for breakfast. I think they have all gone home," he added.

Famed for its idyllic islands and Buddhist temples, Thailand is a tourism powerhouse and

IS RESILIENT IN AFGHANISTAN DESPITE DEATH OF LEADER

JALALABAD: The killing of the Islamic State group's leader in Afghanistan and Pakistan has dealt a major blow to the jihadists, but despite a US-backed scorched earth offensive the regional franchise is far from over, observers said yesterday. Hafiz Saeed was killed in a US airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province last month, the Pentagon announced Friday, as Afghan forces mount an operation against the militants after they claimed the deadliest attack in Kabul for 15 years.

The death of Saeed, the second prominent militant to be killed in a US regional strike in recent months, is a setback to the group's efforts to expand beyond its heartland of Syria and Iraq into Afghanistan and Pakistan. "The killing of IS leader Hafiz Saeed in a US airstrike is a major blow to the group, which will struggle to make gains without a strong leadership," Kabul-based political analyst Haroun Mir told AFP. "But the IS threat in the region is still far from over." The group claimed twin bombings last month that tore through crowds of minority Shiite Hazaras protesters in Kabul, killing 80 people in the deadliest attack in the capital since 2001.

The devastating attack in the capital represented a major escalation for IS, which so far has largely been confined to its stronghold in Nangarhar province, where it is notorious for brutality including beheadings. But officials denied that it marked a turning point for IS in Afghanistan, saying the group has been under heavy pressure from both US air strikes and a ground offensive led by Afghan forces. The US military says the group's nascent presence in Afghanistan has dwindled, with fighters largely confined to two or three districts in Nangarhar from around nine in January. But despite the offensive, residents of Nangarhar say the group is still maintaining its reign of tyranny in the region.

Growing insecurity

"The offensive is going on and the government says they are winning," a tribal leader in Hiska Mina, one of the worst-hit districts in Nangarhar, told AFP. "But Daesh fights every night, and the insecurities have increased, not decreased," he added, using the Arabic acronym for IS. Local tribal leaders say the Taliban, a

stronger group than IS, has forged an informal alliance with the jihadists after a year of fierce rivalry in order to effectively combat government forces. "The Daesh and Taleban have stopped fighting each other and are both fighting the government," said Malek Haseeb, a tribal leader in Kot, a mountainous district from where IS militants were last month flushed out by government troops.

An army commander in Nangarhar confirmed the informal insurgent alliance but the Taleban have strongly denied joining hands with IS. The Taleban have publicly sought to appear as a bulwark against IS's reign of brutality and as a legiti-

mate group waging an Islamic war. The NATO-led coalition estimates there are around 1,500 IS militants in Afghanistan-mostly disaffected Pakistani and Afghan Taleban, as well as Uzbek militants and local residents of Nangarhar. The group has so far not announced a successor to Saeed. Afghan authorities erroneously believed Saeed had been killed in another strike in July 2015, when a US drone targeted dozens of IS-linked cadres in Nangarhar, close to the Pakistani border. News of his death comes after former Taleban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in another US drone strike inside Pakistan in May. — AFP



HERAT: An Afghan shepherd watches over his sheep as they graze during sunset on the outskirts of Herat. — AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: The head of the implementing panel on the peace process, Irene Santiago (2nd L), shakes hands with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal (3rd R) prior to their meeting on peace talks between the Philippine government and Muslim rebel negotiators at a hotel. — AFP

PHILIPPINES TO LAUNCH TALKS WITH CHINA, MUSLIM REBELS

MANILA: The Philippines and China discussed setting up a "two-track" system that would allow them to cooperate in some areas while separately handling "contentious issues" such as their South China Sea territorial dispute, a Manila envoy said yesterday. Former president Fidel Ramos and ex-interior secretary Rafael Alunan discussed the proposal at meetings with Chinese representatives in Hong Kong on a trip aimed at improving relations.

Ramos, a longtime advocate of closer ties, said the talks were "very hospitable... very encouraging, in the sense that we have a common interest" in such goals as fighting global warming. They met with Fu Ying, chair of the foreign affairs committee of the National People's Congress, China's communist-controlled legislature. Alunan said both sides discussed "encouraging track two or think-tank exchanges... where we will be discussing contentious issues." "That would relieve us (of) the burden of discussing contentious issues because we have another group doing that while we explore ways and means on how to move our relations forward," he told reporters.

He did not say which "think-tanks" would be involved in these issues, apparently referring to the two countries' territorial dispute over the South China Sea. When asked if they discussed a UN-backed tribunal's ruling last month that Beijing's claims over most of the South China Sea were invalid, Ramos said "we never mentioned that." The decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration was widely seen as a victory for the Philippines which has challenged China's claims to the vital waterway. China refused to recognize the decision and had demanded that the Philippines disregard it in future talks. The Philippines rejected this.

Both Ramos and Alunan stressed that they were only informal envoys and that further formal talks would be handled by other parties. Ramos said they also "talked about fishing," referring to China driving away Filipino fishermen from a shoal it occupied in 2012 after a stand-off with Philippine authorities. The shoal is 230 kilometers off the main Philippine island of Luzon and 650 kilometres from Hainan island, the nearest major Chinese landmass. Ramos said he discussed restoring the previous situation where Chinese, Filipino and even Vietnamese fishermen freely plied their trade in the Scarborough Shoal. However both Ramos and Alunan said the Chinese side made no commitments and merely noted their proposals. While the territorial dispute has strained ties, new

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has previously said he would seek Chinese help for vital infrastructure projects.

Peace with rebels

Meanwhile, the Philippines yesterday restarted peace talks with the country's largest Muslim rebel group, the first under President Rodrigo Duterte aimed at ending decades of violence that has claimed tens of thousands of lives. Negotiators for the two sides said the weekend talks in Malaysia would discuss details of Duterte's peace road map. "They will discuss the road map to clarify certain issues. But let me warn everyone, it is not an easy task. It is very complicated," Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, told reporters in Kuala Lumpur without elaborating.

The 12,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has waged a bloody insurgency in the mainly Muslim southern Philippines since the 1970s but an accord signed in 2014 had raised hopes of a lasting peace. Under the accord, the rebels would have only given up their arms after a law was passed creating an autonomous homeland in Mindanao and a regional government was elected. The vote was meant to take place alongside the May 2016 general election. However a bungled raid into MILF territory that killed 44 police commandos in 2015 helped derail the passage of the law and stalled the peace process with the rebels.

Dureza described the re-launching of the talks in Malaysia, the first formal sit-down between the two sides since Duterte took office, as a "big milestone for peace in Mindanao". MILF chief Murad Ebrahim said he welcomed fellow Muslim rebel Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), to join the transition commission to establish the "Bangsamoro" autonomous region in the south. "For the inclusion of brother Nur Misuari, the MILF welcomes him joining because we believe there has to be inclusivity in finding a solution to the problem in the Bangsamoro homeland. We need all the players to be onboard," he said.

While there were some people in the southern Philippines inspired by the Islamic State jihadists, Ebrahim said "if the peace process was successful, they (IS) will not garner the people's support." The Philippine Muslim separatists comprise three main groups-the MNLF and breakaway factions the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group. — Agencies

CHINA TENSIONS ERUPT AT OLYMPIC SCREENING

HONG KONG/RIO DE JANEIRO: Pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong noisily protested at a screening of an Olympics badminton match between Hong Kong and China on Friday, in the latest sign of growing tensions over Beijing's rule. "Destroy China! We are Hong Kong!" a group of around 100 people chanted as they watched China's Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei play Hong Kong's Chau Hoi-wah and Reginald Lee in a mixed doubles preliminary match.

It was the first time anti-China sentiment in Hong Kong had spilled so explicitly onto the Olympic stage. Mainland Chinese Olympians are generally popular in the former British-ruled territory. The live screening was organised by three groups including Hong Kong Indigenous, which has pushed for Hong Kong's independence. The territory was transferred to Chinese rule in 1997. Activists and sports fans sat in front of a big screen in Mongkok, a busy

shopping district that was the scene of some of the most violent clashes between police and protesters during pro-democracy protests in 2014.

The mood on Friday was peaceful and the crowd dispersed without incident after the match, which the Chinese duo won. "Hong Kong people have awakened and no longer think they are Chinese. This is because Hong Kong has been increasingly suppressed by Beijing," said the event's co-organizer, Simon Sin. Hong Kong badminton player Chau said in Rio sport should not be politicized. "We are all friends with China ... and I think people should know that sport is not about politics," Chau told Reuters. "We compete but we compete just on court." Thousands turned up at a pro-independence rally in a Hong Kong park last week. Last November, hundreds of Hong Kong fans booed as the Chinese national anthem was played during a World Cup qualifier match between the two sides. — Reuters



The Milky Way lights up the Pacific Northwest sky during the Perseid Meteor Shower Friday morning by the windmills located north of Dayton, Washington. — AP

BILLIONAIRE POSTS \$5K REWARD FOR NY ICE...

Continued from Page 1

"We've got to get this gang!" Catsimatidis said. The billionaire announced the reward on Twitter, saying "ice cream bandits are wreaking havoc on NYC supermarkets" - quoting a headline in the New York Post tabloid.

Police confirmed 250 complaints of ice cream theft and 130 arrests so far in 2016. "We are working closely

with the retailers to combat the thefts of ice cream," a spokesman told AFP. Catsimatidis, who immigrated to New York with his family from Greece as a baby, is valued at \$3.4 billion by Forbes. The 67-year-old philanthropist is also a Republican donor who ran unsuccessfully for mayor of New York in 2013. Gristedes operates more than 30 stores throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and suburban Westchester County. — AFP

ON NATIONAL STAGE, TRUMP TRAIN STALLS

Continued from Page 1

"They would like to see it be a little bit different, a little more modified. I don't like to modify. But that's what I've done. We'll see where it takes me," he told Time magazine on Tuesday. Floating from one plan to the next, Trump remains incapable of outlining his campaign strategy. When he is asked to do so, he says he relies on his instincts. He stages rallies in seemingly random locations, sometimes in states that are unwinnable. "The crowds we're getting are tremendous. So I don't know what that indicates. But it's got to indicate something good," he said Tuesday. "We'll find out on November 8."

Trump has a handful of stock campaign pledges: To build a wall along the US-Mexico border, curb immigration, destroy the Islamic State group and bring industrial jobs back to America. But winning a presidential election historically requires more than just catchy slogans. Clinton's campaign team has designed a strategy that centers on consolidating support among black and Hispanic voters for the former secretary of state and first lady, and on winning over white working-class voters in swing states Pennsylvania and Ohio, which could be the key to victory.

The strategy hinges on a strong grassroots game, with local paid and volunteer campaign workers on the ground. It also requires a massive communications budget. According to ABC News, the Democrat's campaign and her main super PAC (politi-

cal action committee) have spent nearly \$93 million on television ads against just \$11 million spent by outside groups backing Trump. The Republican's official campaign committee has so far spent nothing on television ads - practically unheard of in modern campaigns.

Trump is acting as if he is still in the more welcoming world of the Republican primaries, in which 31 million people voted. In 2012, nearly 130 million people voted in the November presidential election. So far, Trump's expected appeal to middle-class, middle-of-the-road voters has not materialized, according to opinion polls. "Preferences are substantially baked by this point in time. There's not much cooking time left," said Christopher Wlezien, a professor of government at the University of Texas at Austin.

Trump's unpredictability, seen as an advantage in terms of a possible campaign rebound in September, "can be a good thing and a bad thing, right? But it's not clear it's been a good thing in the last two weeks," Wlezien told AFP.

Not only has Trump dropped off in the national polls (48 percent for Clinton against 40 percent for Trump, according to HuffPost Pollster), but he is also in danger in the so-called swing states that has often been key to Republican wins. A new poll from the Wall Street Journal and NBC News show him trailing Clinton in Colorado, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia. — AFP

CALIF MAN GETS LIFE IN JAIL FOR KILLING SAUDI

Continued from Page 1

Prosecutors said the stolen car was later found parked at the killer's apartment in Long Beach. Fernandez in June was tried and found guilty of first-degree murder in Alkadi's death. The jury also found in favor of special circumstances

of murdering during a robbery and murder during a carjacking, as well as personal use of a deadly weapon. Under the sentence handed down on Friday, Fernandez will serve a life term in state prison without the possibility of parole, according to a statement issued by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. — Reuters

IS FREES HUNDREDS OF 'HUMAN SHIELDS'

Continued from Page 1

Kurdish television showed footage of jubilant civilians in Manbij, including smiling mothers who had shed their veils and women embracing Kurdish fighters.

One woman burned a black robe that the jihadists had forced residents to wear, while men who had lived for weeks under a shaving ban cut their beards. "The battle was very hard," a Kurdish source told AFP, adding that the jihadists had laid mines in the city. "One SDF fighter entered a house on Friday and saw a shoe placed on a Quran. When he removed it there was an explosion and he was killed," the source said.

Britain-based monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that several hundred of the civilians taken from Manbij were no longer being held. "Among the civilians taken by IS there were people used as human shields but also many who chose voluntarily to leave the town due to fear of reprisals" by the SDF, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The SDF began an assault in May on Manbij, on a key jihadist supply route between the Turkish border and IS' de facto Syrian capital Raqqa. The jihadists, who have suffered a string of losses in Syria and Iraq, have often staged mass abductions when they come under pressure to relinquish territory they hold. IS has also booby-

trapped cars and carried out suicide bombings to slow advances by their opponents.

SDF forces captured Manbij on Aug 6 but continued to battle pockets of jihadist resistance there. According to the Observatory, 437 civilians, including more than 100 children, were killed in the battle for Manbij and surrounding territory. Around 300 SDF fighters died, along with more than 1,000 jihadists, it said. Pentagon deputy press secretary Gordon Trowbridge said Friday that IS "is clearly on the ropes". "It has lost the center of Manbij, it has lost control of Manbij," he said.

Since the battle for Manbij began, US-led strikes have destroyed more than 50 IS heavy weapons and more than 600 fortified fighting positions, Trowbridge said. But the job of clearing the city will be difficult after the jihadists left behind hundreds of mines and booby traps, he added. 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.

On Friday, Russian and Syrian jets pounded rebel positions in and around second city Aleppo despite a pledge by Moscow to observe a three-hour daily ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid deliveries. Rebels and government forces also clashed Saturday in the city, where more than 200 civilians have been killed since a rebel offensive began on July 31, the Observatory said. — AFP

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Focus

BREAKING BREAD
WITH PRESIDENTS

By Pani J Anthony

There are men and women who played major roles to make this world lovely, energetic and democratic. The prominent contributions of personalities including Mother Teresa, Aung San Suu Kyi, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Henry Ford, Eleanor Roosevelt, J K Rowling, Martin Luther King Jr, Marie Curie, Billie Jean King and Helen Keller will be remembered forever. Their vision came into reality through their long dedicated journey and facing challenges. Would it have been possible if they misused their young age?

One face of the world, poverty, forces children to carry bricks instead of books. Another face, Kyoko Iwasaki of Japan won the 200m breaststroke Olympic gold medal in Barcelona, at the age of 14 years, making her the youngest swimmer ever to claim an Olympic title. The miraculous power of youth can move to any extreme and create history, provided there is support. Constructive discussions are encouraged about the developments in science and technology, so that there are young scientists and technicians in plenty coming out every year in Japan.

The mind of the youth must be clear, confident and hopeful. There must emerge youngsters who give pleasant surprises; youth with personal discipline, sound ethics, individual performance and the urge for greater heights. For example, Fehaid Al-Deehani made Kuwait feel proud by winning the gold medal in shooting at the Olympics in Rio.

The youth must make use of their schooling to flourish whenever and wherever they are. It should give an immense meaning and the behavior should be reflected positively. The exercise, "look into oneself" shall be helpful. Then, no doubt, the youth will be known as the milestones of the society.

Unemployment, reason given for the other side of the youth, shall be curtailed by the governments, bringing more job opportunities for the skilled youth. Besides, the youth must be prepared and trained so as to take up any self-employment. If so, definitely the society would be peaceful.

Rather than accusing, it is the duty of the elders to guide the youngsters towards the right path of the future, so that giving into the wrong authority shall be avoided; there will be a matured form of youth in the society; they gain everything that is best in the world - academic, spiritual, mental and physical. If so, it is not far when the satisfied younger generation will lead a well-organized society.

Vision

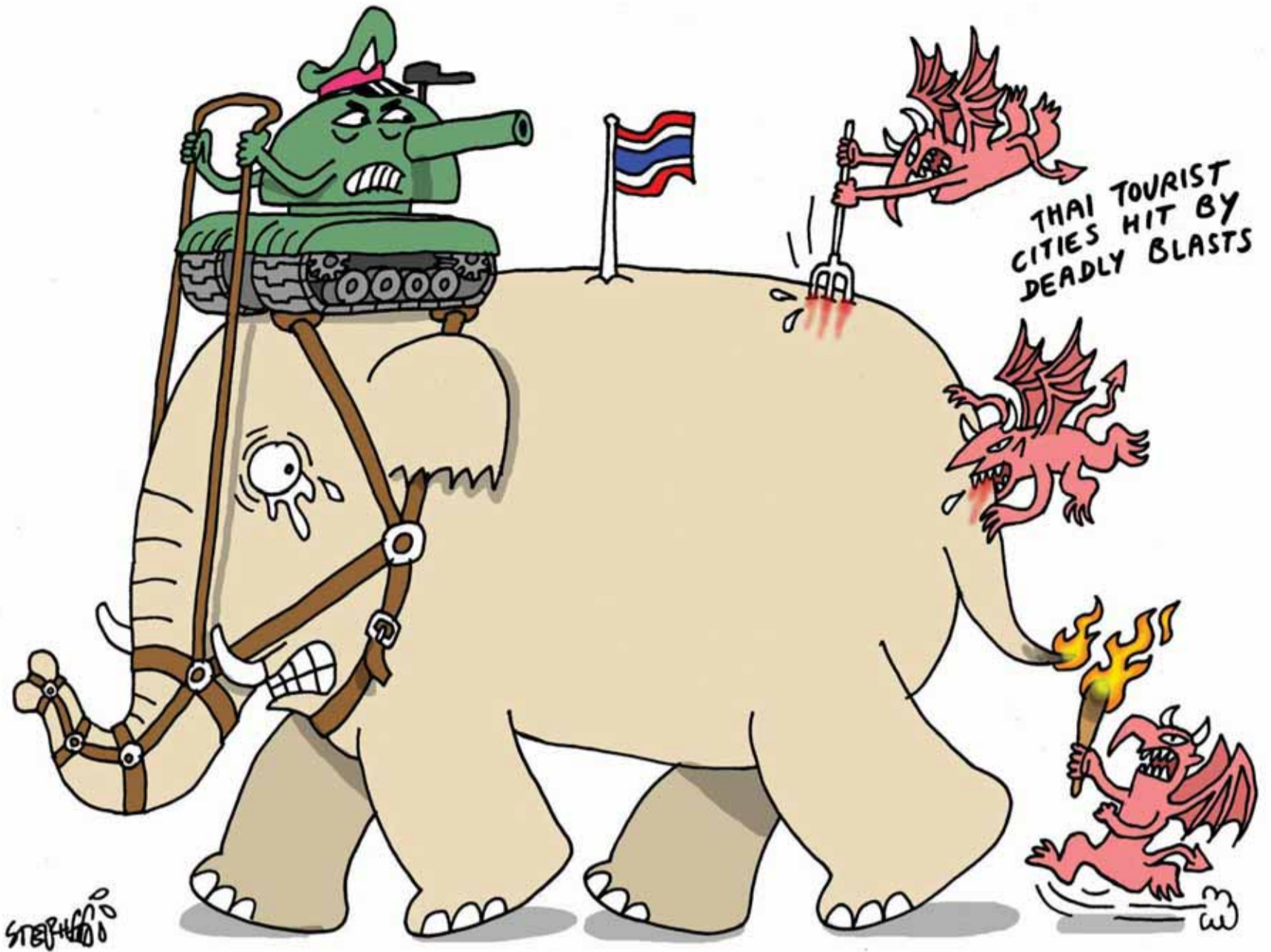
Youngsters should have humanitarian vision as the UN's eight Millennium Developmental Goals. Many highly motivated youth work tirelessly to support their communities through Sport for Development and Peace projects, a UN system (UNOSDP). The idea of a "Youth Leadership Program" was conceived in order to support such youth by giving them access to theoretical and practical training needed to improve both their projects and their own professional progress, and by supporting them once they go back to their communities.

UNDP, a leading UN agency that assists the people to meet its development challenges through knowledge, experience and resource sharing, has been working very dynamically in Kuwait since 1962, cooperating with the government and civil society to realize the country's aspirations for sustainable human development.

Besides, the Youth Assembly at the United Nations is the very heart of global change. It is a unique platform which fosters dialogue and generates partnerships between exceptional youth, UN high officials and staff, the private sector, and civil society. The 2016 Summer Youth Assembly took place at the UN headquarters during Aug 10-12 and focused on empowering youth leaders and young professionals in the implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "The Youth Assembly is an important mechanism of the United Nations. Not only does it give young people a chance to be included...it also brings new perspectives to the General Assembly, thereby enriching its work," said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Remember, there's no substitute for hard work. The world looks for self-motivated and value centric youth with the focus to enjoy a better quality of life, personal strength, self-awareness and quest for knowledge, and humanitarian ideals. Believe in you. No doubt, you can break the bread with presidents.

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Washington Watch

TO HELL IN A HANDBASKET

By Dr James J Zogby

This presidential election is exposing deep fault-lines in our society and the failure of some of the basic institutions of our democracy. If we don't change direction, we're on our way to "hell in a handbasket".

I begin with the difficult situation in which Republicans now find themselves as they watch their out-of-control nominee wreaking havoc. Once the "party of Lincoln", the GOP was, as late as a generation ago, led by George H W Bush and James Baker, in whose steady hands we emerged from the Cold War, and Congressional leaders like Howard Baker and Bob Michel who worked to forge consensus on critical issues of national concern. That, sadly, is no longer the case.

If it were not for the fact that the GOP brought this Trumpian disaster on themselves, I would almost feel bad for them. They spent the past seven years fueling hatred of all things Obama. Some in the party's leadership thought they were being clever by nurturing the Tea Party, courting the "birthers", and feeding anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment. Only now, when they see what the fruits of their labors have created, do they recoil in horror.

In many ways Donald Trump is the reductio ad absurdum of the past few decades of GOP politics. The efforts of some Republicans to distance themselves from their standard bearer is simply insufficient, at best, disingenuous, at worst. I, for one, can't forget: their embrace of the Newt Gingrich-led "Park 51" campaign; their smiles at Sarah Palin's hate-filled speeches; the cynicism they demonstrated when confronted with the "birther" crowd; their "wink and a nod" at the bigotry that was on display when Arizona was passing its anti-immigrant legislation; or their outright refusal to consider any meaningful gun control measures in the face of the repeated slaughter of innocents.

At this point, the only honorable thing for decent GOP leaders to do is to accept paternity for the many threads that have combined to nominate Donald Trump. Distancing themselves or even denouncing him will not do. They need to offer the country a heartfelt mea culpa.

The behavior of cable network news is another part of this distressing story. They have also played a role in fueling the Trump phenomenon. He was entertainment and was good for ratings. When he boycotted Fox, CNN stepped up. With "count-down clocks" in the lower corner of the screen, they breathlessly announced and then covered, in full, his rallies. They, and other

networks, allowed him to "call into" their interview programs and hired his spokespeople as "analysts" and commentators - giving Trump unprecedented free media coverage.

To be fair, the network's regular pundits would express perfunctory upset over Trump's many outrages - suggesting, after each, "that this would finally do him in." Because he was playing them like an instrument, all their criticism amounted to was more free media for the maestro.

Dynamics

We are now in the period between the conventions and Labor Day, when we enter the final stretch of this deeply troubling contest, and the same disturbing dynamics are still at work. Trump commits more daily outrages. GOP leaders act surprised, distance themselves, play coy (suggesting that he'll soon turn the corner and become a "serious candidate"), or become defensive, trying to explain the inexplicable.

The network pundits are once again proclaiming Trump "dead in the water" citing recent polls showing him down anywhere from 4 to 11 points. At the same time, they bizarrely host endless debates (or in the case of CNN "shout fests") between Trump defenders and detractors arguing pointlessly whether he really was encouraging gun owners to assassinate his opponent or exactly what did he mean by saying that "Barack Hussein Obama is the founder of ISIS"? In the end, it becomes just a lot of noise and more free media for Trump.

While all this is going on, I'm watching the continuing coverage of Trump rallies - featuring casts of thousands, who cheer his every word, become gleeful at his insults, and share his anger and his (and their) many "enemies." They don't seem to care that he insulted a Gold Star Muslim family's sacrifice, or playfully threatened his opponent with assassination, or repeatedly and brazenly lies. He is their champion and they appear to see attacks on him as attacks on them.

As I watch this play out, I look at the faces in the crowd and ask "who are these folks?" and "how is this happening?" The problem is not Trump, it is what we have come to call "Trumpism" and these folks are our fellow citizens and neighbors whose angst and anger we have ignored.

Failing

Here Democrats must also acknowledge a failing. For too

long the party dismissed this demographic as not essential for their victories. They approached election after election focusing on what was defined as their "base vote" - educated women, "minority communities", gays, young voters, various "issue-oriented" groups, etc. What was sometimes called the "white working class" or "white middle class" was ignored. They would be talked about or to, but they were never understood or meaningfully engaged. They were left hanging on the vine, unattended, ripe for exploitation.

They were economically, socially, and politically dislocated, and the root causes of their discontent were ignored. As some in the GOP courted them with coded (and sometimes not so coded) appeals to intolerance, fueling their anger, the results were dismissed as if it were a temporary disorder. While it is a disorder, we now see that it is not temporary. Decades of neglect and appeals to racism, immigrant baiting, and Muslim bashing have brought us to where we are.

The way forward, as Jesse Jackson used to say, is to retrace the steps we took to get into this deep hole in which we find ourselves. Bernie Sanders demonstrated that by sharing the rage of those who've been left out and by redirecting their anger to the rigged economy and political system that has impoverished and disempowered them it was possible to invest them in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic movement for change. There is a lesson here for all to learn. Instead of dismissing the rage of those who've been left out, or pitting them against other equally vulnerable groups - it is imperative to understand the root causes of their hurt and help them understand it as well.

Lesson

The networks too have a responsibility. As educators of the public, they have a critical role to play in getting under the skin of stories and presenting thoughtful analysis. Instead of merely amplifying the partisan divide, pretending that their goal is balance, the networks can reclaim the lost mantle of journalism.

None of this will happen in this election cycle. But if we don't make a determined effort to understand what we've done and take steps to change course, we may defeat Trump but see the root causes of Trumpism fester.

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

CARRIERS GRAPPLE WITH AGEING TECHNOLOGY

By Jeffrey Dastin and Jim Finkle

Airlines will likely suffer more disruptions like the one that grounded about 2,000 Delta flights this week because major carriers have not invested enough to overhaul reservations systems based on technology dating to the 1960s, airline industry and technology experts told Reuters. Airlines have spent heavily to introduce new features such as automated check-in kiosks, real-time luggage tracking and slick mobile apps. But they have avoided the steep cost of rebuilding their reservations systems from the ground up, former airline executives said.

Scott Nason, former chief information officer at American Airlines Group Inc, said long-term investments in computer technology were a tough sell when he worked there. "Most airlines were on the verge of going out of business for many years, so investment of any kind had to have short pay-back periods," said Nason, who left American in 2009 and is now an independent consultant.

The reservations systems of the biggest carriers mostly run on a specialized IBM operating system known as Transaction Processing Facility, or TPF. It was designed in the 1960s to process large numbers of transactions quickly and is still updated by IBM, which did a major rewrite of the operating system about a decade ago. A host of special features, ranging from mobile check-ins to seat selection and cabin upgrades, are built on top of the TPF core, or connected to it.

"They have surrounded that old industry infrastructure with modern technology," said Bob Edwards, United Continental Holdings Inc's former chief information officer until 2014. "Those systems have to always reach back into the old core technologies to retrieve a reservation or to figure out who flies between Dallas and New York City."

When a power outage shuts off that reservations system - as hap-

pened on Monday to Delta Air Lines Inc's "Deltamatic" system - TPF falls out of sync with the newer technologies that passenger service agents use to assist travelers, Edwards said. Airlines are then forced to cancel flights as demands from stranded customers flood their employees - who meanwhile are handling bookings on an older platform without their familiar, modern tools, he said.

Several years ago, it took United six hours to recover from a test shutdown, thanks to complications with the many add-ons built atop TPF, Edwards said. Other recent disruptions include one in July that prompted Southwest Airlines Co to cancel over 2,000 flights and two outages last summer at United Continental. IBM Senior Vice President Tom Rosamilia said in a statement that TPF "was not named as the source or issue in any of the recent outages" and that it "is one of the most modern and reliable systems in the airline infrastructure." Rosamilia added that the vast majority of airlines use TPF "to process up to a million complex transactions per second, uninterrupted by frequent feature updates or the failure of other systems."

Pressure for Profits

Delta spokeswoman Kate Modolo said in a statement that a small fire on Monday resulted in a "massive failure" at the airline's technology center. Delta was forced to cancel flights because critical systems did not switch over to backup power as intended, she said. Reuters sent Delta and other major carriers detailed questions on TPF infrastructure and their technology investments. Modolo did not answer whether Delta relies on TPF, but said "the functionality of the IT programs we use" was not an issue. She had no comment on whether Delta had decreased or increased its spending on back-end technology over the past decade.

"We have a new CIO who has a go-forward plan to ensure Delta is

on the cutting edge of customer service technology while strengthening our IT infrastructure so that it is reliable, redundant and nimble," she said in a statement. Most big airlines, including the four largest in the United States - American, Delta, United and Southwest - rely on TPF in some form, industry experts said. In response to questions from Reuters, those airlines did not answer whether their aging systems put them at risk of future disruptions, but all stressed that they are upgrading their technology and are focused on reliability. Southwest, for example, said it is in the process of replacing its reservations system.

Earlier this week, in a video statement, Delta Chief Executive Ed Bastian said: "Over the last three years, we have invested hundreds of millions of dollars on technology infrastructure upgrades and systems including backup systems to prevent what happened yesterday from occurring. I'm sorry that it happened." US and Canadian airlines are projected to spend an average of 3 percent of their revenue on information technology this year - compared to 8 percent by commercial banks and 4 percent by healthcare firms, according to Computer Economics, a firm that tracks IT spending.

Nason cautioned that comparing technology spending by airlines to some other industries, including banking, can be tricky. Banks have lower capital costs and they rely more heavily on information technology for their core business. Still, technology experts say that level of spending by the major airlines is not sufficient, pointing to the recent failures as evidence. Part of the challenge is that US airlines are under pressure from investors to top recent record profits and boost stock prices, even as economic troubles overseas have reduced travel demand. Delta, for example, is looking to boost its operating profit margin to between 17 percent and 19 percent by 2018. That's up from last year's margin target of 14 percent to 16 percent. —Reuters

MERTESACKER NAMED ARSENAL CAPTAIN

LONDON: Arsenal defender Per Mertesacker has been named as the Premier League club's new captain even though the injured German may not play again this year. Gunners boss Arsene Wenger defended the curious decision and said he will choose from a pool of experienced players to lead the side during Mertesacker's prolonged absence.



"Per is a very respected figure in the dressing room, is loved as well and is also a very demanding figure," Wenger told Arsenal Player. "I think it is absolutely natural to be him. In his absence that's where it will be taken by the assistants. One of them will be Laurent Koscielny, also Santi Cazorla - the experienced players - Petr Cech maybe. We will have a group of people that will take care of the energy levels and the problems of the team. That will be down a lot to the experienced players." Arsenal needed to appoint a new captain following Mikel Arteta's departure in the close-season. The Spaniard's injury problems over the last two seasons have seen several players fill in as temporary captain. Mertesacker, who joined Arsenal from Werder Bremen in 2011, captained the side on occasions last season before he was dropped as Wenger preferred to partner Gabriel with Koscielny at the heart of his defence. — AFP

'SLOW MOE' SPEEDS TO GOLD

LONDON: Olympic gold medallist Mohamed Sbihi's lack of enthusiasm for his family's barbershop business earned him the nickname 'Slow Moe'. The 6ft 8in-tall rower has now set the record straight after showing everyone that he is in fact no slouch. Sbihi stormed to gold for Britain with the help of colleagues Alex Gregory, George Nash and Constantine Louloudis, following in the footsteps of iconic rowers Sir Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent. Yet Sbihi may never have even started rowing had it not been for a strange turnaround of fate. In an interview with The Press Association London, Sbihi's father, also called Mohamed, explained how his son almost quit rowing immediately. "He was very tall for his age, a very big boy. Somebody from a rowing programme went around to his school and they noticed the size of him - they said he should be rowing. So at the age of 14 he was going to his first rowing class. But I don't think he fancied it because he turned to walk out the moment he got there. It was only because a PE teacher recognised him and knew he was supposed to be training instead that he told him to go back. — AFP

LONDON LONG JUMP CHAMP RUTHERFORD IN FINAL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Defending Olympic long jump champion Greg Rutherford scraped into the Rio Games final on Friday, finishing 10th out of 12 qualifiers after the Briton flirted with disaster by fouling on his first two jumps. Rutherford, who holds the Olympic, world, Commonwealth and European titles, won gold at London 2012 in what British media later dubbed Super Saturday when three British athletes topped the podium in the space of an hour. He looked in danger of an early exit in Rio, however, making two foul jumps before recording a distance of 7.90 metres on his last attempt. I know 7.90 metres is not good but it was just a matter of making (the) finals, Rutherford said. Going into the final round I definitely wasn't as stressed as my family were at home, he added. For me it's one of these where you draw on all the experiences that you've had. The 29-year-old will now defend his title against challengers including China's Jianan Wang and Jeff Henderson of the United States, who qualified in first and second place with jumps measuring 8.24m and 8.20m. — Reuters



RODRIGUEZ BAGS DOUBLE IN YANKEE STADIUM SWAN SONG

NEW YORK: His pregame tribute ended by a storm, Alex Rodriguez soaked in repeated cheers during his final game in pinstripes, getting one more hit for the New York Yankees and returning to third base one last time. On a night filled with nostalgia as the Yankees and Rodriguez turn to uncertain futures, baseball's most notorious star of the last two decades drove a 96 mph fastball from Tampa Bay's Chris Archer into the right-center field gap in the first inning of New York's 6-3 victory Friday. And with the sellout crowd of 46,459 chanting "We want A-Rod!" the 41-year-old designated hitter trotted to third base for the first time in 15 months at the start of the ninth inning as the organist played "Thanks for Memory." He was replaced after a leadoff strikeout, hugging his teammates. A-Rod ran back on the field for more hugs after the final out, grabbing a handful of dirt from the infield.



NEW YORK: New York Yankees designated hitter Alex Rodriguez reacts to a sudden thunderstorm, while joined by his two daughters, mother, and another family member after he was presented with a signed base before his final game as a player, against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium in New York, Friday. — AP

Rodriguez grounded out, struck out and bounced out again on the first pitch in his last at-bat. The 1-for-4 night left him with a .200 average, nine homers and 31 RBIs in his 12th and final Yankees season. Rodriguez has 696 home runs, fourth on the career list behind Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). Rodriguez said last Sunday he had accepted an offer to play one final home game and then become a team adviser through 2017, tasked with mentoring young players. Starlin Castro had four RBIs for the Yankees, hitting a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the sixth off Archer (6-16) that gave CC Sabathia (7-9) his second win since mid-June. Dellin Betances got the save.

CUBS 13, CARDINALS 2

Matt Szczur hit two home runs and Chicago won its 11th straight game, backing Jake Arrieta and battering Adam Wainwright to rout St. Louis. Willson Contreras launched a three-run shot to cap a five-run second inning, and Javier Baez and Jorge Soler also went deep to make things easy for Arrieta (14-5). The Cubs' winning streak is their longest since a 12-game run in 2001. They pulled 14 games ahead of scuffling St. Louis in the NL Central and improved the best record in the majors to 73-41. Szczur and Kris Bryant each had three hits. The Cubs roughed up Wainwright (9-7) for seven runs and chased him after two innings, tying his shortest outing in 245 career starts. Arrieta pitched one-run ball into the sixth inning and gave up four hits overall. Stephen Piscotty and Jedd Gyorko homered for the Cardinals.

RED SOX 9, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Hanley Ramirez hit two three-run homers, and David Ortiz also homered to help Boston rout Arizona. Boston scored four runs in each of the first two innings, ending a streak of 14 scoreless innings by the Diamondbacks' starting pitchers. Arizona committed two first-inning errors. Ortiz had three hits, including his 1,000th extra-base hit with Boston. It was all the run support needed for David Price (10-8), who struck out eight in eight innings to pick up the win. Patrick Corbin (4-12) lasted only 1 2/3 innings, allowing eight runs and nine hits, including both of Ramirez's homers. Rickie Weeks homered for Arizona.

ASTROS 5, BLUE JAYS 3

Joe Musgrove pitched seven innings for his first major league win, Teoscar Hernandez homered for his first big league hit and Houston beat Toronto. Designated hitter Evan Gattis had four hits, including two doubles. Hernandez had two hits and reached base three times, and Carlos Correa and Jose Altuve each had two RBIs each to help Houston extend its winning streak to four. Edwin Encarnacion hit his 300th home run and Michael Saunders had his career-high 20th for Toronto. Encarnacion has 32 home runs this season to tie Baltimore's Mark Trumbo for the major league lead. Making his second career start, and facing the team that drafted him in 2011, Musgrove (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits. Pat Neshek handled the eighth and Will Harris worked around Encarnacion's homer in the ninth for his 12th save. Francisco Liriano (6-12) was the loser.

INDIANS 13, ANGELS 3

Rajai Davis and Jose Ramirez each stole three bases to help Cleveland tie the franchise record with eight, and Brandon Guyton drove in five runs against Los Angeles. Jason Kipnis and Francisco Lindor added steals for Cleveland to match the record that was first accomplished on Aug. 27, 1917, against the Washington Senators. The eight steals allowed also are the most in club history for the Angels. Guyton homered in the second and had two-run singles in the fifth and eighth. Ramirez was 3 for 5 with a home run - extending his hitting streak to 16 games - and Kipnis was 4 for 5 for the AL Central leaders. Carlos Carrasco (8-6) won for the first time since July 20. Tyler Skaggs (1-1) gave up seven runs in five innings for the Angels. Albert Pujols drove in two runs and Kole Calhoun homered. Los

Angeles has lost eight in a row, its longest losing streak since 1999.

PADRES 8, METS 6

Rookie Ryan Schimpf hit a grand slam and added a two-run shot in San Diego's victory over New York. Jabari Blash and Christian Bethancourt also homered early to help the Padres hand the Mets their fourth straight loss and sixth in seven games. The defending NL champions (57-58) fell below .500 for the first time since April 17. One day after getting swept at home by last-place Arizona, the Mets again failed to look like legitimate wild-card contenders. San Diego, which has alternated wins and losses since July 26, jumped out to a 5-0 six batters into the game - including Schimpf's grand slam. Logan Verrett (3-8) was the loser.

BRAVES 8, NATIONALS 5

Jace Peterson, Freddie Freeman and Anthony Recker homered and Atlanta beat shington to snap a 14-game losing streak in the nation's capital. Atlanta hadn't won in Washington since Sept. 10, 2014, and was 0-6 against the NL East leaders this season. Mike Foltynewicz (6-5) allowed four runs over 5 2-3 innings to help Atlanta win for the 11th time in 17 games. Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 13 tries. Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg (15-3) struggled at home again, surrendering six runs in 5 1/3 innings.

PHILLIES 10, ROCKIES 6

Ryan Howard hit a grand slam and drove in five runs to help Jake Thompson earn his first major league victory and lead Philadelphia past Colorado. Charlie Blackmon hit three solo home runs and D.J. LeMahieu also went deep for Colorado. Howard extended his franchise record with his 14th grand slam, launching a 1-0 pitch from Jon Gray (8-6) into the bullpen in right-center field to break a 3-3 tie. Thompson (1-1) earned his first win in his second career start after allowing three runs and two hits with six strikeouts and three walks in five innings. He accomplished a rare feat when he recorded four strikeouts in one inning, becoming the first Phillies pitcher to have four strikeouts in one inning since Doc White did it against Brooklyn in the fifth inning on July 21, 1902.

REDS 7, BREWERS 4

Homer Bailey struck out 11 in six scoreless innings in his third game back from Tommy John surgery in Cincinnati's victory over Milwaukee. Adam Duvall hit his 27th home run and Billy Hamilton stole three bases to push his major league-leading total to 51. Bailey (2-1) struck out Jonathan Villar looking to open the game and finished by fanning the side in the sixth. He allowed three hits. Milwaukee starter Jimmy Nelson (6-12) labored through five innings, allowing three runs off six hits and three walks. Ramon Flores hit a solo shot in the eighth, and Manny Pina hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth for the Brewers.

ROYALS 7, TWINS 3

Yordano Ventura won consecutive starts for the first time in two months, Kendrys Morales homered in his return from a one-game suspension and Kansas City beat Minnesota. Ventura (8-9) struck out nine in seven innings, allowing four hits, one walk and three runs, pitching the

Royals to their fifth win in the last six games. Miguel Sano homered for the fifth time in the last seven games and Brian Dozier hit a two-run shot, giving Twins starter Kyle Gibson (4-7) a one-run lead he took into the fifth inning. Salvador Perez's bat broke on a two-strike, two-out, two-run blop single with the bases loaded that gave the Royals a 4-3 lead. Third baseman Trevor Plouffe awkwardly backpedaled for the slowly rising ball, but it cleared his head and landed in front of diving shortstop Jorge Polanco.

ATHLETICS 6, MARINERS 3

Yonder Alonso hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the sixth inning off rookie Joe Wieland and Oakland ended Seattle's winning streak at six games. Khris Davis added his career-high 28th home run, Marcus Semien matched his career high with four hits and Stephen Vogt had an RBI double to help the A's win for the fourth time in five games. Sean Manaea (4-7) gave up three hits, walked three and struck out four. Ryan Madson retired three batters for his 25th save. Wieland (0-1) was the loser. Kyle Seager homered for Seattle.

WHITE SOX 4, MARLINS 2

Carlos Rodon pitched six innings for his first victory since May and Chicago beat Miami. Adam Eaton tied a career high with four hits for Chicago in its first game in Miami since 2004. Rodon (3-8) allowed one run and three hits while striking out four and walking three in a 122-pitch outing. David Robertson pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 34 chances. Andrew Cashner (4-9) was the loser.

ORIOLES 5, GIANTS 2

Mark Trumbo regained the major league lead with his 33rd home run and Baltimore moved back into first place in the AL East. Trumbo's two-run homer in the third inning off Giants starter Matt Cain (4-7) traveled an estimated 441 feet. The Orioles' win, coupled with the Blue Jays' 5-3 loss to Houston, moved Baltimore back into first place by a half-game over Toronto. The Giants retained their one-game lead in the NL West over the Dodgers, who lost 5-1 to Pittsburgh. Chris Davis led off the fifth with his 24th homer for the Orioles, who are 4-4 on a 10-game road trip that ends Sunday in San Francisco. Matt Wieters and Adam Jones had RBIs in the Orioles' two-run second. Denard Span drove in San Francisco's first run with a third-inning double. Brandon Belt added an RBI single in the ninth. Dylan Bundy (6-3) allowed one run and three hits in 5 2-3 innings for Baltimore. Zach Britton got the final three outs for his AL-leading 36th save.

PIRATES 5, DODGERS 1

Andrew McCutchen and Jordy Mercer homered to lead newcomer Ivan Nova and Pittsburgh. Handed a three-run lead before he threw a pitch, Nova (2-0) has won both starts for the Pirates since they acquired him from the New York Yankees at the Aug. 1 trade deadline. The right-hander scattered nine hits over 5 1/3 innings and improved to 9-6 overall. Tony Watson came on with runners at the corners and retired Corey Seager for his fifth save. Dating to June 23, the Pirates' bullpen has posted the lowest ERA (2.13) and the best winning percentage 11-2 (.846) of any major league team. — AP

MLB results/standings

Chicago Cubs 13, St. Louis 2; Atlanta 8, Washington 5; Philadelphia 10, Colorado 6; NY Yankees 6, Tampa Bay 3; Houston 5, Toronto 3; Boston 9, Arizona 4; Chicago White Sox 4, Miami 2; Cleveland 13, LA Angels 3; San Diego 8, NY Mets 6; Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 4; Kansas City 7, Minnesota 3; Oakland 6, Seattle 3; Pittsburgh 5, LA Dodgers 1; Baltimore 5, San Francisco 2.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB	
Baltimore	65	50	.565	-	Washington	67	47	.588
Toronto	65	51	.560	0.5	Miami	60	55	.522
Boston	62	52	.544	2.5	NY Mets	57	58	.496
NY Yankees	59	56	.513	6	Philadelphia	54	63	.462
Tampa Bay	46	68	.404	18.5	Atlanta	44	72	.379
Central Division				Central Division				
Cleveland	65	48	.575	-	73	41	.640	-
Detroit	61	54	.530	5	St. Louis	60	56	.517
Kansas City	56	59	.487	10	Pittsburgh	58	55	.513
C W Sox	55	60	.478	11	Milwaukee	51	63	.447
Minnesota	46	70	.397	20.5	Cincinnati	47	67	.412
Western Division				Western Division				
Texas	69	48	.590	-	65	50	.565	-
Seattle	60	54	.526	7.5	LA Dodgers	64	51	.557
Houston	61	55	.526	7.5	Colorado	56	60	.483
Oakland	52	64	.448	16.5	San Diego	50	65	.435
LA Angels	49	66	.426	19	Arizona	48	67	.417

GE SUPPLIES IMAGE DIAGNOSIS FOR RIO 2016 OLYMPIC, PARALYMPIC GAMES

DUBAI: GE, official sponsor of the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, is supplying image diagnosis equipment for the Polyclinic, which was built in Barra da Tijuca, close to the Athletes' Village, and which will serve the Olympic and Paralympic family members (athletes, national and international Olympic and Paralympic committees).

"During the period of the Games, we will work to take care of the health and well-being of the athletes and their teams with innovating technologies, which reinforce our leadership in the image diagnosis and healthcare IT solutions segment in Brazil," Daurio Speranzini Jr, president and CEO of GE Healthcare for Latin America, comments.

The Polyclinic is provided with last generation equipment, such as, magnetic resonance, ultra-sound and digital X-ray devices.

ACCESSIBILITY

According to Alfredo Mello, commercial leader of GE for the Rio 2016 Games, the Polyclinic will be extremely important for around 15,000 athletes, as they would be able to have preventive and diagnosis exams, which are often not available in their countries. "Many athletes wait for this

moment to make a check-up of their health. Thus, not only we will be contributing for them to improve their performance, but to have a healthier life in long terms as well," he says.

Sponsor of the IOC since 2005, GE has already exceeded US\$ 1 billion in sales of solutions for projects related to the Games in the health, energy, water, lighting and transport areas. "The similarity of values as overcoming, innovation and work in team of the IOC and the Rio 2016 Committee with GE is the base of our partnership, which motivates us to transform the host cities by means of world class infrastructure solution and sustainable legacy for the future generations," Reinaldo Garcia, President & CEO of GE for Latin America, says.

GE Healthcare was also the supplier of image diagnosis and monitoring medical equipment for other editions of the Olympic Games. Here is a list of the most recent: Two Polyclinics for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games- Canada; Olympic Village Polyclinic of the London 2012 Olympic Games- United Kingdom; Olympic Village Polyclinic of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games- Russia; Polyclinics for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games- China.



Deodoro Olympic Park - Gabriel Heusi, Brasil.



Barra Olympic Park - Gabriel Heusi, Brasil 2016.

ENGLAND STILL TO DECIDE ON BANGLADESH TOUR

LONDON: England will not make a decision on whether to go ahead with a tour of Bangladesh later this year until a security probe of the country has been completed, assistant coach Paul Farbrace said Friday.

The squad are due to fly to Bangladesh on September 30 for three one-day internationals and two Test matches.

Reports in the British press Friday suggested England players would be allowed to skip the trip without endangering their long-term future in international cricket

even if longstanding security advisor Reg Dickson gave the go-ahead to the tour.

There have been concerns about the viability of England's tour, the first leg of an off-season programme that features a subsequent Test series in India, ever since 29 people were killed in a deadly terror attack in Dhaka last month. "We had a conversation with both the Test and the one-day squad at least 10 or 12 days before Reg went on the trip, and we all agreed we wouldn't spend any time talking about Bangladesh," said Farbrace after stumps on the second day of the

fourth Test between England and Pakistan at The Oval on Friday. "Until they get back and have made their report, there's absolutely nothing for us to decide at the moment.

"There's been no discussion on players being allowed to opt out of the tour," Farbrace added. "We've made a group decision as players and managers (that) we're not even going to talk about it until Reg is back-so the idea that players will be allowed to opt out ... has certainly not come from within our team and is certainly not something we've talked about"

Both Farbrace and England coach Trevor Bayliss were, when both holding similar roles with Sri Lanka, on the team bus that came under fire from militants as they travelled to a Test against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore in 2009.

The incident saw six players injured, as well as the deaths of six policemen and two civilians.

Ever since, apart from three one-day internationals against Zimbabwe in May last year, Pakistan have played all their 'home' matches outside of the country — mainly in the United Arab Emirates.

"It's a huge decision not to tour a country," said Farbrace. "Player and staff safety is obviously paramount ... (but) it's a huge decision not to go ... and Bangladesh will be looking forward to us going there. "I promise you nothing has been talked about in our dressing room ... and players are not aware of any chance of opting in or out of tours at this stage." Australia cancelled their senior men's team tour of Bangladesh in October for security reasons and then withdrew their side from the Under-19 World Cup in the country at the start of the year. —AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka cricketer Dinesh Chandimal (C) plays a shot during the first day of the third and final Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia at The Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground in Colombo yesterday. —AFP

DE SILVA LEADS SRI LANKA FIGHTBACK WITH MAIDEN TON

COLOMBO: Australia's Nathan Lyon yesterday praised Dhananjaya de Silva and Dinesh Chandimal for Sri Lanka's epic fightback on the opening day of the final Test in Colombo, but insisted the visitors were very much in the game.

De Silva and Chandimal put together an unbeaten 188-run partnership for the sixth wicket to steer Sri Lanka to 214 for five after the Australian bowlers wreaked havoc.

Pace spearhead Mitchell Starc and Lyon shared five wickets between them to reduce the hosts to 26 for five before lunch but failed to make further inroads. De Silva, who scored his maiden Test century, remained unbeaten on 116 at the close, with strong support from Chandimal who was batting on

64. "Lucky enough to take five early wickets but you should give credit to the two guys batting. They have batted outstandingly and they are in a good partnership," Lyon told reporters.

"So we have to come back tomorrow and start the grind again. The game is not out of our depth, that's for sure. "If you go anywhere in the world and say at stumps 210 for five (214 for five) after them winning the toss and batting first, it's a big tick, so we are in a fight and that's the best thing about it," Lyon added.

SRI LANKA REVIVAL

After settling at the crease, De Silva and Chandimal counter-attacked against an aggressive Australian onslaught who kept pushing hard by rotating their

bowling options. De Silva's 240-ball stay was laced with 16 boundaries while Chandimal has so far hit four boundaries.

The 24-year-old De Silva, who made his debut at the start of this series, survived a dropped catch on 104 by Shaun Marsh at cover with Starc being the unlucky bowler.

But the batting duo ensured Sri Lanka go into the second day with their tails up against the Australian attack that seemed to have lost its way after the initial burst. "I dare say that's a big key why Sri Lanka have been 2-0 up in the series for the ability of their batsmen to bat in partnerships and for a long period of time.

"We have spoken about it and our batsmen have all got their

plans to come out in this Test match and hopefully bat long for periods," Lyon said. Medium-pace Josh Hazlewood, left-arm spinner Jon Holland and allrounder Mitchell Marsh have so far returned wicketless during their spells.

The visitors had dominated the morning session with Starc striking early to have Kaushal Silva trudging back to the pavilion after a 15-ball duck. Lyon, who had had been criticised for failing to utilise the turning conditions, also proved effective at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground with his two wickets.

The spinner seemed to have learnt his lessons on these pitches after getting Kusal Perera caught at first slip and then the prized wicket of Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Mathews, who was out for just one. The left-handed Perera looked good during his 32-ball 16 which included three boundaries, but was done in by a beauty from Lyon that pitched and turned to take an outside edge of the bat.

Starc also kept the other end busy with his wicket-taking as he bowled opener Dimuth Karunaratne for the fifth time in the series. "To be honest I was proud of all our bowlers today. That was hot today, a good test to all our bowlers," Lyon said. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka: Scoreboard at stumps yesterday on the first day of the third cricket test between Sri Lanka and Australia at Sinhalese Sports Club:

Sri Lanka 1st Innings		TOTAL: (for 5 wickets) 214
Kaushal Silva c Smith b Starc	0	Overs: 90
Dimuth Karunaratne b Starc	7	Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-21, 3-23, 4-24, 5-26.
Kusal Perera c Smith b Lyon	16	To bat: Dilruwan Perera, Rangana Herath, Lakshan Sandakan, Suranga Lakmal
Kusal Mendis c Smith b Starc	1	Bowling: Mitchell Starc 18-7-47-3, Josh Hazlewood 11-3-27-0, Nathan Lyon 34-9-72-2, Jon Holland 21-5-34-0,
Angelo Mathews c Starc b Lyon	1	Mitchell Marsh 5-0-20-0, Steve Smith 1-0-5-0.
Dinesh Chandimal not out	64	Series: Sri Lanka leads three-match series 2-0.
Dhananjaya de Silva not out	116	
Extras (4b, 5lb)	9	



LONDON: Pakistan's Younis Khan avoids a short ball from England's Steven Finn during play on the third day of the fourth test cricket match between England and Pakistan at the Oval in London yesterday. —AFP

KUMAR PUTS INDIA IN COMMAND AGAINST WI

ST LUCIA: A devastating spell of swing bowling by Bhuvneshwar Kumar put India in command on the fourth day of the third test against West Indies in St Lucia on Friday.

Kumar ripped through the middle order and tail, moving the second new ball both ways through the air and off the seam to pick up five wickets at the Darren Sammy Stadium in Gros Islet. Playing his first test in 19 months, he took five for 33 in 23.4 overs as West Indies lost their last seven wickets for 23 runs to be all out for 225 in the first innings.

India then reached 157 for three by the close of play, 285 runs ahead, leaving captain Virat Kohli to ponder the best time to declare on the final day today. All of Kumar's dismissals were achieved with quality deliveries, three caught in the slips, one bowled and one lbw.

"That was a spell of consistent, high-quality swing bowling," said former West Indies player Jeffrey Dujon on television commentary. "He gave all the batsmen trouble, swung it in, swung it out, set up Marlon Samuels beautifully and really didn't move too much from that tight off-stump line."

Samuels was perhaps Kumar's most prized scalp, out for 48 when he was beaten by an inswinger that he chopped on to his stumps. One run earlier Jermaine Blackwood was caught at second slip off Kumar for 20. Opener Kraigg Brathwaite top-scored for West Indies with 64.

Kohli went cheaply in India's second innings, trapped lbw by Miguel Cummins for four after making just three in the first knock. Ajinkya Rahane (51) and Rohit Sharma (41) were unbeaten at stumps. India lead the four-test series 1-0. —Reuters

SCOREBOARD

ST LUCIA: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day in the third Test between West Indies and India on Friday in Gros Islet, St Lucia.

India 1st innings 353 (R. Ashwin 118, W. Saha 104, L. Rahul 50)

West Indies 1st innings (Overnight: 107-3)

K. Brathwaite c Saha b R. Ashwin	64
L. Johnson run out (Rahul)	23
Da. Bravo c Jadeja b I. Sharma	29
M. Samuels b B. Kumar	48
J. Blackwood c Kohli b B. Kumar	20
R. Chase c Rahane b Jadeja	2
S. Dowrich c S. Dhawan b B. Kumar	18
J. Holder lbw b B. Kumar	2
A. Joseph c Rahul b B. Kumar	0
M. Cummins c Saha b R. Ashwin	0
S. Gabriel not out	0
Extras (b-13 lb-2 nb-2 w-2)	19
Total (all out, 103.4 overs)	225
Fall of wickets: 1-59 L. Johnson, 2-129 Da. Bravo, 3-135 K. Brathwaite, 4-202 J. Blackwood, 5-203 M. Samuels, 6-205 R. Chase, 7-212 J. Holder, 8-212 A. Joseph, 9-221 M. Cummins, 10-225 S. Dowrich	

Bowling: B. Kumar 23.4-10-33-5 (w-2), M. Shami 17-3-58-0, R. Ashwin 26-7-52-2, I. Sharma 13-2-40-1 (nb-2), R. Jadeja 24-9-27-1.

India 2nd innings

L. Rahul c K. Brathwaite b Cummins	28
S. Dhawan lbw b Chase	26
V. Kohli lbw b Cummins	4
A. Rahane not out	51
Ro. Sharma not out	41
Extras (b-1 lb-1 nb-5)	7
Total (for 3 wickets, 39 overs)	157
Fall of wickets: 1-49 L. Rahul, 2-58 V. Kohli, 3-72 S. Dhawan	
To bat: R. Ashwin, W. Saha, R. Jadeja, I. Sharma, M. Shami, B. Kumar	
Bowling: S. Gabriel 3-0-19-0 (nb-1), A. Joseph 4-0-23-0 (nb-2), M. Cummins 6-1-22-2 (nb-2), J. Holder 5-1-17-0, R. Chase 11-1-41-1, K. Brathwaite 10-1-33-0.	



ST LUCIA: India's batsman Ajinkya Rahane plays a shot from the bowling of West Indies' Miguel Cummins as West Indies' wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich looks on during day four of their third cricket Test match at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia. —AP

BANGLADESH LIFTS ASHRAFUL BAN FROM DOMESTIC CRICKET

DHAKA: Bangladesh's cricket authorities yesterday partially lifted the ban on former captain Mohammad Ashraf, allowing him to play in selected domestic competitions, officials said. Ashraf was initially banned for eight years in 2014 after he tearfully confessed on national television to helping fix matches in the scandal-hit Bangladesh Premier League.

The Twenty20 tournament was eventually left suspended in the wake of the match-fixing controversy before resuming in 2015 with six new franchises. A local appeal panel in September 2014 cut Ashraf's ban to five years including a two-year suspended sentence, meaning he can return to competitive cricket from August 2016.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council had lodged an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland against his reduced

ban in October 2014, but later withdrew it. "Mr Ashraf is eligible to play domestic cricket from the 13th August 2016. However, he will be ineligible to play international cricket or the BPL (until 2018)," said Yasin Patel, a British lawyer who represented Ashraf during the trial.

BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury said they were now waiting for an ICC response to determine which domestic competitions Ashraf will be allowed to play.

"Ashraf's ban will be lifted on August 13," Chowdhury told AFP on Friday. "We have now asked for a clarification from the ICC, clearly specifying which competitions he will be allowed to play."

An ICC spokesman declined to make any comment. Ashraf, Test cricket's youngest century-maker, made his debut at the national level at the age of 17. He has played 61 Tests, 177 one-day internationals and 23 T20

international matches. The 32-year old said partial lifting of the ban gave him a fresh opportunity to restart his career.

"This is a new beginning for me," Ashraf told reporters at his residence after he returned from Britain in the morning.

"I got a new opportunity to revive my career. Now my first priority is to perform well in domestic cricket. "If I can do that I hope the BCB will take initiative to lift my ban from international cricket too," he said, adding he still had many years left to play.

"I think I've yet to give my best to cricket," he said. ICC anti-corruption investigators discovered the fixing scam after being asked by Bangladesh authorities to monitor the lucrative T20 tournament.

Ashraf is now expected to resume his domestic career in late September with the Bangladesh Cricket League, the country's inter-provincial first-class competition. —AFP

PUEL, MAZZARRI OPEN WITH ST MARY'S DRAW



SOUTHAMPTON: The battle between new Southampton manager Claude Puel and his equally fresh Watford counterpart Walter Mazzarri ended in a 1-1 draw in yesterday's Premier League opener at St Mary's.

Etienne Capoue put Watford ahead early on, but Nathan Redmond levelled on his debut for Southampton following his move from relegated Norwich City. Mazzarri, Watford's Italian head coach, was probably more satisfied with the point after his substitute, Ben Watson, was sent off for pulling back Shane Long to leave the visitors with 10 men for the last 15 minutes.

His team adapted with more ease to his 3-5-2 system than Southampton did to Puel's midfield diamond. Dusan Tadic impressed in his new central role, but Redmond seemed unsure of his correct position for much of the game.

Both systems will, no doubt, improve with familiarity, and Mazzarri, for

one, has said that he expects the Watford owners, the Pozzo family, to fund the purchase of two or three new players.

Puel failed to become the first Southampton manager since Paul Sturrock to win his first game in charge, but will be pleased that his team battled back from behind and that Redmond found the net.

The Frenchman had compared Redmond's move from winger to striker with that of Thierry Henry, with whom he worked at Monaco. He looks nowhere near that level yet, but time is on his side.

It could have been worse for Puel as Watford embarrassed his defence after only nine minutes. Right wing-back Nordin Amrabat crossed from the right and Troy Deeney was allowed to climb unchallenged at the far post to nod the ball across goal. As the home players stood immobile, Capoue volleyed past Fraser Forster.

WATSON DISMISSED

Tadic threatened to lift the home crowd when he dribbled past two defenders on the right and crossed towards the head of Long. But the Irishman nodded wide, before complaining with some justification that Amrabat had been pulling his shirt.

It was a rare moment of danger from Southampton. More typical was an incident in the 39th minute when James Ward-Prowse dribbled through to the goal-line and delivered a dangerous low cross, only to find the penalty area mysteriously empty of team-mates.

It took until the 56th minute for Southampton to test Gomes, and he was equal to it. Redmond, this time on the left, took Tadic's pass and cut inside. The goalkeeper got his fingertips to the ball and deflected it around the post for a corner.

That was cleared at the expense of another and this time it was Watford's turn to stand still. Gomes's attempt to punch clear dropped to Redmond 15 yards out. No defender made a move to close him down and his volley went past Gomes's right hand and in.

Southampton were handed a potentially decisive advantage after 75 minutes when substitute Watson, outpaced by Long, dragged the Ireland forward back and was shown a red card by referee Roger East.

Watford claimed that a covering defender had been coming across and that Watson was not therefore the last man, but East was unmoved.

Redmond thought he had claimed a second goal until the referee's assistant raised his flag, but a draw was a fair result. —AFP



LIVERPOOL: Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinian midfielder Erik Lamela (C) scores an equalising goal for 1-1 during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Tottenham Hotspur at Goodison Park in Liverpool. —AFP



LAMELA SAVES SPURS IN EVERTON DRAW

LIVERPOOL: Erik Lamela's second-half header rescued a 1-1 draw for Tottenham Hotspur and denied new Everton manager Ronald Koeman a winning start at Goodison Park yesterday. Lamela equalised in the 59th minute after Everton had claimed a deserved lead through Ross Barkley's early goal.

Everton had the better of the first half but Mauricio Pochettino's side came back well after the interval and Argentine midfielder Lamela ensured their pressure paid off.

Only two fine saves late on from debutant Everton goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg denied Spurs an opening day victory as the north Londoners look to emulate last season's title challenge.

Everton went ahead in just the fifth minute. Tottenham's Kenya midfielder Victor Wanyama, signed from Southampton in the close-season, was penalised as he tripped Kevin Mirallas to halt the Belgian's progress towards goal.

Barkley delivered a free-kick that eluded everyone, including Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris, who delayed his dive anticipating a touch from an Everton head and watched the ball nestle inside his left-hand post. The goal brought the game to life and Everton might have doubled their lead when makeshift centre forward Gerard Deulofeu skipped past two challenges but saw his shot from the edge of the Spurs box held low down by Lloris. Everton went close again on 15 minutes when Barkley lofted a free-kick into the penalty area and a looping header by Phil Jagielka forced a scrambling Lloris to push the ball over his crossbar.

The hosts continued to dominate and threatened once more when Deulofeu linked up neatly with Mirallas on 21 minutes but Lloris made a comfortable save at his near post.

CRUCIAL INTERVENTIONS

Stekelenburg had been a spectator early on but the Dutchman displayed solid handling on 28 minutes to hold a Christian Eriksen shot after a rare moment of promise from the visitors.

And there was a further blow for Tottenham 10 minutes before half-time when captain Lloris was forced off by a hamstring injury and replaced by Michel Vorm. Tottenham began to escape their half more frequently as half-time approached, but they were unable to force Stekelenburg into action. The hosts ought to have doubled their lead in first-half stoppage-time, when Deulofeu seized on a poor backpass from Danny Rose and raced clear of Jan Vertonghen, but was denied by a smart save from Vorm. Everton started the second half on the front foot and Tottenham's Eric Dier had to make two crucial interventions, first to block Deulofeu's path to goal with a sliding tackle and then to head the resulting corner over his own crossbar.

Pochettino introduced pre-season signing Vincent Janssen to the fray 13 minutes into the second half and the striker created an opening immediately when he drifted out wide, collected possession and crossed for Dele Alli. But the England midfielder curled a shot well wide from the edge of the area.

There was no stopping Spurs just before the hour-mark, however, as Kyle Walker found room on the right and Lamela got the better of Everton debutant Mason Holgate to head past a helpless Stekelenburg. That goal rocked Everton, who were forced back for a spell, but they caused a moment of concern for Tottenham when the impressive Idrissa Gueye exchanged passes with substitute Arouna Kone but had his progress halted by Toby Alderweireld. —AFP



RONDON GIVES PULIS WINNING PALACE RETURN

LONDON: Salomon Rondon's 74th-minute header earned West Bromwich Albion manager Tony Pulis a 1-0 victory on his return to former club Crystal Palace yesterday's Premier League opening day.

The Venezuelan striker glanced in a free-kick from substitute James McClean to give West Brom a first league victory in 10 attempts. It was a disappointing start to the season for Alan Pardew's Palace, last season's beaten FA Cup finalists, whose tally of 16 points in 2016 is lower than any other English top-flight team.

Palace visit London rivals Tottenham Hotspur next weekend, while West Brom welcome Everton to The Hawthorns. Both teams had new players on show in the Selhurst Park sunshine.

Andros Townsend started for Palace following his close-season move from Newcastle United, but Yannick Bolasie had to make do with a place on the bench amid speculation linking him with a move to Everton. Pulis, who left Palace on the eve of the 2014-15 season, gave a debut to winger Matt Phillips, his only signing of the

transfer window to date.

France international goalkeeper Steve Mandanda, signed from Marseille, started on the bench for Palace.

The man who he hopes to dislodge between the posts, Wales international Wayne Hennessey, gave an early demonstration of his talents with a fine save low to his left to repel Rondon's header.

In a low-quality first half, it took Palace 30 minutes to hit the target themselves, Townsend taking aim from distance with a shot that trickled straight to West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster. Palace finally prised West Brom open in the 53rd minute when Lee Chung-Yong freed Wilfried Zaha, but Foster thwarted the former Manchester United winger and reacted sharply to block his follow-up effort.

Pulis turned to his bench, sending on McClean for Gardner, and it was to prove a triumphant substitution. With 16 minutes to play, the Irish winger whipped a free-kick into the box from the right and Rondon headed home to get West Brom's season up and running. —AFP

HULL STUN CHAMPIONS LEICESTER



LONDON: Leicester's Premier League title defence got off to an embarrassing start as the champions crashed to 2-1 defeat at troubled Hull in the season opener yesterday.

Just three months after their astonishing title triumph, Claudio Ranieri's side were brought back down to earth by a team whose preparations for the new campaign were marred by the resignation of manager Steve Bruce and their failure to sign a single player.

Adama Diomande gave Hull a first-half lead before Riyad Mahrez brought Leicester level with a penalty shortly after the interval.

Robert Snodgrass drove in the winner 12 minutes into the second half as a team in crisis on and off the pitch became the first to beat the defending English champions on opening day since Manchester United defeated Arsenal in 1989.

Hull have approached the season in a state of turmoil, with no permanent manager following Bruce's resignation on July 22, and a thin squad stretched to its limits by injuries.

Caretaker manager Mike Phelan went into the game with just 13 fit senior players, and named a substitutes' bench consisting largely of untried youngsters, including three teenagers.

Hull's supporters have blamed owners Assem and Ehad Allam for a lack of investment in the squad, and graffiti calling for them to sell the club was found daubed on the outer walls of the stadium on Saturday morning.

As stewards hastily tried to paint over the vandalism before kick-off, supporters gathered outside to display banners and chant for the Allams to leave. A Chinese consortium, led by businessmen Dai Yongge and Hawken Xi Liu, has expressed an interest in buying the club, and its key figures were at the match to watch the Premier League season begin.

Leicester were sharper for the opening 30 minutes, but were unable to capitalise on the chances they created, with Jamie Vardy a particular culprit.

THWARTED

Vardy, who scored 24 league goals last season, miskicked horribly after new signing Ahmed Musa had darted down the left to roll the ball back to him 16 yards from goal.

After Danny Drinkwater had screwed wide from Mahrez's inviting right-wing cut-back, Vardy was



KINGSTON: Hull City's English midfielder Tom Huddlestone (L) and Leicester City's Welsh midfielder Andy King (R) compete for a header during the English Premier League football match between Hull City and Leicester City at the KCOM Stadium in Kingston upon Hull. —AFP

then thwarted by some dogged Hull defending.

Christian Fuchs got clear after playing a one-two with Musa and, when goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic raced out to block, the ball ran loose to Vardy - but Jake Livermore threw his body in the way of the shot. Vardy, part of the England team beaten in the last 16 by Iceland at Euro 2016, then skied an easy chance after Musa had dashed past the flat-footed Curtis Davies. Hull rode the pressure, though, and took the lead in the second minute of first-half stoppage time.

Kasper Schmeichel clawed out Davies' near-post header from a Snodgrass corner, but Diomande's overhead kick flew into the net.

Leicester responded immediately after half-time, winning a penalty within 20 seconds of the restart as Tom Huddlestone was judged to have clipped Demarai Gray inside the area.

Television replays suggested the contact may

have been outside the area, but Mahrez sent Jakupovic the wrong way with a cool spot-kick. However, spluttering Leicester were only level for 10 minutes.

Ahmed Elmohamady was quick to intercept a Schmeichel throw, and raced down the right to create space for a cross that Danny Simpson half-cleared, before Snodgrass drove in the loose ball.

Ranieri's response was to throw on Shinji Okazaki and Daniel Amartey in a bid to find an equaliser, and Mahrez almost delivered with a 25-yard free-kick that Jakupovic shovelled away.

Snodgrass almost caught out Schmeichel with a free-kick from wide out on the right, which the goalkeeper had to beat away at his near post. By the time the match entered its closing stages, the Hull fans were singing 'Can't Help Falling In Love With You' and chanting 'We are top of the league!'. —AFP

FER FIRES SWANSEA TO OPENING WIN



BURNLEY: Dutch midfielder Leroy Fer struck eight minutes from time to give Swansea City a 1-0 win at newly-promoted Burnley on the opening day of the new Premier League season.

The match at Turf Moor looked to be heading for a goalless draw before Fer popped up in the 82nd minute, firing home a rebound after a Tom Heaton save. Fer, who made his loan move from Queens Park Rangers into a permanent transfer over the summer, was joined in the Swans' starting line-up by Spanish striker Fernando Llorente, the recent recruit from Sevilla. The visitors came close to taking a first-half lead from a Wayne Routledge volley from a Modou Barrow cross and again a minute prior to the interval when Scott Arfield cleared off the line after Jordi Amat had flicked a corner towards goal. Amat was playing in a Swansea defence that has been shorn of skipper Ashley Williams, sold to Everton. That defence was rarely troubled in the first half, however, apart from when Burnley broke quickly following a Swansea corner and Andre Gray tried a shot that was straight at Lukasz Fabianski. Dean Marney headed just over for Sean Dyche's men just after the restart and there was then a real scare for Swansea when Fabianski completely missed a David Jones corner but Michael Keane was unable to get a touch with the goal beckoning.

Fabianski did better to save from Sam Vokes and Matt Lowton also came close as the game opened up in the second half. At the other end, Federico Fernandez contrived to miss an open goal from a corner before Burnley handed a debut to summer signing Johann Berg Gudmundsson, the Icelandic international coming off the bench for the final 15 minutes. At that point it looked as if the Claret's would come away with a draw on their return to the top flight, but then Fer appeared to silence the home support. —AFP



BURNLEY: Swansea City's Jack Cork, right, and Burnley's Dean Marney battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Turf Moor, Burnley, England, yesterday. —AP

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Bournemouth v Man United	15:30
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
beIN SPORTS 11	
Arsenal FC v Liverpool	18:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
beIN SPORTS 11	



'SURVIVOR' GOES FROM STREET TO BOXING MEDALLIST

RIO DE JANEIRO: As a child he would knock on car windows trying to sell melting popsicles or roam the streets attempting to flog vegetables. Now Brazil's Robson Conceicao is guaranteed at least an Olympic bronze, the first medal in boxing in Rio for the hosts, after his unanimous points decision win in the light-weight quarter-finals on Friday.

many different things in my life to survive. "As a child I worked, helping my gran sell things so we could get by. And all the energy, the focus, the determination that I bring to the ring comes from my past and I use that to achieve my goals." Money was so scarce that proper boxing equipment was out of the question, so a young Conceicao—who admits that he was a bully as a child—and a friend came up with a plan. "We had nothing so we did our best to get things," he

said. "I went to the hospital and faked that I had an arm injury. The nurses covered my arm with bandages and then I used those bandages to tape my hands for training and sparring. "My friend used to put flip-flops on both of his hands for me to punch when we trained." Conceicao, Brazil's biggest boxing medal hope, will need all that resourcefulness in Sunday's semi-final—he faces Cuba's three-time world champion Lazaro Alvarez. — AFP

ETHIOPIAN AYANA SMASHES WORLD RECORD TO WIN 10,000 METRES



RIO DE JANEIRO: Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana brushed off doping suspicions about her astonishing world record-breaking Olympic 10,000m victory here Friday, attributing her performance to hard work and religious devotion.

The 24-year-old smashed one of the longest-held records in athletics as she romped to victory in an electrifying start to the Rio Olympics track and field competition.

Ayana's winning time of 29min 17.45sec sliced nearly 14 seconds off the previous world best of 29:31.78 set by Wang Junxia in 1993 during the era of notorious Chinese coach Ma Junren.

The astounding display immediately raised eyebrows in the athletics world, with British women's marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe one of the first to remark upon the Ethiopian's performance.

"I'm not sure I can understand that," Radcliffe said. "When I saw the world record set in 1993 I couldn't believe what I was seeing. And Ayana has absolutely blitzed that time."

Sweden's Sarah Lahti, who finished 12th, more than two minutes behind, was also sceptical. "I do not really believe that she is 100 percent," Lahti was quoted by Swedish media as saying. "There is doubt."

Yet Ayana—who had only raced the 10,000m once before heading into the Olympics—smiled when asked to respond to suggestions that her performance might not be all that it seemed. "I praise the lord, the lord gives me everything," she said through an interpreter. "My doping is my training, my doping is Jesus—otherwise I'm crystal clear."

Ayana said she had not planned to set a world record heading into the race. "It's amazing—I saw the record after the race," she said. "My only plan was to win the race."

Ayana's victory comes in a troubled year for Ethiopian distance running after the International Association of Athletics



RIO DE JANEIRO: Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana celebrates after she broke the world record in the Women's 10,000m during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. — AFP

Federations in March placed the country in "critical care" with four other nations over failures in their anti-doping regimes.

Two Ethiopian runners also failed dope tests, with Tokyo Marathon winner Endeshaw Negesse testing positive for melatonin.

FRONT-RUNNER

Ayana's win ended the Olympic gold medal hat-trick hopes of her compatriot and defending champion Tirunesh Dibaba. Vivian Cheruiyot of Kenya took silver in a new national record of 29:32.53 while

Dibaba won bronze in a personal best 29:42.56.

Dibaba had been bidding to become the first woman in history to win three consecutive golds in an individual athletics event.

But instead it was the 31-year-old's younger compatriot who stole the show with a magnificent performance. Kenya's Alice Aprot had been the early front-runner, quickly leading a group of eight runners that broke away from a giant 37-strong field.

But with 12 laps to go Ayana hit the

front, accelerating clear to stretch the leading pack. Cheruiyot went with Ayana but was always struggling to stay in touch, and the closing laps quickly became a race against the clock and a question of whether Ayana could beat Wang's mark.

With the stadium roaring her home, Ayana scorched home with a 68sec final lap to claim gold. Dibaba was gracious in defeat after being dethroned.

"I am really very happy that Almaz came first because a new champion is coming, a new cheetah, a new heroine is coming," she said. —AFP



GOLDEN BILES REKINDLES KIM'S MEMORIES OF COMANECI RIVALRY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Simone Biles standing on the top of the all-around podium in Rio rekindled memories for former Soviet gymnastics great Nellie Kim, a winner of three gold in Montreal 1976, but forever in the shadow of the legendary Nadia Comaneci.

Romania's Comaneci famously became the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 in Montreal forty years ago, but the lesser known Kim also reached perfection in the same Games when she also achieved the mythical mark twice.

Comaneci won a total of nine medals—five gold—at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics, with Kim winning six-five in gold—in the same two Games.

The camaraderie between Biles and US teammate Aly Raisman as they stood on the podium after going one-two in the all-around was refreshing for 59-year-old Kim, whose memories are of a time when rival gymnasts were not free to speak.

"The women's competition was spectacular, I was almost crying watching these girls how emotional they were," Kim said in an interview with AFP.

"We didn't (speak), you know Soviet Socialist Bloc, Soviet people shouldn't talk to other people. Number one, we didn't know languages and number two, they said 'you better focus on what you're doing, try not to contact especially Western Bloc people.'"

"And Nadia didn't have any interest in talking to anybody," she laughs. "She was 14, I was already 18, so it's different, we didn't even have a lot in common to talk about."

"The first time we talked was in Moscow 1980 when we were both standing on the pedestal sharing floor exercise gold and we were like 'I'm tired, were tired? it's time to go.'"

Comaneci had gotten her perfect 10 on the very first night of competition, on uneven bars. She would receive seven perfect 10s at the 1976 Olympics.

Comaneci won three gold medals at those Games—the all-around, uneven bars and balance beam.

Kim, who placed second in the all-around, would also win three gold—one as a member of the dominant Soviet women's team and two individual on the vault and floor.

OLYMPIC HEROES

Despite her thoughts of what could have been, Kim holds mostly positive memories of her summer of '76.

"It was a revelation for the 18-year-old girl, born in Shurab in far-flung Tajikistan to a Sakhalin Korean father and a Tartar mother.

"A beautiful city, cheerful and welcoming for Olympic Games, smiling faces, TV which was making a movie about Heroes of the Olympic Games in Montreal, and I was selected to be one of those heroes. It wasn't just the Olympics for me, it also to see the city to meet some families, to visit their houses."

She suffered "burnout" and "psychological stress" in the days before the Games, saying that she probably peaked at the wrong time.

But she nevertheless got the first of her two perfect 10 the day after Comaneci.

"I didn't expect to be so perfect. I said 'Wow'. It was an appreciation of a new skill which I performed, nobody did it before. I felt rewarded by the judges for what I had done. It was a good feeling."

She and Comaneci both live in the United States now and "keep in touch".

"We have a lot respect for each other. I can't say we're close friends, but we have a nice relationship. We talk to each other and share family things." Their crossed paths again in Rio. "My daughter was sitting with her, we took a picture with my grandson, it was nice picture for us, nice memories."

Despite being regarded as gymnastics legend, Comaneci does not have an active role in the sport.

Kim has been president of world governing body FIG's technical committee which oversees rules and judging since 2005, implementing the new voting system which has done away with the perfect 10.

'LIKE A PEARL'

Like Montreal, the Rio Games will be one which people will look back on in 40 years time, she believes. "The excitement in the competition was on the top, the men's was fantastic and the woman's spectacular."

"We have stars, in particular these two stars Biles and (Kohei) Uchimura. It's not just today they become stars, they're a long time coming up."

"Simone is unique, she's like a pearl. I've never seen any gymnast with such fantastic physical ability, capacities, talent." As for Uchimura, she thinks he can continue to his home Games in Tokyo 2020. "I'm almost sure he'll be there unless he has an injury. He's a national icon in Japan." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: US gymnast Simone Biles celebrates after the women's individual all-around final of the Artistic Gymnastics at the Olympic Arena during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Thirty-two years after her father won a silver medal for shot put in the 1984 Olympics, Michelle Carter can now claim family bragging rights after going one better and striking gold here on Friday.

The 30-year-old from California stunned two-time champion Valerie Adams of New Zealand in a dramatic shot put final at Rio's Olympic Stadium, recording a personal best with her last throw of 20.63m.

It was a sensational victory for Carter, a professionally qualified make-up artist who also campaigns to improve attitudes towards body image via a sports-confidence camp called "You Throw Girl." Carter is trained by her father Michael, who went on to have a successful career in American football with the San Francisco 49ers after switching from track and field following his silver in the 1984 Games. "I'll be going around the house saying 'Yeah daddy - I got you!' It feels awesome," a delighted Carter said. "Me and him have a running joke. I've won more high school championships, he's won more college championships. I always told him it's going to take the cake if I win the Olympic gold, and today it's happened." New Zealand star Adams, winner in 2008 and 2012, finished with silver after a best throw of 20.42.

Adams looked to be firmly on course for gold after taking the lead on her second attempt.

No other woman in the field had broken 20m until Carter conjured up a monumental final effort to take the lead. She then faced a nerve-wracking finale as Adams attempted to regain the lead with her last throw. Adams broke 20m again but her effort of 20.39 was not enough. Adams had been aiming to become the first woman to win three consecutive golds in an individual event following wins in 2008 and 2012.

But while she remained disappointed she was gracious in defeat, and took satisfaction from making the podium after battling back from a litany of injuries.

"It's tough but it's sport. You have to take it on the chin," Adams said. "At the last moment I was like, 'Okay, shit, I've got to pull out something here. And I came up short. I have to take it and reflect back on the road that I've had. It's been a tough road for me to even be here," said Adams, who has had five surgeries in the last three years. "To make it to the final and get a medal is pretty awesome. "I left my heart out there. I cannot ask for more than that." Adams is also looking forward to receiving her medal in front of a stadium today. She was presented with her gold from 2012 a month after the Games in a private ceremony after it emerged that Nadzeya Ostapchuk of Belarus had failed a dope test. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medal winner the USA's Michelle Carter competes in the Women's Shot Put Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. — AFP

RUSSIA STUN FRANCE



RIO DE JANEIRO: Russia's fencers stormed back against France in the closing minutes of the team foil final to clinch gold on Friday, while the US men beat defending champions Italy for bronze, their first medal in the event since 1932.

Trailing to France through each of their first seven bouts, the Russian team surged into the lead with one match-up left thanks to Alexey Cheremisinov and Artur Akhmatkhuzin, who outscored the French 19-8 in just two of their bouts. "It was the team spirit and we believed in ourselves," said Cheremisinov, who on Sunday lost his first match in the individual competition to teammate Timur Safin. Russia has collected six fencing medals, three gold, so far in Rio, better than any other sport at the Games. They have already turned in their best Olympic fencing performance since 1996, the last time they won men's team foil. The bronze medal bout offered a dose of revenge to the same U.S. foil team that lost their semifinal to Italy in 2012 - an American squad in their early twenties that has fought hard to make a name in fencing's most widespread weapon. "When we were growing up, we'd face the Italians because we were one of the lowest ranked teams. They were number one so we'd always face them early. And we just got consistently crushed," said U.S. teammate Race Imboden. "So to come to the Olympic Games and not only fence them for a medal but to send them home without one ... It's symbolic in men's foil," he added. "This is bigger than us. This is something that U.S. fencing has built together over years." The British team, featuring two of the top six foil fencers coming into the Games, lost a tough opening match to Russia 43-45 before beating Egypt and falling short against China to take sixth place. — Reuters

BEATEN US BLAST SWEDEN, BRAZIL SURVIVE MARTA MISS



SOCCER

RIO DE JANEIRO: Outspoken USA women's goalkeeper Hope Solo labelled Sweden "cowards" after the world champions' bid for a fourth straight Olympic gold ended, whilst Brazil edged past Australia in a marathon penalty shootout despite a miss from star Marta in Friday's quarter-finals.

Sweden progressed to their first ever Olympics semi-final 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in Brasilia as Sweden coach Pia Sundhage ousted the US team she led to gold in 2008 and 2012.

"We played a bunch of cowards," Solo told Sports Illustrated. "The better team did not win today. I strongly believe that. I think you saw American heart. You saw us give everything we had today."

Star striker Alex Morgan and substitute Christen Press missed penalties before Lisa Dahlkvist converted the winning spot-kick despite Solo's best efforts to put her off by changing gloves to delay Dahlkvist's effort.

"It is ok to be coward if you win," Sundhage shot back. "What she did was an act of panic," said Swedish keeper Hedvig Lindahl of Solo's time-wasting tactics before the final penalty.

USA coach Jill Ellis tried to diffuse the row. "They executed her game plan very well. It's a matter of knowing how to use all the resources you have," said the Englishwoman. "And finally the most important thing is the result, not how to play." 120 minutes of high drama in front of a near capacity 60,000 crowd in Belo Horizonte produced no goals between Brazil and Australia. Both teams then found the net with their first four penalties, but Brazil's bid for a first gold medal looked lost when national hero Marta saw her effort saved by Lydia Williams.

The five-time World Player of the Year was on her knees in tears of relief seconds later, though, as Barbara parried Katrina Gorry's spot-kick to keep the hosts alive.

Another five penalties were scored before Barbara produced more heroics to turn Alanna Kennedy's shot behind for a 7-6 win and spark wild scenes of celebration. "I didn't want to be the focus of

attention in that way," said Marta. "I leave (the attention) to Barbara."

REMATCH

Next up for Brazil is a rematch with Sweden, who they beat 5-1 in the group stages, in Rio's iconic Maracana on Tuesday.

Sweden inflicted America's first in 15 games at the Olympics and only their third ever in Games history having won four golds and a silver since women's football was introduced to the Olympic programme. Morgan looked to have saved America's blushes when she swooped 13 minutes from the end of normal time to

cancel out Stina Blackstenius's opener just after the hour mark. But the world's number one ranked side failed to break down Sundhage's well-organised Swedes in extra-time, who also had a perfectly good goal from Lotta Schelin wrongly ruled out for offside in the final minutes. "I don't think they're going to make it far in the tournament. I think it was very cowardly," added Solo. "We had that style of play when Pia was our coach."

Sundhage insisted she had full faith the Swedes could pull off a massive upset despite scoring just twice in three matches as they sneaked into the last eight as one of the two best third-placed sides

from the group stages. "When I looked at my players before starting the extra time and penalties and I was so confident in my players," she added.

Solo's Games has been dogged by controversy as she received chants of "Zika" from fans across Brazil for Twitter posts on her elaborate precautions against the virus. Canada maintained their perfect record in Brazil to set up a semi-final with Germany in Belo Horizonte thanks to Sophie Schmidt's winner in a 1-0 win over France. Germany overcame 10-man China in Salvador with Melanie Behringer netting the winner 14 minutes from time. — AFP



BELO HORIZONTE: Brazil's Formiga, left, and Australia's Chloe Logarzo fight for the ball during extra time of quarter-final match of the women's Olympic football tournament between Brazil and Australia at the Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, yesterday. — AP



CYCLING

BRITAIN TAKES GOLD, CHINA WINS WOMEN'S TEAM SPRINT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Bradley Wiggins slowly dismounted his track bike for the final time, basking in the cheers of an adoring crowd, and was greeted by two of the most decorated Olympians in British history.

Not the most decorated, mind you. That title now belongs solely to him. Wiggins teamed with Ed Clancy, Steven Burke and Owain Doull to beat Australia in record-setting time at the Rio Games on Friday night, winning gold in the team pursuit for the third consecutive time and giving the former Tour de France champion his eighth Olympic medal overall.

That breaks a tie with retired track cyclist Chris Hoy and gives Wiggins two more medals than retired rower Steve Redgrave, long considered Britain's gold standard.

"It was never about that for me," Wiggins said, his new medal dangling from his neck. "They're my heroes in Olympic sport, and just to be in the same breath as those guys is an honor, really."

Britain stopped the clock in 3 minutes, 50.265 seconds to lower the world record it set in the semifinal round. That beat the Australian team of Alexander Edmondson, Jack Bobridge, Michael Hepburn and Sam Welsford, who finished in 3:51.008 to earn the silver medal.

"We knew going in we had a small chance," Edmondson said. "We had to try." Denmark easily beat New Zealand to earn bronze. Earlier in the night, the Chinese pair of Gong Jinjie and Zhong Tianshi won gold in the women's team sprint, beating the Russian team of Daria Shmeleva and Anastasia Voinova in the finals.

China broke its own world record in the semifinals, beating Spain with a time of 31.928 seconds, before knocking off the Russians to earn the nation's first track cycling gold medal.

"We wanted to show the strength of the Chinese people," said Gong, who won silver at the London Games. "Today we just wanted to achieve the best for ourselves - and conquer a world record."

The German team of Miriam Welte and Kristina Vogel, the reigning Olympic champions, beat the Australian pair of Anna Meares and Stephanie Morton to claim bronze.

"We started working for this medal four weeks after London 2012," Welte said. "We had so many ups and downs. Last year was so hard. Now we've got something back, a medal!"

After helping Britain win the team sprint Thursday, Jason Kenny and Callum Skinner squeaked past their opponents in the opening round of the individual sprint competition Friday night.

Kenny broke his own Olympic record in qualifying before edging Maximilian Levy of Germany in the first round, while Skinner led the whole way in beating Patrick Constable of Australia.

The competition continues through the semifinals today. That was merely the undercard to the men's team pursuit finals, though.

Wiggins largely retired from road cycling after winning the time trial at the London Games, seemingly content not only with his career in professional cycling but also the Olympics. Yet there was a persistent itch to get back on the track, one he couldn't help but scratch.

The world hour-record holder soon dedicated himself to winning more gold in the event that first made him a star. He formed his own road team so that he could pick and choose specific events for his training, and spent long hours in the velodrome as the team perfected its technique. — AFP

NBA STARS RATTLED AGAIN BY SERBIA

RIO DE JANEIRO: The vaunted USA basketball squad survived a last-second scare from Serbia on Friday to win 94-91 in a Rio Olympics contest that exposed their potential vulnerability for a second straight game. With a historic upset brewing, Serbia's Bogdan Bogdanovic missed a three-point shot with two seconds left to hand the defending champions a grind-it-out victory and plenty to ponder about the fast-flowing international game. Kyrie Irving's 15 points led six Americans in double figures in a contest that at first looked like a rout thanks to a swarming USA defence. But Serbian big men Nikola Jokic-the only team member to earn a living in the NBA-and Miroslav Raduljica brought the underdogs back as the Serbian offence kept finding ways to penetrate.

USA guard Paul George admitted that the high-priced American talent-who only began playing as a unit a few weeks ago-were still adjusting to international play.

"We relied on natural talent to get us over this one," George said. "That's why these international guys are special in our league. They really know how to move." The USA has won the last three Olympic gold medals and 14 in total. Now at 4-0 in group play, they were already guaranteed a spot in the knockout phase starting next week.

But a loss would have been a stunning first in the Olympics since 2004, and first internationally in a decade. The Serbs came even closer to an upset than medal hopefuls Australia, who two days earlier pushed the champions throughout much of a 98-88 American win. The USA defence smothered the Serbs early, forcing eight first-quarter turnovers to jump out to an 18-point advantage. Three straight slam-dunks, two on alley-oops by US centre DeAndre Jordan, made it 23-5 late in the first period, and it appeared NBA showtime had started. But American mental miscues and sloppy passes prevented them from putting the hammer down as action became disjointed. The Serbs closed to 50-41 at halftime thanks to 14 first-half points inside by Raduljica, who finished with 18. The 2.09-metre (6-foot-10) Jokic, who is just 21 but expected by many to emerge as a star for the Denver Nuggets, took over in the second half, repeatedly eluding his markers en route to 25 points. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Olympics medals table after Friday's competition (Gold, silver, bronze, total):

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	20	13	17	50
China	13	10	14	37
Great Britain	7	9	6	22
Japan	7	3	14	24
South Korea	6	3	4	13
Germany	6	3	2	11
Russia	5	9	8	22
France	5	7	5	17
Australia	5	6	7	18
Hungary	5	3	3	11
Italy	4	7	4	15
Spain	3	0	2	5
Canada	2	2	6	10
Kazakhstan	2	2	3	7
Netherlands	2	2	2	6
Thailand	2	1	1	4
Switzerland	2	0	1	3
Croatia	2	0	0	2
New Zealand	1	6	0	7
North Korea	1	2	2	5
Sweden	1	2	1	4
Brazil	1	1	2	4
Belgium	1	1	1	3
Romania	1	1	1	3
Slovenia	1	1	1	3
Colombia	1	1	0	2
Slovakia	1	1	0	2
Vietnam	1	1	0	2
Chinese Taipei	1	0	2	3
Poland	1	0	2	3
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Ethiopia	1	0	1	2
Greece	1	0	1	2
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Neutral team	1	0	0	1
Fiji	1	0	0	1
Iran	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Singapore	1	0	0	1
South Africa	0	4	1	5
Denmark	0	2	2	4
Ukraine	0	2	1	3
Azerbaijan	0	2	0	2
Indonesia	0	2	0	2
Cuba	0	1	1	2
Georgia	0	1	1	2
Lithuania	0	1	1	2
Belarus	0	1	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
Kenya	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Turkey	0	1	0	1
Egypt	0	0	2	2
Israel	0	0	2	2
Norway	0	0	2	2
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Kirghyzstan	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Tunisia	0	0	1	1
Utd Arab Emirates	0	1	1	2

NADAL HAILS 'UNFORGETTABLE' RETURN

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rafael Nadal described his second Olympic gold as "unforgettable" after marking his return from his latest injury misery by partnering close friend Marc Lopez to the men's doubles title in Rio.

The 30-year-old Spaniard added the 2016 doubles crown to his 2008 singles gold in Beijing by defeating Romania's Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau 6-2, 3-6, 4-6.

Nadal is just the fourth player to win gold in Olympic singles and doubles after Serena and Venus Williams and Chile's Nicolas Massu.

The former world number one and holder of 14 Grand Slam titles was playing his first tournament since May when a wrist injury forced an early retirement from the French Open.

"It was an amazing experience, especially doing it with one of my best friends, with Marc, it's something unforgettable for me, for both of us," said Nadal.

"To win a gold medal after two months and a half with no practice, with no preparation, just working in the gym, is something that is a dream.

"The moment was unbelievable, and we had fun. We fight hard," Nadal's participation in the Olympics was in doubt until the last minute but now he has one gold and the prospect of another in the men's singles where he's reached the semi-finals.

Earlier Friday, he defeated Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 for his 800th career singles win. He will face Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina on Saturday for a place in the championship match. "It's a dream to win for my country. I didn't come here just to carry the flag at the opening ceremony," added Nadal.

'HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH'

For 34-year-old Lopez, it was a second major title of 2016 after he partnered compatriot Feliciano Lopez to the

French Open title in June.

"Sharing these feelings with Rafa is really a dream come true," said Lopez, who has now won five doubles titles with Nadal. "All the things we have done together, I am the happiest man on earth."

Tecau paid tribute to Nadal whose all-court skills proved crucial. "You don't see this in singles, but he volleys really well. He moves a lot at the net, puts a lot of pressure, defends really well," said Tecau.

"He can hit an angle in every shot. And he's all over the court. You have to play with precision and play to win most of the time. Otherwise you're going to give him a lot of shots and that's what he likes. Then he takes control of the points."

The Spanish pair had cruised through the first set of the final 6-2 on the back of breaks in the fifth and seventh games. But Mergea and Tecau, giving Romania their first ever Olympic tennis medal, hit back, focussing their attack on Lopez.

They broke for a 3-1 lead and saved two break-back points in the ninth game to level the final on a chilly night in the Brazilian city. Mergea and Tecau, both 31 and born within a week of each other, sensed victory when they nipped ahead at 4-3 in the decider with Lopez again broken. But the Spanish duo regained the break at 4-4 when Tecau was broken. Nadal then held for a 5-4 lead.

The Romanian pair saved two championship points in the 10th game but a wild Tecau smash gave Nadal and Lopez the title after two and a half hours of action.

The Spaniards' all-out attack and rock-solid defence were crucial forcing their opponents into making 46 unforced errors and having to save 12 of 16 break points they faced. America's Steve Johnson and Jack Sock defeated Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil, the Canadian seventh seeds, 6-2, 6-4 to claim the bronze medal. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medallists Spain's Rafael Nadal (R) and Spain's Marc Lopez celebrate on the podium of the men's doubles final tennis match at the Olympic Tennis Centre of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. — AFP

Sports

Rodriguez bags double in Yankee Stadium swan song



'Shot Diva' Carter claims Olympic crown



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HULL STUN CHAMPIONS LEICESTER

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RIO DE JANEIRO: Jamaica's Usain Bolt (2nd L) competes with Britain's James Dasaolu (L), Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson and Singapore's Yap Jin Wei Timothee in the Men's 100m Round 1 during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. — AFP

BOLT, GATLIN BREEZE AS HARTING WINS DISCUS



ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Usain Bolt and Justin Gatlin warmed up for their 100m Olympic showdown yesterday with easy victories as German discus thrower Christoph Harting claimed his brother's crown. Bolt and Gatlin are poised for the final chapter of their long rivalry in Rio today when they are expected to duel once more for the title of fastest man on the planet.

The two sprinters easily negotiated their opening heats on a raucous morning session at the Olympic Stadium, with Gatlin topping the qualifying times with a tidy 10.01sec.

Jamaican superstar Bolt, bidding to win 100m, 200m and 4x100m titles for a third straight Games, was fourth quickest in 10.07sec. Afterwards Bolt said he was pleased to have got off the mark without any problems.

"I'm feeling good. I'm happy. As I said, I've got the first one out of the way so I'm happy about that," Bolt said, predicting a fast semi-final. "It's definitely going to be a good semifinal. There are a lot of guys running fast. It's good. It gets you running and gets you up to speed to go out there in the finals."

Gatlin, one of the oldest men in the field at 34, said he was kept on his toes by a crop of young sprinters.

"These young guys coming up, it's a different breed," he said. "They're running with their heart, they're trying for the finish line and going for that podium."

Gatlin, who has twice been convicted of doping offences, has faced criticism from even within his own

team at these Olympics, with teenage swimming gold medallist Lilly King saying last week athletes like him should not be allowed to compete.

But Gatlin bristled when asked to respond to the young swimmer's remarks following his race.

"I don't even know who Lilly King is—she does swimming, not track and field. I'm not worried about that," Gatlin said. "I've come back and done what I need to do. I've worked hard to get back to here, I've been tested like everyone else and I believe in the system like everyone else," added Gatlin, who served a four-year ban for the second of his two doping offences.

The morning's only gold medal went to Germany's Harting, who saved his best for last to win gold.

It was an emotional win for Harting, whose famous shirt-ripping brother Robert—the 2012 gold medallist—failed to qualify for the discus final in Friday's prelimi-

nary rounds after suffering a back strain. Harting took gold with a personal best of 68.37 metres on his sixth and final attempt. Poland's Piotr Malachowski took silver with 67.55m and Harting's teammate Daniel Jasinski bronze (67.05). "You have moments in your life when you focus completely," Harting said of his winning throw. "I said to myself that no one's going to take that victory away from me." Meanwhile the battle for the heptathlon crown is poised to go to the wire after Belgium's Nafi Thiam edged into a five-point lead over Britain's defending champion Jessica Ennis-Hill following the morning's long jump.

Thiam leaped a best of 6.58 metres to leave her up front on a total of 5,018 points. Ennis-Hill only made 6.34m for 5,013 to increase the pressure going into the final two disciplines of the gruelling event, the javelin and the 800m. — AFP

LEDECKY SWIMS INTO HISTORY WITH 4TH GOLD



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Katie Ledecky obliterated the field and her own world record in winning the 800m freestyle at the Rio Olympics on Friday, uniting the 200m, 400m and 800m titles for the first time since 1968.

The 19-year-old American, who also won the 4x200m relay for four golds overall, touched in 8min 04.79sec, beating the previous record of 8:06.68 she set in Austin, Texas, on January 17.

It was her 13th world record since her shock 800m freestyle win in London four years ago, and the culmination of the plan she and coach Bruce Gemmill had worked for ever since that breakout performance. And as she contemplated her achievement in Rio, the preternaturally poised teen couldn't hold back her emotions.

"Just kind of the end of a four-year journey," she said as the tears flowed.

"I don't know why I'm crying. There were nights I would go to bed and think about this day (and) how much fun I've had these past four years, and I'd start crying in bed.

"I just wanted to make this meet count."

Ledecky touched almost half a length in front of her closest rivals—more than 11 seconds in front of silver medallist Jazz Carlin of Britain's 8:16.17 with Boglarka Kapas of Hungary taking bronze in 8:16.37. "I just wanted to lay it all out there," Ledecky said. "It was my last swim here at the Olympics, the pinnacle of our sport, and I have to wait another four years to have that moment. I just wanted to enjoy it all and put my very best swim out there."

Ledecky joined compatriots Janet Evans and Brooke Bennett as the only swimmers to win this event at two Olympics and now owns the top 11 times ever in the event.

Her dominant performance in Rio also included silver in the 4x100m freestyle relay.

"What she's doing in the sport is ridiculous. She just gets in the water and pretty much gives every world record a scare when she's in there and it's pretty incredible to watch," said Michael



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Katie Ledecky celebrates after she broke the world record to win the Women's 800m Freestyle Final during the swimming event at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.— AFP

Phelps. "This is the first time I've ever seen her in tears," added Ledecky's superstar teammate. "I think it's the first time in my life I've ever seen true emotion come out and I think that was something really cool for me to see."

PART OF HISTORY

Ledecky is the first Olympian to take the 200m, 400m and 800m gold at a single Games since another US teenager, Debbie Meyer, achieved the feat at Mexico City in 1968 — the year the 800m was added to the programme. "I'm so proud to be part of history,"

Ledecky said, revealing that Meyer, a big fan, had been texting her mother, Mary Gen, during the week. "She sent like a good luck video to my mom who forwarded it to me and I saw it right before I left before the session tonight," Ledecky said. "I've really looked up to Debbie and all the women freestyle swimmers on the US team in general," Ledecky said.

"We have a great history and I think we're making a lot of new history this week.

"Hopefully, we'll inspire people through the years down the road when somebody's breaking my records." — AFP

SCHOOLING STUNS PHELPS TO WIN SINGAPORE'S FIRST EVER GOLD



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Joseph Schooling pulled off a stunning Olympic upset on Friday by beating US legend Michael Phelps in the 100m butterfly to win Singapore's first ever gold medal.

Asian champion Schooling, 21, completed a wire-to-wire victory to deny Phelps a fourth successive title in the event, winning in a Games record 50.39sec. Phelps, amazingly, tied with both Chad le Clos and Laszlo Cseh for the silver.

"I don't know if I've been in a tie so a three-way touch is pretty wild," said Phelps, whose Olympic gold medal tally remains at a staggering 22. He owns 27 overall, including three silvers and two bronze.

"I saw a second next to my name then I looked up again and I looked at Laszlo and Chad and I went we all tied for second, that's kind of cool." The American, who had won four finals in Rio, clocked 51.14, along with fierce rivals le Clos and Cseh.

"It's faster than I went four years ago to win, but Joe's tough," Phelps said.

"Obviously he's had a great year last year and had a really great last two years, so hats off to him." Schooling said he hoped his victory would spur other talented athletes in his country to pursue their dreams.

"I hope this opens more doors for sports in our country and hopefully I've set a precedent for a lot more young guys to come," he said. "It's been a hard road. I've done something that no one in our country has done before. I'm not going to lie, the first guy through the wall it's always bloody," added Schooling, who is now honing his talent at the University of Texas. "I had to take this blow and I'm thankful that I have the ability to accomplish this."

Victory in Friday's fly would have given Phelps a 14th individual Olympic title, but Schooling proved too strong. Schooling, who took bronze at last year's world championships, punched the water and roared with delight as Phelps swam over to pat him on the back before le Clos ruffled the youngster's hair.

Phelps, competing in his fifth and final Games, will be odds-on to win a fifth gold medal in Saturday's 4x100m medley relay—an event the Americans have never lost at the Olympics—to finish his career with a total of 23 golds. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Singapore's Schooling Joseph poses with his gold medal on the podium of the Men's 100m Butterfly Final during the swimming event at the Rio 2016 Olympic on Friday. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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**UAE stock markets
outperform
regional peers**

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**Tepid US retail sales
lower growth expectations**

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**Mercedes-Benz E-Class
scoops three awards**

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VALUE OF KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SECTOR DROPS 31%

Page 25



LONDON: Pedestrians walk past retailer BHS (British Home Stores) flagship store on Oxford Street in central London yesterday during its last day of trading before the store closes. British department store chain BHS is to close with the loss of up to 11,000 jobs, administrators said in June 2016 after failing to find a buyer. — AFP

S&P MAINTAINS KUWAIT'S RATING AT AA

OUTLOOK REMAINS STABLE DESPITE FALLING OIL PRICES

KUWAIT: Standard and Poor's (S&P) has maintained Kuwait's credit rating at AA with a stable future outlook despite declining oil prices. S&P, in a report on its website Friday, said the low oil prices were impacting Kuwait's internal and external financial surpluses because of the country's great dependence on oil revenues. However, it added, the increase of financial assets managed by Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund would help the country face these low oil prices. The rating agency projected Kuwait's internal and external financial positions to have a strong future economic outlook backed by huge financial assets. S&P attributed its rating to Kuwait's huge wealth coupled with great assets, despite low oil prices. Kuwait's Public Investment Authority's management of huge assets resulted from oil and gas proceeds was "wise."

S&P has estimated that the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) manages more than \$500 billion, of which about \$380 billion is in the Reserve Fund for Future Generations (RFFG) and \$120 billion in the General Reserve Fund (GRF).

It also estimated the government's large net asset posi-

tion at over 3.5 times of GDP at the end of 2016, which is a significant ratings strength that provides a substantial buffer to lower oil prices. A base-case scenario of the rating agency assumes that Kuwaiti oil output will remain at a minimum of 2.8 million bpd until 2019.

Production

Production is likely to increase if state-planned investment in the oil sector comes to fruition. The agency expected real GDP growth to average about 2.2 percent in 2016-19. According to the report, the general government budget (not counting investment income) had a deficit of about KD 6 billion (or 17 percent of GDP) in 2015-16, financed by a combination of drawdowns from the GRF and some domestic debt issuance. In fiscal 2016-17, the government has set a deficit target of KD 8.6 billion (25 percent of GDP) assuming an oil price of \$35/bbl and 2.8 million bpd of production, before accounting for transfers to the RFFG, and KD 9.6 billion (28 percent) after accounting for the transfer, the report said. Including income from the vast KIA investments, the

Kuwaiti government will continue to run surpluses of around 6.5 percent of GDP for the budget years 2016/17-2019/20, despite low oil prices, Standard and Poor's forecast. Meanwhile, it said that the Kuwaiti government is managing the lower oil price environment in several ways, such as planning to increase oil production by restarting production in the shared Neutral Zone with Saudi Arabia. This will likely increase production by about 150,000 bpd.

It also forecast the surpluses realized through the strong oil exports of the period 2009-15, to fall to an average of 4.3 percent in 2016-19. Given the government's policy of investing a large portion of its surplus abroad, the agency estimated Kuwait had a net external asset position of more than six times the current account receipts (CARs) in 2015.

Currency peg

At the same time, it projects that gross external financing needs will remain relatively low, averaging around 99 percent of CARs plus usable reserves in the next four years.

Referring to the Kuwait's exchange rate, pegged to an

undisclosed basket of currencies, Standard and Poor's views Kuwait's system as slightly more flexible than ones in most other GCC countries, which maintain a peg to the US dollar alone. The rating agency views Kuwait's financial system as stable; as its banks are well capitalized, with ample liquidity as per Basel III standards, and operate in a reasonably strong regulatory environment.

On rating prospects, the stable outlook "reflects the agency's expectation that Kuwait's fiscal and external positions will remain strong, backed by a significant stock of financial assets."

The ratings could be lowered "if low oil prices or slow growth were to significantly weaken Kuwait's fiscal and external positions or undermine Kuwait's wealth levels (measured by GDP per capita), and if geopolitical risks were to significantly escalate, the report said. There is also possibility to raise the ratings "political reforms were to enhance institutional effectiveness and improve long-term economic diversification, if geopolitical risks faded significantly, and if prospects for the oil sector improve significantly." — KUNA



Yacoub Al-Ebrahim

TIJARI REPORTS NET PROFIT OF KD 11.5 M FOR H1 2016

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced net profit of KD 11.5 million for the six months period of 2016 compared with KD 16.7 million of same period last year, excluding one off gain of KD 5.7 million from disposal of assets pending sales during last year the net profit grew by 5 percent. The operating profit before provision was KD 50.9 million compared to KD 53.0 million for the same period during last year, a growth of 7.5 percent after excluding one off gain mentioned earlier. The bank witnessed a growth in dividend income by 40 percent, and fee income by 8.2 percent.

Commenting on the bank's financial results, the Bank's spokesman Yacoub Al-Ebrahim said, Commercial Bank's total assets at the end of June 2016 reached KD 4, 137 million (June 2015: KD 4,276 million). The bank's capital adequacy ratio at the end of June 2016 at 16.58 percent is comfortably higher than the minimum 13.5 percent required by the Central Bank of Kuwait, and leverage ratio at 10.4 percent is more than 3 times higher than the minimum requirement of 3 percent.

Al-Ebrahim added that The Bank continues to maintain a lower NPL ratio which reached 0.88 percent as at the end of June 2016, one of the best ratios in Kuwait banking system if not the best.

SISI SAYS WON'T SHY FROM TOUGH ECONOMIC REFORMS

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said yesterday he would not shy from tough economic reforms he said previous rulers had avoided fearing unrest. Sisi's comments come after an initial agreement with the International Monetary Fund for \$12 billion in financing that hinges on a reform package slashing state spending and the devaluation of the Egyptian pound.

Parliament is also expected to pass a law introducing a value added tax to raise state revenues. Egypt's economy has been battered by turmoil since a 2011 uprising ousted veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak, ushering in unrest that has driven away tourists and foreign investments.

"The first attempt at real reform was in 1977," Sisi said in a speech aired by state television during the launch of an ethynyl plant in the coastal city of Alexandria. The country had been rocked by riots that year after president Anwar Sadat said he would end basic subsidies as demanded by the World Bank in return for a loan.

"The people's reaction caused the state to backtrack, and it has continued to delay (the reforms) till now," said Sisi. "All the hard decisions that many over the years were scared to take: I will not hesitate for a second to take them," he said. Sisi took aim at the country's bloated bureaucracy, saying the state had hired hundreds of thousands of people who were not needed.

"When I appoint 900,000 people in the public sector because of pressure for jobs, at a time when I really don't need anything from them... what effect will this have?" Paying their salaries, Sisi added, had increased state debts. "We borrow and we borrow and we borrow, and the more we borrow the more the debt grows," he said.

The government has already partially cut fuel and electricity subsidies, but the gradual reforms have been limited so far. "We are trying to bridge the gap between resources and spending," Sisi said.

He called on Egyptians, especially "the great Egyptian lady," to use less electricity and water.

"Please... she can-with her presence in society and the family-decrease a lot the consumption of water and elec-



ALEXANDRIA: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi (center) cuts a ribbon during the launch of an ethynyl plant in this coastal city. — AFP

tricity, and other things that are a burden on the economy." Although growth increased under Mubarak, economic disparity fuelled the 2011 uprising that ended his three-decade rule. He was succeeded in 2012 by Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, whose government negotiated for an IMF loan but avoided austerity measures that could provoke unrest.

Sisi, a former army chief, led the military ouster of Morsi in 2013, winning elections a year later. Morsi's overthrow unleashed a brutal police crackdown on Islamists, while

jihadists have launched an insurgency that further drove tourists away and decimated a major source of foreign currency income. In October 2015, the Islamic State's Egypt affiliate announced it had downed a Russian passenger plane carrying holidaymakers over the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board.

The attack prompted Russia to cancel flights to Egypt, and Britain to stop flights to the Sharm el-Sheikh resort airport in Sinai, where the jihadists planted the bomb on the Russian plane. — AFP

AN EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO ATTRACT GRADUATE TALENT

Fresh graduates are a great asset to any company. They are up-to-date on developing trends and technology, are extremely ambitious, can be easily trained, and of course, bring in brand new ideas and fresh perspective to an organization. In fact, lower salary expectations and willingness to follow instructions are the two main reasons why some industries tend to hire more graduates than others, according to the Bayt.com Fresh Graduates in the Middle East and North Africa survey, July 2015.

Here are some tips from Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, to help you attract top graduate talent to your organization:

1. Invest in your culture

Nowadays, millennials want to work at a company where they feel comfortable, inspired, motivated and encouraged to succeed. Embrace an employee-centric cul-

ture, which promotes a fun, hardworking and creative environment, and emphasize the importance of transparency, honest communication and recognition. Highlight what makes your company stand out from the rest. Fresh graduates look for flexi-hours, award programs, fun celebrations, open workspaces and diverse teams, and are attracted to being part of such a culture. According to the Bayt.com Fresh Graduates in the Middle East and North Africa survey, a comfortable office environment, a fun working atmosphere and flexible working hours are among the top 10 factors that fresh graduates look at when selecting a job.

2. Promote your company as a top employer

The millennials are an enthusiastic generation who want to see and feel that their work is part of a greater purpose. In your

job descriptions, emphasize your company's values, vision and mission. Demonstrate that your organization exists for something that goes beyond mere profitability, and that work contributes directly towards everyone's good. CSR activities - such as youth outreach programs, eco-friendly initiatives and community involvement projects - are all good ways to illustrate a philanthropic company. According to the Bayt.com 'Corporate Social Responsibility: Is Your Company Making an Impact?' poll, August 2013, 90% of respondents believe that CSR is a moral responsibility companies have towards the local community, and 95% feel it's important that their company is socially responsible. See Bayt.com CSR initiatives for inspiration.

3. Provide career growth opportunities

The Bayt.com Career Development in the Middle East and North Africa survey,

January 2016, shows that 85 percent of MENA professionals today find career development very important, and another 82 percent would leave their companies for better career growth and training opportunities. Present these graduates with a clear career path, highlighting the opportunities they will have to nurture their skills and grow within the company. Show them that there is in fact ample room to learn and develop their careers, and climb the corporate ladder.

4. Go digital

You rarely see a millennial without a smartphone, tablet or laptop anymore. Create a company profile for your organization on Bayt.com, and make sure it looks fresh, functionally useful and interesting for your target audience. Engage candidates on your social profiles, as well as on professional networking platforms, such as

Bayt.com Specialties. Advertise your jobs online and send notifications to candidates who are interested in your job vacancies. 91 percent of respondents in the Bayt.com 'Recruitment Practices in Middle East and North Africa' poll, May 2015, find it useful to receive job notifications through their email or smartphone. Corporate videos and a photo gallery are also great ways to advertise your culture and grab the attention of young talent looking for a great work environment and top job assignments.

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 25,750,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.

UAE STOCK MARKETS OUTPERFORM REGIONAL PEERS THUS FAR IN 2016

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: UAE equity markets have outperformed their regional peers thus far in 2016. The current environment of low oil prices has fueled concerns regarding the impact that fiscal deficits, spending cuts and reforms will have on growth across the region. The outlook for the UAE is looking more favorable than its peers thanks to a more diversified economy; non-oil growth is expected to average around 4.2 percent in the coming two years compared to a GCC average of 3.4 percent.

GCC markets have moved largely in tandem with oil prices since 2014 when oil prices started their decline. Correlations between GCC equity markets and oil prices have been at long-term highs for most of the past two years and the Dubai Financial Market (DFM), with its relatively high foreign participation, is more susceptible. When oil prices took the first of several hits since summer 2014, the DFM suffered the most losses among GCC markets, retreating by 15 percent over a six month period and underperforming the MSCI GCC, which declined by 12 percent over the same period. The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), by contrast, saw a decline of only 6 percent. More recently, when oil prices declined towards the end of 2015 before bottoming in January 2016, Dubai retreated by 29 percent over a four month period, underperforming the MSCI GCC, which fell 26 percent over the same period.

Since oil prices bottomed in January 2016, UAE equities have outperformed other GCC markets. The MSCI UAE is up 10 percent year-to-date (ytd) while MSCI GCC has retreated by 5 percent. UAE equities were bound to see a stronger rebound on higher oil prices than neighboring markets, but the outperformance of the UAE has also been driven by improving fundamentals. Oil prices are now hovering around the \$45/barrel, well below GCC budgets' breakeven prices, and a prolonged period of low oil prices could force governments to reduce capital spending and benefits which could in turn hurt non-oil growth. In this current low oil price environment, the UAE stands to benefit from its resilient non-oil sector, which we expect to accelerate to around 5.5 percent and 6 percent in 2016 and 2017 driven primarily by firmer activity in tourism, financial services and construction.

Prime destination

UAE markets are a prime destination for foreign investors seeking exposure to the oil rich region. UAE markets, and particularly Dubai's exchange, have the most liberal and foreign-investor friendly regulations among GCC markets. Moreover, the 2013 decision by MSCI to upgrade the UAE's markets to emerging market status was a major step forward for the country's vision of being at the forefront of financial market development and has lured in more foreign investment through passive and active funds. The Securities and Commodities Authority's (SCA) 2014 annual report shows a 130 percent jump in net foreign investment in 2014, with the bulk of the increase going to DFM. According to DFM's latest annual report, foreign investors represented 76 percent of the total number of new investors in the market in 2015.

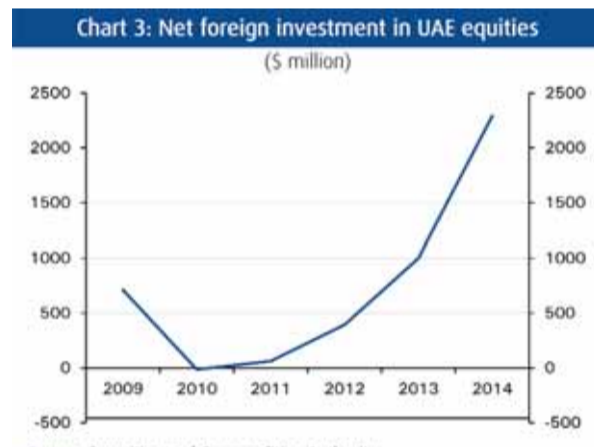
UAE equities still have potential for growth given the size of the UAE economy. The combined capitalization of ADX and DFM ranks second regionally behind Saudi's Tadawul. However, with a market capitalization to non-oil GDP ratio of 78 percent as of end 2015, UAE equities seem underpriced compared to some regional markets. UAE markets seem even more underpriced if market valuation is based on our 2016 GDP forecasts.



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream



Source: Securities and Commodities Authority

	Market capitalization to GDP (%)	
	Based on 2015 non-oil GDP	Based on 2016f non-oil GDP
Bahrain	66	64
Kuwait	119	109
Oman	47	44
Qatar	146	134
Saudi	86	80
UAE	78	73

Source: Thomson Reuters DataStream, NBK estimates



Source: Thomson Reuters DataStream

UAE markets are very liquid compared to other regional markets. With an average daily turnover of \$200 million, UAE markets are second only to Saudi's very liquid Tadawul. There's also a notable difference in activity between DFM and ADX with the former accounting for more than 70 percent of the turnover. The combined capitalization of ADX and DFM stood at \$223 billion at the end of July, with Abu Dhabi's market making up 60 percent of the total. There are 128 companies listed on the exchanges with an average market capitalization of \$1.7 billion. The companies are distributed across ten sectors. Banking, telecom and real estate make up 85 percent of the total capitalization of the UAE's markets. Banks and telecom are the largest sectors in ADX with each making up more than 40 percent of the total market value. Banks and real estate companies dominate the DFM, each making up 35 percent of market capitalization.

The UAE has been among the most active in the region on the IPO front. At least four new companies have been listed over the past two years. The listings were in various sectors. The UAE also has the most vibrant mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity and accounts for at least 40 percent of regional deals.

UAE equity markets, especially the DFM, continue to be the most dynamic in the region. High turnover, increasing foreign and institutional participation, new listings, and an active

KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP \$3.80 TO \$41.14 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up \$3.80 to \$41.14 per barrel Friday as oppose to \$38.94 pb on Thursday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday.

At the global level, the crude oil price is expected to reach a record high since April due a statement by Saudi Arabia regarding its readiness to discuss ways to balance production at the oil market.

An unofficial meeting with members of OPEC is expected to be held next month on the sidelines of an energy forum in Algeria. —KUNA

DROUGHT RAVAGES LESOTHO AS WATER IS EXPORTED TO S AFRICA

SEPHARENG, Lesotho: For farmer Mohlakoane Molise, the view of the enormous Katse dam from his smallholding high in the mountains of Lesotho taunts him daily. His country is suffering through its worst drought in 35 years, but the vast and vital water reserves remain out of reach, destined instead for export to neighboring South Africa. "I am very angry about that water, because it could benefit us, we could use it to water the crops when there is a drought. But that's not happening," the 65-year-old widower told AFP. Kneeling in front of his round, thatched-roofed hut, he sorted through his maize, examining each grain, one-by-one. The operation didn't take long. His total annual harvest filled just two large sacks, in place of the usual dozen.

According to the World Food Program (WFP), the 2016 harvest for Lesotho's primary crop maize is estimated at 25,000 tons, a dramatic drop from last year's 78,000-tonne haul.

Instead, the mountainous kingdom-entirely landlocked by South Africa-must import food from its larger neighbor. But it too has been hit by the drought after the El Nino weather phenomenon wreaked havoc on the region's rainfall patterns, and maize prices have sky-rocketed by 60 percent in the last year. According to the United Nations, 40 million people across southern Africa risk malnutrition by next year's harvest. "From September, we'll have nothing left and we'll struggle to buy maize from the shop," said Molise. Below, the immense dark blue of the dam stood out in stark contrast to the bare, brown mountains.

'It's like a desert'

The valley here was flooded in the nineties to make way for Katse. The deal: hydroelectricity for impoverished Lesotho in exchange for a reliable water supply to the bustling cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria. "There were fields around the river before the dam was built, and there were trees, but they are covered by water," said Molise. "Since the dam is here, it's difficult to get water. The crops are very poor, even the grazing land. It's like a desert." In Sefhareng, the village tap has run dry for months. Residents must instead make their way up the mountain-a good half-hour walk along a rocky trail-to a communal pump. There, a feeble trickle of water fills their buckets, while their cows and donkeys drink from the small puddles left behind by a vanishing stream.

For its part, Africa's second-largest dam is fulfilling its mandate, despite the drought. "The level today is about 63.4 percent, which is quite low," said Tatoku Maseatile, Katse acting branch manager for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA). "We are still able to meet our annual targets in terms of both generation and water transfer." From his office high up on the soaring dam wall, he had an unparalleled view of the waters below. "I do think people are benefiting from the dam," he said, ticking the projects off: a water supply system, construction jobs, two industrial fishing projects, schools. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

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

Sterling Pound	395.280
Canadian dollar	230.690
Turkish lira	101.990
Swiss Franc	309.870
Australian Dollar	232.630
US Dollar Buying	301.700
GOLD	
20 Gram	268.840
10 Gram	137.340
5 Gram	69.510

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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

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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

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

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

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.804318
Egyptian Pound	0.025243	0.030361
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.00181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422500	0.431500
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.001050	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019602	0.043602
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082278	0.083728
Saudi Riyal	0.079580	0.080880
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.134078	0.142078
Turkish Lira	0.097203	0.107503
UAE Dirhams	0.080934	0.082634
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

MOHAMMAD, RENAULT AL BABBAIN'S WINNER REDEEMS VALUE OF HIS CAR

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babbain Co, the exclusive and authorized agent of Renault vehicles in the state of Kuwait, congratulates its Ramadan Campaign "Redeem the Value of your Car & more with Renault Al Babbain" winner Jabbar Mohammad who redeemed the value of his vehicle as a prize after purchasing a Renault vehicle during holy month of Ramadan. He won the value of his car back after entering a huge draw with all Renault Al Babbain customers that purchased a Renault during the holy month of Ramadan.

The campaign consisted of granting the purchaser 10 years warranty on the new car or 500,000 km, free maintenance service for 2 years or 40,000 km, free registration and third part insurance. Everyone that has purchased a Renault during the month of Ramadan entered a draw; whereas the winner Jabbar redeemed the full amount of money paid for the car.

Renault vehicles are generally European in style, and Japanese in quality, which succeeded in positioning itself due to its ability to meet all tastes and achieve satisfaction of people in search of different options when looking for practical vehicles.

Renault vehicles combine between the perfection of the exterior and the spaciousness of the interior through modern chassis that are designed



according to the latest innovative technologies, as well as powerful and complete performance, also providing it with the highest strength and technological standards that ensure safe and enjoyable driving. It also represents luxury at its best and offers the best global aspects of quality and innovation, as well as security-related characteristics and safety.

Renault Babbain has become accustomed to having the best deals which are launched periodically; also, customer

satisfaction is always our main goal. Constant communication with customers is also essential, especially after-sales service. Renault also invites customers to visit the showroom in Al-Rai area to benefit from the promotion offered.

Al Babbain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today Al Babbain Group Today Al Babbain Group has



licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years Al Babbain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, informa-

tion, industrial and Finance. The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al Babbain Group's business, which owns some of the best selling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipments.

The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co. and Trading and Contracting Company is proud to be the exclusive agent and distributor of many Japanese, Chinese, and European (French) vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Renault, Citroen, Infiniti.

NIKE'S STOCK FALLS BEHIND RIVALS AMID RIO OLYMPICS

ADIDAS, UNDER ARMOUR DASH AHEAD

SAN FRANCISCO: Nike has top billing among sports brands at the Rio Olympics, but a week into the Games, its stock is losing to Adidas and Under Armour.

The quadrennial global sports event exposes apparel brands worn by top athletes to hundreds of millions of viewers, but growing competition and higher costs may be reducing the benefits of major endorsement deals. Since the Summer Olympics started last week, shares of official games sponsor Nike had gained 1.0 percent as of Friday. But rival stocks have dashed ahead, with Under Armour up almost 3 percent and Adidas nearly 6 percent, after a strong quarterly report.

Neither Adidas nor Under Armour are official Olympics sponsors. But Under Armour sponsors about 250 athletes, including US swimming legend Michael Phelps. Adidas supplies uniforms to teams including Britain and Germany, and it is releasing special-edition sneakers lined in bronze, silver and gold.

Shares of Nike, which also sponsors the US

team, had delivered strong Summer Olympics performances until the last two Games. The stock surged by a range of 4 percent to 19 percent during the six summer Games from 1984 to 2004. But it fell almost 3 percent during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the same amount during the 2012 Games in London, according to Bespoke Investment Group.

Under Armour listed its shares in 2005. "You have increased competition. Under Armour is a public company out there now competing for more sponsorships. It's more expensive for the companies involved," said Bespoke co-founder Paul Hickey.

Following Thursday's gold-medal performances from Phelps and US gymnast Simone Biles, the next couple of days may be climactic for investors rooting for the shares of Nike and Dick's Sporting Goods, the official retailer of US team T-shirts and other apparel.

"This might be the weekend when people go out to stores, because last night was the most excitement I've had so far," said TD Ameritrade

Chief Market Strategist JJ Kinahan, who is tracking the stock performance of 24 Olympics sponsors. So far, Nike has seen a "positive reaction" to its Olympics-related products sold through its own stores and by its wholesale partners, Nike spokesman Brian Strong told Reuters.

Ralph Lauren shares surged 12 percent this week after the US team appeared at Friday's opening ceremony sporting uniforms it designed, emblazoned with the company's logo. Shares of Adidas hit a record high on Thursday after the German company earlier this month posted its highest second-quarter sales growth in a decade. Expansion is being fueled by its Originals fashion business as well as soccer and running gear.

Nike, feeling the heat from Adidas, Under Armour and rivals in China, disappointed Wall Street with its most recent quarterly scorecard in late June. While its shares have gained 6 percent since, they remain down 10 percent in 2016, making Nike the worst performer in the Dow Jones industrial average. — Reuters



WASHINGTON: A man looks at shirts and neckties that are part of a "Buy One Get One for a Penny" sale at a J C Penney store. JC Penney, Nordstrom, Macy's and Kohl's are reinventing themselves amid stiffer competition from online and discount stores like TJ Maxx. — AP

TEPID US RETAIL SALES LOWER EXPECTATIONS FOR GROWTH

WASHINGTON: A sluggish month of retail spending has tempered expectations for the US economy's growth in the coming months. Consumers pulled back on shopping and eating out in July after three straight solid monthly gains, the government said Friday. Those declines were offset by increases in auto sales and online and catalog sales. Many economists credited the surge in online and catalog spending, which rose 1.3 percent, mainly to deals offered during Amazon's "Prime Day" on July 12. Amazon said its sales rose 60 percent on Prime Day compared with a year earlier. Still, the flat reading for overall retail sales suggested that the economy might not rebound as quickly from a slump that struck early this year as economists had been expecting. And a separate report Friday that US producer prices last month registered their sharpest drop since September was a reminder that inflation remains lower than the Federal Reserve wants it to be.

Combined, Friday's economic reports make it even less likely that the Fed will raise interest rates before December. Few analysts expect any changes at the Fed's next meeting in September, and some foresee no rate hike before 2017.

July's retail sales figures "won't inspire much confidence in the economic momentum at this point," Michael Dolega, senior economist at TD Bank, said in a research note. "The poor showing makes any likelihood of a rate hike this year all the more distant." Last month's flat reading for retail spending followed increases of 0.8 percent in June, 0.2 percent in May and a robust 1.2 percent increase in April. Some economists suggested that it could mark merely a tem-

porary dip after the solid readings through the spring.

Confidence

"Given that employment has rebounded, consumer confidence is holding up, I'm not overly concerned," said Paul Ashworth, chief US economist at Capital Economics. The retail sales figure is measured in dollars, which means that falling prices can reduce the figure even if consumer demand remains solid. Excluding gasoline, retail sales rose 0.2 percent last month.

Steady hiring and some evidence of rising pay have been boosting Americans' confidence and encouraging spending, which jumped 4.2 percent in the April-June quarter, the most in 18 months.

Indeed, consumers' willingness to spend has provided one of the few sources of growth this year. The economy expanded at a tepid annual pace of just 1 percent in the first six months of 2016 despite consumer's healthy showing in the second quarter. Still, other sources of growth are likely to emerge in the third quarter, Ashworth said, even as consumers pull back. Businesses are likely to rebuild their stockpiles, after cutting them in the second quarter. That should also add to growth, which he projects will be nearly 3 percent in the July-September quarter. Employers are hiring at a robust pace, having added 255,000 jobs in July and 292,000 in June - the most in eight months. That's kept the unemployment rate at a low 4.9 percent, even as more Americans have started looking for work. Strong job gains and low unemployment are starting to pressure employers to raise pay. Higher wages would likely fuel more spending in coming months. — AP

ITALY TO SEEK NEW EU DEAL TO KEEP ECONOMY ON TRACK

ROME: Italy is to seek a new deal with the European Union to allow it to kickstart its stalling economy with an expansionary 2017 budget, a government minister said yesterday. Economic Development Minister Carlo Calenda's comments came three months after Rome was granted "unprecedented" leeway over its 2016 budget and warned by the European Commission that it should be tightening fiscal policy next year.

Calenda spoke out after data published on Friday showed the Italian economy failed to grow between the first and second quarters of this year, suggesting a sluggish recovery which began last year has stalled. Analysts say the government will now have to revise downwards its forecasts of growth of 1.2 percent for this year and 1.4 percent in 2017, with knock-on effects on its deficit reduction plans.

"The Treasury will present updated figures in September. I can't hide the fact that the room for manoeuvre is tight," Calenda told Turin daily La Stampa. "We are dis-

ussing with Europe how to address the absolute necessity of boosting public and private investment."

Calenda implied that could mean allowing the 2017 budget deficit to run higher than previously planned, possibly up to the three percent of GDP ceiling enshrined in the eurozone's rules.

The Commission has set Italy a deficit target of 1.8 percent for 2017, arguing that kind of adjustment is necessary to reverse the upward trend in the country's huge debt, which hit a record of just under 2.25 trillion euros (\$2.51 trillion) in June. "We intend to respect the rules but we are also fighting to change them," Calenda said. "The unbreachable limit is the debt, which cannot increase. We have already obtained a lot of flexibility, we intend to ask for more, the maximum possible, but always within the rules." Other Italian newspapers were unanimous Saturday in predicting that Prime Minister Matteo Renzi would defy Brussels by presenting an expansionary budget in mid-October. — AFP

News

in brief

Egypt's gas output to exceed 7.5bn cubic feet

CAIRO: Egypt will increase its production of natural gas to more than 7.5 billion cubic feet per day by 2020-21, Oil Minister Tarek El Molla said yesterday. Once an energy exporter, Egypt has turned into a net importer because of declining oil and gas production and increasing consumption. It is trying to speed up production at recent discoveries to fill its energy gap as soon as possible.

Colombia tax reform to go to Congress in Oct

BOGOTA: A long-awaited tax reform will be presented to Colombia's congress in October, President Juan Manuel Santos said on Friday, and it will be approved before the end of the year. Santos' comment came amid growing uncertainty in the market and among business owners about whether there is still time to pass the reform, key to maintaining Colombia's credit ratings. "Tax reform will be approved during this legislature, so it can come into force next year. It will be presented in October, there's more than enough time," Santos said at a business leaders conference in the city of Cartagena. "There will be until Dec. 16, 20 to approve it."

Lufthansa, pilots union break off pay talks

BERLIN: Germany's Lufthansa and pilots' union Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) have broken off talks over pay and early retirement terms after months of negotiations, they said yesterday. While progress had been made on many points, both sides were unable to reach agreement on others, a Lufthansa spokesman said. Lufthansa has been in talks with the pilots union for four years in a long-running dispute that has seen more than a dozen strikes hit one of Europe's largest carriers. The airline is trying to cut costs at its main brand in Germany in order to better compete with low cost rivals in Europe and fast-growing long-haul carriers such as Emirates and Turkish Airlines. It has already agreed wide-ranging pay and pension deals with cabin crew and ground staff.

Venezuela hikes minimum wage by 50%

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Friday announced a 50 percent minimum wage hike that takes effect on Sept 1, amid triple-digit inflation that has severely weakened spending power in the crisis-stricken OPEC nation. Monthly minimum wage will rise to 22,577 bolivars, around \$35 at the weaker of two official exchange rates but about \$23

at the black market rate. Including meal tickets, it will rise to 65,056 bolivars. "This is the third (minimum wage) hike this year," Maduro said during a televised broadcast. Critics say repeated salary increases are woefully insufficient to offset inflation, which reached 181 percent in 2015 according to official figures. The central bank has not published more up-to-date inflation figures, which opposition leaders say is meant to hide embarrassing economic data.



HUBEI: Laborers work at a steel market in Yichang in central China's Hubei province. A Chinese official tried Friday, Aug. 12, 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. (Chinatopix via

UK TO PLUG 4.5 BN POUND EU FUNDING GAP FOR FARMS

LONDON: Britain will fill a gap of as much as 4.5 billion pounds (\$5.8 billion) in funding for agriculture, universities and its regions that will open up when Britain leaves the European Union, finance minister Philip Hammond said. Scientists, farmers and others who got EU funding were facing uncertainty after Britain voted on June 23 to quit the EU. Hammond reassured them on Saturday that the British government would pick up the tab.

The new guarantee over funding comes as Britain faces the looming prospect of a recession following the Brexit vote. Companies are expected to put off investment and consumers to cut their spending as Britain and the EU work out their new relationship.

Hammond told reporters that Britain needs about 4.5 billion pounds a year to fill the gap left by the end of EU funding, although Britain's actual exit date may be some way off. Prime Minister Theresa May has said she will not start the two-year process of leaving this year.

"We recognize that many organizations across the UK which are in receipt of EU funding, or expect to start receiving funding, want reassurance about the flow of funding they will receive," Hammond said in a statement. According to Full Fact, an independent fact-checking agency, the British government paid about 13 billion

pounds to the EU last year, after its automatic rebate, and got back 4.5 billion pounds in funding.

"Clearly if we stopped making contributions to the European Union there will be money available to be invested in our own economy," Hammond said when reporters asked about Britain's funding arrangements after Britain's departure from the EU. Hammond's funding guarantee, which covered structural and investment funds and Horizon research funding, was welcomed by organizations representing recipients of EU funding and by the employer organisation, the British Chambers of Commerce.

"I hope that this short-term certainty will help to deliver longer-term confidence and this is exactly what farm businesses need now," said Meurig Raymond, the president of the National Farmers' Union. The Royal Society, a London-based group of scientists, said the reassurance on EU grants would help Britain-based research continue to attract the best talent. "Today's announcement sends a strong message that Britain remains open and collaborative," Royal Society president Venki Ramakrishnan said. Hammond said projects signed before Britain's Autumn Statement financial update will continue to be funded by Britain after it formally leaves the EU and the UK would match the current level of agricultural funding until 2020. — Reuters

RENEWED BUYING INTEREST BUOYS KSE STOCKS

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	12,357,925	3.30%	511,100	1.59%	OIL & GAS	792.16	778.58	1.74%	-3.25%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,874,449	0.50%	654,795	2.04%	BASIC MATERIALS	974.07	952.88	2.22%	-1.25%
INDUSTRIALS	37,765,727	10.09%	4,098,777	12.77%	INDUSTRIALS	1,163.58	1,138.06	2.24%	11.56%
CONSUMER GOODS	2,834,124	0.76%	3,281,744	10.23%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,229.89	1,198.59	2.61%	12.33%
HEALTH CARE	445	0.00%	110	0.00%	HEALTH CARE	1,043.81	1,043.81	0.00%	12.80%
CONSUMER SERVICES	6,273,568	1.68%	753,463	2.35%	CONSUMER SERVICES	945.19	926.68	2.00%	-6.29%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	21,914,068	5.86%	3,119,316	9.72%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	601.43	596.22	0.87%	0.47%
BANKS	62,426,029	16.68%	7,656,338	23.86%	BANKS	794.34	783.88	1.33%	-12.43%
INSURANCE	401,828	0.11%	65,993	0.21%	INSURANCE	992.55	1,013.73	-2.09%	-11.93%
REAL ESTATE	58,597,562	15.66%	2,867,684	8.94%	REAL ESTATE	835.81	836.99	-0.14%	-11.16%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	169,644,533	45.34%	9,067,265	28.26%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	563.39	567.42	-0.71%	-5.37%
TECHNOLOGY	77,027	0.02%	9,971	0.03%	TECHNOLOGY	971.54	993.73	-2.23%	18.46%

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,499.72 points, up by 0.74 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1 percent after closing at 353.43 points, whereas the KSE-15 Index closed at 817.63 points up by 0.70 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 4.61 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD

6.42 million, whereas trading volume average was 74.83 million shares, recording an increase of 36.19 percent.

The three stock market indices closed in the green zone, as the market received noticeable support from the increased purchasing operations executed on many small-cap and leading stocks, especially the ones that disclosed positive results for the second quarter of the current year. Also, the market

benefited from the quick speculative operations that were present during most of the daily sessions of the week, as such speculation continued its control over the small-cap stocks' performance, which positively reflected on the Price Index that was able to realize good gains since the first session of the week, before the profit collection operations arise and limit its gains on the last trading session. As per the KSE daily trading activity, the three indices were able to realize good gains in the first session of the week despite the negative start that it initiated the session with, where the first half of it witnessed a decline in the three indices performance affected by the selling operations that included a wide range of stocks, before the market witnesses a purchasing activity in the second half as a result to the positive announcements disclosed by some listed companies, in addition to the quick speculative operations that were present too, which pushed the three indices to end the session in the green zone. Furthermore, the market witnessed in the second session of the week an increased purchasing operations on the leading stocks and a continued speculative trading on the small-cap stocks, which enabled it to enhance its three indices' gains noticeably.

However on the mid-week session, the market witnessed a mixed closing for the three indices, as the Price Index decreased affected by the profit collection operations that included some small-cap stocks of previous good increases, while the Weighted and KSE-15 indices continued to increase in light of the continued purchasing operations that concentrated on some leading stocks, especially in the Banks Sector.

The stock market indices continued its fluctuation in the next session with changing positions however, as the Price Index was able to return to the green zone with the return of the speculative operations to control over the small-cap stocks, while the profit collection operations that concentrated on the heavy stocks pushed the Weighted and KSE-15 indices to close in the red zone. The last session of the week witnessed a decline to the Price Index and an increase to the two other indices, and in parallel with a drop in the trading activity compared to the previous session, especially the value that declined by around 36 percent.

By the end of last week, the market capitalization reached KD 23.70 billion, up by 1.03 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached then KD 23.46 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE decreased by 6.19 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion.

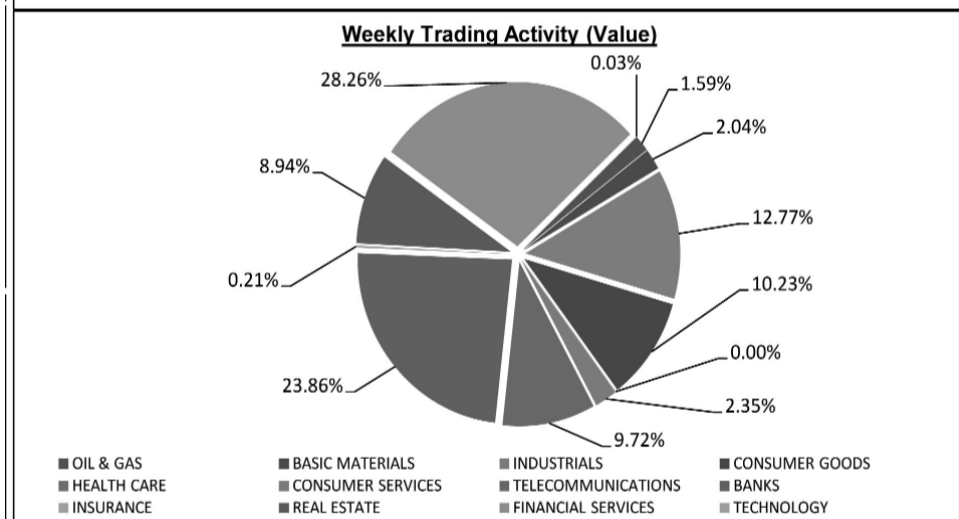
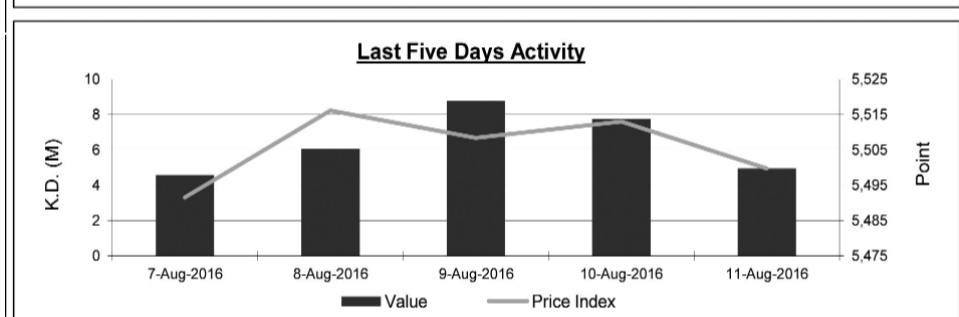
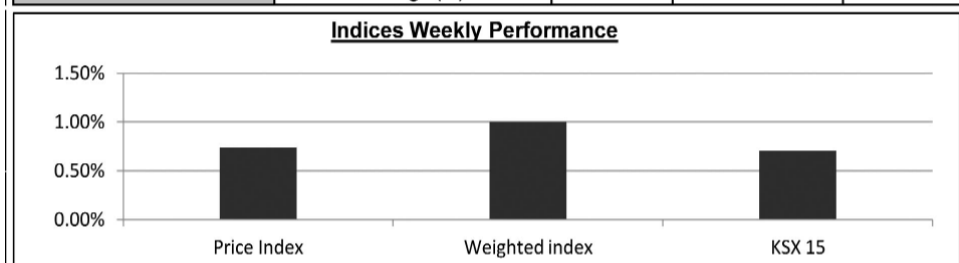
As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 2.06 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 7.41 percent, and the KSE-15 recorded 9.20 percent loss.

Sectors' Indices
Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, four recorded declines, whereas the Health sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Consumer Goods sector, achieving 2.61 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,229.89 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Industrial sector's index closed at 1,163.58 points recording 2.24 percent increase. The Basic Materials sector came in third as its index achieved 2.22 percent growth, ending the week at 974.07 points.

On the other hand, the Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.23 percent to end the week's activity at 971.54 points. The Insurance sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.09 percent, closing at 992.55 points, followed by the Real Estate sector, as its index closed at 835.81 points at a loss of 0.14 percent.

Sectors' Activity
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 169.64 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 45.34 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 16.68 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 62.43 million shares. On the other hand, the Financial Services sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 9.07 million or 28.26 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Banks sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 7.66 million representing 23.86 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSE 15
Weekly	Last week	5,499.72	353.43	817.63
	Previous week	5,459.26	349.92	811.93
	Change (Point)	40.46	3.51	5.70
	Change (%)	0.74%	1.00%	0.70%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-115.40	-28.27	-82.80
	Change (%)	-2.06%	-7.41%	-9.20%



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	374,167,285	274,737,886	36.19%
Value (K.D.)	32,086,557	30,671,746	4.61%
Deals	10,177	8,907	14.26%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
	23,701,704,595	23,461,216,084	1.03%	-6.19%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
OULAFUEL	128.00	108.00	20.0	18.52%
SOOR	130.00	114.00	16.0	14.04%
CATL	250.00	224.00	26.0	11.61%
TIJARA	39.50	35.50	4.0	11.27%
NAFAIS	190.00	172.00	18.0	10.47%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
AGHC	51.00	58.00	-7.0	-12.07%
KFIC	38.00	43.00	-5.0	-11.63%
WETHAQ	28.50	31.50	-3.0	-9.52%
SAFTEC	100.00	110.00	-10.0	-9.09%
ALAQARIA	22.00	24.00	-2.0	-8.33%

SECTORS' ACTIVITY				
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NEW YORK: A Wall Street sign near the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Global stocks wavered on Friday as investors looked to see if the three major US indexes can add to their record close as well as upcoming retail sales figures. —AP

US STOCK INDEXES EDGE MOSTLY LOWER; OIL RISES

WALL STREET WEEKLY OUTLOOK

NEW YORK: Wall Street capped a record-setting week with a day of mostly listless trading Friday that left the three major US stock indexes essentially flat.

The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index closed slightly lower. The Nasdaq composite eked out a tiny gain, giving the tech-heavy index its fourth record-high close in a week. Investors mostly focused on the latest batch of company earnings from retailers and other companies, as well as new data indicating that US retail sales in July were more sluggish than expected.

Materials companies fell the most. Energy stocks led the gainers as crude oil prices rose again. While the retail sales data may have dimmed some traders' views on the economy, most of the selling was likely a reflection of some investors locking in profits while the market remains near its all-time high, said JJ Kinahan, TD Ameritrade's chief strategist.

"It's a summer Friday on a week that we were higher," Kinahan said. "It's more of a 'Why take unnecessary risks? Take some profits, go home happy.'"

The Dow fell 37.05 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,576.47. The S&P 500 index lost 1.74 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,184.05. The declines pulled both indexes slightly below their most-recent all-time highs set Thursday. The Nasdaq bucked the trend, adding 4.50 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,232.89. The Nasdaq also closed at a record high last Friday, Tuesday and Thursday. It's now up 11 percent over the past seven weeks, the longest winning streak for the index in more than four years. So far this year, the Dow is up 6.6 percent, the S&P 500 has gained 6.9 percent and the Nasdaq is up 4.5 percent. Strong job growth, more stable oil prices and a crop of better-than-expected company earnings have helped lift stocks in recent weeks. This week, investors had their eye on the health of retailers. They welcomed the latest quarterly snapshots for Macy's, Kohl's and Nordstrom, sending their shares higher. Some of that continued Friday as traders cheered results from Nordstrom, J.C. Penney and Dillard's.

Nordstrom surged 8 percent a day after the department store chain reported earnings that beat Wall Street's expectations. The company also raised its profit guidance for the year. The stock gained \$3.82 to \$51.38. J.C. Penney said a pickup in sales helped trim the chain's second-quarter loss from a year earlier. The stock added 61 cents, or 6.1 percent, to \$10.55. Dillard's rose 3.4 percent after the retailer posted a second-quarter profit that was larger than analysts expected. Its shares gained \$2.26 to \$68.67. Even so, the government's latest retail sales figures appeared to dampen on some of that optimism.

The Commerce Department said that US retail sales held steady in July from the previous month, as Americans spent less at grocery stores, clothing shops, sporting goods and electronics and appliance outlets. Those declines were offset by big increases in auto sales and on online and catalog sales.

Prices drop

Separately, the Labor Department said producer prices posted the biggest drop last month since September, pulled down by tumbling energy, clothing and food prices. Inflation remains modest at both producer and consumer levels. Despite the downbeat economic data, the market spent much of the day hovering just below its all-time highs.

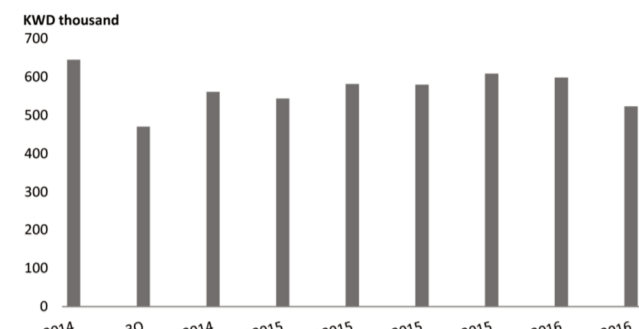
"It's very understandable that people are not particularly keen to rush into buying at these historically high levels," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank. "Add in this economic data that leans to the weaker side and it's not surprising that the market is off a little bit." Industrial and drilling companies were among the biggest decliners. Transocean slid the most among stocks in the S&P 500, shedding 47 cents, or 4.5 percent, to \$9.90. Steel products manufacturer Nucor fell \$1.66, or 3.2 percent, to \$50.69, while Alcoa slipped 25 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$10.17.

Oil prices added to recent gains.

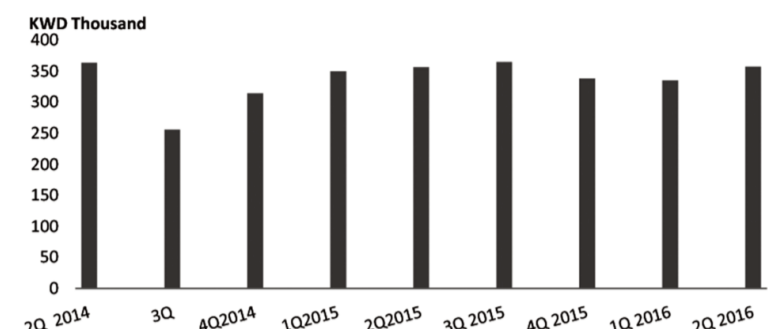
Benchmark US crude was rose \$1, or 2.3 percent, to \$44.49 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 93 cents, or 2 percent, to close at \$46.97 a barrel in London. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline added a penny to \$1.37 a gallon, while heating oil rose 2 cents to \$1.41 a gallon. Natural gas gained 3 cents to \$2.58 per 1,000 cubic feet. The major stock indexes in Europe mostly closed lower. The DAX index in Germany fell 0.3 percent, while France's CAC 40 was slid 0.1 percent. Britain's FTSE was flat. Earlier in Asia, the Shanghai Composite index added 1.6 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.8 percent after China reported retail sales and factory output increased sharply in July from a year earlier, even as they declined from June 2016's levels. Elsewhere in the region, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index rose 1.1 percent, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.4 percent. India's Sensex gained 1 percent. Markets in Southeast Asia were mostly higher. Gold and other precious metals declined. Gold slid \$6.70, or 0.5 percent, to \$1,335.80 an ounce. Silver lost 32 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$19.70 an ounce. Copper fell 5 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$2.14 a pound. Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.51 percent from 1.56 late Thursday. In currency markets, the dollar weakened to 101.27 yen from 101.93 on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1164 from \$1.1141.

Among other stocks that made big moves Friday: Concordia International slumped 38.1 percent after the drugmaker reported disappointing sales, cut its annual forecasts and suspended its dividend. The stock shed \$6.23 to \$10.13. Ruby Tuesday's slid 13.1 percent after the restaurant chain reported weak sales and said it would shutter 95 of its company-owned locations by September. The stock lost 49 cents to \$3.24. Silicon Graphics jumped 28.6 percent on news that Hewlett Packard Enterprise agreed to buy the computer equipment and services company for about \$281 million. —AP

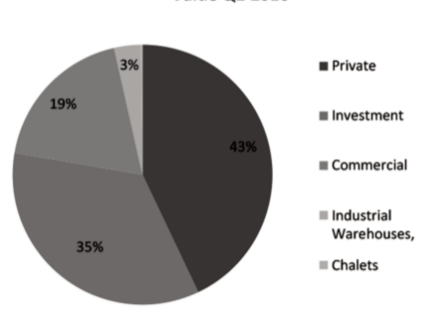
Development on Average Transaction value/ total real estate Sales Q2 2014 - Q2 2016



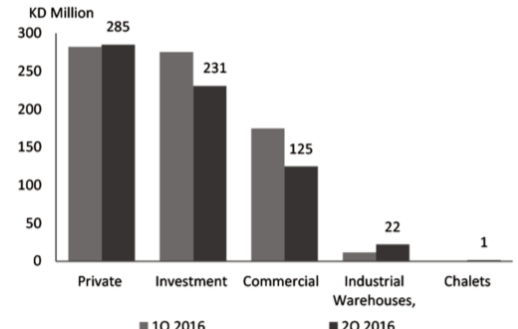
Progress on average transaction value/ Private residence transactions Q2 2014 - Q2 2016



Distribution of Real estate Transactions Share(Sector wise)/ Total Real estate Transactions Value Q2 2016



Total Real estate Trading Value Q2 and Q1 2016



SALES VOLUME OF KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SECTOR DROPS 31%

KFH REPORT ON LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET

KUWAIT: Real estate sector sales lost nearly 31 percent of its value in Q2 compared to the same period last year. This decline comes on the back of the decline in the value of sales in both investment and residential real estate sectors by 45 percent and 31 percent respectively. The decline started since Q2 2014 in 6 quarters for the investment sector and 5 quarters for the residential sector which has witnessed an improvement in sales value during Q2 by 1 percent compared to the preceding quarter.

Commercial real estate sales increased in Q2 this year by 22 percent compared to Q2 last year. However, performance ratios in this sector remain less than Q4 2014 ratios. Also, growth ratios are still fluctuating.

Real estate sales declined on quarterly basis for the second time respectively during the second quarter this year. This decline comes on the back of the major decline in both commercial and investment sectors. Meanwhile real estate sales were not impacted by the slight improvement witnessed in the private residence sector. Real estate sales value reached its peak during the last two years, namely during the second quarter of 2014. The value declined due to the decline in the value of sales in the residential and investment sectors, except some periods which have witnessed an increase in the value of sales since then.

The month of Ramadan and the vacation season has contributed to the increase in the sharp decline during Q2 this year. Financial and economic pressures have continued on the local, regional and global levels. The critical political events in the Middle East have also contributed to this decline. Oil prices have improved during Q2 this year. However, in light of the global variation of oil market and the structural changes thereof and the fact that it has turned into a market controlled by buyers, our absolute dependence on oil revenues shall not achieve economic growth sustainability.

The sharp drop in oil prices has further weakened the general financial position and current account status. On the short run, precautionary available reserves and finance may be utilized to avoid heavy spending cuts and mitigate the impact on non-oil growth.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) urges GCC countries to diversify their economic activity and to control their budgets in general so that private sector would be able to depend on firm and deep rooted drives of economy instead of oil or state spending. Mid-term plans must be placed to control general financial conditions e.g. mitigating current spending growth ratio (wages bills and power support costs), determine capital spending priorities and increase non-oil revenues.

GCC governments have resolved to increase revenues and optimize costs through the adoption of certain reformation programs aiming to increase tax revenues, increase fees and optimize support, namely energy. The Parliament has approved the electricity prices. Increase shall be implemented effective September 2017 as electricity and water support dominates a large portion of total support cost. Meanwhile the parliament has approved a more eased form of the project proposed by the government. However, this step remains as a historical step that aims to mitigate the load on the government shoulders and participate in the mitigation of the deficit in the state budget.

The government is also considering increasing fuel prices and imposing new taxes to increase non-oil revenues. New prices are expected to be implemented early 2019. The government has proposed within its state financial reformation program a draft law to impose corporate tax and replace certain current tax items with other wider corporate income tax to reach 10 percent for both local and foreign companies. The authorities are also considering imposing added value tax by 5 percent in coordination with other GCC countries. However, these suggestions require official laws to place them under execution. In light of this trend to improve the general budget and mitigate deficit the government has actually increased fees on government services e.g. the Minister of Finance decree to increase usufruct fees of state properties which shall be implemented effective April next year in addition to the increase in other government fees.

Real estate sales value was reflected on the average transaction value in all sectors. Average transaction value in residential sector improved relatively compared to the same period last year. Average transaction value in investment sector continued to decline. Meanwhile average transaction value in commercial sector increased compared to Q2 last year.

Real estate transaction number improved in Q2 in regard to real estate sector. This increase comes on the back of the increase in the number of transactions in investment sector. Meanwhile transactions in residential sector decreased compared to Q1 this year.

This comes simultaneously with the increase in the volume of liquidity allocated to this sector as per the latest information

available as at April this year. Loans portfolio granted by banks to real estate sector improved when compared to Q4 last year. Loans approximated KD 19.5 billion without calculating the loans of credit bank to real estate activity of all types. Meanwhile, the portfolio recorded an annual growth by 6.8 percent ie more than KD 1.2 billion. The portfolio represents 58.2 percent of credit loans granted by the Kuwaiti banking sector in April 2016.

Residential loans granted by Kuwait Credit Bank during Q2 2016 approximated KD 84.9 million covering 2150 cases including KD 45.7 million to build government plots, KD 14 million for other government houses and KD 8.3 million to purchase residential houses. Credit bank has also given loans approximating 7.2 million to build private plots and KD 8.6 million have been given as loans and grants to handicapped people.

Loans were also given to purchase houses and private residences. Portfolio loans granted by the credit bank for expansion and renovation purposes approximated KD 748,000 granted to 84 cases in Q 2 2016.

Financial performance of real estate sector companies was good as per the latest financial results. However, 23 out of 36 real estate companies listed in Kuwait Stock Exchange announced their financial results for the preceding year. The volume of liquidity traded on the shares of real estate companies in KSE declined during Q2 by 20 percent thus recording KD 95.9 million. Weight index of this sector declined by 2 percent to record 52.6 points compared to Q1. KSE performance in Q2 was similar to Q1. Sales value declined to reach KD 749.3 million i.e. a decline by 10 percent compared to KD 836 Million in Q1. Weight index has also declined by 2 percent compared to Q1.

Local real estate transactions in the real estate market have contributed significantly to liquidity by 89 percent of KSE transactions as provided in Q2 financials this year despite the decline which they have witnessed.

Market trends

Real estate sales declined in Q2 2016 by 11 percent compared to the preceding quarter this year. This decline rate is relatively higher than the rate recorded in Q1, to reach KD 664 million compared to KD 744 million in Q1. Real estate sales increased in Q2 by 2 percent compared to Q1. Accordingly, average transaction value has declined by 12.6 percent on quarterly basis.

Real estate sales were impacted by the decline by the decline witnessed in investment and commercial sectors during Q2.

Private residence sector witnessed an increase compared to Q1. On the other hand sales value declined in both residential and investment sectors compared to Q2 last year and increase significantly in commercial real estate sector. This increase comes on the back of the increase in the number of transactions in Q2 in the real estate sector compared to the same period last year. It also comes on the back of the increase in the number of transactions in residential and investment real estate sectors. Meanwhile, commercial sector witnessed a decline in the number of transactions.

At the private residence real estate level, sales increased in Q2 by 1 percent compared to the preceding quarter. The value of transactions was less by 31 percent compared to Q2 last year. Average transaction value increased by 7 percent compared to Q1. Transaction value improved relatively compared to same period last year. Surveys conducted by Kuwait Finance House show the movement of prices in the real estate market at Kuwait governorates level which indicates that residential real estate prices have recorded an improvement in the decline rate by 3.2 percent in Q2 compared to a decline rate by 3.7 percent in Q1. Average prices of private residences were less in Q2 this year by 10 percent compared to the same period last year.

Investment real estate sales declined by 16 percent compared to Q1, thus recording a major decline by 45 percent compared to last year. Average transaction value declined by 35 percent compared to Q1 and by 40 percent compared to Q2 last year. Improvement continued in the decline ratios of price indices of investment real estate on quarterly basis during Q2 as they recorded a decline ratio by 2.4 percent while the annual decline reached 11 percent for the same period last year.

Commercial real estate sales declined significantly in Q2 by 29 percent. Nevertheless, its value during Q2 is considered as the highest value by 22 percent compared to the same period last year. Average transaction value declined by 6 percent compared to Q1 while the value is higher by 52 percent compared to the same period last year. Price indexes declined by 1.7 percent compared to Q1 this year and by 4.5 percent compared to Q2 last year.

Price per square meter declined to reach KD 5,852 in Capital governorate, KD 3,332 in Hawally Governorate, KD 2,470 in Farwaniya governorate, KD 2,725 in Jahraa governorate and KD 2,939 in Ahmadi governorate.

Real estate sector trends

Real estate sales value declined as per

trading indications issued by the Real estate Registration & Authentication Dept. - Ministry of Justice during Q2 by 11 percent or KD 80.3 million compared to the preceding quarter/ this decline is considered as relatively higher than the decline ratio of 10 percent in Q1 this year. Sales value reached KD 663.9 million in Q2 compared to KD 744 million. Based on Q2 performance the annual decline ratio declined as it started since Q1 last year. Decline ratio reached 31 percent in Q2 this year compared to last year where sales reached KD 966 million.

Contracts trading reached KD 619 million in Q2 compared to KD 717 million in Q1 this year, thus marking a decline by 14 percent or KD 97 million in Q2 compared to Q1. Agencies trading increased to reach KD 45 million in Q2 compared to KD 28 million in Q1, thus recording a significant increase by 61 percent in Q2 or KD 17 million.

Real estate sales value is still witnessing a decline since Q2 2014. The value reached its highest level in 5 years as it recorded an annual decline in Q2 by 28 percent compared to the same period last year. Real estate sales (Contracts) performance is oscillatory bearing in mind that it declined significantly in Q2 this year by 60 percent compared to the same period last year.

Total average transaction value declined on quarterly basis by 12.6 percent or KD 76,000 in Q2 compared to a limited decline by 1.6 percent in Q1. Average real estate value reached KD 524,000 in Q2 compared to KD 600,000 in Q1. Averaged transaction value declined in Q2 compared to Q1 which has witnessed an increase. Average transaction value declined by 10 percent in Q2 this year compared to the same period last year. This ratio is the same decline ratio witnessed in Q2 last year.

Private residence trends

Private residence transactions value improved to reach more than KD 285,000 in Q2 compared to KD 282,000 in Q1 this year. This value is the lowest value witnessed in Q2 during the last 5 years. The value increased by 1 percent or KD 2.8 million compared to Q1 which has witnessed a decline by 8 percent in Q1.

Annual decline trend in private residence improved as it recorded a decline ratio by 31 percent in Q2 this year compared to a higher decline by 41 percent in Q1. This ratio is less relatively than the decline ratio by 32 percent in Q2 last year.

Private residence share in real estate transactions value increased as it reached 42.9 percent of the value of sales in Q2 compared to 37.9 percent in Q1.

The number of private residence transactions declined by 5.2 percent in Q2 compared to a bigger decline by 7.1 percent in Q1. The number of transactions reached 798 transactions in Q2 compared to 842 transactions in Q1. Despite this decline the number of transactions increased at the end of Q2 by 5 percent compared to the same period last year.

Improvement in the value of private residence sales and decline in number is shown in the form of the increase in average transaction value which represents the value of a single private residence real estate, thus recording KD 357,000 in Q2 compared to KD 335,000 in Q1.

Average transaction value (single real estate) increased by 7 percent or KD 22,000 in Q2 compared to Q1 which has witnessed a decline by 1 percent compared to the preceding quarter. However, average private residence real estate value did not witness any change in Q2 this year compared to the same period last year. Average transaction value is increasing since Q3 last year.

Concerning monthly trading value of private residence during Q1 of 2016 the month of May has recorded the highest trading share, thus dominating 43 percent of total private residence sales or KD 123.4 million. June came second with KD 96.2 million or 34 percent while April came last with a share approximating KD 65.5 million or 23 percent of private residence sales.

Investment real estate trends

Investment real estate trading value declined by 16 percent or approximately KD 45 million in Q2 this year compared to Q1 in which decline reached 12 percent. Investment real estate sales value reached KD 230.7 million in Q2 compared to KD 275.5 million in Q1. Accordingly, investment real estate share in real estate sector sales increased to reach 42.9 percent compared to 37 percent in Q1 this year.

Based on this decline in investment sales in Q2 annual decline in value in Q2 reached 45 percent compared to the same period last year which has witnessed a decline by 32 percent compared to the former year.

Investment real estate transactions increased significantly in Q2 to reach 29 percent compared to Q1 this year. The number of transactions increased by 12 percent in Q2 compared to the same period last year. Transactions in Q2 reached 418 transactions compared to 325 transactions in Q1. However, this number is less than the num-

ber of transactions which has reached 462 transactions in Q2 last year.

Average transaction value of investment real estate declined to reach KD 551,000 in Q2 compared to KD 848,000 in Q1 i.e. a decline by 35 percent or KD 269,000 compared to Q1. Value increased in Q1 by 7 percent compared to the preceding quarter. Accordingly average transaction value declined to reach 41 percent compared to the same period last year.

Concerning investment sales monthly volume in Q2 the month of April has taken the lead with a share approximating 37 percent of total investment sales, thus recording KD 86.5 million. The month of June comes next with a share reaching 33 percent or more than KD 68 million while May came with 30 percent thus recording KD 76 million.

Commercial real estate trends

Commercial real estate sales declined in Q2 by 29 percent or KD 50 million compared to Q1 bearing in mind that it declined in Q1 by 10 percent compared to the former quarter. Transactions value reached KD 124.8 million in Q2 compared to KD 175 million in Q1. Based on this decline the commercial real estate sector share in total real estate sector reached 19 percent in Q2 compared to 24 percent in Q1.

The number of commercial real estate transactions declined during Q2 by 24 percent or 8 transactions compared to Q1 which increased by 27 percent on quarterly basis. Accordingly, transactions declined by 10.7 percent compared to same period last year.

Commercial real estate average transaction value declined by 6 percent in Q2 or KD 309,000. Average transaction value (single real estate) reached KD 5 million in Q2 compared to KD 5.3 million in Q1 this year. Despite the said decline the average real estate transaction value increased significantly by 52 percent compared to Q2 last year.

Concerning monthly transaction values of commercial real estate transactions volume during Q2 2016 the month of April has recorded KD 60.4 million i.e. 48 percent of the value of commercial real estate sales. The month of May came next with share approximating 28 percent or KD 34.4 million followed by June with a share of 24 percent or KD 30 million.

Housing projects

The state aims to complete more than 36 thousand residential units by 2017. This plan will be part of several projects executed by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare in accordance with very stringent technical conditions set by the authority. These planned housing projects shall fulfill part of the increasing demand on such projects including the accumulating housing applications.

Submitted applications declined to reach 103,000 till the date of the latest report issued by the PAHW in April 2016. Submitted applications reached 3,462 submitted applications since the beginning of the year.

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has completed the distribution of 12,177 residential units as per the current year financial plan 2015/2016. The authority was able to distribute the remaining 4660 units as per the plan in Southern Mutlaa during Q1 this year. The authority plans to distribute 11,338 units for the financial year 2016/2017 in the same project as well. This may mitigate the housing crises in the country by increasing offered quantities of new residential land.

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare, in cooperation with certain major global companies has succeeded during Q1 2016 in executing certain projects which it planned in those new cities including projects amounting KD 9 Million for the construction and maintenance of public buildings and infrastructure in Al-Naseem Housing Project and KD 1 million projects for the construction and maintenance of main roads in Jaber Al-Ahmed residential city and projects for the maintenance of power cables in North West Sulaibikhat. The authority is about to complete projects worth KD 219.5 million with a completion ratio reaching 98 percent in Sabah Al-Ahmed Marine area, Jaber Al-Ahmed area and North West Sulaibikhat area.

The Authority has completed during Q1 the execution of certain projects which it started during the preceding period. Completion percentage has exceeded the determined percentage as per plan in Q1. The authority is about to complete certain projects with a completion ratio reaching 90 percent or 95 percent with a value approximating 241 million. However, there was a delay in the execution time schedule as per plan. Execution is much more less than expected in plots, public buildings, roads and main services which cost nearly KD 239 million.

The Authority has commenced, as per plan, to develop new projects including Wafra Housing Extension project and Abdullah Mubarak West Project where both projects costing KD 90 million, in addition to projects in Sabah Al-Ahmed Marin City costing KD 2 million and Naseem Housing project costing KD 1.6 million.

List of projects announced by the Technical Bureau for Studying Development Projects, mainly as follows:

Projects for Houses, Plots, Services, and Affiliated Public Buildings				
#	Area	Contract Value	Actual Completion %	
			Q1 2016	Q4 2015
1	Sabah Al Ahmad City	127.9	98.3	98.3
2	Sabah Al Ahmad City	200.7	94.4	93.7
3	Northwest Sulaibikhat City	34.3	99.4	98.7
4	Sabah Al Ahmad City	18.9	83	81.5
5	Northwest Sulaibikhat City	38.1	95.4	94.5
6	Jaber Al Ahmed City	58.4	3.9	3.9
7	Wafrah Housing Extensions	28.5	39.2	32.5
8	Abu-Halifa Housing Project	2.2	48.8	48.5
9	Abdullah Al-Mubarak West Project	46	Time schedule under process	
Cost		KD 555.1million	* Delayed projects	

Projects for public buildings				
#	Area	Contract Value	Actual Rate of Completion	
			Q1 2016	Q4 2015
10	Sabah Al Ahmad City	34	63.5	62
11	Sabah Al Ahmad City	38.5	84.3	69
12	Sabah Al Ahmad City	6.2	65	65
13	Jaber Al Ahmad City	57.3	99.5	80
14	Sabah Al Ahmad City	44.7	46.5	33
15	Naseem Housing Project	9	100	65
16	Sabah Al Ahmad City	36.4	28.8	18
17	Existing Wafrah Project	21.1	20.5	15
18	Qairawan project	4.5	8.4	6.6
Cost		KD 251.97million	* Delayed projects	

Projects for Roads & Main Services				
#	Area	Contract Value	Actual Completion Ratio	
			Q1 2016	Q4 2015
19	Sabah Al Ahmad City	6.6	82	65
20	Jaber Al Ahmad City	0.228	100	93.8
21	Sabah Al Ahmad City	2.29	94	94
22	Saad Al-Abdullah	1.46	78.5	65.5
23	North West Sulaibikhat	0.799	100	-
24	Jaber Al Ahmad City	2.998	31	12
25	Sabah Al Ahmad City	1.4	New Project Time Schedule under process	
26	Saad Al Abdullah	0.669	Preparation started	
27	Saad Al Abdullah	2.7	Preparation started	
28	Wafra residential extension project	46.6	New Project Time Schedule under process	
29	Naseem Housing Project	1.6	New Project Time Schedule under process	
Cost		KD 67.3 million		
Total Cost of PAHW Projects		KD 874.4million		

Source: List of Projects of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) - Dec. 2015 (www.housing.gov.kw)



Mercedes-Benz

MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS SCOOPS THREE AWARDS AUTOMOTIVE INTERIORS EXPO AWARDS 2016

KUWAIT: German luxury automobile manufacturer Mercedes-Benz has added another three awards to its fast growing list of accolades at the 'Automotive Interiors Expo Awards 2016.' The new E-Class was awarded best in class across multiple categories, including the Best Interior of a Standard-Production Automobile, Interior Innovation of the Year for its touch control buttons on the steering wheel, and Interior Designer of the Year, awarded to its Head of Interior Design, Hartmut Sinkwitz.

Held annually in Stuttgart and judged by a 17-member panel of world-leading motoring and design journalists, the Automotive Interiors Expo Awards highlight the world's best designers, innovations and products in the field of automotive interiors.

"With the interior of the new E-Class, we are giving a new interpretation to the concept of contemporary luxury," says Hartmut Sinkwitz, Head of the Interior Design. "We have designed a spacious and intelligent interior. True to Mercedes-Benz's design philosophy of sensual purity, it employs technological innovation and high-grade equipment to create an exception-



ally emotive experience for driver and front passenger. The E-Class thus not only sets a new standard in the executive saloon class, alongside a workplace and private environment, it also becomes a "third place" - a living area in which passengers are able to enjoy contemporary luxury."

Mercedes-Benz takes a big step into the future with numerous innovations in the interior of the new E-Class. It features a wide high-resolution next-generation dual display (12.3 inches per display) that appears to hover in space, and

is the first car to feature touch-sensitive control buttons on the steering wheel. They allow the driver to control the entire infotainment system using finger swipes without having to take their hands off the steering wheel. The all-new experience is rounded off by a novel, intelligent graphic design with high-resolution visualisations and animations as well as simplified control logic. At the same time, the occupants enjoy a sensual interior with spacious architecture and high-quality materials.

Commenting on the awards, Michael Ruehle, Chief executive Officer of A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co, the Authorised General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, also added "To gain international recognition from a distinguished panel of judges across not one but three categories is certainly gratifying, and also reaffirming that this is a brilliant car, with world class technology and design. We knew it all along, and now the world does too."

The Mercedes-Benz E-Class is available at Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Co. To book a test drive, please visit our showroom or call 24950000.



AIR ARABIA REPORTS NET PROFIT OF AED 245 M IN H1 2016

SHARJAH: Air Arabia (PJSC) yesterday announced strong financial results for the first half of 2016 ending June 30, 2016 as the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier continued to deliver robust, sustained performance.

Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 245 million for the first half of 2016 ending June 30, 2016, an increase of 3.5 per cent compared to the AED 237 million reported for the same period last year. The company's turnover for the first six months of 2016 reached AED 1.84 billion, compared to AED 1.75 billion in the corresponding period last year, an increase of 5.5 per cent.

Marking robust growth in passenger demand, Air Arabia flew 4.1 million passengers during the first half of 2016 - up 14 per cent on the corresponding period last year. The airline's average seat load factor for the first six month of 2016 - passengers carried as a percentage of available seats - stood at impressive 79 per cent. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al-Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "Air Arabia's strong financial results are a testament to the airline's unwavering commitment to delivering on its value-added proposition for customers combined with its operational efficiency and the effectiveness of its wider growth strategy. Despite the continuous pressure on yield margins that airlines are witnessing and the challenges associated with the regional economic outlook, Air Arabia continues to deliver solid financial performance and momentum growth."

He added: "We remain optimistic about the outlook of low-cost travel in the wider region as we continue to focus on further expanding our network and operational efficiency as well as

leveraging on emerging travel trends by delivering even more value to our customers."

Air Arabia flew over 2 million passengers in the second quarter ending June 30, 2016, increased by 12 per cent compared to the same period of 2015. The airline's average seat load factor for the same period stood at a high 78 per cent.

The company's turnover in the second quarter ending June 30, 2016 reached AED 894 million, an increase of 4 per cent compared to the same period of 2015. Net profit during the second quarter 2016 stood at AED 131 million, 14 per cent less than the corresponding period of 2015; this is driven by regional shift in traffic in the second quarter of 2016 due to the month of Ramadan and the excess in capacity available in the market which is affecting airlines' yield margins.

In April, Air Arabia was named 'Best Low-cost Airline serving the Middle East' at the prestigious Business Traveller Middle East Awards 2016, in recognition of its outstanding performance in meeting the needs of executive travellers.

During the first half of 2016, Air Arabia received three brand new airplanes and added new flights to Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina from its main hub at Sharjah. In the same period, Air Arabia Jordan expanded its operations by launching a new route from Amman to Riyadh, while Air Arabia Maroc launched two new routes connecting Marrakech to Pau and Fez to Toulouse.

Air Arabia today operates flights to over 120 global destinations in 33 countries from five hubs in the UAE, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan.

JET AIRWAYS POSTS \$19M NET PROFIT IN Q1 OF FY 2017

KUWAIT: Jet Airways Group has announced its fifth successive profitable quarter for the period ending June 30, 2016 based on continuing improvement in aircraft utilization, increased efficiency and reduction in cost, including non-fuel expenses.

Consistent financial performance has enabled Jet Airways to further reduce its debt by \$53 million during Q1 of FY17.

Cost per available seat kilometre (CASK) excluding fuel dropped by 1.2 percent to US cents 4.77 in Q1 FY17 compared to US cents 5.09 in the corresponding period of the previous year, clearly indicating Jet Airways' focused approach in achieving operational efficiencies throughout its business.

The company reported a net profit of \$19 million in Q1 of FY17 compared to \$36 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. The net profit of Q1 FY16 included an exceptional item on account of contribution receivable from lessors.

Naresh Goyal, Chairman, Jet Airways, said: "Jet Airways has strengthened its core operations and achieved better capacity utilization and greater efficiency. We have been able to report lower non-fuel cost in spite of inflationary increases and weakening of Indian Rupee against US dollar by almost 6 percent. "Due to the intense competitive environment, industry yields were under pressure in Q1 and the trend is expected to continue in Q2."

"At Jet Airways, we continue to focus on our key priorities areas of customer satisfaction, network optimization and driving operational efficiencies.

"Our strategic partnership with Etihad Airways continues to strengthen. In Q1, codeshare traffic delivered by Etihad Airways and other Etihad Airways Partner airlines to Jet Airways grew by 41 percent.

"As a network carrier, we have been able to drive greater integration between domestic and international operations providing enhanced connectivity to our guests throughout the Jet Airways network. "Jet Airways remains committed to its endeavor of connecting India to the world as India's economic growth story gains further momentum."

Key player

James Hogan, Vice Chairman, Jet Airways and President

and Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Jet Airways is a key player in the Indian aviation market offering a full service product and a robust network."

"We will continue to strengthen the partnership between Jet Airways and Etihad Airways by driving further synergies, along with other Etihad Airways Partner airlines. In a competitive market, we have together created a winning combination of a wider combined network and exceptional guest experience for travellers to and from India."

"Jet Airways continues to grow its traffic over the Abu Dhabi gateway, complementing the Etihad Airways network. Together, we are the largest combined scheduled operator of flights to and from India with a 20 per cent market share. Our robust partnership continues to go from strength to strength."

Overall codeshare traffic for the first quarter of FY17 grew 13 percent to 551,859 passengers. A wider network of codeshares now enables Jet Airways to offer significantly enhanced global connectivity and has helped deliver the increase in passenger traffic. Jet Airways' recently introduced daily non-stop operations to Amsterdam from Mumbai, Delhi and Toronto have received very encouraging response with an average seat factor of 84 percent. To meet the growing demand from business and corporate travellers, Jet Airways will upgrade its flight on the Mumbai-Amsterdam route to a Boeing 777-300 ER with effect from October 30, 2016.

From Amsterdam, Jet Airways offers connections to 30 destinations across Europe and 11 destinations in the United States and Canada through its codeshare partnership with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

During the first quarter of FY17, Jet Airways launched a multi-media campaign themed 'Get More' to highlight the significant benefits and additional features offered by Jet Airways as a full service airline.

Jet Airways is launching Fare Choices, a new flexible fare structure allowing guests more choice and freedom when booking flights. Jet Airways joins a select group of airlines worldwide offering a branded fare structure which offers flexibility and transparency. Fare Choices to be launched on August 17, 2016 is a transparent fare structure offering flexibility and tailored benefits, allowing guests the ability to customise their travel experience according to their needs.

CHEAP CLOTHES MAKES FOR PRICY STOCKS AT TJX, ROSS

NEW YORK: Consumers are flocking to discount apparel retailers, but investors are faced with nothing close to a bargain as stocks in the sector rally. Few expect shares of off-price retailer TJX Companies' or its peer, Ross Stores, to go on a fire sale next week when they report earnings, as the trends that have favored them over their higher-priced competitors are expected to persist.

Just this year, TJX shares have gained nearly 17 percent and Ross Stores has added slightly more, compared with gains closer to 7 percent in both the S&P 500 retail index and the broader S&P 500. "TJX and Ross have outperformed and will continue to outperform because they are good merchandisers. They get the selection right," said Kim Forrest, senior equity research analyst Fort Pitt Capital Group in Pittsburgh. "I don't own these and I regret it," she said, adding that she will wait for a stumble in the price to jump in.

Contrary to the discounts shoppers find at TJX and Ross, investors are faced with a high price for their shares. At near 22 times expected earnings over the next 12 months, their price-to-earnings ratio is at its highest level in at least 15 years, according to Thomson Reuters Datastream.

Both stocks set record closing highs on Friday ahead of TJX's quarterly report due Tuesday. Ross is expected to report on Thursday. But the stock gains could continue, as sales are expected to continue to grow and

investors welcome the revenue increase. Same-store sales are expected to have risen 3.3 percent last quarter for TJX and 2.1 percent for Ross, according to Thomson Reuters data. "The off-price sector has developed a successful strategy to keep consumers coming back," said New York-based Christina Boni, a senior analyst at Moody's Investors Service.

"Stores have the unique ability to change product offerings quickly, which creates a 'scarcity' effect that makes consumers feel more compelled to purchase on the spot, rather than risk someone else beating them to the checkout line," she said.

Shoppers are indeed favoring discounters, and the competition is trying to catch up. Both Macy's and Nordstrom talked up their off-price lines - Backstage and Nordstrom Rack - in their most recent earnings reports. "Consumers have started moving to dollar stores and places like off-price chains" at the expense of Macy's and other department stores, said Burt Flickinger, managing director at retail consultancy Strategic Resources Group in New York. Activity in the options market has been leaning toward bets on declines in stock prices in the broad retail sector. In addition, options on discount retailers, including Burlington, TJX Cos and Ross Stores, show a similar sense of caution. Apparel retailers reporting earnings next week include L Brands, Gap Inc and Urban Outfitters. — Reuters

GLOBAL MONETARY TAPS STILL OPEN WIDE, FED IN FOCUS

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

LONDON: The glue binding a still-aggressive global monetary policy response to a struggling world economy and almost daily record highs for world stock markets along with record low bond yields is set to remain intact in the coming week. The one thing that could unstick it, apart from divine intervention, would be a change in tune from the US Federal Reserve, which is still toying with when to deliver a follow-up interest rate hike to last December's baby step-up from zero.

Minutes to the Fed's July policy meeting due on Wednesday may come under more scrutiny than normal given the central bank really only has one opportunity left, at its meeting next month, to raise rates before the November presidential election.

Fed officials have given differing and often conflicting signals throughout much of this year on when the next move will come, leaving few with any clear sense of how much of a risk there is of a September rate rise.

Interest rate futures contracts in financial markets, as well as the median probability given by economists in a recent Reuters poll, suggest the chances are low and that if they go this year at all, December is more likely. "Our guess is that the market-implied odds of a 2016 rate hike will trend up over the remainder of the month, with both the FOMC minutes on August 17 and Chair (Janet) Yellen's Jackson Hole speech on August 26 likely to suggest that September is very much a live meeting," wrote Lou Crandall, Fed watcher at Wrightson ICAP, in a recent client note.

In the meantime, Fed officials have been drop-

ping hints. San Francisco Fed President John Williams said in a newspaper interview that the Fed's planned gradual pace of interest rate hikes means, in his view at least, a hike will come this year.

But given the waves of central bank cash flowing from the European Central Bank, Bank of Japan - and now again the Bank of England's purchases of tens of billions of dollars worth of securities a month - the Fed appears to be leaning into the prevailing global winds.

One other somewhat inconvenient truth for central bankers is that after well over half a decade of emergency monetary policy, there is some growth, but scant inflation to speak of in most developed economies other than rampant asset price inflation.

"The inability of super-soft monetary policy to prop up global economic expansion in the years after the global financial crisis suggests that fiscal relaxation may have been a more effective way of bolstering growth. The same is true now," according to global market economists at BNP Paribas.

But until the fiscal taps are opened more widely, that leaves central banks still steering the ship.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand, facing weak inflation apart from housing markets, like Australia, threw in the towel and trimmed its interest rate in an attempt to weaken its currency and ended up boosting it instead. British inflation data due during the week are expected to show very little, if any, price pressure.

This won't matter much, however, as a blast of inflation perhaps topping 3 percent or more will

come soon enough as the collapse in sterling since Britain's June 23 vote to quit the European Union feeds through to an economy that imports a lot more goods than it sells to the world.

Indeed, Brexit as an economic force is more likely to end up as disinflationary in the near term through its potential negative impact on its trading partners, on top of a now widely-expected mild recession in Britain. The latest figures on Britain's claimant count will also get a close look as they are the first set of official job market data since the Brexit vote, and many now expect the country's very low 4.9 percent unemployment rate to start rising soon.

"The claimant count data will give us an early steer on the post-referendum period, relating to July," wrote Victoria Clarke, senior economist at Investec.

"Indeed, we note that the recent report from the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) pointed to the UK jobs market suffering a dramatic freefall in July, with permanent hiring dropping to levels not seen since the recession of 2009." Retail sales data are also due later in the week, although survey data have suggested they have held up fairly well since the referendum to leave the EU.

And Japan is also due to publish second quarter economic growth data as well, with very low expectations in a Reuters poll for just a 0.7 percent annualised growth rate, despite piles of additional stimulus over recent years. That would be less than half the 1.9 percent rate in the first three months of the year, similar to a eurozone slowdown. — Reuters

SAMSUNG ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF ITS MOST INTELLIGENT SMARTPHONE YET — THE ALL-NEW GALAXY NOTE7 - IN KUWAIT

THE GALAXY NOTE7 IS BACKED BY ADVANCED S PEN CAPABILITIES AND THE LATEST KNOX SECURITY PLATFORM

Samsung continues to drive the smartphone market with the Galaxy Note7 with the regional launch of the device at the Four Seasons Resort, Dubai. With refined craftsmanship, premium materials and a unique symmetrical edge design, the Galaxy Note7 features:

A water resistant body and S Pen (IP68)*

Top-of-the-line security that combines Samsung Knox with biometric authentication including a new iris scanning feature. Immersive entertainment features with HDR video streaming capabilities.

"In 2011 we launched and pioneered an all-new category of large screen smartphones together with the unique S-Pen. Over the years, each edition of the Note series has reconfirmed Samsung's vision and commitment for development by improving consumer experience in a simple, productive and distinctive way. With the Galaxy Note7 we have reinvented the large-screen smartphone segment with a unique combination of productivity tools, entertainment services and security features. In addition, the Galaxy Note7 powers a robust ecosystem that strikes a balance between work and play, enabling people to achieve more than what they thought possible on a smartphone not just faster but wherever and whenever," said Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics.

Galaxy Note7 S Pen: Quickly and Easily Bring Ideas to Life

With the enhanced Galaxy Note7 S Pen Users can bring ideas to life the moment inspiration strikes without unlocking the screen by using Screen off memo and simply pinning the memo to the Always On Display. The S Pen also gives users the ability to easily create and share GIF animations with Smart Select. In addition, the new Air Command functions, including Magnify and Translate, enable users to zoom in on the screen or convert languages with a simple hover of the S Pen. It is even easier to access the best of the S Pen's creative abilities with Samsung Notes, a new unified app



Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Gulf

allowing users to jot down handwritten notes, draw, or edit memos from one location.

The smaller 0.7mm tip and improved pressure sensitivity provides a real pen-like experience. Due to its IP68 water resistant certification, the Galaxy Note7 S Pen lets users jot down their thoughts without interruption, even when the screen gets wet.

Advanced Security: Now in the Blink of an Eye

Coupled with Samsung Knox, an industry-leading security platform, the Galaxy Note7 provides heightened security and privacy, with highly advanced biometric authentication, including fingerprint scanner and iris scanning technology.

The Galaxy Note7 instills a new level of user confidence with Secure Folder, a separated folder that adds an extra layer of authentication to keep private and personal information safe.

Best-in-Class Entertainment
The Galaxy Note7 features a gorgeous, curved 5.7-inch QHD Super AMOLED screen delivering a bold and immersive picture on a smartphone. It is ready to stream HDR video, enabling a cinema-like experience including brighter colors and a deeper black, which ensure users get the full experience that the filmmaker intended. The Galaxy Note7 also features a Game

Pack, available through Google Play, including top game titles, an easier redemption process and new user benefits.

By pairing the Galaxy Note7 with the new Gear VR powered by Oculus, users can experience premium virtual reality almost anywhere. Galaxy Note7's incredible Super AMOLED screen and powerful processor delivers an ultra-immersive experience.

For people who live to create, tell stories and transport people to entirely new worlds, the Galaxy Note7 can be used with the new high-resolution (3840x1920) Gear 360 camera, to capture, edit and share 360-degree images videos on the go. These memories can then be shared with friends via platforms including YouTube 360 and Facebook, and can be relived with the ultra-immersive Gear VR.

Galaxy Foundation with Refined Craftsmanship

The Galaxy Note7 has been designed to provide a comfortable grip, easier one-handed operation, and unmatched durability with Corning(r) Gorilla(r) Glass 5. The Galaxy Note7 features a unique front-to-back symmetrical dual-edge curved screen lets the Galaxy Note7 add the powerful Edge Panel for one-tap user access to applications, news and functions. The Galaxy Note7 is equipped with the



Unveiling of the Galaxy Note7

advanced camera that was introduced on the Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge. The dual-pixel sensor technology, wide aperture and fast auto focus, work together to create sharp and beautiful photos even in low-light environments.

In addition to 64GB of internal memory, the Galaxy Note7 offers expandable storage and microSD support up to 256GB. The Galaxy Note7 is equipped with a 3,500mAh battery, easy Power Management, and charges quickly using the new USB-C port. Recharge the Galaxy Note7 wherever wireless charging is available. A new line of accessories will be available to complement the Galaxy Note7, including the new S View Standing Cover, a light and portable cover that can be used to prop the device at a 60-degree angle for easy viewing of content, as well as an IP68 water resistant Backpack for on-the-go charging.

Creating a Phone+ Ecosystem of Connected Experiences

The Galaxy Note7 is also a focal point for Samsung's ecosystem of devices, software and services. Users can monitor their fitness activities on the Gear Fit2 or Gear IconX and track their data through S Health 5.0.** In addition to accurate and robust fitness tracking and measurement, the new S Health enables users to stay connected

to family and friends by sharing fitness updates or competing in friendly challenges with one another. The Smart Switch feature has been enhanced further with Samsung Cloud, which supports a seamless device experience by providing continuous backup and easy transfer of content including data, apps, settings and layouts between devices. Galaxy Note7 users will be able to use up to 15GB of free space to store and restore information on Samsung Cloud.**

Availability

The Galaxy Note7 will be available starting August 19, in Gold Platinum, Silver Titanium and Black Onyx and a recommended retail price of KWD 255. A 128 GB microSD card will be supplied to complement the 64GB of internal memory.

Samsung has partnered with Holiday Factory, the leading package tour operator in the Middle East, to offer holiday packages on the basis of "Buy One Get One Free". The packages are inclusive of round trip tickets, hotel accommodation, airport transfers and a dedicated tour guide- savings can be more than KWD 300 for Kuwait residents who can choose to travel to locations including Dubai and the Maldives. Continuing its successful partnership with the Entertainer, Samsung has included a pre-installed



Galaxy Note7 gold



The Galaxy Note7 is highly water resistant (IP68)

Galaxy Entertainer application in the Galaxy Note7 with benefits worth more than KWD 32,000 through exclusive "Buy One Get One" free offers on fine dining, entertainment, lifestyle and hotel accommodations across Europe and Asia. This offer is exclusive to the GCC (with the exception of Saudi Arabia)

NIKKOR ACHIEVES ITS SIGNIFICANT 100 MILLION MARK

NIKKOR LENSES FOR INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERAS REACH A TOTAL PRODUCTION OF 100 MILLION

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA: Creating a historic milestone for the NIKKOR brand of lenses since its inception in 1932, an impressive production of 100 million NIKKOR lenses*1 has been produced as of June this year, as proudly announced by Nikon Middle East FZE today.

NIKKOR's illustrious history began in 1932 with Nikon's, then Nippon Kogaku K.K., registration of the NIKKOR trademark. It soon followed in 1933 with the release of Aero-Nikkor aerial photographic lenses. In 1959, Nikon released the Nikon F SLR camera as well as its first NIKKOR lenses for Nikon SLR cameras including the NIKKOR-S Auto 5cm f/2.

The NIKKOR brand

NIKKOR is Nikon's brand of photographic lenses. The NIKKOR name arose from adding "r", a common practice in the naming of photographic lenses at the time the name was established, to "Nikko", the Romanized abbreviation for Nippon Kogaku K.K., the original name used when the company was established.

The entire length of the road that leads to the release of new NIKKOR lenses, from initial design and development to production and final inspection, is managed in accordance with Nikon's exclusive and exacting quality standards. All of these come together to craft high-quality NIKKOR lenses that respond to the strict demands of users.

Nikon's line-up of NIKKOR lenses currently consists of more than 90 types of lenses, including fixed focal length (prime) lenses covering ultra wide-angle to super-telephoto angles of view, fisheye lenses, zoom lenses, Micro lenses, and PC-E lenses that support a wide variety of applications, as well as 1 NIKKOR lenses, Advanced Cameras with Interchangeable Lenses.

Nikon also hosts the NIKKOR.com global branding site (www.nikkor.com), which shares the appeal of NIKKOR lenses around the world with a wide variety of captivating contents, including photo and video galleries containing works recorded with NIKKOR lenses, video interviews with lens designers, and many more. While in Asia Pacific and Middle East, I AM | MY NIKKOR (mynikkor.com) inspires the passion and adventure of Nikon photographers.

Nikon F mount, running parallel to NIKKOR lenses for more than 50 years

The mount used by Nikon for its SLR cameras and interchangeable lenses in more than half a century that has passed since Nikon released its first SLR camera in 1959, the Nikon F, has been the Nikon F mount. Since the introduction of the Nikon F mount in 1950, a bayonet mount has been adopted, with the usage of stainless steel, a property known for its superior durability and corrosion resistance, and the mount's basic design foresaw the increase in lens diameters. Throughout its history, the cutting-edge technologies of the time, including aperture control and autofocus, have been adopted for the F mount, and Nikon will continue to do so, ensuring support for the latest digital cameras and lenses.

NIKKOR lens characteristics achieved with OPTIA

In addition to development of the latest optical technologies and commercialisation of products utilising these technologies, Nikon continues its work in the research and development of means of evaluating optical performance. In 2013, Nikon began development and deployment of OPTIA*2, a device for measuring all forms of aberration*3 occurring with photographic lenses that was originally developed as a means of measuring aberration in IC step-

pers and scanners, as well as a dedicated image simulator that is used with OPTIA. OPTIA and the dedicated image simulator are still used to evaluate and verify NIKKOR lens characteristics today.

In addition to resolution, camera lens performance is also indicated by characteristics such as "bokeh", reproduction of textures and sense of depth. The application of OPTIA's aberration measurement to Nikon lenses has always been highly reputable.

The image simulator, a software developed alongside OPTIA, enables simulation at the design stage that is equivalent to actual photography with lens prototypes. With this, lenses can be developed with greater control over not only resolution, but also a wide variety of lens characteristics. Adoption of the new design concept formulated with the use of OPTIA and the image simulator will enable more effective development of high-performance lenses with unique characteristics, thus allowing Nikon to provide customers with interchangeable lenses experience that offer

new forms of value.

One of the lenses designed using OPTIA is the new AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED, released today. This lens embodies the "three-dimensional high-fidelity", superior reproduction characteristics, design concept that represents Nikon's ideal with more natural three-dimensional reproduction of three-dimensional objects on the two-dimensional field known as a photograph. It enables photos with a natural sense of depth and in which the primary subject is impressively rendered, while expressing beautiful bokeh characteristics that change gradually as the distance from the focus position increases.

Nikon will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017 and continue developing high-quality, appealing products that exceed expectations with more advanced technologies and even stricter quality control, and to offer the services our users need.

Portraits in smooth perfection with the new AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED

Fast, prime mid-telephoto lens delivering the large, smooth and beautiful bokeh and edge-to-edge rendering
MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA - The new AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED, a fast, mid-telephoto fixed focal length lens which responds to the demands of professional and advanced



The new AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED

amateur photographers pursuing their imaging creativity with a variety of photographic scenes, is announced by Nikon Middle East FZE today. The lens is also the world's first*1 autofocus lens with a 105mm focal length and f/1.4 aperture, further advancing the boundaries of imaging innovation.

The FX-format compatible AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED, which embodies the "three-dimensional high fidelity" design concept, effortlessly crafts impressive portraits and photos of still subjects that beautifully utilize the large and smooth bokeh characteristics. The lens also delivers superior resolution all the way to the edges of the frame for landscape shots, be it for day or night scenes, alongside an excellent reproduction of point light sources.

"Creating a significant shallow depth of field with the smoothest of bokeh through a 105mm focal length, is now made possible with the combination of phenomenal optical performance and innovative design. This new lens, the world's first*1 with a 105mm focal length and a maximum aperture of f/1.4, answers to the desire of a portraitist with soft, mesmerising bokeh effect. The effect is made possible through gradual alteration from the focus position and resulting in the creation of a natural reproduction of the subject's depth," said Narendra Menon, General Manager, Nikon Middle East FZE. "NIKKOR design technology further equips the lens with a highly accurate diaphragm control for stable auto exposure, and various elements to reduce chromatic aberration and flare effects. This lens will be a compelling apparatus for a photographer's creativity."

AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED Primary Features

A natural beauty: The new autofocus lens with a focal length of 105mm*2 and a maximum aperture of f/1.4, making the most of the impressive cropping of a scene and optimal compression effects, is developed based on the design concept of "three-dimensional high fidelity". The concept constructs a natural 3D reproduction of three-dimensional subjects on the two-dimensional fields that are photos, as well as large and beautiful bokeh characteristic that provide smooth alteration of bokeh as the distance from the focus position increases. These characteristics enable rendering with a natural sense of depth in portraits and images of still objects.

Perfecting the points that matter: Scenic and expressive landscapes are reproduced with superior resolution all the way to the edges of the frame, even at maximum aperture, for extremely sharp and clear rendering. The high reproduction capability of point light sources ensure the rendering of points and sharp points of light with very little distortion or bleed in night landscapes, resulting in sharply reproduced yet breath-taking captures. The bright viewfinder image achieved with this fast, prime lens that supports comfortable shooting is equally effective in handheld shooting for low-light scenes as well.

Inheriting the finest: The NIKKOR technology infused within the lens' design and build stems from three Extra-low Dispersion lens elements that provide compensation for chromatic aberration. Nano Crystal Coat is utilized for effective reduction of ghost and flare, while the lens is also equipped with an electromagnetic aperture mechanism that enables stable auto exposure control, even with high-speed continuous shooting. Rounding up the innovation to effectively repel dust, water, grease, and dirt is a highly durable fluorine coat applied to the extreme front and rear lens' surfaces.



NEW YORK: This Friday, Oct. 18, 2013, file photo, shows a Twitter app on an iPhone screen. —AP

JUDGE DISMISSES SUIT ACCUSING TWITTER OF SUPPORTING IS GROUP

NEW YORK: A federal judge in San Francisco has dismissed a lawsuit accusing Twitter of supporting the Islamic State group. The families of two men killed in Jordan claimed that Twitter had contributed to their deaths by allowing the group to sign up for and use Twitter accounts. The judge agreed with Twitter that the company cannot be held liable because federal law protects service providers that merely offer platforms for speech, without creating the speech itself. "As horrific as these deaths were, ... Twitter cannot be treated as a publisher or speaker of ISIS's hateful rhetoric and is not liable under the facts alleged," US District Judge William H. Orrick wrote Wednesday.

The federal Communications Decency Act has long protected service providers for remarks made and actions taken by their users, so Wednesday's ruling came as no surprise. But that law runs in conflict with an anti-terrorism law prohibiting support for groups like the IS. The families have the option to amend and refile the case. Lloyd iCarli Fields Jr. and James Damon Creach were shot and killed in

2015 while working as US government contractors in Amman, Jordan, according to the lawsuit. The Islamic State group later claimed responsibility for their deaths. The lawsuit names Anwar Abu Zaid as the lone gunman.

Orrick noted that the lawsuit didn't claim that the IS recruited or communicated with Abu Zaid over Twitter, nor did the lawsuit accuse either of using Twitter to plan, carry out or raise funds for the attack. Rather, the lawsuit said Twitter provided immaterial support in allowing the use of Twitter accounts for recruitment and other purposes.

A similar lawsuit against Google, Facebook and Twitter was filed in June by the father of a young woman killed in the Paris massacre last November.

Representatives for Twitter and a lawyer representing the families of two men could not immediately be reached for comment. —AP

ELECTRONIC MARLBORO SUCKS JAPANESE SMOKERS AWAY FROM JAPAN TOBACCO



TOKYO: A customer takes off a filter after trying a Philip Morris' "iQOS" smokeless tobacco e-cigarette at an iQOS store on March 3, 2016. —AFP

TOKYO: Marlboro maker Philip Morris International says its e-cigarette has rapidly captured close to 3 percent of Japanese tobacco sales, making inroads into a market Japan Tobacco relies on for 40 percent of its profit.

In what may be an early vindication of Philip Morris's e-cigarette strategy, the iQOS accounted for 2.2 percent of Japan's tobacco sales in the quarter ended June 30, a company spokesman said.

That share had climbed to 2.7 percent by the end of June after Philip Morris rolled out the 9,980 yen (\$98.53) electronic smoker in late April accompanied by "HeatSticks," which cost the same as regular cigarettes. "The figures clearly show that iQOS is stealing a chunk of the rolled tobacco market," said Masashi Mori, analyst at Credit Suisse Securities in Tokyo. Japan's overall cigarette sales in June shrank 5.2 percent.

Dip in sales

On Friday, JT said revenue from July cigarettes sales in Japan dipped by 3.4 percent to 53.4 billion yen. Unlike con-

ventional e-cigarettes that vaporize a nicotine infused liquid, iQOS produces a smokeless aerosol by heating tobacco leaf packed into stubby cigarettes inserted into the device.

So far it has tested the gadget in seven countries including cities in Switzerland and Italy. Japan, which has suppressed e-cigarette "vaping" by regulating nicotine liquids under pharmaceutical laws, is the only country where it is sold nationwide.

Demand for iQOS, which is made in Malaysia, has outstripped demand, leaving Philip Morris unable to make the most of its early entry into Japan. Some limited-edition iQOS models are selling online for as much as 80,000 yen. "When Philip Morris can supply enough to meet demand then its push in to the market is very likely to accelerate," UBS Securities Japan analyst Naomi Takagi said.

E-cigarettes assuage some smokers' health concerns and ease social stigmas attached to tobacco. Tobacco firms are battling to take an early lead in the emerging market as overall cigarette

sales shrink globally.

Sales of e-cigarettes, however, are booming, growing five times to \$8 billion in 2014 from 2010, according to research company Euromonitor. The market in 2020 is likely to be 20 times the 2010 level, predicts Euromonitor. Global cigarette revenue is about \$750 billion.

Philip Morris plans to widen sales of iQOS to 20 countries by the end of the year. Former state tobacco monopoly Japan Tobacco, which has 60 percent of its domestic market, is struggling to counter the challenge with its own device. JT's electronic cigarette stick, dubbed the Ploom TECH, creates a vapor from a liquid that is passed through granulated tobacco.

Yet the world's No. 3 cigarette maker has so far been unable to match iQOS's nationwide launch, with no clear indication yet when it will have sufficient production output to do so. "It doubtful JT will manage a wider launch before the end of the year," Takagi at UBS Securities said. —Reuters

NIGERIAN HELICOPTERS RUSH POLIO VACCINES TO DANGEROUS AREA

MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA: Military helicopters on Friday rushed polio vaccines to dangerous parts of northeastern Nigeria, where Boko Haram operates and two paralyzed toddlers were recently discovered, a Nigerian health official said.

The World Health Organization said the new cases indicate the wild

polio virus has circulated undetected for five years in Borno state - a major setback after Nigeria was declared polio-free in October.

Recent attacks by the Islamic extremists prevented the emergency operation from getting health workers to two parts of Borno state where the children were found, Borno state

health commissioner Ibrahim Miringa told The Associated Press.

Massive challenges face Nigerian health workers supported by the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control to urgently vaccinate millions of endangered children in an area where the UN suspended aid after a military-

escorted humanitarian convoy was attacked last month.

"Not all the areas that have been liberated by the military could be accessed by our health officials because of recent attacks in Jere and Gwoza local government areas carried out by Boko Haram," Miringa said. Jere and Gwoza are the areas where the first two cases of polio were found in Nigeria in more than two years, the WHO announced Thursday night.

Nigeria's removal from WHO's list of polio-endemic countries had meant all of Africa was free from the crippling disease. Only two other countries remain on the list - Afghanistan and Pakistan. Miringa said the two children, aged under 2, were among refugees arrived from areas newly freed from Boko Haram.

He said health workers have been vaccinating refugees as they arrive in major camps. "But recent liberation of internally displaced persons from the hinterlands and their being camped in satellite camps have made the immunization exercise difficult."

International organizations plan to support Nigerian health workers in using "a hit-and-run kind of strategy," the WHO director for polio eradication, Dr. Michel Zaffran, told reporters in a conference call. A massive vaccination drive was starting in Borno and within weeks would be carried to nearby Benin, Chad, Central African Republic, Chad and Cameroon, Zaffran said. —AP



KAWO KANO, NIGERIA: In this Sunday, April 13, 2014 file photo, a health official administers a polio vaccine to a child. —AP

SENIOR DRIVERS TAKING OPIOID PAINKILLERS HAVE HIGHER CRASH RISK

NEW YORK: Seniors who get behind the wheel soon after starting to use narcotic pain relievers have twice the risk of getting into a serious car crash as their peers who use non-opioid painkillers, Swedish researchers say.

Senior drivers who'd been using opioid painkillers regularly for several months also had higher odds of getting into accidents, but not as high as the new users did, according to Joel Monarrez-Espino of Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and colleagues.

Their study included 4,445 drivers between the ages of 50 and 80 who had been involved in a single car crash between 2005 and 2009 in which at least one person suffered an injury that required medical care, plus more than 17,000 similar drivers who had not been in crashes.

As reported in the journal *Age and Aging*, study participants were considered new to opioid painkillers if they had been given a prescription within one month before the crash. Regular users were those given at least three prescriptions in the last six months, with at least one prescription within a month of the crash. "New, but also frequent opioid

analgesic use, resulted in an increased probability of single vehicle crashes," the research team wrote.

100 percent higher for the new users

Specifically, the risk was 100 percent higher for the new opioid users, and 60 to 70 percent higher for the regular users, compared to the risk in people of the same age taking one or two non-opioid painkillers. "While more epidemiologic evidence is needed, patients could be advised to refrain from driving when using opioid analgesics," the authors wrote. They did not respond to a request for comment. Whether the "regular users" in this study had a lower risk because their bodies were accustomed to the opioids is hard to know, said Dr. Thomas Meuser, a specialist in aging at the University of Missouri who was not involved with the study.

"The study doesn't show if the participants took their medications consistently," Meuser told Reuters Health by phone. "Another reason for the drop in risk (among regular users) could be that some stopped or reduced taking their medications due to side

effects, even though they continued being prescribed," said Meuser.

Paul Atchley, who studies the human brain, vision and attention to driving at the University of Kansas, told Reuters Health the findings should serve as a wake-up call for doctors to have better conversations with their patients about the true risks of taking these medications. "Driving is the riskiest thing we do on a daily basis," said Atchley, who wasn't involved in the study.

"We need to understand what's at risk, so that we as drivers can make better choices," he said. "What's unique about this study isn't just painkiller use, but the pattern of use," Atchley pointed out.

The risk of being injured or killed in a car crash increases with age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Meuser noted that older adults generally have more diagnoses and take more medications than younger adults. "There's always a risk for side effects for someone taking five or more medications," he said. "Side effects that affect the brain and nervous system are especially worrisome for older drivers." —Reuters

TOO FEW DOCTORS MAKE HOUSE CALLS TO HOMEBOUND ELDERLY

NEW YORK: The US faces a critical shortage of doctors and other healthcare practitioners willing to make house calls to as many as 4 million frail, homebound Americans, a new study shows. The healthcare workforce has yet to adapt to the needs of older Americans who increasingly choose to age at home rather than in nursing facilities, the report finds.

The Health Affairs study is one of the first to examine the use of home-based medical care in the US. "This paper really shows us that access to home-based healthcare is extremely limited, highly concentrated and just not available to all who need it," said Katherine Ornstein, a professor of geriatrics and palliative medicine at the

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, in a phone interview. Ornstein was not involved with the new study.

In 2010, at least 53 percent of Americans lived more than 30 miles away from full-time providers of home-based medical care, the research shows. Some states, including many in the Midwest, had no healthcare professionals who made 500 or more home visits a year.

Only 9 percent

Researchers used 2012 and 2013 Medicare payment data to identify healthcare professionals' home-based medical visits and examined workforce and geographic variations. Only

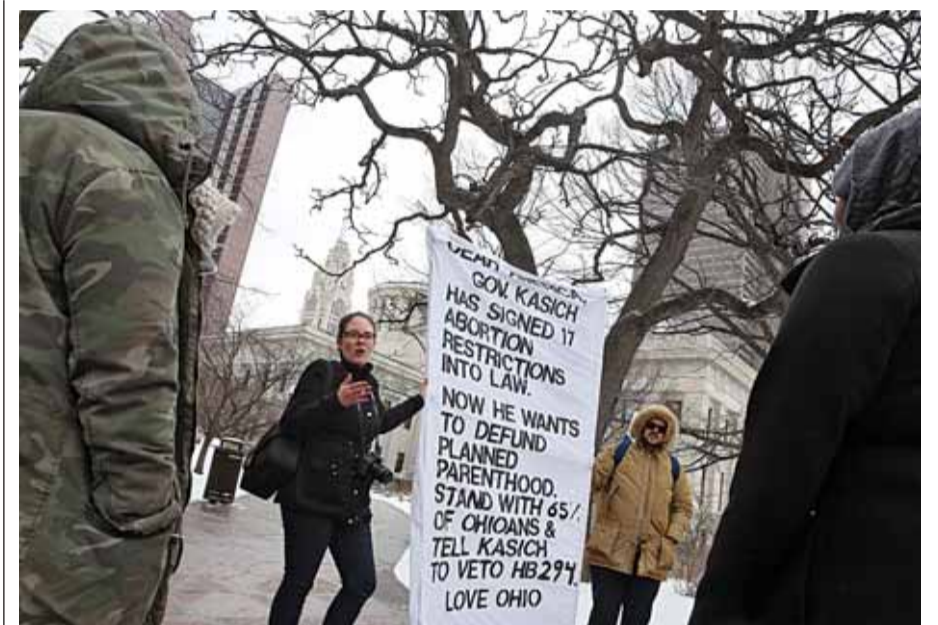
about 470 primary-care providers, or about 9 percent of them, appeared to devote their practices to visiting patients at home. They performed nearly half of 1.7 million home visits in 2012 and 2013, averaged about 1,600 house calls a year and were paid about \$167,000 annually by Medicare, the study found. Although prior research has shown that more frail Americans live at home than in nursing homes, seven times more primary-care doctors visited nursing homes than made house calls, the study found.

Internal medicine physicians made about 8 million nursing-facility visits, compared to about 500,000 home visits in 2012, the data showed. Medicare paid them \$500 million for nursing

facility visits, compared to \$50 million for home visits.

"The pattern of care doesn't match the size of the population," Ornstein said. "Not only doesn't it match - it's way off." "We're in this exciting time of health-care reform, and we have to develop new service-delivery models," she said.

Doctors visited patients at home for generations, Nengliang (Aaron) Yao, the study's lead author, told Reuters Health. Yao, a health-policy professor at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, added, "This is not a new model. This is an old model. In the old days, the doctor went to visit patients' homes on horseback." —Reuters



COLUMBUS, OHIO: In this Feb. 10, 2016, file photo, Anne Morrice, center left, of Planned Parenthood and Chris Maxie, center right, of Planned Parenthood discuss legislation to defund Planned Parenthood with Columbus, Ohio, residents Zahra Farah and Asha Abdulle at the Ohio Statehouse. —AP

JUDGE BLOCKS OHIO LAW TO DIVERT PLANNED PARENTHOOD MONEY

COLUMBUS, Ohio: A federal judge blocked a state law aimed at diverting public money from Planned Parenthood, saying in a Friday ruling that the group stood to suffer "irreparable injury."

The Ohio law targets the more than \$1.4 million in funding that Planned Parenthood gets through the state's health department. That money, mostly from the federal government, supports certain education and prevention programs. The law would bar such funds from going to entities that perform or promote abortions.

The restrictions, which had been slated to take effect in May, were signed by Republican Gov. John Kasich during his failed presidential bid. The state's Republican attorney general will appeal the ruling, his spokesman said. Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio and Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region had sued the state, saying the law violated their constitutional rights by denying them the funds "in retaliation for" providing abortions. Their lawsuit names the state's health director as a defendant.

US District Judge Michael Barrett in Cincinnati sided with Planned Parenthood in granting a permanent injunction, which keeps state officials from enforcing the law's provisions. Barrett, who was nominated to the bench by then-President George W. Bush, a Republican, said in many instances Planned Parenthood was chosen over other entities to receive the funds as part of a competitive grant process. He said if the changes were to take effect the group couldn't offer some free services and would no longer have access to the juvenile justice and foster care systems to teach teenagers about healthy relationships.

Law would not force closure

If not blocked, the judge wrote, Planned Parenthood would "suffer a continuing irreparable injury for which there is no adequate remedy at law." The state's attorneys had argued that Planned Parenthood was trying to override state policy choices and that no entity has a constitutional right to receive public money. "Planned Parenthood supplies no basis for disturbing Ohio's legislative judgments about how to spend its public money," attorneys wrote in a court brief.

Planned Parenthood has said Ohio's

law would not force any of its 28 health centers in the state to close but the legislation would deprive thousands of patients of access to HIV tests, breast and cervical cancer screenings and other prevention and education initiatives.

The group's attorneys argued the law was unconstitutional because it required, as a condition of receiving government funds, that recipients abandon their constitutionally protected rights to free speech and to provide abortion services.

Planned Parenthood officials praised the judge's decision, calling it a win for Ohio residents who rely on the organization for care. "Politicians have no business blocking patients from the care they need - and today the court stopped them in their tracks," said Iris Harvey, the head of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

Under the US Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, women have a constitutionally protected right to terminate a pregnancy before a fetus is able to survive outside the womb, generally around 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Planned Parenthood is a national target because of its role as the largest US abortion provider. Anti-abortion group Ohio Right to Life, which lobbied in support of the funding changes, said the judge's ruling violates the state's rights and the conscience rights of taxpayers. "It is the public policy of the state of Ohio to prefer childbirth over abortion, and we should be allowed to allocate funds accordingly," spokeswoman Katie Franklin said.

Federal law and the laws of most states already prevent public money from paying for abortions except in rare circumstances, but the recent defunding bills prohibit state money for any services by an organization that also provides abortions.

According to Planned Parenthood, politicians in 24 states have either enacted or proposed measures since last July that target the organization with defunding. In most of those states, the cuts haven't taken effect.

Planned Parenthood says that since a US Supreme Court ruling in June that struck down tough abortion restrictions in Texas, courts have blocked laws there and in Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Kansas, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Utah and Wisconsin. —AP

SOUTH FLORIDA SWIMMER CONTRACTS BRAIN-EATING AMOEBIA

FORT LAUDERDALE: A person has been hospitalized after health officials say they contracted a brain-eating amoeba while swimming in Broward County, Florida.

The Florida Department of Health confirmed the infection Tuesday. Officials say the person's infection stems from *Naegleria fowleri*, a microscopic, single-cell amoeba

commonly found in freshwater lakes, ponds and rivers.

The health department hasn't specified where the person came in contact with the amoeba, but did say the person swam in unsanitary water on private property in Broward County. The gender and age of the person have not been released. —AP

BRIEFLY STANDING, OR BEING ACTIVE, REDUCES BLOOD SUGAR ACROSS THE DAY

NEW YORK: For obese people who sit for most of the day, replacing some sitting time with standing, slow walking or slow cycling reduces average blood sugar across the day and into the night, a small study finds.

"Anything you can do to bring down glucose readings throughout the day is a good thing," said senior author Glenn Gaesser of the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion at Arizona State University in Phoenix.

"We chose a typical workday because a large number of Americans spend a lot of time sitting at an office desk, and a number of (studies) indicate sitting is a health hazard, so we reckoned that trying to alleviate that by either standing or walking or cycling would help," Gaesser told Reuters Health.

Study on 9 individuals

The researchers studied nine overweight or obese adults who wore continuous blood sugar monitors and blood pressure monitors during their regular, mostly-sitting eight-hour workday. One week later, participants gradually replaced some of that sitting time with standing, in intervals of 10 to 30 minutes for a total of two and half hours per day.

The following week, the same amount of sitting time was replaced with walking at a treadmill desk at a pace of one mile per hour. In the fourth week, the intervals were spent cycling on a stationary bike retrofitted to a workstation, also at an extremely slow pace with low energy expenditure.

Average 24-hour glucose was lower for standing and walking than for sitting, and was lowest on the cycling days, the researchers report in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*.

There was a similar pattern during the hours right after eating and even during overnight hours, with people having sustained lower blood sugar overnight after days they had cycled. This is "not wholly surprising," because other research in the last few years has shown that breaking up prolonged sitting has benefits on glucose over the course of a day, said Dr. Daniel Bailey of the University of Bedfordshire in the U.K., who was not part of the study.

It's uncertain if the difference in blood sugar would have clinical significance or reduce metabolic risk, but that would be more likely for walking and cycling than for standing, which only resulted in a small reduction, Bailey told Reuters Health by email.

"Studies with larger groups would be needed before we could say these findings would apply to overweight people in general," he said. But it's likely that overweight or prediabetic people may benefit more from breaking up periods of sitting than healthy-weight people, he said. "We found that the overall reduction in blood sugar throughout the 24-hour day was typically 5 percent to 12 percent, with the greatest effect being in cycling," Gaesser said.

After a meal of carbohydrates, most blood sugar is disposed of in skeletal muscle, and muscle contractions increase insulin activity and glucose uptake, which helps to lower blood sugar, he said. "For low-level activity throughout the workday, the effect lasts well after the last exercise bout at 4:30 or 5:00 in the afternoon," continuing into sleep, he said. Breaks in sedentary time are good, even if you don't have access to a walking or cycling workstation, Gaesser said. —Reuters



MIAMI: A community worker at the Wynwood Community Service Center, right, hands out to a local resident a can of insect repellent on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016. —AP

STATE INVESTIGATES NEW ZIKA CASE OUTSIDE MIAMI NEIGHBORHOOD

MIAMI: Florida health officials say they're investigating a new Zika case outside a Miami neighborhood where mosquitoes have spread the virus to over two dozen people.

The Florida Department of Health released a statement Friday announcing that its Zika caseload

has risen to 28, with three new cases in Miami-Dade County. Two of the people were exposed within a previously identified zone, a roughly 1-square-mile area encompassing Miami's Wynwood arts district.

The health department said the third infection is outside that zone in Miami-Dade County.

Investigators and mosquito control inspectors will be working in that area, but no other details about the location or the patient were released. According to the statement, the Health Department still believes active transmissions are happening only in the Wynwood area. —AP



SURABAYA, EAST JAVA, INDONESIA: Health officials fumigate a densely populated area in Surabaya, in Indonesia's East Java province, on August 9, 2016. —AFP

BRAZIL LAUNCHES FIRST DENGUE VACCINE CAMPAIGN

PARIS: Brazil yesterday launched the first public immunization program in the Americas against dengue fever, with 500,000 people to be injected with the world's first authorized vaccine against the disease, French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi said.

The program will be rolled out in the southern state of Parana, said the maker of the Dengvaxia vaccine, which is the result of 20 years of research and 1.5 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) of investment.

"We will vaccinate all individuals 15-27 years of age in 28 municipalities and 9-44 years of age in the two municipalities with the top dengue burden in our state over the next three weeks," Parana Health Secretary Michele Caputo Neto said in a Sanofi statement.

He cited a study published in the *Brazilian Journal of Health Economics* indicating that implementation of the dengue immunization strategy "could result in 74 percent reduction in disease burden in these highly-impacted

municipalities within five years."

Sanofi said the campaign was the "first dengue immunization public program in the Americas". The vaccine has been approved in Mexico, the Philippines, El Salvador and Costa Rica. In Parana state, home to 10 million people, cases of dengue fever and deaths due to the disease have tripled in recent years, according to Sanofi.

The mosquito-borne viral disease killed 863 people in Brazil in 2015, a 82.4 percent increase on the previous year. The incidence of dengue has grown "dramatically" around the world in recent decades, according to the World Health Organization.

Asia currently bears 70 percent of the global burden of the disease. In April Sanofi launched a public immunization program against dengue in the Philippines.

Dengvaxia is produced in France in a facility which should be able to produce 100 million doses per year when at full capacity. —AFP

SAN JUAN: The US government on Friday declared a public health emergency in Puerto Rico as a result of a Zika epidemic. The declaration allows the US Department of Health and Human Services to award grants, access emergency funds and temporarily appoint personnel where needed, among other things.

"This administration is committed to meeting the Zika outbreak in Puerto Rico with the necessary urgency," Secretary Sylvia Burwell said in a department statement. Burwell traveled to the U.S. territory in late April to evaluate its response to the outbreak.

A department spokesman did not immediately return a message seeking comment on what immediate steps the agency may take. The announcement came hours after Puerto Rico reported 1,914 new cases in the past week, for a total of 10,690 since the first one was reported in December.

The mosquito-borne virus has infected 1,035 pregnant women, which is a concern to authorities because Zika has been tied to a severe birth defect known as

microcephaly. More than 100 pregnant women infected with Zika in Puerto Rico who have given birth have had healthy babies, officials said.

soil in May, involving a dead fetus that a woman turned over to health authorities. Since then no microcephaly cases have been reported, but federal officials say it is only a



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this May 23, 2016, file photo, an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito sits inside a glass tube at the Fiocruz institute where they have been screening for mosquitos naturally infected with the Zika virus. —AP

First case in May
Puerto Rico reported the first microcephaly case acquired on US

matter of time.
Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said he had asked federal officials

to declare a public health emergency and thanked them for their support. "Zika poses a hidden threat to future generations of Puerto Ricans, and I feel the responsibility to do everything in my power to fight the spread of it," he said.

Garcia recently authorized the use of Bti, an organic larvicide, to fight the spread of Zika after rejecting aerial spraying with the insecticide naled as proposed by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Puerto Rico Health Secretary Ana Rius said 90 people have been hospitalized because of Zika. Officials also say 30 people have been diagnosed with a temporary paralysis condition known as Guillain-Barre that has been linked to Zika.

Health authorities say they believe the number of Zika cases is much higher because eight of 10 people show no symptoms and many don't go to the doctor. The emergency was declared one day after the US surgeon general visited Puerto Rico and said he expected 25 percent of Puerto Rico's nearly 3.5 million people will be infected with Zika by year's end. —AP

CLINIC PAGE

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INCREASE IN FOOD CONSUMPTION IN GCC; MAZOLA DISCUSSES HORECA AND FOOD CONSUMPTION GROWTH

According to a study by Alpen Capital Middle East, as a result of its rising population the UAE is expected to witness the fastest growth in food consumption by 2019. Mazola conferred that there is also an upsurge in food consumption anticipated in the other Gulf countries, resulting from promising macro-economic developments. This increase is expected to be at 3.5% CAGR between 2014 and 2019, touching nearly 52 million metric tonnes. Mazola has also gained further growth in Saudi Arabia, which is the largest food consuming nation in the GCC, with an estimated annual average growth of 3% from 2014. Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain have also shown similar growth patterns ranging from 2.7% to 3.2%.

Qatar led the GCC food consumption growth at CAGR of 5.5%, followed by the UAE at 4.8%.

Recent studies have shown that consumer spending in the GCC food retail sector is expected to be worth almost \$106 billion by 2017. Saudi Arabia will continue to lead the region's food sector, accounting for 59% of the total consumption up until 2017. Saudi Arabia currently consumes 872kg of food per capita, Qatar 852kg, Kuwait 634kg, and Bahrain 453kg per capita while by 2017, per capita food consumption for the entire region is forecasted to reach 983kg. According to statistics based on Euromonitor findings, UAE's reliance on food imports amounts to more than 80% of its food needs with expectations of a compound annual

growth rate of 8% on food and beverages spending in the UAE up till 2018.

Amidst all this growth in Saudi Arabia, Mazola, one of the pioneers of healthy and quality food products in the Middle East, had participated in the Saudi Food, Hotel & Hospitality Arabia (SFHHA) event recently. And now the brand aims to focus on expanding its business even further into the growing non-retail sector. As one of the steps to do so, Mazola has appointed Farm Fresh as its new HoReCa distributor in UAE. Farm Fresh is a leading marketer and distributor of branded frozen, chilled and dry food products in the UAE and Oman, having a direct reach and coverage over all market segments. "We feel that this move will give us the

opportunity to increase business amongst professional staff that appreciate the quality and range of products that Mazola has to offer", said Simon Gottfried, Vice President, Middle East & North Africa.

Whether its upgrades made to the factories, or developing new products beyond its heritage of corn oil, Mazola is constantly evolving. The manufacturer is Number 2 brand of corn oil in Kuwait, Lebanon, and Saudi as well as having similar brand leadership for Mazola's mayonnaise range in Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi. In 2016, Mazola was awarded the Product of the Year Award (POY), an award voted for by consumers, in the Middle East for its sunflower oil in the consumer cooking oil category.



AAW HOLDS IN-STORE SKILLS WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS



As part of its ongoing effort to inspire students to pursue careers in retail, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) today held a skills development workshop, 'AAW Young Leaders', for students at six different AAW-operated stores. The workshops were held to introduce future professionals to the world of retail with an emphasis on interpersonal, sales, customer service, and professional skill development.

The participants were spread across six AAW-operated stores, including Reebok, The Athlete's Foot (TAF), PUMA, Shoebox New York (SBNY) Store, Nike Store, and Crocs. In total, 23 students were part of the one-day program.

The students, who are members of Lothan Youth Achievement Centre (LOYAC) and AAW's Summer Internship Program, began their day at orientation in AAW Headquarters before making their way to the AAW stores at the Avenues Mall, where they were briefed on various retail challenges and asked to brainstorm in teams for solutions. Some of the challenges tasked to the teams were visual merchandising issues, sales optimization matters, conflict resolution scenarios, and pricing communication.

They were then allocated time to research the issue, exercise their problem-solving and people skills, and develop solutions in a controlled, monitored, and positive learning environment.

The day concluded with the groups presenting 15-minute presentations to the AAW sports and fashion management team before being awarded achievement certificates and exclusive giveaways at AAW Headquarters.

AAW is one of the largest trading and commercial companies in the Middle East, with business operations across a range of growing sectors, such as Consumer Goods, Pharmaceuticals, Furniture and Carpets, Real Estate, Kitchen Furniture, Home Appliances, Outdoor Gear, Sports and Fashion. The company operates over 100 different global brands in the Middle East's surging retail and consumer goods market.



THE ABCK HONORS THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TENURE OF US AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT



US Embassy - Kuwait - In a meeting honoring the successful completion of tour of duty of the US Ambassador to Kuwait, the Honorable Mr. Douglas A. Silliman, the American Business Council of Kuwait (ABCK) presented a gift to the Ambassador at the US Embassy of Kuwait

on July 28, 2016. Jeff Hamilton and Alok Chugh represented the ABCK. The mosaic displays the map of Kuwait and pictures of events organized by the ABCK and attended by the Ambassador as an appreciation of his great support to the Council.





The "Kuwait is Green Qaises" voluntary team organized an awareness campaign at Mansouriya cooperative, under the patronage of Member of Parliament Rakan Al-Nisf. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya and Sebamed were among the companies that participated in the event.

THE DIWAN OF PROPHETS

A new collection of poems penned by the Kuwaiti poetess Nada Alrefaei written by Bader Abu Raghbah Alotaibi Kuwait Writers Association, in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), released a new poetry book penned by the Kuwaiti poetess Nada Youssef Alrefaei, titled "The Diwan of Prophets" in praise of the prophets (peace be upon them). On the occasion of selecting Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture for his year 2016 which is adopted by Islamic, Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (ISESCO) program of Islamic Cultural Capitals.

The book was introduced by Talal Alrumaidhi the General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association who wrote an adequate introduction of this compilation of poetry, and he pointed out effectively to the importance of Islamic moderation which has long presence and rooting in Kuwait. He said that her volume of verses includes a bunch of poems in praise of Prophets and Messengers of ALLAH and some of their family members such as wives and parents, and as well as to commemorate some of religious occasions and historical events such as the holy month of Ramadhan, the journey of Israa Wal Miraaj, al Mawlidu na Bawi (Birth of the Prophet) and the Hajj (pilgrimage).

Her poetic talent undoubtedly

reflects her personality as a Kuwaiti genuine poetess who try to dedicate herself for serving our religion Islam, and promote its spiritual values to engrave piously in the hearts and minds of muslim readers by implanting the love of Prophets in their faithful souls.

The poetess, Nada Alrefai has divided her book into three chapters: Firstly, the inceptive poems which contains two poems, He is Almighty and our master Jibril (Gabriel), Secondly, the stories of Prophets (PBUH), and that includes titles namely: Adam, Noah, Hod, Saleh, Abraham, Lot, Ismael, Issac, Jacob, Job, Jonah, Shuaib, David, Zachariah and our



beloved master Muhammad the Seal of Prophets (PBUH), then, the parents of Prophets, and finally, the Islamic occasions and the most momentous religious events.

The author who was born in 1956, hails from Sayyid family and her father the former veteran politician and Islamic activist Sheikh Youssef Alrefaei is one of the most influential religious figures in Kuwait.

Nada Alrefaei herself is a celebrated Kuwaiti poetess, translator and educationist, she is an English teacher by profession and she teaches English currently as a second language at the language center of the college of basic education which is affiliated to Public Authority of Applied Education and Training (PAAET). She received her Bachelor's degree in English literature and Master's degree in Linguistics from Kuwait university.

As a poetess, she is considered one of the most prolific female writer in Kuwait, who has published many books in poetry and has to her credit more than ten collections of poems, and some of her famous volumes of verses are Poems from Kuwait (2002), My Prayers (2007), Pearls and Travels (translated to English in 2010) and The False Spring (2014).

She won the award for best poem in praise of the Prophet in the International Tripoli Festival (2014) in Libya.



EMBASSY OF INDIA KUWAIT

Govt of India's Scheme for providing legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian/foreigner husbands

The Government of India scheme is available to Indian women who have been deserted by their overseas Indian/foreigner husbands or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The woman is an Indian passport holder.
- (ii) The marriage of the woman has been solemnized in India or overseas with an overseas Indian or a foreigner.
- (iii) The woman is deserted in India or overseas within fifteen years of the marriage.
- (iv) Divorce proceedings are initiated within fifteen years of the marriage by her overseas Indian/foreigner husband.
- (v) An ex-parte divorce has been obtained by the overseas Indian/foreigner husband within twenty years of marriage and a case for maintenance and alimony is to be filed by her.
- (vi) The scheme would not be available to a woman having a criminal case decided against her, provided that a criminal charge of Parental Child Abduction shall not be a bar if the custody of the child has not yet been adjudicated upon.
- (vii) The domicile of the Indian woman seeking relief under the Scheme is not relevant for allowing the benefit. The woman may be domiciled in the country of her overseas Indian/foreigner husband or in India at the time of making the application.

All concerned who come under the above categories can approach the Community Welfare section of Indian Embassy during office hours or can e-mail their complains to sscwpic@indembkwt.org or welfare@indembkwt.org for redressal of their grievances.

GATE MALL FESTIVAL CONTINUES WITH VALUABLE PRIZES



Winners of the Range Rover and Tahoe



Non official Translation

Republic of Nicaragua

Release

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua, joins the worldwide condemnation of the brutal act of terrorism committed against the Civil Hospital in Quetta, west of Pakistan, with a painful loss of more than 70 people and 128 wounded.

Nicaragua, its people and Government have been and are emphatic in condemning all forms of terrorism, and we feel part of the Global Call to Reason and Civilization, in order to continue promoting all possible mechanisms to ensure understanding, Peace and Life.

We ask God, comfort and relief for all families affected by this terrible tragedy.

Managua, 9 of August, 2016
Government of Reconciliation and National Unity
Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua

BBC FIRST

- 03:45 Eastenders
- 04:20 Father Brown
- 05:10 Father Brown
- 06:00 Eastenders
- 06:30 New Tricks
- 07:30 Death In Paradise
- 08:30 New Tricks
- 09:25 The Musketeers
- 10:20 Doctors
- 10:50 Eastenders
- 11:25 Death In Paradise
- 12:20 New Tricks
- 13:15 The Musketeers
- 14:10 Doctors
- 14:45 Eastenders
- 15:15 Death In Paradise
- 16:10 Call The Midwife
- 17:05 The Musketeers
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:05 The Room At The Top
- 21:00 DCI Banks
- 21:55 DCI Banks
- 22:45 Mad Dogs
- 23:40 Doctors
- 00:45 Eastenders
- 01:40 DCI Banks
- 02:30 DCI Banks

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
- 21:00 Diesel Brothers
- 21:50 Toucan Nation
- 22:40 Bride Of Jaws
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Kindig Customs
- 01:10 Diesel Brothers

Discovery

- 03:00 Mega Engineering
- 03:48 Freaks Of Nature
- 05:48 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Extreme Engineering
- 08:14 Mega World
- 09:02 Mega Builders
- 09:50 Industrial Junkie
- 10:14 Industrial Junkie
- 10:38 Mega Engineering
- 11:26 How The Universe Works
- 15:26 Food Factory
- 17:26 How Do They Do It?
- 19:30 Extreme Engineering
- 20:20 Mega World
- 21:10 Mega Builders
- 22:00 Industrial Junkie
- 22:25 Industrial Junkie
- 22:50 Mega Engineering
- 23:40 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 00:55 Freaks Of Nature

H2 HD

- 12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 16:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 18:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street
- Feasts
- 19:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 20:00 Kitchen Casino
- 21:00 Man v Food
- 22:00 Mystery Diners
- 23:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 00:00 Kitchen Casino
- 01:00 Man v Food
- 02:00 Mystery Diners

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 Nathan For You
- 03:25 Nathan For You
- 04:15 Impractical Jokers UK
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Ridiculousness
- 05:30 Tosh.0
- 05:55 Tosh.0
- 06:20 Lip Sync Battle
- 07:15 Hungry Investors
- 08:05 Ridiculousness
- 08:30 Ridiculousness
- 08:55 Nathan For You
- 09:20 Nathan For You
- 09:45 Impractical Jokers UK
- 10:10 Impractical Jokers UK
- 10:35 Key And Peele
- 11:00 Impractical Jokers
- 11:25 Frankenfood
- 11:50 Frankenfood
- 12:15 Nathan For You
- 13:05 Impractical Jokers UK
- 13:30 Impractical Jokers UK
- 13:55 Ridiculousness
- 14:45 Hungry Investors
- 15:35 Frankenfood
- 16:00 Frankenfood
- 16:30 Nathan For You
- 16:55 Nathan For You
- 17:25 Workaholics
- 17:50 Impractical Jokers UK
- 18:15 Impractical Jokers UK
- 18:39 Key And Peele
- 19:03 I Live With Models
- 19:27 Frankenfood
- 19:50 Frankenfood
- 20:13 Catch A Contractor
- 21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 21:30 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
- 22:18 Frankenfood
- 22:42 Tosh.0
- 23:05 Brotherhood
- 23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 00:00 Al Madrigal: Why Is The Rabbit Crying
- 00:50 Broad City
- 01:15 Tosh.0
- 01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 02:05 TUT

Disney Channel

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mook
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:20 Dog With A Blog
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Backstage
- 09:00 Alex & Co.
- 09:25 Girl Meets World
- 09:50 Liv And Maddie
- 10:15 Binny And The Ghost
- 10:40 How To Build A Better Boy
- 12:10 The 7D
- 12:20 Dog With A Blog
- 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 And Cat Noir
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:00 Gravity Falls
- 17:25 Frenemies
- 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
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

Disney XD

- 06:00 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 Lab Rats
- 10:25 K.C. Undercover
- 11:20 Supa Strikas
- 11:45 Supa Strikas
- 12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 13:00 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Pickle And Peanut
- 14:45 Becoming
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 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
- 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

EHD

- 03:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:20 El News
- 09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 El News
- 14:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 15:00 Just Jillian
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 23:00 El News
- 00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 00:55 Famously Single
- 01:50 Botched
- 02:20 El News

food network

- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Chopped
- 05:00 Man Fire Food
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 09:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:00 Siba's Table
- 11:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

H HD HISTORY

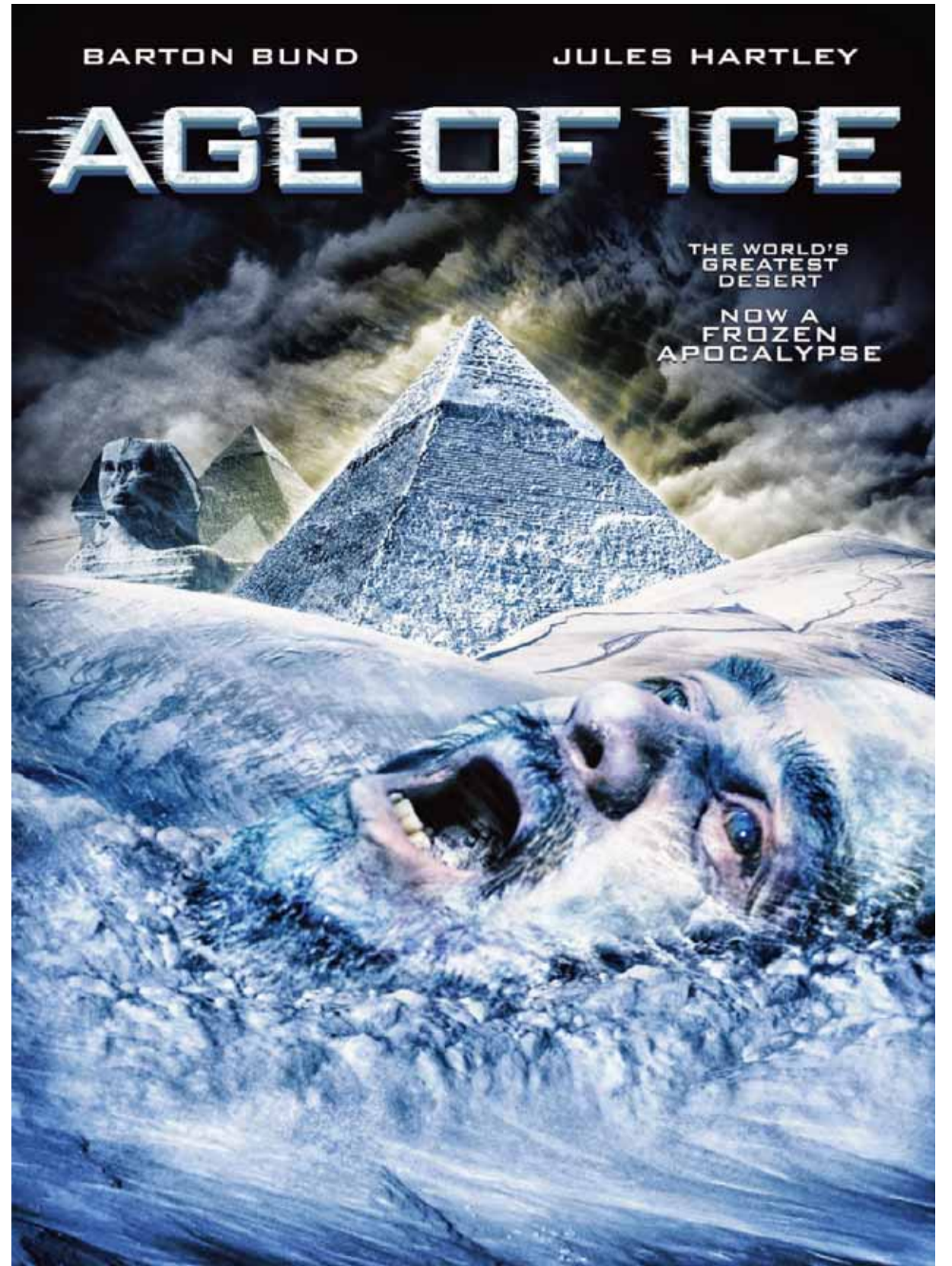
- 03:40 Shipping Wars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Time Team
- 06:00 Shipping Wars
- 06:50 Swamp People
- 07:40 Mountain Men
- 08:30 American Restoration
- 08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 09:45 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters
- 10:10 Car Hunters
- 10:35 Alone
- 11:25 Search For The Lost Giants
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 13:55 Shark Wranglers
- 14:45 Aussie Pickers
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Grave Trade
- 16:50 Mountain Men
- 17:40 Swamp People
- 18:30 Search For The Lost Giants
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Forged In Fire
- 22:40 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 23:30 Pawn Stars
- 23:55 Pawn Stars
- 00:20 Forged In Fire
- 01:10 American Restoration
- 02:00 Swamp People
- 02:50 Mountain Men

itv HD CHOICE

- 03:25 Coronation Street
- 04:20 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 06:00 Grantchester
- 06:55 Midsomer Murders
- 08:25 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 09:20 Murdoch Mysteries
- 13:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 15:00 It's Not Rocket Science
- 15:55 Grantchester
- 16:45 Chopping Block
- 18:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 19:00 It's Not Rocket Science
- 19:50 Don't Tell The Bride
- 21:40 Midsomer Murders
- 23:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:10 Chopping Block
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries

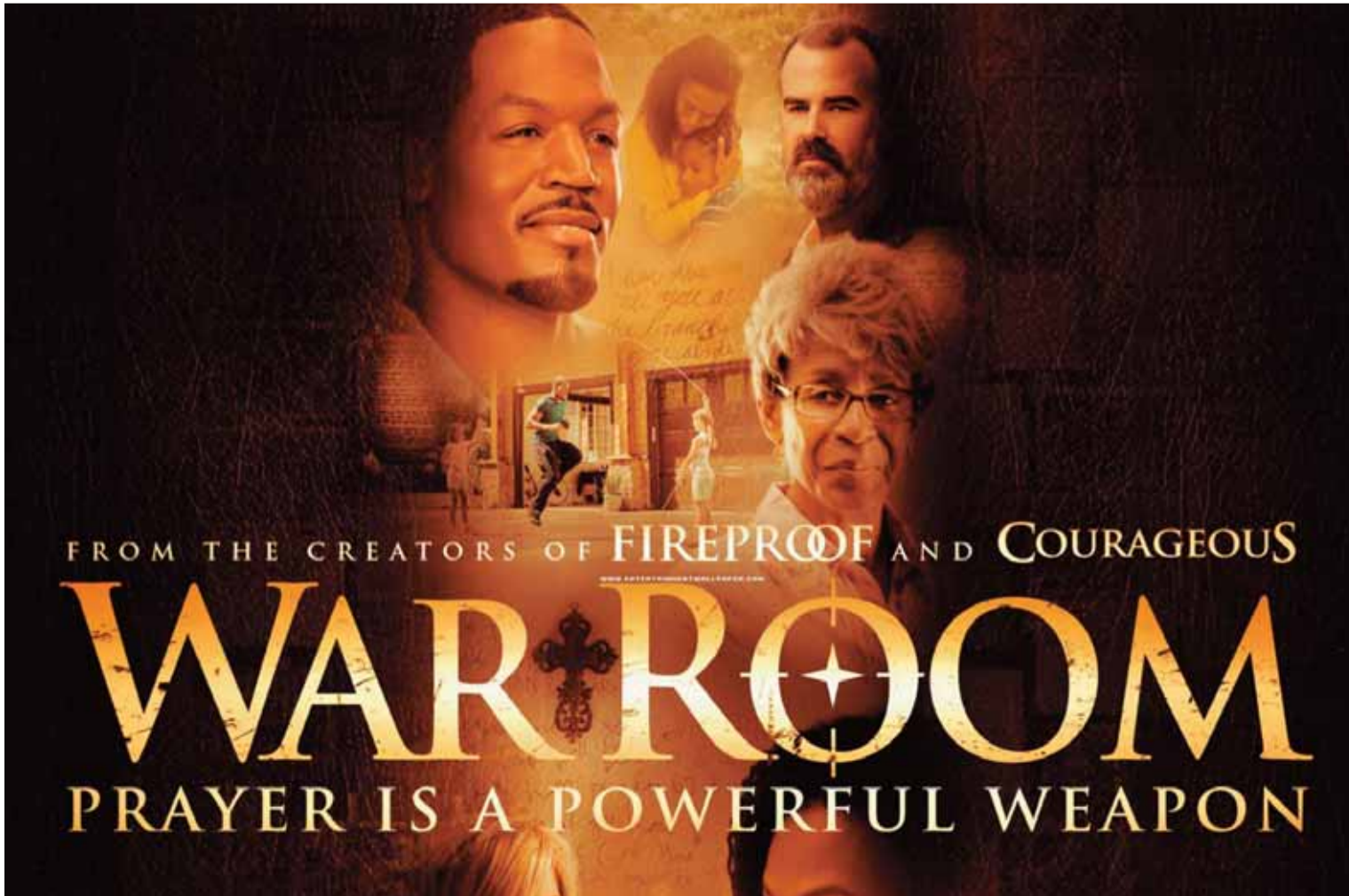
NAT GEO WILD HD

- 03:45 Animals Gone Wild
- 04:40 Wild Hawaii
- 05:35 Monster Jellyfish
- 06:30 Fish Tank Kings
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Hidden Worlds
- 09:15 Philly Undercover
- 10:10 Extreme Animal Babies
- 11:05 Outback Wrangler
- 11:30 Outback Wrangler
- 12:00 Hunter Hunted
- 12:55 Wild Japan: Snow Monkeys
- 13:50 Animal Armory
- 14:45 America The Wild
- 15:40 Wild Scotland: Highlands
- 16:35 Wild Hawaii



AGE OF ICE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

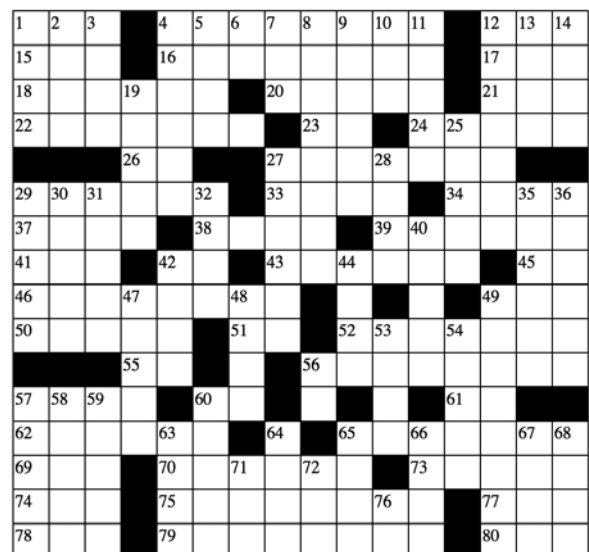
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17:30 The Incredible Dr Pol 18:25 Brilliant Beasts 19:20 America The Wild 20:10 Wild Scotland: Highlands 21:00 Wild Hawaii 21:50 The Incredible Dr Pol 22:40 Brilliant Beasts 23:30 Hunter Hunted 00:20 Wild Japan: Snow Monkeys 01:10 Animal Armory 02:00 Snow Leopard Of Afghanistan 02:50 Planet Carnivore | <p>nickelodeon HD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 03:48 Henry Danger 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways 05:00 Max & Shred 05:24 Henry Danger 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 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 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 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles The Loud House 16:36 The Loud House 17:00 Sanjay And Craig 17:24 Harvey Beaks 17:48 Breadwinners 18:12 Henry Danger 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School 19:24 Game Shakers 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21:24 Breadwinners 21:24 Sanjay And Craig 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants 23:48 Henry Danger 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 00:36 Max & Shred 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways 01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants | <p>omnifirst HD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01:00 Grandfathered 01:30 The Detour 02:00 Silicon Valley 02:30 The Brink | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 Foxcatcher 13:15 Assassin's Bullet 15:00 Fast Girls 17:00 A Valentine's Date 19:00 Goodbye World 21:00 The Rover 23:00 Siberian Education 01:00 Fast Girls |
|--|---|---|---|



WAR ROOM ON OSN MOVIES HD

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>omnifirst HD COMEDY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03:00 The Simpsons 03:30 Uncle Buck 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 The Simpsons 09:30 Baby Daddy 10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 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 Uncle Buck 14:30 Baby Daddy 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 15:30 Fresh Off The Boat 16:00 Grandfathered 16:30 George Lopez 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 The Simpsons 18:30 Black-ish 19:00 The Last Man On Earth 19:30 Crowded 20:00 The Grinder 20:30 The Grinder 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat 21:30 Grandfathered 22:00 The Detour 22:30 Silicon Valley 23:00 The Brink 23:30 The Grinder 00:00 The Grinder 00:30 Fresh Off The Boat | <p>omnifirst HD ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04:45 Faster 06:30 Independence Day 09:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters 10:30 Edge Of Tomorrow 12:30 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery 14:15 Faster 16:00 Independence Day 18:30 Wrath 20:15 Unstoppable 22:00 Stretch 00:00 The Quick And The Dead 02:00 Age Of Ice | <p>omnifirst HD COMEDY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04:00 Grosse Pointe Blank 06:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 08:00 Jack 10:00 Grosse Pointe Blank 12:00 A Lot Like Love 14:00 At Middleton 15:45 Jack 17:45 Julie And Julia 20:00 Tammy 22:00 The Five Year Engagement 00:15 The Babymakers 02:00 Julie And Julia | <p>omnifirst HD DRAMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03:15 Lullaby 05:15 Welcome To The Punch 07:00 Grand Central 09:00 A Valentine's Date | <p>omnifirst HD KIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case 04:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots 06:00 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery 08:00 Mamma Moo And Crow 10:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness 11:30 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods 13:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case 14:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 16:00 The Heart Of The Oak 18:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness 20:00 Cher Ami 22:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 23:30 The Heart Of The Oak | <p>omnifirst HD PREMIERE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04:00 R.I.P.D. 06:00 Left Behind 08:00 Seventh Son 10:00 Penthouse North 11:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron 14:00 Snow White And The Huntsman 16:15 Seventh Son 18:00 Ant-Man 20:00 Identity Thief 22:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2 00:00 Outlaw Prophet: Warren Jeffs 02:00 Ant-Man |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|

CROSSWORD 1342



ACROSS

1. Provide with clothes or put clothes on.
4. Bowling down an alley at a target of nine wooden pins.
12. Of southern Europe.
15. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
16. Someone paddling a canoe.
17. Having only superficial plausibility.
18. The third month of the civil year.
20. Formed by reaction between an acid and an alcohol with elimination of water.
21. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
22. The capital and largest city of Greece.
23. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
24. A virtually extinct Caucasian language spoken exclusively in Turkey.
26. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
29. The basic unit of money in Macao.
33. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
34. (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a relatively small set of computer instructions that it can perform.
37. A primeval personification of air and breath.
38. A flat mass of ice (smaller than an ice field) floating at sea.
39. Fly a plane.
41. Liquid excretory product.
43. Being a bard or relating to a bard's poetry.
45. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
46. An Italian poet famous for love lyrics (1304-1374).
50. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
51. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
52. A pan used for frying foods.
55. A state in midwestern United States.
57. Singing jazz.
61. Modulation of the frequency of the (radio) carrier wave.
62. Title used for a married Frenchwoman.
69. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
70. Submit or yield to another's wish or opinion.
73. A long pointed rod used as a weapon.
74. An argument opposed to a proposal.
75. A skirt consisting of a rectangle of calico or printed cotton.
77. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
78. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
80. Not divisible by two.

DOWN

7. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
8. Testacean rhizopods.
9. Chinese tree cultivated especially in Philippines and India for its edible fruit.
10. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
11. Sound of strumming.
12. Type genus of the family Aplysiidae.
13. A branch of the Tai languages.
14. A major god.
19. Goods (or wreckage) on the sea bed that is attached to a buoy so that it can be recovered.
25. Of or relating to or containing barium.
27. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
28. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
30. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
31. The kind and number and arrangement of teeth (collectively) in a person or animal.
32. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
35. A viewer who gazes fixedly (often with hostility).
36. Lack of sight.
40. The act of going to see some person or place or thing for a short time.
42. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
44. Something left after other parts have been taken away.
47. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
48. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
49. A style of dancing characteristic of the Andalusian gypsies.
53. God of love and erotic desire.
54. The dried fibrous part of the fruit of a plant of the genus Luffa.
56. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
58. Small and light boat.
59. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
60. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
63. A master's degree in library science.
64. An emotion experienced in anticipation of some specific pain or danger (usually accompanied by a desire to flee or fight).
65. A toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion.
66. Divulge information or secrets.
67. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
68. Have a tendency or disposition to do or be something.
71. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.
72. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
76. Denoting a quantity consisting of six items or units.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Everything points to your being inventive. Fun times with friends, family or both can be enjoyed now. If you need it, you will find a great deal of support from those around you. You feel healthy, natural and highly energetic. You love a social life-friends and relationships play a major role in your makeup. You could decide to take a short trip to a nearby city for an auction, entertainment, special sale, etc. Close bonds are very important to you. You like beautiful surroundings, everything that is calm, tasteful and harmonious. You are very giving and flattering in relationships, able to adjust to most situations. Reflective and tactful, you are able to please others. This is one of those days that are fun for all. Keep the sun block on your skin.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

At home today you may find that others want you to respond to their needs in rapid order. You can show others how to help themselves and you are willing to help with some chores that others might not be able to handle. A list would also help. It would definitely help to eliminate nagging demands from others. If you do not take the time to focus first there could be a lot of pressure to make decisions that you might regret. This is a good time to consolidate and organize your affairs or rearrange your living situation. Older people, possibly parents, give you straight talk about finances. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project. Take time to play and enjoy your loved ones this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are able to cut through the red tape and get at what is beneath and behind any problems today. There are breakthroughs regarding inner growth and transformation as well as compassion and communion. This is a time during which you reach new levels in understanding life and death. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams. This is a good time to reshape and renew your philosophy or religion, during which your imagination is at full tilt. Find ways in which to balance your life so that there are opportunities for adventure. This evening you may find your own life influenced when you encourage a young person to continue his or her education and make goal plans.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There is something gentle, regular, steadfast and determined about you today. You could be providing a base for new growth and understanding to take place. You are accepting and nurturing. You want to be helpful to your loved ones. Try just listening first as sometimes listening is all that is necessary. You allow someone else to have the great ideas or the last word today. There is a great interest in new experiences. You may find yourself on the newest ride at the popular tourist attraction. This is one reason you like a vast number of friends-you enjoy a vast array of experiences. This is a very good day where close relationships can become even closer. You are fortunate to have friends and family with that same sense of adventure.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Chances are-your social skills mean that you are popular with almost everyone. This Saturday there are plenty of opportunities to be with family and friends in an atmosphere of fun and love. Once relaxed, others will enjoy your witty and eccentric side. In talking to others and in bouncing ideas back and forth between friends, you may have insights with regard to your living situation or life circumstances. You may be able to help others with ideas for places to work or places to see near home. You make a promise to become more involved with your neighbors-they are fun. Communicating with each other on a timely basis will probably help to keep up-to-date on local and community affairs. Enjoy the celebration.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your day begins, interestingly enough, when a neighbor or friend asks you to sign a survey, report or petition, etc. You are intuitive and enjoy debates. You have an opportunity to carry out your dreams into reality-to make the spirit matter. Continued education or a new class in a favored subject may catch your attention. You are always searching out some answer or another. You are very communicative as well as curious and may find you enjoy writing, teaching, lecturing or just talking with other like minds. Study, research and investigations of all kinds appeal to you. Visiting with family, especially siblings, is an important part of your afternoon. This evening you will enjoy catching up on your loved ones' activities.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a time of much energy and drive-perfect for starting some project or taking care of personal business. Your physical wellbeing is nourished with good food and good water and you will probably be feeling very good at this time. You may be tending to some repairs as well as just simply running errands and taking care of your living area. You have great insight into matters of personal freedom. You come up with brilliant ways to express or act out ideas. New methods of lovemaking, raising kids, caring for animals are yours. You are outspoken, very dramatic, impressive and even regal. You relax with children, sports, acting, singing and such. There is a chance to socialize this evening with some of your very favorite people.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This day could demand a lot of energy. However, it may be very important to work out the details of any plans that you have previously made before moving ahead with today's activities. Perhaps there are some phone calls that you need to make. You may even find yourself looking to improve a variety of situations today by doing something such as choosing colors, arranging furniture, clearing away the clutter on bookshelves, etc. This afternoon is a fun time to become involved in group sports or some other group activity. Events may line up in your favor and fair play can be realized. You are willing to listen to others, take cues and then reflect and build upon that information. Others find you gentle, steady and kind.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be especially dynamic and assertive just now. You certainly put a lot of energy into accomplishing anything you want to involve yourself with today. You may be representing your company in public surroundings today in some form of advertisement, display or presentation. Ambition and achievement are qualities you hold in special regard. This is a time for getting ahead, a time for combining business and pleasure, a time for enjoying your career and savoring its rewards. The social graces pave your path to success. You excel as a social being and should make a career out of your deep-seated interest in other people, partnerships, relationships, etc. You find yourself through other people. Someone new in your life is quite captivated with you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today you are finally able to catch up on those long-distance conversations as well as some letter writing. A good conversation with neighbors may open up some ideas you would have never thought of before this day. You may be preparing for out-of-town company later today. Situations that were confining in the past have taken their toll and now you realize. It is the perfect time to soak in the good vibrations from all around you. Your enthusiasm is high and your energies are channeled in positive directions. Stop fussing, everything is great-you will be able to enjoy company from out-of-town and they will enjoy you. Pay special attention to your diet and make plans to improve your dieting habits. Enjoy a long walk later this evening to relax.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself at odds with subject matters that are discussed today. It could be that you have grown with regard to insight into life, the world and conditions between people. If you try to push your ideas on others, you may be going against tradition. Back up and reassess before emotional differences take a footing and all of your theories are blown away. A natural sense of what is right brings you a great deal of popularity. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life. You want to be included in decisions and by asking questions you may be able to solicit the attention needed to express your feelings. You are lucky today. Like a fish in water when in the limelight or in a group, you have an innate social charm.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. A healing of some sort is recognized. You are in top form when it comes to mental activities and this could be a time for real breakthroughs in the idea department. Your dreams propel you in your free-time activities. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way. Relationships in general get a boost. Even if there is not a lot of time... A little watermelon or homemade ice cream creates wonderful reasons for quick get-togethers with friends. Harmony is deeply satisfying and get-togethers with friends and loved ones put a fun ending to a very full day. Perhaps you are learning to truly relax.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Astronomy 1 - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

APOGEE **GALILEO** **PULSARS**
ASTROLABE **HUBBLE** **RED GIANT**
ATMOSPHERE **LIGHT YEAR** **SHUTTLE**
BINARY STARS **MILKY WAY** **SOLAR WIND**
COMET **NEBULA** **SPACECRAFT**
CORONA **PARALLAX** **SUN**
EARTH **PERIGEE** **TELESCOPE**
EQUINOX **UNIVERSE**

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Geometry 2 - Solution

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	O	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**
EQUANGULAR **QUADRILATERAL** **TRAPEZOID**
HEIGHT **RHOMBUS**

Daily SuDoku

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

medium

Yesterday's Solution

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

hard

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

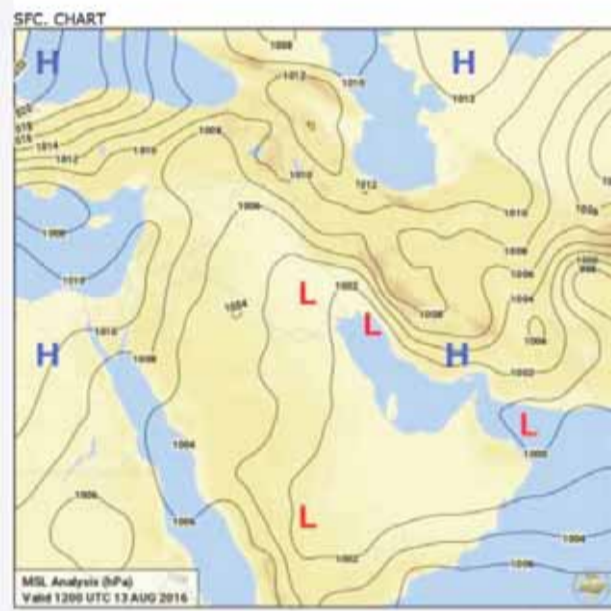
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 13/08/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 32 °C

By Night : Relatively humid with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot + raising dust	very hot + raising dust	very hot + chance for dust
Min Temp °C	32	33	34	32
Max Temp °C	49	50	50	49
Wind Direction	north westerly to northerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	20 - 45	20 - 45	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	EXP	Max °C	REC
KUWAIT CITY	35		46	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	32		48	
ABDALY	32		49	
BUBYAN	33		38	
JAHRA	35		49	
FALAKA ISLAND	33		43	
SALMIYAH	34		38	
AHMADI	33		39	
JAL ALIYAH	32		49	
QAROH ISLAND	33		38	
UMM AL-MARADEM	33		38	
NUWAISIB	32		43	
WAFRA	30		48	
MANAGISH	32		49	
SALMY	33		48	
MUTRIBA	31		50	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	32
Max Rel Hum (%)	51
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:50
Sunrise	05:15
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:30
Isha	19:54



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Psychiatrists
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists
Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688
info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com
Kaizen center 25716707
Noor Clinic 23845955
William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

GOSSIP



Colton Haynes' homosexuality blamed for his father's suicide

The 'Arrow' actor was bullied when he came out as gay at the age of 14, but ran away from his Kansas home after he was bullied by his classmates and his mother Dana - who was divorced from his dad William - wouldn't accept his sexuality. While staying with a friend, he learned his father, who he wasn't close to, had committed suicide. He recalled to OUT magazine: "I'm the last person in the world who would say, 'Oh, my dad-pity me.' But I was told that my dad killed himself because he found out I was gay. So, of course, I lost it and was like, 'How could you say something like that?' And no one will ever really know the truth. "But my brother and my mom went to pick up my dad's stuff, and the only picture on

his fridge was my eighth-grade graduation picture. So I was just like, F**k." The 28-year-old actor eventually moved to Los Angeles and was advised by his management to conceal his sexuality as he was told it would hinder his career if people knew he was gay. He said: "I feel really bad that I had to lie for so long. But I was told that was the only way I was going to be successful. "When you're young in this industry, people take advantage of you, and they literally tell you that your dreams are going to come true. If you believe that, you'll do anything. And you do believe it, especially if you're from Kansas."

Meryl Streep revealed she's 'terrible' at golf



The 67-year-old actress admitted she sulked and "went home" when she tried the sport for the first time and didn't manage to connect the club with the ball. Speaking at a press conference for her new film 'Florence Foster Jenkins' on Tuesday, the actress said: "I can't do a lot of things, like golf. I really don't because I tend to like things that I can do right away. If I can't do it right away, I don't like it." "I never hit the ball ever. I remember my husband [Don Gummer] saying, 'You're coming up on the ball. You're coming up.' And I said, 'I'm not coming up!' I'm like

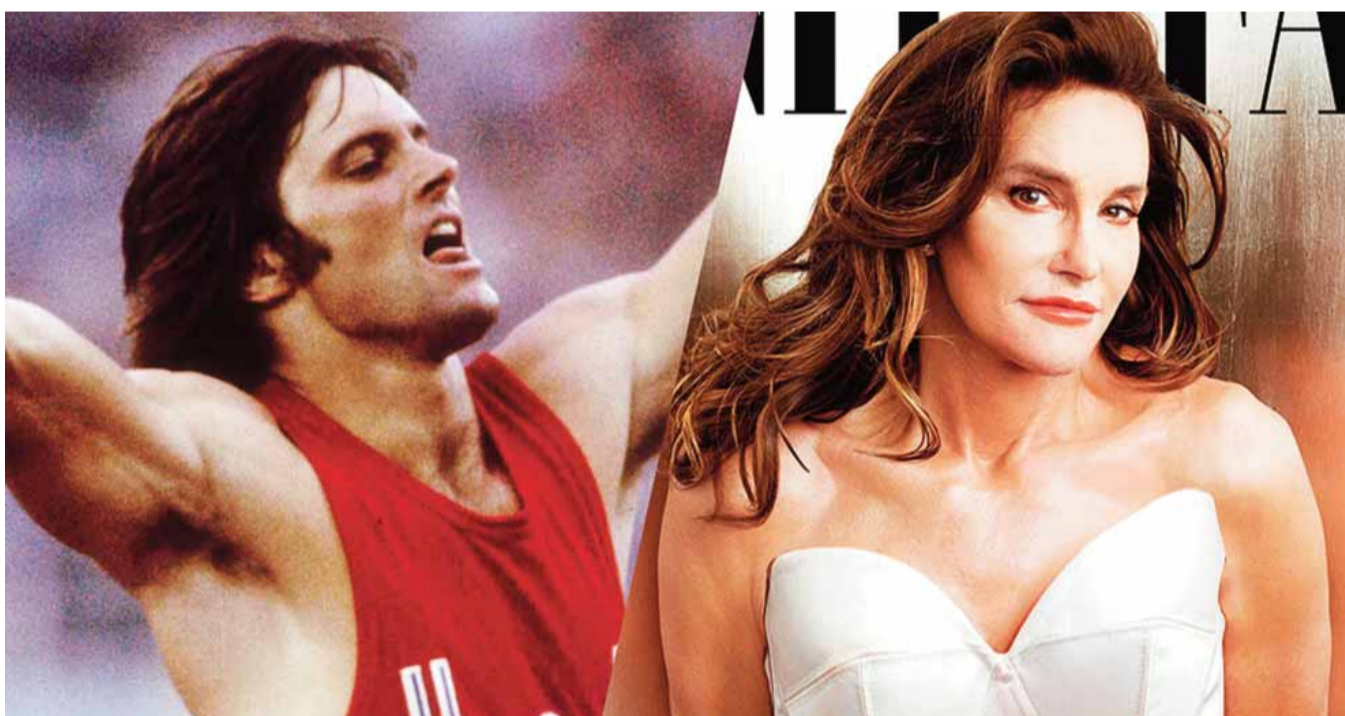
hunkered down, and I hit right on the top of it, and there was the ball always sitting there. I took it and went home. I don't like it." However, the 'Devil Wears Prada' star isn't terrible at all sports, and has claimed she is in fact an avid skier. She said: "Skiing I really like because you can sort of get up on skis, and if you are coordinated and completely without being reckless, you can lean forward and go. But golf, no! Nobody can do that."



KHLOE KARDASHIAN IS 'INSPIRED DAILY' BY KYLIE JENNER

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star wrote a sweet message for her youngest sibling as she celebrated her 19th birthday. She wrote on Instagram: "My baby, happy birthday! I hope you have the most incredible day showered with love and all good things that the world can offer. You inspire me daily! You motivate me and keep me in awe of you. Truly, I am so proud of the woman you are becoming. You have a heart and soul of solid gold. You leave everybody better after meeting them. It's your infectious spirit. I love you more with every

moment my sweet Kylie! Enjoy your birthday! Xoxo your second mommy/sister (sic)" And Kylie's mother Kris Jenner also gushed about her "kind-hearted, funny and motivated" daughter. She wrote on the photo sharing site: "I can't believe my baby girl is 19 today!!!! @kyliejenner I've watched you grow into the most loving, kind-hearted, funny, motivated, beautiful young woman and I couldn't be prouder of you!!"



Caitlyn Jenner planned to secretly have a gender transition in 1985

The 'I Am Cait' star - who was born male and known as Bruce Jenner until last year - confided in then-wife Linda Thompson to say she was transgender and in a "living hell", so the couple sought therapy. However, while having the sessions, Linda - who has sons Brandon and Brody with the former Olympian - was shocked when her spouse admitted he was considering undergoing a transition anonymously. She wrote in her new book, 'A Little Thing Called Life': "As we tried to work through our feelings, Bruce told me he was considering traveling out of the country, possibly to Denmark, to try to

have the gender reassignment surgery anonymously and then come back as a female." She recalled asking about the children, and added: "He thought maybe he would reenter their lives as a female relative. He was grasping for a lifeline. As devastated as I was, my heart bled for Bruce." Bruce told Linda he still loved her and wanted them to stay married after transitioning, but she knew then that their relationship was over, though she kept his secret for years.

Britney Spears to go on James Corden's 'Carpool Karaoke'

The 34-year-old pop beauty has already filmed her segment with the 'Late Late Show' host for the popular slot on his hit talk show, and it will air on CBS on August 25. Alongside a picture of the pair in front of the Range Rover used to carry celebrities for their singing session, Britney wrote on Twitter: "Took a ride around LA with @JKCorden & did a little #CarpoolKaraoke Watch the @latelateshow on 8/25 to see it! (sic)" The 'Piece of Me' hitmaker is believed to have been keen to take part in the British funnyman's skit to promote her eagerly-anticipated ninth studio LP 'Glory', which is released the next day on August 26. The 'Make Me' hitmaker will follow in the footsteps of Justin Bieber, Adele, Sir Elton John, Stevie Wonder and many more who have been on the ride with the British funnyman and belted out their biggest hits. Meanwhile, James, 37, is believed to be doing all he can to secure Beyonce for 'Carpool Karaoke'. On his plans to get the 'Hold Up' hitmaker on board, he said: "It would break the internet. She's on tour right now. We're working on it."



Ricky Gervais performed as David Brent at world premiere

London's Leicester Square played host to the comedy band - which includes Andy Burrows on drums - that features in the highly anticipated 'mockumentary' movie with the 55-year-old star stepping on stage as his alter ego from TV sitcom 'The Office'. Brent and his bandmates performed a host of tracks from the film including 'Life on the Road', 'Slough' and the hilarious 'Equality Street' - for which they were joined by Doc Brown rapping politically correct lyrics as his character Dom Johnson. The joke band received a raptur-

ous response from the hoard of fans who had gathered to witness the premiere and Gervais as Brent rewarded them by firing T-shirts into the crowds. Foregone Conclusion closed their set with 'Free Love Freeway', which first featured in the 2001 episode of 'The Office' entitled 'Training' and fans shouted out jokes from the show during the performance prompting Gervais to plead with them "please don't" as he struggled to stop himself from bursting out laughing.





Kim Kardashian getting help from Khloe to lose weight

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star has given her older sister a "fitness emergency kit" to help her lose the last five pounds to reach her post-baby weight goal. Kim told E! News: "It's impossible. Khloe has this fitness emergency kit that she's made and created herself. It's a backpack full of these things and one of them is a sweat suit that she made that makes you sweat. And there's this workout band and these workout things. She literally dropped it off yesterday because I was like, 'I've gotta just lose these last 5 pounds,' so I'm just going to follow Khloe's lead." Meanwhile, the 35-

year-old television personality recently opened up about the importance of positive body image. Writing on her website, she shared: "Having a positive self-image has always been important to me because it affects so many aspects of my life: my work, my relationship with my husband and my life as a mom. After I had [North West], there was a part of me that was nervous about whether I'd be able to get back to anywhere near my pre-pregnancy weight and feel confident again, since I was now 50 pounds heavier.



DIANE KRUGER IS DOING 'ALL GOOD' FOLLOWING HER SPLIT FROM JACKSON

The 'Inglourious Basterds' star insists she is doing fine despite calling off her relationship of 10 years from the 38-year-old actor. She said: "It's all good ... all good. [I'm not dating but] if you have a suggestion, let me know?" And the 40-year-old actress is planning to spend her new found freedom enjoying a holiday. She added to PEOPLE magazine: "After tomorrow, I'm on vacation. I've been filming for the last four months, so I have the month off, so I'm literally going to do nothing and get fat. I don't know [where I'm going] yet. I want to visit friends who I never get to see. I have some in Miami, different places." Meanwhile, it was previously claimed that Diane "resented" leaving New York to move to Paris to be with Joshua. A source said recently: "Diane is fiercely independent and ended up resenting leaving Paris to be with Joshua. She's also disillusioned with Hollywood and wasn't interested in attending events as part of a power couple, she needs her own space. The move was make or break and in the end, it broke them. Joshua is heartbroken."



Sir Paul McCartney friendship with Lennon is 'irreplaceable'

The Beatles star doesn't think he will ever get on so well with another collaborator again as he did with the late musician. He said: "I don't think it could be. At some point, you have to realize, some things just can't be. John and me, we were kids growing up together, in the same environment with the same influences: He knows the records I know, I know the records he knows. You're writing your first little innocent songs together. Then you're writing something that gets recorded. Each year goes by, and you get the cool-

er clothes. Then you write the cooler song to go with the cooler clothes. We were on the same escalator - on the same step of the escalator, all the way. It's irreplaceable - that time, friendship and bonding." And despite his international fame, the 74-year-old musician has had no trouble bringing up his five children - Stella, 44, James, 38, Mary, 46, Heather, 53, and Beatrice, 12 - and credits his Liverpool roots for helping keep his family strong.



Katherine Heigl is craving donuts during pregnancy

The 'Knocked Up' star is expecting a baby boy with her husband Josh Kelley, who she wed in 2007, and revealed she's developed a sweet tooth and always feels "really hungry". She said: "I wake up every morning really wanting a donut... or 10. Thankfully I don't really have many symptoms. I'm just really hungry." The 37-year-old beauty - who also has adopted daughters Adalaide, four, and Naleigh, seven - has revealed the siblings are "excited" for the arrival of their brother and can't stop asking her if he's been born yet. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "They're so excited. For them, it's an 'out of sight, out of mind' thing. They'll forget about it for a while, and then suddenly be like, 'Hey have you had that baby yet?'" Katherine announced she was expecting in June and the family plan to visit Utah for Christmas, very near to her due date of January 2017. There they will be joined by country singer Josh's brothers and their children and they've already got ideas for the unborn tot to play with Josh's brother's little boy Ward and the two girls.



Cat Deeley needs a 'tribe' to raise son

The 39-year-old television personality - who welcomed son Milo with her husband Patrick Kielty six months ago - says she "totally understands" why families need so much support when bringing up a child. She said: "I've got so much respect for all moms out there that do it. You have to juggle like crazy and have a team around you. And whether that's your family, Mom and Dad, nanny ... whoever it is, you have this team. It takes a tribe - I can totally understand that now." And whilst Cat admits motherhood is "really hard", she also insists it is the "best thing" she has ever done. She added to PEOPLE magazine: "Milo is 6 months old, so he's still really little, but I'm loving it. It's really hard, but it's the best thing I've ever done too. So it's both. I would like him to do anything he wants to do. I would like him to be happy, first and foremost. I would like him to be kind, I would like him to be funny and I would like him to be smart. And any of those things are fine by me. And if dance comes into that? 100 percent. Buy him some tights, goddamn it!" Meanwhile, Cat previously revealed she is "besotted" with her baby son.



John Legend admits things have changed between him and Teigen

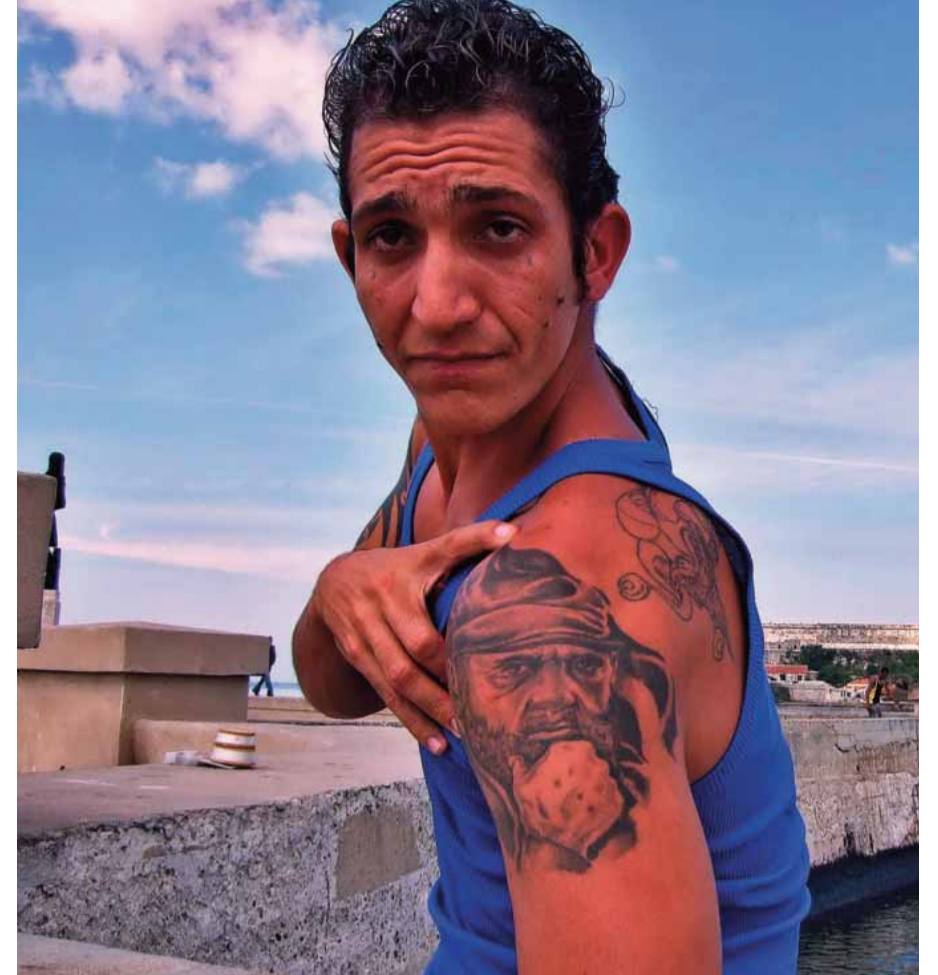
The 'All Of Me' hitmaker admits things are different for the couple - who welcomed Luna in April - now because of the "all-encompassing" responsibility of having a child. He told Entertainment Tonight: "Well, it's all-encompassing too - it's, you have to spend every moment even when you are not with [Luna] thinking about who is with them, and what's happening with them, and making sure that everything is, you know, comfortable for them. Being married is not the same as having a kid because being married to another adult who can take care of themselves to a degree is different than having a kid that is completely dependent

on you. So, it definitely makes you realize a heightened level of responsibility and it makes you realize that there is a lot of work to be doing, and you realize what your work is for." Meanwhile, Chrissy previously revealed her and John are learning to swim for their daughter. She shared: "I was in the pool today. I can't swim, but I'm trying to learn for Luna, of course. There is nothing I want to do more than to get her into the water and for her to learn to swim. John can't swim, either.





Cuban cigar roller Jose Castelar Cairo, known as 'Cueto', rolls a new giant cigar in Havana. Cueto attempts to break his previous mark of 81.80 meters long, established in 2011, and to reach the sixth Guinness Record of his career to the world's largest cigar. — AFP photos

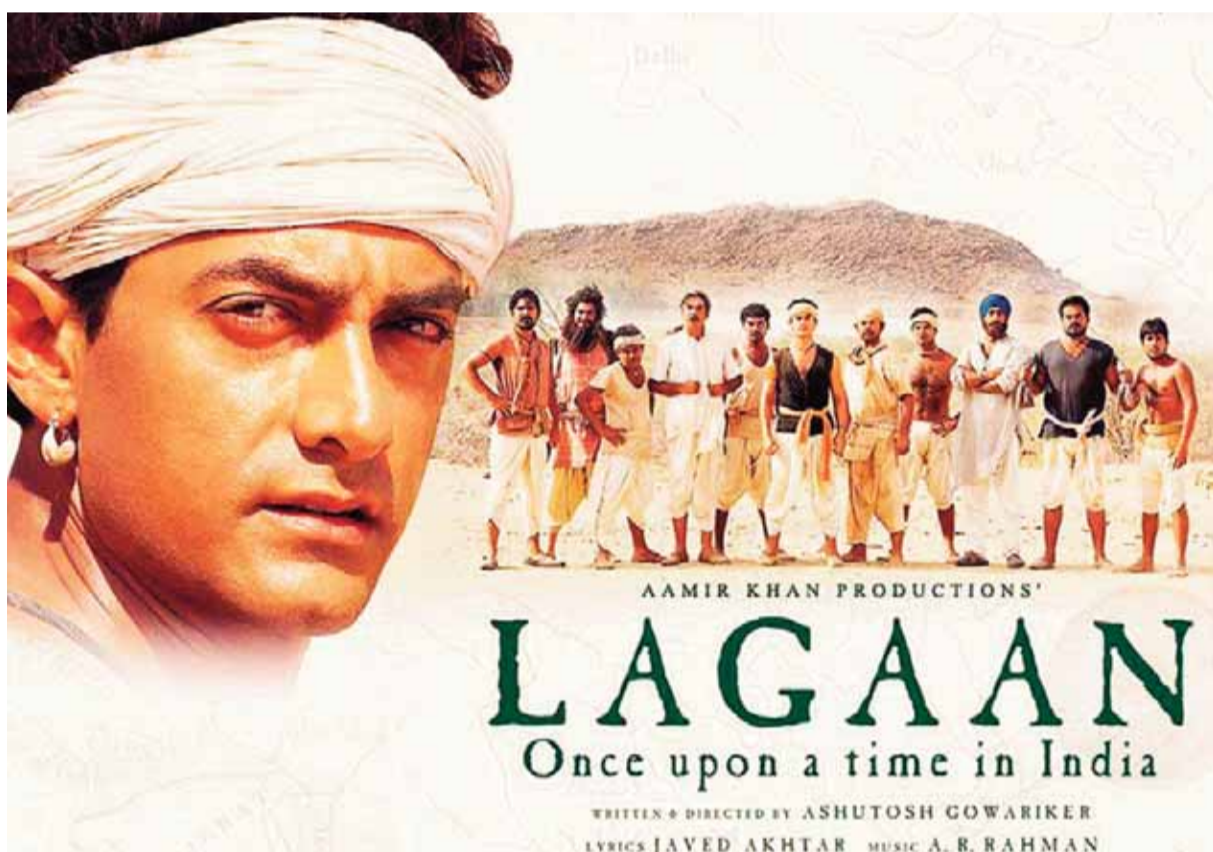


Cuban cigar maker Yoan Avila, 28, shows his newly done tattoo depicting President Fidel Castro in Havana. After surviving more than 600 assassination attempts, defying 10 US presidents and shaping half a century of history, Fidel Castro celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday.

90-meter cigar for Fidel's 90th birthday

A Cuban tobacconist finished rolling a 90-meter cigar on Friday to celebrate the 90th birthday of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. "It is 90 meters long, to commemorate 90 years of our comandante," the maker, Jose Castelar said. The cigar is part of the iconic image of the communist former president. He was photographed in his younger days with one in his mouth while dressed in his military fatigues. "I don't think he knows about me," Castelar said. "He hasn't smoked for years, but the gift we

are offering him is the hard work that we have done to commemorate his birthday." Castelar made his giant creation aiming to break the Guinness World Record for the world's longest cigar for the sixth time. He and his team worked 12 hours a day for 10 days to roll the cigar, which is the width of an ordinary one. They rolled it and presented it on long tables in an old colonial fort overlooking Havana Harbor. — AFP



Archaeology, love and songs, India's Bollywood brings ancient city to life

One of the world's earliest cities has been brought back to life in one of Bollywood's newest films, "Mohenjo Daro", which re-imagines life in 16 BC in an Indus Valley civilisation whose walls, streets and citadel can still be seen today. Indian director Ashutosh Gowariker recreated the city to stage an epic romance that is also a tale of the fight between good and evil, in the grand Bollywood tradition. "I like telling untold stories and I feel that about this civilization, not much has been said," Gowariker said.

"I thought, why not weave a story based on the findings of all these archaeologists, and try and do it to the utmost sincerity and honesty. Keep the fact as much as you can intact, but also weave in fiction, because only then can a story be told, and a cinematic story too." Mohenjo Daro, in modern-day Sindh province in Pakistan, is a World Heritage Site, one of the best preserved in South Asia where visitors can see a well-planned city built of unbaked brick dating

back to the beginning of the third millennium BC. From the director of 2002 Academy Award-nominated Raj-ra movie "Lagaan", and starring acclaimed Indian actor Hrithik Roshan, "Mohenjo Daro" is expected to be one of the biggest movies out of Bollywood this year.

Roshan, who starred in Gowariker's 2008 hit 16th-century love story "Jodhaa Akbar", said he had been relieved to find the filmmaker was on top form. "He is just as insane about and passionate about his films as he was, and I think he always will be," said Roshan, who was injured while performing his own stunts for the film. "Before we started the film ... we had spoken of this. If he and I don't make a film like this, then this kind of film will never be made. And if we don't do it now, we'll be too old to do it at a time in the future," he said. "Mohenjo Daro" was released worldwide on Aug 12. — Reuters

British Airways hosts Suicide Squad screening reception with Will Smith

Actor, producer, musician and philanthropist Will Smith yesterday took part in an exclusive British Airways hosted event in advance of his latest blockbuster Suicide Squad. The event included a Q&A session in which the Academy Award nominee and four-time Grammy winner spoke about his role in the new action adventure movie, travel experiences and other insights.

The Hollywood icon, who stars as super-villain Deadshot in his most recent role, entertained 75 British Airways' VIP guests during the exclusive session held at the Noir Lounge at Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates. During the intimate Q&A session Smith talked with British Airways' Senior First Officer & Assistant Pilot Recruitment Manager Andy Perkins and Senior First Officer Will Swinburn about preparing for such a character and which fellow Suicide Squad member he would most like to fly with.

"We have been travelling a lot, there are about 10 of us and we have been travelling for about a month. Captain Boomerang played by Jai Courtney, he would be the best travelling buddy as he is unbound by the necessity to wear clothes. He certainly knows how to have fun," Smith commented. Talking about his character in the movie, he noted that it made a good change to play a bad guy as he hadn't played many in his career, and that playing Deadshot had been a fun role as he "wasn't bound by morality".

Smith, who has travelled extensively to promote the movie added that there are still destinations on his bucket list that he would like to visit or film in: "I would like to go to the Maldives and I haven't done a lot in Indonesia. I would like to travel through there. Those are the top ones



on my list." Talking about meeting the 47-year-old star, British Airways' Andy Perkins said: "It's not every day you get to interview a superstar like Will Smith. His films are enjoyed by British Airways passengers in the air every day of the week and I'm pleased to report that he was just as entertaining in real life."

British Airways is offering fans of Suicide Squad a chance to explore some of the locations that the movie was filmed and the home of Hollywood's stars, with flights to Toronto and Los Angeles for as little as AED 3030 and AED 3830. UAE residents can take advantage of the four daily flights from the UAE via London Heathrow's Terminal 5 to North American destinations. In October the airline will be launching its newest aircraft, the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, on its Dubai to London service following its inauguration on the Abu Dhabi route earlier this year.



Will Smith poses with British Airways pilots and the crew

The 'rented out' children on Guatemala's streets



A girl (center) is taken away by an Attorney General's office employee after being rescued from a house where she was held captive by members of a network of human trafficking and labor exploitation in Guatemala City. — AFP

Kids can be seen cleaning windshields or juggling in clown makeup on street corners in Guatemala's cities. But there's no fun involved: many of these children are abandoned street urchins or "rented out" by their parents to networks that exploit them-effectively slaves. These child workers are a goldmine to the illegal groups that deploy them throughout Guatemala's capital and other urban centers.

Many are indigenous, and all are from the poor 60 percent of this Central American country's population of 16 million. They are "recruited by groups that arrange deals with the parents, who receive a fee for renting out these kids, who come here to the capital to work or beg for money," Rosy Palma, director of the charity El Refugio de la Ninez (Childhood Refuge) said. Her group helps state institutions carry out operations to rescue exploited minors, many of whom come from predominantly indigenous provinces

in the mountainous west of Guatemala. Authorities estimate around one million children work in the country. But there are no known official statistics on how many of them work the streets or beg.

16-hour days

"Because of this population's economic situation, many organized criminal groups have managed to get hold of them," said Harold Flores, who works as a child protection official within the state prosecutor's office. He explained that the children are often forced to work 16-hour days, during which they are told to bring back at least \$13 or face punishment. "In some cases, they are told that they are coming to study, or coming to learn a trade, or that they will have a better life than where they are coming from." Usually, though, they are put up in dingy hotels and receive nothing more than bread and water, Flores said. Palma from Refugio de la Ninez said the phenomenon is lucrative for the gangs

running them, and that there is a regular increase in the number of boys, girls and teens being used this way.

The parents who loan them out receive around \$25 a week-a significant sum for families barely eking out a living, she said. An official survey published in late 2015 found that poverty in Guatemala's indigenous western highlands reached 79 percent. Official figures show indigenous Guatemalans making up 40 percent of the population. But native leaders give a far higher proportion, of 60 percent. Child exploitation is concentrated in Guatemala's central province, where the capital is located, and in the west and in towns along the Mexican border in the southwest, according to Refugio de la Ninez.

Not nearly enough done

The prosecutor's office said that, nationally, 68 children were rescued from these labor gangs in the first half of this year-a modest figure given the official estimate of

the scale of the problem. Gloria Castro, a child and adolescent defender in the Ombudsman's office for human rights, noted that the operations were insufficient. "Unfortunately, the state, through its institutions, has not done nearly enough on this issue," she said, urging prosecutors to step up probes into human trafficking rings and the government to focus on families battling poverty. Her office also sees the exploitation of children as one of the motivators for the big migration flow from Central America to the United States. It has found several of the children made to work in Guatemala's streets ended up moving to Mexico or the United States to escape their slavery. — AFP



A brass band performs during the 56th annual trumpet and brass band festival in the Serbian village of Guca. A small town in western Serbia is hosting the world's largest trumpet festival, a raucous annual celebration of brass bands that draws crowds of hundreds of thousands. Now in its 56th year, the Guca festival brings together dozens of Serbian bands who compete for prestigious awards and entertain revelers in a turbocharged street party. — AFP

Serbia draws crowds for turbocharged trumpet festival

A small town in western Serbia is hosting the world's largest trumpet festival, a raucous annual celebration of brass bands that draws crowds of hundreds of thousands. Now in its 56th year, the Guca festival brings together dozens of Serbian bands who compete for prestigious awards and entertain revelers in a turbocharged street party. The five-day event, which ends Sunday, usually attracts around 200,000 to 300,000 music-lovers from

Serbia and abroad, according to festival organiser Marija Pavlovic. "We have every year more and more foreign tourists coming here, so we are very happy," she told AFP.

Brass band music is symbolic of Serbian culture and Pavlovic said the festival began "spontaneously" outside Guca's church back 1961, growing in popularity each year. A three-hour drive from the capital Belgrade and home to just a few thousand people, Guca is now famed for its yearly fes-

activities and a statue of a trumpeter stands in its centre. Following preliminary heats held throughout the year, the best bands compete on Guca's main stages while others play for tips on the streets and in cafes, as whole pigs and lambs are roasted on spits.

Beer and rakija, the local brandy, are drunk in abundance at what is officially called the Dragacevo Assembly of Trumpet Players, after the region in which it is held. Among

the first-time visitors this year is Danish tourist Anders Vold, 25, who has attended Denmark's leading Roskilde music festival several times but said Guca was in a different league. "It's like Roskilde on steroids, with Balkan brass," he said. "Everyone has to experience this because it's crazy and it's very good, and the people are so nice." — AFP



A baby is held for a picture behind a cardboard figure of an Olympic boxer at the Riocentro complex in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP photos



A Brazil fan poses for a picture behind a cardboard figure of an Olympic boxer at the Riocentro complex in Rio de Janeiro.

AS CUBA OPENS UP, SO DO ITS BOXERS

Seasoned boxing observers at the Rio Olympics agree: as Cuba slowly invites in the curious outside world so its boxers too are more open than ever before. Journalists who have covered past Olympics say that Cuba's boxers—consistently among the best at any Games and again sparkling in Rio—usually hurry past media in the "mixed zone" where reporters gather to grab a quick interview with the fighters fresh from the ring. This time, however, the Cubans are different, stopping to chat with the media—including foreign ones, via a translator—and in some cases for longer than their opponents.

Reigning Olympic flyweight champion Robeisy Ramirez-competing in the bantamweight class in Brazil—on Thursday lingered patiently to reply to questions, talking of how he asks "God and all the saints" to protect him when he steps into the ring. "Like all Cubans, I believe in God and the saints," said the 22-year-old Ramirez. As innocuous as the comment might sound, it was once something that a Cuban could never say because the communist-run country was for a long time an officially atheist state, before its leaders became less hostile to religion after the collapse of ally the Soviet Union in 1991. It is not only Ramirez who is engaging comfortably with the media in Rio.

Stylish world champion Joahnys Argilagos—who lost in Friday's light-flyweight semi-final—and heavyweight Erislandy Savon, nephew of the triple Olympic champion Felix, are among a new generation of Cubans opening up to reporters fishing for a story.

And unlike many of the other big boxing countries in Rio, such as Britain, which has a press officer lurking nearby to whisk their fighter away after a short, allotted time, the Cubans go it alone in the mixed zone. Also unlike a decade ago, no subject seems off-limits, with some of the Cubans freely discussing their religious beliefs, their taste for America's NBA basketball, Spanish La Liga football—even to a small degree politics, say observers.

'Different mindset'

The changes in Cuba, including restoring relations with old foe the United States and gradually liberalising its moribund economy, are also reflected in this generation of Cuban boxers in how they dress, the snazzy earphones they listen to music with, their phones, even their haircuts. "I'm fond of playing FIFA games because I'm a fan of Barca and Lionel Messi," said Ramirez, smiling to reveal two gold-colour-plated front teeth that are more Hollywood than Havana as he engaged with an Indian journalist on the respective merits of Barcelona and Real Madrid. The prodigious Argilagos, 19, is another who with his hair dyed a tinge of dark blond and his bright Puma footwear looks very different from the Cuban boxers of yesteryear that still shape how the current crop fight. Pablo De Jesus, an Agence France-Presse journalist who is in Rio for his seventh Olympics, says he has never seen Cuban boxers so open. —AFP

Horses get scarred refugee children back in the saddle

Fritzli is squat, wide in the hips and rather stubborn. Lucky is an imposing tower of muscle. But with their big brown eyes and endless patience this odd couple works wonders. That's because they are two of four specially trained horses cheering up, in picture-postcard scenery outside Innsbruck in Austria, a group of refugee children who have gone through some tough times. According to Claudia Baldeo from charity Ankyra who started the project in 2009, the benefits of stroking, leading and riding the animals quickly become clear.

"It has a lot to do with sensitivity and feeling, being sensitive enough to receive signals from the horse. It is also good for learning concentration and tackling fears," she told AFP during a recent session. "The parents notice as soon as they get home that the children are calmer, better able to concentrate. Even a year later they remember the names of the horses," the psychologist and psychiatrist said. "Well done!" she says as one boy, grinning from ear to ear, leads the mighty Lucky round the training area. "Hossein says his grandfather has a donkey, and that a horse is just another donkey," she laughs.

Trauma

This summer's course, which combines time with the horses and art therapy, has 10 children, from Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran, aged nine to 11. All arrived in Austria with their families in the past year during the great wave of migration from the Middle East into Europe. Demand for the project is high but Ankyra has to limit numbers, and those most in need of therapy were chosen. Some then go on to receive extra therapy if needed. What horrors Hossein, Mohammad, Reza, Ramin, Yousef, Banin, Zahra, Sarina, Marjam and Zinap may have experienced in their home countries or on the dangerous journey isn't always known.

But it is clear that some went through hell, and are suffering still. "The whereabouts of the sister of that boy over there for example are not known," Baldeo says. Another girl in the group often sits in a corner at home and weeps. Her mother has attempted suicide. "Parents tell us that they were in war zones and saw injured people, dead people,

that family members disappeared," Baldeo says. She says that children often pick up on the distress of their parents, who can be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) having been imprisoned or tortured. "They don't themselves have some way to recover. This was the aim of the project," Baldeo said.

Drop in the ocean

Equine-assisted therapy (EAT) has been widely used for years to help treat a range of disorders, but using it for refugee children is unique in Austria, and possibly elsewhere too. But while these few kids in Austria may be getting help, it is just a drop in the ocean as Europe struggles to absorb the more than a million migrants who arrived last year, children and adults alike.

The German federal chamber of psychotherapists (BPTK) estimated last September that at least half of the new arrivals have poor mental health but that the care they receive is woefully insufficient. "The refugees arriving don't just need accommodation and food but also medical care. But practically no mentally ill refugee is getting adequate care," said BPTK head Dietrich Munz. The potential dangers of failing to take this seriously was plain to see in recent attacks in Europe where some of the perpetrators—some of them refugees—appear to have had psychological problems.

Such cases are extreme and of course it is by no means just migrants who have mental health problems. And being traumatized doesn't necessarily lead to longer-term mental health problems, and many people recover without treatment, particularly if they can lead a normal life again. "Sometimes having a job and having a home is more beneficial than living in a refugee centre for three years with a therapist who can only listen and say 'I hear you,'" Baldeo said. "The questions they have is when can I work, how can I ensure a good education for my children... These are not therapeutic issues but integration issues." — AFP

ART OF POLITICS



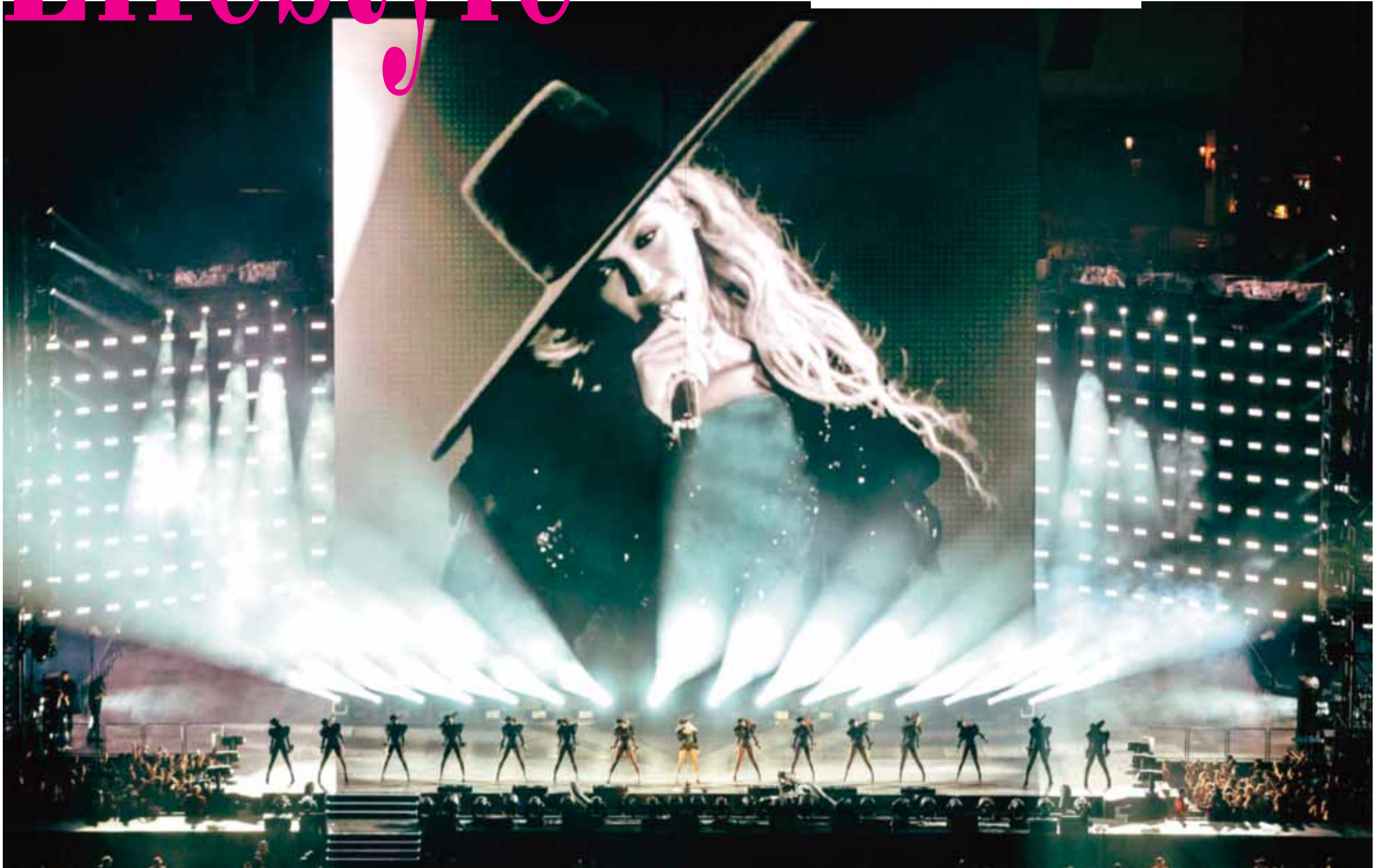
A visitor looks at an exhibit on political campaign ads at the Toledo Museum in Toledo, Ohio.



Visitors view an exhibit on political campaign ads at the Toledo Museum in Toledo, Ohio. The exhibit, which runs through Election Day, looks at how campaigns use emotions such as hope and fear to influence voters through advertising. — AP photos



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and her running mate Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen Tim Kaine, D-Va celebrate in a sea of falling balloons during the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Two new photo exhibits running until Election Day show how images and video sway opinions and capture votes. This photo will be included in the International Center of Photography's show in Long Island, New York, exploring how photos affect voters, from snapshots of John F Kennedy to Barack Obama's 'Hope' poster.



Girls, let's get in the Formation tour



By **Thari F AlRashed**

On July 2nd, I had the privilege of attending Beyoncé's Formation tour concert in London's Wembley Stadium. Like many people, I am a huge Beyoncé fan and was looking forward to this concert since the start of the year. I had to stay up all night in Kuwait in order to be able to book my ticket for the show.

After four months of waiting, I was pretty hyped up on the way to the stadium. Beyoncé had DJ Khaled opening for her. I do not care for him, so I decided to skip him and show up after his set was done in order to avoid the crowd outside. My plan worked and I was able to get into the stadium and to my assigned area quite smoothly. But 'Queen Bey' made us wait longer than expected. I had the concierge at the hotel I was staying in get me the timings of when each segment of the show was supposed to begin.

The doors were to open at 5 pm. DJ Khaled took the stage at 6:30 pm. Beyoncé was supposed to begin her routine anywhere between 7:45 to 8:15 pm. But Mrs Carter popped out of her huge screen box at 8:40 pm! She made me wait 30 minutes, since I showed up at 8:10 pm! I was expecting to show up to the stadium and see her shaking what Mrs Tina Beyoncé-Lawson gave her!

The song that opened the show was 'Formation', Beyoncé's lead single from her latest album Lemonade. Accompanying her were all 12 of her dancers, dressed in custom-made Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci creations including Queen Bey herself. To say that the audience was losing their minds is an understatement. I saw numerous people crying and jumping up and down. Since this wasn't my first time seeing Blue Ivy's mother performing, I was as cool as an iced lemonade drink.

What shocked me the most about the concert was that she only performed four songs from her latest album - 'Formation', 'Sorry', 'Don't Hurt Yourself' and 'All Night'. Being that this was the 'Formation' tour, I thought she would be singing a lot more songs from this album, especially since she just had her joint 'On the Run' world tour with her husband two years ago. I guess she was saving the other songs for her next tour.

What I enjoyed the most were the custom creations made for this tour by various world renowned designers - Olivier Rousteing of Balmain, Roberto Cavalli, Dan and Dean of DSquared2, Alessandro Michele from Gucci, Atsuko Kudo, Adrienne Landau and as mentioned earlier, Riccardo Tisci, who all contributed to the wardrobe selection, making the performers look super unique and a beautiful sight to see. Luckily, I was able to get great tickets, where I was right in front of Beyoncé at certain points during the concert and was able to appreciate the great outfits she and her band of dancers wore.



High Moments

The other highlights of the show that I thought were super creative and funny at the same time were:

- The treadmill-like runway that was installed on the stage that allowed the performer to dance and move up and down without having to actually walk.
- At a certain point in the show, the light technician moved the spotlight off Beyoncé. She immediately noticed and sang "Someone is gonna get fired" midway through her song. The crowd went wild when this happened.

I decided to leave the show a little early in order to avoid the huge crowd - there were over 80,000 people in attendance! And I do not do stampedes, so I left. I also wanted to get a lot of the tour's merchandise, which I was able to do, but not without a fuss.

The tour concludes on October 2 in Nashville, Tennessee. Beyoncé is currently on a break from her tour after completing the European leg on August 2 in Barcelona. All remaining dates are in the United States. There is still a chance she might add new dates - there have been rumors some will be in the UAE - so if you are interested, keep checking the tour's website at www.beyonce.com/tour.

You can follow Thari on Instagram : @The.Thari



Beyoncé's tour wardrobe



KT International editor Thari F AlRashed being photo bombed by Beyoncé.